

# Come Fish With Us!



## Madison County Lake

### 776-4905

May 18—31, 2009

Lake Temp: 80  
Water: 24" visibility

#### Hours of Operation:

Sunup is at 5:30 a.m.  
Sundown is at 7:55 p.m.

#### DAYS OF OPERATION:

Open 6 days a week  
**CLOSED** every Wednesday

#### WEEKLY WEIGH OUTS

##### May 18 — 24

- Bluegill  
382 @ 159 lbs
- Redear/Shellcracker  
280 @ 143 lbs
- Bass  
1 @ 5 lbs
- Catfish  
184 @ 337 lbs
- Crappie  
171 @ 97 lbs

##### May 25—31

- Bluegill  
473 @ 183 lbs
- Redear/Shellcracker  
75 @ 344 lbs
- Bass  
4 @ 5 lbs
- Catfish  
120 @ 296 lbs
- Crappie  
416 @ 241 lbs
- Trout  
1 @ 3 lbs

## Lights Out on Crappie

Ever wonder where crappie go after Spring is gone and the spawn is over? In river systems they migrate back to deep water where there is plenty of bait fish and cooler water. But what about the lake? Well, if you read last edition of the news letter you learned that after the water visibility is cut down to 18 to 24 inches, all the fish in the lake are less than 6 feet, even crappie. The problem with catching them is most of them feed at night. They will travel the shorelines in search of food. One of the best way to catch them is just a plain orange cork and a minnow fished about 3 1/2 to 4 feet deep. Fish around a light of some sort too, the light attacks small minnows which in turn attracts the crappie. So the next Tuesday night when you are there to catch catfish, while you are waiting on Mr. Whiskers you might want to try your luck on some summer night slabs.



## Did you know?

A female sunfish may lay 300,000,000 eggs at a single spawning

## Night fishing for Bass

Bass bit at night too! When bass fishing at night you want something that makes noise and vibrates. So crank baits and soft plastics. If you're fishing with plastic, buy a little capsule of rattles and slip them inside the lure (worm or lizard), this will give them more noise. Oh and be quiet too, bass don't like a lot of noise outside of the water.



Nice 5 pounder Bruce!



William with one of the many crawfish in the lake.

## WHAT'S IN THE WATER?

There are lots of things "IN" the water as we explained last issue there are swimming pools for fertilizer in the lake. This time we'll talk about what fish are IN the water at Madison County Lake. The five main types of fish in this lake are: Bluegill, Shell-cracker, Crappie, Catfish and Bass. Since catfish are biting like crazy right now, let's talk a little more about catfish.



The state stocks the lake once a year with channel catfish. This usually occurs in late fall to early winter some time. The amount of catfish stocked in the lake each year varies based on how many catfish are weighed out each year. This is why it is

VERY important for anglers to WEIGH ALL fish out before leaving, regardless of the size. I promise we're not trying to be the fish police (well maybe a little), but it benefit you the angler if you weigh your fish before leaving. Want more fish put in the lake, weigh all your fish out before leaving.. OK 'nuf said on that.

### FUN FACTS ABOUT CATFISH:

Adult channel cats are slender and elongated, they are dark gray along the back, grading to light yellow or greenish yellow along the sides, and white on the venter. Juvenile channel cats are typically light gray on the back and silvery on the sides and venter. The sides of both juveniles and adults have scattered dark spots.

Ever wonder how or why catfish make a funny sound when you pick them up or take them out of the water? A catfish

produces these "stridulatory sounds" by rubbing the base of the petcoral spine against the pectoral girdle, it's kinda' like grinding the ball & socket joint of your shoulder. The sound is typically made as the catfish locks its spines as a defense mechanism.

Did you also know catfish taste really good? Not in reference to how they taste to us, but rather their ability to taste. Catfish have over 27,000 taste buds. Humans have only 9,000 taste buds.

This mess of catfish weighed 86 lbs.



## NEW MOON — JUNE 7TH

When we talk about the "new moon", we're not talking about the new Twilight movie coming out. We're talking about the moon cycle and it's effects on the fish in the lake. Bluegill in particular spawn (that was WOW Jr last issue) around the full moon periods. The 5-day period before and after the full moon are great times to catch your limit. Remember June 7th is the new moon, so come ready to fish anywhere from the 2nd of June thru the 12th of June and catch some big Bluegills.

## TRY THIS: mustard

When frying fish try adding a little mustard to your egg mix. We usually beat 3 eggs in a bowl/dish, add a little mustard to the eggs and mix then add yellow corn meal with some seasoning salt in a Ziploc bag. Coat fish fillets in eggs and mustard mix, then put in Ziploc back and shake to well coated. Fry and eat!

## HOW TO: tie a Carolina rig

Carolina rigs are normally associated with bass fishing but the primary function of this rig is to not get hung in rocks & trees so much. This means it's perfect for cat fishing, too!

1. Tie one end of the leader line to the barrel swivel and set it aside.

### Carolina Rig



2. Slide your main line through the sinker weights.
3. Tie the main line to the other end of the barrel swivel.
4. Now, tie the end of the leader line to your hook.

## WOW! (whoppers of the week)



MY Shellcracker @ 11b



Catfish 9 lbs and 7 lbs



Ed Putnam 6 catfish @ 36 lb



12 cats @ 28 lbs



Joe's shellcracker 1 lb & .75 lbs

## WOW Jr! (word of the week) Slack

**Slack:** The loose or limp line from the tip of the rod to the lure. This can be a slight bow in the line to an excess of line lying on the water.

When bottom fishing for catfish or shellcracker its always a good idea to leave a little slack in your line. This will keep the fish from feeling the pressure of the rod and letting go of your bait.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- There are no size limits on the fish taken out of the lake, BUT there is a quantity limit.  
This means **ALL FISH MUST BE WEIGHED.**
- NO Jug fishing in state lakes. That means this lake!
- Catfish limit is 6 per person.
- Permits are required for anyone that is 12 yr of age and older.
- Any vessel being launched at the state lake must have a launch permit.
- No boats on the lake after dark on Tuesday night's night fishing. That's around 8 o'clock.