

Glen Elder District Fisheries

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Fall Offers Some of the Finest Angling

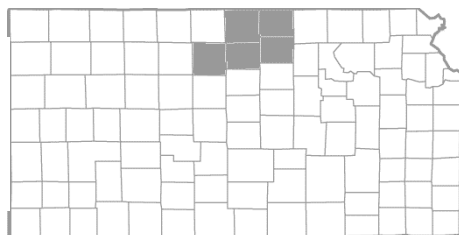
About the time many anglers are putting away their favorite fishing rods, storing tackle, and winterizing the boat until next spring, most area lakes and reservoirs begin to experience a change in fishing patterns. The good news for those anglers still out there hitting the water, is that this a change for the better. While some anglers realize what a tremendous opportunity is available to them between now and first ice, others are already carrying a shotgun or bow through the woods. Below is a summary of what can be expected if you choose to extend your angling season a couple of months this fall. Using past angler reports, personal experience, and observations from annual fall sampling, the guide below will at least give you an idea of where to start.

Crappie: These guys have just about become a year-round fishery on most major reservoirs. They can be caught through the ice, during the spawn, and now there is a good summertime bite (both deep and shallow) that has started catching on around here. Fall is no different in that the crappie are out there and ready to bite if you can find them. As the water cools, the crappie tend to congregate, many of them migrating to the brush piles and other structure in the reservoir. Anglers tend to do well hitting these areas with jigs, spoons, and minnows. During our fall sampling, we see good numbers of fish shallow, as well. Many of the baitfish are located in shallow water, and the crappie are right behind feeding on shad, small bluegill, shiners, and insects. Fishing creeks, rocky banks, and the back ends of coves similar to what you see in the spring is another great way to find some fall slabs.

Walleye: Two key words to keep in mind for fall 'eyes are shallow and points. Our official gear for sampling walleye in the fall are gill nets. These are normally placed in water 6-20 feet deep with some nets catching much more than others. The nets set right along main lake points almost always seem to do best, with water less than 10 feet the most productive. Of course, there are exceptions, and we catch fish from deeper water, but they are likely not feeding as aggressively as the shallow fish. Many years, we will catch more walleye in our trap nets set right off the bank, than we do in the gill nets. These fish are roaming water between 2 and 6 feet deep looking for a meal. Shallow trolling with planer boards is a great way to catch these guys, but casting a variety of crankbaits or swim baits can also be very effective and fun. Another note, the majority of the walleye seem to prefer to lower half of the reservoir this time of year.

White Bass/Wipers: There are a couple of predictable fall patterns you can try to locate and catch these guys. Wade or bank fishing in the major coves will usually offer some great action as schools of white bass and wipers concentrate shad and really continue the feeding frenzy that started with the shad hatch. Also, I always see the best numbers upstream in the reservoirs as many of them tend to migrate up there each fall to spend the winter prior to the spring spawning run. Ice anglers know very well that Glen Elder's best white bass angling is always found west of the causeway.

Smallmouth Bass: We all know smallies prefer cool water, and that's exactly what you get during the fall months. These fish will really move shallow and can be caught with traditional fishing methods like crankbaits, plastic worms, and spinnerbaits. At Glen Elder, target the dam, state park coves, and the south bluffs.



- Check out the following link for fishing reports at both Glen Elder and Lovewell Reservoirs. Reports are updated weekly all year!

<http://kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Fishing/Fishing-Reports/Region-1>

Lovewell Fish Barrier Update

Fish loss due to flow-through at Lovewell Reservoir was estimated during the irrigation seasons between 2005 and 2007 to determine if there was a significant negative impact on the Lovewell fishery. An average of 4.8 million fish were lost each year with gizzard shad comprising 87 percent. Other losses included 1.1 million drum, 560,000 crappie, 25,000 white bass, 14,000 walleye, and 10,000 channel catfish.

We estimated that an average over 50 percent of a year's crappie hatch was lost each year with numbers as high as 95 percent (2005). Gizzard shad losses were 50 percent of the year class in 2005 and 2007, and 10 percent to 20 percent in 2006. White bass losses were only significant in 2005 with an estimated 80 percent to 90 percent of the young fish lost that year.

Several options were considered for reducing these fish losses each year:

- 1) Mitigated fish stockings
- 2) Alteration of water release schedule
- 3) Behavioral barriers (sound, electrical, etc.)
- 4) Rotating drum screen
- 5) Fabric mesh screen

The mitigated fish stockings were too expensive at a cost of \$370,00-\$910,000 annually, as was the drum screen which cost about \$2.5 million. The irrigation district was unable to modify the water delivery schedule while still being able to meet downstream demands. The behavioral barriers could work but would need to be tested, would only target a couple of species, and are expensive.

The best option is the fabric mesh screen from Gunderboom, Inc. This screen would be placed across the outlet canal and would consist of a floating boom, three-layered screen, and a large anchoring system. In addition, another set of floating booms would be installed upstream of the screen to prevent floating debris from damaging it. The barrier would be installed each spring prior to the irrigation season and removed in the fall to increase its lifespan.

We are currently in the planning and development phase with Gunderboom and hope to have this system installed next spring. If we are able to install this system, we will again estimate fish loss to determine its impact.

Fish Cleaning Station

The fish cleaning station has been very popular for our anglers and gives them a place to clean their fish and dispose of the non-edible parts prior to returning back to their homes or campsites. Due to some problems, the electric motor on the grinder was replaced. In addition, a backhoe scooped out four truckloads of fish scales and bones from the sewage pond to allow for more efficient operation.

It is very important that the patrons utilizing the fish cleaning station follow the posted instructions in order to prevent damage to the electric motor or clogging of the disposal tube. There are two very important steps. First, the electric motor must be turned on prior to cleaning fish and placing disposable items into the hopper for grinding. **Damage to the station will be caused if the hopper is filled and then the motor is turned on.** Second, catfish or bullhead heads must not be fed into the hopper, size is not a factor.

If you encounter a problem with the fish cleaning station, such as the disposal pipe plugging or the electric motor stopping, please immediately stop feeding fish parts into the hopper and contact the park ranger or the park office, either by coming to the office or by telephone (785) 545-3345.



Ice Fishing Seminar

Coming to the Glen Elder area this winter

Stay tuned for more details

Lovewell Habitat Work Completed

In an effort to enhance the existing brush piles at Lovewell Reservoir and increase the potential to attract fish, additional cedar trees were added to these areas in August 2011.

Cedar trees were cut around the state park office and maintenance shop and on the hillside overlooking Cabin Cove. A four-wheeler and truck were used to drag the trees near a boat ramp where they could be loaded onto a large pontoon boat. Cinder blocks were then wired to the trees so they would sink to the bottom.

We were able to add an additional 25 trees each to the four attractors located near the Marina Cove area and around the pile near the Cabin Cove boat ramp. Another 75 trees were placed at the Cedar Point attractor with 80 trees added to the deep pile off the end of Cabin Point. A total of 280 trees were added this year.

Each of these fish attractors is marked with a buoy so keep an eye out for them and give them a wide berth if you are trolling in those areas. Hopefully, they will begin to produce results this fall and winter and offer some good crappie action for many anglers.



Another load of cedar trees is hauled out to a fish attractor at Lovewell Reservoir.

Walleye Angler Survey

Earlier this year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism (KDWP) prepared a walleye angler survey that focuses on walleye anglers in northcentral Kansas, specifically those fishing Glen Elder and Lovewell reservoirs. The objective of this survey is to obtain information regarding general walleye angler attitudes, opinions on a variety of walleye regulation scenarios, and some basic demographic questions. The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete and will help assist KDWP with walleye management decisions in the future.

Anglers wishing to participate can complete the survey one of three ways. The preferred method is to go online to the following link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/KDWP_Walleye_Survey2 This survey can be completed online, is confidential, and saves on postage and mailings.

Surveys are also available for anglers to pick up at the Glen Elder State Park Office, Lovewell State Park Office, and Hays Regional Office. Anglers can complete the survey at the office or take it home and bring it back once finished. Finally, anglers wishing to have a survey mailed to them should call the Glen Elder office at (785) 545-3345 and submit a request.



2011 Glen Elder Youth Tournament Summary

KDWPT hosted the 7th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament at Waconda Lake on Saturday, July 23, after it had been postponed because of high water. A near record number of young anglers (136) boarded boats and hit the water for a half-day of fishing. The weather was hot and muggy, but a south breeze helped to cool off the young anglers all morning.

The fish cooperated better for some boats than others, but most were able to bring in at least a few with drum and channel catfish leading the way. Of the 126 youth who fished on the 33 boats volunteered by local anglers and the 10 youth who fished off the bank, 103 were able to catch at least one fish. The total of 444 caught fish included 124 drum, 105 channel catfish, 73 white bass, 69 bluegill, 54 walleye, 12 largemouth bass, 5 white crappie, 1 wiper, and 1 carp.

We would like to extend a very special THANK YOU to all of the boat drivers and other volunteers who provided their time and equipment on Saturday, the Waconda Lake Association for providing lunch, and Wayne Miner who donated over 100 dozen nightcrawlers.

Also, many thanks to all of the local sponsors who donated over \$1,500 in prizes. Because of their generosity, each youth was able to take home a fishing pole and a bag of tackle with many also winning additional prizes. Special thanks also to Drew Heidrick and the staff of the Glen Elder area office for assisting with the event.

Congratulations to all the 2011 participants, and we look forward to hosting the 8th Annual Glen Elder Youth Fishing Tournament again next year!



Jacob and Caleb Burks pose with their stringer of catfish they caught at the youth fishing tournament.

2011 Youth Tournament Winners

Following is a list of the winners in each category:

- Most fish – Roxanna Gutschow, 30
- Biggest walleye (tie) – Waude Underwood and Preston Ostmeyer, 21 inches
- Biggest crappie (tie) – Bryce Nichols and Austin Stover, 12.5 inches
- Biggest catfish – Andrew Gutschow, 29 inches
- Biggest white bass – Draeden Gullion, 18 inches
- Biggest wiper – Tanna Cunningham, 16 inches
- Biggest largemouth bass – Kierra Gutschow, 7 inches
- Biggest drum (tie) – Tim Meyer and Wyatt Broeckelman, 20 inches
- Biggest bluegill – Zack Gutschow, 8 inches
- Smallest fish – Erika Martens, 3 inches



Trevor Bouska and Luis Ortega pick up prizes and a fishing pole at the 2011 Glen Elder Youth Fishing Tournament.



Alexis Arasmith shows off a nice walleye she caught while fishing on her grandpa's boat during the 2011 youth fishing tournament.

2011 WLA Fish-A-Thon Results

The Waconda Lake Association again hosted the annual Fish-A-Thon in 2011 with 314 tagged fish available between May 1 and Labor Day at Glen Elder Reservoir. As of mid-August, a total of 125 anglers purchased tickets with 40 of the fish reported caught during the year (8 were not paid out as the anglers had not purchased an entry ticket). Local merchants paid out \$1,250 of a possible \$9,000 to anglers who captured tagged fish. A breakdown by species is shown below.

	Number Tagged	Caught/Paid Out	Caught/No Payout	Percent Caught
Crappie	140	21	5	18.6%
White Bass	18	1	0	5.6%
Walleye	100	8	2	10.0%
Channel Catfish	52	2	1	5.8%
Wiper	2	0	0	0%
Flathead Catfish	2	0	0	0%

In addition, Francis Schroer of Nebraska was lucky enough to land Waconda Willie and earned \$400 cash from the Waconda Lake Association! Some of the lucky winners are pictured below.



Curt Goff won a \$50 gift certificate from Trappers Bar and Grill for catching this tagged walleye.



Mike Riley with a tagged crappie worth \$25 cash from Cunningham Telephone and Cable.

Images from the 2011 Fishing Season at Glen Elder



Trout Program Back at Glen Elder and Rocky Pond

While fishing for most species slows down during the winter, things are just beginning to heat up for rainbow trout anglers. This fish provides exciting angling action between October and April in many of our small waters across the state. There are now two locations for anglers to take advantage of this fun angling opportunity in northcentral Kansas.

The Park Pond at Glen Elder state park will again be stocked three times this winter, in November, December, and February with approximately 1,100 trout each time. Similar to last year, the fish should average about one-half-pound apiece with about 5percent of them over 3 pounds. We will try to stock a large trout again this year since the nearly 12-pound fish we stocked last year was never caught. Rocky Pond in Belleville will receive their trout on a similar schedule with 2,500 fish stocked each time for a total of 7,500 fish this winter.

Anglers have success using a variety of methods with Powerbait, worms, cheese, and salmon eggs probably producing the best results. Small inline spinners such as Panther Martins, Roostertails, and Beetle Spins are also effective. A handful of anglers prefer to use more traditional methods and pull out the fly for these trout.

As always, special regulations apply while fishing trout waters between October 15 and April 15. All anglers are required to purchase a trout permit (\$12.50) if they intend to fish the Park Pond, whether they are fishing for trout or not, but only trout anglers are required to have a trout permit at Rocky Pond. Anglers 15 and younger are exempt. Trout permits are available at KDWP offices, license vendors, county clerk offices, or online at www.kdwp.state.ks.us. The daily creel limit is 5 trout (2 trout for anglers 15 and younger fishing without a trout permit).



This 12-pound trout was stocked in the park pond last year.



Stocking trout through the ice at Rocky Pond,

- I sincerely hope you enjoyed the latest edition of the Glen Elder district newsletter. I will continue to provide information for Glen Elder and Lovewell Reservoirs, Jewell State Fishing Lake, Rocky Pond in Belleville, and Jewell City Lake.

Don't forget to check out the many FISH properties in the area as well. They can offer some great fishing for those without a boat.

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 to Glen Elder 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.

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