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November 18th, 2011

Lake Conditions

Lake Levels ... As of this morning both lakes are about a foot, give or take a few inches, above winter pool.

Boaters – Be aware of the depth you are running in at all times and use the channel markers to navigate as both lakes are approximately 3 feet or so below their summer pool levels.

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

Water Temps ... Surface temps on both lakes are in the mid to high 50's.

Weekend Weather Outlook

Friday... Sunny and Highs in the mid 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday Night ... Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Saturday... Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. South winds 8-10 mph.

Saturday Night ... Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s.

Sunday ... Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. Light winds.

Sunday Night ... Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s..

Fishing Report

Wind, Wind and More Wind! This week seemed more like March than November. Overall fishing is pretty good considering we've been seriously handicapped by the wind and blustery weather. While we weren't able to fish where we wanted at times it didn't keep us from making some decent catches once we got on fish. Bass & Crappie were the big winners this week.

Use Your High Definition Systems to Find Early Migrators ...



... I'm not talking about Ducks either! This time of year it's cold, windy and the days are short so it's more important now than ever to make the most of our window of opportunity when on the water. With metabolisms slowing bass are feeding less and it's important to be at the right place at the right time when the prime feeding time occurs. Targeting areas that give my clients the best chance of success is always a priority and sometimes that means looking at things from a different perspective. In this case it means abandoning the shallows and banks in the bays.

One pattern that can be pretty productive this time of year is looking for schools of bass that are *early migrators* back to deeper water. For the most part these fish are unmolested and are willing to bite. Finding them is the key! Schools of bass like to hang out on ledges at the mouth of the major creeks and bays. They do this is early fall when the shad migration starts and will do the same when it's time to start migrating to deeper water in late November. Some probably live on these spots all year long too, so being able to find these "sweet spots" is a good thing. While you can use a Paper topographical lake map to help orient you while on the water, you won't find these places marked on them. Like one of my clients so aptly put it, "Using a paper map to find places like this would be like trying to find a needle in a haystack". One of the most efficient ways to find these places is to use an electronic topo map and High Definition Sonar. We use the split screen feature on our Lowrance HDS 10 that has the map and Structure-scan image (*Expand photo for a better look*) to find areas that have the greatest potential. If a spot looks good we'll fish it and assign a waypoint to it. One such area is the one shown in the top photo (*Expand photo for a better look*). WE found a school of bass positioned over rock where the ledge transitioned into deeper water. We fished for them for an hour or so catching a fish or two until the prime feeding time kicked in. Then we had about an hour of really good fishing. We caught bass on a **Steel Shad** blade bait and a **Ken's Barbell Rig** and then extended the bite using a Shakey head combo consisting of a **PJ's Bass Extractor jig and ZMan**



finesse worm. These fish were dark in color which indicates that most likely they had been spending a lot of time in shallower water. In contrast, in the weeks prior we'd been catching bass that were light in color which indicated that those fish had spent a significant amount of time in deeper water. We caught a number of fish off this spot and other spots we found like it so it is pattern that is occurring as we speak. Something worth mentioning too, if a location doesn't prove to be fruitful but has the characteristics of a good spot (*bait, structure, proximity to deep water*) I'll keep the waypoint and try it another time before it's deleted. Fishing for early migrating bass is a pattern that should really come on over the

next several weeks so keep this in mind when you visit your favorite lake. **You can check out the prime feeding times for your area by clicking on this link** <http://www.solunarforecast.com/solunarcalendar.aspx>

Boat Dock Pattern ... that was so good for us last week hasn't been so good this week. I attribute that mostly to being unable to fish them effectively. The high winds not only hampered boat control but the wind and waves positions the fish so far under the docks that they're just too hard to get a bait to. The best docks are the ones located in deeper water with spud poles. Spud poles, located on the corner of the docks, are driven into the bottom of the lake to help secure the dock. Baitfish like to eat the algae on the spud poles and the bass know that. One lure combination in particular that works is adding a **ZMAN 3" MinnowZ** swim bait to a **Buckeye Lures Su-Spin** bladed jig head. The **MinnowZ** have a nice square tail which gives off a lot of movement even under a slow retrieve and the **Su-Spin** has an under the head spinner bait shaft with two small willow leaf blades. There's a lot of good going on with this bait and working it slowly around the docks has been pretty effective. When the bite slows, pitch a **Ken's 4" Blue Pearl curly tail grub** on a 2/0 wide gap hook fished Texas Rig style with a 1/16 oz slip sinker. Peg the weight and fish it on spinning gear and 6 lb line. The bass seem to like the slow fall of the 1/16 oz version as it spirals downward. When fishing this way be a line watcher since a lot of the pickups are very subtle. Some nice keeper bass were caught this way. Most of the tackle shops in the Lakes area carry the Ken's Blue Pearl grub but if they're out you can call *The Fisherman's Friend in Lake City at (270)363-4323*. This pattern is by no means done so on calm sunny days be sure and work the docks.



Crappie ... while we didn't get to fish for crappie much when we did it was pretty decent. We're catching a lot of crappie over brush about 10 feet deep with minnows on a slip bobber rig or casting 3/32 oz KY Green or Blue Pearl curly tails. A large number of non-keeper 8-9 inch fish are being caught right now. If your patient and work thru the little ones by the end of the day you'll be rewarded with a respectable amount of quality fish in the pound to a pound a half range. *(Photo-The Wilson boys from Kentucky with some nice ones.)*

White and Yellow Bass (Stripes) Both species are in the bays, on main lake pints and secondary channel flats chasing baitfish. While we weren't focusing on these species we caught some really nice fish this week when bass fishing. Casting a **Steel Shad** or a **Ken's Hybrid Spinner** are the two best baits for this type of fishing.

Catfish, Bluegill & Redear ... We didn't fish for these species this week therefore there is no report.

Video Fishing Tip of the week

To view the Kick'n Bass Video Fishing Tip if the week
Click on this link <http://www.kicknbass.net/video.htm>

Sonar Tip of the Week



The screen shows a submerged Christmas tree on the edge of a gentle slope at the mouth of the bay. A good number of Crappie were suspended around the tree and we used minnows on a slip bobber rig to catch several really nice fish. Our HDS 10 pinpointed the location of the tree and helped identify where the fish were holding. The location of the tree was ideal since it was basically the only cover present in the immediate area and placed right on the edge of the drop. Sorry to say, whoever sank the cedar left some string lights on the tree. Several times we got hung up and reeled in some of the lights, in time it ruined the fishing. By the way, I think we got most of the lights off the tree and we disposed of them properly.

**Attention: High Definition System Owners
CONFUSED! FRUSTRATED! NEED ANSWERS?
KICK'N BASS CAN HELP!**

Read the owner's manual or watched a DVD and still baffled? Let's clear up your Sonar confusion. Have your unit(s) programmed by someone who depends on the HDS technology daily. Together we can make your system more user friendly and help you become a better angler.

Here's just some of what Kick'n Bass can do for YOU!

- **If needed, install the most recent updates.**
- **Make sure your HDS unit(s) has the correct settings for the type of fishing YOU do. In most cases the units factory default setting is set for "general use" not specific.**
- **Program the individual screens and overlay the data on the screen that you want. Example: Depth, Water Temp, Time, Voltage, etc.**
- **Arrange the screens in order how you would use them 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.**

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.

**You've Made a Significant Investment in Electronics
Learn to Use Them to Their Full Potential.
Kick'n Bass Can Help ... Call Now! (270)703-6133**

Attention Fishermen! ... Getting your Wish List ready? Searching for the perfect Christmas gift for yourself or someone else?

Choose from a Guided Fishing Trip, Electronics Training, Canadian Fishing Adventure or a Pontoon Tour. The choice is yours! Book a trip with Kick'n Bass for someone OR if you want to offer somebody an idea for your gift, let them know about Kick'n Bass Guide Service. If you want send me that persons email and we'll "Drop Them a Serious Hint" for you! Provide them with the opportunity to give you what you really want. Email me at rk@kicknbass.net or call (270)703-6133 and we'll take care of the rest.

Only Two Spots Left for Our June 2012 Canadian Fishing Adventure.

We use our 30 years of experience in the Northwood's and wilderness skills to make your trip a memorable one. We do it all for you ... pre-planning, permits, transportation, gear, etc. Our clients young and old alike say it's a can't miss trip and "Cadillac Camping" in the heart of the wilderness. Don't take our word for it. Click on the link below to find out what our clients had to say about their experience ...

http://www.kicknbass.net/archives/canadian_trip_recap_july_2011.htm



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Thanks for reading Kick'n Bass' fishing report!

Tight Lines ...

Randy Kuhens