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This publication is a continuation of *The Lucas Independent* and *The Sylvan Grove News*

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The *Lucas-Sylvan News* will no longer accept "Letters to the Editor" effective December 1, 2015.

## TOMMIE'S OUTDOOR TALES

By Tommie Berger-Sylvan Grove, Kansas

### Temperate Bass Family

When a Kansas angler hears the word 'bass', most call to mind the largemouth bass. He is the most common and most popular bass in the sunflower state but probably not the most numerous bass. That honor would likely go to the white bass – a true bass in the technical sense. Actually, the largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass are in the sunfish family.

True or temperate bass are the white bass, the striped bass, the white perch, and the popular hybrid – the wiper, sometimes called the palmetto or sunshine bass. Yea, the white perch is stuck in this category even though it is called a perch. This fish can probably hybridize with the white bass but there is no official record of it happening.

White bass are native to the Mississippi River basin and therefore have been in Kansas for a long time. When we started building larger reservoirs back in the 1950's, white bass were either in the rivers already or introduced into those large bodies of water. Striped bass and white perch are actually eastern coastal species that can live both in salt and fresh water and both have been introduced in Kansas, the striper intentionally and the white perch accidentally.

White bass are surely the most abundant of any bass in Kansas. All of our large reservoirs and many of our smaller lakes contain white bass. They prefer open water rather than the shallow shoreline like the sunfish basses and tend to roam around in large schools. They prefer clear water and do not do well in constantly turbid situations. They are a sight feeder, their primary food is other fish which is mostly gizzard shad in many of our lakes.

Their preferred spawning habitat is flowing water of tributary streams and rivers, scattering their eggs over sandy substrate or gravel. If they cannot access flowing water, they will spawn over rocks or sandy substrate in lakes. Their preferred spawning temperature is around 58 degrees generally in mid to late April, spawning after the walleye but before the sunfish basses.

As I mentioned last week, white bass fishing in summer generally means finding the schools of fish. When they get to chasing shad, they can often be found feeding on the surface as they run the shad to the top. Anglers keep a sharp eye out for splashing on the surface and later in the summer, watch for gulls taking advantage of the shad forced to the surface by the whites. If there is no surface activity, anglers use their fish finders to locate large schools under the surface and drop shad imitation lures down into the school. Later, slab spoons will be the lure of choice for these deeper fish. The state record white bass is 5.67 pounds taken from John Redmond Reservoir on 4/11/2002.

Striped bass are an introduced specie in Kansas, first stocked in Wilson Reservoir back in 1965. Coming from the east coast, they were stocked as a sportfish in only a few reservoirs in the state. They do particularly well in Wilson since the salinity here is higher than anywhere else. They do not reproduce naturally here. They spawn in flowing water and the semibuoyant eggs must tumble 2 to 4 days to hatch. There are no rivers in Kansas where this can happen. There is some evidence of natural reproduction in the Missouri and Arkansas Rivers. Therefore, we have to stock stripers yearly to maintain our populations.

Stripers are a lot like white bass as they prefer open water and tend to move around in schools. They feed on other fish, again generally gizzard shad in our reservoirs. They will run the shad to the surface like white bass. They tend to be spookier than whites so if you see

them chasing shad, ease up to the school so you don't send them down. Angers can find stripers with electronics and catch them on live bait or shad imitation lures. Slab spoons will catch stripers. The state record is 44 pounds taken from Wilson Reservoir on 5/14/2010. A few years before that, I shocked up a striper while looking for smallmouth bass that weighed a shade of 46 pounds and I have pictures to prove it!

Another successful angling technique is wade fishing the windblown points in the spring and fall. Stripers will often congregate on these points as the waves crash in pushing baitfish up shallow. The bait of choice here are large hair jigs, white in color to imitate shad. It takes a big jig to cast into the wind and chest waders are necessary to keep you dry. These anglers occasionally catch other species too, whites, walleye, and even maybe a blue cat.

Wipers are the hybrid between the white bass and the striped bass. These hybrids are made in the hatcheries and have become a popular sportfish. They do not reproduce and must be stocked. Wipers prefer open water like their parents. They grow rapidly and are often stocked to control over-abundant shad or crappie populations in some of our smaller lakes. The state record wiper is 25 pounds taken from the outlet below Perry Reservoir on 8/08/2010.

White perch came to Kansas with some striper fry that we got from West Virginia in 1996. They had a screen failure in their hatchery and white perch got in with the stripers. We got them in Wilson and Cheney Reservoirs that same year. They will grow to 12 to 14 inches and weigh over a pound but they can tend to overpopulate. In Wilson, they did well to begin with since we had lots of predators. In Cheney, they got out of control quickly and few ever got big enough to harvest. Anglers at Wilson caught a lot of nice white perch for years and found them good table fare.

Numbers eventually increased at Wilson and today few are catchable but lots of smaller white perch are forage for our predators. White perch love worms and any angler fishing worms are often pestered by small white perch. Small perch are aggressive and will often hit a slab spoon almost as big as they are.

So, when bass are mentioned, we have both the true or temperate basses and the sunfish basses. We have anglers who prefer one set of bass over the other but we have tournaments for both. The sunfish basses like the shallow shoreline while the temperate basses like the open water. Both bass families will put a stretch in your line and a bend in your pole. We are pretty lucky to have both here in Kansas for all you anglers out there to enjoy!!!!

# Summer Baseball



**SYLVAN SLUGGERS T-BALL** - Sylvan Sluggers T-ball pictured (back row l to r): Alice Meyer, Charlotte Dohe, Ty Meitler, Hudson Zachgo, Cori Sole, Ava Reagan, Kimber Sulsar, Jentri Pounds, Jasmine Hauser, Mason Sulsar, and Coach Aspen Tharp; (front row) Rowen Spires, Colt Tharp, McCoy Giger, Bexton Pounds, Witten Hlad, Ethan Branda, Adalyn Cooper, Weston Lyne. *(Photo by Sarah Heller)*

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## Sylvan Community Calendar

Are you using your community calendar? Members of the Sylvan Senior Center are working on the next community calendar for September 2025-August 2026. If you have purchased a calendar in the past, please submit your form before JULY 23 and document any changes to your birthdays and anniversaries.

If you would like to order a calendar with your family's birthday and anniversary dates, please email your information before July 23 to [sylvanseniorcenter89@gmail.com](mailto:sylvanseniorcenter89@gmail.com) or call 785-526-7469 and leave a message. The calendar form can also be emailed to you upon request. The cost of a calendar is \$10.00 each. Payments may be sent to: Sylvan Senior Center, P.O. Box 34, Sylvan Grove, KS 67481.

The community calendar is a project of the Sylvan Senior Center.


## Public Notice of Operating Hours

**Public Notice of Operating Hours for the Lincoln County Public Transportation Service**

Lincoln County General Public Transportation will be making some scheduling changes.

Currently our Operating hours are Monday through Friday from 8 am-5 pm. Beginning August 1, 2025 operating hours will change to 8 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Thank you to all of you that take advantage of this service, Lincoln County strives to provide safe, reliable transportation and looks forward to meeting the needs of the community.



# Seeds of Hope

[www.SowerMinistries.org](http://www.SowerMinistries.org)

What's the difference between the word "special" and the word "unique?"

The word "special" implies that someone or something surpasses or exceeds the usual or normal. It could refer to an athlete who excels in his or her particular sport and had done things differently or set records that will remain unbroken for many years. It might refer to a vehicle that has been modified to meet the specifications of an owner.

But the word "unique" implies something different. The word *unique* means that something or someone is the *only one* of its kind and has no rival. "It" is not only different but incomparable and unparalleled.

Our God is certainly not an "it." Our God is a Person and He certainly is unique. Our Psalmist brings this to our attention when he asks. "For who in the

skies above can *compare* with the Lord? Who is *like* the Lord among the heavenly beings?

Of course, the answer he would give us is an answer we already know: No one! There is no sun or planet in the sky that is equal to Him. Then he adds that there is no "heavenly being" - none of the angels or holy ones - who inhabit heaven who can be compared to the Lord. Our God is above all and beyond all, because He created all.

So what are we to do? We are to "greatly fear" Him and understand that He "is more awesome than all who surround Him." Our "fear" of Him will create a "respect" for Him and when we recognize how "awesome" He is, we will worship in spirit and in truth, in love and humility.



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