

SUMMER 2018

# SEAWATCH

PRESENTED BY **CONTENDER**

**The Issue: Water  
Quality and Habitat**

**Around the  
State: Reef  
Projects on  
the Rise**

**A Tribute to  
Karl Wickstrom**





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THE PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO CONSERVING AND PROTECTING FLORIDA'S MARINE RESOURCES

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starting point

## A Stronger Voice

This summer has been one of incredible highs and lows and unbelievably busy for CCA Florida from our staff to our volunteer leadership and members. While I'm thrilled with the successes we've seen as a result of our collective efforts, we all have been horrified by the damaging effects of water quality issues and red tide.

With so many issues plaguing our state, specifically related to water quality, we are working diligently to do all that we can to help. This includes increasing our leadership of projects that help enhance water quality from the bottom up, such as oyster reef restorations, vegetation plantings, coastal clean-ups and much more.

And while our hands are busy doing what we can in the water, our voice is even stronger and it's powerful. Each of us individually, as well as a collective CCA membership, must keep the pressure on our elected leadership. We must keep them focused and dedicated to addressing these issues by accelerating authorization and funding of the projects that will help with recovery.

In this edition of Sea Watch, you'll find more on what CCA Florida is doing to help, and how you can make a difference.



## Around the State

**Ron Crowder**  
Chairman

As an organization, we are nearing 20,000 members statewide, and we couldn't be more excited. Your passion continues to drive our efforts, and I am amazed by the number and quality of projects and events you've helped to lead this season to share CCA's conservation and advocacy messages. With greater membership comes a stronger voice to address some of our state's most pressing issues, including water quality and habitat.

We are expanding our habitat initiatives throughout the state, and members from every chapter are leading our efforts to bring positive and meaningful change to our state's resources. From waterway clean-ups to offshore and near-shore reef development, we are doing more than ever.

In this edition of Sea Watch, you'll find a new section, Around The State, which offers a glimpse into the work being led by our members with the support of our staff. Thank you for stepping up. It's making a difference. And I can't wait to see what you do next.

## Looking For A Guide?

Log on to  
[ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org)  
and choose  
from our  
regionalized  
directory of Florida guides  
who support CCA's conservation  
initiatives.





## U.S. House Passes 2018 Water Resources Development Act

With projects as large as Everglades restoration the devil really is in the details. Congress took one critical step in the process on June 6, when the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the 2018 Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA). The vote was 408 to 2. This legislation is important for Florida since it includes authorization for a large water storage reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee on state-owned lands. Florida had previously passed its own legislation authorizing the reservoir during its 2017 legislative session.

Water Resource legislation is usually tackled by Congress every couple of years, although the pattern of recent water bills has been somewhat irregular. These legislative acts typically authorize multiple Army Corps of Engineer infrastructure projects around the country, and also serve additional purposes for maintenance, upgrades, and improvements for existing water-related assets.

The U.S. Senate now has to consider its own WRDA legislation, which is currently moving through appropriate Senate committees. Should the Senate pass its bill, the next step would be for the House and Senate to conference to work out any differences between each body's version of the legislation. Should an acceptable bill emerge from the conference committee, the House and Senate would vote again on the final legislation and, if approved by both, it would then go to the President for signature. Authorization in these legislative actions is one important step. The final requirement would be for Congress to appropriate funds for the projects contained in WRDA. Parallel appropriation steps are on-going at this time in the House and Senate.

Lastly, since the original intended use of the state lands in question (as prescribed in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan) was for a different type of water storage, the Army Corps of

Engineers still has to approve a Post-Authorization Change for the reservoir. The proposed reservoir is but one of many projects that should help provide relief to the northern estuaries and the Everglades system. We encourage you to reach out to your Congressmen and Senators and voice your strong support for getting this critical legislation passed in to law.



### FISHERIES NEWS

We're pleased that an Atlantic Red Snapper season for 2018 was announced back in July, as were anglers along the east coast. Over two three-day weekends, August 10-12 and August 17-19, recreational anglers hit the water to enjoy the fishery.



# ISSUE: WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT

**The current state of water quality on Florida's coasts and in several estuaries is disturbing.**

**Water quality is a high priority for CCA Florida, and we are doing everything we can to help through our advocacy efforts as well as habitat restoration.**

**Join us in the fight to save our state's resources. Contact your elected leadership and tell them to prioritize the authorization and funding of projects that will help with recovery.**

**Here's a comprehensive and timely review of those projects and our efforts.**

**1** CCA Florida supports the funding and completion of all Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) Foundation projects, such as Kissimmee River restoration and the reconstruction and improvements of the Herbert Hoover Dike, which are necessary elements for systemic Everglades water improvement.

**2** CCA Florida supports authorization and funding of projects involving water storage, treatment, and conveyance south, east, and west of Lake Okeechobee. This includes the Indian River Lagoon South C-44 Reservoir Project, the Caloosahatchee C-43 Reservoir Project, the completion of the Lake Hicpochee Project, the implementation of the Water Quality Treatment and Demonstration Project on the BOMA property, and the reservoir and associated facilities now planned for land south of Lake Okeechobee on state-owned parcels A-1, A-2, and near-by lands (which is a result of the passage of SB10, which CCA Florida publicly supported during the 2017 Legislative Session).

**3** CCA Florida supports other Central Everglades Planning Process (CEPP) projects, including additional bridging of Tamiami Trail (now under construction), and curtain wall construction in South Miami-Dade County.

**4** CCA Florida also supports currently planned storage and treatment facilities north of Lake Okeechobee, to help insure water flowing into the Lake from the north is no longer contaminated with damaging nutrients.

**5** CCA Florida supported the passage of the Water Resources Development Acts of 2016 and 2018, which authorize several key South Florida water infrastructure projects.

**6** CCA Florida supports the C-111 projects in South Miami-Dade.

**7** CCA Florida was one of few groups who supported South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) efforts to increase water flows into Taylor Slough. This series of projects, now completed, will provide benefits to portions of Florida Bay. This involved building connections to existing canals, building canal plugs, the reconstruction of a C-31 West canal levee, and other component projects.

**8** CCA Florida continues to encourage and promote better communication between the SFWMD and officials and managers of Everglades National Park.

**9** CCA Florida strongly encourages Everglades National Park officials to use existing structures to facilitate the flow of additional fresh water into Florida Bay.



- 10** CCA Florida opposes management measures designed for single-species management, to the detriment of Florida's water quality and marine ecosystems. In addition to creating even more detrimental problems to the Everglades hydrology, these approaches may endanger human life and property. CCA supports the Endangered Species Act, but suggests there are better management practices which will produce better systemic results for Florida's Everglades.
- 11** CCA Florida actively supports septic tank eradication and sewer conversion throughout the state, and especially in areas bordering estuaries, watersheds, and Florida's many fresh water springs.
- 12** CCA Florida continues to promote Best Management Practices for all commercial and residential property owners.
- 13** CCA Florida continues to promote the use of Amendment 1 funds for everglades restoration and other legally-mandated purposes. CCA Florida actively supported the passage of Legacy Florida legislation.
- 14** CCA Florida continues to monitor and, to the extent possible, participate in local initiatives that can possibly help our estuaries, such as the Indian River Lagoon Summit, and Brevard County's actions to fund various IRL restoration projects through a dedicated and citizen-approved ten-year sales tax. CCA continues to partner with other advocacy groups and coalitions to improve water conditions in the IRL.
- 15** CCA continues to endeavor to solve the fresh water deficits in the Apalachicola River, and in Apalachicola Bay.
- 16** CCA Florida was actively involved in the blocking of further development of the Oslo Boat Ramp in Indian River County, preserving critical seagrass habitat and spawning areas for multiple species of saltwater fish.
- 17** CCA is working with the St. John's Riverkeeper and other groups in an attempt to prohibit dumping of biosolids in the St. John's River basin. Biosolids is a fancy term to describe massive amounts of human waste and other chemicals and toxins, which are being deposited in sensitive river basins from South Florida Counties, which are leaching into our estuaries.
- 18** CCA continues to expand its robust habitat restoration programs throughout the state. CCA continues to partner with other groups to deploy artificial reefs offshore, to install oyster restorations projects, to participate in and fund seagrass and mangrove plantings, and is helping finance shoreline restoration projects in the Mosquito Lagoon and other areas.
- 19** CCA Florida continues to partner with Tampa Bay Watch and other groups which have helped lead to recovery of seagrasses throughout the Bay. One such example is the Fantasy Island restoration project, which is now complete.

*For more information, please contact CCA at [H20@ccaflorida.org](mailto:H20@ccaflorida.org).*

## U.S. House of Representatives Passes Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Bill

### Landmark Fisheries Reform Takes Major Step Toward Becoming Law

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 200, a bipartisan bill that includes the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act). This historic vote marks the first time the priorities of the recreational fishing sector are included in the reauthorization of our nation's primary marine fisheries law, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The provisions of the Modern Fish Act (H.R. 2023) were included in H.R. 200 by the House Committee on Natural Resources on December 13, 2017. H.R. 200 is sponsored by Representative Don Young (R-Alaska) and cosponsored by Reps. Garret Graves (R-La.); Brian Babin (R-Texas); Clay Higgins (R-La.); Gene Green (D-Texas); Robert Wittman (R-Va.); Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.); Glenn Grothman (R-Wis.); Steve King (R-Iowa); Marc Veasey (D-Texas); Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.), and Austin Scott (R-Ga.).

"Marine recreational fishing is not a partisan issue, which was illustrated by the support H.R. 200 received from both parties today in the House," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "We owe great thanks to Chairman Rob Bishop, Congressmen Don Young, Garret Graves, Gene Green and Marc Veasey for working together to properly recognize recreational fishing within the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These bipartisan leaders have made the difference for anglers from coast to coast."

In 2014, the priorities of the recreational fishing and boating community were identified and presented to federal policy makers by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management in a report "A Vision for Managing America's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries." This group is also referred to as the Morris-Deal Commission, named for co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boat Group.

Many of the recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission are addressed by the Modern Fish Act and included in H.R. 200. This legislation addresses many of the challenges faced by recreational anglers, including allowing alternative management tools for recreational fishing, reexamining

fisheries allocations and improving recreational data collection. The bill aims to benefit fishing access and conservation by incorporating modern management approaches, science and technology to guide decision-making.

"The recreational fishing industry is grateful that H.R. 200, which includes the provisions of the Modern Fish Act, has now passed the U.S. House of Representatives," said Glenn Hughes, president of the American Sportfishing Association. "The Modern Fish Act represents the collective priorities of the recreational fishing community for improving federal marine fisheries management. There are 11 million saltwater anglers in the U.S. who have a \$63 billion economic impact annually and generate 440,000 jobs. This legislation will help ensure that the economic, conservation and social values of saltwater recreational fishing will continue well into the future."

"We applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for passing commonsense legislation modernizing the federal fisheries management system, which will provide America's recreational anglers and boaters reasonable and responsible access to public marine resources," said Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. "The recreational boating industry calls on the U.S. Senate to pick up the baton, and immediately take up and pass S.1520, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act). Millions of Americans are counting on it."

"We are grateful to our champions from both sides of the aisle in the House for recognizing the needs of recreational anglers and advancing this important fisheries management reform," said Patrick Murray, president of Coastal Conservation Association. "This is truly a watershed moment for anglers in our never-ending quest to ensure the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them."

"We thank the House Leadership, Congressman Young and the leaders of the House Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus for their leadership in finding bipartisan solutions to move the bill forward," said Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "The provisions of the Modern Fish Act contained in H.R. 200 are a top priority for saltwater anglers across the United States and charts a clear course for effective recreational fisheries management while ensuring abundant, sus-



tainable fisheries for future generations.”

“We are on our way to pragmatic Magnuson-Stevens Act reform that will allow better access to rebuilt fish stocks while ensuring long-term sustainability,” said Jim Donofrio, president of the Recreational Fishing Alliance.

“Passing these provisions of the Modern Fish Act means taking the next important step in recognizing the cultural value of recreational fishing and conservation contributions of American anglers,” said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

“We will continue to work with our sportfishing partners to engage with senators and see to it that the Modern Fish Act becomes law—it is critical if we hope to see saltwater anglers benefit from the advances in fisheries science, data collection, and management at the heart of this important legislation.”

Following the vote, the coalition encourages the Senate to quickly pass S. 1520. Marine recreational anglers and boaters are eager to see these landmark reforms signed into law.

## angler's voice

### OUR SEAT AT THE TABLE

Recognizing that saltwater recreational fishing is a major component of coastal tourism throughout the country, including attracting customers for the restaurant industry, anglers are naturally puzzled why some chefs oppose improving federal management of recreational fishing.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is our nation's primary law governing saltwater fishing in federal waters. It was written in 1976 to end overfishing and last reauthorized in 2007, but MSA has never taken into account the fundamental differences between recreational and commercial fishing practices.

For years, recreational anglers and the recreational fishing industry have been asking Congress for a course correction. Healthy fish stocks benefit all Americans. Yet, as fisheries have rebounded over the years, anglers have seen unnecessarily restrictive regulations because the system was never designed to manage 11 million saltwater recreational anglers.

Through years of de-liberation, the priorities of

the recreational fishing and boating community were identified and presented to federal policy makers by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management. This group is also referred to as the Morris-Deal Commission, named for co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boat Group. In 2014, the Morris-Deal Commission released “a vision for managing America's saltwater recreational fisheries,” which included six key policy changes to expand saltwater recreational fishing's social, economic and conservation benefits to the nation. Many recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission are addressed by the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (included in H.R. 200/S. 1520).

This bipartisan legislation, more commonly known as the Modern Fish Act, is being considered in both chambers of Congress.

The Modern Fish Act is Supported By A Broad Coalition of recreational fishing and boating organizations, conservation groups and industry stakeholders. Supporters of the Modern Fish



Act are not looking to weaken conservation laws but rather add tools to the fisheries management toolbox.

Unfortunately, some commercial fishermen and chefs are being used by the powerful environmental lobby who prefer the status quo and seek to eliminate recreational opportunities on the water for millions of American families. These commercial fishermen and chefs fail to acknowledge that recreational fisheries management can be improved without harming the U.S. seafood industry, as is the case with the Modern Fish Act. In claiming – inaccurately – that the Modern Fish Act somehow threatens the U.S. seafood supply, they also fail to point out that 90 percent of all seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported anyway.

While the angling public enjoys catching a few fish for themselves each year, we are still friends, neighbors and customers of the commercial seafood industry and seafood restaurants. Instead of alienating a good portion of the public, we encourage chefs to read the commonsense provisions

of the Modern Fish Act.

The Modern Fish Act adds to the suite of tools fisheries managers can use to more appropriately manage the recreational sector with accurate data and science-based annual catch limits. The recreational fishing community relies on healthy fish stocks for a vibrant future. Every user group wants healthy stocks.

America's saltwater recreational anglers catch only 2 percent of the finfish taken from our oceans each year and yet account for billions of dollars of economic impact on that 2 percent. With the proper management tools, there can be a place at the table for anglers, as well as commercial harvesters and chefs.

*Read more at [sportfishingpolicy.com](http://sportfishingpolicy.com). Jeff Angers is president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy, a nonpartisan organization focused on maximizing opportunity for America's saltwater recreational anglers.*





## South Walton Kids Fishing Tournament

This summer's South Walton Kids Fishing Tournament welcomed 200 kids in Grayton Beach in the Panhandle for a perfect day of beach fishing. With their rod and reel combo, rigs, t-shirt and swag in hand, participants caught pompano, catfish, blue fish and even pin fish.

Education stations were set up by our partners including Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, Grayton Beach State Park and FWC. Kids were able to take home information about fishing and conservation, giveaways and enjoy lunch on the beach before wrapping up the successful day.

Special thanks to our sponsors including Fish Florida, Yellowfin Ocean Sports, Ferguson Water Works, Century 21 Blue Marlin Pelican, Dewberry Preble-rish!, O'Connell and Associates and Mainsail Realty.





# NW



## More Local Involvement

Local Girl Scout Troop 2066 joined with STAR to clean up the coast before World Oceans Day.

Volunteers helped spread the CCA message at the Emerald Coast Boat and Lifestyle Show in early April.

Bay Baits in Santa Rosa Beach held their inaugural Bay Baits Classic Fishing Tournament. CCA Florida was the tournament beneficiary.

We are working with MarineMax and Friends of Shell Island to bring eye catching signs to Panama City area boat ramps to bring awareness to seagrass scars and how they can hurt our coastal environment.







## CCA FLORIDA MAKES A SPLASH AT ICAST

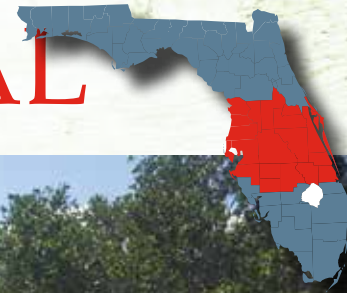
In June, and in partnership with CCA National and Building Conservation Trust, CCA Florida participated in ICAST, the industry's largest trade show event. Our thoughtfully designed and interactive booth was on display in a high-traffic area of the show and demonstrated our oyster reef restoration work, offshore and nearshore reef projects, our fundraising opportunities and boat partners and much more.

We were excited to have exposed CCA Florida to thousands of people at the event – from old friends to those who may have heard of us in passing, and others who weren't familiar with the organization. We met with several industry leaders, corporate groups and potential business partners to strengthen existing relationships and cultivate new ones.

Overall it was a tremendous opportunity to grow the CCA Florida brand and membership and advance our efforts in conservation and advocacy. For more information and photos, visit our Facebook page.



# CENTRAL



## ABC Saltwater Slam

We were honored to work with ABC Fine Wine & Spirits for the first-ever ABC Saltwater Slam Tournament in May, which was a huge success! It was a great event and the beginning of an amazing new partnership.

The event was hosted by ABC and included 20 teams, where over \$100,000 was raised to benefit CCA Florida's efforts. Thank you ABC!



## Tampa Trash Tournament

In July, Swamp Head Brewery and CCA Florida teamed up again for the Florida Trash Tour,

where members from the region gathered at E.G. Simmons Park to take part in a waterway clean-up. Throughout the remainder of 2018, we'll be visiting our favorite fishing spots and cleaning up Florida's waterways. Come out for a beer, food and free goodies! Each Tour stop will be run tournament-style, with tons of prizes from our amazing sponsors! Visit [trashtourfl.com](http://trashtourfl.com) for more information.



## A Focus on Youth Anglers

This summer, CCA Florida hosted several events for kids and youth anglers in the region. These events included the St. Pete West Marine Kids Learn to Fish event, the Southeastern Tackle Youth Fishing Clinic and more. A second Southeastern Tackle Youth Fishing Clinic is taking place in October.

Clinic topics will include how to throw a cast net, freshwater and saltwater fishing and more. Participants must register online at [fish-southeastern.com/youthclinic](http://fish-southeastern.com/youthclinic).





## Volusia County's Newest Artificial Reef - New Reef the Result of Several Partnerships

In June, the 150-foot Lady Philomena was deployed in 80 feet of water at artificial reef site 12, roughly nine miles offshore the Ponce de Leon Inlet.

This project was made possible through the funding partnerships of Volusia County, CCA Florida and CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust (BCT). BCT received a grant from the FishAmerica Foundation, the conservation funding arm of the American Sportfishing Association, and the Brunswick Public Foundation, which helped ensure the project's success.

"Meaningful partnerships are the reason we are able to do great marine habitat work in Florida and throughout the United States," said John Carlson, chairman of the Building Conservation Trust. "The dedication of like-minded organizations demonstrates the power of coming together to benefit marine life and the local community."

The 90-foot Tug Everglades was also

placed alongside the Lady Philomena during the deployment. The vessels are intact and upright on the seabed in very close proximity to one another and will make excellent fishing and diving sites.

The Lady Philomena was forfeited to the U.S. Customs in Miami, after having been seized with contraband. The vessel was deployed in an established artificial reef system consisting of clean concrete culverts, structures and large concrete bridge components. The deployment of the Lady Philomena will enhance this underwater community, attracting marine life such as fish, shrimp and crabs. Artificial reefs also boost local economies through an increase in sport fishing, tourism and patronage in small businesses. The Volusia County artificial reef system is visited by an estimated 50,000 vessels annually and experiences high visitation by recreational anglers and divers.

The reef started generating local excitement last fall, when Volusia County hosted a two-day viewing party that enabled visitors the opportunity to tour the ship.

## Starship Reef Work in Jacksonville

Fully funded by BCT, the deployment

is scheduled for August and includes 1,500+ tons of concrete materials to be deployed on Floyds Folly Reef.

*For more on this and other reef projects, visit our website or join the conversation on Facebook. Or if you're looking to get involved, email Frank Gidus, our Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org)*







# STATE BENEFITS:

## ARTIFICIAL REEFS

- 1 Enhance private recreational and charter fishing and diving opportunities.
- 2 Provide a socio-economic benefit to local coastal communities.
- 3 Increase reef fish habitat.
- 4 Reduce user conflicts.
- 5 Facilitate reef related research.
- 6 Accomplish the above benefits, while doing no harm to fishery resources, Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) or human health.

Source: Fikes, Ryan. Artificial Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico: A Review of Gulf State Programs & Key Considerations, National Wildlife Federation, November 2013.





## Naples Oyster Restoration

This summer, our Naples Chapter worked with the City of Naples to bag 25+ tons of oyster shell for future deployments. CCA Florida provided five tons of shell from the Clermont Oyster Bar and Lake County. Thanks to our partnerships, this will all go back into the water to create new habitat!



## Ft. Myers Funament

Members and anglers came together for a great time and had a great showing at the CCA Ft. Myers Fishing Fun-A-Ment this summer. Thanks to our members and partners for making it a success!



## Larry Borden Reef (Manatee County)

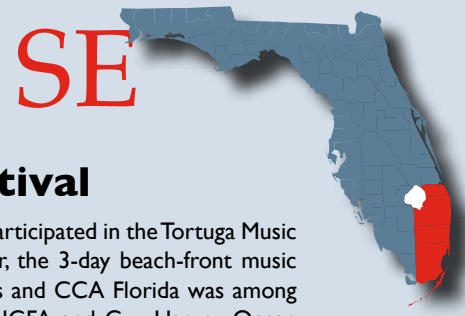
On July 28, 2018, 575 tons of large limestone boulders were deployed on the Larry Borden Reef in Manatee County. CCA Florida donated \$25,000 and these funds were combined with a \$60,000 Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission grant to make the project a reality.

## Phoenix Reef (Charlotte County)

Tentatively scheduled to deploy in August, the reef includes 150 tons of donated, high-quality concrete materials and is funded by the CCA Charlotte County Chapter.

For more on this and other reef projects, visit our website or join the conversation on Facebook. Or if you're looking to get involved, email Frank Gidus, our Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org).





## Tortuga Music Festival

For the first time ever, CCA Florida participated in the Tortuga Music Festival in Fort Lauderdale. This summer, the 3-day beach-front music festival welcomed over 35,000 attendees and CCA Florida was among 34 other conservation groups including IGFA and Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, among others.

Event attendees, which were primarily 18-40 years old, learned about CCA Florida initiatives, took part in interactive displays and activities and walked away with unique marketing pieces which were shared among all festival attendees. The opportunity allowed CCA Florida to interact with a new market and share our message of conservation and advocacy and generated a tremendous amount of social media engagement over the course of the three days, and after.



## Glasrud Reef (St. Lucie County)

With a \$10,000 donation from CCA Florida, the deployment of a 100' tugboat is tentatively scheduled for late August approximately 7.6 miles offshore from the St. Lucie Inlet.

## John Michael Baker Memorial Reef (Broward County)

Two new artificial reef deployments are planned for the Broward County area in the summer of 2018 in memorial of John Michael Baker, a member, avid diver and angler who passed away in a tragic boating accident in 2015.

The projects are being led by members of the Broward Chapter, who have secured a five-year permit from Broward County for an

area just offshore of Fort Lauderdale between Oakland Park Blvd and Birch State Park. The initial deployment consists of over one million pounds of concrete at two locations - on the sand in approximately 70 feet of water as an underwater park for scuba divers and will feature a memorial structure with a plaque for Johnny, and a second location in approximately 130 feet directly east of the memorial reef site to serve as an artificial reef for fishermen. Both reefs will be formally named in honor of John Michael Baker and will appear as such on future charts on GPS systems.

Special thanks to the John Michael Baker Foundation, St. Lucie County, U.S. Concrete, McCulley Marine, Broward County and Robert Carmichael of Brownie's Marine Group.

For more on this and other reef projects, visit our website or join the conversation on Facebook. Or if you're looking to get involved, email Frank Gidus, our Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org).





# Anglers Urged To Conserve Inshore Species Through New Campaign

**CCA Florida launched the #ReleaseThemForTomorrow campaign, aimed at conserving one of Florida's most iconic fish – the redfish – this year, but has expanded the campaign to focus on additional species as well.**

Like many of our members, CCA Florida hopes to see the population of inshore species grow in the state, and is encouraging anglers to help by releasing their catch. This summer, CCA launched the 'Release Them For Tomorrow' campaign as a way to support the redfish population's growth, through catch and release. And now, the organization is encouraging anglers to release redfish, along with snook and trout, following a season plagued with severe water quality conditions, red tide and other issues affecting fish populations.

"We've had members voicing concern for the lack of redfish and other species across the state and it's our duty to address the issue," said Brian Gorski, CCA Florida Executive Director. "We need to work together to conserve these fisheries for the next generation."



CCA has followed the redfish issue closely and, in working with the FWC, has confirmed that the decline is primarily due to a low recruitment of redfish during the spawning seasons from 2011 to 2015, meaning fewer redfish are making it from egg form to a juvenile fish. According to the FWC, long periods of red tide, water quality issues and other factors on the west coast, along with water quality issues and habitat loss on the east coast, have been the primary problems.

Anglers are encouraged to share the message by tagging their social media photos, comments and messages with #ReleaseThemForTomorrow to show their support. CCA Florida will also plan other initiatives targeting the conservation of these inshore species.

Learn more and check out the latest about the catch and release movement from Releasense, a joint effort to advance the traditional role of anglers as leaders in fisheries conservation. Anglers can become engaged by joining CCA Florida at [JoinCCA.org](http://JoinCCA.org) or visiting [releasense.org](http://releasense.org).

## Partnerships at Work

CCA Florida is proud to partner with Free Sunshields and offer an exclusive CCA design, available online for \$7.99 plus free S&H!

What we're even more proud of, is that 25 percent of the proceeds from these CCA Sunshields come back to CCA Florida to support our habitat and advocacy initiatives.

Learn about the I-for-I Initiative and get yours online. Visit [freesunshields.com](http://freesunshields.com) and click I-for-I.







## Statewide Chapters Represented IN 15TH Annual Inter-Chapter Challenge

In June, CCA Florida hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-Chapter Challenge (ICC), a family-friendly statewide competition created in 2004 to bring members from across the state together to share ideas, compare chapter initiatives and enjoy a day on the water. The all-release event and tournament includes inshore and offshore divisions and welcomed 140 anglers representing 17 chapters at the River Palm Cottages in Jensen Beach, Florida. Chapters in attendance included Broward County, Dade County, Jacksonville, Lake County, Manatee County, Martin County, Mid-Coast, Naples, North Palm Beach, Ocala, Orlando, Polk County, Sarasota, South Palm Beach, Space Coast, Tampa and Treasure Coast.

### Check out the full listing of all winners:

#### Alex Jernigan Inshore Grand Champion:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Naples Chapter (35" snook, 24.5" redfish, 20" trout)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Martin County Chapter (29" snook, 19" redfish, 25" trout)

#### Rufus Wakeman Offshore

##### Grand Champion:

Ocala Chapter (a sailfish release and 26.5" dolphin)

#### Inshore Division

Individual: Snook – Mike Napier, Naples Chapter (35")

Individual: Redfish – Jeff Ball, Naples Chapter (24.5")

Individual: Trout – Andy Steinbergs, Treasure Coast Chapter (25.25")

Ladies: Jan Crabill Largest Snook Award – Arvilla Stokes, Polk County Chapter (22")

Ladies: Trout – Harley Graham, Orlando Chapter (19.25")

Team: Snook – Naples Chapter (three largest snook, 35", 28.5, 27")

Team: Redfish – Naples Chapter (three largest redfish, 24.5", 19", 19")

Team: Trout – Treasure Coast Chapter (three largest trout, 25.25", 17", 15")

#### Offshore Division

Individual: Dolphin – Jay Etzler, Broward County Chapter (31")

Individual: Sailfish – Bill Camp, North Palm Beach Chapter (1 release)

Ladies Offshore: Sailfish – Julie Crispin, Martin County Chapter (2 releases)

Team: Dolphin – Treasure Coast Chapter (49.5" total of catches)

Team: Sailfish – Martin County Chapter (4 releases)



(continued on page 44)





# You Could Be Next!

**CCA Florida STAR, presented by Yamaha, is the largest family-friendly saltwater fishing competition in Florida and kicked-off on Saturday, May 26th. Unlike traditional fishing tournaments, STAR focuses on conservation and offers up to \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships. Recognized as a 'catch, photo and release' competition, STAR's smart phone app eliminates the requirement for anglers to harvest or capture and transport fish. "Our state's natural resources and fisheries are here for our enjoyment, and we understand that smart fishing will preserve these resources for the future," said Brian Gorski, CCA Florida Executive Director.**

**There are 17 divisions and 11 species included in the event, and most winners are determined by a drawing of catch entries made by anglers of all ages and skill levels. Registration is \$40 for current CCA Florida members or \$75 for non-members, which includes CCA Florida membership.**

CCA Florida STAR has anglers across the state in hot pursuit of those valuable pink tags! Since the event's launch on Memorial Day weekend, 22 of the 2018 STAR tagged redfish have been recaptured, with only two of those anglers current CCA Florida members and registered for STAR.

The winning anglers, Alex Hensley from Fort Walton Beach and Andrew Brown of Pensacola, will each walk away with a \$65,000+ prize package from Maverick Boat Group, Contender Boats and Yamaha Outboards at the STAR Awards Banquet on October 20th at Rock Crusher Canyon in Crystal River, Florida. Hensley was the 5th angler during the competition to catch a STAR tagged redfish, and 1st to be registered and eligible to win. Brown was the 15th angler to catch a STAR tagged redfish and the 2nd eligible winner.

Hensley caught a 22" Duke Energy reared STAR tagged redfish (tag FL 484) on June 12th near Rocky Creek in Okaloosa County. A CCA Florida member since May 2017, Alex immediately notified the organization, per event regulations. "I knew the rules and followed them, then the excitement set in," stated Hensley. "I'm still in shock and incredibly blessed to be the first registered angler." Of the event's major prizes, Hensley chose the Pathfinder 2200 TRS with 150 HP Yamaha Outboards motor, Humminbird Solix electronics and Minn Kota Terova trolling motor.

Brown caught a 22" Duke Energy reared STAR tagged redfish (tag FL 522) on July 7th near Santa Rosa Sound in Santa Rosa County. Brown had been a CCA member

since 2015 and fished STAR for the last three years. "I knew I could not go fishing this year without renewing my membership and registering for STAR, if I caught one

and wasn't registered, I would end up regretting it for the rest of my life" stated Brown. "This was my first fishing trip of the summer and my best." Brown selected the Contender 22 Sport with 200 HP Yamaha Outboards motor sitting on a Rolls Axle trailer.

Remaining prizes in the event's signature division, as of mid-July include a new GMC Sierra Pickup from Conley Buick GMC in Bradenton or one of several Yamaha-powered boat packages including a Hewes Redfisher 16, a Carolina Skiff 21 Ultra and a Cottonmouth Aluminum Bay/Flats boat. "It really can happen, you just need to be a member and registered for STAR when you go

fishing" said Leiza Fitzgerald, STAR Director.

Both the east and west coast of Florida have had their share of STAR tagged redfish recaptured by unregistered anglers. Brevard County had the 1st and 2nd tagged fish caught. Duval had the 3rd fish, Bay County had the 4th fish caught and Okaloosa had the 5th and winning fish. Since the recapture of the 1st winning fish we have had ten other STAR tagged redfish fish caught by unregistered anglers in Lee (2), Bay, Dixie, Charlotte (2), Citrus, Okaloosa (2) and Bay Counties. The 15th and 2nd winning fish came from Okaloosa County and there has been six other fish caught - in Palm Beach and Levy County, then Pasco, Volusia, Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee.





There are on average four STAR tagged redfish released per Florida's coastal counties with Brevard, Citrus and Charlotte Counties being Destination Counties each having a total of eight STAR tagged fish released in their waters. Hint - you may want to plan your next fishing weekend in one of our Destination Counties. There are still opportunities and plenty of time for other anglers to catch a winning fish but they must be registered and become a CCA member or it will just be another very sad fishing story.

If catching a STAR tagged redfish is something you just don't think you will ever do, STAR still has some great opportunities for to win other terrific prizes just by catching a non-tagged redfish, snook, trout, tarpon, grouper, kingfish, dolphin (mahi-mahi) and submitting them in the Open, Ladies, Kayak, Fly or Conservation Divisions. If fishing is not your thing, the Costa Kick Plastic Division allows STAR registered CCA members the ability to collect plastic and trash from the coastal waters and shoreline and submit a photo of every full five-gallon bucket they collect. Just include the 2018 STAR measuring device in the photo and earn a shot at \$1,500 in cash from Sunsect, Body Glove SUP, Costa Sunglasses or a \$250 gift certificate from Academy Sports + Outdoors.

Making it a family day of fishing is easy when kids and parents know that the Youth Scholarship Division presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors offers over \$100,000 in scholarships and winners are chosen by drawing, not determined by the largest fish. Youth anglers (ages 6-17) can register for free with their current (\$10) CCA Florida youth membership and are eligible for prizes in both tagged fish divisions as well as the Youth Scholarship Division. Prizes for the first two youth anglers in the Tagged Redfish Division include a Carolina Skiff 16JWX CC boat, powered with a Yamaha Outboards 40 HP motor and trailer, and the first registered angler who catches one of 20 tagged dolphin (mahi mahi) is eligible to win a \$10,000 scholarship.

With time left in the competition and so many ways to win amazing prizes, now is the time to get registered and make the rest of your summer fishing more rewarding. Visit [ccafstar.com](http://ccafstar.com) or call 844-387-7827.







# Super STAR Partners

## Conservation-minded companies join STAR to advance CCA Florida efforts.

The conservation message could not be shared, the collection of garbage would not be rewarded and youth anglers would not have the opportunity to win scholarships in the STAR competition without the support of all of our corporate partners and sponsors. For the last several years, STAR has had loyal support from amazing STAR partners including:

Yamaha Outboards  
 Contender Boats  
 Maverick Boat Group  
 Conley Buick GMC in Bradenton  
 Carolina Skiff  
 Textron Off Road  
 Stumpnocker (Salty Boats)  
 Salt Marsh Skiff  
 Bossman Boats  
 West Marine  
 Costa Sunglasses  
 Engel Coolers  
 Discover Crystal River  
 Visit Space Coast  
 Power Pole  
 LIVETARGET Lures  
 Rolls Axle Trailer  
 Florida Sportsman Magazine  
 LIVEWater Sports  
 Roundabout Watercraft  
 Ocean Grip  
 PowerTech Propellers  
 Sunsect  
 Bull Bay Tackle  
 Florida Fishing Products

### Our Youth Scholarship sponsors including:

Academy Sports + Outdoors  
 Beall's Reel Legends Performance  
 Clothing  
 South Eastern Environmental  
 Solutions  
 Talk of the Town Restaurant Group

### And other companies who have supported the event and cause, including:

Tito's Handmade Vodka  
 Papa's Pilar  
 Road King Trailers  
 Ocean Tamer Bean Bags  
 Continental Trailers  
 Navionics  
 Howler Brothers  
 Anisa Stewart Jewelry  
 Luna Sea  
 Calusa Cast Net  
 Jessica Ann Art  
 Throw Raft  
 Knotty Tails Apparel  
 Reel Animals  
 Florida Insider Fishing Report  
 Addictive Fishing

### Stepping Up

This year, many long-time sponsors have seen the value that comes with STAR partnership and have increased their participation in the event.

**Maverick Boat Group** has stepped up in a big way by providing additional boats and bringing the Hewes line to the Tagged Redfish Division.

**Power Pole** is the new Conservation Division Sponsor.

**Engel Coolers** is supporting the Freebie Friday Early Registration drawings.

**Sunsect Sunscreen and Insect Repellent** is offering \$1,500 as part of the first-place prize in the Costa Kick Plastic Trash Division.

**Body Glove** is providing the second-place prize of an inflatable fishing SUP in the Trash Division and a Stand-Up Paddleboard for the Live auction at the STAR Awards Banquet.

### New For 2018

Other outside companies have seen the value in the conservation message, collecting data, gathering garbage and introducing youth anglers to fishing, and are joining us for the 2018 STAR event.

**Cottonmouth Boats** is donating an aluminum Bay/Flats skiff with a 115 Yamaha Outboard and custom trailer.

**Realtree Fishing** has come on board as the Official Camo pattern of STAR and CCA and will provide two \$25,000 youth scholarships, one for 2018 and one for 2019.

**Johnson Outdoors** has joined the STAR constellation of partners with the Humminbird, MinnKota, Cannon and Talon companies.

**Humminbird** is the presenting sponsor of the New Tarpon Division, which offers a \$10,000 prize package including a Humminbird Solix 10 and a MinnKota Terrova trolling motor.

Another great company joining STAR this year is a subsidiary of **TH MARINE, Atlas Jack Plate**, as the presenting sponsor of the NEW Non-Tagged Redfish Division, which offers a Salt Marsh Skiff as the first-place prize.

For those targeting Tagged Redfish, the **Punta Gorda Englewood Beach Visitors & Convention Bureau** came aboard as the South West Destination County and will have two more tagged redfish than any other west coast county except for Citrus County.

We have also added **Fissot Sports** with a motorized kayak as the first-place prize in the Power Pole Conservation Division and **Kaku Kayaks** as the first-place prize in the Kayak Division.

For the Youth Scholarship Division, **Pasco County Office of Tourism** is sponsoring a \$5,000 scholarship and **Big Rock Sports and Clenzoil Marine Lubricant** have both donated \$500 towards scholarships.

*2018 STAR will offer new divisions, new prizes and more ways to win, thanks to all of our partners and sponsors. Support companies who support conservation and join us in thanking these companies who make all the winning possible.*





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*Maverick*

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# Lady Angler Extraordinaire

Our very own Leiza Fitzgerald, STAR Director, has been named one of the Most Influential Female Anglers in North America by Wildlife Enthusiast Magazine, and we couldn't agree more.

A self-proclaimed "top hooker," Leiza Fitzgerald eats, sleeps, and dreams about fishing. She is obsessed with angling of all types—in freshwater or saltwater, with a fly, baitcasting, or spinning rod, and even with a bow or spear. Leiza is very active on the tournament trail and has won numerous "top 10" fishing titles at events such as the ESPN Redfish Cup and FLW Redfish Tour, as well as numerous regional and local events. She is a professional guide and STAR Director for CCA Florida. Leiza and her gal pals give back every chance they get. Their fishing team, "Screaming Reels & High Heels," benefits two important charities: Hooked on Hope and Children's Pediatric Cancer Foundation.

**Read the article and her feature on [wildlifeenthusiast.com](http://wildlifeenthusiast.com).**







**“Karl will go down in the history books as one of the best fighters and advocates for marine fisheries conservation and saltwater recreational fishing.”**

*—Ted Forsgren,  
CCA Florida*



# A Tribute to Karl Wickstrom

## Honoring His Legacy



Compasses on recreational fishing boats were spinning this summer. Magnetic North is hard to discern, as are just about any heading on the 'rose.' The recreational fishing community, and all Floridians for that matter, lost a good friend, Karl Wickstrom, this summer. He was an angler's North, South, East, and West.

Karl has left a wonderful legacy for recreational anglers, and for anyone who appreciates Florida's vast marine resources. He was a pioneer, a leader, and a critical voice for just about every fishery issue which surfaced over the last five decades. That's a long time, and there were loads of challenges, but Karl's dedication and passion were at work daily, throughout his life. He never shied away from the fight, and had the scars to prove it. He was, as few are, a difference maker.

CCA Florida co-founder and past CCA Florida Chairman, Curtis Bostick, had this to say about his long-time friend: "Karl's support over the years has enabled Florida Conservation Association, now Coastal Conservation Association Florida, to accomplish some amazing things. From Karl we got financial support, printed opinions, lengthy telephone conversations, fishing advice and a great friendship."

Anglers everywhere should appreciate Karl's many accomplishments and impacts. Karl's life-long love affair with Florida began to manifest itself when he founded Florida Sportsman magazine in 1969. Karl was an active contributor to the publication his entire life, authoring his award-winning "Openers" column for every edition. It was a must-read.

Over the years, no one worked more closely on fisheries man-

agement issues with Karl than CCA's Ted Forsgren. Ted said he still considers Karl "one of the top conservationists and advocates for fisheries and recreational fishing in the world." Added Ted: "His energy and enthusiasm for fisheries conservation has kept fisheries issues in the forefront for many years. He gave an incredible amount of energy to CCA Florida, and myself, and is owed a big debt of gratitude that can never really be repaid."

Working with Ted and many others, Karl helped attain gamefish status for redfish in Florida, among his many accomplishments, which continues to be one of the state's key recreational fisheries. His signature achievement, by far, was his successful effort to ban destructive gill nets in Florida waters, which culminated in the passing of a constitutional amendment in 1994. To this day, one cannot mention nor think of the net ban without attaching Karl's name along with it. Karl helped unleash and lead an army of CCA volunteers, and others, to gather signatures and take other necessary steps to get the amendment on the ballot. In recent years, Karl brought his passion to bear when he turned his attention to Florida's water quality problems. His tireless efforts, no doubt, will some day pay off.

"Anna and I cherish the active and financial support Karl gave FCA and CCA over the years and will greatly miss him and his input," added another former CCA Florida co-founder and former Chairman, Alex Jernigan.

Pioneering. Tenacious. Visionary. Advocate. Champion. These words have all been used to describe Karl. All true, and accurate, they were well-earned.







# HABITAT HERO

CCA Florida began regularly featuring a Habitat Hero in each edition of Sea Watch Magazine just over two years ago, and the impressive list of heroes continues to grow. In this edition, we are excited to recognize Captain Paul Fafeita, President of the CCA Treasure Coast Chapter.

Paul is married and the father of four daughters with five grandchildren and one great-grandson. He grew up in Vero Beach and began fishing with his grandfather at 10 years old. He caught a tagged sheepshead at that age under a local tagging program funded by a Schlitz Brewing Company distributor in Fort Pierce. A few weeks later, Paul was fishing off a dock with fishing gear that his grandfather had given him, and he jumped a massive tarpon. This got his blood pumping and forever instilled him in saltwater fishing.

Sparked by his encounter with the massive tarpon, Paul spent a lot of time on the water with his friends and they would

often ask other boaters and fishermen for tips and tricks on how to fish the area. As a child, he and his friends would ride their bikes to Sebastian Inlet to fish (prior to when the bridge was built over the inlet). They would predominantly fish for bluefish because they were the most accessible.

While at Vero Beach High School, he got involved in the Boy Scouts Sea Explorers program, and was active in the program for three years and spent a lot of time camping on the Spoil Islands north and south of Vero Beach in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). Later, Paul's Sea Explorer group would be part of the honor guard for the opening the Sebastian Inlet Bridge.

Paul graduated from Vero Beach High School and went to college for a few years before joining the U.S. Marine Corps. He spent three years in the Marines in Vietnam before volunteering for a second tour. After this, Paul was hired by the Indian River County Sheriff's Office where he spent the next 30 years of his career. He achieved the highest rankings with the sheriff's office and also served as acting undersheriff for approximately six months, as well as a captain with the sheriff's office for the last several years of his employment. During his tenure as a captain, he was in charge





of the marine, aviation and agricultural units for some time. Their marine unit had a presence on the waters six days a week for at least eight hours a day, patrolling for water safety violations as well as fisheries and security issues. During his time with the sheriff's office, Paul also served as a hunter's education instructor for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

During the early to mid-1970s before Paul got married, he and his roommate had an oyster lease north of the Sebastian Inlet. He spent a lot of time working these oyster leases as well as working with clams, and according to Paul, "their abundance was unbelievable." About 20 years ago while working for the sheriff's office, Paul became involved with CCA, initially through local fundraising banquets. He got involved because he was seeing a decline in the seagrasses and oysters, as well as the quantity of fish that they were catching. Paul said the numbers of fish they were catching, compared to what they would catch as kids, was significantly dropping. At that time, other than the annual banquets, there wasn't much going on with the CCA Treasure Coast Chapter, accord-

*In line with CCA's objective to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of those coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, habitat restoration continues to be a major focus around the state. Over the last several years, hundreds of CCA members have volunteered countless hours on habitat restoration projects and on helping acquire the funding for those projects. Without these volunteers and the increasingly important habitat restoration efforts, both our habitat and our fisheries would suffer greatly. Based on this, CCA regularly recognizes in Sea Watch some of the people that have gone above and beyond to help protect and restore our fragile coastal resources. For more information or to recommend a CCA member as a Habitat Hero, please contact Frank Gidus at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org).*

ing to Paul. He attended a meeting at the Indian River Shores Town Hall around this time, which was attended by several political and fishing dignitaries from the area. The discussions at that meeting, along with observations Paul was making on the water, ignited his desire to get further involved with the IRL. "However, at that time nobody else in the area was doing anything," Paul said. He then got involved with his lifelong friend, Captain Paul Dritenbas, who

was active in the local rotary club, power squadron and the RISSA program (Rotary Initiative for Submerged Seagrass Awareness) as well as starting oyster mat restoration in Vero Beach. Paul Fafeita then brought in the local CCA Treasure Coast Chapter to form a partnership that is still strong and thriving today.

Paul's interest in becoming a licensed captain was sparked by his cousin who  
*(continued on page 38)*





# Shell Reveals Starship Initiative Results at Finale Event

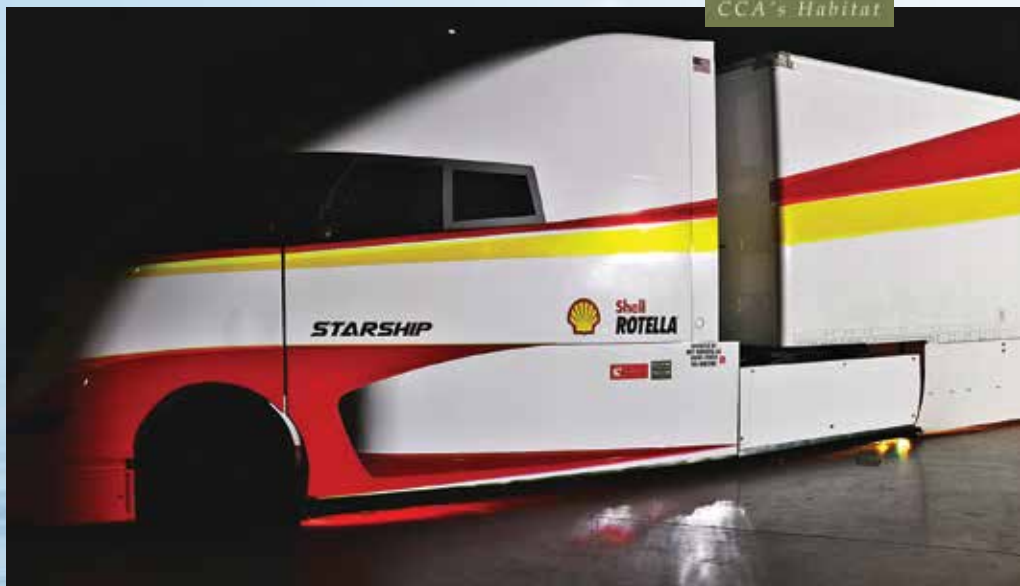
## Rolling Lab on Wheels Hauled Habitat Materials across the Country

On Tuesday, June 5, 2018, employees of Shell, Shell Lubricants customers, national media outlets, Coastal Conservation Association Florida (CCA Florida) and CCA's National Habitat Program, the Building Conservation Trust (BCT), gathered at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in Jacksonville, Florida to learn the results of the Starship cross-country drive.

"Through this road trip, we were able to test the Starship truck along with a number of technologies available today and provide insight into what trucking fleets and owner/operators could consider adopting to help reduce fuel use and emissions as they haul heavy loads," said Carlos Maurer, president, Shell Lubricants Americas. "We were fortunate that our relationship with Building Conservation Trust and CCA Florida made the perfect load available – reef material – that helped us complete our cross-country drive and create a new oasis for ocean life off the Florida coast."

Starship is a hyper-aerodynamic, fuel-efficient class 8 concept truck, utilizing a variety of fuel-efficient technologies, all of which are available today, but are not yet in common use. These include advanced aerodynamic features, solar panels, an especially efficient Cummins 15 liter engine, low rolling resistance tires and of course, low friction lubricants from Shell within each driveline component. Its creation is the result of a partnership between Shell and Airflow Truck Company. The truck started its journey in San Diego, California on May 18, 2018. Transporting artificial reef materials, Starship made pit stops in Gila Bend, Arizona; Comfort, Texas; Houston, Texas; and Biloxi, Mississippi. Starship finished its cross-country tour in Jacksonville on May 24.

The Starship Initiative Finale Event included speakers from Shell Lubricants, the



North American Council for Freight Efficiency (NACFE), Roechling Automotive, Penske Truck Leasing, Shell Technology, Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations and Airflow Truck Company.

As reported on by Mike Roeth, executive director of NACFE, Starship's overall performance was verified and was based on freight ton efficiency, as well as miles traveled, fuel consumed and freight carried. Two independent telematics devices and a data logger were used, and measurements were verified along the route. It was determined that the data found was within 2 percent of each other. Other data such as wind speed and direction, elevation change and idle time were also taken into account. According to Shell, the end results confirmed the Starship truck attained 178.4 ton-miles per gallon for freight ton efficiency – a nearly 248 percent improvement over the North America average freight ton efficiency of 72 ton-miles per gallon for trucks.

The truck's payload consisted of nearly 40,000 pounds of limestone rock to be deployed as an artificial reef in the St. John's River out of Jacksonville. This project will create new marine habitat, and it will continue to grow and serve the local commu-

nity for many years to come. Shell Oil Company provided funding for this deployment, which is a partnership with CCA Florida and BCT.

"This has been the most innovative project that BCT and CCA Florida have ever been involved in," said John Carlson, chairman of the Building Conservation Trust. "We are always so grateful for Shell Oil Company's generous support, and we are thrilled to be a part of a project that will make a huge impact on the community of Jacksonville."

The materials carried by Starship are anticipated to deploy in summer 2018.

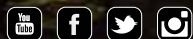
*The Building Conservation Trust (BCT) was founded in 2013 as the national marine habitat program of Coastal Conservation Association. BCT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization exclusively dedicated to providing funding for local, state and national fisheries, habitat conservation and restoration projects. BCT has created a model for the successful collaboration of business, non-profit organizations and government agencies to revitalize critical habitat and establish a vibrant foundation for the marine ecosystem.*







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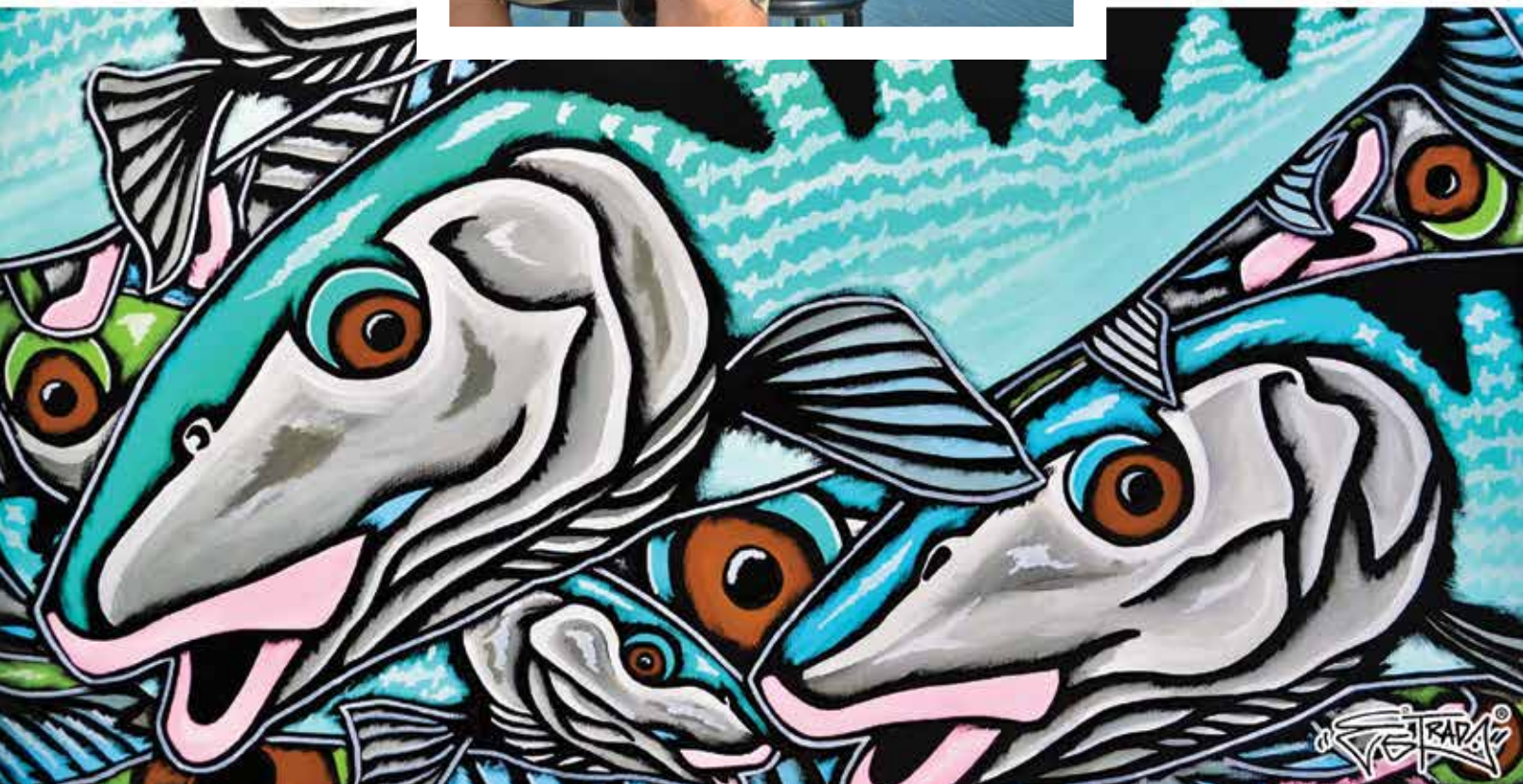
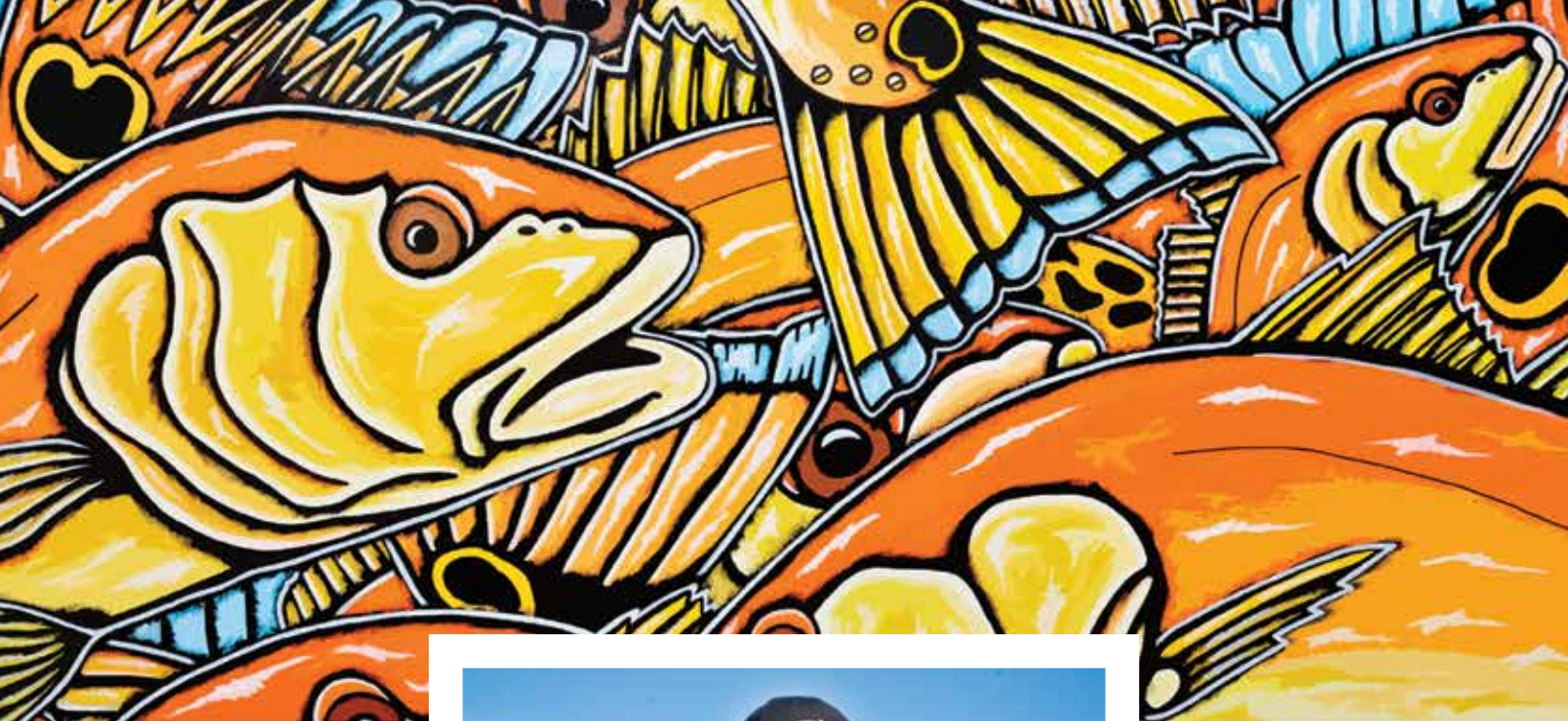
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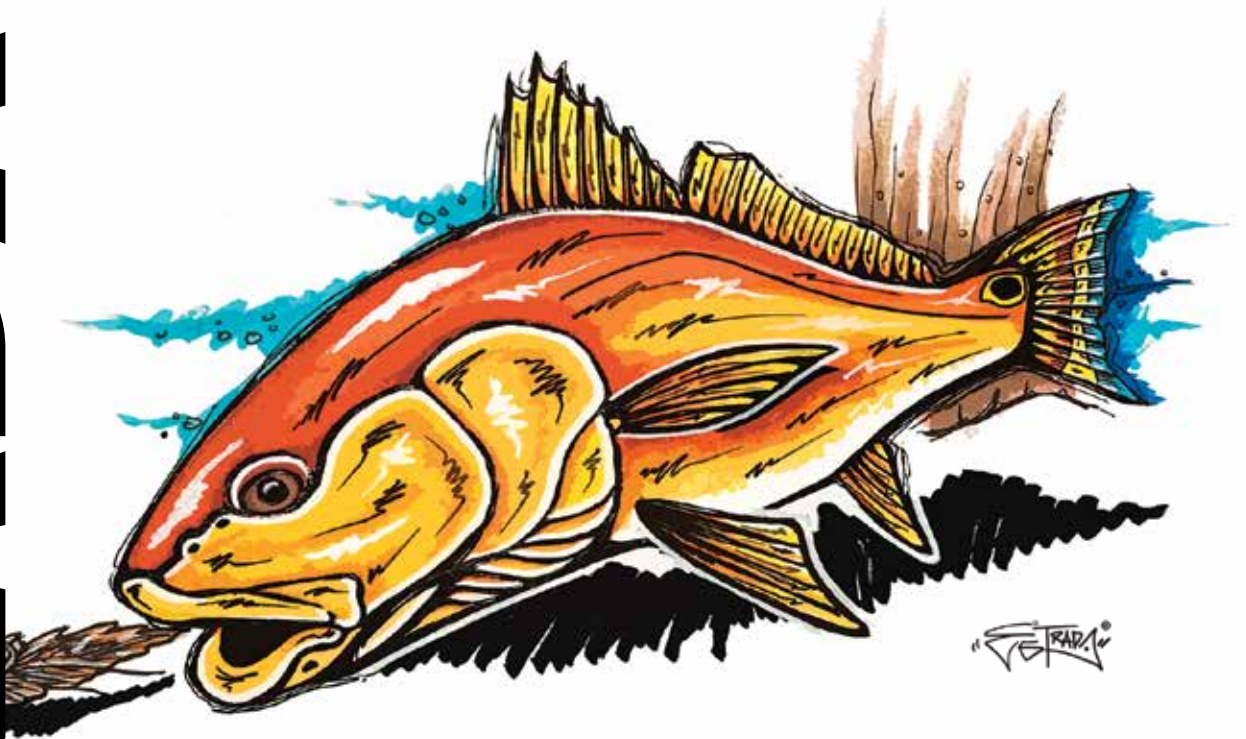






# ERIC ESTRADA

Visit [www.EstradaArt.com](http://www.EstradaArt.com) to view Eric Estrada's fly fishing art, apparel and films



South Florida native, Eric Estrada, is a fly fishing artist, who comes from a family of artists. His passion for fishing stems from regular childhood trips to The Florida Keys, where he was captivated by the ocean.

Combining his love for art, music and fishing, Eric found an outlet in acrylic and canvas art. Eric's artwork has been displayed throughout the Tampa Bay area, Miami and The Florida Keys. His artwork has also been exhibited in Art Basel and the Dante Fascell Gallery in Biscayne National Park. Additionally, by combining his love for art, music and fishing, Eric has also found an outlet in film making.

Through his art, Eric directly supports Coastal Conservation Association and other marine life conservation organizations such as Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, the Biscayne National Parks and the Herman Lucerne Memorial Foundation.







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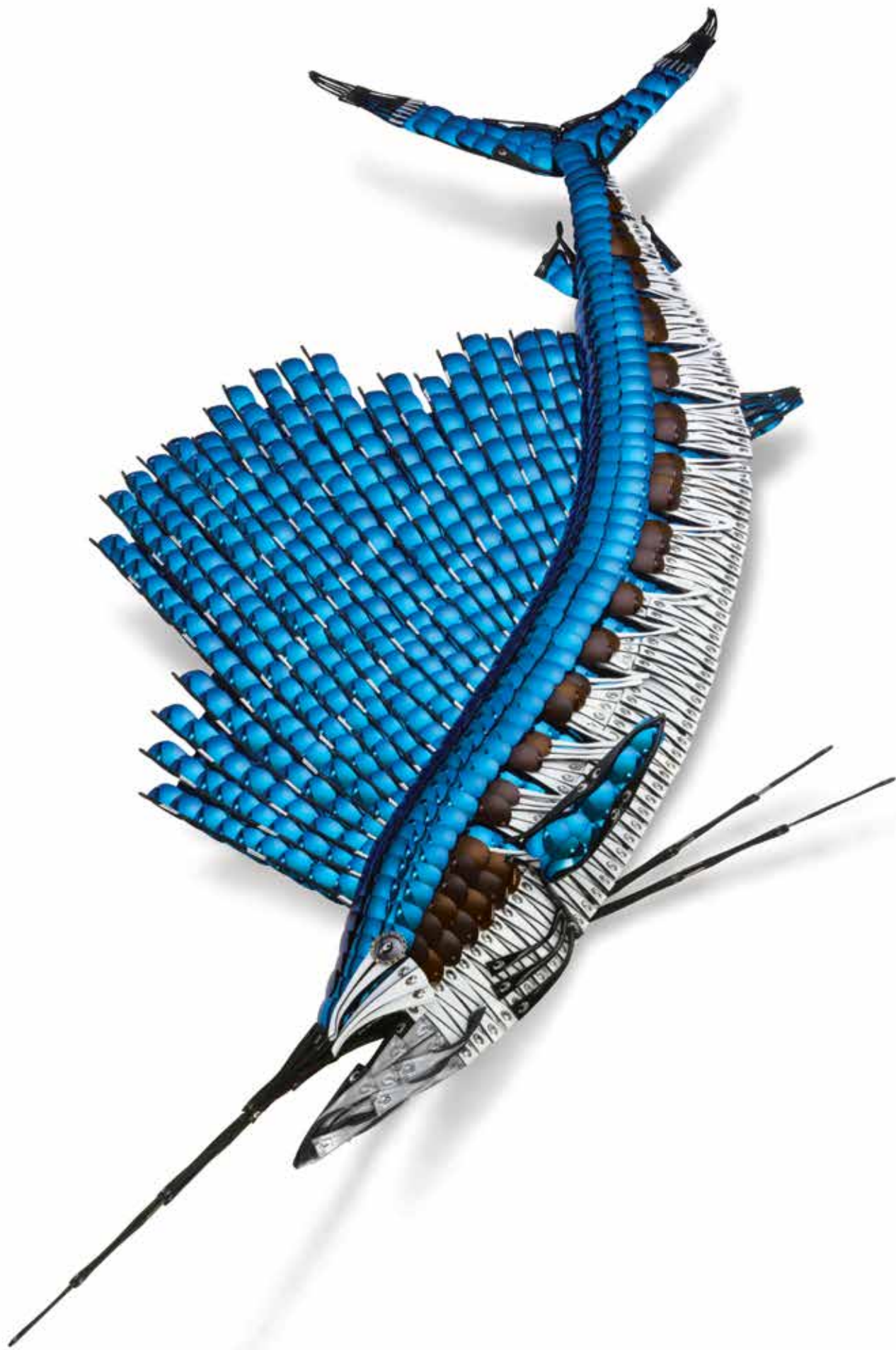
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## Habitat Hero

*continued from page 29*

worked for Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. At the time, his cousin was in charge of providing educational programs and she approached Paul about doing eco-tours in the lagoon. He already owned a large pontoon boat and she encouraged him to get his captain's license, which he did in 2004. Paul began marketing his business, *Just Bumminit Guide Service*, doing eco-tours, fishing, sightseeing and sunset trips, and is still going strong 14 years later.

Paul was recently honored by the Pelican Island Audubon Society with the 2018 Environmental Citizenship award, along with fellow CCA member Mary Yanno. Paul is also the recipient of the first ever "CCA Florida Capt. Paul Dritenbas Volunteer of the Year Award" for his outstanding volunteer work in the IRL. During the award presentation at the Treasure Coast Banquet on April 19,

2018, he was recognized for his outstanding service and involvement in the following projects, partnerships and initiatives: Oslo boat ramp juvenile fish species protection, Bethel Creek water quality, Dr. Grant Gilmore's spotted seatrout study, Spoonbill Marsh, Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) coalition, kids fishing event with the Vero Beach Power Squadron, Indian River County sewage discharges into the lagoon, Round Island Park oyster project, Treasure Coast waterway cleanup, Indian River Neighborhood Association collaboration, Pebble Bay oyster pilot project, First Annual Indian River Garbage Classic river clean-up, Treasure Coast Party in the Park at Ft. Pierce Inlet, Greenfield Resources Technology for cleaning the lagoon waters, Vero Beach Power Squadron and Rotary Club Oyster donation to UCF, Live

Like Cole Foundation, Earman Island adoption, and the Indian River Lagoon Symposium. He also participated in *The Informed Angler*, a video series produced by CCA in partnership with Maverick Boat Group, as the CCA Treasure Coast spokesman along with Scott Deal.

Paul is currently working on partnerships with the Indian River Lagoon Land Trust and ORCA on a number of programs in the Vero Beach area. These restoration programs include living shoreline restorations and oyster reef restoration projects. Paul feels that through the vibrant CCA Treasure Coast Chapter members and their environmental leadership in this area, we could have more enthusiasm from all CCA members along the entire IRL. Paul also sees the need and importance of getting the younger generation involved in







habitat restoration, water quality and fisheries issues in the IRL. He has discussed this with Dr. Grant Gilmore and the idea on the table is to initiate a real-time fish tagging study where various species of fish can be tracked by local school-aged anglers, which would also get their parents involved. He believes this will generate much interest in the IRL from both children and their parents.

In addition to his volunteering, Paul has attended an unknown number of public meetings concerning the IRL and finds time to serve on CCA's Habitat and Water Quality Committees, as well as serving on the East-Central Florida Estuarine Restoration Team. He still finds time to continue his childhood passion of fishing and his favorite fish to catch is, without a doubt, the redfish. "The power, shoulder strength and strength of the fight from the redfish is just a ton of fun," Paul said. And we couldn't agree more!





# NON-SKID DECK SOLUTIONS



## Deck Cleaner

- Cleans away ground-in dirt and stains
- Safe to use, contains no harsh chemicals
- Leaves a protective coating to help repel dirt and stains

## Deck Wax

- Provides a non-slippery barrier against stains and UV exposure
- Helps restore luster to fiberglass decks
- Helps keep decks clean and stain-free

**STARBRITE.COM (800) 327-8583**





# Polish VS Wax



Do you wax or polish your boat? There is a huge difference. We all use the term “waxing” regardless of what we use, so, to paraphrase a well-known politician, what difference does it make? To be technically correct, if you wax the boat, you are applying a carnauba-based formula. If you polish the boat, you are applying a polymer-based treatment and possibly removing swirl marks, oxidation or hazing. First let’s look at wax. For decades a carnauba wax has been the choice of car and boat enthusiasts seeking a barrier against dirt, stains and weather. The good points of carnauba wax are that it creates a barrier coating that repels water while delivering a glossy finish. Additionally, wax such as Star brite Pre-Softened Boat Wax can “fill in” tiny imperfections and cover up light oxidation, acting very much like a coat of makeup for the boat. The downsides are that it is softened by high heat and wear, meaning it needs to be re-applied every 3 months.

A good-quality polymer polish such as Star brite Premium Marine Polish has a service life of 8 to 10 months because the polymers chemically bond to the surface, as opposed to a wax which just “sticks” to the treated surface. A good quality polymer polish provides a durable barrier against stains and dirt while helping to repel UV rays to some extent. The sealers also make the treated surface more “slippery” (which is why you never polish a deck) making cleanup easier because dirt won’t stick to a treated surface. Some polishes are sealants, with no ability to remove light oxidations, stains or hazing. Others, called Cleaner Waxes (yet not containing any wax), contain just enough grit to remove light oxidation, hazing or scuff marks. Star brite’s Cleaner Wax does all this and leaves a protective polymer coating. You can use these polishes on all fiberglass (except textured decks) painted surfaces and polished metals. If the

surface is very hazy or chalky, use Star brite Restorer Wax (also actually a polymer polish) to remove the oxidization. Call Star brite’s Tech Line (800-327-85893) if you’re not sure which one to use.

The trick to great results from waxing or polishing is proper preparation. Start by using Star brite Instant Hull Cleaner to remove waterline stains, dirt, old polish or wax. Rinse and allow the area to be treated to dry. Apply the polish either by hand or with a random orbital buffer, working in overlapping circular motions to ensure uniform and complete coverage. It will dry to a haze in 15 minutes or so, after which it can be easily wiped off by hand or with the buffer.

Don’t forget the deck; while you should never polish or wax a deck, Star brite makes it easy to clean and protect textured decks. Star brite Non-Skid Deck Cleaner uses special chelating agents that break the bond between dirt and the deck without heavy scrubbing. Apply it to a damp deck, spread evenly and allow it to work for 5-10 minutes before using a soft deck brush to agitate the treated area. Rinse thoroughly. The formula contains no harsh bleaches or acids that can damage the fiberglass or be harmful to the user; you can even use it on vinyl seats. When the deck is dry, apply Star brite Non-Skid Deck Wax (which is not a wax, despite the name) to add non-slippery stain-repelling action and UV protection. Non-Skid Deck Wax is great for restoring the appearance of older, chalky decks.

A polished boat looks good, but the real payoff is that it will be easier to clean after a day on the water.







STAR entries come in all shapes and sizes.



Ed Ellett and family





*Check out these entries in this year's STAR event.*





## Inter-Chapter Challenge

continued from page 19



### Mystery Fish

Inshore: Rupert McAndless, Broward County Chapter (blue fish)

Offshore: Donna Divine, Ocala Chapter (bonita)

### Trash Can Slam

Inshore: Orlando Chapter

Offshore: North Palm Beach Chapter

The 2019 event will again take place in Jensen Beach at River Palm, on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information on the ICC, visit our website, [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org).





# WHAT HAS CCA DONE FOR ME LATELY?

- 1 CCA worked with the FWC and local captains to reduce the cobia boat limit from 6 to 2 in Florida waters and reduced the commercial daily limit from 2 to 1 with a boat limit of 2.
- 2 CCA will work with the Florida Legislature to create a CCA Florida License plate-House Bill 983 by Rep. Latvala and Senate Bill 1248 by Sen. Gainer.
- 3 CCA created the annual Trash Tour in 2017, engaging over 300 volunteers to clean up more than 10 tons of trash and debris from our local coastal waterways.
- 4 CCA will continue working with guides and the FWC to implement a provision stating that no guides shall possess a limit of trout or redfish while guiding.
- 5 CCA fought against the 3 day Gulf red snapper season and is working on other long term solutions to fix the mismanaged Gulf fishery. One of CCA's highest priority is the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- 6 CCA worked to stop an exempted fishing permit that would initiate a commercial privatization program for at least six species of fish.
- 7 CCA is working with recreational fisherman and the FWC to create a state management system for reef fish in federal waters to replace the broken federal system now in place.
- 8 CCA FL STAR will host the 4th annual STAR event lasting 101 days, continuing our focus on educating anglers and awarding almost \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships.
- 9 CCA has continued its work with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to keep the Florida Keys a premier boating and fishing destination.
- 10 CCA continues to work with the Florida FWC and Biscayne National Park to help protect corals and fish species while maintaining angler access within the park.
- 11 Along with the ASA and the FWC, CCA is working to defeat proposals to ban fishing in coastal waters off of Florida's southeast coast.
- 12 Florida's water quality continues to be CCA Florida's highest advocacy priority. CCA Florida's Water Quality Subcommittee continues to work on and monitor several resource issues around the state.
- 13 CCA donated \$25,000 to a new offshore artificial reef in Volusia County. The Lady Philomena, a 150-foot U.S. Customs vessel, will be deployed in early 2018.
- 14 With the help of other organizations including the Billfish Foundation, CCA stopped the Pelagic Longline Exempted Fishing Permit that was issued for the closed conservation one off the East Coast of Florida.
- 15 CCA is working with the FWC and the SAFMC to mandate the use of descending devices while fishing for reef fish. This device will greatly reduce the dead discards that are keeping some of our fisheries closed.
- 16 CCA Florida was awarded almost \$100,000 in grant funding in 2017 which will go directly back into the water in 2018 for habitat restoration projects.





# FWC Law Enforcement Update

All photos courtesy of FWC.

## Safe on the Water

### 2017 boating accident statistics provide an opportunity for boating safety reminders

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is responsible for many things in order to achieve their stated mission: "Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people."

Law enforcement is a primary focus in that mission. We all understand that without strong enforcement, the rules and regulations we work so hard to pass do nothing. CCA Florida is proud to continue our regular feature in Sea Watch; The FWC Law Enforcement Update. Please remember you can do your part by reporting all fish and wildlife violations to the FWC at 888-404-FWCC (3922). Cellular phone users, call \*FWC or #FWC.

With the release of the 2017 Boating Accident Statistical Report, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encourages boaters to focus on simple, effective steps that make boating safer.

"For 2017, the leading contributor to boating accidents was the operator's inattention or failure to maintain a proper lookout. It is critical for operators to be diligent in observing and being aware of what is going on around them," said Lt. Seth Wagner from the FWC's Boating and Waterways Section.

In 2017, 261 boating accidents involved collisions and 38 percent of all collisions were due to inattention or the operator failing to maintain a proper lookout.

"It's important that while out relaxing and enjoying Florida's beautiful waters, boaters remember to be safe," Wagner said.

Florida had 766 boating accidents in 2017, 52 more accidents than in 2016. However, there was no change in the number of fatalities. A total of 67 people lost their lives last year in boating accidents. Falls overboard have been the leading type of fatal accident since 2003, with drowning as the leading cause of death.

Eighty-one percent of these victims were not wearing a life jacket. Today's boaters can choose from several models of light and comfortable inflatable belt-pack or over-the-shoulder life jackets that can be worn while fishing or enjoying the sun. Boating accident statistics support an important message: "Life Jackets Save Lives."

The FWC is responsible for reviewing, analyzing and compiling boating accident data for the state. Its statistical report details boating accidents and their causes. The theme of accident-related messages from FWC staff is clear: Officers want to help keep Florida's beautiful waterways a safe place to boat.

For a copy of the 2017 Boating Accident Statistical Report, visit [MyFWC.com/Boating](http://MyFWC.com/Boating) and select "Safety & Education" and "Boating Accidents."



## Mind Your Monofilament Line

With summer in full swing and many anglers enjoying time on the water, FWC wants to remind you to take advantage of the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP). Keep your used monofilament out of the environment by placing it in an outdoor PVC recycling bin or an indoor cardboard bin where it can be recycled through the FWC's partnership with Berkley Fishing.

Find a bin near you and learn more at [mrrp.myfwc.com](http://mrrp.myfwc.com).





## Over The Limit — Under Arrest

Enjoying Florida's beautiful waterways this summer? Make sure to designate a sober operator to make sure everyone gets home safely! Boating while impaired by alcohol or drugs is dangerous and illegal. FWC officers, along with the U.S. Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies, will be on the water this providing heightened enforcement and awareness on the dangers of boating under the influence as part of Operation Dry Water. Report dangerous boaters or anyone abusing our natural resources by calling 1-888-404-3922, texting/emailing [Tip@MyFWC.com](mailto:Tip@MyFWC.com) or online at <http://myfwc.com/contact/wildlife-alert/>.

Learn more about Operation Dry Water: <http://www.operationdrywater.org/>.

## A Deep Dive Into Divers-Down Devices

If you are wholly or partially submerged under water and are using snorkeling gear or SCUBA equipment, you must use a divers-down flag warning device.

To stay within the law, boaters must:

- Stay at least 300 feet away from a divers-down device when in open waters such as bays, oceans and gulf. (300 feet = football field).
- Stay at least 100 feet away from a divers-down device when in narrow waterways such as rivers or canals.
- Travel at idle speed, fully settled in the water, if the boat must pass within the distances stated above.

This is the **WRONG** way to display a divers-down flag. Divers-down device displayed from a boat must:

- Be displayed from the highest point of the boat so that their view is not obstructed in any direction.
- Must be at least 20 inches by 24 inches.
- Flags must have a stiffener to keep it extended (visible) when there is no wind.



This is the **correct** way to display a divers-down flag. Divers/Snorkelers must:

- Stay within 300 feet of a divers-down device in open waters such as bays, oceans and gulf.
- Stay within 100 feet of a divers-down device in narrow waterways such as rivers or canals.
- Only display divers-down devices while divers/snorkelers are in the water.



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# CCA FLORIDA

## banquet schedule

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### AUGUST

#### **Pasco Banquet Friday, August 24**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasco Banquet kicks off our fall banquet season back at The Spartan Manor! Tickets are \$80 per person, \$150 per couple, and corporate sponsorships start at \$1,000. For additional information, please contact Steve Bowler at (727) 919-6191.

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Space Coast Banquet Thursday, September 6**

Please make plans now to join us on September 6<sup>th</sup> for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA Space Coast Banquet and Auction presented by Boniface-Hiers Automotive Group! Tickets are just \$110 per person and \$200 per couple. The party starts at 6 p.m. with an open bar at the Melbourne Auditorium! For additional information, please contact Rob Beckner at (321) 863-3226 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

#### **Gainesville Banquet Thursday, September 20**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Gainesville Banquet presented by Merrill Lynch will be at The Swamp's Touchdown Terrace! Tickets are going for just \$80 each and include a delicious dinner, CCA Membership, live auction, raffles, silent auction, and so much more! Get your spot before we sell out! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (352) 278-2708 or Mark Hurm at (352) 378-9422.

#### **Dade Banquet Thursday, September 27**

Join us for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCA Dade Chapter Banquet & Auction presented by Contender Boats! We will be drawing the winner of the 2018 28' Contender Tournament Edition Center Console at the banquet!!! Join us at the Coral Gables Country Club and be a part of this exciting event! Be sure to purchase your table early as we are anticipating a huge event this year. For additional information, please contact Kathleen Marrero (305) 371-3835.

### OCTOBER

#### **Orlando Banquet Thursday October 4**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual CCA Orlando Banquet presented by Winter Park Construction is sure to be bigger and better than ever! The black tie event of the year with no black ties and a convenient downtown Winter Park location! Tickets are \$200 per person and reserved tables and corporate sponsorships begin at \$2,500. For additional information, please contact Dan Askin at (407) 401-7671.

#### **Forgotten Coast Banquet Thursday, October 11**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forgotten Coast Banquet will be held at the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe. Forgotten Coast - we're coming at ya! The evening's dinner will be catered, and the drinks will be free! Tell your friends and come support your Forgotten Coast Chapter. Seating is limited,

so get your tickets now! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (352) 278-2708.

#### **South Palm Beach Banquet Thursday, October 11**

Join us for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA South Palm Beach Banquet & Auction presented by Eastern Metal Supply! We will be at the beautiful Seagate Country Club this year, and you will not want to miss it! Space is limited, so please remember to purchase your tables well in advance. The party starts at 6:00pm! Tickets are \$140 per person or a 10-seat corporate table is \$1,700. For additional information, please contact Nick Pectol (407) 401-7677.

#### **Treasure Coast BBQ Friday, October 12**

Come on out to the Treasure Coast BBQ at the Walking Tree Brewery! There will be free beer and great BBQ! Tickets are just \$50 and include CCA membership! For additional information please contact Paul Fafeita at (772) 473-8475 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

#### **Peace River Banquet Thursday, October 18**

Join CCA Florida in celebrating the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace River Banquet! This year's event will be held at the Turner Agri-Civic Center in Arcadia. If you live anywhere near this part of the state please come on out for a great event! Tickets are just \$85 per person and include a great steak form our friends at Texas Cattle Co. This is one of CCA Florida's newest chapters and their

banquet is quickly becoming one of our larger events. Please be sure to reserve your tickets early if you plan on attending this year! For additional information, please contact Adam Miller at (407) 401-7674.

#### **STAR Awards Banquet Saturday, October 20**

CCA Florida STAR presented by Yamaha will be celebrating and awarding nearly \$500,000 in boats, motors, prizes and scholarships at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual STAR Banquet & Ceremony! This year's event will be held at Rock Crusher Canyon in Crystal River. If you live anywhere near this part of the state please come on out for a great event! Tickets are just \$55 per adult and \$25 for youth under 17 and includes a great meal from our friends at Texas Cattle Co., a live performance from Cledus T. Judd, dinner, cocktails (open bar), silent & live auction, kids fun zone and over 450 guests. This is one of CCA's most exciting banquets. Please be sure to reserve your tickets or table early if you plan on attending this year! For additional information, please contact Andrea Gillespie or Leiza Fitzgerald at (844) 387-7827.

#### **Sarasota Banquet Friday, October 26**

This event has been sold out the last six years in a row, please reserve your tickets early! Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual banquet is presented by Capstan Financial Consulting Group and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. Tickets are just \$110 per person or \$200



per couple and include a two-hour open bar, catered dinner and CCA membership. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller (407) 401-7674.

## NOVEMBER

### North Palm Beach Banquet

**Thursday, November 1**

Join us for the 33rd Annual Searcy Denny Scarola Barnhart & Shipley CCA North Palm Beach Chapter Banquet & Auction presented by Grand Slam Tackle. Hosted at the beautiful Palm Beach County Convention Center, this casually elegant affair is sure to be a great time! For additional information, please contact Nick Pectol at (407) 401-7677.

### Clermont Banquet and Auction

**Thursday, November 8**

Please join us for this fourth time event in the heart of Clermont. This year's event will once again be held at the Clermont City Center across from city hall. The fun starts at 6 PM with an open bar followed by a catered dinner by our good friends at Texas Cattle Company. Tickets are only \$85 and include open bar, steak dinner, and a one-year CCA membership. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller at (407) 401-7674.

### Jacksonville Banquet

**Thursday, November 8**

Don't miss out on this year's Jacksonville Banquet presented by Merrill Lynch at the beautiful, timeless Garden Club of Jacksonville located downtown on the water's edge! There will be great raffle, and auction items,

as well as steak dinner and open bar! Single tickets start at just \$90 and include CCA membership! For additional information, please contact Pat Orman at (904) 728-8793 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

### Pensacola Banquet

This year's CCA Pensacola Banquet presented by Budlight is going to be our best yet! Hurry, and save \$100 on a Corporate Sponsor Table if you buy before September 22nd. Tables seat 8 and come with 8 CCA memberships, open bar, dinner, table gifts, framed art by our featured artist, a full-page program ad and priority seating. What are you waiting for!! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (352) 278-2708 or Mimi Bass at (850) 516-4966.

### Pinellas Banquet

The Pinellas Banquet will be held at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom! This historic event space is something you will have to see to believe! Tickets are \$90 per person or \$170 per couple. Corporate and reserved tables begin at \$1,250 for a table of eight. For additional information, please contact Jim Suomi (727) 244-9474 or Christine Suomi (727) 643-7375.

(continued on page 50)



## TITO'S BERRY INFUSION



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 LITER TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
- 1 CUP FROZEN BLUEBERRIES OR RASPBERRIES

### INSTRUCTIONS

PUT BERRIES DIRECTLY INTO A BOTTLE OF TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA. HINT: YOU MAY HAVE TO DRINK A LITTLE TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE BERRIES. SEAL AND PLACE OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT. SHAKE OR STIR EVERY SO OFTEN, AND TEST AFTER 15-24 HOURS FOR DESIRED FLAVOR. WHEN THE FLAVOR IS STRONG ENOUGH, STRAIN AND DISCARD THE FRUIT. MIX WITH LEMONADE, ICED TEA, OR SODA WATER.

## TITO'S JALAPEÑO INFUSION



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 LITER TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
- 2-3 FRESH JALAPEÑO PEPPERS

### INSTRUCTIONS

SLICE YOUR PEPPERS (REMOVING SOME SEEDS), AND PUT THEM INTO A BOTTLE OF TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA. HINT: YOU MAY HAVE TO DRINK A LITTLE TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE PEPPERS. JALAPEÑOS CAN INFUSE QUICKLY, SO TEST THE HEAT EVERY 30 MINUTES. WHEN IT'S HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU, REMOVE THE PEPPER SLICES. USE THIS INFUSION FOR A TITORITA OR TITO'S AMERICAN MULE, OR MIX IT WITH LEMONADE.



## banquet schedule

### **Key West Banquet and Auction** **Thursday, November 29**

Please join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Key West Chapter Banquet and Auction presented by our good friends at Papa's Pilar Rum. The Southernmost CCA Banquet will be held at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel. Sponsors and early ticket holders will be invited to a VIP pre-party the evening before at the Papa's Pilar Rum Distillery! Tickets are only \$100 per person or \$185 per couple and include open bar, dinner, and a one-year CCA membership. For additional information, please contact Nick Pectol at (321) 271-7723.

### **St. Augustine Banquet** **Thursday, November 29**

Mark your calendars for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Augustine Banquet and Auction. If you missed this great event last year then you probably already know you don't want to miss out again!

Tickets are just \$80 per person or \$150 per couple, corporate tables are still available. For Additional information, please contact Luke Kelleher at (910) 619-2202 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

## DECEMBER

### **Eagles Banquet** **Saturday, December 1**

The Eagles Banquet will once again be held in the beautiful Cohen Center Ballroom at Florida Gulf Coast University. Your ticket includes a one-year CCA membership, catered dinner, and open bar! This is a great opportunity to come together with the local fishing community and party for a cause. We've sold out quickly the last two years, so make sure you get your tickets early! For additional information, please contact Amy Kuehnert at (407) 401-7680 or [akuehnert@cca-florida.org](mailto:akuehnert@cca-florida.org).

### **South Walton Banquet** **Thursday, December 6**

The South Walton Banquet will once again be held at the beautiful Lake House in Watercolor. Tables of 8 begin at \$900 and include an open bar for the evening for you and your guests. This is a great opportunity for some holiday shopping. We've sold out quickly the last two years, so make sure you get your tickets early! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (352) 278-2708 or Andy McAlexander at (850) 259-8283.

### **Lake Mary Banquet** **Thursday, December 6**

Mark your calendars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lake Mary Banquet and Auction. You don't want to miss out on this great event at the best banquet venue in the state! Tickets are just \$90 per person or \$150 per couple, corporate tables are still available. For additional information,

please contact David Bostick at (407) 506-6924 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

### **CCA Golf Challenge** **at Black Diamond Ranch**

#### **Monday, December 10**

You have always wanted to play Black Diamond and now you have a chance. After a terrific 9<sup>th</sup> annual event CCA Florida is proud to announce our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at Black Diamond, Monday, December 10, 2018. Foursomes are \$1,000 and sponsorships begin at \$200. All entry fees include everything you need for a great day on a great course; range balls, cart, lunch and awards ceremony dinner. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller (407) 401-7674.





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