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December 22nd, 2011

This has been a very rewarding year for Kick'n Bass Guide Service and me personally. I can honestly say that I never had a bad trip. Yeah, sometimes the fishing was slow but the company was always good. After all it's the people not the catch that makes guiding worthwhile. That's why I love what I do. A BIG THANKS to all my clients, I appreciate every one of you and look forward to our next trip together ...

*** Kick'n Bass' Outstanding Catches of the Year ***

Kick'n Bass clients had so many great catches over the last twelve months it's very difficult to pick one catch over another but here' some of the "Best of the Best" ...



Largemouth Bass ... Cindy Humbert from Evansville, IN. Imagine having a day where your husband and guide are catching a ton of bass on Shakey Heads, and some really good ones too. Then you get hung on the bottom; suddenly the bottom begins to move. Your guide rushes to the back of the boat net in hand while your husband Jim watches in disbelief as you catch the biggest Kentucky lake bass he's ever seen. Jim was a real good sport about it and was real, real happy for Cindy but I

can still hear him yelling in my ear, "Don't you lose that fish, don't you lose that fish"!!! For a lot of reasons, I'm glad the big one didn't get away!



Bluegill & Redear ... The McBroom boys from Louisville, KY with their exceptional bluegill and redear catch. What made this catch so outstanding was, all the fish were caught in a matter of minutes on artificials and the bluegills were enormous but overshadowed by the redear which were 10 inches or better. I can still hear Cullen saying, "Can we fish a little longer if we promise to clean them"? Did I mention that they forgot to bring their filet knives ...?



Crappie ... Nathan Long of Paducah, Ky with the largest Crappie ever caught by a Kick'n Bass client, a 3.68 lb. Black Crappie. Nathan seems to have the knack for catching really big fish. The crappie was caught casting a pea gravel point in about 6 feet of water. At first we thought it was a bass until we got a good look at the fish and that's when we just about messed our pants. No crappie should be that BIG!



Catfish ... Kaki Beasley from Missouri. Imagine a five foot, one hundred pound stick of dynamite little fishing machine. Kaki not only caught and landed her own fish but insisted that she wanted a picture with the fish SHE CAUGHT! Donnie, it looks like to me like you made the catch of your life ... she's definitely a keeper!



Smallmouth Bass ... Richie Head from Tennessee. Richie admitted that he hadn't bass fished as much as he liked but was quick to point out that "a bad day fishing always beats a good day of work". Richie put an exclamation point on our trip when his rod bowed double and a monster smallmouth tail-walked about thirty feet from the boat. Richie's good friend Billy LeVan and I just about soiled ourselves when the fish jumped again and we saw how big it was. Thank goodness I had a big 'ole net. Richie, don't forget about those UK vs. Vols tickets!



Best Father & Son Catch ... Kevin Scherer and his Dad Mark ... Forget about the monster bass! Anyone that has enough nerve to wear a Kick'n Bass Shirt and make his kid wear one for a photo op deserves my vote. I have a sneaky suspicion that Mark bribed Kevin with a case of MLB to get him to do it. Maybe the real deal was me catching them both in Kick'n Bass shirts and getting the photo ... Ha! LOL!





Most Unusual Catch ... Monster KY Lake snapping turtle caught on a Shakey Head. Those darn Shakey Heads will catch most anything! The angler in the photo asked that he remain nameless but for those of you that recognize him ... be sure and let him know he made the big time ... Ha! LOL!



Best Catch Under Pressure! Lisa Garber.

When Craig Garber booked a day with Kick'n Bass he mentioned it was going to be a husband and wife trip. However, what he didn't mention was his wife Lisa was in a family way ... 8 ½ months in fact. Imagine my surprise when I saw a very pregnant Lisa walking towards my boat. Lisa informed me that the trip was her idea and she wanted get in a good fishing trip before the birth of their daughter. Not only did Lisa catch her share of fish and make the most of her time on the water, she was a real sweetheart and made the trip fun for us two guys. No doubt she's a terrific mom to that little girl. Good Luck to the Garber family!



Best Canadian Catch ... This was a tough one because on both trips this year clients had so many great catches including some huge Smallmouth bass and walleye. At first it was hard to choose just one but when it came down to it one catch stood out above all the rest.

"Somebody help me ... somebody help me please"!!!

The strike was so loud I thought it was the slap of a beaver tail. I looked up from cooking our evening meal to see Tim Fulton with a white knuckle grip on his favorite fishing rod and it was bent almost to the breaking point. Tim had been lounging in a camp chair at waters

edge fishing a home-made top water lure when a monster fish savagely struck his lure. The fish was so big trying to reel it in was almost impossible. Tim got the fish as close to the bank as he could when my good friend and fellow guide Clyde Tackett went in knee deep to cradle the fish and lug it up on shore. I was shocked at the size of the fish and so was everyone else in camp that came down to investigate. In my 30 years of guiding in the North woods it was the biggest Northern Pike I'd ever seen. As you can see in the photo Tim's a pretty good size man but he doesn't have anything on the pike ... the head on that darn thing looked like an alligator! The fish was released to fight another day and a fiberglass replica resides in Mayfield, KY as a reminder of "The catch of a Lifetime". By the way Tim ... what ever happened to the home-made topwater lure you made me?



Most Heartening Catch ... Austin Sampson. Imagine a young man with special needs that h

Imagine a young man with special needs that has had to overcome a series of physical issues that would put a lot of folks down and out. Yet, with the help of his loved ones and modern medical technology he has taken up the sport of bass fishing. Seeing Austin catch his first ever Kentucky Lake bass was more than special, it is something that I will NEVER FORGET! I think I got more excited than he did. Watching Austin enjoying his day is a reminder that we all have a lot to be thankful for and each day is precious. I hope to fish with Austin again real soon ...

*** Best New Products ***

These products may not be new to you but they certainly were to me and a lot of my clients too ... (tie) LED boat lighting system by **West Kentucky LED** and **ESB Slip Bobbers.**



A typical Kick'n Bass day starts well before daylight and sometimes ends after dark plus we do a fair amount of night fishing trips too. I didn't really realize what I was missing until I saw a boat tricked out with an LED lighting package by *Greg Warner* of *West Kentucky LED*. No more flashlights for me! Now my decks are lit up and no more rods are being stepped on, etc. Lighted compartments mean no fumbling in the dark

looking for essentials. Even my battery compartment and trolling motor well are lighted. Honestly, now that I have the lighting system I don't know how I did it without it. **West KY LED** has a lighting package to suit every boat and at a real affordable price. Visit Greg's website at www.westkyled.com and check out the awesome values.



Everlasting Slip Bobbers ... or ESB Bobbers as Leroy Johnston of HL Outdoors, the inventor, calls them. Essentially what you have is a high quality slip bobber that has a lot of unique features that will help you catch more fish. This product features a glass stop bead molded into the top of the bobber tube that's highly polished and much smoother than plastic. Since it causes less friction against your line your bait gets to the fish much faster than with an ordinary slip float. Also having the built in stop bead means you won't have to buy one and no more losing the loose stop bead when you have to re-tie. The bottom end of the ESB tube is protected by a brass guard which helps protect the line

from fraying and lost fish. The float itself is made of styrofoam which means less resistance during the cast plus it's easy for a fish to pull it under. ESB Bobbers are tough too! I used one for four months until I backed over it with my boat trailer. ESB Bobbers come in six assorted sizes ranging from bluegill to big game fish size. For redear and bluegill we use the #1 size, for casting curly tails for crappie we use the #1 & #2 size and for fishing over deep water brush the #3. Several colors are available so each angler can see which float is his or hers. The bigger sizes are excellent choices for catfish. Sometimes it's the little things that make such a big difference and Leroy really thought this one thru ... also included is a small tube with a string stop knot with every bobber. So there you have it; a complete bobber package with a built in stop bead, float and string stop knot... all at a price that's about the same as a float of lesser quality. Check out the ESB Bobbers at the local tackle shops around the KY Lake area or online at http://www.hloutdoors.com

"Last Minute Christmas Gift Certificates available"!



Kick'n Bass Gift Certificates make a wonderful Christmas Gift. Certificates can be emailed to <u>you</u> or to the <u>lucky fisherperson!</u>

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And last but not least...

To all past and future clients...

