



# Fishing

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## Weekly Fishing Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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## December 31, 2008 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **December 31**. 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.

**Because of the recent weather and the upcoming Christmas holiday, the AGFC is running an abbreviated fishing report for Dec. 31. The full report will return Jan. 7, 2009.**

**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 Pine Bluff, Hot Springs, Rogers, Springdale and Central Arkansas ponds. All program ponds have been stocked. Anglers are using corn, small marshmallows, Power Bait, Trout Magnets, Rooster Tails and spinners. For stocking information, call 1-866-540-FISH (3474) toll-free.

## CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Little Red River:** Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said Greers Ferry Lake continues to turn over and our dissolved oxygen content is improving every day. Stocking of rainbow trout has resumed in the upper 10 miles of the Little Red from the dam to Swinging Bridge. This is great news for those anglers who love to fish JFK Park, Cow Shoal, Jon's Pocket and Ritchie Shoal. Water releases have been small and infrequent. However, on December 29 at 6:00 o'clock am, the Corps of Engineers changed that scenario by opening both generators and leaving them on non-stop for three days. The amount released was 6,500 day-second-feet (almost two full units). After the third day, smaller releases are to occur at the rate of 3,200 day-second-feet (about one unit) until top power pool is achieved. This can mean both generators on line for 12 consecutive hours or one unit around the clock. Winter officially arrived on Dec. 21 as it does every year. Aquatic insect hatches begin to wane in the

winter months. Normally, this time of year, midges are the only aquatic insects ruling the air in our neck of the woods. This situation usually lasts until February or so when we will begin to see caddis flies and black gnats coming off. The flies of choice for the next few months are streamers, midges, soft hackles and sowbugs. The dry flies worth trying include midge (#22 or smaller cream or black), crackleback (#12) and para adams (#18-#20). Fishing below the surface, try a sowbug (#14-#16 olive, tan, uv tan, uv light gray or peacock), zebra midge (#16-#22 red, brown or black), red @ss soft hackle (#14-#18), chronic (#14), egg pattern (#14-#12 salmon or yellow) or woolly bugger (#8-#12 olive, brown or black). It is safe to say that the brown trout spawn is over. There appear to be no brown trout spawning at Schroncher Shoal, Winkley Shoal, Cow Shoal or JFK Park. Most of the shoals are now populated with rainbow trout. While not as exciting as bringing in the big browns, rainbows are usually easier to catch and there are plenty of them out there.

**Greers Ferry:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 462.82 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is fair at best. Fish deep with football head jigs and Carolina-rigged lizards in 15-30 feet of water. Walleye are staging around The Narrows. Crappie are biting well around pole timber on minnows and jigs. Sunny days are producing the best. White bass and hybrids are being caught on mid-lake humps with in-line spinners, spoons, hair jigs and swim baits. Find the bait and the fish will be close.

**Arkansas River at Morrilton:** Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said the water is clearing up and there's good flow in the river. Catfishing is very good in deep holes on skipjack fillets fished 30 feet or deeper in the main channel. White bass are fair near the creek mouths late in the day. Stripers below dams 9 and 10 are fair on wobble spoons tipped with a bit of shad or skipjack. Kentucky bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps fished around 3 to 4 feet deep on jetty points.

## NORTH ARKANSAS

**White River:** Mountain River Fly Shop said they expect generation to slow and quit over the holidays, though this can be altered by temperature and precipitation. However, the weather forecast is looking warm, with a threat of some rain. Bring a jacket, but the fishing should be good. Sowbugs have been killer on the river, try trailing them behind a gold Anvil egg in the fast water and a gold Unreal Egg in the slower sections. Try Davy's Sowbugs, McLellan's Woven V-Rib Sowbugs, and Clint's Sowbugs. Scuds have also been doing well, the new McLellan's Hunchback UV's are a hot item. Midges remain consistent though we have been surprised at the lack of midges coming off over the past week, at least on the days we have been on the water. Zebras, Davys Whitetails, Camel Midges have all been good.

**Bull Shoals Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 653.74 feet MSL.

**Lake Norfolk:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 552.04 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said the water temperature is in the 50-degree range. Bluegill and crappie fishing has been good. Heavy water generation during the last week has dropped the water 4 feet. This has helped move the crappie and bluegill to the brush piles. White bass fishing has been good using jigging spoons. Striper fishing is slow, but some are being caught on shiners. Smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing are fair. Kentucky bass are biting well. Catfishing is fair.

**Norfolk Tailwater:** Mountain River Fly Shop said they expect generation to slow and quit over the holidays, though this can be altered by temperature and precipitation. However, the weather forecast is looking warm, with a threat of some rain. Bring a jacket, but the fishing should be good. Sowbugs have been killer on the river, try trailing them behind a gold Anvil egg in the fast water and a gold Unreal Egg in the slower sections. Try Davy's Sowbugs, McLellan's Woven V-Rib Sowbugs, and Clint's Sowbugs. Scuds have also been doing well, the new McLellan's Hunchback UV's are a hot item. Midges remain consistent though we have been surprised at the lack of midges coming off over the past week, at least on the days we have been on the water. Zebras, Davys Whitetails, Camel Midges have all been good.

## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Beaver Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,120.46 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said bass have been hitting crayfish-colored crankbaits and jigs along chunk rock banks. Crappie have been fair in either river arm around brush and laydowns 5 to 10 feet deep. Blue/white or red/chartreuse tube jigs have been effective. Blue Springs has been a good place to look for crappie. White bass have been hanging around points from Point 12 upstream into either river arm. The best lure for whites has been a ¼-oz. jigging spoon. Bluegill have been under docks and along bluffs and are biting crickets and worms 6 to 20 feet deep. Catfish also have been along bluffs and hitting worms and liver just off of the bottom.

**Beaver Tailwater:** Ken Richards at Just Fishin Guides said the tailwater has been fishing well. Low water over the holidays made for lots of wading opportunities. Trout have been caught on nymphs and streamers. Beadhead scuds in gray, tan and peacock have worked as well. Midge pupae in gray, red and black also are good choices. The streamer action has been on small, no. 12-14 olive woolly buggers. When fish are just breaking the surface, soft hackles or nymphs suspended just below the surface are catching fish.

**Lake Fayetteville:** Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said the water is clear, but the fishing is very slow. Not many anglers are on the water.

## NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA:** Judy Potts of Judy's Bait Shop said that while there are more than 20 days left in duck season, crappie fishermen have been doing very well in the afternoons. Hurricane Lake and Glaise Creek seem to be the favorite fishing spots for yo-yos baited with medium-sized minnows. Anglers are reporting nice slab crappie and 3-5 pound bass in these areas.

## SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Lake Monticello :** Fishing guide Greg Gullede (870-723-3928) with Basshunters Custom Crankbaits said crappie fishing is picking up on Lake Monticello. Crappie, white bass and yellow bass are biting jigs and minnows in deep water. Few anglers have been bass fishing in the last few weeks.

## SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

No report.

## SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Millwood Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.48 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said some floating mats of vegetation remain in Little River because of the current in the river. Main lake and Little River water surface temperature ranges from 49 to 55 degrees, depending on location and time of day. Current was reduced this week, and was 2,730 CFS. Main lake clarity is about 3-5 inches away from any remaining current in Little River. Millwood State Park has one operational boat ramp and one still under repair. Not many anglers are on the water. Bass from 2 to 5 pounds remain good to fair on Rat-L-Traps and slow-rolled heavy thumping spinnerbaits fished along the old tree line of Little River's 2nd washout drop. The best action is during the warmest part of the day. The most consistent reaction bite during heat of the day remains on jigs, Rat-L-Traps, heavy thumping white/chart spinnerbaits with gold Colorado blades, and white or smoke-colored grubs on light wire jig heads. War Eagle Spinnerbaits and Bass Assassin trick worms and charm worms, around hydrilla, lily pad stems, and pondweed are still working. Bass were somewhat sluggish in Horseshoe and McGuire oxbow lakes because of the recent cold front. The best bet has been around the remaining vegetation on dead-sticked Bass Assassin Shad or twitch worms in white or clear/silver flake. Crankbaits and jigs have begun to incite a few good keeper size bass over the past couple weeks, and is improving overall. Best jig colors thus far remain peanut butter/jelly, pumpkinseed/chartreuse or black/blue/purple. Pitching jigs and 10-inch worms to stumps near deep water is working along Little River and in the

main lake. The crappie bite tapered off again this week due to the worsened water clarity along Little River. The bite was improving on live shiners and jigs prior to the high winds. The best depth over the past week is running between 13 to 20 feet, suspended over planted brush piles, along Little River and in front of Mud Lake's entrance to Little River. Blues and Channel Cats remain good this week especially with the increase in river current, using trotlines or yo-yos along Little River. Yo-yo's hung from cypress trees near any current in 8-9 feet of water continue picking up some decent cats in the 3-6 pound class.

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

Darryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips Guide Service](#) said crappie are good on live bait and jigs fished 17-21 feet deep. Some bass are being caught in the same areas.

**DeGray Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 406.41 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the water is 48 to 50 degrees and clear. The crappie bite slowed with the cooler water. Best bet is to fish 20 feet deep over brush in 30 feet of water. Use 1/16-ounce red/chartreuse jigs and black/chartreuse tubes. Don't move the jig, just let it sit still and wait for the bite. Bass fishing has picked up but they are deep, (30-40 feet) off deep points, humps and ledges. Jigs and finesse worms in dark colors are working best. Keep the lure on the bottom and fish it slow. Most of the bass are being caught between Edgewood and Shouse Ford. The hybrids and white bass are on the big flat just downlake from the Point Cedar ramp. They are hard to catch because of the cold water. A few are breaking, and some are being caught by throwing a swimbait immediately to the spot. Also try jigging spoons and small inline spinners. Trolling small crankbaits such as Shad Raps can also be productive.

## WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Dardanelle:** [Spadra Marina](#) said crappie have been biting regularly for over a month. Red and clear glitter jig skirts by Southern Pro and Blue/Pearl Slab Slayers by Bobby Garland are working the best. The crappie are plentiful, but on the small side. Catfishing is best on live shad and bass minnows. Largemouth bass are biting fair on crankbaits in white and white/black. The bass are chasing shad and appear to be decent size for the most part.

**Lake Ouachita:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 574.55 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing continues to be fair for bass and stripers. The bass are going from fall patterns to winter patterns, so get ready to throw the reliable jig-and-pig in green colors and black/blue. Stripers are fair on spoons and buck tail jigs in gray.

**Lake Catherine:** Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that the Corps continues to run heavy generation in an effort to bring Lake Ouachita down to elevation 573. The recent rainfall has prolonged this process, which may continue for several more weeks. Water temperature is 48 degrees which is normal for this time of year. Clarity is good and the area fish are feeding daily on a steady diet of injured threadfin shad. White bass continue to be caught in good numbers around rock structure and sandbars. Fishermen casting Rooster Tails and 1/8-oz. gray jigs have recorded limits of bass - most of which in the 1-pound range. Little or no hybrid and striper activity has been seen, but big stripers make their presence known when rainbow trout are being stocked. Rainbow trout are king at Carpenter Dam as the fishing season is off and running on a good note. December has been a productive month for trout as the fish are measuring from 11 to 15 inches and are in great condition. Guided trips routinely catch 30 to 50 trout with much better fishing on the horizon in the next few months. Carpenter Dam has one of the state's best rainbow trout populations and offers fishing second to none. Limits of trout are caught by bank anglers using redworms and nightcrawlers under a bobber in slack water. Fly-fishermen are hooking large trout by casting small white streamers and egg patterns. Boaters casting and trolling small crankbaits in the main channel have also done well as the fish are traveling established lanes in search of food.

## EAST ARKANSAS

**Bear Creek Lake:** Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) had no report because of low angler turnout.

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