

PERRY NEWS

"takemefishing"

August 2010

Issue 3

Special points of interest:

- Smallmouth bass are spreading over larger portion of lake and growing!
- Don't miss out on excellent bluegill fishing!
- Prevent the spread of zebra mussels...**CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY!**
- Check out the recently added rustic looking cabin.

Inside this issue:

- Bass Fishing at Perry! **2**
- Zebra Mussel Update **3**
- 2010 Electrofishing Information **3**
- Featured Lake: Atchison State Fishing Lake **3**

What's with all this water?

With all the wet weather this summer, Perry was 16 feet above conservation pool as of July 12. The Corps of Engineers controls the flow of water out of Perry and most other reservoirs in Kansas. When flooding occurs downstream from Kansas on the Missouri River, the Kansas reservoirs are put to work holding back, preventing even greater flooding for those downstream. Waverly Missouri is the most restricted portion of the Missouri River. Flow can not exceed 90,000 cubic feet/second (cfs) or major flooding will occur. As of July 12, the river was at 163,000 cfs; a little high. One of the benefits of all this water in our reservoir is acres and acres of flooded vegeta-

tion, providing great nursery areas for all those recently spawned fishes. A question I've heard many times this spring is, "Did the crappie get off a good spawn?" I won't know until we do our August seining and fall netting. These young fish should show up then. Even if they didn't get off a fantastic spawn, there is abundant food supply and plenty of cover for those young fish. In three years, we could reap the benefits of this spring's high water—great crappie fishing! The picture

below left shows some of the new fish cover. The state park boat ramp is on the right, taken on July 9. With Milford and Tuttle Creek reservoirs above pool, as well, it may be August before Perry is back to normal.



Bass Fishing at Perry!

When we completed our electrofishing at Perry on June 3, the water was several feet over conservation pool, which reduced the number of fish we sampled. The unusually cool spring didn't help either. Some good news is that the smallmouth bass were spread over a larger portion of the reservoir with 40 sampled and the largest weighing 2.6 pounds. Hopefully these fish will continue to grow in size and number. The largemouth bass were in their usual spots with the Rock Creek arm holding the most fish and the marinas producing some really nice fish,

as well. The fish pictured below were sampled in the Rock Creek arm of the lake. The largest fish sampled weighed 6.2 pounds. The timing of the flooding was ideal with the water level continuing to rise while these top predators were spawning.

Take a look at the table on Page 3, which lists the top eight largemouth bass lakes that I electrofished in the five northeast counties of Kansas. This is a sneak peak of the Fishing Forecast that will come out later in the year.



“The largemouth bass were in their usual spots with the Rock Creek arm holding the most fish...”

For all you bluegill fishermen, don't overlook Perry. The Rock Creek and Slough Creek arms both have sufficient cover and food for bluegill to thrive. Fish with a small gold hook and a bite of worm or a small spinner and you'll be eating like a king. These fighting machines are numerous and plump. Take a look!



Zebra Mussel Update

Don't think for one second that their invasive species has disappeared! With the water being up, you can't see these nasty creatures, but they are there. My veliger sample in June showed numbers higher than last year at this time. The highest was at the Perry Marina, 25/liter or about 8 veligers/12 ounces. That doesn't sound



like many, however, a mature zebra mussel can produce over a million

offspring. Veligers are the microscopic offspring that can be almost anywhere in

your boat, jet ski, fishing equipment or in anything else that has touched the reservoir and could hold water.

You must remember to **CLEAN, DRAIN** and **DRY** all equipment after leaving Perry if you plan on going to another body of water. The picture at left was taken in February in the Rock Creek arm when the water was low.

2010 Electrofishing Information (largemouth bass)

Water Body	Stock CPUE	Density Rating	Preferred Rating	Lunker Rating	Biggest Fish
NEBO State FL	77.65	62.35	35.29	10.59	8.36
Perry	27.1	16.6	9.56	0.74	6.21
Sabetha City Lake	110.78	59.8	26.47	0.98	5.64
Brown State FL	239.2	103.9	20.59	0.98	5.64
Banner Creek	67.16	59.8	47.55	1.47	5.6
Sabetha Pony Ck.	115.75	92.91	23.62	2.36	5.41
Atchison City Lake #9	107.84	41.18	5.88	1.96	5.23
Atchison State FL	94.96	60.5	23.53	0.84	4.82

Featured Lake: Atchison State Fishing Lake

Atchison State Fishing Lake is located just north and west of Atchison on 7 Hwy. This 66-acre impoundment was renovated 15 years ago and is still producing some phenomenal fishing. A recent addition to the facilities at the lake is a rustic looking cabin. Can you imagine walking out your front door and seeing this? It doesn't get any better!





Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Perry State Park
Kirk Tjelmeland
5441 West Lake Rd.
Ozawkie, KS 66070
Phone: 785-246-4514
Fax: 785-246-0224
E-mail: kirk@wp.state.ks.us

The lake is full of great fishing opportunities: numerous rock jetties, brush piles, small flats and the creek channel. There is also a concrete boat ramp, courtesy dock and three fish feeders with a bait shop in nearby Atchison. Shaded primitive campsites are easy to come by at this lake with all the mature oak and maple trees. The lake has a diverse fishery: largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, walleye and flathead catfish. During spring electrofishing, the largest bass we sampled was nearly 5 pounds, largest bluegill sampled weighed nearly 8 ounces and the largest redear sunfish sampled was 1.2 pounds; not that far from a record! You say you like to fish for

panfish? Atchison State Fishing Lake is where you need to be. Look below at this pan full of fish.



With the three fish feeders, channel catfish are a very sought after fish. Annually, we stock nearly 4,000 channel catfish with a spring stocking of some 2- to 3-pound fish, however, the majority of these are 1/2-pound fish and arrive in the fall from the Milford hatchery. Kirk Thompson, area manager, is pictured to the right holding up a couple fish that were sampled last fall while conducting our standard fall gill netting. Mike, my assistant, is holding up one of the nice walleye sampled last fall, as well. Annual stockings of walleye provide you the chance to tell another fish story! This state lake provides a great place to take your family or friends for an hour, a day or a week!



The next Perry News will be available early in 2011. Please pass this newsletter on to your friends or send them to the KDWP website so that they can have it sent to them electronically. Visit kdwp.state.ks.us