

SPRING, 2012

VOL. 3 - ISSUE 1

Kansas Department of
Wildlife Parks and Tourism
Fisheries Section



District News

Jessica Mounts, District Fisheries Biologist

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Local projects enhance fishing opportunities for all anglers.

Several local lakes have been the focus of habitat and renovation projects this year:

Buffalo Park Pond is undergoing a complete renovation, following a project to eliminate Eurasian watermilfoil, an aquatic plant that had invaded the lake. Christmas trees have been added as fish attractors and fish are planned to be re-stocked once the lake fills up again.

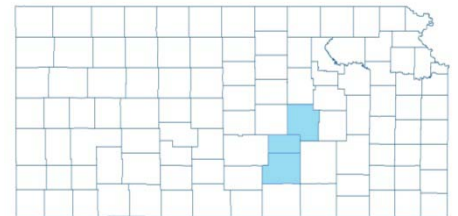
Watson Park will feature a new fishing dock and a plan to enhance crappie habitat.

Kechi City Lake has been dredged to increase the water depth, and shoreline work will be completed to reduce erosion.

Channel catfish are stocked monthly from April to September in more than 30 ponds and lakes in the metro area. An approximate stocking schedule is provided on the back page of this newsletter.

There's no place like home, so Fish Wichita!

<'>>>><



Local Spotlight

The Lincoln Street Bridge improvement project started in 2011 with funding from the City of Wichita, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, the Coast Guard, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

A feature of the new dam is a fish ladder; the first of its kind in Kansas! A research project is being planned to review the impact on the native and sport fish communities that may benefit from the project.

In addition, a bypass structure on the east side of the dam will allow paddlers to safely pass through the area without having to portage. <'>>>><



Inside This Issue

- 1 District News
- 1 Local Spotlight
- 2 Fishing Q&A
- 2 Aquatic Nuisance Species
- 3 Species Profile
- 3 Family Fishing
- 4 Hook, Line and Sinker
- 4 Upcoming Events

*There is certainly
something in angling
that tends to produce a
serenity of the mind.*

- Washington Irving





Landowners, tenants and immediate family members living with them are exempt from fishing license requirements.

Fishing Q&A

Q: Do I need a fishing license to fish in a private pond?

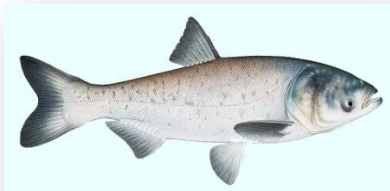
A: Landowners, tenants and members of their immediate family living with them are exempt from fishing license requirements for waters on land they own or lease for agricultural purposes. However, a license IS REQUIRED for all others fishing on private land if:

1. The private impoundment has a stream or river going into and/or out of it – whether the stream is continually flowing or not.
2. The private impoundment is owned or operated by more than one person or group. In this case, the owner(s) or operator(s) would be exempt from the fishing license requirement only while fishing on the portion of the impoundment that they own.
3. You are a guest of landowner or operator and fishing on streams or rivers on their land.
4. The impoundment is leased by the department from the pond owner, through the F.I.S.H. program.

The above rules apply to watershed ponds, any man-made impoundment, or any stream or river.

Aquatic Nuisance Species: Asian Carp

Asian carp refer to three separate species of carp; black carp, silver carp and bighead carp. These invaders were imported from Asia in the 1970s for aquaculture purposes and have since escaped into Midwestern rivers and streams. Asian carp have been found in the Kansas, Missouri, Big Blue and Wakarusa Rivers, the Browning Oxbow and at Augusta City Lake. They grow quickly and feed voraciously.



Silver carp pose a threat to boaters because of their leaping ability.

All three species have unique characteristics:

- Bighead and silver carp have scaleless head; body scales are very small.
- Adults may be more than 60 lbs. in weight and 4 ft. in length.
- Bighead and silver carp have low-set eyes and a large upturned mouth without barbels.
- Silver carp may jump out of the water when disturbed by boat motors.
- Black carp have large scales, with a blackish brown body.

How can we stop the invasion? Clean, Drain and Dry --Protect our Waters!

Species Profile: Bluegill Sunfish

The bluegill is one of the most common panfish in Kansas, and it provides many youngsters with their first fishing thrill. Although it doesn't grow to enormous weights, the tenacious, saucer-shaped fish makes up for size with a scrappy fight. Common across the entire state of Kansas, bluegill are most easily caught along the shoreline during the warmer months of the year.

The best methods of bluegill fishing range from fishing a piece of worm on a small hook about 18-24 inches below a bobber, to small spinner lures and even fly fishing.

The state record bluegill weighed 2 pounds, 5 ounces. The world record is 4 pounds, 12 ounces.

<''))><



The Bluegill Sunfish
(*Lepomis macrochirus*)

Family Fishing: New evening events in Wichita

Family Fishing Nights are scheduled for summer 2012 across the city, and provide FREE fun for all ages and abilities.

The events are scheduled for the following WEDNESDAY nights, and will run from 6 – 8 p.m. each night:

- May 16 - Sunflower Pond, NW Wichita
- May 30 – Great Plains Nature Center, NE Wichita
- June 13 – Sunflower Pond, NW Wichita
- June 27 – Great Plains Nature Center, NE Wichita

All fishing equipment and bait is provided, but you're welcome to bring your own legal fishing equipment as well.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, and pre-registration is recommended to reserve your spot.

These events are FREE to all participants.

Call Jessica at 316.683.8069 for detailed location and event information and to pre-register.

<''))><



Hook, Line and Sinker

Free fishing videos available online!

KDWPT recently released “Crappie Bonanza” a 25-minute video featuring crappie fishing tips from the pros – for fishing success in all seasons! The video is available here:

<http://ksoutdoors.com/crappie-video>

Another 13 minute video with information on the Urban Catfish Stocking Program: Where and How to Catch Fish in Urban Kansas is also available here:

<http://www.myoutdoortv.com/wildlife/kansas/urban-fish-stocking-program>

Very limited numbers of DVDs for each video are available for group showings at the Wichita KDWPT Office, 6232 E. 29th Street North in Wichita.

I hope you enjoyed this issue of FishWichita. To subscribe to this newsletter, click [HERE](#). If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to send them in. To reach me by email, click [HERE](#).

Jessica Mounts, District Fisheries Biologist

Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
 6232 E. 29th Street North
 Wichita, KS 67220
 316.683.8069

Upcoming Events (click for more info)

Daylight Savings Time (Spring forward!)	March 11
Last Rainbow Trout Stocking until October	March 22
Greenfire Movie Screening - GPNC	April 17
River Trash Round-Up (Lawrence Dumont Stadium)	April 21
Earth Day	April 22
Mother’s Day	May 13
Family Fishing Night – NW Wichita	May 16
Spring BOW Workshop	May 18, 19, 20
OK Kids Day - GPNC	May 19
Memorial Day	May 28
Family Fishing Night - GPNC	May 30
FREE Fishing Days	June 2, 3
Walk With Wildlife - GPNC	June 9
Family Fishing Night – NW Wichita	June 13
Father’s Day	June 17
Family Fishing Night – GPNC	June 27

Urban Channel Catfish Stockings (see calendar dates in RED)

EXTRA good days for family fishing (see calendar dates in Green)

MARCH 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

All articles and content are copyright of Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism and cannot be copied or distributed without permission from KDWPT.