

I recently completed coursework and workshops to obtain two certifications related to tourism and guiding. I am now certified by the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau as a Certified Wildlife Guide. The coursework and testing related to this title were offered through Texas A&M. (Does this mean I've got Aggie blood in me now? I'm pretty sure burnt orange and maroon don't mix well!)

In order to complete the course, one must be able to identify all kinds of birds, fish and other wildlife, and also recognize different kinds of plants and trees. Additionally, one must learn about the history of South Texas, the culture of the cattlemen, how our whitetail herds have been managed, etc., etc..

Mostly, this certification allows the CVB to help me promote my business(es). Note I did make the word business into a plural. Currently, I consider myself a fishing guide, birding guide, writer, movie maker and artist. Whew! That's either a real mouthful or a crock, not sure which sometimes!

Seriously, I do want to spend more time taking people birdwatching, particularly in the spring and fall, when the migrating flocks are passing through. I hope becoming a Certified Wildlife Guide helps me get some more business of that kind.

Also, I'm now a CTA (Certified Tourism Advisor) for Corpus Christi. As a CTA, I'm considered an ambassador for the city, someone who actively promotes people coming to Corpus Christi to enjoy our beaches, bays, restaurants, birding sites and other attractions.

I'm thrilled to have earned both these titles and look forward to spending more time on the water and in the field with people who come to South Texas looking to use our splendid natural resources to refresh their spirits and rejuvenate their souls.