



# CADDO LAKE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

February, 2017

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Donna McCann, Editor

## Giant Salvinia Control Status

By Darren Horton

The Morley Hudson Greenhouse project, overseen by the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance (CBA) with the support of many local volunteers, finished its second complete year of operation in 2016. Since the project began 273,675 adult weevils have been grown and released into Caddo Lake in our efforts to develop a management program for the reduction of the invasive Giant Salvinia plants infesting many areas of the lake, often to the point that navigation and water sports activities are impossible.

The Giant Salvinia weevil was first used to control Giant Salvinia in Australia in 1980, after it was brought there from its native environment in the tropical regions of Brazil. Since then, Giant Salvinia has become a tremendously invasive weed in regions of Africa, Asia, North America and South America, as humans either accidentally or deliberately transport all manner of flora and fauna between isolated regions and even continents.

The Giant Salvinia Weevil has provided spectacular results with respect to preventing the overgrowth of the plants in Australia, and weevils have been released in twenty countries worldwide, resulting in much improved control of explosive plant growth in tropical and subtropical regions.

Biological control of Giant Salvinia in the United States was initiated in 2001 in southern Louisiana and southeastern Texas. At this time, Giant Salvinia has been reported in 12 states and is now well established in Texas.

Our greenhouse at Caddo Lake is part of a large ongoing multi-team effort to develop means of controlling Giant Salvinia in more temperate areas of Texas and Louisiana. While control has been successful in the subtropical southern areas of Texas and Louisiana, overwintering in areas as far north as Caddo Lake (where winter freezes are more common and reach lower temperatures) has been a challenge for the weevil.

Weevil populations did not live through the winter when caged samples were placed in Caddo Lake by the team at the Texas A&M research facility beginning in 2010. However, in the spring of 2016, live weevils were found in the release site at Willowson Woodyard after being released the previous summer and fall. We hope to find live weevils again in 2017 after the overwintering season, especially since we have had overall milder winters in the past few years. Natural selection takes a very long time to allow adaptation for a trait such as cold tolerance, so we hope that some of the researchers harvesting insects in their native environment will identify a more cold tolerant subspecies of the weevil, and we can put it to work.

In the nearer term, the current work is supplying the fundamental

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## Boat Road Marker Maintenance

Donna McCann & Stella Barrow

For long-time Caddo Lake residents and frequent visitors, navigating the labyrinth of passageways through our extensive bald cypress swamp becomes easier with time, as the best ways to get from "here" to "there" are either discovered by trial and error or are learned from some old-timer who knows the lake like the back of his hand. But for the less frequent visitor, and particularly for first-timers, the complexity of the boat-road system can be overwhelming. After all, on most lakes in the region, getting lost is unlikely since one can see the shoreline all around. For the newer Caddo Lake visitor, the best way to keep



from getting hopelessly lost is to use the designated boat roads which are indicated on a good lake map.

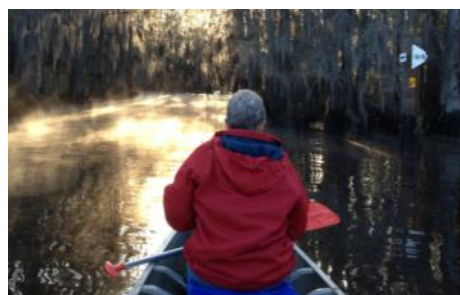
The Caddo boat road markers are spaced so that one can follow the trail by sighting the next marker as each marker is passed, in either direction. But since many of the roads have sharp turns through the thicket of trees, when a marker goes missing, the boater can be left confused, scanning for the next one, but finding nothing but swamp in every direction.

Markers can go missing due to being accidentally rammed by a boat or log, being swept away during flooding, or simply by rotting from old age. One of the missions of the Cypress Valley Navigation District (CVND), in addition to keeping the boat roads clear of blockages from downed trees and floating debris, is to maintain and replace these missing posts and markers as necessary.

In recent years, several organizations teamed up to plan a series of 10 paddling trails mostly following existing boat roads, and these were

sanctioned and advertised through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). It is now common to see canoeists and kayakers from all over the country paddling these lovely trails, marveling at the many species of birds, turtles, and even an

occasional beaver or alligator that ventures out in the daytime. Alas, the markers for the paddle trails also require maintenance, as evidenced by confused kayakers scanning all around



*(Continued on page 2)*

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Salvinia (Continued from page 1)

knowledge for development of a workable management program for Giant Salvinia on Caddo Lake. This program will likely consist of two complementary programs: Use of aquatic herbicide applications where necessary to maintain navigation and wildlife habitat, and the use of biocontrol (weevils) with either an established overwintering population or a population that will require ongoing reintroduction or inoculative releases of weevils following very cold winters. Endocides and other control methods are in the research stage, and with increasing research by several teams of scientists, there may be more options in the future.

Our greenhouse contractor decided to leave his position in November of 2016. The management of the greenhouse is currently being conducted by the board members of the CBA, with guidance from Texas Parks and Wildlife. We are excited about our partnership with the TPWD and the synergistic results of our efforts to develop an integrated weed management plan for Caddo Lake. We will continue to operate the facility until we find a candidate we feel can manage every aspect of the greenhouse, and that will be committed to our vision, and to Caddo Lake.

## Cypress Village Cleans Up!

By Jan Cook

Residents of Cypress Village Road completed a week long cleanup of their area in February. As their work progressed, they sought out information that could be helpful to those wanting to clean up in other neighborhoods (specific information pertains to Harrison County.)

- For large hazardous items or questionable waste items (refrigerators / barrels /etc) contact Marshall Fire/Environmental Office - DJ at 903-935-4870. (DJ also recruits Adopt-A-Road groups where clean up supplies are provided)
- For Items in the lake - contact Game Warden Darrin Peeples at 903-930-3205

Also, property owners are reminded that due to the floodplain status of the Caddo Lake area, a permit may be required for new construction or significant alterations to structures. Contact Harrison County Road and Bridge at 903-935-4868 or download the application form from their website:

<http://harrisoncountytexas.org/road-bridge>



Markers (Continued from page 1)

looking for the next marker, but finding only more trees.

The Cypress Basin Texas Master Naturalists (CBTMN) has identified 172 paddle trail markers and the CVND has identified 25 metal boat road markers in need of replacement. Where posts supporting the markers have gone down, the CVND is responsible for arranging to have new posts driven. These two organizations plan to fabricate and install their respective markers in the early spring, so visitors to our little piece of swampy paradise can find their way and return home with tales of awe and inspiration rather than tales of bewilderment and woe.

**Save the Date!**  
**Caddo Lake Paddling Regatta**  
**April 22, 2017**  
**Shady Glade Marina**  
**Details Coming Soon**  
<http://CypressBasinChapterTMN.org>



## GCLA Barbeque Biggest Ever

By Donna McCann

The 38th annual GCLA barbeque on September 3rd, 2016 was the biggest ever. A record 343 tickets were sold as a a horde of hungry folks found their way to Crip's Camp under a beautiful, clear sky. With 240 lbs of brisket and 40 lbs of sausage served along with beans and slaw, the cooks, who had been smoking meat and simmering beans since the day before, received many compliments. Combined with sales of items donated by the many supporters of Caddo Lake in the silent auction, the event raised over \$7,500 to support the efforts of the GCLA and related organizations in caring for our beloved lake and swamp, particularly in the ongoing fight against invasive plant species such as Giant Salvinia. The GCLA board greatly appreciates the support of the community in making this event a smashing success.

Nature is ever at work building and pulling down,  
 creating and destroying,  
 keeping everything whirling and flowing,  
 allowing no rest but in rhythmical motion,  
 chasing everything in endless song  
 out of one beautiful form into another.

John Muir



**Angela Ledger**

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Lakeside dining

Situated on the shores of Caddo Lake, LAKEVIEW LODGE CATFISH RESTAURANT offers not only its specialty, golden fried catfish, but also shrimp, oysters and steaks. A landmark since 1946, the newly re-built restaurant's lovely

atmosphere lends to the flavor of the dining. A special treat is dining in the popular balcony level. For complete details, see the Lakeview Lodge advertisement at the right.

## The History of Lakeview Lodge from old newspaper clippings researched by Brenda Loinette

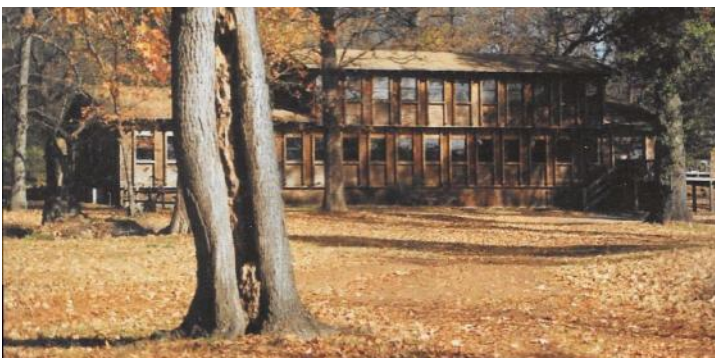
Catfish Restaurants have been a fixture of Caddo Lake for many years. Locals and long time visitors will recall former restaurants like Flyin' Fish, Curley's, Bayou Landing, and Haddad as well as the places still primarily serving catfish dinners like Big Pines Lodge or River Bend. These restaurants all evolved from the days of the fishing camps of the last century. One of the earliest was Lakeview Lodge on Potter's Point.

Our story begins in the late thirties after W E. "Bill" Haggard left his successful Mt. Pleasant based "American Cafe" business and ventured forth to the north shore of beautiful, historic Caddo Lake. He established a "fish camp" business, providing boats, motors, bait, guides, cabins and meals. He called it the "B&B Camp," and it was located near Gray, just off Kitchen Creek Bayou and the Clinton Lake area of Caddo.

With the ending of WWII, Bill's oldest son, Holland "Sonny" Haggard, returned home to assist in the operation of the business. It was at this time that Bill and his wife, Pat, decided to build Lakeview. "Son," he said, "I'm tired of getting flooded out here, so you run the B&B, and we'll move to higher ground on Big Lake." In 1946, Lakeview Lodge was built and opened for business in the spring of 1947.

The early Lakeview operation was similar to that of the B&B, with a large boat house, a large rent house, and several small rent cabins. Three of the rent cabins still remain but are not being rented at this time. The main building included eight small rent rooms on a second level, with a single toilet to serve all.

Although catfish dinners had been served at the B&B, they be-



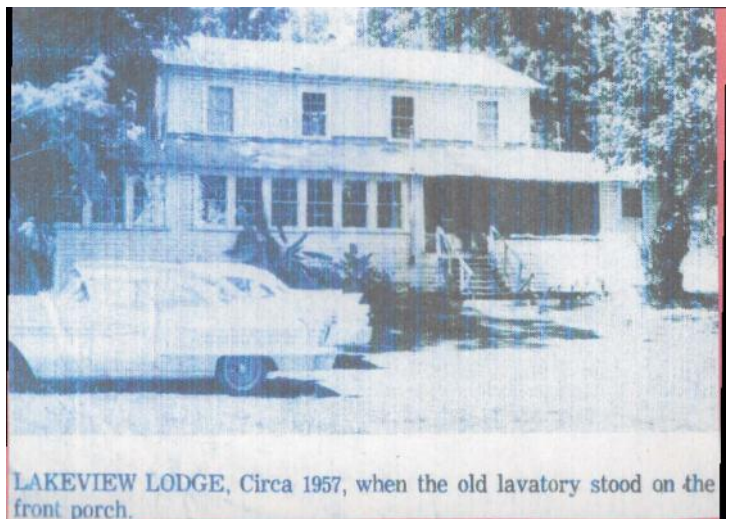
came a major part of the new Lakeview operation. Pat began to make, serve, and sell a green tomato relish which may have been the first green tomato relish made for commercial consumption. She called it Lakeview Hot Relish.

Business prospered through the fifties and on into the sixties as catfish dinners in the dining room became an increasing favorite. In 1955, Bill Haggard passed away, leaving Pat to carry on alone. However, in 1960, her sister, Mabel Bruce, retired from Lone Star Steel and joined Pat.

On many a hot night, outside the small crowded dining room, folks waited in line for more than an hour to treat themselves to all the "Fiddlers" (very small catfish) they could eat, plus all the trimmings, for a price of \$2 plus tax. The only thing used to cool the room was a window fan.

In 1968 Pat Haggard passed away. Mabel became the owner and operated Lakeview Lodge until 1972, when Haggard brothers Sonny and Randy purchased the business from her. Mabel continued to make Pat's famous Lakeview Hot Relish.

A new modern kitchen was added to the building in 1973 and the old kitchen and previous living quarters were converted into an additional dining area. Central air conditioning was added for the dining area which was now able to seat up to 135 persons - a considerable enlargement from the previous capacity of only 75.



LAKEVIEW LODGE, Circa 1957, when the old lavatory stood on the front porch.

In 1978, Randy and wife Carol bought out Sonny's interest - since he was now in the midst of four terms as Marion County Judge. In 1982, an additional dining room (the Monterey Room) was added on the east side of the restaurant, and new rest room facilities were built in an existing room. These improvements eliminated the old front porch entrance and its much maligned hand lavatory by the front door. The exterior of the building was also given a face lift.

In the early morning hours of June 1, 1984, the Lakeview Lodge Restaurant building burned completely to the ground. Prior to the fire, the business had experienced its two most successful years ever in 1982 and 1983.

Using a floor plan designed by Randy Haggard, builder Winston Sullivan of Linden constructed the current restaurant building - an all wood structure of fir plywood and cedar trim. It re-opened for business on December 6, 1984.

Competition from newer area lakes for boaters and fisherman, other catfish restaurants, and a downturn in the local economy beginning in 1985 led to a decline in business, and the Lakeview Lodge Restaurant closed for good in October of 1987.

# 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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