

St. Croix Bassmaster Open at Logan Martin Lake presented by SEVIIN now underway in Alabama

LINCOLN, Ala. — The notion of ups and downs is nothing new to bass tournament anglers, but Alabama native and Bassmaster Elite Series champion Wes Logan said the St. Croix Bassmaster Open at Logan Martin Lake presented by SEVIIN will be heavily influenced by a down-and-up deal.

Competition days are May 2-4 with daily takeoffs from Lincoln Landing at 6 a.m. CT and weigh-ins each day back at the landing

"I think a lot of what people found in pre-practice is going to be null and void because of how those fish (reposition) when the water starts moving," Logan said. "It's going to be interesting, because fish will be moving with the water."

at 2 p.m.

A Logan explained, winter drawdown lowers this 17,000-acre Coosa River reservoir to a winter pool level of about 462 feet (2023-24). With Alabama Power Company gradually bringing the lake back to full pool (465) by early May, the lake stood about 1.75 feet from that mark a week prior to the event.

With warm weather forecast and water temperatures in the upper 60s to low 70s, Logan Martin's shaping up for a good dose of spring patterns. That being said, the event's timing, shortly after a major hydrologic adjustment could just as easily see a restrained mood or a wide-open stick fest.

"I think a lot of what people found in pre-practice is going to be null and void because of how those fish (reposition) when the water starts moving," Logan said. "It's going to be interesting, because fish will be moving with the water."

From a lifetime of fishing Coosa River lakes, Logan ex-



Alabama's Logan Martin Lake will host the 2024 St. Croix Bassmaster Open presented by SEVIIN May 2-4. (Photo by James Overstreet/B.A.S.S.)

pects that some of the bass will have spawned, but the annual spring water rise certainly factors into the fish's timing. With water temperatures warm enough, successful bedding may occur during the rise. But as the water level increases, greater depth may limit sunlight penetration.

"Those drawdown fish are smart; they learn not to do it too early," Logan said of the water level change. "From one week to the next, the fish can be completely different. I think this will make it interesting to see who can figure out the new pattern."

"If someone comes across something the last day of practice, they might be able to run a pattern that nobody else knows yet."

Describing the lake as what he calls "Coosa River Clear" — about 1 to 1 1/2 foot visibility — Logan said tournament week will likely present a clean-slate scenario that could include a mix of spawn and postspawn scenarios.

Given the significant water level change, he believes much of what pre-practicing anglers found before the April 14 off-limits date will be largely irrelevant.

On the upside, Logan said he believes the event could be won from the Neely Henry tailrace down to the Logan Martin Dam impounding this lake. For its relatively modest size, Logan Martin offers abundant habitat diversity.

"There will be a lot of stuff in play; there's a lot of docks on Logan Martin — floating docks, pole docks, and around those docks are a lot of seawalls," Logan said. "If we get back on a warming trend, there could be a few times where we have a shad spawn and those seawalls will play really well. As the sun rises, the shad leave and the fish pull to the docks or the first available shade."

Logan expects to see a large segment of the field spending their days offshore looking for fish on forward-facing sonar. Plenty of

spots to check and rising water won't have much impact on this game. The biggest challenge for the "scopers" will be crowding and fishing pressure.

Other common targets include stump flats and water willow. The latter's a Coosa River favorite, but Logan said anglers will have to gauge how firmly the fish have committed to this habitat. Growth happens quickly with the returning water, but the degree to which water willow plays has yet to be determined.

"Upriver from Lincoln Landing (takeoff site) to the (Neely Henry) Dam, anglers will fish your basic river structure," Logan said. "You'll have current swings, river bends with some current hitting off some bluff banks, laydowns and offshore rockpiles."

"Down lake there's a lot of underwater humps where those spotted bass like to get on this time of year. From the Stemley Bridge (Highway 34) down to the Logan Martin Dam, in that

lower lake area the water stays relatively cleaner and there's a few major creeks that have a really good population of big spotted bass."

While unlocking the Logan Martin bounty will require intense search and analysis, during this spring transitional time, Logan said competitors can fish their strengths.

"You can catch 'em on a vibrating jig, a buzzbait early, a spinnerbait (especially for the shad spawn) and a 1/2-ounce flipping jig," Logan said. "For spotted bass, jerkbaits, crankbaits and jigs are good. A shaky head is a good way to cover water and get bites, and a Carolina rig with a finesse worm is really good for spots on those offshore humps. "Even though it's a smaller lake, you're gonna be able to fish the way you want to. You're not going to have to do one particular thing. There's a lot of ways the tournament could be won."

While spotted bass will almost certainly play a significant role in this event, Logan said he's not looking for a winning weight solely comprising spots. The occasional spotted chunk will likely highlight competitive limits, but the dependable weight typically comes from largemouth.

"I don't know if you can catch a 4-pound spot, or a couple of them every day," Logan said. "It seems like there's been a little better population of spotted bass here lately, but somebody who can figure out how to catch 14 to 16 pounds of spots for three days will be hard to beat."

"I think it will be dominated with largemouth; that's going to be most consistent. It could be a mixed bag, but if someone figures out that largemouth deal, they could really run away with it."

Canadian angler Evan Kung currently leads the Tackle Ware-

house Bassmaster Elite Qualifiers race with 568 points. Texas pro Dakota Ebare is second with 555 points, followed by Matt Adams in third with 529, Mike Surman in fourth with 504 and Easton Fothergill in fifth with 502 points. Andy Newcomb is sixth with 501 points, followed by Bobby Bakewell in seventh with 491, Cody Meyer in eighth with 491 and Christian Ostlander in ninth with 488.

Bassmaster LIVE will be streaming on Bassmaster.com all four days.

The event is being hosted by the City of Lincoln.

2024 Bassmaster Opens Series Title Sponsor: St. Croix
2024 Bassmaster Opens Series Presenting Sponsor: SEVIIN
2024 Bassmaster Opens Series Platinum Sponsor: Toyota
2024 Bassmaster Opens Series Premier Sponsors: Bass Pro Shops, Dakota Lithium, Humminbird, Mercury, Minn Kota, Nitro Boats, Power-Pole, Progressive Insurance, Ranger Boats, Rapala, Skeeter Boats, Yamaha
2024 Bassmaster Opens Series Supporting Sponsors: AFTCO, Daiwa, Garmin, Lew's, Lowrance, Marathon, Triton Boats, VMC

B.A.S.S., which encompasses the Bassmaster tournament leagues, events and media platforms, is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport. Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., the 500,000-member organization's fully integrated media platforms For more than 50 years, B.A.S.S. has been dedicated to access, conservation and youth fishing.

Connect with #Bassmaster on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok.

Tennessee State Parks, TWRA partner with American Canoe Association for Kayaking 101 to kick off Safe Boating Week

NASHVILLE — For the third year, Tennessee State Parks and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) are joining the Tennessee chapter of the American Canoe Association (ACA) to offer low-cost kayaking instruction Saturday, May 18.

The event is part of National Safe Boating Week. Last year, the event trained 279 students across North Carolina and Ten-

"We want all Tennesseans to be safe while enjoying the state's beautiful waterways," said TWRA Executive Director Jason Maxedon. "We are excited to be part of this great partnership to highlight outdoor recreation opportunities and paddling safety skills."

nessee in 24 simultaneous Kayaking 101 classes led by nationally certified ACA instructor volunteers. The National Safe Boating Council recognized this effort with the Communications Community Impact Award.

As a result of the success realized in Tennessee and North Carolina last year, seven states are participating in the event this year with 43 simultaneous Kayaking 101 classes planned in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Missouri, and Florida.

"Doubling the number of classes and involving more states for more boaters is great," said Greer Tidwell, deputy commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. "We are happy to host these classes at Tennessee State Parks and grateful to the phenomenal volunteer instructors



Kayaking at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park in 2023. (Photo by ANDe Demetriou)

and our partners at TWRA and the ACA."

"We want all Tennesseans to be safe while enjoying the state's beautiful waterways," said TWRA Executive Director Jason Maxedon. "We are excited to be part of this great partnership to highlight outdoor recreation opportunities and paddling safety skills."

"Our instructor volunteers are so excited to share their love of the sport with newcomers and experienced paddlers alike," said ACA Southeastern Chair Andrea White. "Just one day of training can make the difference between setting yourself up for a bad experience that ruins the sport for you versus setting yourself up for a whole lifetime of paddling fun."

Participating Tennessee State Parks for the event are:

Big Ridge State Park

- Booker T. Washington State Park
- Cove Lake State Park
- David Crockett Birthplace State Park
- Harpeth River State Park
- Harrison Bay State Park
- Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park
- Long Hunter State Park
- Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park
- Seven Islands State Birding Park
- Warriors' Path State Park

Classes cost \$15 per person including a free kayak rental for training that often costs \$75-\$150.

All instructors are Tennessee volunteers who are nationally certified to give paddling and rescue training and are supported by experienced safety teams. TWRA wildlife officers will be present at various locations to emphasize and encourage paddlecraft safety on Tennessee waters.

Each park's event will be limited to 15 people. A limited number of kayaks, paddles, and life jackets will be available. For the second year, the partnership

is adding an Adaptive Kayaking 101 event at Booker T. Washington State Park. This event will have specialized adaptive paddling equipment available for paddlers with physical disabilities.

The classes are made available by certified instructor volunteers, safety boaters and equipment donations from many organizations, including Tennessee State Parks. These organizations include: Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts; Blues City Kayaks; Bluff City Canoe Club; Catalyst Sports; Chattanooga Therapeutic Recreation Services; Chota Canoe Club; East Tennessee Whitewater Club; Knoxville Kayaking Clinic; Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute; Sunseeker Outfitters; Team River Runner-Atlanta; Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association; Tennessee Valley Canoe Club; and Tennessee RiverLine.

Interested parties can register at this link. In-person spaces are

limited. A free online class is also available; however, in-person training with a certified instructor is strongly encouraged.

More information is available at the American Canoe Association website.

The ACA is the national accrediting body for paddlesports education.

Email sports news and photos to: MSTsports@prodigy.net

Email entertainment news and photos to: MSTentertainment@prodigy.net or MSTsports@prodigy.net

Matching Donors

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO DONATE A KIDNEY TO SAVE A LIFE
DONATE YOUR CAR, BOAT, REAL ESTATE, OR PLANE!**

We take donations in any condition, with fast, free pickup.

Every donation is tax deductible.

100% of the proceeds help save the lives of people needing organ transplants on MatchingDonors.com, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Call us at 781-821-2204
or donate online at
MatchingDonorsDonations.com