

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For December 18, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hello from the Excel Bay Pro 203. Actually I would be more accurate saying Hello from my recliner.

Man, how things have transpired since my last report. Life happens. I lost my Dad on November 25, 2018. He had been in the hospital for a couple of weeks being treated for internal bleeding when he suffered 2 strokes that took him from us. We were so lucky to be able to be at his side when he passed so peacefully at Lourdes Hospice Center.

Dad was the reason I have made fishing a huge part of my life since childhood. I followed in his tracks when he fished his favorite farm ponds well before my younger brother and I were old enough to bring our own rods along. I probably got my butt switched a time or two for throwing rocks in the pond or making too much noise.

The late 60s found hard times for a construction carpenter in the local area so Dad took a job running Port Ken Bar Marina on Barkley Lake (now known as Green Turtle Bay). There I was able to learn from some of the best fishermen in the area including A.A.Toney and Dutch Owens.

Dad and I were lucky enough to share my boat often over the years and those memories will be some of my best. While we spent much of our time chasing bass, he loved the catfish spawn on the rocky areas of Barkley as well as bluegills and redears. In recent years our preferred target were crappie and once we developed pulling crankbaits for crappie technique, we had found our joy.

Dad knew how much the pain in my back and knee was affecting my daily life and he encouraged me to have the surgeries done as soon as possible so I could spend the winter healing and be ready for early spring crappie and my guiding business. As luck would have it, I missed Dad's funeral because of the back surgery.

The family made the decision for me to not cancel it due to the length of time it would take to get it rescheduled. I was able to be with my Mom at the visitation. There was no doubt Dad was there with me during both back procedures.

There we have it. I'm on the mend after spinal fusion. I will now be setting off every metal detector I get near. My daily pain is less and my daily activity is more. I'm walking like my Doctor ordered and am getting to spend several hours a day with Camo at my taxidermy shop.

My plans going forward will include doing seminars at a couple of regional boat shows as well as doing some development work with Excel Boats on a new multi-species

model and a line of crappie boats. The new Excel Boats plant at Union City, TN is moving along.

After the first of the year I will resume taking bookings for the 2019 season.

I want to thank each and every one of my clients and friends who have sent best wishes, condolences, and have offered prayers up for both me and my family during this time. I never realized how taking perfect strangers fishing could end up with me making so many dear friends but it has. Those friendships mean so much to me and I want to pass that along as we move forward.

Crappie

The reports I'm getting is of scattered catches both longlining and spider-rigging. The quality of the crappie is much better than what we saw last fall and winter. Curly tail jigs on plain and roadrunner heads tipped with crappie nibbles or sprayed with Slab Sauce trolled at 0.7--1.0 mph is producing. Check cover in 8-15 feet of water.

Spider rigging with jigs tipped with minnows around deeper cover is working for those who have been able to take advantage of the beautiful weather the last few days. The high current flow rates have kept some folks at the house.

Be careful out there. The water temps are down in the mid 40s and that is prime for hypothermia should one take a dunking. Wear your PFD and keep extra clothes in the boat just in case.

I'll be back on my feet very soon and hope to see you at the shows and on the water real soon.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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