



CADDO LAKE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

April, 2018

On the web: www.gclaofx.com



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

Donna McCann, Editor

News From the Salvinia Front

More troops to Join the Fight

Daren Horton, President Caddo Biocontrol Alliance

Spring is finally here. It is hard to believe as I am writing this that the first quarter of 2018 is almost over and we are well into the year of our Lord 2018.

With a very hard winter by Texas standards and ANOTHER flood behind us (6 in the last 36 months) we can expect a much smaller area of Caddo Lake to be covered with giant salvinia this coming year. Much of the Salvinia has frozen and sunk to the bottom of the lake or has been pushed over the dam into Louisiana. This will be nice for fishing, recreation and all those visiting and living on our wetland of international importance.

In December of 2017, Robert Speight and I visited with Doug Rainwater of the Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department. They have the funds and plan to construct a giant Salvinia Weevil Greenhouse on the Louisiana side of Caddo Lake in the Jeem's Bayou area this year. This is an exciting step and will bring more collaboration between the two states as we formulate our giant salvinia management programs for the future. We also look forward to continuing to build on our strong relationship with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The work that the TPWD has put in fighting back the giant salvinia with aquatic herbicides has been outstanding and much more of the lake would have been inaccessible without them.

I have said many times before that it is amazing to me how things seem to happen at critical times during this giant Salvinia control struggle that keep the project going. Once again, a God-send has landed in our lap. As of April 1st, we have a new greenhouse manager. Laura Speight is a wildlife biologist who has recently retired from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. She has been working as a Natural Resource Specialist. Laura is the chair of the Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from West Texas A&M University in 2004. She has since worked extensively with Wildlife Management and Educational programs and brings experience in grant writing that will lead our fight into the future.

When our former board member, Ted Barrow, began to manage the greenhouse in late 2016, we came to realize that a key ingredient in the successful management of the project is a connection to the lake, the wetlands and the welfare of the ecosystem in general. Laura Speight has spent the last ten years of her working life doing just that on a daily basis.

We are excited about the weevil greenhouse in Louisiana. We are excited about the relief we will feel this year with the smaller presence of giant salvinia on Caddo Lake, and we are optimistic about the progress we have made along with our partners at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

We welcome the new greenhouse project on the Louisiana side and will do all we can to aid in their success, including providing weevils to get the greenhouse started. We welcome Laura Speight as the new spearhead of our program and remain dedicated to protecting our beautiful Caddo Lake.

The Dallas Caddo Club

By Donna McCann

Caddo Lake has a long and fascinating history. The Caddo oilfield was the second major southern oilfield discovered after the Spindletop gusher, near Beaumont. Howard Hughes Sr. pushed his new rotary drilling technology here, and Gulf Oil built the world's first "offshore" wells out in the lake. The Dallas Caddo Club was started by early oil speculators who were hoping for a big strike on the southern lakeshore and needed a place to stay.

From the Marshall Messenger
September 13, 1912

DALLAS-CADDO CLUB FORMED.
PROSPECTUS DWELLS ON THE SPORTING DELIGHTS OF CADDO LAKE AND THE OIL PROSPECTS THEREABOUTS.

E. Key has received from Dallas a prospectus of the Dallas-Caddo hunting and fishing club. The details of the land deal by which it acquired its site and leases on adjoining lands was published in The Messenger a few days ago. This pamphlet states that the club is incorporated under the laws of Texas, that its membership is limited to 250 and that shares of stock are \$200, thus making the capitalization \$50,000. All the beauties and delights of cutting are set forth, together with the assertion that no man is great who is compelled to drill away constantly at his business. And Caddo lake is set forth as the most desirable spot for such outings, being the largest body of fresh water in the Southwest, filled with all sorts of fish and having a stable depth owing to the dam which the government is constructing at the mouth of the lake. The lake is fed by numerous streams and springs and is the natural drainage of a great area. The property of the club, 200 acres, is located about midway between Jefferson and the dam. The club has under lease 1500 acres additional. And therein lies the prospect for a profitable investment. The property is just across the lake from the Louisiana oil fields and only a few hundred yards from the Marion county line. "It is generally known," says the pamphlet, "that this Texas county produced about \$2,000,000 worth of oil in the past two years."

Further on it says: "It is generally known by those acquainted with our holding that this is apt to become oil producing territory. There is now on the 200 acres we own a well that is producing gas in small quantities. Some time ago, the Jeams Bayou Hunting and Fishing club, across the lake from us, brought in an oil well that produced about 5000 barrels per day and it is estimated that the members of that club would receive about \$400 per month each. The Dallas-Caddo club, in addition to making extensive improvements of its grounds to accommodate its members, will also appropriate approximately \$15,000 for the sinking of a deep well on its holdings."

While discussing the oil prospects it quotes a telegram from Greenville to the Dallas News in which it is stated upon the authority of Col. W. W. Alsbrook that the Caddo Oil and Gas company near Jefferson had begun pumping its well and had brought out about sixty barrels of good oil, and that it was getting better all the time. It was stated that the company was making arrangements to bore other wells. A telegram from Jefferson is also quoted in which it was stated that the above mentioned well was 3210 feet deep and oil was standing within sixty feet of the top of the casing, and that it was a very high grade oil. This well is sixteen miles from Jefferson on Caddo lake. A letter from Col. W. G. Sterret is printed in which he states: "I am very strongly of the impression that there is no better oil field anywhere than Caddo lake and its immediate vicinity."

This is all in addition to the fishing, duck shooting of which there is none finer, and the pearl fishing. The club house, it is stated, will be comfortably furnished and there will be motor boats and fishing boats for the accommodation of all. The club house will be about four miles from Karnack.

GCLA Officers

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Daren Horton	Terry Echols	Doug Heard
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Texas Flood

By Robert Speight

Cypress Valley Navigation District Chairman

No, not the Stevie Ray Vaughn song, but actual Texas flooding, well, East Texas flooding, more specifically CADDO LAKE flooding. Thought these numbers might interest folks who are new to the area and also serve as a reminder to those of us who are considered "old timers" around the lake. When it rains, Caddo Lake sometimes floods. Water level records have been kept since 1921 for Caddo Lake. Since that time Caddo has gotten to or above its flood stage of 172.00 feet above mean sea level 35 times, the latest being in early March of this year (not shown on this list). To the right is a list of the other 34 times taken from the NOAA website in order of crest elevation.

Notice the highlighted entries. Caddo reached flood stage 5 times in a 13 month period in 2015-16. If you add in the recent flood in March of 2018 that gives you an unprecedented 6 Times in 36 months! To say we are going through a wetter than normal period is an understatement!

A lot of folks want to blame the construction of the dam on Lake O' the Pines (LOP) for causing the flooding at Caddo. Nothing is further from the truth. LOP is a Flood Control Reservoir....it is not a Flood Prevention one. It has the ability to capture the surge of the flood waters from the upper Big Cypress during rain events, then slowly release them over time to minimize the downstream flooding. Black Cypress and Little Cypress both play a major role in the water elevations at Caddo. These uncontrolled tributaries carry much more water during such events than LOP is capable of releasing.

The Ferrell's Bridge Dam at LOP began impounding water in 1958. If you look at the flood records you will see that in the 60 years since dam construction Caddo has flooded 18 times (including the March 2018 flood) or about once every 3.3 years. In the 37 years records were kept before dam construction Caddo flooded 17 times or about once every 2.2 years. So that tells us that floods happened 1/3 more often before the dam was built.

The bottom line is when we get enough rain in our basin, Caddo always has, and probably always will flood. Even with all the inconveniences these events cause, most of us still wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Just be prepared!

Caddo Lake Paddling Regatta

April 21, 2018

Registration opens 7:30 AM

Prize drawing at noon

Shady Glade Marina

Register Online or show up on the day of

<http://CypressBasinChapterTMN.org>



Historic Caddo Crests (NOAA)

- (1) 182.92 ft. 05/05/1958
- (2) 182.31 ft. 04/05/1945
- (3) 180.70 ft. 05/03/1966
- (4) 179.95 ft. 03/15/2016
- (5) 179.22 ft. 05/04/1957
- (6) 178.74 ft. 05/24/1930
- (7) 178.54 ft. 05/09/1944
- (8) 177.10 ft. 04/02/1989
- (9) 176.70 ft. 01/01/1988
- (10) 176.64 ft. 05/24/1953
- (11) 176.32 ft. 06/09/1946
- (12) 175.90 ft. 04/05/2016
- (13) 175.78 ft. 04/30/1973
- (14) 175.60 ft. 03/07/2001
- (15) 175.34 ft. 02/20/1950
- (16) 175.24 ft. 01/13/1932
- (17) 175.20 ft. 10/20/2009
- (18) 174.90 ft. 05/08/1991
- (19) 174.34 ft. 04/29/1921
- (20) 174.14 ft. 05/04/1922
- (21) 174.14 ft. 04/17/1942
- (22) 173.95 ft. 12/16/1961
- (23) 173.94 ft. 01/05/1938
- (24) 173.84 ft. 12/26/1929
- (25) 173.75 ft. 12/08/1974
- (26) 173.60 ft. 12/21/2001
- (27) 173.44 ft. 04/23/1927
- (28) 173.05 ft. 03/15/2015
- (29) 173.00 ft. 01/04/2016
- (30) 172.80 ft. 03/13/1990
- (31) 172.74 ft. 07/28/1933
- (32) 172.64 ft. 01/04/1941
- (33) 172.54 ft. 05/14/1935
- (34) 172.00 ft. 05/14/2015



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Caddo Calendar 2018

Event	Date	Sponsor	Description
6th Annual Paddling Flotilla	4/21/2018	Cypress Basin Master Naturalists	Paddle your canoe or kayak on scenic TPWD paddling trails from Shady Glade followed by lunch, raffle, and prizes.
Uncertain City Wide Cleanup	4/28/2018	City of Uncertain	Join your Caddo neighbors in helping to clean up both your place and our shared places. Dumpsters will be available.
Caddo Lake Fun Run	6/9/2018	Caddo Lake Fun Run	Travel the boat roads, sloughs, and channels in your mud boat along with many others to raise money for lake preservation.
Independence Day Celebration	7/4/2018	City of Uncertain	A floating parade with prizes, live music, food and beverages at Johnson's Ranch with 45 minutes of fireworks over the water
Labor Day Barbeque	9/1/2018	Greater Caddo Lake Association	Fundraiser for GCLA sponsored lake protection projects featuring barbeque plates , a raffle, a silent auction, and other events.

Caddo History - Crip's Camp

Donna McCann

The history of fishing camps on Caddo Lake is built on stories of entrepreneurs who loved the lake and were determined to make their living there. If you ever wondered how Crip's got its name, now you'll know. Here are two stories, 20 years apart, showing how one thing leads to the next, and on to the next...

Of the many camps and owners with interesting stories, Crip's is important to the Greater Caddo Lake Association, because the current owners are kind enough to let us hold our annual barbecue and main fund raiser on their property every Labor Day Weekend. Thank you.



Angela Simpson

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from The Marshall News Messenger, May 2, 1937

from The Marshall News Messenger, April 1, 1956



Floyd (Crip) Haddock, owner and operator of Crip's Place, above, is one of the "old-timers" in the Caddo Lake vicinity. His young son, also shown in the picture is just now assisting him with his regular duties of welcoming visitors to the lake, and is developing a smile almost as broad as Dad's.

Floyd Haddock, Operator Of 'Crip's Place'; One of Caddo's Best Posted

For 33 years Floyd Haddock, "Crip" to you, has been enjoying life and doing business in the Caddo lake area. At various times he has been in business in several places on this side of Caddo, and at one time, even went so far as to build an ark and go in business right out in the middle of Caddo. For quite a while the pleasure boat business was good and "Crip's Ark" grew quite famous, but tiring of this, he decided to get his feet on firmer ground, so he left the ark and came back to dry land again . . . but his idea of a place to do business was, and still is, in the vicinity of his favored lake.

Mr. Haddock is one of the strongest boosters for Caddo lake in East Texas, and is strongly behind any

movement that is designated to develop this fine resort.

He caters to those who like to stop-in along the road for a sandwich or cold drink, and does a thriving transit business, because his pleasant manner, plus his reputation for good service and courteous treatment is known far and wide. Many regular visitors to Caddo feel that their trip would be incomplete if they did not stop a few minutes with "Crip," just to pass the time of day if nothing else.

The new "Crip's Place" has been moved up the road to Marshall just two miles from Karnack, and although it was just opened in its present location late last fall, is doing a splendid business.

CRIP'S SHOWS RAPID GROWTH

Native of Lake Area Opened New Section Six Years Ago

This is the first of a series of articles concerning the fishing and boating camps on Caddo Lake and the people who operate the camps. Additional articles will be featured weekly.

Floyd (Crip) Haddock, owner of Crip's Camp, is a native of the Caddo Lake area but his camp is one of the newer ones on the Texas portion of the lake.

The camp was opened six years ago and Haddock laughingly recalls that when he first looked at the property he was taken there in a jeep because a regular passenger car wouldn't make the trip despite the fact that it is only a few hundred yards from a road that even then was well-travelled.

Although Crip's is often termed "white perch headquarters" on Caddo the camp is one of the busiest on the lake even during this period when the lake is closed to white perch fishing except in Louisiana.

RECORD DUE

"Our business has improved every year and it looks like we will continue to improve," Haddock points out. "The bass fishing this year is as good as I have seen in many years and our business is holding its own during the period when white perch are closed to fishing."

The camp features 10 cabins, all of them equipped for cooking and with refrigerators and some featuring air conditioning.

Available at the camp are all sorts of fishing tackle, rental boats and motors, guides who know the lake exceptionally well and anything else needed to make the fishing trip complete.

Haddock started in business on

the lake as manager for the old Johnson's Ranch bar barge in 1938. Three years later he purchased Johnson's Ranch from the Johnson brothers, who had formed the firm and operated it there for several years.

He opened the new camp in what he terms a briar patch with only three cabins and a few boats. He now has 44 boats, 14 motors and an excellent stock of fishing lures and equipment.

SIGN AT CAPETOWN

Signs leading to the camp have become one of the major conversation points around the lake, especially since one of them was posted recently in Capetown, South Africa. The signs leading to the camp are placed along every highway leading into the lake for distances up to 600 miles.

One of the goals remaining for Haddock is to have the Caddo Lake area better represented at sports shows and events throughout the southwest.

"We had displays at the Dallas show on a few occasions but it hasn't been consistent," he pointed out. "Those things could do us a lot of good by bringing fishermen and other persons on vacation trips into the lake area but we don't have any type program now to work for the entire lake."

The camp owner is married and has two sons.

"I've been on Caddo Lake for 52 years and have enjoyed every minute of it," Haddock points out. "After being here that long I still consider Caddo as the finest fishing lake in the southwest."

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.

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Please check the date printed above your name and address - it shows when your membership expires. If you are past due, this may be your last newsletter!

*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. 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!

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