

# **APPENDIX O**

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

# CADDO LAKE NEWS

The Newsletter of The Greater Caddo Lake Associations

August/September, 1994

## DAINGERFIELD REACH DEAD

**THE DAINGERFIELD REACH IS DEAD! THE PLAN FOR THE BIG DITCH THROUGH CADDO LAKE IS NO MORE. IT'S OVER!**

Finally, the Washington office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in spite of some last minute "tale-twisting" from die-hard barge canal advocates, has made it official.

We, along with Caddo Lake, hunters, fishers, boaters, residents, neighbors, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, photographers, the ArkLaTex, ducks, fish, deer, squirrels, common sense, federal treasury, and millions of people (some perhaps unknowingly) WON. Caddo Lake will live.

Remember when they said all the cypress trees were dying, and the only way to save them was to dig the industrial barge canal? They lied. The cypress trees are healthy and growing. At least one tree in Carters Lake is about 350 years old. There are few sick trees in the lake. That would not be true with the Big Ditch. Then again, maybe they didn't lie, they were just talking about the health of the trees with the big ditch.

Remember when the Corps of Engineers refused to furnish copies of their reports, bought with public money, not only to us but to the Freedom of Information requests filed by John Gordon of Shreveport's Channel 3 TV News? They said some was too sensitive to be released to the public? They still have not released it. Military Secrets? Certainly not. This is just another government agency with the belief that the public shouldn't meddle in their business, *(except to pay for it)*, and then should not be able to learn how wisely their money was spent. Mainly, the Corps just wanted to keep "their" business.

The official news release, issued by Patty K. Elliott, Media Services Coordinator, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, dated August 1, 1994, is:

"DAINGERFIELD PROJECT OFFICIALLY PUT TO REST. Vicksburg, Miss. Speculation over the outcome of the Shreveport, La., to Daingerfield, Texas, portion of the Red River Waterway Project has ended with the official determination that the project is economically infeasible.

"An independent economic assessment conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington upheld the findings of the Corps' Vicksburg District.

"Based on these results, the reevaluation study has been officially terminated.

"To assist in the understanding and use of the information developed during the reevaluation study, study documents have been prepared addressing the following subjects: In progress review; Geomorphic Investigations; Recreation demand and needs; Historic watercraft survey; Public involvement activities; Geotechnical investigations; Regional economic impacts; and a Mussel survey.

"These documents can be reviewed at local library depositories that were established during the study and which were detailed in the "Waterwise" newsletter. They may also be obtained from the Vicksburg District free of charge while supplies last by writing Map Sales, CELMK-IM-TD, 2101 N. Frontage Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180-5191, or calling (601) 631-5042. (Note: A list of these depositories is enclosed so that you may localize this release.)

"The Shreveport to Daingerfield Reach of the Red River Waterway Project was an original feature of the project. As authorized in 1968, the project would have provided a 8-foot by 200-foot channel for barge transportation from the Red River at Shreveport to the northwestern end of Lake O' the Pines near Daingerfield, Texas.

"The purpose of the reevaluation studies was to determine if navigation on the Daingerfield reach was feasible based on today's conditions. The authorized project, as well as modifications to the authorized project, was evaluated through detailed engineering, economic and environmental analyses." (Editor's note: we corrected some spelling or typing.)

Some of us were not surprised that the Corps didn't say anything about the FIVE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,500,000.00) they admitted to spending on the project, but we did expect some bragging about the balance of the nine million dollar appropriation they DID NOT spend. (Or, did they spend it all and not tell us?)

Anyway, it's over for now. Don't be surprised if it comes back to life in ten or twenty years. As long as all that money in the U.S. Treasury can be spent, there will always be someone trying to find a way to get their hands on it.

RIP

It's official. Daingerfield Reach is dead. Quote by Gail Beil of Marshall News Messenger on August 2, 1994.

August 1, 1994, news release by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Mississippi, said Daingerfield project was officially put to rest. The project is economically infeasible.

The Reach Project was authorized in 1968. This project has been ongoing for 26 years, therefore, to say it is dead is a far-out statement.

OZONE ALERT! The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission issued an advisory that weather conditions—temperatures above 90 and little wind—may contribute to ozone levels which could exceed federal regulatory guidelines of 120 parts per billion.

EPA ruling: Exceeding the 120 parts per billion for more than an hour, more than 3 times in 3 years, will create the possibility of stringent EPA regulations. This level has been reached twice in the past two years.

There are numerous ways to help reduce the ozone levels. According to Bill Godsey, chairman of Northeast Texas Air Care, reduce electricity around your home, save washing and drying for later, push up thermostats on air conditioners, delay fueling autos, postpone mowing, don't barbecue, don't burn trash, don't spray-paint, don't let autos idle at drive-in windows of banks and restaurants, and many others.

If Tyler, Longview, and Marshall exceed these levels one more time, we, the people of this area, will be in serious trouble.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL RESOURCE WATERS for Texas' five areas, including Caddo Lake, is DEAD now. It could raise up and try and bite us again, later.

A Chicken Processing Plant at Longhorn Amuro plant? Why not? 1500 employees, 1200 hourly at \$6 to \$8 + per hour. About 40 employees to transfer here, and all others from this area and not south of the border, as previously reported. These figures are straight talk from Tyson. Really.

That's enough. Now, please let's all strive to let Caddo Lake have a good, long, rest for a long while.

Bob Speight

MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE HERE

Membership cards have been included for many of you in this newsletter. Usually they are mailed in April, but this year the supply was running low, so new ones were being made. Well, you know how the best of intentions sometimes go. New cards, with new photographs of Caddo Lake should be ready for next year, but we got another supply of the three photo sets that we have been using, and those will be used for the rest of this year. After this mailing, everyone should have their current membership card.

Happy Birthday to Bill Reeves last April 25th. J. L. Blair gave you and Margaret a gift membership for your birthday and hoped you would get your card by then. It took longer to get cards than we thought, but here it is.

We're in "those lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer." The haze still looks like it used to before they started calling it ozone. The song was a happy one and we knew that fall was around the corner. Now, according to the papers, we may get our cars stopped for a smog insy (\$20-\$40) and have to repair them (Up to \$450). If a few years old, we're supposed to do the patriotic thing, junk it and buy a new car. I liked it better when it was just "those lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer".

Don't let your cows do anything out of the top part of their hind-end, or no telling how many feds will be swarming. It's amazing how they could drive all the way from Washington and not see anything on the way. We always knew that Caddo Lake was one of the world's most important places.

I have already had my exercise for the day. I still believe in that "Vitalis sixty second workout." It always reminds me of Mr. District Attorney, Harrington, and Miss Miller. Besides, it's a whole lot easier than those other exercises.

Along about the last third of July, we had rains. Caddo Lake came up about two feet. Now the water level is dropping, but it's still not as low as late August usually gets. The water is getting its fall color, though.

Duck bag limits may be increased by one duck this year. There are more ducks than there have been in years. Do you suppose the Corps of Engineers, with their floods on the upper Mississippi last year, could have provided enough new nesting areas to cause that? They'll probably take credit for it, after they spend a few hundred thousand dollars for consultants to tell them there were floods and ducks nesting.

Awhile back, there was a very attractive you here, and, just as she started to leave, she came back, and asked if she could have a couple of the CADDO LAKE NEWS issues on the counter. I thought that was one of the better issues and I was proud that she wanted to take some with her.

It was raining, and as she left, that ugly old woman used those newsletters to hold over her head to keep her hair dry. Probably uses books for hot pads, too.

The same people who informed the world that popcorn, hotdogs, hamburgers, and all that other good stuff is killing us, has added coffee to the list. Can you imagine Caddo Lake without coffee? They did give us an out, though. Filtering will take out this week's naughty ingredient. Wonder what they'll do when they find out there's no everlasting life in this world? Cry?

You should make plans now to visit Caddo Lake in the fall. It's always pretty, but fall is special. When the leaves start changing, the water has that black color, the weather is pleasant, the fish are biting, the boat roads never end, and you can believe that you are the first person to ever see it. You may be. Maybe no one else ever saw it just like that.

## INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY PLANT

International Paper Company is planning a huge new plant near Jefferson, Texas, to build oriented strand board (OSB). That's a major boost in the Marion County Tax Rolls and brings in some high tech employees with a few other workers. It's another place to sell pulpwood so it may help some of the locals. The folks at the Marion County Chamber of Commerce tell us that the plant is super high-tech, will have no obnoxious odor, and won't pollute the water with their discharge.

*Rumor for awhile was that if Caddo Lake had been included in the Outstanding Natural Resource Waters program, the plant could not have been built here. True or not, if this plant pollutes either the air or water in or near Caddo Lake, they can expect to get to know well the Greater Caddo Lake Association. While we believe we're extremely likeable, we don't really think the Corps of Engineers ever enjoyed our close association.*

## CHICKEN PROCESSING PLANT

A CHICKEN PROCESSING PLANT FOR CADDO LAKE? FOR ECOTOURISM? Texas Agriculture Commissioner RICK PERRY told the Longview Rotary Club (see LONGVIEW NEWS-JOURNAL, July 20, 1994, article by Jerry Graham) that a company is considering locating a processing plant in the area, but, "I can assure you that when they find out there is a possibility they would have to get an EPA approval even to build a road or utilities to this plant, economic development is going to cease."

*He's talking about Tyson Chicken Processors building a plant on the Longhorn Army Ammunition Base property, if the government would give them about 900 acres, the water processing plant, and the sewage treatment plant. Wow. And for ECOTOURISM, TOO. When was the last time you spent a vacation going through a chicken processing plant? Maybe they could have a work/fish vacation, where you could pluck chickens to pay for your room and board, then be free to fish in Caddo Lake late in the afternoons.*

*CADDO LAKE DESERVES BETTER. Both of these projects have the same excuse for being that the Daingerfield Reach had: "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!" Jobs are necessary, and every area needs more. It just seems that this cry is one for immediate profit for some, without caring what happens to CADDO LAKE. When we really start thinking about ECOTOURISM, Caddo Lake will create more jobs, better jobs, and more permanent jobs than anything else, if we can keep from destroying it. CADDO LAKE becomes more valuable every time another lot is paved, or another building is built. Here, everyone can see the world as it was meant to be. It's unique, and if we fail to KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL, the world may never know what they missed, but we will. We will have failed. We can't let that happen.*

## OUTSTANDING NATURAL RESOURCE WATERS

The GCLA board of directors voted some time ago to not take any action on the Outstanding Natural Resource Waters application until some valid information was available to learn whether it was good or bad. The Texas Natural Resource Commission was expected to take about a year to prepare the application. Governor Ann Richards wanted it. There was no reason for an immediate decision by GCLA directors.

Now, Governor Ann Richards, Candidate for Governor George Bush, the Harrison County Commissioners Court, and lots of other politicians are opposed to it, and the application is dead.

*GCLA was the first to oppose bringing in the federal government when many wanted the Corps of Engineers to build and maintain the Daingerfield Reach. We still smile at the actions of Port Caddo residents, who, when the state decided they must be taxed and sent a tax collector, promptly killed him. They weren't taxed for a long time. We are not long on government regulation. Yet, many of those now screaming for no government restrictions are the same ones who wanted the government to build and operate the Daingerfield Reach. Did the facts change, or have they just found a new way to get their hands in the treasury?*

*Most of us believe there are more than enough laws, now. If all of them were enforced, there would be way too many. At the same time, we believe that air or water pollution is already regulated, and if there are violations, there are ways to stop them.*

*The GCLA board of directors is a long way from Congress or the Legislature, however. The vote was to get some accurate facts before a decision was made. You'll never see that on C-Span.*

John Gordon, Channel 3 News, Shreveport, is doing an up-date on his story about leaking oil wells and oil tanks in Caddo Lake. If you have any information about oil leaks, call Channel 3 and leave word.

# CADDO LAKE NEWS

The Newsletter of the Greater Caddo Lake Association

October/November, 1994

## IS CADDO LAKE NATURAL?

"KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL" is the motto of this organization, and we have worked years trying to keep someone from changing Caddo Lake into something it is not, such as a reservoir. But, is it really natural? How can it be natural with a dam on it?

Caddo Lake was here before most historians. We can surmise how it came into being, but we know it existed because of the Great Raft in the Red River. The raft was a massive log jam that stretched out for a hundred miles, or so, from the Shreveport area downstream. The logs acted like a dam, held the water back, and raised the water level of the Big Cypress basin area. Caddo Lake water levels, now, are a little less than they were then.

The Great Raft made navigation to Shreveport and Jefferson possible several months each year. Jefferson was the largest city in Texas, for a short time, and some in Shreveport wanted navigation to stop on the Red River.

Caddo Lake was totally natural until 1873. Then came ambitious people, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. They decided that it was not right to have a permanent log jam in the Red River. Rivers were meant to run free. The Corps of Engineers studied it, looked at it, consulted about it, and, applying all their expertise, decided it ought to be removed. It was, and the water went away.

Shipping to Jefferson and Shreveport went with it. Whether the raft was removed to stop navigation to Jefferson, to correct nature's mistake in the Red River, or because the Corps of Engineers needed the work, it was gone. You can be sure they had enough consultant's reports to justify whatever it was they wanted to do. Leaving it alone, in its natural state, was not one of their options.

When the water left, much of the old lake bottom was converted to dry land. There were law suits about who owned the new land, and at least one made it to the Texas Supreme Court. Big Cypress Bayou kept running, flooding, or trickling, but the place known as Caddo Lake was basically just another river.

In the early 1900's, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers studied it, looked at it, consulted about it, and applying all their expertise, decided that Caddo Lake ought to be made whole. They built a small earthen dam at Mooringsport, Louisiana. The elevation at the top of the dam was at 168.0 feet above sea level, and again, Caddo Lake existed. That noble effort by the Corps of Engineers happened at the same time that oil had been discovered in Caddo Lake, and the drillers needed more water for their barges or dry land for their rigs, or maybe the Corps needed the work.

That dam lasted only until 1968, when the Corps of Engineers studied it, looked at it, consulted about it, and applying all their expertise, decided that the old, leaky dam should be replaced. The Corps needed the work, and a whole new dam was built just downstream from the old one. The elevation at the top of the spillway on that dam is 168.5 feet above sea level. That dam is still there.

Caddo Lake on an 1872 map, while the raft was still there, looks amazingly like the current maps show it. You have to admire the map-makers of 1872 for exploring all that wild country to record the lake's borders, knowing that probably no one would know if they were correct until long after their passing.

Caddo Lake has floods, and sometime it has really big floods. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers studied it, looked at it, consulted about it, and applying all their expertise, decided that dams on Big Cypress Creek would help. Or, maybe they needed the work. Anyway, in the late 1950's, Lake o' the Pines and others were built to control the water. Caddo Lake has not run free since. There have been some major floods, though.

Is Caddo Lake natural? Probably as close as it can be to its pre-Corps of Engineers era. The cypress trees are healthy and some are several centuries old. The water is cleaner than most. Fish and wildlife flourish. Best of all, it has the look and feel of a natural lake, and you can truly believe that you are the first person to see it. You may be.

Will Caddo Lake stay as natural as it is? Yes, as long as The Greater Caddo Lake Association is successful. Without GCLA, however, the dam may have been raised 2-4 feet to create a water-supply reservoir; there may have been a dam and utility district for the sale of water on Little Cypress; and there may have been a monstrous concrete ditch from Shreveport to Jefferson, for industrial barge traffic, in case there was anything to ship.

Is Caddo Lake protected now? No. Not as long as there are people and money. There will always be projects with noble-sounding public objectives, but their real purpose will be to get somebody's hand deep in the U.S. Treasury.

## The President's Message . . .

Hello, fall. It's 52° this morning, with heavy clouds. We have had from 2" - 10.5" of rain last week on the Caddo watershed. It was very much needed and we are thankful for the water.

Since 1968, the Army Corps of Engineers has been studying the feasibility of navigation from Shreveport to Daingerfield. First, the New Orleans District, and then the Fort Worth District, and last but not least, the Vicksburg District.

In their final "IN PROGRESS REVIEW DOCUMENTATION" of the mussel survey, they state on page 2, section 8, that Caddo Lake occupies approximately 28,600 acres in southeast Marion County and Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

We know a large portion of Caddo Lake is in Harrison County, Texas.

There are eight (8) IN PROGRESS DOCUMENTS in 22 depositories and many more mailed out to interested parties.

Would you not think the Corps of Engineers, after spending five and a half million dollars (\$5,500,000.00) could at least get Caddo Lake in the proper counties and parishes in their final documentation?

I discussed this with Marty Garton (Study Manager) for the Vicksburg District of the Corps of Engineers. He said they would look into correcting this. They had run out of copies, he said, and could correct it in the next printing.

Bob Speight.

## GAMBLING--FOR WATER

The Dallas Morning News, on October 11, 1994, had an Associated Press article about Greenwood, La., and their income from gambling.

There are three truck stops with the maximum 50 video poker machines each in the city limits. Greenwoods' share of the take for the past two years is the sum of \$921,600.00!

Receipts are down since the gambling boats opened, but they don't use the money for wages or any of the town's recurring expenses.

By state law, municipalities split 25 percent of the revenues with parish district attorney's offices.

"Greenwood has put all its video poker money into one unglamorous but top-priority project: improving its 26-year-old water system and preparing to build a new \$3 million system in the spring. Plans call for a new treatment plant, bigger water tank and water line tapping into plentiful Caddo Lake."

## By George . . .

*WALKER, TEXAS RANGER*, visited Caddo Lake recently. CHUCK NORRIS, cast and crew spent about a week filming Caddo Lake scenes. They were in the Caddo Lake State Park, Carney Canal, Johnson's Ranch, and on the lake. Of course, in the TV show it will all be in Louisiana.

The CBS show is set for November 12, 1994, a Saturday. It's usually a one hour show, but we think this one is a two-hour special. Watch it for the scenery.

They blew up a boat on the lake, but the two big explosive scenes weren't here. They built duplicates of Walker's campsite and a warehouse on sets in Dallas. The explosions will be in Dallas.

Several local folks had parts in the show and that may be the highlight. Especially some of the dancers.

There was a 1936 movie on TV today, and when it rained in the movie, it rained here at the same time. Wonder how they did that?

We have had a lot of rain, lately. Ernie Ethridge of the Weather Bureau said we got an average 7.5 inches over the entire basin, and he expected the lake level to go to about 173.0 feet above sea level. That would have been about a four-foot rise. Instead, we were so dry that the ground took all that water, and we only gained almost a foot of water. There was another hard rain after that, but no rise. The ground should be wet, now!

Everyone should have their membership cards by now, or with this newsletter. If you don't, or you know someone who doesn't and they're not getting their newsletter, drop us a card. There are times when this computer does exactly what it's told instead of what I meant for it to do.

PBS had a show about Franklin Roosevelt last week. It wasn't in the show, but I couldn't help remembering that, in my early childhood, the government paid farmers and ranchers to clear the cedar trees off their property. Now, I read that in about thirty central Texas counties, the government is threatening to severely punish anyone who damages a cedar tree on their privately owned property. That's not cedar trees on public property they're talking about. That was about Pres. Roosevelt's 2nd term.

We burned cedar for the heater and around the wash pot and used it to start the fire in the kitchen stove. Times are changing faster than I am.

George E. Williamson

# CADDO LAKE MOVIES

**WALKER, TEXAS RANGER.** Chuck Norris, Clarence Gilyard, Noble Willingham, Peggy Moore (dancer), and the 120 member cast and crew. This made for TV series is filmed in the Caddo Lake State Park, Caddo Canal, Johnson's Ranch, and other nearby locations. Of course, in the show all that will be in Louisiana supposed to be a two-hour special on CBS, Saturday, November 12, 1994. Watch it for the scenery.

**DO OR DIE!** An Andy & Arlene Sidaris movie, starring Big Pines, Bonnie, Betty, and George, along with Erik Estrada, Dona Speir, Roberta Vasquez, and several other playmates and pets from the magazine centerfolds. World premier was in Shreveport. It's in Video Stores and on late-night movie channels.

**THE PICASSO TRIGGER.** Another Andy & Arlene Sidaris movie with Steve Bond, Guich Koock, Dona Speir, Roberta Vasquez, Big Pines, Bonnie, and beautiful Caddo Lake scenery.

**THE FINAL CUT.** Story of movie stunt men solving child kidnapping case. Scenes from Caddo Lake and all of area, with car wrecks in Karnack and Uncertain, and an ultra-light aircraft landing on a tractor trailer.

**BIG BAD JOHN.** Jimmy Dean, Doug English, Ned Beatty, Jack Elam, Bo Hopkins, and crew, with lots of area footage. The CADDO QUEEN at Big Pines was the movies' boat/bar in Louisiana swamps. Caddo Lake's beauty is in much of film, along with area businesses and communities.

**SOGGY BOTTOM, USA.** Ben Johnson, Lois Nettleton, Jack Elam, Dub Taylor, and other Hollywood stars were joined by local stars in this boot-legging and coon hunting story. A young Don Johnson invented (in the movie) an air-boat, and later jumped a train crossing a railroad bridge with it.

**SOUTHERN COMFORT.** Powers Booth. A Louisiana National Guard troop goes into the swamps for a military exercise, and most don't come back out. This is the one where they parked the fire trucks on Pine Island Road to spray water (created a rain storm) on the actors just off the road. In the movie, it looks like they are off in the swamp.

**THE LONG HOT SUMMER.** Don Johnson (Miami Vice). The remake of the original. Filmed in and around Jonesville.

**THE MAN WHO BROKE A THOUSAND CHAINS.** Val Kilmer. Based on a true story. Much of it was filmed in area and has some Caddo Lake scenes.

**GATOR BAIT.** Bill Thurmond. Filmed in 1973 and shown in theaters.

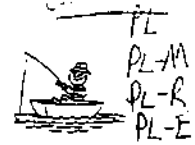
**BAYOU BOY, THE BOY FROM DEAD MAN'S BAYOU, THE SECRET OF THE POND, WEAKFOOT, THE GHOST OF CYPRESS SWAMP,** are all Walt Disney Studio movies, and will still be seen on the Disney Channel occasionally. All are boy and animal stories with lots of Caddo Lake scenery. The Disney Studios may change the name of their movies with each showing, so if you don't recognize the scenery, you may not know it's Caddo Lake until they get to the credits.

A Glastron Boat Company sales film was made on Caddo Lake, and was a take-off on the *AFRICAN QUEEN*, with Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn look-a-likes. It won several awards. No public showings.

There have been others. Bill Thurmond played both the good guy and the monster in one of them. Maybe some of you know (and can tell us) what the title of it is.



# CADDO LAKE NEWS



The newsletter of The Greater Caddo Lake Associations

KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL

February/March, 1995

## "CATCH & RELEASE" GETS BOOST

Friendly advice, from the Texas Department of Health (TDH), is don't eat Caddo Lake bass over 18" or freshwater drum. Samples indicate that mercury is in the edible tissue of those fish. If you do eat bass or drum, children under six and women of childbearing age should limit consumption of largemouth bass under 14" to one meal (8 ounces for women, 4 ounces for children) per month.

Mercury is a naturally occurring element that can cause harmful effects to the central nervous system, particularly in young children or infants exposed prenatally.

Recent concern over mercury contamination of freshwater fish in the southeastern United States caused Texas officials to sample fish in a number of lakes in the eastern portion of Texas. The agencies collected and tested samples from Caddo Lake, Dam B (Steinhagen Reservoir), Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Toledo Bend Reservoir, Taylor Bayou, and Lake O' the Pines. TDH laboratory test results showed that largemouth bass and drum from Caddo Lake had elevated levels of mercury. Fish sample test results from the other lakes to date are inconclusive. However, TDH and other agencies, will continue their investigation in these and other East Texas waters to see if other areas may have contaminated fish and if additional advisories are warranted.

Dr. David R. Smith, Commissioner of Health, explained, "This is not a ban on fishing, or even a ban on eating fish. It simply advises people of a potential health risk that can be avoided by reduced consumption."

The source of the mercury appears to be atmospheric deposition or natural runoff; however, TNRCC is continuing investigation of possible other sources. Texas and Louisiana health officials also are working to develop a common approach to solving the problem.

TEXAS LAW prohibits keeping Caddo Lake bass between 14" and 18" in length, and the daily bag limit is 3. A bass 18" in length will usually weigh 3-3 1/2 pounds and be 4-5 years old. They're too big to eat (easier to clean, but not as tasty as small bass and not in the same class with small catfish) but they are fun to catch, and they will grow larger if put back in the lake. Please don't pet them like they do in some of the TV shows. Release them unharmed as soon as you can, and plan on catching them again when one may be your personal record or a Texas record.

MIKE RYAN, Fisheries Biologist, TPWD, will speak at the GCLA meeting on Saturday March 18, 2 PM, at Big Pines Lodge. Plan to attend. He'll tell us about Caddo Lake, Florida bass, and anything you want to know. Come and ask him.

BREAM TOURNAMENT CANCELLED! GCLA has called off the 1995 Bream Tournament. This popular tournament has been a success for years, but we've reached the point where it is time for a break. It's a vast amount of work to handle the tournament, and there comes a time when a vacation is needed.

## THE CADDO LAKE INITIATIVE

Conservancy and promotion of the cultural and natural attributes of Caddo Lake and the Cypress Valley Watershed through the creation of projects for environmental protection and sustainable development are the goals of the Caddo Lake Initiative.

First presented in October of 1993 by Cong. Jim Chapman and Andrew Sansom, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., the Caddo Lake Initiative has resulted in a series of ongoing projects combining state and federal representation with local involvement.

The Cypress Basin Advisor is a quarterly newsletter dedicated to sharing information among the partners in Caddo Lake Initiative about current and future projects within the Cypress Valley Watershed. The publication is free of charge. Write Cypress Basin

Advisor, c/o Steve Lightfoot, Editor, PO Drawer C, Jefferson, TX 75657.

The eight member Cypress Valley Alliance board of directors met for the first time January 12 in Jefferson, pledging to bring together a broad based and representative group of citizens who can help provide an overall vision of the future for the watershed. The non-profit Alliance will act as liaison with various state, federal, and private entities involved in projects relating to the Caddo Lake Initiative.

Some of the projects are:

\*Wastewater Services. The Bureau of Reclamation will be concentrating much of its efforts in 1995 toward investigating alternatives for supplying wastewater services in the immediate vicinity of the Caddo Lake area, including Karnack, (go to page 3)



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

We began 1995 with a lot of new faces and new ideas on how to solve all problems. That's great. Now, it's time for action. We shall see.

We have had a very mild winter on Caddo. Very little cold, lots of rain but very little flooding. A year ago this day (Feb. 10th) the whole ArkLaTex area was crippled with rain, sleet, ice, and some snow. Downed timber and power lines kept thousands out of electricity for days and some for weeks or more.

Saturday (Feb. 11th) the weather service is predicting some of the same. We really hope they make a mistake. (They did.)

Due to the warm weather, the trees are budding, blooming, and some are leafing out.

Caddo Lake is making a lot of news, locally. We have a number of groups organized that have the "cure all" for Caddo's problems. I will not name them for fear of leaving one out.

These groups are spinoffs from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Congressman Jim Chapman, TCONR, and others. Hopefully, in our April Newsletter we can fill everyone in on the progress of these organizations or committees.

Bob Speight

Louisiana GCLA News from *THE CADDO CITIZEN*

### Association makes top 10

The Louisiana Greater Caddo Lake Association recently was informed they were selected in the top 10 grant applications for the National Association of Neighborhoods sponsored by the Shell Oil Company.

Although the association did not receive the \$5,000 grant, by finishing in the top 10, they are eligible to apply for future grants, according to Marie Hayes, association secretary/treasurer. The grant application was prepared by Kristina Hardwick, educational coordinator at Walter Jacobs Nature Park, and Hayes.

The grant was sought to help support the annual "Get Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" event put on by the association, along with many other organizations and individuals from the North Caddo community.

### TPWD JOINS FORCES WITH UT-ARLINGTON TO CREATE MASTER PLAN FOR CADDO LAKE SPWMA

Incorporating environmental awareness in long range master planning for Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area will be the focus of a newly created partnership between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and landscape architecture experts from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). The joint effort is being funded through the Caddo Lake Initiative by the Bureau of Reclamation.

"As the state agency entrusted with stewardship of our natural resources and as good neighbors, we must be sensitive to the environmental impacts we may have at Caddo Lake both in our day-to-day operations and over the long term," said Karen Leslie, Caddo Lake coordinator for TPWD. "That's why we've contracted with Dr. Pat Taylor at UTA to assist in this effort."

Taylor is an associate professor of Landscape

## BY GEORGE . . .

The fish tested by the health department had no other pollutants, such as pesticides or fertilizers, in their tissues, we've heard. Larger, older fish are more likely to show evidence of pollutants, and systems like Caddo Lake have more potential for problems. Mike Ryan, Fisheries Biologist, TPWD, will explain that at our next meeting, Saturday, 2PM, March 18, 1995, at Big Pines Lodge. Come to the meeting.

With all the activity by the gov't around Caddo Lake, many of us are beginning to feel like a big crappie in early spring. The weather is pretty, the brush pile is great, the water is perfect, the minnows are delicious, but we just can't tell which one the hook is in.

We heard on the radio a few days ago about army training where a tank crew marched in a cluster and shouted "CLANK, CLANK, WE'RE A TANK". The army had no funds to buy fuel for their tank. Yet, the Caddo Initiative has been funded, and whether noble or not, we're sending truck loads of money to Mexico. All of it is money we don't have. Why do I have such a hard time understanding all this?

WARNING! Ray Sasser, writing in the *Dallas Morning News* of Feb. 5, 1995, says that beginning May 1, ALL BOATERS MUST HAVE A WEARABLE PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD). Cushions don't count for that. Boaters are not required to wear them (unless under the age of 13) but there must be one for each person in the boat. Sasser also quoted Carlos Vaca, TPWD, saying, "It's illegal in Texas to operate a personal watercraft (jet ski) between sunset and sunrise, and it must be equipped with a kill switch that's attached to the operator. It's illegal for a jet ski to come closer than 50 feet to another vessel."

The news release from the Health Dept. refers to "freshwater drum" in Caddo Lake. They probably call the channel catfish that we eat "seafood".

The water level got to 172.6 (feet above sea level) on December 21st. Flood level is 172.5. It's normal, now.

Architecture and Director of the Landscape Architecture program at UTA. He is a registered landscape architect and has extensive background knowledge of land use and resource planning. He is a former landscape consultant to the LBJ Ranch in Central Texas and is co-editor of the book, *New Challenges in Recreation and Tourism Planning*.

Working with Taylor from UT-Arlington will be professor J. Randle Harwood and graduate research assistant Lance Dickinson. Also, on the planning team will be environmental interpreter Val Silvy from College Station.

The project is scheduled to begin this month with the master plan to be completed by April of this year. The master plan will focus on nature-based tourism and will reflect the historic conditions and requirements of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built facility for the future.

"We will be utilizing the university's expertise in biological sciences, landscape architecture and resource management and interpretation to enhance existing public use facilities at the park," explained Leslie. "We envision an increase in demand for these facilities in the future and want to ensure we can meet those needs. We'll also be looking at opportunities for new facilities on the recently acquired 7,000-acre wildlife management area."

(Caddo Initiative from page 1)

Uncertain, Pine Island and other existing housing and business establishments associated with the south shore in Harrison County.

\***Boat Ramp Construction.** Construction of boat ramps and parking facilities for Caddo Lake.

\***Navigation Markers.** Explore means to restore and upgrade boat road markers. (Go to page 3)

\***Wetland Restoration.** Assist interested private landowners with wetland restoration.

\***Environmental Education Center.** Dedicated to interpretation of the unique resources of Caddo Lake.

\***Public Outreach.** A strong effort to inform and educate the community.

\***Beaver Impact.** Assess impacts of beavers and identify a long range control strategy.

\***Port of Jefferson.** The Corps of Engineers will continue its assessment of this historic area, including possible restoration efforts.

## NOT ALL AGREE

"I'm from the GOVERNMENT, and I'm here to HELP You!" That sends chills up the spines of most people, and the Caddo Initiative is no exception. There have been full page ads and letters to the editors in the Marshall and Jefferson newspapers from some who view the initiative with alarm.

Typical is this letter from Marshall Realtor Fuzzy Harmon, printed in the *Marshall News Messenger* on Feb. 16, 1995. Study it carefully.

### We'll lose control of our property.

Landowners in 11 East Texas Counties face an unknown future with the Caddo lake Wetlands Initiative that affects the entire Cypress Bayou Watershed. This watershed drains into Caddo Lake and contains an estimated 4000 square miles or 2,560,000 acres of privately owned land.

This initiative is being promoted by Congressman Jim Chapman, Andrew Sansom of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Biological Survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Cypress Valley Alliance, and various environmental groups.

The area to be affected by this initiative involves the following East Texas Counties: All of Marion; all of Camp; the northern half of Harrison; the northeastern one-sixth of Gregg; the northern three-fourths of Upshur; the northeastern one-tenth of Wood; the southeastern one-twentieth of Hopkins; the south one-third of Franklin; the south one-half of Tarrant; the south three-fourths of Morris; and the southwestern three-fourths of Cass. All of the areas in the above counties drain into either the Little Cypress Bayou; the Big Cypress Bayou; the Black Cypress Bayou; James Bayou; Frazier Creek; or directly into Caddo Lake itself.

The Bureau of Reclamation work in the Caddo Lake area and the Cypress Bayou Watershed is detailed in its Jan. 18, 1995 Proposed Scope of Work for 1995. It identifies 21 separate objectives. The majority pertain to ecotourism of Caddo Lake and Jefferson only, with only a small portion being directed to the vast area of the remaining 4000 square miles of watershed. I object to the activities planned for the entire watershed involved in monitoring and conducting a basin-wide ecological investigation of approximately 4000 square miles for the identification of plants, animals, and plant communities of special concern. I feel that endangered species are going to be found and the over regulation that these government agencies are known for will result in land use restrictions for landowners that will be crippling to them and our East Texas economy.

The activities of this project outside the immediate area of Jefferson and Caddo Lake are restricted to investigation, compiling information and monitoring. This project is being sold by the "Alliance" (group of citizens from Caddo Parish, Marion County, and Harrison County) to the public for the benefits of tourism at Jefferson and Caddo Lake, without the disclosure of the basin wide ecological investigation that will involve government agencies, biologists, scientists, environmentalists, etc., performing an investigation on privately owned land within the watershed.

The members of the "Alliance" are quick to point out that this initiative has no regulatory powers. They speak the truth on this point. They seem to leave out the point that state and federal regulations can be enforced upon the public, landowners, taxpayers in the watershed by state and federal agencies after the investigation is over with. It is my opinion that once the studies and investigations are finished we will witness a long parade of regulatory agencies and new rules. I will point out that the State of North Carolina has recently enacted regulations that require livestock producers to install a fence 15 feet each side of a running stream to keep livestock from going to the bathroom in the water. How easily it must seem to government bureaucrats for farmers and ranchers to comply with such regulations.

It does not matter if you have a deed to your property stating that you own it, if you have no control of your property, you do not own it.

Whether you own a residence . . . or 1000 acres of rural land within the watershed, the Caddo Lake Wetlands initiative can affect you, and I encourage everyone to become informed of the issues of this controversial project.

Please join me if you see things in the same view as I do in demanding that Congressman Chapman abandon this ill-fated cause. Landowners have formed an association called the "Cypress Valley Property Rights Association." Please join us.



# CADDO LAKE NEWS



The Newsletter of the Greater Caddo Lake Association, Inc.

KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL

June/July, 1995

## COUGARS, BEARS, MONSTERS, & STUFF

**CADDO COUGARS**—Sounds good, doesn't it? Like a team you could support? But, these are the real ones. Cougars, Mountain Lions, Panthers, Black Panthers, "Painters", or whatever you call them, are here. They have been seen. They are being seen. Not often, usually a fleeting glance at night, but seen. John Gordon did a news story a couple of weeks ago on Shreveport's TV Channel 3 about the cougars near Uncertain. *The Marshall News Messenger* had an article, written by David Weaver, on Sunday, June 11, 1995, about the local cougars and bears. They reported that a small dog on a chain in Shadowood Drive in Marshall had been killed by an animal. Kyle Fitch of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, was quoted as saying, "There is a possibility that it was a cougar. It is really hard to tell because there are no definite signs. Lots of things will attack a dog on a chain because it is an easy prey. The cuts were a little too clean to be a coyote."

Kyle Fitch went on to say, "Most big cats are pretty secretive. I don't think people should feel any grave danger about this. Their (cougars') tendency is to avoid humans and shy away from them." While that may be true most of the time, everybody who watches old movies knows that the rogue cougar, and especially the black panthers, prefer young, attractive women. Where could they find a better place than Caddo Lake in the summertime, with water skiing, camping, boating, exploring, wandering, and sun bathing?

The *Marshall News Messenger* also reported bear scratches on a tree, and there have been rumors of sightings of bears. The bears are generally believed to be from the stocking of black bears in Arkansas or brown bears in Louisiana. Neither of them know anything about state lines but they do know about food and comfort, and they'll go where it's comfortable. Remember the old SPIKE JONES line about "the polar bear sleeps in his little bear skin, he sleeps very well, I'm told. The other night I slept in my little bare skin, and I caught a heck of a cold."

The real CADDO LAKE MONSTER from the BIGFOOT family has not been reported as being seen, lately. But, most folks learned long ago what other people think of you if you do admit seeing one, so, if you do, you don't tell anyone. Franklin Jones, Sr., once, when he was chairman of the Cypress Valley Navigation District, sent an official letter to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department informing them of a report he had received of a fire-breathing monster that cooked and ate a bridge that had disappeared from Caddo Lake, so at least the Texas Gov't has information about a Caddo Lake Monster. Most people now-a-days doubt the existence of a BIGFOOT family in the swamps of Caddo Lake. There very probably are entirely logical explanations for some of the sounds heard in the night and the marks in the sandbars or on the plants. Everybody knows that some dogs and cats just run away, and because some keep coming up missing is no proof of a hungry bigfoot. There's probably no danger to people, even if the bigfoot exists. Nearly everybody who ventures deep into the swamp in the nighttime comes back.

Possibly the animal, or animals, that pose the worst threat to the peaceful existence of Caddo Lake comes from a type of leech now being found throughout the Cypress Valley Basin. The larger version is called a Washingtonitis Lecchus, and the other one is an Austinitis Lecchus II. These leeches will clamp on everything, so they're called C.O.E. Both can get blood out of turnips, among other things, and they secrete enzymes to evaporate the gold from government treasuries and have it settle elsewhere. C.O.E.'s can quickly destroy a natural environment. There appears to be no permanent program to rid the area of these creatures, although some believe the shock of elections can, at times, hinder their growth and reproduction. There are too many of them to be an endangered species.

All the good information is that you will probably never be attacked by a cougar, bear, alligator, or a bigfoot, but if you are, YOU MUST KNOW IF THE ANIMAL IS ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. If it is, the Gov't requires you to just relax and be the best meal you can be. One man, in another state, was attacked by a grizzly bear on his own property and he saved himself by killing the bear. The U.S. Gov't is trying to send him to the penitentiary. They believe, and have laws to prove, the bear was far more important to the existence of the world than the man was! We'll bet that grizzly didn't pay anything near the taxes that rancher did, though. Wait till they realize that!

~~It's SUMMER~~ ~~SUMMER~~ ~~SUMMER~~ ~~SUMMER~~ ~~SUMMER~~

## FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

June has been very hot and dry for us on Caddo. We have heard lots of good fishing reports—bream, crappie, catfish, and bass—from fishermen. We received one and a half inches of rain on June 10th and 11th, and we needed it on gardens and lawns as well as the lake. I wonder if the heat has caused so many projects to slow down on Caddo. If so, we are proud for Caddo.

During the last thunderstorm on Caddo, there were lots of trees blown down. The Cypress Valley Navigation District plans to get onto them as soon as possible.

This problem needs immediate action for all fishermen, pleasure boaters, and tour guides on the lake.

Bob Speight

Louisiana GCLA's new officers are GEORGE SPROULL, President, Wayne Hayes, Sr., Vice-President, and Marie Hayes, Secretary. They have a membership drive underway and hope you will join. Dues are \$10 per year. Call George at (318) 996-7112 or Wayne and Marie at (318) 995-6963.

## LETTERS

### Cypress Valley Alliance?

After reading your April/May newsletter, I could not agree with you more.

I was instrumental in forming the Cypress Valley Property Rights Assn., and was elected president of this group. Our main published mission was protection of private property rights; however, without exception, we hold a strong desire to keep Caddo Lake natural, and to leave it alone. We also have a big problem with the intrusion of every regulatory agency imaginable coming to this area.

As to the Cypress Valley Alliance, I was appointed to this body by Congressman Chapman as a "compromise agreement" between the CVPRA and CVA. I guess for a property rights "watchdog", I know little more about it than you do. I have attended two meetings. This project is supposed to be under local control. Every project I have seen is already completed when the CVA hears about it. I have strongly suggested to the president of the CVA that the meetings need to be public, and published in area newspapers. As of now, they have chosen not to do this. They have opened the CVA up to membership. Most folks have a problem paying dues to belong to a taxpayer-funded organization.

As you stated in your newsletter, this project was supposed to produce jobs and protect Caddo Lake. I see nothing so far to produce jobs, and rather than protect Caddo Lake, I see a good chance of restricting it.

If you desire, I will notify you of any future

## BY GEORGE . . .

Hooray, hooray, hooray. It's June 13, 1997, and they just announced on TV that THE FIRST TWO BARGES FROM NEW ORLEANS HAVE ARRIVED IN SHREVEPORT. Each one has 1500 tons of fertilizer. Probably left over from the Daingerfield Reach project in Vicksburg C.O.E.

The article on the next page does not mean that anyone is talking about grass carp again, but with the continuing summertime weed problem, solutions will be hunted. By the way, that word "Macrophytes" means NUISANCE WEEDS.

All more proof that people trying to correct nature usually end up doing more harm than good. The problem is, the harm can't be undone. Mess it up, and it's messed up, however good their intentions were.

George Williamson

meetings or activities of the CVA. I encourage you to attend and voice your concerns. Although our property rights group was successful in getting one study terminated, there is still much cause for concern.

Once again, I see very little benefit for the lake in this project. The few studies that they are doing are repeats of the Ditch study. They spent millions on it, and see where it got us.

Perhaps the best solution to this project is to rename it "The Downtown Jefferson Initiative". They stand to reap the only possible benefit, probably at a high cost to the rest of us.

David McKnight  
Jefferson, Texas

### BEAVERS & CORMORANTS

I sure enjoyed the article by Bob Keeland, Ph.D. I hope to see more of his articles on Caddo Lake research. I am particularly interested in Beaver and Cormorant (water turkey) control. I believe they are a detriment to Caddo Lake. Cormorants eat tons of small fish, and beavers and nutrias are cutting millions of cypress seedlings & girding many older trees. Onion Island near Kool Point Marina just west of Oil City is almost bare of trees. All the gum trees have been girded. They girded a pine tree in my neighbor's yard.

Marie Hayes Sec., La. GCLA  
PS: Come, bring the kids (1 to 17 years old) to Earl G. Williamson Park just south of Oil City on Saturday, June 24, 1995, for "GET HOOKED ON FISHING, NOT DRUGS". We are planning to have 250 kids, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Prizes, prizes, prizes, fun and lunch, FREE! For the kids, but adults will pay a \$1 for their lunch. Everybody wins. All kids must be accompanied by an adult. La. Fish & Wildlife will be there, as well as several other organizations and programs. It is a very positive program. We hope to see you there.

Marie Hayes

## NUISANCE WEEDS (Macrophytes)

**BIOLOGY OF MACROPHYTES.** Overabundant rooted and floating plants are a major nuisance to lake and reservoir users. In extreme cases, particularly in ponds and in shallow, warm, well-lighted lakes and waterways of the southern United States, weeds (sometimes called Macrophytes) can cover the entire lake surface. Weeds obviously interfere with recreation and detract from a lake's aesthetic values. They can also introduce significant quantities of nutrients and organic matter to the water column, perhaps stimulating algal blooms and raising dissolved oxygen consumption.

Macrophytes are generally grouped into classes called emergents (represented by alligatorweed and cattails), floating-leaved (water hyacinth and water lilies), and submergents (hydrilla and pondweeds), plus the mats of filamentous algae that develop in weed beds. Understanding the factors that control weed growth is the first step in controlling weeds.

Macrophytes reproduce both by producing flowers and seeds and by asexual propagation from fragments and shoots extending from roots. Growth rates of macrophytes, especially exotic species like water hyacinth, hydrilla, and milfoil, can be very high.

Submergent plants will grow profusely only where underwater illumination is sufficient. Steep-sided lakes therefore support a much smaller development of common nuisance weeds because most of the sediments are too dark or too deep. Similarly, turbid lakes and reservoirs are unlikely to have dense beds of submerged plants. Thus, high silt incomes to a lake can create a favorable weed habitat as the lake fills in, unless the silt loading also creates severe turbidity. Significant reductions in algal blooms can also enhance light penetration and allow weeds to grow better.

Since most macrophytes obtain their nutrients via roots, they can therefore be abundant in lakes in which nutrient concentration of the water column has been reduced through diversion. When the sediments are either highly organic or inorganic (sand), macrophyte growth may be poor because it is more difficult for roots to obtain nutrients in these sediment types. In these two extremes, emergent plants may replace submergents because their more extensive root systems are better adapted to these conditions.

Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, and especially the sub-tropical environment of Florida have lakes, reservoirs, ponds, waterways, and streams that are infested with exotic plants such as hydrilla, water hyacinth, and alligatorweed—plants that are severe economic and recreational nuisances. In Florida, plants grow throughout most of the year, often at incredible rates, so dense amounts of plants will be found. Aquatic plant management in these ecosystems often requires methods that might seem extreme in northern ecosystems.

No native animals have been found that graze on macrophytes at rates sufficient to control them. Biological controls, therefore, are confined to exotic animals.

For years macrophytes have been managed through cutting or herbicides. The development of alternative procedures to produce long-term control has lagged far behind, in part because we have, until recently, understood very little about macrophyte physiology and the environmental factors that control their growth. The following paragraphs

briefly describe the procedures known to produce long-term control. Since short-term management techniques are likely to continue to be used, for example in southern waters or during implementation of a longer-term treatment, these are described in a separate section.

**GRASS CARP** (*Ctenopharyngodon idella* Val.): Grass carp are an exotic fish (imported originally from Malaysia to the United States in 1962) known to be voracious consumers of macrophytes. They have very high growth rates (about 6 pounds per year at the maximum rate.) This combination of broad diet and high growth rate can produce control, or more likely, eradicate the plants within several seasons.

Grass Carp do not consume aquatic plant species equally readily. Generally, they avoid alligatorweed, water hyacinth, cattails, spatterdock, and water lily. The fish prefer plant species that include elodea, pondweeds, and hydrilla. Low stocking densities can produce selective grazing on the preferred plant species while other less preferred species, including milfoil, may even increase. Overstocking, on the other hand, will eliminate the weeds.

**EFFECTIVENESS.** Grass Carp are used in several states (for example, Florida, Texas, Arkansas), although they remain banned for public and private use in many others. They are undergoing a thorough evaluation throughout the United States, especially the sterile triploid variety. Most studies have found that the fish are exceptionally effective in reducing or eliminating nuisance vegetation, although there have been undesirable side effects.

Martyn et al. (1986) described the introduction of diploid (able to reproduce) grass carp into Lake Conroe, Texas, a water supply impoundment for Houston. Submersed weeds occupied about 44 percent of the 20,000 acres at maximum infestation. Most plants were hydrilla, although milfoil and coontail were also abundant. Between September, 1981 and September 1982, 270,000 grass carp, 8 inches or longer, were introduced. By October 1983, all submersed plants were gone. Associated with this eradication was an increase in planktonic algae, a decrease in transparency, and an increase in open-water fish species associated with plankton. Fish associated with weed beds declined.

**POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS.** Grass carp can produce a major change in the structure of a lake. When these fish are overstocked, eradication of aquatic plants is almost certain, and, as a result, increases in nutrient concentrations, blue-green algal blooms, turbidity, and also changes in fish communities. The long-term consequences of aquatic plant eradication are poorly understood, however.

The introduction of grass carp into hydrologically open systems has raised important questions about escape and reproduction in habitats where vegetation is desirable. While environmental requirements for successful reproduction are stringent and were once believed to be an adequate barrier to their multiplication in North American waters, grass carp have apparently reproduced in the United States. More recently, sterile triploid grass carp have been developed and are the only type of grass carp permitted in many states. While their reproduction is not possible, their escape in large numbers from a hydrologically open system can pose a significant threat to a downstream habitat where aquatic vegetation is desired.



## THE PORT OF JEFFERSON?

**THE PORT OF JEFFERSON, TEXAS, (IF** built by the Corps of Engineers) should be connected to CADDO LAKE. It is part of the CYPRESS VALLEY ALLIANCE and the CADDO LAKE INITIATIVE. The Corps of Engineer's plan totally misses the mark, as usual. They could accomplish about as much as they planned with a statue and a "HYSTERICAL MARKER" sign. The port needs:

**BOAT DOCKS.** A safe place to park and leave your boat when you come to Jefferson from Caddo Lake. Sufficient and clean REST ROOMS are a must! Sales of gasoline and oil for boats in the water is a necessity. Many boats can't travel from Caddo Lake to Jefferson and back without refueling.

Parking places should be provided for the number of boats that could be expected on a holiday week-end.

**BOAT LAUNCHING RAMPS.** Ramps must be provided for those wishing to launch their boat in Jefferson and travel downstream to Caddo Lake. Safe and ample parking for vehicles and trailers, and trash disposal are necessities.

**WARNING SIGNS.** Post signs at the boat docks and boat ramps informing boaters of the laws on Big Cypress Bayou and Caddo Lake, and *especially the no-wake zone alongside the Caddo Lake State Park.* Nothing spoils a vacation any faster than what the public perceives to be unjust, petty tickets from game wardens. Complaints from ticketed boaters have been higher than usual this summer. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department should conduct training in violator approach for their enforcement personnel, and insist that the procedures be followed. Other departments teach excellent courses in violator approach and have improved their public relations significantly.

Unprofessional conduct here can ruin good feelings about bass over sixteen pounds and courteous state park operations.

### IT WOULD BE NICE TO INCLUDE:

**A BANDSTAND.** For band concerts, complete with comfortable seating for guests. A luxury of country living is a band concert in the park by the river.

**CONCESSION STANDS.** Boaters could get refreshments before they start their trip back to Caddo Lake, or for band concerts, speakers, etc.

**WORKSHOPS.** A place to hold short seminars, training courses, or informal instruction in any subject.

**PAVILION.** A place to hold family reunions, company picnics, meetings, discussions, guest speakers, etc. It should be designed for two or three hundred people with adequate seating, rest rooms, and arranged so that it could be catered. There are few places for these groups in the immediate area.

**SAFETY & SECURITY.** Public parks serve public functions, both in daylight and darkness. The users of the park must be kept safe, their property must be protected, and illegal drug sales or other crimes cannot be permitted. After the day is done, however, the park must not be surrendered to criminals for whatever activity they have in mind. This is a significant expense, but a necessary one.

**A FERRY BOAT** from Jefferson to Mooringsport and Oil City, Louisiana, with stops at parks, motels, restaurants, bed and breakfasts houses, towns, or where passengers are, would be fun.

**FEW OF THESE** were included in the Corps of Engineers' original plans for the Port of Jefferson. The Port of Jefferson is on Big Cypress Bayou. Big Cypress Bayou goes into Caddo Lake. It's all a result of the Caddo Lake Initiative. It involves an eleven county area. The port *must* be more than a Jefferson park.

**THE CORPS' DRAWINGS** of their plans were great. It was their plan that had little research.



**MEMO TO: TEXAS PW&D**

**SUBJECT: CADDO LAKE WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA.**

## LEAVE IT ALONE!

The best way to help **KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL** is to keep the land around it natural, too. That doesn't cost anything, and it's better for the lake than the expensive ideas.

## CORPS OF ENGINEERS

V.

### THE WORLD

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers v. Texas, Oklahoma, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and by that action, the rest of the world. They call it the "RED RIVER CHLORIDE PROJECT". It was first authorized in 1966, begun in 1977, and calls for facilities at 10 sites in the Red River drainage basin. Those facilities are intended to allow the Corps to spend \$264 million in an attempt to control chlorides in the water by treatment, diversion and/or storage. That means take the salt out of the Red River.

Official opposition to their plan comes from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Ross Adkins, public information officer for the Corps' Tulsa District, said, "They showed us nothing that we felt should stop the project. We're proceeding with real estate acquisition and engineering work. We expect completion of the project within seven years."

Ray Sasser, Outdoors Editor for the *DALLAS MORNING NEWS*, in an article on May 18, 1995, told of this Corps project and the opposition to it. He pointed out that 25 percent of Oklahoma's 15,000 acre Sandy Sanders Wildlife Management Area near Beckham would be taken by the Corps for a brine storage facility.

One unintended result of this project may be the destruction of Lake Texoma's \$25 million-per-year striped bass fishery. Texoma has a reputation as the nation's top striper lake. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has also expressed concerns about the overall environmental impact of changing water flows and water quality in the Red River and its tributaries.

Written comments should be directed to Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Analysis and Support Branch, P.O. Box 61, Tulsa, OK 74121-0061.

**HOW CAN CONGRESS SEND THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS INTO TWO STATES TO CHANGE NATURE OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF BOTH STATES AND THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE? Is this just another key to unlock a \$264 million door to the U. S. Treasury?**

## BEAVER PROJECT

A group of beaver-trappers are to begin a campaign to decrease the beaver population on Caddo Lake. They'll trap the beavers in kind-hearted traps and move them to cause problems somewhere else. Beavers are a Caddo Lake nuisance, and a real late one. We don't know if they have had anything to do with the increase in alligators. Maybe all we need is some more alligators moved here.

### LONGHORN ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT IS GONE

The Longhorn Army Ammunition plant at Karnack is closing. The army has gone. Studies are underway to find new tenants for the site.

The largest hardwood bottomland stand in East Texas is located there. *TEXAS MONTHLY* magazine did an article about it several years ago, and *GCLA* sent that article, along with a resolution commending the army for protecting the area, to Congressman Sam B. Hall. He recognized them in Congress, and sent a letter of commendation to the base commander.

Hopefully, any new tenant there will be one who understands that some things must not be destroyed (or traded away for a short term profit) and that includes the hardwood bottomland and Caddo Lake.

**SCARY RUMOR: That some who are bound and determined to build the Little Cypress Reservoir are lie' their chops while scheming to grow Longhorn's hardwood bottomland, use it to mitigate the loss of the hardwood bottomland in the Little Cypress Reservoir area, and overcome their next to last major hurdle to building the reservoir.**

**Their last major hurdle is us. We're the people who vote and fight to Keep Caddo Lake Natural. Dam-building was a fifty-years-ago pork barrel project and one of the original keys to the U. S. Treasury. Several multi-millionaires, and political power bases, have been created by it. Two generations later, it would seem that we'd know better. Apparently the key still unlocks the treasury door.**

## The President's Message . . .

Remember when? A few years ago Pork Barrel Jim Chapman and the Corps of Engineers wanted to build a ditch through Caddo Lake. The C.O.E. and the University of Iowa said this project would create 40,000 jobs for the East Texas area. Jim Chapman climbed aboard this wagon. After spending \$5-6 million on this study, the C.O.E. said this project would not be feasible.

Jim Chapman jumped off this wagon and we hoped Caddo Lake would get some needed rest. Wrong. Jim Chapman and Andy Sansom started the Caddo Lake Initiative in October of '93 to improve all of Caddo Lake forever.

In April of '94, Pork Barrel Jim held a news conference at Caddo Lake State Park boat ramp, after helicopter and boat tours of Caddo. Chapman and aides brought the Bureau of Reclamation, Andy Sansom, and others of the Texas Parks and Wildlife, Fort Worth District of the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Biological Services, and the E.P.A. Then Pork Barrel Jim announced his proposal of \$2.5 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to study the beaver and sewage problems on Caddo Lake, plus several million dollars for the Corps of Engineers to study the Port of Jefferson and the clearing of Big Cypress Bayou to the Lake of the Pines dam.

In January '95, Jim Chapman formed the Cypress Valley Alliance board with 8 directors appointed by Jim. According to a local newspaper, Chapman Aide Bill Brannon said this project was about JOBS.

Now, July '95, the Bureau of Reclamation said lands around and near Caddo Lake will not stand percolation tests for septic tanks. They had to get their help from Montana to reach this conclusion.

This does not agree with the Texas Health Department's findings. All new septic systems near Caddo Lake in Harrison County must have a permit from the County Health Officer. They perform a percolation test before approving the system.

Bob Speight



**This is NOT their money!**

## By George . . .

It took most of the summer, but the water in Big Cypress Bayou is beginning to get its clear "black" look. Schools of shad are moving in the late evenings, and the fish are biting (at least early and late in the day). It has been too hot to fish during most of the summer days. The water level is low, but we have all seen it lower. Summer is not over even if the Cowboys are playing (or attempting to play) football.

As hot as it has been, that mercury found in our bass should have risen to the top by now. Did it?

A neighbor told us of watching her grand-kids swimming in the bayou and seeing an alligator on the other side of the lily pads watching them, too.

Remember, if an alligator eats a kid, everybody will talk about how awful it is, but if you save the kid by killing the alligator you are very likely to be prosecuted. That's our government!

Did you ever realize how often when the other side says, "It's time for compromise," what they really mean is that it's time for you to give in and do it their way?

Caddo Grocery of Uncertain is now an official bass WEIGH STATION for the Texas side of Caddo Lake. Have your big bass weighed there and you may get a fiberglass replica, or partial payment of the fiberglass replica, of your bass. Your fish lives for a later day.

IT IS THE LAW. (Some excerpts from the TPWD Digest of Water Safety Act.) "Lifesaving devices. ALL vessels under 16 feet in length (including canoes and kayaks) must be equipped with one Type I, II, III, or V (Type V device acceptable only if used in accordance with special instructions on the device) Personal Flotation Device in good and serviceable condition on board for each person."

"Vessels 16 feet and longer, in addition to the Type I, II, III or V for each person on board, will be required to be equipped with one Type IV Personal Flotation Device. Canoes and kayaks over 16 feet in length are exempt from the Type IV requirement."

Boat cushions are TYPE IV devices and may NOT be used to replace a TYPE I, II, III, or V device.

Copy continued: "All vessels including motorboats, canoes, kayaks, punts, rowboats, rubber rafts, or other vessels when not at dock must have and exhibit at least one bright light, lantern or flashlight from sunset to sunrise in all weather."

"It shall be unlawful for any person to: "(14) Operate personal watercraft (jet skis, wet bikes, etc.) at night. (Sunset until sunrise). (15) Operate personal watercraft except at headway speed within 50 feet of another vessel, platform, person, object, or shore."

George E. Williamson





# CADDO LAKE NEWS



The newsletter of THE GREATER CADDO LAKE ASSOCIATIONS *KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL!* October/November, 1995

DEAR ANDY & TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS:

## DON'T DO IT TO CADDO LAKE

**If you really want to help Caddo Lake, LEAVE IT ALONE!**

*It is as natural as it can be now. You can't make it more natural by building mini-parks, rest rooms, shelters or trails on basically untouched shorelines. You'll only destroy the beauty, and, no matter how tastefully you think your construction is done, it is still man-made and destructive. We applaud TP&WD's introduction of Florida bass into Caddo Lake as one of the few projects that really did improve the lake without any destruction of nature (except, maybe, to the smaller fish that the bigger fish eat.)*

**Do what needs to be done to repair and restore the original Caddo Lake State Park to first class condition. But, think long and hard about any new construction around Mill Pond. The beauty of Mill Pond should be preserved.**

*Mill Pond is a small view of the way Caddo Lake is supposed to look. Building boathouses, bridges, piers, stalls, or other attempts to spend more money than is really needed, would wipe out what is probably the most photographed spot on Caddo Lake.*

**Abandon all plans for the mini-parks or anything else in the "wildlife management area".**

*The absolute highest and best use of this property is to leave it to nature's control. It could forever be a barrier to protect Caddo Lake from people and governments.*

**Do not allow permit hunting on any land in the wildlife management area that is:**

- 1. Only a narrow strip along the waterfront;**
- 2. Has no boundary markers on the side away from the waterfront; and**
- 3. The adjoining land is privately owned. (And probably leased for hunting.)**

**Introducing "permit hunters" into a one-hundred foot strip of land adjoining a hunting lease could be extremely hazardous.**

*You couldn't devise a better plan to get people arrested for trespassing or shot in hunting "accidents" than putting some hunters on a 100-foot strip of river frontage that is not marked, has been part of another hunting lease for years, and is just too small for hunting, anyway.*

**Do not build a public boat ramp in the Uncertain, Texas area. Several private businesses already provide ample launching facilities at very reasonable rates. They pay taxes to the school, county, state, and federal governments, and do not deserve to be deprived of the boat launch fees. Also, a public ramp would provide a trash disposal and maintenance problem, and could rival the ramp under the Highway 43 bridge as a place for late-night parties and/or criminal activity. Uncertain, Texas, needs neither the competition nor the problems.**

*Another instance where government competes with private business. The private business supplies and maintains the facilities, pays for insurance, utilities, employees and their social security and unemployment insurance, pays school, city, county, state, and federal taxes, and collects state sales taxes. They are not paid for collecting employee or sales taxes but are punished if they do not. Then, TAX money is used to take their chance for profit from them. Some in government believe those who spend the most govern best. But, the gov't wants more. Hunting and fishing licenses (those things that hold all of those expensive add-on stamps) are going up in price.*

**The Board of Directors of The Greater Caddo Lake Association, Inc., meet on September 15, 1995, voted unanimously for these ideas. We sincerely hope that you will agree with us to KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL!**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

It's that time of year. Foliage on the trees is turning the usual beautiful colors for the fall season. We have clear nights and warm days and they were much needed. First District Congressman JIM CHAPMAN announced that he will not seek reelection to the United States Congress.

Great news for us on Caddo Lake.

The front page of this newaletter started as a letter we mailed to Andy Sansom and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The lines in bold type are the actual letter, while the lines in italics are additional explanations for our readers.

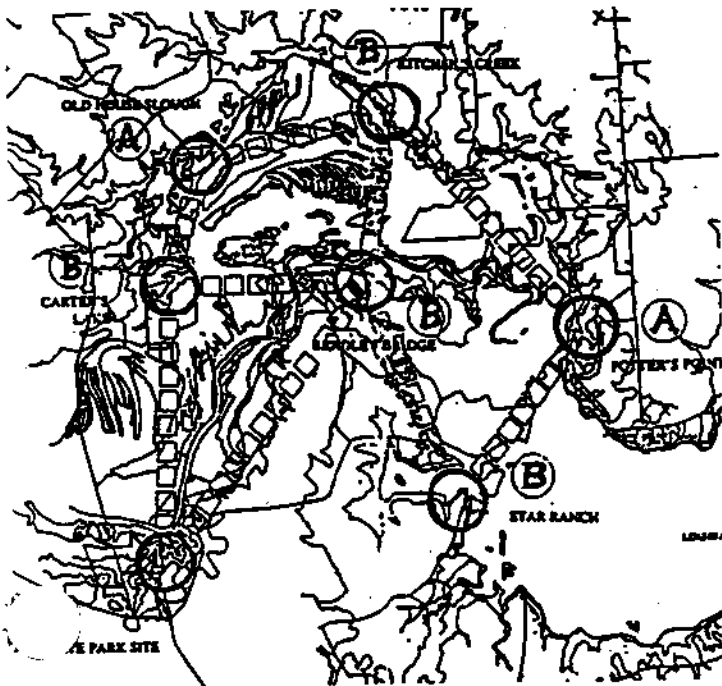
To tell TP&WD what you believe, write them at 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, or phone them at 512 389-4800 or 800 792-1112.

Bob Speight  
President

**MINIPARKS:** Here's a map of the Texas portion of Caddo Lake showing where the miniparks are planned, as described in the Caddo Lake State Park Conceptual Master Plan of 1995:

FEATURES	Type	Type
Primitive Camp Site	A	-
Hiking trails	A	-
Five parking spaces	A	B
XC style trail head	A	B
Rest Room Facility	A	B
A Canoe launch	A	B

The sites are Carter's Lake, Old House Slough, Kitchen's Creek, Potter's Point, Starr Ranch, and Bradley Bridge. Notice the circle around the area.



KEEP CADDO LAKE NATURAL!

## BY GEORGE...

October is not only here, it's half over. The last half of October is about as pretty a time to tour Caddo Lake as there is. The water is still low, and Carter's and Clinton Lakes are almost impassable because of the low water and the weeds. But, the bayou has the clear, black water that we love. The lake water is clear, and we've heard good fish stories.

There is no funding that we know of for building the miniparks. That doesn't mean they won't be built eventually. If TP&WD keeps presenting this conceptual plan, they'll finally get it. When legislators are seeing the same plan year after year, they think it must be a good idea and somebody really wants it. So, they fund part of it and the project gets started. Once living, it's hard to kill. It gets to be part of the annual budget, and gets more expensive each year.

Too many in government measure their success by how much money they spend. Look at how proud some were of the millions wasted on the Daingerfield Reach and the other Studied & Stuffed navigation projects.

Betty has some bird and squirrel feeders by the Bayou. Several squirrels have been eating daily—until squirrel season opened. There hasn't been one here since then. Last year they all came back—the day the season closed. Wonder how they know? These are semi-pets and they don't have to worry about squirrel season, but maybe they don't believe somebody saying "trust me, trust me," either.

There are "coons" and "possums" eating there, too. Those are in quotes because I just can't call them "raccoons" or "opossums". When I was growing up we had coons, possums, elling trees, and several other words that we didn't say like Walter Cronkite would. I did learn in school to say "elm tree".

Post Offices in the United States are entering the machine age. Now, they must have an address that is absolutely complete. Leave off an apartment number, a suite number, or a lot number, and you don't get that item of mail.

We get a few newsletters back each time because of incomplete addresses. In years gone by, the mailman knew where the mail was supposed to go, but that's history.

Obviously, if we get the newsletter back with the address as it appears on the membership application form, we can't write to tell that member that the address we have is not complete and something else must be there.

If any of you know a member who is not getting their newsletter, get them to drop us a card with their complete address and we'll make the necessary corrections on the labels.

George E. Williamson

# WHAT DO THEY REALLY MEAN?

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has a CADDO LAKE CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN to use as a guide for the future of Caddo Lake and the Caddo Lake State Park (now labeled "OLD STATE PARK SITE"). Some of the language on the three sheets that were distributed may illustrate the planners' plans. (Or bias.)

Keep in mind that as politicians, commissions, and bureaucrats come and go, there is little guarantee that the new ones will honor the promises of the old ones. This is government, and governments change.

**IN THE THREE PAGES OF PLANS, THEY SAY ABOUT CANOES:**

1. ...the opportunity to take multi-day CANOE trips originating from the state park or other access points...
2. ...and a CANOE launch.
3. The parking would allow tourists to bring CANOES and launch at multiple places around the lake.
4. Photo marked "CANOE LAUNCH".
5. The miniparks enable boaters, CANOEISTS, and hunters a more manageable strategy...
6. Photo marked "embarking on a multi-day CANOE tour.
7. ...would provide the basis for guided or self-guided CANOE originating from the state park or other minipark
8. The rebuilding of the... CCC Boathouse in Sawmill Pond ...provide additional capacity for CANOEING.
9. Primitive campsites across the bayou would allow CANOEISTS immediate access to park activities...

**ALONG WITH THAT, THEY HAVE BOATS:**

1. BOATHOUSE. The rebuilding of the original CCC BOATHOUSE in sawmill pond...
2. An elevated boardwalk...around Sawmill Pond...would provide a waterfront experience...without a BOAT.
3. BOAT RAMP. The construction of a new dock...would allow BOAT RAMP to function more smoothly...
4. BOAT storage. A BOAT storage facility along the bayou...to store and dock their BOATS while at the park.
5. The miniparks enable BOATERS, canoeists...a more manageable strategy...experiencing Caddo Lake.
6. Photo marked BOAT tours.

**THEN FOR SOME REASON, THERE'S MONEY:**

1. The economic development of the park and its ability to GENERATE REVENUE...
2. ...additional visitors and GENERATE MORE REVENUE...would enable the park to sustain itself & needs..
3. ...while GENERATING SIGNIFICANT REVENUE through supplies, souvenirs, and camping.
4. ...more lodging opportunities...as well as GENERATING REVENUE.
5. ...provide additional lodging facilities and would GENERATE REVENUE.
6. ...donated residence could provide additional lodging and REVENUE...
7. The...park and wildlife management area ...to focus and control...while BENEFITTING ECONOMICALLY.

Doesn't that mean the canoes won, the state wants more money, and maybe the motorboats will go away?

**AND, WE REALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND the photo labelled "MOUNTAIN BIKING".**

## **TP&WD CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

**MINI-PARKS for Caddo Lake!** Put them on Carter's Lake, Old House Slough, Kitchen's Creek, Potter's Point, Starr Ranch, and Bradley Bridge. The planners say, "The vast size of the wildlife management area makes day user and recreational use difficult and dangerous." Do they suggest that if there are public camping spots with rest rooms encircling the Texas half of Caddo Lake the "difficult and dangerous" elements are removed? These MINI-PARKS are unattended, but a copy of the rules will be posted by the state. (By the way, Starr Ranch is still owned by the U.S. Army. The military personnel have been moved from Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant but the title to the property hasn't changed.)

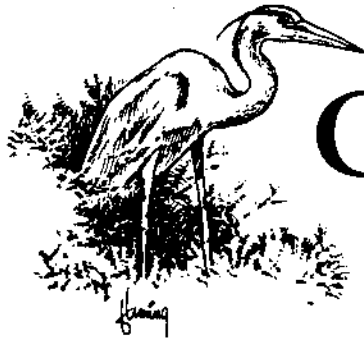
Two types of mini-parks are planned, Type A and Type B. Both would have "approximately five parking spaces, a CCC style trailhead, a rest room facility, and a canoe launch." Type A adds "primitive camping sites and hiking trails." The two Type A parks would be at Old House Slough and Potter's Point.

The planners say, "The state park and wildlife

management area have the ability to focus and control the impact and usage patterns while benefitting economically." Adding, "The dispersal of use would relieve the state park of the serving as the only access point to the water for park visitors." ?????

This series of mini-parks surrounds most of the hunting area on the Texas half of Caddo Lake. What if, someday, a group who believes the only legitimate hobbies are cocktail parties and adultery, takes their obligatory nature experience here in duck season, complains about "those BIG GUNS shooting," the "bullets whizzing by their heads, and that has to be stopped before people start getting killed?" They donate to anti-gun and animal rights groups and PC politicians, and one of those politicians was in power. Look at the map and see where you think they would ban hunting on Caddo Lake, without ever knowing that shotguns don't shoot bullets at ducks.

Do we not understand this plan, OR DO WE UNDERSTAND MORE THAN THEY WANTED US TO? Kill this plan while there is time!



# The Cypress Basin Advisor

Promoting environmental initiatives and sustainable development in the Cypress Valley Watershed.

Volume 1 Number 1

February 1995

## Cypress Watershed Alliance Set

Representatives of several constituency groups and citizen interests within the Cypress Valley Watershed have joined forces to create an umbrella advisory group dedicated to coordinating goals for environmental protection and sustainable development for the region.

The eight-member Cypress Valley Alliance board of directors met for the first time January 12 in Jefferson, pledging to bring together a broad-based and representative group of citizens who can help provide an overall vision of the future for the watershed. The non-profit Alliance will act as liaison with various state, federal and private entities involved in projects relating to the Caddo Lake Initiative.

The officers of the newly formed Alliance are: Dr. Carol Harrell of Marion County, pres.; Ruth Culver of Leigh, vice pres; and Jesse M. "Duke" DeWare of Jefferson, secretary/treasurer. Other board members include: Paulette Cooper of Jefferson, Leta Kay of Marshall, John T. Echols of Karnack, Geraldine Mauthe of Uncertain and Murray Lloyd of Shreveport, La. U.S. Congressman Jim

Chapman (D-Sulphur Springs) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Andrew Sansom will serve as ex-officio members of the board.

"We have built partnerships in this effort that have never been accomplished before," said Chapman. "Success of the Caddo Lake Initiative is dependent upon an overall community strategy with grassroots support guiding it. This Alliance is the vehicle for that support."



Cong. Jim Chapman (left), Ruth Culver, TPWD Exec. Dir. Andrew Sansom, Paulette Cooper, John T. Echols, Dr. Carol Harrell, Duke DeWare and Leta Kay form Alliance.

The Alliance has begun conducting a nationwide search for an executive director and is seeking Texas non-profit organization status.

## Getting The Word Out About Caddo Lake Initiative

Conservancy and promotion of the cultural and natural attributes of Caddo Lake and the Cypress Valley Watershed through the creation of projects for environmental protection and sustainable development are the goals of the Caddo Lake Initiative.

First presented in October of 1993 by Congressman Jim Chapman and Andrew Sansom, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Caddo Lake Initiative has resulted in a series of ongoing projects combining state and federal representation with local involvement.

The *Cypress Basin Advisor* is a quarterly newsletter dedicated to sharing information among the partners in the Caddo Lake Initiative about current and future projects within the Cypress Valley Watershed.

This publication is distributed free of charge to anyone interested in Cypress Valley Watershed programs. To receive this publication, write to the address below.

Public input is important to, and welcomed by, all who are contributing to the Initiative. Questions and comments about the information contained in this publication, or any of the programs of the Caddo Lake Initiative, should be directed to: *Cypress Basin Advisor*, c/o Steve Lightfoot, Editor, PO PO Drawer C, Jefferson, TX 75657.



## Calendar of Events

## Around Caddo...

Following is a listing of upcoming events in and around the Cypress Valley Watershed:

February 12 — Caddo Lake Historical Research Committee Meeting, Call (903) 665-2310 or 665-2021.

February 14 — Plant and Vegetable Seedling Care Clinic.

February 18, March 1, 15, 21, 28 — Greater Caddo Lake Association Meeting, 2 p.m., Big Pine Lodge, 1000 S. George Williamson, (903) 679-3351.

February 24-28 — March Green Upriver, Marion County CoCo, 1000 S. George Williamson.

March 7 — How To Develop A Business Plan, Brad Burt, Caddo Lake Speakers Series, 7 p.m., Murphy Annex Building, Jefferson.

March 11, 25; April 8, 22; May 13, 27 — Caddo Lake Boat Tour, 1-3 p.m.; Caddo Lake State Park. Reservations and a Texas Conservation Passport are required for this tour of the lake's ecosystem. Call (903) 679-3743.

March 19 — Caddo Lake Historical Research Committee Meeting, Call (903) 665-2310 or 665-2021.

March 24 — Caddo Lake Bird Slide Show 7 p.m., Caddo Lake State Park. Call (903) 679-3351.

March 25; April 8; May 13 — Caddo Lake Bird-Watching Tour, 10 a.m. - noon, Caddo Lake State Park. Reservations and a Texas Conservation Passport are required. Call (903) 664-3833.

April 4 — TNRCCTeam Watch Program, Gale Campbell, Caddo Lake Speakers Series, 7 p.m., Murphy Annex Building, Jefferson.

April 21 — Campout at Caddo Lake, Caddo Lake State Park. Reservations and a Texas Conservation Passport are required for this overnight campout, including nature walk in the morning. Call (903) 664-3833.

April 29; May 9 — Caddo Lake Boating Photography Tour, 7-11 a.m., Caddo Lake State Park. Reservations and a Texas Conservation Passport are required for this boating photo tour. Call (903) 679-3743.

## 1994 In Review

## Caddo Lake Initiative Off To Strong Start

Meeting with local residents and understanding the desires of the community has been a top priority of the Caddo Lake Initiative over the last year. By taking the time to ensure public participation and approval of their work in the watershed, federal and state agencies have helped forge a working partnership for the future.

Toward that goal, significant

resources, the ability to maintain the quality of the environment and promote sustainable development within a healthy ecosystem, can be assured.

• **Sustainable Development** — Programs initiated in 1994 designed to provide economic opportunities which will strengthen the communities and maintain the quality of the ecosystem include planning efforts for several types of centers to be located throughout the Watershed. Among the proposed facilities are an environmental education center in Jefferson and a research center at Caddo Lake linked with the Ramsar Treaty mission of wetland conservation.

• **Infrastructure Improvements** — Corps of Engin.

has gathered information on options

for the restoration of the historic Port of Jefferson as a focal point for educational purposes and in conjunction with local festivals and activities.

• **Local Involvement** — In helping set a course for the future, including the implementation of numerous new projects in the areas listed above, a wide range of public outreach programs were conducted in 1994. The input received from these workshops, open house meetings, special events and dedication ceremonies have helped create a unique working partnership between state and federal representatives and local constituencies.



Studies relating to Caddo's baldcypress are among projects being conducted in the Caddo Lake Initiative.

progress has been made in research, protection, sustainable development, infrastructure and community initiatives. Following are some highlights of those efforts:

• **Research Initiatives** — Native vegetation information gathered at Caddo Lake by the National Biological Service's (NBS) National Wetlands Research Center in 1994 will help in making long-range management decisions for one of the most extensive remaining intact cypress swamp wetlands.

• **Protection Activities** — Preliminary data collected by the Corps of Engineers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will assist in the preparation of a Cypress Valley Watershed Management Study and Big Cypress Bayou Wetland Restoration project. By documenting these

**"Plans are nothing. Planning is everything..."**

— Dwight D. Eisenhower



*Improvements for anglers and boaters at Caddo Lake are among initiatives outlined for 1995, including boat ramp development and navigation markers.*

## Taking The Initiative In '95

Turning information into action will be the primary theme for the Caddo Lake Initiative in 1995, as state and federal agencies begin implementation of several major projects, including: development of an environmental education center in Jefferson, boat ramp facilities and improved navigation marker system on Caddo Lake and beaver impact assessment within the Cypress Basin Watershed, to name a few.

"We've got a lot of proposals on the table and now it's time to deliver products," promised Congressman Jim Chapman, who has been instrumental in gaining federal funding for the Caddo Lake projects through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Corps of Engineers (COE). "With the recent formation of partnerships between state, federal and private entities, the framework is in place to do just that."

Both federal agencies will be overseeing projects identified for the upcoming year, in conjunction with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the National Biological Service (NBS).

In keeping with the tenets outlined by Congressman Chapman and the TPWD in the Caddo Lake Initiative proposal, all programs have been designed

with environmental protection and sustainable economic development in mind.

"All work tasks identified by the Bureau meet that criteria," said BOR Environmental Specialist Mike Irlbeck. "We've established six areas of activity and support within those guidelines: ecological research, wetland restoration, sustainable development, public outreach, ecosystem management and wastewater reclamation."

Following are summaries of some of the key projects being undertaken this year:

- **Wastewater Services** — BOR will be concentrating much of its efforts in 1995 toward investigating alternatives for supplying wastewater services in the immediate vicinity of the Caddo Lake area, including Karnack, Uncertain, Pine Island and other existing housing and business establishments associated with the south shore in Harrison County.

- **Navigation Markers** — In addition, BOR will consider proposals by the Cypress Valley Navigation District (CVND) to explore means to restore and possibly upgrade the navigation marker system along Cypress Bayou and Caddo Lake. A waterproof map of the lake, detailing the new marker system, is also

planned.

- **Wetland Restoration** — BOR is also coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in assisting interested private landowners with design and implementation of various wetland restoration and enhancement projects under the FWS's Partners in Wildlife program.

- **Boat Ramp Construction** — The scope of TPWD projects for 1995 will be directed mainly toward sustainable development and public outreach, including construction of boat ramp and parking facilities to increase public recreational access to Caddo Lake. CVND will provide consultation on potential locations for a new ramp facility.

- **Environmental Education Center** — The development of an environmental education center in Jefferson, dedicated to interpretation of the unique resources at Caddo Lake, will be another major project for the TPWD this year. TPWD has obtained the services of one of the nation's top consulting firms in environmental education center development, Inside Outside, to produce a conceptual master plan for the facility.

- **Public Outreach** — A strong effort to inform and educate the community is also being conducted by TPWD, through development of an environmental education module identifying natural resources at Caddo for public schools, development of a Caddo Lake eco-tourism guide to outdoor recreation and related opportunities, continuation of the Caddo Lake Speakers Series, interpretive display systems and production of a sustainable development audio/visual presentation.

"By enhancing the community's awareness and appreciation of Caddo's unique resources through these outreach programs, we hope to build a spirit of ownership of these resources from within," offered TPWD Executive Director Andrew Sansom.

- **Beaver Impact** — NBS, meanwhile, will be targeting several areas of research with immediate, as well as long-term implications for the Cypress Basin

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Initiative '95...

*(Continued from page 3)*

**Watershed.** A project which has significant interest among area landowners involves an assessment of impacts beaver populations have around Caddo Lake. Long-range management strategies will be identified to prevent and control the extent of adverse impacts by beavers. NBS will be conducting low-level aerial surveys of beaver dams along the Cypress Bayou. NBS will also continue its research in floral and faunal studies around Caddo Lake, including a baldcypress regeneration study, as well as its partnerships with the Caddo Scholars program

"By integrating our research programs with educational and community outreach opportunities in the area, we hope to foster a strong community commitment to the long-term conservation of the wildlife and recreational values of the Caddo Lake ecosystem," said Bob Stewart, director of the NBS Southern Science Center.

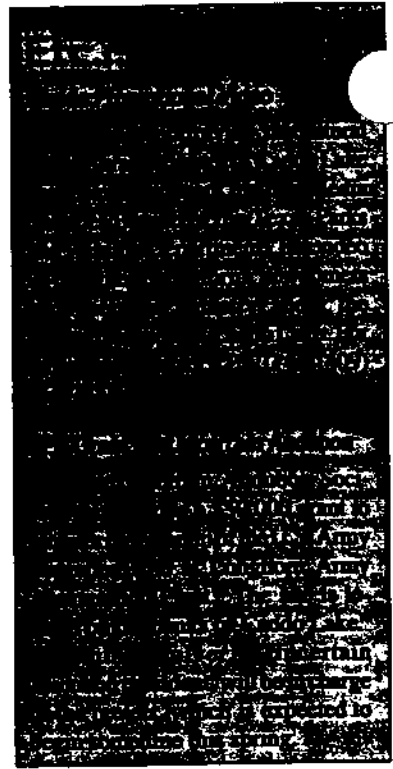
An electronic outreach "clearing house" software package providing public access to various data relating to the Caddo Lake ecosystem is also being developed by NBS.

- **Port of Jefferson** – The Corps of Engineers will continue its assessment of this historic area, including possible restoration efforts.

- **Economic Development Plan** – Working with the Texas Engineering Extension Service, the Corps will be investigating economic development opportunities for the region.

Status reports on the above projects, as well as related news, will be provided in future newsletters. Questions and comments relating to the above projects can be directed to the following sources:

- BOR: Michael J. Irlbeck (512) 482-5641;
- TPWD: Karen Leslie (409) 564-7145; COE: Gene Rice (817) 334-2185; NBS: Carroll Cordes (318) 266-8653.



*Cypress Basin Advisor*  
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# The Cypress Basin Advisor

Promoting environmental initiatives and sustainable development in the Cypress Valley Watershed.

Volume 1 Number 2

Summer 1995

## Environmental Education Center Plan Offered

*Jefferson Identified As Potential Home For Cypress Watershed Visitors Center*

The proposed development of a 7,380-square foot Cypress Valley Center near the banks of the Big Cypress Bayou in Jefferson, accompanied by state-of-the-art cultural and environmental displays and exhibits with a projected cost upwards of \$3.7 million, are being considered under a conceptual plan released recently.

### In This Issue:

- \* Caddo Lake SP/WMA Facelift
- \* Calendar of Events
- \* Study Initiatives Near Completion

The concepts, based on development of a "gateway" hub facility welcoming visitors to the Cypress Valley Watershed, were presented to the public in late May by the consulting firm Inside/Outside and subsequently approved by the Environmental Education Steering Committee.

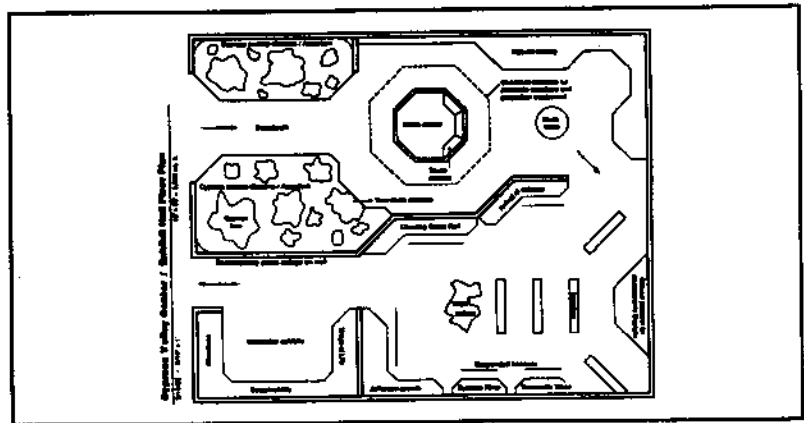
Inside/Outside was awarded the contract to come up with the conceptual plans for an environmental education center facility as part of the Caddo Lake Initiative. Funding for the project, which does not include the actual design or construction of the center, was appropriated by Congressman Jim Chapman through the Bureau of Reclamation.

The proposal combines elements of two of the original options to create a gateway into Jefferson with direct access for visitors to a watershed museum and tourist information center, as well as to the bayou and a system of nature trails and outdoor exhibits and displays.

The proposed Cypress Valley Center would be constructed south of Dallas Street, between Highway 59 and the railroad bridge.

According to Inside/Outside, the Center would blend interpretation of the natural and cultural environment of the region in a way that will be appealing not only to area school children, but also

activities in the watershed, an interactive watershed museum of interest to general visitors and school children and on a forum for presenting watershed research results.



*Preliminary site drawing for the proposed Cypress Valley Center in Jefferson mark the location for a "hub" visitors center and accompanying exhibits.*

to the general tourism market.

Program and market emphasis would be placed on providing visitor information about attractions and acti-

Proposed components of the Center would include a large mapscape providing information on related exhibits and

*Continued on page 4*





## Around Caddo

# Caddo SP/WMA Plan Looks To Upgrade User Facilities

A three-tier strategy for future development of the Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area which will protect the resources while accommodating visitors is being offered as part of a conceptual plan by the University of Texas at Arlington.

Caddo Lake State Park has been around for over 60 years, with some of the original Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) buildings and structures still intact and in use today. However, the recent addition of over 7,000 acres and creation of the Caddo Lake SP/WMA warrants an operational and management review, according to Karen Leslie, project planner for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"Conceptual planning for the park will provide decision makers, local citizens and public officials with a better understanding of what Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area can offer for the region, now and into the future," said Leslie.

Planners with UTA have been charged with finding ways to ensure and enhance traditional uses of the park and wildlife management areas, such as hunting, fishing and camping, while investigating opportunities for

attracting potential new user groups — and bring additional economic development to the region.

"We know, for example, tourists likely to visit a Ramsar site such as Caddo Lake demand high quality, environmentally sensitive services and they expect, and are willing, to pay for them," Leslie said.

Outlined in a draft proposal is a three-level approach to managing the area, based on impacts to the resource. The three phases range from well-designed primitive camping on the WMA to increased CCC-style cabins or centralized lodging on the original park site. Other considerations would address establishment of "access points" connecting various parts of Caddo Lake SP/WMA via trails and by water.

Planners have noted that phasing of development is aimed at increasing the park area's tourist "holding power," which is the ability of recreation sites to hold a tourist for a day or two beyond or her normal stay.

Public comments or ideas for the management plan are welcome and should be directed to Karen Leslie, TPWD, PO Box 4655 SFA Station, Nacogdoches, TX 75962.



Improvements to facilities such as this old CCC pavilion are part of a plan for Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area.



*A stand of baldcypress saplings are protected from beaver intrusion with plastic casings as part of a baldcypress regeneration study at Caddo Lake.*

## Caddo Initiative Update

An assessment of over 140 active beaver lodges around Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area, and a proposal for revision of boat road markers on Caddo Lake are among Caddo Initiative projects currently being addressed by a variety of local interests, and state and federal agencies.

The programs are components of a Cypress Basin Watershed initiative authored by Congressman Jim Chapman and designed with environmental protection and sustainable economic development in mind.

Following are status updates for some of the various projects outlined for 1995:

**\* Beaver Assessment** -- According to the National Biological Service, upwards of 140 active beaver lodges have been identified thus far on Caddo Lake. Sweetgum and water locust appear to be the most desirable trees for construction of the lodges, and initial findings confirm there is a substantial beaver population at Caddo Lake. However, there does not appear to be a major impact on the cypress forest. The study will continue to assess beaver impacts on hardwood species.

**\* Baldcypress Regeneration** -- A recent study by the NBS revealed the

oldest cypress trees at Caddo were in excess of 400 years of age and a majority were upwards of 250 years old. However, there appears to be a lack of new growth in the cypress forest due in part to changes in land use, lack of available space for colonization and predation.

NBS is hoping to identify areas on the lake where cypress regeneration is best suited by planting over 2,000 saplings recently in areas which remain dry at all times, is partially submerged at times and always under water. Researchers will continue to monitor growth rates at these test areas.

**\* Navigation Markers** -- The Cypress Valley Navigation District has presented a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation which would redesign the current boat road identification system now in place at Caddo Lake.

Under the proposed new system, boat road markers on both the Texas and Louisiana side of the lake would be created in a uniform safe and easy to use navigation system. A simplified alphanumeric marker system would replace the existing set of markers, with boaters able to readily know their exact location and direction by reading the numbers on two consecutive boat road markers. Cost for the project is being assessed.

**\* Wastewater Services** -- BOR will present options for wastewater treatment services to the public in the immediate vicinity around Caddo Lake on July 26 at 7 p.m. in Karnack.

**\* Boat Ramp Construction** -- The Cypress Valley Navigation District has assessed the possibility of adding a boat ramp facility for Caddo Lake near Jefferson, pending a site inspection by BOR, to be conducted in the near future.

**\* Floral/Faunal Inventory** -- NBS cooperators have documented numerous neotropical songbird species as part of an inventory of plants and animals on Caddo Lake SP/WMA. Noteworthy is discovery of the highest wintering density of ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets ever documented in this region of the nation. According to NBS researchers, it appears Caddo offers a unique habitat requirement most desired by this neotropical migrant.

**\* Wetlands Vegetation Study** -- A floristic survey of Caddo Lake SP/WMA has revealed five separate plant community types which characterize the area, comprised of some 358 plant species. Researchers hope the information gathered in the study can be utilized to produce a field study guide to the unique plant communities which make up Caddo Lake.



*More than 140 active beaver lodges, constructed mainly from sweetgum trees, have been identified at Caddo.*

# Cypress Welcome Center Conceptual Plan Would Create "Hub" For Watershed Visitors

*Continued from page 1*

opportunities in the region, as well as the town of Jefferson. Inside the Center, visitors could be presented with various depictions of the region's cultural and natural heritages, including: a large sunken aquarium and cypress swamp diorama, an interpretation of the development of the "great log raft" and formation of Caddo Lake, and a look into the history of the Port of Jefferson. Components of an outside plaza surrounding the Center could include: "hands on" demonstrations of what steamboat travel might be like on the bayou and the effects of water flow. From the plaza, visitors would have an opportunity to explore three trailways, featuring historical interpretations of the port area, a cypress swamp upstream, and downtown points of interest.

In addition to the creation of the Center, the conceptual plan encourages development of partnerships which would allow "spokes" throughout the region to be added to the hub facility.

Some of the major spokes could include proposed facilities at nearby Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area as well as proposed renovations to the historic Port of Jefferson as outlined in a study by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

According to Inside/Outside president Lisa Brochu, the proposed Center could be on line and running within two years, providing key issues are finalized and funding obtained.

These key issues include deciding on a final plan using elements from Inside/Outside's conceptual plan and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' port

restoration plan, identifying who would own and operate the facility, and what funding source would be used to construct the Center. These are issues that the local and regional communities must address before final design and construction can be begun.

At present, no construction and/or exhibit development funding sources have been finalized.

The final version of the conceptual plan is expected to be completed this summer, according to Brochu.

Comments and questions regarding the plan should be directed to the Cypress Valley Alliance, P.O. Drawer C, Jefferson, TX 75657 or to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, P.O. Box 4655, SFA Station, Nacogdoches, TX 75962.

*Cypress Basin Advisor*  
PO Drawer C  
Jefferson, TX 75657

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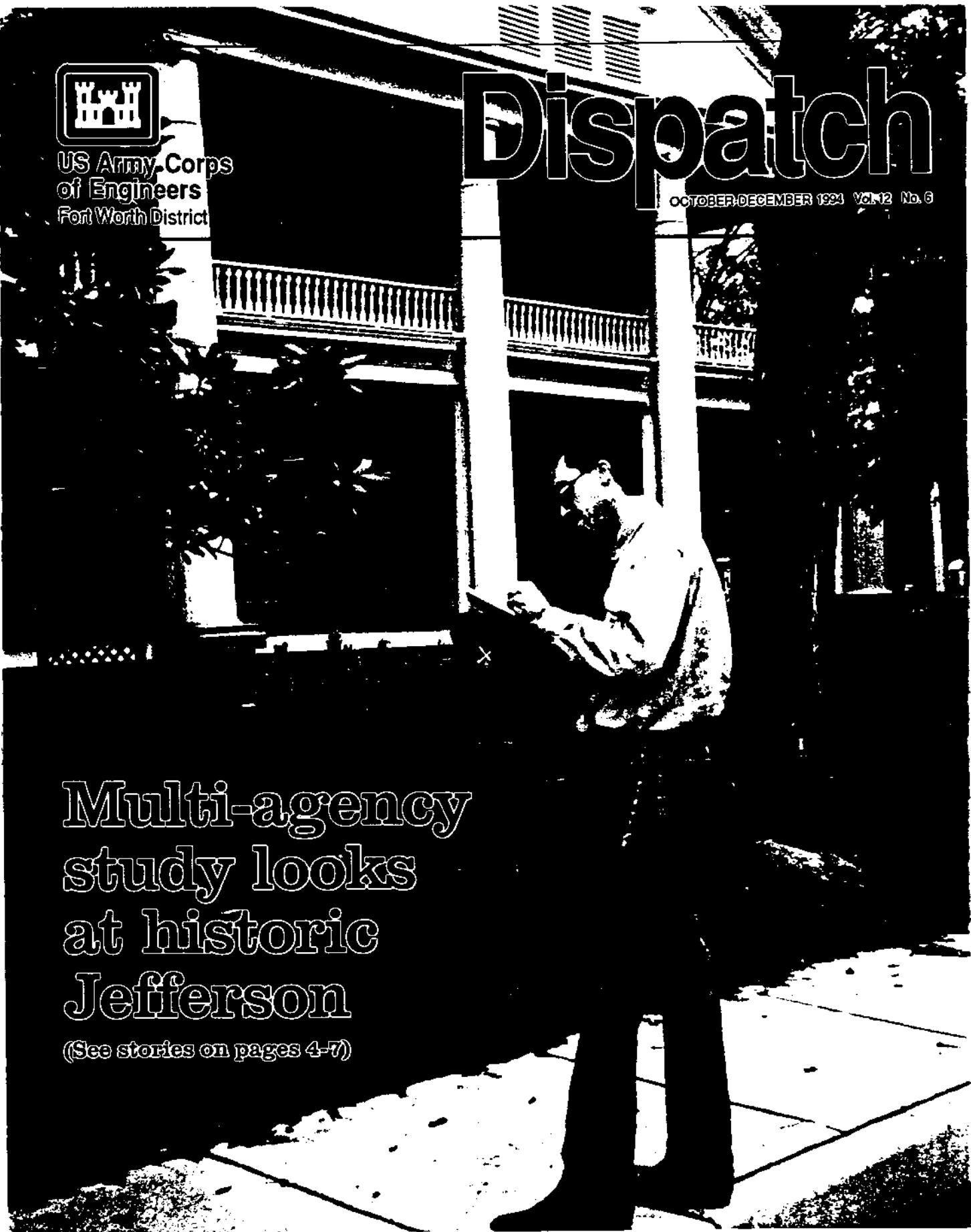
Marty Hathorn  
U. S. Army Corp of Engineers  
819 Taylor Street  
Fort Worth TX 76102



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Fort Worth District

# Dispatch

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1994 Vol. 12 No. 6



## Multi-agency study looks at historic Jefferson

(See stories on pages 4-7)

# Jefferson, Texas

## ...the early years

by Judy Marsicano

**S**ome of the storytellers in Jefferson will tell you that early settlers were already living there when the town was first laid out in 1842. They say the town was founded sometime between 1836 and 1840, but historians agree that it was actually founded in 1845 by a man named Allen Urquhart.

Although it was one of many river landings along the Big Cypress Bayou during that time, Jefferson became a major port of entry for east and north central Texas. Located on the highest navigable point of the bayou, it provided steamboats and other vessels from Shreveport and New Orleans with quick and easy access to unsettled portions of the wilderness in the new state of Texas.

The depth of the Big Cypress Bayou can be attributed in part to the Great Raft, which was located downstream on the Red River. The Great Raft was a dense mass of fallen tree limbs and silt which had accumulated naturally for hundreds of years. It created a natural dam on the river which resulted in increased water levels along the upstream tributaries, including the Big Cypress Bayou.

In 1832, Capt. Henry Shreve, who had been appointed superintendent of Western River Improvements for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1826, took on the task of removing the Great Raft to allow steamboats access to the upper Red River. At this time, the raft extended from Sterling Bayou to a point eight straight-line miles downstream of present-day Shreveport, a distance of 40 miles. Shreve slowly and meticulously dismantled the raft using black powder and snag boats and, by 1835, he had cleared the waterway to Shreveport allowing navigation to Caddo Lake through Twelve Mile Bayou and eventually leading to the establishment of Jefferson.

Jefferson boomed as a riverport city for nearly four decades. When iron ore was discovered in the area, smelters and plowworks manufacturers thrived, while the lumber business was stimulated by a bountiful supply of pine and cypress trees. Jefferson was also the location of one of the state's first breweries, had the world's first ammonia refrigerant ice plant, and the first city in Texas to use artificial gas for street lights.

As the Civil War ended, Jefferson reached its peak population of 30,000. As many as 15 steamboats could be seen docked at the port at one time during those days, while scores of wagon trains carrying settlers and their goods passed through town heading west.

In 1873, Capt. C.C. Howell of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was told to remove the remainder of the Great Raft, which obstructed navigation on the Red River north of Shreveport and into Arkansas, Oklahoma and parts of Texas. On Thanksgiving Day of that year, Howell and his crew successfully removed the last section of the Great Raft using nitroglycerin, a much more powerful explosive than black powder.

The destruction of the Great Raft, some historians say, had a devastating effect on Jefferson. Water levels dropped far below what was necessary to keep the Big Cypress navigable and, left high and dry, the town began its major economic decline.

Recent research by Jacques L. Bagur, however, revealed that it could have been the arrival of the railroad that caused Jefferson's demise. In his report, he said that steamboats continued to ply the Big Cypress Bayou long after 1873, although railroads increased their volume of local freight services and provided a faster and less expensive method of transporting goods across country. The effect the railroad industry had on Jefferson's livelihood was almost immediate since it no longer held a competitive edge over other cities as a major transportation port. Jefferson's population dropped from 4,600 people in 1873 to 3,260 in 1880 and attempts in later years to restore navigation on the Big Cypress Bayou were futile.

Today, nothing remains of the old wharf. The Big Cypress Bayou is a narrow, lazy river which meanders from Lake O'the Pines to Caddo Lake. Boat tours have a calming affect on travelers who marvel at the number of 100-year-old trees still around. There is a lot of wildlife, an occasional alligator—and peace and quiet.□

*Historical information contributed by Kip Wright, Planning Division.  
Photo: Jefferson's Federal Building, built in 1890, discontinued use of the building as a post office and federal court. The property was bought by the Jefferson Historical Society in 1965 and turned into a museum.  
Courtesy of the Jefferson Historical Society Museum.*



# Jefferson



## District helps plan for its future while preserving its past

Visitors strolling through the quiet downtown of Jefferson, Texas, during the week of October 16 often stopped in front of the old Carnegie Library. They were curious about the steady stream of people in and out of the building even when the library was closed. Neighbors reported seeing lights on late at night on the second floor "opera house" meeting room sometimes until 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. Everyone wondered what was going on.

What was going on was a five-day brainstorming session and a series of workshops between state and federal agencies, local citizens and other groups to formulate various design concepts illustrating the historic port of Jefferson's "connection" to the town of Jefferson, Lake O' the Pines, Caddo Lake and the Big Cypress region.

The port project is part of U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman's and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's initiative which began a year ago to study options for economic growth in Marion County, one of the poorest counties in Texas. The Big Cypress Bayou watershed includes 11 East Texas counties and one parish in Louisiana.

This is the first time the Fort Worth District has used this "charette" type concept for the planning phase of a civil works project.

A group of 20 "idea" folks were brought into Jefferson and basically told "you're stuck in East Texas for six days and you can't go home until we have a slate of alternatives to work with."

The interdisciplinary team of planners arriving on Sunday, Oct. 16, included community planners, architects, archeologists, landscape architects, natural and cultural resource specialists, outdoor recreation planners, historians, economists and biologists. Ann Moss, a landscape architect from Shapins Associates, Boulder, Colo., was called in to facilitate workshops throughout the week because of her involvement in the recent restoration of the port at Salem, Mass.

"We hired Ann because she had run the formulation process for the Salem Maritime National Historic Site, which we felt was a pretty good parallel for this project," Becky Griffith, chief of Economics and Master Planning Branch, said. "She came to us highly recommended by the National Park Service people we were working with and turned out to be a great choice."

On Monday morning, the week-long planning process was already under way as representatives from the Fort Worth District, the National Park Service, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Univer-

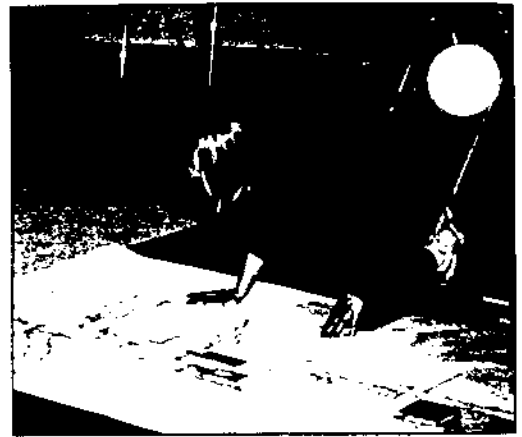
(Continued on next page)

S  
story and photos  
by  
Judy  
Marsicano

S



The public participated in a series of workshops which were held to explore alternatives for the port of Jefferson and waterfront development.



Team members resort to floor space to complete their preliminary conceptual drawings.

Lewis May, director of the Center for Urban Ecology at the University of Houston, works on a master plan alternative for Big Cypress Bayou at Jefferson.



sity of Houston began hashing out background information on the region, the town, the port and the history that had made Jefferson a tourist magnet in the recent past.

**T**hat afternoon, the first workshop was held with city and school officials, business owners, residents and other interested parties in attendance. A project overview was presented by the district's Rosanna Brown, the port restoration study manager. Brown told the group that, along with the port, an environmental education center and some recreational facilities are envisioned for the Jefferson waterfront to promote eco-tourism and environmentally sustainable development.

Chris Beacham of Geo-Marine, a contractor with the Corps, reported the results of a recent telephone survey. Of the 1,000 people randomly surveyed, 30 percent lived in the vicinity of Jefferson, 50 percent lived in Dallas, 10 percent were from Shreveport and 10 percent lived in Houston. Beacham said that approximately 31 percent said that they had visited Jefferson and

gave sightseeing as their number one reason. Between 31 and 50 percent said that they would visit Jefferson more often and stay a longer period of time if more activities were available, he said.

Following Beacham's report, Lewis May, from the University of Houston; Mike Legg, from Stephen F. Austin State University; and Jim Neal, Texas Parks and Wildlife; summarized the work they are doing for the Corps pertaining to recreation-related facilities and establishments within the watershed study area. May stayed on to work with the group the rest of the week.

Public comments received during the session included statements that although the residents of Jefferson wanted economic development, they were also concerned that the city maintain its historical heritage.

The afternoon ended for the team with a boat tour of Caddo Lake.

Tuesday morning, Lyle Spellings, Jefferson city alderman, led the team on a walking tour of downtown Jefferson, the port area and adjacent waterfront areas. With a better visual understanding of existing conditions, the team returned to the library and rolled up their sleeves for an 8-hour technical work session, as they began designing their own interpretations and ideas in preparation for the next public meeting. The evening's agenda allowed the team to continue gathering information, answering questions and facilitating discussion groups.

All day Wednesday, visual images turned into preliminary conceptual drawings as the team worked feverishly to develop the ideas they received from the first two workshops. Every available flat surface was utilized. Several team members were fortunate enough to find a card table to work on while others sprawled on the hardwood floors with their drawings. That night,

the public was invited to visit the library and observe the team's "work in progress," as they prepared for the final presentations.

Thursday morning, the work session continued for the group with a break during lunch for a mystical tour along Big Cypress Bayou. Tour guide Johnny Nance, of Turning Basin Tours, spun tales of life along the bayou—the old saw mill, alligator sightings and the origin of Jefferson's own mayhaw jelly, which is made from wild fruit collected along the banks of the bayou.

The work session resumed in the afternoon and into the evening hours in preparation for the next morning's presentation.

**O**n Friday morning, Moss presented a slate of alternatives to workshop attendees. Special guests were U.S. Rep. Chapman, who stressed his support of the charette team's efforts, and students from Jefferson Elementary and Middle Schools, who presented their crayon drawings and ideas for the port. (See story below.)

An "Open House" was hosted by Corps representatives on Saturday morning, offering the public another chance that week to view and discuss future possibilities for the waterfront

development and associated port activities.

The following week, when Griffith had a chance to think back on the "charette" experience, she said that the most dramatic moment during the week for her was on Wednesday morning.

"We had brought these people in completely cold, with limited knowledge of the region, and spent the first two full days dumping tons of information on them," she explained. "Wednesday morning when we walked in, Ann divided the group into two teams and told us that we had until 1:30 that afternoon to come up with preliminary concepts. We took a collective deep breath for about 30 seconds, everyone grabbed a crayon marker and a piece of trace [paper], and things just started happening."

Graphics and an accompanying narrative are being prepared into a document which will capture the wealth of the concepts and insights that resulted from the charette held in Jefferson that week. Not only will the booklet record the issues that were discussed, but it will help in the planning process and stimulate a greater interest in the future of Jefferson while preserving that which also represents the town's character—its heritage and unique natural setting. □

## Kids say the darnedest things

by Judy Marsano

**B**rittany Martin, a 7 1/2-year-old from Jefferson Elementary School, shared her thoughts about what she'd like to see at the Port of Jefferson and waterfront area some day.

She and 11 other students from the elementary and middle schools in Jefferson were invited to one of the workshops to present their ideas and drawings to the charette study team.

"We thought the children would be a good way to get the community truly involved," said Becky Griffith, chief of Economics and Master Planning Branch. "We're planning for the future and kids ARE the future, and they usually have bolder, more creative ideas than adults do," she added.

Another student, 10-year-old Preston Campbell, displayed vivid crayon pictures he drew of bike trails, souvenir shops, "and a research center over the water so we could, on special days, look down in the water to see what we could see," he said.

Kelli John, 13, presented an aerial view of the waterfront which included a fish hatchery, an environmental resources center "where you can see all kinds of fish and wildlife," an Indian mound replica, amphitheater and parking lots.

Other ideas were exhibited through drawings of tee-pee campgrounds, footbridges, paddleboats, turtle ponds, and fishing and picnic areas.

One student wanted the town to consider waterskiing activities "with a 50-foot ramp in the bayou to ski off of," he added. □

### Brittany's Been Thinking

I've been thinking...  
it would be nice to have a special place  
for artists to work by the river.

I've been thinking...  
it would be nice to have a place  
to watch nature up close.

I've been thinking...  
it would be nice to have a place  
to be with God near the river.

I've been thinking...  
it would be nice to have a place  
where children can learn and play.

I'm finished thinking...  
now it's time to go to work.



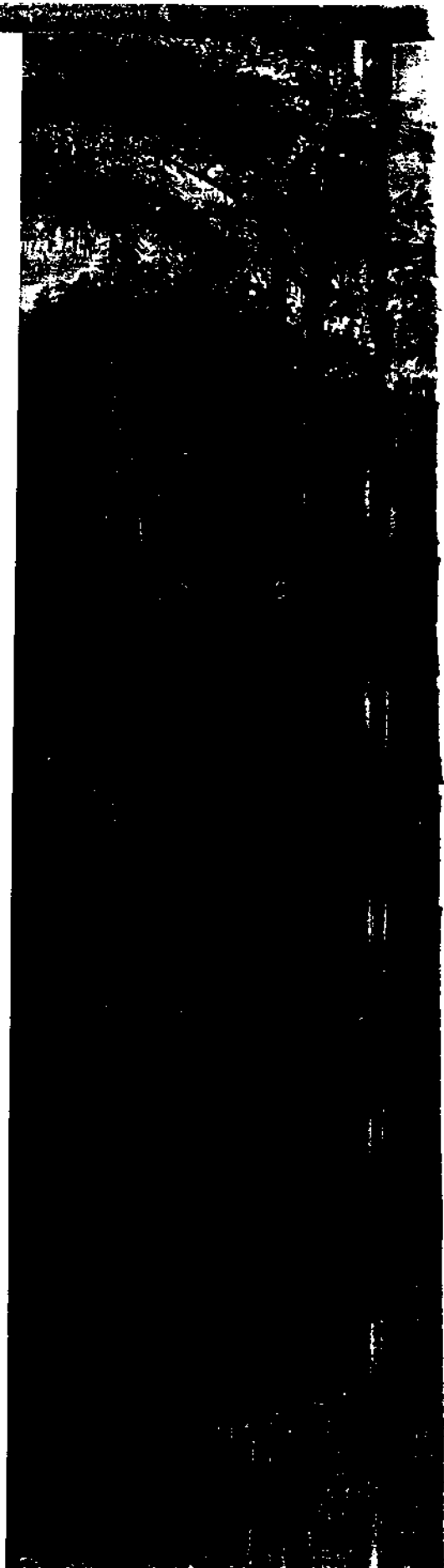
# The Lake No One Knows

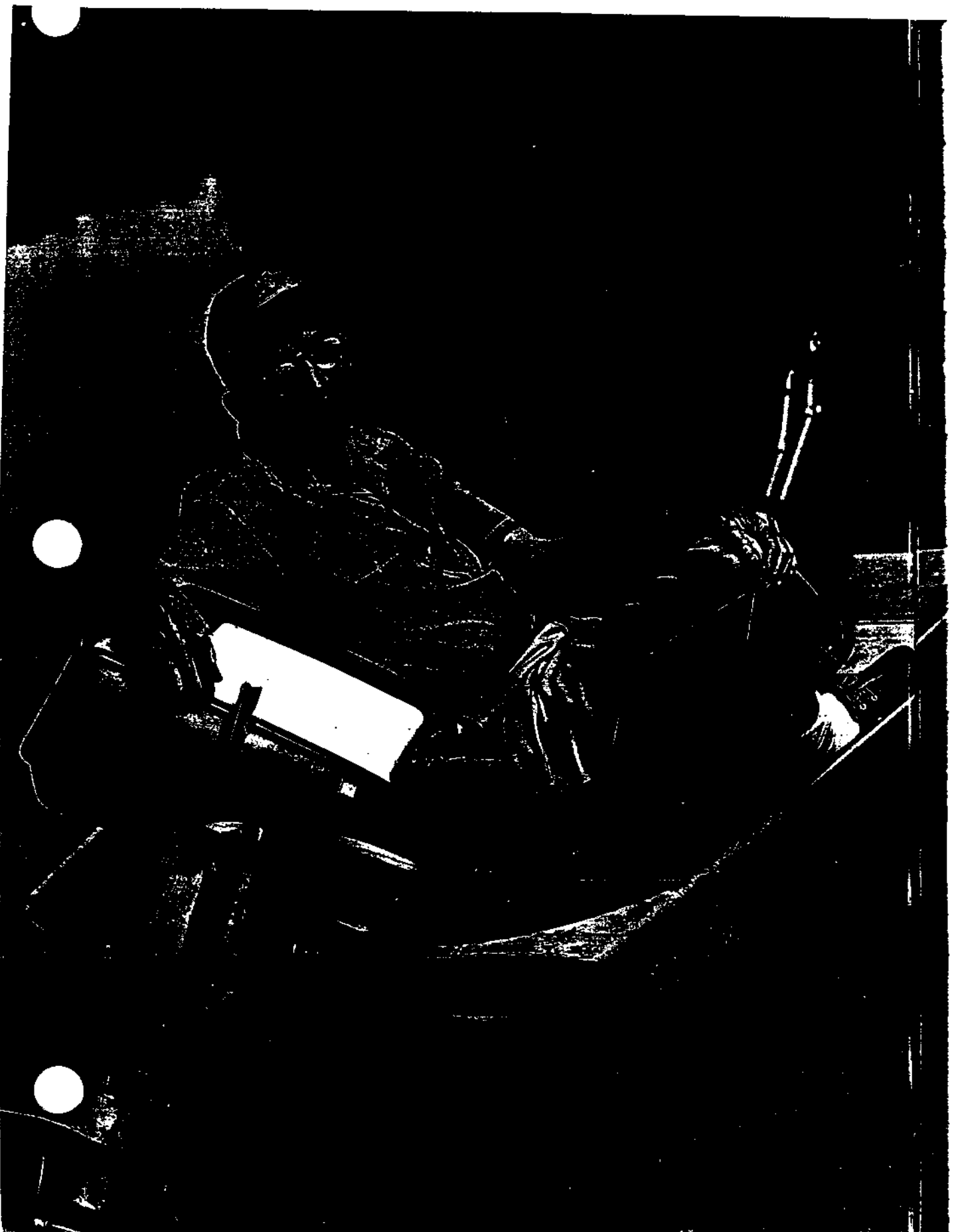
*The largest natural lake in Texas  
isn't really natural. That's just one of the murky  
misconceptions about Caddo Lake.*

BY DANA RUBIN

FRED DAHMER KNOWS CADDO LAKE BETTER THAN ANYONE, BUT even he doesn't know it all. He has spent most of his 79 years photographing, exploring, fishing, ferrying visitors, and daydreaming on the lake, which is practically in his back yard. But you can't really understand the lake, or Fred Dahmer, by standing on the shore. Not until you get out on a boat do you begin to grasp that this is a distinct and separate world—a labyrinth of sloughs and shallow submerged islands dense with tupelo and bald cypress, their branches shrouded in long, dangling strands of moss, their wide, fluted trunks mirrored in the surface of the water. There is something wild and primordial about the place, as if a creature from the Pleistocene Epoch were about to lurch forth from the muck.

Fred has worked as a photographer, a radio repairman, a shipyard electrician, and a postman, but he has spent the past twenty years exploring and defending Caddo Lake, a 23-mile-long waterway that straddles the Texas-Louisiana border, midway between Marshall and Shreveport. When he is not attending meetings and writing letters to politicians, hydrologists, engineers,





and other would-be despoilers, he can be found in his battered V-bottom boat, poking his way through the lily pads. I met him four years ago, when he was living alone on Taylor Island in the town of Uncertain, on the Texas side of the lake, in a cabin he had built himself: a small wood-frame bunkhouse covered in tar-paper shingles. To get there, you follow Uncertain's aging commercial strip, a two-lane road with a couple of seafood restaurants, a convenience store, and some ragtag motels, and cross the bridge to the island. So dense with moisture is the atmosphere at the water's edge that everything is damp and mossy; anything left untended slips into deliquescence—shacks with lapsed roofs, rusted pickups parked under the pines. Occasionally you come across an abandoned house that is entirely overrun by weeds and vines, its rooftop barely visible behind a frenzy of foliage.

Fred is a narrow and unprepossessing man, slightly hunched, with a left leg that was crippled in an auto accident. He has a kindly crinkled face, with large ears, green eyes, and tannish-colored skin. His voice is peculiarly high-pitched, almost a falsetto—the result of an unexplained hardening of his vocal chords twenty years ago when he stopped smoking. This, together with his lopsided gait, creates a peculiar first impression of Fred. To get to know him, you must disregard the physical strangeness; or perhaps it is the other way around: Once you know him, the oddity disappears.

I first saw Fred Dahmer on the evening news. He was being interviewed for a program on Texas travel and looked squirmy and self-conscious in front of the television camera. Several weeks later I called him up and asked if he would give me some pointers on exploring the lake. He did much more than that: When I got there, he gave me my first tour. I have no idea where he took me that day; the lake was big and bewildering. I remember only an impression of Spanish moss and shimmering waters and a feeling of enchantment. After that trip, I returned to Caddo Lake again and again with Fred as my guide.

Had he not been so willing to share the lake with me, I might not have gone back. Nothing about the lake encourages visitors. Instead, there seems to be an antipathy toward outsiders, a xenophobia almost, as if the lake and all its smothering vegetation were turning inward on itself. It is impossible to find a decent map of the lake. There is no place, at least on the Texas side, where you can get an overview of the lake, no scenic turnout or lookout point. Only two public boat ramps exist—one at the state park and another by the Mooringsport dam. None of the usual tourist courtesies are extended. The restaurants are uneven, the motels perpetually dilapidated. But none of this matters very much. No one goes to Caddo Lake for the food or the accommodations. You go because, quite simply, it is the most beautiful lake in Texas. You go because you can wander alone in a reverie for hours, never encountering another human being, believing you are in the remotest place in the universe.

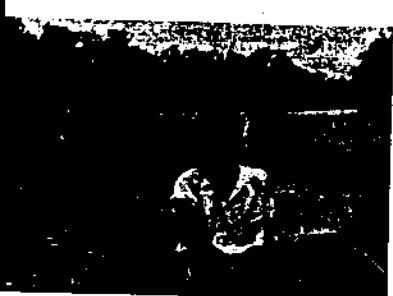
This can be a dangerous illusion. Caddo Lake is not remote at all. It is threatened by the same factors that endanger inland waters throughout the country: pollution, commerce, and the presence of human beings whose escape into nature depends upon their ability to

mold and shape the environment until it is no longer wild and natural but man-made, with all the problems people bring.

To know Caddo Lake you need patience and a good eye. Fred has both. Over the years, he has attempted to teach me the mysterious system of markers posted on the barks of the cypress trees—signs like "2E" or "5F"—designed to guide boaters through the complicated sloughs and boat lanes. He also attempted, without success, to teach me to distinguish between the various lily pads on the lake: duckweed, spatterdock, water lily, golden club, and

**F**  
*red*

*Dahmer has spent  
the last twenty years  
exploring Caddo,  
but his ties to it date  
at least as far back  
as 1928 (below).*



yonqupin. And one time, spurred by a rumor, we searched in vain for the oldest cypress on the lake, a tree reputed to be more than three hundred years old. Fred pointed out where the floating beer boats were moored during Prohibition. And he took me to the spot where Robert Potter was killed during a feud between rival vigilante groups known as the Regulators and the Moderators in the days of the Texas Republic. Pursued by his enemies, Potter propped his rifle against a tree and leapt into the lake, whereupon William "Pinkey" Rose grabbed the gun and shot Potter as he tried to swim away.

One day last spring Fred and I drove to Mooringsport, just over the Louisiana border, to see the dam that holds back Caddo Lake. It is nothing special to look at: a low concrete wall extending uninterrupted across the waterway. The spillway is 168.5 feet above sea level. No gates or openings pierce the wall, meaning that there is no way to adjust the water level on Caddo Lake—it is always more or less the same. In times of heavy rainfall, the lake rises slightly and the excess water spills over the weir.

Long before the dam existed, a fluke of nature created Caddo Lake. Over thousands of years, a logjam formed on the Red River—a blockage somewhat like a beaver dam, made up of cottonwood trees that toppled from the banks of the river. By the late 1700's this so-called raft had grown to be more than a hundred miles long and filled the riverbed from bank to bank. Bounded by roots, moss, and silt, it seemed almost like solid ground. People walked and rode their horses across. As logs piled up at the head and decayed at the tail, the raft crept upstream, plugging the river. Pent-up water spilled out on either side, creating new lakes that drained and disappeared as the raft moved along. One large break in a bend of the river flooded the Cypress Bayou valley and gave birth to Caddo Lake. Many attempts were made to clear away the raft. In the 1830's Captain Henry Shreve got rid of it with a snag boat that sawed through the logs as it moved upstream. But when he ran out of money, the raft came right back. Not until 1873 did the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers blast it away for good with dynamite. With the raft gone, the water slowly began to drain away, leaving a swamp. When oil was discovered on the Louisiana side, the drillers realized that they couldn't haul their heavy machinery through the sludge. They pressed for a dam that would raise the water level enough to float in their equipment by barge, and in 1914 the dam was built.

The more I learned about the lake, the more it drew me back. With each trip, the three-hour drive from Dallas to Uncertain seemed to pass more quickly because I knew Caddo Lake was at the end. About three years ago, I noticed a For Sale sign on an old racing-green Karmann Ghia coupe parked under a shed by Fred's house. Fred had bought it in 1971 for his wife, Loucille, but now he had to sell it because of his handicap—it sat so low to the ground that he could no longer climb in and out. The car still had its original paint, its original upholstery, its original engine, even the old AM radio. I still don't know why I bought that car from Fred. Perhaps it was because of the bumper sticker that said "Greater Caddo Lake Association." I rattled around Dallas in it for two years, a reminder of the green lake in the my concrete city.

One morning Fred decided to show me the Monster of Caddo Lake. It had been misting for hours, and a vaporous haze was clinging to the water surface. Vegetation closed in behind us as we motored through a slough thick with lilies. Deeper and deeper into the maze we progressed. More than once the motor snagged on the undergrowth, and Fred had to heave the outboard from the water and scrape off the vinyl loops. At last he gave up on the motor and began to paddle silently through a grove [ CONTINUED ON PAGE 188 ]

**I**f you motor through the slough dense with lily pads, you'll see the Monster (below)—a cypress root shaped like a ghoulish face.



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## The Lake

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 134] of fluted trunks resembling a floating Temple of Karnak.

Had Fred not pointed it out, I would not have noticed the gnarlish mass—a burl or perhaps an errant root protruding from a cypress tree just above the waterline. From the right angle, you could see the unmistakable contours of a face: two dark and liquid eyes, a bulbous nose, and a sinewy smile. Fred said he had shown the monster only to Loucille, and she had been horrified. "She thinks it's pornographic," he said. At first Fred had also thought of it as evil, but gradually he had come to see it as a benevolent creature, to think of it as a friend. We sat for a while, contemplating the face upon the tree. I wasn't so sure I agreed with Fred, but I didn't say so. By then, I had already begun to sense that on Caddo Lake, all was not as it seemed.

**T**HE PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON CADDO Lake like to brag that it is the only natural lake in Texas. While it is true that the lake was created by a natural phenomenon, the giant raft, to believe that Caddo Lake is natural today you would have to ignore a lot of evidence to the contrary—the boat lanes that would be impassable were they not regularly dredged, the striped bass that were introduced in the fifties, the oil wells on the Louisiana side. Most of all, you would have to overlook the concrete dam at the foot of the lake, without which Caddo Lake would drain away and revert to a hardwood forest.

Even so, "Keep Caddo Natural" has become the watchword on the lake. You see it on letterheads, on bumper stickers, and on the banner that is tacked to the wall at the monthly meetings of the Greater Caddo Lake Association, an organization dedicated to protecting the lake. The association's current enemy is the Army Corps of Engineers, which has proposed an eighty-mile barge canal that would link northeast Texas to the Red River at Shreveport. The canal would cut right through the heart of Caddo Lake on the Texas side. All over this down-and-out part of the state, the project (called the Daingerfield Reach, after the town of Daingerfield at the western end of the canal) is heralded as economic salvation. The exception is on Caddo Lake, where the members of the Greater Caddo Lake Association are convinced that barge traffic would ruin the lake. They call the canal "the ditch."

During the Civil War, Daingerfield was a boomtown, with sawmills, gristmills, foundries, and tanyards that turned out leather for Confederate boots, shoes, and saddles. Today many of its genteel



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nineteenth-century brick buildings are empty. Unemployment in Morris County is 15.4 percent—the eighth highest of the state's 254 counties. In this part of Texas, the agrarian economy died thirty years ago, a victim of foreign competition, rising labor costs, cheaper land in West Texas, and synthetic fibers.

The Daingerfield Reach is one segment of the mammoth Red River Waterway Project approved in 1968 by Congress. Originally the idea was to dig a navigable canal from the Red River north to Shreveport, then along the Twelvemile Bayou through Caddo Lake and up to Lake O' the Pines. With the lower section of the waterway due to be completed in two years, the Corps is now reexamining the wisdom of constructing the upper stretch.

Economics is the question: Would the project benefit enough people to justify the \$650 million it is expected to cost? In 1989 the Corps queried fifty companies within a fifty-mile radius of the canal route. Twenty-eight said they would be interested in using the canal, with savings of as much as \$28 million a year. The single biggest beneficiary most likely would be Lone Star Steel, a company that makes oil-field casings and tubings. In the early eighties, Lone Star employed six thousand workers. When the price of oil collapsed, the work force shrank to about one thousand. The canal would give the company a tremendous boost. Lone Star could ship about two million tons on the canal each year at an estimated savings of \$2 to \$7 a ton compared with train or truck transport. Canal backers across East Texas are also counting on economic spin-offs: construction jobs, business relocations, tourist dollars. One study optimistically predicted 40,000 new jobs. The city of Jefferson sees the canal as a potential bonanza, with tourist barges, riverboat gambling, and a revival of the glorious steamboat days.

But would the canal harm Caddo Lake? Nearly everyone around the lake insists it will. The sight of barges plowing through the water will be just plain ugly, they say. The wake from the barges will rock smaller boats and destroy the serenity that Caddo Lake is known for. Beyond aesthetics, there is fear of an environmental disaster. A trough through the middle of the lake, even one that is only nine feet deep, could divert flowing water from other areas of the lake, leaving the rest of the lake a swamp. Residents also fear that an accidental barge spill could dump more toxins in the lake. For all these fears, the Corps is trying to come up with answers. Studies won't be done for another two years. In the meantime, a serious rift has arisen between the boosters and the lake dwellers. "The people on the lake aren't environmentalists. They don't want



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the canal interfering with their retirement plans," says Duke DeWare, a Jefferson attorney. "They're crazy," one Caddo Lake resident says of the canal supporters. "They want to build a superhighway to nowhere."

**O**NCE YOU HAVE BEEN SEDUCED by Caddo Lake, it becomes a picture postcard of the mind, fixed with bewitching images of cypress and coon-tail moss and water hyacinth. For me, there was no single flash of realization that Fred Dahmer's vision of Caddo Lake did not tell the whole story. The awareness came about in a gradual way, through a series of ordinary telephone calls last spring to the district office of the Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

I had called to find out the results of the latest testing of the water and sediments in the lake. A Corps hydrologist named Dave Johnson had been taking samples from the lake for about a year. Johnson told me that he had thought the tests would show the presence of PCBs, or traces of oil compounds from the drills on the Louisiana side, or evidence of pesticides used by farmers upstream. The lab analyses revealed none of these. Instead, they indicated extremely high amounts of organic carbons. While there is no way to say with scientific certainty where the carbons come from, Johnson has a strong suspicion that some is from human waste.

If Johnson is right, then the very people who are most intent upon saving the lake may be doing the most damage. There is no sewage treatment plant at Caddo Lake. Practically all of the cabins, restaurants, and businesses use septic tanks to dispose of their wastes. Septic tanks should be emptied every few years, but lots of people don't want to spend the money. "You could smell it—the smell of sewage," said a hydrologist about a lake sample he collected near some homes. "You can look at the color, texture, and odor of the sediments and make assumptions about what it is."

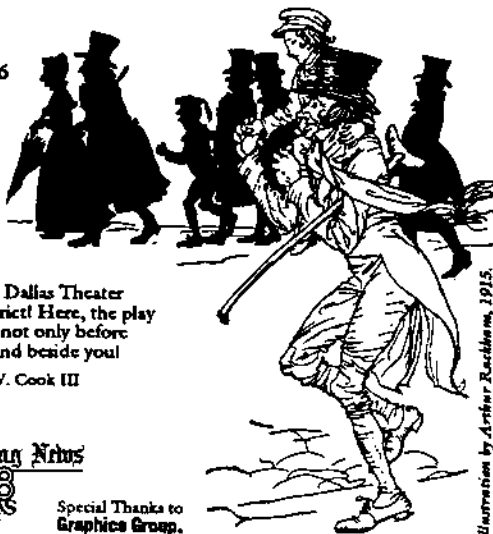
Too many organic carbons are bad for the lake: They act as nutrients for the duckweed and lilies, which choke the lake even as they enhance its beauty. Phosphates, most likely from washing machines and dishwashers, spur the growth of vegetation. It does not help that the western end of the lake is extremely shallow—in some places only a couple of feet deep. Sunlight encourages photosynthesis, so the entire lake has become densely clogged with luxuriant underwater plants. They trap sediments, making the lake even shallower. As the plants decompose, they create more sediment and they use up the oxygen that fish need to survive. Low levels of oxygen have probably been the cause of mass fish kills on Caddo Lake for the past four years. The last one occurred in August. "The water was cov-

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ered with fish," said Walter Martin, the owner of Paradise Marine in Uncertain. "You could see them by the thousands. The stench was unbelievable."

**P**OLLUTION IS NOT THE ONLY problem at Caddo Lake. The dam that forms the lake threatens the cypress trees. I learned this one spring afternoon on a boat with Jacques Bagur, a consultant to the Corps. We were in an open clearing, admiring a cluster of cypresses growing out of the water. The trees were maybe forty feet high, with enormously wide buttresses that flared like a dancer's swirling skirt. Jacques guessed they might be 150 or 200 years old. Then he mentioned, almost offhandedly, that he thought the trees were not healthy. They were surrounded by water and looked as though they thrived in that setting, but Jacques knew otherwise. Cypress trees need standing water to germinate but grow best on dry land. Their seed covering is so tough and leathery that it has to be submerged to soften up and release its contents. But seedlings can't withstand prolonged submergence. Cypress trees flourish at the water's edge because of the normal riverine cycles of ebb and flow. Inundate them with water, and they will die.

There is no secret about all this. In 1984 the Corps studied the bald cypresses on Caddo Lake and concluded that the trees were sick. The stands that Jacques and I were admiring probably took root and began to grow when they were actually at the edge of the bayou channel, before the lake existed. They do not grow well in standing water. This is why their buttresses are so wide—to give them stability. This is also why they are relatively short and why their branches are gray and spindly. If you would cut open their trunks, you would probably find that they were hollow. In another fifty years, most of these trees will have toppled over and there will probably not be any cypresses standing in the lake at all—only along the shoreline.

The irony of the dam is that it preserves Caddo Lake, but it also might kill it. Before Caddo Lake existed, floods used to sweep through what was then the Big Cypress Bayou and raise the water level by fifteen feet or more, scouring the channel and washing away the vegetation. Now, because of the dam, the water level is static. None of the sediments get flushed out. Already the channels are so shallow and smothered with vegetation that the boat lanes have to be continually dredged, and boaters can barely stray off the traveled paths without getting tangled in undergrowth. "If you don't do some type of control, the aquatic plants will take over," says Maryetta Smith, a biologist at the Vicksburg Corps office.

But what kind of control? The best solution would be to mimic the cycles of na-

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ture by alternately flooding and emptying the lake. The floods would flush out the sediments; lowering the water level would kill off the vegetation. But if you lower the lake, suddenly the people with lake-side cabins can't get their boats out of their docks. And if you flood it, the same people will have water lapping at their doorsteps. This is the last thing people at Caddo Lake want.

**A**LTHOUGH HE HAS LIVED NEAR the lake almost all his life, it wasn't until 1970 that Fred Dahmer realized what it meant to him. That summer he and Loucille bought a new Volkswagen van. On June 13 they set out from their home in Marshall on a trip to Missouri with two of their daughters. From Uncertain they drove north into Arkansas and had lunch at a cafe. In the afternoon they came to a roadside park with picnic tables ringing a circular driveway. Restless, Fred hopped out of the van and jumped up and down a few times, then prodded his daughters into jogging around the driveway. The daughters dropped out after a couple of laps, but Fred sprinted around twice more before getting back in the van. He recalls heading uphill on a two-lane road. He did not even see the car coming from the other direction, trying to make a blind pass. At the crest the two cars collided head-on.

Fred never ran again. An infection in his smashed left hip led to an artificial hip joint, which also became infected. Finally, the doctors removed the artificial socket altogether—he keeps it in a brown paper sack beside the phone. The result is that Fred can't put weight on his left leg. He walks only with the help of two crutches with scalloped braces that fit around his forearms. But in an unexpected way, the accident changed his life. "I was self-centered and stingy," he says. "I cared more about money."

He took early retirement and went to live full-time at the lake. For years Loucille insisted on staying at their home in Marshall. ("I hate the lake," she once told me.) Fred got by on TV dinners and canned soup, was elected mayor of Uncertain in 1978, and became a defender of the lake, opposing any project he thought would endanger it. He was against the Ferrell's Bridge Dam (which created Lake O' the Pines), a dam on the Little Cypress Bayou that was never built, Shreveport's failed attempt to operate a drinking-water pumping plant on the eastern shore, and an aborted plan for a hydroelectric plant at the dam. "You have to keep fighting," he says, "or they'll destroy the lake."

Although getting into the boat is a torturous ordeal, Fred still goes out on the lake. He hobbles down to the water with a clumsy, laborious gait, then leans on a

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crutch while lowering himself to the edge of the boat. He swings his right leg inside and then reaches down with both hands to lift his left leg over. But when he lays the crutches down, starts the engine, and glides away from shore, his handicap disappears.

Fred has trouble articulating what it is that gives him a special feeling about Caddo Lake. He knows that others more pressed for time do not perceive the lake the way he does. He says of the Corps of Engineers, "They fly overhead in their helicopters and see a complex maze of waterways. They zip along, and the water sprays off the sides of their boat. But they don't really see the lake. They're going too fast."

But does Fred Dahmer really see the lake? He is like a Zen master; what he sees is an idealized internal vision of Caddo Lake. Fred understands something fundamental about nature, about how a human being inhabits and finds meaning in a beautiful place. He does not see that the immediate threat to Caddo Lake may not be the Daingerfield Reach but the shortsightedness of those who live at the water's edge. Without a plan of rescue, the lake will eventually become a bed of muck. What Fred is crying to preserve is less a lake than a museum.

On one of my last trips to Caddo Lake, Fred took me to a place not five minutes from his house, a spot I'd never seen before. Off a main channel, we passed through a line of trees and entered a long, oval-shaped clearing flanked on all sides by cypress. This, Fred said, was his cathedral. What he meant was suddenly apparent: We were within a space shaped like the nave of a Gothic church. An arc of cypress at the far end composed a sort of apse, the rows of trees on either side were the columns of the nave, and the afternoon sun filtering through chinks in the moss was the clerestory light. When we reached the center, Fred cut the engine.

About a decade ago, he said, he had helped found a Lutheran church in Marshall. The church had hired a young minister, then fired him when he began showing up at services with cowboy boots under his robe. Fred quit the church and had not been back since. On the lake, he found a deeper everlastingness. "I believe that anybody who looks at the lake as I do—at the trees up close, the birds and the animals—will see the lake as I do," he said. "You can commune with any god or deity or entity that rules this universe." But how many more generations will be able to worship at Caddo Lake? I wondered, but I didn't ask. Inside the cypress chamber, now deep in evening shadow, Fred's voice echoed as though we were surrounded by stone. ✦

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