

New Strawn District Fisheries News

Summer 2014

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

Habitat for Yates Center City Lake

This spring, with the help of Yates Center city employees, fifteen large cedar trees were sunk near the piers at the city lake. While there is an abundance of standing timber away from the shore in open water, only a few brush piles exist near shore to provide spawning and ambush cover for different species. These trees will improve the habitat diversity near the shore and should also improve the shoreline fishing. A map of the locations is on the next page.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Yates Center Habitat
2. YC Habitat Map
3. Woodson Habitat Map
4. Woodson GPS points
5. Spring electrofishing results
6. Blue Cat Electrofishing





The new brush piles are marked with the hook and fish symbol. Most of the piles are well within casting distance from shore.

Woodson State Fishing Lake Habitat Map

I have put together a habitat map of Woodson State Fishing Lake. This map includes all of the brush piles that I'm familiar with, I located them by marking them on my depthfinder and creating a GPS waypoint for each one. I'm sure I do not have all of the brush piles marked, but this should give any angler a good starting point on deciding where to fish. Most of the piles in the boat ramp cove are in shallow water near the bank and should be visible. The others are deep-water piles that should make pretty good fishing spots during different times of the year. I'm planning to add more deep-water piles in the future as time allows.



GPS Coordinates for Woodson State Lake brush piles

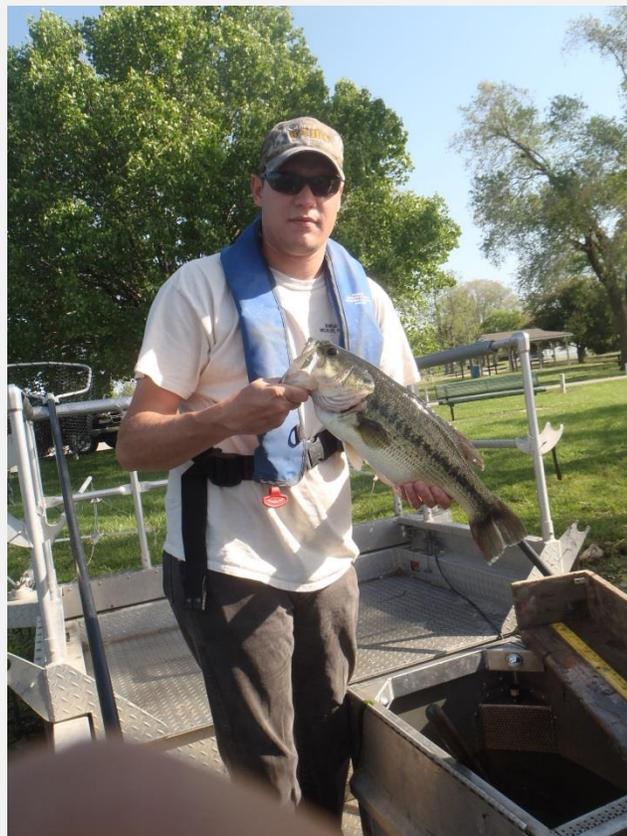
	lat	lon			
BOAT		-			-
RAMP1	37.79588	95.8479	BP18	37.80189	95.8442
		-			-
BR2	37.79579	95.8481	BP19	37.80107	95.8448
		-			-
BR3	37.7966	95.8487	BP20	37.79488	95.8443
		-			-
BR4	37.79659	95.8485	BP21	37.79438	95.8409
		-			-
BR5	37.7965	95.8482	BP22	37.78961	95.8404
BR6	37.79643	-95.848			-
		-	BP23	37.78822	95.8412
BR7	37.79638	95.8479			-
		-	BP24	37.78816	95.8416
BR8	37.79628	95.8477			-
		-	BP25	37.78813	95.8418
BR9	37.7962	95.8475			-
		-	BP26	37.78806	95.8421
BR10	37.79617	95.8472			-
		-	BP27	37.78797	95.8427
BP11	37.79632	95.8468			-
		-	BP28	37.78785	95.8435
BP12	37.79635	95.8467			-
		-	BP29	37.78781	95.8436
BP121	37.79669	95.8466	BP30	37.78777	-95.844
		-			-
BP13	37.79925	95.8458	BP31	37.7877	95.8441
		-			-
BP14	37.79992	95.8459	BP32	37.79316	95.8441
		-			-
BP15	37.80051	95.8457	BP33	37.79433	95.8467
		-			-
BP16	37.80515	95.8492	BP34	37.79508	95.8468
		-			-
BP17	37.80178	95.8438			-

2014 Spring Electrofishing Results							
	Total	Stock CPUE	RSD S-Q (8"-12")	RSD Q-P (12"-15")	RSD P-M (15"-20")	RSD M-T (20"-25")	Biggest Fish
Garnett North Lake	207	152.63	35.47	56.16	8.37	0	2.98
Garnett South Lake	106	133.33	34	24	41	1	4.83
Garnett Cedar Creek	39	46.58	38.24	17.65	35.29	8.82	6.08
Wolf Creek	78	76	17.11	34.21	43.42	5.26	3.02
Woodson State Lake	38	21.48	20.69	48.28	24.14	6.9	5.95
Y.C. City Lake	142	92.52	45.59	42.65	11.76	0	3.02
Y.C. South Owl	116	82.69	30.23	45.35	24.42	0	2.54
Gridley City Lake	67	100	19.7	80.3	0	0	1.85
Lebo City Lake	41	42.86	3.03	63.64	33.33	0	2.56

The highlighted data is all smallmouth bass and does not correspond to the same RSD values as largemouth bass. RSD values for smallmouth are as follows: RSD S-Q (7"-11"), RSD Q-P (11"-14"), RSD P-M (14"-17"), and RSD M-T (17"-20").

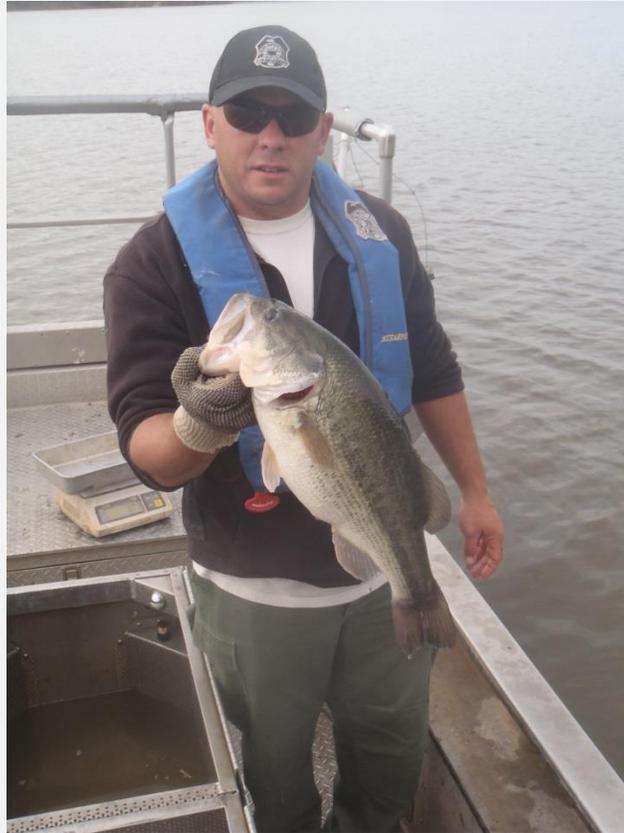
Garnett North Lake - This is a high density bass population indicated by the stock CPUE of 152.63. This population consists mainly of fish in the 12"-15" length group or the Quality length group. This lake should provide some good catch and release fishing due to the slot length limit of 13"-18".

Garnett South Lake - This is another highly dense population, but this lake has better population dynamics than Garnett North Lake. There are good percentages of each length group represented at South Lake indicating a well-balanced population. With the current population dynamics this lake should provide some great bass fishing opportunities. Below are a few bass we sampled.



[Type text]

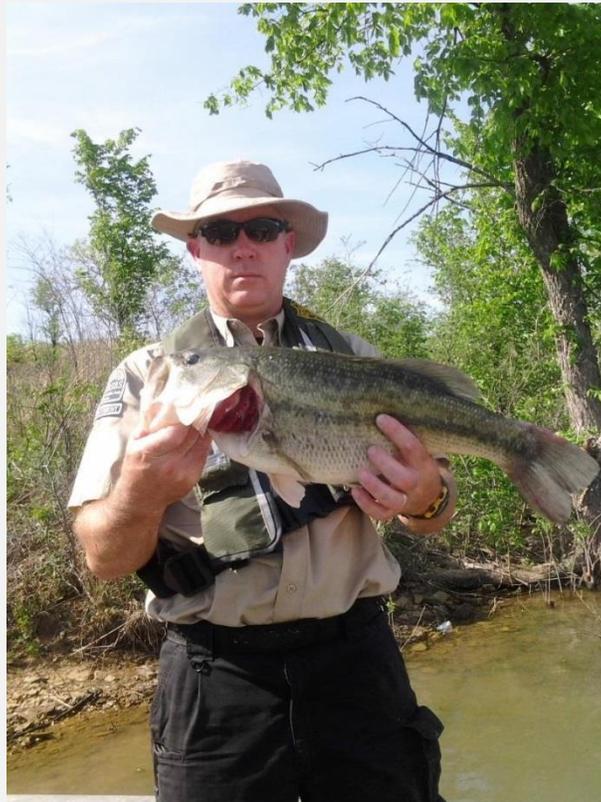
Garnett Cedar Creek - This lake has a lower density bass population than the other Garnett lakes; however, it still produces a pretty good bass population. As the table above shows this lake has the highest percentage of fish over 20” of all the lakes I sampled. If you are seeking bass 5 lbs. or larger, this lake should be on your list.



Wolf Creek - This is a good smallmouth bass fishery. The growth rates are a little slow, but nice fish are still available to catch. Good percentages of fish 14”-17” are available and even fish pushing 20” can be caught. With smallmouth bass ranking as the second most caught fish at this lake, it is safe to say that the population is thriving and provides for some exciting action.



Woodson State Lake - This lake continues to show a low density population compared to years past. However, this year we did see an increase in the number of larger fish in the sample. There are good percentages of smaller fish in the population which should start contributing to the population in the next few years. Currently, I would rate the bass fishing at this lake somewhere between Fair and Good.



Yates Center City Lake - The Spring sample shows that YC City Lake has a moderate density of bass. Almost 89% of the sample was represented by fish between 8" and 15". This may be

indicating the population is becoming stunted. The slot limit should encourage harvest of smaller bass and increase the number of fish over 15". This lake still provides some good bass fishing, but the quality of the fish is not what it used to be.

Yates Center South Owl - We saw the highest catch rate in 5 years for this lake. The stock CPUE more than doubled, and we saw an increase in the number of quality length and preferred length fish. Even though this lake is usually pretty murky, it can still provide some pretty decent bass fishing.

Gridley City Lake - After two years of growth we are starting to see a population form. Just over 80% of the sampled population is in the quality length group. The fish did have a successful spawn as fish under 8" were sampled. This bass population will continue to grow rapidly for the next few years and should start producing some nice largemouth.

Lebo City Lake - A fair population of largemouth exists at Lebo City Lake. The catch rate improved this year and we saw more preferred size fish (15"-18") than the previous sample. The lake was down about 3 feet and recently has mostly filled back up and should provide some better fishing opportunities.

Blue Catfish Electrofishing

During July or August, many biologists sample blue catfish in their reservoirs using the electrofishing boats. I started electrofishing blue catfish in Wolf Creek last year and plan to continue the sample in the future. This year's sample was not very good; we shocked for over one hour and only caught three blue cats. Last year we were able to get 37. This year we tried the same spots but did not see the same results. I know this is not an accurate representation of the current population; it was just a matter of not sampling the right areas of the lake that day. The exit creel indicates that the population is in stable condition. In 2013, 1,483 blue catfish were caught and released and only 584 were harvested (an increase of 155 fish from 2012). Blues pushing 50 lbs. have been caught by anglers, but fish in the 20-30 lb. range seem to be more common. With the recent infestation of zebra mussels, a reduction in the creel limit from 10 to 5 was recommended in an effort to increase predation on the mussels by keeping more fish in the system. Even though we were unable to sample a big blue we did sample a big flathead. The fish below was 45" long and was estimated to weigh close to 70 lbs.



Questions or Comments?

Please contact Justin Morrison

Office: (620) 637-2748

E-Mail: justin.morrison@ksoutdoors.com