



Undercurrents

the official news source of COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION ALABAMA

February 2010

A Word from the Executive Director

Fellow CCA Members,

Our business plan for 2010 is an aggressive one. It calls for rebuilding the membership that was lost during the economic downturn that plagued most conservation groups. It calls for strengthening our chapter boards and our state board of directors. We'll ramp up the use of e-mail for our newsletters, and you'll see more frequent communication from the state office.

Those goals are of little or no value unless they're tied to a marine conservation strategy that yields results. Looking backward, over the past six years, we've made remarkable progress. We built a 3,000-ton reef in Perdido Bay; we stopped the destructive trawling in the shallow grass beds in Mobile Bay; we helped convince the governor to turn down two open loop liquid natural gas operations just off Dauphin Island; we passed a successful gill net buyout program in the legislature; we strengthened the laws governing marine conservation violations; and we put the "Fish Alabama" license tag program in place.

This year, our plan calls for identifying a significant fisheries habitat program that will positively impact our coastal resources. Habitat today means fish tomorrow.

Please continue to support CCA Alabama with your membership and your

participation in our events. Your help is vital, and we can't continue our progress without an energized membership base that cares deeply about the treasure that is ours in our coastal fishery.

Thanks for being a part of CCA Alabama.

Ed Williamson
Executive Director

CCA Alabama's "Fish Alabama" License Plate is Gaining in Popularity Around the State



As the "Fish Alabama" license plate is seen on vehicles around the state, people from inland counties, where CCA doesn't have a chapter, are showing their support for marine conservation by purchasing the new tag.

Counties including Lee, Limestone, Dekalb, Geneva, Morgan, Russell and Morengo have all shown tag sales since November. Tags in counties where CCA has chapters are also showing encouraging sales of the attractive tag.

Charlie Gray, Chairman of the Tag Committee, is asking all CCA members to show support for conservation by placing the new tag on at least one family vehicle this year. Paperwork necessary for obtaining the "first year free" program has been sent to all those who qualified during the 2008-2009 initiative. Those recipients are encouraged to replace their current tag with the CCA tag as soon as possible.

Each tag sale provides \$41.25 for marine conservation in Alabama.

CCA Alabama Announces New Officers and Committee Chairmen for 2010

Officers

State Chairman:

Edwin Lamberth, Mobile

State President:

Lee Shook, Birmingham

Vice President:

Blakely Ellis, Lower Alabama

Vice President:

Aaron White, Eastern Shore

Secretary:

David Neill, Birmingham

Treasurer:

Mark Eiland, Mobile

Committee Chairmen

Marine Science:

Bob Shipp, Mobile

Management:

Palmer Whiting, Mobile

Government Relations:

Edwin Lamberth, Mobile

Coast Watch:

Don Druse, Eastern Shore

Budget/Planned Giving:

Mark Eiland, Mobile

License Tags:

Charlie Gray, Western Shore



Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 11, 2010: Eastern Shore Chapter's First Annual Mardi Gras Pheasant Shoot



Location: Oak Hollow Farm, 14210 Greeno Road, Fairhope, A 36532

Time: Noon - 4:30 p.m.

Registration: \$150/shooter - payable in advance, cash or credit card.

Details:

- **Forty guns;** two shooters per stand; twenty stands.
- Shooters move from one stand to the next after 10 birds are released.
- At least 200 birds will be released during the shoot.
- Shot size must be **number six** or smaller.
- **Valid Alabama hunting license required.**
- Child-friendly.
- Handicap-friendly.
- Well-behaved retrievers are welcome.
- Loaner guns available.
- Non-alcoholic drinks provided during the shoot.
- Refreshments served after the hunt.
- Each shooter may take five pheasants home.
- Bird cleaning and bagging with ice available for **\$3 per bird.**
- Lunch served at noon; hunt begins around 1:30.
- **Registration closes when 40 shooters have been assembled.**

Questions: Call (251) 478-3474

February 25, 26, 27, and 28, 2010:



CCA is once again participating as an exhibitor in booth #146.

Location: Mobile Convention Center, Mobile waterfront.

Show Hours:

Thursday 12:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Friday 12:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Show Admission:

Ages 5 and under: Free

Ages 6 to 11: \$3.00
Ages 12 and up: \$6.00

Questions: Call (251) 478-3474

Save the Date

Details for the following events are being finalized and will be announced at a later date:

March 6 (Saturday): Crab trap removal.

March 13 (Saturday): Second Benefit Pheasant Shoot, Oak Hollow Farm.

April 8 (Thursday): Fish talk in Fairhope.

April 10 (Saturday): TENTATIVE date for Lower Alabama Beach Party.

May 7 (Friday): Mobile/Eastern Shore Chapters' Spring Fling.

May 13 (Thursday): Birmingham Crawfest.

Coming Soon!

Watch for the next *Undercurrents* newsletter. It will be showing up in your e-mail box soon. There will be some interesting news about the red snapper regulations and an announcement about a new gill net buyout bill in the state legislature.

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