

ODU Magazine

The "Grassroots"
of B.A.S.S

Last
Ice

**Florida
Black Crappie**

**Stripers On
A Buggy Whip**

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From all indications, this is shaping up to be a very good year, not only for ODUMagazine.com, but I believe the entire outdoor industry, and hopefully the economy. I recently attended the Henry's show in Raleigh again this year and was quite surprised at everyone's upbeat attitude.

This is coming from both sides of the aisle, i.e. fishing and hunting. This was a lot different attitude than I had experienced the past few years. I believe a lot of the optimism is coming because of; the mild winter everyone has been experiencing, lower gas prices, the unemployment picture is not quite as bleak as in past years, and of course this is an election year. Which hopefully means the bearcats in Washington are going to try and get their act together to make things better so they can get re-elected. I certainly hope I am right, God knows we need a few good years under our belt to get this economy turned around.

When you get a chance, take a look at our new "Tackle Box" section. Our intent is to bring you some of the newest products that are coming to market. And don't forget, please take a look at our "Family Section" and read a few stories from a few of our future outdoor authors. These authors are as young as six years old, and they were very anxious to share with you their perspective about they're outdoor experiences.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

And please,
Enjoy the outdoors,

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ODU wants to thank B.A.S.S. for providing the information for our readers about the Bassmasters Classic and Federation Nation.

ODU

ODU Tackle Box – 30

The B.A.S.S. Federation Nation – 9

Classic Contenders – 12

**My Grandfather,
Luther Turpin – 16**

**Wading's Best For
Winter's Extreme
Low Tides – 19**

Getting Schooled on "The Rig".- 36

**Dependable
Lures & Deep
Water – 27**

**How To Get Her
Hooked! – 49**

**The "Grassroots" of
B.A.S.S. at the Classic – 6**

The Lodge - 52

**Black Crappie Fishing
Throughout Florida - 55**

Last Ice - 60

Do Nothing Ice Fishing - 61

Tungsten The Future Is Now! - 68

**BASS FISHING HALL OF
FAME ANNOUNCES 2012 INDUCTEES - 71**

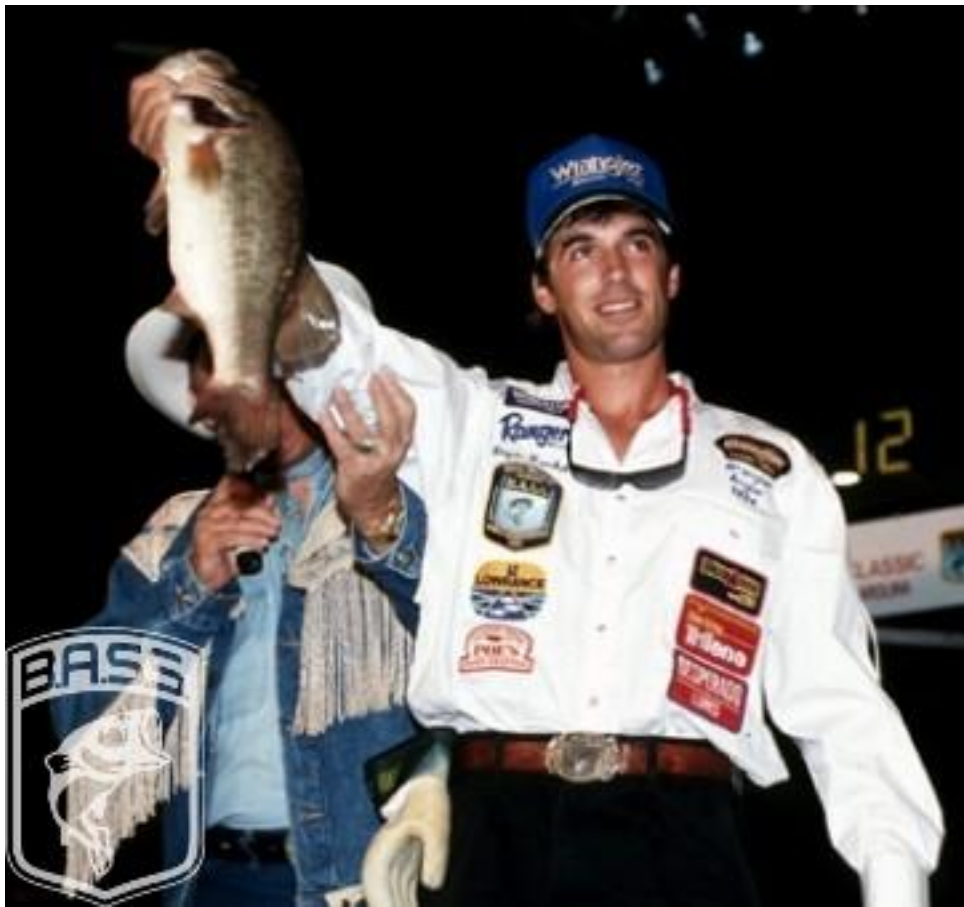
Sandy's Kitchen - 74

Try Fishing For Peacock Bass - 76

**Bassmasters
On The Harris
Chain of
Lakes - 80**



Stripers On A Buggy Whip - 23



The "Grassroots" of B.A.S.S. at the Classic

Story courtesy of B.A.S.S.

The B.A.S.S. Federation Nation and the Bassmaster Classic go back a long way — almost as far back as the first Classic, in fact. The "grassroots" of B.A.S.S. began in the late 1960s as clubs became affiliated with B.A.S.S. and used their numbers to influence legislation, impact positive change in the world of fishing, support youth fishing programs, and join together for camaraderie, competition and conservation.

When the first Bassmaster Classic was held in 1971, there was no Federation Nation representative in the competition. It wasn't until two years later that a Federation Nation member would vie for a shot at fishing's biggest prize. B.A.S.S. founder Ray Scott understood that one of the primary reasons anglers joined clubs was to fish competitively.

By sending one of their members to the sport's greatest championship, he could not only support the troops who made the big professional tournaments and other efforts possible, but also better market B.A.S.S. to anglers everywhere.



The first Federation Nation angler to qualify for the Classic was Wendall Mann of Snow Camp, N.C. He earned his way there by winning the National B.A.S.S. Chapter Championship Tournament on Pickwick Lake in Alabama. Mann finished 26th in the 1973 Classic out of (you guessed it) 26 anglers. It was an inauspicious start. But things would get better — much better — and soon. The very next year, the BFN qualifier, Charlie Campbell of Missouri, finished fifth.

The Federation Nation earned some angling respect. In 1981, the number of Federation Nation berths in the Classic was raised to five to reflect the number of divisions in the BFN that were competing in the annual amateur championship. That number was raised to six in 2006, where it stands today.

Since 1973, the Nation has sent 169 qualifiers to the Classic, producing 18 Top 10 finishes, including two runners-up and one world champion. The champion came in 1994 when Bryan



Kerchal bested the rest of the Classic field on High Rock Lake in North Carolina. The 24-year-old short-order cook from Connecticut finished last in the Classic the year before and overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to requalify as an amateur in '94. Kerchal's was an amazing story of a young man who was living his dream. Tragically, he died less than six months later when his plane crashed en route to a sponsor function. The Federation Nation had lost its brightest star.

In 1986 and 1997, respectively, Federation Nation qualifiers Danny Correia and Dalton Bobo gave the pros all they could handle. A dead fish penalty took 4 ounces away from Bobo's total weight, and he lost by a single ounce in the closest Classic in history. What's more impressive than the Classic performances of Federation Nation qualifiers is the caliber of anglers that the Nation has produced over the years.

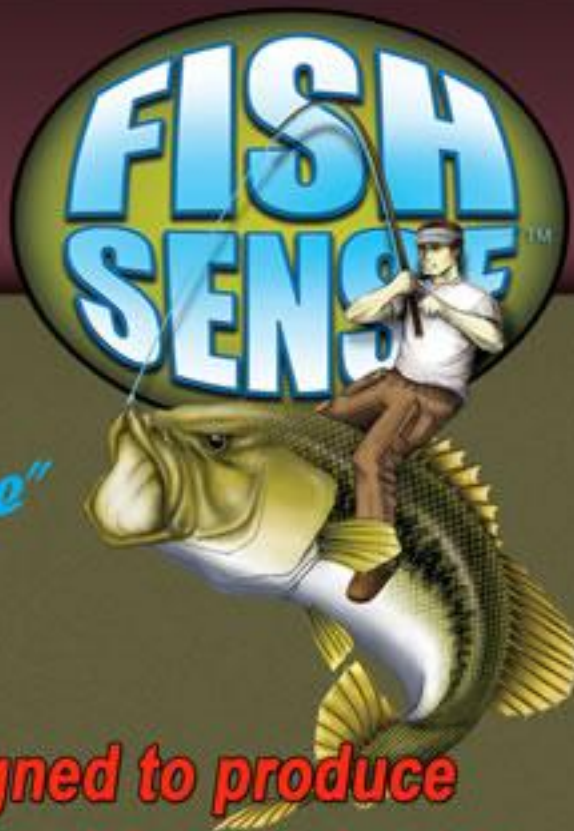
Eleven different BFN qualifiers later turned pro and earned berths for other Classics as professionals, including 2006 Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Angler of the Year and 2003 Classic champ Michael Iaconelli. Many others who never made the Classic as amateurs used their BFN experience as a springboard to the professional ranks, including a pair of Classic winners, Denny Brauer (1998) and Ken Cook (1991).


This year, Federation Nation champion Jamie Horton (Alabama) and division winners Matt McCoy (Indiana), Tom Jessop (Texas), Josh Polfer (Idaho), John Diaco (New Hampshire) and Chris Price (Delaware) will represent the BFN. If history is any indication, at least one of the Nation anglers will break through and have an excellent tournament. All of them are certain to have the time of their lives.

The Federation Nation is a community united by a sense of camaraderie and a spirit of belonging. Story courtesy of B.A.S.S. For more than 30 years, the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation has been more than a name. It has been a community united by a sense of camaraderie and a spirit of belonging to something unique that carries from generation to generation. Over the years, members have decided to join the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation for many reasons other than exciting tournament fishing. The vision of true pioneers in our history — Ray Scott,



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Don Butler and many others — established conservation and a focus on building youth programs in addition to fishing competitions as areas critical to the viability of the sport and our lifestyle. B.A.S.S. Federation Nation members, as well as B.A.S.S. employees and sponsors, have given tirelessly to the sport and the vision of these pioneers.

B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- A subscription to B.A.S.S. Times, the official magazine of the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
- Eligibility to compete in state and divisional tournaments and the prestigious B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Championship
- An insurance program that provides \$1 million liability coverage for sanctioned club events
- Sponsorship programs from premier partners available exclusively to members of the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
- Monthly coverage of Federation Nation events, programs, achievements and initiatives in B.A.S.S. publications (more than 4 million readers)
- Six Bassmaster Classic berths (one from each Federation Nation Division)
- Early entry opportunities on B.A.S.S.-sanctioned tournaments

THE ROAD TO THE CLASSIC: Rising through the ranks of the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation to compete in bass fishing's most prestigious tournament takes dedication and perseverance, but the rewards for advancing to the next level are great. The steps from local club to Classic are presented below:

The image shows a corkboard with several items pinned to it. On the left, a photo of a woman fishing is pinned with a green pushpin. Below it is a yellow sticky note that says "Join KeepAmericaFishing". In the center, a photo of a young boy wearing sunglasses and a life vest is pinned with a blue pushpin; the photo has the handwritten text "Bobby's 1st trip" at the bottom. To the right of the boy's photo is a photo of two men fishing, pinned with a red pushpin. Below the boy's photo is a torn piece of paper with the "KEEPAMERICA FISHING" logo and the tagline "The Voice of the American Angler". The text on the paper reads: "People want to stop you from fishing. We won't let that happen! Get Involved Today at www.KeepAmericaFishing.org". To the right of this paper is a circular logo that says "FISH!" with "KEEPAMERICA FISHING.ORG" underneath. At the bottom left of the corkboard is the official logo of the American Sportfishing Association, which includes the text "KeepAmericaFishing™ is a registered trademark of the American Sportfishing Association."

Get Involved Now at www.KeepAmericaFishing.org!



CLUBS AND STATE CHAPTERS: Anglers qualify through their local clubs for the State Team Qualifier Tournaments. Local clubs along with the State Chapter determine the qualifying format on the state level. The State Chapters of the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation hold State Team Qualifier(s) to qualify a 12-person team plus two juniors and two alternates. States determine the qualifier format for their state.

DIVISIONALS: B.A.S.S. invites each B.A.S.S. Federation Nation state chapter to bring a 12-person team plus two juniors and two alternates to one of 6 (six) B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Divisionals. Format of the divisional are determined by B.A.S.S. The purpose of the divisional is to qualify one person from each state for the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Championship. The divisional is a "team" tournament. Prizes are awarded to the teams only. The highest finishing person from each team will qualify for the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Championship.

FEDERATION NATION CHAMPIONSHIP: Currently 47 B.A.S.S. State Federation Nations and seven B.A.S.S. International Federation Nations compete within one of the 6 (six) divisions to qualify for the Bassmaster Classic. The anglers compete individually in this tournament to determine a champion, however, the highest finishing angler within each of the 6 (six) divisions will earn a berth into the Bassmaster Classic.

BASSMASTER CLASSIC: 6 (six) anglers qualify through the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Championship to fish the Bassmaster Classic.

B.A.S.S. was formed in 1968 to promote and encourage fishing. Recognizing that youngsters are the future of this great sport, B.A.S.S. took the lead of introducing and educating youth about conservation and the sport of fishing. Your membership in the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation helps support the next generation of responsible sportsmen and women through mentoring, volunteerism and education. Additionally, the national B.A.S.S. office works to provide youth programs that collaborate with partners and agencies on the local, state and national level to further enhance or develop new outdoor youth programs nationwide and when/where possible, with the six International B.A.S.S. Federation Nations. Whether youth are learning conservation or fundamental fishing skills, the Junior Bassmaster Chapters are enjoying spirited competition from club, state, divisional or Bassmaster Junior World Championship competition — it all leads to a healthier B.A.S.S. Federation Nation future for years to come.





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2012 Bassmaster Classic Contenders.

The event runs from February 24-26, 2012.

Casey Ashley, Donalds, SC, Career Earnings \$635,447: Ashley is the youngest winner in Elite Series history. He was 23 years, 4 months and 9 days old when he won at Smith Mountain Lake in 2007.

Denny Brauer, Camdenton, MO, Career Earnings \$2,559,393: Bassmaster Classic wins: 1 and has fished in 308 B.A.S.S. tournaments

Stephen Browning, Hot Springs, AR, Career Earnings \$833,673: Finished first in the 2008 Alabama Bassmaster Top 150 on Logan Martin Lake

Brent Chapman, Lake Quivira, KS, Career Earnings \$833,673 \$1,148,293: Placed fifth in both the 2010 Bassmaster Classic on Lay Lake and the 2011 Classic on the Louisiana Delta

Keith Combs, Huntington, TX, Career Earnings \$117,085: Finished first in the Toyota Texas Bass Classic after a grueling fish-off



John Crews, Salem, VA, Career Earnings \$690,577: During the 2006 Elite Series season, Crews strung together 31 consecutive five-bass limits

Ott DeFoe (pictured above), Knoxville, TN, Career Earnings \$252,463: Finished first in the 2011 Elite Series Evan Williams Bourbon All-Star Championship on the Alabama River



John Diaco, Rochester, NH, Career Earnings \$3,200: Representing the Federation Nation

Edwin Evers (pictured to left), Talala, OK, Career Earnings \$1,717,552: Finished as runner-up in the Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Angler of the Year competition in 2010 and 2011

Todd Faircloth, Jasper, TX, Career Earnings \$1,305,162: Joined B.A.S.S. Century Club with a 100-5 catch at Lake Amistad, Texas, in 2007

Allan Glasgow, Ashville, AL, Career Earnings \$35,309: Finished first in the 2009 Southern Open on the Santee Cooper

Shaw Grigsby, Gainesville, FL, Career Earnings \$1,861,173: Has fished 277 B.A.S.S. tournaments, finishing in Top 10 spots 55 times

Greg Hackney, Gonzales, LA, Career Earnings \$1,310,756: Finished first in the 2006 Elite Series Lone Star Shootout on the Sam Rayburn Reservoir

Davy Hite, Ninety Six, SC, Career Earnings \$1,738,959: Won the 1999 Bassmaster Classic on the Louisiana Delta

Tim Horton, Muscle Shoals, AL, Career Earnings \$1,270,139: Won Toyota Tundra Angler of the Year in 2000, his rookie year

Jamie Horton, Centreville, AL, Career Earnings \$157,953: Winner of the 2011 B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Championship presented by Yamaha and Skeeter on Ouachita River

Randy Howell, Springville, AL, Career Earnings \$960,327: Has finished in the money in 120 of 202 career entries

Michael Iaconelli, Pittsgrove, NJ, Career Earnings \$1,818,048: Won the 2003 Bassmaster Classic on the Louisiana Delta: Iaconelli is one of just four anglers with a Classic title, an AOY award, 100 or more pounds in a tournament and more than \$1 million in earnings.

Tom Jessop, Dalhart, TX, Career Earnings \$1,200: Representing the Federation Nation



Alton Jones, Waco, TX, Career Earnings \$1,999,791: Winner of the 2008 Bassmaster Classic on Lake Hartwell

Steve Kennedy, Auburn, AL: Career Earnings \$1,027,513: Kennedy and his father (Van) are one of just nine father and son tandems to qualify for the Bassmaster Classic

Jeff Kriet, Ardmore, AL, Career Earnings \$886,299: Kriet became the first Elite Series angler to catch a five-bass limit on each day he competed for an entire season

Chris Lane, Guntersville, AL, Career Earnings \$586,078: Chris and Bobby Lane are the only siblings to qualify for the same Classic on more than one occasion (2008 and 2012)

Bobby Lane, Lakeland, FL, Career Earnings \$617,211: Finished ninth in the 2011 Bassmaster Classic on the Louisiana Delta

Jared Lintner, Arroyo Grande, CA, Career Earnings \$591,564: Finished in the money in 49 of 69 career entries

Bill Lowen, Brookville, IN, Career Earnings \$519,795: Finished 23rd in the 2009 Bassmaster Classic on the Red River

Aaron Martens, Leeds, AL, Career Earnings \$1,721,762: Is noted for finishing in second place in four Bassmaster Classics (2002, 2004, 2005 and 2011)

Matt McCoy, Indianapolis, IN, Career Earnings \$1,200: Representing the Federation Nation

Ish Monroe, Hughson, CA, Career Earnings \$960,907: Won the inaugural Bassmaster Elite Series event, in 2006

Takahiro Omori, Emory, TX, Career Earnings \$1,403,922: Winner of the 2004 Bassmaster Classic on Lake Wylie

Brandon Palaniuk, Rathdrum, ID, Career Earnings \$98,805: First Federation champion to fish the Bassmaster Elite Series

Keith Poche, Pike Road, AL, Career Earnings \$141,103: Four Top 10 B.A.S.S. finishes

Josh Polfer, Nampa, ID, Career Earnings \$1,700: Representing the Federation Nation

Kelly Pratt, Williamsburg, VA, Career Earnings \$60,574: Representing the Federation Nation

Chris Price, Church Hill, MD, Career Earnings \$39,422: Representing the Federation Nation

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Matt Reed, Madisonville, TX, Career Earnings \$584,008: Won the 2004 Central Open on the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers

Marty Robinson, Lyman, SC, Career Earnings \$234,428: Finished in the money in 30 of 63 career entries

winner to have never won a tournament at 2011 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Southern Open on Lake Toho

Mark Tucker, St. Louis, MO, Career Earnings \$711,673: Winner of the 2011 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Central Open #1 on Lewisville Lake



Andrew Upshaw, Hemphill, TX, Career Earnings \$675: First angler to earn a spot at the Bassmaster Classic via Mercury College B.A.S.S.

Kevin VanDam, Kalamazoo, MI, Career Earnings \$5,285,476: Four-time Classic winner (2001, 2005, 2010, 2011)

Dean Rojas, Lake Havasu City, AZ, Career Earnings \$1,440,068: Joined the B.A.S.S. Millionaires Club during the 2008 Elite Series

Fred Roumbanis, Bixby, OK, Career Earnings \$846,776: Finished in the money in 50 of 86 career entries

Terry Scroggins, San Mateo, FL, Career Earnings \$1,412,567: Joined B.A.S.S. Millionaires Club during 2008 Elite Series season

Fletcher Shryock, Newcomerstown, OH, Career Earnings \$67,454: Winner of the 2011 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Southern Open #2 on Lake Norman

Gerald Swindle, Warrior, AL, Career Earnings \$1,319,467: Finally broke his record for only AOY

Greg Vinson, Wetumpka, AL, Career Earnings \$249,663: Won a Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Weekend Series event on Alabama's Lake Martin in 2006

David Walker, Sevierville, TN, Career Earnings \$505,151: After a four-year absence from B.A.S.S. competition, Walker returned and qualified for the Bassmaster Elite Series through the 2010 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens

Dustin Wilks, Rocky Mount, NC, Career Earnings \$488,168: Finished in the money in 67 of 117 career entries

Kevin Wirth, Crestwood, KY, Career Earnings \$1,152,294: Won the 1994 South Carolina Invitational and the 2008 Elite Series Tennessee Triumph



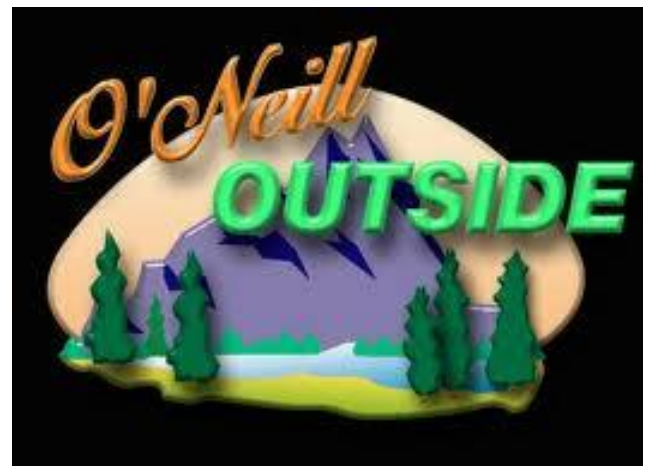
My Grandfather, Luther Turpin

By O'Neill Williams

Orphaned since he was ten, his two brothers and two sisters were sent to live with grandparents spread out across Rabun County in extreme northeast Georgia. His name was Luther Monroe Turpin, and he was my maternal grandfather. Being the oldest of the 5, he was portioned out the least desirable destination, a moon shiner uncle who mistreated him, never seeing to any education of any type. Stories handed down say that he was routinely disciplined by a large man, a 6'11" tall employee of his uncle, who bought his size 19 shoes from the Sears and

Roebuck catalog. This set of circumstances could be frightening for any ten-year-old.

Anyway, my grandfather ran away at fourteen and worked in a logging camp along the Tallulah River. The tall, rangy teenager, without a doubt older than his years, finally landed a job with the Tallulah Railroad, owned by Georgia Power, at \$1 a day. He worked for Georgia Power until his retirement at 65 receiving a gold watch and a rod and reel. I used that rod and reel myself at about ten. He was more comfortable with a long cane pole, wound with black woven nylon and a bucket of worms or a sleeve of crickets.



At seventeen, already having been totally on his own for three years, he noticed a young chestnut haired girl, then thirteen, playing in a school yard in the small mountain community of Wiley, Georgia. It is said that he turned to a companion, asked her name and replied that she was the woman he would marry. The outlook for life was short in those days. You had to get on with it. Her name was Amanda Smith.

That marriage would produce seven children and would last fifty-two years when Mandy passed away. Their 3rd child and 2nd girl was my mother, Margaret Fred Turpin. She was named for a favorite Uncle, who was a Marine in the first world war.



Life in the North Georgia Mountains surely hard. A garden and farm animals produced much-needed food, but cash money was scarce with seven children. My mother relates that for one Christmas she got only an orange. Yes, an orange, and that was all, but it tasted real. good.

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When I was about eight, Luther had retired and for a few weeks every summer, Luke and Mandy became my fishing buddies. We dug for worms behind the barn, carved out grubs from fallen pine trees along side of the hollows above the river. Once I sneaked off with my cousin and tried, at his insistence, some Brown's Mule Brand chewing tobacco. I got violently sick. They never said a word. Didn't have to I guess. It has been sixty years and

I have not used tobacco since.

I vividly remember those quiet Summer mornings in the mountains. We would walk along the railroad track between the rails, the three of us, I was in the middle. Those same rails my grandfather had helped to spike into place 50 years before. It was two miles to the river. A steep descent took us to a deep hold beneath a trestle. It was on these warm days, I came to know Luke and Mandy. They were life-long partners who shared all about their lives that a youngster, intent on the next bite, could absorb as the lessons about handling living flowed from their lips. We always walked back for lunch, and Luke would slice fresh tomatoes with his pocket knife and make me a sandwich. We would have peaches for desert.

A summer then was a grand prize waiting on the end of school. If I could relive a few weeks

of any summer's fishing of all the worldwide trips, I have taken, it would be with them, Luke and Mandy, watching a small cork as it gently glides in the soft current of the Tallulah River hoping it will soon disappear.

Grandparents are, by and large, special people, and sometimes even fishing buddies. I just hope Gail and I are too after all is said and done. We are trying.



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Wading's Best For Winter's Extreme Low Tides

By Capt. Bill Miller

When the water is low, that's a time for high hopes. Winter's extreme low tides offer a bounty of opportunity, but reaching and accessing this gold mine requires planning, preparation and the right tools for the job.

During the morning hours, three days before and after new and full moons, tides will fall to their lowest levels of the month. Low tides can be further exaggerated by the strong winds associated with cold fronts. These heavy blows will push more water out of the bays and estuaries and hold back the incoming cycle. The resulting barrenness is called "negative low tides" and this scenario exposes much of the bottom that is rarely out of the water.

Winter fishing really gets good when falling water temperatures combined with these super-low tides push speckled trout, redfish, snook, sheepshead and other flats fish into deep holes, sloughs and creeks. In some cases fish are trapped until the tide returns, so if you find these spots, you'll have a concentrated target area.

Shallow draft flats' boats or airboats is the best ways to reach these honey holes during extreme tides. Airboats can glide over the exposed bottom to reach the edges of the holes. With a shallow-draft boat, just get as close as possible and then wade to your spot. (Wading allows you optimal mobility to probe the area and find where the fish are concentrated.)

Winter wading exposes you to cold air and water temperatures, so dress warmly. Layer your shirts, sweatshirts and jackets so you can shed pieces as needed.



Your best bet for stability and safety over a muddy bottom are stocking foot waders with neoprene booties, rather than boot foot waders. If you step into deep mud, boot foot waders often remain stuck when you try to take a step. If your foot slips out of the boot end and pulls into the leg of your waders, this can cause you to lose your balance and fall.

You don't want to risk the danger of hypothermia by getting stuck in the mud with cold water and air temperatures so use external booties, which fit snug around your ankles, so they will pull out of the mud much easier. Also, gaiters will keep sand and shell bits out of your wading booties.

A good wading belt with back support and connections for pliers, towel, a rod holder, bait bucket and stringer are very useful. Cinching the belt tightly around your waist will also keep water from flooding your waders if you stumble in the water.

To minimize fatigue and to simplify your fishing, keep your tackle selection as light as possible by thinking in advance about where you'll fish and what you'll target. I carry a small spool of leader material; a few hooks (if live baiting), leader/line clippers and three or four



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lures. If you're planning a long walk, you might consider a couple more baits. (Extra jig tails are a good idea.)

Chest packs are handy, but you can also just tuck your tackle into the top of your waders. A small tackle tray keeps everything organized, and the wading belt prevents any items from slipping down into your wader legs.

Probably, the top wading bait is a light jig with a soft plastic tail. Dark colors like root beer and motor oil are my first choices, but I'll carry a couple of light colors too. Hopping jigs along the bottom is a good bet for winter bites.

Suspending twitchbaits in bait fish colors (i.e. silver, green/silver or black/silver) will also catch winter fish, especially trout. Topwaters are fun, but fish tend to lay low in the holes during cold spells. Surface action can be minimal unless you get a warm, sunny morning.

Whatever you throw during winter, remember that slow presentations are best for cold winter fish. Live shrimp on a 1/8- to 1/4-ounce jig head is a good bet. Hook the shrimp in the head – bottom to top – and avoid the dark brain. Slowly move the bait across the bottom with occasional twitches. You might also want to suspend a shrimp under a cork in deeper spots.



Find your spots by looking for a chart or aerial photos (available online). I like scouting on a really low tide and taking note of the deeper areas that are clearly visible in these conditions. Remember the key areas for future trips and you'll catch your winter fish.

For weekly fishing reports, hot tips, catch photos and lots of angling resources, visit www.billmiller.com. For fishing charters in the Tampa Bay area, call (813) 363-9927.





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Stripers On A Buggy Whip

By Bill Vanderford

Cold, misty mornings can make one see strange things, so when I spotted what seemed to be tiny sparks flickering across the surface of the water nearly a quarter of a mile away, I became instantly attentive. Since I've been a fishing guide for over 40 years, I knew in an instant that those distant flashes were caused by a school of stripers that were in hot pursuit of shad trying desperately to escape. My adrenaline began pumping wildly!

I quickly aimed the big bass boat at the feeding fish, and told my clients to get their fly rods ready. Even before the boat came to a complete stop, both of my clients were stripping line and casting their fly rod-sized Swirleybirds into the churning water. Instantly, both anglers had big stripers hooked, and their rods were bent almost to the breaking point.

It probably seems strange to many fishermen to try to catch a huge striped bass on a tiny "buggy whip" of a rod, but one must remember that a thirty-pound striper only has a mouth the size of a five or six-pound largemouth bass, and they often dine on very small bait fish. Therefore, the really big baits and heavy tackle are not always needed. One can easily catch huge stripers using an 8 to 10 weight flyrod, proper fish-playing skills, and lots of backing on the reel. Also, the lighter gear and smaller opening of the striper's mouth allows one's bait size to be reduced. Many of the strikes that are missed with larger lures are easily hooked with the smaller ones.

Probably, the most popular and productive method for locating stripers during the winter and spring is to follow the birds. Over the past ten years, we have experienced an annual "coming of the birds" throughout the South. This migration generally begins when the water becomes very cold in late November, and the combination of mostly seagulls and loons remains until the water warms considerably in late April.



Since the reason for the birds being here is to feast on the millions of bait fish that become weak and slow from the cold water, they act like pointers to a quail hunter. From quite a distance, an angler can see the hundreds of white seagulls circling frantically and diving into the water to capture the fleeing bait fish. Because this wild feeding frenzy by the seagulls can easily be seen, all fishermen have to do is ride and look to locate schools of stripers.

The stripers are the reason so many minnows are close to the surface. They often start feeding on the tiny fish in deeper water, but the shad usually ends up being herded to the

surface where their luck runs out. These larger schools of trapped bait fish become the main course meal for the stripers and loons from below and the seagulls from above.

Since the fish and birds are usually preoccupied with their eating, it is often easy to get within casting distance before spooking them. The actual catching then is fairly simple.

Though topwater lures will work and are fun to use, we have developed a lure that is far more productive. Fly rod-Sized Swirleybirds only weigh about 1/32nd of an ounce, have





plenty of flash to be noticed, but are light enough that they cast easily with fly tackle and sinking lines. These unique lures are available at www.georgiafishing.com.

Just cast these lures into the churning water among the feeding birds and fish. Always let the lure fall a little before stripping it slowly and steadily back to the boat. Often, a striper will inhale the offering immediately, but it's possible to make a hundred cast into these feeding fish and not get a hit. One must always keep in mind that as many as a million real, live minnows can be in the middle of one of these feeding sprees. Therefore, persistence is the key, but remember to move the lure slower than the real bait fish

move, which makes our offering easier for the stripers to find.

Even with knowledge and the proper lures and equipment, one must often make hundreds of casts to be successful. However, the catch of a lifetime may be only one cast away. I have hooked as many as thirty stripers over twenty pounds on a single outing, and it only takes one big, line sided fish to make a trip worthwhile.

Few fishing experiences can match the total chaos of casting with a fly rod into a school of huge stripers that are wildly chasing millions of frantically fleeing shad. One will not soon forget the exciting adventure of this piscatorial madness!

Bill Vanderford has won numerous awards for his writing and photography, and has been inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame as a Legendary Guide. He can be reached at 770-289-1543, at JFish51@aol.com, or at his web site: www.fishinglanier.com



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ODU



Dependable Lures & Deep Water

By John Murray

As most of you know by now I've officially joined the Wave pro staff. I say "officially" because I've been a fan of their plastic baits for years and have caught fish with them in nearly every venue in the country. I guess that made me an unofficial pro staffer.

Before we talk about their baits, though, let me tell you a little bit about, Paul Whitman Jr., the President of Wave fishing. I met him a number of years ago when he was a co-angler on one of the tours. He's the kind of guy you just like to be around. He has high morals and always displays a positive attitude through the friendly smile on his face.

Those things matter. You want an angler in charge. This business is about catching fish. It's important that the guy at the top knows what it's like out on the water all

day. You want someone who knows the difference between catching and fishing.

And, because of his morals you can be confident that you'll get full value for your money. This man won't market junk, no matter how much money he could make doing it, and he'll treat you right when it comes to price. That's no small thing.

ODU

Now that you know who you're dealing with, let's talk about their plastics. I suppose my favorite, or at least the one I've used the most, is our 4.5-inch Crawdude. It's a great all around plastic creature bait. And, with a 4.5 inch length it's big enough to attract giants but still small enough for ordinary size bass to attack.

I typically rig it Texas style and punch heavy cover and serious grass beds with it. It has a kind of feel and action that gives me confidence that if there's a bass there he or she will bite. That's important when you're fishing in competition. You can't work an area wondering if the fish are there, and then wondering some more if you're throwing the right bait. You have to know you're using the right bait and save the worry part for the fish.

My best color is Sweet Potato Pie. It's basically a natural combination of brown and orange with a little green and yellow thrown in. (You'll have to look at it for yourself. You'll see what I mean.) If that doesn't suit your fancy go with one of the other 25 colors they have available.

When the water's a little deeper — or a lot deeper, as the case may be — I usually switch to a 3-inch Grasscraw. It's a smaller bait but if you rig it on a finesse head it bulks up to a respectable size.

This combination will catch bass on all the usual deep water spots. Channel swings, shell beds, stumps, rocks, brush piles, shipwrecks (think the Great Lakes) and ledges are all places where you should give this dynamic little plastic a shot. Did I miss anything? If so, throw one there, too.

When you're in deep water with a combination like this it's important to change your retrieve before you leave a spot thinking there are no bass on it. I know you hear and read that all the time. Every angler and every article tells you to do that. But that's because it's the truth.

Catching bass is about more than bait and location. There's also the matter of presentation.

Sometimes dragging a bait along, inch by inch, will do the trick. Other times, however, you need to hop it, snap it or maybe even swim it to get the same reaction.



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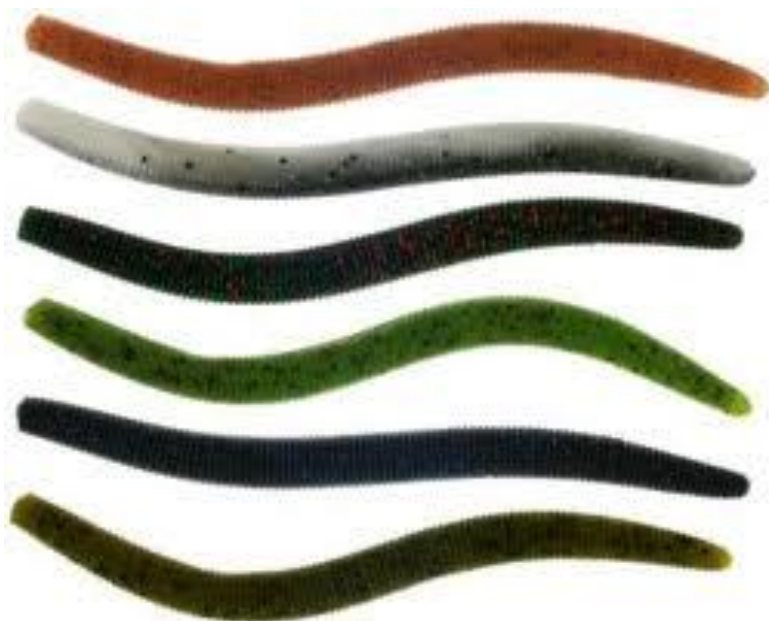
I can't tell you how many times I've seen bass ignore one presentation but go crazy with another presentation — same bait, same size, same color, same everything. The only thing I changed was the action.

Keep something else in mind, too. Deep water is a term of art. In Florida deep might mean 4 feet. But, On the Great lakes, out West or in California it means something closer to 40 feet. In the Midwest it's probably around 20 feet. And, individual bodies of water vary within these regions. None of that matters, though. For our purposes deep means deep relative to the surrounding water. Absolute depth has nothing to do with anything.



One of the things that make these baits so special — actually, makes all of Wave's products special — is their look, feel and action. There's something different about them. It's hard to put your finger on exactly what it is but it's something, and that something works.

One way to understand it a little more is to think about the old Mann's Jelly Worms. Most of us know what they were like. They caught fish. There was something special about them but



I don't know of anybody who could tell you exactly what that was. That's kind of like what Wave has going.

There are new products on the horizon, too. Our new Super Soft Pro Series looks to be some of the best plastic baits ever devised. I just received mine the other day and I have to say that they look and feel great, although I haven't had a chance to try them out on the fish yet because of the weather. (I'm doing this on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. It's the day before competition starts at the Northern Open on Oneida Lake. The wind is blowing like crazy.)

I'll let you know next time how they work on real fish in the real-world. That's the test when all is said and done. I'm confident, though, that they'll get the job done. All of Wave's other products do so there's no reason to believe the Super Soft Pro Series will be any different.

Note: Just because we're introducing new stuff doesn't mean we'll neglect the old. If you're a fan of the original Wave plastics stay calm. You have nothing to fear. They'll be available for years to come.

Last, but by no means least, remember that every Wave product is infused with MoLoPo. It's basically an anise scent (licorice). It last a longtime when you're fishing and definitely helps generate bites. Maybe even more important, it makes to fish hold on longer so you'll get a better hookset, or at least the opportunity to get a better one.

I've got to get back to the water but before I go let me say again that I'm thrilled to be a member of Wave's team. I'll be talking more about them in the near future and I'll be sharing some of my rigging and fishing tips with you. This sport is about everyone catching fish and having a good time. I'll do my best to make sure that happens.

MOLOPO BY TIKIMAN

BECAUSE 5 FISH JUST ISN'T ENOUGH!



GET SCENT.
GET BIT.

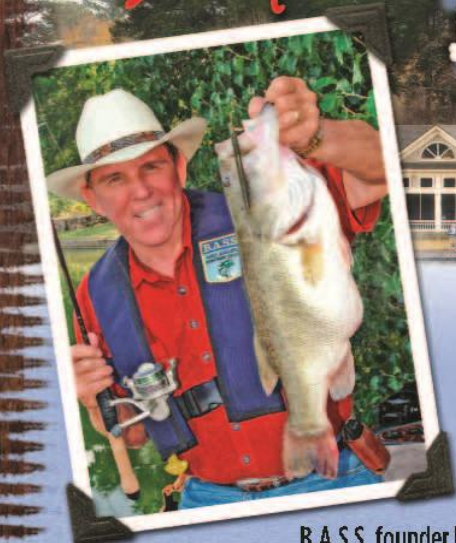
Not for human consumption.

Non pas pour la consommation humaine.

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Ray Scott's

Trophy Bass Retreat



*You're invited to fish
America's most famous
private bass waters*

Noted outdoorsman and B.A.S.S. founder Ray Scott is making a long-time personal dream come true. As a proud supporter of his home state's new initiative — Alabama Black Belt Adventures — he is opening his personal lakes, his home and guest accommodations to a limited number of anglers to enjoy great fishing and gracious southern hospitality.

Guests at Ray Scott's Trophy Bass Retreat will fish in the wake of presidents, first ladies and fishing superstars like Kevin VanDam, Rick Clunn, Bill Dance and Roland Martin — all amidst 200 acres of live oaks, Spanish moss, whitetail deer and blue herons. And they will

also enjoy many outstanding amenities as well as the opportunity to visit with host Ray Scott.

Ray Scott's Trophy Bass Retreat is located just south of Montgomery, in the heart of Alabama's Black Belt, a land of rich history, rich traditions and rich black soil that is credited with contributing to the outstanding fishing and hunting that has been treasured by so many generations of outdoorsmen.

Whether you're with your best fishing buddies, son or father, or important business clients or employees, your Ray Scott Trophy Bass Retreat will provide an exclusive, one-of-a-kind fishing experience to be remembered.

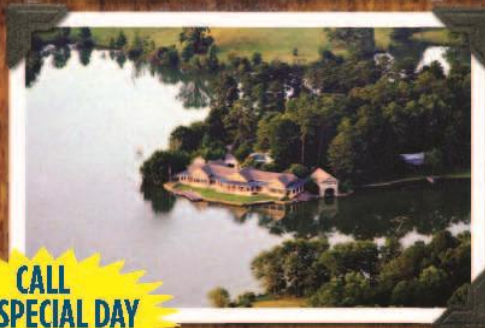
Named "Best Bass Lake" in America by "Outdoor Life" Magazine

Availability is very limited. Bookings on first-come, first-served basis.

Your all-inclusive Trophy Bass Retreat package includes:

- 3 nights lodging
- 2 full days of fishing
- Airport pickup
- All meals provided with relaxed family-style dinners
- Comfortable accommodations with private baths
- Boats available or bring your own
- Two miles of private, scenic jogging road
- Secluded pool
- Lodge area with large fireplace and big screen TV
- And many other amenities

**CALL
FOR SPECIAL DAY
RATES**



Bookings

All lodging is based on double occupancy with private baths. Booking and fishing is in pairs only. There is a maximum of eight guests. Booking groups of four in the Presidents Guest Cabin is a recipe for fun and fellowship.

Bass is good business:

The guest cabin for four — or the whole facility for eight — is perfect for incentive and reward trips or tax-deductible corporate team building.

Be sure to inquire about the limited number of Ray Scott's trademark marketing seminars, "From a Fishing Hole to a Pot of Gold" personally conducted after fishing hours by the Bass Boss himself. Or call to book the whole lodge and customize your own tax-deductible marketing and motivational agenda with Ray.

Call 800-518-7222 | Visit us on the web at www.rayscottbassretreat.com

An Alabama Black Belt Adventure

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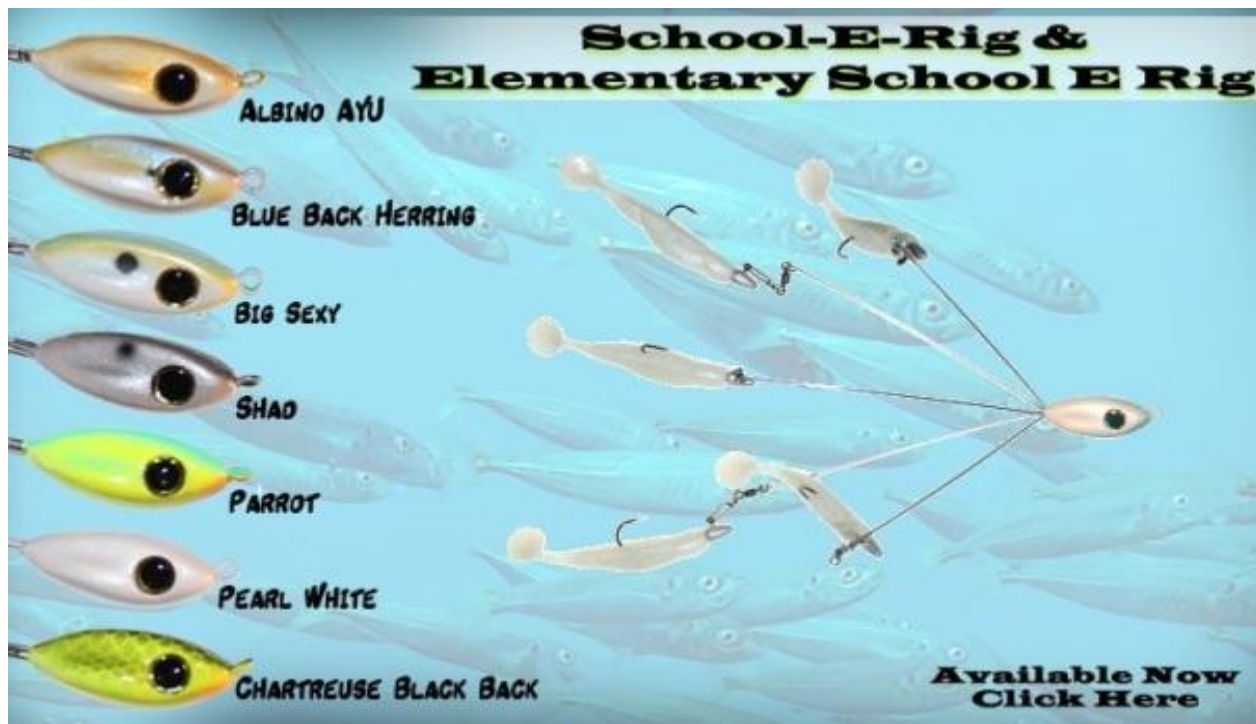
Getting Schooled on "The Rig"

By Chris Jenkins

I hope the old saying "better late than never" does not necessarily apply here, but I am not the type of guy to just jump on the band wagon. I am also not the type of guy who runs out and buys a certain lure just because someone claims to have won a tournament on it either. Case in point, Paul Elias's wins with



the Alabama Rig at Guntersville. Tournament wins don't usually peak my interest these days, unless there are big fish involved. However, this was a unique win based on the rig he used and dominated the field on. It was clearly an example of thinking outside the box, and credit should be given when it's due. Without listening to or reading any of the hype or interviews, I first sat and pondered this rig. The first thing that came to mind was not the rigs' legal status, but rather the level of sportsmanship or lack thereof should I say. This is nothing more than a freshwater version of an umbrella rig I thought. Should I expect to see non tournament anglers trolling several of these rigs at my local lake on plainer boards? Where,



in fact, does it stop? Is this any different than someone throwing out five or even ten Tiki Sticks?

Does the fact that all the lures are cast using one rod actually justify or make it legal or right?

Well, after long

ODU

consideration, like three weeks, I came to the conclusion that my opinion is nothing more than that, and I could either refuse to accept the Alabama rig, or I could capitalize on it. After all, adaptation is essential to survival in this world, and being open minded is critical to any angler's success. So, I picked up the phone and called a few friends to run my thoughts by them. Well, they were already using the rig and asked if I was living under a rock. The sarcasm was not limited to the East coast mind you; a couple of people I spoke to on the west coast were already customizing baits for optimal performance on these rigs. There are guys creating new molds and hand pouring awesome colors in various sizes as of weeks ago. Companies that saw a decline in their soft plastic swim baits sales unexpectedly are seeing a spike. Baits that were considered dead are suddenly being reanimated because this rig has opened up a world of opportunities. One guy even told me he was loading up his rig



with lizards, grubs, and frogs. Have you ever caught a fish swimming a jig? Well, try five of them next time!!

The idea of slinging multiple baits is not new by any means. The double fluke rig has been around for decades.

The over/under swim bait technique has long

been in place out west. I saw a guy use a modified coat hanger years ago to throw multiple baits.

Also, believe me when I say the Alabama rig was not born this year. Paul Elias's win just happened to "let the cat out of the bag", if you will.

His win created a much needed spark in the fishing industry and gave birth to a wave of new ideas. There are guys who are now making little rigs for pan fish, and I can only assume that there is technique specific rods being designed as I write this.



Also, just as expected, every company under the sun came out with their own version of this rig for bass fishing. That was my next dilemma. Which one do I buy? Well, in conversation with one of the owners of Little Creeper Baits, he mentioned Picasso's School- E –Rig and Elementary School-E- Rig. After doing some research I found out the School-E- Rig is the bigger or heavier of the two. Terry Monteleone of Picasso Lures informed me that "the weight of the rig is 12grams with

swivels and all. That puts it a little more than 3/8oz.....7/16 to be exact.

The actual plastic head weighs only 3 grams, which is less than 1/8oz.

If the exact head on the Picasso which weighs 3 grams in plastic was made of Lead it would weigh 1.5oz..... An interesting fact, since many manufacturers have elected to make their rigs out of lead or Tin, which has an impact on the way it performs".

They both have five arms and an impact-resistant head that comes in seven different colors. They are handcrafted in the USA using premium American made components and also completely lead free.

I use Picasso's Pro Metal weights all the time, so I am no stranger to their products and didn't hesitate to jump on both sizes of the School-E-Rigs. They also now make quality jig heads in various sizes to go with rigs.

Now all I have to do is figure out how I can push the rig to its limits in regard to bait sizes. Of course, the first thing I wanted to do was slam five big swim baits on it and start lobbing bombs, but everyone I spoke with told me to settle down and keep it as light as I possibly could. It became apparent that this rig will wear you out quickly if you're not prepared and fail to use the right gear to launch your assault.

As far as rods go, I experimented with three St. Croix's ranging in price from \$120.00 to \$270.00. For the lighter of my rigs I opted for a Mojo Bass pitching rod. I know it sounds crazy, but this rod is extremely versatile and





can be used for multiple applications.

I then added more rubber to the rig and switched up the Mojo Swimbait rod for added backbone and cast ability. Both Mojo rods proved to be a true value and handled everything I laid on them. Lastly, I had an opportunity to wield the Legend Tournament bass series, model TBC710HF. It's a 7'10" heavy power, fast action blank which has been designated as St.

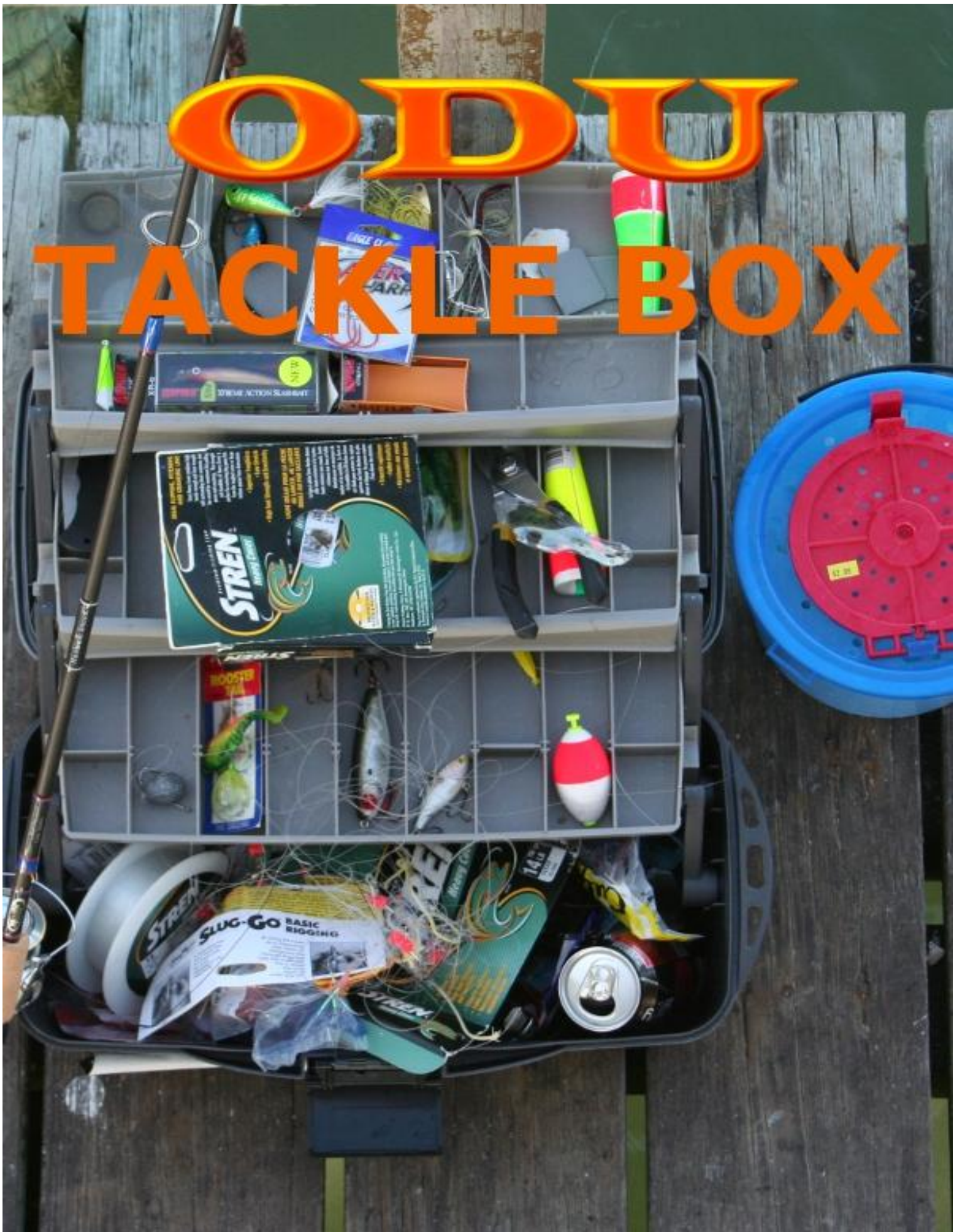
Croix's swim bait rod in that series. Incredible is the first word that came to mind. This is a serious rod for serious anglers.

Rich Belanger of St. Croix stated that using "The rig" was not very different than tossing big musky baits and will separate the men from the boys in quick fashion. As I stated earlier, keeping the rig light is definitely to your advantage. I started off using Berkley hollow belly swim baits and Yum Money minnows because they weigh next to nothing but still provide a decent-sized profile. Twenty-pound test Berkley 100% fluorocarbon seemed to do quite well for this application. I then loaded the rig with Little Creeper's Trash Fish and stepped up the line to 30 lb test Big Game monofilament to compensate for the additional weight, I had added to the rig. The School-E-Rig was coming to life boys, and so was my imagination. I also tried Huddleston and Castaic swim baits on 65 lb test Stren Super Braid, but unfortunately, I reached a point where I lost casting distance due to overloading the whole operation. As for reels, you need something smooth that will not backlash because the sudden stop can snatch the entire rod out of your hand. The REVO STX was as smooth as a velvet glove, and I actually experimented with a couple of Abu Garcia round reels for the heavy weight rigs.

As I unhooked another fish on my last outing, I couldn't help but laugh as I remembered all the times I worried about line wary bass. Sometimes I wonder if as anglers, we tend to over think or over complicate things. Picasso paints a pretty picture though, and I am eager to see where imagination takes us with this rig.

School is in session, and there is much to learn.
Chris Jenkins sowbelly.hunter@yahoo.com

ODU TACKLE BOX



ODU

ODU Tackle Box Rods and Reels



Shimano's Sustain FG Spinning Reel (left) boasts the company's X-Ship design, which is said to provide rigidity plus a tremendous amount of cranking power. A Magnumlite C14 rotor reduces resistance on rotation, resulting in a tremendously smooth action. A Rapid Fire Drag allows anglers to quickly adjust drag to an ideal setting while fighting fish.

Pinnacle Producer XT Spinning Reel (right). For pitching tubes into the dock, working a shaky head along a breakline, yo-yoing a drop shot rig in deep water, and a wide variety of light-line techniques, nothing beats the Producer XT. It's built strong to last long, with a bevy of cutting edge features to help you get your string stretched even when using braid.



WaveSpin™ DHZ Spinning Reel (left): WaveSpin reels are engineered to deliver a lifetime of tangle-free fishing and longer, more accurate casts. Fewer tangles means more time spent fishing and more fish caught. The Exclusive WaveSpin spool features guaranteed no-tangle technology for longer casts and less kinks. Unlike round spool tops, its jagged shape prevents slack line from catching on the spool during retrieves and forming loops that lead to kinks and tangled line.

With the **Noirwood series** of rods from **Denali**, our goal was to offer today's angler the most sensitive rod on the planet. Everything from the tip to the butt is designed with sensitivity in mind, and the end result is the highest caliber fishing rod on the market today. The Noirwood series offers the angler the absolute finest rod built from only the finest components ... assembled within the hands of America's Rod Craftsmen. (1st rod from left)



Carrot Stix Wild Black Spinning Rods: Every detail of these rods was developed for the absolute lightest weight without sacrificing performance. The nonsanded blank is key to how such a lightweight rod can maintain a high level of strength and sensitivity. Other weight-reducing details include long-casting Fuji® Alconite® micro guides, dual helical bias 30T construction and cork grip. Lifetime manufacturer's warranty. (2nd rod from left)

Temple Fork Outfitters Gary's Tactical Series: By utilizing a new proprietary scrim in conjunction with TFO's high modulus carbon fiber blank material, Gary was able to save weight and increase sensitivity without sacrificing strength. GTS blanks are tastefully finished; simply polished, with a thin layer of matte clear coat to enhance the natural luster of the fibers, TFO's trademark Color ID Split grip is further complimented by a two piece reel seat and a natural cork ring split grip. (3rd rod from left)

ESP Spinning Rods: Experience the newest sensory enhancement on these cutting-edge ESP Fishing Rods! With patent-pending Vibration Amplification Technology™ on solid graphite blanks, you'll feel every underwater movement. The combination of the lightweight rod (around 3 oz.) and highly-conductive alloy vibration disks in the handle allow you to feel the exact moment a bite hits, or the hook is set. (4th rod from left, picture enhanced to see reel seat)

Enhanced rod strength is right here with the **Wright & McGill Stormy Skies S-Glass Series Casting Rods**. Three separate layers of connective fibers construct these rods making them 25 percent stronger than fiberglass. These rods are remarkably light and feature a rebound rate that approaches high-modulus graphite blanks. S-Glass MaX Series provide excellent action with plugs and divers.

ODU

ODU Tackle Box Reels and Accessories



Shimano Caius Casting Reel (left): Geared for high-speed 6.5:1 retrieves, this reel delivers effortless top-end speed with lightweight, performance-driven Shimano design. Three shielded stainless steel ball bearings for corrosion-resistant durability in the most punishing environments. Adjustable Easy-MAG II braking system prevents backlashes. Super Stopper anti-reverse for hard-hitting hooksets.

The **Quantum PT Smoke 100 Casting Reels** (right) are the lightest all metal Quantum PT reels ever made! The Quantum PT Smoke 100 reels feature a machined aluminum frame to reduce weight as well as an 8 PT bearing system for smoothness. The PT Smoke 100 also features a micro ACS cast control to make adjustments on the fly and a super smooth ceramic drag system.



The **T3 Ballistic Baitcast Reel** (left) is **Daiwa's** mid-level baitcaster to make use of the company's durable Zaion carbon material, and also features the new MagForce 3D cast control system. This offers fisherman a much wider range of cast control options. The new flip open "T-Wing" is design is the big innovation with this fishing reel. It gives the line coming off the spool extra space in which to more naturally flow during casts. This new design reduces friction because line is not forced to channel through a small opening and in theory will result in longer more accurate casts, as well as a more natural decent after your lures hit the water.



Okuma Convector level winds and line counters revolutionized the fishing tackle industry, offering a powerful gearing and drag system platform previously unattainable at the Convector's value-oriented price. Today, the Convector has grown to a position as a staple in salmon fisheries from Alaska to the Great Lakes, and everywhere in between. The Convector's no-nonsense design features aluminum and stainless steel components at all critical stress points, along with Okuma's patented Mechanical Stabilization System that maintains parts alignment over the long term. Line counter models are available in both right and left hand retrieve to serve all anglers.



Most advanced Ambassador Reels ever made Rugged knockdown construction every trophy hunter needs Unique bearing system Vented spool for easy casting Rugged Carbon Matrix™ Drag Designed to land your next record! Exciting technology for superior smoothness and control! The **Ambassadeur Record Round Baitcast Reels** is the most advanced Ambassador Reel **Abu Garcia** have ever made.



The **EZ Rod Organizer** is the perfect way to store and protect your valuable fishing rods. Store rods overhead and out of the way. It keeps kids and pets safe by storing in an overhead location. Each package includes 6 rod holders, 1-slatwall board and 4-screws for anchoring the slatwall. This product installs in minutes and organizes instantly. Install it under shelving. Install it above the garage door. Install it above your work bench. Install in any location that suits your needs. The EZ Rod Organizer is made of 1/4" strong steel and is great for organizing most fishing rods & reels, nets and gaffs. It is easy to see your supplies when they are organized using the EZ Rod Organizer.

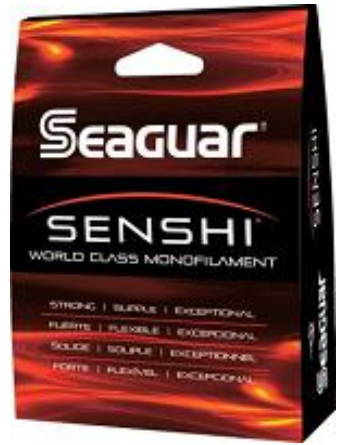


Whether you are a weekend angler or a more seasoned tournament angler, boater or non-boater, you can trust the **Angler Innovations Rod Jacket** to keep your rods and reels untangled and protected. Each Rod Jacket features a durable, one-piece Neoprene construction that covers your fully rigged rod and also fits snugly around your standard or low-profile casting reel.

ODU

ODU Tackle Box Fishing Line

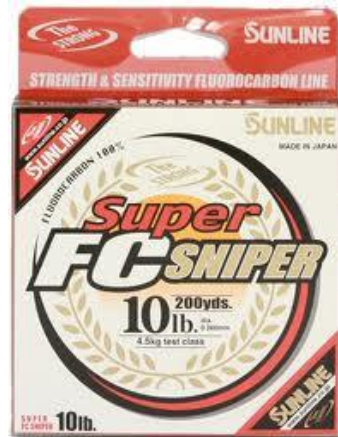
Seaguar Senshi: This premium monofilament, engineered in Japan, provides the ideal balance of strength and sensitivity. It features extraordinary knot and tensile strength so you get solid hook-sets and can tackle heavy cover with confidence. Plus, Senshi is soft and supple, with excellent castability and flexibility. This sensitive, thin-diameter line easily detects structure, lure action and strikes for improved catch ratios.



Sufix Siege monofilament fires a lure farther, straighter and with less effort than you ever imagined. Advanced performance engineering assures unbeatable casting distance with sharpshooter accuracy. Patented abrasion technology provides tough-as-nails durability to tackle any heavy cover situation. Exclusive G2PrecisionWinding™ (extra-wide 100 and 330 yard spools) virtually eliminates line tangle for near-zero memory and effortless spooling. The result is a line that handles beautifully, casts like a dream, and thanks to an exclusive NanoTech Process, is up to 15X tough.



Designed for heavy cover yet suitable for all conditions. **Seaguar AbraxX** can be used in both Spinning Reels and Bait Casting Reels. The line has exceptional knot and impact strength and is extremely soft and sensitive for better feel and smoother casting. As with all 100% Fluorocarbon products, AbraxX is much less visible underwater than monofilament line and virtually invisible to fish. The line is also UV resistant, chemical resistant, non-absorbant, high-density and impervious to cold conditions.



When it comes to the pros **Sunline FC Sniper** is the line choice many of the pros depend on to cash a check week after week. Sunline FC Sniper is offered in line sizes 2-20lbs and comes in a Natural Clear color. What makes Sunline FC Sniper the line of choice; many of the pros depend on the uniform line diameter. Sunline takes extra strides to make sure the line size is uniform from start to finish giving you superior line performance. Sniper is a 100% fluorocarbon line that has a triple resin coating for softer supple handling, this is important if you are looking for a line to use in a spinning situation. Sniper also has a low memory that allows for longer use of

the line. So if you are looking for a line that you can use for spinning applications to pitchin or flippin, Sunline FC Sniper is a line that you need to have spooled on your reel.

The ultimate line for strength and durability, **Vicious Braid** will excel where monofilaments and fluorocarbon fear to tread. Woven from the highest quality Spectra® fiber, it has virtually no stretch, allowing anglers to react to the slightest bite at any depth and set hooks with lightning speed. Our U.R.C.™ process helps with abrasion and makes it practically impervious to UV rays and water absorption. The perfect combination of power and finesses, Vicious® Braid is the line you can count on!



PowerPro Moss Green Line: A unique manufacturing process known as Enhanced Body Technology permeates this revolutionary braided line with a protective layer that will not peel off. This results in a line that is much stronger than steel and winds easily on to any type of reel without retaining memory. The smooth surface texture allows it to effortlessly sail quietly through the guides.

ODU

ODU Tackle Box: Swimbaits, Crankbaits and Jerkbait



The **Matt Lures** lineup of swimbaits have proven to be fish catchers in the real-life world of tournament fishing. These ultra-realistic looking baits are compact and cast well and when they swim through the water they look like a bluegill, a sunfish, or a crappie, and big bass are always hungry for this kind of a meal. Imagine slowly swimming one of these realistic looking soft plastic lures past a brushpile or over submerged grass, hungry bass will be all over it!

The **Optimum Suspending Swimbait** has an incredible body rolling action with a vibrating knob tail. This shallow runner is designed to suspend in the strike zone longer. Most swimbaits tear due to the hook and swivel ripping into the body when a fish is hooked. Optimum's wire through design prevents the hook from moving up into the body. It's not just the outstanding kick and tail action this bait has, but the realistic look as well, that will produce fish.



The **Bill Siemantel Signature SPRO BBZ-1 Swimbait** has gained notoriety as being one of the most realistic lure of all times. Now SPRO offers a new advancement in the BBZ1 Swim bait Line-The New 6 inch BBZ1. SPRO's designers worked closely with Fishing Hall of Fame Inductee, Bill Siemantel, to design a more compact version of the hugely successful 8-inch model. They say that size matters and sometimes that size needs to be smaller. Largemouth, snook, reds and other gamefish will attack the 6-inch SPRO

BBZ1! You can work it with a steady straight retrieve or pause and jerk it for awesome S-turns and other realistic underwater aerobics.

The **Castaic Rock Hard Swimbaits** are crafted to precisely mimic the body shapes, textures and colors of the most prolific forage of large bass. Their triple-jointed construction and RealSwim technology provide them with some of the most authentic swimming motions possible - at fast or slow retrieves - and each bait also features Castaic's patented Magnetic Hook Holder and Tri-Claw Hook System.



The result of over five years' testing and 100 prototypes, the **Jackall Aska 60SR** is a squarebill crankbait featuring a thin fiberglass circuit board lip with no rattles. Other features include high-end hooks and a low ballast weight that allows the crankbait to revert to its original position and trajectory after bouncing off cover. Belly hook was designed to have less play to avoid tangling with the bill or rear hook.

The **Sebile D&S Crank** may be the most innovative crankbait to ever hit the market. This unique design utilizes a hook which pivots on an internal pin making it completely snagless. Here is how it works: When retrieved the hook point aligns with the flattened tail of the lure, but when a fish strikes the hook positions itself upward where the point is exposed for penetration. The pivoting hook will keep the fish from throwing the lure so you can safely land him.



The **Rapala X-Rap** is "all about the action." The versatility of the X-Rap allows an angler to impart a number of fish-catching actions in a single retrieve. Casts like a bullet for long accurate casts. Prominent scales and lateral line on the fuselage capture and flash light like a beacon. It can be fished both in an aggressive "Slashbait" technique or with a classic Rapala® wobble. The angler defines the cadence for maximum effectiveness.

The **Lucky Craft Humpback Minnow 50 SP** is the ultimate tool for the stream fisherman. One of a family of lures specifically designed by Lucky Craft for fishing streams and ponds. This small jerk bait was designed from the ground up to fish in current. It's flat belly and specially designed lip work together to produce an unbelievable natural action in current situations. It can be fished with a rapid or slow twitch and pause retrieve, depending on the mood of the fish.



ODU

ODU Tackle Box: Traps, Spinnerbaits, Castable Umbrella Rigs and Buzzbaits.

Bill Lewis' legendary invention, the **Rat-L-Trap**, is recognized as the most popular, and consequently, the most imitated lure over the past 35 years. But imitation doesn't mean duplication. Just ask any of the "Who's Who" of top name Pros that used Rat-L-Trap imitations while competing against Boyd Duckett at the 2007 BASSMASTER® CLASSIC. Boyd wasn't paid to fish with the original Rat-L-Trap, he made that decision himself and 'BOY OH BOYD' was it the right one!



A popular forage for bass throughout most of the United States, juvenile bluegill tend to prefer to hide in and among grass, timber and various subsurface structure - exactly where bass are lurking and waiting for their next unsuspecting meal. Ultra realistic with lifelike scale patterns, gills and fins, the **Koppers Live Target Bluegill Trap** also has an enhanced rattle chamber which emits a harmonic frequency proven to attract hunting bass and gamefish like moths to a light.

Stanley Vibra Shaft Spinner Baits: Custom matching painted blades add a totally new look to the #1 selling Stanley Vibra-Shaft. With Patented Tapered Wire, the Vibra-Shaft is unmatched in water displacement. Moving more water with less effort makes a great spinnerbait. Tapered wire transfers all the vibration to the tip of the wire, where the blades are. That's what you feel when you reel the bait back in.

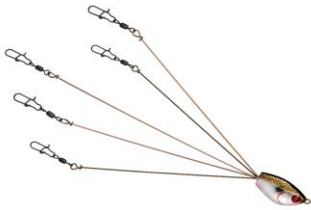


Persuader 'EChip' Spinner Baits: The voltage found in live bait is duplicated by the eChip mounted on this bait's hook. No power source needed and never wears out. Movement generates the charge. Bio-Flex Natures Scales Silicone Skirts and 5/0 long-shank Mustad Ultra point hooks. Available with two willow blades or with a Colorado and willow blade.

Picasso School-E-Rig: The best "castable" umbrella rig with great for open water applications and targeting schooling fish. The 6" wire length makes it the ideal length for rigging the larger plastic swimbaits and paddle tails. The fish head is constructed from lightweight, high impact resistant plastic with an imbedded nose swivel to prevent line twist and assure true running and function of the rig. It can be cast and retrieved at a steady pace or allowed to fall through suspended schools of fish. Made with American made premium components.



The new **YUMbrella Rig** from YUM capitalizes on the multi-rig phenomenon with a rig manufactured with "super wire," stainless steel that has been repeatedly heat-treated for strength and flexibility. The five super wire arms are attached with a true molded coupler for incredible toughness and durability, ensuring that the wire arms can handle more abuse than other rigs. Just ask Lance Walker, CEO of Browning Eyewear, who caught what could become the new Tennessee State Record for a bass weighing 14.8 pounds.



The **Revenge Buzzbait with clacker** is a topwater buzzbait lure that maintains all the great features of the original Revenge buzzbaits but possesses an additional clacker. The Revenge Buzzbait is simply a great buzzbait. The offset hook design offers a great hook-up ratio and the slow moving buzzbait blade offers anglers more control over the retrieval speed. Combine those features with the fantastic, bass catching colors and it is a fact that Revenge Buzzbaits belong in your tackle box.



Without a doubt the world's most innovative new buzzbait available today. **The Vision Honey Buzz** lure is jammed full of features that solves those age old problems of traditional buzzbaits. Revolutionary features like Vision's patented hinged hook that provides the highest hook-up to catch ratio. The Vision Honey Buzz bait provides amazing stabilization so your bait runs straight and true. The Honey Buzz offers a flexible two tier weighting system that takes all the leverage away and makes the bait virtually impossible for the fish to shake.

ODU

ODU Tackle Box: Jigs (Hair & Skirted) and Blade Baits

The **Punisher II Hair Jig** is tied with Craft Hair, comes in a variety of sizes and colors, and is equipped with a 2/0 Mustad Needle Point hook. Designed for our friends who prefer a thinner wire hook, the Punisher II is flat on the bottom and in front. This forces the hook to ride up when the lure is resting on the bottom or being dragged through weeds, brush, or lay downs. The head is also poured with the line tie at a 60 degree angle which helps transfer power directly from the rod tip to the hook point. This results in deeper hook penetration and fewer lost fish.



The **Arkie Bucktail Muddler Collar Jig** is a unique, bucktail, ball-head jig with a muddler collar that causes the bucktail hair to flare out and create more action in the water. The bucktail hair is great for colder water, and many feel it provides a more natural, undulating action than a silicone or rubber skirt. An old-time favorite, bucktail jigs have been catching fish for years. Hand-painted and hand-tied, the Arkie Bucktail Muddler Collar Jig is available in a range of colors.

The **Picasso Fantasy Football Jig** has an almost completely recessed line tie to assure the jig "rolls" out of any rocky cover without hanging up. The textured head creates traction causing the jig to rock back and forth instead of just "skidding" or "skating" across the bottom. This gives the skirt and plastic trailer more action to entice a bass to strike. This jig also has a very vertical fall which makes it great for "stroking" or fishing vertical structure such as bridge abutments.



NorthStar Custom Baits Premier Hairy Craw Football Jig features the lifelike silicone colors of Living Image, an Owner Light Wire Cutting Point Hook that is deadly sharp, and the natural flair of bucktail. There is no skimping on these jigs, the head is painted with a premium chip-resistant powder coat, given a glitter coat to compliment the skirt color, and baked at high temp for a quality, long lasting finish.



The **Stanley FlipMax** has a new hand cut rubber skirt that Stanley refers to as "a crawler skirt". Below the existing rubber skirt, an additional skirt in a different color has been added with wider-cut rubber strands. While submerged, the specially-cut thick rubber strands resemble crawfish legs. When pulled through the water the "legs" flare out realistically imitating a swimming crawfish. The flat, wide rubber legs displace more water causing a greater commotion and vibration that bass can't resist!



The **Binsky (Fishsense.com)** is the newest and brightest star on the blade bait market. It has a realistic shad design and an unmatched hard vibration that cannot be ignored. The key to this type of bait is to imitate an injured or dying baitfish. Most anglers use these baits in deep water with a vertical presentation, but fishing them in shallow water or near the surface can also work well. The Binsky - an all season lure. While the Binsky can be used all year round, it is most effective from fall thru winter and early spring. When water temperatures plummet gamefish school up in tighter groups in deeper water.



The basic **Silver Buddy** lure has a quality head weight cast on a highly reflective, mirror-finish stainless steel blade. The Silver Buddy lure uses a pair of split-shank treble hooks. One hook is set forward in the design of the lure and the other is set to the rear. The hooks are mounted to the lure through holes in the blade body. These hooks can be removed and replaced. Silver Buddy recommends the Silver Buddy original replacement hooks.



ODU

ODU Tackle Box: Walleye Wise Baits and Crappie Catchers



Reef Runner Deep Diver: The ultimate trolling lures for walleye, as demonstrated on the trophy waters of Lake Erie. Proven "banana" body profile; aggressive wobble; incredibly durable high-gloss finish with unique colors; fitted with ultra-wide gap Eagle Claw? Aggressive "kicking" action gets lots of attention down deep. The wide lip digs hard, while the deeply curved body and loud

rattle create an irresistible underwater profile.

The **Northland THUMPER JIG** is the ultimate spinner jig! It's designed with a sleek minnow head, and features a patented "thumper" belly blade that adds flash and pulsating vibration to attract Walleye . . . and provoke 'em to strike! The THUMPER JIG is simple to fish. Cast and let them flutter down weedlines, rock ledges & brush piles, or troll and drift them slowly along the bottom. Swim 'em, hop 'em or drag 'em.



Designed with incredible attention to detail, the **Lindy Shadling** successfully emulates both the basic patterns and subtle undertones of a variety of common baitfish species. The secondary hues flash as the shadling swims and triggers savage strikes from walleye. Add ultra-realistic holographic eyes and predators don't mistake the Shadling for anything other than real prey.



The first true walleye crankbait, **Cotton Cordell's Suspending Wally Diver** is as deadly as ever. Everything about the Suspending Wally Diver from their legendary action to their profiles and colors was expertly designed to entice walleyes to strike. In fact, the Suspending Wally Diver has also proven to catch largemouth and smallmouth bass as well. Model



The **Tiny Assassin's** unique "fat belly" design draws more strikes than conventional jerkbaits. A soft body texture delivers a fleshy feel that keeps fish hanging on longer. Fish it on top or below the surface, and you'll find the appealing tail action is extremely enticing to crappie. Crappie and other panfish love 'em, but the Assassin is also a killer for bass.



Designed by the king of crappie, Wally Marshall, the **Crappie Thunder Road Runner** sports enough pulsating action to trigger strikes from even the finickiest of slabs. One of the most noisy, flashiest and most productive crappie jigs ever, the Crappie Thunder is equipped with a soft tear resistant body designed to last longer than ordinary tubes, a bright, vibrating blade perfectly positioned so it doesn't interfere with hookups and a flared tail for a slower presentation and descent.



For crappies and smallmouth bass, the **Luck "E" Strike Swimmin' Minnow** is the hottest bait in the Ozarks. The Swimmin' Minnow's true-to-life minnow shape combines with its super-soft, high-action curly tail to produce some outstanding action. No tackle box is complete without at least one bag of Swimmin' Minnows!



Mr. Crappie Slab Daddy: I designed the Slab Daddy for the ultimate finesse presentation. Perfect for dock shooting, vertical jigging, slow trolling, long-lining, and casting. Also, Hand Tied Quality, Minnow Shaped Profile, Chenille Scent Holder and Special Tempered Hook will Bend, not break



ODU

ODU Tackle Box: Topwater

Make a big splash with this perfectly balanced **Yo-Zuri Sashimi Popper** with a pulsating tail feather. The Yo-Zuri Sashimi Popper boasts a dual action technique—traditional pop and stop or "walk-the-dog" action—and color change technology. A floating type crankbait, the Sashimi Popper sits horizontally in the water for the best possible presentation.



A top water bass lure with attitude. The 2-3/4 inch **Rapala X-Rap Pop** is a big poppin, big splashing, big bass catching top water. With its arched body shape design, the X-Rap Pop, makes a loud fish attracting splash with every snap. Even the slightest tug will bring the X-Rap Pop to life.



The new **ABT King Dawg** features a proprietary, single-jointed design that makes it easy to walk-the-dog effectively and generate explosive topwater strikes. No special talent required. Just twitch the King Dawg slowly and watch the jointed sections and forked tail create a perfect walk-the-dog presentation.



The **Yamato** is a revolutionary topwater/jerkbait from **O.S.P.** (Osprey Spiritual Performance) and Toshinari Namiki of Japan. Featuring dual line eyes, the Yamato provides the versatility of two lures in one for a devastating bass catching combo. The lower line eye enables the Yamato to produce the classic walk-the-dog action and with its concave nose it can also serve as an oversized popper for varying your retrieve.



The **Picasso Shad Walker** takes your frog fishing to a new category. It is designed to mimic an injured baitfish and is completely weedless. Walk The Dog over the thickest of slop, grass, and vegetation like no frog can do. It really shines in open water where it is more effective than a plastic frog and can be twitched, killed or Walk The Dog in a wide sweeping side -to - side action that teases the fish and pulls them from cover for vicious strikes. The versatility of this bait is endless.



Optimum's Furbit the Frog & Poppin' Furbit: Real Rabbit Fur Legs – Furbit's legs ripple and flutter in a manner that synthetic rubber or plastic legs never will. Flaring hair is perfect for Stop & Go technique. Features a molded-in belly weight and weighs 5/8 ounce. Sealed off weight keeps water out and eliminates extra tuning. "Furbit" sports a #3 Colorado blade while "Poppin' Furbit" has a #3

willow blade attached for added flash and vibration. Perfectly balanced so it angles and sits on surface exactly like a real frog swims. Completely weedless!

Booyah Pad Crasher: One strength of many hollow body frogs is the lure's ability to walk back-and-forth like a Spook. Booyah designers created a "bass boat-style" belly for the Pad Crasher that makes walking the dog (walking the frog?) easy for any angler to accomplish. For working in the slop, a hollow body frog needs to maintain the right weight, one that creates enough disturbances to get plenty of notice but not so heavy it sinks into the stuff and gets snagged in the salad.



ODU

ODU Tackle Box: Trout, Bass and Salmon Spoons and More



faceted beads, bucktail and three Mustad Ultra Point hooks linked together by ring joint and a single strand titanium line.

Nichols Lake Fork Flutter Spoons come with matching reflective Mylar trebles. Fishing the Nichols Lake Fork Flutter Spoon much different than fishing a regular jigging spoon, fishing this bait is more like retrieving a Texas rig with more exaggerated motions and longer strokes. Then watch your line on the drop and hold on! Fish cannot resist the flashing colors on the Nichols Flutter Spoons.



Trolling or casting spoons from **Savant Spoons** are hand-painted epoxy paint, baked and clear coated so they will not crack peel or chip. The glow patterns use Ultimate Glow paint that lasts for hours sometimes up to 8 hours and can be activated by any light source. Each 4.5" Savant, Needle Nose, and Great Lakes Jewels weight 3/4oz and can be trolled from 1.5 to 3.5mph and will maintain their wobble for their primary target Salmon and Trout.

The new **PK Troller** is a unique product with innumerable applications. The quick change clevis on the spinner allows the user to change blade sizes and colors to fit almost any water depth or condition. Adding a long willow leaf gives the added attraction of auditory cues at depth as it randomly connects with the lure body. The long shank bait hook allows for many different kinds of live and artificial baits, further increasing the versatility of this unique troller. This new troller is a "must have" in the toolbox of any angler looking for the catch of a lifetime.



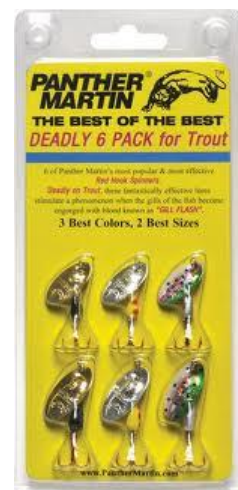
Mepps Black Fury Spinnerbait This bait has just enough flash! The bright colored dots on the black blades grab the fish's eye without spooking it. Ideal for night fishing, overcast or clear days and lakes and streams with heavy fishing pressure. Blade rotates close to the body for mid-depth retrieves. Fully dressed gold-plated treble hooks.

This lure is a must! John A. Green developed the **Mooselook Wobbler** in 1938 on Lake Mooselookmeguntic in Maine, from where it takes its name. Its a northeastern favorite in the lake regions of New England and Canada, and a classic and proven trout and salmon spoon for over 60 years.



Strong Flies are a "tournament-proven" design with a rattle head, a VMC Vanadium treble hook, and a knarl guard. The knarl guard serves as protection for the fly and the extra heavy 50 lb monofilament leader. Best of all, the fish like this fly. Team **Dreamweaver** used prototypes of this fly to win the 2004 Manistee "Big Boys" Salmon Splash. If they can beat some of the best salmon fishermen in the Great Lakes with this fly, it is good enough for the rest of us.

Billed as "The Best of the Best," **Panther Martin's Deadly 6-Pack** for trout has a devastating effect on this species of fish. Deadly on trout, these fantastically effective lures simulate a phenomenon when the gills of the fish become engorged with blood.



ODU

ODU Tackle Box: Tackle for Toothy Critters



The **Classic Grandma Lure** is designed for casting or trolling and is excellent for twitching. Whether fresh or salt water this bait will help you catch many fish, and just maybe the prize fish you were hunting for. The Grandma is a very durable lure. It is able to withstand bites from the tooty Muskie and Barracuda because of its high impact plastic body, and the extra high impact lip. With the classic model you can dive in down to 5' - 8' with standard braided line or mono.

it fast, slow or erratic. Sniffs out strikes from finicky fish. Rocks back and forth on descent. Nearly indestructible, ABS plastic construction. The devil's own plastic jerkbait! ERC's Hell Hound Jerkbait is easy to use and versatile.

ERC Hell Hound Jerkbait: Easy to use and versatile jerkbait Work



Designed by hall of fame angler Joe Bucher, the **Buchertail Magnum Bigfoot Tinseltail Spinners** produce loads of strike-provoking action pike, musky and other gamefish can't resist. Employ a fast retrieve once this Buchertail Magnum Bigfoot Tinseltail Spinner hits the water, and its free-spinning, fluted, size 12 blades will provide plenty of flash, rattle and thump while the triple-long Magnum Tinseltail seductively pulsates.



Llungen Lures Llungen Tale Single

8 Spinnerbait: Built for speed Molded in line keel weight prevents spinning and line twisting Durable, glitter

impregnated silicone skirt Heat shrink hook design Single Size 8 Indiana blade Llungen Lures Llungen Tale Single 8 Spinnerbait is built for speed with a silicone skirt and molded in line keel weight to prevent spinning and line twisting. The silicone used for the skirt is more durable than rubber skirts used on conventional lures, and it's impregnated with flashy glitter to reflect light and bring the Single 8 lure to life. Another

unique feature is the Single 8's heat shrink hook design. This musky spinnerbait's "strait back" hook makes a huge difference in the Single 8 lure's ability to fish through the weeds and increases hook ups.



The **Tyrant Lola's** rotating head and tail blades along with the stationary mid body produces the vibration and plop that drives top water bass, big pike and muskies crazy. Simply cast and retrieve! Made with Tyrant's high impact poly and through wire construction.

Storm Thunderbeast is designed for big fish triggering characteristics under a variety of retrieves. On a straight retrieve, the tail swims in a wide arc with lots of vibration. Pause and the "Beast" sinks slowly, head down with the tail swimming in wide pulsating arcs. A jerking retrieve creates a level track with added body roll. Heavy duty hardware and premium VMC hooks. Through wire construction and integrated hard core insert resists tearing.



ODU

ODU Tackle Box: Plastic Baits A to Z (Part 1)



The **Gambler Cane Toad** is the ultimate swimming toad. Designed to give maximum splash at slower retrieve speeds. The Cane Toad incorporates a larger body to hold a bigger hook and thinner profile for better hook penetration. The Cane Toad will result in more strikes and more hook ups. Try the Cane Toad today and see why big bass just can't help but eat this toad.



The **Gene Larew Three Legged Frog** is one of the more unique soft bodied frogs on the market. What makes this frog so unique is it is made from two styles of plastic. The top part of the Three Legged Frog is made of a floating plastic while the belly and legs are made from a standard soft plastic that gives this frog all the action needed to attract vicious topwater strikes.



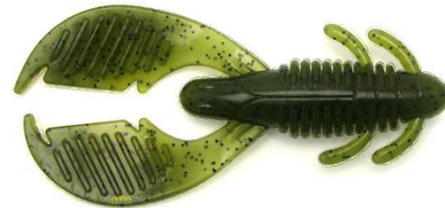
The 4" **GrandeBass MUTANT** is one of the most versatile baits on the market today. The MUTANT has all the inviting features that trigger bone-jolting strikes. The MUTANT features a ringed body that releases bubbles when in action, forward paddle legs that produce water "thumping" vibration and creature-like appearance.

As great a fish catching freak bait as **Lunker City Ozmo** is right out of the bag, it's also designed with adjusting to conditions in mind. Morph this heavy salt content creature bait into whatever configuration you need to catch fish in the cover, depth and conditions you're faced with! Below are just some of the variations that our field staff has done well with.



To a bass, a crawfish is like a juicy steak lying on the bottom. Not only are they a quick easy meal, but they're tasty and loaded with nutrition, which is why after a day on the water your livewell is so often littered with pieces of these abundant little critters. **PowerTeam's Diesel Crow** is the "filet mignon" of the underwater world. Specially cut grooves in the belly of this bait trap air bubbles that release as it hits and hops along the bottom. Combined with fluent motion of the skirt and meaty claws that rise in a defensive position, this 4" bass magnet is #1 on the menu for bass of all sizes. What are you gonna serve the big girls the next time you hit the water?

The **Reins AX Crow** has a great action that does not suffer even at very slow speeds. Reins products have a unique scent that make fish hang on longer. The Ax Crow can be Texas rigged or Carolina rigged by itself or used as a trailer.



The **Keitech Fat Swing Impact** is a soft plastic swimbait designed to replicate the profile and movement of small forage fish that bass prey upon. For several years the Keitech Swing Impact Swimbait was a secret of many west coast anglers. Much to their dismay, the word has slowly spread across the country and the results make this bait much more than idle dock talk.

With its long slender profile the **Wave Fishing Tiki-Shadick** resembles a favorite baitfish for several species of fresh and saltwater fish. Its profile enables it to dart with erratic action through water, imitating an injured baitfish.



finicky bass when the big swimbaits fall short.

The **Reaction Innovations Little Dipper** swimbait rolls side to side and wiggles it's tail. Rig the Reaction Innovations Little Dipper weedless, or a swim bait jig head, with a weighted swim bait hook, or use it as a trailer for your favorite swim jig. The Little Dipper is the perfect bait for

ODU Tackle Box: Plastic Baits A to Z (Part 2)

The **V&M 11 inch Hogwild Worm**, like the 14 inch bayou giant, is a large reaction strike worm bait. Unlike the Bayou Giant, the Hogwild Worm proportionally has more body and less tail. The ribbed body and shorter tail offer a unique action, mimicking an eel.



John Crews and **Missile Baits** has put a new twist on worms. The **Tomahawk** has a unique double tail that ensures plenty of action even at the slightest twitch. The tapered head and Missile grip ribs allow for great hook sets. Great for Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. Try it on your shaky head rig for a unique new look.



Lake Fork Trophy Lures Hyper Lizard: Unique segmented body Thumping paddle tail Strike-enticing action and vibration Tempt 'em with a big meal like the Lake Fork Tackle Hyper Lizard and even lethargic fish will be hitting hard. Designed with a unique segmented body, fluttering appendages and an oversized, thumping paddle tail which combine to produce plenty of strike-enticing action and vibration.



The **Zipper Zip Zit** is a floating tube type bait. It is an effective bait for all applications such as shaky head, flipping, and drop shot. Flat on both sides with single zippers down each side, allows a more "lazy" presentation than does the regular tube. Since this bait floats and its tail

stands on end, it is deadly.



Power Teams Lures Bully Grass Devil: We all know that trophy bass love the shade and protection of heavily matted vegetation. If you like the rewards of fishing the thick stuff, then it's time for you to make a deal with the devil, The Bully Grass Devil. Grab a heavy bullet weight, a heavy wire hook and Texas rig a Bully Grass Devil on some strong line. Punch through those thick mats to the trophies lurking below and hold on tight. The Bully Grass Devil will get them on the end of your line...it's up to you to slam back and get em out!



The **Culprit Creature Craw**'s oversized claws create abundant flapping action and a "thump" felt on the retrieve, similar to a spinnerbait. The claws are securely attached "mid-body", concentrating the bite at the hook, eliminating the problem of short strikes that are common when claws are positioned away from the hook. The Creature Craw excels in low visibility conditions, such as muddy water, heavy clouds or thick cover.

After already having one of the best 5" Stick baits on the market (our 5" Tiki-Stick), we got with our pros to find a way to make it even better. Out of that collaboration has come another home run for **Wave Fishing**...The new **Super Soft Pro Series**! Other than the obvious (the fact that this version is softer than our original formula) what makes this bait different is the insane action, along with increased fall rate and castability. As always, every bait is infused with loads of salt and our world famous scent, MOLOPO.



So what makes this Stick so special? It's the addition of an O-Ring that is inserted into the middle of the Wacky Stick when it is manufactured. **Big Bite** is the first company to offer you a **Wacky Stick** that can be wacky rigged with no additional tools. The Wacky Stick eliminates the need to have an O-Ring tool or split ring for wacky fishing. With the O-Ring already in the Wacky Stick, all you do is take your favorite worm hook and hook through the Wacky Stick and start fishing.



Poor Boys Erie Darter: They are the best kept secret in tournament fishing. They are "killer" baits in any water. You can fish them like a tube, Carolina or Texas rig them, fish them weightless and some even drop shot them. One of stores when asked how to fish them says - there is no wrong way to fish them.



ODU

How To Get Her Hooked!

By Terri Mackinnon



My experience with fishing only began in 1999, and I never thought that I would ever want or have the need to go out and even try fishing let alone be as passionate about the sport and turn it into my career. My parents did not fish so the opportunity was not there for me to even try and see if I would be

interested. Along with the fact that in our household when my brother did go out fishing with an Uncle, and he asked if I wanted to go and I was quickly told “fishing was for boys.”

However, that is so very untrue with over 17 million female anglers in the U.S. alone, that statement was far from the truth, Girls fish and they also can out fish ☐ many men!

I am often asked “How can I get my wife, daughter or girlfriend to go out fishing with me and love it like I do?” Here is a list that I believe will help make that job more successful.

- Spend time concentrating on Her Fishing! This day is about making her experience one of the best that she can have.

- Explain the process – what and how to use the fishing rods and baits. Show her how you tie a simple Palomar knot.

<http://www.womenfishing.com/fishingknots.htm>

- Don't assume that just because you're the fisherman, she is going to know what you are thinking! This is a very intimidating process and being on water can also add to the feeling of not being in control.

- Do NOT use Live Bait! There are many other types of plastic and hard baits, packaged worms and my favorite Gummy Worms (Yes the candy kind) that will be better used with a new angler. Let them experience fishing with a



ODU

lure that will not turn them off of fishing but make them feel like they can handle the bait.

- Once you have spent time getting her set up with the tackle and bait she will need, you need to go over the techniques on how to cast safely and retrieve and land the fish. Yes, you have been fishing for a long time and automatically assume that this is an easy chore, but she hasn't, so it's important to make the time for teaching before you end up with a lure attached to the back of your head.

- Now that she is ready to go fishing it's your turn so get your rod in the water. This is a great time to sit back and share stories of your previous fishing experiences and why you love it so much. I call this your "Sales pitch on getting her hooked."

- If you happen to catch a fish ... give your rod to her and let her experience bringing the fish



to the boat or shoreline. Remember this is about HER getting "Hooked" on fishing and there is not a better way of doing that than fighting a fish. When she has the opportunity to land that fish, it will be a memorable one (camera time) and I'm sure you will have set the hook on her wanting to catch another one.

- Creating a competition is one of

the ways to make the day fun. However, the first day of fishing is not about or you out fishing her, it is about you getting her too excited enough to want to go out fishing again. If she has caught more fish than you, I am pretty sure you will have the competition the next time.

- If the weather conditions are not good... Stay HOME! Her first experience be rained on and cold will make her wanting to go home. It's important that you also pack up and leave if the conditions start to get bad. Make this the best day you can.

- Make sure you have snacks and drinks available this will help to keep you outside fishing longer.

- Where are the bathrooms? ☐ Know where they are and be prepared ☐ to find one.

- Remember children have short attention spans don't plan for a long day after catching a couple of fish, they may not want to continue fishing. Make short fishing trips in the beginning.

The most important lesson Be Patient. Try to remember your first experience and how you felt that day. The goal is to have a fishing partner for life by getting her hooked. Enjoy the time that you have outdoors together and take lots of photos and remember to tell her at the end of the day how proud you are that she tried fishing. Good Luck!

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The Lodge

By Ray Scott

Sometimes the best things are in your own back yard.

That's how I feel about the hunting and fishing in my part of the world in central Alabama. It's called the Black Belt, a geographical area named for its rich, dark

soil. And it is home to superb natural resources that include two of America's favorite game critters -- whitetail deer and black bass.

Maybe it's no coincidence that my hometown of Montgomery is the birthplace of no less than three influential outdoor organizations. It is where I founded the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) in 1968 and the Whitetail Institute of North America, in 1988 (which researches and sells quality nutrition products for deer). And it is where Jackie Bushman

founded his highly successful Buckmasters organization (built on the model of B.A.S.S. I'm proud to say).

So I was excited when I was invited to participate in a state initiative called the Alabama Black Belt Adventures, (www.alabamablackbeltadventures.com) a program



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designed to promote the state's exceptional resources, especially its hunting and fishing lodges.

It was that invitation that inspired me to open my own lakes, home and guest facilities to small groups of

paying anglers to enjoy a truly exclusive and

inclusive fishing experience that included first-class meals and lodging and outstanding southern hospitality. My friends tease me that I have opened a BB B -- bed, breakfast and bass.

We decided to call our venture Ray Scott's Trophy Bass Retreat, which pretty much states our goals -- big fish and a relaxing and fun time. I'm happy to say the comments from our guests tell us we are reaching our goals. So far, I have been able to meet just about every guest, and that has been a real a treat for me. It is wonderful how bass fishing creates a bond between people. Without doubt that was the key to the success of my B.A.S.S. organization many years ago and helped build it to a membership of more than 600,000.

My lakes truly are my pride and joy. I have always been fascinated with lake design and bass habitat, and my lakes are designed and managed for the best fishing possible with plenty of innovative structure and a well -fed selected strain of largemouth bass. I've designed numerous lakes and ponds for individuals and developers, and nothing gives me greater pleasure than to give anglers the best opportunity to catch the bass of a lifetime.

Legendary bass pro Rick Clunn caught his best, a 13-15 hawg, on my main lake, which is truly in my backyard -- a stone's throw from my recliner in the great room.

All my efforts seemed to be rewarded in 2010 when Outdoor Life Magazine named my private lake in Pintlala, the top bass water in the U.S. in a short list of five bass destinations worldwide. That was just one more reason to share my good fortune with other anglers.

I think most guests also appreciate the historic nature of the facilities. Both Presidents Bush have stayed in our guest cabin and dropped a line on multiple occasions. One of my favorite

personal recollections is being with Barbara Bush as she held up a 6lb. 6 oz. bass and asking her husband in a nearby boat if he'd like to have his picture taken with her fish. She did out-fish him that day.

Many famous fishing personalities have filmed popular fishing shows such as Bill Dance, Roland Martin and Hank Parker. ESPN has also mounted productions bringing in superstars like Kevin VanDam, Gerald Swindle, Skeet Reese, Shaw Grigsby and many more.

In short, it is arguably the most historic bass venue around.

Our deluxe package includes three nights lodging, all meals and two full days of fishing. We enjoy the advantage of being about 20 minutes from the Montgomery Airport and straight shots on Interstates from Birmingham (about 90 minutes) and Atlanta (about 2 1/2 hours). We also book day trips on Fridays and Saturdays.

Frankly, we weren't sure who our guests would be other than people who love to fish for bass. But I have to admit, we have been a little humbled by the attention our getaway has inspired beyond fishing. We have had mini "reunions" of old buddies. Fathers and sons. Husbands and wives. One couple came for their 35th wedding anniversary (a surprise from the wife). And we've had many business associates who have been able to relax and do some team building.

But probably the most gratifying are the return guests – some on their third and fourth trips. Like that great line in Field of Dreams -- "Build it and they will come. And so they have.

For more information on the Ray Scott Trophy Bass Retreat contact our office at 800-518-7222 or visit our website at www.rayscottbassretreat.com.

The advertisement features a scenic background of a large, white, two-story lodge with a covered porch, situated on a grassy bank overlooking a calm lake. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, on the left, is a framed photograph of a man wearing a white cowboy hat, a red shirt, and a blue fishing vest. He is smiling and holding a large, white bass vertically. Above the lodge, the text "Ray Scott's" is written in a cursive script, followed by "Trophy Bass Retreat" in a large, bold, white serif font with a blue drop shadow. In the bottom right corner, the text "You're invited to fish America's most legendary private bass lakes" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font with a black drop shadow.

Ray Scott's
Trophy Bass Retreat

**You're invited to fish
America's most legendary
private bass lakes**

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Black Crappie Fishing Throughout Florida

By Bob Wattendorf

Many freshwater anglers love pursuing schools of black crappie during the cooler months in Florida. Non-resident anglers avoiding the deeper chill of the northern states congregate around some of these premier fisheries every winter to join

Florida's own fishers who enjoy pursuing and harvesting these succulent pan fishes.

Crappie are high profile fish with their own professional and amateur enthusiasts. Crappie USA kicked off their 2012 season with an event at Crescent Lake in January. Darrell Van Vactor, President of CrappieUSA, said "The 2.63 pound crappie that won the big fish award on Crescent Lake was definitely a great crappie, in fact after running crappie tournaments all over the state of Florida for over 25 years it is the best single fish ever weighed in, and the winning weight of 14.5 pounds for seven fish was also the best winning weight." He went on to say "Crescent Lake is truly the best crappie water we have found in your state and your department is evidently doing a great management job there."

Bass Pro Shops Crappie Master Tournament Trail will have their Florida State Championship in February on the Harris Chain of Lakes around Tavares. Anglers can find books, magazines, web sites and television shows all dedicated to highlighting great crappie fisheries. The fast action, once you have located a school, makes crappie a great fish for families and youth.

Black crappie are also known as "speckled perch" or "specks" and are easily identified by the generally silver-white appearance speckled all over with black blotches. The fish are deep bodied and have two symmetrical fins along the top and bottom of the body—the dorsal and anal fins. The Florida state record is 3.83 pounds and the Big Catch Angler Recognition qualifying size is 14 inches or 2 pounds (see MyFWC.com).



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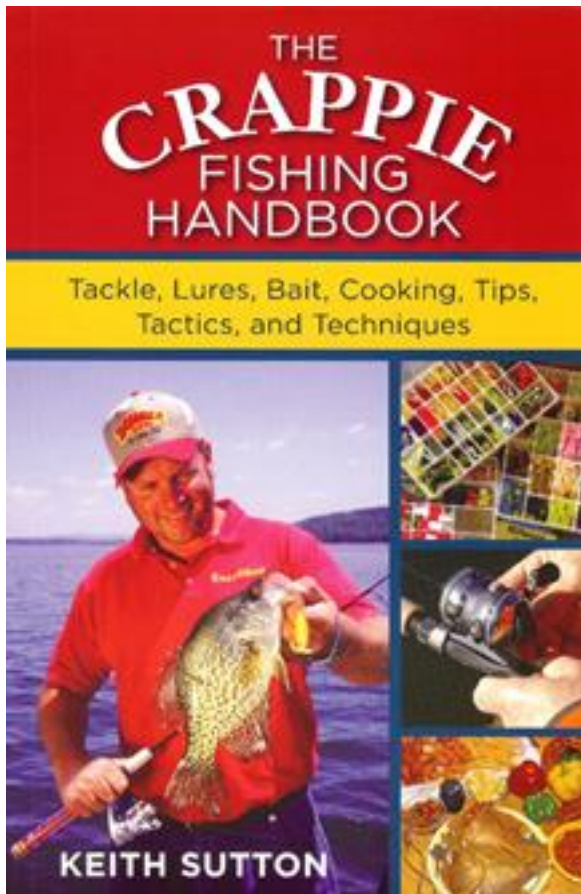


The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) annually produces a list of top crappie destinations (as well as lists for black bass, bream, catfish and stripers, which are published at MyFWC.com/Fishing, select “Freshwater” then “Sites and Forecasts” for more).

This year Cheree Steward (a FWC fisheries biologist in Eustis) helped compile the list.

The list includes:

- Rodman Reservoir (Between Gainesville and Palatka)
- Lake Monroe (Near Sanford; note Crescent lake is north of Lake Monroe on the St. Johns River)
- Lake Talquin (West of Tallahassee)
- Lake Weohyakapka / Walk-in-Water (East of Lake Wales)
- Lake Weir (South Marion County)
- Lake Arbuckle (East of Frostproof)
- Lake Marian (Southeast Osceola County, east of Lake Kissimmee)
- Lake Marion (East of Haines City)
- West Lake Tohopekaliga (South of the city of Kissimmee)
- Lake Kissimmee (East of the city of Lake Wales)
- Mosaic Fish Management Area (Southern Polk County)
- Lake Istokpoga (Near Sebring)
- Lake Trafford (Near Immokalee)



Keith Sutton's Crappie Fishing Handbook

(Pictured on the left)

It's the biggest and best book about crappie fishing ever published—the first full-color fishing guide for everyone who loves catching America's favorite panfish.

With almost 200 pages of solid information for beginning as well as advanced crappie enthusiasts, *The Crappie Fishing Handbook* covers such important topics as tackle, lure and bait selection; crappie behavior; where to find fish in spring, summer, fall and winter; proven tactics for trophies; cleaning and cooking advice; and much more.

Author Keith Sutton not only reveals his favorite fishing tactics, but also gets tips and techniques from many of the best crappie fishermen in the world, including:

World-famous "Mr. Crappie," Wally Marshall ▪ master angler Tim Huffman, author of several crappie books ▪ longtime Kentucky Lake crappie guide Steve McCadams ▪ seven-time National Crappie Champions Ronnie Capps and Steve Coleman ▪ Host of the Midwest Crappie TV series and 10-time National Classic qualifier Russ Bailey ▪ renowned Arkansas crappie guide Jerry Blake ▪ Oklahoma crappie-fishing superstar Todd Huckabee ▪ And many more

Keith Sutton has been an avid crappie angler for more than forty-five years, pursuing his favorite panfish on waters throughout the United States. His fishing stories have been read by millions in hundreds of books, magazines, newspapers and Internet publications. He hosted two ESPN fishing shows, and in 2011, was inducted into the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame as a "Legendary Communicator."

The Crappie Fishing Handbook (ISBN 978-1-61608-540-7) has a retail price of \$14.95 and is available at www.catfishsutton.com. To order by mail, send a check or money order for \$19.45 (includes media mail shipping) to C&C Outdoor Productions, 15601 Mountain Dr., Alexander, AR 72002.

Steward points out that reports from local anglers, and trawls, electrofishing, creels and other data from fisheries biologists, and knowledge of habitat trends all go into selecting these lakes. The list focuses on larger water bodies that have good access and can sustain more fishing effort, so even if your local lake isn't on the list, don't be afraid to try it. One of the best things about crappie fishing in Florida is that you can find them in almost all of our lakes.

Unlike most other panfish, crappie spend much of their time offshore, feeding on small fish. Successful anglers often drift through deeper water, fishing with small minnows or freshwater grass shrimp until they find a school. Try a light wire #4 hook and small split shot below a

float. Speck anglers typically use several rods or poles, fishing at different depths until they pinpoint concentrations of fish. In the extreme, these are referred to as “spider rigs” for the way the rods look like spider legs sticking out from all sides of the boat. Specks move inshore to spawn during early spring, sometimes gathering in large numbers around heavy cover. Crappie also readily strike artificials; 1/16 oz. to 1/8 oz. feathered or curly-tail jigs in white, yellow, pink and chartreuse are popular. Tipping the jig with a live minnow makes it even more effective. Night fishing for crappie is equally productive. Any of the above baits fished near a lantern or floodlight can produce nice stringers. Most crappie fishing occurs in cooler months, but anglers who fish into the summer can do very well, especially at night.

The FWC does not take crappie fishing for granted. After black bass, crappie are the second most popular freshwater species in Florida, followed by bream in terms of angler effort. Angler success rates over the past five years averaged approximately 1.2 crappie per hour statewide (compared to 1.9 for bream and 0.7 for bass). Last year FWC hatcheries produced nearly 20,000 crappie for stocking, but due to their natural proliferation stocking is rarely needed. These fish went to Commission Managed Impoundments in the panhandle to bump start the population following draw downs.

As with other fish, healthy habitat is the key, and occasional regulation changes can help sustain quality crappie fisheries. For instance, a new regulation is currently being contemplated for Lake Griffin, and the FWC is seeking public opinion. The proposed rule would establish a 10-inch minimum size limit for black crappie from Lake Griffin (there is not a general statewide length limit for crappie) and keep the statewide daily bag limit of 25. Biologists expect implementation of the rule to prevent the current bumper production of big crappie from being over fished and help more anglers to enjoy the fishery for a longer time.

On Lake Istokpoga crappie anglers expressed concerns that there was a decline in the size and numbers of fish being caught there in the past few years even though the fishery is still among the best in the state. In response, FWC staff gathered data from creel surveys and angler interviews, which confirmed a general decline in the lake’s crappie fishery.



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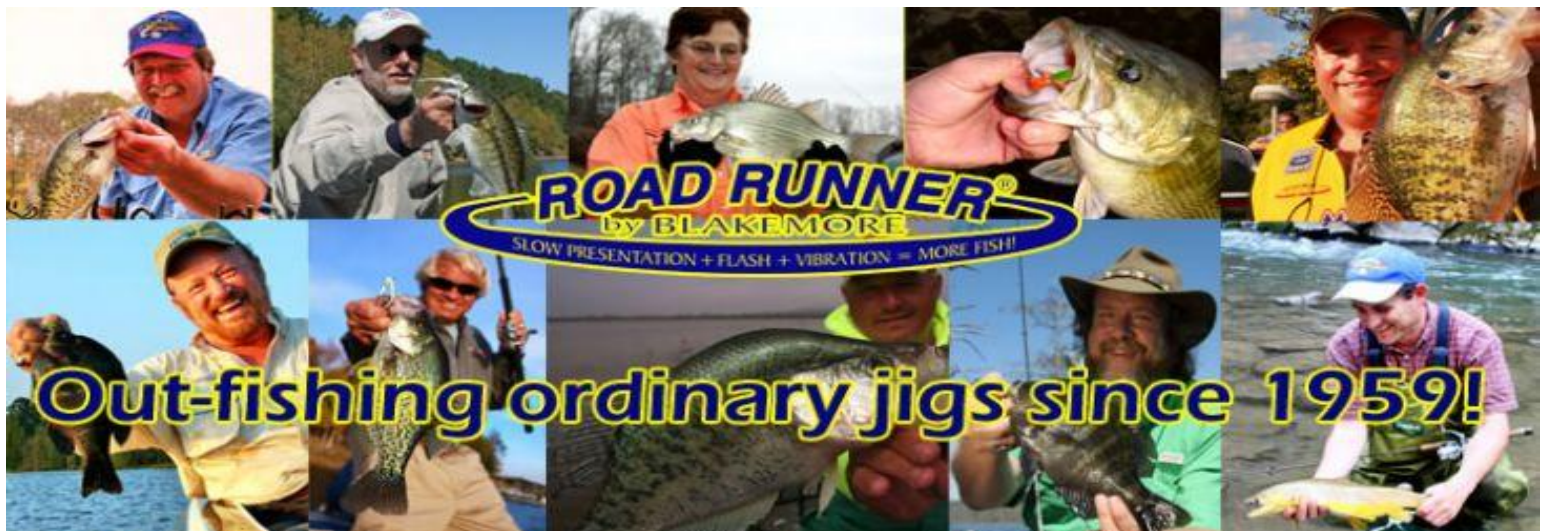
FWC staff are conducting intensive fisheries research focused on assessing Lake Istokpoga's overall black crappie population and evaluating fishing success through a tagging study, which rewards anglers for reporting tagged fish. Part of the team's plan came together on Dec. 3, when FWC staff partnered with the Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association (FOI) and a few local fishing guides to host a "Fun Fishing Day." During the event, 61 crappie were tagged. A cookout hosted by the FOI rewarded participants with a free lunch and drawings for donated prizes.

Additionally, local crappie fishing guides Jack Wagner and Harold Heskell allowed FWC biologists to ride along on a few night fishing trips, resulting in another 137 fish being tagged. Including fish collected by researchers, a total of 409 crappie were tagged and released on Lake Istokpoga in December 2011. Monitoring tag returns will help FWC

biologists to come up with a conservation plan to improve this important fishery.

Crappie provide a great fishing opportunity, especially this time of year, and can be an exciting way to introduce new anglers both young and old to the lifetime sport of fishing. Moreover, many anglers think they are one of the tastiest of freshwater fishes, so give them a try.

Instant licenses are available at MyFWC.com/License or by calling 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Report violators by calling *FWC or #FWC on your cell, or 1888-404-3922. Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing or scr.bi/Fish-busters for more Fish Busters' columns.



ODU

Tungsten The Future Is Now!

Do Nothing Ice Fishing



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Do Nothing Ice Fishing

By Ted Takasaki and Scott Richardson

Sometimes in life, doing nothing, or nearly so, is the right thing to do.

Applied to fishing, that can be especially true during mid to late winter when fish become lethargic. When they won't strike a lure jigged through the ice, try doing nothing.

That's the advice of Jon Thelen, national sales manager for Lindy Fishing Tackle, who is also a guide and tournament angler. He grew up in Minnesota, where ice fishing is as popular as hockey and the Vikings. He's learned a trick or two and one trick in his bag is to do nothing.

Thelen doesn't care if the target is walleye, perch, or pan fish. The time will come when leaving things well enough alone is the right choice.

Here's what he means; Imagine a day on the ice when no bites come right away. What's the first thing you do? Change location. That's even true if you've done your homework on that particular lake and know deep down inside that the fish should be on that very spot you're about to leave. Still, you move.

More time passes. Still, no bites on the second spot you go. So, you head to a third, Incomplete sentencethen the fourth. Somewhere in the process, you start to second guess yourself and you start to think that □the lure that you've been catching limit with for days is somehow suddenly the wrong color so you switch. Then you try another color and another.



Then maybe you switch from a jig to a spoon, and still nothing. Then you try jigging hard or smackin' the bottom out of frustration. Still no takers.

Thelen has listened to people describe that exact scenario many times in conversations at outdoor sports shows. Then Thelen starts talking. He tells them to do nothing. Stay in the same place, leave the same jig on and do nothing. Just try letting the jig sit still for a moment. He means as still as you can. Often the result is, bang! Fish on!

"It's amazing to see the eyes light up when they realize they aren't picking the wrong lake, not fishing the wrong location...that it's something they can fix easily," he said.

Somewhere along the way during his years on the ice Thelen realized walleyes. Perch and pan fish would sometimes ignore the jig he was working steadily in one hole. Instead, they'd take the dying minnow dangling from a dead stick down the hole nearby. He realized they'd wanted the bait as still as it could be.



Thelen thought about it and suddenly it made sense. So often we cut a hole and start fishing right away. We drop lures, jigs, change up something, jig some more, then another and other.

"What it boils down to is not giving a fish the chance to eat it," he said. "By stopping and being still, you're giving a fish an ambush opportunity."



We've had the same thing happen in open water. After casting lures for walleyes, small mouth, bass or muskies with no takers, we start to experiment with action. We make it more erratic, pulling, reeling, stopping, pulling, reeling, stopping and wham. A fish nearly tears the rod out of our hands. Lure action

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(and sometimes the lack of it) is often more important than color choice.

Thelen often applies the concept later in winter when the oxygen level in the water starts to drop. Walleyes and pan fish are less likely to travel far for a meal or chase it down. The cold water makes them lethargic as the colder the water, the slower their metabolism, so they don't have to eat as often. They become more opportunistic.

Thelen has jigged the Lindy Darter to make it look like a minnow trying to get away. "I jitter it around a little to make it look like a minnow trying to get away. If I don't get a hit, I might change the colors. But I'm never, ever giving them an option to eat it. Then when I let it sit still, the walleyes are given the opportunity to rush

in and grab it. They feel like they are in control."

With pan fish, he can jiggle, jiggle, jiggle and get nothing. Several crappie or bluegill or perch might be sitting there looking at it waiting for an opportunity to pounce. "If I stop it. It can start a feeding frenzy. Think about it; we are fishing vertically. If you have a fish looking at the lure 2, 3, or 5 minutes, you are going to have to do something to trip his trigger. A lot of the time, stop the lure so the fish has time to attack."

Once he realized the importance of doing nothing, he has seen many times when conditions are right for the tactic. He'll be looking at his Hummingbird ICE-55 and see fish on the screen peering at his jig only to see then move slowly to the side and grab his real minnow suffering the near-death experience on the dead stick next to him.

"That tells me I'm being too aggressive with my jigging motion. When I see them grab the bobber rod, I have to slow down. I'll jig it first, then stop and jiggle, then bounce down and hit the bottom. When I can see a fish, I'll lift it like a fish trying to get away and then stop. That gives them an ambush point. As much as I want to believe fish aren't smart, I think they're brilliant. They get all these different options to eat. I think more often than not, they look at your bait and choose not to eat."

Don't get the wrong idea. You still have to drill holes where the fish are. Whether it be walleye, perch or pan fish, Thelen targets deeper water in winter. Once the aggressive shallow

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bite is gone, he must go out and find fish, then get to bite. At times, they will move onto structure. But, the movements will be short and sweet. Deeper water is where they spend most of their time, and you can catch fish all day long.

"You're not looking for major league rock piles," he said. "I want to fish all day. They will move on structure, but that will be slow. I'm looking for deeper areas where there may be a minor contour change in the bottom. It might be just a foot or even six inches. With my Hummingbird GPS, I can follow along the contours. Look for any irregularities where a school of fish can sit and ambush bait."

The small contours often feature another advantage: a transition from hard to soft bottom. Walleyes will spend time on the harder bottom and move over the nearby mud looking for insects.

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“Find changes in a hard bottom to soft bottom,” says Thelen. “They always have a contour line attached to them. Check to see what variety of food and bugs are available. If there are bugs hatching, the minnows will be there. The walleyes won’t just lie in the mud. They will filter back and forth.”

Thelen uses a medium action, 30-inch rod to jig Darters with a spinning reel. For his dead stick, he’ll use a softer medium-light action rod, so he can reel down to a fish and load the rod before setting the hook to make certain all slack is out of the line. In ice fishing, so many tools favor the fish, such as smaller hooks and lighter line.

A medium-light action rod can help make sure there is a direct connection with the fish, and that can put some of the odds back into his favor. He uses 6-pound Lindy Ice Line for walleyes, 3- to 4-pound line for perch and 2- to 3-pound ☐ for crappie. The line is designed so it doesn’t absorb water and resist freeze ups.

The Darter is his first choice of lures, followed by the Rattln’ Flyer Spoon and the silent Frostee Spoon with holographic color patterns.

Whatever lure you choose, remember to ‘Do Nothing’ with it. Sometimes that’s what you need to do to make something happen.

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Tungsten The Future Is Now!

By Justin Clark



If you haven't heard, one of the hottest things on the ice are tungsten jigs. These jigs were made popular thanks to ice fishing tournaments across the ice belt over the last 11 plus years. If you were to survey the top teams on the circuits, you'll find that they all have a few things in common. They all have learned the secret that these catch more and bigger fish, faster.

For years there were only very small companies that imported these jigs. One of the early pioneers to bring these jigs over was Jamie Olson from Your Bobbers Down. Tungsten or Wolfram jigs are made in only a handful of places overseas. What makes these jigs so great is that tungsten weighs close to twice as much as lead. That means ice anglers can fish a smaller jig for a stealthier presentation without giving up the sink rate

and feel of larger lead jigs.

But recently more and more companies were getting on board on the tungsten train. Including a company from Michigan, Sportsmen's Direct, John Bacarella the owner of Sportsmen's Direct is a seasoned tournament fishermen, he has fished toe to toe with the nation's top ice anglers, he knows the advantage of these jigs. But he saw a chance to make, in his eyes, an even higher quality jig. "The increased mass of the tungsten also means that you will be able to penetrate slush and weeds much more easily. And that means you can get into those fishy places where lead can't go. For the tight-liner, it means better feel." John's jigs have quickly become known as maybe the best quality tungsten jigs on the market.

Fast forward again to this ice season and anglers are going to have many options to choose from. With companies like Northland, Custom Jigs n Spins, JR's tackle, K & E and a few others are getting in on the game.

Besides the weight of these jigs the shape and the way they sit in the water is also leading to the success of this jig. The style known as a "Fiska" which refers to an actual region of Norway, and Fiske means "fish" in Scandinavian. It sits in the water at about a 45 degree angle, giving the bait a realistic look that matches many favorite winter morsels of fish such as zooplankton, aquatic insects and small crustaceans called scuds or freshwater shrimp as they are known out west in the ice belt. With a little practice and using the proper knot you can copy their movements to a T!

When you're fishing these jigs you want to fish them on a small loop knot called a surgeon loop. Doing this will give the jig a rocking-swimming type action that can be imparted with the

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most subtle movement of your rod tip. Another bonus of this knot for you guys that use spinning reels for ice fishing it will help reduce the amount of jig spin. Jig spin is maybe the biggest enemy of an ice fishermen that chases large Gills and Sunfish.

These jigs come in a cornucopia of colors and sizes. The paint jobs fall in two basic classifications: painted and epoxied. Both styles of paint is offered in glows, UV's and standard color choices. The sizing for most jigs that follow the "Fiska" styling are generally measured in millimeters (width of the jig) but some companies are using the hook sizes to denote the size of the jig instead.

There is only one drawback to using tungsten jigs and that is the cost. Due to the properties of tungsten they are difficult to make and paint. John had this to say about that, "The only down-side to tungsten is the cost. Unfortunately for us fishermen, tungsten is very expensive to mine and is a real pain to work with. You can get some lead alloys to melt around 250 degrees vs tungsten which doesn't melt until over 6,000 degrees Fahrenheit. That means that your hook would melt long before the tungsten melted. Tungsten is also very hard and brittle, so it can't be formed either. When you paint them, even more challenges come up. Suffice it to say, tungsten is a pain to work with and that means a higher price for us fishermen. But in many fishing conditions, tungsten jigs are definitely worth it".

Just like other ice jigs you need to put something on the business end, the hook. These jigs work great with live baits such as spikes, mousies and waxworms. But they also fish the newest invocation to the ice belt , ice plastics very well. These action packed micro plastics like the J&S Ice Mite and Little AtomNuggies are changing the way anglers are fishing. Tony Boshold who is one half of the 2005 NAIFC Championship team and member of the 2010 Team USA Gold Medal ice fishing team credits the combo of plastics and tungsten to much of his success over the years in tournaments. "The combination of tungsten and plastics has totally revolutionized the ice fishing world. It has accounted for more championship and 1st places in the past 10 years than any other type of ice fishing lure. The dominance of tungsten is only going to grow as more and more companies jump on board. The potential for what tungsten could become and the future of it is just now being realized here in North American"





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BASS FISHING HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2012 INDUCTEES

GERALD CRAWFORD, PAUL ELIAS,
GLENN LAU, HOLMES THURMOND

By Sammy Lee

Along with all the new bass fishing tackle that was introduced at the ICAST trade show, the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame also introduced its new 2012 inductees. During a special reception at the B.A.S.S. exhibit today, BFHOF president Sammy Lee announced the induction of Gerald Crawford, Paul Elias, Glenn Lau and Holmes Thurmond. These four bass fishing greats will be formally introduced as Hall members at the 2012 BFHOF Induction Banquet, taking place on Friday, February 24, at the Shreveport Hilton during Bassmaster Classic weekend events in Shreveport, La.



In the fall of 1980, Gerald Crawford (pictured to the left) was hired by B.A.S.S. to photograph the Bassmaster Classic at Thousand Islands, N.Y. He soon became the staff photographer for B.A.S.S. and Bassmaster Magazine, traveling throughout the country to cover its tournaments. Over the years, he traveled to B.A.S.S. events throughout the country and photographed more than 200 professional tournaments, including every Classic since 1980. He is universally respected by tournament anglers because of the courteous and non-intrusive way he follows them on the water, being careful never to interfere with their fishing. Those who know him consider Crawford one of the nicest, most even-tempered people in all of professional fishing.

During Paul Elias (pictured to the right) 42-year career as a B.A.S.S. pro, he won six tournaments, including the 1982 Bassmaster Classic on the Alabama River in Montgomery, Ala. In that tournament, he introduced his "Kneel 'N Reel" technique for deep cranking. He used the tactic years later to establish the all-time winning weight record for a 5-bass-limit tournament with 132-pounds 8-ounces during an Elite Series event in April 2008 at Lake Falcon in Texas. In between those tournaments, he became a recognized expert and innovator in the technique of deep cranking. He qualified for 15 Bassmaster Classics, finishing in the Top 10 eight times, and posting 41 Top Ten finishes in other B.A.S.S. events. A true Pro's Pro, Elias has been an ambassador for the sport and especially for the profession of competitive bass fishing.



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A legendary fishing guide on Lake Erie, Glen Lau (pictured to the left) gave up guiding to pursue a career in videography. As a producer and director, he created more than 300 commercials and 200 television programs, including several segments of *The American Sportsman*, *The Wild, Wild World of Animals* and *Quest for Adventure*. He is perhaps best known for the groundbreaking documentary, *Bigmouth*, which explored the life cycle of largemouth bass. More recently, his *Bigmouth Forever* film won the 1996 North American Film & Video Award and numerous other national honors.

He has hosted or appeared on more than 300 television programs and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, the American Society of Media Photographers, The American Fisheries Society, and the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. He is one of the founders of the "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" campaign. Today, he owns Glen Lau Productions, a Florida-based film production company that specializes in outdoor adventure and underwater productions. A resident of Ocala, Fla., he is an ardent supporter of the Florida Bass Conservation Center and other conservation causes in his adopted home state.

Holmes Thurmond (pictured below) came up with a design for a boat that wouldn't get pushed around by the wind, a boat with inward-sloping sides. The boat was also extremely stable and just about impossible to turn over, because even if you stood on the sides, you'd actually be standing towards the middle of the boat. Low, sleek, and narrow, Thurmond's little wood boat developed quite a following. Like a sharp-nosed bug, the boat zipped around the lakes, and soon people nicknamed it the Mosquito, or "Skeeter," for short. He brought to market what many believe to be the world's first bass boat, known as "Skeeter," in 1948. Thurmond eventually sold the rights to build fiberglass replicas of his boat to Skeeter Products Inc., which has grown the Skeeter name into one of the most popular boat brands in the country. Thurmond was born in 1894 and passed away in 1970.

"We're inviting all bass fishing enthusiasts to join us in Shreveport next February to honor and recognize these gentlemen for their contributions to our sport," said Lee. "The induction ceremony and dinner is shaping up to be a memorable event and an extremely fun evening, with special speakers on tap and along with our exciting silent auction."



Visit the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame web site - www.bassfishinghof.com - or call 888/690-2277. The Bass Fishing Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization dedicated to all anglers, manufacturers, tackle dealers, media and other related companies who further the sport of bass fishing.

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SANDY'S KITCHEN



Seared and Pan Roasted Salmon Fillet with Lemon Herb Sauce, Saffron Rice and Heirloom Tomato Salad

Place salmon fillets in a shallow bowl to baste with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of white wine and fresh thyme salt and white pepper, $\frac{1}{8}$ cup fresh lemon juice.

- ✓ First: get 2 6 ounce salmon fillets and sear them in a sauté pan with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of olive oil and 1 tablespoon of butter.
- ✓ Second: after the skin is crispy turn the fish over and add fresh thyme place in the oven at 350 degrees for 4 - 5 minutes (medium)
- ✓ Third: take out of oven and remove fish from pan and set aside
- ✓ Fourth: place sauté pan back on the stove and let sauce reduce by $\frac{1}{2}$ and then add in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of cream let sauce thicken and then turn off fire and swirl in 1 tablespoon of butter. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and white pepper. Then strain the sauce into a small sauce pan and set aside.

Saffron rice with lemon zest:

- ✓ 1 cup of long grain rice
- ✓ 2 cups of chicken stock
- ✓ $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon fresh lemon zest
- ✓ $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon butter
- ✓ $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon fresh finely chopped parsley

Cook rice with lemon zest for 20 minutes on low temperature. Let rice sit for 8 more minutes off of heat do not remove the lid. Total of 28 minutes. Add butter and parsley, fluff with fork.

To plate: Place rice in the center of plate and place the salmon partially on top of the rice and then add sauce around the place. Place small portion of heirloom salad on plate

Salad:

- ✓ Slice baby sized heirloom tomatoes in half
- ✓ Spoon small pieces of mozzarella
- ✓ Mix with 3 Tablespoons olive oil, $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon lemon juice, 1 Tablespoon and vinegar dash of whole grain mustard and salt and pepper to taste.



Pan Seared Halibut Steak with Browned Panko Bread Crumbs and an Arugula Papaya Salad

Halibut:

- ✓ (2) 6 oz Halibut fillets
- ✓ 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- ✓ ¼ cup finely chopped parsley
- ✓ Salt and Pepper for taste

Season halibut with salt and pepper, and score with knife to prevent the steak from curling under. Sear in a very hot pan with small amount of olive oil. Sear skin side down until crispy about 4 – 5 minutes. Flip fillets over and cook for 3 minutes. Set aside and cool. In a small pan add about a teaspoon of olive oil then add the panko breadcrumbs let brown all over by stirring or tossing. When browned add a pinch of salt & pepper for taste. Toss breadcrumbs with the parsley.

Salad:

- ✓ 40 oz (5 cups) arugula greens
- ✓ ¼ onion (very thinly sliced)
- ✓ 1 roma tomato (medium diced)
- ✓ ½ cup papaya (medium diced)

- ✓ ¼ cup dried cranberries
- ✓ ¼ cup chopped walnuts
- ✓ ½ cup mild goat cheese (medium diced)

Place arugula in a large bowl; add in the dried cranberries, walnuts, papaya, roma tomatoes, onion, and goat cheese.

Salad dressing:

- ✓ 1 table spoon vinegar
- ✓ 3 table spoons salad oil
- ✓ ¼ teaspoon whole grain mustard
- ✓ ¼ teaspoon lemon juice
- ✓ Very small amount of honey for sweetness
- ✓ Dash dried dill (for color)
- ✓ Salt & Pepper to taste

In a small bowl add all ingredients and whisk very fast until all items are completely combined. Taste and adjust seasoning to your liking. Add a small amount to the salad and toss until lightly coated. Add more if needed and reserve the rest if needed later.

Plate: Place the salad in the center of the plate. Top with one of the fillets that has been cut in half and top at an angle. Top halibut with a little more of the vinaigrette. Serve with 2 -3 pieces garlic bruschetta. Sprinkle dill over the dish and serve.

Bruschetta: Slice a French baguette about 1 ½ - 2" thick. Brush a small amount of olive oil, salt and pepper. Place in over until golden brown. Repeat on the other side but do not let brown to much (cook for only 2 minutes). Cool and rub with fresh uncut garlic clove.

Rashid Mathis (pictured above) is the Chef who provided ODU with these great fish recipes. rashidmathis@gmail.com

For Excitement, Try Fishing For Peacock Bass

By Jake Bussolini



Bored with simply catching the normal freshwater fish, well why not try Peacock Bass. For a mere \$6000 you can go to Brazil and catch these hard fighting fish, or you can run down to Miami, where the Peacocks have taken hold after a stocking experiment in 1984. I did just that and the experience was so good that it just made me want to go again. After fishing nearly every type of freshwater fish over the last 66 years, I thought that I had decided that pound for pound, Smallmouth Bass were the hardest fighting freshwater fish, but I was wrong, and I have now given that title to the Peacock Bass.

In 1984, under the leadership of Paul Shafland of the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission's Non- Native Research laboratory, felt that peacocks, that were famous in South America for their fighting capability, might actually survive in south Florida. It was concluded that the area of Broward and Palm Beach Counties, around Ft Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, probably could not sustain a stable enough water temperature to support the water temperature requirement of the Peacocks, which is 70 to 80 degrees with 60 degrees at the lower lethal end. Miami fresh water canals became the area of choice for the initial experiment. Many of the water ways of South Florida will have some small quantities of peacocks, but the Miami area seems to support the best survival and growth patterns for this strange fish.

Peacock Bass are not really Bass at all; they are members of the Cichlid family, but because they have the general shape, attack and fighting capabilities of Bass, they have taken on the Bass nomenclature.

To initiate my experience with peacocks, I contacted, Chuck Westlake, who lived in the Miami area and was considered somewhat of



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a Peacock expert. Chuck works for American Airlines but has his USCG Captains license and guides part-time for peacocks and other fish. Chuck indicated that the early Spring months were the best time to fish for peacocks, so I climbed into my Cessna 172 with my fishing partner Ron Jurcy , who came down to North Carolina from his Chicago home, and we headed for south Florida.

We made this a two-day trip because the water temperatures in southern Florida were not quite right for the big Peacocks. So we spent the first day in the Everglades boating a couple dozen Largemouth Bass.

The Peacocks on the second day were something else. The water was colder than we really desired, but the Peacocks seemed to be in fairly good supply, at least in numbers. Fishing Peacocks is kind of a combination of sight and directional casting. Chuck Westlake with his polarized sunglasses was an expert, finding the locations of the fish, and with a simple small minnow as bait it was fairly easy to drop the bait close enough to the target zone to attract the fish. It took me a few casts to get the feel for this fishing system, but it wasn't long before I was slammed by a Peacock. Of course, never having experience with this fish, I knew it was a monster because my benchmark for comparison was fishing Largemouth Bass for years. The fish headed for the bottom as soon as it was hooked, and it made up its mind that it was going to stay there. My first audible comment was that it was a "monster", but Chuck kind of shrugged that off. After what I thought was a great fight,

I finally got sight of the fish, and it was no more than a pound and a half fish. The result of this first experience was the combination of glee and disappointment. A great fight but a small fish. I switched off between casting and slow trolling and while trolling, I got my second big hit.

I knew this fish was bigger, since I had by now caught one other Peacock and was an expert on the feel of this fish. Again, glee turned into disappointment because despite a tremendous fight, the fish weighed less than two pounds. My third peacock, however, was in the four-

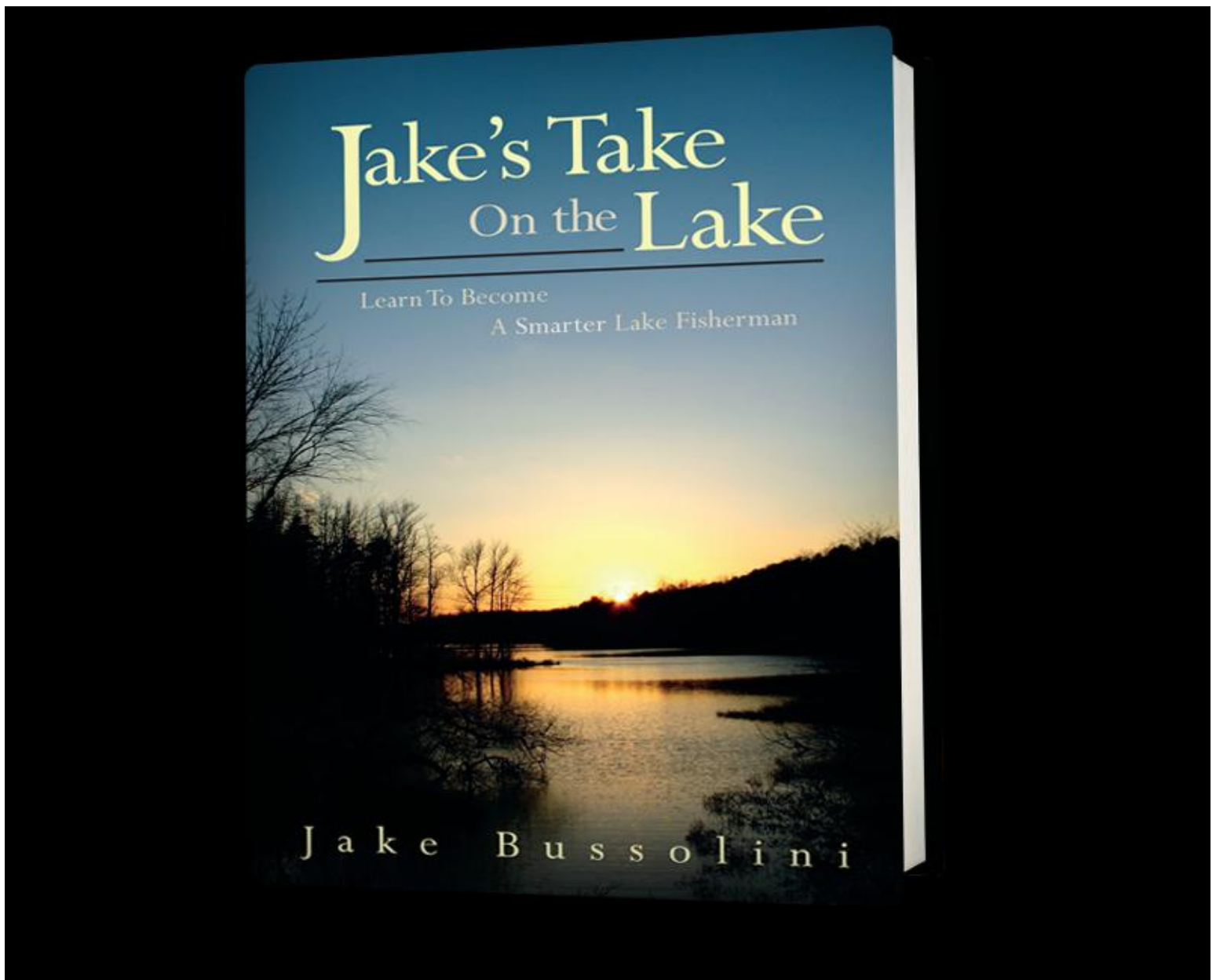


I am more than a kid.

I'm also a fisherman. Last year, my grandpa took me fishing and showed me how to bait my own hook. He also taught me how to hold fish carefully and let them go so we can catch bigger fish next time. At home, my family recycles and I turn off lights because that helps fish, too. Now I'm more than a kid.

I am a steward.





pound range, and I would compare its fighting ability to an eight or ten-pound Striper. Landing the fish was actually a chore, but a very enjoyable chore.

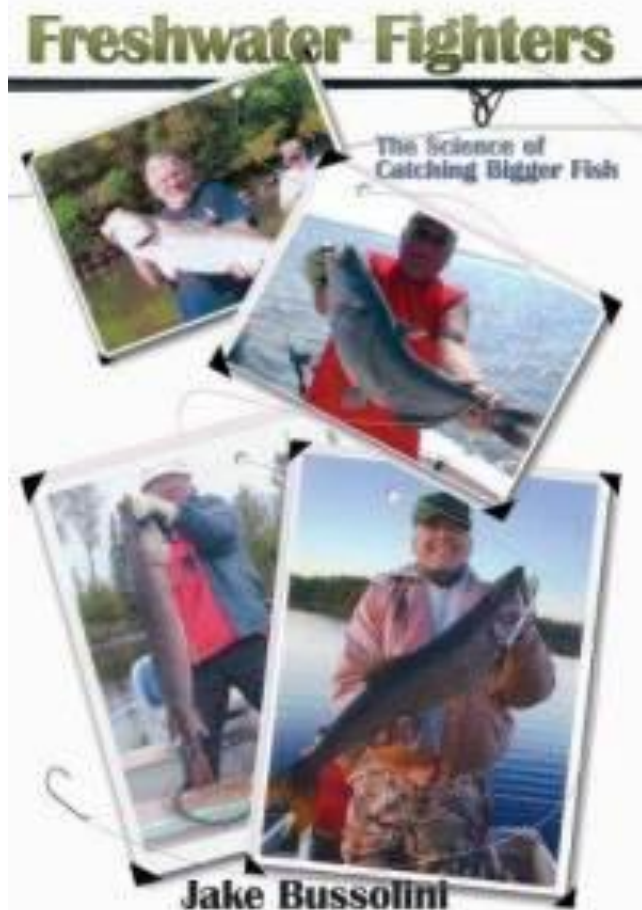
Ron Jurcy also picked up a few Peacocks in the three to four-pound range, and even though he is younger and taller than I am, he agreed that the fight of these fish was unmatched by anything that he had witnessed in a fresh water fish.

Both Ron and I have fished many places in the United States and Canada and we both agreed that the environment for catching these fish is indeed different than anything that we experienced. I defined these south Florida waterways as “back yard” fishing. The canals are fairly narrow and 5 to 15 feet deep. They run in some defined pattern through residential back yards. Nevertheless, the fish don’t mind the close quarters.

You really do not have to be an expert fisherman to catch Peacocks. The confined quarters of the south Florida canals prohibit your cast distance, but it does help to be fairly accurate with your casts. Sun up until the late afternoon is the best time for this fish, and they will take

almost any lure that other bass take except that they are rarely interested in rubber worms . The bait of choice for most Peacock fishermen is a two or three-inch minnow.

The best season for fishing for Peacocks is February through August. The fish will spend nearly equal amounts of time in shallow and deep water, but their spawning habits keep them in shallow water all day for nearly six months. The male is the larger of the species and defends the nest from deep intruders, while the female is usually seen in shallow water. The unique coloring of each fish is an individual pattern. The males, during the spawning ritual, have a distinct purplish hump on their head. Once the fry reach about 2 or 3 inches in length, they tend to wander through the canals in schools. It is not unusual to see large males and females swimming beneath the fry, coming up regularly to snatch a fine meal.



The Peacock grows at a rate of about 10 inches a year according to Florida's research data. The catch limit is two fish per day with only one fish exceeding 17 inches in length. In Florida's water, a 5-pound Peacock is considered a trophy fish. With a guide familiar with the waters, a fisherman can expect to catch 30 to 40 fish a day. The Peacock is a fine fish to eat with dense white meat.

I consider myself lucky to have come across Chuck Westlake. He is married and has no children and has made a study of the Peacocks in Florida. He has been a professional guide since 2003, and he is an agent for a South American outfitter who has given him the opportunity to fish for peacocks in Brazil twice, an experience that hooked him on Peacock Bass. Chuck can be contacted by e mail floridafishing@bellsouth.net, or you can view his web site at www.southfloridafishing.org.

Jake Bussolini has authored four books about freshwater fishing. His books and Blog can be seen at www.jakestakeonfishing.com.

Bassmasters On The Harris Chain of Lakes

By Marty Brown



fishing, I leave all that behind and head to the lake.

The season kicked off Jan. 19-21 with the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Southern Open at the Harris Chain in Tavares, FL. Having never been to the Harris Chain of Lakes; my research started long before I ever hooked the boat up. Countless hours were spent on the internet and in my library of old Bassmaster and B.A.S.S Times magazines looking for information about the lakes. The information I found really got me thinking about what the fish might be doing come tournament time. Now I was ready to go see what the Harris Chain of Lakes is all about.

Since I had a few days off after Christmas, I decided to head to Florida for some pre-fishing. I called my dad to see if wanted to go along with me and as usual, he was in. We loaded up my 2002 F150 and 2007 Skeeter ZX225 with all the camping and fishing equipment that we might need. The drive down was terrible since everyone was headed back to Florida from their Christmas visits. It was starting to get dark when we arrived at the Black Bass Fishing Resort where we were going to camp. We got our tent set up, and camp organized enough to get some much-needed rest.

The tournament waters consisted of Lake Dora, Beauclair, Carlton, Eustis, Harris, Little Harris and Griffin. With three days to fish, I decided to cover as much water as possible and just see what was there. Since a cold front hit the day we arrived, I knew the fishing would be tough. I divided the lakes up for different days. The first day we fished Lake Harris and Little Harris. The second day was Dora, Beauclair and Carlton. afterwards we spent the last day on Griffin. Instead of trying to find exact spots, I would find likely looking areas on the map then go look at them.



Some areas I would fish and others would just get a quick look. This is where my Lowrance HDS10 really worked for me. Any time I would see a certain type of vegetation, I would mark it with a way point and label what it was

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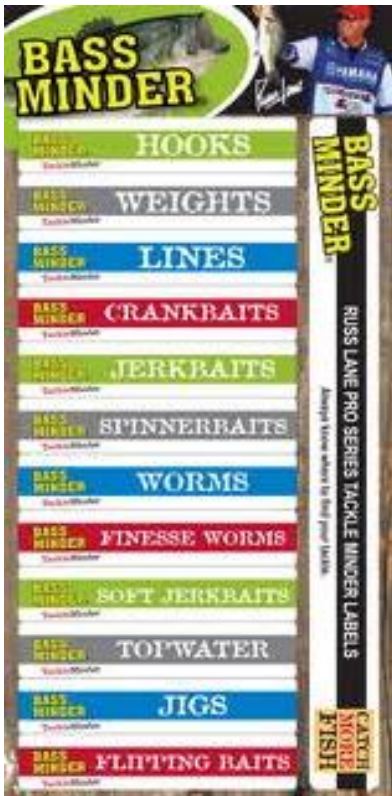
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in case the fish were relating to a certain one. By the end of the trip, I had a lot of way points labeled Lilly pads, Hydrilla, Reeds, bedding area and so on. We even caught a few fish in the process. There were two areas, we located that I definitely was going back to before the tournament. In both areas, we had caught multiple fish and at least one that was 5 pounds or better.

After going back to work for a few weeks, it was time to head back to Florida. I had been watching the weather patterns and knew there was a cold front coming in again. I arrived on Thursday night, so I could fish Friday before the cold front hit. During the day Friday, I found an area that was holding some quality fish not far from our take off site. That night the cold weather hit and made the fishing tough. I spent the rest of practice fishing a different lake each day trying to find the best location to catch bass once the front passes. By Monday night, I narrowed my fishing areas down to two different spots that are on opposite ends of the chain of lakes. On Tuesday, I went to the spot farthest away and was greeted by several other anglers fishing the same stuff I was. Even though I had several good bites there, I was unsure if I could get a good limit out of it in the time I would to fish after making the trip up there. On Wednesday, I went to check the fish that I had found before the front hit. Within an hour, I had 5 bites and a four pounder in the boat before I could get my bait away from it. This would be my fishing area for the tournament.



On day one I boat 159, when I arrived at my spot there three other boats on the reed line. I stopped at the only open spot I could find without getting on top of someone. After about thirty minutes the boats started clearing out, and I proceeded on down the reed line. Being patient was a key because I knew the bite might be slow until the sun got up. I went back and forth all day and ended up with 16-1 with a big fish of 6-11. After weigh in I was sitting in 13th place.



Day two, I was boat number 39 and was heading back to the same area I fished the day before. On the way there I passed a Phoenix boat, and he ended up coming to my area. It was a guy, who had seen me there the day before, and he was not doing any good. He came in and fished for a bit but didn't catch anything and left pretty quickly. At 12:30, I had not had a bite; the winds were out of the south and were starting to dirty up the water. It was time for a change. I ran up to a protected canal that I thought they would move into to spawn. My co-angler quickly caught a 3 1/2 pounder then about a minute later I put a 5 pounder in live well. In an hour and half, I was able to put four keepers in the boat for 13-11. This was disappointing for me, and I was headed to my truck to leave

when I stopped to talk to some other anglers. After talking to them for about thirty minutes, I looked at the leader board, and I was still in 4th place to my amazement. So then I decided to stay around to watch the rest of the weigh in. When it was over, I was sitting in 11th place. WOW! I made the cut for Saturday.

After scrambling to find fish in a different area on Friday, I decided to try that area first. I quickly caught three small keepers while going through the same place I had fished the day before. Then I decided to go back to my reed line I had been fishing on days 1 and 2. Methodically fishing all the way down the reed line I only picked up one fish that was about 2 1/2 lbs. By this time, the sun was up good and figured the females would have moved in the other area so off we went. I caught my 5th keeper soon after arriving at the entrance to the canal. When I rounded the corner to go back where I had caught my two best fish the day before, the water was muddy. Someone was tearing up an old dock and building a new one. That was just my luck. I decided to head to another canal that I had not been to in almost a week. My thinking was that maybe the fish had moved in there too. It took about 30 minutes, mostly canal idling to get there. We fished around for about 30 minutes without a bite. Getting impatient, I left and went back to the other canal. I spent the last 45 minutes of the day fishing outside the muddied up water but did not pick up any more fish.



Day 3 check in was at 3 P.M. then we had to drive down to Bass Pro Shops in Orlando for the weigh in. I had five fish for 9-12 and ended up where I had started the day in 11th place.

So how did I do it? My main area was a reed line with a sandy bottom. The fish were pulling into the reeds to get ready to spawn. I would pull my Skeeter Boat up next to the reeds and secure it with my Power Pole. Then I could flip the reeds and fish a section a little longer than the huge front deck on my boat. I would repeat this all the way up the reed line. It allowed me to fish a section at a time without having to run my trolling motor and risk spooking the fish. I also had my Lowrance electronics turned off to reduce transducer noise. While fishing the reeds, I was flipping a Zoom Brush Hog on 65 lb Power Pro braid with a 3/8 oz Bass Pro Tungsten weight pegged to a 5/0 Trokar Flipping hook. In the canals, I was fishing dock and eel grass using a Texas rigged lizard on 20lb Trilene Big Game with a 3/16 oz BPS Tungsten weight and 5/0 Trokar flipping hook. Picture taken and provided by Rob Russow (baits picture) and James Overstreet.



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