

## *Don Henley: an Eagle's eye view on Texas wetlands protection*

IN THE EARLY 1990s hunters, fishermen, outdoorsmen, conservationists and environmentalists, including rock star Don Henley of the Eagles, allied to protect Caddo Lake and the Cypress Valley ecosystem from destruction proposed in the federal Dangerfield Reach canal project. As a result, in 1993, about 7,500 acres of the Cypress Valley Watershed in the Caddo Lake area were declared a Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance and Caddo Lake's future as a scenic protected wetland was secured.

The alliance's success and value to the Caddo conservation effort was not lost on Henley, a Linden native, who on October 24 urged Texas sportsmen to rekindle the alliance and become more active in the defense of wetlands in their own communities. He pledged the support of the Caddo Lake Institute (CLI) to conservation groups who accept his challenge.

His search is not for money, but for hearts and minds. Henley said, "Why do we seek friends of this vision? Because the journey will be long and we need to learn a great deal more together before we go much farther. We need to start with those who seek the same destination or the mission will disintegrate. Friendship, like marriage, cannot lead to successful relationships if they are shotgun marriages of competitors. We seek collaborators who share a common, high-quality vision."

As users of wetlands, Henley believes hunters, fishermen and outdoor recreationalists have the knowledge needed to protect wetlands and a vested interest in seeing it gets done. The CLI work-style and a Ramsar Convention political process, which is based on voluntarism, provide a framework or approach to the work needed. The convention merely requires continuing efforts by sponsors to protect designated Ramsar wetlands.

Henley's appeal came on October 24 during a heady day of activities, a kind of

mobile open house, that Henley and CLI President Dwight Shellman Jr. used to advise the public about post-1993 CLI activities and other CLI plans. Henley specifically mentioned the importance of hunters and fishermen in a speech during a banquet held to honor students, parents, teachers, state and federal bureaucrats and governmental officials who have assisted the CLI effort.

Henley hopes to use knowledge gleaned from participation in the Ramsar Convention process to assist and train, cooperatively, wetland advocates throughout the state, nation and world. He hopes sportsmen will be among those

advocates.

How does CLI work?

In short, voluntarily, by using a mix of education, advocacy, and fund-raising, including finding ways to gain access to federal conservation funds.

One practical result is the Caddo Lake Scholars Program (CLSP) which operates through local educational institutions to improve wetlands expertise of science teachers who then use the knowledge to train other teachers and students resulting in an exponential spread of wetlands expertise at the local level. The emphasis is on science and how to work within scientific and political circles to accomplish scientific research tasks.

There is no big brother in this program, not Henley or anyone else. Initiatives arise from grass roots concerns. There are no white knights; local residents are trained to solve their own problems. "People who use the resources

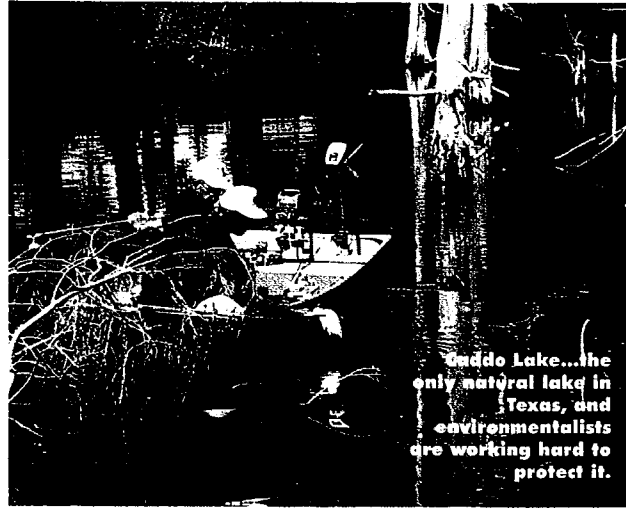


## CONSERVATION WATCH

know better than us what needs to be done," Shellman said.

On October 24, students of Peggy Byassee at Marshall High School and Kenneth Winn at Karnack High School demonstrated to visitors, including 1st District Congressman Jim Chapman D-Sulphur Springs, how they were using computers and Geographic Information System (GIS) software donated by CLI and Environmental Research Systems Institute (ESRI) of Redlands, California, through its distributor GEO/INFO, Inc. of Tyler, to monitor the ecology of the schools' on-campus wetland laboratories.

Students are expected to use computers and the ArcView GIS system to track the development of plant and animal life in the wetlands, incursion of noxious vegetation, water quality and other



Caddo Lake...the only natural lake in Texas, and environmentalists are working hard to protect it.

effects. The students, along with intern candidates at Wiley College, Panola College, East Texas Baptist University, and Texarkana College, also conduct water quality monitoring at selected sites in the Cypress Valley Basin.

Students of Dr. Alexandrine Randriamahefa and Dr. Obadiah Njue, including Lovejoy Makoni and Michael Pearson, demonstrated Wiley College's water monitoring program specializing in fecal coliform counts and other water quality measures using GIS information. The monitoring program is expected to be expanded into more expensive heavy metals testing, including searches for mercury, lead and arsenic, in the future, according to Randriamahefa.

Fish consumption advisories have already been issued by the Texas Department of

Health in some bodies of water in the targeted area. Wiley College has also developed a nature trail featuring plants, both rare and common, which are indigenous to East Texas. Work is underway to collect and catalog plants and

## THE BEST BAY BOATS IN THE COUNTRY . . .

### KENNER



NEW TUNNEL V SERIES



The Legend Continues...

**ANCHOR MARINE** **EVINRUDE** **OUTBOARDS**

5560 N. LOOP 1604 EAST  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78247  
FAX (210) 599-1629

**1-210-599-1415**

**OceanPro**

## CONSERVATION WATCH

seed for future use.

But the students are not collecting data that will be disposed of at the end of the semester or school year. Availability of GIS capability avoids the needless collection of useless or unneeded data. Shellman said, "Other federal data is being used in order to avoid replication of data collection activities which results in the waste of private and federal dollars. The data we are collecting are designed to give decision-makers information they need to make decisions. This data is strong enough to be used to decide where to spend scarce water quality funds," and it will remain available to all who need it.

Chapman, who helped get funds and technical assistance for the project from various federal agencies as part of his Caddo Lake Initiative, appeared to be satisfied with the student's progress as well as CLI's growing success, a success once threatened by concerns of private property rights advocates in the Northeast Texas area.

"People were convinced we had a secret bunch of snail darters to throw out, but we never had the remotest intention of interfering with anyone's property." Chapman is expected to secure \$200,000 in additional funding for CLI and Caddo Scholars before leaving office in January.

Later in the day, Henley, Shellman, Undersecretary of the Army Joe Reeder and Chapman announced a 30-year lease agreement between the U.S. Army and CLI under which CLI will take control of 1,395 acres in the Starr Ranch and Harrison Bayou tracts along the Caddo Lake shoreline of the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant (LHAAP). The lease gives CLI a first option to buy the property. The site borders on, but does not include, hazardous waste-contaminated sites at LHAAP still under control of the Army, which is responsible for decontaminating the Cold War-era arsenal grounds.

The site is expected to become home of CLI programs, including the proposed Mollie Beattie Regional Ramsar Center, an international center for the study of wetlands patterned after the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, but designed with a goal of improving local understanding of wetlands issues and in devel-

oping local expertise to deal with them. The center was named after Beattie, the first female to head the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, a supporter of Caddo Lake's Ramsar listing and CLI programs, who died on June 4, but not until after she'd overcome political opposition to her appointment and won the support of her staff.

Reeder said one of the last telephone calls ever made by Beattie was to him, asking him to continue his support for the CLI-LHAAP project, a wish, he said, he was happy to fulfill.

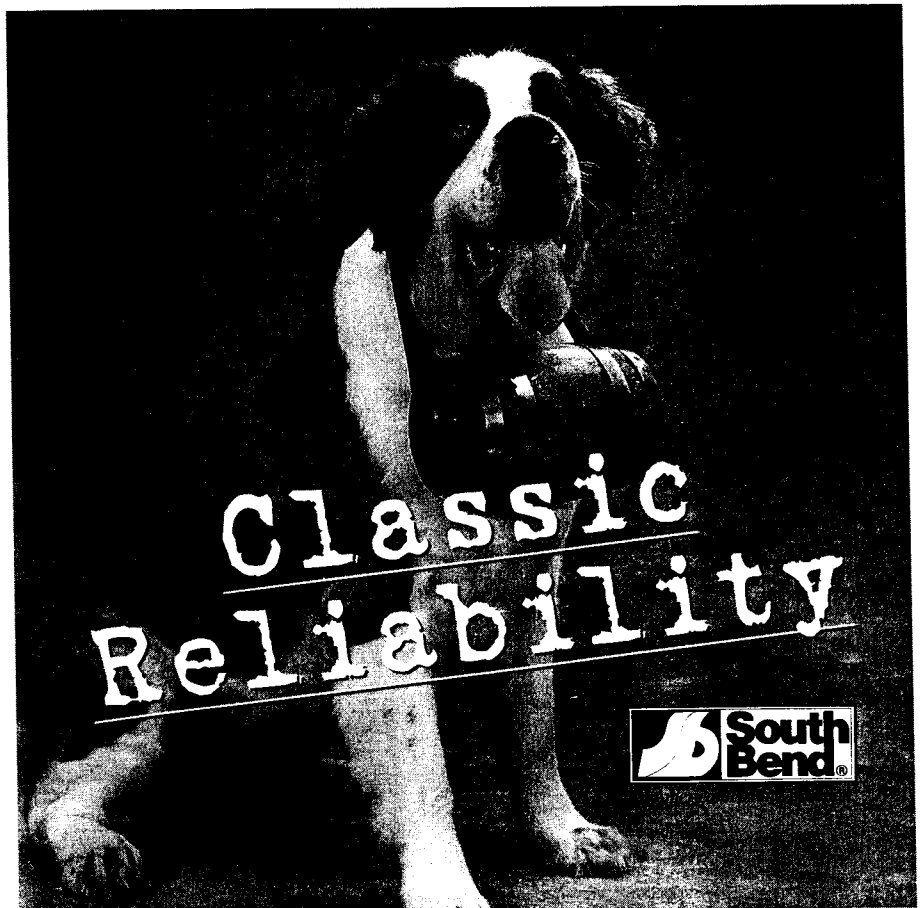
But the LHAAP grounds are also expected to become home to a CLI-sponsored applied technology center at which Henley hopes to cluster educational institutions and businesses which will develop technologies to better clean or decontaminate the environment while developing new "green" ways of doing business.

After the LHAAP tour and lunch,

Caddo Lake residents hosted tours of the lake for governmental representatives from numerous state and federal agencies while Henley and Shellman held meetings at CLI's Caddo Lake Cottage on the lake in Uncertain.

Those meetings and press interviews were followed by a banquet at Caddo State Park where Henley gave CLI Globe Awards and certificates to participants in CLI programs. Henley described the Longhorn lease agreement as "another pathfinder project of the institute."

He urged anyone interested in Caddo Lake or other wetlands to join CLI's effort. "Waterways are the blood vessels of the world and wetlands are its livers and kidneys. Whatever happens in the environment usually ends up passing through our water or our wetlands. That is where the diagnosis of the health of our waters will be made and cures most likely effected, but only by professionals



## CONSERVATION WATCH

who work with natural systems, which are poorly understood and currently hard to manipulate."

Henley shares a Ramsar Convention point of view that the primary threat to wetlands is human encroachment prompted by understandable, if short-

sighted and inefficient, human desires for economic development.

"We need our friends to remind us of our 21st Century destination when we inevitably hear the seductive call to change course and repeat those old, unsustainable, 20th Century boom and

bust development patterns which are so much a part of Texas. I will suggest to you what the clues of a potential boom-bust business proposal are, based upon what I've seen since I was a young man in Texas.

"The siren call will come from a few local bankers and a few retail businesses. They will care most about processing a flow of new dollars at any cost. They will not necessarily care what the indirect or the direct costs will be to the community to keep those dollars flowing."

Henley said those kinds of new businesses are often marginal enterprises. "Clues will suggest that they are uncompetitive or that they are fleeing other places because they have not been able to meet good quality standards or good cost-of-living standards for employees and they do not want to meet those standards that their competitors meet."

Henley said such businesses often have unsustainable resource requirements. "They will want to continue practices that will rob the next generation of resources 'get it and get out fast' or will ask local decision-makers to make trade-offs which damage or pollute air, water, soil and habitat.

They will insist that they cannot come here at all unless there is a reduction of environmental quality standards, tax abatements and community assumption of other costs.

"These businesses will be promoted as economic saviors for poor unemployed people. However, rather than employ local workers, they often import economically disadvantaged people from elsewhere. They will leave as soon as quality standards are lower elsewhere, thus continuing the cycle.

"When the siren call comes to embrace this kind of development, our friends will need to remind us to keep the end in mind and proceed more carefully, lest we repeat the past again."

Henley said he believes residents of East Texas are wise to what's happening around them and beyond that, sportsmen in the state, who stand to lose hunting and fishing opportunities as habitat destruction continues.

"So tonight's task is to start the process of selecting others to join us, friends who will merge their vision with

# Gulf Coast BOATS

Available in:

18', 20' & 22'

Center Console

Tunnel Hull

with built in Fuel Tank &

Leaning Post

Gulf Coast Boats Semi-V Hull design will give you that smooth, dry ride you've been looking for in a tunnel hull boat. Plus all Gulf Coast Boats are backed by a 10 Year hull warranty and feature all fiberglass construction, and that means ( no wood to rot ).

*Avenger*

*Bay Hawk Boats  
Generation 2*



18' & 21' Center & Side Console      15', 17', 18' & 20' Tunnels in Stock

We take great pride in rigging our Boats and providing the best service to our customers, which has earned Bernie's the highest Customer Satisfaction Award for the last 5 years.

Yamaha's Flagship Customer Satisfaction Award.

**YAMAHA**

Outboards



**Bernie's Boats  
& Motors, Inc.**

5001 Navarro St. "Hwy. 77 N."

Victoria, Texas

Since 1952

Over 44 years of Boating Experience

(512) Hours: 8-6 Mon-Fri (512)

573-7809 Sat. 8:30-12:30 575-0616

our mission, and who will recall to us our destination when the seductive songs of boom and bust schemes call out to us again."

Special recognition certificates were given to: Jim Gary and Josh Campbell of Karnack High School; Tessia Brixey, Melinda Hill, Lynsay Houchen, and Kelly McCann of Marshall High School; Lovejoy Makoni and Michael Pearson of Wiley College; John Bryan of Stephen F. Austin State University.

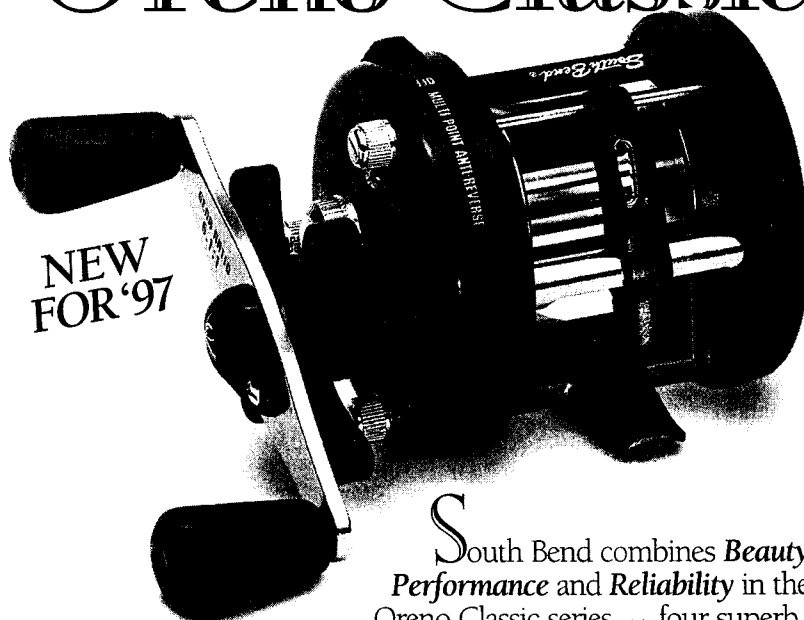
1996 Ramsar Stewardship Globe Awards were awarded to: the Texas Nature Conservancy which aided in the purchase of lands included in the Caddo Ramsar wetland site; Texas Parks & Wildlife Department which obtained land; Cong. Jim Chapman for his Caddo Lake Initiative and securing of federal funding and technical assistance for CLI programs; the National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, LA for technical support including the suggestion that Caddo Lake be submitted for Ramsar Convention consideration; the Texas General Land Office which offered additional acreage on Caddo lake for inclusion in the Ramsar site; the U.S. Army for the LHAAP agreement; to Mollie Beattie, posthumously, for her contributions to CLI and Caddo Lake.

Henley also recognized the J. Marshall Jones family of Caddo lake which is submitting private property on Potter's Point on Caddo Lake for inclusion in the Caddo Ramsar site, the first private land application for Ramsar recognition in the world. Ramsar Secretary General Delmar Blasco told the audience he would do what he could to expedite the listing.

Mollie Beattie Memorial Awards for teachers were awarded Dr. Alexandrine Randriamahefa of Wiley College and to Wetland Intern Michael Pearson, also of Wiley College.

For further information on the Caddo Lake Ramsar site, Caddo Lake Institute, Caddo Lake Scholars Program, Project WET (Texas) or other CLI programs, contact Dwight Shellman at P.O. Box 2710, Aspen, CO 81812-2710 or call (970) 925-2710 or fax (970) 923-4245. Or, for the Caddo Lake Scholars Program, contact Sara Kneipp at 3703 Bridle Path, Marshall, TX 75670 or call-fax at (903) 938-3545. ★

# Oreno Classic™



South Bend combines *Beauty*, *Performance* and *Reliability* in the Oreno Classic series — four superb levelwinds that set a new standard in traditional baitcasting. Also available are two action-balanced Oreno Classic rod-and-reel combos.

## The baitcasting features fishermen are looking for. . .

- Precision-engineered centrifugal brake — *tames backlash and promotes distance casting.*
- Traditional round-sideplate design — *affords comfortable palming.*
- Machine-cut brass gears — *for long reel life and positive feel.*
- 6.1:1 ratio — *when it's time to race a buzzbait.*
- Thumb bar free-spool release — *makes one-handed casting a snap.*
- Wide-range star drag — *provides dependable trophy-fighting control.*
- 3 ball bearings (select models) — *assures ultra-smooth cranking.*
- Anodized aluminum spool (select models) — *increases reel strength for "lock down" fishing.*
- No-slip one-way clutch (select models) — *eliminates gear slap, fosters powerful hook-sets.*

## FREE!

### COLLECTOR'S EDITION BASS-ORENO®!

Get this free Bass-Oreno lure with the purchase of any South Bend Oreno Classic reel or combo. This is a limited-production, all-wood, 80th Anniversary collector's edition of the legendary shallow-running plug that still has amazing bass-attracting power!

A \$19.95 VALUE. See your local South Bend retailer for more information.



The Bass-Oreno is manufactured by Luhr Jensen & Sons, Inc. Bass-Oreno is a registered trademark of Luhr Jensen & Sons, Inc.

Offer good in U.S. and Canada only.

For more information, visit us on the internet at: <http://www.south-bend.com>



An American Fishing Tradition.