

El Dorado District Fisheries

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El Dorado District Update

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) continue to cause problems in the El Dorado District.

Craig Johnson, District Fisheries Biologist
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Some unpleasant discoveries have been made recently in the El Dorado District. [Zebra mussels](#) were confirmed in Council Grove City Lake on June 29. The city lake drains directly into Council Grove Reservoir, so it is just a matter of time before the reservoir is added to the infested list. [Eurasian watermilfoil](#) reared its ugly head at Cowley State Fishing Lake. Eurasian watermilfoil is an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) that can severely impact fisheries, water access, and aesthetics. The El Dorado Reservoir [white perch](#) population that was first discovered in July 2009 is quickly increasing in density and is already becoming a pest to anglers. Test nettings aimed at catching white perch during July 2010 resulted in the capture of 73 white perch while similar netting efforts only produced one white perch in July 2009.

Although outside of the El Dorado District, the recent discovery of thousands upon thousands of juvenile Asian carp in the Kansas River near Kansas City threatens all Kansas waters. Please take a moment to watch this [video](#) on this infestation. Anglers, as well as recreational users, have the responsibility to control the spread of these ANS species. Keeping these unwanted species from spreading is still our best defense as removal is often cost prohibitive if even possible.

Fishing has been up and down in the El Dorado District this summer with success ranging from excellent to VERY slow!! We are now moving closer and closer to cooling water temperatures of fall and the corresponding good fishing. Fishing will be picking up with the passing of the dog days of summer, so grab a fishing partner and hit the water at a lake near you!

Take a Kid Fishing

Spending time with a child on a fishing outing creates memories that will last a lifetime.

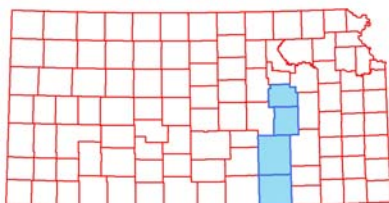
If you have ever seen the smile on a kid's face after they have just landed a fish, then you have seen true happiness! There's something magical about kids and fish -- they just go together. Watching a new angler fighting a fish to the bank is sure to put a smile on the face of even the most seasoned angler! The quality time spent together on the creek bank, the pond shore, or in a boat can't be beat, even if the fish are not in the biting mood. There are so many things going on while near the water that an unproductive "catching" trip can still be a very successful "fishing" trip. Distractions on a fishing trip can include a frog jumping in the water, a flock of geese noisily flying overhead, deer coming in for a drink, or a beautiful sunset, all of which can lead to discoveries that can leave lasting impressions on young minds. Spending time with someone with these subtle "distractions" equates to quality time when compared to distractions of everyday life such as ringing cell phones, blaring TV commercials, or the honking of car horns during daily commutes.

Kids fish quite a bit differently than adults do. Taking

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some of these differences into consideration will allow for an enjoyable trip for both of you! When planning an outing with your new angler, choose a location that is a relatively short drive from the house. Don't make a three-hour drive to reach the fishing destination the major component of the trip. Time at the pond or stream should be the major component. There are MANY locations open to public fishing in Kansas and many of these do not require additional local fishing fees beyond a state fishing license for those resident anglers 16 to 65 years of age. To find a lake, pond, or stream near you click [HERE](#). Some of these waters are in the KDWP [Urban Stocking Program](#), which provides regular stockings of channel catfish and hybrid bluegill to enhance angler success. After you have decided on a location, select a date and time that allows plenty of flexibility in the schedule. Cutting the fun of a fishing trip short due to prior obligations is hard to explain to a young angler and may dampen the interest in future trips. This next tip is VERY important to having an enjoyable experience with a young angler: **PACK PLENTY OF FOOD AND DRINKS!** A hungry or thirsty young angler is a grumpy young angler. The trip will go much more smoothly with plenty of vittles. Emphasize the fishing portion of the trip versus the catching. If you oversell a young angler on the catching portion of the trip, he/she may be quite disappointed if the fish have lockjaw on that particular trip. Keep fishing equipment simple and in good working condition. Spincast reels are good choices and are easily operated by youngsters. Change line frequently to avoid tangling due to line memory. When the bite is slow, time can be passed by practicing casting skills. Use live bait! Few fish species can pass up a fresh piece of nightcrawler, cricket, or grasshopper dangled enticingly in front of them. Small hooks will catch small fish as well as big fish so use them! A No. 6 or a No. 8 aberdeen hook are excellent choices and these will catch very small bluegill, as well as very large catfish. Don't use bobbers that are too large. Using a small bobber will keep the fish from feeling too much resistance and spitting the hook before the hook can be set. This [video](#) contains details on rigging up for sunfish or catfish. Don't plan to fish yourself but help the young angler instead. Expect lots of tangles, snags, lost baits, and impatience. Being there to fix these little hang ups will be important to your future fishing partner and will increase the amount of time spent fishing vs. being out of commission with a tangled up rig on the end of the rod.

Be sure to point out other items of interest around the pond or stream. Turtles, tadpoles, ducks, or snakes can all provide a child with an exciting wildlife experience. If fishing is slow take a short nature walk and see how many different critters can be found by the youngster and return to fishing when the child is ready. Celebrate every catch no matter how small or large the fish is.



Kids love to catch fish no matter the size. Take a camera, hit the water and make some memories!

When your new angler says that they are ready to go home, it is time to go home. Keeping a kid out at the fishing hole for hours on end and boring them to death will certainly squelch the excitement of the next trip. Keep the trip short and let the kids tell you when they are done. Offer to take them as often as you can, but remember to keep the trips short!

By following a few simple steps, you can ensure a good trip for you and your future fishing partner. Fishing is a great hobby. It is inexpensive, easy, and EVERYONE likes to catch fish. The time you spend together will create memories that will last a lifetime. Load up the truck with a couple of rods and reels, some live bait, and a cooler full of snacks and hit the water. A kid somewhere is waiting...

Get your friends, get your family
... and FISH KANSAS!



Fishin' on the Web

The internet offers many fishing resources to anglers looking to improve their angling knowledge and outdoor experience

If you are reading this newsletter, then you are likely somewhat computer literate and have a thirst for information regarding fish and fishing in the state of Kansas. There are a bazillion fishing websites out there, but many offer very little to the Kansas angler. However, there are some good fishing websites that provide good information on fishing conditions in Kansas waters, and many provide forums where anglers can ask questions and share information.

KDWP offers [public fishing report and public fishing forums](#). Here anglers can leave fishing reports in the reports section or post a question in the discussion forum. KDWP also offers [fishing reports](#) completed by the fisheries biologists on a weekly basis during the fishing season. These reports are broken down into regions with reports given on individual lakes. You can also check out the KDWP [fishing homepage](#) for breaking fish news from across the state. Also keep an eye on [Kansas Outdoors Today](#) as stories on fish in Kansas occur frequently.

The [Kansas Angler](#) posts fishing reports from anglers across Kansas with emphasis on Cheney and El Dorado Reservoirs and other lakes around south-central Kansas. This is another good website to look in on as there are some anglers that share some very good information. There is a fishing report archive available that goes back to 2000 which an angler can use to see how anglers have done at individual lakes over the years and what techniques were working the best for them.

[Crappie.com](#) is a website about -- well, crappie fishing! There is a wealth of fishing info on this site and the forums are very active with anglers asking and answering questions all through the day and night. You can look up the Kansas forum in the [state message boards](#) and you will likely find information on your favorite lake. If not, post a question. Someone may be trying to crack the secrets of the same lake you are interested in.

[Dave's Country.com](#) is a Kansas based hunting and fishing website that originated in northeast Kansas but has been expanding to the western part of the state. The site owner keeps the site loaded with up-to-date news releases of interest to Kansas sportsmen.

These are just a few of the many websites available. To find additional websites, type 'Kansas fishing forum' into an internet search engine and you should have plenty of hits to keep you reading for quite a while.

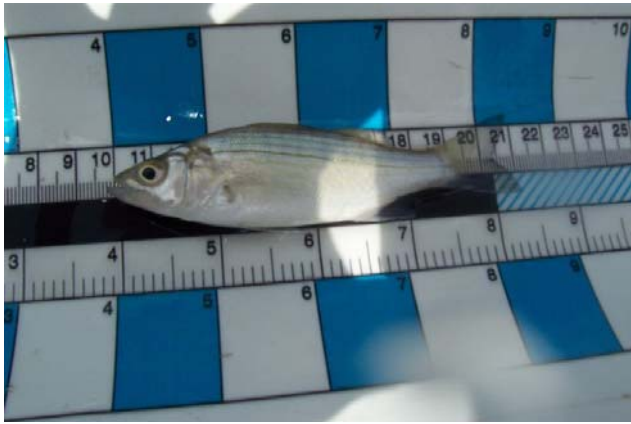
Other websites that anglers may find useful are the Corps of Engineers Tulsa District [lake elevation pages](#). These pages give information on current lake elevation, current inflows, and current releases. Individual lake pages are also available for COE lakes such as [El Dorado](#) and [Council Grove](#) reservoirs. Anglers can use information from these pages when watching for spring spawning runs requiring spring time inflows, while planning a trip to fish the stilling basin during times of a certain rate of release, or to watch the lake elevation of a particular reservoir and how that most recent rainstorm is going to impact the lake level during the crappie spawn. Other lake information such as air temperature, water temperature, wind direction, wind speed, and rain amounts can also be found for the individual lakes but available info varies from lake to lake.

Weather websites can save the angler huge headaches when it comes to keeping tabs on the weather. Trying to plan a trip a week or two out is always tough, but today's technology and availability of multiple weather sites helps make the planning a little easier. I rarely head out on the water before checking the NOAA National Weather Service forecast. The [tabular forecast](#) (this one is for El Dorado Reservoir) gives hour by hour forecasts for important weather factors such as wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and precipitation potential. Future forecasts can also be pulled which makes a handy tool for planning multiple days on the water and knowing what weather to expect.

Map programs such as [Google Maps](#) can be useful to anglers that are travelling to a lake for the first time. For instance, click [HERE](#) for a map of El Dorado Reservoir and the surrounding area.

There are many online resources available to the angler that may assist in making a fishing trip more productive and enjoyable. A little time on the computer can uncover a wealth of information and can be well worth the effort once you are on the water.





Young of the year wiper at El Dorado



Young of the year walleye at El Dorado Reservoir



Take a kid fishing. You'll be glad you did!!

Last Cast!

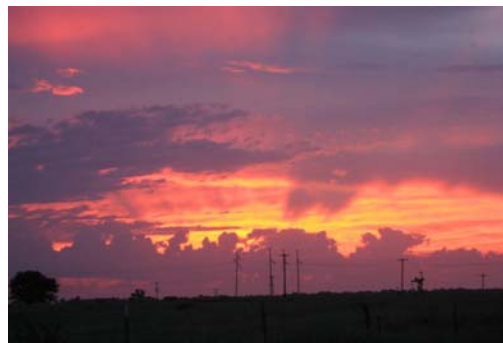
Good news is often overshadowed by the bad news. Aquatic nuisance species seem to be getting all the press recently and there seems to be less and less room for the good news. I'm not in any way downplaying the ANS threat, I just wanted to take this opportunity to give out some GOOD NEWS for a change! So here comes some good news.

In response to the white perch infestation at El Dorado, 200,000 walleye fingerlings and 80,000 wiper fingerlings were stocked this spring. I have been seeing very good numbers of these young-of-the-year wiper in El Dorado and they appear to be doing well. I have also seen young walleye that are likely a direct result of this year's stockings. Good recruitment from these walleye and wiper stockings will be needed to provide increased predation pressure on the white perch population. Gizzard shad numbers are in good shape at both El Dorado and Council Grove Reservoirs, and they will provide good forage for the sportfish. Largemouth bass fishing has been good at the state fishing lakes most of the summer and should continue well in to fall. The fish feeders will be operating through the first part of October and will continue to produce very good catches of channel catfish. Chase and Butler continue to kick out channel catfish weighing well into the mid-teens. Cooler weather is ahead along with some of the best fishing of the year, and that is some VERY good news!

As always, if you know someone who might like to subscribe to the newsletter, they can do so [HERE](#). If you would like to unsubscribe, please send your info to [Contact Us](#) with "unsubscribe El Dorado District Fisheries newsletter" and we'll get you taken off of the list. If you have any questions or comments or story ideas feel free to [send them in!](#)

Fish On!

Craig Johnson
District Fisheries Biologist
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
5095 NE 20th
El Dorado, KS 67042
316-322-7513



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