



# Fishing

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Weekly Fishing Report  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
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## January 23, 2008 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **January 23, 2008**. If there is a body of water you would like included in this report, please call or e-mail us with information on possible sources for that lake or river.

**Fishing Tip:** Winter can be a tough time for most fishing, but walleye and sauger will be making their spawning runs soon. In lakes and rivers known for holding these fish, anglers can get out in the boat and look for deep holes just downstream from dams and large rocky areas they use during the spawn. A heavy jig tipped with a minnow may get a few walleye and sauger to bite during the day before they move up to the rocks at night.

**Arkansas River Levels:** According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as of Wednesday the Arkansas River stages are:

**Trimble Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 13):** Headwater – 392.13 feet, Tailwater – 372.40 feet, Flow – 9,850 cubic feet per second

**Ozark Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 12):** Headwater – 371.98 feet, Tailwater – 340.55 feet

**Dardanelle Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 10):** Headwater – 337.89 feet, Tailwater – 287.59 feet

**Ormond Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 9):** Headwater – 286.94 feet, Tailwater – 266.48 feet, Flow – 28,845 cubic feet per second

**Toad Suck Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 8):** Headwater – 264.90 feet, Tailwater – 252.37 feet

**Murray Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 7):** Headwater – 249.07 feet, Tailwater – 231.47 feet, Flow – 26,620 cubic feet per second

**Terry Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 6):** Headwater – 231.20 feet, Tailwater – 213.47 feet, Flow – 26,134 cubic feet per second

**Sanders Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 4):** Headwater – 196.15 feet, Tailwater – 182.90 feet

**Hardin Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 3):** Headwater – 181.78 feet, Tailwater – 164.63 feet

**Mills Dam (Dam 2):** Headwater – 162.20 feet, Tailwater – 128.45 feet, Flow – 24,499 cubic feet per second

**White River Levels:** According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as of Wednesday the White River stages are:

3.8 feet at Calico Rock (flood stage – 19 feet)  
6.3 feet at Batesville (flood stage – 15 feet)  
2.9 feet at Newport (flood stage – 26 feet)  
14.5 feet at Augusta (flood stage – 26 feet)  
3.3 feet at Georgetown (flood stage – 21 feet)  
13.9 feet at Clarendon (flood stage – 26 feet)

**Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report:** Trout are still biting very well on pink or purple Power Bait and Super Dupers in program ponds. Mini-marshmallows have also caught fish. Rock Creek trout fishing is excellent on Power Bait and waxworms. For more information on trout stockings, call toll-free 1-866-540-FISH (3474).

## CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Conway:** Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is good on worms. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs.

**Little Red River:** [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the water is clear and low with little generation every day. Trout fishing has been very good on waxworm/marshmallow combinations and Power Bait. When the water is high, spinnerbaits and jigs are working well.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said the Greers Ferry powerhouse has been responding to the occasional cold snaps with increased water releases. Last year at this time, water releases occurred at 4-5 a.m., lasting until dusk. This year, with daily releases and few rain events, the water in the river is crystal clear. If releases occur as predicted, wade fishing will be possible at Winkley Shoal at first light until the water arrives. You can hop down to Libby Shoal for another 1 1/2 hours or so of wade fishing until the water gets there. After lunch, if the generators have been shut down, you can wade fish at JFK Park. The temperature of the water driving the turbines has averaged 48 degrees Fahrenheit with dissolved oxygen around 6.1 mg/l. Large, frequent midge hatches continue to come off most days along the Little Red. Most of these tiny creatures are cream colored and about a hook size 26. Trout are rising to these morsels all along the river. There are also sulphur mayflies hatching most days. The dry fly patterns of choice include a dry midge (size 22, cream), Adams (sizes 18-20) and sulphur (sizes 18-20). Sub-surface flies that are working include the sow bug (sizes 14-16 peacock, UV tan or light gray), zebra midge (sizes 16-22 red, black or copper), red butt emerger (sizes 14-16), copper john (size 16 copper or red) and woolly buggers (sizes 10-12 olive or black).

**Greers Ferry:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 458.71 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said cold weather has put a damper on the walleye, but it will pick back up soon as days get longer and the water warms. Some walleye can be caught mid-way up the creeks, but you have to downsize your minnows and fish extremely slowly for a bite. Hybrids and white bass are still fair on spoons, swim baits and in-line spinners fished in 50 feet of water around schools of shad. Bass fishing is slow, but should improve with warm weather. Right now, try water 35-40 feet deep with a jigging spoon and football head jig for a slow but steady bite. Crappie have slowed with a fair bite in the afternoons during sunny days. The crappie are holding in pole timber around creek bends. Small minnows have been the only thing to work.

**Harris Brake Lake:** [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said fishing is slow for all species.

**Lake Overcup:** Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and crappie stingers. Catfish are biting well on shad and nightcrawlers.

[Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said fishing is slow for all species.

**Brewer Lake:** [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said fishing is slow for all species.

**Sunset Lake:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is fair on Tennessee shad-colored jigs. Bass fishing is fair on crankbaits.

**Saline River Access in Benton:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is good around brush piles on Tennessee shad-colored jigs. Bass fishing is good around brush on Shad Raps.

**Arkansas River at Morrilton:** Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said bad weather has kept most anglers off the water. Catfishing is good in deep holes of the river on whole shad. Stripers are biting well below locks nine and 10 on large bucktails and spoons. Kentucky bass are fair spinnerbaits slow-rolled on the inside edges of jetties in 8 to 15 feet of water. Drum are biting well on crayfish-colored tube jigs at the bases of jetties where

sand and rock meet. .

**Arkansas River in Little Rock:** Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) said water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is fair around brush on minnows. Bass are biting in backwater areas on jigs.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie fishing is good on live minnows fished in the backwater area around Burns Park.

**Little Maumelle River:** River Valley Bait (501-868-3279) said water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and assorted jigs. Catfishing is fair in 8 feet of water or lower on any bait.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie fishing is good on pink minnows fished under a slip cork and on yo-yos baited with minnows. Catfishing is good on live bait. Bass fishing and bream fishing are both poor.

**Big Maumelle Creek:** Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are biting on trotlines.

**Murray Lock and Dam:** Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie fishing is fair to good on live minnows and slip-cork rigs. Catfishing is good on cut shad.

**Terry Lock and Dam:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) had no report.

**Clear Lake:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is muddy and at a little high. Crappie fishing is good on pink minnows in 6 to 8 feet of water.

## NORTH ARKANSAS

**White River:** [Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said Davy Wotton's [White Tail Super Midges](#) have been tearing up the trout lately, especially for one angler boasting of a 50-fish day. Generation had been moderate, usually some in the mornings, possibly followed by some evening water. But there have been large gaps of low water moving downstream allowing plenty of wading if you time it right. You can usually head downstream to somewhere like Rim, or even lower, to get on the back of the falling evening generation and fish for 4, 6 or even 10 hours before the next burst reaches your spot. Basically it's hard to have too many [midges](#), though definitely selections in red, pearl green and black are the tickets. [Egg patterns](#), like Unreal Eggs, Veiled Eggs, Y2Ks and Thorne's Fire Egg are standards at this time of year. [San Juans](#) continue to work well in browns, red and pinks. Don't forget a selection of scuds and sow bugs, some olive and black buggers. The lake still isn't cold enough for a widespread shad kill yet, but it should be right around the corner.

[Gaston's White River Resort](#) said trout anglers have seen many water conditions lately. Anytime between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., two to four units are generating. Around 9 a.m. until noon, the dam will shut down and the water level drops. However, the trout are still feeding during low water periods. The bulbous bivisible is working well for fly-fishermen where creeks run into the river. We also recommend the partridge and orange soft hackle, gold ribbed hares ear, copper john, copper zebra midge, Y2K bug, the sow bug and the draggin' egg. During high water, try peach or white egg patterns, white and pink micro jigs and San Juan worms. Nightcrawlers are doing well for the bait anglers when the water is low. Yellow Power Bait has also been effective. Some other lures being used are No. 5 silver or gold floating Rapalas and Smithwick blue-backed Rogues. Any minnow shaped lure has potential.

Sportsman's White River Resort said water conditions are normal with generation in the mornings. Trout fishing is good on Rapala Countdowns, jigs, Power Bait, nightcrawlers and redworms.

Angler's White River Resort said the water conditions are normal. Trout fishing has been good on Power Bait and crankbaits.

[John Berry of Berry Brothers Guides](#) said many anglers are eagerly anticipating the opening of the catch-and-Release area below Bull Shoals Dam on Feb. 1. This section has been closed for the last few months while the brown trout have been spawning and no one has been allowed to fish here during this period. The browns do not feed when they are spawning so they will be hungry. This will be an opportune time to land a good one. The fishing on the White has been good. There have not been many anglers out but those that have fished have done well. The upper river, from Bull Shoals State Park to White Hole, has fished well. On low water, the hot flies have been black/silver and brown/copper zebra midges. On high water brightly colored San Juan worms and egg patterns have been productive. The front side of Roundhouse Shoals has fished particularly well. It seems that the best fishing is either at the top of the shoals or at the bottom. The hot flies in this section have been beadhead pheasant tail nymphs, olive scuds (size 18), partridge and orange soft hackles and green butts. Rim Shoals was fishing quite well. Anglers that motored up to Jenkin's Creek area by boat did particularly well. On low water, the hot flies in this section were Y2Ks, crapadans, olive scuds (size 18) and Dan's turkey tail emerger. On high water the hot fly has been the San Juan worm in cerise. Another hot spot has been just down stream from the confluence of the White and Norfolk rivers. This area fishes best when there is a bit of generation on the Norfolk. Hot flies here have been zebra midges in black with silver wire and silver bead and in brown with copper

wire and copper bead. Soft hackles like the partridge and orange and the green butt have also been effective.

**Bull Shoals Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 651.96 feet MSL.

[Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock](#) (870-445-4424) said some anglers are back on the water now that hunting has slowed. Bass are biting well on crankbaits in 5 to 15 feet of water on windy or cloudy days. Hula grubs and Carolina-rigged French fries are working well in 10 to 25 feet of water. Vertical jigging a spoon over old forests and standing timber is working well on Kentucky bass. Walleye are biting fairly well on spoons fished over large flats in 35 to 40 feet of water. Bottom bouncers baited with nightcrawlers are working well on walleye as well. Crappie are biting fairly well around the boat docks on minnows under a slip bobber in 18 to 25 feet of water.

**Lake Norfolk:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 547.67 feet MSL.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) said the water is clear and about 4 feet low with temperature in the low 40s. Crappie fishing is fair in shallow water on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is fair on jerkbaits. Strippers are biting on suspending jerkbaits.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said the water temperature in the low 40s and clear. Striper fishing has been good with most being caught on live shiners, Rattlin' Rouges and jigging spoons in 10-90 feet of water (What a range!). The best bite has been early and late in the day with some 15-25 pound fish and a couple of real line-strippers that never made it to the boat. White Bass are biting fairly well. Crappie are fair. Largemouth bass are fair. A few walleye have been caught in 6-20 feet of water on small minnows, shiners and stick baits.

**Norfolk Tailwater:** [Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said crowds have dwindled drastically. Norfolk seems to be firing one day and fairly slow the next, but it's an impossibly alluring spot to fish, particularly on those rare days when you have it to yourself. [Davy's Super Midges](#) have been capturing all the publicity lately, but Davy's sow bugs and sowscuds have been doing well. Size 16 olive [McLellan's Hunchback scuds](#) are doing very well near the end of the catch-and-release area. Keep some small [Parachute Adams](#), or "midgish" parachutes handy incase the dry fly action ignites.

Gene's Trout Dock (870-499-5381) said water conditions are normal with little generation. Trout fishing is good on Power Bait and corn. Fly-fishing is going strong with black or green woolly buggers.

[John Berry of Berry Brothers Guides](#) said The Norfolk has fished a bit better this week. There have been some reliable midge hatches in the afternoons. Olive-colored Norfolk beadheads in size 18 have been working the best lately. When the fish keying are in on the midge emergers in the film, Dan's turkey tail emergers in size 22 have been excellent. Other productive flies have been Y2Ks, San Juan worms, and olive scuds. Dry Run Creek, as always, has been the place to take the kids fishing. It is in a deep, tight valley and is seldom affected by wind. There have been precious few kids fishing there lately and now is a great time to avoid the crowds. The hot fly is a size 14 sow bug. Also try olive woolly buggers and San Juan worms. Be sure and use at least 4X tippet and pinch down those barbs. Always take a huge net and a camera.

## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Beaver Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,113.55 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) said (479-640-3980) Bass are biting well on jig-and-pig combos along steep chunk rock banks and on jerkbaits fished along main lake points with timber. The best area for the bass has been around Rocky Branch. Crappie have been biting well in the river arms near brush or pole timber 10 to 25 feet down. Minnows and tube jigs have worked the best. White bass have been on most major main lake points from Horseshoe bend and south. Jigging spoons have been working well on the whites. Striped bass have been in Prairie Creek and around the islands 15 to 25 feet down. The best bite has been on live shad or umbrella rigs baited with white grubs. Catfish are along bluff lines and are biting well on cut bait and chicken liver. Sunfish have been deep, near the timber along steep banks and under docks.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is clear and a little low. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and tube jigs. Bass are biting well on crankbaits and jerkbaits.

**Lake Fayetteville:** Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said not many anglers are available for a report.

**Lake Sequoyah:** Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said water conditions are normal. Crappie is the best thing going on minnows and jigs.

**Sugarloaf Lake:** Midland Minimart (479-639-9467) had no report.

## NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

**CrownLake:** [Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said few anglers are on the water to give a report.

**Lake Frierson:** [Lake Frierson State Park](#) said few anglers are on the water.

**Eleven-PointRiver:** Woody's Canoe Rental and Campground (870-892-9732) had no report.

## SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Lake Chicot:** Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is good on waxworms. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is good on worms and large minnows.

**Grand Lake:** Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) had no report.

## SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Millwood Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 256.50 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said main lake and Little River surface temperature is 43 to 45 degrees, depending on location and time of day. Main lake clarity and visibility is at 5-6 inches with 6-8 inch visibility in Little River. Current is 1,255 cubic feet per second. Both ramps at Paraloma, both ramps at Cotton Shed, the Saratoga ramp closest to the dike, and both ramps at Beards Bluff are unusable because of the drawdown. Winter drawdown has revealed many submerged objects at or just within inches of pool surface in boat lanes and Little River. Use extreme caution in navigation, many of the boat lanes during winter pool drawdown are now only 3-10 inches in overall depth in various places. Largemouth bass are relating to deep water in Little River and creek mouths dumping into the river. The best bite is during the warmest part of the day on wacky rigs, Texas-rigged Hog Assassins and large, ¾-ounce Rat-L-Traps. Pitching Texas-rigged Lil' Critter Craws, 4-inch Southern Pro Flipping Tubes, Hog Assassins and Yum Wooly Bugs in Green Pumpkin, Watermelon/Red, Camo, Ozark Smoke and Blackberry near stumps close to deep water is drawing some good strikes from heavy bass. The heavy Rat-L-Traps are working best when deflected off stumps on the edges of Little River in 8 to 9 feet of water. Stumps, cypress knees and laydowns are the key during the day, since little vegetation remains submerged. The best crappie bite over the past couple weeks or so, was along planted brush piles and 16-20-foot deep trees during mid-mornings on live shiners or smoke grubs. Vertical jigging Blakemore Crappie Thunder Road Runners was taking some really nice slabs in the 12 to 17 foot range. Consistent and steady current in Little River during pool drawdown over the last couple weeks has kept channel cats biting on cut bait, cottonseed meal cakes and Catfish Charlie on trotlines and yo-yos along the river and in oxbows hung from cypress trees in 10-15 feet of water.

**Lake Columbia:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is good on shiners, jigs and minnows

**Lake Erling:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is fair on worms. Crappie fishing is good on jigs and shiners.

**White Oak Lake:** [White Oak Lake State Park](#) said fishing on White Oak Lake has been spotty to poor. The lake is at full pool and the temperature is good, but the water is very clear. Crappie and catfish are poor and bass are fair. The shad are not running yet.

**Lake Greeson:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 541.99 feet MSL.

[Darryl Morris of Family Fishing Trips Guide Service](#) said the water temperature is holding in the upper 40s. Crappie fishing is good but the fish are scattered. Most crappie have been caught on jigs and minnows from 15 to 22 feet in 20-32 feet of water on bamboo and hardwood brush piles. As the water warms, try some shallower brush piles for better action. The stripers and white bass are schooling up the river and in the backs of the major creek arms, chasing huge schools of shad. Watch for the birds hitting the water.

**Little Missouri River:** [Jeff Guerin of Little Missouri Fly Fishing](#) said fishing has been slow and the weather has

made for some uncomfortable fishing, especially without neoprene waders. You can catch some fish as the day warms, but be prepared to shake the ice out of your guides.

**DeGray Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 400.04 feet MSL.

DeGray One Stop (501-865-3511) said few anglers are on the water. No report.

## WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Dardanelle:** Bill's Bait and Tackle (479-754-6354) had no report.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-754-6354) had no report.

**Blue Mountain Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 384.34 feet MSL.

CNC's End of the Line (479-947-2398) had no report.

**Ozark Pool:** Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said water conditions are normal. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. White bass can be caught below the dam on white jigs.

**Lake Ouachita:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was 571.76 feet MSL.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water temperature is 40 to 46 degrees and the clarity is improving. Largemouth bass are biting well on Deep Little N's and lipless crankbaits fished on main lake points and secondary points. Walleye are slow on spoons fished over humps and main lake points with brush piles. Stripers are still biting well on live brood minnows and gizzard shad. Smoke and pearl grubs are working well on the stripers, too. Crappie are biting well over grass and brush. Try large moss flats and brush in water 15 to 25 feet deep. Minnows or crappie grubs are still working best. Arkansas shad and white are the best colors.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing has been excellent the last few days. Black/blue and green pumpkin jigs are working well on the outside edge of the grass in 25 to 30 feet of water off the side of main lake humps and points. Red ¾- and 1-oz. Rat-L-Traps are working well for some good numbers of fish around the same areas. Some very heavy sacks of fish have been weighed in during local tournaments and all of the action has come from the edges of the grass.

**Lake Catherine:** Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that despite the very cold temperatures, rainbow trout fishing is very good below Carpenter Dam. Rainbows thrive in a cold water environment and actively feed in weather that normally causes most fish to become very inactive. With a current water temperature of 45 degrees, the trout are healthy and providing anglers with a great opportunity for winter fishing. Fly-anglers targeting the shoals are having success casting streamers and egg patterns in white and orange. Woolly buggers in olive or black are also working well. Spin fishermen continue to record limits of trout by using white or brown Rooster Tails in the 1/8 and 1/16 ounce sizes. Boat fishermen braving the shallow water are catching fish around rock piles and the bridge supports throwing Little Cleos and Super Dupers in silver or white. Anglers using baits that imitate threadfin shad are having the most success as these baitfish are the main source of food for the growing trout. Bank fishermen waste little time catching limits of trout by consistently using nightcrawlers and redworms floated under a bobber with light line. Striper fishing runs hot and cold as the fish migrate in and out of the tailrace chasing the threadfin shad schools. White jigs fished in the main channel have produced fish, but the live bait rigs are still the best bet. Large brood minnows and gizzard shad fished under a balloon rig will give fishermen the best chance to hook winter stripers.

Diamond Head Marina reports the water is clear and 4 feet low. Bass fishing is fair around the shorelines on top-water lures. Catfishing is good in deep water on any bait.

**Lake Hamilton:** Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing is excellent on football jigs and Carolina-rigged green pumpkin centipedes fished in 15 to 18 feet of water around submerged brush piles. On sunny days, the bass are moving to brush in 4 to 8 feet deep and biting very well on crayfish colored crankbaits and jigs. White bass and yellow bass are excellent on spoons fished 20 to 25 feet deep with some stripers hanging around the white bass as well.

**Lake Hinkle:** Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is fair in 12-14 feet on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is fair on crankbaits.

**Lake Atkins:** Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the water is muddy and low. Bream fishing is good on worms. Catfishing is good on about any bait.

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## **SOUTH-CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

No report this week.

## **EAST ARKANSAS**

**Arkansas River (Pine Bluff):** The Tackle Box reports that water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is fair on rosy red minnows and black or chartreuse jigs. Catfish are biting on cut bait.

**White River:** Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) had no report.

**Maddox Bay:** Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) had no report.

**Bear Creek Lake:** Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said the water is dingy and at a normal level. A few bass have been caught.

**Horseshoe Lake:** Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is clear and high. Bream and crappie fishing is excellent on green and white or black and chartreuse jigs around piers. Catfishing is fair on worms.

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