

Watch for bass on Antelope

By Andy Heintz

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Colby citizens looking to fish a small community lake that isn't hours away may want check out Antelope Lake.

The lake, located in Morland in Graham County, is 80 acres and the maximum depth is only 11 feet.

It holds bluegill, black bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, green sunfish, largemouth bass, redear sunfish, saugeye and wiper.

Colby citizen and long-time fisherman Thurman Cox said he and a fishing partner caught 18 crappies out of the lake 6 weeks ago. He said the crappie were between 10 and 14 inches long. The duo was catching the crappie on minnows. Cox said he occasionally catches large mouth bass while fishing for crappie on the lake.

Hoxie citizen Dale Woofter said he normally uses worms and minnows when he fishes at Antelope Lake. He said he mostly fishes for crappies, largemouth bass and saugeye. The best time to try to catch these fish is the spring, said Woofter. He said the best months to get out on the water are April, May and June.

Woofter said crappie fishing has been mediocre this year, but the ones he has caught have been decent sized. Some of fish have weighed about a pound, he said. The crappie have been biting best in the early morning.



Sheridan State Fishing Lake is located 7 miles west of Antelope Lake or 11 miles east and 1 mile north of Hoxie on U.S. 24.

Woofter said the biggest saugeye he has ever landed on Antelope weighed about four pounds.

The creel limits at the lake are as follows: channel catfish, 5; crappie, 50; saugeye, 5 and wiper, 2.

Antelope Lake was built by the Works Progress Administration created by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1930s.

Catfish hot at Sheridan

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Sheridan State Lake is 12 miles east of Hoxie and one mile north of U.S. 24.

The 60-acre lake is fairly shallow, with its maximum depth only being 22 feet. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks reports the lake is currently 12 inches below normal operating level. The shore is covered with 188 acres of timber and native grass.

The lake has several species inhabiting it including crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, flathead catfish, largemouth bass, redear sunfish, saugeye and wiper.

The largemouth bass have been biting fairly regularly at Sheridan State Fishing Lake.

The Department of Wildlife and Parks reports that fishermen have had their best luck using soft plastics and spinner baits around flooded brush and vegetation toward the upper end of the lake and around the brush piles.

The crappie and catfish fishing at the lake has been fair lately. Anglers have caught catfish at the lake weighing up to five pounds. The department of wildlife and parks reports catfish have been biting best at night at the corners of the dam or along the east side flat. They report crappie have been hitting minnows around the brush in deeper water. Crappie are one of the tastiest fish swimming and

a mess of crappie can provide a tasty fish filet dinner.

Dale Woofter said there a lot of catfish and wipers in the lake. He said the biggest wall-eye he ever caught out of the lake was 7 1/2 pounds. He said the crappie fishing has been mediocre this year, but he said the ones he has been catching have been in the brush. Submerged trees is another structure on the lake that attracts crappie, Dale said. He said the best time to fish for crappies at Sheridan is in the early morning.

Bluegill fishing at the lake has been solid lately as anglers have been catching 6-10 inch sunfish on small jigs and nightcrawlers under a bobber around brush.

The Department of Wildlife and Parks reports solar-powered fish feeders have been installed in the lake to provide additional food, increase fish growth rates and the quantity of fish the lake can support. There is a fishing pier near one of these fish attractors that fisherman have free access to. There are paved boat ramps located on both the east and west side of the lake. People with motorized boats can take them out on the lake, but they can't create wake with their boats, and their boats must be used strictly for fishing purposes.

Creel limits at Sheridan: channel catfish, 5; flathead catfish, 5; crappie, 50; wiper, 2; largemouth bass, 5; and saugeye, 5. A saugeye or walleye must be at least 15 inches to be kept.

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