



AKSARBEN AQUARIUM 21502 W HWY 31 GRETNA, NE 68028

Fish Tales

Spring 2013



NEBRASKA
— GAME  PARKS —

HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome Spring!

by Lindsey Chizinski

Spring is finally here! My yard is just beginning to show a tinge of green, the spring bulbs are up though not yet in bloom, I've got vegetables started inside the house, and my chickens are laying eggs like crazy. Another sign of spring is my full calendar! Fishing season is here, and we are planning to be BUSY with all kinds of activities over the next two months. We have three Outdoor Discovery Programs in April and May. These events offer 4th – 6th grade classrooms a wide range of outdoor activities. Aquatic education activities include: fishing, fly-fishing, bow-fishing, and fish printmaking, as well learning about fish of Nebraska with live fish displays and exploring lake food webs with macroinvertebrate collections. In addition to the Outdoor Discovery Programs, we have fishing events scheduled with many schools in Southeast Nebraska.

Please call or email me if you are available to help with any of these events!

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May 14 & 15: 8:30 – 10 AM at Halleck Park, Papillion

Fishing With Omaha Public Schools Special Needs classes

May 16: 10 AM – Noon at Holmes Lake, Lincoln

Fishing with Prescott Elementary

May 17: 9 AM – 1:30 PM at Two Rivers, Waterloo

Fishing with Millard Public School Special Needs classes

May 18: 8:30 AM – 3 PM at Benson Park, Omaha

Omaha Area Cub Scouts Fishing Day

May 18: 9 AM – 3 PM at Summit Lake, Tekamah

Fishing Clinic in conjunction with the grand opening of the new campground

May 18: Free Fishing Day

Fishing clinics are scheduled all over the state. *see sidebar

May 21: 9 AM – 2 PM at Pfizer Pond, Lincoln

Fishing with Lakeview Elementary

May 23: 10 AM – 1:30 PM at Bowling Lake, Lincoln

Fishing with Arnold Elementary



39 Instructors Certified in March!

Aksarben Aquarium hosted a Youth Fishing Instructor Training workshop in March. See Page 3 for details.

FREE FISHING DAY ACTIVITIES

- Alexandria SRA 9:30 AM-2:30 PM
- Chadron State Park time TBD
- Fort Robinson 9 AM-noon
- Fremont Lakes (#3) 9 AM-noon
- Louisville SRA 9 AM-noon
- Mahoney (Owens Marina) 9-11 AM
- Platte River SP 9 AM-noon
- Ponca State Park 9 AM-8 PM
- Two Rivers (Lake #1) 9 AM-noon
- Victoria Springs 9 AM-6 PM

Please contact the Parks directly for more information and to volunteer to help at these events.

Jerry Tallmon Memorial Fishing Trailer

by Larry Pape

In May of 2012, our fishing instructor community lost one of the very best with the passing of Jerry Tallmon of Mitchell, Nebraska. A man of many talents and interests, he particularly enjoyed fishing and teaching.

To commemorate Jerry, his wife Barbara and daughters Brenda and Sheila made a very generous donation to the education programs of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. In conversations with Barbara, we determined that a Family Fishing Activity Trailer to be stationed in Western Nebraska would be a fitting memorial to Jerry.

Sheila, Jerry's daughter, wrote the following passage for the trailer display. 'Jerry Tallmon had a passion for fishing his entire life. More than anything, he loved sharing the experience and teaching others, especially youth, how to fish. It is in this spirit of sharing that this activity trailer is dedicated. May it

inspire moments, hours, and lifetimes of fishing memories and adventures.' The trailer will be dedicated at a Family Fishing Event on April 29th at Terry's Pit in Terrytown.

The trailer will be stationed in Scottsbluff with YFI's Sharon and Dennis Gregory. It is available to all Certified Youth Fishing Instructors and NGPC Staff for use in fishing clinics. It is outfitted with 50 fishing rod/reel combos, tackle, table, fish-themed beanbag game, Nebraska mammal furs and skulls, brochures and supplies.



Details on checking out the trailer are not final, but contact Larry Pape (402-471-5447 or larry.pape@nebraska.gov) if you have ideas for using it during this summer's events.

Walnut Middle School Fishing Club in Grand Island

By Lindsey Chizinski & Tyler Madison

Tyler Madison, teacher at Walnut Middle School in Grand Island and Youth Fishing Instructor, coordinates an afterschool fishing club for his students. Here's what he recently shared...

Our fishing club meets weekly, and over the course of a spring usually reaches 50-60 different kids. We spend the first few weeks learning some basic fishing skills and outdoor etiquette. When the weather warms a bit, we will try to fish as many Fridays as possible at local

lakes. At the end of the year, kids who haven't missed any meetings get to go on either a full day or overnight camping trip a little further from home, depending on the year and the weather. Last year, we rounded up enough boats to take a group to Elwood for a full day of pike fishing. A few years prior to that, we did a two night camping trip to Valentine. This club is something that I look forward to, as much as the kids for as long as I've been a teacher at Walnut.

Thank you Tyler for sharing, and for doing such great work!



Walnut Middle School fishing club students posing with a pike during a field trip to Elwood Reservoir in 2012. Photo credit: Tyler Madison

NOTE: I am in the process of gathering curriculum for anyone who is interested in starting a fishing club at their own school. Plan to see it available online for the 2013 – 2014 school year.

YFI CERTIFICATIONS

Spring 2013 YFI Training Workshop A Success!

by Lindsey Chizinski

The Aksarben Aquarium in Gretna hosted a successful Youth Fishing Instructor training workshop on Saturday, March 2nd. We certified 39 new instructors who were trained to teach casting, knot tying, rigging, fishing ethics and regulations, and fish identification and biology. We also covered event planning and group management skills. We look forward to working with all of our new instructors in the upcoming season! Thank you for joining the team!

Stay tuned for an announcement on a mid-state workshop in late summer/early fall.

New Instructors:

Jared Anderson	Tom Jurek
Kurt Anderson	Robert Klusaw
Alex Artz	Cody Mahoney
Dustin Bellinger	Matt Matsui
Cindy Brison	Staci Matsui
Jim Bunch	Jeff Mcnear
Andrew Burbach	John Mischo
Pete Carbonell	Ted Parady
Cindi Card	Joe Ramos
Monica Casey	Troy Rech
Joe Daly	Douglas Rothgeb
Jared Dirkschneider	Zach Schafer
Luana Dunnerman	Adam Sutton
Jess Edgar	David Svik
Brandon Esch	Steve Wagle
Joe Evans	Dixie Wagner
Amber Fandrich	John Wright
Jason Fleck	
Hannah Janda	
Will Gustafson	
Caroline Hinkelman	
Kevin Jones	



Top:
Heading back to the boat ramp for weigh-in at Summit Lake
Bottom:
State Champions,
Blair High School anglers
Matt Neiburg & Zach Madsen
with Coach Bill Warrick

Youth Bass Fishing Tourney Returns

by Larry Pape

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will be hosting one of the year's most intriguing outdoor events for both its participants and the general public – the 3rd Annual Nebraska State High School Fishing Tournament.

On that day at Harlan County Reservoir in southeastern Nebraska, 9th through 12th graders will compete for bragging rights within the state of Nebraska as well as a spot in the regional bass fishing tourney in the Fall of 2013.

Each competitor will have a teammate and a coach, and the event starts at 6:00 AM with a rules and safety meeting. At 1:00 PM, the tournament concludes and is followed by a weigh-in. There is a \$25 membership fee per student to the Bass Federation – Student Angler Federation, and all anglers 16 years or older must have a current Nebraska Fishing Permit. In addition, there is no entry fee for spectators to an event that is definitely worth watching.

Not only is fishing a fun hobby, but this is a great opportunity for high schoolers to be involved with a competitive sport beyond traditional athletics. Competitive fishing is growing in popularity in high schools and colleges around the nation. Some colleges are now offering it as a sanctioned sport

with scholarship opportunities.

Participation in Nebraska has more than double in two years, and there is room for many more this year tournament.

For more information on the event and instructions on how to register, visit <http://fishingnebraska.wordpress.com/> or call Larry Pape at 402-471-5447

If you are interested in helping the Nebraska State High School Fishing Tournament, give me a call. We need:

- **Enlisting Kids.** If you know any kids that would be interested in competing, please get this information to them.
- **Boat drivers/ coach** (with your boat please) for the teams that do not have access to boats.
- **Tournament day help** with... just being there as part of our team!



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

by Lindsey Chizinski

I am very excited to announce our new aquatic education venture – **TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM**. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has partnered with Trout Unlimited to offer **TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM** as an aquatic education project for 4th-5th grade classrooms in Nebraska.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM is an environmental education program in which students have opportunity to:

- raise trout from eggs to fingerlings (juveniles)
- monitor water quality
- learn about aquatic food webs and habitats
- gain an appreciation for Nebraska's water resources
- begin to foster a conservation ethic
- grow to understand ecosystem interactions

In the **TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM** program, classrooms are provided an aquarium and trout eggs. Students care for both their trout and the aquarium habitat by testing water quality, feeding their trout, and monitoring growth and development. As the program progresses, students learn connections between their trout, water resources, the environment, and themselves. Students learn first-hand how all aspects of a trout's life cycle, food web, and habitat are interconnected and impacted by the environment. The program culminates at the end of the school year when the classrooms take a field trip to the Aksarben Aquarium to release their trout into our cold water Canyon Ponds in Schramm Park.

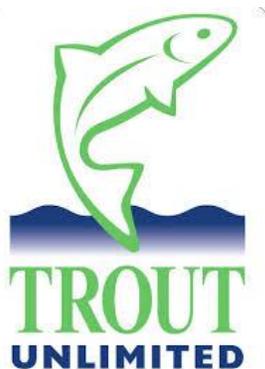
TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM is a nationally known program. Thirty-five states are involved in more than 500 TIC projects. The Nebraska Game & Parks

Commission is very excited to bring this opportunity to Nebraska!

We have purchased a rearing tank identical to the classroom set-up that will be provided to participants, and it is operational at the Aksarben Aquarium in Gretna. We have successfully hatched our first round of rainbow trout, and are enjoying watching them develop! Visit our Facebook page for updates on the trout as they develop ([facebook.com/AksarbenAquarium](https://www.facebook.com/AksarbenAquarium)).

As you well know, trout are a cold water species. Raising trout in an aquarium is impossible without some costly equipment. **We are very grateful that the Trout Unlimited Nebraska Chapter #710 has offered to fund provide funds to purchase the necessary equipment for two classrooms to pilot this program in the upcoming 2013 – 2014 school year.** After a successful pilot year, we plan to introduce the program in 50 schools across the state.

We are still in the process of recruiting classrooms to pilot the program. If you are a 4th or 5th grade teacher and are interested in bringing this program to your classroom, please contact me for more information!



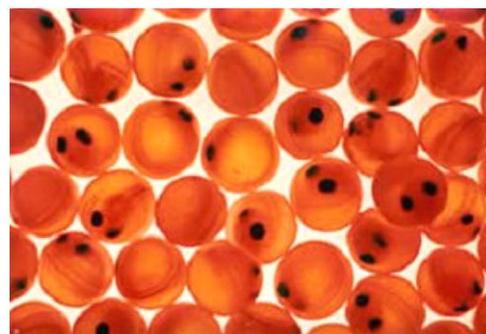
TROUT IN THE **CLASSROOM**

TROUT IN OUR CLASSROOM AT AKSARBEN



Trout Nursery

Our 40 gallon tank is wrapped in Styrofoam to keep the developing eggs cool and undisturbed while they develop. A chiller keeps the water at a cool 50° F.



Eyed Rainbow Trout Eggs

Our eggs arrived with their eyes already visible through the translucent shell. They began to hatch after about two weeks.



A Newly Hatched Alevin

How cute is this little guy!? After about 12 days, many of our hatchlings had consumed their yolk sacs and were swimming freely and looking for food.