

## District News: Water, Water... Everywhere!

### Inside This Issue

- 1 District News
- 1 Local Spotlight
- 2 Fishing Q&A
- 2 Protect Kansas Waters
- 3 Species Profile
- 3 Hook, Line and Sinker

### Jessica Mounts, District Fisheries Biologist

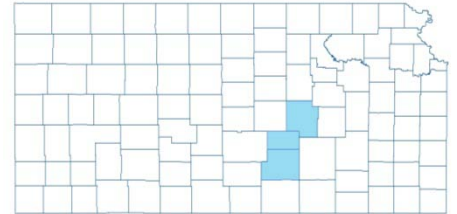
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

As of the last week or so, the lakes and rivers are full of water! This makes both the fish and the anglers happy – a much needed relief from two years of drought.

As the kids head back to school and the temperature drops, there's still plenty of good fishing to be had. Fall crappie fishing can be excellent around brush piles, and channel catfish will continue to be active.

We have a couple more monthly stockings of adult channel catfish: Check here for the [Channel Catfish stocking schedule](#) in the Wichita Metro Area.

And don't forget –  
Trout fishing season starts November 1<sup>st</sup>!




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*The fish and I were both  
stunned and disbelieving  
to find ourselves  
connected by a line.*

*—William Humphrey in "The  
Armchair Angler"*

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## Local Spotlight: Fish & Boat Passage

While placing a dam on a river can be very useful to provide recreation and fishing, retain drinking and household water supplies and even help with flood control, there's a downside to damming. Many of our native Kansas fish depend on seasonal flows and even a bit of flooding as they search for food and places to reproduce – and dams break up the natural flow of the water. Low head dams on rivers can even present a safety risk for boaters as they create strong currents and undertows.

The Lincoln Street Dam in Wichita was recently re-built, and includes an innovative, one-of-a-kind feature: a fish and boat passage. Fishes of every size will use the passage to swim UPstream, while paddlers use the passage to float DOWNstream. It's truly an impressive feature!

One thing to note: As the passage was built to assist fish in their natural migrations upstream, fishing is not allowed in the fish passage. As the flood waters we're seeing now start to recede, we'll be doing some monitoring of the fish using the passage by looking at fish species found above and below the dam, as well as within the passage. <''))><



## Fishing Q&A

### Q: Where does the money I pay for a fishing license go?

A: Every fishing license purchased in Kansas goes straight back into fishing. Every fish that is stocked, every fishing clinic or family fishing night, every lake and pond open to public fishing is supported with your fishing license.

In addition, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism uses these dollars as match to get additional funding from the federal government – which comes from a tax on fishing equipment and motorboat fuels. This Sportfish Restoration program provides millions of dollars towards fishing in the United States each year.

Kansas fishing regulations require a fishing license for anglers age 16 – 75. Anglers age 65-75 are able to purchase a Lifetime hunting/fishing combo license for just \$42.50, or an annual fishing license for only \$11.50 per year.

A regular fishing license may be purchased for \$21.50. <'><



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*Your license is so much more than just a license to fish.*

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## Protect Kansas Waters Gets New Look

Asian carp refer to three separate species of carp; black carp, silver carp and bighead carp. These invaders were imported from Asia in the 1970s for aquaculture purposes and have since escaped into Midwestern rivers and streams. Asian carp have been found in the Kansas, Missouri, Big Blue and Wakarusa Rivers, the Browning Oxbow and at Augusta City Lake. They grow quickly and feed voraciously.

All three species have unique characteristics:

- Bighead and silver carp have scaleless head; body scales are very small.
- Adults may be more than 60 lbs. in weight and 4 ft. in length.
- Bighead and silver carp have low-set eyes and a large upturned mouth without barbels.
- Silver carp may jump out of the water when disturbed by boat motors.
- Black carp have large scales, with a blackish brown body.

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



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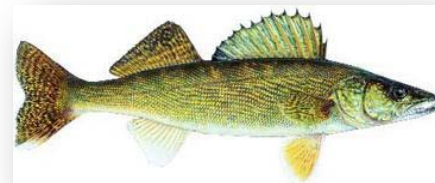
*Don't Dump Bait*  
*Protectkswaters.org*

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## Species Profile: Walleye

This member of the perch family can reach lengths of over 36 inches in North America, but most caught in Kansas are under 20" long. The walleye is considered one of the best tasting Kansas fish, and can be caught in most reservoirs year-round.

Walleye prefer deeper water near steeply sloping banks, and often move to shallower areas at night. In the early spring, male walleye gather in shallow areas with clean rocky bottoms – such as dams – to await females ready to spawn. In the wild, the fertilized eggs stick to rocks after being fertilized and the young fry hatch within about two weeks. Because conditions must be perfect to get a good walleye hatch, fisheries biologists work together with our hatcheries every spring to help ensure that walleye fishing is the best it can be. A 15-minute video showing each step of the walleye producing process can be found [here](#).



Walleye  
(*Sander vitreus*)

**Populations of walleye in Kansas depend on the artificial spawning program that produces millions of walleye for stocking each spring.** <'))><

## Hook, Line and Sinker

*A new course to certify anglers to teach fishing will be held August 31.*

Fishing's Future and KDWPT will host an angler education class from 9am – Noon on August 31. The class will be held at Schermerhorn Park, 7693 SE 77<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Galena. The course is part of a new program designed to enlist qualified volunteer instructors to teach fishing techniques throughout the state.

The class will provide valuable information about working with children, sample curriculums, and tips for preparing a class or clinic. Current fishing rules and regulations, species identification, fishing ethics, equipment, knot tying, casting, fish habitat, aquatic nuisance species and conservation will also be covered. Anglers interested in registering for the course can sign up by visiting [www.fishingsfuture.org](http://www.fishingsfuture.org) and clicking "Upcoming Events," then "Kansas Angler Education Training Program."

For more information, contact Fishing's Future local coordinator Kevin Reich at [Kevin.reich@fishingsfuture.org](mailto:Kevin.reich@fishingsfuture.org), or by phone at (785) 577-6921.

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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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