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## Fishing



Weekly Fishing Report  
 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
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### February 04, 2009 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **February 04, 2009**. 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.

NOTE: Because of recent ice storms, many fishing areas around the state were inaccessible and many fishing report vendors were without power. As a result, the fishing report is much shorter than usual. The report will be back to full size next week with the improved weather conditions.

**Arkansas River Levels** are available at :  
[http://www.swl-wc.usace.army.mil/WCDS/Reports/Daily/Pao\\_rvrs.txt](http://www.swl-wc.usace.army.mil/WCDS/Reports/Daily/Pao_rvrs.txt)

**White River Levels** are available at :  
[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/status\\_white.shtml](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/status_white.shtml)

**Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report:** Rainbow trout fishing has been excellent in all trout fishing ponds statewide. The anglers report that they have been having great success using yellow corn, small marshmallows, Power Bait, Trout Magnets, Rooster Tails and spinners. To increase your fishing success, fish early mornings before the sun is directly overhead or between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. For stocking information, call the Hotline at 1-866-540-FISH (3474) toll-free.

## CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Conway:** Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is fairly clear and high. Bream are slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and pink minnows around brush piles in 3 to 5 feet of water. Bass are slow. Catfishing is slow.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said crappie are biting fairly well on white/red and chartreuse jigs fished 2-4 feet deep under a bobber. Bluegills and redears are starting to pick up on redworms. Bass are slow. Catfishing is slow.

**Little Red River:** [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the fishing has been excellent. The water is clear and the generators are running from 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Float fishing has been great on crankbaits in the mornings and fishing with Power Bait and live bait has worked well in the afternoons.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said the melting ice in the northern counties of Arkansas continues to raise lake levels at Bull Shoals and Norfolk. As these two lakes are lowered in the next week, the Greers Ferry Powerhouse should operate at lighter than normal releases. Some anglers are calling to get information about the projected water releases at Greers Ferry. We are always glad to hear from you so don't stop calling, however, most of the information you are seeking is available using the links at the bottom of the "Reports" page on our web site ( [www.littleredflyshop.com](http://www.littleredflyshop.com) ). You can get info about recent rainfall in the watershed by clicking on "Little Red Graph." This is useful to determine possible water releases or problems associated with murky water. If you click on "Current Flow Information" you can see how much water has been released at each of the five White River impoundments and at what time of day. Clicking on "Predicted Generation" will take you to a Southwestern Power Administration web site that states their plans for future water releases at all 18 facilities that they control. Greers Ferry is number 16. Aquatic insect hatches are about the same as in previous reports with midges being the primary bug "coming off." This is typical for this time of year, but will be changing in the next month or so when caddis flies and March brown mayflies join the midge armada. The best dry flies to use include the midge (size 22 or smaller in cream or black), parachute Adams (size 18) or crackleback (size 14). If you want to "dead drift" a searching pattern, try a sowbug (sizes 14-16; olive, tan, UV tan, peacock, UV light gray), zebra midge (sizes 16-22; red, copper or black), egg pattern (sizes 12-14; roe or salmon), red butt soft hackle (sizes 14-18), San Juan worm (sizes 12-14; red or worm brown) or woolly bugger (sizes 8-12; olive, brown or black).

**Greers Ferry:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 461.57 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) the water level is at 461.59 and rising and the surface temperature is 45-48 degrees. The expected warm rain should raise the water temperature and put the walleye on the move upriver. Bass fishing continues to be good on jerkbaits, crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits in shallow water and football head jigs and Carolina rigs in 25-45 feet of water. The hybrids and whites can be found at 40-45 feet deep and can be caught on spoons, but it's a bit slow. Crappie are still being caught in the pole timber 15-20 feet deep on jigs and minnows.

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) said the water is very cold and not many anglers are out.

**Harris Brake Lake:** [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water is cloudy and is beginning to warm up a bit. Crappie are fair in 8-10 feet of water on minnows. Bass are fair on soft-plastic worms.

**Lake Overcup:** Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) had no report.

[Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is high and stained. Crappie are biting well on white jigs and minnows fished around boat docks in 12 to 18 inches of water. Bream, bass and catfish are all slow.

**Brewer Lake:** [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is high and clear. Crappie are biting well on white/green jigs and minnows fished around brush. All other species are slow.

**Lake Maumelle:** [Jolly Roger's Marina](#) said the water level is 2 inches above the spillway. The surface temperature at the gas dock is 47 degrees. Largemouth and Kentucky bass are fair and are beginning to get more active. Most of the fish are in deep water along the creek and river channels and are hitting spoons and jig-and-pig combos. The Get5Bass.com Winter Series Championship was held at the lake last week and took 13.5 pounds to win. The largemouths and Kentuckies are grouped up together, but the Kentuckies are hitting a bit softer. White bass are slow, but several anglers have reported some minor success on the west end of the lake. The spring spawning run should begin in mid- to late February. Several large crappie are being caught in 25-30 feet of water on 1/32-oz. jigs tipped with a minnow. Bream are slow. Some are being caught 25-30 feet deep on worms. Saugeye are fair on Road Runners in 15-25 feet of water. Catfishing is fair on worms and prepared baits in 25-30 feet of water.

**Sunset Lake:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said crappie are biting well on 2-inch grubs in 17-18 feet of water in brush. Bass are biting fair on brown/orange and black/blue jigs fished in brush 15 feet deep. Catfish and bream are slow.

**Saline River Access in Benton:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said bass are biting well on green crawdad-colored crankbaits and 4-inch smoke-colored grubs. Walleye are biting well on live bait. Bream, crappie and catfish are slow.

**Arkansas River at Morrilton:** Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said few anglers are on the water. Catfishing is good in deep holes on skipjack. Some 10 to 25-pound catfish have come from below dams 9 and 10. Sauger

are being caught in eddies below the dams on red/white jigs tipped with minnows. Stripers are biting well below the dams and at Point Remove Creek. Live shad and bream are working for the stripers.

**Arkansas River in Little Rock:** Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) had no report.

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is at normal level below Terry Lock and Dam. Bass are fair on jigs. All other species are slow.

**Clear Lake:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is clear and low. Bass are fair on jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is fair on stink bait. Bream are slow.

## NORTH ARKANSAS

**White River:** John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) had no report due to the weather. [Mountain River Fly Shop](#) had no report due to the weather.

**Crooked Creek:** John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) had no report due to the weather.

**Bull Shoals Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 655.48 feet MSL.

**Lake Norfolk:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 552.90 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) had no report because of the weather.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) had no report.

**Norfolk Tailwater:** John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) had no report because of weather.

## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Beaver Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,119.59 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said bass fishing has been best on windy days. Try throwing a clown or bone-colored suspending stick bait along and over long, tapering points with timber and fish them 8 to 15 feet deep. Another option is a crawdad-colored jig worked along sloping chunk rock banks. Crappie fishing continues to be best on warm, sunny afternoons. Try working a red/chartreuse or a black/chartreuse tube jig around laydown trees just off of main creek and river channels. Best places to fish have been Blue Springs, the Sidewalk Hole and Eden's Bluff. Bluegill fishing has been productive around docks and steep bluff lines using a cricket fished 6 to 20 feet deep.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is very cold and clear. Bas are biting well in 4-12 feet of water on dark-colored jigs. Bream, crappie and catfish are slow.

**Beaver Tailwaters:** Ken Richards at [Just Fishing Guides](#) had no report.

**Lake Fayetteville:** Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) had no report.

**Lake Sequoyah:** Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) had no report.

## NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA:** Judy Potts of Judy's Bait Shoppe at the North entrance to Henry Gray

Hurricane Lake WMA said the first of the week, with the White River stage at 14 feet, the crappie were biting extremely well on red/white jigs and small to medium minnows. With the melting of the snow and ice, the river has reached flood stage and the fish stopped biting. Duck season is over and the flood gates within the reserve will be opened soon, putting the lake levels back down to normal.

**Lake Charles:** [Lake Charles State Park](#) (870-878-6595) had no report.

**Crown Lake:** [Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) had no report.

**Lake Frierson:** [Lake Frierson State Park](#) had no report.

**Spring River:** Mark Crawford at [Spring River Fly Shop](#) had no report.

## SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Lake Chicot:** Lakeshore Motel and Marina (870-265-9901) said the weather has kept most anglers off the lake for the last week. Some crappie are being caught on red minnows. Bream have been doing fair on crickets and wax worms. No report on bass.

**Lake Monticello:** Fishing guide Greg Gullede (870-723-3928) said the surface temperature is 44 degrees. All fishing is slow at best, but it's not long until the bass turn on. In the next month, the bass fishing should be hot.

## SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Millwood Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.31 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said as of Monday, clarity along the main lake channel and Little River worsened with the high wind. The water is 4 inches above normal pool and the water temperature ranges from 45 to 49 degrees. The current in Little River increased to 4,380 cubic feet per second. The main lake clarity is 3-8 inches of visibility away from the current. All Corps of Engineers ramps and campgrounds are open. Millwood State Park has one boat ramp operational and one under repair. More anglers are getting out on the water with the warmer weather. Bass are best during the warmest part of the day on 3/4-oz. Rat-L-Traps and heavy spinnerbaits with a lot of vibration fished slowly around laydowns, stumps and standing timber. Rat-L-Traps in Toledo Gold, Red Craw/Chart belly, and Red Chrome (on sunny days) are beginning to catch some nice 3-5 pound pre-spawn, egg-laden females. Jig'n Traps with a gold tailspinner, yo-yoed 1-5 feet off the bottom, were taking some nice 3-4 pound keepers early in the week over deep structure in Little River. Bass Assassin trick worms and charm worms, wacky rigged, around hydrilla, lily pad stems, and pondweed are working randomly, but the key is to slow down. White bass have not been caught with any regularity during the last 2-3 weeks. Try jiggging spoons with a bucktail in deep holes in Little River where you see suspended baitfish. The spring run up Little River around Highway 71 bridge, should begin over the next few weeks. A few more crappie fishermen were out this week with the warming trend in weather. Crappie still remain scattered this week with the increase in muddy water and current. They will be suspended in brush over 17-22 feet of water one day, and gone the next. Best bet is to start around 15 feet deep and watch your electronics for baitfish or stacked crappie around the brush piles. Gradually run your jig or shiner down to 18-22 feet until you connect with the bite. Channel cats and blue catfish have been excellent with the increase in current. Trotlines and yo-yos are yielding blues, mud cats, and channel cats in the 8-12 pound range. Catfish Charlie, chicken livers and hot dogs were working near current along Little River.

**Cossatot River:** Davy Ashcraft at [Cossatot River State Park](#) (870-385-2201) had no report.

**White Oak Lake:** [White Oak Lake State Park](#) had no report.

Lake Greeson: Daryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips](#) said the lake level is 540.13 msl and falling slowly. The lake is scheduled to generate 6 hours per day for the next two weeks. Water temperature is holding steady in the mid-40s. Crappie and bass are excellent on brushpiles and our bamboo condos 16 to 22 foot deep in 24 to 32 foot of water. Several crappie exceeding two pounds have been caught. Live bait and silver or chartreuse jigs are the best baits. I scouted up the river several times for the stripers, white bass and walleye to no avail. The lake level is not high enough to get a boat as far up the river as you need to be. However, the run should happen soon and

bank fishing near Star of the West will be excellent. Use yellow and white grubs on a jig head or suspending Husky Jerks and Rogues.

Lakeside Grocery (870-398-5304) said the water is clear. All species are slow.

**DeGray Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was not available.

Local angler George Graves said the surface water temperature is 44 degrees and the water is clear. Bass fishing is fair with most catches coming from deep points, humps, and creek channels. The fish seem to be 25-30 feet deep. Caddo Drive, Arlie Moore and Big Hill Creek are good areas. Best lures are dark-colored jigs-and-trailers, finesse worms, and silver jigging spoons. Several good catches of Kentuckies have been reported in the Shouse Ford area (mouth of Point Cedar and Beaton Creek). Most were caught on jigging spoons at about 30 feet. Crappie are still buried in the deep brush piles 25-30 feet. The 1/16-oz. chartreuse jig or tube are still the best bets. Be sure to fish just above the brush and don't even move the lure. There are some nice schools of hybrids and white bass just down lake from the Point Cedar boat ramp. Look for schools in 28-30 feet of water. Only the fish on the bottom will bite, so ignore the fish that are suspended at about 15 feet. Use a ½-ounce jigging spoon and jig just off the bottom right over the fish. These fish are hard to make bite because of the cold water, but if you jig the spoon in front of them long enough, one will bite. Try a Hopkins Shorty or Flex-It spoon. A few bream are mixed in with the crappies and will bite worms or crickets. There are huge schools of shad on the bottom in 50 feet of water, most are in the Shouse Ford area.

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

[Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina](#) said the surface temperature is 48 degrees. Largemouth bass are fair. The best success has come on ½-oz. Cannonball jigs with Zoom super chunk trailers. Watermelonseed and green pumpkin are the best colors for jigs. Chartreuse/white or firecracker-colored spinnerbaits are working around brush piles in 18-25 feet of water. Main lake points and rocky areas are holding a few bass as well. A 1/8-oz. gray hair jig is working well on these points. In the upper end of the lake, crayfish-colored crankbaits are producing a few fish. Hybrids and white bass are fair on ¾-oz. CC Spoons fished around creek channels in 25-35 feet of water. The fish should be moving upriver within the next month. Crappie are biting fairly well on Tennessee shad-colored grubs and live minnows fished extremely slow over brush in 22-28 feet of water. Catfishing is slow, but a few have been caught on jug lines and trotlines baited with minnows and cut shad. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets fished in brush 6-10 feet deep.

## WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Dardanelle:** [Spadra Marina](#) on Lake Dardanelle in Clarksville said crappie fishing is still strong, but the fish are on the small side near the marina. Anglers report catching 2 pounders in shallow waters and backwater areas on minnows. Bass have been fair – a recent fishing tournament out of Piney Bay had first-, second- and third-place winners fishing Spadra Creek. Catfish are still easy to find, with cut shad being the bait of choice.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said not many anglers are on the water.

**Ozark Pool:** Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said last week's bad weather kept things at a crawl. All species are fair at best.

**Lake Ouachita:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 572.38 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing is excellent, with some very large bass being caught. A 1-oz. shad-colored spinnerbait fished on the outside edge of the grass is working well, as is a green-pumpkin or watermelon-colored jig fished around main lake points at the edge of the grass.

**Lake Hamilton:** The surface temperature ranges from 44-48 degrees and the water is clear. Bass are still holding around brush 12-18 feet deep and the bite is slow. An occasional fish is being caught on red Rat-L-Traps or spinnerbaits fished in shallow brush, but long casts are needed to prevent spooking fish in the shallow water.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is good. The most action has come on jigs in crazy pumpkin colors fished in brush piles around 8 to 12 feet deep. Crayfish-colored crankbaits worked along stump flats are working to catch a few bigger fish.

**Lake Catherine:** Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that rainbow trout fishing below

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Carpenter Dam remains excellent. Stable weather conditions have enabled fishermen to establish solid bite patterns with Entergy starting and stopping generation times on schedule. Fly-fishermen continue to hook fish casting olive-colored woolly buggers and white or grey micro-jigs under a strike indicator. Bank fishermen are recording limits of trout with wax worms and meal worms floated under a bobber. Boaters trolling the channels during generation have taken the largest fish with shallow-running minnow imitations and crawfish-patterned crankbaits. One of the hottest baits in recent memory is a floating pellet similar to a salmon egg called YUM TroutKrilla. These pellets can be purchased at Trader Bill's Hot Springs and the catch has been phenomenal. Rainbow trout over 18 inches have been caught and released using this bait which is very unusual for this time of year. Fish this length being in the tailrace this early is an omen of good things to come in May and June. Both male and female walleye are being caught below the bridge as the spawning season is underway. Although fish are being caught, the action will pick-up steadily in the next few weeks as the water temperature nears 50 degrees. Lindy rigs baited with a nightcrawlers and fished around the bridge pilings is a sure bet to catch these early spawning fish. Striper and hybrid action has been spotty at best with little or no surface activity present.

**Lake Hinkle:** Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said the water is clear and the surface temperature is close to 40 degrees. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. All other species are slow.

**Lake Atkins:** Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the water is murky. Bass fishing is fair. Catfishing is good on minnows and shad. All other species slow.

## SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Tri-County Lake :** Fishing has picked up at Tri-County again. Crappie fishermen are having luck on shiners and plain artificial jigs in light colors fished near channels. Bass are fair to good on black/blue jigs.

**Ouachita River Oxbows:** Fishing was fair for bass in the Ouachita oxbows on black/blue jigs and small medium-diving crankbaits in 4-6 feet of water.

## EAST ARKANSAS

**Arkansas River at Pine Bluff:** The Tackle Box (870-534-1498) said bream are fair on crickets and worms. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass are biting well on crankbaits and jigs. Catfishing is good on cut bait and worms.

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

**Maddox Bay:** Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is high. Bream are slow. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass and catfish are slow.

**Bear Creek Lake:** Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said no anglers have been on the water to give a report.

**Island 40 Chute:** Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) said the water was rising. Crappie are beginning to bite well on artificial lures.

**Horseshoe Lake:** Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water clarity is very good. Bream are biting well on wax worms. No other anglers were out last week.

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