

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

SUMMER 2022

SEA WATCH

PRESENTED BY **CONTENDER**

TURTLE BAY
OYSTER
DEPLOYMENT

DR. BART CAREY
MEMORIAL REEF

THE DEBUT
OF Y.S.P.

2022
STAR
UPDATE



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Editorial/business inquiries and information requests: Mary Hillyer Walther, P.O. Box 568886, Orlando, Florida, 32856-8886 407-854-7002

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CCA Florida, P.O. Box 568886, Orlando, Florida, 32856-8886

407-854-7002 • ccaflorida.org

Managing Editor
Mary Hillyer Walther

Creative Director
Debbie Dewell
Great Minds, Inc.
850-386-7401

Printer
Durruprint,
Tallahassee

**CCA FLORIDA
STAFF**

Brian Gorski
Executive Director

Adam Miller
Chief Operating Officer

Trip Aukeman
Director of Advocacy

Frank Gidus
Director of Habitat
& Environmental
Restoration

Mary Hillyer Walther
Director of
Communications

Denise Perine
Director of Accounting

Zack Batley
Senior Regional Director

Amanda Krpan
Regional Director

Mandy Tuckus
Regional Director

Will Ramsby
Regional Director

Harley Graham
Regional Director

Sara Anderson
Regional Director

Andrew Danter
Logistics, Procurement
& Inventory Manager

Leiza Fitzgerald
STAR Director

Andrea Gillispie
Assistant STAR Director



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REDFISH RELEASE RESTOCK

CCA Florida's East Coast Redfish Restocking Initiative

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We're working with the Duke Energy Mariculture Center to restock Florida's redfish population and you can help. Phase I of our east coast redfish restocking initiative includes the raising and release of up to 100,000 juvenile redfish, but we can't do it without you.

With your support, we can meet our \$100,000 goal, which will fund the equipment, feed and other supplies needed to support the effort. Feeding the broodstock and juveniles is a \$25,000 annual cost alone! Get more information online and donate today.

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Red Snapper Frustration Continues in the South Atlantic

NOAA Fisheries announced a limited Red Snapper season for the South Atlantic. With a biomass of Red Snapper that is estimated to be the largest that anyone alive has ever seen, NOAA announces an abysmal two day season for recreational anglers and a one fish per person bag limit. Frustration is boiling over with anglers as they try to be better stewards of the sea by working to lower dead discards using descending devices and the Federal Fisheries managers are working against them by only allowing for a two day season. We need to come together and improve the mismanagement of this fishery and allow more access to the South Atlantic red snapper fishery.

The announcement of the 48-hour season leaves anglers frustrated, yet again with an inflexible federal fisheries management system that many see as punitive rather than constructive. #CCAFlorida has been collaborating with CCA national and its counterpart, The Center for Sportfishing Policy to resolve this issue.

"We are clearly at a dead-end with federal management of this fishery. If this is the best the agency can do – and we have been told that under current law that is the case – then the South Atlantic states need to re-evaluate how we are managing our marine resources," said Bill Bird, chairman of CCA National's Government Relations Committee. "This is rock bottom for the management system when you have the healthiest population in recent history combined with a 48-hour season."

Frustrated anglers say the red snapper is the easiest-caught fish in the Atlantic Ocean, and it is nearly impos-

sible to get bait past these voracious feeders to reach deeper reef fish species. Over the last decade, anglers have been baffled by NOAA Fisheries' decision to radically limit public access to red snapper despite the plentiful number of fish they are encountering on the water. In the last 12 years, the recreational sector has been allowed to harvest red snapper in South Atlantic federal waters a cumulative total of 44 days despite increasing abundance of fish.

"The two-day South Atlantic recreational red snapper season is a prime example of the absolute failure by NOAA Fisheries to collect sound data on recreational fisheries and apply adaptive management to a stock that is rebuilding faster than anticipated. While the South Atlantic Council and Congress are working to obtain better data, we are years away from those efforts bearing fruit," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "Recreational anglers are doing their part to reduce discard mortality and participate in the management process. It's beyond time for the federal government to do its part to facilitate better data for more informed management decisions."

"Saltwater anglers annually spend more than \$7.8 billion on fishing trips and durable goods in the South Atlantic," Angers continued. "Experts believe current abundance of South Atlantic red snapper is the highest it has been since the 1960s. Yet anglers are caught in a vicious cycle of a management regime based on guesses that is penalizing the success of this rebuilding stock."





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around the state



HAUL OUT IRL CLEAN UP





On May 7, CCA Florida attended and sponsored the Haul Out Indian River Lagoon Clean Up hosted by Thrash Can at Parrish Park in Titusville. This event was well attended and within two hours of cleaning by boat and foot, volunteers collected over 300 pounds of trash from the Indian River Lagoon and surrounding areas. Each participant received a raffle ticket for a chance to win some awesome prizes, some of which were CCA swag!





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FLORIDA

CONSERVATION | HABITAT | ADVOCACY

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MILLION

SINCE 2010, CCA FLORIDA, CCA'S BUILDING CONSERVATION TRUST AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$8.5 MILLION TO REBUILD FLORIDA'S MARINE HABITAT

90 TONS OF OYSTERS



WERE SAVED FROM WASTE BY CCA FLORIDA IN THE LAST THREE YEARS. THUS FAR, 30 OF THE 90 TONS HAVE BEEN RECYCLED AND REDEPLOYED TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL REEFS

IN LAST 10 YEARS

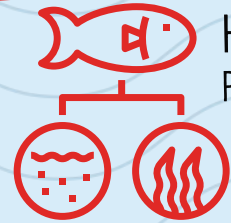
24

ARTIFICIAL
REEFS



60

HABITAT
PROJECTS



**MORE THAN 19,000 MEMBERS
ACROSS FLORIDA'S 67 COUNTIES**

**ADVOCATED
GAMEFISH**

STATUS FOR REDFISH

PROTECTING FLORIDA'S MARINE
RESOURCES AND ANGLERS'
ACCESS FOR MORE
THAN 35 YEARS

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CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT

ADVOCATES AND CREATES
AWARENESS
FOR IMPROVING
STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY

WORKED WITH FWC TO
ENSURE MAXIMUM
ANGLER ACCESS
FOR RED SNAPPER

HELPED CONGRESS
INTRODUCE DESCENDING
DEVICE BILL AND FORAGE FISH
CONSERVATION ACT

HELPED BAN LONGLINES
FOR BILLFISH
AND PELAGIC SPECIES



**\$700,000 IN CCA FLORIDA YOUTH
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED SINCE 2015**

5,000 SNOOK
RESTOCKED AND RELEASED

20,000 SEA TROUT
RESTOCKED AND RELEASED

110,000 REDFISH
RESTOCKED AND RELEASED

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LEGISLATURE TO CREATE
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2022

STAR



Florida's Largest, Family-Friendly
Fishing Competition Confirms Two
Winners in Signature Division

Winners will receive an \$80,000 prize package for catching Tagged Redfish in the 2022 West Marine CCA Florida STAR competition presented by Yamaha.

In July, CCA Florida verified two winners in the Tagged Redfish division of the 2022 West Marine CCA Florida STAR competition presented by Yamaha. Jeff Moore from Punta Gorda and Kenneth Dobson from Suwanee have selected to receive a prize package from Pathfinder Boats Contender Boats Inc., respectively, valued at more than \$80,000.

This year, nearly 160 Tagged Redfish were released across Florida's coastal waters giving participants



more opportunities to win. The remaining prizes in the Tagged Redfish Division include a Spyder Vapor 19FX powered by Yamaha and \$50,000 cash from Alta Equipment Company.

(continued on page 14)



West Marine
Yamaha
Contender
Pathfinder
Spyder Boats
ALTA Equipment Company
Duke Energy
Realtree Fishing
Tigress Outriggers & Gear
Custom Gheenoe
Piranha Boatworks
Humminbird
Minn Kota
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Reel Animals Television

Guidelines TV

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Beyond our Shores Foundation

Dolphin Research Program

Ocean Tamer Bean Bags

Anisa Stewart Jewelry

Luna Sea Cush it

Knotty Tails

Talon

Deck Gear

Mud Hole Rod Building &
Tackle Crafting



STAR

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Additionally, STAR's other tagged division, the Tigress Outriggers and Gear Tagged Dolphin Division, will award \$10,000 to the first registrant who catches a tagged dolphin.

"This year's competition is proving to be our largest one yet and we could not be more excited," CCA Florida STAR Director Leiza Fitzgerald said. "STAR is about having fun, winning awesome prizes and, most importantly, giving opportunities to fish smarter with our catch-photo-release competition."

Unlike traditional fishing competitions, CCA Florida STAR focuses on conservation and offers \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships during the 101-day event. 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.

STAR is also focused on youth participation, with its Youth Scholarship Division presented by Real-tree Fishing, offering \$100,000 in scholarships. Youth anglers (ages 6-17) can register for free with a current CCA Florida youth membership (\$10) and are eligible for prizes in both tagged divisions.

(continued on page 16)



2022 STAR



REGISTRATION REMAINS OPEN THROUGH LABOR DAY!

STAR 2022 runs Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, giving participants 101 days of fishing and the chance to win more than \$500,000 in prizes and youth scholarships.

As a reminder, be sure the STAR 2022 Destination Counties are in your adventures! Visit Brevard County (www.visitspacecoast.com), Citrus County (www.discovercrystalriver.com) and Charlotte County, Englewood/ Punta Gorda (www.pureflorida.com) as each has more tagged redfish than any other coastal county!

For more information on STAR, please visit www.CCAFLSTAR.com

STAR

continued from page 14

Youth winners in the Tagged Redfish Division will be awarded a new boat with Humminbird Electronics, MinnKota trolling motor, Yamaha 40HP motor and trailer. Additionally, if the first registered angler to catch one of the 20 tagged dolphin (mahi mahi) is a youth, then he or she will win a \$10,000 scholarship in the Tigress Outriggers and Gear Tagged Dolphin Division.

The STAR competition includes 17 divisions and 12 species and most winners are determined by a random drawing, giving anglers of all ages and skill levels the opportunity to win. Registration is \$40 for current CCA Florida members or \$75 for non-members. STAR runs through September 5 giving participants the opportunity to catch more prizes.



**REGISTER HERE
FOR STAR 2022
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ADDITIONAL INFO
ON DIVISIONS, PRIZES
AND MORE!**

SUPER STAR REDFISH

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West Marine



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around the state

TRASH TOURNAMENT

2022 Winners

Mariana Keiper
\$200 American
Express Gift Card

Brian Pershing
\$100 Academy
Gift Card

Susan Conner
\$100 Academy
Gift Card

Sandy Stark
\$100 Academy
Gift Card

**Samantha
Dominis**
\$100 Academy
Gift Card



This FREE, family-friendly competition boasted participants from all over the state. Participants also received one raffle entry for every bucket of trash picked up. The more trash submitted, the greater the chances were at winning. Winners were randomly drawn.

CCA swag packs and other fun prizes were also sent out at random.



In the third annual CCA Florida Statewide Trash Tournament, participants gathered 98 buckets of trash in just seven days!



Snapper Cakes With Spicy Remoulade Sauce

RECIPE & PHOTOS BY HEATHER PETEREK
JOINCCA.ORG/RECIPES

Ingredients

SPICY REMOULADE SAUCE

- ½ c mayonnaise
- ½ c sour cream
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp horseradish
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp Louisiana hot sauce
- 1 tsp Cajun seasoning
- Juice of 1 lemon

SNAPPER CAKES

- Vegetable oil for frying
- ¾ c fresh corn kernels
- ¼ c red bell pepper, finely diced
- ¼ c yellow onion, finely diced
- 1 clove fresh garlic, minced
- 2 large snapper fillets, cut into small pieces
- ½ c mayonnaise
- ¼ c green onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp kosher salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 c panko bread crumbs

Directions

Make the remoulade sauce by whisking all ingredients thoroughly in a small bowl. Let sit in refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. The longer it sits, the better, even as long as overnight.

In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Add corn, bell pepper, yellow onion and garlic; cook until all vegetables are softened, about 5 minutes. Add all the snapper pieces to the skillet and cook about 5 minutes per side or until fish is cooked through. Transfer the fish and vegetable mixture into a large bowl and let cool for 10 minutes. Add mayonnaise, green onion, mustard, salt, pepper, egg and panko bread crumbs. Gently fold it all together until well combined, taking care not to break up the fish too much. Refrigerate for 10 minutes then shape mixture into ½ cup patties.

Heat about 4 tablespoons vegetable oil in the same skillet over medium-high heat. Once oil is hot enough for frying, cook cakes in batches until golden brown, about 3 minutes per side. Let drain on paper towels or a wire rack. Repeat process until all fish cakes are browned.

To serve, place one or two snapper cakes on a plate, top with remoulade sauce and garnish with extra chopped green onion and lemon wedges. MAKES ABOUT 8 CAKES.

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An aerial photograph of a ship's deck, showing various equipment, railings, and structures. The ship is moving through turquoise water, creating a white wake. The text "DR. BART" is overlaid in large, bold, dark blue letters across the top half of the image.

DR. BART

CAREY MEMO

DRIAL REEF

In July, CCA Florida and the Organization for Artificial Reefs deployed 46 reef modules off the coast of Carrabelle, Florida in memory of the late Dr. Bart Carey from Tallahassee.

(continued on page 24)

The 46 concrete and limestone reef modules weighed approximately 336 tons and were deployed in 50 feet of water 10 miles southeast of Dog Island to create the Dr. Bart Carey Memorial Reef. The pre-fabricated reef modules were distributed in close proximity to one another and consisted of five 'Super Reef' modules that are 15-foot tall and 41, 8-foot tall 'Florida Special' modules. The center point of the reef modules is N 29° 39.711, W 084° 30.000.

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**DR. BART
CAREY MEMORIAL REEF**



CCA Florida was honored to play a role in creating this new marine habitat in Dr. Carey's memory.

We thank the Carey family and friends for joining us at the deployment and trusting us with this task.

Special thanks to the FWC, City of Carrabelle and Walter Marine for helping us complete this important project.

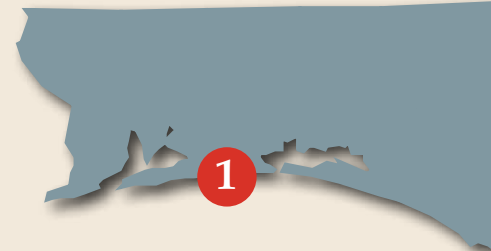


habitat



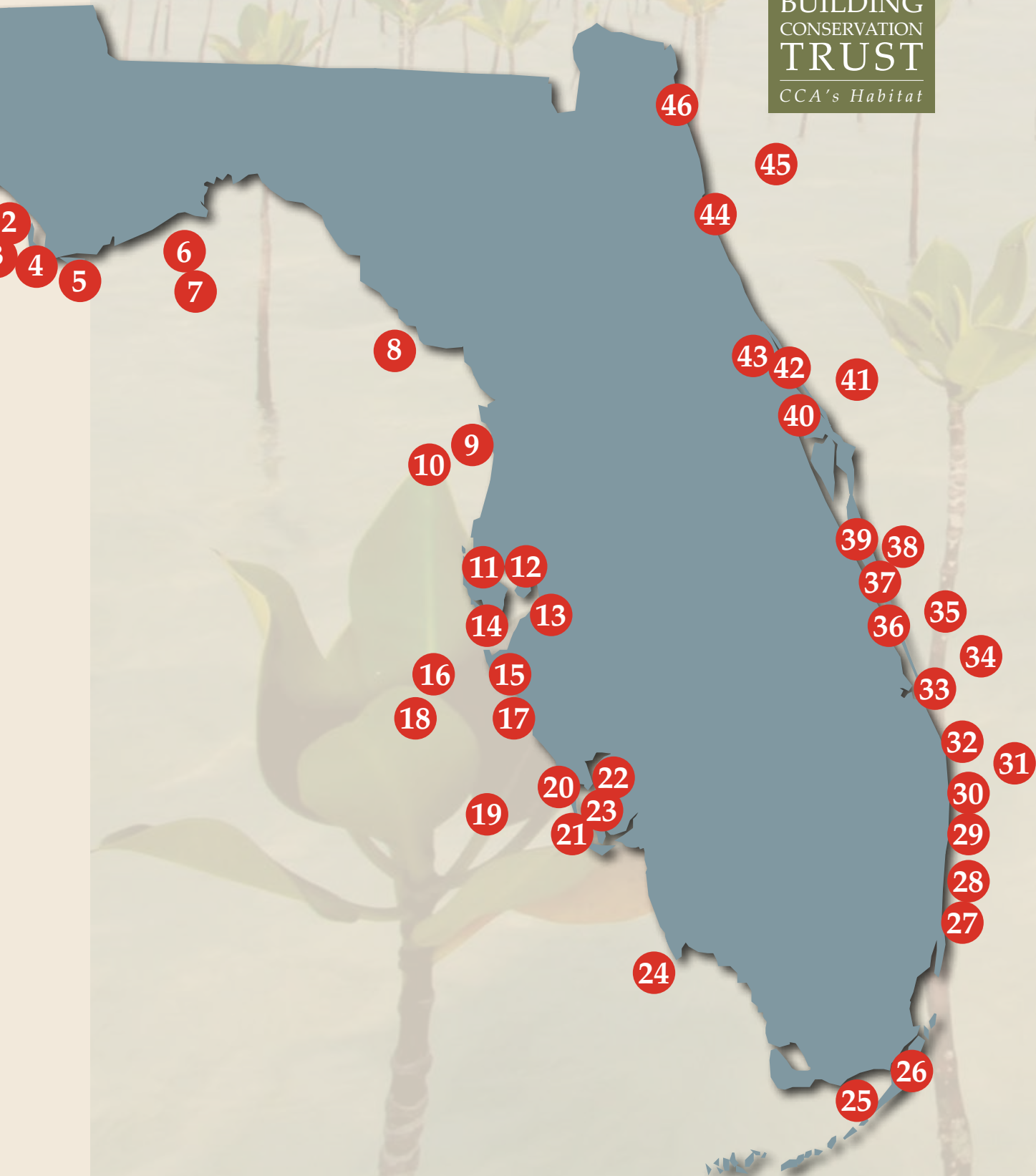
DR. BART
CAREY MEMORIAL REEF

COMPLETED HABITAT PROJECTS

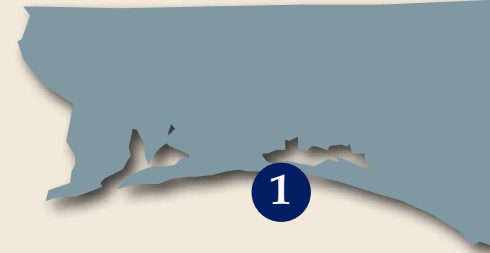


Since 2010, and in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust, CCA has contributed over \$1 million which has been leveraged with our partners to over \$8.5 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!

1. CCA/South Walton Artificial Reef Association, Inc. Reefs
2. CCA Reef/MBARA
3. CCA Duke Energy Reef – Mexico Beach
4. CCA/Ocean Aid 360 Apalachicola Ghost Trap Rodeo
5. CCA/FDEP/Duke Spartina Grass Replanting
6. CCA/BCT Billy's Barge Artificial Reef
7. CCA Dr. Bart Carey Memorial Reef
8. NCBS Lone Cabbage Reef Fish Monitoring
9. CCA/UF/IFAS Centipede Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
10. CCA/Hernando Co. Ghost Ship Reef
11. CCA/BCT/Tampa Bay Watch Fantasy Island Oyster Restoration
12. CCA/BCT/Tampa Bay Watch 2D Island Oyster Restoration
13. CCA/FWC Suncoast Youth Conservation Center Saltwater Pond
14. CCA/Ocean Aid 360 Tampa Ghost Trap Rodeo
15. CCA/UCF De Soto National Memorial Living Shoreline Stabilization
16. CCA/BCT Sean Gucken Memorial Reef
17. CCA/Sarasota Bay Watch Clam Restoration
18. CCA/FWC Larry Borden Artificial Reef – Manatee County
19. CCA/Lee County USS Mohawk CGC Reef – Veterans Memorial Reef
20. CCA/BCT/Lee County Punta Rassa Oyster Restoration
21. CCA/BCT/Lee County San Carlos Bay Oyster Restoration
22. LBHS Prop Scar Restoration and Sea Grass Project
23. CCA Turtle Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
24. Naples Bay Oyster Restoration Project
25. CCA Florida Bay Seagrass Restoration
26. CCA/UNF Florida Bay Turtle Grass Research Project
27. CCA Andrew Hall Eagle Scout Reef
28. CCA Broward Chapter Pilot Oyster Project
29. CCA/No Shoes Reef 4
30. CCA/BCT Goggle Eye Reef
31. CCA/BCT Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation Reef
32. CCA/BCT Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation "No Shoes" Reef
33. CCA/Florida Oceanographic Society Seagrass and Oyster Restoration
34. CCA/MCAC Brause Girls Reef
35. CCA Curtis Bostick Reef
36. CCA/Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Seagrass Restoration
37. CCA Indian River Lagoon RISSA Seagrass Buoys and Oyster Restoration
38. CCA Treasure Coast Revegetation Project
39. CCA Spotted Seatrout Acoustic Study
40. CCA/UCF/NPS Canaveral Nat'l Seashore Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
41. CCA/BCT Lady Philomena Cargo Ship - Volusia County Reef Site No. 12
42. CCA/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
43. CCA/Heineken/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
44. CCA/City of Fernandina Living Shoreline Oyster Restoration
45. CCA/BCT Starship Reef
46. CCA/BCT Jacksonville River Reef



ONGOING & UPCOMING HABITAT PROJECTS



Since 2010, and in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust, CCA has contributed over \$1 million which has been leveraged with our partners to over \$8.5 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!

1. CCA Okaloosa County Reef
2. CCA/Duke Energy/Citrus County Reef
3. CCA/Hernando County Bendickson Reef
4. CCA/Hernando County Jenkins Creek Living Shoreline
5. CCA/Duke Energy/Pasco County Reef
6. CCA/Pinellas County Reef
7. CCA Tampa Bay Reefs Project
8. CCA Phoenix Reef
9. CCA John Michael Baker Memorial Reef - Broward County
10. CCA Bob Burton Memorial Reef
11. CCA/Sandoway Marine Park Vessel Deployment
12. CCA Loxahatchee Seagrass Project
13. CCA/FWC/Wildlife Florida IRL Eelgrass Restoration
14. CCA/BTT/IRL Land Trust Tarpon/Snook Impoundment Tagging
15. CCA/Blair Wiggins Outdoors/FWC/UF Indian River Lagoon Clam Restoration
16. CCA/Brevard County Artificial Reefs
17. CCA Starship II Reef
18. CCA/UCF Mosquito Lagoon Oyster Restoration
19. CCA Oyster Shell Recycling Program
20. CCA/UNF Oyster Restoration Projects



-  Ongoing
-  Upcoming
-  Coastal Cleanups

 Redfish Stock Enhancement
Locations - Total of 200 Adults
and 78,650 Juveniles released

 Snook Stock Enhancement
Location - 5,150 Juveniles
released

 Spotted Seatrout Enhancement
Location - 20,000 Juveniles
released





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Every time.**

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between use.**



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CCA FLORIDA JOINED STAR BRITE TO HOST EARTH DAY EVENT FOR THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON



Volunteers and fishing celebrities participated in clam and mangrove plantings, coastal cleanups and conservation workshops during three-day event

(continued on page 34)



Indian River Lagoon

continued from page 33

In honor of Earth Day, CCA Florida joined Star brite to host its inaugural “Clean Water Collective,” a three-day event promoting habitat restoration in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL).

For decades, the IRL’s deteriorating wa-

ter quality has caused its marine habitat to suffer. To counteract these effects, CCA Florida and Star brite, in partnership with Capt. Blair Wiggins from the Indian River Lagoon Clam Restoration Project (IRL-CRP) and the University of Florida Whitney Lab, took proactive approach to habitat restoration by planting 100,000 clams in the Banana River.

“Clean Water Collective is an opportunity to enhance one of Florida’s most diverse marine estuaries,” CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. “We are excited to team up with Star brite and launch this awesome Earth Day event – it’s projects like these that bring us one step closer to restoring the IRL.”

Clams are filter feeders, removing excess nutrients from inshore coastal waters, as a result, creating clearer water. Improved water clarity allows more sunlight to penetrate the ecosystem and supports the growth of essential seagrasses, a vital need for the IRL.

“We are very excited to jump in the water and tackle the devastating water-quality issues effecting many of Florida’s waterways,” Star brite Executive Vice President Greg Dornau said. “Our SeaSafe initiative is not just about putting a label on a bottle to show our environmental commitment, but taking part in a hands-on solution for the IRL.”

Clean Water Collective volunteers also planted mangroves, attended education workshops focused on marine conservation and participated in a coastal cleanup.

Where would you like to fish today?

AT MAVERICK, WE THINK THERE ARE NO BETTER WORDS TO START A MORNING. THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN A PROUD SUPPORTER OF CCA FLORIDA FROM THE BEGINNING. BECAUSE WE WANT ALL FUTURE FISHING PARTNERS TO BE ABLE TO ASK EACH OTHER THIS VERY QUESTION.



Maverick

Fish the Legend.



Recycled Oyster Shells to Create New Reef In Charlotte Harbor

CCA Florida and partners joined effort to create new oyster reef in Turtle Bay

On May 26, Coastal Conservation Association Florida partnered with Ingman Marine, Abbott Construction, Lee Reefs, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), Capt. Jay Withers, Placida Point LLC, Clermont Oyster Bar and Lake County Solid Waste Division to deploy two dump truck loads of oyster shells in Charlotte Harbor's Turtle Bay in effort to boost water quality, marine fisheries and recreational angling.

The oysters were hauled from CCA Florida's Oyster Recycling Program at the Lake County Landfill in Astatula and transported to Placida. The oysters were then loaded onto a barge, provided by Abbott

Construction, and deployed in Turtle Bay at a pre-permitted location.

"Deploying dried oyster shells to create a new oyster reef is a testament to our commitment of protecting and enhancing Florida's marine habitat, and we couldn't do it without the help from our amazing community partners and members," CCA Florida Chief Operating Officer Adam Miller said. "With all the water quality issues in Charlotte Harbor, it is imperative to do whatever we can to help restore the water quality, habitat and marine life."

The recycled oyster shells, donated by the Clermont Oyster Bar, are first dried for six months to kill any potential pathogens.

Once deployed, will eventually attract new oyster larvae, and over time will form a new oyster reef.

"With an estimated 85% loss of oyster reefs worldwide, efforts for restoration must be made a priority all around the state," CCA Florida's Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration Frank Gidus said. "It is critical to come together and pool our resources in effort to tackle larger areas in need of restoration."

The federal pre-permitted location allows for more material to be deployed at this Turtle Bay site. Oyster reefs filter pollutants, reduce turbidity and create habitat for a variety of marine species.



ENTER TO WIN

Maximum speed of 26 mph • 6 seats • Back up camera, Seat belts, Six Cup holders



One lucky winner will take home a brand new EPIC 60I Golf Cart valued at \$16,000!

Raffle Tickets are for \$20 each or 6 for \$100
The Drawing will be held on December 5 between 4 and 6 pm at the Black Diamond Ranch





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In July, CCA Florida, in partnership with CCA National and Building Conservation Trust, attended the industry's largest trade show event, ICAST 2022! CCA's highly interactive booth highlighted redfish

releases, oyster reef restoration work, offshore and nearshore reef projects, fundraising opportunities, boat partners and much more.

During the event, favored artists and celebrity

ICAST





fishing guides joined us to showcase marine art, high-light restoration projects and, even, give autographs. Additionally, Capt. Rick Murphy was the lucky guest to pick this year's Hewes Redfisher raffle winner.

Overall, it was an awesome opportunity to grow the CCA brand and advance our efforts in conservation and advocacy.





THE CONSERVE FLORIDA'S FISHERIES LICENSE PLATE



- > Show your support for Florida's fisheries, coastal habitats and marine resources on the road with a "Conserve Florida's Fisheries" specialty license plate!
- > To order the specialty plate, visit RedfishTag.com and complete the online form or visit your local tax collector's office
- > Online orders will be processed by our partners at the Indian River County Tax Collector's office. A representative will contact each purchaser to complete the transaction.
- > Personalized (vanity) plates orders can also be purchased online or in person
- > Funds from the sale of this license plate support protecting and enhancing saltwater marine resources, expanding habitat restoration efforts and promoting coastal environmental education

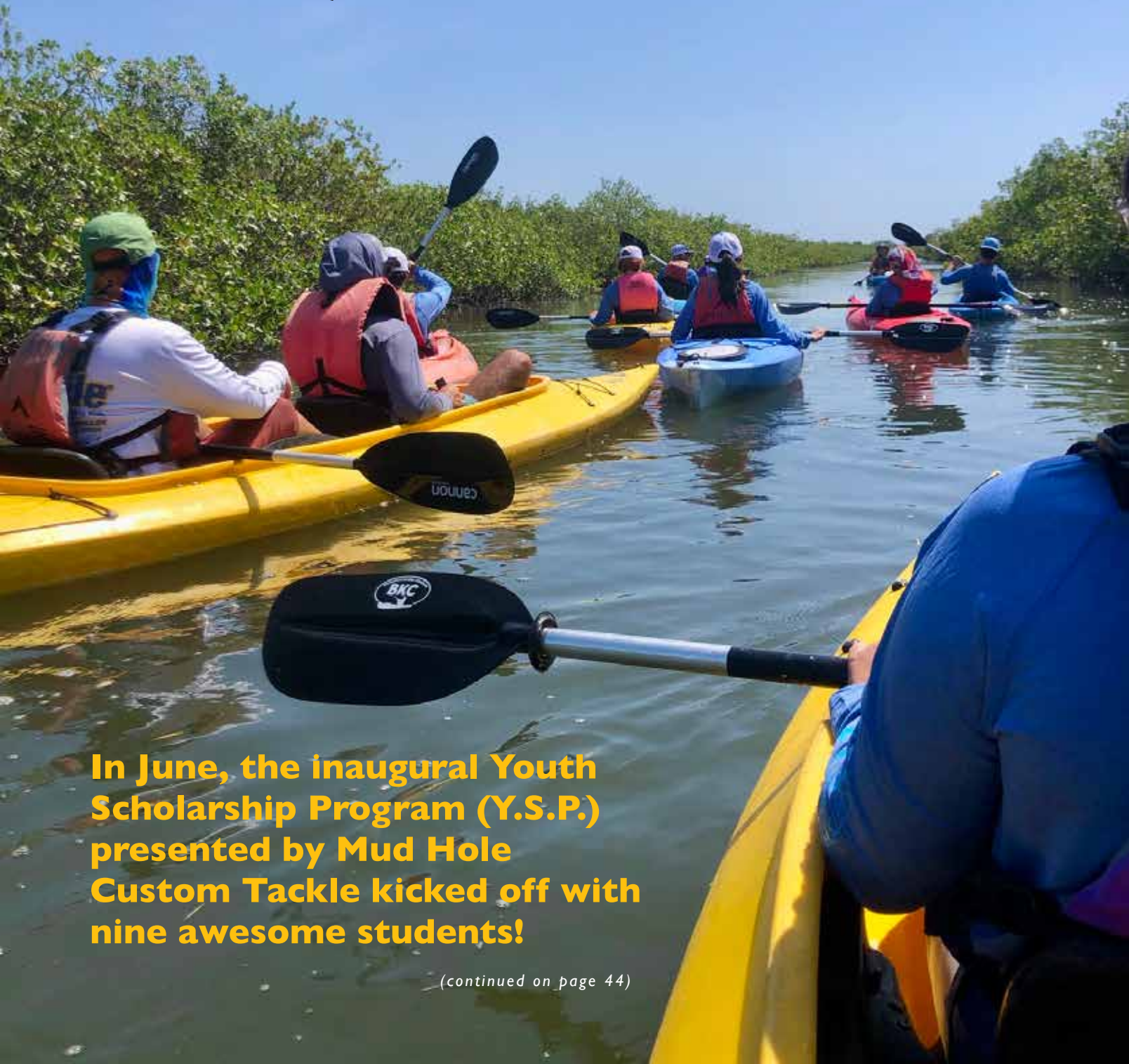
For additional information, please visit REDFISHTag.com



REDFISHTag.com

The Inaugural Youth Scholarship Program

Presented by Mud Hole Custom Tackle



In June, the inaugural Youth Scholarship Program (Y.S.P.) presented by Mud Hole Custom Tackle kicked off with nine awesome students!

(continued on page 44)



Program Itinerary

Sunday, June 12

Welcome Dinner

Monday, June 13

Presentations and Tour Mud Hole Custom Tackle

Rod Building at Mud Hole Custom Tackle

Tuesday, June 14

Tour Duke Energy Mariculture Center Tour Led By Eric Latimer

Wednesday, June 15

Barramundi Fishing

Sea Life Orlando Aquarium Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Orlando Eye

Thursday, June 16

Marine Discovery Center Tour in New Smyrna Beach

Kayak Tour

Tomoka State Park Trash Clean Up Banquet and Awards Dinner



Youth Scholarship Program

continued from page 43

The students began the five-day event at Mud Hole for an all-access, behind-the-scenes tour of the operation and also heard presentations from CCA Florida staff and Mud Hole President Brook Oliva. Throughout the week, the students toured Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Crystal River, fished for Barramundi at Osceola Outback Adventures, visited the Sea Life Orlando Aquarium and Orlando Eye, ventured to the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach, kayaked in the Indian River and participated in a trash clean up in Tomoka State Park.

Throughout the week, the students were evaluated on participation, engagement and delivery of his or her conservation-focused speech for the chance to win college scholarships. The week's scholarship winners are as follows:

\$3,000 Lorelei Bennett

\$2,000 Gracie Wollard

\$1,000 Keyes Rodriguez

Honorable Mention: Nico Smith

As part of the application, the students will have the next 10 months to compete for the Grand Scholarship by introducing CCA Florida programs into their communities. Ideas include starting a fishing club in their high school, putting together beach clean ups, kids fishing clinics, helping their local CCA committees and banquets, starting a recycling program at their school, and creating artwork out of trash they found in the water! They will then put together a portfolio, and submit it by April 15, 2023. One winner will be selected and win a



\$5,000 Grand Scholarship sponsored by Jason and John Vesko.

Again, special thanks to Mud Hole and its dedication to this program and to the students who joined us for an unbelievable week!

Video Recap: <https://vimeo.com/721505711/360225841e>

All students are eligible for the Grand Scholarship

Grand Scholarship Information: They have 10 months to go back to their com-

munities and start conservation focused projects. Ideas include starting a fishing club in their high school, putting together beach clean ups, kids fishing clinics, helping their local CCA committees and banquets, starting a recycling program at their school, and creating artwork out of trash they found in the water! They will then put together a portfolio...in any media they wish...could be a video, PDF document, scrapbook, etc, and submit it by April 15th, 2023. We will select one winner to win the \$5000 Grand Scholarship, sponsored by Jason & John Vesko.

Video Recap: <https://vimeo.com/721505711/360225841e>

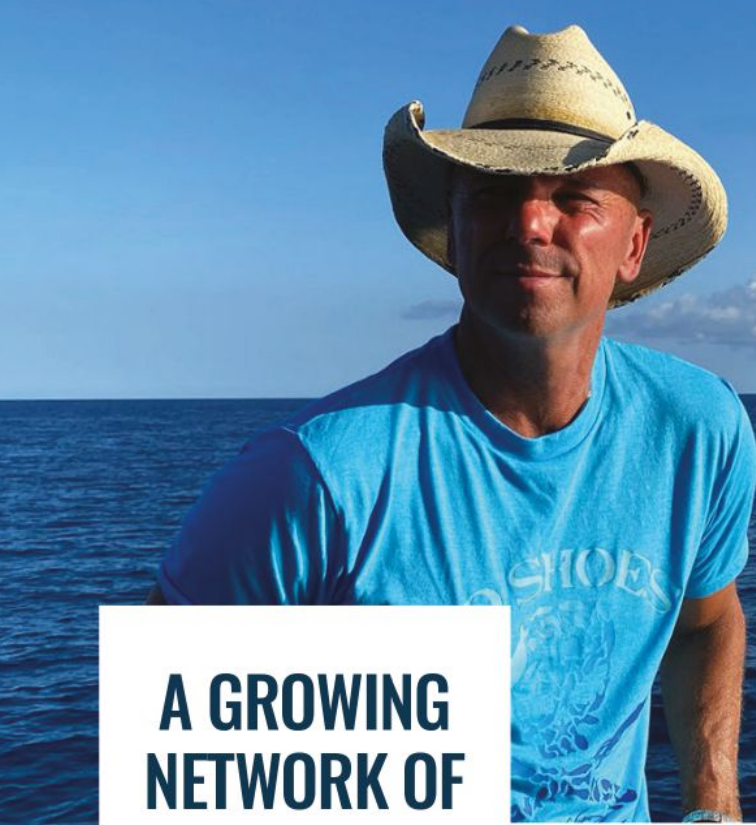
End of Week Scholarship Winners:

\$3000 Lorelei Bennett

\$2000 Gracie Wollard

\$1000 Keyes Rodriguez

Honorable Mention: Nico Smith



A GROWING NETWORK OF



The idea for No Shoes Reefs first came to life in 2013 as Kenny Chesney and a few friends from CCA floated on the St. John's River in Jacksonville, Florida, over two concrete structures that had been sunk as habitat only 18 months prior. As the boat floated over

the location, the boat's electronics showed waves of fish over and on the river's two new living reefs. Thrilled by the outcome, Chesney and Pat Murray, national president of CCA, proclaimed these the first "No Shoes Reefs" and from that afternoon, an initiative was born.

Today, Chesney is an honorary board member for the Building Conservation Trust, the national habitat program of CCA and No Shoes Reefs helps ocean conservation groups create awareness, raise money and connect to each other. Working with partners like Deep Apparel, RePatriot Flag and other brand partners, No Shoes Reefs raises awareness and support through the brand partnerships that sell exclusive products; they're at the center of an alliance dedicated to finding innovative ways to enhance efforts to improve our marine environment.

"I love that No Shoes Reefs is not only helping protect the water's ecosystem, it's giving people an opportunity to make a difference in their own coastal communities," said Chesney. "Providing a healthy environment for fish, plants and waterways well into the future is a legacy I'm honored to be part of."

Drawing on the power of Chesney's No Shoes Nation -- well over a few million strong -- No Shoes Reefs, CCA and a growing list of supporting organizations continue work enhancing our marine habitat and keeping the oceans vibrant and healthy for generations. 🐠

"AS A GUY WHO HAS SO MANY OF MY HAPPIEST MEMORIES ON THE WATER, I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF THE OCEANS AND BEACHES FOR YEARS TO COME."



THE BOAT RIDE THAT STARTED IT ALL | No Shoes Reefs first came to life in 2013 as Kenny Chesney and friends from CCA floated on the St. John's River in Jacksonville. As the boat floated over the location, their electronics showed waves of fish over the river's two new living reefs. Thrilled, Chesney and CCA National President Pat Murray, proclaimed these the first "No Shoes Reefs."



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Ingredients

Extra virgin olive oil

Salt and pepper

- 9 mini red, orange and yellow sweet peppers, seeded and sliced (3 of each color)
- 3 jalapeño, seeded and sliced
- 1 12 oz can evaporated milk
- 1 12 oz package quesadilla melting cheese
- 4 oz cream cheese
- 1 tsp Cajun seasoning
- 1 clove garlic, grated
- 1 c green onion, thinly sliced
- 12 oz fresh lump crab meat
- 2 bags thick tortilla chips
- 2 c shredded Monterey jack cheese

Garnish: lime wedges, cubed avocado, sliced green onion

Cajun Crab Nachos

RECIPE & PHOTOS BY HEATHER PETEREK JOINCCA.ORG/RECIPES

Directions

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Arrange sweet peppers and jalapeño on a large baking sheet, drizzle with the olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake for about 10 minutes to soften. Remove from oven and set aside for assembly. Leave oven on for cooking nachos.

In a medium saucepan, heat evaporated milk until hot, but not boiling. Slowly add in cheeses, Cajun seasoning and garlic, and whisk continuously until smooth. Once all ingredients are thoroughly combined, gently stir in crab and green onions. Remove from heat and set aside.

Distribute a layer of chips on a 14"x19" sheet pan, greased and lined with parchment paper. Spoon desired amount of the crab mixture over the chips then top with another layer of chips. Spoon over more of the crab mixture, then top with the shredded Monterey jack cheese. NOTE: you will have enough crab mixture to make two full 14"x19" sheet pans full of nachos.

Bake in the preheated oven for 15 to 20 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

Remove from oven and top with roasted peppers, avocados and green onion. Serve immediately with lime wedges. SERVES A CROWD.



SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 2022

**September 1
Space Coast Banquet
and Auction**

**September 8
South Palm Chapter
Banquet and Auction**

**September 15
Gainesville Banquet**

**September 23
Sarasota Banquet and
Auction**

**September 23-24
Tampa All-Release**

OCTOBER 2022

**October 2
Fort Myers Fun-a-Ment**

**October 6
Orlando Chapter Banquet
and Auction**

**October 8
STAR Banquet and
Auction**

**October 13
North Palm Chapter
Banquet and Auction**

**October 13
Pensacola Banquet and
Auction**

**October 15
Midcoast Trash
Tournament**

**October 20
Polk County BBQ**

**October 20 Peace River
Banquet and Auction**

**October 27
Forgotten Coast Banquet
and Auction**

NOVEMBER 2022

**November 3
Northeast Florida
Banquet and Auction**

**November 5
Eagles Banquet and
Auction**

**November 10
Clermont Banquet and
Auction**

**November 10
Pinellas County Banquet
and Auction**

**November 17
Dade County Chapter
Banquet and Auction**

**November 17
Treasure Coast Banquet
and Auction**

For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at akrpan@ccaflorida.org.

CCA FLORIDA PET CLUB

By joining the CCA Florida Pet Club*, your pet will support Florida's marine fisheries, habitat, waterways, coasts and more. Join us as we continue to work toward enhancing these resources and Florida's fishing future.

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**Please Include Name of Pet in "Order Notes" upon Checkout*

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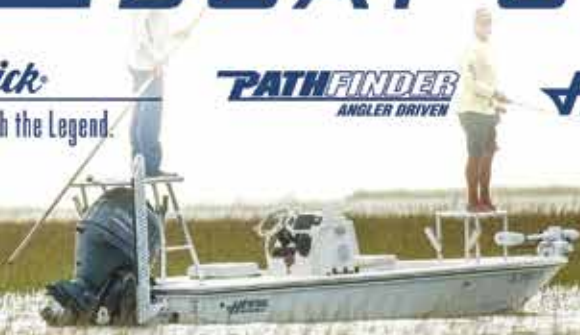
Maverick

Fish the Legend.

PATHFINDER
ANGLER DRIVEN

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COBIA



HEWES

COBIA



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2022 STAR

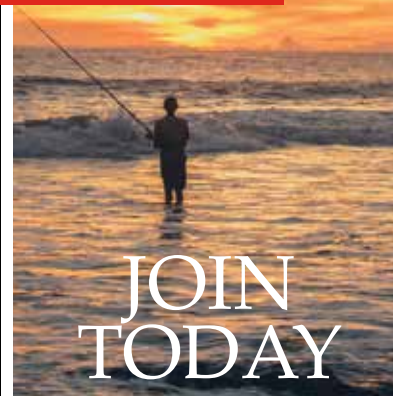


Winning continues in the 2022 West Marine CCA Florida STAR competition presented by Yamaha! Don't miss your opportunity to participate in Florida's largest, family-friendly fishing competition!

Registration remains open through September 5!

REGISTER HERE

CCA FLORIDA
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As a CCA Florida Life, Heritage or Legacy member, you help support Florida's marine fisheries, habitat, waterways, coasts and more. Join us as we continue to work toward enhancing these resources and Florida's fishing future.

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