

PERRY NEWS

"takemefishing"

February 2015

Issue 12

Special points of interest:

- Multiple Small Lake renovations in progress.
- Lots of new plants in Perry.
- Improved White Crappie numbers at Perry.
- Visit Horton Little Lake for a little crappie fishing.

Inside this issue:

- Perry - 2014 sample numbers. **2**
- Zebra Mussel numbers on the rise. **3**
- District crappie catch rates. **3**
- Featured Lake: Horton Little Lake. **4**

Update on Small Lake Renovations

Currently in my District I have 3 small lakes that are under renovation. Lost 80 is a two acre lake in Lansing that will be ready for fish stocking this spring. The spillway was repaired, dam reworked and the lake was allowed to refill. With a little habitat work this lake will be a great place to spend a couple of hours. The second is Smith lake on Ft. Leavenworth. This lake was drained, silt removed, the bottom reshaped, rip-rap and numerous brush piles were put in by the Leavenworth Rod and Gun Club. It will be ready for fish this spring also. Atchison City Lake #24 is still waiting for a drain repair but will be back on line shortly!

American Lotus in Perry?

I was born and raised around Perry Reservoir and have spent some time on its water but this past fall I saw something that really caught my eye. I noticed a few in August but by September there were acres of them! American Lotus have invaded the Reservoir in several locations. In the early 90's I was working with a couple local Bass Clubs to establish some rooted vegetation. I had no success trying to establish water willow, pondweed, arrow head and even lotus. I planted them, fenced them off and they would get flooded again and again. This past summer the Reservoir elevation remained pretty constant and



the water was pretty clear, good conditions for plant growth. A good seed source had traditionally been a problem however American Lotus has invaded the Perry marshes and is producing millions of seeds. If we have another

year of stable water levels I would expect these areas to grow. At some lakes, like NEBO SFL, lotus have become a problem. I don't expect that to happen at Perry with our traditional massive fluctuations/waves.



White Crappie Numbers Up, White Bass similar.

Every year that I'm at Perry I see changes in the fishery. This year the Reservoir was above Conservation Pool for an extended time during the spring and even into the summer which is great for survival of young fish.

The white crappie catch rate was down slightly from year's sample with **1,151 crappie** sampled in **17 traps**. This gave us a catch rate of 59.06 Stock length

fish (>5")/trap) and our small fish numbers increased over last year. Below is a net full of the crappie we sampled, **88%** were between **5-10"** and with **12%** were over **10"**. The largest white crappie we sampled was **12.0"** and **0.90 lbs.**

The core panel gill nets set at random locations are a good way to sample white

bass and other open water fish. In 2014 we sampled the largest number of white bass we had seen for several years. With **329 white bass** in **20 gill nets**. Work those humps and points with twisters and cranks to produce big fish like the one pictured below. The largest white bass sampled was **15.9"** and weighed **1.90 lbs.**

"Crappie catch rates nearly tripled last years..."



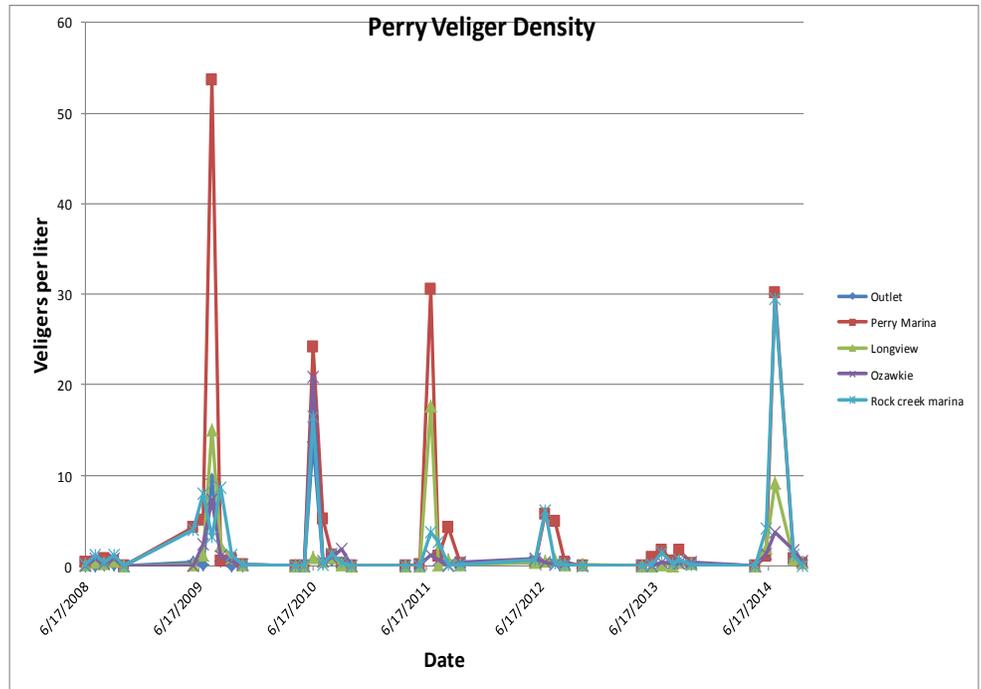
I'm always talking about production in the Reservoir and how the fishery lives and dies by the gizzard shad production. Pictured to the bottom left is what we saw when seining and electro-fishing in August. Big numbers of small gizzard shad going into the fall are the best medicine for Reservoir predators. Our channel catfish numbers remain at good numbers and continue to produce some nice fish the largest fish we sampled was **28.9"** and weighed **8.5 lbs.** We sampled a few more blue catfish with more young fish showing up in the sample even though we stopped stocking in 2012. Sauger increased over last fall, Chuck is holding a good one to the right. The largest was **19.9"** and weighed **2.64 lbs.**, Perry will continue to be used as the Kansas brood lake!



Perry Zebs on the Rise

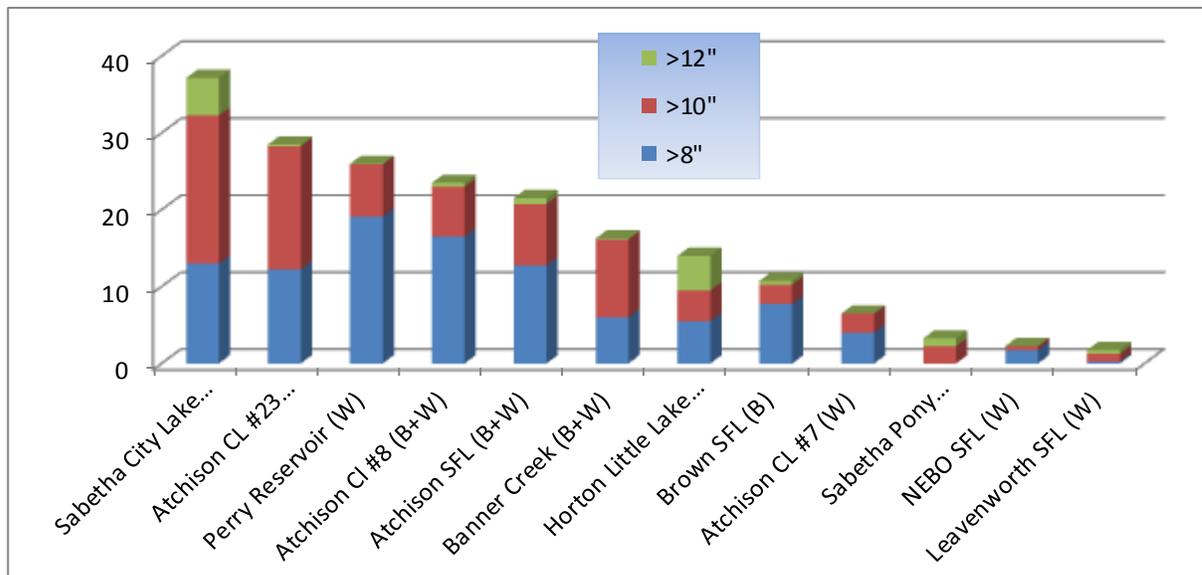
Once a month starting in May and ending in October I'm out sampling Lake Perry's zebra mussel population. I collect the contents out of three plankton tows at four different locations. What I'm catching in the fine mesh net besides plankton are zebra mussel veligers. These microscopic offspring float freely around the lake for a couple of weeks until they attach themselves to something. These veligers could make into your boat, cooler or anything else that can hold water. So please **Clean, Drain and Dry** or visit

[Zebras in Kansas.](#)



Fall 2014 Crappie Netting Information

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(B) - Black Crappie (W) - White Crappie

Looking for bigger fish? Try Sabetha City Lake or Horton Little lake. For you fishermen who love to compare our electrofishing or netting numbers just click on [FISHING FORECAST](#) and you will be taken to a page on our website. From this page you can pick what species you'd like to look at and size of water body sampled: pond, lake or reservoir. 2014 fall netting information is available now!

Featured Lake: Horton Little Lake

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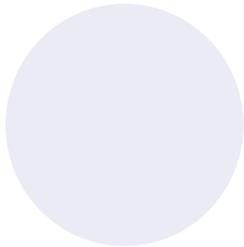
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Horton Little Lake is every kids dream lake. If you are lucky enough to live in Horton the lake may be in your back yard or close enough to ride your bike or walk to! This little 4 acre lake sets on the east side of town just north of Highway 20. As far as facilities it has everything a fishermen needs: water, fishable shoreline, fish habitat and big fish! The lake also has a floating dock, fish cleaning station, fish feeder and a manicured lawn for easy access.

I've fished there for years with the Horton 3rd graders and there are generally a few fish stories that come out of our afternoon of fun. There are big fish in this little lake so the fish match the stories! No student has yet to hook a flathead catfish, we've sampled some over 40 lbs!



This lake has had some pretty nice bass over the past 20 years. However the crappie population had become unbalanced with bunches of fish under 5". Because this lake supplies cooling water for the towns generators it was nearly impossible to drain and start over. Wipers are open water predators used as a tool to cut down the number of crappie in the lake and improve their size. Keagan is holding up a couple of those really nice crappie. With both black and white crappie in this lake the largest crappie sampled was 15.5" and weighed 2.35 lbs. Keagan is holding a couple of the nice bass sampled in spring electrofishing. We sampled 108 largemouth bass/hour with the largest fish sampled being 21.1" and weighing 6.54 pounds. Keagan is holding up one of the nice channel catfish we sampled, fish feeder does wonders in the lake, The largest sampled was 29.3" and weighed 11.13 lbs. To the right are three year classes of wipers that have been stocked. The largest wiper we sampled was 17.5" and weighed 3.7 lbs, there should be some bigger than that!



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The next Perry News will be available August 2015. Please pass this newsletter on to your friends or send them to KDWPT so that they can receive the newsletter electronically.