

A War Against Giant Salvinia

Texas Association of Bass Clubs sent representatives to meet with Caddo Lake Institute, TBBU, B.A.S.S. Federation and local communities and Agencies to discuss ways to help Caddo Lake reduce the presence of the non-natives invasive Giant Salvinia plant on Caddo Lake. The meeting was held at the Dallas Caddo Lake Hunting and Fishing Club property located on Caddo Lake. We toured the lake with local guides and saw the problem first hand, and this time of year the salvinia is at its lowest concentrations. I witnessed large mats in back water areas that covered areas as large as 20 to 30 acres.



Cypress trees showing Giant Salvinia washed in and around them. You can see small clumps out in front that the wind is pushing in to the mat.

If the Salvinia covers spawning areas in the spring it can have an effect on the spawn because nothing can live below the mat. The Salvinia uses up all the oxygen plus it blocks sunlight that the eggs need to hatch. Since the Salvinia is a free floating vegetation, if bass and other fish do move into an area and build nests and then the wind switches directions and blows a mat over the spawning area the bass will leave the area even if they have already spawned meaning that there could possibly be no spawn that year.



As the wind picked up more and more Salvinia started moving around and pushed towards the shore line.

During the summer months the salvinia can double its size every week and can build up mats as deep as 3 feet and completely choke an area out.

To combat this invasion we are joining forces with Caddo Lake Institute, TBBU, Texas B.A.S.S Federation, Texas Parks & Wildlife and the local communities and agencies to hold the first Non-Fish Tournament. This event will be a two day event and will be combined with a bass tournament on the second day. The first day teams will register for the tournament to collect as much Giant Salvinia as they can and bring it to a weigh-in site to be weighed. Cash and prizes will be handed out to the teams that collect the heaviest weight of salvinia during tournament hours. The next day we will hold a bass tournament and the winners of that tournament will also receive cash and prizes for their heaviest stringer weight.

This project is in the planning stages for now and no dates have been set as yet but details will be coming out as they are finalized.

The wind was blowing probably 15 mph or better and this shoreline mat probably doubled by the next morning.

