LAKE LU Fishing Newsletter

March 2014 Newsletter
Robby Limerick - Lake Manager
### March 2014 Fish Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Anglers</th>
<th>Number of Bass</th>
<th>Pounds of Bass</th>
<th>Number of Bream</th>
<th>Pounds of Bream</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>355.50</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>45.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar YTD</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>477.50</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>218.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Three year Rainfall Comparison

- **2014 Monthly Rainfall**
- **2013 Monthly Rainfall**
- **2012 Monthly Rainfall**
Three year Bass Harvest Comparison

Three year Bream Harvest Comparison
### Monthly Harvest Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of Anglers</th>
<th>Number of Bass</th>
<th>Pounds of Bass</th>
<th>Number of Bream</th>
<th>Pounds of Bream</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>355.50</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>1,182</td>
<td>589.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Calendar Year-to-Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Anglers</th>
<th>Number of Bass</th>
<th>Pounds of Bass</th>
<th>Number of Bream</th>
<th>Pounds of Bream</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>477.50</td>
<td>423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Fish Averages (Year-to-Date)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month/Year</th>
<th>Ib/Bass Average</th>
<th>Ib/Acre Average</th>
<th>Ib/Bream Average</th>
<th>Ib/Acre Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>9.55</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>7.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>29.86</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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Lake Conditions

Lake rainfall for the month of March 2014 was 7.0 inches of rainfall. Visibility is at 38 inches. Water temperature is 61ºF. The lake is currently very muddy due to excessive rainfall in March. We got 4.0 inches of rain last week during Spring Break. Some minor flooding occurred and I had to go out and pull in all the boats before they floated off. Since then we have gotten another inch of rain and the forecast is for rain with a
possible 3 to 5 inches total with this current storm. The water will not clear up until after the spring rains slow down a bit. Anglers are asking when I will begin fertilization this year and I tell them that I will start when the flushing stops. There is no need to fertilize the Sucarnochee River!

Bass Fishing

Bass fishing has been constantly improving. Clear “bluebird” days are not very good days for catching fish at Lake LU. Cloudy, overcast days are the best days for bass fishing.

March bass angler of the month is Tracey Poke. Tracey has probably caught 15 slot bass for the month. Below are a couple of his nicest fish.
Tracey Poke with a nice 7 pound, 22 inch bass that was RELEASED back to the lake.
Tracey Poke with a fattie 9.25 pound, 22 3/8" inch bass that was RELEASED back to the lake.
Above are Cody Rogers and Mark Grant, UWA Bass Club members posing with their bass that they caught on 3-1-14. Both of these bass were released back to Lake LU. I did manage to tag these bass so that I can follow their growth rates.
Jesse Moore caught this nice 7 pound bass on 3-14-14 and released it back to the lake.
Tommy Hedricks caught a nice slot fish and threw it back.
I took my wife fishing one day last month and she caught one bass before the rain set in.

I would like to remind bass anglers that all bass are measured for total body length with mouth closed and tail pinched.

The current bass harvest regulation is UNLIMITED bass harvest on bass less than 14 inches in total length, with only one bass over 24 inches.
I encourage all anglers to use an accurate measuring device.

Last Sunday I was interviewed by Mr. Mike Bolton with the Alabama Outdoor News Magazine. Below is a short write up that he sent me regarding the Lake LU record largemouth bass. Mr. Bolton said that the article on Lake LU would be in the May 2014 issue of the magazine. ~RL.

Mike Bolton, who served as the outdoor writer for the Birmingham for 30 years, is now the editor of Alabama Outdoor News. He has for three decades kept the list of the 25 largest bass ever caught in Alabama for the state. He recently sent us these tidbits about Lake LU.
When Tuscaloosa’s Kelly Belk caught a 15-pound, 3-ounce bass from Lake LU in 1991, it was the fourth largest bass ever caught from public waters in Alabama. I was at the time the sixth largest bass caught from any waters in the state and today it still remains as the ninth largest bass ever caught in Alabama.

Belk’s big Lake LU bass was larger than all previous Alabama state records prior to 1987. It is just one of 10 bass larger than 15 pounds ever caught in the state. Only five of those bass came from non-private lakes.

The Alabama state record bass, 16 pounds, 8 ounces, was caught in 1987 from a private lake in Shelby County by the late T.M. Burgin. That record is now more than 25 years old. The current state record broke the previous state record of 15 pounds, 6 ounces that was caught earlier in 1987 from a private lake in Cullman County. That record stood for only 57 days.

Lake Guntersville is generally considered Alabama’s best big bass lake but it has never produced a bass as large as Belk’s Lake LU bass. The Lake Guntersville record is 14 pounds, 8 ounces.
Kelly Belk with current Lake LU record largemouth bass. This 15 pound, 3 ounce monster was caught on February 24, 1991.

I was just talking to Mr. Jerry Abston during his check in and he said that he first learned about Lake LU way back in 1986. Mr. Abston said that he was a Marine stationed in Okinawa, Japan and read a magazine article on the top 25 lakes in Alabama to catch a 10 pound bass and that Lake LU caught his attention. Mr. Abston said that when he got back in the states that he made it a top priority to find this fabled, Lake El Yoo, and fish it. Mr. Abston said that he has been coming to the lake since 1988.
Bream Fishing

The cold weather also has the bream fishing very slow. The main reason this angling effort is so slow is because we have had a major reduction in the numbers of anglers attending Lake LU. Never fear. Warm weather is on the way back in a month we will be marveling at the warm, balmy temperatures. Bream anglers need to use wax worms and meal worms if they want to catch some slab shell crackers.

Rev. Herman Bell caught this nice cooler of bream.
This was his largest shell cracker.
Big Gold.
Four leafed clovers finally came in just in time for St. Patrick’s Day.
A number of UWA students have been using the little house on the prairie as a place to ask their girlfriends to marry them. Here are Nick and Ashleigh after he asked her to marry him. I asked my wife to marry me on Proposal Hill in November of 2000. Life goes by faster than you think.
Here we begin our controlled burn season in the prairies. UWA environmental science student Tyler Newburn is using a drip torch to set a head fire on the fire line.
The Little House Fire.

The Proposal Hill Fire was very hot.
I knew it got really hot. Here is Proposal Hill post burn. Note the singed cedar trees.

I have wanted to burn some wooded areas for the past 10 years or so. Here is a section near Birdy Finger Bridge that burned really well. This fire killed privet hedge that was growing underneath the tree canopy.
Following the fire the boys and I acted like the fire safety patrol going behind the fire doing a mop up on any remaining embers. They sure did love spraying water on the leftovers.

Redbuds in bloom.
Good Bye Winter!!!
Hello spring!
Big burn at the weather station at the ALFA Center. That’s me in the yellow shirt in the middle of the conflagration.
If anyone wants any advice on fishing Lake LU, please call me at 1-205-652-9266 or e-mail me at lrr@uwa.edu. Feel free to visit Lake LU’s website at www.lakelu.uwa.edu

Thank you,

Robby Limerick
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Lake LU
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Alabama Flag -- hypeandfail.blogspot.com
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American Bald Eagle – alejandrosporfolio.freeiz.com
Great Blue Heron -- flickriver.com
All other photos by R.Limerick unless otherwise noted.