



## July – September 2009

Besides providing urban anglers opportunities to experience fishing in the natural state, and introducing young anglers to the sport, the Family and Community Fishing Program (FCFP) has the pleasure of managing the smallest fisheries district in the state. Sometimes referred to as “District 11”, the FCFP is in charge of managing all of the fisheries in Pulaski County. Two of the major water bodies in the district are Lake Maumelle and portions of three pools of the Arkansas River, both of which contain rich and diverse fisheries.

### Lake Maumelle

There has been a lot of activity going on with Lake Maumelle recently. Lake Maumelle is an 8,900 acre impoundment of the Big Maumelle River, and is the principle water supply lake for Central Arkansas. Lake Maumelle is managed under the authority of Central Arkansas Water (CAW), a public utility company. Because of some concern from anglers, CAW and the Arkansas Game and Fish

Commission (AGFC) have teamed up to conduct activities aimed at improving the fishery. The major improvements include increased access, and habitat improvement.



Access is going to be improved in the upper end of the lake. The current regulations allow hand launching of canoes from a primitive launch site known as Sleepy Hollow. They do not currently allow kayaks or small boats to launch from this access site. The new proposal by CAW is to allow AGFC to improve the launch area, and for canoes, kayaks, and boats with motors 25 hp or less to launch at the ramp and operate in the portion of the lake

located west of the Highway 10 Bridge.

Also, CAW is going to open the lake to trot lining in the western two thirds of the lake. All normal AGFC rules will apply: trot lines must be labeled with the owner's name, hooks must be spaced at least 24" apart, and lines must be run every 24 hours.

One complaint about Lake Maumelle is the lack of fishable habitat. In an effort to keep the lake as pristine as possible to provide quality water to Central Arkansas, CAW does not allow the introduction of biological materials into the lake (i.e. Christmas trees, etc.) for habitat purposes. CAW has agreed to coordinate with AGFC fisheries biologists to add artificial habitat to Lake Maumelle. AGFC has budgeted \$5,000 to purchase artificial structures and CAW has agreed to match that amount. Plans are being made now, and structures should be added during the late winter/early spring months.

In addition to coordinating with CAW to improve the angling environment, FCFP biologists have also been conducting more traditional fisheries management activities. In August, the annual rotenone sample was conducted on a cove in the northwest corner of the lake.

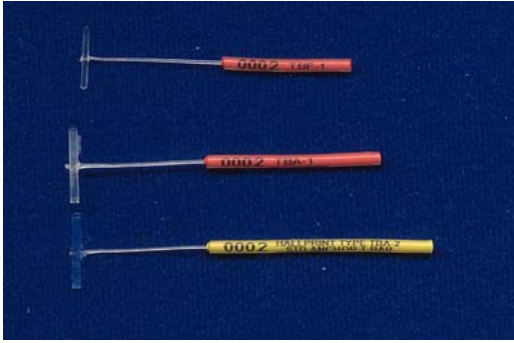
Lake Maumelle had plenty of predators including largemouth and spotted bass, catfish, saugeye and bream among others.



Currently, gill netting is being conducted, and white bass and saugeye are being targeted in order to complete some analysis of age and growth. This kind of research allows biologists to determine if fish are achieving proper growth rates for the system.

## **Arkansas River Exploitation Study**

Currently, UAPB and AGFC are working together to complete an exploitation study on Pools 6 and 7 (Little Rock Pool and Lake Murray). Personnel from UAPB and several fisheries districts and programs worked together over a six week period to capture and tag 536 largemouth bass in Pool 6 and 798 largemouth bass in Pool 7 all greater than 13" in length. Each of these fish has either a yellow or white plastic tag located on the left side of the fish near the rear dorsal fin.



The tags are randomly worth between \$10 and \$100. Anglers that catch one of these tagged fish should keep the tag and call (888) 325-5074 with the following information: time and location of catch, tag number and length of fish.

In conjunction with the bass tagging, creel surveys will be conducted for the next year in order to estimate the amount of effort of bass anglers in these pools of the Arkansas River. So, keep an eye out for UAPB and AGFC personnel at boat ramps on the river over the next year. The few minutes of time and information that are provided by each angler help to improve knowledge of the fishery in the long run.

## **Family and Community Fishing Program**

This is a busy time of year for the FCFP. The final stockings of catfish have just been completed. Information is available by calling the stocking hotline at 1-866-540-3474.

As we speak, the first trout stockings of the year are beginning. Kick off events are planned for Springdale and Rogers on November 21<sup>st</sup>, and Russellville and Little Rock on December 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information,

call the program office at (501) 978-7322 or (501) 978-7317.

**For more information on catfish and trout stockings, call our toll-free hotline:**

**1-866-540-FISH  
(3474)**

