

Brookville and Smallies Part Deux

This is part two of five for Smallmouth fishing at Brookville Reservoir. We covered spring time smallies in the first article. Now we will cover summer time smallies and that dreaded post spawn that every fisherman loves to hate.

When the water temperatures at Brookville start to rise the bite becomes difficult at best. Difficult, not impossible. You have about a two to three hour window in the mornings and late evening just before dark.

Buzz-Baits, oh yeah baby, the top-water bite is a wonderful thing! Early in the morning just after sun up you may want to strap yourself in and hang on, you could get your arm broken at Brookville with the smallie bite on top water! A Zara-Spook a Buzz-Bait and a Pop'r are absolutely deadly on this lake when the fish are in destroy mode. My favorite colors are pure white for the Buzz and Zara-Spook. The Pop'r would be in baby bass with a red feather attached to the rear treble hook. Now let's go find some smallies!

As soon as I launch, I run straight for the beach on the Eastside of the lake. There you will find a cove directly to your south. This cove starts the beginning of a beautiful flat unlike any other on the lake. It tapers into a creek channel instead of the typical drop straight in you find at Brookville. It also has something else that is missing from most of Brookville, scattered grass beds. I firmly believe this is what draws the smallies up on this flat. It is adjacent to the deeper water for retreat after feeding and cover for when they are in stealth mode for attacking their prey. This flat will run down lake for about 500 yards or better and make sure you hit every last foot of it.

I would begin with the Buzz-Bait or the Pop'R and hit the shallow water first, i.e. the depths of 4-6ft. be persistent with your presentation and be very aggressive with your baits! Once the sun starts to burn the back of your neck, back out to the edge of the first drop from the flat to the channel. Now grab the Zara-Spook and start working it over the deeper water. You may be surprised at what comes up to greet you! I know the common thinking is to put away your top water baits when the sun gets overhead. The one thing I have learned through my years of fishing is? Fish don't read the same books as everyone else! They have a brain the size of a pea and if they are hungry tricking them is not that difficult. So fish until they tell you they are no longer aggressive. Believe me, they will tell you.

OK, you're past the lunch hour, your getting hot and the boat traffic is becoming a nuisance. Grab your 7ft. Medium/Heavy casting rod and rig yourself a Carolina-Rig. I like to use a small tube 2.75" on a 2/0 hook on the business end of my C-Rig. I also like an extra long leader, usually about 4-6ft. in length. Once you're rigged up start point hopping and concentrate on the deeper water in the 20-30ft. depths. This method is not

going to load the boat by any stretch of the imagination, but it can add a few extra fish that have retreated to the depths of Brookville to avoid all the boat traffic and commotion.

In the summer time Brookville can become difficult to fish and the boat traffic is horrible. It draws fishermen and pleasure boaters alike from the tri-state area. I highly suggest for a pleasurable fishing trip in the summer use the weekdays to your advantage and avoid the weekends unless you are just there for the early morning bite only.

This is part two of a five part series I am writing for the Gadabout. If you would like more information on Smallmouth fishing at Brookville contact Ray Rigby at: 317-788-9167 or by e-mail at krigby6644@sbcglobal.net You can also find Ray on the net at www.indianasmallmouth.com

Sincerely, Ray Rigby