

Vegetation will be a key factor during Bassmaster Kayak Series event set for Lake Guntersville

SCOTTSBORO, Ala. — The Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series scored by TourneyX makes its return to legendary Lake Guntersville and Bonafide Kayaks pro Jon Lessmann believes big bags are likely.

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“May is my favorite time to fish Guntersville,” the Alabama angler said. “The bass are still up in the shallows and the water is warming up. It is going to be frogging, punching and finding clear holes to flip something in. It should turn out to be really good.”

Tournament dates are scheduled for May 18-19, and competitors will be able to launch from any approved public launch on the lake. Fishing will begin at 5:15 a.m. CT and anglers will fish until 1:15 p.m. This is a catch, measure, release tournament. Lake Guntersville continues to be one of the most popular tournament lakes in the country — and for good reason. Big bass swim in this Tennessee River reservoir, and there are a variety of ways to tackle the fishery. “You’ll definitely have people hit the popular areas, but those



Lake Guntersville is set to host the Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series scored by TourneyX May 18-19. (Photo by Mark Cisneros/B.A.S.S.)

areas still produce quality,” Lessmann said. “What’s nice about Guntersville, you can fish all the way from Nickajack Dam to Guntersville Dam. That’s a lot of territory. There will be plenty of room.” The Kayak Series visited the impoundment in March 2023, and the totals were impressive, with Bassmaster Elite Series pro Greg DiPalma taking the victory with

189.75 inches. The bass were in a prespawn mode, and little vegetation had grown. This time around, Lessmann expects the bass to be in the post-spawn phase. While there will be some bigger spotted bass caught and maybe an occasional smallmouth, Lessmann believes large-mouth will be the dominant species. Winter has been mild in northern

Alabama, and by the time anglers arrive for practice the water levels will be up to full pool or close to it. This means the vegetation will be growing fast across the lake. “The coontail will be really coming in, and you will have nice, full pads. They aren’t going to be overgrown, so you’ll have some space in them. Then we’ve got the eelgrass. There’s a lot of

stuff on the main-river area with eelgrass.” Not only do the bass gravitate to the grass, so do the bluegill and shad. While he doesn’t anticipate a shad spawn will be happening, there will be plenty of bait for the bass to feed on in the shallow areas. Plenty of the popular grass-fishing methods will come into play, Lessmann said. Frogs, swim jigs

and punch rigs will be popular choices, as well as big worms. With so much eelgrass in the lake, crankbaits and other treble-hooked baits will be hard to utilize. The event is being hosted by the Mountain Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

2024 Bassmaster Kayak Series Title Sponsor: Yamaha Rightwaters
2024 Bassmaster Kayak Series Partner: MotorGuide, Yak-Gear
2024 Bassmaster Kayak Series Angler of the Year Sponsor: Dakota Lithium

B.A.S.S., which encompasses the Bassmaster tournament leagues, events and media platforms, is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport, providing cutting-edge content on bass fishing whenever, wherever and however bass fishing fans want to use it. Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., the 500,000-member organization’s fully integrated media platforms include the industry’s leading magazines (Bassmaster and B.A.S.S. Times), website (Bassmaster.com), TV show, radio show, social media programs and events.

For more than 50 years, B.A.S.S. has been dedicated to access, conservation and youth fishing. The Bassmaster Tournament Trail includes events at each level of competition, including the Bassmaster Elite Series, and St. Croix Bassmaster Opens Series presented by SE-VIIN.

NSSF applauds Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey for signing 2nd Amendment Privacy Act

From The Tactical Wire

NSSF, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, applauds Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey for signing SB 281, the Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act, into law last week. This NSSF-supported law protects the privacy and sensitive financial information of people purchasing firearms and ammunition in The Yellowhammer State. With Alabama, there are now 15 states with laws that protect the Second Amendment financial privacy of their citizens. The law prohibits financial institutions from requiring the use of a firearm code, also known as a Merchant Category Code (MCC), from being assigned to firearm and ammunition purchases at retail when using a credit card. The law also forbids discriminating against a firearm retailer as a result of the assigned or non-assignment of a firearm code and disclosing the protected financial information. Additionally, the law prohibits keeping or causing to be kept any list, record or registry of private firearm ownership. “Governor Kay Ivey’s signing of the Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act is a necessary tool to protect the Second Amendment and privacy rights of the citizens of Alabama from unlawful intrusion on their private purchases when purchasing firearms and ammunition with a payment card,” said **Lawrence G. Keane**, NSSF Senior Vice President & General Counsel. “Alabamians won’t need to worry that ‘woke’ Wall Street banks, credit card companies and payment processors will collude with government entities to spy on their private finances for exercising their rights. No

The U.S. Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) admitted to U.S. Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) in a letter that it violated the Fourth Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens that protect against illegal search and seizure when it collected the credit card purchase history from banks and credit card companies of individuals who purchased firearms and ammunition in the days surrounding Jan. 6, 2020. American should fear being placed on a government watchlist simply for exercising their Constitutionally-protected rights to keep and bear arms.” NSSF worked closely with Alabama legislators to protect private and legal firearm and ammunition purchases from being abused for political purposes by corporate financial service providers and unlawful government search and seizure of legal and private financial transactions. The U.S. Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) admitted to U.S. Sen. **Tim Scott (R-S.C.)** in a letter that it violated the Fourth Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens that protect against illegal search and seizure when it collected the credit card purchase history from banks and credit card companies of individuals who purchased firearms and ammunition in the days surrounding Jan. 6, 2020. Treasury’s FinCEN had no probable cause, and sought the information without a warrant, to place these law-abid-

ing citizens on a government watchlist only because they exercised their Second Amendment rights to lawfully purchase firearms and ammunition. The idea of a firearm-retailer specific MCC was borne from antigun New York Times’ columnist Andrew Ross Sorkin and Amalgamated Bank, which has been called “The Left’s Private Banker” and bankrolls the Democratic National Committee and several antigun politicians. Amalgamated Bank lobbied the Swiss-based International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for the code’s creation. NSSF has called on Congress to investigate Amalgamated Bank’s role in manipulating the ISO standard setting process for political purposes. Sorkin admitted creating a firearm-retailer specific MCC would be a first step to creating a national firearm registry, which is forbidden by federal law.

Alabama joins a growing list of states that are standing against the invasion of financial privacy when exercising Second Amendment rights, including Georgia, Tennessee, Iowa, Kentucky, Wyoming, Indiana, Utah, Florida, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Texas and West Virginia. These states passed laws protecting citizens’ Second Amendment privacy. Other states are considering similar legislation. **U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.)** introduced S. 4075, the NSSF-supported Protecting Privacy in Purchases Act in the Senate. **U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.)** introduced H.R. 7450, with the same title in the U.S. House of Representatives. Only two states – California and Colorado – have laws requiring payment card processors to report purchases by a firearm retailer-specific MCC.

Winchester to feature pet product line at 2024 NRA Annual Meetings



EAST ALTON, IL — The newly introduced Winchester pet line of products will be featured at the 2024 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, May 17-19, 2024, in Dallas, Texas. The Signature and King Buck line of dog products will be on display and available to purchase. Those planning to attend the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits can find the Winchester pet line at booth #8128. Attendees will have an opportunity to size and purchase products including

King Buck and Winchester signature leashes, collars, bowls, vests and beds. Custom engravings for dog collars will be available for purchase or free on orders of \$100 or more. To learn more about the complete product offerings visit World of Winchester or follow on Facebook and Instagram. About Winchester Ammunition Winchester is the largest small caliber ammunition enterprise in the world and the leader in delivering innovative ammunition

products to hunters, sport shooters, law enforcement and the U.S. Warfighter. The 158-year-old Winchester brand is built on integrity, hard work and a deep focus on its loyal customers. Learn more about Winchester by visiting Winchester.com or connecting with it on Facebook at Facebook.com/WinchesterOfficial. As a global leader in the shooting sports and hunting industry, and a brand of 158 years, Winchester is committed to safe, legal and responsible firearm use.

An Editorial Comment from The Mid-South Tribune
We believe real women should play in women’s sports!

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