

Officials slate hearing on giant salvinia

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Giant salvinia in local water bodies will be the topic of an oversight hearing 10 a.m., Monday, in Shreveport, La., and some of the nation's experts on its detrimental effects are set to testify.

U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs will convene in the Louisiana State University-Shreveport Theater where topics will focus on efforts to control and eradicate giant salvinia, according to a press release.

Since 2006, the invasive fern native to the Brazilian tropics has created environmental and economic problems for Caddo Lake and Lake Bistineau among others in Texas and Louisiana.

Rep. John Fleming, R-La., who is chairman of the subcommittee, and Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, are co-hosting the hearing.

The subcommittee falls under the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources.

Experts slated to testify include directors or representatives from national, state and non-profit agencies including: United States Geological Survey; Texas' Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries; Caddo Lake Institute; Terrebonne National Estuary Program, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and Louisiana State University.

Louisiana State Rep. Henry Burns and Texas State Rep. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, are also slated to testify.