



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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Though I'd like to have some fun since it be the April Fool's edition, I spect that the politically correct mood at the Grinch's office and the Grinch hissful and the Grinchette her own self might result in an edit I'd rather not attempt to explain to those that read this trash on a bar stool. That said, I hate to be the bearer of some bad news to ya'll that've been around these parts for more than a decade or so. Termite passed on last week at his home in Port Mansfield; services and details are in short supply so stay tuned.

In recognition that this rag is now litterin' damn near all of coastal south Texas I'd like to inform ya'll north of the Sandspit of one hell of a to do that'll be happenin' next week in the Corpus and Kingsville area. The 25th Anniversary of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute will be held at the Omni Bayfront Hotel in Corpus and at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Center in Kingsville next week. The shindig begins on Wednesday the 5th at eight in the AM at the Omni with lectures throughout the day on South Texas flora and fauna. The guest speakers are a who's who of modern day King Ranch lore in their varying fields. Day two is devoted to field trips to the spread and the research center by motor coach, the cost is sixty to seventy bucks a head with a menu of trips to choose from. The final day ends with a luncheon at the Omni and a fare-the-well to all. Registration at the last minute is gonna run \$175 bucks a head for the symposium.

Rooms at the Omni are \$159 a night unless ya get a hold of the research center at 361-593-4025 and beg them to extend their room block, if they will the cost is 80 bucks a night for one and 120 bucks for two folks, a real cheap rate for a high class hotel. For more information log on to www.ckwri@tamuk.edu <<http://www.ckwri@tamuk.edu/>> or just call the above number. The Omni number is 361-887-1600.

As far as fishin' goes the news is interesting on the red snapper front. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council held a soiree in Mobile, Alabama and attempted to address some issues. They've agreed to allow the commercial folks to go to an individual



Weigh in at the Wal-Mart FIW Tour stop in Rockport; all fish are released alive.

fish quota so they can get away from derby style fishin' that only lets them fish the first ten days of the month which is real good news. What I found remarkable is a letter that was read into the record at the behest of the Texas chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. The fact that it was submitted ain't remarkable at all cuz they've been a sand burr in the unmentionables of these folks for years. What's remarkable is who authored the parchment, the gent's name is Dr. Bob Shipp and he chairs the Marine Sciences School at the University of South Alabama. He also is on the Gulf Council. He uses the word egregious a few times when referring to the so-called science used by NOAA-NMFS in determining the relative health of the snapper fishery. This is akin in those circles to calling them intellectually/scientifically dishonest in their research and modeling process, or to put in English understandably, they were lazy and didn't bother to understand the critters they were managing nor did they bother to understand their habitat requirements. I've been following this crap and fishery management in general for longer than I care to admit and I've never seen a more tersely worded and concise document authored by an icon in the field like this one. It's one of those read between the lines deals and I ain't got enough room to run it. Maybe next week but a change appears to be coming on the horizon in snapper fishery management for recreational sector.

We welcome your fishin' photos. Drop them by 2600 Padre Boulevard on the Island, or mail them to I.B. Hooked, c/o Coastal Current Weekly, P.O.Box 2429, South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Be sure to include the name of the angler, weight and type of fish, where caught, and name of boat if applicable. Photos with SASE will be returned.