

Tournament Trail 2003
Updated for 2014

By the Rabbit



On the tournament trail MCC will try to give you information that has been accumulated over years of fishing on different lakes. Every year there are schedule and weather changes and this year is no exception. Being able to adapt to varying weather and lake conditions can spell success or failure. Sometimes we change lakes and dates that certain tournaments are fished from year to year so try to gather as much information about the next up-coming tournament as possible. It would be wise to keep newsletters on file from year to year for easy reference.

How well you did at our prior Barnett Tournaments may well determine your success April 12. Hopefully Pat and I can get lucky again and win this tournament.

Wind and current are key factors on the REZ so knowing areas out of the wind and current is essential. With a 10 mph or higher Southwest wind, it's going to be a long, tough day on the Main Lake.

Above Hwy. 43 is your best bet for current and windy conditions. There are numerous ole river cut-offs and pockets that are fishable most anytime but don't forget, crappie don't have a home and may be here today and gone tomorrow. Try and locate several optional places to fish just in case things don't go as planned. Keep hunting and pecking until you find fish. If you find crappie in a tournament it's a good "Rule

of Thumb" not to leave them in search of more or bigger fish.

Crappie on Barnett spawn from March 15 thru May 15, a two month ordeal. This year on April 12, we will be fishing during the peak of the spawn.

Male crappie (*that have turned black*) will clean off structure with their tails in 2 to 8 feet of water depending on clarity and temp. When the water temp. reaches about 65 degrees and above the females will come in (*who knows when*) and lay their eggs on this structure that is lying preferably on a sandy bottom. The eggs are tacky and will stick to the cleaned structure. Males will fertilize and remain with the eggs while constantly fanning with their tails to keep silt from smothering them.

Male crappie also defend the eggs from predators (especially catfish) until they hatch in approximately 2 to 3 days. The good thing is male crappie spawn in mass and if you catch a few there are more to fan and protect the eggs.

What's great about Barnett (**33,000 acres**) it has literally hundreds of spawning areas and there's another thing, crappie don't all spawn at the same time. Look for visible structure like stumps, grass, and rocks in the right temp/depth water and don't worry about what the lure is because they will attack anything entering the spawn area.

It's not what it's where!

The major spawning area above Hwy. 43 is Cain Creek. On the Main Lake you have Round Lake, Oil Well, Cypress, Gilligan's Island, and The Sawdust

Pile. At Pelahatchie Bay it's the Causeway and Plummer's Slew.

If only I knew a place where I could go and catch a box full of big 2 pound crappie by yonder twig, stump, or brush top, but I don't! I have often said, "*I wish I knew where the Honey Hole of all Honey Holes was located.*"

I can only dream about such a place and can't seem to find this Paradise Hole. When reality finally sets in I know that such a place does not exist.

"GOOD LUCK!"