

Don't let high water put damper on spring fishing

We are looking at a few more days, before we can celebrate the vernal equinox, but there is good news and seemingly bad news (that can be good news) for bass fishermen about weather.

Sounds like I am a bit confused, eh? Well, it has been a spell since anyone risked the opinion that I am one of the sharpest tacks in the box.

But, during the years, I have learned some things about springtime bass fishing, and I think one of the important bits of bass-fishing savvy that has lodged in my faulty cerebellum lies in the fact that the bad days of spring, weatherwise, can be great for bass fishing, even better than the good days.

A bright and balmy spring day will offer good bass fishing for the simple fact that bass have been lethargic since water temperatures dropped below 50 degrees in the fall.

But as the sun started its northern trek, a built-in mechanism pegged on the length of days told the old girls it was time to get ready for a visit to the maternity ward, and their interest in food picked up.

Thus, just about any day in March or April is a good day to fish for bass. A bad day, weather-wise, often is even better.

I have had good days of bass fishing on many raw March and April days, but the day that comes first to mind was a day in the early 1950s on a natural lake in northeastern Indiana.

Bill "Feed Bag" Myers and I, fellow employees of the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, had been conned into planning a bass-fishing outing by bright, balmy days.

But on our day off the weatherman seemed to be illustrating how nasty he could be.



'Bayou' Bill Scifres
OUTDOORS

We were greeted at the lake by strong wind and rain that was half sleet and snow. But since we were there, we decided to fish.

When our artificial lures were rendered ineffective by aquatic weeds, we switched to live night crawlers on three-hook harnesses and simply "trolled" them out the stern of an old wood boat as the wind swept us across the lake.

While it was anything but pleasant for us, we took several nice bass, the largest topping the 5-pound mark.

The water, though wind-driven to whitecaps, was clear that day. But a few years later a Monroe Reservoir bay in the Crooked Creek area would unfurl another late-March bass fishing lesson.

This time the weather, though chilly, was fairly decent. I had gone to the reservoir with the hope of finding early mushrooms, but (as I often do) had taken spinning tackle and an assortment of favorite artificial lures.

The reservoir was 8 or 10 feet above pool stage, and that created a huge bay of muddy water lapping at the brush-infested hillside where Jones Creek empties into the lake.

My mushroom effort proved fruitless, but by donning chest-high waders I could ease through the shallow water (with a walking staff to warn of drop-offs and sink holes) and cast a semi-weedless Johnson Silver Spoon (with a 20-tail black/yellow Hawaiian

Wiggler skirt) to areas where I thought bass might feed.

Muddy water had never been my idea of a good place to catch bass, but one fish that topped 6 pounds that day and several other husky bass taught me a valuable lesson.

Through the cold winter months, I still have these conditions firmly implanted in the back of my mind and look forward to the high, muddy water that comes to stream-fed standing waters at this time of year. And now I hit Jones Creek when conditions are right.

The road into the site of the old Browning Bridge is impassable now, but this area can be reached by boat from Crooked Creek ramp. Flooded bays can be fished by boat, but I favor wading, with great care.

Shooting range closed

Attberbury Fish and Wildlife Area's public shooting range has been closed in order to begin construction of a modern state-of-the-art state shooting facility.

Planned upgrades at the DNR property's range include 72 covered stations for shooting rifle and pistol, modern accessible restrooms and a voice-activated combination trap and skeet range.

Citizens and hunters wishing to practice their marksmanship during the yearlong range upgrade can find alternate public shooting ranges at www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/range.htm

Attberbury FWA's shooting range project is a partnership between the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Assistance program.

"Bayou" Bill Scifres' outdoors column appears Saturdays in the Daily Journal. Comments can be sent to P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

Roncalli Salutes Our Mathematics State Champions



From L to R: Anders Kilmark, Aaron Hommell, Thad Corcoran, Brian Bauman, David Barker, Michael Burkhart, Meghan Lehman, Jonathon Hall

Each year the Indiana Academic Competitions for Excellence hosts three major events. The second of these events is the Academic Decathlon. Teams compete in 10 events including: Language and Literature, Science, Essay, Speech, Impromptu and Interview, Mathematics, Music, Art, Economics and Social Studies.

The 2006 Roncalli High School Academic Decathlon Team recently competed in State Finals. The team won eight individual medals and captured the State Championship in the Mathematics Competition. Members of the State Championship squad include: Jonathon Hall, Michael Burkhart, Brian Bauman, Meghan Lehman, Thad Corcoran, Anders Kilmark, Aaron Hommell and David Barker.

Congratulations to Coach Cheri Anderson and these outstanding young scholars!

Academic Excellence. Preparation for Life.

Three times recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Big enough to meet your needs, small enough to know them.

CURRENTLY TAKING APPLICATIONS & APPOINTMENTS FOR REGISTRATION
CALL 787-8277, EXT. 232
WWW.RONCALLI.ORG



Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227, 317/787-8277

WIESE GM CENTER

AMERICA'S #1 VALUE

WE JUST LOWERED THE STICKER PRICE ON EACH AND EVERY CHEVY.

AMERICA'S #1 BRAND

MORE AMERICANS CHOOSE CHEVY THAN ANY OTHER BRAND



#1 TRUCK HEADQUARTERS

Largest Selection & Lowest Prices
In South Central Indiana!
WE WON'T BE UNDERSOLD!

IT'S BEEN EASY WITH WIESE SINCE 1947!

2006 SILVERADO RC

WIESE IS THE HOME OF THE

\$12,997 TRUCK

Your Choice! A New

2006 SIERRA or SILVERADO

Reg Cab Pick Up!



2006 GMC SIERRA RC

SILVERADO EXT 2006

#6793D1, Wiese Price

\$17,564



SIERRA 1500 EXT 2006

#7239D, Wiese Price

\$9,000 OFF!



SILVERADO CREW 2006

#8131, Wiese Price

\$8,000 OFF!



COLORADO CREW CAB 2006

#8010, Wiese Price

\$23,568



OR LEASE \$295mo* 48 MOS

COLORADO REG CAB 2006

#8055, Wiese Price

\$15,997



OR LEASE \$199mo* 48 MOS

CANYON REG. CAB 2006

#8328, Wiese Price

\$12,987



PERFECT RED TRUCK WITH GREAT FUEL ECONOMY

EQUINOX LT 2006

#8326, Wiese Price

\$19,904



OR LEASE \$159mo* 24 MOS

TRAILBLAZER LS 2006

#8195, Wiese Price

\$24,746



OR LEASE \$269mo* 48 MOS

TRAILBLAZER EXT LS 2006

#8444, Wiese Price

\$25,956



OR LEASE \$289mo* 48 MOS

YUKON XL SLT - LAST ONE 2006

#8190, Wiese Price

\$13,000 OFF!



OR LEASE \$449mo* 27 MOS

YUKON'S & TAHOE'S 2007

They're Here! Over 12 To Choose!



It's Easy With **WIESE**

*Lease for Least 12K yr. +Tax, First Pay Security & Fees, \$2500 Cap Cost Reduction. ALL SAVINGS & PRICES INCLUDE ALL REBATES AND APPLICABLE DISCOUNTS, AND ARE PLUS TAX.

3560 N. National Rd • Columbus
1-866-254-6625