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December 1st, 2011

Lake Conditions

Lake Levels ... As of this morning both lakes are approximately 1.5 feet over winter pool, give or take a few inches and in the midst of a drawdown. KY Dam is spilling so there is a good amount of current in the lake. For up to date generation and lake level forecast go to the TVA website: http://www.tva.gov/lakes/kyh_r.htm

Boaters – With changing water levels be aware of the depth you are running in at all times. Use the channel markers to navigate as both lakes are below their summer pool levels.

Water Conditions ... Barkley - main lake is stained and quite a few of the bays and feeder creeks are very stained. **Kentucky** – main lake is in good shape with some of the bays being lightly stained. Some of the major bays like Jonathan Creek that have multiple creeks feeding the area are a little more stained.

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

Weather Outlook

Thursday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. South winds around 5 mph.

Thursday Night... Mostly clear. Lows around 30. Southwest winds 5 mph.

Friday... Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 40s.

Friday Night... Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Saturday... Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

Saturday Night... Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of showers. Lows in the lower 40s.

Sunday... Showers likely. Highs around 50. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Sunday Night... Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Lows in the lower 30s.

Monday... Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the mid 40s.

Monday Night... Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Highs around 40.

Tuesday... Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Highs around 40.

Fishing Report



Bass Fishing ... It's been windy, rainy and cold and the lake levels are fluctuating but the bass are still biting. Some are relatively shallow and others are beginning their late fall migration back to deeper water. With the windy conditions, staying on the fish has been a challenge at times but when you found them they have been very catchable and some were pretty good size too. *(Photo - John Brewer & Paul Copeland from Louisville, KY)* Some days we've been heavy on numbers and other days it's been size. Either way we've had loads of fun. A lot of nice bass have been taken near creek channel bends mid way in the bays on **Steel Shad** blade baits.

The best colors have been Silver and Gold. The most dependable method for finding fish has been to start at the mouth of the bay and work the creek channel towards the back of the bay. Pay special attention to bends in the creek channels and the flats adjoining them. With the cooler weather some fish have backed away from the bank and are suspending in creek channels 5-7 feet deep where the flat transitions into deeper water. If you find brush or stumps in these areas cast until your arm falls off. Bass are locating on or near this type of cover waiting to ambush baitfish as they come by. Several good fish have been caught as our baits ticked the top of brush or stumps. A slow, stop and go retrieve has worked the best. The best fishing has come during the prime feeding times. I always make it a practice to make my clients aware of when those times will occur and sure enough, for the most part, the best fishing has come during those periods. It's fun to watch the client's expression when I inform them that the best fishing will come at a certain time and it's even more enjoyable to hear them tell me what time it is when they catch a fish. Prime Feeding Times are golden this time of year. Ever wonder why Feeding Times are published in your local Outdoors Section? Now you know. With the water temps dropping bass metabolisms are slowing and the fish aren't requiring as much nourishment. Therefore, they're not feeding as often but when they do you need to be at the right place and the right time. *(Photo- Bill Osborne and Scott Wanless from Benton, KY with some fun size bass)*



You can check out the prime feeding times for your area by clicking on this link and following the easy instructions ...

<http://www.solunarforecast.com/solunarcalendar.aspx>

Use Your High Definition Sonar Systems to Find Late November Bass ... Another pattern that has been pretty productive for us lately is looking for schools of bass that are *early migrators* back to deeper water. Finding them is fairly easy and for the most part these fish are willing biters. Schools of bass like to hang out on ledges at the mouth of the major creeks and bays. They do this in early fall when the shad migration starts and will do the same when it's time for them to start migrating back to deeper water in late November. One of the most efficient ways to find these places is to use an electronic topographical map and High Definition Sonar. Using our Lowrance HDS 10 in *StructureScan* mode in



combination with the electronic map page, the ledges at the mouth of the bays are scanned to find baitfish. Usually the bass aren't far behind. One such area is shown in the photo (*Expand photo for a better look*). This particular school of bass was chasing shad where the ledge transitioned into deeper water. The fishing was slow until the prime feeding time kicked in and then we had about an hour of really good action, yo-yoing a **Steel Shad** blade bait. When the aggressive biters quit we managed to extend the bite by dragging Zman finesse worms on a PJ's Bass Extractor shakey head jig thru the school. These fish were

dark in color which indicates that most likely they'd spent some recent time in shallower water. Fishing for early migrating bass is a pattern that is on right now and should really come on over the next several weeks so keep this in mind when you visit Kentucky or Barkley Lake.

Crappie ... Unfortunately we didn't get to fish for crappie much this week but when we did it was pretty decent. Catching 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 tail makes for good action. A lot of non-keeper fish were caught but if you were patient enough to work thru the shorts by the end of the day you were rewarded with some good ones. (*Photo - Don Porter from Missouri with a couple of nice ones caught casting KY Green curly tails*) As sure as I'm sitting here I believe that the upcoming spring crappie season will be one of the better ones in recent memory and I can't wait! **BOOK NOW** and get the dates you want!



White and Yellow Bass (Stripes) Action on these fish slowed quite a bit this week. While we weren't focusing on these species specifically, usually we catch some really nice ones when casting for bass. Not the case this week. Yellows and White bass were far and few between.

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

Sonar Tip of the Week



The screen shows a school of bass on the edge of a gentle slope at the mouth of a bay on the LBL side of South Kentucky Lake. In late November a good number of baitfish and bass begin their late fall migration back to deeper water and these bass were on the move. The Lowrance HDS 10 was used to pinpoint the location of the school and identified how deep we needed to fish. Without the help of our electronics we could have spent a lot of time blindly casting with baits to find the fish. Instead we concentrated on this spot and had fun catching several nice bass.

**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.

Come on and go with us ... you'll be glad you did! You don't have to have a partner, you might not know the person next to you but by the time the trip is over you'll feel like old friends. Canoe Country has a way of doing that to you. 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. For more info call (270)703-6133 or email rk@kicknbass.net Don't take our word for it. Click on

the link below to find out what our clients had to say about their once in a lifetime experience. http://www.kicknbass.net/archives/canadian_trip_recap_july_2011.htm (Photo- Tim Fulton with "godzilla" a Monster Pike he caught while fishing from base camp).



New for 2012! Kick'n Bass Guide Service Offers Fishing Trips for the Whole Family!

That's right, nobody gets left behind! Catch fish from our newly acquired state of the art family fishing machine and have fun doing it! Crappie, Bass, Bluegill, Redear, Stripes or Catfish ... the choice is yours. Corporate Trips, Church or Club Groups. Boys or Girls day out are welcome too. **Make your reservations NOW and get the dates you want!** For more info Call 270-703-6133 or email:

rk@kicknbass.net

Thanks for reading Kick'n Bass' fishing report!

Tight Lines ...

Randy Kuhens