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March 16th, 2012

Lake Conditions

Lake Levels and Water Conditions ... As of this morning both lakes were approximately 1.5 feet above winter pool. Below is up to date and projected lake level forecast. For additional info on Kentucky Lake visit the TVA website: http://www.tva.gov/lakes/kyh_r.htm

Water clarity on Kentucky Lake ranges from light stain in some of the creeks with the main lake clear. On Barkley the main lake is stained and some creeks and bays are stained with some heavily stained.

Predicted Data

Day	Average Inflow*	Midnight Elevation*	Average Outflow*
3/15/2012	96,988	355.64	90,448
3/16/2012	77,865	355.71	74,400
3/17/2012	74,555	355.67	74,363

Weather Outlook

Friday...Partly sunny with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday...Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. South winds 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.

Sunday Night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 60.

Monday...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.

Monday Night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 60. Highs in the lower 80s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Lows around 60. Highs in the lower 80s.

Tuesday Night...Mostly clear. Lows around 60.

Wednesday...Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.



Springtime Fishing ... It's all about Warming Trends and how they affect the Base Water Temperature of the Lake.

A rise in water temperature this time of year is just as important as lure choice and what type of rod & reel you're using. A change in water temperature of 4 or 5 degrees in a short time is more than enough to make fish more active and start to move towards shallow water. Two factors that commonly cause water temperatures to rise are sunshine and a warm rain and lately we've had some of both. Currently Kentucky Lake has several areas of stained or dingy water from the heavy rains we experienced last

week and this type of water is holding heat and warming fast. After a slow start earlier in the week we've been blessed with our first major warming trend, a very favorable one where the nighttime air temperature hasn't dropped below the temperature of the water. This is significant, meaning the lake has had a full 24 hours of continuous warming. After only two days of such conditions bass and crappie have begun moving shallow in earnest. The surface water temps have soared in all areas of the lake over the last couple of days. The northwest bays and shorelines have received the most sunshine so the warmest water is located there and so is the best fishing. Some good numbers of bass and crappie have begun to show up late in the week including some real heavyweight bass like the one *Don Porter of Missouri caught on a Red Eye Shad lipless crank bait (Photo)*. Thursday Casey Kuppert of Jackson, Mo. And Bill Poe of Pocahontas, Ark. *(Photo)* and I had an unbelievable day catching crappie in areas that two days before, were void of fish. It just goes to show you what can happen when Mother Nature lends a helping hand.



Prime Feeding Times for Gilbertsville, KY 42044

Latitude: 36.92802 Longitude: -88.22018

Date	Temps	Sun Data	Moon Data	Moon Phase	Major Times	Minor Times	Prediction
Thursday 3/15/12	H: 74° L: 62°	Rise: 7:03 AM Set: 7:00 PM	Rise: 2:22 AM Set: 12:26 PM Overhead: 7:24 AM Underfoot: 7:52 PM	43% Waning Crescent	7:24 AM - 9:24 AM 7:52 PM - 9:52 PM	2:22 AM - 3:22 AM 12:26 PM - 1:26 PM	Average+
Friday 3/16/12	H: 78° L: 59°	Rise: 7:01 AM Set: 7:01 PM	Rise: 3:12 AM Set: 1:29 PM Overhead: 8:20 AM Underfoot: 8:46 PM	32% Waning Crescent	8:20 AM - 10:20 AM 8:46 PM - 10:46 PM	3:12 AM - 4:12 AM 1:29 PM - 2:29 PM	Average
Saturday 3/17/12	H: 79° L: 58°	Rise: 7:00 AM Set: 7:02 PM	Rise: 3:55 AM Set: 2:32 PM Overhead: 9:12 AM Underfoot: 9:37 PM	23% Waning Crescent	9:12 AM - 11:12 AM 9:37 PM - 11:37 PM	3:55 AM - 4:55 AM 2:32 PM - 3:32 PM	Average
Sunday 3/18/12	H: 81° L: 59°	Rise: 6:58 AM Set: 7:03 PM	Rise: 4:32 AM Set: 3:34 PM Overhead: 10:01 AM Underfoot: 10:25 PM	15% Waning Crescent	10:01 AM - 12:01 PM 10:25 PM - 12:25 AM	4:32 AM - 5:32 AM 3:34 PM - 4:34 PM	Average
Monday 3/19/12	H: 81° L: 59°	Rise: 6:57 AM Set: 7:04 PM	Rise: 5:05 AM Set: 4:34 PM Overhead: 10:48 AM Underfoot: 11:10 PM	8% Waning Crescent	10:48 AM - 12:48 PM 11:10 PM - 1:10 AM	5:05 AM - 6:05 AM 4:34 PM - 5:34 PM	Good
Tuesday 3/20/12	H: 80° L: 58°	Rise: 6:55 AM Set: 7:05 PM	Rise: 5:36 AM Set: 5:34 PM Overhead: 11:32 AM Underfoot: ---	4% Waning Crescent	--:-- - --:-- 11:32 AM - 1:32 PM	5:36 AM - 6:36 AM 5:34 PM - 6:34 PM	Better

(Photo) Tony Hudson of Paducah and Clayton Key of Hickory with some slab crappie caught this week casting Kentucky Green Curly Tails



Fishing Report

Wow! Bass & Crappie fishing is dominating the action this week ... and how!. With the warming water temps the pre-spawn period is in full swing.

Smallmouth Bass ... some huge females are setting up on the deeper drops adjacent to spawning flats and others are making their way to bedding areas. Some of the fish are suspending along the first noticeable drop off of main lake points and at the ends of the long tapering points at the mouth of the bays. This week we caught a large number of smaller male bass on the spawning flats on Jerk Baits and Steel Shad Blade Baits. Look for the smallmouth bass spawn to be in full swing at any time.

Largemouth bass ... are on the move and being caught on main lake points, gravel banks and on the deeper flats at the mouth of the bays. Best baits are ZMan finesse worms on a 3/16 oz PJ's bass extractor jig, Steel Shad blade baits, lipless and square bill crankbaits and A-rigs. With the bass moving shallower over the last few days no doubt you'll be able to catch them on your favorite baits and techniques. Look for the bays with the warmest water and pay special attention to the first drop or ledge adjacent to deeper water.



Crappie Fishing ... had been inconsistent early in the week but has really gotten very good later in the week. We've had to keep moving from brush pile to brush pile and rotating baits to catch a good mess. The best results came by backing off submerged structure and working 3/32 oz. Kentucky Green Curly Tail through the cover. When that bite waned we went to casting a slip bobber with a minnow or slow rolling Steel Shad Blade baits on flats adjacent to drop offs. The ratio of keeper to non-keeper fish is still running about 3 to 1 but the action is good. Since the warm weather arrived Wednesday and water temps have raised to the low 60's in places, crappie are making a move to the shallows. The most productive method for catching these fish has been casting Kentucky Green Curly Tails

and using a very slow retrieve. I hesitate to say that they're "on the banks" because as of this report they're being caught casting near the banks but are still staging near deeper water, specifically right on the first drop. Thursday's fishing was just short of phenomenal with non-stop action and enough "Slabs" to make everyone real happy. An added bonus to the flat fishing is catching some very aggressive **Yellow Bass** and some of them are running pretty good size.

(Photo) Patrick & Garrett O'Reilly of Illinois with some nice Crappie and bass caught casting Kentucky Green curly tails.



Crappie fishermen, tired of getting hung up? Try Light Wire hooks on your lead heads and curly tails!

Master lure designer Ken McGregor at the Fisherman's Friend in Lake City (270)362-4323 is at it again. A couple of weeks ago I complained to Ken and Barb about getting hung up too much in brush when my clients and I were fishing for crappie. Having to retie after breakoffs is part of fishing but there is always a better way. Nobody

knows more about making lures better than Ken so he made me a bunch of lead heads with light wire hooks. I must admit I am more than pleasantly pleased ... I'm surprised at how well the lead heads work. The light wire looks allow us to fish around the heaviest cover and if we get hung up, a steady pull of the line will bend the hook and dislodge the lure. We've gotten so effective at dislodging the lure that my clients have no fear of getting hung up and sometimes we even catch a crappie as the lure comes free. Using Power Pro braided line in 10lb test (2 lb. diameter) and a matching fluorocarbon leader rounds out the system. Add your favorite curly tail or tube jig and you're ready to get in the game. The Light Wire lead heads come in assorted sizes and colors.

Sonar Tip of the Week



With a properly installed and programmed unit you can see images like this too! The screen shows the HDS 10 in Left & Right View in Structurescan mode. Notice the school of Asian Carp and their corresponding shadows. Your system is capable of these type of images too! Contact rk@kicknbass.net for your own personal "On the water Sonar Class"

What is Kick'n Bass' "On the Water Sonar Class"?

Kick'n Bass offers a one on one, hands on, in your boat using your electronics class that will take your understanding and know-how to another level!

IF YOU'RE CONFUSED, FRUSTRATED, AND NEED ANSWERS then Kick'n Bass' "On the Water Sonar Class" is for YOU!

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!

- 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 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.
- Learn how to assign a waypoint to a fishing hot spot and find it again.
- 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.

You've Made a Significant Investment in Electronics. Learn to Use Them to Their Full Potential.

Don't Wait ... NOW is the time to get it done. Spend time now using your system and be ready for Spring Fishing!

Call Now! (270)703-6133 or email rk@kicknbass.net



Kick'n Bass Guide Service Offers Pontoon Trips for the Whole Family

That's right, nobody gets left behind! Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa and the kids can go too! Catch fish from our newly acquired state of the art fishing machine and have fun doing it! Crappie, Bass, Bluegill, Redear, Stripes or Catfish ... the choice is yours. Don't want to fish, rather relax and chill out? No problem, we can customize your trip. If you have something special in mind just let us know. Contact us well in advance for reservations. Email: rk@kicknbass.net

Thanks for reading Kick'n Bass' fishing report!

Tight Lines ...

Randy Kuhens