

## Marshall News Messenger (TX)

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### Caddo Lake: it's past and it's future

Admit it, sometimes we all get so frustrated with the political process and politicians themselves that we forget that they can do good things for our community, even if we might disagree with them on a few more fundamental issues. U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert have been good friends of **Caddo Lake**. They have taken what steps they can to direct help needed to save the **lake** — Texas' only natural **lake** — from the ravages of giant salvinia. Understand that this has not been out of the pork barrel. There are no special projects or buildings that will carry some wealthy contributor's name. This is basic care that is needed to help keep the **lake** in a survivable condition. Marshall, Harrison County and, indeed, the wider world owe both Hutchison and Gohmert a debt of gratitude. We doubt the world knows much of what they have done and that is a shame. Governance is not all about debt ceilings and controversial matters. It is also about smaller details that are important in the everyday lives of citizens. Not that **Caddo Lake** is a small detail, but it is, or should be, important for every resident in this area. Not only is it a special place for the environment, it is also a source of entertainment and a source of income for many people. Protecting the **lake** is not about some fuzzy idealism, it is about as pragmatic as it gets. Gohmert and Hutchison understand this and have worked in that direction. While Hutchison has already said she will not stand for re-election, we feel confident that Gohmert will and that he will continue to be a strong supporter. As with many issues, protecting **Caddo Lake** is not a liberal or conservative agenda item. It is just smart. The fact that so many with varying political views can get together toward one goal should give us hope that we need not view everything from a political perspective. We have often particularly disagreed with Rep. Gohmert on a number of issues, but when we believe he is right we give him full credit. On **Caddo** is absolutely right. **Caddo Lake** is by no means out of trouble, even with the help of these politicians and even with a wide base of support within the state and nation. Giant salvinia is not the only problem and, in fact, it is not even the only invasive species which threatens **Caddo**. A number of other issues exist, including pollution from the many nearby coal-fired power plants. Furthermore a summer such as this has taken the **lake** down to new recorded lows. That also endangers the fish and other animals that live in and around the **lake**. There are problems everywhere to be true and more necessities than there is money to spend on fixing them, but **Caddo Lake** should be one area on which we focus. It holds great history for this area and, with just a little tender, loving care, it can hold a great future for us, as well.

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