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April 15th, 2011

Lake Conditions ... Currently both lakes are approximately a foot below summer pool and in the midst of a very slow rise. With more water coming in than normal and the Dams spilling water, there is significant current. On Kentucky Lake the creeks and bays have a little color to them while the main lake itself is slightly stained. The majority of the lake has what I would consider ideal fishing water. On Lake Barkley the main lake and some of the bays with large tributaries are stained. However bays with smaller creeks running into them, especially on the LBL side have some ideal water for fishing. The surface water temps on Barkley are in the low to mid 60's and temps on Kentucky Lake have risen to the upper 60's. Remember, with fronts coming and going the water temps can fluctuating up and down.

Fishing Report

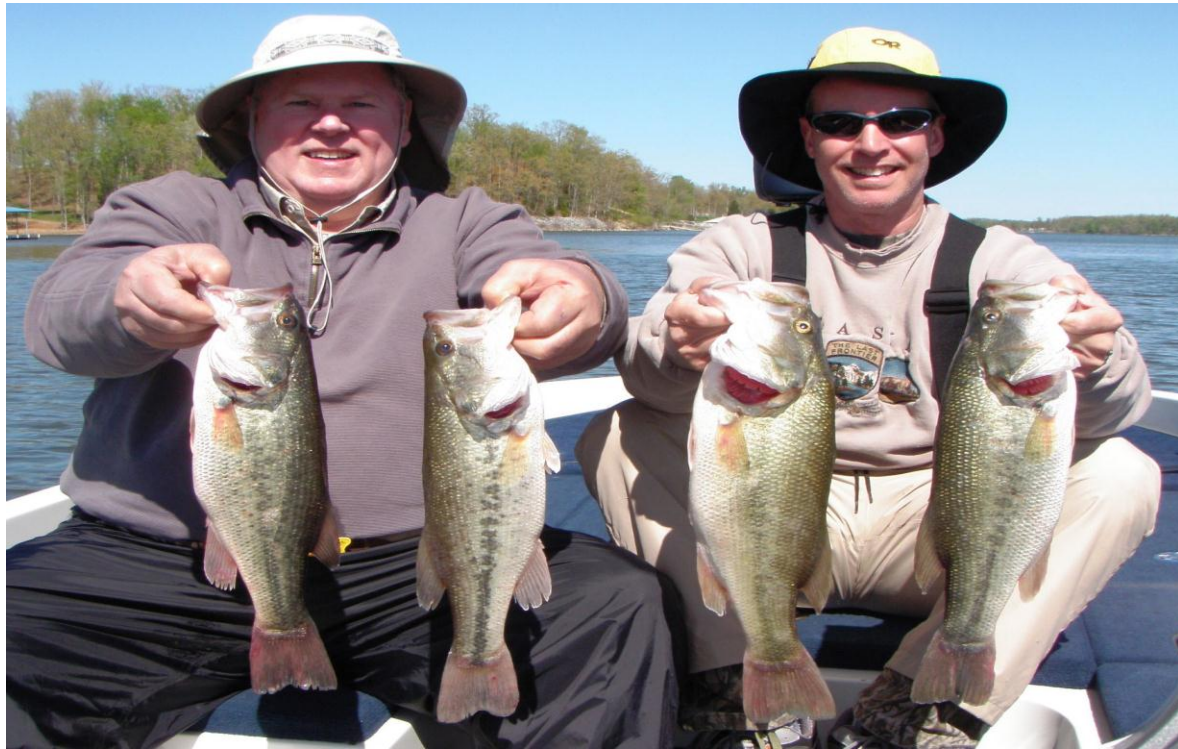
Bass Fishing ...



They say when it rains it pours! Larry Forbis and "Hoot" Gibson of Munfordville, KY (*Photo*) had, in their own words, "their best day of bass fishing all year". As "Hoot" put it about fifteen times during the day "If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I would have never believed that we would have caught this many bass on Shakey Heads and good ones too." It was a great day of fishing no matter what the weather was but considering torrential downpours, high winds and generally challenging fishing conditions, well ... let's

just say it was special! Thanks guys for making my day fun and being open to learning how to catch bass on the Shakey Head.

Largemouth bass are in transition, by this I mean some are locking in on beds and preparing to spawn around the full moon this weekend, others are on the way to the spawning flats and are running the creek channels along chunk rock banks in the bays and some are making a move from deep water and are congregating around main lake points at the entrance of the bays. These bass holding locations seem to be pretty consistent all over the lake. One location in particular that has produced good numbers of bass for my clients this week is a mini-flat. A mini-flat is an area where a creek channel swings back and forth from the bank forming an underwater flat. Shakey Heads with **Z-Man** Watermelon & Red Flake, Black & Blue Flake and Green Pumpkin finesse worms on a **PJ's 3/16 oz bass extractor jig head** has produced a lot of bass and several nice fish for *Alan Petefish from Festus, Mo. and John Dowdle of Charlotte, NC.* (Photo).



Shallow running crank baits in either a shad or crawfish pattern with a slow retrieve has caught a few fish along gravel banks mid-way in the bays. Casting a **Steel Shad** blade bait on main lake points and in the mouth of the secondary bays has taken several quality fish with a slow pull and retrieve being the best technique. Best colors have been Gold on cloudy days and Silver when it's been sunny. We've also caught a few bass in the back of the bays on **ZMan chatterbaits**, especially when bass are busting the shad on the surface. An occasional bass has been caught flipping or pitching a 7" Blue Fleck Power worm at the base of the bushes and cypress. This pattern, while not the best way to get bit, will only get better once the lake level reaches summer pool. While several methods are catching fish the most consistent for my clients is the Shakey Head.

As you can see the bass are spread out somewhat and several presentations are productive. We've put in a lot of hours on the water and I'd have to say that bass fishing has been very good. It's important to remember you must be willing to try different locations, get in tune with the transition and be flexible in your choice of baits.

Crappie Fishing ...



WOW! What a Catch! *Martin Rowe, Mr. Ray Pflueger and Mark Reed with some monster Crappie caught using slip bobbers. The six weighed a combined total of 12.5 lbs.*

While conditions vary according to which part of the lake you're on, generally speaking, Crappie have entered into the spawning phase. A lot of Black Crappie have spawned while the Whites are beginning to get into high gear. With several warm days in row and the water level on a slow rise some clients have caught some real whoppers!

Scanning with my Lowrance HDS I've noticed a lot of crappie that were suspended in the bays have moved and are now located on the first drop nearest the spawning flats. Also there is still a ton of fish located around submerged cover about 8-10 feet deep and some are being caught on minnows with slip bobbers as well as jigs. These are mostly White Crappie. Mostly these fish are located mid way in the bays.

Tackle Tips ... When crappies are active, they will hit bait presented in close proximity to cover. When they are not so active, you may need to get your bait down into the cover to be successful. One of the most effective ways to do this is using a float or bobber when vertical jigging and casting. There are times when crappie will only bite a jig or minnow that is hovering below a bobber or float. Also there are times when crappie can be caught by casting a jig or minnow retrieved very slowly under a bobber. One of my favorite ways to catch crappie is to cast a 3/32 ounce curly tail grub and slowly bring it back to the boat without a bobber. **Kentucky Green and Ken's Blue Pearl with matching jig heads** have been the two best colors for my clients and me. Ken's Blue Pearl is a color that Ken McGregor at The Fisherman's Friend in Lake City got me hooked on and my clients and I use his Blue Pearl matching jig head. The point is there are a lot of different ways to fish that involve casting, you just need to match your equipment and technique to the mood of the fish. When casting without a float, we use 8 lb. yellow Power Pro braid with a 6 foot 8lb pound fluorocarbon leader on a 6' 6" medium light action rod and 1000 series spinning reel. The added sensitivity of the braided line has allowed my clients and me to feel some strikes that we would have missed with mono. You may want to try using braid as your main line with a fluorocarbon leader. The lines are joined by a double uni-knot.



Congratulations to Don Hanus (*Photo*) for using the line "but honey it's my fiftieth birthday" in persuading his wife Laura to crawl out of bed before dawn and go on a fishing trip with Kick'n Bass. Laura, Congratulations for promptly kicking Don's bass by out fishing him. Hey Don, be careful what you wish for!



What is a Slip Bobber? A slip bobber is a float that slides freely along the line, can be fished at any depth, and be reeled in all the way without damaging the line. Slip bobbers are not attached directly to the line; instead the line goes through an opening in the bobber and the bobber is limited in movement by a line stop or stop knot. A stop knot is small enough to pass easily through rod guides but too large to pass through the stop bead on the slip bobber. A proper stop knot will resist movement under pressure from the bobber, but can still be adjusted for a different depth setting. The angler using a slip bobber can fish at any depth. Any medium action rod will do and 6 pound test line is the most popular choice for slip bobber fishing. A slip bobber is a great way to fish a jig or minnow and can be a pretty effective way to fish especially when boat control is a problem. Using the slip bobber system allows you to anchor upwind

and cast towards the spot, letting the bait drift naturally in front of the fish. Using Slip Bobbers will help you more often than not and at times they are the absolute best way to catch those wary or light biters.

The bite should become better each day. We'll be crappie fishing a lot over the next several days so stay tuned.



Catfish ...

They say a picture is worth a thousand words ... the smiles tell all. *Don & Laura Hanus (Photo) of Illinois* with a "catfish double". The Big Cat's are on the move and are being caught on minnows and cut bait along the creek channels and the same spawning flats that crappie are occupying. It's always my pleasure to see folks have a good time fishing and by the way, Kentucky Lake catfish are some mighty good eating!

Bluegill & Redear ... Although we're not specifically fishing for them some are being caught when fishing for other species which is a real good sign of better things to come.

Book Now! & Experience the Thrill of Bass Fishing at Night!

Last year our clients had a blast fishing at night and caught lots of big fish. We will begin our night fishing season in May. The dates available are the 16th, 17th & 18th. The same lures you used during the day are very productive at night and the best spots during the day can be even better at night. There is just something about catching a really big bass at night that really turns a fisherman on. Have the lake all to yourself!

For more information on putting together a night fishing trip send an email rk@kicknbass.net or call 270-703-6133.



Now is the time to Book your 2011 Fishing Trips with Kick'n Bass. Dates are filling up fast! Only a few days in prime time left ...

Thanks to all you early birds that have already booked your trips for 2011. For those of you that are considering a trip but haven't booked yet, doing so has its advantages. Booking in advance not only gets you the dates you want to fish it allows you to get the best accommodations during the prime fishing times. There really is no advantage to waiting.