

## LIFESTYLE

Kentucky Afield Outdoors  
Just a few weeks left for good stream  
smallmouth bass fishing

by Lee McClellan  
Kentucky Afield  
FRANKFORT — Some of the most gorgeous weather of the year is upon us. The leaves are turning copper, brown and brick, the sunlight is exceptionally bright and the window of opportunity for stream smallmouth bass angling narrows with each passing day. Now is the time to get on it. Smallmouth bass in streams get aggressive in September and October as days shorten and water temperatures drop. They heartily strike jugs, soft plastics and flies during this time, but only if fished in the right places. "They are still feeding heavily to put on weight for the winter," said Gerry Buynak, assistant director of fisheries for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "Fall fishing is good because they want to eat. Nature is telling them to eat."

Stream smallmouth bass in October locate deeper than they did just a month ago, but are still in areas with some current. "If you can find an undercut bank or a deep spot wad with some current, fish there," advised Buynak, who conducted fall smallmouth bass population sampling on central Kentucky's Ekhorn Creek for years. "They will still come out of those hides into current to feed." A 1/8-ounce black of purple hair jig with a tiny black pork frog trailer is tough to beat right now, as is a black 4-inch finesse worm. These lures slowly tumbling in the current near an undercut bank should get smoked by a large smallmouth. It seems many of the strikes from stream smallmouth in October come from large fish. A weighted black woolly bugger drifted by these same spots draws vicious strikes for a fly angler. October usually brings with it the lowest water levels of the year. It is a good idea to downsize your line to 4-pound test and throw smaller, more subtle lures. A 2 1/2-inch grub produces more strikes right now than a 4-inch grub. Stream smallmouth in October's clear water will hit a boot or spade-tailed grib or a straight-tailed worm more often than a curly-tailed worm or grub. Jugs should be small and compact. "As the water cools some more, they start settling down into deeper holes," said Jeff Ross, assistant director of fisheries for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "They locate near structure such as boulders in deep holes where they can lie and wait for food to drift by without wasting energy." It surprises the mind how quickly stream smallmouth fishing can change from excellent to poor in fall. Once mid-November hits and the leaves are all gone, these shoals, runs and root wads crawling with bronzebacks in September and October seem devoid of any aquatic life. "Once it gets into mid and late November, and the water temperatures drop to 50 degrees, smallmouth bass in streams go almost dormant," Buynak explained. "They don't do anything until spring." Buynak related a story of

some winter population sampling he helped conduct on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania years ago. "One of our divers came up with an 18-inch smallmouth," he said. "He just grabbed it with his hands. That is how lethargic they are in winter." Anglers target smallmouth bass in reservoirs year-round, but not stream smallmouth. "They slow down in lakes, but still bite," Ross explained. "It has to do with current. They need to conserve more energy in winter in streams to maintain their position in current. The lake also has a temperature buffer because of the large amount of water. A stream flows have that, it gets colder." The clock is ticking for good stream smallmouth fishing this year. Get out in the next few weeks, or it will be early next spring before they bite heartily again.

Artwork  
from the pages ofJoshua's  
Journal

Photo by Joshua E. Hoyer

While driving through Menifee County, I was searching for something to photograph that would show the beauty of this great state, whether that be a farm, architecture, or a sunset. I managed to get lost somewhere between Frenchburg and West Liberty and decided to just keep driving. Eventually, I came across a sign that said "Broke Leg Falls," and turned off to check it out. I was amazed by the hidden gem. The trail takes you under cliffs as high as 100 feet, and around a waterfall, trailing under and behind the water. This place is beautiful. If you are ever in that area, I recommend that you check it out.

KEN'S AUTOS  
KEN ISAACS OWNER  
AUTO BUSINESS 45 YEARS

859-987-0770

www.KENS AUTOS.NET

1801 Main St., Paris, KY

Open: Mon.-Fri 8-8, Sat. 9-5

## 2003 Toyota Sequoia

Florida trade-in, never been in snow, #442  
was \$13,900 now \$12,275

## 2006 Toyota 4-Runner

SRS package, 1 owner, #445  
\$33661 payment "0" down

## 2002 Toyota Tundra

Extended cab, limited w/leather, #425  
\$25983 payment "0" down

## 00 Mercedes-Benz S Class

1 owner, maintenance records available, #388  
was \$9,500 now \$8,900

## 2003 Volkswagen Jetta

local trade-in, automatic, sunroof, #411a  
\$14910 payment "0" down

## 2002 Dodge Ram 1500

Quad cab, 4x4, SLT package, #439  
\$25264 payment "0" down

## 2004 Cadillac Escalade ESV

All-wheel drive, the best of the best, #457  
was \$23,900 now \$22,785

## 2009 Toyota Camry

LE package, sunroof, #471  
was \$19,900 now \$18,883

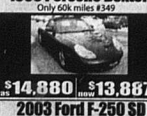
## 2003 Honda Odyssey EX-L

Van, navigation, leather, 3rd-row seats, #438  
was \$26987 payment "0" down

## 2007 Dodge Charger

New level of sports car, #413  
\$27390 payment "0" down2001 Nissan Pathfinder LE  
3.5L V6, leather, sunroof, #468  
was \$9,800 now \$8,994Manager's Special  
2000 Ford Expedition XLT4x4, leather, 3rd row seats, sunroof #385a  
was \$8,900 now \$7,900

## 1998 Porsche Boxter

Only 60k miles #340  
was \$14,880 now \$13,8872003 Ford F-250 SD  
Ext. cab, turbo diesel, 4x4, #417  
was \$16,980 now \$15,938

All prices and payments plus tax, tag &amp; title fees. Payments based on 8-9 APK with approved credit. 60 Months, 66 Months, 72 months. Pictures for illustration only.

Bad things happen to good people. We can help  
re-establish your credit. Come in and find out how!