



Woodson District Fisheries News

Summer 2019

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Woodson State Fishing Lake Update



The view has gotten much better here at Woodson State Fishing Lake. Thanks to Mother Nature the lake is just that, a lake again. We closed the valve at Woodson State Lake on January 25, 2019, and it took only 12.5 weeks to fill up. Water



was running over the spillway on May 21, 2019. We began stocking fish in April with the initial stockings being 500 lbs. of fathead minnows and 500 lbs. of golden shiners. I also stocked 180,000 walleye fry, 18,000 channel catfish fingerlings, and 327 brooder size channel catfish. 9,000 largemouth bass fingerlings were stocked in May along with 100 bass in the 13-15" range. I have also stocked some adult black crappie, redear sunfish, and bluegill. Bluegill fingerlings will be stocked in September, and more channel catfish will be stocked in October. So, when is the lake going to open to fishing? Believe it or not, Woodson State Lake will be open to fishing Jan. 1, 2020. With that being said, keep in mind most fish that have been stocked were fingerlings or intermediate size (6-12") so

do not expect to catch many or any bigger fish, as it will take a few years to develop a nice fishery full of harvestable size fish. The current habitat conditions in the lake should help speed up the process by providing a “new lake environment” which provides an upsurge in nutrient levels which provides more food for zooplankton and phytoplankton, ultimately providing more food for fish and increasing growth rates.

I have been running the fish feeders throughout the summer to boost channel catfish growth. The fingerling catfish that were stocked in April have grown well and are ranging in size from 6-12”. In my previous newsletter I mentioned all the habitat work I completed, but I failed to provide GPS coordinates for the structures. The following list is a complete list of every brush pile and Georgia Cube location in the lake. Please be aware that these coordinates were taken before the lake filled up, and there is a good chance some brush piles moved when the lake filled. The coordinates with PVC are Georgia Cube structures.



GPS Coordinates

37.78778	95.8442	PVC	-		
	-			37.79489	95.8444 WOOD102
37.79699	95.8451	PVC10	-		
	-			37.79461	95.8444 WOOD103
37.79477	95.8444	PVC11	-	37.79455	-95.844 WOOD104
	-			37.79474	-95.844 WOOD105
37.79467	95.8445	PVC12	-		
	-			37.79492	95.8442 WOOD106
37.79438	95.8409	PVC121	-		
37.78828	-95.841	PVC13	-	37.79453	95.8433 WOOD1061
	-				
37.78989	95.8438	PVC2	-	37.79443	95.8433 WOOD107
	-				
37.79007	95.8436	PVC3	-	37.79223	95.8406 WOOD108
	-				
37.79255	95.8431	PVC4	-	37.79159	95.8397 WOOD109
	-			37.79571	-95.848 WOOD11
37.7961	95.8468	PVC5	-		
	-			37.79145	95.8397 WOOD110
37.79726	95.8463	PVC6	-		
	-			37.79123	95.8394 WOOD111
37.79924	95.8458	PVC7	-		
	-			37.79052	95.8397 WOOD112
37.79838	95.8449	PVC8	-		
37.7975	-95.845	PVC9	-	37.79046	95.8402 WOOD113
	-			37.79042	-95.84 WOOD114
37.78942	95.8407	ROCK	-		
37.78906	-95.841	ROCK1	-	37.78997	95.8403 WOOD115
	-				
37.78906	95.8444	WOOD	-	37.78973	95.8409 WOOD116
37.79586	-95.848	WOOD10	-		
	-			37.78961	95.8404 WOOD117
37.79526	95.8447	WOOD100	-		
	-			37.78825	95.8413 WOOD118
	-				
37.795	95.8446	WOOD101	-	37.78821	95.8414 WOOD119

37.79589	95.8484	WOOD12	37.80882	95.8504	WOOD36
	-			-	
37.78815	95.8418	WOOD120	37.80814	95.8502	WOOD37
37.78811	-95.842	WOOD121		-	
	-		37.80684	95.8494	WOOD38
37.79643	95.8489	WOOD13		-	
	-		37.8067	95.8497	WOOD39
37.79657	95.8489	WOOD14	37.78776	-95.844	WOOD4
	-			-	
37.7966	95.8488	WOOD15	37.80654	95.8493	WOOD40
	-			-	
37.79656	95.8484	WOOD16	37.80613	95.8482	WOOD41
	-			-	
37.79649	95.8482	WOOD17	37.80591	95.8482	WOOD42
37.79642	-95.848	WOOD18	37.80565	-95.848	WOOD43
	-			-	
37.79634	95.8479	WOOD19	37.80517	95.8471	WOOD44
	-			-	
37.78845	95.8447	WOOD2	37.80459	95.8467	WOOD45
	-			-	
37.79615	95.8478	WOOD20	37.80419	95.8462	WOOD46
	-			-	
37.7961	95.8473	WOOD21	37.80405	95.8457	WOOD47
37.79617	-95.847	WOOD22		-	
	-		37.80377	95.8461	WOOD48
37.7963	95.8468	WOOD23		-	
	-		37.80373	95.8468	WOOD49
37.79663	95.8465	WOOD24		-	
	-		37.78792	95.8432	WOOD5
37.79717	95.8464	WOOD25		-	
	-		37.80324	95.8461	WOOD50
37.79876	95.8459	WOOD26		-	
	-		37.80328	95.8457	WOOD51
37.79897	95.8459	WOOD27		-	
	-		37.80374	95.8455	WOOD52
37.7992	95.8459	WOOD28	37.80358	-95.845	WOOD53
	-			-	
37.7994	95.8459	WOOD29	37.80324	95.8452	WOOD54
	-			-	
37.78833	95.8447	WOOD3	37.80294	95.8456	WOOD55
	-			-	
37.79994	95.8458	WOOD30	37.80261	95.8461	WOOD56
	-		37.80275	-95.845	WOOD57
37.8004	95.8457	WOOD31	37.80236	-95.845	WOOD58
	-		37.80217	-95.845	WOOD59
37.80051	95.8457	WOOD32		-	
	-		37.78881	95.8449	WOOD6
37.80505	95.8494	WOOD33		-	
	-		37.80212	95.8447	WOOD60
37.80516	95.8493	WOOD34		-	
	-		37.79506	95.8467	WOOD61
37.80537	95.8495	WOOD35		-	

37.80187	95.8442	WOOD611	37.7987	95.8442	WOOD80
37.80158	95.8443	WOOD62	37.79881	95.8445	WOOD81
37.80187	95.8437	WOOD63	37.79887	95.8447	WOOD82
37.802	95.8434	WOOD64	37.79915	95.8448	WOOD83
37.80212	95.8436	WOOD65	37.7986	95.8446	WOOD84
37.80248	95.8436	WOOD66	37.79848	95.8444	WOOD85
37.80249	95.8432	WOOD67	37.79841	95.8449	WOOD86
37.80128	95.8443	WOOD68	37.7981	95.8447	WOOD87
37.80122	95.8445	WOOD69	37.79778	-95.845	WOOD88
37.7955	95.8469	WOOD7	37.79748	95.8452	WOOD89
37.80125	95.8446	WOOD70	37.79586	95.8479	WOOD9
37.80108	95.8449	WOOD71	37.79735	95.8449	WOOD90
37.80072	95.8449	WOOD72	37.79711	95.8449	WOOD91
37.80054	95.8449	WOOD73	37.79679	95.8451	WOOD92
37.80039	95.8449	WOOD74	37.79647	95.8452	WOOD93
37.80018	95.8449	WOOD75	37.79621	95.8451	WOOD94
37.79986	95.8449	WOOD76	37.79593	-95.845	WOOD95
37.80048	95.8445	WOOD77	37.79603	95.8448	WOOD96
37.80069	95.8445	WOOD78	37.79589	95.8447	WOOD961
37.79865	-95.844	WOOD79	37.79555	95.8446	WOOD98
37.79591	95.8477	WOOD8	37.79537	95.8444	WOOD99
			37.79562	95.8449	WSOD97

New habitat for Yates Center South Owl and Coffey County Lake.

I recently placed more 22 more Georgia Cubes in Yates Center South Owl and in addition I added 3 PVC trees I constructed out of poly gas pipe donated by Atmos Energy in Yates Center. The following coordinates will lead you to the location of those structures.

37° 51.928 N 95° 44.875 W

37° 51.927 N 95° 44.879 W

37° 51.908 N 95° 44.818 W

37° 51.904 N 95° 44.909 W



Members of the Westar Energy Green Team helped construct and sink PVC structures in Coffey County Lake in June. The materials for these structures were donated by the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Center. Location coordinates for these structures are as follows.

38° 15.151 N 95° 43.202 W

38° 15.309 N 95° 43.206 W

38° 14.957 N 95° 42.963 W

38° 14.121 N 95° 42.607 W

38° 13.874 N 95° 42.352 W



Spring Electrofishing Results



Garnett Cedar Creek 7.52 lbs.

Lake	Total Catch	Fish/hr.	# of 8-12"	# of 12-15"	# of 15-20"	# of 20-25"	Big Fish
Gridley City Lake	203	180	50	96	34	0	2.51 lbs
Garnett City Lake North	178	146	48	84	37	0	4.82 lbs.
Garnett City Lake South	121	176	24	48	44	0	4.06 lbs.
Garnett Cedar Creek Lake	90	52	19	35	25	4	7.52 lbs.
Lebo City Lake	64	39	15	13	26	0	3.27 lbs.
Yates Center South Owl	117	68	45	43	20	1	4.60 lbs.
Yates Center City Lake	240	133	81	116	15	0	3.25 lbs.

The exceptionally wet spring weather resulted in turbid water conditions at most of my water bodies and consequently was detrimental to my electrofishing samples. However, we can still look at the table above and draw some conclusions as to what is going on and what we can expect when we go fishing. First of all, Gridley City Lake has vastly improved from the previous years as the fish are starting to move out of the crowded 12-15" size range. Most of the 34 fish in the 15-20" size range are sitting right at 15" so don't expect to go there and catch good numbers of 18-20" fish, but the population is improving. If you are seeking bigger fish, I would target them at Garnett Cedar Creek Lake. The water conditions during sampling greatly hindered our catch rate so don't let the low total catch and catch rate drive you away. This lake is still producing a great population of bass with some real nice fish available. Our highest total catch during spring electrofishing occurred at Yates Center City Lake, and as the table indicates this lake is suited for someone looking for quantity of fish as 116 of 240 fish sampled were 12-15". The fish pictured to the right came out of Yates Center South Owl.





The picture on the left is the biggest fish sampled at Garnett City Lake North, and the picture on the right is two good sized bass out of Garnett Cedar Creek Lake.

Blue Cat Electrofishing Survey Coffey County Lake

Our electrofishing efforts at Coffey County Lake resulted in 132 fish in 1.39 hrs. The highest catch rate we have seen since beginning the electrofishing survey. We sampled 38 fish less than 12", 26 fish 12-20", 27 fish 20-30", 11 fish 30-35", and 20 fish 35-45". While it is good to see the number of bigger fish sampled it is real encouraging to see the number of young fish coming up in the population. We just haven't seen numbers of small fish like this since I have started sampling. While the population may be increasing slightly with the increased number of smaller fish, the number of larger fish in the population doesn't seem to be increasing much from year to year. If we were to look at the data we collected on a site by site basis we would see that 83 fish came from two sites. As a matter of fact, one site produced 51 fish for a total weight of 721 lbs. Talk about a honey hole! That is the weird thing about electrofishing blue cats you either catch a bunch in one spot or you don't catch any. Fisheries technician Danci is pictured on the right with one of the 43 lb. blue cats we sampled. More pictures of blue cat electrofishing are on the next page.





Fisheries biologist Seth Lundgren (pictured in all photos) assisted with the blue cat sample by driving a chase boat and netting the fish that surfaced. Big thanks to him and his technician Danci also a big thanks to fisheries biologist Carson Cox and wildlife biologist Vickie Cikanek who also assisted with sampling.



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