



**Caraway Ford Gonzales**  
405 E. Sarah DeWitt • Gonzales, TX 78629 • 830-672-9646

CONTACT THE EDITOR

## Texas Trippin': Mermaids and Mini-submarines



Mermaid on a half-shell



USS Needlefish mini-sub

Down the road from the last of the giant sharks doors introduced in the previous Texas Trippin' article, you'll find a larger-than-life mermaid on a half-shell. And a lighthouse-topped gift shop is home to mini-submarine USS Needlefish.

### **Mermaid on a Half-shell**

No island is complete without a mermaid, particularly is she's on a halfshell. Lounging in front of her colossal sand castle, the 20-foot-tall mermaid sits over a clamshell reflecting pool. The area surrounding the giant clamshell is decorated with a splash of dolphins and several larger-than-life seashells.

Looking past the mermaid's obvious beauty, you'll spot her claw-like hands, adding a touch of contrasting edginess to the serenity of the otherwise peaceful sculpture. It makes you wonder what artist Kevin Hoffman thinks of the Disney mermaids.

To see the mermaid and sandcastle sculpture, head toward Corpus Christi on SPID/Park Road 22. She'll be on your left, you can't miss her. Just watch out for the claws.

### **USS Needlefish Mini-submarine**

After you've made your escape from the jaws of the last giant shark door, head across the street to the Padre Islander gift shop, the one with the lighthouse on top. In front of the parking lot is a homemade, water-worthy mini submarine.

The USS Needlefish mini-sub was created in 2001 by Bill Gifford of Northfield, N.J. A labor of love, it took him four years to handcraft this workable work of art. It is dedicated "to all those who fought in WWS and helped preserve our freedom."

Join me on my next adventure as I head back to the mainland toward Corpus Christi.