

PRESS RELEASE

Monday - Sept. 29, 2008

The 2008 Alabama Crappie Angler's Championship was held this past weekend, on Neely Henry Lake and Weiss Lake. The two day event – Friday and Saturday – had 38 Anglers from three states, (Alabama –Georgia – Kentucky), competing for the Title of Alabama State Crappie Champions for 2008.

This was a 2 day event, with a 7 fish per day limit, minimum size of 10", three rods per angler, two person team event. The combined 2 day weight of each team was used to determine the winner. A big fish pot of \$ 500 was paid for both lakes. Day one (Friday), was held on Neely Henry Lake in Gadsden, Alabama; and day two (Saturday), was on Weiss Lake in Cherokee County Alabama.

The leaders after day one was the husband and wife team of **Stanley and Rhonda Steed**, of Cave Spring, Georgia, with a 7 fish limit weighing **10.75 lbs. They also won Big Fish with a 2.06 lb. Crappie.** Other top finishers for day one were: **2nd. Place** -Andre Reynolds & Yvonne Burt from Ft. Payne, Al. with 9.93 lbs, **3rd Place** – Phil Trapp and Joe Hayes from Cave Spring, Ga. with 9.59 lbs., and in **4th Place** – David Stancil of Oxford, Al. & Earl Brink of Cumming, Ga. with 9.40 lbs.

The weather was picture perfect with 50's in the morning and low 80's in the afternoon, with a slight breeze. The water temp. was in the mid 70's. Most all teams weighed in 7 fish limits both days. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event, and said they looked forward to next year. Most agreed that the cost of gas and travel was the reason of the low turnout for this years' event. High gas prices are hurting us all, but especially Anglers with big outboard motors that only get 5 to 6 miles per gallon or less, along with the low mileage of their tow vehicles pulling their boats. No accidents were reported.

After day two on Weiss Lake, the two day total weights were as follows:

1st place	20.57 lbs.	Rhonda and Stanley Steed - Cave Springs, Ga.
2nd place	18.67 lbs.	David Stancil and Earl Brink – Oxford, Al. & Cumming, Ga.
3rd place	16.94 lbs.	Phil Trap & Joe Hayes – Cave Spring, Ga.
4th place	16.06 lbs	Tad Myrick –Leesburg, Al. & Billy Clanton – Collinsville, Al.
5th place	15.95 lbs	Andre Reynolds & Yvonne Burt – Ft. Payne, Al.
6th place	15.57 lbs	Michael Posey – Rainbow City, Al.
7th place	15.39 lbs.	Carlton Teague – Gaylesville, Al. & Harry Richardson – Centre
8th place	14.99 lbs	Terry Whaley and Bobby Mintz – Cedar Bluff, Al.
9th place	14.88 lbs.	Donnie Clayton –Glencoe, Al. & Gary Kendrick – Pell City, Al.
10th place	14.69 lbs	David Morrow – Gadsden, Al. & Joe Thomas – Pell City, Al.

Other teams competing were:

Jr Green & Ben Wilkinson – Al., Glen Ingram & Randy Hobbs – Ga. - Don Travis & Roy Elkins – Ky, David Rodgers & Joe Gram – Ky., Randy & Lisa Pennington – Ky., Bill McCord & Lance Wheeler – Ga., Art Cleveland & Jon Steward – Al., John Garmany & Robert Nix – Al.

Payouts were as follows: 19 teams / 38 Anglers - **4 Places Paid**

1st place **\$ 1200.** 2nd place **\$ 900.** 3rd place **\$ 600.** & 4th place **\$ 300.**

Big Fish day one – Neely Henry \$ 500 won by Rhonda and Stanley Steed

Big Fish day two - Weiss Lake \$ 500 won by Rhonda and Stanley Steed

Also, the top three places earned 2009 Crappie USA Classic Invitations.

Over 100 door prizes were donated and given away to Anglers in Tournament, everyone got some nice prizes donated by :

Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, Weiss lake Improvement Association, Angler's Unlimited, Preferred Health Services, Jr's Marina, Progressive Insurance, Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Alabama, Felder Services, Dawson Boat Center, Wood Fruitticher Grocery Company, Bay Springs Motel, Ego Nets, Crappie USA, Coosa River Crappie Club, Eagle Claw, Dawaz Lures, Road Runner Lures, Culprit Lures, and Feared by Fish Guide Service –David Rodgers.

These fine sponsors are to be congratulated for helping to sponsor our **Alabama Annual Crappie CHAMPIONSHIP.** **THANK YOU SPONSORS !!!!**

Congratulations to our new 2008 Alabama State Crappie Champions

The Husband and Wife Team of:

Stanley and Rhonda Steed of Cave Spring, Georgia

Final note: Rhonda said she caught both big fish, but Stanley was a good netter !