

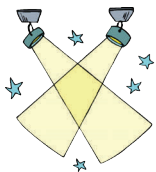


**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District**

Old Hickory Lake *Lake Casts*



Fall/Winter
2011



SPOTLIGHT ON WATER SAFETY 2011

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Nation's leading provider of water based recreational opportunities. Old Hickory Lake staff takes the message of water safety very seriously. It's our mission to provide this message through educational programs, presentations, public service announcements, and water safety booths throughout the year. The following are a few highlights of how Old Hickory Lake was able to accomplish this important mission this year.

To start off the year, Old Hickory Lake ranger staff participated in the Madison Home Depot's Safety Day and targeted hunters and anglers where they go shopping with a winter hunting and fishing water safety booth at Bass Pro Shops at Opry Mills Mall. Old Hickory Lake rangers teamed up with rangers from the nearby lakes, J. Percy Priest and Cheatham, to create a district water safety booth at the Nashville Boat Show. This year, the Corps of Engineers was also added to the Nashville Boat Show's breakout session roster with the Old Hickory Lake ranger staff giving an informative presentation about inflatable life jackets. These booths also featured appearances by Bobber the Water Safety Dog and "Bobber Jr."

As the school year began to wind to an end for most children in the area, ranger staff headed out to the local elementary and middle schools to teach the safety rules for making summer safe and fun for everyone recreating in and around the lake. Included in the spring event lineup, Old Hickory staff participated in a local Paddle Adventure Plus event in Hendersonville and partnered with Bass N' Buddies, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and the City of Hendersonville, for two fishing rodeos located at Rockland Recreation Area and Memorial Park in Hendersonville. When the summer recreation season was pushed into high gear, rangers began to travel around the lake area to participate in several events, some of which included: a Bass Master's Fishing Tournament located at Flippers Bait Shop in Gallatin, the Old Hickory Lake Waterfowl Blind Drawing at the Wilson County

Fairgrounds, and Old Hickory Community's Night Out Against Crime located at the Old Hickory Ball Field. In addition to the events, rangers presented two "Reading with Rangers" programs located at the Gallatin and Hendersonville Libraries, two inflatable life jacket presentations located at Cedar Creek and Cages Bend Campgrounds, a Jr. Ranger Safety Day located at Bledsoe Creek State Park in Gallatin, a Tennessee State University (TSU) Camp water safety program located on the TSU campus, and to wrap up the year, a water safety booth was set up at the Hendersonville High School homecoming game.

New for 2011, Old Hickory/Percy Priest Bass Tournament Club's, "Kid's Fishing and Family Fun Day" at Lone Branch Recreation Area was one of the bigger events. The event was well attended by 150 participants fishing in a regulation style tournament and featured Gnash, the mascot of the Nashville Predators Hockey Team. Rangers from Old Hickory Lake set up a water safety booth, as well as the patrol boat, so that participants could take their pictures beside the boat with their prize catches. Also new this year, Old Hickory Lake partnered with Fishin' Affliction (a regional cable TV fishing program) to produce water safety public service announcements (PSAs) featuring Park Rangers from Old Hickory Lake. Taping over 21 safety announcements that have been aired on the TV program throughout the year, these PSAs addressed the importance of filing a float plan, remembering to reach, throw, row, but don't go, propeller safety, and much more. Old Hickory Lake will eventually make these PSAs available to view in future safety exhibits, local schools, and online.

At the end of the year, the ranger staff at Old Hickory Lake was awarded the highly competitive Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) "2011 LRD Water Safety Team Award" due to their efforts in regards to water safety throughout the year. LRD spans 17 states and includes 7 Districts with 128 lakes and navigation pools. To learn more about general water safety guidelines, visit the Old Hickory Lake Water Safety Webpage at: http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/old/rec/water_safety.htm.

SHORELINE STABILIZATION



Bank erosion is a common problem here at Old Hickory Lake. Erosion occurs through many natural processes, but is accelerated through the clearing of property causing runoff to flow at an increased speed without being allowed to seep into the soil. But whether it be wave action against the bank caused by wind and passing vessels or runoff from rain, a minimal erosion problem can turn into a severe erosion problem in a short time if not addressed properly. Placement of large quarry-run stone (referred to as riprap), is the most preferred method of bank stabilization. The use of filter fabric is required if you are placing riprap on a bank that has not been stabilized previously. In severe cases of erosion, gabion baskets are commonly used to help keep the riprap in place (see picture at end of article). A ‘buffer strip’ (strip of land adjacent to the shoreline left unmowed) is a less common form of erosion control here at Old Hickory Lake, but is effective at holding in the top layers of soil. A combination of several forms of erosion control may be required if the erosion in an area is extremely severe. Public land that is disturbed by equipment used for stabilization must be seeded, strawed, and returned to its original condition. Other ways to improve the shoreline include planting native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses to help hold the soil. Shoreline stabilization on Old Hickory Lake

requires a permit from the Resource Manager’s Office prior to any work being done. Please contact this office to receive a Bank Stabilization Application.



OLD HICKORY LAKE FISHING FORECAST

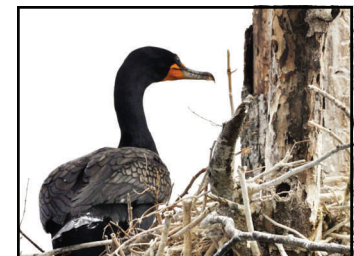
There have been numerous questions and concerns raised since the May 2010 flood on what affect it had on the fishery here at Old Hickory Lake. After a phone conversation with TWRA’s Region II Fishery Program Manager, Todd St. John, the immediate future for the state of the Old Hickory Lake fishery is looking bright. No matter what game fish you seek out, there are several reasons to be optimistic about the coming years.

Both crappie and largemouth bass had strong spawn classes relative to the coming year’s harvestable rate. What does this mean? Well, largemouth bass take about 4 years to become a harvestable fish; therefore, as we approach 2012, we should see an abundant harvestable rate after successful 2007 and 2008 spawns. And with crappie having a faster growth rate combined with their flourishing recent spawns, crappie fishermen have plenty to look forward to as well.

The following information on the stocking program on Old Hickory Lake should raise plenty of optimism for the near future. In 2010, there were 146,000 walleye and 63,000 sauger stocked. Then in 2011, 362,000 striped bass were stocked. This helped to raise the Old Hickory Lake distribution to 16

striped bass per acre, well over the target of 10 per acre.

Old Hickory Lake’s fishing for the near future is looking bright, but we must remember that the resources of the lake are ours to protect. Only keep what you can eat, or better yet, practice catch and release. As with any activity on the water be safe and wear your life jacket. Good luck out there!

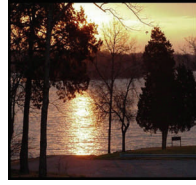


CORMORANTS—FRIEND OR FOE?

Double Crested Cormorants or *Phalacrocoax auritus* can be a very confusing species of bird. Is it a friend to the local ecosystem, or a foe that over time will devastate it’s own habitat? This is a question that cannot easily be answered without a little more information. The double crested cormorants first confirmed breeding site on Old Hickory Lake was found June 13, 1997 by Mr. Chris Sloan on an island just south of Lock 3. Mr. Sloan’s yearly survey shows evidence that the cormorant population on Old Hickory Lake has been on the upswing since the first sighting.

In the 1950’s and 60’s, the double

crested cormorant numbers in the United States dropped drastically due to the use of the pesticide DDT, leading the National Audubon Society to list them as a species of concern. But with tighter restrictions on pesticides in the mid 1970's, the cormorant has made a strong comeback leading to their conservation classification being changed to that of least concerned. Currently in the United States the cormorant population stretches from Alaska to Florida in river basins, lakes, coast lines and everywhere in between. On Old Hickory Lake they may be found on islands near Drakes Creek Marina, Lock 3, Cages Bend and the Gallatin Steam Plant where they form rookeries. Currently, there is an argument over whether this steady increase has been good or is it detrimental to islands on Old Hickory Lake. With this increase in cormorants, there has also been a huge impact to vegetation on the islands. Cormorant's fecal matter contains an extremely high amount of nitrogen, that in large amounts, will kill vegetation leaving the island barren and susceptible to increased erosion and ultimately the total loss of the island. Though many see this as a problem others, such as Mr. Sloan says, "True the nitrogen is present but once the island is barren the cormorants leave and nest on others. This nitrogen left in the soil quickly aids the islands soil and within a few years it will be back to normal." Mr. Sloan continues by saying, "the population will reach an equilibrium were they will compete with heron's for habitation leading to a naturally lower population." So you be the judge, friend or foe, only time will tell.



OLD HICKORY LAKE
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT
PLAN PLANTING
REQUIREMENTS

If you are an adjacent landowner to Old Hickory Lake and currently have a valid mowing permit, you are required to plant and maintain trees on the public land adjacent to your property to a density of 24 trees per acre.

Existing trees on public land will be counted towards the 24 trees per acre. This is required in order to provide cover and edge for wildlife. Food and shelter are primary necessities of wildlife and the value of the cover depends on the abundance of vegetation in an area.

The boundary line between public and private property is also required to be planted on all corners and every 40 feet between the corners. A list of species recommended for planting is available from the Resource Manager's Office; however, please be aware that any vegetation planted on public property must be native to this area.



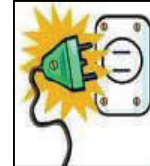
REMOVAL OF
HAZARD TREES

After severe weather, many landowners adjacent to public property may find themselves with one or more trees down on public property. If you have a diseased or standing tree that poses a severe safety hazard, contact this office for approval to remove. Normally, a portion of the trunk will be required to be left standing to

provide habitat for wildlife and allow for the natural decay of the material. Generally, whenever permission is given for a standing tree to be removed, it must be replaced with two native trees (a minimum of two-inch base diameter) planted at a location designated by the Resource Manager/Ranger. With a current mowing permit, limbs may be trimmed up to one third the height of the tree, not to exceed 12 feet. Before removing any vegetation over an inch in diameter, contact this office so that the ranger in your area may come out and approve the removal.



ITEMS
REQUIRING A
LICENSE



All minor privileges, such as electrical lines, water pipelines, and stairs, are covered under a real estate shoreline license. Licenses must be approved before any work on the item in question can begin. If you are interested in obtaining a license for any of these items, please contact the Resource Manager's Office.

WATER SAFETY TIP

Weather is unpredictable and can change very rapidly. To avoid getting caught on the water in a storm, check your local weather forecast, carry a weather radio onboard, and watch for changes in the weather such as cloud build up, fog, a change in wind direction, rough water, and lightning.



**Resource Managers Office
Old Hickory Lake
5 Power Plant Road
Hendersonville, Tennessee
37075-3467**

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MEET THE RESOURCE MANAGER AND PARK RANGER STAFF

Resource Manager - Freddie Bell
Conservation Biologist - Crystal Tingle
Environmental Protection Specialist - Charlie Leath

***If you live on the south side of Old Hickory Lake, your ranger may have changed. Please take the time to find out which ranger is responsible for the area you live in.**

Area 1 (Briley Parkway bridge below the Dam to Bahia Mar Point in Hendersonville) - **Kathryn Wall**

Area 2 (Bayshore Court to Bay Point Subdivision in Gallatin) - **Noel Smith**

Area 3 (Bay Point Subdivision to the Smith County Line) - **John Baird**

*Area 4 (Smith County line on the south side of the lake to the Hwy 109 Bridge) - **Amy Redmond**

*Area 5 (Hwy 109 Bridge to Trails End Subdivision/ Lindsley Bend) - **Allen Earhart**

*Area 6 (Trails End Subdivision to Briley Parkway bridge below the Dam) - **Trey Church**

Park Ranger Cody Britton will join the staff from Barkley Lake in January 2012. Cody graduated from Tennessee Tech University with a degree in Fisheries Science.

Park Ranger Courtney Eason joined the staff in June 2010. She graduated in December 2011 with a degree in Agriculture from Tennessee State University.

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If you have any questions, please contact this office at (615)822-4846 or (615)847-2395.

OLD HICKORY LAKE FACEBOOK PAGE

Old Hickory Lake now has a Facebook page that will be updated with information on upcoming events, pictures, and safety tips throughout the year. Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/oldhickorylake> and be sure to LIKE us!

