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HSV Anglers News

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Can you believe it's almost time to start a new tournament year? Congratulations to all the top finishers from last year. But as they say, "All glory is fleeting". It's time to start changing line and servicing those reels.

We do have a lot on our plate this year. Our first event will be the Outdoor Expo at the Coronado Center on Feb. 27 from 1-5 P.M. We will need volunteers to man the "booth" to answer questions and sign up those showing interest in our club. We will also be holding a raffle for a rod and reel combo. March 11 Brad needs volunteers to help with the electric shock boat. It is a physically demanding task so please take that into consideration when deciding where you will be supporting our club this year. Many more programs are coming or are in the works.

One thing that will be keeping us on our toes this year will be the Balboa situation. We have Balboa on our schedule three times. If the lake is not open to boat traffic of course that will have to change. Hopefully this will become a non-issue later this Spring.

Don't pass up a chance to get out on the water. This time of year isn't a time for lots of bass but it is a time for big bass. The females are full of eggs and they will be feeding up for the spawn. The males will be moving onto the spawning flats. The buck bass aren't always real big but the better numbers will be found in shallower water. Red is a good color.

2017 MILITARY FISHING DAY

We've got the go ahead for the 2017 Military Fishing Day on Balboa. The date hasn't been finalized but is expected to be either the 18th or 19th of May. We will need 25—30 boaters and additional help. Dave Keith will present more detail and announce the date at the upcoming club meeting.

Inside News

- The first Anglers club meeting of the year is 7 pm Tuesday February 7th at the Coronado Center room 5. We will have the 2017 schedule of events available and we'll have Jeff Buckingham from the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to talk about their Black Bass Stocking program.
- Remember if you haven't already paid your club dues of \$25 they are due by the end of February. Pay Darrell Graham at the club meeting 2/7 or send your check made to HSV Anglers to—Darrell Graham , 15 Mujeres Lane , Hot Springs Village, Ar 71909
- We will have club hats and decals on sale at our club meetings. Hats are \$6.50 each and decals \$2 each. Exact change would be appreciated.
- HSV Anglers and Ouachita Rod and Gun are sponsoring a free fishing seminar, Saturday, April 1st at the Coronado Community Center from 9 am—noon. Topics covered will include rod and reel selection, fishing line, knot tying and rigging various baits. Focus will be on proven baits and techniques for catching bass, crappie and bream on local lakes. Door prizes will be awarded and demonstrations will follow. Register online at hsvticketsales.com. There are only 35 seats available. Contact Don Langston at dlangst@sbcglobal.net with questions.

FEBRUARY FISHING TIPS FOR LAKE OUACHITA

February on Lake Ouachita has often been one of the better months for Bass fishing. Warm rains are possible and if you are lucky enough to fish after one of these rains look for mud lines in the creek areas. In the following days after the first warm rain use a spinnerbait or a jerkbait. Use Deep-diving crankbaits fished on the outside edges of the grass. Black/blue jigs will also produce along the outer grass line. Red Rat -L-Traps fished over tops of grass beds will pick up bass, green pumpkin or white spinnerbaits fished along the outside edge of the moss will work. Try main lake points in water 20-30 feet deep.

Walleye can be caught on spoons over brush piles on main lake points. These fish will be staging to spawn. For Crappie try brush in water 15-30 feet deep. Minnows or crappie grubs in Tennessee shad and white are staples.

Remember this is not a time of year to fall in the lake, you won't last long in the cold water. If you fish alone be sure and wear your life vest and have a way to get back in the boat. Let someone know where you plan on fishing.

Housley Point and the two islands off the point, Hotdog and Hamburger Islands are surrounded by moss and is the area where several January and February tournaments have been won. The Southfork of the Ouachita River, Denby Point, Shangri La, Twin Creeks, the area around Little Fir and the Highway 27 bridge area and Muddy Creek are always good places to fish during cold months.

Tips provided by Lochow Ranch Lake Management Services

Fishing Report

Lake : Cortez 1/31

Date: 1/31/17 Time: 9:00 to 12:30 Air Temp: 50-70 Water Temp: 50-52

Weather Conditions: Sunny Wind: SW @ 3-8 mph

Water Color: Clear

Area Fished: Main lake and secondary points with jerk baits, jig and drop shot with green pumpkin finesse worm

Results: Caught 7 bass in 12-13.5" range and lost 3 at the boat. Caught 4 and lost 3 on a Table Rock Shad color Lucky Craft Pointer jerk bait. The other 3 bass were caught on a drop shot rig using a Zoom green pumpkin finesse worm. All fish were caught in 10 - 14 feet of water