

# Mound City District

## Fisheries Report

### FALL of 2017

#### Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism: Fisheries Division

**District impoundments include:** Pomona Reservoir; La Cygne Reservoir; Bourbon State Fishing Lake; Richmond City Lake; Pleasanton Old, West and East City Lakes; Parker City Lake; Prescott City Lake; Mound City Lake; Critzer Lake; Blue Mound City Lake; Linn County Strip Pits; Elm Creek Lake; Cedar Creek Lake; Ft Scott City Lake; Rock Creek Lake; Ft Scott Community College – East and West Lakes; Ft Scott Gunn Park – Fern and West Lakes.

**Public Partially Accessible Rivers:** Marais des Cygnes River, Marmaton River.



#### **Huge LARGEMOUTH BASS caught at La Cygne Reservoir**

**Almost 11-pound bass caught at La Cygne Reservoir.** For many Kansas anglers catching a largemouth bass over 10 pounds is top on their bucket list. To catch a largemouth bass in Kansas, you're best odds are at La

Cygne Reservoir.

Those of you who fish for largemouth bass at La Cygne Reservoir know that this lake supports some of the biggest bass in Kansas. According to Mike Miller, KDWPT's chief of Information, more trophy largemouth bass are caught here than any other lake in the state.

On March 18, Jeremy Conway of Leavenworth, while fishing a bass tournament caught and videoed a 10-pound, 15-ounce monster. This fish was caught on his first cast of the day. To see his remarkable catch, visit Youtube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Alm9XE5272M>.

La Cygne Reservoir provides good forage sources, and much of the lake perimeter is covered with excellent habitat such as water willow. In addition, I have placed boatload after boatload of wooden fish attractors. Some of these fish attractors are made of wooden pallets or cedar, hedge or other hardwood trees from the area. Many anglers who frequent La Cygne will recognize where Jeremy Conway, was fishing. When I watched the video, I was thinking he was snagged up in trees I had sunk there. In addition to great food and habitat, the extended growing season produced by the warm water from Kansas City Power and Light's electrical generating station and Florida strain largemouth bass genetics, combine to produce big bass. Catching a largemouth bass over 10 pounds in Kansas is not an easy thing to do, but fishing at La Cygne Reservoir increases your chances.



Here's a picture of big bass angler, Jeremy Conway, of Leavenworth, with his 10-pound, 15-ounce hog. Jeremy released his trophy fish to be caught again. Thank you for releasing this fantastic fish.

## **Georgia Habitat Cubes**

Fisheries districts throughout the state have been receiving PVC habitat cubes, the specific design also referred to as a “Georgia Cube” (as shown below). Observation has shown that not only do sport fish appear to hunt from these cubes, but actually may be living in these cube clusters. The cubes provide habitat for the fish, but as we record the locations of the cubes, they are meant to create additional angling opportunities for fishermen. Mound City District received 27 Georgia Cubes in 2016. These fish attractors were placed in the spring of 2016 at specific sites to enhance shallow water habitats. The cubes were sunk in clusters of around five in the coves and off the points around the marina, as well as in the Horse Riding Trail cove near the fish feeder on the southwest side. GPS coordinates for these clusters can be found on the [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com) website and on the La Cygne Fishing Report. One of the goals was to keep these cube clusters close to angler-accessible bank areas to enhance bank fishing. This habitat improvement is in addition to the fish feeders.

In 2017, 86 Georgia Cubes have been received and constructed for La Cygne Reservoir and Bourbon State Fishing Lake. These new fish attractors will be placed in favorable areas for shoreline and boat anglers.

The components for each Georgia Cube costs about \$125 each, before being put together and placed in the lake. So this habitat improvement is a big investment in future angling opportunities.



### **Results Of La Cygne Reservoir Creel Census are in.**

If you fished La Cygne Reservoir from March 2015 through February 2016, you may have been interviewed by creel clerk, Bob Calvert. Calvert was gathering information from anglers about angler usage, fish harvest and angler success. As manager of the reservoir's fishery, I try to produce quality fishing for my customers, the anglers. To do so I need information from anglers on harvest, their preferences and methods. I use information from the creel census to guide fisheries management.

Here are some of the results taken from the information gathered during 12 months of angler interview data.

The calculated number of anglers at La Cygne Reservoir during the 12-month creel census timeframe was 24,788 anglers, or 9.5 anglers/acre. The estimated hours of angling is 68,622 hours, or 26 hours/acre. The total fish harvested from La Cygne is 7,543 or 3.0 fish/acre. The total harvested pounds of fish were 10,423.8, which is 4.0 pounds/acre. The pounds harvested/ hr. was 0.15. The fish harvested/angler was 0.30. The most common fish species that anglers harvested were white bass, then channel catfish, third was crappie and fourth was bluegill.

Here's where it really gets interesting.

Anglers caught and released 15,464 or 6 fish/acre. These released fish had a weight of 20,191 or 7.77 pounds /acre. Angler success rate was .23/hour, while anglers released .62 fish per hour. Anglers caught and released a whopping 4,288 largemouth bass that had an estimated weight of 8,616.8 pounds, which is by far the most of any species. White bass were second most common species to be caught and released, with 3,360 fish that had a weight of 2,251 pounds. Wipers

were third with 893 fish caught and released, weighing 2,187.5 pounds. Channel catfish were the fourth most common species to be caught and released with 2,076, these fish that weighed 2,076 pounds, and were too little for most anglers to eat.

The majority, 72 percent, of anglers were males age 16 to 64. Female anglers made up 10.4 percent, age 16 to 64. As you would expect, most anglers fish from a boat with 40,106.8 hours of boat angling and 28,515 hours of shoreline angling. Addresses of anglers radiate out from the lake, most anglers lived within a four-hour drive, but we get some anglers from interesting places like Orlando, Fla.; Corning, Iowa; and Clovis, NM.

The Department and the angling public are definitely lucky that management at Kansas City Power and Light allows public fishing on their lake.

### **Working to Improve Angling and Angling Access**

Continually improving fishing access for anglers at community lakes is a big responsibility for fisheries biologists. One of our best tools is the Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP). This program provides funds and the expertise of fisheries biologist to improve and enhance fishing opportunities. Many of our customers/anglers are older or bring their young children and enjoy access to fishing that is less challenging. There were three fantastic community lake projects completed recently: Parker City Lake floating dock, Critzer Lake floating dock and the complete renovation of The West Lake in Gunn Park at Ft. Scott.

I am highlighting some of these successful CFAP projects in my district.

Parker City Lake now has a beautiful floating dock to enhance angling opportunities.



Mound City District Fisheries Biologist Don George at Parker City Lake with newly placed fishing access dock.



This walkway is wide enough to support wheel chairs, while being very stable.

The new fishing dock has a strong floatation system that produces a very solid structure. The sturdy handrails enhance and provide a safe area for fishing at Parker City Lake. In addition, the Parker City Council have also improved shoreline access, the entrance road, bridge and added restrooms to this lake. These enhancements were cost shared with Community Fisheries Assistance Program funds and supervised by the district biologist.

If you're looking for a clean and fishing friendly lake to take the family then try Parker City Lake. It's located 1 mile south of town and ½-mile west, on the north side of the road. Have fun and catch fish.



This is the new dock at Critzer Lake.

With this design, we should be able to accommodate boaters and angling. Located adjacent to the double-lane boat ramp, this will help with loading and unloading of boats while producing a very stable platform for some angling, especially for anglers who are physically challenged. To decrease maintenance and construct a permanent walkway, we formed and poured a concrete pad and sidewalk, starting at the edge of the parking lot extending to the base of the floating dock. This concrete walkway also protects the pier from erosion when the water level at Critzer Reservoir is above normal. The current dock design should easily allow for a 3- to 4-foot water level rise without any problems. This entire project was cost shared with a CFAP grant in cooperation with Linn County that contributed much of the machine time and labor. Also Thanks to the Marais des Cygnes Public Wholesale Water Supply Number 13, that graciously allows public use. The lake and land around it is also enrolled in the KDWPT's Walk-in Hunting Access program, which allows hunting. Use of this lake and land is limited to hunting or fishing.



Above is a picture of Critzer Lake just after the fish feeder went off; see the feed slick on the water. And a couple of lucky anglers are right in the middle of a catfish feeding frenzy. The channel catfish in this lake are nice with a high percentage of fish weighing more than 3 pounds.

Ft. Scott Gunn Park, West Lake.



A picture at Gunn Park West Lake, looking south of the floating dock at the three earthen piers.

This is one of my favorite projects. We were able to perform a genesis project here at this lake. The city park and lake were constructed in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and many of the WPA projects still stand and serve the public today. However, the lake dam needed some enhancement and did not meet new engineering standards.

After a lot of calculating, measuring, designing, and meeting with the Ft. Scott staff, we applied for a grant through the CFAP to renovate this lake and received



the funds. Working on a lake bottom has many problems, the biggest of which is rain, and it really delayed our work. Starting with the old dry lake we cleaned out about 70 years of soil deposits, using some of this mud/dirt to re-slope the lake shoreline and create five new earthen piers. I designed these piers to be wide and user friendly. By constructing the fishing piers, we were able to double the usable fishing shoreline and consume tons of soil, which was soil we didn't have to pay to be hauled off. We ended up with fishing piers that will last many years.

A new water outlet was constructed to better manage overflow water. A big and wide floating dock with a roof and a concrete sidewalk leading to it was also constructed. The floating dock and closest pier are far enough away so anglers won't be in competition with each other.



Above is the beautiful covered, floating dock at Gunn Park West Lake. Note the earthen piers and fish feeders in the background.

Floating fish feeders were added to boost the food supply and were placed in areas to attract fish to accessible fishing areas. Numerous structures made of plastic and boxes made of wood pallets were sank to improve fish habitat. And finally a single-lane boat ramp was constructed to further enhance this project.

Finally, in June, at the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission meeting and tour, KDWPT Secretary, Robin Jennison, in conjunction with Ft. Scott City manager, Dave Martin, and other dignitaries cut the ribbon officially opening this great project to public fishing and use.



This community building is adjacent to the west lake and is a tribute to the labors of the WPA.

This lake renovation project also compliments the entire park, adding to the recreational opportunities of a beautiful park. In the fall this park is absolutely gorgeous.



## **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

### **When you leave a body of water:**

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

## **News and Updates**

### **POMONA RESERVOIR RECEIVES WALLEYE STOCKING**

Pomona Reservoir was stocked with 2 million walleye fry in the spring of 2016, 700,000 walleye fry in the spring of 2015, 1 million in 2012 and 2 million in 2011. These stockings have boosted the lake's walleye population. Results from the 2017 fall sampling indicate that the stockings have been successful and will add fish to the angler creels. Yearly sampling efforts will provide some insight on this developing population.

## **Fishing Forecasts**

### **Interested in Crappie fishing this fall?**

Try **La Cygne Reservoir**. There is an excellent white crappie population here, with an abundance of quality-size and larger fish, including some memorable and trophy crappie.

**Pomona Reservoir** has an abundant crappie population, as well, although not quite as comparable in size as La Cygne's. Fish are in good condition, and anglers are likely to catch numerous 10-inch and under fish, with a small percentage that are larger.

**Bourbon State Fishing Lake** black and white crappie population numbers are moderate; however, our sampling data showed that the majority of the crappie population is fairly large, and opportunities of 10-inch-plus fish are readily available.

**Bourbon County Cedar Creek Lake** has a great population of white crappie, including many preferred- and memorable-sized crappie, with a small percentage of trophy fish. There is lots of cover to fish around at this lake, but boaters must be cautious.

**Fort Scott Lake, Pleasanton Old and West, Elm Creek Lake:** All of these lakes provide crappie-angling opportunities; however, crappie tend to be smaller in these impoundments.

**Mound City Lake:** Although not at the top of the sampling list, this lake produces consistently nice crappie every year, including some fish longer than 12 inches.

### **Bass Fishing**

There are bass fishing opportunities throughout the district, but as for the best, **La Cygne Reservoir** is an exceptional largemouth bass fishery. Population abundance is high and size is great. When sampling, it's not unusual to see 5- to 6-pound bass and even some up to 8 pounds in this impoundment. Best areas to fish include the flooded weed beds and riprapped shorelines.

I also remind anglers that **Bourbon State Fishing Lake**, although it doesn't have an abundance of trophy or memorable bass, does have a respectable largemouth and *spotted bass* population, which is fairly unique for this area. As a newer lake, it may take some time before we see memorable or trophy fish, but keep in mind **Critzer Lake** has been stocked multiple years with smallmouth bass, most recently in 2015.

### **Fishing Forecasts (continued)**

#### **Catfishing Opportunities**

The good news is the Mound City District has an assortment of catfishing impoundments to choose from, as channel cats are stocked in the majority of the district lakes annually. If you are looking for a change of pace, try fishing for blue catfish at **La Cygne**, where there is a decent population that produces good-sized fish each year. Also, respectable flathead catfish can be caught at **Pomona and La Cygne reservoirs**.

#### **Walleye**

Walleye have been stocked throughout the years in multiple district impoundments, although stockings have not always been successful. However, it is nice to know there are some additional angling opportunities available.

**Pomona reservoir** is at the top of the list for walleye, followed by **Bourbon State Fishing Lake** (which was last stocked in 2009, but a request has been made for 2016), **Critzer Lake**, **Elm Creek Lake**, **Mound City Lake**, and **Pleasanton East**.

#### **White Bass and Wiper**

**Pomona and La Cygne reservoirs** both have great white bass and wiper populations. Also **Pleasanton East Lake**, which we will hopefully have new data on after 2016 sampling, had good populations.



"takemefishing"



Kayaks are perfect fishing boats for many of the Mound City District waters. Here's what a fisheries biologist loves to see. This angler was having a boatload of fun catching channel catfish beside the fish feeder. The woody background indicates this was at Critzer Lake in Linn County.

**Pictures from the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Fishing Derby at The Linn County Fair.**



**Casting for distance.**



**Precision casting at mineral tubs.**

Each year for 29 years, KDWPT staff have participated in the Linn county Fair by organizing a Kids Casting and Fishing Contest. It's always a fun time.

Thanks for reading the Winter 2017 Mound City Fisheries District Newsletter!  
I hope that this information makes planning a fishing trip easier or at least improves your angling success.

Go fishing!

Questions or concerns in your fisheries district?

You can contact

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