

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the USACE Team Up to Improve Lake Ouachita Fishing

By: Alex Kienlen

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. – Officials at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) and the Army Corps of Engineers teamed up to improve fishing at the largest lake in Arkansas. Officials said dozens of new fish attractor sites were put in on Lake Ouachita. The December project required 35 people and five barges to complete.

“We targeted about 15 feet of water when the lake was 8 feet low,” AGFC fisheries supervisor in Hot Springs, Andy Yung, explained. “That means most of these brush piles will sit in the 20- to 25-foot range during most of the year.”

Cedars were used because they provide superior fish habitat with their complex networks of branches and twigs, officials said, adding that, unlike recycled Christmas trees, they last for years.

“One of our staff members who dives in Ouachita calls these brush piles ‘gold mines,’” Yung said. “Walleye, bass, crappie, bluegill, and catfish use them year-round. You’ll even see the occasional striper wandering by the ones near the channels.”

Groups of seven to eight large cedars were placed at each fish attractor site, creating lasting fishing opportunities. All fish attractor locations are available through the AGFC’s interactive map at www.agfc.com/maps.



Nearly all the new sites are located between Island Markers 28 and 36, specifically on main lake points and saddles near the mid-lake islands. Officials encourage anglers to download coordinates right to their fishfinders by visiting AGFC.com/FishAttractors. A total of 76 lakes and thousands of fish attractor locations are represented there.