

CADDO LAKE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATION MARCH/APRIL 2007

GIANT SALVINIA A Caddo Lake Call to Arms

Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) has been called “the world’s worst weed.” An invasive aquatic plant originating from Brazil, it first appeared in Texas in 1998. It is established in several reservoirs in Texas, mostly in East Texas. Giant Salvinia was first observed in Caddo Lake on May 29, 2006 – on the Louisiana side. It most likely arrived on the boat/trailer of an unsuspecting boater. It is rapidly moving across the lake. Substantial infestations are now quite visible on the Texas side. Photographs of the GS plants and the infestation on Caddo Lake can be seen at our website CaddoLakeNews.net

As GS plants mat, they take over **all** vegetation. And we thought water Hyacinths were a problem!

An acre of Giant Salvinia can **DOUBLE IN SIZE** in 3 to 5 days. It is a grave threat to the entire Big Cypress watershed – and beyond. Municipal water supplies are threatened. Sometimes 2 feet thick or more, the mats can cover the surface of an entire pond or lake, blocking out sunlight that other plants need. And the mats use the oxygen that fish, insects, and other aquatic dwellers require.

GS is a bother to humans as well. It ruins conditions for fishing, boating, and waterskiing. The weed also clogs irrigation systems, water intakes, and electrical generating systems

Herbicides and physical removal are at present the only means of preventing the spread of Giant Salvinia from closing boat lanes and continuing its westward migration. Volunteer and para-professional crews are working daily to remove giant salvinia in Texas side of Caddo. These efforts need to be increased dramatically and immediately to prevent potentially catastrophic infestations this summer. The introduction of biological controls is under consideration, but they are slow and far from the “silver bullet”.

Since January 25, 2007 GCLA members and Caddo Lake area resident volunteers have spent hundreds of hours working in all kinds of weather to locate and remove Giant Salvinia from Texas waters. Areas too large for removal are reported to Texas Parks and Wildlife for further action by the state or para-professional crews. **FUNDING ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED NOW to STOP GIANT SALVINIA AT CADDO LAKE.**

GCLA has already started educational programs to minimize the spread of GS. You will be receiving information on these programs as it becomes available. In the meantime, we can all help by hosing down our boat/trailer upon leaving and entering any lake.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, it's that time again....Board elections are upon us. Elsewhere in the edition you will find a slate of candidates for your Board of Directors and the details of our Annual meeting. We hope to see a lot of you there. All dues expire April 30th, please take a moment to renew yours.

A lot has happened in the last 12 months around Caddo Lake.

Last spring CLI and TCEQ kicked off a Watershed Protection Plan for Caddo Lake. This program solicits input from stakeholders all over the Cypress Basin to try to determine where impairments are coming from that affect Caddo's health and what steps can be taken to limit these impairments. This program will be helped in part by the research being done by the scientists working on the Flows studies.

Around the end of May we received some very bad but not totally unexpected news; Giant Salvinia had been found in Caddo Lake. Toledo Bend has been battling this plant for a number of years so we knew it was possible it would end up here. Initial reports indicated approximately 250 acres in Jeems Bayou. In September, we discovered an area of salvinia in Clinton Lake near a boat ramp. In the early winter it was found around the boat ramp at Tucker's camp. Boat trailers are the #1 culprit when it comes to spreading salvinia from place to place. Please, Please, check your boat and trailer for this stuff anytime you load or unload...not just on Caddo, on any lake. Since the discovery on Caddo, 5 more lakes in Northwestern Louisiana are reported to have it. All boat ramps on Caddo either already have, or will shortly have, new color signs with very good pictures of Giant Salvinia.

We will once again be partnering with the City of Uncertain and Harrison County to hold a clean up day in April. There will be dumpsters located in Karnack and Uncertain to allow individuals, groups etc to clean up the roadsides, parking lots,

yards...etc. in our area. Later, we will also hold another clean up day...probably in June. This one will be a lake area clean up. We will take to the water to remove trash from the lake itself. Old tires, junk boats, and whatever else we find will be removed and put in dumpsters. When dates are decided, we will post it on our website as well as around the area. Please come and help us clean up Caddo so we can "Keep Caddo Natural"

Robert Speight Jr.

GCLA BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT Robert Speight Jr.

VICE-PRES Paul Fortune

SEC/TRES Phyllis Bailey

DIRECTORS

Jack Canson	Sam Canup
Brandon Cullum	Terry Echols
Mike Fyffe	Judy Johnson
Gary Kempf	Doug Parker
Ken Shaw	George Spears
Tom Walker	Patti Webb

Email Addresses

So that we will be able to keep you informed in a more timely manner, and to save mailing costs, GCLA is asking for your email address. Just include it on your membership renewal. We plan to distribute the Newsletter, and any time sensitive information, by email. As has always been our policy, we will never, ever provide your postal address or email address to anyone not directly affiliated with GCLA.

Caddo Nostalgia

Since CVND replaced all of the boat road markers on Caddo, a few old boat road signs are still available for decorating your favorite room. \$25 each. If interested, call Ken Shaw, 903-679-4657. Proceeds go to CVND.

ELECTION TIME!

The annual meeting of the GCLA will be held at 1pm, April 21st 2007 at the Caddo Lake Water Supply office. All members are encouraged to attend. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the coming year. The nominees for this year are:

PRESIDENT Robert Speight Jr.
VICE-PRES Paul Fortune
SEC/TRES Phyllis Bailey

Directors

Jack Canson **George Spears**
Brandon Cullum **Doug Parker**

Directors' terms are for 3 years.

Web Assistance

GCLA is in need of some short term help in acquiring a new web hosting service. If any member has experience in this, and is willing to donate a little time, please contact Doug Parker, 903-679-3650. Any help would be appreciated by all members.

DUES ARE DUE

It's that time again; all memberships expire on April 30th each year. Dues are just \$10.00 per person. This gets our newsletter delivered to your door and lets you help us in our never-ending fight to protect Caddo Lake from those who would endanger it. In other words, you can help to:

KEEP CADDO NATURAL!

While it is on your mind, please take a moment to fill out the membership application on the back page and drop it in the mail. It only takes a minute and it is greatly appreciated. Not only will you be able to keep up with issues at the lake, but it allows us to keep our message in the hands of our elected and appointed officials. Our mailings go to our Senators and Congressmen in Texas and Louisiana at the state level and in Washington DC.

In numbers there is strength! Every member adds muscle to our cause, especially to the politicians. The potential for votes to be won or lost has a way of getting their attention!

Caddo Watershed Protection Plan

Beverly Allen, Caddo Watershed Coordinator

Watershed management is fast becoming the most common approach for determining and addressing water quality and land use practices. In very simple terms, what we do with our land directly affects the water quality of our streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater. The Caddo Watershed Protection Plan was introduced in April 2006 and the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District was selected to be the watershed coordinator for the plan.

Upon receiving guidance of stakeholders' groups regarding areas of concern, a detailed work plan will be developed with the assistance of selected modeling and assessment by professional subcontractors and the appropriate state/government agencies. The work plan will outline the specific work that will be conducted by different entities involved in the project and the dates for accomplishing each item.

Three workgroups were formed to provide guidance and assessment. Several members of the Greater Caddo Lake Association are volunteers in the Physical Concerns workgroup. They have donated not only time and labor, but also their valuable knowledge of Caddo Lake. A tremendous thank you goes to the representatives of the Greater Caddo Lake Association for their volunteer efforts in the Caddo Lake Watershed Protection Plan.

KEEP CADDO NATURAL!

Join G.C.L.A. Dues are just \$10.00 per person per year. This includes membership in The Greater Caddo Lake Association, plus you will receive our newsletters that are printed on a semi-regular basis...more often if needed. There is no better way to keep abreast of the issues around the lake!

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Email* _____ Tele. (_____) - _____

Additional Names _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (\$10 X # of members) New members _____ Renewals _____

We will send one newsletter per address, unless otherwise instructed. This allows us to mail copies to our politicians and government entities to let them know how we feel on the issues!

* Your email address is voluntary. We will use it only to keep you informed of developments on the lake. It will be not be given or sold to anyone.

Make checks to GCLA Mail to GCLA PO Box 339 Karnack TX. 75661

**Greater Caddo Lake Association Inc.
P O Box 339
Karnack Texas 75661**

