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Maudie's Naughties



The Deep, Dark Secret

At school, Little Johnny is told by a classmate that most adults are hiding at least one dark secret, which makes it very easy to blackmail them by saying, "I know the whole truth."

Little Johnny decides to go home and try it out. He goes home and tells his mother, "I know the whole truth."

She quickly hands him \$20 saying, "Just don't tell your father."

Quite pleased, the boy waits for his father to get home from work, and greets him with, "I know the whole truth."

The father promptly hands him \$40 and says, "Please don't say a word to your mother."

Very pleased, the boy is on his way to school the next day when he sees the mailman at his front door. The boy greets him by saying, "I know the whole truth."

The mailman immediately drops the mail, opens his arms, and says, "Then, come give your real daddy a big hug."

Foggy Night in Needmore

Esmerlda follows a taillight up Needmore Hollow during a dense fog and crashes into the car ahead of her when it stops suddenly. "Why didn't you let me know you were going to stop?" she yells into the mist.

"Why should I?" comes a voice out of the fog. "I'm in my own garage!"

Runaway Car

Junior and his friend Howard Green are hanging out in front of the gas station when suddenly they see a driverless car headed straight for the pumps. Junior runs to the car, jumps in and pulls on the emergency brake with a jerk. He gets out and proudly says to a man that is approaching him, "I stopped it!"

"I know you did," says the breathless man. "I ran out of gas, and had pushed it ALMOST to the pumps."

Vehicle Break-Ins

A student commuting to UK is fed up of having his car broken into and having his electronic equipment and other items removed. So, he decides to leave a note on the dash saying that there is no point breaking into the car since there is nothing left inside to steal. He returns after classes to find a smashed in window and a new note, next to his on the dash, that says, "I'm sorry that I didn't trust you!"

New Driver

An independent trucker decides he needs some help on some long hauls so he hires a new guy to help with the driving. The trucker is very protective of his nearly-new rig, but the new driver seems to be doing well; so, the trucker decides to get some sleep. After a while, he is awakened suddenly when the truck hits something with a thud. "What the heck was that?" he asks the new driver.

"Oh, some kind of animal," the new guy replies. Some time later, the truck hits something again with a thud, and the trucker is awakened again. "Oh, just another animal," says the new guy. "Go back to sleep."

Moments later, the trucker is startled by three thuds in a row, and gets the same reply, "Oh, just some kind of animal."

"But there were three thuds?" inquires the trucker. "Yeah," is the reply. "Well, I had to go through a couple of fences to get that one."

Won It In A Race

Bill: Where did you get that gold watch, Joe?
Joe: I won it in a race.
Bill: How many people participated in it?
Joe: Three, a policeman, the owner of the watch, and me!!

Brake Down

Jill's car is unreliable and she calls John for a ride every time it breaks down. One day John got yet another one of those calls. "What happened this time?" he asks. "My brakes went out," Jill says. "Can you come to get me?"

"Where are you?" John asks.
"I'm in the drugstore," Jill responds.
"And where's the car?" John asks.
Jill replies, "It's in here with me."

Spotted Bass School in Fall

They were not even recognized as a distinctive fish species until 1927. People for many years believed these fish only existed in Kentucky.

In 1956, the Kentucky legislature designated this species the "Kentucky bass" and made them the official state fish. Many anglers, especially in the south-central portion of the United States, still call the spotted bass a Kentucky bass.

They pale in reputation to their black bass cousins, the largemouth and smallmouth bass, but the spunk shown once hooked and their abundance should raise the profile of the overlooked spotted bass. They are also aggressive and readily strike lures.

It isn't hard to tell when a spotted bass strikes. They shake their heads violently and dive bomb toward the bottom. The larger ones -- 15 inches and up -- usually grow a pronounced belly as they mature. Spotted bass use that girth along with a powerful tail that pulls against an angler, producing as good a fight as any comparable largemouth bass.

Medium-light spinning rods with reels spooled with 6-pound fluorocarbon line is all you need for catching spotted bass.

Once the fall winds blow, spotted bass begin to school up. They locate along rock bluffs or suspend over points, submerged humps or channel drops.

"At this time of year, if you catch one spotted bass, keep fishing that same spot," said Chad Miles, host of the Kentucky Afield television show and dedicated spotted bass angler. "There might be 40 or 50 of them there. Spotted bass really school up in fall."

In early to mid-fall, these schools of spots often trap a cloud of shad against the surface and rip into them. Large, chrome topwater lures tossed into this melee draw vicious strikes. These same lures fished over points, humps and channel drops can draw spotted bass from a good distance below the lure, especially on our clear water lakes such as Lake Cumberland or Laurel River Lake.

Lake Cumberland holds a bountiful population of spotted bass with many fish in the 14- to 16-inch range. Spotted bass make up roughly half of the black bass found in the lake.

The main lake points from Harmon Creek down to Wolf Creek Dam hold spotted bass from fall through late spring. A 4-inch black finesse worm rigged on a 3/16-ounce Shakey head and slowly fished down those points is a deadly choice. A hammered silver jigg-

spoon fished along the old Cumberland River bluffs in this section of the lake also produces spotted bass. Again, if you catch one spotted bass in fall, keep fishing the same area with the same technique. You might catch a dozen or more.

Large crappie minnows fished on size 1 circle hooks with two split shot lightly clamped on the line about 18 inches above the hook make a powerful choice for the large spotted bass in Laurel River Lake. The water of Laurel River Lake is as clear as the air and live bait works best.

The upper end of the Craigs Creek arm is a spotted bass hotspot on Laurel, as are the main lake points near the dam and in the lower section of Spruce Creek.

The mid-depth reservoirs in southern Kentucky hold excellent populations of larger spotted bass. Barren River Lake and Green River Lake hold some of the largest spotted bass in Kentucky.

The channel drops along the submerged Barren River adjacent to Barren River Lake State Park and the Narrows Access Area make excellent fall spots to try for spotted bass.

In Green River Lake, rock slides and points in the lower sections of the Robinson Creek arm and Green River arm are the best fall places. Green River Lake holds an impressive number of spotted bass longer than 15 inches.

Anglers fishing for largemouth bass in Kentucky Lake often stumble across a football-sized spotted bass. The secondary points in the major bays and creek arms in the middle section of the lake hold some impressive spotted bass in fall.

Smaller profile 1/4-ounce football jigs in hues of green, brown and chartreuse attract these fish on Kentucky Lake.

Spotted bass make excellent table fare, by far the best tasting of the black bass species, similar to crappie in taste and texture. There is no minimum size limit on spotted bass statewide, but they still count toward the six fish aggregate black bass daily creel limit.

Hit the water and land some hard fighting and abundant spotted bass this fall. Keeping a few medium-sized spots for the table makes a delicious and nutritious meal.

Author Lee McClellan is a nationally award-winning associate editor for Kentucky Afield magazine, the official publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He is a life-long hunter and angler, with a passion for smallmouth bass fishing.



Rachel Young, conservation educator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, holds a nice spotted bass caught recently from Lake Cumberland on a Ned rig. Fall is the best time of year to catch both numbers of spotted bass and trophy-sized fish as well.

Lee McClellan, Associate Editor
Kentucky Afield Magazine KDFWR

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