

Fishing Structure and Cover On Lake Oconee for Largemouth Bass

Blowdowns, downed trees, fallen trees and logs

Blowdowns are whole trees which have been blown into the lake at the shoreline. Erosion from wave action, runoff from rain and the constant movement caused by the wind weaken the rootball and the soil around it. Generally the slope of the land has caused the tree to lean towards the water. Once the weight of the tree overcomes the ability of the root ball to hold the tree upright, it is simply blown over into the water.

A fallen tree is a natural place for fish to seek cover and provide a hiding place. These blowdowns offer many types of cover for largemouth bass. The fish hang around the branches or under the main trunk. If the entire tree is in the water, look for bass among the roots.

Start out by casting a Texas Rigged Worm or lizard up tight closest to the shoreline. Work the bait tight to the cover allowing the sinker to bump the limbs as you retrieve it back to the boat. Be sure to cover both sides of the tree all the way out to the top. The top branches should be worked like an underwater brush pile. Remember, if the tree was 30 feet tall, then the tree lays 30 feet out into the water. According to the angle that it lays in the water, the top of the tree could be 15 to 20 feet under the water.

On Lake Oconee you will see blowdowns all along the shoreline in the undeveloped areas of the lake. You can find these in the Oconee River channel area south of I-20; the Sugar Creek area; south of Reynolds Plantation and on the Richland Creek side.