

Caddo watershed protection is focus of meeting Tuesday

By Steve Bandy, News Messenger

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JEFFERSON — A public meeting of stakeholders in the Caddo Lake watershed will begin at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday to discuss water quality and other issues throughout the Caddo Lake watershed.

This meeting, which will be held at the Jeffersonian Institute, 120 E. Austin St., is sponsored by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District (NETMWD).

The gathering is one of the organizations' quarterly meetings that began in 2006.

The Caddo Lake watershed includes Big Cypress, Little Cypress and Black Cypress bayous and other creeks and streams flowing into Caddo Lake.

Among the presenters will be Dr. Roy Darville, chairman of the biology department at East Texas Baptist University, and Richard Lowerre, president of the Caddo Lake Institute.

Topics will include water quality issues such as nutrient loads, mercury contamination and environmental flows.

Professor Matt Chumchal of Texas Christian University will present the findings of a recent study on mercury in fish, wildlife and plants in the watershed.

Cypress Valley Navigation District (CVND) board member Robert Speight also will provide an update on aquatic vegetation management at the lake.

CVND's current program to control invasive species of water hyacinth and giant salvinia will also be discussed.

The meeting is open to the public.

All who are interested in protecting Caddo Lake and its watershed are encouraged to attend and participate in Tuesday's stakeholder process.

For more information, contact Lee Thomas of the NETMWD at 903-639-7538.

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