



### Summer is here.

During these hot summer days, I give special thanks to the volunteers that brave the heat and help with many outdoor activities. In June, my efforts were greatly assisted by:

Joe Surovik, Theresa Dent, Jack LaBarge, Debbie Dugan, Karen Lyssy, Connie Wooldridge, Ethan Wooldridge, Casey Wooldridge, Benjamin Biles, Grant Biles, Richard Chen, and Mike Mitchell.

I would also like to thank the great folks at the [Indianola Fishing Marina](#), particularly Keith and Mike, for their help and generosity at our Summer Family Fun Fishing Night. Thanks also to the families that came out to enjoy a great evening down by the bay.



### Upcoming events:

**July 13-16: Poco Bueno** fishing tournament in Port O'Connor.

**August 10-14: Texas Legends Billfish Tournament** in Port Aransas. Details at <http://www.stingerhooksystems.com/legends.htm>

**August 20, 2011: Indianola Remembrance Program** at La Salle Monument. Come celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a town critical to the history of Texas and Calhoun County. Watch for details.

**September 24, 2011: Annual Fall Clean up** at Magnolia Beach. Learn more at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach/>

**October 31 – November 4, 2011: 14<sup>th</sup> World Lake Conference** in Austin. Focus in on Lakes, Rivers, Groundwater, and Coastal Areas: Understanding the Linkages. More information is online at <http://www.wlc14.org/>

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## *Coastal & Marine Resource News*

Calhoun County  
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**HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!**



### The American Flag

Today the flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with 6 white. The stripes represent the original 13 colonies; the stars represent the 50 states of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well: Red symbolizes Hardiness and Valor, White symbolizes Purity and Innocence and Blue represents Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice. Learn more about flag history and etiquette at <http://sastha-knowyourledge.blogspot.com/2011/04/history-of-american-flag.html>

**HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY!**

From the Hooked on Seafood Cookbook:

## ESCABECHE

2 lbs firm fish, like tuna, ling,  
kingfish or grouper  
½ cup olive oil  
4 onion, sliced in rings and halved  
4 green bell peppers, cut julienne  
4 minced garlic cloves  
3 bay leaves  
½ tsp paprika  
1 cup pitted green olives  
¼ cup white vinegar  
salt and pepper to taste

Sprinkle fish with salt and sauté in oil over medium heat just until done, about 5 minutes. Drain on paper towels. Add onions and bell peppers to skillet and sauté for 2 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Remove from heat. In a glass dish, for visual appeal, alternate layers of fish then the vegetable mixture, ending with vegetables. Cover and refrigerate several hours or overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before serving.

### Victoria Photography Contest:

Share your photographs of our beautiful Texas coast with others. Photos must be submitted during the month of July and can be dropped off at Action Welding on Hwy 185 in Port O'Connor or at HEB Plus on Navarro in Victoria. Judging will take place on August 6, 2011 and the exhibit will be at the Victoria Mall, August 13-21. Money and ribbons will be given for the top 3 photos in each category and for Best of Show. There is a student

division for those under 18 years old.

More information is online at:

[www.victoriaphotographyclub.com/annual-photography-contest.asp](http://www.victoriaphotographyclub.com/annual-photography-contest.asp) .

### Burn Bans in Effect

Currently 235 counties in Texas are under burn bans. That's 92.5% of the state folks! These bans are established by County Judges and or County Commissioners Courts when the weather is extremely dry and the fire danger is high. With all the reports of wildfires on the news you would think people would be more careful. The Texas Forest Service displays information on county bans as a public service. Visit <http://tfsfrp.tamu.edu/wildfires/DecBan.png> to see a map of the bans as of June 28<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact the County Judge's Office.

### Drought Affects the Bays and Estuaries

Farmers are not the only ones hurting from the lack of rain in our state. As the drought continues and rivers provide less and less freshwater inflow into the bay systems the estuarine and near shore waters experience an increased salinity which can disrupt the ecosystem. This can alter the composition and distribution of plant and animal populations as well as promote the growth of bacteria such as red tide and *Vibrio vulnificus*. *Vibrio* (for short) is scarcely recognized by the public. Yet, in this country, the bacterium causes a disease with over a 50 percent mortality rate, and it causes 95 percent of

all seafood-related deaths. It thrives in warm seawater and is part of a group of vi that require salt for growth. *Vibriosis* are frequently isolated from oysters and other shellfish in warm coastal waters during the summer months. Thus the reason oysters are currently out of season. It can also cause disease in individuals who have an open wound that is exposed to seawater. Among healthy people, ingestion of *V. vulnificus* can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. Most *V. vulnificus* infections are acute and have no long-term consequences. But it still pays to be careful when fishing or at the beach.

<http://www.textbookofbacteriology.net/V.vulnificus.html>

### Useful links for hurricane season:

<http://www.dixwx.com/>

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.stormpulse.com/>

<http://texashelp.tamu.edu/>

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm>

<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/hurricane-resources/>

**This newsletter is available online @**

<http://calhoun-tx.tamu.edu>

Extension Programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.