



TWRA NEWS

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IT'S TIME FOR TWRA'S WINTER TROUT PROGRAM IN WEST TN

HOME FIREARMS SAFETY

IT'S TIME FOR TWRA'S WINTER TROUT PROGRAM IN WEST TENNESSEE

On December 12 & 14, 2006, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) will once again stock lakes in West Tennessee with rainbow trout for the winter months.

Lakes to be stocked in West Tennessee and the approximate number of rainbow trout to be released are as follows.

December 12, 2006:

- Cameron Brown Park Lake, located on Farmington Rd. in Germantown, TN (1,500 fish).
- McKenzie City Park Lake, McKenzie, TN (750 fish).
- Lake Graham, Jackson, TN (1,500 fish). Trout will be placed in a cove that will be blocked off using nets.
- Martin City Pond, Martin, TN (500 fish).

December 14, 2006:

- Johnson Park Lake, located on Shelton Rd. in Collierville (1000 fish).
- Bartlett City Park Lakes (Yale Road, Rocky Ford and Stone Ridge) (500 fish each lake).
- Valentine Park Lake, Munford, TN (1000 fish).

“The urban trout program has been a huge success over the last three years, “ stated Dave Rizzuto, TWRA Region I Lakes Biologist. “This stocking program is strictly a put and take fishing opportunity for West Tennessee anglers. Most of the rainbow trout released will be between 9 and 13 inches long and will make excellent table fare.”

A trout license (Type 022) will be required along with any other appropriate license (except for lifetime and sportsman license holders) for anglers 16 and older. There is no size limit on the trout, but the daily creel limit is 7. These lakes will also be stocked a second time in mid-January.

While some Tennessee waters support trout year round, none of the urban waters in West Tennessee will support them once spring arrives and water temperatures increase. Trout are cold-water species and require water temperatures in the 50's.

Rod and Reel anglers should use light equipment with 4 to 6 pound line. Hooks should be small, #10, 12 or 14 depending on the bait chosen. Popular trout baits are corn,

salmon eggs (chartreuse and orange are good colors), night crawlers or red worms. Good choices for artificial bait include small spinner baits (1/16 ounce) or smaller in various colors.

HOME FIREARMS SAFETY

Many Tennesseans will be receiving firearms as gifts for this holiday season and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is urging everyone who receives a new firearm to handle them in a safe, responsible manner. Hunters know the importance of safety while in the field and firearms in the home need to be treated with the same respect.

Tips for home firearms safety include:

1. Unload all firearms before taking them into the home. Even if you unloaded them after the hunt ended, check them again before taking them inside.
2. Never handle or show guns without first carefully checking to be sure they are unloaded. Open the action and keep it open until the gun is ready for storage.
3. Rifles and shotguns should be stored securely in racks, cabinets or safes. Handguns should be stored in a similar manner. If the proper storage facilities are not available, trigger locks should be installed.
4. All ammunition should be kept under lock and in a location separate from firearms.
5. When handling firearms, **always** keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Avoid horseplay at all times. Guns are not toys and they must always be treated with respect.

Remember, not all firearms accidents occur in the field. Safe gun handling must be practiced at home as well.