



## **CADDO NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

We appreciate your interest in the development of Caddo National Heritage Area and our ongoing efforts in habitat restoration, historic preservation, and educational outreach to the surrounding community. Your sponsorship will help supply these initiatives with the personnel, equipment, materials and resources that are necessary for their success. Sponsorship opportunities can be customized to fit the specific interests and goals of your organization.

### **NHA Educational Site: Cypress River Ranch Development and Utilization**

This sponsorship will assist in establishing Cypress River Ranch as a Caddo NHA educational site and part of the Port Jefferson History & Nature Center. The site expands the scope of the NHA's curriculum to include archeological investigations, scientific inquiry, and heritage trail development on private property.

- Cypress River Ranch is an 1100 acre cattle ranch just upstream of Jefferson, Texas. Its northern boundary is 2.5 miles of Big Cypress Bayou.
- The eastern edge of the riverfront recently received in-stream habitat improvements that will encourage the restoration of paddlefish to this area as part of the Big Cypress Bayou Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project.
- The ranch's floodplain and upland areas hold historical vestiges, and has the potential of being a world-class venue for archaeological exploration and scientific investigation.

### **Port Jefferson History & Nature Center Wildlife Gardens: Native Plant Curriculum and Volunteers**

This sponsorship will provide support for the completion of this project. The original plans for the wildlife gardens were designed 16 years ago; since then inflation and cost overruns have left the park incomplete and a growing burden for volunteers. To make the area ready for use, 5 acres of native plantings, training of volunteers and maintenance is needed.

- The Big Cypress Bayou Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 1135 Project (habitat restoration to repair ecological damage caused by upstream dam) located on 40 acres of riverfront in Jefferson, Texas.
- The resultant nature park (Port Jefferson History & Nature Center) will be utilized as an outdoor classroom for Healthy Habitat children and for students of all ages studying native plantings and wildlife gardening.
- Projected topics of instruction include: in-stream habitats, restored wetlands, native plantings and habitat health, endangered species habitat management (Paddlefish & Rafinesque's Big Eared Bat), and invasive species management and control.
- Construction is scheduled to start on the project area immediately. Hard infrastructure items such as landscape contouring and connecting trails are projected to be complete by December 31, 2012.

[ Learn more: <http://collinsacademy.com/programs/port-jefferson-history-and-nature-center> ]

### **Healthy Habitats Outdoor Curriculum: Caddo Lake & Jefferson, Texas**

Sponsorship for this program will support continuation of the Healthy Habitats educational program. Implementation to this point has been funded through a Texas Parks and Wildlife CO-OP Grant award that ended July 20, 2012.

- Healthy Habitats at Caddo Lake is the title educational program of Caddo NHA.
- The curriculum has been field tested with students (preK - Grade 12) at Karnack ISD for more than 2 years, with over 4,000 participants served during that period.
- The program includes standards aligned, age appropriate, hands-on learning experiences specifically designed for use at Caddo Lake and Jefferson.

[ <http://collinsacademy.com/programs/classes-and-workshops> ]

## Plan Development and Initial Delivery of Interpretation: Dallas Street Wharves at Jefferson, Texas

This sponsorship would bring the historic Dallas Street Wharves to life for the visiting public through the development and implementation of guided and self-guided tours, displays, re-enactments, and socio-dramas.

A primary task for the Caddo NHA Management Team is to develop interpretive story lines and themes that tell the area's nationally significant story via effective use of features and relics from this period in history.

**Area Significance:** Wharves were expensive and the great difference between high and low water levels along the Mississippi River and its tributaries caused special design problems, so the vast majority of steamboat landings were of dirt. Except for a short period at Swanson's Landing on Big Lake, Jefferson was the only port with such improvements along the Red River navigation route upstream of New Orleans. Outfitting its landing areas with wooden docks facilitated the transfer of people and cargo and helped overcome the location's inherent disposition for low water periods during a time when it became the leading inland port in Texas. Along with its "head of navigation" location, multiple landings of dirt and wood provided Jefferson its economic edge and helped it become a thriving commercial and disembarkation point in Texas, second only to Galveston on the Gulf of Mexico.

[ Learn more: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hgj02> ]

## Development for Caddo National Heritage Area: Management Plan

This sponsorship will support public outreach for establishing the Caddo National Heritage Area. Each endeavor is generated through public meetings held across the Caddo Lake region.

Tasks for completing NHA designation criteria involves:

- Finishing the Feasibility Study
- Establishing a new not-for-profit organization
- Recruitment of a Management Team
- Creating a Management Plan to guide activities and development

These options are meant as examples only, and can be tailored to fit your interests and goals. Specific budget requirements and additional information is available upon request.

For more information on becoming a sponsor, please contact:

Gary Endsley  
(903) 665-2900