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September 29th, 2011

Lake Conditions

Lake Levels ... As of this morning both lakes are approximately 2.5 feet below summer pool, give or take a few inches and in the midst of a steady drawdown to winter pool levels.

Water Conditions ... The water on both Lakes is in great shape for fishing.

Water Temps ... Surface temps on both lakes are in the low 70's.'

Fishing Report

Here's an idea of what's going on in the world of Kick'n Bass ... Bass fishing is improving, White Bass & Yellow Bass are really biting and the Crappie fishing is getting better by the day.



The Cook boys, (*Photo left*) three generations in all; John, Dallas and Aaron, from Stanford, KY., enjoyed a great day bass fishing with Kick'n Bass and caught some nice ones using shakey heads and Steel Shad blade baits. **Most** days we're catching several limits with a kicker fish too. (*Photo Right*) Steve Storie & Neil Dougherty from New York State with some nice bass caught on a Steel Shad.

With the fall transition in full swing Bass are following schools of baitfish and are being caught along chunk rock banks, next to secondary points (6-10 feet deep), on mid-bay shell beds 10 to 13 feet deep and in the shallows in the back of the bays. Also some fish are still on the ledges. Crankbaits fished slowly are catching a few bass but the best catches have come on Shakey Heads and Steel Shad blade baits. Once we located a school of bass with our *Lowrance HDS System* we slow rolled a Steel Shad blade bait to catch the aggressive biters and then extended the bite using a Shakey Head with a ZMan Finesse worm fished on

a 3/16 oz PJ's Bass Extractor jig. Pumpkin Green Flake, New Money and Watermelon Red Flake have been the very good colors. Coppertruese is our #1 choice for colored water or low light conditions. A very slow presentation has worked best. **Ledge Fishing** has been pretty decent and best during current generation. It seems if you find a ledge with some fish on it they are pretty cooperative. For the most part it seems ledge fish are the least pressured. Most fish caught were 8-12 feet deep where the ledge transitioned into deeper water. Best baits were a mixture of a Steel Shad blade bait, a deep diving crank bait, a Shakey Head and a 1/2 oz. jig. For us the ledge bite has been the most inconsistent of all the patterns.



The **Top Water Bite** has been hit or miss but fabulous at times. Best action occurs in the very early morning or late evening hours along chuck rock banks and in the very back of the bays. The most productive baits have been the Pop R in chrome & black and a Lucky Craft Gunfish in Peal Ghost. I'm not ready to commit to the top water bite just yet, as it is feast or famine, but it can be a blast. It's apparent that topwater will become more of a factor very soon as more fish move up.

To sum it up, bass fishing is a little unpredictable but sometimes you can get lucky and catch them two at a time like Neil Dougherty from New York (*Photo*) did on a Steel Shad. No doubt bass fishing is getting a little more productive each day and as more fish transition to shallower water it will get a lot better real quick. Some of the best fishing of the year is right upon us.

White and Yellow Bass (Stripes)

Now is the perfect time to be after these fighters. If you're throwing a **Steel Shad** or a **Ken's Hybrid Spinner** you can't help but catch some Whites & Yellows. Both species are in the bays and on the points chasing baitfish and we caught some really nice fish this week. Some folks say that the Yellow Bass is one of the best tasting fish that swims in Kentucky Lake. So, if stripes are your thing then now is the time to be on the water. The good news is it can only get better.

Crappie ...

While we didn't get to fish specifically for crappie this week it didn't keep us from catching a few! In the last several days we've noticed on our Lowrance HDS a good movement of crappie towards the shallows. I suspect that these fish are black crappie. An occasional fish, caught on a blade bait near traditional spawning flats when fishing for bass, confirmed that the crappie are in the midst of their fall transition. (*Photo - John Cook with a nice black crappie caught on a Steel Shad*) Expect the Black Crappie to be the first ones to move up. Look for black crappie on sunny days to be located on gravel banks about 4-6 feet deep. Casting a 3/32 oz lead head with a Kentucky Green curly tail would be a good idea and remember to work it slow.



Catfish and Bluegill ... No Report.

Sonar Tip of the Week



The screen shows several big bass located on top of a ledge near a secondary channel. These fish were in a very inactive mood after a major frontal system had moved thru the area. It took a very subtle approach using a Shakey head to entice a strike. While we were only able to catch one fish from the group, a waypoint was assigned to this location for future reference. You can bet we'll fish this spot again.

Kick'n Bass can help you get more out of your electronics and become a better fisherman. Here's just some of what Kick'n Bass can do to make your units more user friendly and in turn help you become a more productive angler ...

- **Make sure your HDS unit(s) has the correct settings for the type of fishing you do. In a lot of cases the units are set for "general use" not specific.**
- **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.
- 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.

To schedule an on the water fishing trip with instruction send an email to rk@kicknbass.net

Only ~~three~~ two openings left for our June 2012 Canadian Fishing Adventure!



Monster Pike



Trophy Smallmouth



Crappie & Walleye too!



Swapping fish stories and good times around the Campfire!

Yes, this could be you! ... After all who wouldn't want to go, right! Maybe you would like to go but feel uncertain about putting the trip together or going by yourself. No problem! Let Kick'n Bass put together a trip of a lifetime for YOU! With nearly three decades of experience exploring and fishing the Northwoods, we use our angling know-how and wilderness skills to make your trip a memorable one. It's no wonder we've practically sold out our 2012 trips! We do it right. Come go with us and experience a trip of a lifetime. Don't take our word for it, click on this link and read what our clients had to say about their trip ... http://kicknbass.net/archives/canadian_trip_recap_july_2011.htm

To find out more about our Canadian fishing trips or book a trip with Kick'n Bass Guide Service call (270)703-6133 or send an email to rk@kicknbass.net

PROP FOR SALE



25 Raker II - Balanced & Blueprinted by Mark Croxton. This is one of my backup props and has been sitting on a shelf in my garage. Has about 3 hours on it. 9 out of 10 condition. \$375 includes shipping to lower 48 only. If interested email rk@kicknbass.net

WOW !!! Kevin Van Dam at the Cabin Bait & Tackle ...



Mark in on your calendar. Plan to be at the Cabin Bait & Tackle in Kuttawa, KY on Saturday October 8th BASS Elite angler Kevin Van Dam will be there from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This is your chance to meet the top ranked

angler in the world. Don't forget to take advantage of the special deals on most everything in the store. For more info call (270) 388-6440.

Thanks for reading Kick'n Bass' fishing report!

Tight Lines ...

Randy Kuhens