

Adams Lake, located north of West Union, a 47-acre lake, is the first in Ohio to receive a stocking of trout each spring. Stocked in early March with over a two thousand rainbows by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the lake draws anglers from all over who are eager to start fishing. Adams Lake also has good channel cat fishing and a few nice largemouth are caught every spring. Fishing can also found at the pool below the spillway.

The old Winchester City Reservoir is a sizeable body of water, located just west of Winchester on Tri-County Road. Years back seven to eight pound bass called this lake home. They were wise and hard to catch, but local anglers with the know-how always managed to catch a few. At one time there were even some un-documented muskie stocking that took place here. I still like to think that a few of those hog bass are still hanging around that deep point across the lake. Hard to fish from the bank but it does have a primitive boat launch. Both Adams Lake and Winchester Reservoir are limited to electric motors only.

Anglers will also find excellent public fishing at the many ponds located at the Tranquility Wildlife Area. Largemouth, channel cat, and bluegill are the primary species. Most are kept well stocked by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Fishermen could spend a day hoping from one pond to another and the only company you will encounter is deer and turkey. For more information about the fishing at Tranquility contact the Division of Wildlife.

If looking for a reason to visit Adams County this summer than bring your pole. The quiet serenity you will encounter while fishing that day will be your best catch.

While you're here, why not stay in Adams County?

~ **Mineral Springs Lake Resort** - 5 1/2 miles of shoreline, 500 acres of land. Several miles of trails all around the lake which connect into the "Ohio Buckeye Trail." No fee for hiking just stop at office for a pass.

~ **River Barn Village** - cabin rentals, camping, RV hookup and banquet facilities along the river. 7021 US 52, Manchester, 937-549-3033

~ **RiverHaven B&B** - a pre-1893 residential B&B, three porches insure a beautiful vista of the river and waterfowl viewing. 407 W. Front St. - 937-549-1999

~ **Comfort Inn** - 34 rooms, free continental breakfast, 55 Stern Dr, Seaman, 1-888-386-2511

~ **The Rock Vacation Rentals** - 8 bed vacation rental home on 50 acres. 1069 SR 247 - 937-549-4855

~ **Rooster's Nest** - old country style two-story cabin with 3 rooms. 2658 Coon Hill Rd., Winchester, 937-386-3302

~ **Murphin Ridge Inn** - award winning cabins, lodging and fine dining, excellent birding opportunities along guest trails - 750 Murphin Ridge Rd. - 937-544-2263

~ **Unity Woods Cabins** - secluded cabins within nature; prime birding trails; fishing; adjacent to Johnson Ridge State Nature Preserve, 1095 Marjorie Johnson Road - 937-544-6908

Need some fishing tackle or live bait?

- **Adams County Department Store, 11142 State Route 41, West Union, 937-544-2913**
- **Cabin Fever, 104 N Main St, Peebles, 937-587-1100**
- **Sportsman's Pro Shop, 108 N Cherry, West Union, 937-544-3044**
- **Trail & Arrow, 13726 St Rt 136, Cherry Fork, 937-695-0278**
- **Walmart, 11217 St Rt 41, West Union, 937-544-7198**

Need more information? Camping?
Call or visit us online.
Adams County Welcome Center
1-800-ADAMSOHIO (232-6764)
www.adamscountytravel.org

Fishing in Adams County

Adams County Travel and Visitors Bureau



Where are you?
The fish are biting!

110 N Manchester Street
West Union, OH 45660
Phone: 1-877-ADAMSOHIO (232-6764)
Email: info@adamscountytravel.org
Web site: www.adamscountytravel.org
Photos by Tom Cross

PUBLIC FISHING IN ADAMS COUNTY

By Tom Cross

For the fisherman, Adams County has varied fishing opportunities from the Ohio River, to public and private fishing areas, and one very fine and picturesque stream. Anglers can catch hybrid stripers from the river, smallmouth from Ohio Brush Creek, and trout from Adams Lake. Channel and flathead cats, white bass, saugers, black crappie, sunfish, largemouth and spotted bass are all common game fish abundant in the local waters. Some days the fishing can be spectacular, but other days what might matter most is a quiet afternoon spent fishing on a beautiful stream in the rural countryside.

Adams County southern border is bound by the Ohio River. There are two U S Army Corp of Engineers boat-launching facilities on the Ohio in Adams County; one is located just east of Manchester on U.S. 52 at the Manchester Islands; the other is also on U.S. 52 at the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek, close to Brush Creek Island. At the islands fishing is good for hybrid stripers throughout the summer. The hybrids and white bass frequently burst into surface feeding frenzies that provide fast, exciting fishing that won't soon be forgotten. Smallmouth can also be found here, small deep divers fished around the root wads will deliver, and occasionally spoonbills (paddlefish) can be observed if the water is clear enough. At the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek is excellent fishing for channel and flathead catfish. Every summer flatheads over forty pounds are caught here. On the south side of the river largemouth and spotted bass can be found in the overhanging trees and rocky banks, eager for any well-placed spinner bait.

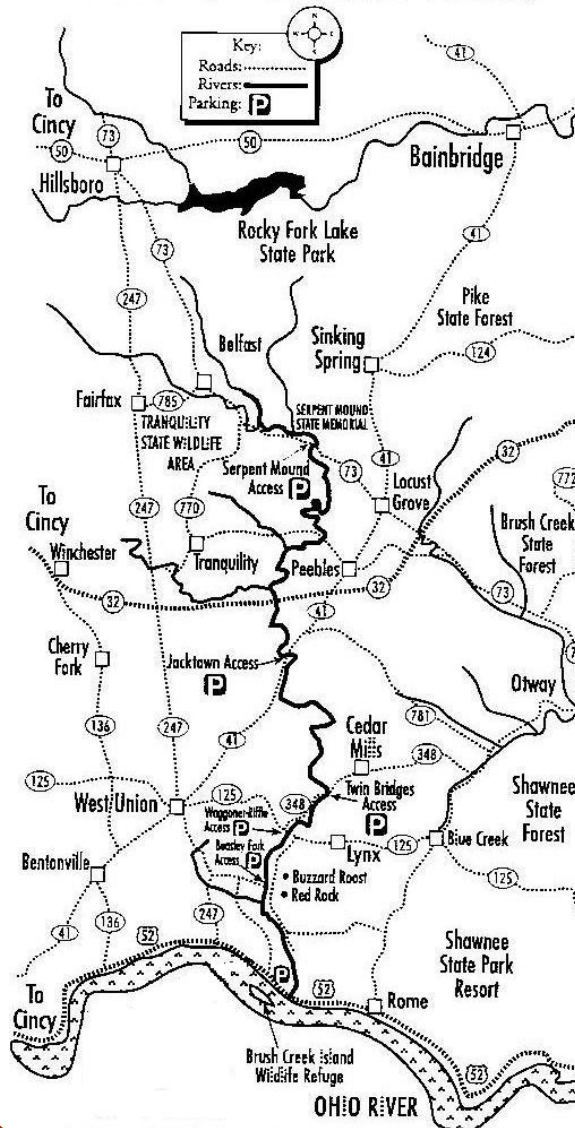
In March black crappies begin showing up at the river end of Ohio Brush, and then just as mysteriously disappear once the water warms. Ohio Brush Creek has a white bass run that occurs in late April. If you hit it right you can be in fish all day. Another early season game fish is the spotted bass; if stream conditions are stable these feisty fighters can be found in about any pool in the stream.

Like the white bass, the best fishing for both of these species is in the lower section of the stream, south of the St. Rt. 125 Bridge.

Ohio Brush Creek has four public access sites that anglers and canoeist can launch from. One is located at the St. Rt. 125 Bridge where fisherman can float to the Beasley Fork Bridge, -about 4 miles and all of it through spectacular scenery and great fishing.



Ohio Brush Creek Public Access Sites



Another canoe access point is located upstream at the St. Rt. 348 bridge; a short float to the 125 site but through some of the best fishing on the stream. Another access site is located at St. Rt. 41, if you launch here plan a long day. Many fishermen do an overnigher on this trip. Great fishing and about as wilderness of an experience as you can get in southern Ohio. Better than average smallmouth throughout this stretch. Another public access site is located near Serpent Mound at the bridge on St. Rt. 73.

Ohio Brush Creek is simply a gift to enjoy. Visiting anglers will find a stream unhindered with crowds, numerous pools and riffles, a diversity of wildlife and waterfowl, a stream for the most part secluded by its very nature. Its attraction is in its solitude, un-hindered by housing, roads, or industry, and in many places remains the same as it was when the Shawnee built their lodges along its banks.

At times the smallmouth fishing is as good as it gets, channel cats, rock bass, sunfish, shovelheads, and saugers can be caught at any one time. A free flowing limestone stream, Brush Creek has rich aquatic diversity with over 70 species of fish counted in the system. Home to robust mussel population, Ohio Brush is known as a very high quality stream.

The West Branch of Ohio Brush is likewise excellent fishing. Somewhat smaller than the main stem, it is reserved for the wading angler and not suited for canoes. Fishermen will find great smallmouth fishing in the West Branch. A favorite stream to fly-fish, it's usually clear as a trout stream in the spring.