

I now have a New Hero !!!

Missouri State Championships 2016

On the second day of the 2016 Missouri State Championships at Lake of the Ozarks, on October 16, 2016 it was a beautiful day, highs were in the mid 80's and people were out enjoying the day getting some final cleanup work done in their yards and docks. I was fishing with Jeff Sell of the Leavenworth Bass Club on a long stretch of docks just off the main channel, I had just put my second keeper in the boat as we were talking to a gentleman whom working on his boat before he had to winterize it. When I heard someone crying, as I was looking around to find out where this was coming from, I had noticed a lady, possibly in her mid 60's, in the water. She was fully clothed and seemed to be struggling, I told Jeff that I think this woman is hurt and can't get back on her dock. We threw the rods on the deck, yelled at the gentleman working on his boat that his neighbor is hurt and sped her way with the trolling motor on high, as she was only 3 docks away.

As we approached the lady in the water, we noticed that she was in a lot of pain and could see blood running down her arm. I got the boat as close to the dock as possible and Jeff jumped off to help get her ladder put in the water, the wind had picked up and was gusting to over 20 mph, as was pushing my boat back into the dock and would have pushed my boat right in to the lady in the water. As Jeff lowered her ladder into the water, she was really starting to struggle and told us that she had been in the water for over 30 min trying to call for help. The water temps at that time were only 71 degrees and we knew we had to get her out of the water quickly. Jeff stepped down the first couple of steps to where his shoes were in the water, as the woman let go of the dock to swim 5 feet to the ladder she began to sink. Jeff didn't hesitate, he dove in after her and pulled her back up and got her back to the ladder, he stayed with her until she got back on the dock.

The neighbor arrived, brought some towels and placed a chair in the sun to get her warmed back up. At this time we could see the severity of her injuries, with major cuts to her arms and legs that will most likely need stitches. I continually asked her if she hit her head, which is when she told us that she was blowing the leaves off of her sea wall and slipped and fell into the water. I looked at the sea wall and it was a 5' drop to the water and with some larger rock mixed in at the base of the wall. So I asked again if she had hit her head and she finally replied that she didn't hit her head, by this time she was starting to warm back up and was worried that her husband (who was just now arriving at the dock) might have to watch the Kansas City Chiefs game from the ER.

After the neighbor and her husband was on the dock and taking care of her, we knew the lady was going to be alright. So Jeff got back into the boat, with his soggy clothes, soaked wallet and now a non-working phone. We stuck around to make sure that everything was going to be fine and was reassured by the husband and neighbor that they had it under control, we continued with the tournament. I now have a new hero in my life and his name is Jeff Sell of the Leavenworth Bass Club.

Alan Daniels, Backlashers of KC