



# Spring Lake 2016

## REEL FACTS

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**General Information:** Spring Lake is a clear, shallow 60 acre spring-fed impoundment in Wall Doxey State Park. Nearly half the lake is filled with large cypress trees.

**Location:** Approximately 7 miles south of Holly Springs.

**Fishery Management:** Largemouth Bass, bream, crappie, catfish, and Gulf Coast strain Walleye.

**Park/Lake information:** <http://www.mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/ms-state-parks/wall-doxey.aspx> ; <http://www.mdwfp.com/fishing-boating/state-park-lakes/north-region/wall-doxey-park-lake.aspx>

**Lake Depth Map:** [http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4558/wall\\_doxey\\_sp.pdf](http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4558/wall_doxey_sp.pdf)

**Purchase a Fishing License:** <http://www.mdwfp.com/license/fishing-license.aspx>

### Amenities

- 1 public boat ramp.
- 2 wooden fishing piers, 1 courtesy pier by ramp.

### Creel and Size Limits

- Largemouth Bass: 10 bass per day per angler.
- Crappie: 30 crappie per day per angler.
- Bream: 100 bream per day per angler.
- Catfish: no limit.
- Walleye: No harvest allowed.
- No size limits on any species.

### Regulations

- Rod and reel or pole fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD's, jugs, yo-yo's, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- MS sportfishing licenses and fishing permits are required except by individuals otherwise exempt or on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- No water skiing allowed.
- Boating is no wake only.

### Stocking

- 2015, 6,000 Gulf Coast strain Walleye fry.
- 2013, 1,235 Magnolia Crappie.

### Fishing Tips

#### Crappie

- Target cypress trees with jigs and/or minnows.

#### Largemouth Bass

- Very clear water means fish with light line and smaller lures or fish at night. Spinner baits and soft plastics are less likely to get lost fishing around cypress trees and pier pilings.

#### Bream

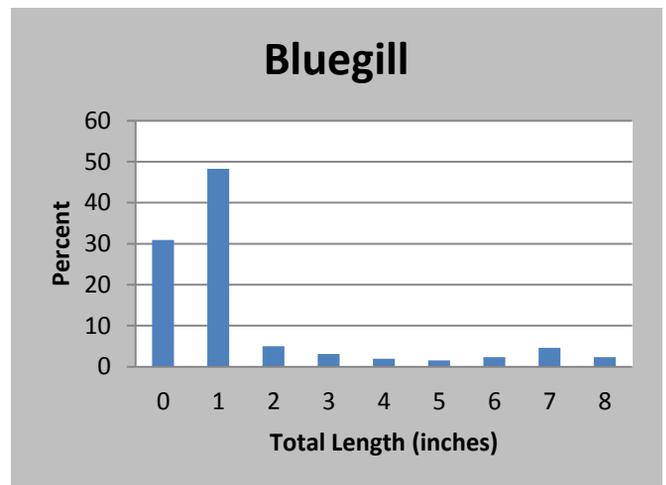
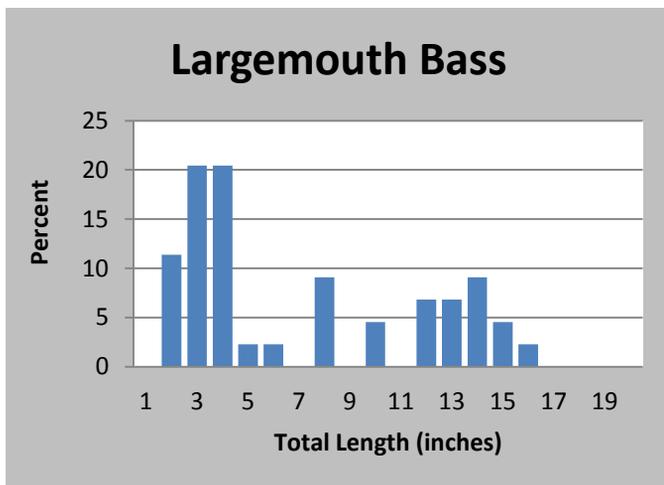
- Try crickets and worms for bream around cypresses. Bream bed over sand or gravel bottoms.

#### Catfish

- Channel Catfish can be caught with cutbait, liver, worms, etc.
- A youth fishing rodeo with stocked catfish is held annually.

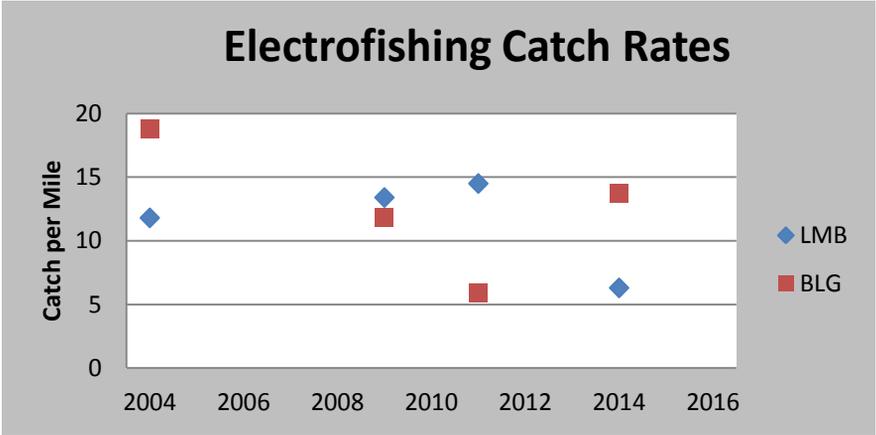
**Below:** Results from 2014 fall electrofishing surveys conducted at Spring Lake. The sport fishery is dominated by Bluegill and Largemouth Bass. No crappie or catfish were seen. Spring Lake has other species (Spotted Gar, Bowfin, Pirate Perch, Spotted Suckers, Brook Silversides, etc) in small numbers. Creek Chubsuckers are collected as an indicator of vegetation abundance; they become more numerous as submerged vegetation increases.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	259	82.7	6.1	8.7	0.1	13.7
Largemouth Bass	44	14.1	12.2	16.6	0.6	6.3
Redear Sunfish	6	1.9	4.2	5.0	0.4	1.0
Creek Chubsucker	4	1.3	8.1	8.7	0.2	1.3



**Above:** Length distribution of Largemouth Bass and Bluegill collected during 2014 fall electrofishing. The size ranges are typical of a slightly bass-crowded population with mostly small bass and large Bluegill present. Both species have very high reproduction, but small fish are eaten by abundant bass. Redear Sunfish (not shown) in Spring Lake are less numerous than Bluegill, but grow larger with some fish over a pound.

**Right:** Catch rates for Largemouth Bass (LMB) and Bluegill (BLG). Catch rates vary year-to-year depending on the amount of vegetative cover, spawning success, and environmental factors.



**Above:** Concrete ramp and courtesy pier, looking toward the dam.



**Above:** Gulf Coast strain Walleye are native to the Tombigbee River system and are found in the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway. Gulf Coast strain Walleye have been stocked in Spring Lake since they are cool water fish, and the lake rarely exceeds 80° F. These fish are recaptured for brood stock at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery at Enid. Angler harvest is prohibited.

**Below:** Magnolia Crappie are a triploid (sterile) cross of a male blackstriped Black Crappie and a female White Crappie. They are produced and stocked by the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery at Enid. These non-reproducing fish will not overpopulate smaller lakes but will grow rapidly to sizes anglers want to catch.





**Above:** Triploid (sterile) Grass Carp are stocked for weed control. Spring Lake is so clear that aquatic vegetation covered over 80% of the lake before they were stocked. Although some vegetation provides cover for small fish and their insect prey, overabundant vegetation prevents Largemouth Bass and other predators from controlling bream numbers effectively and makes fishing difficult. Fisheries biologists monitor aquatic vegetation and request triploid Grass Carp be restocked when it becomes too abundant.