



# TWRA NEWS

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## **NAWCA GRANT PROTECTS IMPORTANT WETLANDS ON WOLF RIVER**

The recently approved NAWCA (North American Wetland Conservation Act) Grant will help boost efforts to protect important wetland resources along the Wolf River in Shelby and Fayette County TN. new level. This federal grant puts the goal of protecting an entire river floodplain system within sight. The grant monies will total \$1 million dollars and will be matched by funds from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), The Wolf River Conservancy (WRC), and several local partners including Chickasaw Basin Authority, Boyle Investment, Memphis Garden Club, Federation of Fly Fishers, and W.E. Weiss Foundation. Protected wetlands in the Wolf River will provide important benefits to the area’s water supply; ensure green space for public enjoyment; and provide critical habitat for many species of fish and land-based wildlife.

Preservation efforts began 1985 with the formation of the Wolf River Conservancy whose goal was to monitor and protect the Wolf River and its adjoining floodplain forests and wetlands as it flowed through three counties and two states. Conservation of the Wolf River took a huge leap forward in 1996 and 1997 with the approval of a first NAWCA Grant. The first grant enabled the WRC, TWRA, and the Tennessee

Department of Conservation (TDEC) to protect a 4,000+ tract along the Wolf River in Fayette County TN, including most of the beautiful “Ghost River” section of the Wolf. Matching funds and land contributions were secured from several loyal donors including Babe Howard, Lucius Burch, Jr., the Belz family, and the Boyle family.

The first Wolf River NAWCA Grant led immediately to over \$1 million dollars in additional funds being made available from EPA through TDEC and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to buy several tracts adjoining the initial tract bought with NAWCA funds. The result was protection of an additional 2,000 acres bringing the total to over 6,000 acres. These efforts inspired the prominent Tennessee conservationist and attorney Lucius Burch, Jr. to create the Porter Preserve along the Wolf near the border of Fayette and Shelby County. He did this by donating several hundred acres of land along the Wolf, which are now managed by TWRA.

All this energy and success in protecting an important local and regional wetland resource has precipitated several spin-off projects that will compliment the new NAWCA Grant acquisitions.

The City of Memphis is jump-starting an \$8 million, 21-mile greenway trail along the urban sections of the Wolf River. The outlying City of Germantown has completed over 3 miles of greenway trail along the Wolf River. An 800-acre bottomland hardwood forest known as the Lucius Burch State Natural Area connects both. The LBSNA, established in 1986, has represented an island of protected land along the Wolf and will now become an anchor for new acquisition, joining protected forest and wetlands both upstream and downstream.

The excitement created from the possibility of a second NAWCA Grant inspired the owners of the Lovitt forest, a 300-acre bottomland hardwood forest across the Wolf from Germantown’s greenway, to donate it to the WRC and become a new partner in wetland protection. This same excitement led the Boyle Development Company to likewise donate lands and become yet another new NAWCA partner.

The \$12 million Corps of Engineers project in Collierville would have had far less impact without the upstream protection efforts under NAWCA. “This huge undertaking of federal, state and local partnerships to stop a river/wetland headcut moving up the Wolf was in large part inspired by the many years of WRC efforts to literally save the wetland forests and floodplain areas of the Wolf River” said Keith Kirkland, Wolf River Conservancy’s Executive Director.

## **TWRC TO MEET IN NASHVILLE**

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC) will meet in Nashville on April 18 and 19, 2007.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC) is the governing body of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and is responsible for enacting rules, regulations and laws regarding hunting seasons, bag limits, methods of harvest and other regulations. During the April TWRC meeting each year, the regulations for the upcoming season are presented, which allows the TWRC a thirty-day comment period from the public before the annual season setting meeting held in May.

Committee meetings will take place on Wednesday, April 18 starting at 1:00 p.m. CST and the actual Commission meeting will be Thursday, April 19 beginning at 9:00 a.m. CST.

## **HELP WILD ANIMAL BABIES – LEAVE THEM ALONE**

What is the best way to help wild animal babies? By **NOT** helping them. Every spring and early summer, wildlife agencies across the country are deluged by calls from well meaning people who have picked up what they think are “orphaned” baby animals. According to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), the best way to help young wildlife is to **NOT** help young wildlife.

Many types of wild animals leave their young in a protected area while the adults go off to feed and drink. Unless the adults have died, the young are not orphaned or abandoned at all. If humans pick up an animal, it may be rejected by the parent due to the human scent left on the baby. In addition, it is against state law to take animals from the wild and keep them in captivity in Tennessee.

If a baby bird or mammal is found outside of a nest, concerned individuals can help by returning it to the nest. It may be accepted back by the parent.

Although it may seem cruel, in nature the most hazardous time of life is adolescence. Young animals die at a very high rate. The best help you can provide for a young animal is to leave it alone. If its parents are temporarily away, they will return. If it has been abandoned, nature needs to take its course.

## **WEST TENNESSEE FISHING REPORT**

### **REELFOOT LAKE:**

**Creel Limits-** Largemouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limits on Spotted Bass), Crappie – 30 (no size limit). Bass fishing is good. Crappie fishing is excellent, water temperature is in the 70's. Fish being caught on minnows and jigs in both deep and shallow water. Most fish being caught on south end of lake. Bluegill fishing is good. Catfishing is fair.

### **KENTUCKY LAKE:**

**Creel Limits-** Largemouth Bass/ Smallmouth Bass/ Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass), Redear – 30, Crappie – 30 (minimum length 10 inches) Sauger – 10 (minimum length 14 inches), Catfish (only one catfish over 34 inches per day. No limit on fish under 34 inches)

North of I-40: Lake level is on a slow rise. Water temps are in the 60's. Bass fishing is good. Some small fish being caught around stumps along the edge of creek channels on crawfish colored crankbaits. Crappie fishing is good. Most fish being caught in 5-10 foot water. Catfishing is fair in the New Johnsonville Steam Plant Harbour. Fish being caught using turkey livers or night crawlers.

South of I-40: Water temps in the 60's. Bass fishing is fair. Some fish being caught off of the river points using crankbaits. Crappie fishing is good. Fish being caught in 6 ft.-12ft. water in the creek channels on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is good. Fish being caught on the main channel in 35 ft.-40 ft. water. White Bass is fair. Some fish being caught off points at the mouth of creeks on live crawfish.

### **PICKWICK LAKE:**

**Creel Limits:** Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass). Redear – 20, Crappie – 30 (minimum length 9 inches). Water temps are in the 60's. Largemouth bass fishing is good. Fish being caught along shore lines on crank baits in 6 – 8 ft. water. Smallmouth fishing is fair. White bass fishing is good. Crappie fishing is improving.

### **LAKE BARKLEY:**

**Creel Limits:** Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length limit 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass), Redear – 20, Crappie – 30 (minimum length limit 10 inches). Water temps in the mid 60's. Bass fishing is good. Fish being caught on crankbaits. Crappie fishing is good. Large fish are being taken around stumps and other cover along edge of creek channels on small jigs and minnows.

## **REGION I TWRA FAMILY FISHING LAKE REPORT**

### **BROWNS CREEK LAKE (located ten miles south of I-40 in Natchez Trace State Park):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass- 5 (16"-21" PLR) only one per day greater than 21", Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie - 30 ( 10" minimum). Bass fishing is fair, fish are being caught on crank baits. Crappie fishing is good, being caught on small minnows and red & white jigs around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is fair.

**CARROLL LAKE (located on Hwy. 22 between McKenzie and Huntingdon):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass- 5, Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie - 30 (10"minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish are being caught on spinnerbaits. Crappie fishing is fair, being caught on small minnows. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is fair.

**DAVY CROCKETT LAKE (located 4 miles west of Humboldt off Hwy. 152):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass-10, Blue and Channel Catfish- 5, Crappie-30 (10" minimum). ). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is good in shallow water using spinnerbaits. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and blue and white jigs. Some bream are being caught on redworms in 4 - 5 ft of water.

**GARRETT LAKE (located on Hwy. 190 near Dresden ):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass- 5, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie-30 (10" minimum). ). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is fair using crank baits. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and red and white jigs. Bream fishing is slow.

**GIBSON CO. LAKE (located at Trenton)**

**Creel Limits** – Bass – 5 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Bluegill/Redear (in combination) – 20, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Catfishing is fair. Bass fishing is good using crank baits in 10 to 15 ft. water. Crappie fishing is excellent, lots of keepers are being caught in deep water on small minnows and blue and white jigs. Bream fishing is fair. Some are being caught off the bottom using wax worms.

**GLENN SPRINGS LAKE (located on Glenn Springs Rd, 12 miles northeast of Millington):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass - 5 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Bluegill/Redear (in combination) – 20, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is good using crankbaits in 10 to 12 ft. water. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and white jigs. Some bream are being caught on the bottom using wax worms.

**HERB PARSONS LAKE (located 8 miles north of Collierville off Collierville-Arlington Road):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass - 10 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, being caught on minnows and crank baits. Catfishing is good, being caught on chicken/turkey liver and large minnows in 6-8ft water. Crappie are good, being caught on medium minnows and chartreuse jigs tipped with wax worms around fish attractors .in 4-6 ft water. Bream is fair in deep water on wax worms and red worms.

**LAKE GRAHAM (located 5 miles east of Jackson on Cotton Grove Road):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass - 10 (14"-18" PLR) only one bass per day greater than 18", Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish being caught on crankbaits and spinnerbaits . Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught on red & black jigs and minnows in 4-6 ft. water. Catfishing is fair, some being caught on turkey livers and night crawlers. Bream fishing is fair.

**MAPLES CREEK LAKE (located 4 miles north of I-40 in Nathez Trace State Park):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass -5, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish are being caught on spinnerbaits. Crappie fishing is good, being caught on small minnows around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is slow.

**WHITEVILLE LAKE (located 2 miles south of Whiteville off Hwy. 64):**

**Creel Limits-** Bass - 5, Blue and Channel Catfish- 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish are being caught on crank baits. Crappie fishing is good, being caught on small minnows and chartreuse jigs around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is fair.