

PERRY NEWS

"takemefishing"

January 2014

Issue 10

Special points of interest:

- **New Facebook Page.**
- **Cold weather can bring some good fishing.**
- **Improved White Crappie numbers at Perry.**
- **Banner Creek a lake you need to add to your Bucket List.**

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 "like" us on **Facebook**

You can teach an old dog new tricks!

Just before Christmas I got a new gadget! The Department has allowed me to have a Facebook page called North East Kansas Fisheries. With more people wanting instant information, I think this is an excellent way to get the word out! In the six Counties that I cover, there are lakes that have interesting fisheries that you need to know about. This site will allow me share photos much quicker and to communicate stockings, electrofishing and netting numbers much sooner than the Fishing Forecast. I've been tinkering with the site a little, so please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NEKansasFisheries> You never know what you might find!

Low Budget Fishing, Reaps Big Dividends!

I've been playing on the ice since I was a youngster, even fallen through a few times. However it wasn't until the winter of 1985, when a couple of my college room-mates and I ventured to Glen Elder Reservoir that hooked me on ice fishing. The fish are schooled up in the winter, and can be located relatively easy tending to return to the same locations year after year. The best part is you just need a few essentials: ice auger, 5 gallon bucket, couple poles spooled with light line, small tackle box with jig heads, multi colored tube jigs maybe some small spoons, some warm clothes and a sled. On a sunny day when



the wind isn't blowing, it can be very comfortable on the ice. Always drill test holes as you get on the ice, 2" of new good ice without snow can hold up one person, but many variables can change that. Ice fishing doesn't happen every

year, they don't film "Ice Truckers" in Kansas. This is a great way to spend some sunny winter days with the family. If you do get cold just drill a few more holes and if the fish aren't biting, then sledding is a good option!

White Crappie Numbers Up, White Bass similar.

I like my job because it is different every year, and this year was no exception. The Reservoir was low last January, and stayed there until the end of May. It then remained a little above Conservation pool for the rest of the year.

The white crappie catch rate nearly tripled last year's sample with **1,311 crappie** sampled in **16 traps**. This gave us a catch rate of 73.56

Stock length fish (>5")/trap) the highest since 2005, however they are younger fish. Below Marty and Ryan are holding some typical size fish, **92%** were between **5-10"** and only **8%** were over **10"**. The largest white crappie we sampled was **12.4"** and **0.90 lbs.**

The core panel gill nets which we use to sample

white bass showed similar results to 2009 sampling with **135 white bass** in **20 gill nets**. This fishery will provide some rod bending action with 60% of these fish were over 9" and 2.5% were over 15". The largest white bass sampled was **16"** and weighed **2.0 lbs.** Below I'm holding up one of those nicer white bass.

"Crappie catch rates nearly tripled last years..."



A reservoir lives and dies by its production, the amount of young fish it produces each year. Pictured to the left is what I love to see in the fall nets. Lots of small white crappie, small white bass that are plump, good numbers of small gizzard shad and some bluegill thrown into the mix. Forage fish drive the Reservoir, and with ample gizzard shad, body condition of predator fish was good this fall. Channel catfish fishing should be good again in 2014 with 115 fish sampled with 77.8 % of those over 16" and the largest fish sampled being **30.9"** and weighing **13.4 lbs.** Sauger numbers looked pretty good again this fall, Marty is holding one to the right. The largest was **19.9"** and weighed **2.6 lbs.**, Perry remains the sauger capital of Kansas!



Aquatic Education: Passing my Passion On

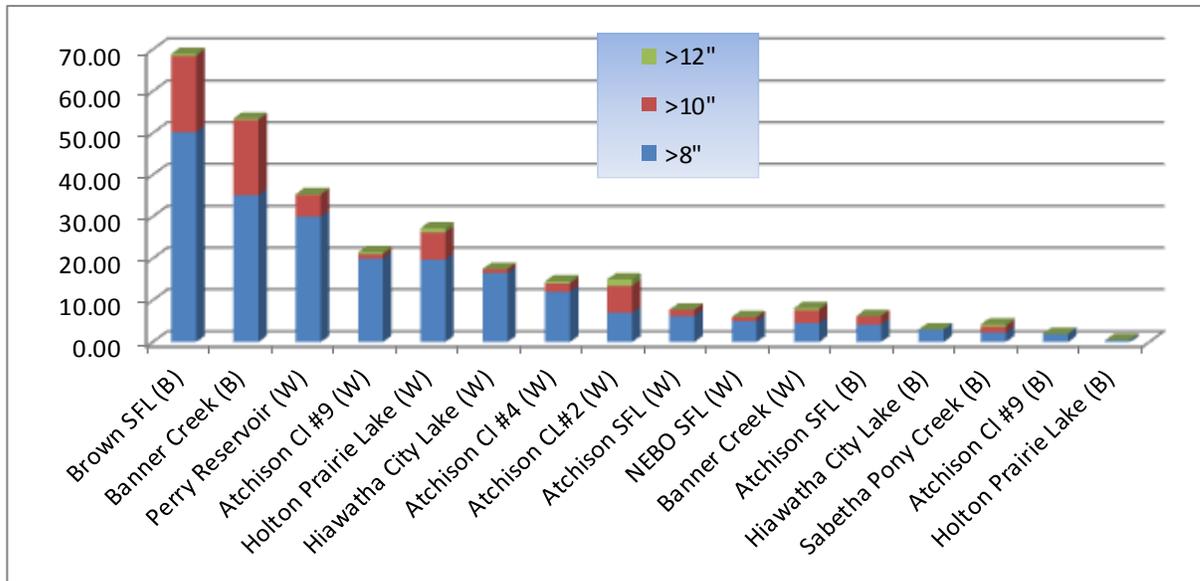
A part of my job that I really enjoy is passing on the information that I've gained over the years. When I was school age, I really disliked being in front of people giving class reports or presentations. I guess the more you do something, the more comfortable you get at it. In my 25 years with Wildlife, Parks and Tourism I've done hundreds of events and talked to thousands of people. My favorite events are dealing with school students, they are eager to learn and on occasion gullible. My philosophy is that some of

the best learning takes place outside the classroom through hands on instruction. Fortunately for me, there are several teachers in my 6 County District that feel the same way I do and allow me to entertain and educate their students. Often times this includes demonstration of the electrofishing boat (pictured to the right), traps or gill nets, fish identification and of course a fish dissection thrown in for the grody factor. These students are our future so we better pass our knowledge on before it is lost forever.



Fall 2013 Crappie Netting Information

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(B) - Black Crappie (W) - White Crappie

These are just numbers for the lakes in the six counties I work. For you fishermen who love to compare our electrofishing or netting numbers just click on [FISHING FORECAST](#) and you will be taken to a page on our website. From this page you can pick what species you'd like to look at and size of water body sampled: pond, lake or reservoir. The new information should be available shortly!

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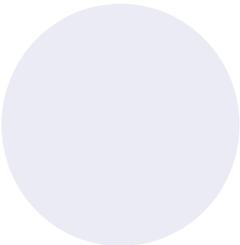
Featured Lake: Holton Banner Creek

Banner Creek Reservoir is located 1 mile west of Holton on Hwy 116 and yes it is paved all the way to the double lane boat ramp on the north side. On a normal year the lake has 535 surface acres however drought conditions the last couple of years have left the lake down 4 or 5' allowing me to do some additional habitat work. I have featured this lake before but once again this year it is a standout from our electrofishing and netting samples.

It is also a standout as far as facilities with: bathhouses, electric hookups for camping, multiple boat ramps, fish cleaning station, fish feeders, playground equipment, hiking trails, a nice beach and friendly people who run the lake. This is a great place to take the family for a weekend or a week!



This lake continues to amaze with the level of fishing it is providing. Channel catfish intermediates, sauger and walleye fry are stocked annually with the other resident fish allowed to fend for themselves. Recently a catfishing show was filmed at the lake and numerous bass tournaments are held there annually. In the picture at the top left Marty is holding a couple of the nice bass sampled in spring electrofishing. We sampled 137 largemouth bass with a Stock catch (fish > 8") being **74.2/hour** with the largest fish sampled being 21.5" and weighing **6.4 pounds**. At the top right Marty is holding a pretty nice channel catfish that we sampled. We sampled 47 catfish in gill nets and 94.5% of fish sampled over 16" with the largest being **30.7"** and **13.7 lbs.** This lake also has nice walleye and sauger populations, Marty has one of the walleye we sampled. The largest walleye we sampled was **25.8"** and weighed **5.5 lbs.** Marty is holding a couple nice crappie, good numbers of with largest black crappie being **12.5"** and **1.0 lbs** largest white was **1.1 lbs.**



The next Perry News will be available August 2014. Please pass this newsletter on to your friends or send them to KDWPT so that they can receive the newsletter electronically.