

Caddo Lake meeting set for World Wetlands Day

By Terri Hahn, Marshall News-Messenger

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The state of Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetlands will be the focus of a World Wetlands Day meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Karnack Community Center, Farm-to-Market 134 and T.J. Taylor Avenue.

Topics of invasive vegetation control and education will be covered during the meeting hosted by the Caddo Lake Clearinghouse.

Officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Albuquerque office and Texas Parks and Wildlife will make presentations regarding new initiatives to control giant salvinia at Caddo Lake, according to a press release.

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.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated on Feb. 2 every year in more than 100 countries, marking the date the Convention to Protect Wetlands of International Importance was signed in 1971.

In 1993, the Caddo Lake site became the 13th to be designated in the U.S.

More area was added to the site in 1998 to include about 20,000 acres of public and private lands designated as wetlands of international importance, according to a press release.

There are only 27 Ramsar sites in the U.S., with more than 150 nations having signed the treaty agreeing to protect wetlands within their boundaries. There are more than 1,800 designated Ramsar sites around the world.

Caddo Lake Institute President Rick Lowerre will discuss the Ramsar designation and answer questions about another possible expansion, according to a press release.

Gary Endsley of the Collins Foundation in Jefferson and Cozetta Robinson, Karnack Independent School District superintendent, will discuss a new wetlands education initiative.

For more information, visit www.caddolakeinstitute.us or www.ramsar.org.