



For Immediate Release

What: World Wetlands Day Community Meeting

When: Tuesday, February 2nd, 2016 at 6pm

Place: Karnack Community Center, Karnack, TX (intersection of FM 134 and T.J. Taylor Avenue)

For more information: Dawn Orsak at 512-482-9345 or info@caddolake.us
or Rick Lowerre 512-350-6960

Conservation and Restoration the Focus of World Wetlands Day Meeting in Karnack

The Caddo Lake Clearinghouse* will host a public meeting for presentations and discussions about conservation and restoration efforts around Caddo Lake and in the Caddo Lake watershed. The meeting will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, February 2nd, at the Karnack Community Center.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated February 2nd every year, marking the date of the signing of the International Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, on February 2, 1971. Over 160 nations have signed the treaty and agreed to protect wetlands within their boundaries. There are now over 2,200 designated Ramsar sites around the world, and 38 sites in the United States.

In October 1993, Caddo Lake became the 13th U.S. site to be designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, joining the Everglades, the Chesapeake Bay, and other significant wetland areas in the country. The Caddo Lake designation includes approximately 20,000 acres of wetlands on private, state and federal lands.

Presentations at the February 2nd meeting will include:

- Kick off for habitat improvement projects, in which the public can join, led by the Collins Academy (at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the Caddo Lake state wildlife management area, and private properties along Big Cypress Bayou)
- USFWS future conservation/restoration efforts in the Big Cypress area, including what is proposed for the paddlefish reintroduction experiment
- Clean-up of the Army ammunition plant for transfer to the national wildlife refuge and the unresolved Army/ EPA dispute on clean-up levels
- Proposal for a Cooperative Weed Management Area, plans for timber thinning and shortleaf restoration activities on the WMA, and an update on the Working Dogs for Conservation program to manage invasive species
- Introducing the Caddo Lake-Cypress Valley Working Group of the Conservation Delivery Network Team
- Report on the first year of the Morley Hudson Weevil Greenhouse and planned 2016 activities

The meeting will culminate with the raffle drawing by Ron Atwood for his giclée print “Mossy Break,” signed on the back by Don Henley. Tickets are still available from the Greater Caddo Lake Association (www.gclaoftx.com) and at Ron Atwood’s new gallery in Jefferson. All proceeds of raffle tickets sales for the print will go to the Morley Hudson Weevil Greenhouse and fighting giant salvinia. (Winning ticket holder need not be present to win.)

**The Caddo Lake Clearinghouse is composed of the City of Uncertain, the Greater Caddo Lake Association, the Caddo Lake Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, the Friends of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and the Caddo Lake Institute.*

DON HENLEY, FOUNDER | DWIGHT SHELLMAN JR., PRESIDENT 1992 - 2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DON HENLEY, CHAIRMAN; SANDRA HAVERLAH, SECRETARY/TREASURER; CHRIS CAMPBELL; JERRY CARGILI; MYRON J. HESS; J. MARSHALL JONES, JR.; WILLIAM F. MICHAELS

MAIL: 707 RIO GRANDE, SUITE 200, AUSTIN TEXAS 78701 | TELEPHONE: 512.482.9345 | FAX: 512.482.9346 | WWW.CADDOLAKEINSTITUTE.US

