



Warren Byrum and his dog Mandi went to the lake for a day of fishing. Mr. Byrum helped plan the outing for the residents at the Andbe Home in Norton.

— Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Kansas fishing gets high marks

Kansas Fishing : We've come a long way, baby!

That's right. Kansas fishing isn't what it used to be. It's much more. Oh, we still have some of the best [channel, flathead](#), and [blue](#) catfishing to be found, but today Kansas anglers have great variety.

If you're an old-school angler and still want to catch the whiskered fish native to our streams and rivers, you have more opportunities today than ever. [Channel catfish](#) are found in nearly every stream, river, pond, lake, and reservoir in the state. They remain one of the most popular angling species.

To keep up with demand, state [fish hatcheries](#) produce millions of channel cats each year. Some are stocked into lakes as fry, but more are fed and grown to catchable size, then stocked into one of many state and community lakes around the state. Our reservoirs hold amazing numbers of channel catfish, and for the most part, the reservoir cats are overlooked by anglers fishing for other species. Fisheries biologists consider channel cats an underutilized resource in most large reservoirs.

For sheer excitement, [flathead cat-](#)

[fish](#) is still king. Monster flatheads weighing 60, 70 and even 80 pounds are caught each summer. Most of the truly large flatheads come from the larger rivers in the eastern half of the state, where setting limb and trot lines is a tradition.

There are [24 large reservoirs](#) in Kansas. Most were built in the 1960s for flood control, water supply, and recreation. The reservoirs range in size from 1,200 to 16,000 surface acres, and most offer park facilities. Fishing is the number one attraction, and reservoir anglers have a variety to cast to. Depending on individual reservoir characteristics, each has its own specialty. In the northeast, reservoirs are known for producing [crappie](#), [white bass](#), and channel catfish. In the southeast, crappie, [largemouth bass](#), white bass, and catfish are tops. In the central part of the state, reservoirs draw anglers looking for [walleye](#), white bass, [striped bass](#), [wipers](#), and channel cats. In the west, reservoirs are known for walleye, largemouth bass, wipers, and crappie.

For those who prefer smaller waters, there are plenty to choose from. The department owns and operates more than [40 state fishing](#)

[lakes](#). These impoundments can be as small as 50 acres or as large as 300. Some primitive facilities are available, and boating is allowed for fishing only. State fishing lakes are great places for family trips and provide good fishing for largemouth bass, crappie, and channel catfish. More than [200 community lakes](#) are owned by local governments, and these jewels can provide outstanding angling opportunities. The [Community Fisheries Assistance Program](#) has leased fishing rights to most of these lakes to allow fishing from the shore or a boat with no additional fees. All you need is a Kansas fishing license. Less than 10 percent of community lakes still require daily or annual fees. They may establish creel and length limits more restrictive than state regulations, so it's a good idea to check locally before fishing.

There are more than [10,000 miles of streams and rivers](#) in Kansas, most of which are privately owned. The three navigable rivers — the Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas — are open to the public, although one must have permission to access

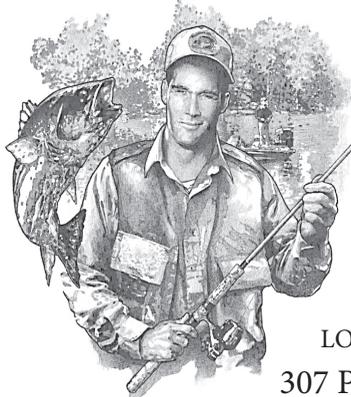
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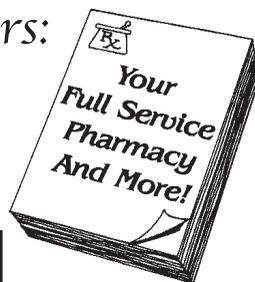
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