

OUR HOTSPOTS
FOR TROPHY DEER
HUNTERS' MAP ON PG. 20

NOVEMBER 1995 \$2.50

Georgia SPORTSMANTM

A GAMING & FISHING MAGAZINE EDITION

WHERE YOU CAN
HUNT GEORGIA'S
BIGGEST BUCKS
SPECIAL MAP SHOWS
OUR BEST COUNTIES

COASTAL PLAIN
DEER LANDS
YOU CAN HUNT

NORTH GEORGIA
NOVEMBER BASS
LAKE WEISS TACTICS

DANGEROUS
PEACH STATE
SWAMP HOGS!

YOUR GUIDE TO
MIDDLE GEORGIA
QUAIL HUNTS

SOUTH GEORGIA
POND FISHING
BASS & PANFISH



PLUS: GREAT RABBIT HUNTING NEAR ATLANTA
SECRETS OF REALISTIC DEER-CALLING

by Bill Vanderford

Lake Weiss is an Alabama Power Company project that was impounded in 1961 and encompasses more than 30,000 acres when full. Though it doesn't yield a lot of bass of more than 10 pounds, it is literally full of fish in the 5- to 6-pound range. Still, before planning a trip to this lake, one should be aware of a few important things.

First and foremost, this is a very shallow lake with lots of stumps and other debris just below the surface. Therefore, when boating on this reservoir, one has to use extreme caution, especially if your boat is operated beyond the carefully marked channels.

Additionally, any sizable rainstorm can bring lots of floating logs and other debris down the rivers. Also, because the lake is partially in Georgia and Alabama, one must understand the regulations of both states. No reciprocal fishing license agreements are in effect between Georgia and Alabama on Lake Weiss. In other words, if you fish on the Alabama side of the lake, a current license for that state is required, and the same rule is in effect on the Georgia side.

Fishing the lake requires knowledge, and both Mike Gunter and Reed Biggers have agreed to share their November bass tactics for Lake Weiss. Though he is an accomplished bass angler, Mike Gunter is first and foremost a Methodist minister.

Several years ago, after numerous stops at other churches, Mike Gunter ended up at a church in Cedartown, which is very near Lake Weiss. This gave Gunter the chance to renew his love of bass fishing on this productive lake that had been part of his early angling experience. He became very adept at catching the wily largemouth bass from Lake Weiss.

During November, Mike Gunter catches most of his bass on jig-and-pigs, Texas-rigged plastic worms, Poe's crankbaits and spinnerbaits. He says it depends on the weather as to his choice of lure. The colder the temperature, the deeper the bass will

(Continued)

November Bass Tactics For Lake Weiss

Cooler fall weather dictates a change in how to locate and hook bass on this northwest Georgia impoundment. These tips should solve the mystery for you.



TOM EVANS

go in Lake Weiss.

"If they go deeper," said Gunter, "I prefer the bass in Brushy Branch on the Georgia side. There's lots of timber in that creek, and you can cast the jig-and-pig along the edge of the creek channel and let it drop down through the standing timber."

The water along this channel is usually 7 to 10 feet deep, with lots of limbs to get through. So bring plenty of jigs, because Mike Gunter says you'll lose a few.

"I prefer either black or black with a green tail," said Gunter. "If the water is muddy or stained, multi-colored jigs that have strands of white or chartreuse seem to work well."

According to Gunter, if the water is warmer in November, the bass become very active on stumpy points and underwater ridges near creek or river mouths, and can be caught with crankbaits. One of his favorite spots for this action is a point on Hog Island in the mouth of Little River where it feeds into the Coosa River.

"Anyplace where a creek or river comes together and makes a point is great for concentrating feeding bass," said Gunter. "If they're very active in

these areas, the crankbait is best, but when the action slows, I break out the Zoom or Red's plastic worms and lizards."

Gunter uses either an RC-1 or RC-3 Poe's crankbait when fishing these points. His favorite colors are black/chartreuse, crawfish, cray/chartreuse with a black back, brown and yellow or black.

Mike fishes the worms and lizards Texas style and also uses a variety of colors. The worms are utilized near the creek mouths and the 5-inch plastic lizards back farther in the creeks.

His color preferences are Zoom's "redbug" for slightly stained water, "electric red" with a chartreuse tail for the darker, tannic-acid-appearing water or "green pumpkinseed" for very stained water.

Mike Gunter also has another way of deciding which color to use — depth.

"The old adage of matching the worm and water color doesn't always work at Lake Weiss," stated Gunter. "I believe the worm color has to match not only the color of water but the amount of light penetration. In other words, the deeper you go, the

darker the worm should be; however, chartreuse seems to work well in any water. Two-color worms are also very productive in most situations at Lake Weiss.

"Red's core worms that mix. Colors like red and green work very good in bright sunlight."

Another great Lake Weiss angler, Reed Biggers from Armuchee, catches November bass differently than Mike Gunter. Biggers, however, is a tournament fisherman and utilizes a more tournament-style approach.

"A spinnerbait, buzzbait and jig are usually the best fall baits at Lake Weiss, especially near the backs of creeks that have well-defined channels," revealed Biggers.

"A good example of one of the best areas is Brushy Branch on the Georgia side. You can go under a culvert to get to the very back of this creek and fish the stumps. Bass in Weiss relate to these stumps in the fall of the year."

Biggers prefers the "Okeechobee Special" and the "Falcon" spinnerbait with No. 7 willow-leaf gold blades. If the water is heavily stained, he uses a chartreuse and

Town & Country

REAL ESTATE

AND INVESTMENT CO., INC. — 216 SOUTH HARRIS ST.
P.O. BOX 666 — SANDERSVILLE, GA 31082

*Stop leasing land to hunt. Buy your own and
make it your ideal hunting tract.*

FINANCING AVAILABLE

SOUTHERN HUNTING ZONE

JEFFERSON COUNTY

168 acres — Rolling hills with a lot of dirt road frontage. Good mix of big hardwoods and young pines. Forty acres of open crop land. Two creeks with a great pond site. Lots of persimmons and crabapples. **\$595/acre**

WASHINGTON COUNTY

20 acres — One-half in 7-year-old pines, balance clear cut in 1991. 940 feet of frontage on county dirt road. Great home site. **\$1,000/acre**

NORTHERN HUNTING ZONE

HANCOCK COUNTY

327 acres — 7 miles north of Sparta and 20 miles south of I-20. Three creeks run through this tract and into Beaverdam Creek on the southern boundary. All pines were cut in 1992. Hardwoods remain. **\$475/acre**

30 acres — 12+ acres in 12-year-old planted pine, balance is 5-year-old clearcut. One small creek across the northeast corner of the tract with a possible pond site. **\$650/acre**

344 acres — Rolling hills w/3 bold creeks joining on the tract to form Little Buffalo Creek. All timber was cut in 1993-1995, but hardwoods remain in bottoms. Good road system with a deer cooler and country store 1/2 mile down the road. **\$350/acre**

147 acres — Rolling hills with beautiful views. Small creek with pond site in the center of the tract and a large creek on the SW corner. Clear cut in 1991 with lots of regeneration. **\$395/acre**

(912) 552-5681

white skirt, but during periods of normal stain, he selects a plain white skirt.

When using buzzbaits, Biggers likes the 3/8-ounce Lunker Lure with a white skirt, but he has had success with the "Buzzard" buzzbait as well. He has tried numerous colors of blades on these but believes that the nickel-colored blades are fine.

When the spinnerbait and buzzbait become ineffective, Biggers changes to a jig-and-pig and fishes many of the same areas and covers that he would with a spinnerbait or buzzbait. His favorite is the Stanley 3/8-ounce black jig with a Wal-Mart "Bo-Hog" pork frog in black and blue colors. He flips this into any visible cover, and Lake Weiss has plenty.

"Lake Weiss isn't like Lanier or Allatoona," said Biggers. "It's not necessary to go out and plant underwater brushpiles. It has more than enough natural laydowns or blowdowns along the shores to keep any angler busy forever."

"The best of these, however, are the ones that extend from the bank out into the shallow creek channels. Lake Weiss is a flipper's paradise, especially near the backs of the

creeks."

When the lake is drawn down during the fall, stumps become prime structure for big bass. Using good polarized sunglasses, hundreds of stumps appear as dark spots below the surface, and probably half of them will hold a 4- to 5-pound bass that can be caught by accurately flippin' a jig around these stumps.

Another pattern that has worked well for Reed Biggers requires the use of an older, no longer manufactured crankbait. The lure was made by Bagley's Bait Company and is called the B-Flat. This is a shallow-running, wooden crankbait with a squared-off plastic bill, and according to Biggers, is the most productive crankbait on Lake Weiss during the fall.

The prime targets for this crankbait are rows of stumps near or along any creek channel. One only has to cast the lure past the stumps, then with a slow retrieve, bump the tops of the stumps. The number of big bass caught with this method is amazing.

Biggers and other knowledgeable Lake Weiss bass anglers are constantly digging through lure

selections in tackle shops around the country to find these out-of-date lures in the "Grey Ghost" color pattern. However, if they find any old B-Flats on a shelf somewhere, they will buy the baits in any color and paint them.

Reed Biggers considers Brushy Branch as the best creek on the Georgia side of Lake Weiss. All of his methods produce big stringers of bass in this tributary for several reasons.

"Lots of tournaments are held out of Brushy," said Biggers. "Since most of the fish are released here and they are often caught in other areas of the lake, Brushy Branch is constantly being restocked with nice bass. Also, the creek has everything that is needed to hold these fish. It has plenty of deeper water, lots of structure and good water quality."

Whether it's largemouth or spotted bass you seek, a November fishing trip to Lake Weiss can be the answer to a thousand daydreams. All one has to do is take these experts' advice and the fertile waters of Lake Weiss will do the rest! □

Come By & Select your New '96 Astro

**Lowest
Prices of
the
Season**



Pontoons:
AQUA Patio
Sweetwater
SanPan



**Lowest
Prices of
the
Season**



**Looking For a
Particular Pontoon Style?
We've Got What You Want!**

**ASTRO
BOATS**
Spectrum

• Bass Boats • Fish-n-Ski • Center Consoles •

**MERCURY
OUTBOARDS**

Set the water on fire!

SHADDIX MARINE
(404) 559-0757

**I-75 South
81 Lee's Mill Rd
Forest Park, I-75 South**