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**KANSAS**  
*Wildlife & Parks Magazine*

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**INSIDE FRONT COVER** Gray treefrog calls are often in the background of spring evenings around eastern Kansas. Daren Riedle photo.

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**Editorial Creed:** To promote the conservation and wise use of our natural resources, to instill an understanding of our responsibilities to the land.

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The Kansas outdoor heritage is steeped with tradition. Hunters and anglers return to the same fields and waters year after year to reunite with friends and familiar landscapes. Campers return to their favorite Kansas state parks each summer to ensure their children and grandchildren discover the outdoor fun they grew up with. However, even with such staunch traditions, our outdoor resources and how we manage them are constantly changing.

At every level, our people are always looking for ways to improve the way we manage the state's waters, lands and state parks. The ultimate goal is a healthy environment that supports robust wildlife populations and desired outdoor opportunities.

Whether it's the early-spawn bass program or the innovative Georgia Cube artificial fish habitat effort, our Fisheries Division staff strive to improve and increase fishing opportunities. And there are some amazing new discoveries that promise to help manage invasive species.

Wildlife Division staff are working to implement the new private land habitat program, Habitat First, designed to make it easier for landowners to get involved and receive cost share from state and federal farm programs. New survey techniques, mixed with the old, allow biologists to better monitor wildlife populations and predict hunting prospects.

Public Lands managers use modern technology to get input

from hunters to better understand their preferences and learn which land management efforts are working. The Special Hunts program continues to grow and evolve, providing high-quality, limited access hunts that are popular with hunters.

State park staff might be the most creative and innovative of all. Out of necessity, park staff have developed a long list of outdoor activities and events, transforming our state parks into much more than places to park RVs and launch boats. And it's working. The Park Fee Fund is in the best shape it has been in recent history and park visitation continues to grow.

Our Law Enforcement Division employs a mix of old-school detective work and modern forensics and technology to protect wildlife and keep us safe. The K-9 program continues to help solve crimes, catch bad guys and save lives.

I've hunted birds on family land in Lane County since I was a boy. Today, walking those fields feels the same, but while the landscape is familiar, it has changed. The outdoor opportunities we enjoy today are the product of a unique mix of old science and time-honored traditions and new science and modern opportunities. And there's never been a better time to enjoy the Kansas outdoors. Fortunately, one thing that hasn't changed over the past 50 years is my strong connection to the land, the satisfaction I get from hunting with family and friends and the rush I feel when a rooster flushes at my feet. 🐃



## Letters To The Editors

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### Keeping The Tradition Alive



Mike,

During the 2016 opening weekend, the Lewis Family celebrated its 50th anniversary of pheasant hunting in the Beloit/Lincoln area of Kansas. Here is the photo of the clan.

*Dan Hinkle, Sugar Land, TX*



### No-Excuses Hunter

Nadia,

The gentleman in the wheel chair is Chris Barton from Garden City. Chris and I try to get together a few times a year and go hunting. Plans are to go goose hunting in a few weeks and then we are traveling to Oklahoma for a hog hunt in March. Thanks.

*Greg Mills, Park Manager, Lake Scott State Park*

### As Good As The Neighbors

Sirs:

I was first introduced to your great magazine by a delightful lady Vickie [Cikanek]... she spent the better part of a full day with me at my Greenwood County farm west of Hamilton.

I was particularly interested and delighted to learn that your department has and is publishing a conservation magazine that is truly on a comparable level as the Missouri Conservationist, which has to be the best publication any where. Although I have lived in Missouri since 1957, my Kansas roots run deep.

Thank you for representing Kansas well.

Very truly yours,

*Roscoe G. Bernard, Kansas City, MO*



### The Scope Of Things

Editors,

The two bucks I took with my cell phone on Dec. 1st north of Tyro. The smaller buck actually licked the other in the ear. Chose not to shoot either one.

*Jeffery McDougald, Texas*

### Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine Worth It

Dear Mr. Miller,

I'm somewhat late getting around to this... but I wanted to tell you and your staff and all the writers who contributed to the 50 Years of Deer Hunting in Kansas... that in my view, all of y'all generated a masterpiece.

If we had any questions about the value of the KP&W Magazine before, the deer issue certainly removed all doubt. Worth it, most definitely. Sincerely,

*Harold Mauck, Hutchinson*

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**Have something to share? Write the editors at:**

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# BIRD BRAIN

Spring Is Our Season

with Mike Rader



I love the Kansas seasons and the birding opportunities each offers – summer, with long days and good weather to be afield; autumn, exciting because shorebirds, waterfowl and other birds return from their northern breeding grounds; and winter, for bringing visitors from far away while we birders count them during the Christmas season. However, spring is the season I anticipate the most; longer days, comfortable weather and birds rushing to destinations where they can continue courtship, breeding and raising their young. Spring is the most exciting birding season of the year. During spring, we observe songbirds in their best colors, if only briefly, as they make the trek through our state. It begins in March and April, with migration reaching fever pitch in late April and early May for most species.

There are two fun events this spring that every birder should consider attending. The first is the “Wings and Wetlands Festival,” held during odd-numbered years at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, near Great Bend, and is April 28-29 this year. A mix of educational programming and field trips highlight this

fun-filled weekend, with many local experts assisting to make your experience an informative and memorable one. More information about the festival can be found by visiting: [wetlandscenter.fhsu.edu/wings-n-wetlands-birding-festival](http://wetlandscenter.fhsu.edu/wings-n-wetlands-birding-festival).

The following weekend, May 5-7, is the Kansas Ornithological Society’s (KOS) spring field trip. This annual event has occurred at various locations around the state and this year, the Galena and Pittsburg communities are hosting. Highlights include field trips to Crawford, Cherokee, Labette and Neosho counties, where the region’s habitat is ideal for migrating songbirds, which are the focus for 2017. There will be ample opportunities for guided trips to many special areas and participants will experience the hospitality of a great part of our state. For informa-

tion on meeting locations, accommodations, and to register, check the KOS website at [www.ksbirds.org](http://www.ksbirds.org).

Apart from the fun-filled events previously mentioned, you should also consider signing up for the annual Kansas Birding Big Year Contest, you should. This competition is a fun reason to get outside and see what birds you can add to your list. It promotes the use of eBird, a listing database operated by Cornell University that compiles and keeps track of bird sightings from all over the country. You have to sign up before April 1, so visit the following link for details: [ksoutdoors.com/Services/Wildlife-Diversity/2017-Kansas-Birding-Big-Year](http://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Wildlife-Diversity/2017-Kansas-Birding-Big-Year).

Take advantage of this exciting season, and consider doing so with some fellow birders! Have a great spring everyone!

## WAY outside BY BRUCE COCHRAN



"EXCUSE ME, SIR. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT TIME THE PRAIRIE CHICKENS START BOOMING?"





# IT'S THE LAW

## Pinned Wings

with Lt. Rick Campbell



Rick Campbell photo

When Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) Lt. Rick Campbell got a call early one morning from a concerned sportsman out scouting for geese, waterfowl surprisingly wasn't the topic of conversation. In fact, a different type of bird had caught the caller's eye.

"He said he was driving north of Maple Hill and he looked across the side of the road and saw an owl hanging in the fence," Campbell recalled. "He stopped and went out there, and saw there was nothing he could do to help it, so he called me."

Once Campbell arrived on location, he realized the owl could be safely removed from the barbed-wire fence, but it would take a little ingenuity.

"Usually an owl or a bird of prey that gets caught like this damages

its wing to the point that they can't be repaired, but this owl must have just hit the fence while gliding over the grass. I think it did one somersault around the top wire and then was impaled."

Thinking quickly, Campbell grabbed a tool from his truck that would give him an advantage.

"I gave the owl a long-handled wrench to grab onto," said Campbell. "It's talons were pretty fierce, and it was trying every effort it could to get me with them while I tried to get it untangled," chuckled Campbell.

"I used the wrench to make a somersault backwards and that got it loose, other than a couple barbs stuck in each wing." Campbell explained that he then freed each wing before the owl fell free.

"It dropped to the ground,

jumped in the air, flew about ten yards, then landed on the ground again, so I figured I'd let nature takes its course," said Campbell. "It could fly, so it was just a matter of getting its balance and faculties together." Mission accomplished.

When asked about the frequency of injured wildlife calls he gets, Campbell explained that it's a fairly common reason for someone contacting him. "I get a couple calls a month on birds of prey, injured deer, and others."

Campbell encourages anyone who sees injured wildlife to call one of the KDWPT offices or local game wardens closest to the site.

You'll find office locations and contact information at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com), click "Contact Us" at the bottom of the home page.





with Wes Sowards

## Partnering For The Playas

Kansas is blessed with a dynamic and diverse landscape, which includes the unaltered tallgrass prairie of the Flint Hills, midgrass prairie in central Kansas, shortgrass prairie of the High Plains and agricultural fields mixed throughout. The Wildlife Division of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is tasked with conserving our wildlife resources, and the best way to ensure healthy wildlife populations is to enhance habitat no matter the landscape. “Habitat First” is a program designed to do just that.

KDWPT employs 29 district wildlife biologists, area wildlife biologists, and wildlife biologist technicians who work with private landowners, providing technical assistance on habitat practice implementation. Staff also help landowners enroll in USDA Farm Bill programs and regional habitat initiatives that provide cost-share assistance. Regional initiatives benefit specific species such as the lesser prairie chicken in southwest Kansas and northern bobwhite quail in southeast Kansas.

Currently, one of the program’s

largest initiatives is restoring and conserving wetlands in the High Plains of western Kansas. You may be wondering, “there are wetlands in western Kansas?” The answer is yes. According to Playa Lakes Joint Venture – a partnership of federal and state wildlife agencies, conservation groups and private industry dedicated to conserving bird habitat throughout the Great Plains – there are about 80,000 ephemeral wetlands, known as playa lakes, scattered across the Great Plains. These playas are true gems of the prairies.

In an effort to conserve our playa lakes and reduce the impact irrigation has on the Ogallala Aquifer, KDWPT has partnered with Ducks Unlimited (DU), Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, and the USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), forming the Playa Initiative. This is just one of many partnerships the agency has formed to make our conservation mission a reality.

The Playa Initiative brings together DU engineers, KDWPT biologists, and individuals with playa expertise to provide technical assistance to private landowners who desire to conserve and enhance playas on their land. Conservation practices include filling pits

dug years ago to keep water from flooding playas, planting grass buffers around playas to reduce siltation, and allowing the playa to re-vegetate naturally.

In addition to conservation practices, landowners and conservation organizations can make the biggest impact by putting land with playas into easements. That’s where the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) comes in.

ACEP works to conserve wetlands and working agricultural lands through easements for a minimum of 30 years or in perpetuity. The easements are designed by the landowner and NRCS, and pay the landowner a set rate per acre for the length of the enrollment. This not only helps landowners, but it also eliminates the threat of future development on the enrolled acres.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about this initiative, visit [PlayasWorkForKansas.com](http://PlayasWorkForKansas.com).

With our partners, Wildlife Division staff are working hard to conserve and enhance some of the state’s most ecologically important landscapes. These efforts benefit wildlife and the sportsmen and women who help make it possible. How will you contribute?



Courtesy of Tom Grey





Stocksnapper/Shutterstock

I was driving home after visiting a proposed archery range site at Glen Elder State Park and was impressed by the beauty of the country I was driving through – again. Aaron Austin, our outdoor skills and recruitment coordinator, and I were having a conversation about a book we’d recently read – *Hunting and Trading On The Great Plains, 1859-1875*, by James R. Mead. Mead was a pioneer and hunter who came into the Kansas Territory in 1859 and later recounted his adventures. As a young man, Mead distinguished himself as a hunter, trader and businessman in the sparsely-settled land west of Salina, bounded on the south by the Saline River and on the north by the Solomon River – the exact country we were driving through. This was prime buffalo country then, and it was also full of deer, elk, wolves, coyotes, turkeys, eagles and antelope. Mead named the streams and areas where few white men had ever been – names that remain in use today.

It is difficult to imagine what the landscape looked like then, with no cultivated fields, highways, towns or people. The sheer volume of wild animals must have been astounding. Mead described it as a “hunter’s paradise.” This hit home to me while reading his description of camping and exploring Paradise Creek near the present site of the town of Paradise. That’s where I grew up and first learned to hunt with my grandfather and father. How different things are today!

During our drive, we saw two bald eagles, one coyote and

one red fox. We also saw quite a few geese and ducks on the man-made reservoirs. But the buffalo, elk, antelope and wolves that once dotted these plains have been distanced to other parts of the state and country. Commerce is to blame. Market hunters used poison to kill enough target animals to be economically viable. Mead tells of shooting six or seven buffalo, removing the tongues for food, then skinning them and dosing the carcasses with strychnine to efficiently kill as many wolves and coyotes as possible. Wolf pelts were valuable in the trade market. Sometimes market hunters could kill as many as 40 wolves in a single set of baits. Coyote pelts traded at a dollar apiece and were used like money. Jesse Chisholm – a half Scottish, half Cherokee fur trader for whom the Chisholm Trail is named – once settled a \$3,000 debt with Mead with 3,000 coyote pelts he had traded for in the Indian Territories.

While this region’s landscape is much different today, it still produces abundant wildlife, attracting hunters and trappers. Seasons and limits now dictate when and how we hunt. We try to provide opportunity for all and invite new hunters to try our chosen activity. We are guided by principles of ethics and responsibility that over the years have caused us to seriously look at how we hunt according to how society views hunting. And we no longer consider wildlife to be a commodity but a renewable resource that the state holds in trust for all people. Things are different, but we’ve come a long way.



# Fish Squeezer

with Tommie Berger

## The In-Between Time

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As I sit behind my computer, watching ice accumulate outside, I'm thinking of spring fishing, turkey hunting, and when to plant my first garden seeds. And even though I'm dreaming of what's to come, I've had a fine fall and winter (though somewhat uneventful compared to years past). I harvested a doe, which I made into summer sausage for Christmas presents. No turkeys this fall, but I did harvest a good number of tasty quail, a few pheasants, and a couple of ducks. A flock of prairie chickens had my attention late in the season, too.

I managed to help my wife get a buck and I spent quite a bit of the firearm season mentoring an 8-year-old hunter. Kolton was patient and quiet and turned out to be a good deer hunter. He has the hearing of a deer and can hear things we older folks can't. Several times he told me there was something walking around in the trees behind us - some were deer I'm sure, others were probably squirrels or other small critters. He has eyes like an eagle, too. A number of times Kolton saw deer and other critters before I did. All his senses were on high alert when he was hunting.

While Kolton didn't get a deer this season, he had several opportunities and some bad luck. He took misses in stride and

didn't let them get him down - never saw a tear or even a dejected look - he was a champ! I thoroughly enjoyed taking him out and would certainly have liked to have helped him get his first deer, but nonetheless, he's well on his way to becoming a fine hunter.

I'm trying to trap a few bobcats now but can't seem to keep the raccoons out of my traps. I know there are cats around because I saw their tracks earlier in the winter when we had a skiff of snow. A landowner I know is losing his domestic cats and blames his lack of quail on bobcats, so I'm trying to help him out. I know a few landowners having problems with coyotes, so I've been calling in a few of those, too.

As winter fades, more fun will be ahead. I'm looking forward to the annual Fishing's Future state meeting in Manhattan in late February, and I hope to have my 4-H Sportfishing schedule out soon. Taking kids fishing in the spring is always fun and I have an overstocked bass pond that we'll hit in March. Becoming An Outdoors-Woman will come in May, and Outdoor Adventure Camp is on the schedule for June 4-9 at Rock Springs. Yep, there's much to look forward to, but still plenty to enjoy right now.

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## Park View

with Kathy Pritchett

## New Year, New Projects

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Outdoor Christmas gifts await their first use and sports equipment catalogs are arriving - all we need now is SPRING! It's still chilly, but there is plenty to do in Kansas state parks. March, April and May are when park events get going, such as kids fishing derbies and OK Kids Days, as well as the Let's Camp America event in May. In anticipation, staff are getting the campgrounds spruced up and ready for our visits.

This year started well on Jan. 1 with 21 First Day Hikes at various parks around the state. Response was outstanding, eclipsing last year's numbers with 930 human and 32 canine participants hiking over 2,000 miles this year.

Camping is never out of season. Most parks have camping loops with water year-round, and many of the newer shower houses and most of our cabins are open all year, as well. If you haven't reserved your cabins or camping spots for the summer, it's time to do so. Go to

[www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) and click on "Campsite and Cabin Reservations" on the "State Parks" drop-down menu.

New projects include several recently completed Land and Water Conservation Fund projects. Sixty utility campsites, some with concrete pads, were added to the Sunflower Campground at Hillsdale State Park. At Milford, staff are upgrading utilities at the Woodland Hills Campground. Look for improvements to the marina building and docks at Cheney State Park, and the new cabin at Elk City State Park should soon be available for reservations. Several community projects were also funded and completed. More information about community grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund can be found at [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com). Click on "KDWPT Info," then on "Grants" under "Other KDWPT Information." Applications are due April 15, 2017.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

funding is being used to develop utility campsites and a shower house at Perry's Wild Horse Campground, as well as a new shower building at Wilson State Park. And work is almost done on the support facilities at Tuttle Creek State Park's Randolph Area. RTP has funded hundreds of community projects over the past 20 years. Requests for RTP funding are due August 1, 2017, and more information can be found on the "Grants" page listed above.

Thanks to funding from the Bureau of Reclamation (our landlord on several parks), Prairie Dog State Park will have a renovated water system this spring. The Bureau also assisted with the complete renovation of the Arapaho and Pronghorn campgrounds at Cedar Bluff State Park. State parks staff use grants and other funding sources to leverage Park Fee Fund revenue and complete projects such as these that wouldn't be possible otherwise.



with Marc Murrell

## World Record Fish In Kansas



Photo courtesy of Clinton Boldridge

Clinton Boldridge caught the current state and world record paddlefish from Atchison Watershed Dam No. 7 on May 5, 2004 on a doughball while fishing for carp. The huge fish tipped the scales at an even 144 pounds and was more than 6 feet long. The monster was hooked in the mouth, so officials assume the tiny bait was engulfed as the filter-feeding fish cruised along with its mouth agape.

the water to net whatever was on the line, but he dropped the net and beat a hasty retreat to shore when the huge fish thrashed the surface with his giant bill. Regaining control of the fish, Boldridge handed the rod to his friend and waded the fish to land by himself. As soon as he got it to shore, he knew his catch was special.

The fishermen took the fish to the Atchison Daily Globe office where a reporter called the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism office in Pratt. With instructions to have the fish weighed on certified scales and have it identified by a fisheries biologist, arrangements were made to meet the local fisheries biologist at the time, Kirk Tjelmeland, at Ernie's Locker in Easton. It tipped certified scales at 144 pounds and the brute stretched to more than 6 feet, including the bill – 54.25 inches when measured from the eye to the fork of the tail (standard paddlefish measurement)! The girth was 45.25 inches.

Tjelmeland identified the fish and by inspection, verified it had not been snagged. The area is not open to snagging during the paddlefish season, so it would not have been a legal catch had it been hooked anywhere but on the inside of the mouth. The tiny doughball was likely engulfed with several gallons of water as the filter-feeding plankton-eater cruised along the shore.

It's unknown how the prehistoric fish ended up in Atchison Watershed Dam No. 7. The small pond, which was built in the early 1960s as a flood control structure for the city, is less than a mile from the Missouri River where paddlefish swim. Tjelmeland speculated someone may have caught the fish elsewhere and released it in the pond.

Boldridge's 144-pound catch is now recognized as the Kansas state record, as well as the world record. The former world record paddlefish had stood since 1973 and weighed 142.5 pounds. It was taken from the Missouri River in Montana by Larry Branstetter. The former Kansas state record paddlefish weighed 90.75 pounds and was snagged below the Chetopa Dam in May 1998 by Joseph Cole of Walnut.

Paddlefish have been swimming in our waters for millions of years. They are tasty and get big, so a faction of dedicated and hardy group of anglers pursue them each spring during a special snagging season. Every year, tales of the big ones that didn't get away are told and it's not uncommon to hear of catches weighing as much as a third grader – 30 to 60 pounds. However, fish over 100 pounds are rare. That's why it came as a surprise when Kansas' paddlefish state record was shattered in 2004 with a 144-pound fish that turned out to be the world record, too.

The biggest surprise, though, might have been where the fish was caught. Paddlefish spend much of the year in reservoirs but move upstream in rivers to spawn in the spring, which is where most of them are caught. But the current world record came from, of all places, an Atchison County pond.

Clinton Boldridge, Riley, arrived at Atchison's Watershed Dam No. 7 on May 5, 2004 to try his luck carp fishing with his brother and a friend. They were using a secret family doughball recipe handed down through generations. He had just chucked his first doughball into the water when his line got heavy and started to pull. Boldridge's battle began as his brother and a friend watched.

After several tense moments, Boldridge's brother entered





Megan Austin photo

I'm a huge fan of energy bites, after having discovered them on Pinterest. They're compact, usually all-natural, kid-friendly and keep well in the fridge. What more could you ask for in a snack?

I saw energy bites as a great fuel source for my marathon training last year, but really, these snacks are great for any outdoor outing - especially when you're hitting the trail. But be forewarned: kids who consume these magic balls of super fuel may experience increased levels of energy that should be expended out-of-doors doing any of the umteen fun things our state parks have to offer. Secondly, these bites are not intended to be "skinny" or diet-friendly, although you can easily modify them to fit

your dietary needs. This recipe is designed for when you are engaging in activities that will utilize your energy stores, and you want a boost to keep that fire going in a quick and natural way.

This recipe is a fun spin-off of one of my all-time favorite ice creams: Ben and Jerry's Chunky Monkey. Since those delicious pints likely won't keep well in a day pack, paired with the fact that I usually don't pack spoons, I crafted these sweet and nutty bites as a second-best alternative.

Have a favorite energy bite of your own? Share it with me at [nadia.reimer@ks.gov](mailto:nadia.reimer@ks.gov). Happy trails!

### *Chunky Monkey, Trail Junkie Energy Bites*

- 2 C old-fashioned oats (*great source of carbohydrates; good source of fiber, helping you feel fuller, longer*)
- 2 bananas, ripe and mashed (*that's right, show those brown-spotted 'nanas some love*)
- 1/2 C walnuts (*good source of healthy fats and protein*)
- 1/3 C dark chocolate chunks (*a no-brainer*)
- 1/4 C almond butter (*great source of healthy fats, proteins and carbs; will also help in feeling fuller, longer*)
- 1/4 C honey (*great source of carbohydrates, and a natural sweetener and binder*)
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract (*totally optional, but I say live on the edge - fill up that teaspoon*)

*Simply mix all ingredients, scoop or form into bite-sized balls, and refrigerate!*



# WHAT AM I? ID Challenge

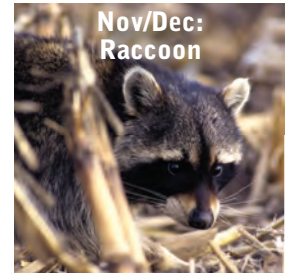
Using only the image and clues below, see if you can figure out this month's mystery species!



## Clues:

1. I can "cluck" and "purr"
2. Sometimes I have a beard
3. I'm an icon of Thanksgiving

>>> See answer on Page 13



## Venison With Rice And Vegetables

Now that deer season has come and gone, our family has begun enjoying the fruits of our time afield. Our deer roasts often find their way into the grinder for sausage or the slicer for jerky, but recently my wife found a small roast tucked into a package of backstrap and decided to try a new recipe. Her first attempt turned out overdone, and

even though it was immersed in liquid, it was dry and livery tasting. I assumed it was because she tried to apply a similar cooking method used with beef and pork, which have much more fat than venison. My wife tried the recipe again, modified for venison. The second try was a huge success.

First, she marinated the roast overnight in milk to remove excess blood. The second, and probably most important, change she made was adjusting the cook time for the meat. Instead of everything slow cooking together, she cooked some ingredients separately, adding others later. The meat had great texture and taste. Both kids not only ate their bowls clean but finished off the leftovers. They even made a request for it the following week.

The most important lesson I learned from this was to adjust your methods and cooking times for wild game meat. My kids are picky eaters - and in many ways, polar opposites - so finding something they both liked is testament to the palatability of this dish.



### Venison Rice and Vegetables

- 1 medium venison roast
- 2 to 4 C whole milk
- 2 C beef broth
- 1 C water
- 1 cube beef bouillon (optional)
- 1 pkg Lipton's onion soup mix
- 1 C mirepoix mix (2 parts onion, 1 part carrot, 1 part celery)
- 1 bell pepper, chopped (optional)
- 1 box Uncle Ben's Rice Medley - Garlic & Herb

Refrigerate the venison roast overnight in whole milk. Place the roast in a slow cooker with beef broth, onion soup mix and mirepoix (and bell pepper, if you're using one). Cook on low for approximately 4 hours.

Pull the roast from the slow cooker and cut into 1-inch cubes. Meat should still be undercooked at this point.

Pour the fluids from the slow cooker into a separate pot, add 1 cup of water and brown rice medley and seasoning packet. Follow cook-time instructions for rice.

Add the cubed venison to the cooked rice. Bring to a boil. Cool a spoonful and taste. If your mixture still needs more flavor, add the beef bouillon cube.

Next, add in the cooked vegetables. Lower the heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Lastly, remove the lid and continue to cook until the liquid is reduced. Enjoy!

## Cattails | *Iralee Barnard*

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My husband and I visited Kanopolis Reservoir in late March last year. He fished as I walked the water's edge, admiring the ripples made by insects, enjoying the "conk-al-lee" call of the red-winged blackbirds and the rustle of the dried cattails in the breeze.

The cattail is a familiar plant, particularly to waterfowl hunters and anyone who spends time near wetlands, ponds, and lakes in Kansas. The characteristic upright, strap-like leaves and cylindrical brown flowering spikes often cover large patches of shallow water, spreading colonies via large, underground horizontal stems called rhizomes.

The cattail's tough rhizomes help stabilize banks and stop erosion, while the roots and rhizomes provide an important service: filtering out toxins through absorption, cleaning and purifying the water.

Cattail thickets are home to many species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and aquatic insects. I once found the nest of a red-winged blackbird woven into cattail stalks. Inside were four beautiful eggs with brown markings on the pale blue-green shell. Minks, muskrats, and waterfowl are just a few select others that use cattails for nesting, food, or shelter. Humans have also made similar uses of cattails. Our ancestors found the cattail to be a valuable resource in all seasons, using all parts of the plant in some fashion or another, including food.

The starchy rhizomes are high in protein and can be cooked and eaten or pounded to make flour. The fibrous roots, when crushed, also have uses as a diuretic or a paste to heal wounds and burns. And the young green flower heads can be boiled or roasted and eaten like sweetcorn, though I'm sure they don't taste the same.

Cattail pollen makes nutritious flour. The golden pollen is found at the top of the flower spike and is very abundant and rich in vitamins and minerals. American Indians harvested it for bread. To collect the pollen, cover the cattail spike with a bag and shake. If you're feeling really adventurous, you can even make cattail pancakes. Simply substitute half of the flour with cattail pollen.

When the cattail spike is gone to seed, the downy hairs can be used as stuffing for pillows, dressing for wounds, tender for starting fires, and insulation. On their Voyage of Discovery, Lewis and Clark reported that cattail down was used by local people for absorption in baby diapers. In World War II, the fluffy down was used to maintain buoyancy in Navy life vests. Leaves have been used for mats and roof thatching. Young, tender shoots are eaten like asparagus, but caution is necessary when gathering shoots - you don't want to mistake a cattail root for another plant that could be poisonous.

All in all, these plants are pretty remarkable!



Ken Barnard photo





# The Way I See It

## Indoor Hunting

with Todd Workman

Lapses in judgment are commonplace at my house. When a professional painter couldn't get paint to stick to our ceiling, I remembered several years earlier when I cut our Christmas ham with a circular power saw. It was a lapse in judgment. The ensuing mess was a feeding frenzy for our pet wiener dog, Clinker, and years later, the oily residue still shunned new paint like water off a duck's back.

But I'm not the only one with judgment issues. Last spring, my wife brought home a couple of dart guns so we could do something "fun" together. She soon discovered that spending quality time with me isn't all it's cracked up to be. Turns out those hard plastic heads leave red marks on her body. She should've known I would quickly get bored with the plastic animal shooting gallery she set up. She had a lapse in judgement. We later agreed to keep gunfire to inanimate targets.

Then one day while watching television, dart gun by my side, a fly buzzed my ear and landed 6 feet away on the living room wall. Sure, it wasn't an inanimate object, but I could not resist from firing at the dark speck. To my amazement, it was a clean hit.

"What did you shoot?" my wife exclaimed, hurdling herself into the safety of the other room. "You better not be shooting at my figurines!"

My chief concern in that moment was that she would spy the fly remnants splattered on the wall. I fixed my sight on her so my eyes wouldn't stray and lead her to the kill zone. It was hard, too. Forget about a 450-yard prairie dog shot or a 250-yard shot at a coyote on the run - this fly was one of my best shots ever!

My wife finally stalked out of the room, leaving me to marvel at my Wild Bill Hickok-like skills. I quickly cleaned up the wall with some disinfectant, erasing any crime scene evidence.

"You're cleaning a wall?" my wife asked skeptically.

"I made a smudge with my hand on

the wall and needed to clean it off," I bluffed.

"You always say you don't even know where I keep the cleaner, and now you're cleaning walls? What are you up to, you sneak?" she demanded.

My silence turned her away for the time being. However, 14 flies later, she discovered what I was doing.

I had fried up a hamburger and left the front door open, enticing my winged victims with the promise of easy pickings. As soon as they came through the door, I darted them. But the kills were coming too quickly and I couldn't keep up with the cleanup; I was discovered.

"This is the most unbelievable thing you've ever done and that is saying a lot," my wife shouted. "Letting in dirty houseflies for the sole purpose of killing them with a stupid toy gun!"

"There is one on the wall right above your head," I said, handing her the gun. "Point and fire. Let your instincts take control."

She took the gun reluctantly, called me an idiot, and fired in the general direction of the fly. Amazingly, she hit it.

"That was a fantastic shot!" I cheered.

"Well, I'll be danged," she said, loading another dart. "We'll clean up later. Let in another fly!"

We hunted indoors the whole summer and our walls never looked better. But all good things come to an end, and this activity was no different.

We live in the country and as winter



Rvector/Shutterstock

came, so did a mouse. Late one night as I watched television, it flitted through my peripheral vision and I immediately grabbed my dart gun. The mouse emerged from under the loveseat, on its way to a heater vent. Like a sniper, I methodically took the shot. Carrying it outside, I admired the power of this new rodent killer.

"What did you shoot at?" my wife asked, rubbing her sleepy eyes. "There can't be any flies around."

In a moment of weakness, my eyes wondered to the wall baseboard. She followed my eyes to the spot and quickly figured out my ploy.

"Oh, no you don't!" she exclaimed, snatching my dart gun away. Then she picked up the block of cheddar cheese I had positioned along the baseboard and snatched my dart gun away from me..

Leaving cheese in such an obvious place was another of my lapses in judgment, and I paid. I never saw my dart gun again.

“WHAT AM I?” answer: turkey



Last fall, I was invited to present a program on interstate conservation issues at the Missouri Herpetological Association's annual meeting, which was held at Missouri State University's Bull Shoals Field Station. On the way, I made a brief stop at the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's (KDWPT) Southeast Kansas Nature Center, just south of Galena. There, I made the short walk up to Schermerhorn Cave, where I felt a world away from the High Plains of central and western Kansas. The 260-mile drive from central Kansas took me from the sandhills of Pratt County, across the rolling tallgrass prairie of the Flint Hills, to the oak-hickory woodlands of the Osage Cuestas and Chautauqua Hills, and finally to a little piece of Ozark Plateau that juts into Cherokee County. The Schermerhorn Cave, and others like it on the Ozark Plateau, is home to our 2017 Chickadee Checkoff poster species: the cave salamander.

This 4- to 6-inch, bright orange and black spotted salamander lives in the twi-

light zone of these limestone caves with permanent spring flows. The cave salamander was chosen as the Chickadee Checkoff representative this year because in many ways, it exemplifies the great ecological transition observed in our state. The Great Plains region is a transition zone between the east and west, whether we are discussing shifts in plants and animals or early pioneer settlement. Much of our flora and fauna are typical prairie species, but there is also a southwestern influence as one moves toward the Colorado border and northwestern Oklahoma. In the east, the western most extent of the Eastern deciduous forest occurs along our border with Missouri. Species such as the cave salamander exist in the peripheries of their range in our state largely because of their resiliency - much like the early pioneers of our country. But as with most species, just because they're resilient, doesn't mean they're invincible. That's where the Chickadee Checkoff program comes in.

The Chickadee Checkoff, a line appearing on Kansas Individual Tax Forms, is a donation program that provides funds for managing our state's diverse and unique nongame species. Often the funding supports projects such as field surveys, research, development of species recovery plans, and educational efforts at our nature centers and many K-12 schools. As you prepare your individual tax returns this year, keep the Chickadee Checkoff program in mind, because every little bit helps! You can learn more about Chickadee Checkoff at [ksoutdoors.com/Services/Wildlife-Diversity/Chickadee-Checkoff](http://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Wildlife-Diversity/Chickadee-Checkoff).

Curious about other ways you can help? Here's a little teaser of an upcoming column: we are currently working to develop online citizen science projects that will allow you, with the aid of your smartphone, to help us collect observational data on our states plants and animals. Stay tuned to find out when this will launch.





## Fishing For Gold

with Annie Campbell-Fischer

On occasion, I'll receive a Master Angler Award application with a photo of a lovely golden-colored trout from an angler who hopes they've hooked a new species. Many ask "Did I catch a record golden trout?" and to their disappointment, the answer is "No."

I recently sat down with David Breth, fisheries program coordinator for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), to discuss the differences between a "golden-colored trout" and a true golden trout. Breth explained that true golden trout are native to, and found primarily in, the high mountain streams of California. They are not stocked in Kansas. You can identify a golden trout by dark, circular-shaped marks on their sides, a red stripe down their middle sides, a golden underside, and a cherry-red belly.

If you catch a golden-colored trout in Kansas, it's actually a rainbow trout with a pigment mutation. Fifty years ago, a color mutation occurred in hatchery trout, resulting in the golden coloration of some rainbows. These golden-colored rainbows are sometimes included in Kansas stockings. However, anglers shouldn't be disappointed. Catching a golden-colored rainbow trout is quite rare. They aren't commonly produced, and their golden color makes them more vulnerable to predators and less likely to survive long.



RAINBOW TROUT W/ MUTATION Matt Hagood photo



GOLDEN TROUT Joe Tomelleri illustration

If you've never fished for trout in Kansas, be forewarned - it's addicting! The excitement you'll feel catching one of these beautiful fish is exactly why people get hooked on fishing - I know I did! KDWPT stocks approximately 90,000 trout on state-owned properties each winter. While most locations can't sustain these fish through summer due to rising water temperatures, the Mined Land Wildlife Area Unit No. 30 maintains a year-round trout fishery.

The Kansas trout season is November 1-April 15, so there's still time to perfect your trout fishing skills. During the season, trout anglers 16 and older must have a trout permit (\$14.50) and residents 16-74, must also have a fishing license. Unless otherwise posted, the daily creel limit is 5 trout; however, anglers 15 and younger can only keep two trout per day unless they have a trout permit. A trout permit is required year-round at the Mined Land Wildlife Area Unit No. 30. You can find a complete list of trout stocking locations and schedules, as well as permit requirements at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) by clicking "Fishing," then "Special Fishing Programs." The *2017 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary* is also a valuable resource for this information and can be found online and wherever fishing licenses are sold.

GOLD luck, and happy fishing!



## FISHIN'

### Favorite Fish: Whatever's Biting

with Mike Miller

We tend to categorize anglers by what they say their favorite fish is. If you ask me what my favorite fish to catch is, I'll tell you that it's the smallmouth bass. I love everything about smallmouth bass; where they live, what they look like, the kind of tackle it takes to catch them, and how they fight. So does that make me a smallmouth bass angler? It would, I guess, if smallmouth bass were the only fish I fished for. They're not.

Our fisheries biologists tailor their management programs based, in part, on what local anglers prefer. So, creel survey clerks ask anglers what kind of

fish they prefer to catch. One of the top answers is, "Whatever's biting."

Honestly, "Whatever's biting" is my favorite fish, too. I'll always start out fishing for smallmouth bass, but if the white bass are biting and the smallmouth aren't, I'm happy to be a white bass angler. If the largemouth bass in the pond I'm fishing won't bite, but the crappie will, I'm a crappie angler.

With that in mind, Fisheries Division staff created a new category in this year's online Fishing Forecast: "Whatever's Biting." This list is made up of lakes that offer good fishing for a variety of species

where anglers' chances of catching fish are high, as long as they don't care what kind. For ponds, the rating considers densities of largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish; for lakes, the rating is based on densities of largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and crappie; and for reservoirs, the rating considers largemouth bass, channel catfish, walleye, white bass, and wipers.

Find the Top 15 in each category at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com), but here's a sneak peak at the top "Whatever's Biting" waters: Pond - Severy City Lake, Lake - Pleasanton West Lake, and Reservoir - Clinton Reservoir.

'17 KANSAS

FISHING



FORECAST

- OPEN DAILY -



## “Hey, where d’ja catch all those big fish?”

Ask any angler about the location of their favorite fishing spot, and it’s likely you’ll get a cold shoulder. Good fishing holes are closely guarded secrets. Fortunately, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) fisheries biologists aren’t good at keeping secrets, and the fact is they want you to catch fish. That’s why they’ve compiled sampling data collected last spring and fall so you can find lakes with the best populations of the kinds and sizes of fish you like to catch. It’s all in the 2017 Fishing Forecast.

KDWP fisheries biologists manage more than 200 community lakes, 40 state fishing lakes and 24 reservoirs in Kansas. Management techniques include setting creel and length limits, stocking fish, surveying anglers and enhancing fish habitat. And in order to know how to improve fishing at a given lake, they need an idea of what’s swimming below the surface.

Sampling is done in the spring and fall. Spring sampling is usually done with electroshocking when species such as black bass are in shallow water. The shocker boat’s electrical current stuns bass temporarily, and they are then netted and placed in a holding tank. Each fish is measured and weighed, then released. In the fall, nets are used to sample species such as crappie, walleye, white bass, wiper and channel catfish. Again, the number of each species caught per unit of effort along with weights and lengths are recorded. This data, when compared to data from past sampling efforts, tells managers whether what they’re doing is working or if it needs to be changed. It helps them make recommendations for regulations and make stocking requests.

For the forecast, they take the same data and put it in a format that helps anglers catch more fish. Here’s how it works.

Let’s use largemouth bass as an example. The data shows how many largemouth bass were shocked per hour of effort, so they count the bass 12 inches long or longer for the Density Rating since a 12-inch bass is considered to be high quality by most anglers. The Preferred Rating is the number of those bass 15 inches long or longer since most anglers prefer to catch bass at least 15 inches long. The next rating is the Lunker Rating, which lists the number of largemouth bass in the sample

that were 20 inches long or longer. These are bass that will probably weigh 5 pounds or more and are considered lunkers by most anglers. The “Biggest Fish” rating gives anglers confidence that big bass exist in a population. The Biologist’s Rating is an opinion on the fishery – Poor, Good or Excellent – and it may not agree with the Density Rating. This could occur if there were environmental factors that impacted sampling results, and the biologist feels the population is better than the ratings show.


Obviously, biologists only see a “sample” of fish in a given lake, but theoretically, a lake with a Density Rating for largemouth bass of 72 has twice as many bass longer than 12 inches per acre than a lake with a Density Rating of 36.

The final rating is the Three-year Average, which simply allows anglers to see trends in populations.

Lengths for each category are different for each species, and water bodies are divided into three groups – ponds, less than 10 acres; lakes, 10-1,200 acres; and reservoirs, larger than 1,200 acres – because sampling methods are different.

But that’s not all. This year, a special online category has been added, and it was the brainchild of biologists who compile the information. While looking through creel survey information, they noticed that one of the most common answers given by anglers when asked what they were fishing for was “Whatever’s biting.” So the data was re-examined and a “Whatever’s Biting” page is now available through the online Fishing Forecast at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com).

It provides a list of ponds, lakes and reservoirs where anglers will have the best chance to catch fish, as long as they don’t care what kind, and the rankings consider data for several species. For ponds, data for bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish were considered. For lakes, bluegill, largemouth bass, crappie and channel catfish were considered, and for reservoirs, biologists looked at data for largemouth bass, channel catfish, crappie, walleye, wiper and white bass.

Use this tool, along with the Weekly Fishing Reports, to catch more fish this spring and summer. 

## BLUE CATFISH

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>30")	Lunker Rating (>35")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WOLF CREEK	2.69	0.28	0.03	22.05	G	2.21
MILFORD	1.55	0.25	0.05	28.66	G	1.12
EL DORADO	0.56	0.06	0.00	13.07	G	0.65
CLINTON	0.50	0.00	0.00	14.33	F	0.58
WILSON	0.47	0.00	0.00	11.72	F	0.41
LOVEWELL	0.45	0.00	0.00	10.02	F	0.33
MELVERN	0.25	0.06	0.00	19.18	F	0.19
ELK CITY	0.18	0.00	0.00	4.41	F	0.06
PERRY	0.15	0.00	0.00	9.37	F	0.13
LACYGNE	0.11	0.00	0.00	3.64	G	0.09
TUTTLE CREEK	0.10	0.00	0.00	4.13	F	0.15
<b>LAKES</b>						
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	0.67	0.00	0.00	3.88	P	0.44
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	0.30	0.00	0.00	3.44	P	0.15
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	0.25	0.00	0.00	6.81	P	0.75
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	6.20	P	0.22
MIAMI SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.86	P	0.00
<b>PONDS</b>						
TUTTLE CREEK RIVER POND	0.25	0.00	0.00	3.67	G	0.67

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Dasytnik/Shutterstock

## CHANNEL CATFISH

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>16")	Preferred Rating (>24")	Lunker Rating (>28")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>18")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
CLINTON	5.88	0.50	0.06	15.21	G	4.63
HILLSDALE	4.42	0.50	0.08	10.23	E	3.61
BIG HILL	4.33	0.17	0.00	5.35	G	4.68
MARION	3.40	0.50	0.20	11.88	G	3.97
MELVERN	3.38	0.13	0.00	4.67	G	3.08
POMONA	3.13	0.13	0.00	6.13	G	3.36
ELK CITY	3.00	0.64	0.18	9.68	E	3.30
LOVEWELL	2.75	0.30	0.00	6.40	G	1.72
PERRY	2.25	0.25	0.00	6.73	F	2.50
LACYGNE	1.78	0.00	0.00	4.15	G	1.30
WILSON	1.73	0.17	0.03	11.68	G	2.22
KANOPOLIS	1.48	0.05	0.00	5.20	G	3.03
GLEN ELDER	1.42	0.29	0.13	17.91	G	1.96
COUNCIL GROVE	1.27	0.00	0.00	4.08	F	1.27
WOLF CREEK	1.10	0.14	0.00	7.05	F	1.93
<b>LAKES</b>						
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	15.33	0.67	0.00	5.19	E	13.83
DOUGLAS SFL	11.50	0.33	0.00	5.21	G	8.89
COLDWATER LAKE	8.33	0.67	0.00	7.16	E	3.98
PLEASANTON CITY LAKE - OLD	8.00	0.67	0.00	4.28	E	6.00
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	8.00	0.33	0.00	4.03	G	5.33
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	7.67	2.00	0.00	7.37	G	6.78
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	7.57	0.57	0.00	6.02	G	6.61
EUREKA CITY LAKE	7.33	1.00	0.50	17.86	G	5.78
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	7.00	0.25	0.00	5.27	G	5.13
NEOSHO SFL	6.25	0.50	0.00	5.60	G	4.75
CHASE SFL	6.25	0.50	0.25	10.42	G	3.58
PAOLA CITY LAKE	5.17	0.67	0.00	7.37	G	2.39
SABETHA CITY LAKE	4.83	0.50	0.17	9.59	G	4.67
BOURBON SFL	4.50	0.00	0.00	3.81	G	4.25
COWLEY SFL	4.50	0.25	0.00	6.94	G	3.00
CRITZER LAKE	4.50	0.50	0.17	6.58	G	3.83
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	4.50	0.00	0.00	3.17	G	3.39
GEARY SFL	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.07	F	1.67
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	4.00	0.00	0.00	3.97	G	1.75
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	4.00	0.10	0.00	7.03	G	2.23
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	4.00	0.00	0.00	3.66	F	2.47
WASHINGTON SFL	3.50	0.25	0.00	5.17	G	2.53
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	3.50	1.00	0.00	7.94	F	2.42
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	3.50	0.50	0.00	6.21	G	1.75
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	3.50	0.00	0.00	3.55	G	3.50
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	3.38	0.63	0.13	8.83	G	2.25
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	3.33	0.00	0.00	4.47	G	2.67
CRAWFORD SFL	3.33	0.50	0.00	6.83	G	2.83
MARION CO. LAKE	3.25	0.50	0.00	7.33	G	3.50
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	3.17	0.67	0.17	8.49	F	3.60
CLARK SFL	3.14	0.00	0.00	4.84	G	3.24
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	3.13	1.13	0.25	10.15	G	4.67



# CHANNEL CATFISH

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>16")	Preferred Rating (>24")	Lunker Rating (>28")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>18")
<b>LAKES</b>						
ALMA CITY LAKE	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.86	G	1.83
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	3.00	0.67	0.50	17.09	F	3.78
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	2.75	0.00	0.00	3.95	F	1.75
BONE CREEK LAKE	2.63	0.75	0.50	17.22	F	2.54
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	2.50	0.50	0.25	16.18	G	2.78
MADISON CITY LAKE	2.50	0.17	0.17	13.45	G	2.44
OSAGE SFL	2.33	0.33	0.17	10.10	G	2.78
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	2.33	0.67	0.17	10.28	G	3.56
ATCHISON SFL	2.25	0.25	0.00	7.73	F	4.67
MELVERN RIVER POND	2.25	0.50	0.00	8.34	G	2.92
GARDNER CITY LAKE	2.17	0.17	0.00	6.19	F	1.44
BROWN SFL	2.00	0.25	0.00	5.52	F	3.00
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	2.00	0.50	0.33	9.59	G	2.38
MCPHERSON SFL	2.00	0.30	0.00	8.03	F	1.52
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	2.00	0.13	0.00	6.13	F	1.25
PRESCOTT CITY LAKE	2.00	0.00	0.00	4.41	G	1.33
JEWELL SFL	1.75	0.50	0.00	5.19	G	4.03
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	1.75	1.25	0.00	7.39	G	2.92
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	1.75	0.00	0.00	5.06	G	0.92
GREAT BEND-VETS PARK LAKE	1.67	0.33	0.00	5.67	F	1.17
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	1.67	0.00	0.00	3.62	F	1.67
MIAMI SFL	1.67	0.17	0.00	5.51	F	2.33
MEADE STATE LAKE	1.67	0.00	0.00	3.35	F	1.72
LEBO CITY LAKE	1.50	0.25	0.00	6.44	F	0.92
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	1.50	0.17	0.00	6.72	F	1.17
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	1.33	0.00	0.00	3.41	F	0.94
SHAWNEE SFL	1.33	0.00	0.00	3.55	G	1.89
HORSETHIEF	1.29	0.29	0.14	12.57	G	0.64
ATCHISON CO. LAKE	1.25	0.25	0.00	6.04	G	1.25
MONTGOMERY SFL	1.17	0.00	0.00	1.86	F	1.50
LYON SFL	1.17	0.00	0.00	1.94	G	1.28
LEAVENWORTH SFL	1.17	0.00	0.00	2.29	F	1.67
NEBO SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	P	1.92
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	1.00	0.67	0.00	6.05	F	1.22
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.16	F	0.89
WOODSON SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.88	F	1.50
PRATT CO. LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.44	G	1.00
<b>PONDS</b>						
FORT SCOTT-GUNN PK E PD-FERN	6.25	0.25	0.00	5.35	E	6.25
OVERBROOK CITY LAKE	4.00	0.00	0.00	2.21	E	4.00
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	1.67	0.33	0.00	5.84	P	2.72
SEVERY CITY LAKE	0.67	0.00	0.00	2.16	F	0.56

Benton Boyd photo



# REDEAR

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>7")	Preferred Rating (>9")	Lunker Rating (>11")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>7")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
BIG HILL	1.25	0.25	0.00	0.34	F	0.73
LACYGNE	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.32	P	0.09
<b>LAKES</b>						
DOUGLAS SFL	23.75	0.25	0.00	0.45	G	15.86
LEAVENWORTH SFL	14.50	0.25	0.00	0.43	G	12.08
COWLEY SFL	11.00	1.50	0.00	0.74	G	7.33
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	9.25	0.00	0.00	0.42	G	5.33
WILSON SFL	8.50	4.00	0.00	0.76	G	3.39
LYON SFL	7.75	2.75	0.00	0.87	G	4.75
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.37	G	3.17
MONTGOMERY SFL	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.39	G	2.25
BONE CREEK LAKE	4.29	0.57	0.00	0.95	G	4.97
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	4.00	0.50	0.00	0.60	G	4.00
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	2.50	0.25	0.00	0.57	G	6.08
JEWELL SFL	2.00	0.25	0.00	0.61	G	3.58
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.80	0.20	0.00	0.53	G	2.77
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.28	P	0.75
MELVERN RIVER POND	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.46	P	0.67
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.24	G	4.75
BUTLER SFL	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	1.13
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	1.00
OSAGE SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	P	1.00
NEOSHO SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	G	0.50
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	1.00	0.33	0.00	0.64	P	1.50
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.34	P	0.33
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	0.75	0.25	0.00	0.51	F	0.50
BLUE MOUND - CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	P	0.50
MADISON CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.31	P	0.38
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.40	F	1.13
SHAWNEE SFL	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.29	P	0.50
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.18	P	0.25
<b>PONDS</b>						
SEVERY CITY LAKE	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	G	2.33
JEWELL CITY LAKE	1.00	0.67	0.00	0.98	F	1.06
OVERBROOK CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.32	P	0.50

Doug Stamm/Engbreitson Underwater Photography



# FLATHEAD CATFISH

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>28")	Lunker Rating (>34")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
TORONTO	0.83	0.08	0.00	5.81	G	0.58
LACYGNE	0.28	0.06	0.06	11.08	G	0.31
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	0.20	0.10	0.00	8.38	F	0.20
COUNCIL GROVE	0.13	0.07	0.00	5.90	F	0.10
EL DORADO	0.13	0.00	0.00	5.47	F	0.22
HILLSDALE	0.08	0.00	0.00	2.61	F	0.08
FALL RIVER	0.08	0.00	0.00	4.15	G	0.12
WEBSTER	0.08	0.00	0.00	4.06	F	0.19
JOHN REDMOND	0.07	0.00	0.00	4.76	F	0.11
<b>LAKES</b>						
OLPE CITY LAKE	1.75	0.75	0.25	11.30	G	1.00
NEOSHO SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	2.80	P	0.50
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	0.33	0.17	0.00	10.80	F	0.23
LEAVENWORTH SFL	0.33	0.33	0.33	36.38	F	0.25
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	1.94	F	0.50
COWLEY SFL	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	F	0.25
MELVERN RIVER POND	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	P	0.25
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	0.20	0.00	0.00	3.01	G	0.15
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.76	F	0.22
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.70	F	0.17
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	5.30	F	0.17
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	0.13	0.00	0.00	2.51	F	0.13
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	0.13	0.00	0.00	3.99	F	0.13
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	F	0.13

<b>BLUEGILL</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>6")	Preferred Rating (>8")	Lunker Rating (>10")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>6")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
MARION	6.57	0.14	0.00	0.45	P	7.00
BIG HILL	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.28	G	3.97
HILLSDALE	3.31	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	2.79
LACYGNE	2.44	0.19	0.00	0.34	G	3.44
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	2.20	0.70	0.00	0.72	G	6.36
LOVEWELL	1.31	0.00	0.00	0.24	F	0.73
CEDAR BLUFF	1.22	0.00	0.00	0.23	P	0.94
CLINTON	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.22	P	1.21
ELK CITY	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	P	0.36
<b>LAKES</b>						
SCOTT STATE LAKE	35.00	0.17	0.00	0.42	G	25.74
PLEASANTON – WEST LAKE	35.00	3.00	0.00	0.52	E	17.75
WASHINGTON SFL	29.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	G	18.67
EUREKA CITY LAKE	23.75	0.25	0.00	0.47	G	15.00
GARDNER CITY LAKE	21.50	0.25	0.00	0.31	G	25.75
MADISON CITY LAKE	21.00	0.25	0.00	0.37	G	14.58
SHAWNEE CO.–LAKE SHAWNEE	18.50	0.88	0.00	0.41	G	11.88
DOUGLAS CO.–LONESTAR LAKE	15.25	0.00	0.00	0.30	F	16.67
LENEXA–LAKE LENEXA	13.00	1.00	0.00	0.40	F	16.17
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	12.75	0.00	0.00	0.35	G	16.50
BROWN SFL	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	7.92
NEOSHO SFL	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	G	4.83
MARION CO. LAKE	8.75	1.50	0.00	0.43	G	9.92
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	8.25	0.00	0.00	0.29	F	6.42
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	8.13	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	5.46
MCPHERSON SFL	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	G	6.00
JEFFREY EC–AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	7.88	0.13	0.00	0.43	F	4.17
LYON SFL	7.75	0.75	0.00	0.56	G	20.42
GRAHAM CO.–ANTELOPE LAKE	7.25	2.75	0.25	0.94	E	6.00
HOWARD–POLK DANIELS LAKE	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	G	9.33
HOLTON – BANNER CREEK LAKE	6.38	0.13	0.00	0.43	F	4.04
PLEASANTON CITY LAKE – OLD	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	G	4.50
CHASE SFL	5.75	0.25	0.00	0.29	G	6.58
BOURBON SFL	5.67	0.00	0.00	0.30	G	6.83
PLEASANTON – EAST LAKE	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.27	G	5.25
PAOLA CITY LAKE	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.24	G	3.00
GARNETT–CRYSTAL LAKE	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	G	21.50
COWLEY SFL	5.00	0.25	0.00	0.31	G	5.67
CHANANY CITY LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	5.83
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE – EAST	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.24	F	4.33
SABETHA CITY LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.30	F	9.63
GARNETT–CEDAR CREEK LAKE	4.38	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	9.96
OLATHE–LAKE OLATHE	4.33	0.00	0.00	0.17	F	6.14
WILSON SFL	3.75	0.25	0.00	0.47	G	7.63
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.19	F	2.42
GEARY SFL	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.25	F	3.33
OLATHE–CEDAR LAKE	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.23	F	10.17
BLUE MOUND – CITY LAKE	3.50	0.50	0.00	0.24	G	3.50
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	3.50	2.00	0.00	0.42	F	3.25
PRATT CO. LAKE	3.50	0.25	0.00	0.39	E	8.39
YATES CENTER–SOUTH OWL LAKE	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.37	F	2.90
CLARK SFL	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	G	1.97
MONTGOMERY SFL	2.75	0.50	0.00	0.40	G	2.42
CRITZER LAKE	2.40	0.00	0.00	0.20	G	1.20
GARNETT CITY LAKE–NORTH	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.30	F	4.13
MIAMI SFL	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.21	F	21.25
JEWELL SFL	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.34	F	1.83
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	F	2.00
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	3.00
SHAWNEE SFL	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.15	P	1.08
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.21	P	3.58
SABETHA – PONY CREEK LAKE	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	F	12.25
HORSETHIEF	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.25	F	1.34
ALMA CITY LAKE	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.20	P	1.71
SHERIDAN SFL	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.20	P	1.46
LEBO CITY LAKE	1.50	0.25	0.00	0.61	F	3.17
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.26	F	2.37
<b>PONDS</b>						
SEVERY CITY LAKE	18.50	0.00	0.00	0.23	G	10.67
HORTON–LITTLE LAKE	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	F	5.33
OVERBROOK CITY LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	2.50
STERLING CITY LAKE	1.67	0.00	0.00	0.19	F	1.67
GLEN ELDER SP POND	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.28	F	2.67
JEWELL CITY LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.24	G	4.22

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<b>REDEAR</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>7")	Preferred Rating (>9")	Lunker Rating (>11")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>7")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
BIG HILL	1.25	0.25	0.00	0.34	F	0.73
LACYGNE	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.32	P	0.09
<b>LAKES</b>						
DOUGLAS SFL	23.75	0.25	0.00	0.45	G	15.86
LEAVENWORTH SFL	14.50	0.25	0.00	0.43	G	12.08
COWLEY SFL	11.00	1.50	0.00	0.74	G	7.33
DOUGLAS CO.–LONESTAR LAKE	9.25	0.00	0.00	0.42	G	5.33
WILSON SFL	8.50	4.00	0.00	0.76	G	3.39
LYON SFL	7.75	2.75	0.00	0.87	G	4.75
LENEXA–LAKE LENEXA	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.37	G	3.17
MONTGOMERY SFL	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.39	G	2.25
BONE CREEK LAKE	4.29	0.57	0.00	0.95	G	4.97
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	4.00	0.50	0.00	0.60	G	4.00
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	2.50	0.25	0.00	0.57	G	6.08
JEWELL SFL	2.00	0.25	0.00	0.61	G	3.58
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE–NEW	1.80	0.20	0.00	0.53	G	2.77
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.28	P	0.75
MELVERN RIVER POND	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.46	P	0.67
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.24	G	4.75
BUTLER SFL	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	1.13
PLEASANTON – WEST LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	1.00
OSAGE SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	P	1.00
NEOSHO SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	G	0.50
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	1.00	0.33	0.00	0.64	P	1.50
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.34	P	0.33
HOWARD–POLK DANIELS LAKE	0.75	0.25	0.00	0.51	F	0.50
BLUE MOUND – CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	P	0.50
MADISON CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.31	P	0.38
YATES CENTER–SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.40	F	1.13
SHAWNEE SFL	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.29	P	0.50
PLEASANTON – EAST LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.18	P	0.25
<b>PONDS</b>						
SEVERY CITY LAKE	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	G	2.33
JEWELL CITY LAKE	1.00	0.67	0.00	0.98	F	1.06
OVERBROOK CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.32	P	0.50



LARGEMOUTH BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	72.06	38.24	0.00	2.48	E	168.14
LACYGNE	65.80	42.68	6.52	6.42	E	74.23
BIG HILL	35.93	19.46	0.25	6.47	G	27.84
EL DORADO	20.12	10.06	0.91	4.99	F	10.94
HILLSDALE	11.45	3.20	0.74	6.32	G	5.98
MILFORD	9.89	4.01	0.00	4.22	G	10.08
WOLF CREEK	9.09	6.82	0.00	3.62	F	8.24
CEDAR BLUFF	7.63	4.70	0.20	4.14	F	7.44
LOVEWELL	3.92	0.00	0.00	1.49	P	3.14
<b>LAKES</b>						
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	219.03	17.07	0.00	3.73	E	132.82
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	175.86	53.45	0.00	4.07	E	113.88
COWLEY SFL	165.35	40.59	1.98	4.78	E	134.31
ATCHISON SFL	134.31	27.45	0.00	4.37	F	97.53
BOURBON SFL	122.22	10.10	0.00	5.58	G	89.35
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	119.79	27.08	0.00	3.96	G	97.70
BUTLER SFL	112.75	80.39	9.80	6.61	E	140.52
PRATT CO. LAKE	98.61	47.22	5.56	7.01	G	95.36
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	87.25	13.73	0.98	4.27	G	74.84
WILSON SFL	86.49	26.61	1.33	5.33	G	61.96
LYON SFL	76.85	42.91	1.00	4.30	G	80.54
MEADE STATE LAKE	74.53	38.68	2.83	6.56	G	50.53
DOUGLAS SFL	73.53	5.88	0.00	4.96	F	43.79
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	72.41	14.94	0.00	1.86	G	84.62
NEOSHO SFL	70.59	27.94	1.47	4.56	G	63.07
KIOWA SFL	70.45	40.91	0.00	3.76	F	50.65
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	69.64	18.75	0.00	3.31	G	66.02
COLDWATER LAKE	68.29	7.32	0.00	3.75	F	25.95
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	63.97	12.50	0.00	3.37	G	44.17
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	62.75	15.69	0.98	5.59	G	64.87
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	61.44	30.07	6.54	6.53	G	46.17
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	61.17	28.16	0.97	5.39	G	61.97
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	60.34	3.45	0.86	5.61	G	55.19
EUREKA CITY LAKE	59.80	12.75	0.98	5.26	G	48.65
MCPHERSON SFL	57.63	35.03	0.56	6.59	G	78.42
BONE CREEK LAKE	56.62	38.24	1.47	6.88	G	51.15
MADISON CITY LAKE	54.90	31.37	2.94	6.17	G	55.46
SHAWNEE SFL	54.47	35.59	3.63	5.77	G	59.21
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	52.94	3.92	0.00	2.67	G	29.08
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	48.84	23.26	0.00	2.95	G	39.91
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	48.61	14.88	0.00	3.57	G	46.91
MELVERN RIVER POND	47.06	15.69	0.00	3.53	G	31.71
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	46.88	16.41	0.00	4.01	G	47.29
GARDNER CITY LAKE	46.60	13.59	0.00	2.61	G	51.98
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	46.22	21.01	3.36	6.19	G	56.30
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	45.72	17.82	0.00	2.90	G	54.60
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	44.12	5.88	0.00	2.05	G	45.23
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	44.00	20.00	1.00	4.78	G	75.49
LEAVENWORTH SFL	43.14	7.84	0.00	2.52	F	49.67
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	42.58	17.30	0.00	4.07	G	46.46

LARGEMOUTH BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>LAKES</b>						
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	40.90	19.95	1.00	4.81	G	56.83
ALMA CITY LAKE	39.92	13.97	0.00	2.51	G	39.92
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	39.72	14.89	0.00	5.24	G	25.61
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	38.89	15.74	0.00	4.91	G	68.94
SPRING HILL CITY LAKE	38.05	12.39	2.65	6.78	G	26.27
MARION CO. LAKE	36.27	3.92	0.00	2.01	G	25.78
SCOTT STATE LAKE	36.22	9.60	0.31	4.92	G	41.56
JEWELL SFL	34.71	22.94	0.00	4.73	G	69.47
MONTGOMERY SFL	33.93	9.98	1.50	4.85	G	25.10
BOURBON CO. LAKE	33.75	22.50	1.25	4.52	G	35.83
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	32.68	13.73	0.00	4.07	F	33.33
BIG HILL WA-NORTH POND	31.94	2.00	0.00	4.65	G	31.94
HORSETHIEF	31.76	20.00	0.00	4.90	F	35.56
PAOLA CITY LAKE	31.62	8.55	1.71	5.40	G	36.61
KINGMAN SFL	30.59	10.00	0.00	3.02	G	44.56
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	29.47	2.11	0.00	2.05	F	29.47
OSAGE SFL	29.41	0.98	0.00	1.86	F	19.93
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	29.41	4.90	0.98	5.03	F	26.91
MIAMI SFL	27.73	8.40	0.00	3.83	F	28.94
BARBER SFL-LOWER	26.87	0.00	0.00	1.57	P	18.21
CLARK SFL	26.71	11.18	1.86	6.46	G	28.44
WASHINGTON SFL	25.81	2.77	0.00	2.76	F	20.74
WOODSON SFL	25.57	9.09	1.70	5.49	G	21.12
GREAT BEND-STONE PARK LAKE	25.21	4.20	0.84	4.54	F	16.01
LEBO CITY LAKE	23.97	8.26	0.00	3.79	F	29.21
CRAWFORD SFL	23.53	10.78	1.47	6.19	F	20.86
SEDGWICK CO.-LAKE AFTON	22.67	12.00	1.33	3.37	F	16.64
CHASE SFL	22.67	12.00	1.33	4.98	G	19.97
GEARY SFL	21.93	5.35	1.07	5.56	G	20.82
CRITZER LAKE	21.43	12.24	0.00	2.37	G	19.95
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	16.47	10.00	0.59	4.25	P	11.96
SHERIDAN SFL	11.90	2.68	0.00	2.00	F	28.21
FORD SFL	11.11	0.00	0.00	1.74	F	11.11
<b>PONDS</b>						
JEWELL CITY LAKE	139.68	25.40	0.00	2.30	G	101.04
EMPORIA-JONES PARK - E POND	123.60	11.24	0.00	1.44	G	111.20
LAWRENCE - P. D. BILLINGS - N	120.00	64.00	0.00	3.33	G	120.00
EMPORIA-JONES PARK -N POND	118.18	36.36	0.00	2.72	G	75.51
NEMAHA WILDLIFE AREA POND	94.15	65.62	0.00	3.82	G	73.43
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	88.24	15.69	0.00	4.01	G	75.75
EMPORIA-JONES PARK - W POND	86.33	14.39	0.00	2.09	G	84.97
SEVERY CITY LAKE	52.94	15.69	1.96	4.75	G	79.86
WALNUT CREEK - TORONTO RES.	36.27	19.61	0.00	4.78	G	22.31
OVERBROOK KIDS POND	33.33	27.78	0.00	2.17	F	33.33
FALL RIVER SP - KIDS POND	33.33	25.00	0.00	2.78	F	72.92
COFFEYVILLE-LECLERE	32.93	5.99	0.00	1.82	F	25.45
COLBY-VILLA HIGH LAKE	29.17	12.50	0.00	2.30	F	29.17
BLACK KETTLE SFL	23.53	17.65	2.35	5.23	F	23.53
OVERBROOK CITY LAKE	19.61	3.92	0.00	2.38	P	19.61
OLPE-JONES PARK POND	18.87	9.43	0.00	1.53	F	36.84







## SMALLMOUTH BASS

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WOLF CREEK	43.94	31.06	6.06	2.99	E	46.45
EL DORADO	30.18	8.84	2.13	3.97	G	16.60
MELVERN	23.33	9.61	0.98	2.82	G	17.25
GLEN ELDER	17.65	11.21	1.10	3.91	G	13.68
MILFORD	6.68	1.60	0.00	2.01	G	5.85
BIG HILL	3.49	1.75	0.25	2.12	F	2.56
CLINTON	0.91	0.70	0.20	3.62	P	2.06
WILSON	0.53	0.53	0.00	1.94	G	1.00
<b>LAKES</b>						
JEFFREY EC-AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	19.02	5.71	0.00	1.51	G	19.11
JEFFREY EC-MAKE UP LAKE	14.86	7.00	0.00	1.54	G	12.95
GREAT BEND-STONE PARK LAKE	6.72	3.36	0.84	2.88	F	3.36
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	5.75	2.30	0.00	1.64	F	6.36
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	4.12	2.35	0.00	1.50	P	2.35
ALMA CITY LAKE	2.99	1.00	0.00	2.20	F	2.99
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	1.96	0.65	0.65	3.29	F	3.16

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## SPOTTED BASS

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	6.62	2.94	0.00	1.55	E	11.27
EL DORADO	6.40	0.30	0.00	1.31	P	6.40
COUNCIL GROVE	3.27	0.65	0.00	1.59	F	3.27
MILFORD	2.94	2.14	0.00	2.19	F	3.03
CEDAR BLUFF	1.57	0.00	0.00	1.34	F	1.79
MELVERN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	P	0.92
GLEN ELDER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	P	0.05
<b>LAKES</b>						
BOURBON SFL	56.57	1.01	0.00	1.26	E	37.32
WILSON SFL	17.96	7.32	0.00	2.05	E	19.36
CRAWFORD SFL	12.75	2.94	0.00	2.29	G	10.13
CHASE SFL	12.00	1.33	0.00	1.41	G	13.48
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	8.82	1.96	0.00	2.13	F	19.67
EUREKA CITY LAKE	2.94	1.96	0.00	1.15	F	5.91
MARION CO. LAKE	2.94	0.00	0.00	1.23	F	5.00
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	1.76	0.00	0.00	1.01	P	2.16



Benton Boyd photo





<b>STRIPER</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>30")	Lunker Rating (>35")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WILSON	1.10	0.00	0.00	7.66	G	1.89
GLEN ELDER	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.43	P	0.00

<b>WIPER</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
MILFORD	11.35	0.85	0.00	5.82	G	7.08
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	8.60	3.30	0.00	6.19	G	10.36
MARION	7.90	1.30	0.00	5.10	E	6.69
EL DORADO	3.63	0.56	0.00	4.04	F	6.48
CHENEY	3.60	1.20	0.00	0.00	G	4.21
GLEN ELDER	2.96	1.96	0.04	6.69	G	2.44
CEDAR BLUFF	2.52	1.48	0.09	6.43	G	3.36
COUNCIL GROVE	2.13	1.87	0.07	7.59	F	2.34
KIRWIN	2.00	0.25	0.00	4.83	G	3.53
POMONA	1.81	0.75	0.00	5.13	F	2.02
LACYGNE	1.28	0.78	0.00	7.32	F	1.45
LOVEWELL	1.25	0.40	0.00	6.19	F	1.42
KANOPOLIS	1.24	0.43	0.00	5.09	F	2.27
CLINTON	0.81	0.69	0.00	5.06	F	1.79
WEBSTER	0.58	0.17	0.00	5.24	F	2.79
<b>LAKES</b>						
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	15.00	1.75	0.00	5.24	G	19.50
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	5.83	1.83	0.17	9.15	F	5.50
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	4.83	0.33	0.00	3.90	G	3.86
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	2.33	0.00	0.00	1.88	F	1.22
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	2.25	0.00	0.00	3.25	F	1.25
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	2.00	1.40	0.10	6.61	F	1.20
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	1.83	0.50	0.00	4.74	F	2.67
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.50	0.33	0.00	3.91	F	1.17
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	1.38	1.13	0.13	5.72	F	3.04
LEAVENWORTH SFL	1.33	0.17	0.00	3.51	F	1.72
GREAT BEND-STONE PARK LAKE	1.00	0.50	0.17	6.12	F	0.67
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	1.00	0.50	0.33	6.57	F	1.17
CRAWFORD SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.80	F	0.50
OSAGE SFL	0.83	0.00	0.00	3.32	P	1.00
JEFFREY EC- MAKE UP LAKE	0.83	0.00	0.00	3.57	F	1.33
MARION CO. LAKE	0.75	0.25	0.00	4.24	F	0.33
COLDWATER LAKE	0.67	0.67	0.00	6.28	F	0.86
EUREKA CITY LAKE	0.67	0.00	0.00	2.31	P	0.22
PAOLA CITY LAKE	0.67	0.33	0.00	5.36	F	1.39
<b>PONDS</b>						
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.48	F	1.11
OVERBROOK CITY LAKE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	P	0.00

<b>WHITE BASS</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>9")	Preferred Rating (>12")	Lunker Rating (>15")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>9")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
MELVERN	16.56	12.69	3.94	2.46	G	10.33
CLINTON	12.81	12.06	3.06	2.50	G	9.71
CEDAR BLUFF	12.65	11.35	4.22	1.93	E	11.82
CHENEY	9.60	9.20	0.80	0.00	G	8.43
GLEN ELDER	8.79	7.21	2.00	2.65	G	6.43
KANOPOLIS	6.90	5.71	2.24	2.98	G	14.32
HILLSDALE	6.25	2.42	0.25	1.75	G	5.56
BIG HILL	5.67	5.17	0.17	2.35	G	3.25
WEBSTER	5.58	1.75	0.42	2.05	G	7.56
LOVEWELL	4.60	1.05	0.00	1.40	F	3.06
PERRY	4.45	1.85	0.20	2.41	G	7.40
JOHN REDMOND	3.93	1.79	0.29	3.33	G	9.24
WOLF CREEK	3.90	3.31	1.48	2.08	G	2.76
POMONA	2.88	1.94	0.00	1.40	G	10.67
ELK CITY	2.64	1.09	0.00	1.15	G	3.18
EL DORADO	2.50	1.63	0.13	1.84	F	2.03
MARION	1.90	0.50	0.20	1.67	G	3.95
WILSON	1.63	1.03	0.90	3.34	F	2.04
TORONTO	1.50	0.42	0.25	3.08	F	2.75
KIRWIN	1.25	0.92	0.17	1.95	G	3.53
LACYGNE	0.94	0.56	0.11	1.99	F	2.17
MILFORD	0.80	0.20	0.10	2.05	F	0.58
COUNCIL GROVE	0.73	0.20	0.00	1.78	F	1.43
FALL RIVER	0.42	0.17	0.00	1.46	F	4.35
TUTTLE CREEK	0.40	0.30	0.15	2.67	P	0.37
<b>LAKES</b>						
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	18.50	8.50	0.25	1.81	G	9.33
CLARK SFL	6.86	6.43	0.14	1.28	E	9.31
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	5.50	5.25	1.38	2.11	G	7.79
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	5.50	2.00	1.50	0.56	G	6.53
JEFFREY EC- MAKE UP LAKE	4.83	1.17	0.00	1.12	G	3.39
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	4.83	0.67	0.00	1.68	F	5.24
OSAGE SFL	3.83	2.50	0.33	1.57	F	2.44
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	3.25	2.50	0.75	1.60	F	4.50
GEARY SFL	3.25	1.25	0.50	1.62	F	2.58
LYON SFL	2.33	2.33	0.17	1.57	F	1.72
CHASE SFL	2.25	1.75	1.00	1.88	P	1.25
MIAMI SFL	2.17	2.17	2.17	2.56	G	3.28
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	2.00	1.00	0.00	1.15	F	4.72
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	1.90	1.30	0.30	1.59	F	1.83
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	1.67	1.33	0.17	1.56	F	3.50
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.33	1.33	0.00	1.34	F	1.42
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	1.17	1.17	0.17	1.76	F	1.11
GARDNER CITY LAKE	1.17	1.17	0.33	1.54	F	2.52
PAOLA CITY LAKE	0.67	0.50	0.00	1.23	F	0.67
<b>PONDS</b>						
GLEN ELDER SP POND	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.00	P	0.33
STERLING CITY LAKE	0.33	0.33	0.33	1.89	P	0.33



Eric Engbretson photo

## BLACK CRAPPIE

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>10")	Lunker Rating (>12")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>8")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	1.10	0.30	0.10	1.19	G	1.78
CLINTON	0.69	0.56	0.00	0.86	P	0.33
HILLSDALE	0.63	0.19	0.00	0.85	F	0.38
LOVEWELL	0.56	0.06	0.00	0.65	F	1.05
KANOPOLIS	0.56	0.06	0.00	0.71	P	0.23
CEDAR BLUFF	0.39	0.06	0.00	0.86	F	0.85
KIRWIN	0.38	0.38	0.13	1.27	G	0.85
<b>LAKES</b>						
BROWN SFL	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	8.50
JEWELL SFL	8.75	0.50	0.25	1.24	G	7.50
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	7.75	0.50	0.00	0.55	F	4.31
MELVERN RIVER POND	7.50	1.00	0.00	0.53	F	6.17
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	6.75	4.38	1.38	1.31	G	8.42
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	6.75	2.00	0.50	1.00	F	7.08
MONTGOMERY SFL	5.50	4.00	0.00	0.67	G	5.25
COWLEY SFL	5.25	1.00	0.00	0.80	F	3.75
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	5.25	1.75	0.00	0.80	G	5.63
GARDNER CITY LAKE	4.00	0.50	0.25	1.63	G	6.50
BOURBON SFL	3.33	1.67	0.33	1.23	G	3.33
MCPHERSON SFL	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.45	G	2.75
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	3.00	1.00	0.20	1.32	G	2.17
KIOWA SFL	3.00	1.33	0.00	0.71	F	1.11
MIAMI SFL	3.00	2.25	0.00	0.95	F	6.50
PRATT CO. LAKE	2.75	0.75	0.00	0.74	F	4.69
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	2.75	1.25	0.00	0.71	F	1.83
OSAGE SFL	2.75	0.75	0.00	0.65	P	3.33
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	2.50	2.50	0.50	1.01	F	2.50
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	2.50	1.25	0.50	0.00	G	2.58
NEOSHO SFL	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.33	F	4.33
ALMA CITY LAKE	2.25	1.50	0.25	1.26	F	6.79
SHERIDAN SFL	1.88	0.63	0.00	0.63	G	3.71
LYON SFL	1.75	0.25	0.00	0.50	F	1.92
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	1.75	0.50	0.00	0.54	G	1.75
PAOLA CITY LAKE	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.52	P	1.17
DOUGLAS SFL	1.25	0.50	0.00	0.47	P	2.78
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	1.25	0.75	0.00	0.62	F	2.42
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.25	0.25	0.00	0.43	F	3.58
WILSON SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	F	1.35
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	1.00	0.75	0.25	1.12	F	2.25
JEFFREY EC-AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	0.88	0.50	0.13	0.93	F	0.54
CLARK SFL	0.80	0.20	0.00	0.59	P	0.61
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	0.75	0.75	0.50	1.58	F	4.25
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.43	F	1.67
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.58	P	2.00
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.84	F	1.00
<b>PONDS</b>						
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	32.00	4.00	1.00	2.10	G	11.78
OVERBROOK CITY LAKE	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	F	9.00

## WHITE CRAPPIE

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>10")	Lunker Rating (>12")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>8")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
JOHN REDMOND	29.83	5.25	4.75	2.31	G	35.11
CLINTON	27.94	6.75	0.88	1.44	G	13.92
HILLSDALE	24.69	15.38	1.25	1.28	G	19.15
MARION	17.71	5.00	0.71	1.42	G	17.00
TORONTO	12.19	4.69	3.44	1.91	G	15.38
LACYGNE	8.06	2.13	0.06	1.00	G	10.33
PERRY	6.56	2.31	0.13	1.17	G	13.54
ELK CITY	6.50	3.13	1.75	1.96	E	10.07
MILFORD	5.31	1.19	0.13	1.06	F	5.02
LOVEWELL	4.38	1.00	0.25	1.53	F	5.56
FALL RIVER	4.19	2.56	1.69	2.05	G	7.15
POMONA	4.06	2.44	0.75	1.27	G	4.56
MELVERN	3.44	2.94	0.75	1.45	F	2.17
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	3.30	0.40	0.10	1.34	F	1.31
WOLF CREEK	3.17	2.25	0.50	1.41	F	3.35
<b>LAKES</b>						
EUREKA CITY LAKE	68.00	11.50	4.50	1.54	G	35.53
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	32.00	9.75	3.00	1.20	G	17.17
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	31.75	12.75	0.50	1.31	G	11.83
MCPHERSON SFL	30.75	2.50	0.25	1.03	G	19.75
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	30.00	11.00	1.00	0.93	G	24.75
SCOTT STATE LAKE	29.67	9.33	1.17	1.22	G	43.59
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	29.50	5.00	2.50	1.62	G	20.50
MELVERN RIVER POND	22.50	1.50	0.00	0.50	F	17.67
OTTAWA SFL	21.17	7.17	0.33	1.22	G	17.14
COLDWATER LAKE	20.50	2.50	0.00	0.61	F	8.81
BROWN SFL	20.50	2.50	0.00	0.51	F	9.50
WASHINGTON SFL	17.50	3.00	0.50	0.80	F	11.17
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	15.13	1.50	1.00	1.79	F	14.54
SABETHA CITY LAKE	15.00	5.25	0.00	1.06	F	42.63
LYON SFL	13.50	6.00	1.00	1.80	G	9.08
ELLIS CITY LAKE	11.67	7.67	0.67	1.03	G	11.67
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	10.50	6.25	0.50	0.98	G	29.83
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	8.50	1.00	0.50	0.86	F	18.83
ALMA CITY LAKE	8.50	3.00	0.25	0.66	F	20.42
PRATT CO. LAKE	8.00	1.50	0.25	0.76	G	9.78
NEOSHO SFL	7.00	1.00	1.00	2.09	G	9.83
LEBO CITY LAKE	6.75	5.75	2.00	1.39	F	4.31
JEFFREY EC-AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	6.38	1.88	1.13	1.29	F	2.92
SHAWNEE SFL	6.25	0.50	0.25	1.03	F	4.00
NEBO SFL	6.00	2.50	0.50	0.00	F	6.58
WOODSON SFL	5.80	1.00	0.00	0.66	F	7.12
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	5.75	4.00	1.00	2.36	G	9.33
MIAMI SFL	5.50	1.25	0.75	1.22	G	10.92
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	5.50	4.00	1.00	1.57	F	5.83
BARBER SFL-LOWER	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.45	P	3.56
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	4.75	2.50	0.25	0.92	F	5.33
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	4.70	2.30	0.60	1.06	F	7.47
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	4.60	1.80	0.40	1.75	F	6.53
OLPE CITY LAKE	4.50	1.25	0.00	0.73	F	5.67
CRITZER LAKE	4.40	2.20	0.20	2.49	G	3.33
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	4.25	1.75	0.25	0.92	F	3.83
PAOLA CITY LAKE	4.25	0.00	0.00	0.39	F	6.58
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	4.13	1.63	0.13	0.69	F	2.19
DOUGLAS SFL	3.75	1.75	0.75	1.40	F	2.36
WILSON SFL	3.75	0.75	0.25	1.08	G	3.09
SHERIDAN SFL	3.75	2.75	0.50	0.98	G	5.54
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	3.67	0.67	0.00	0.53	P	2.69
CHASE SFL	3.50	3.50	1.25	1.35	F	7.67
MARION CO. LAKE	3.50	3.00	1.00	1.46	F	4.17
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	3.38	2.13	0.75	1.50	F	24.67
GEARY SFL	3.25	1.25	0.00	0.61	F	11.00
MADISON CITY LAKE	3.25	1.00	0.25	0.85	F	3.67
JEFFREY EC-MAKE UP LAKE	3.25	2.25	0.50	0.88	F	13.58
GARDNER CITY LAKE	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.69	F	2.00
ATCHISON CO. LAKE	3.00	1.50	0.50	1.44	F	3.00
CLARK SFL	2.80	2.60	0.00	0.72	F	2.98
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.63	1.00	0.25	1.07	F	2.17
PLEASANTON CITY LAKE - OLD	2.50	1.50	0.00	0.58	G	1.25
<b>PONDS</b>						
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	21.00	6.00	2.00	1.29	G	14.33
GLEN ELDER SP POND	14.00	1.00	0.50	0.95	F	12.00
FORT SCOTT-GUNN PK E PD-FERN	14.00	7.50	1.00	0.96	P	14.00
OVERBROOK CITY LAKE	6.50	0.50	0.00	0.41	F	6.50



## SAUGEYE

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>14")	Preferred Rating (>18")	Lunker Rating (>22")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>14")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	4.20	2.30	0.10	6.23	G	7.86
KANOPOLIS	3.00	0.57	0.05	4.11	G	4.14
COUNCIL GROVE	0.53	0.47	0.27	4.70	F	0.83
<b>LAKES</b>						
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	24.50	0.25	0.25	4.28	G	15.08
SCOTT STATE LAKE	12.50	3.13	0.50	6.00	E	6.64
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	6.33	2.83	0.00	3.76	G	4.99
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	4.25	2.00	1.25	6.82	G	2.92
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	4.00	2.75	0.25	3.08	G	3.42
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	3.67	1.67	0.33	5.66	G	2.00
SHERIDAN SFL	3.67	0.00	0.00	1.50	G	2.58
OTTAWA SFL	3.17	0.67	0.17	4.00	F	2.39
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	3.00	3.00	0.00	3.35	G	4.44
GEARY SFL	2.75	0.75	0.50	5.27	F	1.58
SABETHA CITY LAKE	2.17	2.17	2.00	7.79	G	3.33
LEBO CITY LAKE	2.00	0.50	0.00	1.96	F	1.75
CHASE SFL	1.75	0.25	0.00	2.15	F	1.58
MCPHERSON SFL	1.70	1.40	0.40	4.27	G	1.90
MARION CO. LAKE	1.25	0.50	0.00	3.55	F	1.22
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.00	0.33	0.00	2.81	F	0.78
EUREKA CITY LAKE	1.00	0.50	0.17	5.93	F	0.72
MADISON CITY LAKE	1.00	1.00	0.83	6.10	F	1.56
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	0.83	0.00	0.00	1.76	F	0.33
GARDNER CITY LAKE	0.83	0.83	0.33	6.35	F	0.64
<b>PONDS</b>						
TUTTLE CREEK RIVER POND	0.25	0.25	0.25	4.00	F	0.67

## SAUGER

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
PERRY	2.00	1.75	0.80	3.75	F	2.25
CLINTON	1.63	0.50	0.06	1.41	F	0.98
<b>LAKES</b>						
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	4.83	4.33	1.17	2.08	F	5.48

## WALLEYE

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>15")	Preferred Rating (>20")	Lunker Rating (>25")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>15")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
CEDAR BLUFF	4.74	0.39	0.04	7.75	G	3.78
WILSON	4.47	0.37	0.03	5.26	G	3.18
CHENEY	3.80	0.20	0.00	0.00	G	2.69
MILFORD	2.20	0.05	0.00	4.70	F	1.42
EL DORADO	2.06	0.94	0.06	6.82	G	2.51
GLEN ELDER	1.67	0.21	0.00	4.18	G	2.06
KIRWIN	1.67	0.92	0.25	7.59	G	2.33
LOVEWELL	1.45	0.80	0.10	6.69	F	1.03
CLINTON	1.25	0.13	0.13	6.15	F	0.60
WEBSTER	0.92	0.42	0.00	3.51	F	2.31
MARION	0.70	0.10	0.00	5.33	F	1.71
BIG HILL	0.67	0.50	0.00	4.70	P	0.38
WOLF CREEK	0.66	0.00	0.00	2.24	F	0.41
COUNCIL GROVE	0.60	0.47	0.00	4.85	F	0.53
HILLSDALE	0.58	0.00	0.00	2.73	F	0.78
POMONA	0.25	0.19	0.00	4.36	F	0.27
<b>LAKES</b>						
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	4.00	0.33	0.00	3.08	G	4.89
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.50	0.83	0.50	6.23	F	2.01
CLARK SFL	1.57	0.29	0.14	6.62	G	1.27
PRATT CO. LAKE	1.50	1.00	0.00	3.92	G	1.83
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	1.17	0.33	0.17	5.41	F	1.11
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	0.88	0.13	0.00	5.21	F	0.50
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	0.75	0.50	0.25	5.47	F	0.78
BARBER SFL-LOWER	0.75	0.00	0.00	1.37	F	0.92
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	0.70	0.10	0.00	2.80	F	0.57
HORSETHIEF	0.57	0.29	0.14	5.48	F	1.02
LEAVENWORTH SFL	0.50	0.33	0.00	3.11	P	0.61
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.50	0.33	0.00	3.00	F	0.94
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	2.41	F	0.54
MEADE STATE LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	1.54	P	0.33
JEFFREY EC- MAKE UP LAKE	0.33	0.17	0.00	3.24	F	0.33
SHAWNEE SFL	0.33	0.33	0.00	3.93	P	0.44
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	0.25	0.00	0.00	1.70	F	0.33
ALMA CITY LAKE	0.25	0.25	0.00	4.76	P	0.29
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.36	P	0.17
OSAGE SFL	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.35	P	0.08
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.51	P	0.17





**by Marc Murrell**  
*manager, Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita*

**TRIED AND TRUE**

**THE ULTIMATE IN KANSAS  
SPRING FISHING LURES**



Every angler has a favorite lure or bait they like to use, depending on the time of year, species of fish and water type. That favorite lure is the one we tie on first no matter what others are catching fish on, and specifics include color, weight, action, feel, size, and even brand. We're sure they make a difference, too.

While a few lures and techniques catch multiple fish species, many are species-specific. Anglers searching for early-spring bass may use one lure and technique, while those pursuing blue catfish will choose something totally different.

It's good to have a go-to spring lure, but check out what these avid Kansas anglers are tying on in March and April. You just might find a new favorite or two.

## Walleye & Saugeye

March is the perfect time to chase pre-spawn



Marc Murrell photo

walleye and saugeye, but the cool water temperatures cause fish to be lethargic, so a slow moving bait is best.

"I like to use soft plastic fluke-type baits like those made by Zoom or Walleye Assassin," said veteran angler, Kent Dodds. "I think they mimic a shad and a quick meal, and when you put it right in front of a

walleye's face, it can't resist popping it."

Dodds' favorite color is white with silver flecks. To mix it up, he'll sometimes use chartreuse, or white with a chartreuse tail for a little contrast. Threaded onto an eighth- or quarter-ounce jighead – usually in red, chartreuse or pink – this lure can produce one of two ways.



"I'll often fish vertically (from a boat) on rocky points near dams or even along the dam, popping the jig up every so often as I ease slowly along, trying to keep my lines straight up and down," said Dodds. "Brushpiles in these areas can produce, too."

Another presentation Dodds uses is casting to some of these same areas to cover more water. This can be done from boat or shore. If casting, Dodds will likely use an eighth-ounce head to allow a slower retrieve. It's fished along the bottom and jigged occasionally to give the lure a hopping motion.

Unlike live-bait fishing, where anglers give walleye several seconds to engulf the bait before setting the hook, casting and vertical jigging a lure requires the angler set the hook immediately on a strike.

"I'll use monofilament on some rods, but I'll also use a braided polymer line," Dodds said. "A no-stretch option like this really works well to detect strikes when I'm making long casts, particularly in wind."

## Blue Catfish

Blue catfish have garnered a lot of attention in recent years, and it's not uncommon to see dozens of boats on the upper end of Milford in early spring. Blue cats are the targeted species, and they get big. Anglers chasing blues at Milford, or on any of the other reservoirs that offer these cats (El Dorado, Coffey County, Perry ), are probably using the same type of lure: cut bait.

Merlyn Johnson spends about 150 days a year chasing blue cats, guiding and fishing tournaments, and he admits that cut bait is all he uses.

His favorite cut bait? Fresh-caught gizzard shad – the bigger, the better – but he'll use the heads or chunks of crappie and white bass, too.

When the water is cold, Johnson will cut the baits into smaller-sized pieces since the fish are less aggressive and feeding less frequently than when it's warm. The chunks are often soaked in Dead Red Blood spray, a fish attractant popular with catfishermen.

In early spring Johnson will cruise the upper end

## SPRING LURE LINEUP



Marc Murrell photos

of Milford Reservoir and use the side imaging feature of his sonar unit to locate blue cats. He focuses his search on the river channel edges and contour breaks. When he marks fish, he'll anchor his 24-foot boat from both ends. The big cats won't chase baits in the cool water, so still-fishing works better than drifting this time of year.

Johnson's fishing gear looks more suited for salt water than fresh water, but the thought of hooking a potential state record fish (more than 100 pounds) poses no worries for him this way.

"I use 80-pound braided line with a 50- or 60-pound monofilament leader," Johnson said. "I use a 4-ounce lead weight when I'm anchored and a 7/0 Octopus hook.

"It's overkill about 90 percent of the time, but when you need it on those big fish, it's there (and) you know it's going to work," he added.

### Largemouth Bass

Who doesn't love catching largemouth bass? Or the better question may be, who loves catching largemouth bass more than tournament angler Brent Chapman?

And lucky for him, he's good at it. Chapman, who lives at Lake Quivira, won the 2012 Elite Series Angler of the Year, which most anglers consider the toughest and most prestigious title that a professional angler can attain. He has also qualified for 13 Bassmaster Classics and



won four Bassmaster tournaments. With 32 Top-10 finishes and \$1.65 million in earnings, Chapman has solidified himself as one of today's top professional bass anglers.

If you want to catch fish like Chapman, pay attention.

"There are so many options and conditions," said Chapman when asked about his favorite lure. "Early March is obviously a lot different than late April, so if you ask a bass pro, you're going to get a complex answer."

Chapman said that when he starts fishing, he's looking for a bait that can help him cover water to find feeding largemouths. Time is of the essence for any angler, but particularly one on the clock in a tournament.

If forced to pick one lure for early spring, Chapman prefers a shallow-running, square-billed crankbait like the Primetime CB 2.0 made by Livingston Lures.

"That time of year when fish move up to feed, I can fish this crankbait pretty fast and effectively,



Photo courtesy of Brent Chapman



## SPRING LURE LINEUP

when you find them, it's likely you can hook a lot of them.

Early spring can be a bit tougher bite as the fish move from their winter haunts after ice-out and disperse, but come spawning time, it's anyone's game.

For crappie master Jim Bybee, it doesn't matter what time of year it is – he's got a three-letter word that will bring them in every time: jig.

"I'll fish jigs almost exclusively," said Bybee. "And I'll always have plenty of brown and chartreuse or blue and chartreuse bodies in 2- or 2.5-inch sizes. These colors work from Kansas to Mississippi in many bodies of water."

Bybee likes a solid body soft plastic like the Strike King Mr. Crappie Joker, which he believes stays on the jig head better and lasts longer. While some anglers believe bigger is better, Bybee isn't one of them. He fishes these on eighth-ounce jig heads 99



Marc Murrell photo



Photo courtesy of Brent Chapman

whereas if I was fishing a jig, I could probably catch those fish, as well, but it would take a lot more time to fish it."

Chapman prefers crawfish-colored options in early spring.

"If the water is off-colored and more stained, I'll go with a color called Guntersville Craw, and if it clears up some, I'll throw a color called Oakie Craw," he said.

Chapman fishes the crankbait on a 7-foot casting rod with a fairly soft tip.

"That's one of the biggest problems people have with crankbaits is they fish them with too stiff of a rod," he said.

Chapman fishes 16-pound fluorocarbon line on his reels and knows this combination will keep his crankbait in the bass' strike zone.

"It runs probably 3- to 6-foot, depending on your line and how you hold your rod," Chapman said. "It's a good shallow-water technique for Kansas."

## Crappie

Likely second only to walleye in palatability, crappie are highly sought after for their great taste and accessibility. Big slabs can often be caught from the shoreline in the spring, and they're school fish, so



## SPRING LURE LINEUP

percent of the time.

"I think I get a lot more bites with eighth-ounce than I do on a quarter-ounce head, especially in the spring" said Bybee. "I think they're more likely to hit a lighter bait a lot harder."

Bybee fishes his eighth-ounce jigs (his favorite head color is orange, followed by pink and chartreuse) on 8-foot, 5-weight fly rods to detect the lightest of strikes. His rods are rigged with ultralight spinning reels, spooled with a 6-pound, high-visibility monofilament. Oh, and he almost always fishes two rods while running his trolling motor.

Bybee will use his electronics to find the edges of creek channels early in the year, and he catches more fish on drop-offs with brush. Schools of fish simply hanging on a depth change are tougher to catch as they tend to move around.

"I'll let my jigs down to the bottom and work my way up," Bybee said. "When I hook a fish, I'll land it without retrieving the line on the reel so I can return to that exact depth.

"And if I see one color is working better than another, I'll put that body on both rods," he added.



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## Trout

Kansas' trout season runs from November through mid-April, offering Kansans a unique winter and early-spring fishing opportunity. While many trout anglers prefer Berkley PowerBait or similar offerings, these specially-stocked fish are also frequently caught with spinning and fly gear.

"I think a fly rod gives you an advantage if you want to slow down," said lifelong angler and executive editor of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine*, Mike Miller. "If they're not real aggressive, I think a flyrod gives you an advantage over spinning gear because you can fish slow and downsize more easily."

Miller's favorite trout fly is a No. 8 or No. 10 olive wooly bugger with a cone head that has a little weight to it. He ties many of his own flies and finds this one to be the best in most situations for trout fishing in Kansas.

"It looks enough like a variety of different aquatic insect larva," he said. "It's something these hatchery-raised fish key on."

Miller usually fishes with a slow retrieve, line straight and the rod tip touching the water.

"I just watch the line," Miller added. "A lot of times they don't hit it really hard, and you'll just see your line straighten out and you set the hook."

His lure presentation is typically perpendicular to the pond shoreline.



"I'm generally trying to get it across and close to a drop-off on the far bank," Miller said. "That's usually where you get most of your strikes – where the water goes from the shallowest part to deeper. Wind-blown shorelines are also good spots."

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## Any Species

Brent Frazee, retired outdoors editor for *The Kansas City Star*, loves to catch largemouth bass, but he admits he's not picky about the species he catches. However, he is particular about the lure he uses in early spring, and for good reason: it works on everything.



## SPRING LURE LINEUP

“My all-time favorite lure is the swimming minnow,” Frazee said. “I discovered this bait almost by accident when I was fishing down in the Ozarks and doing a story with the late Gene Larew years and years ago.”

Larew was well known for designing and making plastic baits and gave Frazee one of his first minnow-type configurations designed for crappie anglers.

“I used those and was amazed at how successful they were for crappie, but the secret was getting out on how well they worked on bass, too,” Frazee said. “Some of the tournament guys, when conditions got really tough, would drop down in line size, use spin-

in some of the mom-and-pop tackle shops that sold them in bulk without a label as they apparently had the same type of mold.

Now, Frazee’s favorite swimming minnow lure is made by Bobby Garland and Big Bite bait companies. He favors a smoke color with glitter and nearly



Marc Murrell photo

ning gear and this lure, and eke out a limit of bass when nobody else was catching them.”

The plastic minnow imitation came in the crappie size and then a bigger size and Frazee started using the latter regularly.

“I’ll cast it out on a 1/16-ounce head on a light – not an ultra-light – rod as I want some backbone, with 4-pound test line and let it go to the bottom,” Frazee said. “I’ll just inch it along the bottom and drag it and it catches the heck out of fish.”

Frazee said, much to his dismay, the Gene Larew Company quit making the swimming minnow years ago.

“Finding them became like a treasure hunt,” he laughed. “I’d go down in the Ozarks and find them

always ties one on to start most trips in early spring.

“I’ve caught everything on that thing,” Frazee said. “I catch white bass, black bass and walleye. I’ve just become a huge fan of that bait. I still use it to this day.”

Your favorite lure catches fish because you have confidence in it and you tie it on often. But don’t get stuck in a rut. It’s okay to have more than one favorite, so if you haven’t already, try some of these anglers’ favorites and catch more fish this spring. 🐃

# Up The Creek With A Paddle(fish)



**text by Ben Neely**  
*fisheries research biologist, Emporia*

It's a cold, gray Saturday morning at the end of April. The rain: incessant. Local farm ponds and road ditches are well past full, and the rivers are on the verge of overflowing. It seems like the perfect morning to stay inside. It certainly doesn't seem like a good day to chase fish. Or does it? Well, if you're after the largest fish in Kansas - it just may be the perfect time.

What is the largest fish in Kansas? The answer might surprise you, given some of the more familiar aquatic beasts of the state, but make no mistake, there's no competing with the winner. The largest fish ever captured in Kansas was a 144-pound paddlefish hooked from a

small city lake in Atchison (see Page 9 for story). Apart from being a state record, that paddlefish is also recognized by most authorities as the world record for the species.

## **A Paddle-what?**

What is a paddlefish? Paddlefish, colloquially known as spoonbill, are large-bodied riverine fish that date back approximately 300 to 400 million years. Yep, we're talking millions. They are currently found in 22 states across the Mississippi River drainage and areas of the Gulf Slope. In addition to their status as living



## Paddlefish inhabit the larger rivers in the eastern part of the state, specifically the Arkansas, Kansas, Marais des Cygnes, Missouri, Neosho and Verdigris rivers.

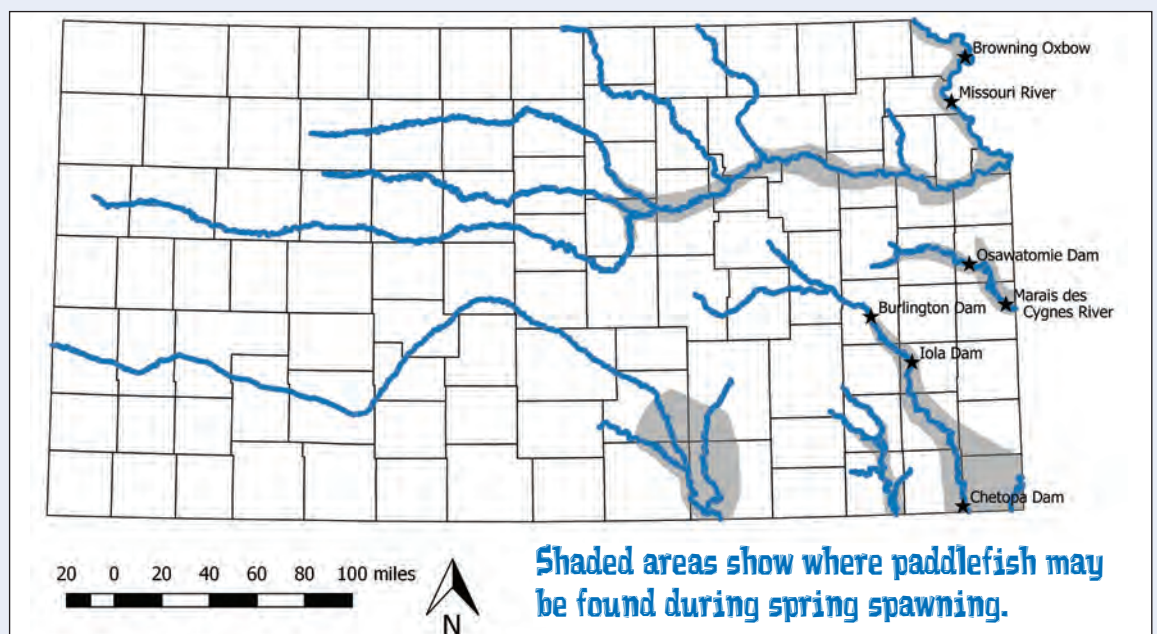
dinosaurs, paddlefish have many unique characteristics that separate them from more familiar fish in Kansas. Perhaps most notable is their elongated rostrum, or beak-like protrusion above their mouth, that gives them their spoonbill alias. Filled with a complex network of electroreceptors, a paddlefish's rostrum functions as a sensory organ that detects miniscule amounts of electricity emitted by their favorite food: zooplankton. Once a paddlefish locates the source of these faint electrical fields, it opens its huge mouth and rushes large volumes of water through its gills. Specialized structures on the gills called rakers act as a filtration system to separate the zooplankton from the water and guide the tiny food toward the paddlefish's stomach.

Paddlefish oddities don't end with their unique appearance. They also have particular behavioral patterns that set them apart from other fish, as well. Paddlefish are considered fluvial specialists. This means they require particular river conditions to successfully complete their life cycle. This is most evident in early spring between March and May when paddlefish are spawning. Like many other species, paddlefish rely on cues from the environment to begin spawning actions. Once the river is the proper temperature, day length is right, and the river begins to rise, paddlefish will embark on their annual spawning migration. They must travel great distances upstream for a couple reasons. First, they must find suitable spawning habitat –

generally cobble or bedrock with sufficient river depth and flow – where they can deposit their adhesive eggs, ensuring they remain oxygenated until they hatch. Secondly, they must deposit eggs far enough upstream to ensure their fresh-hatched larvae can float freely in the current while developing the ability to swim. If newly-hatched larvae reach stagnant water before they develop the ability to swim, they will likely sink to the bottom and suffocate.

### A “New” Sport Fish

Paddlefish populations were abundant in the 1800s and early 1900s, but human development along rivers inhabited by the fish changed water conditions. Development of large-scale farming in fertile river bottoms created an abundance of food for growing communities, but altered nutrient input into the rivers. Dams were created to provide water for growing cities, but changed river flow and connectivity with the floodplain. Boat traffic became necessary to transfer commodities between communities, but required altering riverbeds to



Filled with a complex network of electroreceptors, a paddlefish's rostrum functions as a sensory organ that detects miniscule amounts of electricity emitted by their favorite food: zooplankton.



Marc Murrell photo

Kansas, Marais des Cygnes, Missouri, Neosho and Verdigris rivers, and some of their larger tributaries. Many of the paddlefish in Kansas come into the state either from Missouri, via Marais des Cygnes and Kansas rivers, or from Oklahoma, via the Arkansas, Neosho, and Verdigris rivers.

### Snagging

accommodate large barges. This rapid change in North America's riverscapes – coupled with lenient, or absent, harvest regulations – resulted in population declines for paddlefish and many other native fish species. However, hope was on the horizon. In the mid- to late 1900s, wildlife management agencies began to realize the importance of paddlefish, both to the ecology of river systems and to anglers. This resulted in the collecting of biological information, creation of paddlefish management plans, and a subsequent increase in paddlefish populations throughout the primary portion of their distribution.

The Kansas Fish and Game Commission (now Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism) first recognized paddlefish as a sport fish in 1977. Since then, populations in Kansas have either remained stable or increased. Paddlefish inhabit some of the larger rivers in the eastern part of the state, specifically the Arkansas,

snagging season runs from March 15 to May 15, during peak spawning time. Anglers equipped with paddlefish permits and fishing licenses can pursue these giants at any of the seven locations designated legal for snagging paddlefish, including the Neosho River fisheries at Burlington Dam, Chetopa Dam, and Iola Dam; the Marais des Cygnes River fisheries at Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area and Osawatอมie Dam; and on the Missouri River and Browning Oxbow Lake. While paddlefish can be snagged at any of these locations, anglers

will have their best luck at the Chetopa, Burlington, and Osawatอมie dams. From 2007 to 2012, Chetopa Dam accounted for 79 percent of angler effort and 82 percent of harvest, Burlington Dam accounted for 9 percent of angler effort and 12 percent of harvest, and Osawatอมie Dam accounted for 10 percent of angler effort and 5 percent of harvest.

Kansas anglers can har-



Marc Murrell photo



**Paddlefish are filter feeders and eat only tiny zooplankton, so anglers must use special snagging rigs (below, left) during the Kansas snagging season, March 15-April 15, to catch them. Fish commonly weigh 30 to 60 pounds!**

vest two paddlefish per day, and six total for the season. Each harvested fish must be tagged just like a deer or turkey. Tags are included with the Paddlefish Permit. Paddlefish must be at least 24 inches long (measured from the front of the eye to the fork of the tail) to be kept from the Missouri River and Browning Oxbow Lake, and at least 34 inches long to be kept from the Marais des Cygnes River and Osawatomie Dam. There are no length limits on the three Neosho River fisheries. Barbless hooks are required at Chetopa Dam and recommended at the other six fisheries.

### **What To Expect**

Typical snagging gear begins with a heavy-duty reel equipped with 60- to 80-pound line and a heavy 10- to 12-foot rod. Terminal rigs include one or two 8/0 or 10/0 treble hooks, tied on the line about 3 feet apart above a 4-ounce sinker. The goal is to cast well into the river and use rapid rod sweeps to pull your weight and hooks back. Slack line is reeled in after each rod sweep as you reposition the rod in front of you again. You repeat this until your hooks and weight get back to the shore and then cast out again.

This brings us back to that cold, gray Saturday morning in April. You're looking at a volatile river and

holding fishing equipment better suited for coastal Florida than Kansas. You are skeptical about snagging because you're used to more traditional angling techniques. You have heard that paddlefish are fun to catch, but you've never even seen one, let alone caught one. You cast out far into the turbulent river, count to five, and then rip the rod tip back like you're setting the hook on a shark. Feeling nothing, you lower the rod tip, reel in slack while again counting to five, and rip it again. This time it feels like you snagged a tree. Suddenly, you realize the "tree" you hooked is swimming upstream. The fish seems to now realize it's hooked and surges toward the other bank with the power of a freight train. You're doing everything you can to simply hold on to your fishing rod as you embark on a give-and-take battle for 10 long minutes. The fish finally concedes and you're able to land it on the river bank. There it is: a prehistoric giant right before your eyes. After using a zip tie to attach your tag to its rostrum, you put the fish on a stringer, sit down on a rain-soaked rock to collect your thoughts and, more importantly, give your burning arms a rest. Then, you do it all over again. Welcome to paddlefish snagging in Kansas. 🐃

Marc Murrell photo





# Ned Kehde

## A profile on Kansas' very own fish whisperer

Ned Kehde swung an 8-inch bass into his boat and immediately reached for his clicker.

Punching the button, he said matter-of-factly, "That's 59." Then he tossed the small largemouth bass back and cast for more.

Some fishermen go for the biggest bass in the lake. Kehde doesn't mind catching the smallest.

He lives in a world of quantity, not quality. In his eyes, an 8-inch bass is as just as important as an 8-pound bass.

They all count.

*Text and photos by Brent Frazee*



"I can't imagine being like some of the tournament fishermen who are looking for just six or seven bites in a day of fishing," said Kehde, 76, who lives in Lawrence. "I would be frustrated and unhappy if I went out and caught only six or seven fish. In fact, I'm frustrated when I catch only 30.

Don't get Kehde wrong. He lands big bass. He is proud of the 6-pound, 10-ounce smallmouth bass he caught in 2013 on a community reservoir in Kansas. And he remembers the 8-pound, 2-ounce large-mouth he landed in the late 1960s.

But his personal highlights reel is filled with many more days when he exceeded the lofty goal he set for himself and his fishing partner for any given day many years ago – landing and releasing 101 bass in four hours.

Do the math. That's more than 25 bass an hour. Impossible, you say? Not in Ned's world.

He has received national attention for being the master of finesse. He has created a craze by popularizing what he calls Midwest Finesse Fishing. His methods are so well-known that he even has a technique named after him: the Ned Rig.



## You're Catching That Many Bass On That?

If you're expecting some impressive lure and setup, you'll be underwhelmed. The Ned Rig consists of a nondescript half of a stick worm in a variety of colors attached to a brightly-colored mushroom jig head with an exposed hook.

The fish must see more in it than the fishermen do. It doesn't look like much in the boat, but it must in the water.

Kehde uses a variety of Z-Man products, virtually indestructible because of a component in their manufacture, and often catches numerous bass on one lure.

He takes pride in his accomplishment during the fall of 2015 when he landed 238 bass, six crappie, one bluegill and one warmouth on one Finesse Worm Z before finally retiring the bait.

"I think I could have caught 50 or more bass before it was eventually too tattered or torn to stay affixed to the collar of the jig," he said. "But

the folks at Z-Man heard of this feat and they wanted me to send that worm to them."

Catching and releasing 101 bass in four hours is a daunting goal, but Kehde and his partners accomplish it on average four times a year.

Kehde reached his zenith in October 2015 when he and a regular fishing partner of his, Rick Hebenstreit, caught and released 121 bass in four hours.

Every bass, no matter its size, is recorded with that weathered clicker. And Kehde sets a kitchen timer to make sure each outing lasts four hours. Sometimes, he will exceed that set time but will count only the bass caught in the four hours.

As for his other requirements, Kehde only casts to shallow water.

"From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, I fish in 1 to 10 feet of water," he said.







"That's why I don't have to buy and use state-of-the-art sonar equipment."

He often avoids casting to flooded timber the way some bass fishermen do. With an exposed hook, the finesse bait would stand a chance of getting hung up and precious time would be wasted.

Instead, Kehde works rocky banks, the face of a dam, riprap and the edge of flooded vegetation to catch bass.

He takes delight in following a fisherman using "power" lures down a bank where they have found limited success and catching multiple fish on his finesse baits.

## Catching Bass Year-round

Kehde takes pride in the fact that his method will catch bass at times of the year when other bass fishermen wouldn't think of being out – from the stifling heat of summer to the bitter cold of winter.

Consider a trip in December of last year. On a cold, blustery day, Kehde launched his boat in a small lake near Topeka and headed to the shallow end of the impoundment. Ducks and geese flushed as his boat plowed through whitecaps, but Kehde was unfazed.

"The water temperature is down in the high 30s, but they'll bite," he said.

He was right. Not long after Kehde began slowly dragging a dark green Zinker Z across the bottom, he

felt a thump. When he set the hook, a bass shot to the surface and made an acrobatic leap.

It landed with a bellyflop and fought hard for a few seconds before Kehde pulled it into the boat.

Then the 2-pound bass became a statistic before Kehde released it.

A former archivist for the University of Kansas, Kehde keeps meticulous records. He has been keeping a diary of his outings since the early 1970s. He started by hand-writing information on index cards, but has graduated to keeping his records on his computer.

A worn spiral notebook in a pocket on the driver's side of his vehicle provides the exact mileage to each of the lakes he fishes.

His blog posts are popular on *In-Fisherman's* website, [www.in-fisherman.com/midwest-finesse/](http://www.in-fisherman.com/midwest-finesse/), and he has a legion of followers that he emails

with the results of each of his outings. Kehde provides detailed information such as successful lures, type of retrieve used, where the fish were caught and even the water and air temperature.

Kehde employs six types of retrieves. But they all have one common thread – they use what Kehde describes as a "no-feel presentation."

"We primarily use a small plastic bait that is affixed to a 1/32-ounce or a 1/16-ounce jighead," Kehde said. "Because they are so light, we cannot feel them when they are moving through the water or along the bottom.

"If you can feel it, your jig is too heavy," he





added.

Steve Reideler of Denton, Texas, is one of many who are sold on Kehde's techniques.

"I was a 'power' fisherman for 47 years, but I became bored with tournaments and fishing for just a few large bass per outing," he said. "I was always searching for something that would help me catch more bass.

"I read an old issue of *In-Fisherman* magazine that had an article written by Ned entitled 'Finesse Dead of Winter Bass,' and it caught my interest. I started researching it on the Internet and I knew it was something I had to try."

Today, Reideler is a believer in the finesse methods he has learned from Kehde. Not only is he a member of Kehde's Finesse News Network, it is the only way he fishes now.

"Finesse fishing has made a huge difference in my fishing," he said. "Not only do I catch more bass than when I was using power tactics, I am catching

## The Frugal Approach

more large bass – 4 pounds and larger – as well."

Kehde is soft-spoken and affable, never boasting about his accomplishments. In fact, many describe him as a true gentleman.

He is a champion of the "little guy." He takes what he describes as "the frugal approach" to bass fishing. He doesn't own a high-powered bass boat, the latest electronics, high-dollar rods and reels or tackleboxes full of lures. Instead, he uses a 2003 aluminum boat, equipped with a 1995 40-horsepower motor with tiller steering. He does have two flasher fish-finders, but he doesn't use them much.

After years of experience, he knows the fish will be in the shallows event in the middle of the day. In fact, he times most of his trips to take place between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., a time most bass fishermen consider less than prime.

"Since I retired from my workaday job, I started fishing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. so that I could eat breakfast and dinner each day with Patty, my wife," he said. "What's more, because most anglers fish the morning and evening hours. I decided I would have access to a lot more areas during the midday

## Ned's Inspiration

hours."

Kehde will tell you that he learned from the best when it came to finesse fishing.

From 1965 to 1970, he and bass-fishing legend Guido Hibdon guided together at Carrington's Two Waters Resort at Lake of the Ozarks. Hibdon was known for his finesse-fishing expertise and he passed some of that knowledge onto Kehde.

During that time, the two occasionally helped Harold and Dusty Ensley put on their television show, and the Ensleys provided them with spinning outfits, plastic Reapers, jig worms and marabou jigs.

Later, Kehde met a lure manufacturer from Kansas City named Chuck Woods, who designed famous plastic finesse lures such as the Beetle, the Beetle Spin, the Puddle Jumper and several others.

"Across the years, we have titled Chuck as 'the father of Midwest Finesse Fishing,'" Kehde said.

Today, Kehde is making a reputation for himself, with his finesse methods and his promotion of fishing for the common man.

He is convinced he lives in the right place to ply his trade. Kansas might not have the name that states such as Missouri, Texas and Florida do for bass fishing, but Kehde insists it offers plenty of opportunity.

"We only fish public waterways," he said. "Most of our outings occur at community and state reservoirs that grace the countryside around Lawrence.

"Most of them are afflicted with rather heavy angler pressure, but our Midwest finesse tactics allow us an average of 10 bass an hour throughout a calendar year.

"In my eyes, they provide some of the finest finesse fishing in the nation." 🐻



# THE CHICKEN DANCE

Jennifer Leeper photo

The tallgrass prairie of east-central Kansas becomes a stage each spring as the curtain of night rises on the seasonal drama that is the greater prairie chicken booming rite. From March through May, the greater prairie chicken's distinctive ritual mating dance is on display, accompanied by a trademark "booming" moan. It can be heard from great distances and occurs on what are referred to as leks, or booming grounds – assembly areas for prairie chicken courtship activity.

To bring this unique experience to the public, the Flint Hills Discovery Center (FHDC) in Manhattan hosts prairie chicken lek tours in March and April where participants can get an upclose view of this age-old competition. Fortunately, I was privileged to take part in one of these outings.

Daniel Schapaugh, education specialist for the FHDC, led eight of us one arctic April morning to a private ranch just outside of Manhattan.

Traveling under the darkness of pre-dawn,

we headed out to the prairie wilderness. Paved roads soon turned to gravel, and our journey became more winding and bumpier as our van ventured further away from civilization. At the destination, we poured out and strapped on our headlamps. It was time to walk.

The half-mile walk to the lek stretched into a mile in our minds considering we were moving over unfamiliar rough, hilly terrain in the dark.

We headed toward a blind that had been set up ahead of time so the chickens would become used to the blind's presence.

Our group, including two intrepid youngsters up before the sun and warmth on a Saturday, shivered into four separate blind compartments. We unzipped lek-facing flaps for a front-row wit-

ness to a rite rarely open to human observation. The hike was definitely worth it.

I was lucky enough to share a flap with our group leader, who offered wisdom on everything from how low to talk while the chickens were present to interesting prairie chicken trivia. Here's a factoid: if a hawk shows up, it's game over for any mating rituals.

Schapaugh suggested moving slowly and deliberately – ideally, not at all – to best maintain our façade of "not being there."

Cocooning ourselves in blankets and sleeping bags, we made sure our camera flashes were off and silenced our phones. We settled in to our final viewing positions, prepared for a few hours of quiet and relative immobility in the bitter chill of the open prairie.

Before we knew it, they arrived. It was still dark enough that we couldn't see, but we could hear a staggered chorus of males serenading potential mates; the effect was haunting. It was a morphing of ancient

**"The chicken nearest our blind appeared to notice us behind the 'fourth wall' and whooped and moaned with even greater gusto as to say, *'watch this!'*"**



## By Jennifer Leeper *freelance writer, Kansas City, Mo.*

tribal music and a polysymphonic cathedral choir.

As night lightened into morning, the chickens appeared on the freshly burned patch of prairie. They tapped out a quick dance before blowing up their orange air sacs on either side of their throats and flaring up ear-like feathers just above their heads. It was a game of who could put on the best show and competition was intense.

Other than the flashes of orange, the chickens blended right into the tall grasses, making it difficult to spot them at a distance.

Even before the ladies showed up, the males were already defending their invisible territory boundaries, charging any intruder

very similar to the females with brown- and white-feathered bodies.

The females meandered through the mating minefield as seven males continued to amp up their booming and territorial clashes.

In our blind we were just that – a blind spot. We wore an invisible cloak, so long as we moved slowly and deliberately, we went unnoticed. It was remarkable.

Between exchanges about the comedy of interactions taking place before us, Schapaugh and I noticed a developing pattern on the lek: The females were clustering around one male to the right of the others. I dubbed him the “Frank Sinatra” of the group. His booming prowess must have

knew we were there, it never gave our position away to its peers.

Eventually, though, even “Sinatra’s” allure wore off and the ladies of the lek drifted away, disappearing over a hill, leaving their crooners to the icy desolation of the tallgrass.

This setback didn’t deter the balladeers who appeared to double their efforts in the absence of the females.

So we hunkered down, readjusting ourselves to get comfortable again.

For another 45 minutes or so, the males continued booming. It was obvious they were growing weary, or perhaps frustrated, or both, as their whoop-moans sounded off with increasingly deflated energy.

At one point, they all became very quiet, each male huddling behind individual tufts of burnt grasses as merciless prairie winds added insult to injury. Schapaugh and I agreed that this was not their day. We waited to see whether they would migrate away from the lek.

Some did. Then there were two.

All but a stalwart pair had given up and wandered away over the same hill as the females, dejected and disappearing into the sea of tallgrass.

The two remaining chickens were like chess players in the final moments of an intense game, intently focused on final strategies, refusing to yield victory to the opposition.

It was clear the action was about done for the day, so Schapaugh stood at the back of our compartment, anticipating the retreat of the pair, when he decided to expedite the situation. We exited the back of our blind compartment, attracting the attention of the last two males in order to safely scare them off.

in a show of force. In some cases, they barely touched, in others, feathers literally went flying.

Eventually, the prospects trickled in and it was time for the main act.

You had to play close attention, because other than the flair of their throats and orange-colored eye combs, male prairie chickens look

offered something extra, though this quality eluded us.

As our Sinatra basked in the attention, the other males didn’t lose any momentum. In fact, the chicken nearest our blind appeared to notice us behind the “fourth wall” and whooped and moaned with even greater gusto as to say, “Watch this!” If that bird



Kansas Wetlands Education Center photo

It worked.

Now, it was just us gathering our things and leaving an empty lek to the frosty winds that had found us even inside the shelter of the blind.

Our trek back down the brushy, rocky hill we had followed just hours earlier seemed like a different planet in the light, and we moved faster over the half-mile back to the van. I was amused by the antics I had seen, but felt a little sorry for the morning's losers.

As my thoughts and toes thawed during our ride back to the FHDC, I realized the recently scorched earth was a most appropriate venue for those brave, audacious and persistent male chickens who got burned, yet continued to fight the good fight.

Although there is a much larger fight to be won – a fight for the habitat necessary for this species to thrive – after seeing what I saw on the lek, I'm confident it will take more than a few spurned males to take down this enduring species. After all, they're booming.

For more on the FHDC and lek tours this spring, go to [flinthills-dovey.org](http://flinthills-dovey.org) or call (785) 587-2726. 🐔

## More On Greater Prairie Chickens

Kansas currently harbors two species of prairie grouse. The greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) is much more abundant than the lesser prairie chicken (*T. pallidicinctus*). A third species of prairie grouse, the sharp-tailed grouse (*T. phasianellus*), disappeared from its historic western Kansas range during the droughts of the 1930s.

Greater prairie chickens currently occur in parts of 10 states, with by far the largest populations occurring in Kansas and Nebraska. The traditional stronghold of greater prairie chickens in Kansas is the Flint Hills. The tallgrass prairie of the Flint Hills was saved from conversion to cropland by its shallow soils and underlying limestone. Strong greater prairie chicken populations also exist in the mixed prairies of the Smoky Hills in northcentral Kansas, and the grassland breaks of northwest and west-central Kansas. These western Kansas populations have increased and expanded over the last two decades, particularly with the addition of mixed grasslands seeded through the federal Conservation Reserve Program.

Historically, conversion of native prairies to cropland has accounted for the greatest loss of prairie chicken habitat in Kansas and elsewhere. More recently, other land-use practices have posed additional threats. Particularly in the Flint Hills, the thorough annual burning of vast areas of tallgrass prairie associated with intensive, early cattle grazing May through July leaves few places for ground nesting birds like prairie chickens to nest. Greater prairie chicken populations in the Flint Hills have declined significantly since this grazing system became widespread. Less frequent burning, ideally once in three years or twice in five years, is critical to the health of the prairie and for prairie chickens, preventing the spread of invasive trees like eastern red cedar, Osage orange and others.



Bob Gress photo



# Sportsmen's Calendar | 2017

## TROUT

Nov. 1, 2016-April 15, 2017

## LIGHT GEESE CONSERVATION ORDER

Feb 13-April 30, 2017

## RUNNING

March 1-Nov. 8, 2017

## PADDLEFISH SNAGGING

March 15-May 15, 2017

## SPRING TURKEY

Youth/Disabled: April 1-11, 2017

Archery: April 3-11, 2017

Regular Season: April 12-May 31, 2017

## SQUIRREL

June 1, 2017-Feb. 28, 2018

## HANDFISHING

June 15-Aug. 31, 2017

## BULLFROG

July 1-Oct. 31, 2017

## RAIL

Sept. 1-Nov. 9, 2017 (*Sora and Virginia*)

## SNIPE

Sept. 1-Dec. 16, 2017

## DOVE

Sept. 1-Nov. 29, 2017 (*mourning, white-winged, Eurasian collared, and ringed turtle doves*)

## DEER (proposed)

Archery: Sept. 11-Dec. 31, 2017

Pre-rut Whitetail Antlerless: Oct. 7-9, 2017

Muzzleloader: Sept. 11-24, 2017

Regular Firearm: Nov. 29-Dec. 10, 2017

Firearm Extended Whitetail Antlerless Season:

Jan. 1 2018 (Units 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, and 17)

Jan. 1-7, 2018 (Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14)

Jan. 1-14, 2018 (Units 10a, 15 and 19)

Archery Extended Whitetail Antlerless Season:

Jan. 15-31, 2018 (Unit 19 only)

## GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN

Early Season: Sept. 15-Oct. 15, 2017

Regular Season (Greater Prairie Chicken Unit):

Nov. 18, 2017-Jan. 31, 2018

Southwest Unit: No open season for prairie chickens

## FALL TURKEY

Oct. 1-Nov. 28, 2017 AND Dec. 11, 2017-Jan. 31, 2018

## WOODCOCK

Oct. 14-Nov. 27, 2017

## PHEASANTS

Youth: Nov. 4-5, 2017

Nov. 11, 2017-Jan. 31, 2018

## QUAIL

Youth: Nov. 4-5, 2017

Nov. 11, 2017-Jan. 31, 2018

## SANDHILL CRANE

Nov. 8, 2017-Jan. 4, 2018

## CROW

Nov. 10, 2017-March 10, 2018

## TRAPPING/HUNTING

Nov. 15, 2017-Feb. 15, 2018 (*badger, bobcat, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, swift fox, red fox, gray fox, striped skunk, weasel*)

## BEAVER & OTTER TRAPPING

Nov. 15, 2017-March 31, 2018

## EXOTIC DOVE

Nov. 30, 2017-Feb. 28, 2018 (*Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves only*)





# Species Profile

## Badger

This prairie-loving member of the weasel family is one of Kansas' most unique and fiercest animals. Badgers can most easily be identified by their broad, flat body. Similar to a skunk in coloration, badgers have a black, white and gray coat, with very distinct black and white facial markings.

Weighing 15 to 20 pounds - sporting short, powerful legs and long, curved claws - badgers are well equipped to fend off nearly any threat, and put any shovel to shame, as they are expert diggers. Found throughout the western half of the U.S., badgers are most common in the central part of Kansas, especially where the soil is sandy. Anyone who has hunted

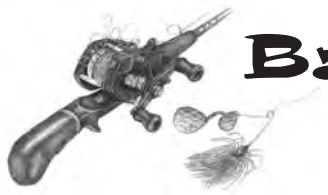
birds in CRP or idle farm fields has probably stepped into evidence of a badger's presence - massive holes.

Efficient and powerful dirt movers, badgers capture prey such as ground squirrels, pocket gophers, kangaroo rats, prairie dogs and mice, by digging into burrows. They also excavate elaborate underground dens, where they spend their days and raise their young. Badger young are usually born in April and May, and stay with their mother until early fall. While they are mostly nocturnal, they may be active at dawn and dusk, so keep your eyes out for this mighty and mysterious mammal.

Tony Pianalto photo







# Backlash

with Mike Miller

## A Doable Bucket List

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Everyone has a bucket list made up of goals or trips we dream of but don't have the resources or time for. It's fun to think, "One day, I'll do that," but the reality is that some bucket list items may always be out of reach. I'm not advocating people quit dreaming, but I've decided that I'm going to simple down my spring bucket list to things I want to do and that I know I have the resources and time to do. Here's my "doable" bucket list for this spring.

### 1. Catch white bass from a river on the spring spawning run

I've done this before and learned that catching white bass on light tackle from moving water is about as much fun as you can have with a spinning rod in your hands. The problem is that the distance I live from good white bass streams requires vigilance, persistence and luck to catch a good run. The white bass are there, but the stars need to be aligned just right for me. I'll be paying attention this spring.

### 2. Bowhunt turkeys

This is a no-brainer. I have the bow and the turkeys are there. I just have to make it happen. I know there's no guarantee of success, but I don't need or want that. I just want at least one morning in the spring woods, calling to a tom with my bow in my hand.

### 3. Doodlesock for crappie

Yep, I've done this before, too, and it's almost as fun as catching white bass in the stream. Wading stealthily around the shallows with a flyrod in hand and dipping a jig into flooded brush is a blast. But when a big crappie thumps my jig and I feel the weight of the fish and see the bow in my rod – well, I'm getting goose bumps just writing about it. Again, I just need to make time for it. It's easier than catching a white bass run, but it still takes some persistence and willingness to travel. I'm in this spring.

### 4. Catch a smallmouth bass from each of the top four smallmouth bass lakes in Kansas

According to the chart on Page 22 in the 2017 Fishing Forecast, the best Kansas smallmouth bass lakes include Coffey County, Milford, Melvern and Glen Elder. All are a three-hour drive from home, but this sounds like a cool goal that I should shoot for.

### 5. Fish my favorite farm pond with my buddy from high school

Rex and I grew up fishing on the Greeleaf Pond, and we've fished it several times over the past four years. Amazingly, it has always lived up to my childhood memories. However, if I'm not careful, I'll make some lame excuse about being too busy and not go this spring. I can't let that happen again.

### 6. Take Dad fishing at the sandpit

We fish the sand pit every chance we get, but it's on the bucket list to remind me how important it is. It's close to home, the fishing is good, and fishing with Dad *is* the most fun I can have with a fishing rod in my hand.

That's it, six attainable and affordable goals on my Spring 2017 Bucket List. Now it's up to me to make them happen. How hard can it be?



The Nature  
Conservancy



# Get outdoors!

[nature.org/kansas](http://nature.org/kansas)

No Wi-Fi  
required.

Chris Helzer photo

