

# Big catches await anglers for Bassmaster Kayak Series scored by TourneyX event at Lake Murray, Feb. 24-25

COLUMBIA, S.C. — To kick off the 2024 season, the Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series scored by TourneyX will head to Lake Murray, one of the best bass lakes in the country. Just how good the lake will be depends on the weather, according to Bassmaster Kayak Series angler Barry Davis.

“The bass are going to start coming out of their winter patterns into their spring areas [most likely],” Davis said. “The weather is always iffy. There have been tournaments here this same time of year, and we have had some 100-inch bags per day to win. Some days, it is nowhere

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Tournament days are scheduled for Feb. 24-25 and will be the first opportunity for anglers to earn points toward the Dakota Lithium Bassmaster Kayak Series Angler of the Year title. Anglers will be able to launch from any of the published launches that will be released prior to the tournament.

Over the past couple of years, anglers across the country have learned that impressive numbers of giant bass live in Lake Mur-



Lake Murray is set to host the 2024 Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series scored by TourneyX February 24-25. (Photo by Tyler Bridges/B.A.S.S.)

ray. That was proven several times just last year across multiple Bassmaster Tournament Trails. Kayak Bass Fishing visited the lake in late February 2023 for a pair of one-day events. The first day, it took 98.5 inches to win, and the second day, it was won with 97.5 inches.

There is also the potential to catch a 24- or 25-inch bass this time of year.

The massive reservoir in the middle of South Carolina pro-

vides opportunities for anglers to fish to their strengths. There is a large section of a more river-like environment, which has a history of producing big bags. Davis predicts that area will get the most attention. The bottom end of the lake is deep and wide, with a plethora of bass, stripers and blueback herring.

“The midlake area and up fishes more like a normal lake than a herring lake,” Davis said. “The lake is so deep on the bottom end

that it doesn’t change a lot. The bass on the bottom end do a lot of the same stuff year-round except when they spawn.”

The weather in the Carolinas that time of year will be the biggest wild card in this event. There are some years where late February will still feel like winter, Davis said. Other years, like last year, warmer weather prevails and the bass will begin to head for the shallows.

“If we have a couple of weeks

where we get some warm days and not extremely cold nights, they will start to transition and move up onto some of the deeper docks and stuff like that,” Davis elaborated. “We are probably going to be about three weeks ahead of when they get really prespawn.”

For deeper-water scenarios — which likely will revolve around herring — brushpiles and rock-piles are key pieces of cover. A striper pattern could also unfold.

“The offshore brush and rocks will still be in play,” he said. “The main forage in the lake is herring. They are going to chase the herring around, especially the spotted bass. The largemouth will have more of a home base. If people find them and the herring stay somewhat in the same area, I think it will play into it.

“The stripers will stay with them anyway, and a lot of people don’t realize bass are lazier than stripers. If you can get something through the stripers to the bottom, you can catch pretty decent bass under the stripers.”

In the shallows, there is a wide range of options including boat ramps, rock and docks.

“Those concrete ramps will play because they draw heat. Red banks will play as well because they draw heat,” Davis said. “Anything that pulls heat will be key.”

A wide range of baits will likely play in this tournament. Crank-baits are a popular choice among anglers who regularly fish Lake Murray, as well as jigs. Several styles of worms will work, Davis said, including wacky rigs, Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. Crawfish presentations will also be key.

This week’s event is being hosted by Capital City Lake Murray Country.

2024 Bassmaster Kayak Series Title Sponsor: Yamaha Rightwaters

2024 Bassmaster Kayak Series Partner: MotorGuide, YakGear

2024 Bassmaster Kayak Series Angler of the Year Sponsor: Dakota Lithium

For more information, visit [Bassmaster.com](https://www.bassmaster.com)

# Charles W. Herbster and Lee Greenwood receive the rare Helping a Hero Defense of Freedom Award ... from sports-Military 2 page

him that priceless gift through this adapted home custom-built just for Ben,” Iler said.

The second Defense of Freedom recipient, Lee Greenwood, is an American icon best known for his hit patriotic song God Bless The USA. Throughout his career, Lee has worked tirelessly to thank and support our military personnel, wounded warriors, and their families. Lee served as the Helping A Hero National Ambassador for 12 years. Lee is a rare celebrity who loves our heroes in and out of the spotlight. He has performed and presented the keys to adapted homes to over 30 heroes, including Specialist JP Lane, USA (Ret), a double amputee who nominated him for this award. Lee worked tirelessly for over a decade to

*“I nominated Lee Greenwood because he inspires me with his music and really cares for all of us who have served and sacrificed. As a double amputee, it was life-changing when he gave me the keys to my adapted home. Lee also made my day by texting me on my birthday, just to check in. He has been a beacon of hope to all of us in the military. He defends freedom every day,” said Specialist JP Lane.*

support the Helping A Hero mission to build homes for our catastrophically wounded heroes. Helping A Hero proudly presents Lee Greenwood with the Defense of Freedom Award for his devotion and dedication to our

wounded heroes.

“I nominated Lee Greenwood because he inspires me with his music and really cares for all of us who have served and sacrificed. As a double amputee, it was life-changing when he gave me the keys to my adapted home. Lee also made my day by texting me on my birthday, just to check in. He has been a beacon of hope to all of us in the military. He defends freedom every day,” said Specialist JP Lane.

The Defense of Freedom Awards were presented to Charles W. Herbster and Lee Greenwood by Helping A Hero Ambassadors and Purple Heart Recipients United States Army Specialist (Ret) JP Lane and United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant (Ret) Daniel Gilyeat

during the 2024 Conklin National Convention. Nebraska State Senator, United States Army Colonel (Ret), and Purple Heart recipient Thomas Brewer was also recognized during the ceremony. SGT Ben Marksmeier was scheduled to be recognized but had to attend via video due to ongoing complications from his injuries.

About Helping a Hero: Texas-based Helping a Hero is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan organization providing support for military personnel severely injured in the war on terror. Our principal activity is to provide specially adapted homes for qualifying service members as well as engage the community

to provide services and resources for our wounded heroes and their families. Home recipients include veterans whose permanent injuries from combat have left them paraplegics, quadriplegics, amputees, blind, with severe burns and other injuries. Helping A Hero provides additional support programs, including marriage retreats, caregiver retreats, recreational activities, and emergency needs support. Helping a Hero Outdoors has expanded to serve our heroes through hunting and fishing outings.

About the 100 Homes Challenge: Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops and noted conservationist, launched the 100 Homes Challenge and committed to fund 25 percent of the cost of

the next 100 Helping a Hero homes. Helping a Hero invites the public to join Johnny Morris in the 100 Homes Challenge by making a donation, however large or small, to help to fund the other 75 percent of the cost of these homes.

Helping A Hero is accepting applications from post-9/11 wounded warriors needing a specially adapted home due to their combat injuries to participate in the 100 Homes Challenge. We also invite the public to Nominate a Hero.

Both the home application and the Nominate a Hero form are available on our website at [www.helpingahero.org](https://www.helpingahero.org).

# Zych earns NCAA Championships bids in smallbore and Air Rifle

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – University of Memphis sophomore Gabriela Zych earned bids to compete in both smallbore and air rifle at the 2024 NCAA Championships, it was announced on Monday.

“Today is a very exciting day for us with Gabriela qualifying for NCAA Championships in both guns,” head coach Morgan Phillips said. “I think this is a huge reflection of how the year has gone for her and I’m thrilled that she is making it to the post-season. It’s already impressive that she qualified in both guns, but

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even more impressive that she had the top qualifying score in smallbore. This is very well deserved, and I couldn’t be more proud of her. I’m very excited to see what she can do in Morgantown!”

Hosted by West Virginia, the championships will be held March 8-9 in Morgantown, W.V. A total of 48 student-athletes will compete in the championships, with 40 coming from the top-eight teams selected. The remaining, including Zych, were selected based on the scores sub-

mitted from the NCAA Qualifiers.

Angeline Henry will serve as an alternate for air rifle at the NCAA Championships.

Individual and team competitions in smallbore will be held on Friday, March 8, while air rifle individual and team competition will be held on Saturday, March 9.

Last year, Zych earned a bid to compete in air rifle at the 2023 NCAA Championships, placing 11th with a score of 595. This season, the sophomore leads Memphis with averages of 586.667 in smallbore, 595.5 in air rifle and 1182.167 in aggregate.

Before the NCAA Championships, the Tigers will compete in

the Great American Rifle Conference (GARC) Championships from Feb. 24-25 in West Point, N.Y.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Football, visit [www.GoTigersGo.com](https://www.GoTigersGo.com) and follow the team’s social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

## Do You Know This About Black History?

### Black History Profile: Judge William Henry Hastie of TN

William Henry Hastie was born in 1904 in Knoxville, TN. He graduated from Amherst College with honors in 1925 and earned his law degree at Harvard in 1930 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at Harvard in 1933.

He served as a federal district

judge for the Virgin Islands from 1937 to 1939.

After he served as Dean of Howard Law School for one year, the Roosevelt Administration brought him into the War Department as a civilian aid. Judge Hastie resigned after two years to protest the slowness and evasiveness of the department in terminating its policy of segregation in the armed forces.

In the presidential election of 1948, he campaigned energetically for President Harry Truman. After the election of Truman, Hastie was appointed judge of the United States Circuit, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Source: International Library of Negro Life and History.

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