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Kansas Department of
Wildlife Parks and Tourism
Fisheries Section



District News

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Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

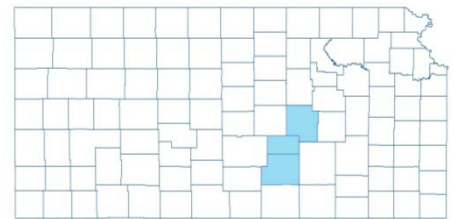
While the air temperatures have soared back and forth from wonderfully warm to freezing over the past few weeks, spring gets closer – and those warm days have me anticipating all that spring fishing has to offer! White bass will begin to “run” around the third week of April, while Walleye may be spawning at the reservoirs as early as March. We’ve had several reports of crappie finding their way into a creel basket over the last few weeks, and even a few wiper have been hooked.

Drought and low water levels continue, but

fish will still be stocked if there’s enough

water. Check here for the [Channel Catfish stocking schedule](#) in the Wichita Metro Area.

There’s no place like home, so Fish Wichita!
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*Fishing is much more than
fish. It is the great occasion
when we may return to the
fine simplicity of our
forefathers.*
–Herbert Hoover

Local Spotlight

Slough creek, located on the western edge of Sedgwick County Park in Wichita, recently received more attention than usual during the trout season. A local fishing club – The Flatland Flyfishers – has worked for several years to get funding and a plan to improve the fishing in this location. Due to the low water this year, the opportunity came and we were able to work with Sedgwick County staff to install several bank stabilization structures and make repairs to the banks and rock structures in the stream.

It may not look like much right now, but once we see some precipitation again, these structures will help use the flow of water in the stream to build additional places for trout, sunfish, bass and other fish to feel right at home. It will be very interesting for us to watch the changes that happen in that area with this project over the next few months! <’))><



Fishing Q&A

Q: Why is there so much trash around the Wichita Lakes?

A: Bait boxes. Pop bottles. Fishing line. Beverage cans. All of these items are unsightly, even dangerous to people as well as wildlife, but far too common a sight in and around urban lakes. Are people who litter lazy? Is littering accidental? Or do some people just not care? The answer is never simple – but some psychologists believe:



Once litter starts to pile up, people feel even LESS responsible for adding to the litter. If an area is clean, people are less likely to litter.

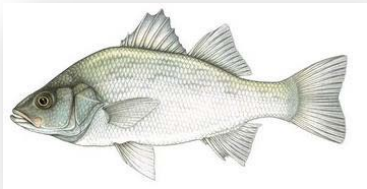
- 1.) People litter because they do not feel responsible for public areas like streets and parks.
- 2.) People usually litter outside their own neighborhood where their trash becomes someone else's problem.
- 3.) People litter because they believe someone else – a maintenance worker or responsible neighbor – will pick up after them.
- 4.) Once litter starts to pile up, people feel even less responsible for adding to the litter. If an area is clean, people are less likely to litter.

The solution? Also never a simple answer – but you can help. If you notice a problem with litter, let the local parks department know. Better yet, grab a group of friends and help pick it up – or volunteer through your local park department. You'll be happy you did, and so will the fish and other wildlife! <'><

Aquatic Nuisance Species: White Perch

ALERT! It is illegal to possess live white perch (KAR 115-18-10)

White perch are native to the Atlantic Coast region of North America, but they were accidentally introduced into Wilson and Cheney Reservoirs as contaminants in fish stockings and have since been moved by the public. White perch are usually silvery green on their sides, with no lines or stripes and are usually less than 10 inches long. They closely resemble white bass. White perch have been associated with declines in both walleye and white bass populations as they feed heavily on baitfish utilized by other species; out-compete native fishes for food and space; and may hybridize with white bass.



White perch closely resemble white bass, and are usually less than 10 inches long.

Angler harvest can be an effective way to control white perch. If you catch a white perch, do not release them back into the water. Eat or dispose of them properly. . If you catch a white perch at a location other than where they have been previously captured (list above), freeze it in a sealed plastic bag, note the date and location, and call Emporia Research Office at (620) 342-0658.

How can we stop the invasion? Clean, Drain and Dry --Protect our Waters! <'><

Species Profile: Silver Chub

This member of the minnow family can reach 6 inches in length. The silver chub has a blunt, rounded snout, a silvery patch in front of its large eyes, and a narrow, bright, silvery streak along the sides. There are small barbels at the corner of its mouth that are sensitive to taste.

The silver chub is a fish of large sandy rivers. It lives on or near the bottom where it finds food by sight or taste. It is found in deep water during the summer months. Few are thought to live longer than three years.

Once common in the Kansas and Missouri rivers, this fish is now considered rare and is listed as **endangered** in Kansas. In recent years, silver chubs have been found during surveys in the Arkansas River and some of its tributary streams including the Ninnescah River.

Projects to restore the connectivity of the Arkansas River, such as the recently completed fish passage at the Lincoln Street Dam in Wichita can help the survival of fish such as the silver chub.



Silver Chub
(*Macrhybopsis storeriana*)

Family Fishing: New evening events in Wichita

Family Fishing Nights are scheduled for summer 2013 at the Great Plains Nature Center, and provide **FREE fun for all ages and abilities.**

The events are scheduled for the following WEDNESDAY nights, and will run from 6 – 8 p.m. each night: April 25, May 16, June 20, July 18 and August 15.

All fishing equipment and bait is provided, but you're welcome to bring your own legal fishing equipment, as well.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, and pre-registration is recommended to reserve your spot.

These events are **FREE** to all participants.

Call Jessica at 316.683.8069 for detailed location and event information and to pre-register.



Hook, Line and Sinker

Free fishing clinics available for groups of 10 or more.

Do you know a group of families , scouts or a school group that would like to try fishing this summer? Our fishing clinics provide the perfect opportunity to introduce the sport of fishing to children aged 5-12. These weekday morning clinics are designed for first-time anglers and provide basic fishing instruction. As with our family fishing nights, all materials are provided, and the clinics are offered free of charge!

For more information or to schedule a clinic, contact Jessica at 316.683.8069 or [email Jessica](#).

I hope you enjoyed this issue of FishWichita. To subscribe to this newsletter, click [HERE](#). If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to send them in. To reach me by email, click [HERE](#).

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Upcoming Events [\(click for more info\)](#)

- Daylight Savings Time (Spring forward!) March 10
- Last Rainbow Trout Stocking until October March 21
- [River Trash Round-Up](#) (Lawrence Dumont Stadium) April 20
- Earth Day April 22
- Family Fishing Night (GPNC) April 25
- Mother’s Day May 13
- Family Fishing Night (GPNC) May 16
- [Spring BOW Workshop](#) May 17, 18, 19
- [OK Kids Day - GPNC](#) May 4
- Memorial Day May 27
- FREE Fishing Days June 1, 2
- [Walk With Wildlife - GPNC](#) June 8
- Father’s Day June 16
- Family Fishing Night (GPNC) June 20

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