

PERRY NEWS

"takemefishing"

February 2012

Issue 6

Special points of interest:

- Sauger population returns to days of old!
- Large white bass will be around for spring run!
- Tagged rainbow trout at Elkhorn Lake in Holton!
- Visit Leavenworth State Fishing Lake while the water is down!

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A Sauger in every net!

Sauger brood fish collection went very well last spring with the bulk of the fish collected at Perry. The males were worked on site at Perry and the females were shipped to Milford Hatchery. The 80 females that I delivered to Milford produced 6.1 million eggs. Several hundred thousand fry were shipped to Farlington Hatchery where they were grown to fingerling size, success was good and the statewide demand was met. Things went so well that Perry got 62,265 fingerlings and an additional 1,000,000 fry. The sauger population was established and maintained through an annual stocking of 60,000 fingerlings. For several years stockings were missed due to

lack of hatchery pond space or poor production. It looks as if the population has returned to days of old. If you look at the picture to the bottom left, this 5-inch sauger was collected while electrofishing for gizzard shad in August. The picture at the bottom right is of a nice female prior to being shipped to Milford Hatchery. While running nets in October, I was extremely impressed by the size and number of sauger we netted. A total of 68 sauger were sampled and the nets were set from one

end of the reservoir to the other. The largest fish sampled was 19.1 inches and weighed 2.75 pounds. With the 18-inch minimum now in place, we will see larger fish showing up hopefully similar to Banner Creek's population. The extended high water again this year provided some great cover and benefitted all predatory fish like sauger.



WOW, White Bass and White Crappie at Perry!

This was my 19th year of fall netting at Perry, and I still get excited to pull those nets, maybe it is just the wind, large waves and cool temperatures. With the random net locations, I was setting/sampling new portions of the reservoir. However, I was not disappointed by our catches of white bass or white crappie. The white bass catch rate was slightly lower than the record high of 2010, however, some of those fish matured so 86.7percent of the fish sampled were over 9-inches and

5.6percent were over 15-inches with the largest fish being 16.3-inches and weighing 2.3 pounds. Body condition of these fish was unbelievable. Gizzard shad numbers and size were good, producing some of the fattest fish I have ever seen.

The white crappie population was equally exciting to see. Our catch rate dropped ever so slightly from last year but is still close to the top for reservoirs across the state. We sampled 1,100 crap-

pie in our traps with 26.5percent of these being over 10-inches which is the highest it has been since 1999. The largest fish we sampled was 14.4-inches and weighed 1.5 pounds similar to the bruisers Marty is holding up below. These fish are just waiting to “thump” your jig. Remember to check the fishing report for new brush pile locations.

“Body condition of these fish is unbelievable Shad numbers and size were good...”



Calling all you cat (fish) lovers! Perry continues to produce nice channel catfish year after year like the 16.3-pounder Mike is holding up to the left. Once again, gizzard shad drive this fishery and body condition of these fish was good. Drifting with shad, anchored up and chumming with soaked beans or using one the fish feeders will put some fish on your stringer. On the right Marty is holding up one of the blue catfish we sampled this year; the largest was 27.4-inches and 8.4 pounds not quite a keeper. These fish are maturing well, and we should have some fish reaching the 35-inch length limit in the next couple of years. I expect big things from these fish, and will request 11,600 fingerlings each of the next 2 years.



Trout in NE Kansas?

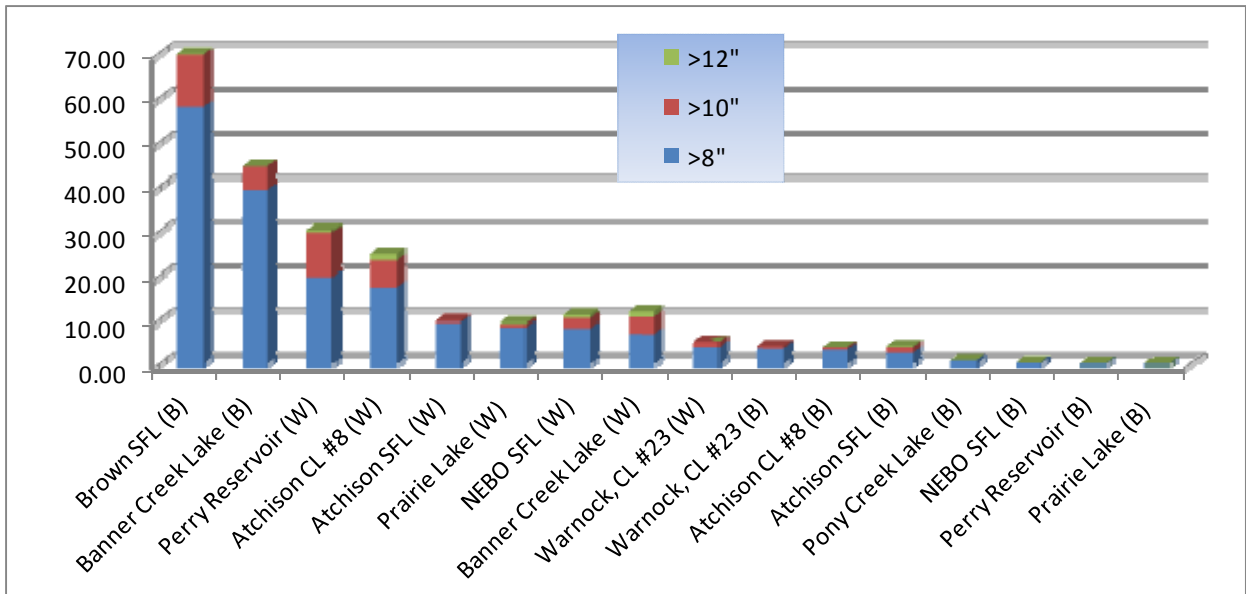
I have two lakes in the six counties that I work with that now have trout stocked into them. The first is Atchison City Lake No. 1 which is a 4-acre lake right in the middle of Atchison. The second is Elkhorn Lake in the middle of Holton, which is also 4 acres. Both of these lakes are set up to receive fall and winter stockings of 4,000 trout/year. The program is working well for being in its infancy and is drawing fishermen from several counties away to tangle with these jumpers. Good baits to use include: power

bait, worms or marshmallows. On the opening day of pheasant season this year, I saw three fly fishermen having a blast on Elkhorn Lake. The City of Holton decided to spice things up a little, and we tagged three trout that are more valuable than the rest. If you catch a tagged fish, contact Mike at 785-364-9000. The daily creel limit is five fish/day and a \$12.50 trout permit is required if fishing for or are in possession of trout between Oct 15-April 15.



Fall 2011 Crappie Netting Information

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

KDWPT will be releasing the recently completed "Kansas Crappie Bonanza" video on February 17, 2012. This 25-minute video covers Kansas crappie fishing during spring, summer, fall, and winter with tips and tactics to make you a better crappie angler. Visit the [KDWPT](#) homepage on February 17 and click on the Kansas Crappie Bonanza link to view the video!

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Featured Lake: Leavenworth State Fishing Lake

Leavenworth State Fishing Lake is located 1 mile north of Tonganoxie on Hwy 16 and 2 miles west. This beautiful 160-acre impoundment was added to my district upon the retirement of longtime fish biologist Leonard Jirak. Richard Sanders, fish biologist out of Lawrence, has done a great job managing this lake; however due to district realignment, Leavenworth County is now part of my district. The lake had to have some repair work done to the back of the dam, so the lake had to be lowered approximately 8 feet. The lowering of the lake moves all those little fish from their cover and allows

the larger fish to prey on them, improving body condition. Now would be a great time to visit the lake with your GPS unit and mark some exposed brush or rock piles. Richard renovated the lake in 1994, and numerous brush piles have been added since then. The December GPS locations are on the fishing report.



Because of this lake's location, beauty and fish population it receives a great deal of fishing pressure. Consequently, annual stockings of 2,400 channel fish intermediates, 4,000 walleye fingerlings and 800 wiper intermediates are used to maintain the fishery. Sampling this year looked pretty good with largemouth bass stock catch (fish over 8-inches) being 137.3/hour with the largest fish weighing 4.2 pounds, bluegill stock catch (fish over 3-inches) being 14.75/trap with the largest being 7-inches and 0.2 pounds, channel catfish stock catch (fish over 11-inches) being 3.8/gill net with the largest being almost 30-inches and 13.5 pounds, redear sunfish Stock catch (fish over 4-inches) being 14.8 with the largest fish sampled being 9.3-inches and weighing 0.5 pounds, walleye Stock catch (fish over 10-inches) being 1.83/gill net with the largest fish being 19.1-inches and almost 2 pounds and for wipers Stock catch (fish over 8-inches) being 1.83/gill net with the largest fish sampled being 20.7-inches and 3.7 pounds.

The next Perry News will be available late in 2012. Please pass this newsletter on to your friends or send them to [KDWP](mailto:KDWP@ksoutdoors.com) so that they can receive the newsletter electronically.



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

On September 2, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (now the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act.) This Act fostered partnerships between federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, the sporting arms industry, conservation groups, and sportsmen to benefit wildlife and has been key to implementing the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. In 1950, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (now the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act) passed. Together, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program (WSFR) has contributed more than \$12 billion to fish and wildlife conservation in the U.S. – more than any other single conservation effort.

In 2012, we will proudly observe 75 years of the WSFR program and the success of the partnerships that have made this program what it is today. We are planning a year long national anniversary program that will be outcome-oriented, inclusive, and memorable. We hope the anniversary program will act as a catalyst to make the WSFR program even stronger in the years ahead.

Area Fisheries Benefits:

- Fish stockings - bluegill, black crappie, channel catfish, largemouth bass - hatchery system.
- Sampling - spring electrofishing and fall netting on area lakes.
- Fish feeders - Atchison, Brown and Nebo State Fishing Lakes and Perry Reservoir.
- Habitat work - additional brush piles placed in area lakes.
- Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) - lake management and support.

Visit: www.wsfr75.com