

CADDO LAKE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

GCLA P O BOX 339 KARNACK TX. 75661

May 2014

Update on the Salvinia Action Committee, Caddo Lake, Uncertain, Texas

The Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas (GCLA) "Salvinia Action Committee" was formed in October of 2013. The goal was twofold -- First, to have as many Caddo-focused organizations as possible on the same page, with the same plan, pooling resources and driving in the same direction to manage the Salvinia. The second, to educate and inform citizens and groups about the effectiveness of the Giant Salvinia Weevil.

The first step in our collective journey to manage the Salvinia is to establish a greenhouse to grow and maintain the Weevils. A blueprint for a Weevil greenhouse has been developed along with a budget to build and equip it. A timeline has also been developed to have the operation in production by the end of May 2014. Finally, a budget for all start-up and first-year operations has been completed.

In early November, the Salvinia Action Committee began systematically approaching area organizations and municipalities to secure funding. To-date the following funds have been raised: GCLA Bar-B-Q - \$11,000.00, GCLA -\$21,000.00, Cypress Valley Navigation District - \$10,000.00, Harrison County - \$12,000.00 COMMITTED, Caddo Lake Institute and Coco Hudson \$35,000.00.

The Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas has secured a site for the weevil production facility at Caddo Lake, and construction is underway. David and Sarah Smith, owners of Shady Glade Resort, have agreed to provide, a section of the popular resort marina and boat launch, to house the facility.

A significant donation has been made by the family of the late Morley Hudson, and we are proud to name the Greenhouse after the local man who loved the lake, and lived for many years on Pine Island Pond. DeLong Tree Service has donated his services to clear trees on the property. Michael Nash of Nash Trucking and Matt Munden have provided the site dirt and preparation equipment. Gene Weaver has spent many hours spreading the dirt and preparing the pad. Paul Fortune of Fortune Construction arranged for the donated lumber from Cassity Jones in Marshall to build the vats. His crew also loaned an air hammer for the work. Davlyn Hollingshead has donated her services to manage our website.



I would like to give special recognition to our “Salvinia Action Committee” members. Board member Ted Barrow is managing the job site construction and all related matters. Stella Barrow and Jan Cook are managing public relation efforts, such as Facebook and website content. Also, they are coordinating town meetings, soon to be held in Jefferson and Marshall. Doug Parker has managed our finances and started the formation of a new 501c3, (Caddo Biocontrol Alliance), to manage the project going forward. Robert Speight has helped with greenhouse design and grant application paperwork. Patti Webb has been a member of the “Action Committee” and helped whenever called upon. Special thanks also go out to Lee Eisenberg of Texas A&M for consultations with us on all Weevil related matters. Without Lee’s knowledge our goal would not be attainable.

Negotiations are under way with Texas Parks and Wildlife, to obtain an Exotic Species Research Permit, so a partnership can be formed to begin operation of the first high production weevil greenhouse anywhere in the world. GCLA has ‘tunnel vision’ on our goal of releasing as many weevils on the lake, as soon as possible, to stop the attack being carried out by the “world’s most aggressive weed”.

We have posted a list of items you may donate on our website, and Facebook pages. Those wishing to help can visit our website at www.GCLAofTX.com and Facebook page at “Greater Caddo Lake Association”.

We are extremely grateful to our members and all the entities, companies, and individuals who have given their money, time, sweat, and prayers to make our vision a reality. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.

Daren Horton - President Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas



**Weevil Greenhouse
Benefit Concert -
Memorial Day Weekend
Sat. 4pm-8pm May 24th
Johnson's Ranch Marina in
Uncertain, TX.**

*\$10.00 Donation per person and
\$10.00 donation per cooler.
Festival Style event - Bring Lawn
Chairs or Blankets.
Three Bands!! Beer, Bar-B-Q, Hot
Dogs, Sandwiches and Fried
Catfish available.*

*..and remember all proceeds
will go to saving Caddo Lake!*



Update on the Morley Hudson Greenhouse in Uncertain, TX

By Lee Eisenberg

As this newsletter goes to the printer, there is much progress to report. The greenhouse itself is complete, and the heaters and other equipment are in place, and ready to be hooked up. The tanks are under construction, and the liners are on hand. Driving posts to secure the sides of the tanks is hard work, so if you know any strong young men who could help, send them over.

We would not be anywhere near this far along were it not for Ted Barrow, who volunteered to oversee the building of the greenhouse. He has done... and is still doing, an incredible job.

Speaking of volunteers, we had an excellent turnout to lay down sod on the slope along Cypress Dr., and to haul riprap to stabilize the southeast end of the location. It's truly amazing what can happen when people come together for a common goal.

And a worthy goal it is! With our floor plan, we will be able to produce a large number of salvinia weevils and get them out on the lake early in the growing season. By carefully selecting release sites, we will be able to document just how effective our approach is, and generate the kind of support we need to make this effort a sustainable one. Until that time, we all need to think about what we can do to keep the project going for 1^{1/2} to 2 years. In the meanwhile, we have good reason to feel confident. In addition to what we have already achieved, there are some promising partnerships on the horizon, and a deep desire to help by those who love the lake.

GCLA Board members:

Daren Horton - Pres., Sam Canup - Vice. Pres., Doug Parker - Treas., Jan Cook - Sec., Terry Echols, Dan Fulghum, Gary Kempf, Ted Barrow, Doug Heard, Sara Smith, Robert Speight Jr., Tom Walker, Patti Webb, and John Winn.

The Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas is a tax exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service establishing that contributions to GCLA are tax deductible to the contributor. Dues, however, are not tax deductible.

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