

NEW STRAWN DISTRICT

SUMMER 2012

Woodson Wildlife Area, 738 Fegan Rd., Toronto, KS 66777
www.kdwpt.state.ks.us justin.morrison@ksoutdoors.com Office: 620-637-2748

About the Author *By Justin Morrison*

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Welcome anglers to the first installment of the New Strawn District fisheries newsletter. Since I just recently started as the district fisheries biologist for this area, I would like to take the time to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Yates Center, and growing up in this small agricultural community introduced me to the great outdoors at a young age. I became an avid fisherman and decided that I wanted to pursue a career in fisheries management. I attended college at Kansas State University, and while in college I obtained a seasonal fisheries job in the Kansas City District with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). I graduated with a bachelor's degree in fisheries biology in 2008. After graduating, I continued to work as a fisheries aide in the Kansas City District for two more years. I was then hired by KDWPT as a public lands bio-tech at the Milford Wildlife Area in January of 2011, and after a few years of seeking a full time fisheries position, I finally got the one I wanted back home in good ole' southeast Kansas. The New Strawn District covers Anderson, Allen, Coffey, and Woodson counties, providing numerous fishing opportunities for any angler.



A nice summer largemouth.

District Water News

Woodson State Lake- The rearing pond is operating again this year and is expected to produce another successful harvest. The rearing pond is stocked with 90,000 catfish in early spring. The fish are raised to an average stock length of 8-11 inches and are harvested in the fall. The rearing pond supplies catfish to waters throughout the state. Below is a picture taken during feeding time at the rearing pond.



IT'S DINNER TIME!

CFAP Fishing Opportunities

The Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) provides free fishing opportunities at community lakes to anglers with a valid Kansas fishing license. The communities involved in the program receive annual lease payments and technical services from a KDWPT fisheries biologist. Within the New Strawn fishing district there are five community lakes that offer free fishing.

Coffey County Lake (Wolf Creek Cooling Reservoir)- This lake offers some excellent fishing opportunities year-round for smallmouth bass, crappie, white bass, wipers, walleye, channel catfish, and blue catfish.

Gridley City Lake- This 33 acre Community Lake (pictured below) has recently undergone a renovation and is currently closed, but it is expected to be open in the spring of next year. With this newly renovated lake, anglers can expect excellent fishing for several years. Species that were stocked during the renovation include: largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, redear sunfish, bluegill, and walleye.



Garnett City Lake North- This highly productive 55-acre city lake has produced excellent fishing over the past several years. Sampling has shown that this lake has an outstanding bass population, with the largest fish sampled weighing 7 pounds. With the help of KDWPT, Garnett utilizes a cage culture rearing program (pictured below) that allows the city to raise state-provided fingerling wipers and channel catfish to intermediate size for stocking. Currently, they are raising 1,500 catfish and 1,500 wipers.



Garnett City Lake South (Crystal Lake)- Another highly productive water, Garnett South is a 25-acre lake that also offers good largemouth bass fishing along with good channel cat fishing. During the winter time, Garnett South is stocked with rainbow trout. Winter time trout fishing is popular among Kansas anglers who don't get the opportunity to travel out of state to catch a beautiful rainbow trout.

Garnett Cedar Valley Reservoir- A 320-acre reservoir, Cedar Valley is prone to large water level fluctuations during high rainfall events that can create turbid conditions and can be difficult to fish. However, good fishing is available during favorable conditions for channel catfish, largemouth bass, and crappie.

Things to Come

What can anglers look forward to in the New Strawn District?

Well, there are a few things worth mentioning.

1. The City of Yates Center will be joining the CFAP program. Beginning January 1, 2013, anglers will be able to fish both Yates Center Reservoirs without a city permit.
2. The Gridley City Lake will potentially reopen in the spring of 2013, offering yet another great place to get out and go fishing.
3. Fisheries biologists across the state will initiate fall fishery sampling efforts during October in public waters. Collected data is used to evaluate fisheries management techniques and population status for distribution to our anglers.
4. The annual Woodson Rearing Pond harvest will be in late October with the assistance of many fisheries employees.
5. The annual Kansas trout season will open on November 1, which is two weeks later than previous years. This move was made to allow more time for the necessary cooling of waters.

Questions or Comments?

Please contact Justin Morrison

Office: (620) 637-2748

E-Mail:

justin.morrison@ksoutdoors.com

