

Notes from  
**Interagency Giant Salvinia Control Team meeting**  
October 7, 2015

Hosted by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) at their office in Minden, Louisiana.

**Jeff Sibley, LDWF**, welcomed participants.

**David Britton, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**, encouraged attendees to sign in and thanked Dawn Orsak and CLI for coordinating the event and providing lunch.

**Steve Mininski, Louisiana State University (LSU) Ag Center**, gave an update on their ongoing weevil project on Cross Lake. In 2013, they put out 48 totes of weevil infested salvinia, but the weevils did not establish due to a cold winter. He did find some survivors the next spring and he started a colony with those cold hardy weevils. From this colony he did some more releases on the lake and put out some PVC enclosures to try different options to help overwinter the weevils at several sites. They tried putting mulch over the salvinia in some and covered some with plastic to make mini greenhouses and had some that were left open as control sites. There were mixed results with these sites and nothing stood out as a breakthrough option.

**Dr. Rodrigo Diaz, LSU**, and three of his graduate students (Alana Russell, Lori Moshman and Allie Cozad) made a presentation on their cold tolerance project. Dr. Diaz is working with contacts in Brazil and Uruguay to obtain weevils from the colder regions there.

- **Alana Russell** is studying the physiology and overwintering strategies adopted by the weevils.
- **Lori Moshman** is studying how to best create artificial 'refugios' to overwinter weevils, employing thick mats of salvinia and other alternatives.
- **Allie Cozad** is studying the climate in Central Louisiana to try and pinpoint similar conditions in Brazil and Uruguay to narrow down where to collect the weevils from. She is also looking at the level of mortality of the weevils and larvae while they are being transported from rearing facilities to release sites.

**Lee Eisenberg, Caddo Biocontrol Alliance (CBA)**, gave an update on the Morley Hudson Greenhouse project. Lee has released approximately 129,000 adult weevils since June 2015 and will probably get one more small release before the end of October 2015. Weevil damage is evident in the Willowson Woodyard release location. Lots of browning salvinia and some open water is being seen and it is expanding through the area.

**Shiyou Li, Stephen F. Austin State University**, gave an update on his endocide research. Testing and refining the product is continuing at the research facility in Louisiana. The endocides are only harmful to giant salvinia. All other plants that are found in a treated area continue to grow and thrive... no collateral damage at all.

**Laura Speight, Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network (NETCDN), Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)**, gave a presentation on the NETCDN and a project they are working on with invasive species. The project is mainly focused on detecting zebra mussels using trained canines but will also evaluate the dogs on detecting giant salvinia on boat trailers on area lakes. This will make it easier to know if salvinia

is trapped on a boat and trailer in crevices and between the boat and carpeted bunks making it difficult to be removed or seen easily.

After the presentations, there was a Round Robin discussion and updates from agencies:

**Andy Gray, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**, reported that weevils were showing excellent results on Lake B. A. Steinhagen against salvinia, but have not had the same success on Lake Sam Rayburn due to water level fluctuations. However, other invasives are moving into the void left by salvinia. Alligator-weed is becoming a problem but the alligator weed flea beetle (AWFB) is doing a good job against it. Even though they do not overwinter well, some survivors of previous releases have been detected.

**Allie Cozad, Red River Waterway Commission (RRWC)**, reported that due to major Red River flooding, no spraying or weevil releases took place there this year. The RRWC did produce a tremendous amount of weevils and were able to place them with other agencies that could utilize them. Allie also reported seeing AWFB in areas on the Red River, where no recent releases have taken place.

**Mike Boydston, RRWC** reported that they are in the process of constructing a new bio control facility near Natchitoches, Louisiana. This facility will house the office/laboratory facilities as well as a new complex of greenhouses and open ponds for rearing weevils and possibly expanding to other bio controls in the future.

**Julie Nachtrieb, USACE Lewisville**, reported success in working with Andy Gray at B. A. Steinhagen and that they were releasing and monitoring weevils in four locations in Louisiana.

**Alex Perret, LDWF**, reported they are continuing to be aggressive with their spray program, using lake drawdowns where they can. They are also using weevils in a number of lakes. He also reported that despite opposition, LDWF is still evaluating the cutting of cypress trees in some lakes so they can better access salvinia in backwater areas.

**Thomas Decker, TPWD**, reported that they have released a total of 180,000 weevils on Caddo and Toledo Bend lakes, they have also sprayed 2,700 acres of salvinia on each of those lakes and a recent vegetation survey showed about 2,800 acres of salvinia on the Texas side of Caddo Lake. Thomas also reported seeing AWFB in Huxley Bay on Toledo Bend in an area that no releases had been made in recent years.

**Lee Eisenberg, CBA**, reported releasing 129,000 adult weevils in 2015 on Caddo Lake and an additional 35,000 were released in September 2014 for a total of 164,000 adult weevils released since that facility started operation in mid July 2014. Lee also reported AWFB on Caddo in areas where no releases have occurred in the last year or so.

**David Britton, USFWS**, reported that most Federal funding was being focused on zebra and quagga mussel projects at this time. He also reported that the website needs some attention and had not been updated in a while. The contract with UT Arlington was running out as there was no more grant money to continue it. Caddo Lake Institute has offered to take over the maintenance and updating of the website if the group was agreeable. No one voiced any opposition to this and all seemed excited that the website would continue to be updated.

David asked about setting a meeting date and location for next year and it was decided he would send out a doodle poll for this.

-notes taken by Robert Speight, NETMWD