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Caddo Lake benefit BBQ scheduled for Aug. 30

By Steve Bandy, News Messenger

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The annual benefit barbecue to raise money to aid in the protection of Caddo Lake will be held Aug. 30 at Crip's Camp in Uncertain.

Plates of brisket, sausage "and all the fixin's" will be sold for \$10 each and Greater Caddo Lake Association memberships also will be available for \$10, according to Doug Parker, GCLA president.

Visitors to Caddo Lake have probably noticed a lot less vegetation than last year at this time, according to Parker.

"The Cypress Valley Navigation District has increased its herbicide treatment on the lake, thanks in part to the donation of a surplus airboat by Texas Parks and Wildlife," he said.

The airboat, which was refitted with all new equipment and put into service in late May, greatly increases the area which can be treated for giant salvinia and water hyacinth.

"The airboat has allowed us to increase the acres sprayed a day from about two with the old equipment to between 30 and 40," Parker said. "CVND has sprayed more than 1,100 acres of water hyacinth and 450 acres of giant salvinia through the end of July."

Although it grows well nearly year-round, giant salvinia peaks in July and August, according to Parker. "Lack of wind, high heat and slack water all combine to let it explode," he said. "The claim that it will double every four days is no exaggeration."

Despite best efforts to combat it, "Salvinia continues to spread to all parts of the lake," Parker added. "It well-deserves its nickname 'The World's Worst Weed.'"

Parker said all funds raised at the Aug. 30 barbecue will help in these and other efforts to protect Caddo Lake.

"Plates should be ready starting around 11 a.m. and we'll keep serving until it's all gone," he said. "Bring the whole family and come out and join us for some fun in the sun and enjoy some good food."

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