

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For April 26, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

Hey Y'all from the Excel Bay Pro 203 "Fishful Thinking".

We knew spring had to finally decide to come back from a long vacation. Water temperatures topping 60 degrees have been on the menu for a couple of months. Sunshine and calmer winds have been in our prayers too.

The water levels are up a couple of feet above summer pool but should retreat in a couple of days. Those of us who are watching the progression of the crappie heading shallow and starting to spawn are hoping the falling water occurs prior to the beginning of the spawn.

The higher water levels are a result of the heavy rains we had last weekend. Last Sunday was one of the most miserable days I've spent in a boat in a long time. My clients from southern Indiana were troopers but 5 hours of showers then torrential downpours finished the day off. Monday was bringing more of the same so a rescheduled date allowed me to dry out some gear.

## **Crappie**

Look for mid-depths to shallow for numbers, deep structure for quality. Anglers trolling jigs, spider rigging shallow rigs, and those who watch a bobber and minnow are all having some decent catches. We have officially broken out the PICO crank baits for the season and have had some seriously good quality catches on deep ledges and around mid to deep cover. Crank colors have been all over the place but Mudbug has been in our spread all day. Dark colored jigs in areas of high, stained water are working best. Minnows on double spider rigs are working also.

One thing that shocked me this morning when I went to drop my Terrova I-Pilot trolling motor into the water was the absolute drinking-water clarity, even in an area of mass trash floating away from the banks. Granted, this was on a main lake drop but it really surprised me that the chocolate milk coloring I expected to see is nowhere near the mouths of the bays. Even though the water color was surprising, the level of floating trash was enough to keep us cautious the entire time we are on the lake.

As I've said here before, the crappie spawn isn't an overnight event. It will happen over a couple of weeks so if your schedule doesn't allow you to get to the lake this weekend, you'll still have time to catch a portion of the spawn.

Our crankbait trips have seen us catching crappie, bass, white bass, yellow bass, catfish, drum, and bluegills.

This morning we spent a couple of hours in a bay on the east side of the lake, along the LBL shore. We were entertained for the whole time by 3 mature eagles, 1 immature eagle, and multiple ospreys who all seem to be shaking off winter.

I've got to finish by saying how lucky I feel to be in a vocation that lets me be outdoors, do something I've loved all my life but most of all meet new people from all over. I became a member of Crappie.com several years ago but really didn't become a regular contributor until about the time I considered starting guiding.

As I became more active as a member, I started meeting new friends both locally and regionally. Once I started guiding, I started making new friends of many who hired me to teach them new tricks. Jere and Steve fall into a couple of those scenarios. Both are retired - Jere is from Fulton, KY and Steve from Bloomington, IN.

Steve had fished with me solo a few times then asked if I might have a friend who wanted to share the boat. Jere had the day off so he fit the seat rather well. Boy did I ever make a miscalculation!! These two have to be separated twins somewhere down the line. I just spent the last two days laughing my tail off while those two kidded, picked at, poked and prodded each other with no mercy. Both are great fishermen but nowhere nearly as great as they are people.

Roger Waters of Pink Floyd wrote in one of his song lyrics, "Strangers passing in the street. By chance two separate glances meet, and I am you and what I see is me." My brothers in fishing must feel somewhat that way. Those 2 can finish each other's sentences and they would have likely never passed in the street except in my boat.

That makes me feel pretty good about what I do. That plus some Ziploc bags full of fillets that headed back to IN.

Be careful out there. The lake is covered in trash and floating debris. Wear your PFDs any time the big engine is running above idle. Watch out for those who won't watch out for you.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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