



### Calendar of Events

#### June 11 2-3 PM

Jefferson Junior Historians meet author Romalyn Tilghman

#### June 20 1-2 PM

Artist in Residence News Conference

#### June 23 10 AM-2 PM

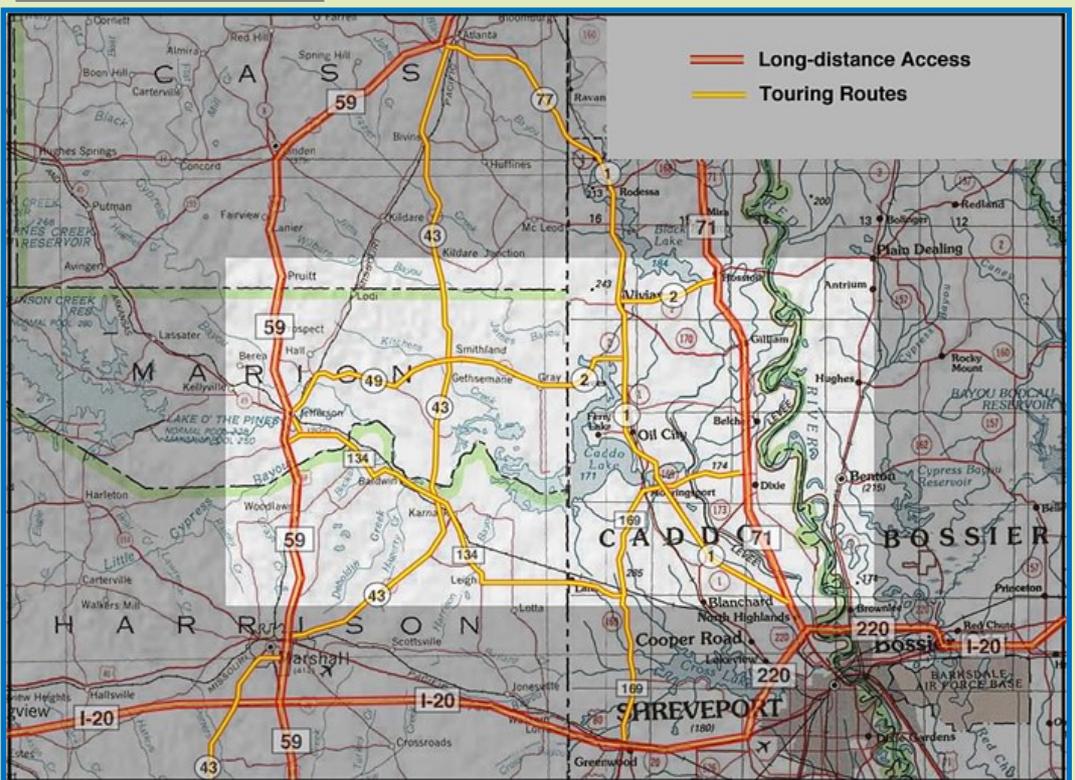
Starr Ranch Ken Gentry Pavilion Dedication

#### July 18 9 AM-3 PM

Junior Master Gardner Teacher Workshop

## Caddo Lake National Heritage Area Bill Introduced

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a bi-state congressional delegation composed of Louie Gohmert and John Ratcliffe of Texas and Mike Johnson, and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives and to the U.S. Senate, respectively, Bills to establish the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area. Known as the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area Act of 2018, the plan calls for the creation of a governing commission of stakeholders and a board of directors, a management and a business plan, an inventory of cultural, natural, historical, educational, scenic, and recreational resources; and a list of properties that relate to the area's previously identified interpretive themes to be conserved, enhanced, managed, or developed.

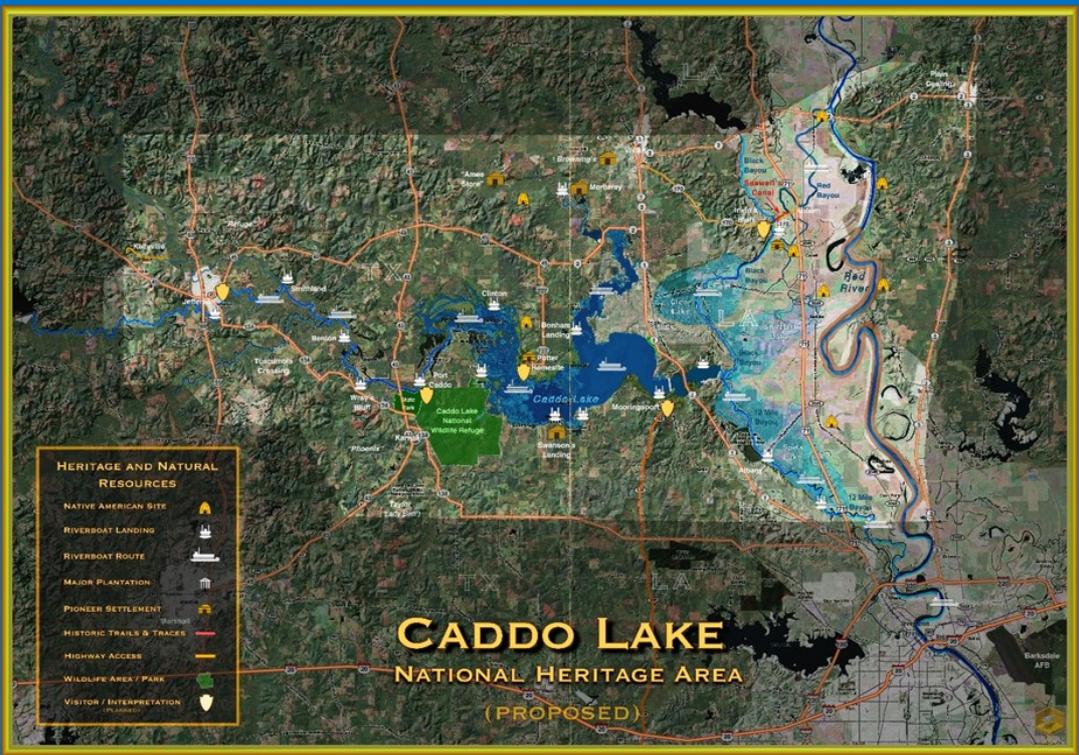


The general location of the Heritage Area involving Marion and Harrison counties in Texas and Caddo and Bossier parishes in Louisiana. The Secretary of the Department of the Interior will establish the official boundaries of the Heritage Area upon recommendation of the Heritage Area Commission (map by Bob Vernon).

For the purpose of carrying out the management plan, the approved Act, as written, will authorize the Caddo Lake Heritage Area Commission to make grants, enter into cooperative agreements, hire and compensate staff, obtain money or services from any source, contract for goods and services, and support activities of partners that further the purposes of the Heritage Area and are consistent with the management plan. The Bill prohibits the purchase of real estate with federal funds for any purpose thus preventing any land grab or potential loss of personal property rights including water rights. Participation of individual property owners in this project is totally optional.



Interested parties are asked to contact Louie Gohmert (903-561-6349) and John Ratcliffe (903-823-3173) in Texas and Mike Johnson (318-840-0309) and Dr. Bill Cassidy (318-798-3215) in Louisiana to thank them for introducing the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area Act of 2018 in Congress and to express support for continued action until it passes and becomes law.



The natural and cultural resource map of the proposed Heritage Area (map by Bob Vernon).

For more information about the 200 new points of interest for the area, the water and road trails, the new interpretive centers, the natural and the historic resources, and the waypoint markers recommended, please see [www.caddolake-nha.com](http://www.caddolake-nha.com).

## Japanese TV Shoot Visits Caddo Lake

On June 1, a Tokyo Broadcasting personality known as Kanae Takeuchi, her co-star, the director, and their film crew visited Caddo Lake to record a segment for the weekly series Sekai Fushigi Hakken (Discover Wonders of the World) about the great pearl rush led by Sachihiko Ono, George Murata or “The Jap” to locals. Ono had come to Caddo as a young boy to cook for Gulf Oil and became a mainstay for Caddo Lake’s economy and culture.



Takeuchi is presented the key to the city by Stormy Nickerson of the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce.



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He was so liked that the locals stood up for him during the roundup of Japanese during World War II giving him the name George Murata and claiming that “he is one of us.” As a result, the government did not take him away and George remained at Caddo Lake for the remainder of his life.

Ono didn't find the first pearl, but he did capitalize early by selling two large finds to Tiffany and Company of New York for \$1500 each. Word of this caused a rush to lakeside of families from near and far over the next three years, 1909-1911. As the Corps of Engineers continued working to complete the dam ordered up by Gulf Oil so they could more easily outfit and supply their over-water drilling platforms, water depths of the pearling areas of the lake began to increase and by 1911 became too deep for wading. As soon as it started, the great pearl rush was over. Created by nature the phenomenon was ended by man.

As it turns out, the three species of freshwater mussels that produced pearls 117 years ago still exist in Caddo Lake and Big Cypress Bayou today. Chances are that all three species continue to produce pearls which are findable today by anyone who wants to try hard enough.



A string of pearls from Caddo Lake and two half shells from Washboard Mussels

Collins Academy thanks Janet Cook of the Harrison County Historical Museum for rounding up the pearls and mussel shells and rolling out the red carpet for our Japanese friends. We also say thank you to Ron Hollomon of Captain Ron's Swamp Tours for the boat ride and his expert interpretation. In addition, we thank the owners and staff at Shady Glade Café for their hospitality and sharing the culture of Caddo Lake.

For anyone wanting more information on the great pearl rush, please see [www.caddolake-nha.com](http://www.caddolake-nha.com) .



## UMBC Restoration Resumes

Work to restore Union Missionary Baptist Church to its 1883 condition has resumed. The electrical contractor is almost finished and we now have 7 windows installed.



Windows have now been installed on the south side of the sanctuary building.



Inside look at window installation with siding in the foreground

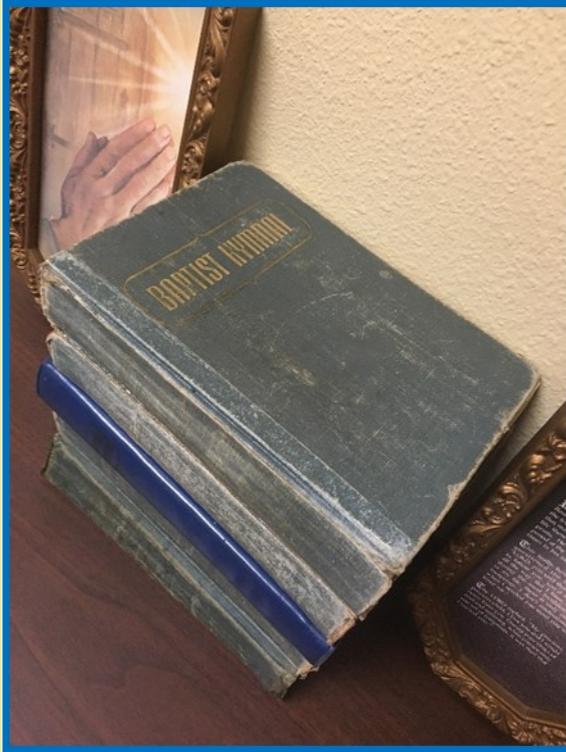


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## UMBC Hymnals Restored

In the early phases of the restoration of the UMBC, a set of the church's hymnals was recovered. However, after years of use and severe water damage, the hymnals were in such a condition it was uncertain if they would be able to be restored. With the help of staff archeologist Kari Dickson, the books were cleaned and mended. While a couple of the hymnals only required basic cleaning and repair, others had to have the cover completely reconstructed. Every hymnal was able to be completely restored, and the Collins Academy looks forward to returning them to the church once the restoration of the building is complete.



"We believe our efforts will make Jefferson, Texas a leader in ecological & historic preservation, and community involvement."

– Richard H. Collins, Collins Academy President

