

# Catahoula Lake

## *Hugh Anderson Bateman Tribute Project*

*(In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries)*



*(Bronze plaque for the face of the cairn)*

**Ducks Unlimited, Inc.**  
**Southern Regional Office**



# CATAHOULA LAKE WMA HUGH ANDERSON BATEMAN TRIBUTE PROJECT



**PURPOSE:** The Catahoula Lake Wildlife Management Area is a RAMSAR site, a wetland of international importance. Over 25,000 acres in size, the lake is the most important inland wetland for waterfowl and shorebirds in Louisiana. One of the greatest champions of Catahoula Lake has been Mr. Hugh Bateman, former Ducks Unlimited's Director of Conservation Programs for Louisiana, and retired Wildlife Administrator for the LA Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries. Mr. Bateman has dedicated himself, both publicly and privately, to ensuring the viability of Catahoula Lake as a haven for

himself, both publicly and privately, to ensuring the wildlife and waterfowl for future generations. This project is to recognize his efforts on Catahoula Lake.

**LOCATION:** Owned by the State of Louisiana, Catahoula Lake is located in the Louisiana parishes of LaSalle and Rapides in the approximate center of the state. It is subject to overflows from the Ouachita, Black, and Red Rivers, and backwater from the Mississippi River.



**DESCRIPTION:** Catahoula Lake is a water body composed of 20,000 acres of moist soil wetlands surrounded by 5,000 acres of shrub-scrub habitat.

It supports one of the most important naturally occurring wetland ecosystems found in the MAV. The lake provides habitat for hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese, and shore/wading birds, as well as aquatic habitat for both sport and commercial fish populations. The recreational benefits for Louisiana citizens include hunting, fishing, camping and bird-watching opportunities.

**IMPROVEMENTS:** In the late 1990s the open lakebed was being overtaken by non-desirable invasive woody vegetation, eliminating the production of seed and tuber-producing plants which are valuable waterfowl foods. Knowing the recreational opportunities and waterfowl values could be compromised in the not-too-distant future, Mr. Bateman took the Catahoula Lake Vegetation Control project under his wing. From 1999 through 2006, he was the driving force in securing private and government grants, donations of chemicals, and GIS imagery surveys to aid in the restoration of Catahoula Lake.



The main problem in the lakebed was the presence of woody species, namely swamp privet, black willow and water elm. Collectively the encroachment of these species in the open lakebed was shading the desirable moist soil grasses comprising the forage base for waterfowl wintering on the lake. The trees needed to be removed, allowing the return of sunshine for the native moist soil grasses in the lakebed.



Between 2003 and 2005, over 3,000 acres were bushhogged to control the smaller diameter trees. A donation of chemicals by Dow AgroSciences and DuPont was applied to the larger diameter trees, and an Entergy grant of almost \$25,000 enabled the continuation of mowing and chemical application treatments for the next several months. Both of these donations of chemicals were through Du's partnership with CropLife America. It was thanks to Mr. Bateman's efforts that these donations were made for the lake project, and credit is also his for overseeing the multi-year project.

**WATERFOWL and OTHER WILDLIFE BENEFITS:** With the rejuvenation of the lakebed grass-sedge plant community, Catahoula Lake is able to maintain a very high quality and quantity of forage for wintering

waterfowl. Maintaining its value to migratory birds is a high priority to DU, the state of Louisiana, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and our many conservation partners.





# Catahoula Lake

## Hugh Anderson Bateman Tribute Project



Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries cordially invite you the dedication of the Hugh Anderson Bateman Tribute Project. The dedication will be at the Army Corps of Engineers Diversion Canal structure at Catahoula Lake on October 24, 2007 at 1pm.



Gifts are being sought to support this vegetation control project. These gifts will result in improving the foraging habitat base for Catahoula Lake. Gifts from \$500 and up can be dedicated to this special project.

**PURPOSE:** DU and LDWF staff collaborated to devise a management strategy that will help control the destructive encroachment of woody vegetation. This project encompasses DU's portion of the vegetation control for one year. The vegetation control will be repeated as necessary and as funding permits.

**FOCUS AREA:** Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley  
Approx. 20 miles Northeast of Alexandria, LA

**ACRES IMPACTED:** 30,000 acres

**HABITAT TYPE:** Seasonally-Flooded Wetlands

**PARTNERS:** Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

**TOTAL COST:** \$30,000

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For additional info on DU's work on Catahoula Lake, go to  
<http://maps.southern.ducks.org/RECLAIM/>

# Proposed Location, Bateman Tribute Monument

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Property, Catahoula Lake



Note: The location of the monument is approximate. Some adjustment may be necessary at construction.

