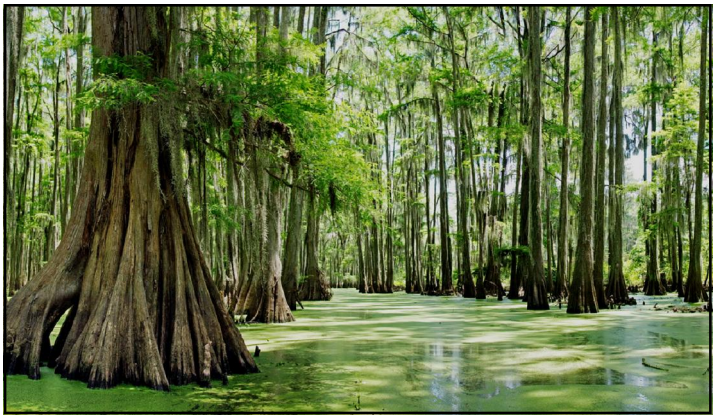
The refuge we've worked so hard to help establish is about to be open to the public!

Texas Conservation Alliance's member organization, Friends of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge (http://www.caddofriends.org), is joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in hosting the refuge's official

"Opening Celebration"
Saturday, September 26, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

There'll be entertainment, exhibits, and family fun. Call 903-679-9144 for more information. We hope you all can come!



Caddo Lake

Visitors to Caddo Lake use phrases like "the most beautiful place I've ever been". Gasps of surprise are common as vistas open up before eager eyes. The moss-strung cypress trees reflected in the water conjure images of the Deep South and inspire film-makers to build story lines around the setting.

For decades Texas Conservation Alliance, partnering with the Greater Caddo Lake Association, the Caddo Lake Institute, and others, has helped stave off threats to this exquisite lake. Our coalitions have stopped water diversions from an unneeded reservoir upstream on Little Cypress Creek, opposed a Corps project to dig a huge navigation canal through the lake, and supported turning a World War II ammunitions plant into the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Just when the political threats to Caddo Lake seem to be waning, introduction of an exotic plant called Giant Salvinia has brought a new battle for the folks who love Caddo to fight.

With the apt scientific name of *Salvinia molesta,* this water fern can spread with incredible speed, suffocating the lake beneath. Intense effort is going into battling the noxious plant, including construction of a barrier and spraying herbicides.

Texas Conservation Alliance is participating in a stakeholders group developing a watershed protection plan for Caddo Lake and its feeder streams. Contact us to be part of our Caddo Lake protection efforts!

Texas Conservation Alliance
Alliance@TCAtexas.org, 903-592-0909, TCAtexas.org