

CADDO LAKE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS August/September

2008

www.caddolakenews.org

BBQ Set for August 30



For a hot time (pun intended) you owe it to yourself to attend our annual Bar-B-Q on Saturday, August 30th at Crip's Camp in Uncertain. We will serve Brisket, Sausage and all the fixin's. Plates are \$10 and GCLA memberships will be available for \$10. Things will start around 11:00 AM and we will keep serving until it's all gone. All money raised goes to help us protect Caddo Lake. Bring the whole family and come out and join us for some fun in the sun and enjoy some good food.

Salvinia Update

If you have been out on the lake lately, you have probably noticed a lot less vegetation than last year at this time.

The Cypress Valley Navigation District has increased its herbicide treatment on Caddo Lake, thanks in part to the donation of a surplus airboat by Texas Parks and Wildlife. CVND refitted the boat with all new equipment and started spraying in earnest in late May of this year. The airboat has allowed them to increase acres sprayed a day from about 2 acres with the old equipment to 30-40 acres a day with the new airboat! CVND has sprayed over 1100 acres of water hyacinth and 450 acres of Giant Salvinia thru the end of July. Salvinia continues to spread to all parts of the lake but the guys are bombarding it at every turn. July and August are prime growing time for the stuff (although it grows well just about any time.) Lack of wind, high heat and slack water all combine to let Salvinia explode. The claim that it will double every 4 days is no exaggeration, it well deserves its nickname..."The World's Worst Weed"

The President's Corner

While I am still trying to figure out what the GCLA President does, I do know that we want to recognize the work of Robert Speight, Jr. For nine years Robert served as president of this organization, chairing endless meetings, cooking unknown pounds of smoked meat, cleaning up salvinia, all while providing a face to the public through some very difficult issues. Thanks for everything you have done for GCLA, Robert. Fortunately, Robert will remain as a Board member.

With the heat of the summer upon us, most of us have gone inside to get something done. Your GCLA Board is no exception. We have made some administrative changes to our organization that will allow us to better pursue our goal to "Keep Caddo Lake Natural". The only change you will likely see is that, officially, we will now be known as the Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas. But you can still call us GCLA.

The hyacinth and salvinia spraying have worked well this season, knocking down a lot of hyacinths and not allowing the salvinia to get ahead of us – at least, not yet. We want to thank the Cypress Valley Navigation District for taking the lead on the daily operations. We encourage you to let your elected officials know that we need their ongoing support.

A new Mayhaw Festival was held in Uncertain in May (duh!) by the Caddo Lake Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. Its success is making it look like this will be an annual event. Check out their web site at www.caddolake.org

The 4th of July celebration continued its string of "bang up" celebrations. They just get better every year, thanks to the City of Uncertain and the Caddo Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. **See you at the BBQ!**

Doug Parker

Strength in Numbers

Since you received this Newsletter, you are probably a member of GCLA. Please pass your copy along to your friends who would like to support our effort to protect the lake. The membership application is on the last page. Or make as many copies as you have friends.

GCLA BOARD MEMBERS

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Many of you knew Bob Curtis, who operated Johnson's Ranch for many years. Bob passed away recently. He was 99 years old.

Ducks Unlimited comes to Caddo's aid

The Giant Salvinia problem at Caddo Lake has garnered the attention of waterfowl conservation giant Ducks Unlimited. DU recently partnered with Syngenta, a leading manufacturer of herbicides, to donate over \$20,000 worth of their products to CVND to help combat invasive vegetation on Caddo Lake. DU has been very active in supporting local vegetation management efforts in prime duck habitat like Caddo Lake, Toledo Bend, and along the Texas Coast.

The local Caddo Lake Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will be having their 3rd Annual Banquet and Christmas Party on December 13th at the

Ducks Unlimited...cont

Recreation Hall inside the Caddo Lake State Park. If you use and enjoy Caddo Lake, here is your chance to say thank you to Ducks Unlimited. The local guys always put on a great banquet in a family atmosphere. Tickets will go fast as the facility has limited seating so reserve yours NOW! Call Mike Turner 903-930-0092 or Robert Speight 903-930-1940 to get your tickets today.

The following is a press release from Texas Parks and Wildlife as part of GCLA's ongoing education outreach.

Giant salvinia – It's Everywhere

GS was found for the first time January 28 in Sam Rayburn in the back of Coleman Creek. On Lake Palestine, a citizen reported giant salvinia and water hyacinth in the vicinity of the Kickapoo Creek boat ramp on February 5. Four other public boat ramps and a number of private ones remain open on Lake Palestine. Locations of those ramps may be found at www.tpwd.state.tx.us; click on "Fishing and Boating," then on "Lakes" and use the lake list to find Lake Palestine public access points. TPWD Inland Fisheries Division personnel immediately investigated both areas and worked with the controlling authorities to install floating booms that will prevent wind from spreading the plants to other parts of the lakes. "We will clean the areas up by hand if possible," said Howard Elder of Jasper, TPWD's aquatic habitat biologist. The areas involved are about 0.1 acre on Lake Palestine and 0.2 acre on Sam Rayburn. Elder has prepared proposals for emergency chemical treatment of the areas if necessary. Those proposals have to be approved by the controlling authorities, and treatment could not begin for at least two weeks. "We will continue to search more areas on both lakes," said Rick Ott, a TPWD fisheries biologist in Tyler. "We ask that people look for the plant and call us if they see it. Boaters should remove

all plant material from their boats and trailers before leaving the ramp every time they go to the lake. Place any plants in trash cans or dumpsters so they cannot be washed back into the lake."

It is illegal to possess or transport giant salvinia. Possession or transport of giant salvinia or other prohibited aquatic vegetation in Texas is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per plant.

Giant salvinia is a highly invasive exotic floating fern that can spread very quickly. Dense mats of floating vegetation block sunlight and can result in the death of all other life beneath it.

Information on how to identify giant salvinia can be found at <http://salvinia.er.usgs.gov/>.

Anyone finding suspected giant salvinia in a public water body should contact Howard Elder at (409) 384-9965 or Rick Ott at (903) 566-2161.

Some recent fishing reports to whet your appetites:

Tucker's Camp-Caddo Lake

Black bass very active on top water lures around big trees and moss beds around Bird Island. Crappie fair in Buzzard Bay around snags on shiners. Trot lines are paying off on catfish on big earthworms on big lake.

Johnson's Ranch-Caddo Lake

Crappie doing well on both river and big lake using shiners. Six to 10 feet deep in river tops and four to six feet deep on shiners around stumps in pipeline areas. Black bass hitting top waters along river bank.

Crip's Camp-Caddo Lake

Catfish doing well on trot lines with big earthworms in stump fields on big lake. Black bass fair on top water lures in Ames Spring area. Crappie good around stumps four feet to six feet in Buzzard Bay area on shiners. Bream fair around big trees on worms 12" to 24" deep.