

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: _____

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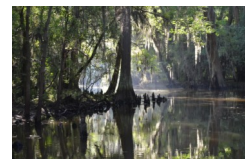
New Members: _____ Renewals: _____ Number of Years: _____

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

Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas
P.O. Box 339
Karnack, TX 75661



CADDO LAKE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

March 2016

On the web: www.glcaoftx.com



[Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas](#)

Salvinia Weevil Program Update


By Lee Eisenberg, Director, Morley Hudson Greenhouse

The weevil population is not very active in the winter months, although the greenhouse systems must be monitored and maintained to synchronize as closely as possible with the conditions that will facilitate an early spring release. It has been a mild winter, and an early spring release appears possible at this point in time. Even so, the weather will play a central role. Part or all of the surviving weevil population in the lake could be washed away in spring floods. Heavy rains could affect production, just as they did in 2015. However, weevil production in the 2016 growing season will almost undoubtedly exceed that of 2015. We now have an established population in the greenhouse, instead of the small number of weevils we started out with in August of 2014.

The 2015 releases resulted in extensive weevil-inflicted damage at the Willowson's Woodyard release site (about 3.5 acres) by the beginning of December. A 6-8" thick mat that existed in early summer was reduced to heavily damaged salvinia, about 1" thick, interspersed with numerous patches of open water. The literature states that a fully mature salvinia mat weighs 20-50 tons an acre. In that case, the weevils destroyed approximately 45 tons of salvinia in a matter of months. It would take about 2 million (adult) weevils to do this much damage. There is no doubt that our population became established, multiplied, and survived the winter. Barring the unforeseen, the weevil population will become active in late spring, and we can add to them from our greenhouse colony.

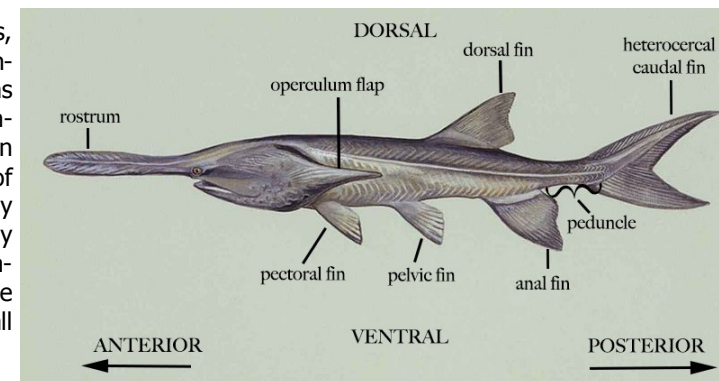
During the winter months, I have been busy writing grant applications, reports, and an article for an entomology journal. In December, before it got cold, I was trying to establish a colony of alligatorweed flea beetles in the lab. Unfortunately, it was difficult to grow alligatorweed under lab conditions. I have also been looking into potential control methods for water hyacinth, which could proliferate in response to the reduction of salvinia, and thinking about ways to streamline the weevil production system.

To date, greenhouse production and its effects on the salvinia infestation have exceeded our expectations. This puts the longer range plan - to demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach and build support - within reach, in a realistic way, and at a reasonable cost. I look forward to a busy and productive spring, summer and fall.

 Why was the first earthen dam built on Caddo Lake near Mooringsport, Louisiana? (find the answer on our website)

Paddlefish Reintroduction Update

By Mike Montagne, Project Leader, USFWS



Drawing courtesy of Wikipedia

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will begin Phase 2 of the Paddlefish Reintroduction Project in April of 2016. Funded and supported by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), The Caddo Lake Institute, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and others, the USFWS will be stocking 30 two year old paddlefish from Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery into Caddo Lake in the spring.

These 30 fish will have radio tags surgically implanted in their body cavities that will allow the USFWS to track their movements throughout Caddo Lake and the Big Cypress Basin. In addition to these hatchery fish, an attempt will be made to recapture the Phase 1 paddlefish and re-implant a tag that is capable of transmitting up to four years, allowing the researchers to follow them into their breeding years. Paddlefish do not breed until they are 6-8 years old. By the time these paddlefish are recaptured they will be four years old. This will give the researchers valuable insight into the behavior and habitat preferences of adult paddlefish.

An attempt will also be made to capture adult paddlefish below Caddo Lake in Louisiana, implant them with radio tags, and relocate them into Caddo Lake to further allow the researchers to study adult paddlefish behavior in the lake and Big Cypress watershed.

The Paddlefish Reintroduction Project is part of a bigger effort to restore the Big Cypress watershed to a more natural system. It allows the researchers to test the effects of the restoration efforts such as flow recommendations, riparian restoration, and connectivity restoration to name a few.

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:One of the unusual things about Caddo Lake, compared to other lakes, is the long list of place names, which were developed before:
:the days of boat road markers and GPS technology to allow people to reference specific lake areas. Lake maps have kept these des-
:ignations from bygone days, even when the history of the names may be lost. Some of the old maps provide clues however. An
:old Fly-N-Fish map from the 1950s tells us that Willowson's Woodyard, which is currently the major release area for Salvinia weevils,
:takes its name from an enterprising man of the steamboat era. Willowson cut the abundant timber around Caddo's western shores
:and sold it for boat fuel. His famous refueling station was known by the name the area bears today.
:.....

:If you have information, or even tall tales about the history of obscure Caddo Lake place names, let us know! Send us your stories:
:through the GCLA website or email your intrepid newsletter editor directly at donnakmc@gmail.com
:.....

The Mission of the Greater Caddo Lake Association

By Robert Speight and Donna McCann

The Greater Caddo Lake Association was formed in 1978, with a primary mission of protecting the lake area from both accidental and intentional harm through the volunteer efforts of our members, who are always on the lookout for potential problems and are willing to take action as warranted.

With a motto of "Keep Caddo Natural," the GCLA rallied support within our community over the years to push back against the various entities proposing projects that would irreparably harm the lake environment and our way of life. Many of these proposals were for commercial ventures, such as paper mills, power generating stations, chicken processing facilities, or industrial parks, which would have had dire effects on the lake ecosystem through pollution and water temperature disruption. The GCLA was instrumental in defeating the Dangerfield Reach Project, a pork barrel political proposal which would have dredged a barge canal from the Red River, through the lake, all the way up the Big Cypress Basin to service Lone Star Steel, laying waste to the natural beauty of the Caddo wetlands.

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On the other hand, GCLA has supported projects that made sense for Caddo Lake and the community. We supported the RAMSAR designation for the wetlands, the formation of the Wildlife Management Area, and the National Wildlife Refuge, which all reinforce the value of Caddo Lake as a haven for all nature lovers, whether naturalists, fishermen, hunters, or boaters. The Paddlefish restoration project by the USFWS is an active attempt to restore one species of the amazingly diverse wildlife that was lost through manmade changes to the natural rhythm of the lake.

The Morley Hudson Greenhouse Project, which aims to control invasive plant species through biological controls rather than through the expensive spraying of herbicides, is the latest ongoing GCLA and community supported activity.

When Caddo Lake needs our help, you can bet that the GCLA and our members will be ready.

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Ticket office across from Big Pines Restaurant on Caddo Lake

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Water, Water everywhere...Part Duex!

By Robert Speight

Texas was dry....

And then it began to rain. Again! After a soggy spring, the spigot was turned off and Texas started drying out. Parts of East Texas were actually in a drought by mid-September again. But then copious amounts of rain fell in the last three months of the year, especially in East Texas. All the lakes in the Cypress and Sulphur basins were once again full and releasing water. Lake O' the Pines and Lake Wright Patman, the primary flood control lakes in the Cypress and Sulphur basins respectively, were both nearing records for the amount of water they were retaining. They were both releasing water but were doing the job they were designed for, namely keeping large surges of water from wreaking havoc downstream. At one point in late December, the amount of water Lake O' the Pines was receiving totaled more than 6 times what was being released through the dam.

Lake O' the Pines recorded 72.82 inches of rain in 2015, the highest rainfall amount recorded for the area around the lake since recordkeeping began in 1940 by the Texas Water Development Board. The average yearly rainfall for the same area over the last 30 years is 47.85 inches. The lake level rose to 242.26 on January 1, 2016 - the fourth highest it has been since impoundment, and 13.76 feet above the normal pool level. The Ferrel's Bridge Dam has been releasing water at around 3000 cubic feet per second since early December 2015 as a result, keeping the current swift in the Big Cypress channel.

Caddo Lake and the Red River at Shreveport both reached Flood Stage with the Caddo level rising to 173.2' at the spillway, similar to the high level recorded in the spring of 2015. The Red River crested right at 31.0 feet, about 6 feet or so lower than the 2015 spring crest.

Over the last few years it seems to have been boom or bust around here. Either it has been extremely dry or extremely wet and this year it has been both! Each condition causes problems to deal with. (I am sure a lot of folks right about now would prefer the dry times.) Those of us who have gotten our feet wet during times like these take it in stride; while it is an inconvenience it is the price we pay for living and having property alongside this unique Treasure...

Update 3/11/16 - Over 10 inches of rain have fallen in the Cypress Basin in the past two days, leading to major flooding on Caddo and its bayous. First priority for local residents is to stay safe. Cleaning up the inevitable mess can wait until after the water recedes.



What famous explorer entered the many sloughs, breaks and waters of Caddo Lake and eventually got lost and could not find his way home? (find the answer on our website)

Alligator Hunting on Caddo

By Vanessa Neace

A combination of high water and the breeding season has alligators crossing the roads and moving into ponds where they may not have been seen before. While it is important to remember that these are wild animals, and all wild animals are inherently dangerous, alligators generally seek to avoid human contact as best they can.

Because of conservation efforts in the 1970s and 1980s, these creatures are no longer endangered, and in fact they are now a listed game species in Texas, governed by regulations found in the TPWD Outdoor Annual. In Marion County, the alligator hunting season runs from April 1 - June 30. Alligators may only be harvested from private property in Texas. There are several options for taking alligators; hook and line, alligator gig, handheld snare, or lawful archery equipment. Firearms may only be used on private property and only in some counties, such as Marion. Tagging and detailed reporting is required when an alligator is harvested. If alligators are sold, they may only be sold to licensed wholesale dealers or alligator farmers. It is unlawful to take an alligator by means of firearms from, in, on, across, or over public water. Lawful hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. **Alligators are not a game animal in the Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area.**

It is very important that the public DOES NOT FEED alligators. Feeding alligators will cause them to associate people, boaters, housing developments, etc with food. When this happens, people may become very nervous about their pets, livestock, or even their own well-being, and rightly so. Keep in mind that no one wants an alligator that has associated people with food, so these alligators are generally not relocated, but even nuisance alligators must be lawfully addressed.

In the event of a nuisance alligator, one must first contact the TPWD Law Enforcement Dispatcher in La Porte, TX, (281) 842-8100. TPWD La Porte Dispatch will determine the best method for removing the nuisance animal and issue any special permits required.

Alligators in Texas are a valued part of the ecosystem. They are protected by hunting regulations that work to ensure a balanced and healthy population will be here for many generations to come. If you have more questions about hunting and protecting alligators in Texas, please visit the 'Alligators in Texas' publication available on-line at www.tpwd.texas.gov, and look for the alligator hunting regulation pages every year in the current Outdoor Annual or the Outdoor Annual Free App for your smart phone.



We Have A Winner!

The Caddo Biocontrol Alliance, with assistance from the GCLA, recently drew the winning ticket in a raffle for this lovely print, entitled "Mossy Break," by local artist **Ron Atwood**. **Pete Norton**, of Atlanta, TX was the lucky winner. The raffle raised \$7,756 to help fund our efforts to control invasive plant growth, particularly giant salvinia, through biological means, such as weevils. The artist maintains a studio in Jefferson, for those who would like to find something nice to hang on their own walls. Special thanks go to **Holly Noon** of the Dallas Caddo Club and a long time member of GCLA who sold over 20% of the 1000 raffle tickets!



What was the original name of 12 Mile Bayou? (find the answer on our website)

CADDO LAKE 5TH ANNUAL PADDLING REGATTA APRIL 30th

Check in and Registration: Begins at 7:30 AM Shady Glade Resort RV Park & Marina 449 Cypress Dr. Karnack, TX 75661	FAMILY ADVENTURES FOOD FUN FOR ALL AGES SILENT AUCTION RAFFLE BEGINNERS PADDLING COURSE BEAUTIFUL TRAILS
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For details and tickets online:
<http://CypressBasinChapterTMN.org>



What was the actual name of the natives who lived around present day Caddo Lake? (find the answer on our website)