

# KANSAS CITY DISTRICT FISHING NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2012

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## Special Points of Interest:

- *2012 KC Fishing Forecast*
- *Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program celebrates 75 years*
- *A quick look into Lake Miola (Paola, KS)*

## BIOLOGIST NOTES

The 2011 field season is in the books! Overall, fish sampling went pretty well. We had to battle some windy days and some cold weather, but we were able to get to all the lakes on our list. Highlights from the fall sampling can be found later in this issue. My district experienced a number of changes in 2011, but one of the big changes was the expansion of my district. Due to retirements, the Fisheries Section realigned the fisheries districts. I now manage all of Miami County instead of just the eastern section. Some of the new waters integrated in the realignment of my district include Miami State Fishing Lake, Paola City Lake (Lake Miola), Osawatomi City Lake, Osawatomi-Beaver Lake,

and the paddlefish snagging area below Osawatomi Dam. Be sure to read about one of my new waters, Lake Miola, later in this issue of the newsletter. We had another successful year with our aquatic education events. We conducted 45 aquatic education events this year with just over 1,200 participants. Thanks to the teamwork of my seasonal employees, we can continue to teach fishing skills to the next generation of Kansas anglers. I was involved in verification of a new state record shortnose gar last summer. A young man from Olathe captured the 6.69-pound fish while bowfishing at Perry Reservoir (see picture). This breaks the previous state record shortnose gar which was set in 1985; quite a fish

and quite a memory for a young angler. Looking ahead into 2012, it looks like we have another busy year ahead of us. We will kick off the field season with the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of walleye egg collection at Hillsdale Reservoir. Be sure to check out the next issue for highlights on that project and many more. Good luck and good fishing in



Mathew holding his new state record shortnose gar (6.69 lbs.) from Perry Reser-

# 2012 KANSAS CITY DISTRICT FISHING FORECAST

**Lake Lenexa:** This lake is developing into a good fishery. The largemouth bass population continues to excel with good numbers and 4- to 5-pound fish available. The bluegill population is improving with some larger fish available (8+ inches). We will continue to stock channel catfish to increase the population for anglers.

**Cedar Lake:** This lake continues to surprise me. We captured good numbers of crappie during fall netting in 2011. Catch rates of crappie have been good in the past, but size structure has been dominated by small fish. Surprisingly, in 2011 most of the crappie captured were over 9 inches in length, and we even saw some fish over 12 inches! Spring electrofishing indicated low density, but good size structure for largemouth bass. Don't be surprised to find a 6-pound bass at Cedar Lake.

**Gardner City Lake:** Fall netting indicated low to moderate numbers of saugeye. Saugeye should offer limited

angling opportunities but will continue to be stocked. The largemouth bass population continues to display effects of largemouth bass virus. Good numbers of largemouth bass were captured during spring electrofishing, but larger size categories were missing. Good numbers of bluegill were captured during fall netting, and some larger fish are available to anglers.

**Lake Olathe:** Good numbers of channel catfish were captured during fall netting. Low to moderate numbers of saugeye and wiper were captured during fall netting, but some large wipers (20+ inches) are available. Good numbers of largemouth bass were captured during spring electrofishing, and even a few lunker bass (20+ inches) can be found here.

**Hillsdale Reservoir:** Good numbers of crappie were captured during fall netting. Most crappie were 9-11 inches in length, but some larger fish are available to anglers. Fair numbers of walleye were captured during fall netting, and some bruisers like the one in the picture

are out there. The early-spawned largemouth bass project will continue in 2012 in an effort to improve the bass population.

**Middle Creek State Fishing Lake:** Spring electrofishing indicated a moderate abundance of largemouth bass. Saugeye and wiper were also moderately abundant, but some large wipers (20+ inches) are out there. Similarly, only moderate numbers of channel catfish were captured during fall netting. We will continue to stock saugeye, wiper, and channel catfish to increase their populations.

**Miami State Fishing Lake:** Spring electrofishing indicated a high density largemouth bass population. Most largemouth bass are smaller (15 inches), but some larger fish are available. The bluegill population continues to have moderate abundance with a few larger fish available.



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BLAKE HOLDS A NICE WALLEYE CAPTURED DURING FALL NETTING AT HILLSDALE RESERVOIR.

# 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS



## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE WILDLIFE & SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS

Sometimes I get so caught up in making sure I get all of my fisheries management activities completed on time, I don't take the time to think about where the money comes from to conduct all of those activities. The majority of the funding for fish and wildlife management in Kansas comes from license and permit sales, but federal funding also makes up another significant portion of the total funding. The federal funding that KDWPT and other state fish and wildlife agencies receive is the result of legislation that was proposed by hunters and anglers during the early and mid-1900s. The Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson) and the Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson) were developed and passed by Congress during that time to provide funds to support fish and wildlife conservation. As of today, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs under these Acts have generated over \$14 billion for fish and wildlife conservation. It is actually a pretty simple concept. Excise taxes paid by manufacturers of hunting and fishing equipment and fuel taxes on motorboat fuel paid by anglers are collected and administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service then distributes funds to state fish and wildlife agencies based on the number of licenses and permits sold in that state. Kansas receives about \$15 million annually to assist with fish and wildlife conservation. This money has been a major component in providing programs such as the Walk-In Hunting Program (WIHA), Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (F.I.S.H), and the Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP). Over 30 water bodies are enrolled in CFAP in the Kansas City District. KDWPT is able to provide those public fishing opportunities due to the Sportfish Restoration Program. Additionally, using a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration Program, KDWPT conducts over 40 youth fishing events teaching fishing skills to over 1,000 Kansas youth each year in the Kansas City District. 2012 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs. It is my hope that funding from the Kansas hunters, anglers, and Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs continue for another 75 years and beyond, so that we can continue to enjoy the natural resources of Kansas.

# CFAP STORIES: PAOLA CITY LAKE (A.K.A. LAKE MIOLA)

Lake Miola is a 220-acre lake located on the north edge of Paola. A 500-acre park surrounds the lake with camping available on the west side of the lake. The camping area offers full-service hookups, and modern restroom/shower facilities are also onsite. Other amenities at Lake Miola include a playground area, picnic area, hiking trails, and swim beach. The lake has a diverse sport fish community, including largemouth bass, walleye, saugeye, white bass, wiper (hybrid striped bass), bluegill, white/black crappie, channel catfish, and flathead catfish. Spring electrofishing indicated a high density largemouth bass population, thus this location only offers a few lunkers. Catch rate of crappie was good during fall netting and most crappie captured were 8-10 inches in length, but some larger fish are available. Good numbers of channel catfish were captured during fall netting, and some larger fish are available. The largest channel catfish captured during fall netting was almost 9 pounds. Catch rates of saugeye and wiper were low during fall netting, and thus only fair angling opportunities are expected in 2012. For boat anglers, an improved boat ramp and dock area is on the southwest side of the lake. For shoreline fishing, be sure to try out some of the fishing piers located around a few areas of the lake. Brushpile fish attractors were installed in 2007 and can offer good crappie fishing. Please visit the Lake Miola fishing report page on the KDWPT website (<http://kdwpt.state.ks.us>) for a list of GPS locations of the brushpiles.



AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOOD NUMBERS OF CHANNEL  
CATFISH AT LAKE MIOLA.