



Caddo Lake named in Yahoo top popular lakes in America



By Caleb Brabham
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Yahoo's 10 most popular lakes in America

10. Crater lake, Oregon
9. Table Rock Lake, Branson, Missouri
8. Caddo Lake, located on the border of Louisiana and Texas.

UNCERTAIN - Though locally celebrated for decades, Caddo Lake recently came to national acclaim when, on July 14, Yahoo released a list of 10 most popular lakes in America, naming Caddo Lake as number eight on the list of travel destinations.

Lead Ranger Mark McCray at Caddo Lake State Park said the honor was little surprise to him.

"I'm happy to hear it, but I can't be too surprised because it is a fairly unique lake," McCray said. "It's a great honor, but it's not that amazing to me because it's an amazing lake."

7. Lake Powell, located on the border of Utah and Arizona
6. Lake Shasta, Northern California
5. Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri
4. Lake Havasu, located on the border of Arizona and California
3. Big Bear Lake, located east of Los Angeles, California
2. Lake Champlain, located on the Canadian border of Vermont and New York
1. Lake Tahoe, California



In its listing, Yahoo wrote, "On the border of Louisiana and Texas, Caddo Lake is a protected wetlands and home to the largest cypress forest in the world, and it's a beautiful spot to canoe through lush vegetation. It is also the site of several Bigfoot sightings, so keep your eyes peeled. Stay in one of the popular cabins in Caddo Lake State Park and explore the maze of bayous and ponds that make up the lake. (Or rent a private cabin.) But beware of alligators, which frequent the park and lake. You might want to read ... alligator safety tips before hitting the water."

Caddo Lake State Park acknowledged the honor July 23, posting the list to its Facebook page, saying, "Caddo Lake and Caddo Lake State Park got a shout out on this Yahoo! article today about the 10 most popular lakes in America. Woohoo! They mention that alligators frequent the park and lake, but here at the park we don't see them much because there is too much human activity for their liking (although reading the safety tips is still a good idea)."

He said he believes the lake is special due to its distinct character and charm.

"Certainly, I think it's unique in the Texas state park system," McCray said. "One of the things I've always liked about it and liked since I came here seven years ago, is that any lake is pretty on a blue sky day, but Caddo ... has its own charm to it even on a gloomy overcast day. It all fits together with the Spanish moss and the trees growing out on the water."

McCray said although the lake was recognized for its popularity, the park itself has seen its ups and downs this season.

"Things started off slow this spring because of how wet it was and the flooding we had," McCray said. "It's been a little busier than usual the last month and a half but it's starting to slow up because the weather is just getting so hot."

"Probably there are as many reasons people come as there are people," McCray said. "Some people just like to get out on the water to do some kayaking and canoeing. There's a lot of nature watching. We have a lot of different bird species here. You see coyotes, deer and pretty much anything that's indigenous to this area around the lake."

See the original article at <http://yhoo.it/1CMVICv>.

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