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September 16th, 2011

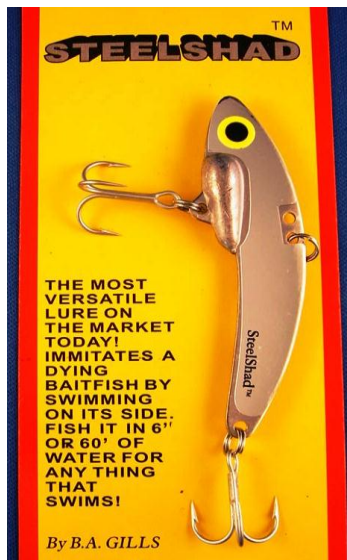
Lake Conditions

Lake Levels ... As of this morning both lakes are approximately one foot and below summer pool give or take a few inches and in the midst of a steady drawdown to winter pool levels.

Water Clarity ... The water on both Lakes is in great shape for fishing.

Water Temps ... Surface temps on both lakes are in the low 70's.

Blade Baits for September Bass ...

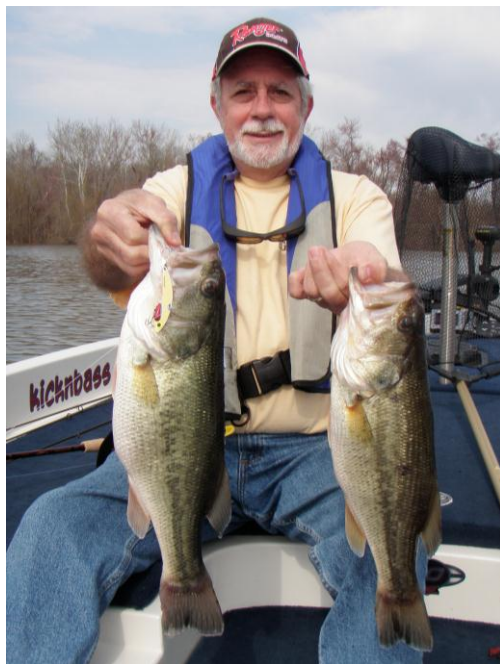


September is Blade Bait Time! Blade baits come in many forms but a personal favorite and the choice of many Kick'n Bass client's is the Steel Shad. Over the past two seasons the Steel Shad has been the #1 selling blade bait in our area and probably yours too. Why? The Steel Shad has the action and look that most mimics the size of the baitfish this time of year plus it's easy to fish. Choosing the right size and fishing equipment for this type of fishing is not too difficult. The Steel Shad comes in only one size and your favorite spinning combo or bait casting outfit will work; just remember that the rod needs to be about 7', can handle the weight of the lure and has an extra fast tip to get the distance on your cast. The line choice is much more important for a lot of reasons. Since there is a possibility that you could be making extra long casts, you'll want a line that will launch the bait a great distance and doesn't have any line stretch. A combination of a braided main line and a fluorocarbon leader is just what the doctor ordered. The braid and fluorocarbon leader allows one

to feel the bait vibrating and, with no line stretch, the hook sets are true. This line set up has proven to be far superior to just mono or fluorocarbon. My personal choice is a 10 lb Power Pro braid and a P-Line 100% 10 lb fluorocarbon leader. The two lines are joined using a double uni-knot. Experience has shown that more fish will be hooked and landed on the braid combo because of the sure hook-sets and lack of line stretch.

Bass, this time of year are notorious for roaming and following schools of baitfish. With baitfish moving into the bays, look for shell beds or deep water flats in the 10- 13 ft. range near a ledge. This is a great place to start. I especially like these areas if they're located close to the mouths of main lake bays. Using your electronics or a good topo map to find these likely spots will offer you a better chance at finding bass this time of year. Also you can use these baits anywhere you'd use a lipless crank bait; secondary points, shallow flats in the back of bays, etc.

Catching fish on this bait is not as difficult as you might think. Actually working the lure is pretty simple. There are several ways to use this bait but it's most important that you match the retrieve to the mood of the fish. Two of the most effective methods are the yoyo retrieve, which works well on aggressive fish, or a slow steady retrieve for those fish that are not so aggressive. Start by casting the lure and let it fall to the bottom. You'll know it's on the bottom when you get some slack in your line. Using the yoyo retrieve you'll want pull the lure off the bottom but not too quickly and reel it about 5 cranks and then let it fall to the bottom. Drop your rod tip, take out the slack and repeat the process all the way back to the boat. A lot of the strikes will come as the bait is falling. The steady retrieve is just what it says it is. Make a long cast let the lure drop to the bottom. Then take up the slack, give the lure a little jerk to get it started and reel in at a slow pace, just enough to keep the bait off the bottom and vibrating. You'll know it when you get a fish on ... the braided line will transmit those strikes and you'll have a better than average chance at landing the fish. *(Photo Johnny Evans of Grand Rivers, KY with a pair of nice Kentucky Lake Largemouth Bass caught on a Steel Shad).*



Blade Baits are fun, productive and easy to use. Don't be surprised when you catch a mixed bag either. Crappie and White bass love these baits too!

Fishing Report



Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass: It seems fall has come early here on the twin lakes. With the cooler air and water temperatures, schools of shad are moving towards the backs of the bays signaling the beginning of the fall transition period. Usually this period begins in late September and lasts thru October. Several areas of the lake are holding fish ... Shallow flats and shell beds at the mouth of the bays are holding some bass, so are secondary points mid-way in the bays and some fish are still on the ledges.

Catching big numbers of quality fish has been a challenge at times, as evidenced by the lower weights in recent Tournaments, but it is getting better each day. *(Photo- Rick Harris & Gerry Rippey of Indianapolis, IN.)* Bass are following schools of baitfish and some decent catches have come along chunk rock banks along secondary points (6-10 feet deep) and on mid-bay shell beds 10 to 13 feet deep. Crankbaits fished slowly are catching a few bass but the best catches have come on Shakey Heads and Steel Shad blade baits. Once we located a school of bass with our *Lowrance HDS System* we yo-yoed a Steel Shad blade bait to catch the aggressive biters and then extended the bite using a Shakey Head and a ZMan Finesse worm fished on a 3/16 oz PJ's Bass Extractor jig. A very slow presentation has worked best. Concerning fishing secondary points and chunk rock banks, the bigger fish are being caught in slightly deeper water. Positioning the boat at least two long casts from the bank seems to be just about right. **Ledge Fishing** has been either feast or famine but best during a Southerly wind and current generation. Most fish were caught 8-12 feet deep where the ledge transitioned into

deeper water. Best baits; a Strike King series 6 crankbait, a Shakey Head and a ½ oz. jig. For us the ledge bite has been the most inconsistent of all the patterns.



The **Top Water Bite** has been unreliable but improving. Best action occurs in the very early morning and late evening hours along chuck rock banks. The most productive baits have been the Pop R in chrome & black and a Lucky Craft Sammy 65 in Aurora Shad. I'm not ready to commit to the top water bite just yet but it's obvious that it will become more of a factor very soon as more fish move up. *(Photo, Pete Hall of Clarksville, TN.)*

To sum it up, bass fishing is a little unpredictable but improving. My advice is, if you get on a school of fish stay on them even if the majority of the fish are under 15 inches. The smaller more aggressive fish are going to bite first and often but sooner or later the big ones will bite too. Going slightly deeper has its advantages too ...

White Bass, Crappie, Catfish and Bluegill ... Fishing for bass most of the week didn't leave much time for other species but I do know that the **White Bass** fishing has been pretty fair as I've seen several coolers full of fish.

Sonar Tip of the Week



The screen shows a school of bass feeding on baitfish. The bass are working a shell bed located at the mouth of a bay. We used a Steel Shad blade bait to catch several of the more aggressive fish and then switched to a shakey head to extend the bite. Without the aid of our electronics, locating and catching these fish would not have been possible.

Kick'n Bass can help you get more out of your electronics and become a better fisherman. Here's just some of what Kick'n Bass can do to make your units more user friendly and in turn help you become a more productive angler ...

- **Make sure your HDS unit(s) has the correct settings for the type of fishing you do. In a lot of cases the units are set for "general use" not specific.**
- **Install the overlay data on the screen that you want. Example: Depth, Water Temp, Time, etc.**
- **Arrange the screens so they display what you want them to show and make going from page to page orderly and non-confusing.**
- **Eliminate unwanted, non-practical on screen data that clutters your screen and gets in the way of using your unit to its maximum potential.**
- **Demo the unit for you to help you be familiar with the screens and commands, so you'll have a good understanding of how to use the unit and take advantage of its fish finding capabilities.**
- **If needed, install the most recent updates.**

As a bonus Kick'n Bass will help you learn to read an electronic topo map and find "places of interest" that could be potential fishing hot spots.

To schedule an on the water fishing trip with instruction send an email to rk@kicknbass.net

**** Announcements ****

For Sale ...

New GLoomis 6'9" Bronzeback SMR 813-SP Casting Rod. 1/4-3/4oz 10 - 17 lb. line. Excellent worm or Jig rod. Still in plastic shipping wrap. Retail \$240 plus Tax. Your cost \$200 plus shipping. Email rk@kicknbass.net

For Sale ...

Enjoy a Magnificent Lake View at a fraction of the cost! Your friends can pull up for a quick visit at the pea gravel beach that's just steps away from your deck. Like new 2006 park model - 39 foot Woodland Park with 3 slide outs, concrete patio & carport and a deck overlooking the lake. Located on a choice waterfront lot at The Moors campground. Priced to sell! For more info contact Ray Barga at 270-994-4970



Concrete Patio with Carport



Fantastic View Overlooking the Lake

Oversized Deck & Awning



Choice Water Front Location

