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The fight to save Caddo Lake from giant salvinia is in full swing and our hat is off to Greater Caddo Lake Association. East Texas has many draws; the people, the culture and, not least, the beautiful, unique landscape. Renowned across the country as the Pine Woods of Texas, the area also boasts an internationally protected wetland, the largest cypress forest in the world and one of Texas' few natural lakes in Caddo Lake.

An unassailable gem, Caddo has been under siege for several years from the invasive aquatic plant species giant salvinia which has been wrecking havoc on the lake's ecosystem. The Greater Caddo Lake Association took a big step last week in protecting the integrity of the lake in opening the Morley Hudson Weevil Greenhouse in Uncertain.

The bio-control-based giant salvinia management program is the first high production weevil rearing facility in the world. The forward-thinking GCLA quickly took up the use of weevils in combating the plant after a successful Texas A&M Center for Invasive Species Eradication study. Previously, the state had been spraying the plant with herbicides to a total of \$1.6 million since salvinia was first found in Caddo Lake in 2006.

The weevils grown in this greenhouse live in water and plants pumped in from Caddo Lake so there is no shock when they are introduced into the lake. Once weevils reach a designated weight, they will be released into carefully selected parts of the lake. A major benefit of the greenhouse is the regulated temperature, so the weevils will survive during the winter to be able to immediately combat the plant when it hits the warmer months and its optimal growing climate.

The work of GCLA and organizations like it is essential to preserving the natural wonder situated in our own backyard. A special thank you to some of GCLA's contributors: Caddo Lake Institute, the Morley Hudson family, Harrison County, Cypress Valley Navigation District, the City of Uncertain, Texas A&M and the Dallas Caddo Club. The East Texas Council of Governments also assisted them with their grant writing proposal and David and Sarah Smith donated their land at Shady Glade Resort and Marina for the greenhouse site.

This orchestrated ballet of volunteers, scientists and supporters may not expect the entire lake to be cleared of salvinia for six years, but the opening of the first greenhouse was a milestone in the fight to save Caddo, and we are very appreciative of their efforts.