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Fishing



Weekly Fishing Report
 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
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February 11, 2009 Edition

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This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **February 11, 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.

Fishing Tip: As water temperatures begin to rise, fish will start to move shallow during the warmest part of the day in search of food. One of the best places to find fish during this time is along the riprap surrounding dams and bridges.

Arkansas River Levels are available at :
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

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 low and fishing has been slow. Bream are slow, but a few redear have been caught on redworms. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Bass are slow.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said crappie are biting fairly well around 7 feet deep on white/chartreuse jigs and pink minnows. All other species are slow.

Little Red River: [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said generators have been running every day during the week. The fly-fishing has been good on the weekends, but it's a good idea to call for conditions before you make the trip. Trout fishing has been good from a boat on Power Eggs, glow worms, crankbaits and nightcrawlers.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said water releases at the Greers Ferry Powerhouse continue daily. In general, releases begin at 6 a.m. with both generators running for about 4 hours then again around 5 p.m. for another 3-4 hours. Wade fishing is possible at Winkley Shoal from dawn until roughly 9 a.m. Anglers can then go downstream to Libby Shoal and wade fish until 10:30 or so. After lunch, move up to JFK Park near the dam until the late afternoon water release begins. If heavy rain events occur, you will probably see longer periods of water releases. As always, this plan is subject to change without notice so be on the alert for rising water throughout the day.

Aquatic insect hatches along the Little Red River continue to occur with midges being the primary bug coming off. Of course, there are also sowbugs, scuds, bait fish and the like available to the trout. If you want to try your luck with a dry fly, tie on a para adams (size 18), midge (size 22; cream or black) or crackleback (size 14). Fishing sub-surface? Try a sowbug (sizes 14-16; tan, olive, UV tan, UV light gray or peacock), big eye scud (size 14; gray or tan), chronic (size 14), zebra midge (sizes 16-22; red, copper or black), egg pattern (sizes 12-14; roe or salmon), San Juan worm (sizes 14; red or worm brown), red butt soft hackle (sizes 14-18) and woolly bugger (sizes 8-12; brown, olive or black). I know the above list of flies seems to stay the same most weeks but I actually prepare a new listing of flies with each report. You may notice that I have added the big eye scud to the above usual suspects. Other dry flies that will work include the royal coachman (size 16), para hare's ear (size 16) and Griffith gnat (size 20). Below the surface, tie on a green butt soft hackle (size 14), Chuck's emerger (size 16), serendipity (size 16; red or green) or Yong special (size 22).

Greers Ferry: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 462.60 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said the water level is at 461.63 and trying to rise, but they are releasing water through the turbines as fast as they can. Water temperatures will rise after the warm rain. Walleye are pretty slow, the World Walleye Classic will start Feb. 14 and run through March 21, the bite should really pick up after this warm rain and with a couple of sunny days. Bass fishing slowed this week with the change in weather. The warm-up should really help the Rat-L-Trap, jerk bait and spinnerbait bite shallow. Wiggle Warts are another shallow water option. Carolina rigs and football heads will work well around deeper, clearer water. No report on crappie, bream or catfish. White bass and hybrids should be moving up into the rivers.

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) had no report.

Harris Brake Lake: [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) had no report.

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

[Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is dingy and at normal levels. Bream are slow. Crappie are biting fairly well on small minnows and blue/white jigs fished around stumps and boat docks. Bass are slow on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is fair on yo-yos.

Brewer Lake: [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is dingy. Bream are fair on redworms. Crappie are fair in the buck brush on pink/white/chartreuse jigs. Bass and catfish 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.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said white bass are biting well on CC spoons fished on the west end of the lake, just east of the Highway 10 Bridge.

Lake Valencia: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said catfishing is fair on chicken hearts and nightcrawlers. Trout are biting well on chartreuse or orange Berkley Power Bait.

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) crappie, bream and catfish are all slow. Walleye and bass are biting well on watermelon or pumpkinseed-colored 4-inch grubs.

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](#) said the current is slow, but so is the fishing. Some bass have been picked up in backwater areas on jigs, but it's spotty at best.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said crappie are biting well on jigs and minnows fished under a slip cork in 10 feet of water around Burns Park. Red/chartreuse mini jigs are working in the Big Maumelle River and black/chartreuse and red/chartreuse mini jigs are working on the crappie in the Little Maumelle and in Palarm Creek. Catfishing is fair on minnows and chicken hearts around Palarm Creek and on shad below Murray Lock and Dam.

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water at normal level below Terry Lock and Dam. Crappie are biting well on minnows fished in 10-12 feet of water around Plum Bayou and Brady Bend. Bass are slow on jigs.

Clear Lake: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is muddy. Crappie are fair on pink minnows around brush in the deepest part of the lake. Bass are slow on jigs.

NORTH ARKANSAS

White River: John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said the catch-and-release section below Bull Shoals Dam opened for fishing. There has also been a shad kill, producing a feeding frenzy that has to be seen to be believed. The most effective flies to fish during the shad kill are white streamers. White woolly buggers, zonkers or marabou jigs can be effective. The shad kill has produced some fine browns. You must have a boat to effectively fish this phenomenon as it generally only occurs during fairly heavy generation. The best flows for a good shad kill would be in the 12,000 to 15,000 CFS range. The major action in the area has been on the upper White. The long awaited opening of the Catch and Release section at Bull Shoals Dam drew large numbers of anglers from inside and outside the immediate area. It was definitely crowded at times despite the cold temperatures and icy conditions. The hot flies were egg patterns in orange and peach. Midge patterns, particularly Dan's turkey tail emerger accounted for some nice fish. There were some good browns caught. Wildcat Shoals has been a real hot spot. The lower shoals have fished particularly well with partridge and orange soft hackles, while the upper section has fished well with a variety of nymphs. Try Y2Ks, olive scuds and sowbugs. Roundhouse Shoals has been another hot spot. While the crowds have been light, the fishing has been good. Swinging olive woolly buggers in heavier water has been particularly effective. Another hot technique has been to high stick nymphs like the olive scud, Y2K and sowbug in fast water. The catch-and-release section at Rim Shoals has not been fishing well. However, this is one of the areas that has wadable water available even when they are generating substantial amounts of water. To access these spots contact Gary Flipin at Rim Shoals Trout Dock ferry you to wadable water with his water taxi.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) had no report due to the weather.

Sportsman's White River Report (870-453-2424) had no report as many people are still dealing with ice damage issues.

Crooked Creek: John Berry of [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said fishing is dead slow.

Bull Shoals Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 656.58 feet MSL.

Lake Norfolk: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 554.31 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](#) said the Norfolk has not fished well during the last week. With heavier generation on the White River this has been the only wadable water that could be easily accessed. The go-to flies have been olive scuds, sowbugs and orange micro eggs, but again, it's been slow. Worm brown San Juan worms have also produced fish. Sculpin patterns fished through deep holes have accounted for some nice trout. Dry Run Creek has been fishing well, as always. There has been virtually no one there. It has been brutally cold and not the kind of weather that you want to subject your children. The fish are still there. Carefully monitor the weather and capitalize on that warm sunny day we get occasionally in the middle of winter. Be sure and bundle up your youngster. The hot flies have been sowbugs, San Juan worms and olive woolly buggers.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Beaver Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,120.55 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said all fishing has been slow as of late. Bass can be caught along sloping rock banks on crawdad-patterned jig and pigs worked slowly. They also can be caught on wooded points by throwing a suspending stick bait in silver/black on sunny days and clown or bone on cloudy days. Crappie can be caught on sunny days around laydown trees and brush piles 5-20 feet deep near a channel. Tubes in red/chartreuse, black/chartreuse or solid chartreuse on a 1/32-oz. jighead have worked best. Good places to fish have been sidewalk hole, Blue Springs and Monte-NE.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said most anglers still haven't gotten back on the water because everyone is busy cleaning up after the ice storm. Spinnerbaits, jerkbaits and jigs will work near bluffs for those fishermen wanting to hit the lake.

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

Lake Fayetteville: Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said bream are fair around deep water. Bass are biting well on crankbaits fished around shallow cover.

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.

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

Lake Frierson: [Lake Frierson State Park](#) will be closed for the next six weeks because of ice damage.

SpringRiver: Mark Crawford at [Spring River Fly Shop](#) said the power is back on in the area, and the fallen trees have been cleared and the roads opened. The fishing has been excellent. The past storm has kept anglers off the water and now is the time to get out there and have some fun. The warmer weather has made for some great bug hatches coming out of the water in the morning and just before dusk. My Go-Go Nymph has been the main fly for this week with my snail pattern coming in a close second. Water clarity has been great and the river is still running a little low.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Chicot: Lakeshore Motel and Marina (870-265-9901) said fishing has been slow. The water temperature is 47 degrees and should continue to rise. The Fishers of Men Tournament was held last Saturday and said the bass bite was very slow. Bream are biting fairly well on wax worms and crickets. Crappie are slow and catfish are slow.

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 259.41 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said as of Monday, clarity along the main channel and Little River worsened with high wind advisories and current in Little River. The lake is about 3 inches above normal pool and water temperatures fluctuate between 48 and 52 degrees. The current in Little River is 1,550 cfs and main lake clarity is about 8-9 inches of visibility. Largemouth bass fishing has picked up and anglers are getting to the water more often. Bass are still best during the warmest part of the day on slow-moving, heavy Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits. Toledo Gold, Diamond Dust and Red Shad colors are working best when deflected off stumps and other standing timber near the main channel. Bass Assassin trick worms and charm worms, wacky rigged and fished around hydrilla, lily pad stems, and pondweed are working randomly, but the key is to fish slowly with a light wire hook and no weight or a very light 1/32oz belly-weighted hook. A slow-rolled 3/4-oz. War Eagle spinnerbait in Aurora, Spot Remover, or fire tiger has worked very well around deeper water. Crankbaits like the Bomber Fat Free Shad in firetiger, are taking good keeper size bass from 16-19 inches. Don't overlook underwater points in Little River where creeks dump into the river. The best jig colors are peanut butter and jelly, pumpkinseed/chartreuse or Texas Craw. Pitching jigs and 8" mag-tail ribworms to stumps or cypress tree knees, near deep water is working along Little River and in the main lake. White bass were biting well and with total abandon last week in McGuire Oxbow up Little River. Whites were best on 1/2- or 3/4-oz Rat-L-Traps in Diamond Dust, Silver, and Red Craw colors. The annual spring run up Little River around the Highway 71 Bridge should begin in the next few weeks. A few more crappie anglers were out this week with the warm weather. Crappie remain scattered and are hard to entice a bite from. The best bet is on Blakemore Roadrunners in white/chartreuse. Start around cypress trees in any major creek, and watch your electronics for baitfish or stacked crappie around drops. There has been an excellent bite for channel cats and blue catfish, especially with the current in Little River. Trotlines and yo-yos placed along Little River are yielding blues, mud cats, and channel cats in the 8-12 pound range. Catfish Charlie, chicken livers, and dog food 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 at 539.23 MSL and falling slowly. Water temperature is holding steady in the mid-40s, but will warm a few degrees on warm days. Crappie and bass are still excellent on brush piles and bamboo condos topping out at 16-22 feet deep in 24-32 feet of water. We're still boating crappie exceeding two pounds. Live bait and silver or chartreuse jigs are the best baits.

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 404.59 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the surface water temperature is 48 degrees, and the water is clear. Bass are still holding in their winter pattern. Some fish have been taken on spinnerbaits on sunny, main-lake points. With the rising water temperatures, the fish will start to move shallow and to the main creek points. Most fish are still being taken deep, (25-30 feet) on dark jigs and Texas-rigged worms. The best locations are between Edgewood and Shouse Ford. Crappie are biting fairly well over brush piles. Try brush in 20-25 feet and drop a red/chartreuse or black/chartreuse 1/16-ounce jig or tube just above the brush. The water is still cold, so move

the jig very slowly. Hybrids and white bass are still schooled in the Point Cedar area. Look for schools on the bottom in 25 to 30 feet of water. Jig a ½-ounce spoon just off the bottom and a few may bite. Ignore the suspended fish; they are next to impossible to catch in cold water. There has been very little activity from bream or catfish.

DeGray One Stop (501-865-3511) had no report.

[Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina](#) said the surface temperature is 49 degrees. Largemouth bass are fair on watermelonseed and green pumpkin ½-oz. cannon ball jigs and Zoom super chunk trailers fished 18-25 feet deep around main-lake points. Spinnerbaits and rattling Hot Spots fished on flats and humps are catching a few fish as well. In the upper lake, crayfish-colored crankbaits are catching a few fish. Hybrids and white bass are fair on ¾-oz. spoons, red or gray bucktail jigs and shad-colored crankbaits fished around flats near 20 feet of water. Crappie are biting well on Tennessee shad-colored grubs fished around brush piles in 12-20 feet of water.

WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Dardanelle: [Spadra Marina](#) reports that crappie are 4-6 feet deep, biting on Little Hustler red glitter jigs. The limits are a little harder to come by lately, but the fish have gotten a bit larger. Catfish have been abundant. The best catches are coming from cut or whole shad. Bass fishing is picking up for anglers using jerkbaits.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said the water is muddy and high. No report on the fishing.

Ozark Pool: Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is stained and at normal level. Bream are slow. Crappie are biting fairly well on minnows and jigs in 11 feet of water. Catfishing is fair on worms. Bass are slow.

Lake Ouachita: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 572.76 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing is excellent, with some very large bass being caught. Any red lipless crankbait fished around points with grass is working very well. If the crankbait bite doesn't fire, try a green pumpkin or watermelon-colored jig fished around main lake points at the edge of the grass 20-25 feet of water.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said largemouth bass are biting very well on green pumpkin or black/blue jigs and lipless crankbaits. White spinnerbaits are working well along the outside edge of the moss. Try main-lake points with structure in water 20-30 feet deep. Walleye are fair and being caught on spoons over brush piles on main-lake points. These fish will be staging to spawn when the water temperature reaches the 50-degree mark. Stripers are good on live shad or trot line minnows. White ½-oz. jigs and ¾-oz. spoons are working as well. Bream are still slow on worms in 18-25 feet of water.

Crappie are fair and being caught over brush. Try brush in water 15-30 feet deep. Minnows or crappie grubs are still working best. Tennessee shad and white are still the best colors for artificial baits. Catfish are slow and being caught on cut bait and live bait on jug lines and trot lines.

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, but not consistent. The most action has come on jigs in crazy pumpkin colors fished in brush piles around 8 to 12 feet deep. A jerk bait fished over windy points will work. 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 Carpenter Dam is smoking hot! Guided trips are the best ticket for success with an average of 30-50 fish being caught per outing. Trout over 15 inches are regularly caught with fish over 18 being reported. Fly-fishermen casting threadfin shad imitations such as streamers or micro-jigs in white or gray are recording quality limits of trout as these fish actively pursue injured shad. Likewise, boaters who are throwing white or brown Rooster Tails around visible structure are hooking good numbers of fish during generation. Trolling the channels remains a solid pattern with fishermen using small crankbaits that run from 3-6 feet deep. Bank fishermen are having success when the turbines are not running fishing nightcrawlers and redworms under a bobber. Male walleye are plentiful in the tailrace and some females are present, but the main body of spawners will appear as the water temperature nears 50 degrees. Anglers trolling below the bridge have limited out on walleye using crankbaits that

run just above bottom. Lindy rigs are the best bet with minnows or nightcrawlers hooked weedless. Striper action has been low key as of late, but the giants always make their presence felt right after a trout stocking. Have a large soft plastic ready when these predators chase trout to the top and be prepared for action.

Lake Hinkle: Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs fished in 10 to 12 feet of water. Bass are biting well on crankbaits.

Lake Atkins: Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the water has risen slightly since last week and the clarity is poor. Bream are slow. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is pretty good on bass minnows and shad.

SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Tri-County Lake : Fishing has picked up at Tri-County. Crappie fishermen are having luck on shiners fished around 6 feet deep off channel bends. Bass were biting well on small (less than ¼-oz.) black/blue jigs and shallow to medium-running crankbaits.

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 fishing is fair on redworms. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Bass are biting well on baby brush hogs. Catfishing is fair on cut shad and skipjack.

White River: Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said the water is high and no one is fishing.

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 good and the water is at normal level. Bream are biting well on wax worms fished around shallow lily pad stems. Crappie fishing is poor to fair. Catfishing is excellent on stinkbait and cut bait. Bass fishing is slow.

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