



CADDO LAKE NEWS

Celebrating 50 Years of Keeping Caddo Lake Natural

The Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas Summer 2025

GCLA is Celebrating its 50th Anniversary

That's right; this organization has been protecting Caddo Lake for 50 years! However, we can't take all of the credit. Many other organizations and individuals have been involved in protecting Caddo Lake. Here are some of the groups that have worked with GCLA over the years.

The City of Uncertain

**Caddo Lake Chamber of Commerce Tourism
Friends of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

Caddo Lake Institute

Cypress Basin Master Naturalists

Texas Conservation Alliance

Cypress Valley Navigation District

Greater Caddo Lake Association of Louisiana

The Nature Conservancy

Preserve East Texas Water Coalition

and many individuals too numerous to name...

We also want to recognize the original founders of GCLA: Lt. Col. John Echols, Robert Speight, Sr., Richard Fredrick, L.B. Stewart, Flo Daniels, Gene Walker Sr., and George Williamson.

One of the most frequent questions asked of GCLA Board Members is, "what does GCLA do?" Page 3 outlines many of the projects and issues GCLA has been involved with since its founding in 1975.

Caddo Lake Cleanup A Huge Success!

The Greater Caddo Lake Association's annual Caddo Lake Cleanup held at Johnson's Ranch Marina on July 19th was a fun event for all involved! More than 100 volunteers pitched in to remove trash and debris from both the water and the surrounding roads. Two large dumpsters were filled, twenty 55-gallon barrels were removed from the lake, two abandoned boat hulls were recovered from the shoreline. The event wasn't just about hard work—it was a celebration of community spirit. Volunteers enjoyed live music by Jake Williams and delicious meals from Yall's Place food truck, making the day as fun as it was productive. Our raffle and merchandise tables were busy all day, thanks to the 33 generous donors who contributed cash or prizes. GCLA also welcomed new members and sold commemorative T-shirts, all helping to support our mission to Keep Caddo Lake Natural. A heartfelt thank you goes out to every volunteer, donor, and participant who made this year's Cleanup a success. Your efforts directly help preserve the beauty and health of our treasured Caddo Lake!



If you are ready to Join GCLA or renew your membership, please scan this QR code.

A poster for the Annual Fish Fry & Fundraiser. At the top, it says 'Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas' with a logo featuring a bird. Below that is a large red banner with the word 'FISH FRY' in white. The text 'YOU'RE INVITED!' is in bold. The main title 'ANNUAL FISH FRY & FUNDRAISER' is in large, bold, black letters. Below that, it says 'Help us celebrate 50 years of keeping Caddo Lake natural!'. The date 'Saturday, August 30, 2025' is in bold. The location 'The Point on Goose Prairie (formerly Crip's Camp)' is in bold. The time '11:00 am until the food is gone' is in bold. Below that, it lists 'Fish, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, desserts, tea, water'. At the bottom, it lists 'Fish plate: \$20.00', 'T-shirts: \$25.00', and 'Raffle: \$15.00 each or 3 for \$40'. There is an illustration of a plate of food.

Membership Update

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, it is also membership renewal time for the Greater Caddo Lake Association (GCLA). August 31st marks the end of our membership year, so please check the date on your newsletter mailing label—if it ends in 2025 or earlier, it's time to renew.

After holding dues steady for more than 20 years, GCLA has increased annual membership dues from \$10 to \$20 per person. This proactive step helps secure the long term sustainability of the association and supports our ongoing efforts to Keep Caddo Lake Natural, ensuring that future generations can enjoy and benefit from this unique natural treasure.

You can renew your membership in several convenient ways: join us in person at the 50th Anniversary Fish Fry on Saturday, August 30th at The Point on Goose Prairie (formerly Crip's Camp), pay securely through PayPal via our website at gclaofx.com/donate-join, or mail your \$20 dues to GCLA, P.O. Box 339, Karnack, TX 75661.

Looking ahead, we are exploring options for different levels of memberships including lifetime memberships for those who wish to make a lasting commitment to the protection and preservation of Caddo Lake.



These GCLA board members helped make the Caddo Lake Cleanup a smashing success this year. Pictured left to right are, Chad Hudson, Angela Anderson, Judy Patterson, Eddy Young, Susan Sedberry, Kenny Hudson, Josh Maness and Jeremy Patterson. GCLA thanks all those who volunteered to help "KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL!"

GCLA Officers
President,
 Angela Anderson
Vice President,
 Stella Barrow
Secretary,
 Ginger Gordon
Treasurer,
 Susan Sedberry

GCLA BoardMembers
 Ted Barrow
 John Fortune
 Chad Hudson
 Kenny Hudson
 Max Kridakorn
 Victor Ledger
 Josh Maness
 Jeremy Patterson
 Judy Patterson
 Eddy Young



177 Cypress Dr.
 PO Box 277
 Uncertain, TX 75661
 (903) 678-3443
www.cityofuncertain.com



GCLA Was Established in 1975

Caddo Lake residents and supporters of Caddo Lake witnessed an extraordinary community mobilization in 1975 with the formation of the Greater Caddo Lake Association (GCLA). Responding to persistent flooding bad road conditions and environmental concerns, the group quickly established itself as the voice of the lake, advocating for both property protection and ecological preservation.

Led by Lt. Col. John Echols, President, and Robert Speight, Sr., Vice President, the GCLA organized frequent community meetings at local venues in Uncertain and Karnack, where lake residents, marina owners, and fishermen voiced their frustrations about the repeated high water levels. Shoreline property owners described damages to homes, docks, and marinas, while environmental advocates expressed concern for the lake's unique cypress ecosystem and wildlife.

From the beginning, the GCLA was in formal communication with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, requesting studies and flood-control measures to stabilize lake levels. Members documented water damage, collected photographs, and drafted technical inquiries, which were sent to regional Corps offices. Newspaper reports from May and June 1975 highlighted the Association's tireless advocacy, including organizing boat tours for engineers to see the flooding first-hand.

As summer approached and water levels remained high, the GCLA escalated its efforts. Community meetings drew larger crowds, and members voted to seek federal attention. The Association sent a letter to President Gerald Ford, detailing the lake's challenges and requesting assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The letter emphasized that recurring floods threatened the local economy—impacting tourism, marinas, and fishing—and endangered both private property and wildlife habitat.

The GCLA also sponsored a series of environmental and civic activities throughout 1975. Volunteers hosted shoreline clean-up drives, clearing storm debris and litter to maintain safe boating channels. They coordinated with local schools to promote awareness of Caddo Lake's unique ecosystem and organized weekend events to bring residents together in support of flood mitigation.

Throughout the fall, newspapers reported on the GCLA's persistence. Members followed up repeatedly with the Corps of Engineers and local officials, emphasizing the need for action before another wet season. By November, the Association had become the recognized voice for Caddo Lake in local and state discussions, symbolizing the community's resolve to protect its homes, businesses, and environment.

The founding year of 1975 established the Greater Caddo Lake Association as a cornerstone of local advocacy. Its combination of grassroots action, environmental stewardship, and petitioning the Corps of Engineers, ensured that the concerns of Caddo Lake residents reached decision-makers at every level.



Call or Text

903-472-4973

Hometown Best for the last

14 Years in a Row!!!

Over 1200 Google Reviews 4.9 Rating

Winner Better Business Bureau Award of Excellence 2025

www.geckopestcontrol.com



What Has GCLA Done for Caddo Lake?

Road Improvement

GCLA was formed in 1975. One of the stated purposes was to improve the terrible condition of many of the roads that served Caddo Lake. While some of the roads still need improvement, they are in much better shape than they were in 1975.

Flood Control

GCLA has challenged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers numerous times on their flood control practices and plans and documenting how they have negatively affected Caddo Lake.

Paper Mill on the banks of Big Cypress

We successfully fought against a large paper mill proposed to be located on the banks of Big Cypress bayou.

“Caddo Lake Compact”

We successfully stopped the ‘Caddo Lake Compact’. This ‘compact’, between Texas and Louisiana, would have raised the dam height at Mooringsport 2 to 4 feet to supply water to Shreveport. Lt. Col. John Echols and then County Judge Richard Anderson went to Washington, D.C. and testified before congress as to why this was a bad idea.

Lake o’ the Pines Hydro Electric

Opposed a hydroelectric generator being placed on Lake o’ the Pines spillway.

Chicken Processing

Fought against a chicken processing plant being located on Little Cypress bayou. Poultry processing uses huge amounts of water. That use of water would have been at the expense of Caddo Lake.

Lake Marshall

Spent years opposing the so-called ‘Lake Marshall’ being built on Little Cypress by the Little Cypress Utility District. This project would have cut flows to Caddo and provided land speculators with a boondoggle, get-rich-quick scheme and very little extra water for the City of Marshall.

Pilgrims Pride

Fought against Pilgrims Pride’s efforts to dump poultry processing waste into Big Cypress bayou at Pittsburg.

Daingerfield Reach

Opposed the “Daingerfield Reach”, a barge canal proposed to run from the Red River to Lone Star, Texas, passing thru Caddo Lake and Lake o’ the Pines.

Ramsar Treaty

GCLA supported the designation of approximately 20,000 acres of the Caddo Lake area as a “Wetland of International Importance” under the Ramsar Treaty.

Wildlife Management Area

Supported the creation of the Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area from land donated by the Nature Conservancy.

Marshall, Again

GCLA joined the Caddo Lake Institute in opposing Marshall’s efforts to sell water to Entergy for a combined cycle power plant southwest of Marshall.

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Supported the creation of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge within the former Longhorn Ammunition Plant.

Industrial Park

Successfully campaigned against the use of part of the National Wildlife Refuge for an industrial park. Special interests in Marshall had pursued the use of 1000 acres within the National Wildlife Refuge, to be used as

an Industrial Park. GCLA believed that this was totally inconsistent with the purpose of a National Wildlife Refuge.

Water Hyacinths

Started the first non-agency invasive aquatic vegetation control program on Caddo Lake targeting water hyacinth.

Giant Salvinia

Organized some of the early efforts to respond to the threat of Giant Salvinia including building a barrier fence, researching methods to kill Salvinia and pursuing ongoing funding to establish a permanent spray program. Also organized community education meetings to inform everyone of the problem.

Caddo Biocontrol Alliance

CBA was established in 2014 as an offshoot of GCLA as part of the mission to Keep Caddo Lake Natural. Working closely with and being permitted by Texas Parks and Wildlife, they have two greenhouses located on Cypress Dr. in Uncertain where they raise weevils for the sole purpose of releasing them into Caddo Lake to help fight Giant Salvinia. Cyrtobagous weevils are a natural alternative to spraying the invasive plant to control its growth. In 2024, CBA released about 150,000 weevils and larvae into Caddo Lake.

Support for the Science of Caddo Lake

Supported Caddo Lake Institute and The Nature Conservancy’s efforts to create a flow regime for Big Cypress and Caddo Lake to better understand what Caddo Lake needs to be the viable natural resource we have all come to love.

Being Good Neighbors

GCLA has supported, financially and with resources, the clean up efforts both around the lake and in the lake. Other partners in this effort have been Harrison County and the City of Uncertain Caddo Lake Institute, Friends of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance..

The Lost Soul Patrol

Although not part of the charter of GCLA, our board members have gotten calls in the past from people lost on the lake, out of gas, etc and we lent a helping hand to those individuals.

Save East Texas Waters Coalition

More recently, GCLA has been a leading force along with other groups and concerned citizens to rally against the sale of water from Lake O’ the Pines to the Dallas Metroplex3 area. Selling water out of the Cypress Valley Basin would have numerous negative impacts on Caddo Lake. A dependable flow of water from Lake O’ the Pines is essential for Keeping Caddo Lake Natural.



Angela Anderson
318.455.4758

TREE HEALTH LADY
consulting • diagnosis • treatment

TreeHealthLady.com
Angela@TreeHealthLady.com

KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL

Join GCLA

Dues are only \$20 per person per year. This includes membership in the Greater Caddo Association of Texas, an invitation to our annual Christmas party/meeting and our newsletters which are published quarterly or more often if needed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email* _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ (\$20.00 for each Member)

Please make check payable to: **GCLA of Texas**

Mail to: **GCLA of Texas, PO Box 339, Karnack, TX 75661**

The GCLA membership renews each year in August. If you join or renew within 6 months before August, your membership will be extended for a year past August. If you are an existing member, please check the date above your name on the mailing label. If the date is not 8/31/2025, your membership is due. **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GCLA OF TEXAS!!**

To join online, see the QR code on the front page

*Your email address will not be given or sold to anyone else.



**GREATER CADDO LAKE
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**