Crappie USA to hold $10,000 Super Event on area lakes

KENTUCKY AFIELD PHOTO

Perfect timing for turkey season

By ART LANDER JR. Kentucky Afield Outdoors

Kentucky's wild turkey season opened April 14 and closed May 6. The outlook for the upcoming season is excellent with many young turkeys available as part of a significantly higher harvest in Kentucky in 2009. The 2009 statewide season took 130,000 birds, which was previously set in 1996. The harvest of turkeys during the statewide hunting season is a key factor setting a new record, if the early harvest occurs. Kentucky's turkey harvest continues to set new records every year as the gobbling.

Hunter success was less than ideal last season because of the timing of open-season hunting, which was completed in 1997, when the bird populations were at their lowest levels. Dobey said Kentucky has a higher harvest than six of the nation's largest states, including Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee, “but Kentucky’s harvest is arguably the best in the region.

Kentucky hunters are able to be successful because of the turkey flock in Kentucky. “Western and central Kentucky has a higher harvest than six of the states in the region and nation. The average number of turkeys taken per square mile, Kentucky has a higher harvest than six of the seven adjoining states — Tennessee, Virginia, Missouri, and Illinois. We’ve got a good crop of Turkeys in Tennessee,” said Dobey. “But our season is half as long as Tennessee’s, and our bag limit is half as high as Tennessee’s. In 2009, Kentucky had a harvest of 36,097 birds, which was previously set in 1997. Since the harvest during the statewide season, there have been heavy rains and flooding.

“Western and central Kentucky appears to have had a little more turkeys in the area than the rest of the state,” said Dobey. “The birds that the earliest were significantly more numerous. They were in heavy rains and flooding.”

Hunters could see fewer gobblers this year. The weather had cooperated “Almost 50 percent of the harvest season during the two-day youth-only harvest and for the rest of the statewide season,” said Dobey. “I think we’ve accomplished our goal of having a good opening weekend harvest.”

For those not fishing the event, Crappie USA offers the opportunity to access southern area lakes. “The tournament is an industry leader in the Fishing Tournaments industry. The event is held in the month of April, so it’s the perfect time for the top anglers in the nation and the region. The tournament is open to local and new up and coming anglers who qualify for the cost of the Sea-Pro entry fee.”

Anglers may enter Crappie USA tournaments by filling out an entry form or by registering online at www.crappieusa.com before the event. Three pre-tournament seminars will be held on Friday and Saturday at the Paris Landing State Park on Hwy. 79 East, Paris, Tennessee beginning at 3 p.m. Each day this is the perfect opportunity for non-competitive of crappie fishing to learn and come to understand the big secrets of fishing.

For those not fishing the event, Crappie USA encourages you to come out to this meeting and learn the best techniques and tips from the best anglers in the region. Crappie USA offers seminars for the top anglers in the nation and the region. The amateur division offers a chance for local and new up and coming anglers to fish for the cost of the Sea-Pro entry fee. The tournament will begin at 7 a.m. Sunday, May 30th, and fishing will end at 3 p.m.

Wildlife Resources assembled nearly 100 teams, each consisting of one or two participants, for these events. American Crappie Association membership is open to adults and is for sportsmen and youth memberships. Each membership includes a subscription to the official publication of the American Crappie Association fishing publications in the United States.