

The DDRC Current News

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Volume 25, No. 10

The Official Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club

October 1998

Halloween at Caddo Lake 1998

The Dallas Down River Club formally invites you to help us haunt Goat Island Friday Oct. 23rd and Sat. the 24th. Camp will be at the usual location on the South-West corner of Goat Island near Pine Needle Lodge. Put-in and take out will be at Pine Needle Lodge or Blair's Landing. Map and directions can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Saturday festivities will include several events and contests:

12:00: Start of the pumpkin carving contest, bring uncarved pumpkin, knives, candles, pattern, etc., judging will be later. Plan on taking pumpkin home with you as they are not natural to Goat Island!

2:00: Pinata for the kids and adults!

3:00: Best decorated tent site. All decorations must be removed when you leave.

4:45: Dutch oven cook-off for desserts or main courses, have your entry ready at this time so we can include it in the pot luck dinner to follow. (contests rules on page 2 of this newsletter)

5:00: Pot luck dinner, bring a dish of any kind for your group and three more.

After dinner: Trick or treating from tent to tent, bring treats or you could be tricked!

Please dimly light your campsite safely for the trick-or-treaters!

Bon-fire, bring 2 or more pieces of firewood per boat, depending on the weather.

Costume contest for kids and adults.

Apple bobbing for kids and adults.

Ghost stories, bring a story to read or tell!

Maybe the "Lady of the Lake" will make her appearance???

Prizes will be ribbons in all categories this year due to the logistics of hauling everything to the island.

Camping is primitive so bring water and appropriate gear.

Plan on leaving no trace of your stay on the island including decorations and firepits!

Any questions? call



Charles Edwards: 972-867-6579

Jack Deatherage 972-222-1407 jfd2@airmail.net

Caddo Lake has it all

by Gail K Beil

Cox East Texas

Most descriptions of Caddo Lake begin with superlatives. It is the oldest lake in Texas, the only natural lake in Texas, and some would say it's not a lake at all - not on the Texas side anyway.

It's also a lake best seen the first time, and maybe always, with an experienced guide or on a tour boat. It is easy to get lost on boat roads called Whangdoodle Pass, Government Ditch or in places like Old Folks Playground, Hog Wallow or Hayrake.

Caddo Lake's history includes a lot of myth wrapped loosely around the facts. Most researchers now agree it was not formed by an 1811 New Madrid earthquake, though the story is still told for fact around the lake, and Indian lore does report a great movement of the earth around the lake at about that time. The 1811 earthquake most likely very much altered Caddo Lake's size, but it existed before then.

All sorts of other things from floods to log jams altered the shape of the lake. At least five maps can be found showing different configurations of water and land with about as many names. It has been known as Soda Lake, Sodo Lake, and part of it is still called Carter Lake.

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Ken Lock 214-823-5263

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John Pullman 214-824-0213

Kayaks

Helen Livingston 214-821-6712

Caddo Lake Halloween '98 Contests and Rules

· **The Dutch Oven competition includes desserts and main course. All entries must be prepared entirely on Goat Island, you may enter both but you must prepare and cook them your self. Any non-standard Dutch Oven must be cleared by the contest judge.**

· **The Costume contest has three divisions: Kids, ages 1-8, and 9-17. Adults, ages 18 plus. There will be two ribbons in each division, 1st. prize ribbon for best costume and 2nd. prize ribbon for the scariest costume, extra points for home-made costumes, in case of a tie the funniest costume will win.**

· **Tent and tent site decorating contest will have a 1st. and 2nd. ribbon, all materials used for decorations shall be removed from Goat Island!!**

· **Pumpkin carving contest, pumpkins must be carved on Goat Island. Each pumpkin will be signed by the artist and removed from Goat Island. There will be two divisions, ages 15 and under, and 16 plus with 2 ribbons in each. 1st. for the best carving and 2nd. for the scariest.**

· **Apple bobbing. Little mouths 10 and under, big mouths 11 plus.**

· **Please keep your pets controlled or leashed during the afternoon and evening festivities for the safety of the kids and cooks!!**

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The reason for the changes in name and shape is evident with a visitor's first tour. The Texas side is not a lake at all. It's a vast wetland - a swamp, if you please. Channels - some natural, some man-made - trail through islands of cypress and tupelo trees, all covered with Spanish moss. Mayhaws cling to the banks along the boat roads, and pines, willows, oaks and sweet gum grow where the land is a little higher. But except for the Cypress Bayou that transects the lake from Jefferson to the earthen weir at Mooringsport, La., Caddo Lake is shallow. The average depth is 4 feet.

Nevertheless, at one time, the lake was navigable, and paddle wheelers brought goods from New Orleans and took cotton from Texas to the Gulf Coast. They didn't do it year-round, of course, but in the spring and fall when the water would be higher because of seasonal rains, towns such as Jefferson, Port Caddo and Swanson's Landing flourished because of the steamboat traffic.

Shipping came to an end about 1873 when a 100-mile-long log jam, known as a raft, on the Red River was removed. Over the next few years, the water level dropped, Jefferson dried up, and Port Caddo and Swanson's Landing disappeared. But stories about spectacular steamboat fires and wrecks add to the tales that make the lake a mysterious place.

Those steamboats are probably the reason for the name of the town called Uncertain on Texas maps. The word "uncertain" appears on a stretch of the Cypress Bayou on many of the maps used during the time of the steamboats. At the time, it probably referred to the uncertain depth of the bayou. Now, it is the name of the only incorporated town on the Texas side of Caddo, and the first place in Harrison County to serve liquor by the drink when Prohibition finally ended. Until then, there are those who say Uncertain and other Caddo Lake communities were the best place to get moonshine. There are those who say it still is.

An unsuspected treasure - pearls -

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Newsletter: The DDRC newsletter, Current News, is a monthly publication distributed to club members and affiliated paddling organizations nationwide. The deadline for submissions is the 1st Thursday of each month. Information may be submitted via e-mail, at schleter@dallas.net, or fax/phone to Steve Schleter, at (972) 329-0729. Articles about and of direct interest to DDRC members will receive first priority, paid advertising will be given second priority, and other materials will be included on a space-available basis. Unless otherwise specified, all information about river trips will be added to the DDRC Internet website trip calendar.

Change of Address: Please contact Chris Cockrell, Treasurer, if you need to report a change of mailing address. If you fail to get a newsletter, it will be because we do not have a current address or your membership has expired. Chris will be happy to correct wrong addresses, and take your dues if you are in arrears.

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The Enviroment Section

by David Lamb

We cleaned up 65 bags of trash this month from White Rock Lake, the Elm Fork of the Trinity River and Denton Creek. Helping in the cleanups were:

- Chris Cockrell**
- David Lamb**
- Alan Lamb**
- Rachel Lamb**
- Rich Casey (sp?)**

With the much needed heavy rains, the storm sewers were cleaned out into the creeks. The creeks were cleaned out into the river. Now the Trinity has a litter problem along its banks again. I picked up 4 bags on October 4th just cleaning up 100 yards of shoreline across from the boat ramp at McInnish Park. Please take a bag with you and get a bag picked up on the Trinity. We had it cleaned up for the Trinity River Challenge race and would like to keep it looking nice.

The next White Rock Lake cleanups are October 10th and November 14th. I am going to have to miss the October 10th cleanup and would appreciate extra folks going out to work on the Sunset Bay area.

Should we continue to be part of the Saturday Spruce-up of White Rock Lake? Shouldn't the club concentrate on camping trips and floats instead of cleanups? The club name is Dallas DownRiver, so why bother with a bay on a lake? I will say that Alan and Rachel enjoy doing the cleanup partly because they get so much attention for making the lake beautiful. They also feel tougher than the "landlubbers" on the shore. Other groups would like to get water support for the cleanup as well.

That's all y' all.



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was found when Caddo Lake drained at the turn of the century. The hunt for fresh-water pearls became a hobby for some and an obsession for others. Families came from all over Texas and Louisiana in the summer, camped at the lake and paid for their vacation with the sale of the pinkish, misshapen pearls found in the muddy brown shells of the mussels that were generally located with a toe in the goo on the bottom of the lake.



Pearl-hunting time was over when another of nature's treasures - oil - was discovered in the earth below the lake. Gulf Oil developed and perfected its offshore drilling techniques in Caddo Lake. To make offshore drilling work, however,

the water level had to be stabilized, so the earthen dam at Mooringsport was constructed. Its addition changed Caddo Lake from the only natural lake to the only naturally formed lake in Texas.

Each of these events contributed to the mysterious lure of Caddo Lake. In the years since the oil boom played out, movie makers discovered the spooky Spanish moss and the colorful residents of Caddo. So have catfish-eaters, people who enjoy bed and

breakfasts in unusual places, fishermen, bird watchers, hunters, paddlers and lovers of lands not usually associated with Texas. As a result, Caddo Lake grows in popularity in Texas - a phenomenon that worries some because of the fragile nature of the lake and its ecosystem.

DDRC NEW MEMBERS

The DDRC would like to welcome the following people who have joined our club last month. We hope they have had the opportunity to participate in some of our events and trips. We encourage them to attend the meetings and introduce themselves to others. If anyone is missing below, we apologize and please let someone know.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Richard Donahue | Dallas |
| Siria Barros | Plano |
| Cecilia Adams | Mesquite |
| Bob Harnack | Grand Prairie |
| Brent Smith | Plano |
| Donald Shanon | Dallas |
| David & Martha Nevers | Grand Prairie |
| Lonnie & Colleen Davis | Grand Prairie |

Every Wednesday:
Roll, Rescue and Paddle Session
Northlake, 5 pm til dark
Contact
Keith Smith at 817/566-4869

DDRC Annual Membership
\$20.00/year - Individual or Family
\$200.00 - Lifetime Membership
Due January, 1998
Send to:
DDRC
P.O. Box 820246
Dallas, Texas 75382



Directions to Caddo Lake

To Caddo Lake:

From Dallas, take I-20 east to Marshall, exit Hwy 59, turn left (north). Watch for the state park sign just past an overhead bridge. Turn right (east) at Hwy 43, go approximately 14 miles to Karnack. Follow Hwy 43 as it bears left towards the state park.

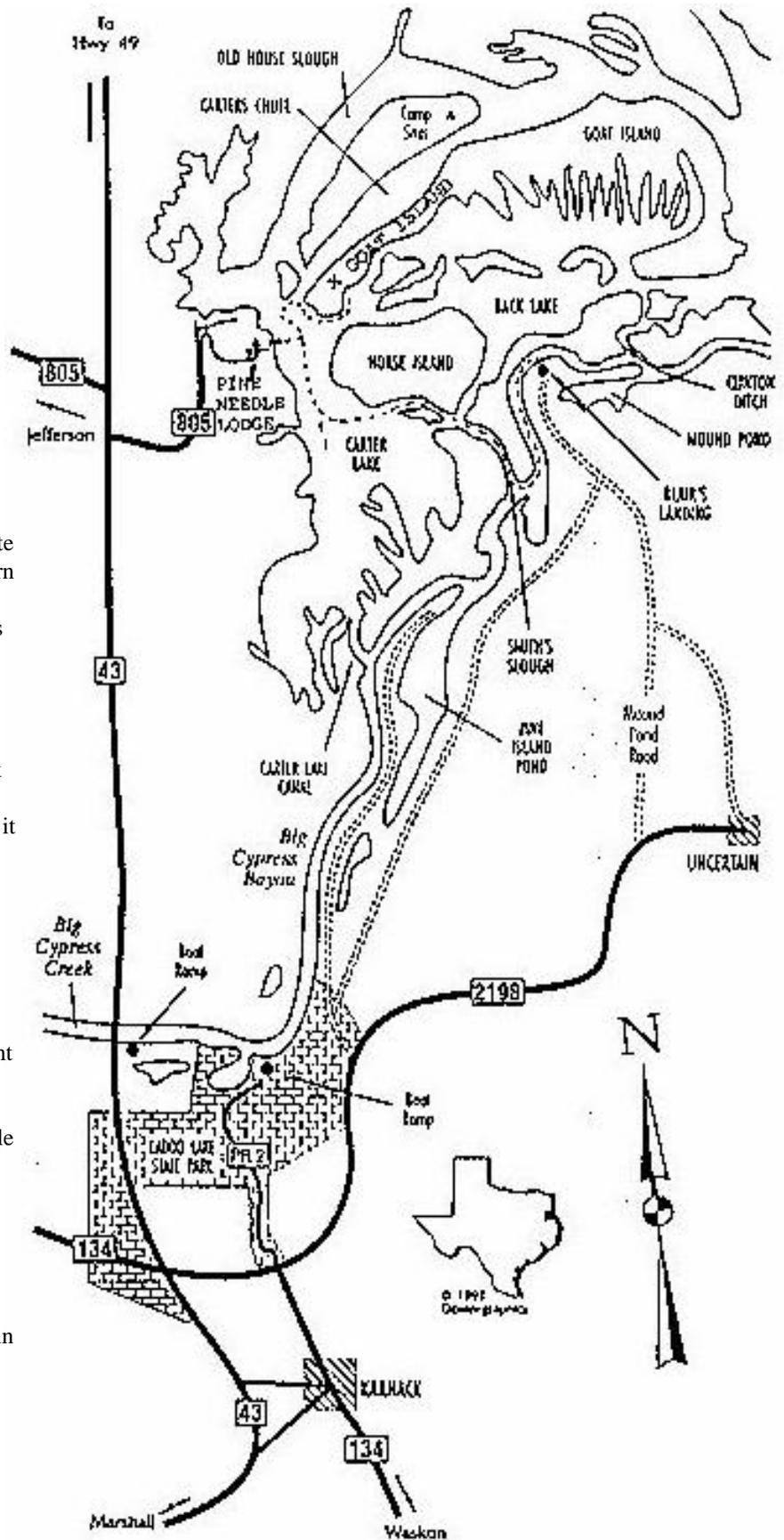
To Blair's Landing:

Turn off Hwy 43 (right), at the Caddo Lake State Park Road, FM 2198. Go past the park and stay on FM 2198 towards Uncertain. Turn left on Mound Pond Road and follow it to its end where you will find Blair's Landing.

To Pine Needle Lodge:

Continue on Hwy 43 past the state park turnoff, cross the bayou bridge and turn right on the next real road Hwy 805. Continue until the pavement ends and bear right to Pine Needle Lodge. As you go thru the gate, notice parking on both sides of road. Boat ramp is at the end. Unload your vehicle and move it quickly as space at the boat ramp is at a premium. There is a \$2.00 per day per vehicle charge payable to Ann or Barry Bennick, the owners of Pine Needle Lodge. Please respect their property. Boat rentals:

Canoes can be rented locally from Mountain Sports in Arlington (Bill Anton 817-461-4503); High Trails in Garland (Bob Narramore, 972-272-3353); North Texas Canoes in Carrollton (Rich Manning 972-245-7475); or at Pine Needle Lodge on Caddo Lake (Barry and Ann Bennick 903-665-2911).

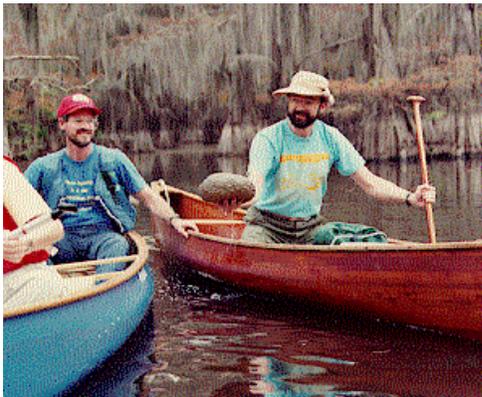


Interesting Facts About Caddo Lake:

- The largest natural fresh water lake in the South.
- The lake actually measures about 20 miles from the western tip of Carter's Lake to the dam, at the east end. Yet it's wide expanses of swampy shallows give it an average depth of less than 10 feet.
- Exploring Spaniards in 1536 discovered this swampy chain of waters and named it "Laguana Espanols".
- During the heyday of the lake's boat traffic, strangers were often startled to see emerging from one of Caddo's narrow channels, an ancient galley ship, complete with crew of sweating black oarsmen, owned by a Caddo plantation owner, who cut the still existent passageway near Pine Island.
- According to a Caddoan legend, Caddo Lake was formed by an earthquake. A Caddo Indian Chief was warned by the Great Spirit to move his village from the low lands. The Chief ignored the warning and one day while he and his men were out hunting the ground shook. When they returned, their village was gone beneath the water of the newly formed Caddo Lake.

There could be some truth to this story. In 1811 New Madrid, Missouri had an earthquake that measured 8.9. This could have knocked down enough trees to form the great raft that dammed the Red River and formed Caddo Lake.

· In a riverboat tragedy in 1860, the Mittie Stevens burned near Swanson's Landing, with a loss of 60 lives. Had the victims known that the water was only a few feet deep, they could have waded to shore.



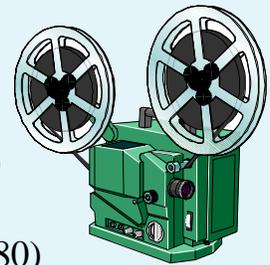
No telling what you can fish out of Caddo.



Caddo Lake at the Movies

Movies filmed on or around Caddo Lake:

- **The Long Hot Summer (1985)**
Cybil Shepherd & Don Johnson
- **Big Bad John (1990)**
Jimmy Dean & Lois Nettleton
- **Southern Comfort (1981)**
Powers Booth
- **Soggy Bottom, USA (1980)**
Don Johnson & Lois Nettleton
- **The Man who Broke a Thousand Chains**
- **The Final Cut (1980)**
- **The Legend of Boggy Creek (1972)**
- **'Gator Bait (1976)**
- **'Gator Bait II**
- **Picasso Trigger (1988)**
- **Do or Die (1991)**
- **Two For Texas (1997)**
Kris Kristofferson



Walt Disney Movies:

- **The Ghost of Cyprus Swamp**
- **The Secret of the Pond**
- **Bayou Boy**
- **The Boy from Dead Man's Pond**
- **Weakfoot**



DDRC Calendar of Coming Events



Oct. 17-18	Swiftwater Rescue Class	Guadalupe River	Ken Lock 214/823-5263
Oct. 17-18	Octoberfest Sprint Race	White Rock Lake	David Lamb 214/931-3068
Oct. 23-25	Annual Halloween Campout	Caddo Lake	Charles Edwards 972/867-6579
Nov. 14	White Rock Lake Cleanup	Barbec's Restaurant@7:30a	David Lamb 214/931-3068

REI's FALL...

Paddlesports Day!

**Sand Bass Point Recreation Area
Oak Grove Park, Lake Grapevine**

Saturday, October 17th from 10am - 3 pm

Touring kayaks, Recreational kayaks, Sit-on-tops



Grapevine Lake

Join us at this FREE event for a fun-filled day on the water! Representatives from Dagger, Perception, and Necky will be on hand with their boats and will be available to answer questions. Try out a sleek touring kayak, a fun recreational kayak, or a new sit-on-top. Knowledgeable REI staff members will be providing assistance.

For more information, call REI at (972)490-5989.

SWIFTWATER RESCUE CLASS

There is an ACA Swiftwater Rescue class scheduled for October 17,18. The cost is \$50 for DDRC members and \$75 for non-members. You must also be a member of the ACA or pay an additional \$5 for this one event. This class will be held on the lower Guadalupe river, in Slumber Falls. To register or get more information, please contact Ken Lock at 214-823-5263 or Debbie Meller 972-727-9290.

HAPPY



HALLOWEEN



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Gary Kriedeman
metro 817-429-0960
kriedema@flash.net

"Quality that lingers"

The Octoberfest Sprint Race on October 24th at White Rock Lake has been changed to October 17th on the Elm Fork of the Trinity at **McInnish Park**.



Treasurer's Report

**Total = \$3028.38
as of 10/7/98**



Gee... you think somebody lives there??.

WANT ADS

selling 2 rectangular down sleeping bags rated as 0 degrees f. total weight 6 1/2 lbs. each. storage bag and stuff sack included. made by slumberjack for bass pro shop. size is 37 in. x 85 in. paid \$200 each, will sell \$175 each. used once, allergic to down.
Marilyn 214 637 0191 x27

Cat's Meow- North Face 20 degree bag. 3-season Royal blue shell, black lining. 80"x30"x20" fits 5'11". Loft 5.5" total weight 2 lbs. 14 oz. Sales for \$169. Used twice, still new, asking \$100 contact Kim @ 972-907-9178, leave message.

Pyranha Mountain 300 kayak with airbags and sprayskirt (med.) FC \$325;
Paddle 206cm \$50; PFD (sm.) \$20;
Helmet (med.) \$10.
Keith (940)566-4869

To Buy: a Canoe 16 to 169 length and 55-60 weight
e-mail: dalaniz@swbell.net
Jesse and Dorina Thomas
Members

Buzzard's Roost

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Text Ads (Non-Members)	Per column inch	3.75
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