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Your fishing report for March 11, 2017

From the deck of the Kick'n Bass pontoon

I had been spider rigging for the last couple of weeks, with pretty good success but with the warmer weather and water temps moving near 60 degrees I gave pulling crankbaits a shot...and I am glad I did!! Took my friend and fellow guide Scott McGlinchey out for some fun. Scott is a bass guide and was pretty amazed by the size of crankbaits we were using. He is now a believer!

After I have a back procedure next week, it is going to be a full sprint to May! Note of caution...the long range forecast has a lot of heavy winds in it so be careful.

Lake conditions

Water temps are about 56.5 degrees in the morning and warming up to about 60 degrees in the afternoons. These temps are perfect for crappie fishing...especially for pulling crankbaits!! A cold front moving in will lower these temps some but the crappies are already filling up with eggs.... Water color on the main lake is clear to about 3 feet. Levels are at 354.8 which is a little above normal for this time of year. The TVA is pulling a lot of water right now, 61,600 cfs, and the lake level will be inching up ever so slightly according to the TVA website.

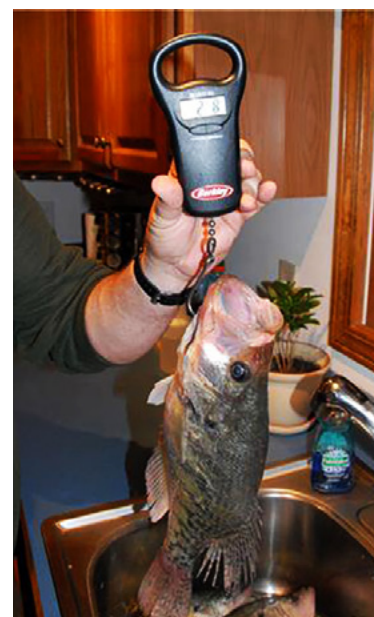
You can view the lake levels here: tva.gov/Environment/Lake-Levels/Kentucky

Weather forecast

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/us/benton-ky/42025/daily-weather-forecast/333281>



Today was my mother's birthday. I sure do miss her. She loved to fish too!



A 2 lb. 8 oz. beauty!

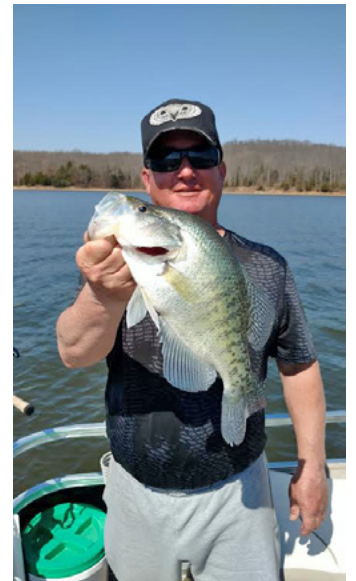


A nice mess of Crops caught with my buddy Scott McGlinchey

Crappies

Crappies are still feeding pretty heavy. As I said above we have started pulling crankbaits. The reasoning behind this decision is my theory that in the deeper bays, the crappie stage in that 10 to 18 feet of water. The Crappies are there to get ready for the spawn. They DO NOT all move shallow at once though. The spawn happens in waves. So essentially I am fishing for prespawn and post-spawn fish at the same time. They are here because they are feeding for the spawn and also to recover from the spawning activities. This way I am not fighting the shoreline crowds during the spawn. Also I can cover acres and acres of fresh water that the fish have not been bombarded with jigs and minnows.

Now, don't get me wrong. Minnows catch more crappies than any other bait but I can be impatient so I like to keep moving after fish. I learned to fish from my Mom and Dad and we anchored and casted a minnow under a cork. And I constantly got told to sit still. (Never happened!) So after being taught how to pull cranks by a friend of mine I have honed this technique to suit my ants in the pants mentality!! OK, that was long winded. Best speed has been 1.7 mph and although red/chrome caught a few fish the overwhelming favorite color has been the Arkie Pink black and the pink sparkle. After years of doing this I have learned to always start with several pink crankbaits mixed in with other colors. The crappie are not full of eggs yet, and the eggs they do have are bright yellow, not very close to spawning yet I believe. Good luck out there.



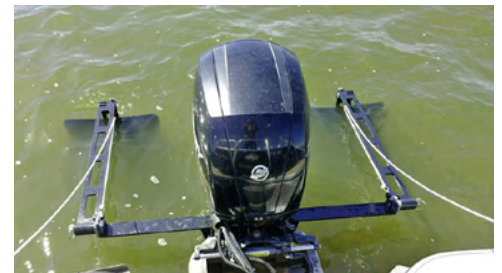
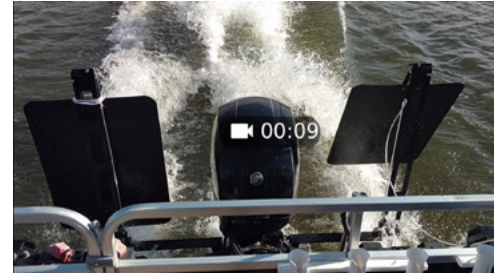
Just showin' off!

Other Species

Haven't fished for any other types of fish but we have had incidental catches of largemouth, yellow bass (some good sized fish) and a bunch of perfect eating sized whitebass. The whites and yellows had eggs that looked reddish and gritty...a sure sign of being close to their spawn. They spawn from about 54 to 65 degrees so keep that in mind!

New Sponsor

I'd like y'all to meet a new sponsor and personal friend of mine. Mark owns www.cornfieldcrappiegear.com. He owns a machine shop and has mixed that with his love of crappie fishing. He invented a paddle system, among other things, to slow down your boat for spider rigging. Two words...they work! The set of paddles that he built for my pontoon slow me down to the proper speed for rigging. With the pulley system he created I don't have to use drifts socks ever again. My hands love not getting soaked by bringing those wet drift socks back over the side. They deploy fast and easy too! Give his website a look for these paddles and some other interesting inventions!



Cornfield Crappie Gear paddle system

ATTABOY (Nice to get a pat on the back!)

"Please let me know if you are available. If you are not, then perhaps you could recommend someone who enjoys a reputation that is comparable to yours."

—Joe C. Illinois

Book now with Captain Rich!

Gift certificates available

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