



CADDO LAKE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

June 2019

On the web: www.gclaofx.com



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

Donna McCann, Editor

Fred Dahmer's Legacy

By Donna McCann

Caddo Lake is one of those rare places that can so captivate a visitor that it changes their life. Many people have built vacation homes on its shores, and more than a few have literally pulled up stakes in some city and moved to the lake in order to experience its beauty every day. Fred Dahmer was a lifelong conservationist and a leader in the fight to preserve Caddo Lake as a place of natural beauty. He published *Caddo Was... A Short History of Caddo Lake* in 1988, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of the lake. Fred lived in Uncertain, making the shores of Caddo Lake his home and his passion until his death in 2001.

Fred's daughter, Frances Hare, contacted Vanessa Neace of TPWD about a collection of color slides and reel to reel audio tapes Fred had made over his lifetime to educate people about the flora and fauna of the region. Frances had kept the collection after Fred's passing, and she offered to loan them out. Vanessa contacted Laura-Ashley Overdyke of the Caddo Lake Institute (CLI) and Robert Speight of the Greater Caddo Lake Association, and we agreed to pool resources to fund the professional restoration and preservation of these historical artifacts for future generations.

When the work is done, we will likely set up a public viewing event for those who are interested.

Another Year, Another Flood

By Donna McCann

With a winter as wet as most of us can ever recall, it isn't surprising that Caddo Lake and the Cypress Bayou tributaries once again rose past flood stage, inundating property around the shoreline and flooding homes that weren't raised following the monster flood of 2016. The water has finally receded below flood stage at the end of May, but the maximum flow of 3000 cfs from Ferrel's Bridge Dam at Lake O' the Pines, which is still 10 feet above normal pool level, will likely continue well into the summer, keeping Caddo level higher than usual.

A big shout-out to the Harrison County Commissioners for having dumpsters made available off of Mound Pond Road for flood debris disposal at no cost to residents. It is amazing how much "stuff" washes up, and we encourage everyone to help clean it up and dispose of it properly.

GCLA Officers

PRESIDENT	Donna McCann
VICE PRESIDENT	Pat Noon
SECRETARY	Judye Patterson
TREASURER	Susan Sedberry

GCLA Board Members

Stella Barrow	Terry Echols	Jan Cook
Steve Sedberry	Robert Speight	Gary Bowles
Hattie Hackler	Angela Anderson	Ted Barrow
Ashli Dansby		Denise Fisher

New Board Members

By Donna McCann

The Greater Caddo Lake Association recently welcomed three new members to our board of directors, to replace retiring members Daren Horton, Sam Canup, and Doug Heard.

Board openings were announced in the winter on our website and Facebook page, and fortunately, some good folks came forward to volunteer.

Hattie Hackler has been very active in assisting with day to day operations at the Morely Hudson Weevil Greenhouse as well as any other place where a pair of hands is needed.

Ashli Dansby is active in many community organizations and brings communications and public relations experience knowledge from her work at radio station KMHT in Marshall.

Denise Fisher, from Fort Worth, has roots in the Caddo Lake area and experience with non-profit organization administration.



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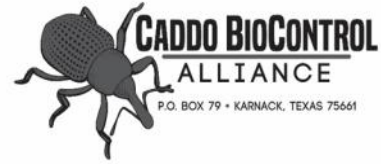
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Greater Caddo Lake Association
 Barbecue Raffle Presale
 Donna McCann



The major fundraising event of the GCLA is our annual Labor Day weekend barbecue. This year, we hope to make tickets to our raffle available before the event so that those who want to participate in the raffle but can't make it to the barbecue can get in on the action. There is no need to be present to win, but winners will be responsible for picking up prizes within a month.

The raffle will feature both individual items and collections of items, and you can designate each raffle ticket for whichever prize "bucket" you like. Payment for raffle tickets can be made by credit card or PayPal online. Of course they will be available at the barbecue also, with additional payment options of cash or check. All raffle tickets will have Name and phone number of the contestant and winners will be drawn at the barbecue.

Look for more information concerning online raffle ticket purchases to appear in June on our webpage, gclaoftx.com, and on our Facebook page.

Some of the prizes we have so far are:



Dual basket propane fish fryer



Carbonlite II Baitcast rod and reel



Soft side tackle box



Depth finder



25 qt polar cap equalizer cooler



4 tickets + swag
 Texas Rangers vs. NY Yankees
 September 27

CBA Project and Funding Needs 2019

Laura Speight

Since 2014, Caddo Biocontrol Alliance (CBA), has successfully raised salvinia weevils for release on Caddo Lake. This one of a kind "grassroots effort" to mass produce salvinia weevils, the only biological control for giant salvinia, needs your help!

CBA (a 501(c)(3) non-profit) works with local, state and federal agencies in a collaborative effort to control the growth and spread of giant salvinia on Caddo Lake. CBA's workforce consists of many dedicated and hard-working volunteers and one part-time project manager.

The Greater Caddo Lake Association donates a significant share of their annual fundraising proceeds to the CBA for continuing operations, and Texas Parks and Wildlife provides partial reimbursement for weevils actually grown and distributed. However, direct donations are also important to keeping our operation going. The cost to raise each weevil is about 25 cents, and last year 200,000 were raised, so even the smallest of donations will help.

Unfortunately, operating costs, such as utilities, repairs and equipment continue to rise so we are asking for your help. Below are some of our "expenses and needs", broken down by category if you would like to help us in part or in full with one or more of these needs:

- utilities per year; \$4,100
- fertilizer to keep salvinia high in nitrogen to enhance weevil health; \$500
- drainage improvements for the greenhouse; \$1,500
- upgrade plumbing in greenhouse for filling and cleaning of tanks; \$500
- equipment to accurately quantify weevil damage at release sites; \$5,000
- tank heaters and grow lights; \$1,600
- fuel for the weevil distribution boat; \$540
- laboratory and greenhouse expense; \$400

Donations may be sent to:
 Caddo Biocontrol Alliance
 P.O. Box 79
 Karnack, TX 75661

More to come!
 Visit our
 website or
 Facebook page
 for more
 details

The Weevil Wobble, a 5k run to directly benefit the Caddo Biocontrol Alliance, is planned for October 5.



16 x 20 mounted frameless print
 "Blue Heron"



16 x 20 mounted frameless print
 "Clear Lake Morning"



Rolling pet carrier



Boat hook

Caddo History - The Wreck of the Mittie Stephens, 1869

Donna McCann

Many fans of Caddo Lake with an interest in its history have heard of what is arguably the most famous steamboat to ever navigate the waters from Shreveport to Jefferson, the Mittie Stephens. The boat burned down to the waterline, and the metal parts of the engines were salvaged, leaving mostly rapidly decomposing wood to be swallowed by the swamp. In 1982, archaeologists sponsored by the Texas Antiquities Commission and the Marion and Harrison County Historical Commissions looked for traces of the wreckage near Swanson's Landing where the incident occurred. The most likely traces of the remains have been marked just on the Louisiana side of the border, but no unequivocal proof yet exists.

Calamities in the 1800s were often reported widely in newspapers across the nation via telegraph, as this account shows.

From the *Staunton Spectator and General Advertiser*
Staunton Virginia



For the Spectator,

JEFFERSON, TEXAS, Feb. 16th, 1869.

Mr. Editor:—This community has just been shocked by one of the most awful and distressing accidents that has ever occurred in the history of Red River navigation. The elegant New Orleans and Jefferson Steam Packet "Mittie Stephens," was burned in Caddo Lake, about 50 miles below, and out of 104 souls on board, 61 were lost.

Many years ago the great raft in Red River turned the main body of water out of its channel, and it flowed out over the low country southward and formed Caddo Lake, which is about 40 miles long and from 6 to 12 miles wide and being full of stumps, trees and cypress knees, is quite difficult to navigate.

The "Mittie Stephens," left Shreveport, La., about dark and entered the lake about 7.30 P. M., and was steaming on her way to Jefferson. She had a heavy freight, and as the night was dark, necessarily proceeded slowly.— There were on board quite a number of emigrants from Alabama and Mississippi, coming to seek their fortunes in Texas. The passengers retired at the usual hour, and were soon wrapped in quiet slumbers—many of them to dream of home and friends for the last time.— The midnight watch had sounded and the familiar cry of "All's well" rang out on the still night air, and all was again quiet, save the labored working of the machinery and the splashing of the waves against the sides of the proud steamer as she ploughed the turbid waters of the lake. At about 15 minutes past 12 o'clock fire was discovered on the larboard side of her fore-castle, which had broken out in a bale of hay. The order "head her to the shore" was given and the alarm of fire was sounded to arouse the passengers. But so rapid was the progress of the flames that the whole forepart of the steamer was enveloped in less than ten minutes from the first alarm and most of the passengers only awoke to find themselves hemmed in on every side by a sheet of fire.—

The scene was now awful beyond description.— The wild shrieks of the women—the heart-rending cries of the children and groans of strong men as they rushed from one end to the other of the cabins seeking some outlet, could be heard above the roaring and surging of the fiery billows as they raged around their victims and shot their forked tongues high into the air. Many sank down on the desks and in the cabins and perished in the flames, while some hopped through the fire into the Lake only to find a watery grave.

When the boat reached the shore, those who still survived had to jump off her stern into deep waters, where they were driven still further out, by the current from the wheels, which were still in motion. Out of twenty-five ladies on board only two ladies and two little girls were saved. They belonged to a party of emigrants, and were the only survivors of a family of 25 persons who had left Alabama with high anticipations of a happy home in Texas. They were brought to our city and kindly cared for, and a considerable amount of money was collected for their relief. They were deck passengers and saved themselves by jumping overboard and holding to the rudder till they got near some limbs of a tree when they caught

hold on them and thus kept up till the Life Boat of the Steamer "Dixie" came and took them off.

The officers behaved most nobly. Two of the Engineers perished at their posts of duty as did also the first clerk.

Capt. Kellog stood on deck till the fire surrounded him and then leaped through the flames—a distance of 30 feet into the waters—but being nearly suffocated by the fire and smoke, would have drowned, but for the timely assistance of some men who had already reached the shore.

A party from this city have just returned from the wreck. They picked up and buried 26 bodies—mostly only the charred remains of those who perished in the flames, and therefore it was found impossible to recognize any of them. In some instances all the limbs and even the heads were gone, and nearly all had all their clothing destroyed, so that no trace could be found to tell who they were or where they were from.

"MAGNOLIA."

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: _____

Make checks payable to GCLA of Texas Mail to GCLA of Texas. P.O. Box 339, Karnack TX, 75661

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!

Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas
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Karnack, TX 75661