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Area lakes producing good fishing for some area anglers

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GREENVILLE - Fishing in the Montcalm County area is going strong and anglers are catching fish, according to area bait store employees.

"The male bluegills are either coming up around the (spawning) beds or have already been to the beds. It depends on the size and depth of the lakes," said Nate Kenzer of Goldstar Outdoors in Edmore. "The females should be getting on the beds soon. Some guys have said that the bluegills have already been on the beds."

He said anglers can pretty much pick and choose which lake to catch fish on.

"Dickerson and Clifford lakes is where we have heard about fish being caught the most," said Kenzer. "But the Six Lakes have been giving up fish also."

Bluegills are not the only species being caught by local fishermen.

"Trout fishing in area creeks and streams has been real good too," Kenzer said. "Guys have been catching some good brook and brown trout."

He said anglers have been using a variety of bait to catch fish.

"Any live bait has been working good, including wax worms and leaf worms," Kenzer said. "Soft plastic bait and topwater baits have been good."

Brandie VanderVeen at Tow's Country Store in Gowen echoed Kenzer's report.

"Black, Blue and Lincoln lakes have been producing bass, bluegills and some walleye," she said. "Guys have been using wax worms, minnows, crickets and leeches to catch the fish."

VanderVeen also noted that "weekend fishermen" have not been on the lakes as much as in the past.

"Our Memorial Day business was about half of what we usually do on that weekend," she said. "I think the gas prices have a lot to do with that."

Dennis Gesselman, co-owner of the Tackle Box in Crystal, said walleye fishermen have been having a lot of success on Crystal Lake.

"This year we have seen some of the best ever walleye fishing here," said Gesselman. "We have seen more guys fishing than ever before."

He said anglers are using nightcrawler harnesses and some have been using leeches.

Kenzer also had some advice for people who have been thinking about going fishing or just have not taken time to go out yet.

"I recommend people get out and go fishing," he said. "Fishing is a lot of fun so get out and go."

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