



CADDO LAKE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

August 2016

On the web: www.glaoftx.com



[Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas](http://www.glaoftx.com)

Donna McCann, Editor

The Flood of 2016

By Robert Speight

As most of our readers know, Caddo Lake was impacted by a near record Flood event this year. Having lived through my fair share of flooding events I have compiled some information to try and help folks understand what went on.

The crest occurred on March 15th with a level of 180.03 feet, which was the highest crest since 1966. Caddo Lake impounds about 27,000 surface acres of water when the level is at 168.5 feet, which is the point when water starts to flow over the spillway at Mooringsport. When Caddo crested at 180.03' the lake spread out into the bottomlands and covered almost 53,000 surface acres, or about double its normal size!

A common misconception, urban legend, or myth around here is that Lake O' the Pines causes floods at Caddo Lake. I have heard this all my life. However, the facts do not back this up.

Lake O' the Pines was built as a flood control lake. It has a direct impact on water levels in Jefferson but not as much further downstream. The lake captures potential floodwaters on the Big Cypress upstream of Ferrel's Bridge Dam and releases them over time at a rate low enough to keep Jefferson dry. The maximum gated release rate is about 3000 cubic feet per second. (This can vary slightly depending on lake level). There is an uncontrolled emergency spillway to prevent a dam failure, but it has never overflowed, and Lake O' the Pines was still 9' below this point at its peak level this spring.

Below Jefferson, Big Cypress is joined by Little Cypress and Black Cypress before it flows into Caddo Lake. Neither of these tributaries has any type of flood control structures (though a Little Cypress dam was proposed some years ago) so whatever rain falls in their watersheds flows unchecked into Caddo Lake. Jeems Bayou flows into Caddo on the Louisiana side, and it is likewise uncontrolled. These 3 uncontrolled tributaries make up over 65% of the water that flows into Caddo. This is where the flooding happens.

To further illustrate, here are some numbers from both Lake O' the Pines and Caddo Lake. This information comes from the Corps of Engineers and the USGS who maintain gages on area lakes.

Caddo Lake storage capacity at 168.5 (top of spillway) is approximately 147,000 acre-feet.

Lake O' the Pines storage capacity at 228.5 (Conservation Pool level) is approximately 254,000 acre-feet.

An acre-foot of water in round numbers is 325,000 gallons., or about enough to cover a football field 1 foot deep in water.

Since January 1st 2016 Lake O' the Pines has released 1,027,117 acre-feet of water. To put this into perspective, if Caddo Lake was dry this would be enough water to fill it up almost 7 times.

Since January 1st 2016 Caddo Lake has released (actually spilled) 3,432,772 acre-feet of water. This amount of water would have filled Caddo Lake up over 23 times!

The water from Lake O' the Pines has been a steady release of about 3000 cfs for about 6 months. The rest of the water that flowed over Caddo's spillway mostly came in a rush over an 8-9 week period. At their crests, Little Cypress and Black Cypress were flowing in excess of 37,000 cubic feet per second into Caddo Lake. This is over 12 times the amount of water coming from Lake O' the Pines at that time!

Hopefully this information will help in the understanding of our complex watershed and dispel some long held erroneous beliefs. Next time Caddo is flooding (and it will), rather than asking why those Corps of Engineers folks won't just shut off the flow at Lake O' the Pines dam, you'll know that though they would like to, they really can't do much to help.

It's Membership Time!

GCLA needs you! August 31 marks the end of your 2016 membership. Please check your mailing label – if the date on it is 8/16, you need to renew, unless we have received dues anytime in 2016. If it's a year in the future, you are paid up until then. However, we do take donations! Memberships are only \$10 per person and you can mail it in, or better yet, come to the BBQ and pay in person! We are still fighting giant salvinia, alligator weed, water hyacinth and the newest invasive aquatic plant, the crested floating heart. Please help Keep Caddo Natural!

38th Annual GCLA BBQ

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 3rd!! Crip's Camp is the place to be for brisket and sausage and all the trimmings, as well as homemade desserts. Plates are \$10 each; serving starts at 11 AM and goes until the food runs out. GCLA memberships, tee shirts and a silent auction will be available. If you have something to donate to the auction, please contact Jan Cook at (903) 789-3430. If you want to bring a yummy dessert, please let us know at glaoftx@gmail.com. Bring the family and enjoy great company and great food!



Caddo Lake Flood Relief and Recovery

By Stella Barrow

The torrential rains in March and April 2016 brought our beloved Caddo Lake to unprecedented flood levels, and hundreds of permanent and week-end residents were affected. Some people lost everything. On March 20, Harrison County Judge Hugh Taylor established the Caddo Flood Relief Office and appointed a long-time local resident, Deb Bates, LMSW, as the Coordinator for this effort. Marion County Judge Lex Jones was supportive of the effort as well.

After a few weeks the office changed from **relief for victims** to **recovery for survivors**. Several GCLA members have volunteered and continue to volunteer their time to aid the flood survivors. More than 400 households registered with FEMA, and over 80 households checked in with the Caddo Flood Recovery Office.

This office has been assisted by the Texarkana Salvation Army, the local Red Cross, Karnack Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church-Marshall, St. Joseph Catholic Church-Marshall, Catholic Charities, Southern Texas Baptist Men, Atlanta Texas Methodist Emergency Recovery Team, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Immanuel Baptist Church-Marshall, Ivan Smith Furniture-Marshall, Lowe's-Marshall, and probably others I am unaware of and failed to mention. Guidance for this project has

GCLA Officers	
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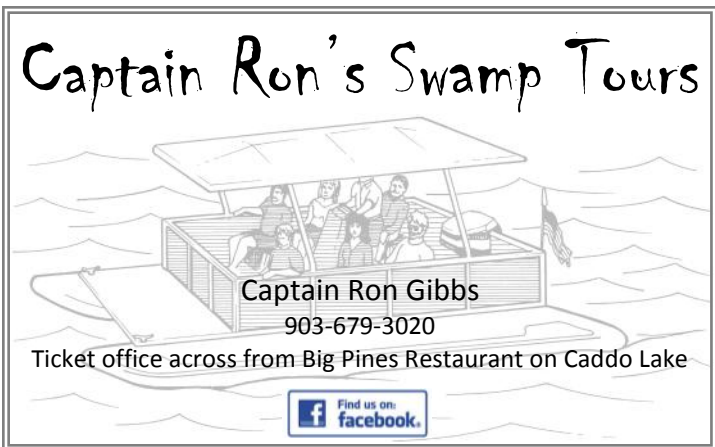
been provided by Presbyterians and United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The aid for flood victims has consisted of food boxes, flood buckets, donated pottery shards for driveways, roof replacements, air conditioners, furniture, labor to rebuild a "fixer-upper" that replaced a flooded

mobile home, cash donations, clean up, and "muck out". Even now, the need continues.

Currently, the certified case manager/advocates are doing needs assessments for survivors who schedule appointments with the office. While your home may be high and dry or repaired, some of your neighbors are still trying to clean up or repair their houses so their lives can get back closer to normal. Some Caddo Lake residents are living in RVs with no water or air conditioning; if they want to rebuild they must build to current county codes which many find too expensive. And some are simply too overwhelmed with the enormity of their situation to know which step to take next.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, or you want to volunteer to help a neighbor, please call 903-472-8542.



Caddo Lake Flood Emergency Response

By Lt. Jay Webb, Harrison County Sheriff's Office

When the historic flood deluged the Caddo Lake area from March 7 to March 29, area emergency responders leapt into action. Assistance came from Harrison County Emergency personnel, Texas DPS, Texas Game Wardens, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA, and individual volunteers. The Emergency Operations Center was staffed 24 hours a day beginning on March 21 to assist the citizens with information regarding the flooding.

The flood disaster involved the temporary closing of 57 Harrison County roads, 2 Farm to Market roads, and 2 bridges. Approximately 20 people were evacuated from their residences to safety when power had to be shut off by Panola-Harrison Electric Co-op in severely flooded areas to prevent fires or electrocution.

As the flood waters began receding, dumpsters were placed at the National Wildlife Refuge to collect debris as residents began the big cleanup. Sgt. Jerry Hain, Donna Hain, jail staff, and a crew of inmate workers were dedicated to the removal of materials from flooded residences for 30 days. The only requirement was for the property owner to "get it to the road" and it was removed. Hundreds of flat-bed trailer loads were hauled from the areas most impacted by the flood to the dumpster site.

When the dumpster program ended on April 25, a total of 161 30 cubic yard dumpsters had been filled and sent to landfill. In addition, various hazardous materials ineligible for landfill were collected for proper disposal. The cost for the debris removal was nearly \$100,000, funded by Harrison County prior to any reimbursement from FEMA.

In addition to the cleanup effort, over 200 residences and 15 commercial properties were inspected and the condition of the affected roadways and bridges were verified before reopening. Some of the most heavily damaged roads in the Cypress Village, Bois D'ark and Mossy Brake areas are slated for repairs funded by FEMA.

To lower the risk of infections, 158 tetanus inoculations were administered by the Marshall/Harrison County Health District staff at the T J Taylor Community Center at no cost to citizens. A disaster assistance center was opened next to the T J Taylor Community Center for volunteer registration and as an information area. That disaster center remains in operation as described in the article to the left.

Want To Be More Involved?

GCLA, like the Marines, is looking for a few good men and women! Due to relocations and term limits, we are in need of new board members. If you are interested or have questions, please email us at gclaoflx@gmail.com.

"I woke up this morning and I got myself a beer
The future's *Uncertain* and the end is always near."

RoadHouse Blues - The Doors

Caddo Lake Fishing Camps

By Donna McCann and Jan Cook

When the Caddo Lake Handbook was printed in 1938, it listed 24 fishing camps, most of which provided lodging, food, boats, supplies, and local fishing guides for anglers who came from "every state of the union" to fish in the rare, natural, Southern freshwater lake, well before the US Army Corps of Engineers began damming every river they could find and building reservoirs all over the country. Few people owned a boat, so a fishing vacation was all about renting the whole experience. Many of the old camps are gone now, since many other fishing options are available, but several are still in business, including the oldest

of them all. Prices were basically the same for all the camps, so the quality of the fishing guides, lodging, and food must have been the primary source of competition. How many of the old camp names do you recognize?

Caddo Lake Camps in 1938

Hartzo's Camp	Allen's Camp
Johnson Brothers Ranch	Rowell's Camp
Long's Camp	Dekle's Camp
Albright's Camp	Miller's Camp
Fielder's Camp	Klein's Big Lake Camp
Jack Dowdy's Camp	B and B Ranch
End of the Trail Camp	Howlett's Camp
Chick's Camp	Thompson's Camp
Shady Glade Camp	Wilson's Camp
Pine Island Point Camp	Massey's Camp
Moore's Camp	The Jap's Place
Big Lake Camp	Rich's Lakeview Camp

Johnson Brothers Ranch



LOCATION:—4¾ Miles Northeast of Karnack, Texas.
 ADDRESS:—Karnack, Texas. MANAGERS:—Johnson Brothers.
 CABINS:—Eighteen. BEDS:—Fifty-one.
 BATH:—Community Showers for men and women.
 TOILETS:—Government pit type.
 WATER SUPPLY:—Cistern and well. LIGHTS:—Electric lights.
 COTTAGE EQUIPMENT:—Bed, table, chairs, stove.
 SUPPLIES: Store available for supplies.
 RECREATIONAL HALL:—For reading, dancing, games.
 MEALS:—Regular Meals..... \$.50
 Special Chicken or Fish Dinner..... .75
 Sandwiches and short orders. Lunches prepared.
 BOATS:—Forty. PLEASURE LAUNCHES:—Two.
 COST:—One Day's Fishing for two people:
 Cabin \$1.00
 Boats (row boats)..... .50
 Motor Boat, with fuel 3.50
 Guide 2.50
 BOAT HOUSE ACCOMMODATIONS:—For private
 boats, rent per month 2.00
 TRAILER CAMP AVAILABLE. TELEPHONE: 62 F 5.

In the nineteen years that Otto and Burt Johnson have operated their Ranch on Caddo, they have entertained some sixty thousand sportsmen from every state in the Union. According to their records, 28,000 people have visited Johnson Brothers' Ranch from Dallas and Fort Worth alone.

With forty-five boats and motors and enough cabins to accommodate over one hundred people per day, Johnson Bros. Ranch is the largest commercial camp on Caddo Lake.

Grates on Texas Highway 43 Bridge to be Replaced

From the Longview News Journal

Those steel grates on the Texas Highway 43 bridge crossing the upper end of Caddo Lake (the ones that will make you jump out of your boat if you are passing under when a car passes overhead) are scheduled for replacement early next year, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. Work on the project is scheduled to begin in January and take about five months to complete. The new ones will probably not be any quieter.

"We will be replacing the steel grates, which will require traffic across the bridge to be limited to one direction at a time," Paul Wong, area engineer for TxDOT in Marshall, said in a news release. "Temporary portable traffic lights will be placed on the approaches at each end of the bridge. The signals will be automated to determine when traffic is approaching and will change to allow traffic to cross one direction at a time."

Salvinia Weevil Program Update

By Daren Horton

In our first full year last year the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance released just over 129,000 adult giant salvinia weevils in Willowson's Woodyard.

In April of this year 6.1 adult weevils per kilogram of plant mass were found in samples taken from the release site, having survived the winter and the flood. This is very promising since one of our main goals is to determine if some weevils are better adapted to cold and will survive to reproduce over time. At the time of this newsletter, approximately 80,000 weevils will have been released year to date. While greenhouse weevil growth was slow to start the year, the recent exponential growth of adult weevils indicates we will have another strong finish to the year. Volunteers are assisting Morley Hudson Greenhouse Director Lee Eisenberg in the latest releases.

Texas Parks and Wildlife, which oversees both the herbicide spraying program and a separate biocontrol program, has released around 165,000 weevils into Pine Island Pond from several greenhouses and water sources around the state, and they plan to release more before the end of the year. By the end of August, their herbicide spray contractor will have sprayed approximately 2500 acres of the lake via air boat. These aquatic herbicide applications are targeting both the giant salvinia and the newer invasive plant, crested floating heart.

The CBA has worked closely with the TP&W to implement an integrated management approach to the giant salvinia growth on Caddo Lake. Giant salvinia will most likely never be eliminated from Caddo Lake because of the density of the Bald Cypress Forest Valley in which we are located. Caddo Biocontrol Alliance is working on a funding agreement with the state along with development of a longer term management plan. We remain optimistic that the program can be designed to manage invasive plant growth at a tolerable level, so Caddo Lake can continue to be a prime destination for recreation as well as a national scenic treasure.

The active greenhouse, and the program we have underway, is a tribute to the determination of the board members of The Caddo Biocontrol Alliance, The Greater Caddo Lake Association, Lee Eisenberg, all of our members and contributors, and the many people who care about the future of Caddo Lake.

KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL!

Join GCLA

Dues are only \$10.00 per person per year. This includes membership in The Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas, plus you will receive our newsletters which are printed on a semi-regular basis; more often if needed. There is no better way to keep up with the issues that concern the lake.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email* _____ Telephone ()- _____

Additional Names _____

Amount Enclosed _____ (\$10.00)*(number of members)

New Members: _____ Renewals: _____ Number of Years: _____

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. It will only be used to keep you informed of developments on the lake. It will not be given or sold to anyone.

Make checks payable to GCLA of Texas Mail to GCLA of Texas. P.O. Box 339, Karnack TX, 75661

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