

# Mound City District Fisheries Newsletter

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Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division

Spring 2010

## Trout fishing at Ft Scott's Gunn Park

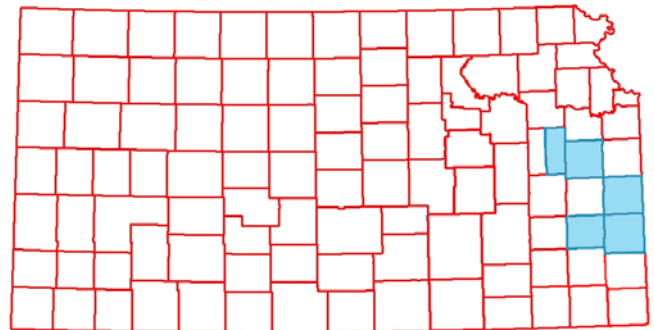
Don George, District Fisheries Biologist  
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

While some anglers are sitting in the house waiting for warm weather, others are taking advantage of the trout fishing at Gunn Park in Ft. Scott. This winter trout fishery is the result of the Wildlife & Park's Winter Fishing Opportunity (W.F.O.) program with the City of Ft Scott. Trout are stocked every two weeks from the start of the season, October 15, through April 15. Overall, trout fishing has been good this year, and the trout pond was frozen over only a few times this winter. The City operates an air cannon that mixes water from the bottom to the top, which decreases the likelihood of the pond freezing over, thereby allowing more days of fishing action. Older anglers and families with younger children have easy access to this pond as the area provides excellent shoreline fishing. After April 15, the water temperatures can reach the upper limits for trout survival, so stockings are stopped. The required yearly trout permit costs \$12.50. Anglers 15 years of age and younger may trout fish without a trout permit, if they adhere to a two-fish-per-day limit.



Trout stocking at Ft Scott's Gunn Park. During the trout season, 400 trout are stocked every two weeks. This two-acre pond has excellent shoreline angling access.

## Mound City Fisheries District



### New for 2010

Starting on March 15 through May 15, two new paddlefisn snagging areas have been opened.

The first new area is owned by the City of lola and located below the river dam at Highway 54. The second area is on the Marais des Cygnes River, from the upstream end of Unit G of the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area downstream through the Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge to the state line river bridge. This new area of the Marais des Cygnes River is 15.4 miles long, currently the longest area ever opened to paddlefisn snagging in Kansas. Thanks to the cooperative effort by The City of lola, U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service and KDWP, the Neosho River and the Marais des Cygnes River support two new paddlefisn snagging areas. Signs indicating the designated areas have been posted to assist anglers with boundary recognition. Although paddlefisn exceeding 100 pounds are rare, paddlefisn in the 30- to 50-pound range are fairly common, but even fish in this size range can generate a lot of excitement and will draw crowds where they are caught. Warm water temperatures and high flows excite spawning paddlefisn as they concentrate below river dams. These conditions increase the chances for diligent paddlefisn snaggers

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## Sport Fish Restoration

The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division receives no General Fund money for any fisheries programs. The Division is a prime example of a user-pay program. Funds from fishing license sales are used to match federal Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) funds generally in a 75/25 cost share. It is surprising the number of non-anglers and anglers alike who have a misconception as to where the funds come from and just what is the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Originally passed in 1950, and strongly supported by anglers throughout the nation, the Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act) placed a 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, reels, lures, fishing line, and related fishing equipment. In 1984, Congress passed the Wallop Breaux amendments to the Act, which included import duties on yachts and a motorboat fuel tax on gasoline.

As a result of important partnerships formed during the 1984 amendments, each state now spends at least 15 percent of SFR monies on boating access and up to 10 percent on aquatic resource education and fisheries outreach activities.



Monies are distributed depending upon the size of the state and the number of fishing licenses sold with no state receiving more than 5 percent or less than 1 percent. The program provides a valuable investment in the maintenance and enhancement of our natural resources and the tremendous economic benefits they generate for the future.

Kansas is recognized nationally by anglers and fisheries professionals as providing exceptional sport fishing opportunities. Over 217,000 recreational anglers fished Kansas waters in 2009, contributing an

estimated \$ 242 million to the State economy. This high level of angler participation and satisfaction is maintained through the support of the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

## Tight Line

As the snow melts and the grass starts to green up, many fishing opportunities are blooming. Try trout fishing at Ft Scott's Gunn Park. For some real big game fishing try paddlefish snagging. Anglers can go to the Neosho River at the lola dam on Highway 54, or the 15 miles of the Marais des Cygnes River. For those largemouth bass enthusiasts, fishing at La Cygne Reservoir really starts to pick up as this warm-water lake's bass move into shallower water to spawn. Some of the largest bass are caught this time of year. For anglers wanting to catch large bass, this is the time and place to go. Smaller lakes warm up quickly and crappie anglers already have lakes like Mound City, Pleasanton East and Elm Creek Lakes on their "lakes to fish list". Soon the fish feeders will be filled and turned on, and the channel catfish feeding frenzy will once again have many anglers excited. This is a great time of year and every day presents new fishing opportunities. Have fun and take a friend.



## Parting Shot!

I hope you enjoyed the first district newsletter. I hope to release three issues this year.

If you know someone who would like to subscribe to the newsletter, they can do so [HERE](#). If you would like to unsubscribe, please send your info to [Contact Us](#) with "unsubscribe Mound City District Fisheries Newsletter" and we'll get you taken off of the list. If you have any questions or comments feel free to send them in to [don.george@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:don.george@wp.state.ks.us).

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to be successful. Nonsport fish such as carp, drum and buffalo may be snagged and harvested in waters posted open to snagging during the paddlefish season. There are no limits on nonsport fish. A paddlefish permit is required and includes 6 carcass tags; the daily limit is two paddlefish. Paddlefish caught must be released or tagged immediately

*Pictures of the Iola Paddlefish Snagging Area are below.*

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## Iola Paddlefish Snagging Area



A view of the west side (above) and a view of the east side (below, of the Iola Paddlefish Snagging Area.

