Caddo Lake is in DEEP TROUBLE <u>because</u> it is SHALLOW & includes one of the largest Bald Cypress forests in America.

Caddo is ideal habitat for one of the world's most aggressive invasive aquatic plants ~ <u>giant salvinia.</u>

Willowson's Woodyard, BEFORE giant salvinia.

Willowson's Woodyard, AFTER giant salvinia.

(photos by John Winn)

Caddo Lake is experiencing the greatest crisis in its history. The invasive aquatic plant giant salvinia *(salvinia molesta)* has reached epidemic proportions in many areas of the lake. Thick mats of giant salvinia presently cover more than 7,000 acres of the Texas side alone. Areas such as Carter Lake, Willowson's Woodyard, Bird Roost, and more are virtually inaccessible to boaters. And because of its aggressive growth rate and matting characteristics, giant salvinia is contributing to siltation. Unless giant salvinia is reduced and brought under long-term control, some shallow Cypress brakes could become completely silted in within a matter of years. Giant salvinia destroys habitat for plants, fish, mammals, and birds.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- **PREVENTION**
- **CONTAINMENT & REMOVAL**
- **CHEMICAL (herbicides)**
- **BIOLOGICAL (salvinia weevils)**

Caddo Lake communities working with local, state & federal agencies and other organizations have thoroughly pursued ALL of these treatment options EXCEPT Biological Control.

EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD THAT GIANT SALVINIA HAS BEEN REDUCED AND CONTROLLED, SUCCESS HAS ONLY OCCURRED WHEN A COMPREHENSIVE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED. **Biological control of giant salvinia requires the introduction of SALVINIA WEEVILS *(cyrtobagous salviniae)* in sufficient numbers that these insects can rapidly reproduce until their populations begin destroying giant salvinia faster than salvinia reproduces.**

WHY WEEVILS??? The reality is that everything else has been tried at Caddo, Lake Bistineau, and other lakes in our region with poor results. Herbicides, containment, removal, & prevention have their place. But giant salvinia has never been reduced and controlled anywhere in the world except when salvinia weevils are introduced

WEEVILS CAN WORK to reduce & control giant salvinia at Caddo Lake!

Research conducted by Texas A&M University's Center for Invasive Species Eradication has established that salvinia weevils can overwinter and reproduce at Caddo Lake.

Salvinia Weevils have controlled giant salvinia at Lake Steinhagen (Dam B) in Texas and in large areas of south Louisiana. Experts agree. <u>If ENOUGH SALVINIA WEEVILS reproduce in Caddo Lake, we WILL reduce and control giant salvina!</u>

in large numbers.

The Problem??? Caddo Lake happens to be located on a latitude at which Extra Efforts must be made to introduce large numbers of salvinia populations for them to reproduce in large enough numbers to control giant salvinia, and to quickly re-supply them if an extraordinarily cold winter severely reduces the established population.

The Solution??? **A WEEVIL HATCHERY ON CADDO LAKE!!!**

Caddo Lake

Giant Salvinia Control Project

Fear No Weevil!

In the weeks ahead, the Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas will help coordinate a Caddo Lake Clearinghouse approach to developing a Plan to Construct & Operate a salvinia weevil hatchery at Caddo Lake. The sole purpose of that hatchery will be to produce as many weevils as possible, as quickly and efficiently as possible, and to disperse them expertly. We anticipate that this Clearinghouse group will include representatives of the Cypress Valley Navigation District, the Friends of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the Caddo Lake Institute, state and federal agencies, and other organizations and institutions with a proven commitment to protecting our lake.

More information is available at:

www.gclaoftx.com and **www.invasiveswatch.org.**