

Lake Nessmuk

Tioga County

October 2017 Night Electrofishing Survey

Located in Tioga County, Lake Nessmuk is a 60-acre impoundment owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Fish and Boat Commission for public fishing and boating. The lake is conveniently located adjacent to State Route 287 approximately 1 mile south of Wellsboro. Lake Nessmuk is managed for warmwater species and Catch and Release Lakes Program Regulations currently apply. The lake is named after "Nessmuk" (pen name of the famous outdoor writer and poet from the late 1800's-George Washington Sears) who lived nearby.



MICKLE RUN FALLS

By
George W. Sears

FRONT-FACING the east, where the Falls are down pouring,
A fairy like rainbow is formed on the spray.
Beneath it the waters are rushing and roaring
To the pool, where by moonlight the brown otters play,
Are rushing and roaring, are dashing and roaring,
Away to the vale where the eagle is soaring,
And the blue Susquehanna sweeps down to the bay.

By the point of the rocks, at the foot of the mountain,
Foaming over a boulder moss-covered and gray,
Is bubbling and gushing a crystalline fountain
Where the red deer are browsing the long summer day.
Are daintily browsing, are warily browsing,
Above the deep pool where the trout are carousing,
And the slide of the otter is moist with the spray.

From "Forest Runes" by George Washington Sears, 1887

Diverse fishing opportunities can be found at Lake Nessmuk. Since 2015, after the lake was refilled following the completion of dam and spillway improvements, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has stocked fish into the lake each year to re-establish recreational fishing opportunities. Approximately 13,000 fingerlings have been stocked into the lake over the past two years that include the following species: Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Black Crappie, White Crappie, and Bluegill.

Fisheries Management Area 3 personnel and the district Waterways Conservation Officer conducted a night electrofishing survey on October 19th, 2017 to assess the fishery and stockings. Staff Completed 20 minutes of electrofishing between two shoreline sites and the results of the survey are presented below.

Table 1: Length frequency distribution of fish sampled during the night electrofishing survey of Lake Nessmuk on October 19, 2017.

Species	Number Caught	Size Range (Inches)
Black Crappie	1	9
Bluegill	2	2-4
Fathead Minnow	53	Not Measured
Golden Shiner	23	Not Measured
Largemouth Bass	44	4 - 15
Pumpkinseed	101	2 - 7
White Crappie	13	2 - 9
Yellow Perch	4	8 - 10



The refurbished boat launch ready for use at Lake Nessmuk



Newly placed post cluster habitat structures at Lake Nessmuk



Lake Nessmuk Largemouth Bass



Lake Nessmuk Yellow Perch



Lake Nessmuk Pumpkinseed Sunfish