

SPRING, 2011

VOL. 2 - ISSUE 1

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Fisheries Division



District News

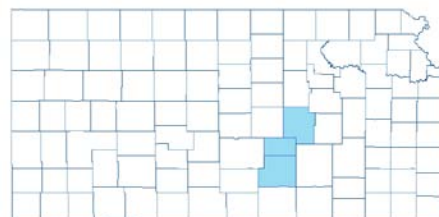
Jessica Mounts, District Fisheries Biologist

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Rainbow trout and channel catfish stockings enhance local fisheries.

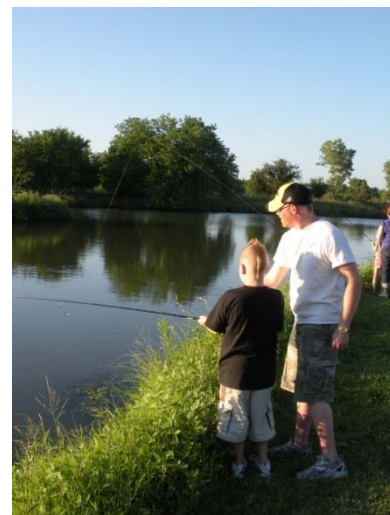
In urban areas, the fishing pressure placed on smaller ponds and lakes often results in lower harvest rates by anglers. To counter this, rainbow trout and channel catfish are stocked seasonally in the Wichita area. The bi-weekly rainbow trout stockings from October to April provide additional fishing opportunity during the winter months when fishing for other species slows. The 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

While fisheries biologists utilize many management strategies across the state, one pond in Wichita has a very specific goal: providing fishing for youngsters. That pond is the Kids' Pond at Sedgwick County Park, where a major renovation project to stabilize erosion on the banks and add additional fish habitat has recently begun. KDWP has provided the county with up to \$40,000 in funding through a grant program to improve and enhance this fishery and is working with county employees to complete the work in 2011. <''))><



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

Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.
Henry David Thoreau



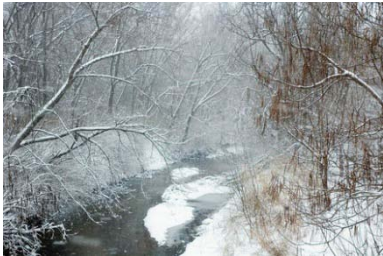
Fishing Q&A

Q: After the recent ice thaw, I noticed quite a few dead fish in my neighborhood pond. Is it normal for a pond to experience a “winter kill?”

A: Most fish kills, no matter what time of year, are ultimately caused by a lack of dissolved oxygen in the water. There are several factors during the winter months that can cause oxygen levels in a smaller pond or lake to drop, resulting in a winter kill.

Ice and snow forming on the top of the water can reduce the amount of light reaching the water, and ice cover will prevent natural wind action from reaching the water’s surface. Both of these things can reduce the amount of oxygen available for the fish, especially if the pond is shallow and/or highly vegetated.

If you do notice a fish kill, the best thing to do is immediately report it to your local fisheries biologist. Take note of how many fish were affected, the sizes and types of fish that died, and the specific location where the kill occurred. The biologist will use this information to help determine if additional investigation is needed to determine the cause of the kill. <''))><



Ice and snow forming on the top of the water can reduce the amount of light entering the water.

Aquatic Nuisance Species

Clean, Drain and Dry!

This simple but powerful message sums it up: **Clean** your fishing equipment after every use. **Drain** any standing water from your live-well and boat. **Dry** your fishing equipment before you go to another lake. These three simple steps can prevent the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil and other aquatic nuisance species. The introduction of aquatic nuisance species decreases the quality of our fishing opportunities, frustrates anglers, and costs millions of tax dollars.

A project to eradicate **Eurasian watermilfoil** is underway at Buffalo Park Pond in Wichita, near Central and Maize. Eurasian watermilfoil forms dense mats of vegetation in the water, snagging lures and making it very difficult to fish. Watch for changes in the vegetation at Buffalo Park as we try to rid the water of this invasive plant. <''))><

Clean, Drain and Dry --Protect our Waters!



*Clean, Drain and Dry!
Protect our Waters
from Eurasian
Watermilfoil!*

Species Profile: White Crappie

Two species of crappie are common to the state of Kansas and across the United States; *Pomoxis annularis* (white crappie) and *P. nigromaculatus* (black crappie). The two species are similar in size, diet and habitat preference. Young crappie feed on plankton and adult crappie typically feed other fish, insects and crustaceans. Both species prefer habitat in and around brush piles and standing vegetation. Black crappie seem to prefer clearer or less turbid water than white crappie, and white crappie are often seen as more reproductively prolific than black crappie. The white crappie is one of the most common species found in Kansas, although both species are actively sought by anglers. Crappie can be caught on a variety of lures during most of the year in Kansas.

<''))><



The White Crappie
(*Pomoxis annularis*).

Family Fishing: Instruction for Women

Becoming an Outdoors Woman: Spring and Fall events

Fishing with your family is great fun – but it's hard to work on perfecting your own angling skills while you're keeping hooks baited for the younger anglers!

Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) is designed to provide women a chance to learn about hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation in a friendly, supportive environment. During the three-day workshop, volunteer instructors teach participants a variety of skills, including fishing, wing shooting, camping, orienteering, rifle marksmanship, botany, dog handling, archery, and more.

Registration for the May 2011 workshop is now open. The deadline for registration is April 15. Mark your calendar, and register early! The Fall BOW workshop will be held Sept. 23, 24 and 25 – and more information will be available soon.

For more information, visit www.kdwp.state.ks.us or

call 620-672-5911. <''))><



Hook, Line and Sinker

Wildlife Forever has announced that the deadline for entry in its 13th Annual State-Fish Art Contest is March 31. To enter, young artists usually create an illustration of their state fish, but artwork of any official state fish is eligible. Kansas entrants usually portray the channel catfish. A written composition on its behavior, habitat, and conservation is also required.

State-Fish Art Contest entries are separated into three school grade categories: 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Winning contestants from every state are honored in each category. All contest winners receive a gift certificate for art supplies, as well as other prizes. Winning designs will also be featured on the [official State-Fish Art website, www.statefishart.com](http://www.statefishart.com).

Parents and teachers should visit the State-Fish Art website for complete details and to download a free lesson plan. Entries must be postmarked by March 31. For more information, phone 763-253-0222.

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 and Parks
 6232 E. 29th Street North
 Wichita, KS 67220
 316.683.8069

Upcoming Events

- Earth Day April 22
- River Trash Round-Up May 7
- Mother's Day May 8
- Spring BOW Workshop May 13, 14, 15
- Fishing Clinic - Watson Park May 21
 (registration required, call (316) 529-9940)
- Memorial Day May 30
- Free Fishing Days June 4, 5
- Walk With Wildlife June 11
 (Fishing clinic at the Great Plains Nature Center. Registration Required.)
- Father's Day June 19

Urban Channel Catfish Stockings (see calendar dates in RED)

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

APRIL 2010						
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 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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 2010						
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		

JULY 2010						
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 and Parks and cannot be copied or distributed without permission from KDWP.