
MOUND CITY, Fall of 2014 District Fisheries Report

**Volume 8, Issue 2 Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and
Tourism, Fisheries Division, Fall, 2014,**

**Fisheries Biologist: Don George, – Linn, Bourbon, Anderson,
Franklin and the East ½ of Osage counties.**

**Impoundments: 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, Little Osage River.**

Fall and winter are the busy times for a fisheries biologist. Population sampling during the fall on many of my lakes is a priority and consumes many hours of effort. This year I was blessed with great weather for the most part and I didn't lose any finger digits to frost bite. With limited budgets, we are often required to use volunteer help from the public and from other divisions. This year Charlie Beckman, a retired teacher from Jayhawk Linn School, donated several days of assistance with sampling fish populations and working nets. Additionally, employees from the City of Ft. Scott assisted with the sampling at Ft. Scott Lake. And this season, wildlife conservation officers Jim Bussone and Austin Jackson generously provided

many hours of assistance. A **BIG SHOUT OUT** to Charlie, the Ft. Scott guys, Jim and Austin for their help. I really appreciate it.

This fall we sampled the fish populations at: Pomona Reservoir, La Cygne Reservoir, Bourbon State Fishing Lake, Ft. Scott Lake, Elm Creek Lake, Cedar Creek Lake, Prescott City Lake, Pleasanton West and Old Lakes. That's 20 days on the water at different lakes plus preparation like net repair, trailer maintenance and steam cleaning all of my equipment between lakes. We use a steam cleaner to sterilize our equipment and ensure that we're not moving aquatic nuisance species. Fall fish sampling with nets is aimed primarily at species like crappie, walleye, white bass, wipers, channel catfish, blue catfish, and bluegill. Information from the fall sampling assists with predicting the best places to fish in the Mound City District. This time of year most anglers are focused on catching crappie and later on this spring they'll turn their attention to walleye, wipers, white bass, and catfish.

So here are my predictions for some of the lakes in my district:
BEST SPOTS FOR CRAPPIE:

La Cygne Reservoir has a very strong year class of crappie that will average 11 inches with nicer fish included. These crappie are in very good condition. Most fish that are caught will be keepers with very few fish under 6 inches.

Pomona Reservoir has a strong population of crappie with many fish available. The fish are in good condition but there will be many fish under 10 inches long.

Bourbon State Fishing Lake is always a good producer of quality crappie. The numbers are about average, but there are many fish in the 10-inch-plus range that are in great condition.

Ft. Scott Lake is in the tail-end of several years of great crappie fishing. There are about 25 percent of the fish above 10 inches. An angler will still be able to have a good trip but will have to catch more crappie to have a good mess.

Elm Creek Lake will produce some great crappie angling but most fish will be less than 10 inches in length, with a few large enough to be worth cleaning.

Cedar Creek Lake, Bourbon County, will produce lots of crappie in the 10-inch-plus range with a good number up to 13 inches. These fish are in excellent shape. Anglers must navigate the many standing and down trees in the lake. Crappie habitat is excellent in this lake and will require anglers to be cautious with boats and not go too fast.

Prescott City Lake, Pleasanton West and Old Lakes all provide crappie fishing opportunities. The populations support many smaller fish but will still surprise anglers with big fish.

BEST SPOTS FOR WALLEYE:

Pomona Reservoir has a population of walleye that has been improving for several years. Fall sampling indicates the highest catch rate for many years. Anglers will see more fish in the 1-inch-plus range.

Bourbon State Fishing Lake produces a low population of walleye. It does attract some walleye anglers during the spring spawn. There are small of fish but they will be over 18 inches and will produce a big surprise when crappie fishing.

Critzer Lake was originally stocked with walleye, and these fish have reproduced and with some additional stocking, this lake will produce good angling opportunities.

Elm Creek Lake, Bourbon County, this population is low but most fish are quality-size and will be above the 18-inch length limit. Walleye stockings have been stopped until the leak in the dam has been identified.

Populations of Walleye are maintained in Mound City Lake and Pleasanton East Lake, however I did not sample these in 2014.

BEST SPOTS FOR WHITE BASS and WIPERS:

Pomona Reservoir and La Cygne Reservoir will have great populations of these fish. In both lakes the populations will be good and produce many days of great fishing. La Cygne Reservoir, because of its warm water generating power plant, will provide great angling opportunities all winter at the hot water outlet. The colder the weather the better the fishing will be at this unique area.

Pleasanton East Lake also supports a good wiper population, however it was not sampled this fall.

BEST SPOTS FOR CATFISH:

It really is hard to pick out any lakes in this district that are bad for channel catfish fishing. All of these lakes produce some great catfishing opportunities.

Catfish populations at Pomona and La Cygne reservoirs have both improved in quality, producing larger-than-average fish. The numbers are down slightly but anglers will notice the bigger fish. These lakes are also likely to produce some blue catfish or flatheads. These large lakes are perfect for anglers who want to trot line and have higher creel limits.

Pleasanton West and East Lakes, Mound City Lake, Elm Creek Lake, Bourbon State Lake, Ft. Scott Lake and the new Critzer Lake can all produce fantastic catfishing. These lakes that I just listed are commonly in the top catfishing lakes of Kansas.

Here is a picture from Ft. Scott Lake's channel catfish sampling project. This lake produces some very nice channel catfish.



Absolutely beautiful.

Sometimes the scenery is just as memorable as the fishing. Scenery like this can be found in the fall months at many public fishing lake like Bourbon State Fishing Lake, La Cygne Reservoir, Mound City Lake, Critzer Lake, Ft Scott Lake and Cedar Creek Lake. And always look up as this is also a great time for view eagles using the areas.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY To The NEW CRITZER RESERVOIR in Linn County, which “Opened to Public Fishing” on August 24, 2011.

After three years of public access and fishing, this lake’s fishing opportunities continues to grow. The lake is a nice draw for Linn County, usually there are four to eight boats there during the week with sometimes twice that number during the weekend. Angler use has not been as heavy as expected but angler reports indicate many successful days with catches of smallmouth, largemouth and walleye. The lake has even had some fishing dignitaries such as Brent Chapman, Bass Angler of the Year. Brent stopped by to make some Youtube videos for his show on the way to the big fishing tournament. Public use of this lake by anglers has went so well that the Marais des Cygnes Public Water Supply # 13 Board voted to increase the public usage by leasing the hunting rights to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. KDWPT manages the hunting on this property, so now this area is open to all types of legal hunting. The board will use the substantial amount of lease money to operate their water production facilities.

Pictured is a partial map of the 220-acre Critzer Reservoir. Note the high volume of standing timber left standing during lake construction. In the spring of 2012 the south entrance road and parking lot was finished in time for Memorial Day use. This new access area will allow anglers with small boats that can be unloaded by hand easier access the west end of the lake. There is a gravel pad up to the water but this is to ease hand launching of small boats. There is not a boat ramp at this area.

This southern entrance road and shoreline access was funded by Linn County and a grant through KDWPT’s Community Fisheries Assistance Program.

The most common question I have heard from anglers at this lake is “When are you building a floating dock to improve boating access at the main boat ramp area?” We applied for a grant through the Community Fisheries Assistance Program, to build a large floating dock to improve shoreline angling and boat launching and loading.



Our grant application did score high enough to be selected in the 2013 process. This is a great and much needed project. An earthen and stone pier has been constructed to anchor a floating pier with. Linn County’s, County Commissioner Mike Page and Road Foreman, Harry Wisdom, and I are working on this project with plans to finish this project for spring use.

Critzer Fishing video

[You can read or print a copy of the Critzer Lake Brochure here.](#)

Fall 2014 UPDATE--Ft . Scott Gunn Park GENESIS Project at the West Lake was successfully funded through the KDWPT’s Community Lake Assistance Program.

(Pictured left)In the fall of 2010, The City of Ft. Scott began working with the Division of Water Resources to repair the lake’s drainage

system and slope the spillway. This required the West Lake in Gunn Park to be completely drained. The existing fishery was not very good and a public salvage order was posted at the site. This allowed anglers to harvest fish without regard to length or creel limits. Now that the dam safety concerns have been satisfied the City of Ft. Scott will apply for funds in the spring of 2012, through the Wildlife and Parks Community Fisheries Assistance Program, to construct several earthen fishing piers, a concrete boat ramp and other fisheries enhancements. This lake is about 100 years old and has filled in with soil, it was very muddy and produces a poor fishing opportunity. During the renovation many earthen piers will be constructed with this fill dirt. This will make the lake deeper, the water clearer and increase the shoreline angling area and opportunities. Here is a picture of Ft Scott City employees Russ Hughs and Todd Farrel, and KDWPT fisheries biologist, Don George measuring elevations at the West Lake in Gunn Park. This will be the location of an earthen pier that will be constructed with excess dirt that has been deposited in the bottom of the lake. Fish attractors will also be placed during this period to attract fish to shoreline accessible areas.

When the genesis project is completed the lake will be restocked and after some growing time the lake will reopen to public fishing. Projects like this take time usually several years to apply for grants, permits, bidding, to complete construction. This is time well spent as a properly constructed lake will produce maximum benefits for another 50 years.

Update Fall of 2014



The City has completed the fishing piers, including placing riprap along the front side. A total of 6 piers have been constructed. These will double the available shoreline for angling while increasing the average water depth.

The valve was closed, the lake is filling, bluegill sunfish and channel catfish have been stocked.

More fish will be stocked in the spring of 2015. A floating dock is planned to top off the project.

Picture taken in the fall of 2014.

Uniontown School Pond receives annual fall channel catfish stocking.

Each year in mid-October KDWPT harvests channel catfish from the Woodson State Fishing Lake/Rearing Pond. I haul channel catfish from this fish production pond and stock 500 on these fish into the Uniontown School Pond. I always coordinate the time and date with the School Administrator Randy Rockhold. Students from chemistry, biology, math classes assist with moving the fish from the truck tanks to their new habitat in the pond. During this time we talk about how chemistry is important, how to use math to calculate how many fish there are to a pound. Harvest rules are discussed; two fish a day creel will produce 250 days with a limit of channel catfish. This type of outdoor classroom makes it easy to tie student's class work with our daily biological work.

This 1.7-acre pond located just 30 steps outside the biology classroom door. The hiking trail that encircles the grade school and junior/high school was cost shared with a National Trails Grant and a Community Fisheries Assistance Grant. This is definitely a unique concept among Kansas schools.

Pictured below are students of the Uniontown Junior/High School assisting fisheries biologist Don George with the 2014 stocking of channel catfish into the Uniontown School Pond.



As always if you have a question about any of these lakes please call me :
La Cygne Res., Pomona Res., Critzer Res., Richmond City Lake, Parker
city Lake, Mound city Lake, Pleasanton City Old, East or West Lakes, Blue
Mound City Lake, Prescott City Lake, Linn County Strip Pits, Cedar Creel
Res., Elm Creek Lake, Ft Scott –City Lake Res., Rock Creek, Fern and
West Lake in Gunn Park, Ft. Scott Junior College East and West Lakes,
Uniontown School Pond, Marais des Cygnes River (Linn County)
Paddlefish Snagging Area, and numerous miles of FISH streams.

Have fun and take a friend fishing.
You're fisheries biologist
Don George
315 Main, Courthouse
Mound City, KS 66056
913-795-2218
