KANSAS CITY DISTRICT FISHING NEWSLETTER

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Special Points of Interest:

- *State record blue catfish and grass carp verified in 2012*
- *Fishing forecast helps anglers choose fishing locations*
- *Shoreline restoration project completed at Overland Park—Kingston Lake*

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

BIOLOGIST NOTES

Welcome readers to 2013! It is hard to believe that spring is just around the corner and it won't be long before it will be time to wet a line for some spring walleye or crappie fishing. Before we look ahead to fishing in 2013, we need to take a moment to look back at 2012. Although we had to deal with the drought, we were able to get some good things accomplished. The city of Lenexa finished renovation of Rose's Pond and we were able to get the pond restocked with hybrid bluegill, largemouth bass, and channel catfish for fishing. Rose's Pond can be a great location to take a kid fishing. Shoreline restoration and erosion prevention measures were taken at Kingston Lake in Overland Park in 2012. Be sure to read the *CFAP Stories* section of this issue for more information on that project. We also partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on some shoreline habitat work at Hillsdale Reservoir. You can read more about that project later in this issue. Keeping on with our continual mission to educate Kansas youth about fish and fishing, we conducted 50 fishing clinics with 1,647 total participants in 2012. My seasonal staff deserves "atta boys" for their hard work and dedication to our fishing clinic program. I had the opportunity to verify two state record fish applications in 2012. The state record blue catfish record was broken last August when a fisherman captured a 102.8 lb monster blue catfish from the Missouri River (see photo). In late September, a new state record grass carp was captured from Atchison State Fishing Lake (see photo). Looking ahead to spring fishing in 2013; be sure to consult the 2013 fishing forecast to help you choose a fishing location. I provided some fishing forecast highlights for some of the Kansas City waters later in this issue. I also recommend that you consult the *2013 Fishing Regulations Summary* as there have been some changes in regards to using live bait due to concerns with aquatic nuisance species. I hope to work on some good projects in 2013 and I also hope that we get some spring rains for our water resources.

Good luck and good fishing in 2013!

New state record blue catfish captured on the Missouri River during August 2012. The fish weighed 102.8 lbs and measured over 4 ft. long.

New state record grass carp captured at Atchison State Fishing Lake in late September 2012.

Nice crappie captured during fall netting at Olathe—Cedar Lake

2013 KANSAS CITY DISTRICT FISHING FORECAST

Lake Lenexa: Spring electrofishing indicated that the largemouth bass population continues to excel with a catch rate of 161 fish/hr of electrofishing. Our largest bass captured was 4.41 lbs., so some larger bass are available to anglers. The bluegill population is dominated by many small individuals. This makes Lake Lenexa a good location to take a kid fishing!

Cedar Lake: Are you a quality over quantity type of bass fisherman? Cedar Lake has some lunker bass including a 5.7 lb. bass we captured during electrofishing. Crappie size structure declined from 2011, but still shows signs of improvement with some crappie over 12 inches long captured during fall sampling.

Gardner City Lake: Although the largemouth bass population has not rebounded from the largemouth bass virus, some large (15+ inch) white bass were captured during fall sampling. Good numbers of bluegill were captured during 2012, thus this lake would be a good location to take a kid fishing. Additionally, some large saugeye are available to anglers in 2013.

Lake Olathe: Catch rate of largemouth bass was 127 fish/hr of electrofishing. Some larger bass are available to anglers in 2013 as our largest bass captured was 5 lbs. Some large (22+ inches) saugeye are available to anglers. The crappie population shows signs of improvement with some crappie reaching 12+ inches in length.

Paola City Lake (Lake Miola): Good numbers of channel catfish were captured during fall netting and some larger catfish are available to anglers. A limited number of saugeye were captured during fall netting, but the saugeye captured were large (18+ inches).

Middle Creek State Fishing Lake: A moderate number of largemouth bass were captured during electrofishing (27 fish/hr). Some larger bass are available to anglers as our largest bass captured was 3.7 lbs. Although catch rate of white crappie decreased in 2012, the crappie population was dominated by large individuals (71% over 10 inches). A water level manipulation project and shoreline fishing access will be discussed with the new Public Lands manager for this property.

Miami State Fishing Lake: Good numbers of channel catfish were captured during fall netting and some larger catfish are available to anglers. Spring electrofishing indicated good numbers of largemouth bass (206 fish/hr), but size structure was dominated by smaller individuals. A regulation change is under consideration for the bass population.

Hillsdale Reservoir: Catch rate of white crappie was 41 fish/net night during fall netting indicating a good crappie population. Some good-sized (up to 10 lbs.) walleye still available to anglers. Additionally, a project aimed at improving the largemouth bass population using stocked advanced-fingerlings will continue in 2013.

Have an idea for the KC District newsletter? Do you want to know more about a particular fishing topic?

E-mail the editor your newsletter ideas and suggestions!

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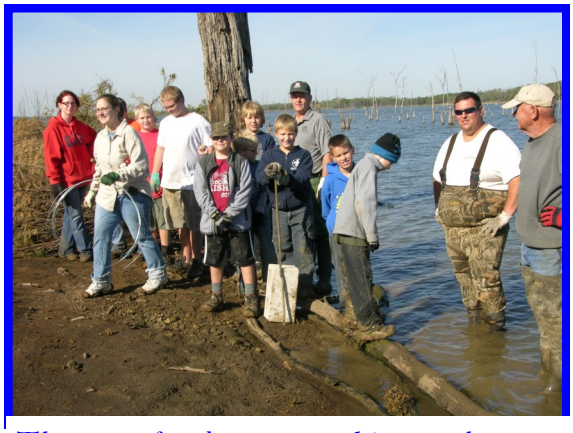
Habitat: "If you build it, they will come"

The term "habitat" is commonly used in fish & wildlife management. Simply, "habitat" is the place where a fish lives. Fish use different habitats for different purposes such as spawning, nursery areas, winter cover and much more. Fisheries biologist will periodically add habitat to lakes to maintain those areas where fish live. During January and September 2012, we partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hillsdale Reservoir Project Office to add some shoreline habitat at Hillsdale Reservoir. Project manager, Jim Bell, suggested we work on areas with limited shoreline habitat since the water level at Hillsdale was 2-3 ft. below normal pool. The shoreline habitat will be especially beneficial to the largemouth bass and crappie populations within the lake. Cedar trees were cut down and dragged to the edge of current shoreline of the Hillsdale Point area and Marysville area. The trees were weighted down using concrete blocks and secured to the block using heavy gauge wire. Of course, a habitat project is a large undertaking for just two people. So, we enlisted some volunteers to assist with the project. During the winter, volunteers from the Olathe Sportsman's Club and other interested Hillsdale fishermen helped with the project. During the fall, a Cub Scout Pack from the Gardner area sacrificed part of their Saturday to help add the shoreline habitat to the lake. Once the lake returns to normal pool (hopefully this spring) the habitat will be sitting in a few feet of water. Shoreline anglers and boat anglers will be able to utilize this new habitat during the crappie spawning season.

Shoreline habitat at Marysville Boat Ramp area on Hillsdale Reservoir.

Shoreline habitat at Hillsdale Point area on Hillsdale Reservoir.



The crew of volunteers working on the shoreline habitat project at Hillsdale Reservoir.

Cub Scouts working hard on the shoreline habitat project on Hillsdale Reservoir.

CFAP STORIES: SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT AT KINGSTON LAKE

Erosion problems are especially common to lakes in urban watersheds. Development around urban lakes and the increased presence of impervious surfaces such as concrete increase the amount of run-off into urban lakes. Over time the run-off wears down the shoreline and eventually sediment erodes into the lake. This decreases the surface acreage of the lake for fishing, decreases the depth of the lake, and deteriorates the water quality. The city of Overland Park identified that the shoreline at Kingston Lake was severely degraded and the problem needed to be addressed. As a cooperator in Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism's Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP), the city of Overland Park applied for the CFAP Competitive Grant Development Program. KDWPT awarded the city of Overland Park $40,000 to help offset the costs for a shoreline restoration project. The city of Overland Park removed the sediment from the two inlets of the lake and lined the inlets with natural stone. The city also constructed 500 ft. of 2ft. wall to help stabilize the shoreline. In addition to helping stabilize the shoreline, the wall will also provide easy access for shoreline fishing. The total cost of the project was just over $85,000 and the project only took a little over one month to complete during the fall of 2012. Hopefully the efforts by the city of Overland Park will keep the sediment out of Kingston Lake and maintain a good location for shoreline angling. Kingston Lake is approximately 8 surface acres and is located at 15254 Lowell Avenue in Overland Park. Kingston's fish community includes bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish. It is included in KDWPT's Urban Fishing Program therefore it is stocked with channel catfish approximately every 2 weeks from April to September. Be sure to check out the shoreline restoration at Kingston Lake and try out the fishing as well this spring!

Shoreline restoration at Overland Park—Kingston Lake.

New riprap & wall at Overland Park—Kingston Lake

CHECK OUT KDWPT'S "WALLEYE FOR TOMORROW" VIDEO

Ever wonder how walleye are produced in Kansas? The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism (KDWPT) has re-released the "Walleye for Tomorrow" video. The video was originally produced by KDWPT as a VHS tape, but the film has been digitized and uploaded to YouTube. Walleye egg taking is a major undertaking of KDWPT fisheries staff each spring. Hatch success of walleye eggs in the wild is extremely limited, so artificial spawning is needed to produce walleye that will be stocked into Kansas waters to maintain walleye populations. The 15 minute video shows the entire egg-taking process to produce walleye in Kansas. The process is pretty neat and it actually takes place close to Kansas City. Hillsdale Reservoir is one of the broodstock lakes used in the walleye egg taking process. Hillsdale has been used for walleye egg collection for the past 15 years. Other Kansas reservoirs used for walleye egg collection include Cedar Bluff Reservoir near Hays, KS and Milford Reservoir near Junction City, KS. Be sure to check out the video either on the KDWPT website or by following this link, http://youtu.be/8BMsifSvf-U.

Some BIG walleye are captured at Hillsdale Reservoir during the egg taking process each spring.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING IN 2013!!