

# CURRENTS

April / May 1979 to April / May 2026



## CCA Communicators

*Illustration by Ben Kocian, 1979*

Artists, writers and broadcasters have made a big impact on  
CCA's fortunes over the past 49 years



*Michael Berry, Robby Byers, and Doug Pike, CCA Commuunicators*

## CCA Welcomes Two Prominent Communicators

**Robby Byers:** I am very excited that CCA Texas is going to be a show sponsor with the iHeartMedia Michael Berry Show. I believe Michael's listeners have similar values and interests to CCA, which have made our organization so successful. I am hopeful that this sponsorship will grow over time into a meaningful and successful partnership. Michael's show is the best in the business, and I think he will bring important awareness and attention to our organization to his listeners that we may not be able to reach.

**Michael Berry:** *"Levi Goode told me that fishermen are good people, and the CCA is a great organization."*

*iHeartMedia* is the #1 audio company in the United States, reaching 9 out of 10 Americans every month - a quarter of a billion monthly listeners. It's a greater reach than any other media company in the U.S. Berry is not only a popular talk show host but was a city councilman and mayor pro tempore. The *Houston Chronicle* says the Republican pol/talker makes it a

"practice to provoke" and is a "love him or hate him" kind of guy. Berry says he wants his show to be a "controversial discussion of issues" where people "discuss openly what they typically think but can't say."

**Doug Pike:** *"I've admired CCA personally and professionally for almost 50 years. No other organization measures so often or so precisely before it cuts."*

**The Doug Pike Show** airs Saturdays from 7AM-10 AM and Sundays from 8AM-10AM on [SportsTalk790.iheart.com](https://www.sportstalk790.iheart.com) and you can stream the show at [sports790.com](https://www.sports790.com) and on the free iHeartRadio app. More than half a million Houstonians fish and hunt, and as many or more enjoy other pastimes in the great outdoors like camping or sailing, birding or backpacking, kayaking or hiking. Doug also hosts *Fifty+*, which airs at 11 AM Sundays on KPRC and at 4 PM. Sundays on KTRH. *Fifty+* attracts seniors and their adult children.

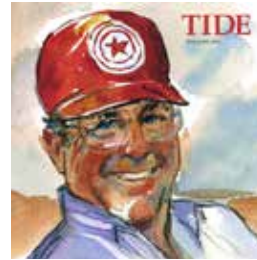
A few of the communicators who helped build GCCA/CCA from a vision to a national reality.



In the '70's Ben Kocian and Jim Goode shared art space at Fred Carr's big studio in Bellaire. Later, Jim Goode hosted GCCA meetings at Goode Company BBQ on Kirby. Ben Kocian designed the first logos of the GCCA and CCA. Ben and wife Cheri Gossett produced the Tide Magazine for 35 years.



- Ben Kocian
- Jim Goode
- Levi Goode
- Walter Fondren III
- Bob Stephenson
- Bob Stephenson Jr.
- Ron Stone
- Ken Grissom
- Bob Brister
- Joe Doggett
- Jack Cowan
- Herb Booth
- Al Barnes
- Chuck Naiser
- Larry Bozka
- Pat Murray
- Ted Venker
- Robby Byers
- Mickey Eastman
- Bill Kinney
- Peggy McMillan
- Eric Kaposta
- Steve Russell
- Cheri Gossett
- Larry Teague
- Fred Carr
- Craig Camp
- Corey Rich
- David Sikes
- Kent Ullberg
- Ron Stone
- Herman Brune
- Jonette Childs
- John Blaha
- Shane Bonnot
- Drew Adams
- Coleman Todd
- Lucy De Jesus
- Ryan Towns
- Kevin Hickson
- Liz Bosmans



Walter Fondren



Bob Brister



Herb Booth



Jack Cowan



Al Barnes



Kent Ullberg



Pat Murray



Ted Venker

*There are many other communicators and volunteers who helped a small Houston group grow from the Gulf Coast to a national conservation force. You know who you are.*

The CURRENTS newsletter was started by Fred Carr and Corey Rich in 1982. Sam Caldwell has edited the newsletter since.

Below: Editor Joe Richard and Caldwell star in a Ben Kocian illustration.



Caldwell, Carr, Rich



Joe Doggett

# Building Upon Success: Oyster License Buyback Efforts Continue in 2026

By CCA Texas Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is accepting applications for the Oyster Boat License Buyback Program, offering commercial oyster boat license holders a limited opportunity to retire their licenses for a fixed price of \$30,000. The application window runs from March 13 through May 15. For a second consecutive year, privately donated funds are supplementing state resources to support the program and make the flat rate offer possible.

TPWD administers voluntary buyback programs across several inshore fisheries, including shrimp, crab, finfish, and oysters, all of which have operated under license moratoria since 2005 or earlier. These voluntary retirements reduce the number of

*Oyster reefs are foundational to Texas' coastal ecosystems. They create structured habitat used by more than 300 species, stabilize shorelines, buffer wave and storm energy, and improve water quality through filtration.*

active licenses, easing fishing pressure on public reefs and helping to stabilize oyster populations over time. Revenue for buybacks comes from a surcharge on commercial licenses and, increasingly, from private philanthropy that leverages public dollars to increase the incentive for license holders to participate.

Last year's round marked an unprecedented outcome for Texas oyster conservation. Through a \$30,000 flat-rate offer supported by both public funds and private donations, TPWD and partners secured contracts to purchase and retire 112 commercial oyster boat licenses, roughly a 20–21% reduction in the state's oyster license pool. That result followed a shift in TPWD's approach: earlier rounds (2018–2024) used a reverse-bid process that yielded limited participation. After stakeholder feedback, TPWD adopted a straightforward fixed-price offer in 2025, a change that significantly increased interest and participation among license holders, including many with recent landings on public reefs.

The \$30,000 purchase price reflects a true public-private partnership. In the recent model, TPWD provided \$15,000 per license in public funds, matched dollar-for-dollar by private contributions. A \$1 million anchor gift from Coastal Conservation Association Texas (CCA Texas) helped catalyze further donations through the



*Bedrock of the bays are our public reefs, providing nursery habitats, stabilizing shorelines, enhancing water quality, preventing erosion.*

Painting by Sam Caldwell, Texas State Artist 2004

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) and other supporters. The S. Reed Morian Oyster Buyback Program, administered by TPWF, served as the fundraising vehicle that channeled philanthropic resources into the buyback effort. Major donors and supporters include the Reed Morian Foundation, the Brown Foundation, the Earl C. Sams Foundation, Jeffery and Mindy Hildebrand, Beaver and Joanie Aplin, John and Mary Eads, Bobby and Sherri Patton, and many volunteer-led grassroots donors across CCA Texas chapters.

Oyster reefs are foundational to Texas' coastal ecosystems. They create structured habitat used by more than 300 species, stabilize shorelines, buffer wave and storm energy, and improve water quality through filtration. While individual filtration rates vary, oysters are efficient filter feeders that can substantially reduce turbidity and help maintain healthier benthic and marine communities. Restored reefs provide significant ecosystem services — estimates place their annual value from ecosystem functions and recreation far above the direct commercial harvest value per acre from public reefs. Given multiple stresses on Texas oyster habitats — including dredging, severe weather events, drought, floods, and historical overharvest — reducing fishing pressure on public reefs is a key tool in a broader strategy to restore reef health and support sustainable fisheries.

To assist license holders during the application period, TPWD Coastal Fisheries staff will host one virtual and two in-person workshops explaining the application process and answering questions about the Oyster Boat License Buyback Program. The virtual workshop was held on Wednesday, April 1. In-person sessions were held on April 7 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Building at Carbide Park in La Marque (4102 Main St./FM 519) and on April 9 at the Bauer Exhibit Building in Port Lavaca (305 Henry Barber Way).

Oyster license holders seeking more information can email [cfish@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:cfish@tpwd.texas.gov) or call (512) 389-8575. For direct questions about the Commercial Fishing License Buyback Program, contact TPWD's Coastal Fisheries Commercial Fishing License Buyback Program manager, Zack Thomas, at (512) 389-8448 or [zack.thomas@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:zack.thomas@tpwd.texas.gov).

Looking ahead, TPWD and partner organizations, including CCA Texas and TPWF, anticipate continuing the buyback approach where funding and legislative support permit. Sustaining the momentum will require ongoing collaboration among state agencies, conservation groups, industry stakeholders and private donors. The recent rounds demonstrate that combining public surcharge revenues with philanthropic contributions can produce measurable conservation outcomes, reducing fishing pressure on public reefs and advancing long-term goals for healthier, more sustainable coastal ecosystems and fisheries.



## CCA Texas Comments on TPDES Permit WQ0000447000 (Dow Hydrocarbons & Union Carbide — Seadrift) and Requests Public Meeting

[CCA Texas has submitted comments on TPDES Permit No. WQ0000447000 and has called for a public meeting.](#) Additionally, CCA Texas submitted letters to Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (District 18) and Representative J.M. Lozano (District 43), requesting that they also call upon the TCEQ to host a public meeting for this permit.

In early January 2026, Dow and its subsidiary, Union Carbide Corporation, requested to amend its wastewater permit in a [320-page NORI application](#) (Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to obtain permit). One of the most consequential elements of their permit application is a requested clarification or change to the permit's prohibition on floating solids (pre-production plastics or nurdles). Specifically, Dow asks to "change to the language requiring no discharge of floating solids other than trace amounts. This language does not provide fair notice to DHRL (Dow) and UCC (Union Carbide) of its obligation to control pollutants and is vague. In addition, this language has the potential to be more stringent than necessary to attain the relevant receiving waters standard. Proposed language will be forthcoming."

CCA Texas urges TCEQ to host a public meeting for this permit because the proposed changes could have broader, industry-wide implications and affect how floating solids are addressed in discharge monitoring and compliance. Additionally, the public meeting will provide an opportunity for the applicants and TCEQ to fully explain:

- How the proposed monitoring consolidations and reporting changes will protect water quality, The specific intent and practical effect of the requested permit language changes (particularly the floating solids clarification), and
- Any technologies, operational controls, or additional safeguards the facility uses or could implement to prevent accidental releases of floating solids into nearby waterways.
- CCA Texas encourages members to submit comments to TCEQ, requesting a public meeting. [Click here to view the CCA Texas Comments.](#)



# Partners and Volunteers Unite for 2026 San Antonio Bay Shorelines Cleanup

The Texas Parks and Wildlife 2026 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program ran from February 20th - March 1st and successfully removed 658 derelict crab traps from the Texas Mid-Coast Bay systems, including Matagorda, San Antonio, and Aransas Bays. All told, more than 973 derelict Traps were removed from Texas Bays. All thanks to the coordinated efforts of volunteers, partners, and the broader fishing community. This effort is made possible through the unwavering support and dedication of San Antonio Bay Partnership volunteers, valued partners - including the Houston Zoo, Dallas Zoo, San Antonio River Authority, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Audubon Texas, and Texas Parks and Wildlife, with the generous support of San Antonio Bay Partnership's funder, the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust. Sponsors include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Coastal Conservation Association of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and the Galveston Bay Foundation.

While this year's total represents a notable decrease from 1,040 traps removed in 2025, this reduction reflects continued progress in prevention, education, and stewardship across the region. A total of 154 volunteers and 46 boats participated in the organized removal effort, with additional traps recovered by local fishermen throughout the 10-day closure period. Volunteers focused on comprehensively covering bay shorelines, utilizing standardized mapping protocols to document trap locations and removals, contributing valuable data to improve future response and prevention strategies.

Derelict crab traps continue to pose significant ecological risks through "ghost fishing." During this year's effort, volunteers documented key species that had died in the crab traps, which were 284 blue crabs, 155 stone crabs, 70

fish (including redfish and flounder), and 5 diamondback terrapins. Wildlife impacts continue to decrease from last year's 689 blue crabs, 240 stone crabs, 61 fish, and 0 turtles, with fish and diamondback terrapins being the exception. The documented loss of terrapins is of great concern. These findings underscore the ongoing threat that abandoned gear poses to both target and non-target species within these estuarine systems. In addition to traps, volunteers removed a substantial amount of associated marine debris, including 350 loose crab trap floats and 25 buckets and crates.

Abandoned crab traps not only harm marine life but also create navigation hazards and contribute to unsightly marine debris along Texas coastlines. The success of this year's program reflects the dedication of volunteers and partners committed to protecting the ecological integrity and productivity of our Texas bays. The Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program remains a vital component of ongoing conservation efforts across the Texas coast, demonstrating the power of collaboration between agencies, organizations, and the public.

Community members are encouraged to support future efforts by participating in next year's event, ongoing shoreline cleanups, properly disposing of old fishing gear, and continuing to promote responsible stewardship of coastal resources.

The TPWD Sponsors are U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Coastal Conservation Association of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and the Galveston Bay Foundation.

PHOTO GALLERY:  
<https://bejat.smugmug.com/Other/n-v4tOx/2026-Abandoned-Crab-Trap-Removal-Program-Slideshow>



*A retro shot from years past: Joe Terry and crew. Note the life vests.*

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[www.sabaypartnership.org](http://www.sabaypartnership.org)



# CCA TEXAS AND BUILDING CONSERVATION TRUST: NEARSHORE REEFING SUPPORT

## PROJECT

## FUNDED AMOUNT

SABINE REEFS	\$1,503,500
RIO GRANDE VALLEY	\$1,068,000
PORT O'CONNOR	\$700,000
GALVESTON BIG MAN AND KATE'S	\$329,000
HRI NEARSHORE REEF ENHANCEMENT STUDY	\$250,000
MATAGORDA	\$200,000
CORPUS CHRISTI	\$100,000
FREEPORT / VANCOUVER	\$60,000
PORT MANSFIELD	\$50,000

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO NEARSHORE REEFING \$4,260,500**



TEXAS

# CCA TEXAS: LEADERS IN OYSTER REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

## PROJECT

## FUNDED AMOUNT

AYERS REEF RESTORATION AND SHORELINE PROTECTION	\$1,126,204
CARANCAHUA BAY OYSTER REEF RESTORATION	\$1,000,000
CARLOS REEF RESTORATION PHASE II	\$1,000,000
OYSTER LICENSE BUYBACK PROGRAM	\$1,000,000
OYSTER REEF CREATION - ST. CHARLES BAY (ROCKPORT)	\$711,250
EAST MATAGORDA COL (EIDELBACH FLATS REEF)	\$500,000
MESQUITE BAY COL (RANCH HOUSE REEF)	\$500,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - EAST GALVESTON BAY	\$500,000
COMO LAKE DANA COVE OYSTER RESTORATION/CREATION	\$400,000
SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM	\$352,000
MESQUITE BAY OYSTER REEF MONITORING (HRI)	\$225,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - DEEP REEF SABINE LAKE	\$215,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - PEPPER GROVE / GALVESTON	\$130,000
HRI OYSTER RESTORATION SITE LOCATOR MAPPING STUDY	\$120,000
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - ARANSAS BAY	\$75,000
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - COPANO BAY	\$75,000
NUECES BAY DEMONSTRATION OYSTER REEF	\$60,000
GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION OYSTER RECYCLE TRAILERS	\$10,000
SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM TRAILERS	\$10,000
FUNDS APPROVED AND EARMARKED FOR OYSTER RESTORATION AND CREATION IN AREAS CLOSED TO HARVEST ON THE TEXAS COAST (BALANCE OF \$5,000,000 COMMITMENT)	\$931,774

**TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT AND  
COMMITTED TO OYSTER  
RESTORATION AND CREATION**

**\$8,941,228**

# HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

\$1,600,000 | CEDAR BAYOU/VINSON SLOUGH RESTORATION  
\$1,503,500 | NEARSHORE REEFING - SABINE PASS  
\$1,068,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - RIO GRANDE VALLEY REEF  
\$1,000,000 | AYERS REEF RESTORATION AND SHORELINE PROTECTION (AYERS BAY)  
\$1,000,000 | CARANCAHUA BAY OYSTER REEF RESTORATION (CARANCAHUA BAY)  
\$1,000,000 | CARLOS REEF RESTORATION PHASE II  
\$1,000,000 | OYSTER LICENSE BUYBACK PROGRAM  
\$711,250 | OYSTER REEF CREATION - ST. CHARLES BAY (ROCKPORT)  
\$700,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING—PORT O'CONNOR  
\$630,000 | OYSTER LAKE SHORELINE PROTECTION (WEST GALVESTON BAY)  
\$502,000 | SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM  
\$500,000 | EAST MATAGORDA COL (EIDELBACH FLATS REEF)  
\$500,000 | MESQUITE BAY COL (RANCH HOUSE REEF)  
\$500,000 | OYSTER RESTORATION - EAST GALVESTON BAY  
\$400,000 | COMO LAKE AND DANA COVER SHORELINE PROTECTION (WEST GALVESTON BAY)  
\$329,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - GALVESTON / BIG MAN & KATE'S REEF  
\$250,000 | HRI NEARSHORE REEF ENHANCEMENT STUDY  
\$250,000 | DAGGER ISLAND SHORELINE PROTECTION & MARSH RESTORATION (REDFISH BAY)  
\$225,000 | MESQUITE BAY OYSTER REEF MONITORING (HRI)  
\$215,000 | OYSTER RESTORATION—DEEP REEF SABINE LAKE  
\$200,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - MATAGORDA  
\$200,000 | SHORELINE STABILIZATION - SAN BERNARD NWR  
\$200,000 | GORDY MARSH LIVING SHORELINE (TRINITY BAY)  
\$150,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - BIRD ISLAND COVE (WEST GALVESTON BAY)  
\$150,000 | NUECES BAY DELTA SHORELINE RESTORATION  
\$138,000 | SHORELINE PROTECTION/MARSH CREATION - MOSES LAKE (GALVESTON BAY)  
\$135,000 | BAFFIN BAY SERPULID REEF HABITAT CONSERVATION/RESTORATION STUDY  
\$130,000 | OYSTER RESTORATION—PEPPER GROVE / GALVESTON (BCT)  
\$126,204 | AYERS REEF ENGINEERING AND MONITORING PLAN (AYERS BAY / MESQUITE BAY COMPLEX)  
\$125,000 | ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SHORELINE PROTECTION (SAN ANTONIO BAY)

\$120,000 | HRI OYSTER RESTORATION SITE LOCATOR MAPPING STUDY  
\$100,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - DICKINSON BAYOU  
\$100,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - CORPUS CHRISTI  
\$95,000 | BAHIA GRANDE RESTORATION (PORT ISABEL / BROWNSVILLE)  
\$91,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - BRAZORIA & SAN BERNARD WILDLIFE REFUGE  
\$85,000 | NEWCOMB BEND MARSH RESTORATION (TPWD)  
\$75,000 | OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - ARANSAS BAY (ROCKPORT)  
\$75,000 | OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - COPANO BAY (ROCKPORT)  
\$70,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - EGERY ISLAND (COPANO BAY/BAYSIDE)  
\$70,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - MATAGORDA ISLAND  
\$70,000 | NUECES BAY DELTA WATER MANAGEMENT GATES  
\$60,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - FREEPORT / VANCOUVER  
\$60,000 | NUECES BAY DEMONSTRATION OYSTER REEF  
\$50,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - GOOSE ISLAND (ROCKPORT)  
\$50,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - PORT MANSFIELD  
\$50,000 | SHORELINE STABILIZATION - J. D. MURPHREE WMA  
\$50,000 | SHORELINE STABILIZATION - COW TRAP LAKE (BRAZORIA COUNTY)  
\$50,000 | DOLLAR BAY SHORELINE PROTECTION AND MARSH RESTORATION  
\$50,000 | GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS LIVING SHORELINE RESTORATION  
\$46,204 | AYERS REEF RESTORATION REEF PROJECT PHASE I  
\$42,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - OXEN & GANG'S BAYOU (GALVESTON)  
\$40,000 | KATE'S HOLE LIVING SHORELINE (CORPUS CHRISTI BAY)  
\$40,000 | TRINITY BAY DISCOVERY CENTER LIVING SHORELINE  
\$30,000 | SWEETWATER PRESERVE SHORELINE PROTECTIONS AND OYSTER REEF ENHANCEMENT  
\$24,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - NUECES BAY (CORPUS CHRISTI)  
\$20,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - SNAKE ISLAND COVER (WEST GALVESTON BAY)  
\$15,000 | WEED ERADICATION FOR WATER FLOW RESTORATION (GUADALUPE RIVER DELTA)  
\$10,000 | SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAMS TRAILER  
\$5,600 | BAY DEBRIS REMOVAL - ARANSAS PASS

**TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2026:**  
**\$17,081,758**

In 2015, the U.S. Coast Guard estimated over **760,000 red snapper** were **illegally** fished in **Texas** and U.S. waters by the lancha fleet from Mexico.

**REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING!**

**STEALING YOUR FISH. SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.**

**REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:**  
 Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife **800.792.4263**  
 Beyond 9 nautical miles – US Coast Guard **361.939.0450**

Catches from illegal fishing of red snapper in Gulf of Mexico is estimated to be **greater than the entire recreational allocation.**  
**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** Panga style fishing boats, large totes and 3-4 man crew.

**REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING!**

**STEALING YOUR FISH. SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.**

**REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:**  
 Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife **800.792.4263**  
 Beyond 9 nautical miles – US Coast Guard **361.939.0450**



**YETI** BUILT FOR THE WILD.

## UNDERSTANDING VIBRIO INFECTIONS TO STAY SAFE IN MARINE WATERS



### What Is Vibrio?

*Vibrio* is a group of bacteria naturally found in the bays and coastal waters of Texas. If you've been in saltwater, you've encountered *Vibrio*. *Vibrio* encompasses a number of different species, but when most people hear "*Vibrio*", they think about the rare, but traumatic flesh and limb destruction that it can cause, informally referring to it as "flesh eating bacteria."

### How can you be exposed?

Infection occurs when *Vibrio* enters the body through open wounds, even minor cuts or insect bites. Common activities like swimming, fishing, or handling raw seafood can lead to exposure. Risk of infection is most pronounced when water temperature is at or above about 70°F, although infection can occur year-round. A recent study by researchers at the Harte Research Institute also found that *Vibrio* populations temporarily increase sharply during Saharan Dust deposition events.

### Symptoms of a Vibrio infection

Symptoms of a *Vibrio* infection can develop rapidly, including pain, swelling, redness, and fever. In severe cases, loss of limbs or death can occur within 24–48 hours if left untreated.

### What to do if you are infected?

If you suspect a *Vibrio* infection (pain, swelling, fever), seek immediate medical attention. Inform healthcare providers about recent saltwater exposure and potential *Vibrio* infection.

## MINIMIZE VIBRIO RISKS



**Avoid Saltwater with Open Wounds:** Refrain from swimming or wading if you have cuts or abrasions.



**Use Protective Gear:** Wear puncture-resistant gloves when handling seafood and closed-toed shoes in water.



**Wound Care:** Immediately treat any wound that has been exposed to saltwater by flushing and cleaning with warm water and antibacterial cleanser; Chlorhexidine-based products such as Hibiclens® can be purchased at your local pharmacy and provide lasting antibacterial effect. Apply a topical antibacterial ointment and cover the wound with a clean dressing or Band-Aid. Fishermen, bathers, and others should carry, or have immediate access to, small bottles of Hibiclens and antibiotic ointment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
**Michael Wetz, Ph.D.**  
 Chair for Coastal Water Health  
 michael.wetz@tamucc.edu | (361) 825-2132

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**CCA TEXAS  
STAR**

This upcoming 37<sup>th</sup> Year of the LARGEST Saltwater Fishing Tournament in Texas is bringing NEW prizes and excitement! Don't wait to register for our 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tournament because you don't want to miss your chance at the incredible **Early Bird Boat Giveaway** this year. If you register for STAR by May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, you'll be entered in the giveaway for a Dargel Kuda 230, 250 HP Mercury Motor, and McClain Trailer package. Our 2025 Early Bird Winner, Beckie Freytag, said it best – "I didn't believe it was true, but it really was! It can happen to you, too!"



And don't forget about our always-popular **Member Bonus Giveaways (two of them!)**. For the first one, our friends at Dargel have provided us with another impressive rig – a Dargel Attacka Flat 203, 150 HP Mercury Motor and McClain Trailer package. To spice up the prizes for 2026, for our second Member Bonus Giveaway, we are showcasing a brand-new giveaway to a lucky registered



angler – a 2026 Ford Super Duty F-250 XLT Crew Cab 4x4 Diesel! Yes, you read that right! Just for registering for the 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tournament, you will be entered in these **TWO** Member Bonus Giveaways with **TWO** winners, one for the Ford Super Duty F-250 and one for the Dargel Attacka Flat 203! And we didn't forget about our Kids and Teens



Anglers. We will be giving away **TWO** Scholarships this year to **TWO** youth anglers just for signing up for the Tournament – a \$25,000 Scholarship provided by our friends at ABC13 Houston, and our \$50,000 Billy Kinney Conservation Scholarship! For just \$10, you can sign up your kid/teen as a CCA Texas Youth Member AND fish the STAR Tournament for FREE!



Last, but definitely not least, we are showcasing a new division this year – Tags of Texas! The first three tags caught and certified as winners in this division will win a top prize of a 22' SVT Tran Sport Boat powered by a 150 HP Mercury Motor and Coastline Trailer package! The next seven registered anglers will win an Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card. Any tag caught by a registered angler in this division will also receive a custom prize package provided by one of our amazing STAR sponsors! This division consists of six different tag colors, each color tied to a specific sponsor:

- Blue = Academy Sports + Outdoors**
- Mid Green = Hoffpauir Polaris**
- Grey = Mercury Marine**
- Yellow = Mustang Cat**
- Lime Green = Lone Star Beer**
- Purple = AFTCO**

A HUGE thank you to ALL our sponsors – they are the backbone of this tournament and a big reason we can proudly say we have awarded over \$40,000,000 in prizes and over \$8,700,000 in scholarships to STAR Anglers over the last 36 years!

As we count down the final days til the start of the 2026 STAR Tournament, which begins on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 AM, I want to wish all our anglers the best of luck, enjoy every cast, soak in the time spent with family and friends, and **BE SAFE ON THE WATER!** I hope you are the next angler who calls in claiming a winning tag!

Here is a breakdown of the details for this year's 2026 STAR Tournament:

**Texas Ford Dealers Red Tag Division**

The first FIVE eligible winners will take home a 2026 Ford F-150 SuperCrew, a 23' Haynie Amigo, 150 hp Mercury motor, and a Coastline Trailer package. The next FIVE eligible winners will take home a 23' Haynie Amigo, 150hp Mercury motor, and Coastline Trailer packages.



**\*NEW\* Tags of Texas Division**

Every tag is a winner in this exciting new division featuring six color-coded tags, each sponsored by a STAR partner.

- **First 3 tags caught:** Win a 22' SVT Tran Sport Boat, 150hp Mercury motor, and a Coastline trailer package
- **Next 7 tags caught:** Win thousands in Academy Sports + Outdoors gift cards
- **All tags:** Win a special sponsor prize package

**Tag Colors & Sponsors:**

- Blue – Academy Sports + Outdoors
- Mid Green – Hoffpauir Polaris
- Grey – Mercury Marine
- Yellow – Mustang Cat
- Lime Green – Lone Star Beer
- Purple – AFTCO



**INSHORE**

As in previous years, this division includes 3 species – Black Drum, Sheepshead, and Gafftop. The top eligible heaviest fish for each species will take home a 19' Shoalwater boat, 115hp Mercury motor, and McClain

trailer package. The next four heaviest fish of each species will receive an Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card.



**OFFSHORE**

As in previous years, those eligible offshore anglers who bring in the heaviest Ling/Cobia, Dorado, Kingfish, and Red Snapper will take home a Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI Pursuit Camo UTV with a Big Tex Trailer. The next four heaviest fish of each species will receive an Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card.



**SCHOLARSHIPS**

STAR now awards \$375,000 each year in scholarships to those young anglers who will be the future stewards of our precious marine resources. Nothing is more rewarding than watching the little ones with their first redfish on the line! Mom and Dad, what better way to spend more time on the water than by bringing the kids along? For \$10 bucks each, they entered in a drawing for a \$25,000

scholarship AND a \$50,000 scholarship, whether they catch something or not!

We've got two divisions: The STAR Kids (ages 6 - 10) and STAR Teens (11-17), both offering two different species of competition: Sheepshead and Gafftop! First place for each species will win a scholarship of \$30,000, then \$20,000, \$15,000, \$7,500, and \$2,500 for subsequent places.

### Guides Division

Calling all Texas Fishing Guides! Texas STAR and CCA Texas want to reward those guides who support marine conservation and empower them to help recruit more anglers into the CCA mission through this division. The winner will take home a Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFi Pursuit Camo UTV with a Big Tex Trailer. For more details, go to <https://www.startournament.org/>



**PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS**



**CCA TEXAS STAR TOURNAMENT**

**It's not too late! Enter the CCA Texas STAR Early Bird Drawing, WIN THIS DARGEL KUDA 230, 250HP MERCURY MOTOR & MCCLAIN TRAILER!**

**Our BIGGEST EARLY BIRD BOAT! EVER!**

**ENTER STAR TODAY!**

The advertisement features a large image of a silver Dargel Kuda 230 boat on a McClain trailer. The boat has a Mercury outboard motor and is shown on a red background. The text is bold and colorful, with a yellow and blue splash effect behind the main headline.



**STAR** *Platinum Print*  
HISTORY SHOWS THESE  
SELL OUT FAST!

## STAR PLATINUM SUPPORTING STAR STUDENTS

YOUR CONTRIBUTION THROUGH STAR PLATINUM DIRECTLY FUNDS \$375,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS ANNUALLY FOR STAR YOUTH WINNERS – WHICH MAKES YOU THE REAL STAR!



*Order Now*

*"Spot On"*  
BY MAC ELLIOTT

GET YOUR \$40 CCA MEMBERSHIP (OR RENEWAL) NOW.  
ALSO GET YOUR \$110 STAR PLATINUM WHICH INCLUDES YOUR STAR ENTRY AND  
SIGNED & NUMBERED LIMITED EDITION PRINT 'SPOT ON' BY MAC ELLIOTT

**STARTOURNAMENT.ORG**



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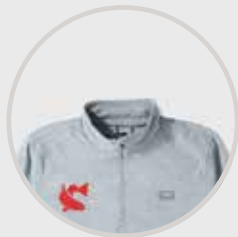


### Coastal Layer

"Soft" doesn't do it justice. Coastal Layer delivers unbeatable comfort, whether you're wearing it solo or layering up. Crafted from lightweight, moisture-wicking fleece with advanced stain resistance, it's built to perform.



Coastal Layer Hoodie



Coastal Layer 1/4 Zip



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When time on your boat is like medicine for the soul, rest assured that every precious moment is protected by America's #1 boat insurer—day after day, cast after cast.

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**PROGRESSIVE**<sup>®</sup>

Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. & affiliates. #1 rating based on 2022 boat market share. Data is sourced from Rateflings.com.



*Thank you Mercury Marine!*

Our friends and partners at Mercury Marine were the first-ever CCA Texas STAR partner in 1990. They recognized the future benefits of our mission in marine conservation, even before it became popular.

We are grateful for their generous support for 35 years, and we know that we can always count on them. If you want to support those who support the things we love, scan this QR code to let Mercury know if you're interested in repowering.





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# Caught Redhanded!

Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens



On 01/03/26, a Galveston County Warden was on patrol and inspected (2) individuals fishing. Upon inspection, the individuals were found to be in possession of (14) undersized red drum and (2) undersized black drum. Citations issued and cases pending. The next day, another (2) individuals were inspected while fishing and were found to be in possession of (15) undersized red drum, (3) undersized black drum, and (1) undersized flounder. Citations issued and cases pending.



On 03/18/2026, Brazoria County Wardens inspected recreational fisherman on the Surfside jetties. One individual was found to be in possession of (12) sheepshead. Citations were issued for over the daily bag limit of sheepshead and undersized sheepshead. Cases pending.



On 3/27/26, a Matagorda County Game Warden received a call reporting two individuals with numerous oversized Red Drum at the Matagorda Jetty. The subjects were located and both ticketed. Cases Pending.

On 04/03/26, while patrolling Brazoria County, Wardens contacted individuals oystering in restricted waters near San Luis pass. Cases pending.

On 04/12/26, a Galveston Warden was patrolling the San Luis Pass, Galveston area. An individual was inspected and was found to be fishing with an illegal cast net (22') and also in possession of undersized black drum. Cases pending.

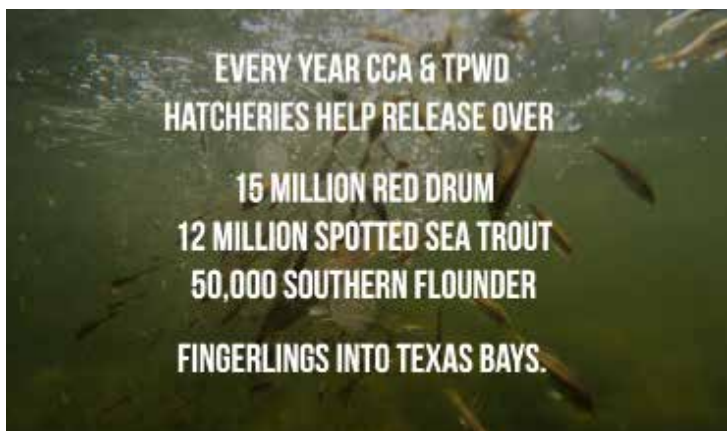


# Putting fingerlings back where fish need to be

Hatcheries were an early priority of CCA. Enhancing populations was crucial, but replacing a large percentage of cold-stricken gamefish proved to be a primary benefit of the hatcheries.

Once again, CCA and TPWD are filling the need to mitigate trout, redfish and flounder mortalities. Take a brief voyage with a CCA /TPWD hatchery as technicians replace trout fingerlings. Here's a link to a recent video that will provide an idea of the process:

[CLICK HERE](#)





## Presenting the NEW CCA Texas license plates!



We are incredibly excited about this new, updated design which proudly displays our CCA logo to show everyone you're a conservation-minded Texas angler.

Get yours TODAY by going to [ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org) and clicking the link on the homepage.

For each plate sold, CCA Texas will receive \$22 which will be crucial support for our work of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. Additionally, by purchasing your CCA Texas license plates for your SUV, truck, car, or trailer, you'll also be raising awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts each time you're out on the road!

## Supporters of CCA Texas

### I have my NEW CCA Texas license plates. Do you have yours?

If not, you can order our NEW CCA Texas license plates with an updated design that proudly displays our CCA logo for everyone to see.

[CLICK HERE](#) to get yours today. Why?

1. Show everyone you're a conservation-minded Texas angler.
2. Raise awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts each time you're out on the road.
3. Support our work of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. For each plate sold, CCA Texas will receive \$22.

Order yours TODAY by [CLICKING HERE](#).

If you already have CCA Texas plates with the previous design, you can definitely keep them, but you also have the opportunity to get the new one by going to your local county tax assessor-collector's office and ordering a replacement for \$6.50.

Help out CCA Texas and upgrade your car, truck, or trailer by [CLICKING HERE](#) to get your custom CCA Texas plates TODAY at MyPlates.com.

Your friend in conservation, —**Robby Byers**  
Executive Director CCA Texas



Illegal fishermen target red snapper, sharks and red drum, using primarily **long lines and gill nets** which often hook or entangle endangered sea turtles.



**STEALING YOUR FISH.  
SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.**

**REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:**  
Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife **800.792.4263**  
Beyond 9 nautical miles – US Coast Guard **361.939.0450**



# Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

CCA Texas' financial responsibilities and goals are ongoing. For the time being, publishing the CURRENTS newsletter requires the internet. There are excellent reasons, with cost being primary.

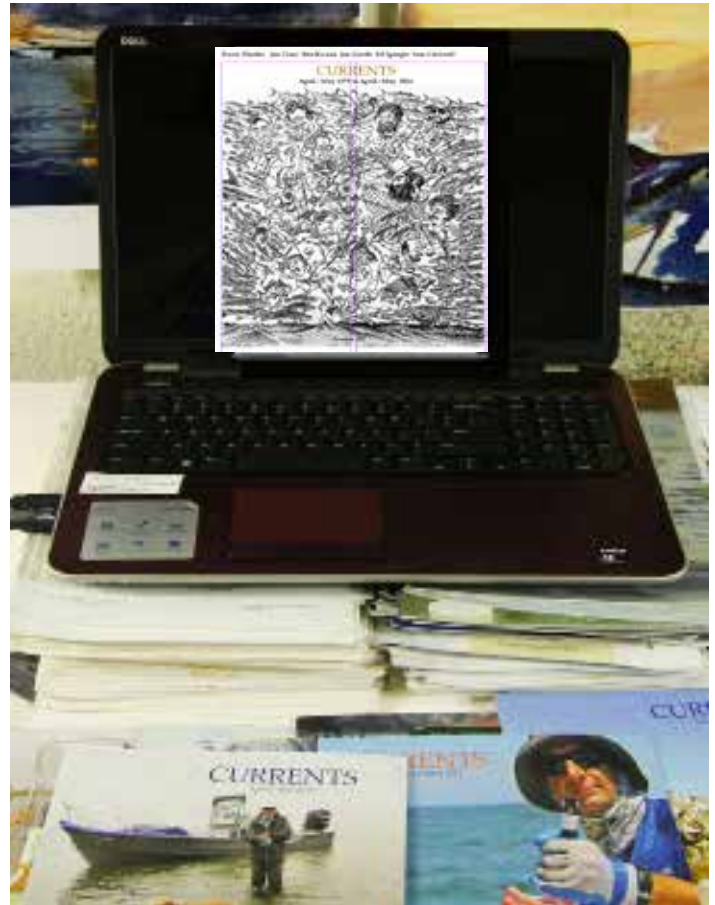
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a full-color newsletter to our statewide membership is time consuming and expensive.

The online CURRENTS newsletter requires no printing nor postage, and delivery is almost instantaneous. An email to members contains a link, with the full newsletter a click away.

Apart from the cost difference, there are many reasons a member can appreciate an internet version of the publication.

- An e-newsletter can be opened in seconds. Articles can be accessed rapidly. Images can be viewed large. Text can be enlarged for easier reading, blocked, copied and shared. Past issues are a click away on the CCA Texas website.
- A favored article can be forwarded to others, readily accessed later instead of having to search through stacks of magazines, and printed for reference.
- Links can be used to connect to advertisers, as well as cross referencing other articles, writers, photographers and artists.

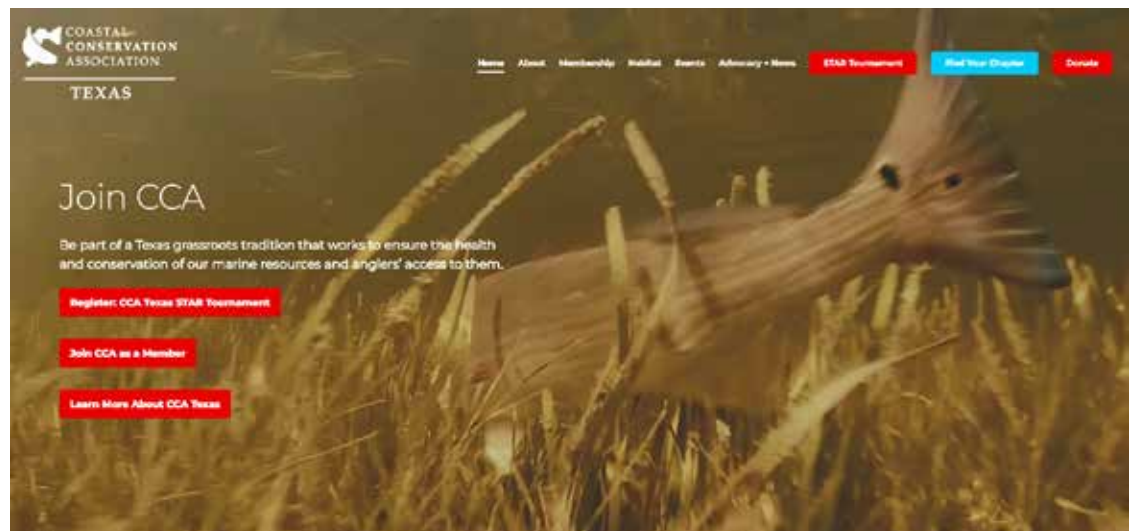
- A link to the CCA Texas website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast. [Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



*A great way to enjoy indoor time and stay in touch with the outdoors—the CCA Texas website is at your service.*

You'll find news and information about chapter events, advocacy and breaking news, plus videos of the progress we're making along the Texas coast. Need a guide? Want to enjoy a *CURRENTS* feature from years back? Check in with the STAR program?

Go to [ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org) and bookmark it now.



# Follow CCA Texas on Social Media!

The BEST way to stay informed on the latest with CCA Texas is by FOLLOWING us on Facebook, Instagram, and X. We regularly post photo and video updates on our 60 local chapters, conservation projects, member photos, and advocacy efforts to keep you informed and engaged.

Our following continues to GROW FAST, so join thousands of CCA Texas members around the state by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and X now! Each time our members FOLLOW CCA Texas and LIKE our posts, it helps to raise awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts. And don't be shy, share our posts with your friends and family and encourage them to FOLLOW us as well!

## FACEBOOK



### Featured Social Media Highlights

Join over 44,000+ Texas anglers by FOLLOWING our CCA Texas Facebook page to be the first to know about important updates, check out incredible photos, and watch amazing reels and videos! LIKE us on Facebook TODAY and help us out by sharing our posts!



**HAPPY TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

**f** Texas Independence Day serves as an important reminder of how grateful we are for our beautiful Texas Coast and everything it provides. Sabine Lake, the Galveston Bay Complex, Matagorda, San Antonio Bay, Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre, and everywhere in between...we love it all, and we love Texas! Have a GREAT Texas Independence Day, y'all!

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**



**CCA TEXAS BOARD APPROVES OVER \$1.3 MILLION IN CONSERVATION FUNDING**

**f** We're proud to announce that the CCA Texas Board has approved over \$1.3 million in funding to support critical coastal conservation initiatives. This funding is made possible thanks to our dedicated volunteers, members, STAR Tournament registrants, and local chapter banquet attendees! Thank you to all who continue to make a positive impact on our Texas Coast.

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**



**f** A day on the water is a day well spent.

**@GarrettBoehnemann**

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**



## CCA Texas on Instagram

We just reached 25K+ followers, now help us get to 30K! If you aren't following us already, add our [@cca\\_texas](#) page to your feed and encourage your friends and family to follow us along with you! [FOLLOW us on Instagram TODAY!](#)

## INSTAGRAM



**EAST MATAGORDA BAY, TEXAS**

East Matty by way of Sargent, Texas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE'S COASTAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM HAS STOCKED **OVER 1 BILLION** FINGERLINGS INTO OUR TEXAS BAYS SINCE THE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION. INCLUDING...

Since the beginning, CCA Texas has been proud to support @texasparkswildlife's Coastal Fisheries Enhancement Program, which has stocked over 1 billion fingerlings into our Texas Bays since the program's inception, including 🐠 863,851,602 Red Drum 🐠 167,550,771 Spotted Seatrout 🐠 1,344,120 Southern Flounder

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



DESALINATION COMES WITH A BYPRODUCT MOST COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS BRINE AND WHERE WE PUT THAT BRINE DISCHARGE IS THE ISSUE AT HAND

Please take a moment to watch Shane Bonnot of CCA Texas discuss desalination.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



## CCA Texas on X

Get important recreational angling-related news and updates filtered into your feed by following us on X! In addition to posting our own updates, we make sure to repost content that we know you want to see! FOLLOW us on X TODAY!



### 🌊 Conservation in Action 🌊

This past weekend, the Kader family, of our CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter, got out and made a BIG difference by volunteering in the Annual Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program. As you can see, Eric, Haley, and their daughter Bexley put in WORK to make a positive impact on Mesquite Bay and the surrounding areas. Job well done, y'all!

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!**



👩‍🦰 Lady Anglers: Register for the 2026 Babes on the Bay All Women's Fishing Tournament (CPR format)!

📅 Fri./Sat., May 15/16  
📍 Rockport-Fulton, TX!

Early Registration is underway NOW and ends at 11:59 PM CST on Wednesday, April 15th.

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!**



Lucky for us, green just happens to be one of our favorite colors! 🍀 Happy St. Patrick's Day, y'all!

👤: Mac Elliott Media

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!**

# PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR COASTS

7% of proceeds from CCA-branded gear supports habitat restoration.

[SHOP NOW](#)



# marucci x CCA

As a proud partner of CCA, Marucci strives to enhance the outdoor experience by offering high-quality products that not only meet the needs of enthusiasts but also contribute to the conservation efforts championed by CCA.



In partnership with CCA, Marucci's Limited Edition Lifestyle sunglasses feature an engraved CCA logo on the lens and custom design on the temples.

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Ri-Pel™ scratch-resistant lens coating repels dirt, oil and water for use in all weather conditions.

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## OMERO 2.0

Lightweight frames provide all-day comfort for everyday activities.



## GANCIO 2.0

Large, fully-wrapping frame for a secure fit during outdoor activities.



## CCA DUFFEL

Heavy-duty shell material with a water-resistant external pocket and a ventilated mesh padded shoulder strap.



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Editor / Sam Caldwell

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## Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards

The Alvin Pearland Chapter Board has been busy planning for 2026! We have been lining out our Anglers' Night Out meetings and working hard to get our Fundraising Banquet details finalized!

We have confirmed the dates for our Anglers' Night Out events! Mark your calendars! They will be held on Tuesday, April 7, Tuesday, May 19, Tuesday, September 15, and Tuesday, October 27. The meetings will be held at a Big Horn BBQ in Pearland! The speakers will begin at 7PM. Come earlier if you want to visit, hang out, and grab a bite to eat. If you would like to speak at one of our events, reach out and we can get you plugged in!

The speaker for April is going to be Larry Higgins, the owner of KWigglers Lure Company. The May speaker is going to be Capt. Gary Cooper from Reel Addicted Fishing in Galveston Bay.

**Our 2026 Annual CCA Alvin/Pearland Banquet and Fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026 and will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland.**

We will be serving a delicious dinner, having a Sportsman's Raffle that will include guns, coolers, and rod/reel packages. We will also have live and silent auctions, as well as numerous other raffles. This is an event you won't want to miss. Reserve your spot now!

Banquet tickets are \$75/person, \$120/couple and \$20/kids. Reserved/Sponsor Tables start at \$750 for 8 guests. All adult tickets include a CCA Membership. Sportsman's Raffle Tickets are \$20 each or

6 for \$100. If you would like to purchase banquet tickets, reserve a table for your group or company, or make a donation to our event, please contact Garrett Boehnemann at 713.626.4222, email us at [AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com](mailto:AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com), or use this link: <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/alvin-pearland/#banquet>.

The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca](http://www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca) or go to our Chapter Website at <http://www.ccatexas.org/chapters/houston-area/alvin-pearland/>.

We hope to see you at one of our events in 2026! Don't forget to bring a friend, or even better, a kid!

**Aransas Bay**  
**Bill Burge 713-828-3823**  
**[bill\\_burge@yahoo.com](mailto:bill_burge@yahoo.com)**

What an incredible night for conservation on the Texas coast. Our Aransas Bay CCA Banquet was officially SOLD OUT, and we couldn't be more grateful for the overwhelming support from this community. From longtime members to first-time attendees, the energy in the room was a true reflection of what makes this chapter so special, people who care deeply about our coastal resources and the future of our fisheries.

Because of you, we are able to continue funding meaningful conservation efforts right here in our backyard, from habitat restoration and fisheries enhancement to youth outreach and education. This is what it's all about.

A sincere thank you to our generous sponsors who help make it all possible. Our major event sponsors include: Salemi's Ace Hardware, Silsbee Ford / Lakeside Chevrolet, Rockport Tackle Town, Big Tree Realty, Rockport Shelley Team – Guild Mortgage, and so many others who continue to step up for conservation year after year. Your support does not go unnoticed.

We also want to recognize our incredible volunteers. This chapter runs on the dedication of people who give their time not just for events like the banquet, but all year long—working behind the scenes, showing up early, staying late, and doing whatever it takes to move the mission forward. We are truly thankful for each and every one of you.



*Left: Board Member of the year Scott McLeod with John Blaha, Right: Michael Ferri, Legacy Conservation award winners Doug Bowers and Bud Kittle, and John Blaha*

BANQUET DONORS AND UNDERWRITERS <small>(in line of priority)</small>		
Aransas Bay CCA	Carly's Custom Rods - Lloyd	Port Man's Country Club
Baffin Bay Floating Cabins	"Orly" Worthington	Pop's Place
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Big Tree Realty - Jim Blaha, Ceera	Dolly Grind	Republic Boat Company
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Chief Adam Compton - Gabriela's	Paradise Key Deckside Bar & Grill	
Seafood and Tapas	Painter Wingshooting	
Cluco William		
Capra's Restaurant		

We would like to thank all of our donors and sponsors for the 2026 CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter Annual Fundraising Banquet. If we have missed any donors, underwriters or sponsors in our program, please accept our sincerest apologies.

CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter would like to thank all of our banquet and table sponsors. Your participation is key to our event's success.

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 Blackjack Point Oyster Company      Jeff Billinger      Vectors Windows & Doors  
 Berge (1)      Lane Loft / Zingre      Weiss/Flaggert  
 Berge (2)      B.Adventures / Carly's Custom Rods      Weller & Water Outdoors  
 Creative Homes      Rockport Properties  
 Fink & Dalby      The Reserve at St. Charles Bay

As we head into the warmer months, we're looking ahead to one of the most exciting events of the year—**Babes on the Bay, happening May 15–16, 2026 at the Fulton Convention Center.** This one-of-a-kind, all-women's tournament continues to grow and inspire, bringing together anglers from across the coast in support of conservation. Thank you to all of our Babes on the Bay sponsors who help make this event so impactful—we can't wait for another unforgettable weekend.

Summer is just around the corner, and with it comes early mornings on the water, rising tides, and the kind of days that remind us why we work so hard to protect these resources.

Thank you again for standing with CCA Texas and for being part of something bigger than all of us. We'll see you on the water.

**Austin**  
**Alex Blackburn 512-565-4939**  
**Atblackburn3@gmail.com**

The countdown is on for our 2026 Annual CCA Austin Chapter fundraising banquet. We would not be able to raise the funds needed to continue CCA mission without all the local Chapters' fundraising efforts and the support we receive from you and local businesses.

Calendar of Events: April 2 – ANO at Austin Yeti Flagship Store at 220 S Congress Ave, Austin 78704. We have partnered with Yeti to host an Anglers' Night Out to promote CCA, have some fun and network with other people. Special guest speaker is fishing guide Joey Farah. This is a free event to attend.

Available now – Boat raffle tickets are available to purchase now. There are only 260



Photos courtesy of Weller & Water Outdoors



Photos of Brecken Morgan and Nolan Holland with their recent red catches

tickets sold at \$250 each. If you are not attending the banquet on May 7, this will be your opportunity to purchase a ticket. This year's boat is a 23' Haynie Amigo with a Mercury 150HP L Pro XS Optimax and Coastline Trailer. You can purchase a raffle ticket through any board member or email Cheryl at [cherylccaustin@gmail.com](mailto:cherylccaustin@gmail.com) or call (512) 662-0006.



*Photos from the 2026 CCA Brazos Valley Chapter Banquet*

**May 7 is the CCA Austin Chapter 47th Annual Fundraiser Banquet.** You will enjoy an evening of music, food from some of the best restaurants in Austin, open bar, Yeti raffle, games, general raffle, and the best live auction items. We offer something for everyone including the ladies. Purchase your tickets early.... The banquet always sells out: <https://ticketstripe.com/CCA-Austin-2026>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Cheryl at [Cherylccaustin@gmail.com](mailto:Cherylccaustin@gmail.com) and she will be happy to help you.

October 15<sup>th</sup> is the Hooked on Clays 4th Annual clay shoot will be held at Hog Heaven in Dripping Springs. More information to follow.

Be sure to follow CCA Austin Chapter on [Facebook](#) for updated information on our local chapter. If you are interested in learning more about the Austin CCA Chapter, we meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Warren Wildlife Gallery, 1401 Bouldin Ave at 6:00 p.m. We welcome new members and look forward to meeting you. If you have any questions please contact our President, Alex Blackburn at [atblackburn3@gmail.com](mailto:atblackburn3@gmail.com) or Cheryl Smith at [Cherylccaustin@gmail.com](mailto:Cherylccaustin@gmail.com).

**Bastrop County**  
**Cole Williams 512-913-3684**  
**colew65@yahoo.com**

**Brazoria**  
**Stephen Griffith 979-236-1902**  
**swgriffith65@gmail.com**

Don't miss 2026 Brazoria County Chapter banquet, tables are selling fast. The **banquet will be Thursday May 28, 2026, at The Dow Academic Center.** If anyone is interested in purchasing a table or becoming a sponsor contact Stephen at (979)236-1902 or email [swgriffith65@gmail.com](mailto:swgriffith65@gmail.com).

**Brazos Valley**  
**John Ben Strother 979-220-1738**  
**jbsunlimited@yahoo.com**

Wow....summer is here, time to wet a line. Our chapter had a fantastic 34th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. We really appreciate everyone...our forty-seven sponsors, program advertisers, those who donated live and silent auction items: Burdett & Son Outdoor Adventure Shop, C & J Barbeque for catering, Cocktails4U, our banquet committee, and finally our new assistant director, Drake Grigar. And all those who attended. It truly takes a village, thank you!

The funds raised help ensure coastal water resources for our kids, grandkids and great grandkids to enjoy. Look out for upcoming news for the 2027 banquet date. In the meantime, our next monthly chapter meeting is April 14, 2026. Scott Sig will send out an email with the time and place. Help brighten someone's day and take them fishing.

**Brenham**  
**Ryan Saunders 979-251-2389**  
**ryansaunders1@att.net**

**Brush Country**  
**Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037**  
**brendagballard@hotmail.com**

**Centex**  
**Mike Hyde 254-855-8752**  
**Hydemike37@yahoo.com**

**Central Houston**  
**Brooks Kelm 713-829-1386**  
**brooks@bayoucityangler.com**

**Colorado Valley**  
**Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425**  
**zeke.ulrich@gmail.com**

**Come and Catch It**  
**Jared Brumme 210-825-9088**  
**Jared.brumme@yahoo.com**

We are anxiously preparing for our **1<sup>st</sup> Annual CCA Come and Catch It / Shiner Fire Department Kidfish event at Green-Dickson Park in Shiner on April 18, 2026**. All youth 1-16 years old are invited to participate in this free fishing event but registration is required. Prizes will be awarded to the top in each age category. Each participant will get a T-shirt and a goodie bag. There will also be prize giveaways for fishing poles and reels and fishing tackle. Please register ASAP to ensure a goodie bag is reserved for the youth.

Please save the date of **August 7, 2026, for our Annual CCA Come and Catch It banquet at the JB Wells Park Event Center in Gonzales**. We heard our guests request and scheduled next year's banquet for Friday night instead of Thursday. We are planning to have some exciting surprises for our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet, so stay tuned. Thank you for your support in protecting the coastal resources of Texas and we hope to see you at the banquet.

**Corpus Christi**  
**Cody Roesner 916-531-0078**  
**cbroutfitters@yahoo.com**

**Dallas**  
**Kyle Marmillion 214-437-3468**  
**marmillionkyle@gmail.com**

As we get closer to our 2026 Banquet, we would like to thank our 2025 CCA Dallas Banquet Table Sponsors. Thank You: Tito's Handmade Vodka, McGriff Specialty, Parking Systems of America, Miles & Miles Argentina, ScreenFab, Vaquero Private Wealth, Community National Bank, AgTrust, Taylor Farms, Lee Halford, McMurray Metals, Blue Harbor Capital Advisors, Dallas Gun Club, Bullard Construction, AM Steel and Supply, Clay Shooters Supply, Contego Solutions, Mesero, Park Cities Dads Club & Ducks Unlimited.

Our first ANO of 2026 will be on March 11 at The Beretta Gallery. Details will be sent out in early February via email and on social media.

**Our 2026 Annual Banquet is Scheduled for April 9 at On The Levee**. We look forward to hosting everyone for another great event, tickets and tables are on sale now: <https://ticketstripe.com/CCADallas2026>.



*Photos from our recent CCA Greater Sugar Land Kidfish event*

**Fort Bend**  
**Thomas Welch 832-628-0130**  
**twelch@aegislifesafety.com**

**Fort Worth**  
**Beau Redwine 817-291-1890**  
**beauredwine9@gmail.com**

**Galveston**  
**Lawrence Walker 832-444-0911**  
**lpwalk62@icloud.com**

**Golden Triangle**  
**Dave Roberts 409-781-6850**  
**Superdave.roberts08@gmail.com**

**Greater Sugar Land**  
**John Breland 281-808-2969**  
**geauxingfishing@yahoo.com**

Can you smell it, it's in the air, the smell of a good ole fashioned FUNdraiser in the aroma of boiled crawfish, fried catfish, open bar and a guaranteed good time while doing our part to contribute to the Mission Statement of CCA Texas. All of this and more will take place at the **CCA Greater Sugar Land Chapter Annual Banquet to be held at the Stafford Centre on Thursday, April 9, 2026**.

You don't want to miss this banquet with our friends from Cajun Country Cookers who always prepare a great meal for us with boiled crawfish, fried catfish and all the fixings. Grab seven of your friends or coworkers and get a table while they last, just click here: <https://ticketstripe.com/2026SugarLandCCA>.

Requests are coming in from our Community Partners to help them host their Kid Fish Events in 2026. We try to accommodate as many as we can, however we need your help in volunteering. Once you see a youngster catch their first fish and their big Ole Texas smile you will be glad you volunteered.

Our Chapter team for is excited about the Inter Chapter Challenge taking place this year on June 12-13, 2026 at the Fulton Event Center. We look forward to meeting members of the other chapters and enjoying the friendly competition and comradery.

If you would like to get involved with the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter, feel free to contact myself at [greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com](mailto:greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com) or better yet attend one

of our board meetings that take place at a new location El Fogon Mexican Kitchen, 4514 Highway 6 in Sugar Land. We meet at 6:30 p.m. for social time and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. The 2026 board meeting schedule is Tuesday, April 14, May, June, July, August - no Board Meetings, Tuesday September 8, Tuesday October 13, Tuesday November 10, December 2026 – no board meeting.

Until next time, get out on the water and enjoy good times & tight lines.

### Greater Woodlands



Join us for the Annual CCA Greater Sugar Land Banquet

**Charlotte Redd 832-368-8263**  
**choctawcharlie69@gmail.com**

It's time to save the date for the **CCA Greater Woodlands Chapter 19th Annual Banquet on May 14, 2026, at The Blue Magnolia, 1 Whispering Pines St, Magnolia 77354. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.** Get your tickets or table sponsorship here: <https://ticketstripe.com/GreaterWoodlands26>. Don't miss out on the sponsorship opportunity of your choosing!

If you have any questions about the sponsorship opportunities, feel free to reach out to Corbin Primrose at [cprimrose@ccatexas.org](mailto:cprimrose@ccatexas.org), the assistant director for our chapter, he will help you out!

**Guadalupe Valley**  
**Adam Arroyo 361-350-0026**  
**Ctown75@aol.com**

**Hays County**  
**Tim Young 512-573-7939**  
**tim.ccahaysco@gmail.com**

**Heart of the Hills**  
**Kelly Parks 210-669-3732**  
**bucksdelucks@yahoo.com**

### Helotes

**Johnny Rayburg 210-535-6810**  
**jrayburg@sbcglobal.net**

Howdy CCA Helotes Chapter Members, we had an incredible banquet on March 19 at Pedrotti's Ranch. The venue has been through some upgrades recently and looks amazing. Thanks to Anthony and Louie Pedrotti and their fantastic staff for hosting our event. The attendees enjoyed the food and hospitality so much we had more than our regular share of compliments. I'd also like to thank our Mayor Rich Whitehead providing us with the invocation,

Mrs. Brittney Clay for another wonderful rendition of our National Anthem, and the Harlan High School AF JROTC for posting the colors.

Our sponsors, in no particular order, have been supporting us for quite some time but still deserve recognition. A big THANK YOU to Academy Sport + Outdoors, Premier Boating Centers, Ron Hoover RV and Marine, Frost Bank, Texas Lawman Security and Traffic Control Services, Burnin' Bush, Burkholder AC & Heating LLC, Tietze Plumbing Heating and Air, Alamo Family Practice, Gun Shack, DeWinne Equipment, Pedrotti's Ranch, and Crawford Electric.

Of course, we couldn't do it without our volunteers and banquet

committee. Nathan and Karen Lutz, John and Karen Botter, Judy and Pat Mitchell, Mark Schofield, Mike and Amy Mullholland, Tysan and Shandlyn Gaenzel, Don and Nancy Castro, Ferdinand and Martha Gaenzel, Matt, Melanie, and Kaleb Murray, Sam Santos, Lisa Sanchez, Angie and Madelyn Rayburg, and Jerry Nunneley. Also, a special thanks to our Assistant Director Blake Burnside and his team for putting the hard pieces together.

Lastly, I want to personally thank all of those that attended in person or virtually through our silent auction. Without your support CCA Texas would not be able to fund all of the habitat projects and other conservation efforts. You do make a difference.

If you have any interest in joining our chapter banquet committee, please feel free to reach out any of our members. We'd welcome all who are interested.

### Highland Lakes

**Tim Franke 512-496-9973**  
**timfrankecca@gmail.com**

**Mark your calendars for the Highland Lakes Chapter Banquet - April 16, 2026 at the Lakeside Pavilion, Marble Falls in the beautiful Hill Country!**

If you had told us a few years ago that we'd all be working together to build a thriving CCA chapter in the middle of the Hill Country — four hours from the Gulf — we probably would've laughed. Yet here we are, preparing for our third annual banquet on April 16 at the Marble Falls

Lakeside Pavilion.

What started as a simple idea has quickly turned into something special. The Highland Lakes community has embraced CCA's mission, recognizing that conservation doesn't begin at the coastline—it starts upstream. The health of our area's lakes, rivers, and watersheds directly impacts the bays and estuaries we all care about, and that connection has resonated in a big way.

The result has been tremendous support and growing momentum each year, and this year's banquet is shaping up to be our best yet. We invite you to join us for a great evening of fellowship, outstanding BBQ from one of the Hill Country's renowned pitmasters, and a celebration of the work CCA continues to lead across Texas.

To purchase tickets or tables for the April 16 banquet, visit: <https://ticketstripe.com/HighlandLakesCCA26>. We hope to see you there. Follow us on Instagram @ [ccahighlandlakes](#) and on [Facebook](#). To learn more about the banquet, our chapter, or to get involved, contact: Tim Franke, President, [timfrankecca@gmail.com](mailto:timfrankecca@gmail.com) or Matt Mason, Secretary, [mm\\_tx@yahoo.com](mailto:mm_tx@yahoo.com).

### Hill Country

Miles Engelke 210-260-8968  
[mrengelke1957@gmail.com](mailto:mrengelke1957@gmail.com)

### Houston Homebuilders

Jimmy Reid 281-932-3395  
[jreid@newmarkhomes.com](mailto:jreid@newmarkhomes.com)

### Houston Real Estate

Kirk Laguarda 713-515-3830  
[KLaguarda@landadvisors.com](mailto:KLaguarda@landadvisors.com)

### Katy

Lyn Goldman 713-591-8550  
[lgoldman@contrexenergy.com](mailto:lgoldman@contrexenergy.com)

### Laredo

Maggie Puig 956-645-0031  
[Mepuig78@yahoo.com](mailto:Mepuig78@yahoo.com)

### Lavaca County

Brandon Welch (361) 407-3760  
[brandonkwelch@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonkwelch@yahoo.com)

### Lee County

Jake Horne 979-540-6117  
[jake@aubainesupply.com](mailto:jake@aubainesupply.com)

### Live Oak

Denise Krc 979-733-3358  
[liveoakchaptercca@gmail.com](mailto:liveoakchaptercca@gmail.com)

## Lower Colorado

Anthony Kimmey 979-241-2239

[anthonykimmey@gmail.com](mailto:anthonykimmey@gmail.com)

On Saturday, March 27, 2026, a "shootout" took place at Rusty Hook Ranch. Only clay targets were harmed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hooked on Clays Tournament, hosted by the



Lower Colorado: Above: Female HOA: Ashley Anderson, Below: Male HOA: Cowboy Hunter Marks



1st Place: Team Comfort Air & Heat - Chase Abel, James Warfield, Michael Warfield, Mark Cook

Lower Colorado CCA Chapter, was a tremendous success. Participants enjoyed excellent weather, strong competition, and true sportsmanship throughout the day.

A sincere thank you goes to Rusty Hook Ranch for the use of their outstanding shooting facility.

We also extend our appreciation to our generous corporate sponsors:

Texas Plate Fabrications, Busha Boat Works, Full Stringer Realty, Anthony's Auto Werx, Comfort Air & Heat, Keen Services, C4 Construction, Keystone Roofing, Seifert Welding, Mannas Precast Concrete, Vallarta's Mexican Grill, David and Connie Cobb, South Texas Farm & Auto Supply, El Campo Cycle Center, Elite Pressure Washing, Ace Waste Solutions, Briley Manufacturing, Brazosport Motor Sports, and KIOX-KKHA Radio. Participants competed for impressive prizes, including over/under shotguns and custom belt buckles.

High Overall (HOA) Winners: Female HOA: Ashley Anderson (Full Stringer Realty Team) – Score: 87. Male HOA: Cowboy Hunter Marks (Anthony's Auto Werx Team) – Score: 93. Overall winners earned the honor of wearing impressive Belt Buckle Bling. Junior Division Winners: 1st Place: Team Brazoswood FFA - Kaydence Keleman, Noah Austin, Cowboy Hunter Marks, Ari Perkins. 2nd Place: Full Stringer Realty Team - Jeff Davis, Ashley Anderson, Matthew Perez, Shaytee Fajkus. 3rd Place: Team Derouen/Tomlinson/Nicar - Stockton Derouen, Lane Tomlinson, Fisher Nicar.

Adult Division Winners: 1st Place: Team Comfort Air & Heat - Chase Abel, James Warfield, Michael Warfield, Mark Cook. 2nd Place: Team Brown & Company - Mike Brown, Mary Henrickson, McCoy Barnett, Mike Funk. 3rd Place: Team Anthony's Auto Werx - Anthony Kimmey, Caleb Kimmey, Clint Hewitt, Cowboy Hunter Marks. The event was such a success that plans are already underway for next year's tournament—watch for details in 2027.

Additionally, keep an eye out for an upcoming Kids Fish event in Matagorda County, and be sure to mark your calendars for the **Annual CCA Lower Colorado Chapter Banquet and Auction, scheduled for Friday, August 7**. It is always a fun and well-attended event.

Stay tuned for more updates from the Lower Colorado Chapter, proudly serving all of Matagorda County and its bays, rivers, and creeks.



Left: 1st Place: Team Brazoswood FFA - Kaydence Keleman, Noah Austin, Cowboy Hunter Marks, Ari Perkins, Right: 2nd Place: Full Stringer Realty Team - Jeff Davis, Ashley Anderson, Matthew Perez, Shaytee Fajkus.



## Mainland

**Trey Mitchiner 281-636-2165**  
**treym642004@aol.com**

We will be selling our Sportsman's Raffle tickets at two upcoming events: Bon Temps Rouler Cajun Throwdown at the Mac McGaffey Highland Bayou Park in La Marque, TX April 10-11, 2026. Then on May 2 we will be at Big Ass Crawfish Bash taking place at the Mainland City Centre in Texas City. Then, don't miss our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA Mainland Chapter Banquet on May 8, 2026 at The Doyle Convention Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets and tables are available at <https://ticketstripe.com/Mainland2026>.

MAINLAND

**27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET**

**Academy**  
SPORTS OUTDOORS

*Join us for a night of dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles and good old fundraising fun! Don't miss out on your chance to win some amazing prizes, rods and reels!*

**FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 | 6:00 PM**

**The Doyle Convention Center**  
2010 5th Ave N. | Texas City, TX 77590

**\$75 INDIVIDUAL TICKET**  
*Dinner, drinks and CCA Membership*

**\$135 COUPLE'S TICKET**  
*Dinner, drinks and CCA Membership for 2*

**\$1,500 TEXAS SLAM TABLE**  
*Includes 8 memberships, upgraded table gifts for each table guest, 8 table special raffle tickets, upgraded table buyer's gift*

**\$1,000 REDFISH TABLE**  
*Table for 8, dinner, drinks, CCA Membership, Premium table gift and gift for each table guest*

**\$800 TROUT TABLE**  
*Table for 8, dinner, drinks, CCA Membership and gifts for each table guest*

FOR TABLE AND TICKET INFORMATION:  
Corbin Primrose 713.626.4232 | cprimrose@ccatexas.org

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\$75 Individual Ticket	Qty _____	Price _____
\$135 Couple's Ticket	Qty _____	Price _____
\$1500 Texas Slam Table	Qty _____	Price _____
\$1000 Redfish Table	Qty _____	Price _____
\$800 Trout Table	Qty _____	Price _____

_____	Table Name _____
_____	Total Amount _____

CUT HERE AND MAIL

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to Coastal Conservation Association | Mail form & money to: CCA Texas, Attn: Corbin Primrose, 6816 Portwest Dr, Ste 100, Houston, TX 77024  
 TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT <https://ticketstripe.com/Mainland2026>

**Lower Laguna Madre**  
**Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148**  
**oscar@shallowSPORTBOATS.com**



MAINLAND  
27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET

Academy  
SPORTS-COURTESY

Join us for a night of dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles and good old fundraising fun! Don't miss out on your chance to win some amazing prizes, rods and reels!

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 | 6:00 PM  
The Doyle Convention Center  
2010 5th Ave N. | Texas City, TX 77590

**\$75 INDIVIDUAL TICKET**  
Dinner, drinks and CCA Membership

**\$135 COUPLE'S TICKET**  
Dinner, drinks and CCA Membership for 2

**\$1,500 TEXAS SLAM TABLE**  
Includes 8 memberships, upgraded table gifts for each table guest, 8 table special raffle tickets, upgraded table buyer's gift

**\$1,000 REDFISH TABLE**  
Table for 8, dinner, drinks, CCA Membership, Premium table gift and gift for each table guest

**\$800 TROUT TABLE**  
Table for 8, dinner, drinks, CCA Membership and gifts for each table guest

FOR TABLE AND TICKET INFORMATION:  
Corbin Primrose 713.626.4222 | cprimrose@ccatexas.org

CUT HERE AND MAIL			
\$75 Individual Ticket	Qty _____	Price _____	
\$135 Couple's Ticket	Qty _____	Price _____	Table Name _____
\$1500 Texas Slam Table	Qty _____	Price _____	
\$1000 Redfish Table	Qty _____	Price _____	Total Amount _____
\$800 Trout Table	Qty _____	Price _____	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to Coastal Conservation Association | Mail form & money to: CCA Texas, Attn: Corbin Primrose, 8618 Rymond Dr, Box 100, Houston, TX 77024  
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT <https://ticketsfor.com/Mainland2026>



CCA MAINLAND CHAPTER  
**2026 Sportsman Raffle**  
DRAWING TO BE HELD AT THE 2026 CCA  
MAINLAND CHAPTER BANQUET  
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 | 6PM  
**\$20 PER TICKET OR 6 FOR \$100**  
\*NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN\*

DOYLE CONVENTION CENTER  
2010 5TH AVENUE NORTH | TEXAS CITY, TX 77590

**PRIZE LIST**

1. TPWD Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License
2. Springfield Echelon w/ Streamlight
3. Stevens 555 20ga
4. Ruger 10/22
5. Taurus M410 Judge
6. Grande Turtlebox
7. Waterloo HP Lite Casting w/ Bates Salty Hands
8. Mossberg Patriot .308
9. Yeti Tundra Haul
10. Waterloo HP Lite Spinning w/ Penn

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Corbin Primrose  
713.626.4222  
cprimrose@ccatexas.org

**Matagorda Bays**  
Jason Beery 979-578-1106  
jwbeery@yahoo.com

**Mid Coast**  
Elisa Carter 830-305-6418  
elisacarter@hotmail.com

Oftentimes, when I'm on the water, I reflect and thank the big guy above for the beauty he has blessed us with. Yes, I'm grateful for fishing, but the view is even better than that! Recently I was given the opportunity to stay overnight on the water in a very primitive floating cabin. So, I got to see the bay from dusk to dawn. In just that short period of time, I learned so much about the coastal environment and how it moves through time. It gave me a whole new appreciation for our coastal waters and what needs to be done to preserve and maintain marine life. Yes, we fished...but the experience itself left me full and happy! Thank you, Greg Samuels, for inviting us to your secret, sacred spot!



**Join us on April 30, 2026, at the Emerging Technology Center in Victoria for the 2026 CCA Mid Coast Chapter banquet.** It's a fun time had by all! Cathy's from POC will be catering again this year and the Shuck Truck will be serving farm raised Texas oysters! We look forward to seeing you there!

Top photo: Rod Graci with a keeper Red. Middle: Wade Harrell with a monster Red. Bottom: Secret floating cabin.

**North Texas**  
Brian Donovan 214-402-3825  
brian@firstlightprint.com

The CCA North Texas Chapter hosts our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 3R's Ranch in Prosper, TX, and it will be our biggest yet! We welcome our returning title sponsor Tito's Handmade Vodka, and this year we're bringing North Texas's favorite fried chicken

to our party - Babe's Chicken Dinner House. With luxury trips to Port Aransas and Broken Bow, a WorldSprings spa package, expanded games and raffles, and drink support from Ben E. Keith, we're throwing you quite a party in Prosper. Come on out and meet other conservation-minded folks and help us support CCA's vital conservation work on the Texas coast!



*Left: A monarch butterfly on the return migration from Mexico stopping to grab some salt from a dock line, Right: CCA NTX supporter Brian Bailey with a spring sheepshead*



Sponsor tables and individual tickets are on sale now, including Trout and Bull Red tables, plus our Texas Slam Table for ten people with marquis event promotion, private cocktail service, and premium table gifts. Follow CCA North Texas on Instagram at [@cca\\_ntx](#) for banquet updates and tickets. To purchase tickets or tables, please contact chapter president Brian Donovan at [Brian@firstlightprint.com](mailto:Brian@firstlightprint.com) or CCA Texas Assistant Director Garrett Boehnemann at [boehnemann@ccatexas.org](mailto:boehnemann@ccatexas.org).

Babes on the Bay, the largest all-women fishing tournament in the world, will be May 15-16, 2026, in Rockport, hosted by the CCA Aransas Bay committee. It's a fun-filled weekend of fishing, live music, vendor booths and conservation, and there are many teams from the North Texas area each year. You can sign-up your own team at [www.babesonthebay.com](http://www.babesonthebay.com).

And speaking of tournaments, do NOT forget to enter CCA's STAR Tournament if you plan to visit the coast this year. Running from May 23 to September 7, 2026 STAR covers the entire Texas coast as anglers hunt for tagged redfish, plus other inshore and offshore species. Prizes include a Ford F-250 XLT 4WD, five Ford F-150 and Haynie Amigo combos, three TranSport 220 SVT's, a Shoalwater 19 Cat, Dargel Kuda and Attack-a-Flat, Polaris Ranger Crew, Whataburger or Lone Star beer for a year, and multiple scholarships in the youth division. Every year, unregistered anglers catch tagged fish and miss out on the prizes. DON'T HAVE TAGRETS! Enter at [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org)!

**Northwest Houston**  
**Mag Jaramillo 832-421-0439**  
**Mag.jaramillo@gmail.com**

**Orange County**  
**Zach Johnson 409-594-0525**  
**wzachjohnson@gmail.com**

**Port Lavaca**  
**Eric Ellison 361-983-4690**  
**fishingsalt@yahoo.com**

**Port O'Connor**  
**Norman Trubee 512-583-2912**  
**ntrubee@gmail.com**

POC CCA hosted its final ANO for the 2026 season recently with local Calhoun County TWPD Game Wardens Casey Willmon and Jake McMahan presenting. Casey and Jake presented a spirited program started with a TPWD recruiting video and then a slide show some of their more interesting and egregious Calhoun game violator cases in recent memory. They closed by thanking CCA Texas for funding the covered boat lift at the TPWD docks in POC



*A full house at the Port O'Connor banquet watched as a major auction item drew top bids; the Oyster Buyback License and Art print.*

for their 35-foot Yellowfin. **Our 26th Annual CCA Port O'Connor banquet was again a great success on April 11.**



Larry and Mary Lopez are proud of their win and donation to the Oyster License Buyback Program. They were top bidders at the Port O'Connor banquet.

**Prairie**  
**Patricia Walters 979-885-7464**  
**manager@wpprint.com**

**Redfish Bay**  
**Rod Hall 713-202-9373**  
**rodhall1253@gmail.com**

**Rio Grande Valley**  
**Javier Suarez 956-330-9788**  
**javier@eastcapeboats.com**

On Friday, February 6, we held our sold-out annual banquet, drawing a full house of conservation-minded anglers, families, and community leaders for an unprecedented night of fundraising for conservation efforts. This year, Christi Romero was recognized as the 2026 CCA Rio Grande Valley Conservationist of the Year (see pic for writeup). Congratulations to Jorge Salinas, the fortunate winner of the grand prize, a Can-Am Defender

2026 CCA Rio Grande Valley Conservationist of the Year

This year's CCA RGV Conservationist of the Year, Christi Lynn Romero, is truly a deserving recipient of this honor. Her tireless commitment to ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them, the vision of CCA, has made a positive impact on our South Texas Coast.

As the owner of The Sportsman Boats in San Benito, Christi understands the importance of giving back to the resource, graciously donating over \$10,000 a year for conservation efforts.




While Christi's profession connects her directly to our marine community, it's her passion for fishing, boating, and the coastal life that fuels her passion to help preserve the beautiful South Texas Coast that we all cherish.

As a member of CCA Texas for over 15 years, Christi has committed herself to critical local projects such as the Port Mansfield Beach Clean Up, an event in which she is a key organizer. Her efforts include bringing together a group of over 20 boat captains to shuttle hundreds of volunteers from the Port Mansfield Event Center to the East Cut and PINS National Shoreline. These captains and volunteers collect thousands of pounds of trash, including plastic, metal, ropes, nets, and they've even recovered some contraband. We're all very thankful this trash has been removed from our coastline. Founders of the event, Miller & Cathy Bassler, have repeatedly said that her impact on the event has been immeasurable.

It doesn't stop there. Christi also understands the importance of community and bringing people together to enjoy our marine resources. A few years ago, she joined with others to help create an event called "Ladies in Wading", where a group of women get together for a day of wade fishing, fun, and friendship.

Beyond that, you can also find Christi involved in other local efforts that improve our South Texas community off the water as well.

We cannot thank Christi enough for her unwavering support of CCA Texas and everything she does to conserve our South Texas marine resources. We can, however, recognize her for these efforts as our CCA RGV Conservationist of the Year.

Max Lone Star Edition, generously provided by F&T Valley Motor Sports, atop a 16-foot Fort Bragg Utility Trailer, courtesy of Mid Valley Trailer Sales. Additionally, we would like to congratulate Dr. Justin Cerelli, the winner of the Liberty Gun Safe Poker Chip game, a crowd favorite, generously donated and sponsored by Guthrie's Safe and Lock Shop.

This year, our board members sported one of the most unique, custom-made, personalized Guayavera shirts designed and provided by Tulip Alley (AKA The Guayavera People) and sponsored by Lone Star National Bank. We thank Tulip Alley for making our board members



Left: 2026 CCA RGV Conservationist of the Year, Christi Romero, with CCA RGV Chapter President Javier Suarez. Right: Photo from the 2026 CCA RGV Chapter Banquet. Below, Read about Christi Romero

look sharp at our banquet.

We would also like to express our deepest appreciation to our valued sponsors who contributed to our banquet items: L&F Distributors (Multi-Year Exclusive Title Advertiser), L&G Concrete (Raffle Girls), Payne Auto Group (Hats), Tulip Alley (Guayavera Shirts Provider and Louis Vuitton Poker Chip Game), F&T Valley Motor Sports (Can-Am provider), Mid Valley Trailers Sales (Trailer provider), Ron Hoover RV & Marine (Bar and Taco Truck), Luby's of McAllen and Pharr (Food Catering), Big Tree Oyster Company (Farm Raised Oysters Provider), Clark Chevrolet and Clark – Knapp Honda (Tervis Style Tumblers), Sames McAllen Ford and Lincoln (Turtlebox), Purpose Built Optics Sunglasses (Sunglass provider), South Texas Sinus Institute (Sunglass Straps), Tow Boats US Arroyo / Port Isabel / Port Mansfield (Key Chains & Key Chain Game), Hess Air (Koozies), Four Paws Animal Hospital (Towels), Lone Star National Bank (Board Member Shirts & Bucket Raffle), Mansfield Knockers and KWigglers (Casting Game), Pathfinder Public Affairs (Goodie Bags), Chorizo De San Manuel (Yeti Mugs), Guthrie's Safe and Lock Shop (Liberty Gun Safe Provider and Poker Chip Game), Rental World (Silent Auction), Frost Bank (Taco Truck) and Turtlebox (Ranger provider).

Our efforts to raise awareness about the critical need for conservation and habitat restoration on the Texas coast are largely driven by the support of our sponsors, attendees, donors, and volunteers. We would like to thank our attendees for their support. We also appreciate the significant contributions and commitment of our chapter board members and volunteers.

Click on link to see a few pics of our banquet: <https://mylovevisuals.pixieset.com/ccabanquetlowerlagunamadre>

### Sabine-Neches

Saltgrass  
Buck Stobart 409-782-7934  
stobartbuck@yahoo.com

Sam Houston  
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908  
bkolaja@huntsvilletx.gov

San Antonio  
Brandon Stellges 210-374-65934  
Brandon.Stellges@frostbank.com

Get ready, San Antonio! We've been hard at work planning an unforgettable **47th Annual CCA San Antonio Banquet, happening Thursday April 30, 2026**—and we need your help to make it the best one yet! Want to be part of the action? Join us for our volunteer meetings at Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux (1400 Pantheon Way, San Antonio, TX 78232) at 6:00pm. Call me for dates!

This is your chance to get involved, meet great people, and help put together an incredible event. Plus, Don Strange Catering will be serving up their legendary food and drinks at the banquets, so you know it's going to be a night to remember!

Some of the raffles that we will have: 23' Haynie Boat with a 150 HP motor with trailer, CanAm by Coyote Powersports outfitted by Ranch Armor, gun safe with a gun and hunting trip, pair of E-Bikes, 10 long guns and 10 handguns and various other raffles.

We will also have a live auction with some really awesome trips, guns and a golf cart! There will be a silent auction with rare items not normally found along with a small raffle.

A standing ovation for our incredible sponsors! We couldn't do it without the generosity and support of these amazing sponsors who help make our 47th Annual CCA San Antonio Banquet a reality! A huge THANK YOU to: James Avery Artisan Jewelry, Frost Bank, Scott A. Freund Memorial Foundation, IBC Bank, Shiner Beers, Broadway Bank, Coyote Powersports in Boerne, Dury's Gun Shop, Ranch Armor, Don Strange of Texas, Blue Star Trailer Supply, Crossroad Bikes, Max'd Alt, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Bobcat of San Antonio, Sam Caldwell and Mission Golf Cars and a few more coming! Your support fuels our mission and makes this event truly unforgettable! We appreciate each and every one of you!

If you've never been to a CCA San Antonio banquet, this is the year to change that! Ready to volunteer or need more info? Reach out to our Banquet Chairs:



One of the the Lady's teams at the 13th Annual CCA San Antonio Sporting Clay Shoot & Crawfish Boil. April Gutches, Delaine White, Kathy Gatcomb and Carolyn Lowe. Below, the Gibson/Caldwell Team again did not win the championship. Jimmy Gibson, Wade Caldwell, Sam Caldwell and Bob Brumby.



Brandon Carpenter: (210) 218-2393 or Chase Anderson:  
(210) 710-1820. Let's make this the biggest and best banquet  
yet—see you there!

**San Bernard**  
**Jeremy Compton 281-961-0262**  
**jcompton@detconsultinginc.com**

**San Gabriel**  
**David Singleton 512-848-6555**  
**southwestland@gmail.com**

Spring is here, and the CCA San Gabriel Chapter is soaking it up with some well-deserved time on the Texas Coast—chasing reds, trout, and everything in between while keeping our conservation focus sharp right here in Georgetown.

A friendly heads-up for everyone: our **24th Annual Banquet is set for Thursday, August 6, 2026, in Georgetown, TX**. The planning committee is already deep into the details to deliver another unforgettable night packed with great food, bigger prizes, and real impact for our coastal fisheries and habitats. You definitely won't want to miss it—watch for ticket and sponsorship info coming soon.

Our first Anglers' Night Out of 2026 is locked in for May. Exact date, time, location, and speaker will be posted shortly on the [CCA San Gabriel Facebook page](#), so give us a follow and stay in the loop. We're also gearing up to cheer on our fellow chapters by hitting several of their banquets in the next couple of months. Nothing beats seeing the statewide network in action and sharing ideas for conservation wins.

If you've got a few hours to spare, we'd love your help! Whether it's joining the banquet planning team or pitching in on event day, every volunteer makes our work stronger. Just reach out on [Facebook](#) or to any board member. Tight lines, and here's to a great spring on the water!

**Southwestern**  
**Stephen Fuqua 713-397-9283**  
**Sfuqua.sf@gmail.com**

**TAMU**  
**Blaine Eckert 936-499-1596**  
**Blaine.eckert@gmail.com**

**Texas State University**  
**Tate Elder 832-294-1254**  
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**West Houston**  
**Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434**  
**Castaline@icloud.com**

**West Texas**  
**Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499**  
**Craig@McDonnold.net**

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## June 13 and 14, 2026 — 17th Annual Port Mansfield East Cut and Beach Cleanup

An enjoyable weekend with your best friends, refreshing a beautiful part of Texas. Food and fun as well as boat rides and work in the sun. For complete information on lodging and events, Email Kathie Bassler: [Kathieb@basslerenergyservices.com](mailto:Kathieb@basslerenergyservices.com) Sponsorship opportunities are available.



# Shrimp and Crab Cornbread

1/2 Cup cooked chopped Shrimp / 1/2 Cup crab meat  
1 Cup cornmeal / 1/2 Cup Flour / 2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt / 2 tbsp brown sugar / 1 egg  
2/3 Cup buttermilk / 1/4 Cup diced onion  
1/2 rib of celery, diced / 1/2 Cup canned corn (or small can)  
1/3 Cup chopped Cry Babies Jalapenos / 1/2 Cup cottage cheese  
1/2 Cup pepper jack cheese / 1 tsp cajun seasoning

Preheat oven to 425. Grease a 9x9 pan.  
Combine dry ingredients. Add egg and buttermilk, mix well. Add remaining ingredients, stirring until just mixed. Add to pan and bake for 25 to 30 min.

Serve with lots of butter!



*Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt*

# REEL IN BUSCH LIGHT



**A PROUD  
SPONSOR OF**



ENTRY PERIOD: 10/1/12-9/30/13. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/13. Busch Light® Beer, St. Louis, MO

# Have a special friend who deserves a special gift?

Consider a classic Caldwell painting—or two. Included will be Caldwell's award winning novel, *The Trip*.



An issue of high quality Gclee prints is now available—with individual remarques by Texas State artist Sam Caldwell.

For good measure, Caldwell will include a **First edition *The Trip* novel**— also remarked.

## Surf Silver

A young fisherman is hoping for a trophy speckled trout. Instead, he's connected to a reel-stripping megalops atlanticus. A tarpon sketch is the remarque.

## Ancient Traditions

A young bowman makes a connection in time to a previous hunter. A 10,000 year- old fluted Clovis point? An Alibates flint knife from only 500 years?

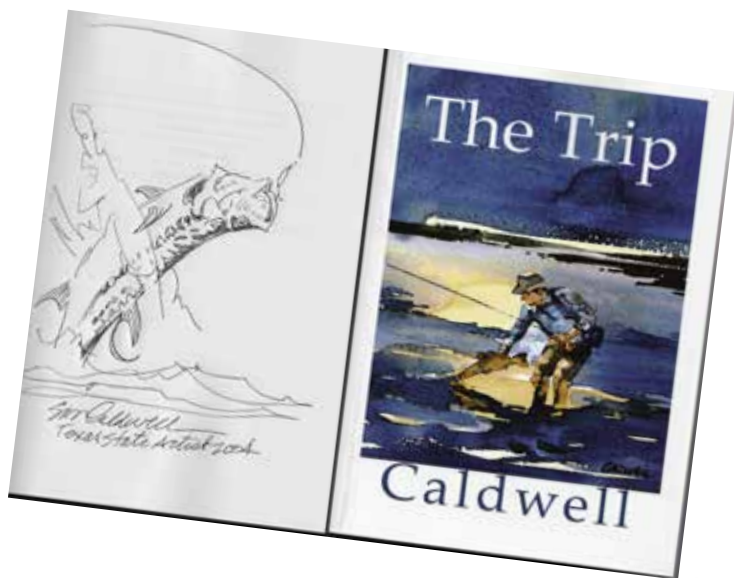
S/N print 1 of the editions is available for your friend, with Caldwell's original sketch remarque an individual note.

**High Quality archival paper,  
12" x 18"  
\$350 each, or \$600 for both.**

**The Trip: Seven outdoorsmen** journey to the hunting of South Texas and the fabled fishing of Mexican beaches. You'll find yourself in this group. Choose carefully— only six return.

*Get a personalized First Edition copy of *The Trip*- or two when you purchase both paintings.*

**Call Sam Caldwell and discuss your choice of remarque  
281-455-9390**





# Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100  
Houston, TX 77024

April / May 2026

# Great Photos 2026

Categories: Best In Show / Action / Scenic / Humor / Kids / Wildlife / CPR

Important: Send jpegs and include name of subject, title, your name as well as the names of anyone in the photo **if possible**. Email jpegs to [sam@samcaldwell.com](mailto:sam@samcaldwell.com) Give us your best shots.

Win Art Print prizes from Texas State Artist Sam Caldwell



BEST IN TEXAS

## U.S. Coast Guard

**Air & Sea Rescue**  
National Response Center: 800-874-2143  
Port Isabel: 956-761-2668  
Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office:  
boating emergencies, chemical and  
oil spills: 361-888-3162  
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217  
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616  
Freeport: 979-233-3801  
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620  
Sabine: 409-971-2195

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas. Visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)

To focus on fishing and boating, visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish) [www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat)



Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: TPWD has a number to report game violations. **1-800-792-4263**. A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is Operation Game Thief. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: [www.ogttx.com](http://www.ogttx.com)



## COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ (Member ID for renewing members only) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- Method of payment
- Check/Money order
- Charge to my:
- MASTERCARD
- VISA
- AMEX
- DISCOVER

- MEMBER: \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
- ASSOCIATE: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
- LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
- STAR ENTRY FEE: \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
- YOUTH: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.
- Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_
- CONSERVATION MEMBER: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ A portion of the proceeds go toward CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Includes exclusive Conservation Member decal, one-year subscription to TIDE Magazine and set of CCA and state fish decals.

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ By entering this tournament, I agree to be bound by the STAR Tournament Rules, Release and Indemnity Agreement. I understand that there are specific rules governing the conduct of the tournament and that upon request a copy will be mailed to me. 6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024 / 713-626-4222 / Website: [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org)