

ODU Magazine™

Summer Fishing 2012

**Hot
Weather
Bass
Fishing**

***Fish
with a
Platypus?***

**Slip Bobber Walleyes
Tarpon Season Takes Off
Shockingly Good Chinnoek**



Zeroing In On Secluded Stump Fields-Pg 10

Slip Bobber Nuances for Walleyes-Pg 16

Fish with a Platypus?-Pg 21

Big Bass Come Your Way-Pg 23

Tarpon Season Takes Off-Pg 27

Shockingly Good Chinnoek Fishing-Pg 30

Really A Trout Fishing Fix?-Pg 35

History Lessons-Pg 40

Special Father's Day Edition of O'Neill Outside-Pg 45

Yahoo! Wahoo!-Pg 48

I Have Lost My Mind-Pg 51

Situational Awareness-Pg 53

Hatchery Bass Making A Difference In Florida-Pg 54

The Value of Having Fresh Data-Pg 60

Inner Peace Through The Great Outdoors-Pg 62

Another Attempt at a Trophy Peacock Bass-Pg 68

Hot Weather Bass Fishing Can Be Fantastic! - Pg 6



Beaches Best For Summer Snook - Pg 14



How To Extend Your Roll Cast - Pg 66





SHAD WALKER



**TAKE YOUR
TOP WATER GAME
STRAIGHT TO THE TOP!**

* DESIGNED TO MIMIC INJURED BAITFISH

* "WALK-THE-DOG" TYPE ACTION PULLS FISH FROM THICK COVER & OPEN WATER!

* MORE EFFECTIVE THAN A PLASTIC FROG!

* LEGLESS DESIGN INCREASES HOOK-UPS AND PUTS MORE FISH IN YOUR BOAT!

* THE VERSATILITY OF THIS BAIT IS ENDLESS!

AVAILABLE IN 7 FISH CATCHING COLORS!

FOR DEALER ENQUIRIES CALL 724-313-8014

WWW.PICASSO LURES.COM



If you have a minute let's talk about Alabama Rigs. I honestly say that I am perplexed and struggling to understand what all the fuss is about. With that being said, I decided to try to get some insight into the issue and asked Terry Monteleone from "Picasso Lures" to give me a quote on one of the recent articles that I sent him. FYI, for those of you that don't know it "Picasso" makes a variety of "School-e-Rigs" i.e. Alabama Rigs. Here is what Terry had to say.

"I have no idea how much the additional hooks are an issue at this point but I am sure it could easily happen that you snag the fish in another jig head while bringing in the fish. Again the simple solution is go to one central jig head (with hook) and 4 outer "dummy heads" End of problem and also instantly stops the politics because now there is no multiple fish issues nor is there a snagging issue that would cause mortality.

This is exactly how the Elite should have handled the rigs but of course instead of using objective reality they used politics.

Remember it's the fishermen that rig these, so after state laws are followed fishermen should decide for themselves whether or not to rig with 5 hooks or 3 hooks or 1 hook, etc.

If Sportsmanship or Conservation are at issue, the solution is really quite simple.....use one hook." End of quote.

I don't know about you but this kind of makes sense to me. Hey, I just had another thought, could this possibly be another media play to try and make something out of nothing. Nah, what a crazy thought, the media never tries to make something out of nothing.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

And please,
Enjoy the outdoors,

Larry Thornhill
Editor Chief
919-603-5681

<http://www.odumagazine.com/>

Editor: Larry Thornhill
Larry@odumagazine.com

Assistant Editor:
Bill Schwarz,
bill@odumagazine.com

Publishing Team: Bill
Schwarz & Richard
Barker

Photographer: Kathy
Barker

Advertising inquirers for
our Fishing Magazines,
ODU Fishing News or
ODU Hunting News
should be e-mailed to:
mailto:webmaster@odumagazine.com

Contributing Writers:

Bill Vanderford, Vic
Attardo, Capt. Bill Miller,
Jason Mitchell, Larry
Thornhill, Chris Jenkins,
Bob Bohland, O'Neill
Williams, Lou Mintzer,
Darin Gillenwater, Craig
Stapon, Bob
Wattendorf, Rick Stout,
Dave Yeager, Paul
Michele, Eric Badofsky,
Jared Mertens and Jake
Bussolini

Business Address: 4315
Cross Ridge Ct.,
Valrico, FL 33594

Register To Receive
ODU Magazines For
Free:



Photos: Cover photo by
Chris Brown,
cabrownskl@gmail.com

Hot Weather Bass Fishing Can Be Fantastic!

By Bill Vanderford



When the air and water temperatures of summer reach bath water temperatures, most anglers decide to stay away from the heavy boat traffic and hot, churning waters. They simply leave large impoundments to the multitudes of summer fun seekers. The bass, however, have become accustomed to the commotion and the warmer water, and they actually employ these phenomenons of summer to their advantage.

"Fish react positively to things that occur in their environment," said bass researcher Doug Hannon. "It's the only productive way for them, especially if it's a non-threatening thing like

boat traffic or warmer water. The first exposure to something different might spook the fish, but after they become acclimated to it and find that it's not a threat, they try to use the change favorably by making the best of bad thing. The whole flux of natural activity is always generated to the positive. Unlike the way people think, fish are basically optimistic. Fishermen may let boat traffic or hot water intimidates them, but you can bet the bass will make something good out of it."

The first key to productive summer bass fishing is to concentrate one's efforts in the best areas and use the proper equipment. Except for bass that live in the shoals of the upper rivers, as a general rule, the bass in the lake are much more predictable and seem to have heartier appetites during the much warmer summer months.

The intricate underwater structures still makes a Texas rigged worm a prime lure for deep summer bass. To be successful, however, one must change to lighter line and smaller worms. Anything in the 6 to 10 pound test range is fine, but light to medium spinning tackle with 8 pound test line is the ideal combination. Match that with a six-foot medium-action graphite spinning rod and a light or ultra-light open-faced spinning reel like Doug Hannon's smaller Wave Spin,



AMERICA'S **BEST-SELLING** **FISHING BOATS** SINCE 1978!



Designed for maximum performance and fishing capabilities.



VALID FOR 2 YEARS!
SEE BASSPRO.COM/VIP FOR DETAILS.



PRO TEAM™ 175 TKW
\$14,995

Boat, Motor & Trailer
w/Mercury® 60 ELPT FourStroke EFI
PLUS DEALER PREP AND DESTINATION CHARGES.

TRACKER
boats

Visit TRACKERBOATS.COM or call 888.442.6337
to request a brochure or locate your nearest dealer.



and you're in business. The longer lighter rod allows a better feel, has more leverage, and enough give on a big fish so that it won't break the line when setting the hook or fighting a fish close to the boat.

Unlike worms used earlier in the year, which might appear to be snakes or eels, a summer worm should appear to a bass as a sick or wounded shad. To accomplish this, utilize smaller shad-like and shad colored worms.

The actual rig consists of a 3/16th ounce sliding sinker, followed by a #8 green, chartreuse or pearl colored plastic bead, with a #1 or #1/0, 95JL Eagle Claw worm hook tied to the end of the line with a palomar knot. This knot leaves a doubled line across the rubbing surface of the hook-eye for more strength. The worm is then threaded on the hook in the normal "Texas" weedless style. In lieu of this rig, try a standard drop-shot method. To be effective, the structure must be marked properly with a buoy marker.

The type of structures that produce the best bass fishing during the hot summer months are points or underwater ridges near the main river or creek channels. It's necessary that these points have something on them that breaks up the normal slope. The difference could be natural trees or brush, man-made brush piles, rock formations, a stump field, or a combination of these things. The "magic depth" is usually somewhere between 15 and 25 feet. Many anglers try to fish much deeper, but it should be noted that black bass rarely

venture below the thermocline, which is usually around 35 to 40 feet at most lakes during summer.

When a point or ridge is located in the proper depth containing a structure that breaks up the natural slope, drop a buoy marker near the middle of the thickest part. Instead of backing away to cast towards the marker, hold the boat with the trolling motor over the top of the underwater object. Drop the worm vertically into the structure until it reaches the bottom. Sometimes a strike will come as soon as the worm settles. If not, raise it up enough to clear the obstruction and move it over a foot or two, keeping the line tight at all times. Most strikes come after the worm has been moved and has settled back to the bottom, but not always, so be alert!

Find a dozen or so spots like the ones referred to above, and spend 10 to 15 minutes on each one, then hit them again later. Even the ones that produce fish will play out after about 15 minutes.

Naturally circumstances change, and though the approach and lures are quite different, knowledgeable anglers always find ways to catch bass under any conditions. To become a complete bass fisherman, one must overcome the sense that occurrences uncomfortable or unnatural to the angler are also detrimental to bass. Therefore, high water temperatures, direct sunlight and record-setting boat traffic are no reason to quit fishing during the hot days of summer. If the bass are there, a method can be devised to catch them!

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



Bill Vanderford's Guide Service, Inc.

*Georgia's Oldest and Inductee of the
National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame*
Lake Lanier and Chattahoochee River



Home of the Famous Swirleybird

770-289-1543

www.fishinglanier.com

<http://twitter.com/#!/BillVanderford>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/fishyracer>

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=867260415>

Zeroing In On Secluded Stump Fields

By Vic Attardo

Nearly everywhere we went on the lake, we were stymied by carp. The brute fish were in full spawning mode with pairs, trios, quartets and quintets erupting on the surface. One large backwater looked like a bubbling field of hot springs at Yellowstone.

As it turned out, wherever the carp were in profusion we couldn't catch bass, certainly not many bass. I sympathized, could anyone eat amid all this sexual excitement?

Eventually Sean Lewis and I headed out to a main lake bay on Virginia's Lake Gaston and began working the dark circles of a submerged stump field. The water was a tad dark but the irregular circles were as clear as coasters on a wet bar.

Concentrating on a large stump some 40 feet from the bank, Lewis snapped his wrists to set the hook but came up empty. As we worked down the flat-fronted shoreline, the stumps remained widely scattered and washed by a current; unfortunately Lewis repeated his frustrating hook action.



Using a long trick worm and a wide gap Gamakatsu 1/0 hook he was getting a few bites but couldn't make a true connection. The light wire hook was needed for the needle thin six-inch Big Bite Baits "Squirrel Tail Worm" in Tilapia/Tilapia Tail and would later prove very effective.

"You know," he said, "crappie will spawn on these stumps sometimes, they could be crappie."



SAVE **SCRATCH,** RAISE **CASH.**

Land big deals on great tackle at Fish Itch.

Each week, you can save *50% or more*
on great tackle and fishing gear.

A portion of every purchase helps raise
funds for *stewardship and conservation.*

Click on this ad to sign up for Fish Itch!



fishitch.com

**SAVE 50%
OR MORE**



Moe's Tackle Flutter
Spoon 5-Pack



Trigger-X Frogs &
Flap-Dad Baits



Secret Weapon Quick
Strike Combo Kit

This fact would have been fine had we been fishing for crappie -- and come equipped with crappie size baits -- but our quarry was largemouth.

Eventually we made are way down to the end of the bay with more and more stumps shimmering just under the surface. As the lake circled to an end near an elevated rural road, the stumps were stacked thick and without a washing current.

At another dark disk, Lewis made a solid connection with a two-plus pounder; soon after another decent bass whacked his trick worm and held on. In a few casts at this dense stump field with still-water and little carp action, I hung a bass close to four pounds. The stumps at the back of the bay proved a bonanza.

As Lewis and I fished this spring day, stump beds were the place to go – but not any stump beds. We caught 90 percent of all of our largemouth from shaved tree trucks in secluded spots -- currentless coves, backwaters, the back ends of large main lake bays and



behind points -- but not from stump fields along the main front of the shoreline.

I reminded myself of a similar experience with pro Zell Rowland one spring on Lake Seminole, which might as well be called Lake Stumpbed. After a hearty breakfast at the old Jack Wingate cabin-restaurant, the best bite was in places where the waves did not wash onto the stumps or the prevailing current left the wood alone.

Beside this wood we dropped soft-plastic creature baits of the brand then called Riverside, since known as Yum. Finding the deeper roots besides the old lumber produced a number of Seminole lunkers.

With Lewis on Gaston, the stump bass were in two moods.

A few were actually bedding atop the cupped wooden circles – it was a new moon and a small cadre of bass had come in for more spawning – but the vast majority of largemouth had taken up stump stations for ambush and feeding, feasting on various fry. Unlike bedding bass which can take the patience of Job, or Lewis, to catch, the feeders were aggressive fish, hitting our baits as soon as they dived into the roots.

My bait du jour was an eighth-ounce slider-type head with a four-inch Gary Yamamoto spider grub, D/T H-Grub, a spider grub, in watermelon/black & red.

I reasoned that because Gaston was discolored from recent rains, a small but bulky bait would present a compact but wider profile that could be seen. From the number of hits I took on the grub, I was pleased with my choice.

Actually it was the cloudy nature of the water that Lewis suspected kept Gaston's largemouth on the shallow stumps. The water temperature was in the low 70s, temperate enough so that the fish did not yet require deep water and sufficiently murky to diffuse the sun's rays.

Across bass fishing America, stumps exist in many lakes. It is reasonable to expect that in the post-spawn many fish will stay or gravitate to these wooded areas before the water temperature becomes too warm. Fishing this wood can be a good ticket to success.

Sean Lewis and Robert Bondurant at Twin Lakes Outfitters, South Hill, Va. are available for guided trip on Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island) and Lake Gaston. Call 434-447-2710 or twinlakesoutfitters@yahoo.com



THE BASS UNIVERSITY

www.thebassuniversity.com

The BU wants YOU to be a part of our next Class of Graduates

Register
today to be a
part of this
unbelievable
event

Do you want to take your bass fishing to the next level?

The Bass University offers something for every angler, beginner or veteran. Register for the Bass University and learn tips and techniques from the pros who know.

The Bass University Topics include:

The Alabama Rig, Crankbaits A-Z, Structure Scan, Tidal Bass Tactics, Smallmouth, Chatterbaits, Seasonal Patterns, Bass on the Rocks and much, much, more.

Don't hesitate to check us out on the web to find the location closest to you. This is a chance of a lifetime to learn directly from the industries top professionals.

Our program is a weekend chocked full of information that you won't find in any magazine or video...Don't wait! Class space is limited.



Seminar Times

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday

Seminar Costs

Adults : \$199.00

Youth : \$175.00

17 and under/students

Check www.thebassuniversity.com for additional dates and times

© 2012 the bass university • all rights reserved

Special Thanks to
our Sponsors



Catch More Fish.



Rapala



LOWRANCE



Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Exposition



Like us on 

ODU



Beaches Best For Summer Snook

By Capt. Bill Miller

Snook are Florida's premier inshore species and summer is a great time to fish for them. You have options for where to find these hard-fighting fish but it comes down to this: Do you want pretty pictures or memorable action? If you want the latter, you'll want to look for your summer snook along beaches and passes.

All along the Gulf Coast this time of year, snook will cruise the beaches – sometimes literally at your feet. Walk – not boat, walk – along the shore as the sun first rises with a fly rod or a light spinning rod and your chances of hooking a snook are good. The snook will be so close to the water's edge that they're almost too shallow for most boats. This, however, puts them within easy range of land-based anglers.

In most cases, you'll do best by casting parallel to the beach because the snook will mostly cruise this lane. If you can see the fish, cast in front of them; if you can't, start with parallel casts and work outward toward the sandbar. If you don't get bit, keep moving down the beach and use this same casting strategy.

When to Fish: After about 10 a.m. the action slows down due to boat and wading traffic, so I like fishing early mornings. However, if the wind is calm, the fishing can be good all day. Snook will bite on incoming tides, but the outgoing cycle is usually better. For big snook, the best time period is a hard outgoing tide on the evening of a new or full moon.

Where to Fish: Most of the beach snook are smaller fish, but you'll find the bigger ones closer to the passes where you can wade to the beach points or approach by boat. Top areas for the Central Gulf Coast include Hurricane Pass, the swash on either end of Anclote Key and Honeymoon Island, the Clearwater Pass jetties, Johns Pass, Blind Pass, Pass-A-Grille Pass, and Longboat Pass. These areas are where the big spawners congregate, so your chances of encountering a giant fish are highest. Passes with some type of hard structure such as a pier, bridge or rocks present prime snook habitat.

What to Throw: With spinning gear, I'll throw a white buck tail, a DOA TerrorEyz in green and silver, MirrOlure 'Lil John (silver) on a 1/16-ounce head, MirrOlure MirrOdine Mini, or anything else that resembles a small baitfish. My favorite fly is a chartreuse and white clouser minnow. Clousers come in different weights and I like the lightest one in this shallow environment. Near the passes, my top live baits are big grass grunts, threadfin herring and horse minnows (large pilchards).



Strategy Points: Breeding schools can be sight fished along the edges of the passes. If you see the school, anchor away and make long cast's upcurrent of their position and let the bait drift back to them. If you're live baiting, a few chummers might help.

If you can't see the fish, anchor along the pass edges and fish for awhile. If you don't have any luck, move down the beach and beach and again until you find them. Remember to use heavy enough tackle to capture your snook with a short fight. You don't want to stress these fish during their spawning season, so catch them quickly, revive them if needed and release them to fight again.

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.

Slip Bobber Nuances for Walleyes

By Jason Mitchell

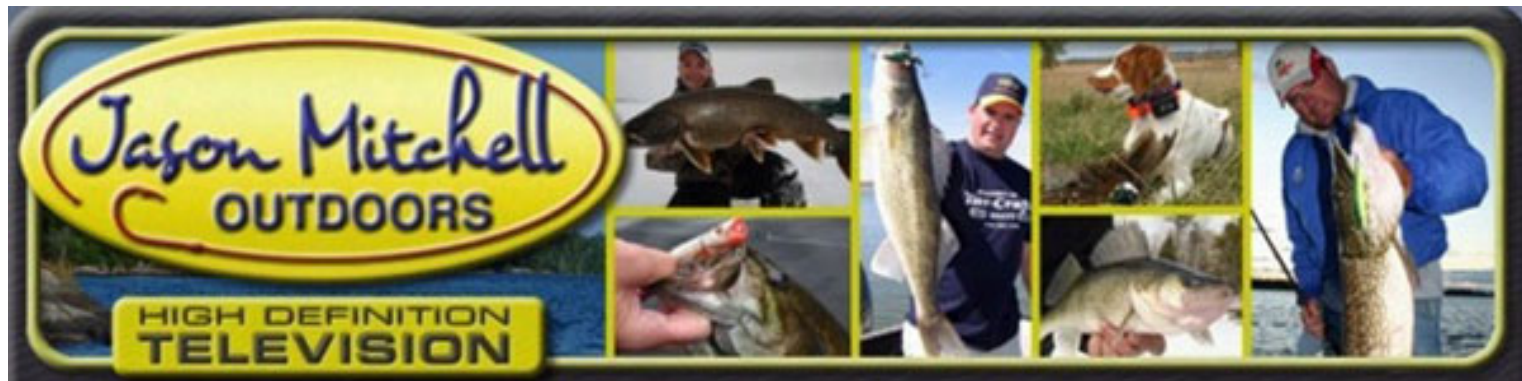
As a guide, I believed that the most effective game plans just kept walleye fishing straight forward and simple. There are plenty of folks in this business who try to make fishing really complicated, and you can make fishing akin to rocket science if you wish... I, however, made a living as a guide by dumbing the process down. I found that by keeping the process simple, I could accommodate people with a wider range of experience and skill levels without making fishing intimidating. I didn't want to set out and prove my angling abilities or show off some superior intellect... that is not what I wanted to be. My goal was to take people out and put them in a situation where they could catch fish, not watch me catch fish or feel intimidated.

Using slip bobbers to catch walleyes is incredibly effective if done right. I relied on the slip bobbers an awful lot through my years as a guide. The reasons being that I could anchor on a good spot and not worry about boat control... a good anchor is the best boat control, there is. My

hands were free; I could deal with tangles, interact with the folks in my boat, not burn up a lot of gas and catch a lot of fish. Slip bobbers were also hands-on enough where the people get to enjoy the hook set, and everybody loves watching a bobber disappear.

Now if the bobbers are not disappearing, using slip bobbers are akin to watching the paint dry on a barn but in the right location... this simple system is deadly. The biggest myth there is regarding catching walleyes with slip bobbers. However, in my opinion, is just the light line, small jig mentality. There were a group of people who thought you had to add milligrams of shot to the line until the bobber just barely poked out of the water. Now I am not saying that you have to fish like a caveman but there are so many scenarios where anglers shoot themselves in





the foot by trying to finesse fish to the point where they are just not efficient. For a while, there was a mentality that slip bobbers had to be delicate and the presentation had to be natural, which meant; light line, small hooks and tiny amounts of weight.

Here is my take on this mentality of slip bobber fishing. When you combine a tiny little slip bobber and have no weight in regard to split shot or jig, it takes longer for the bait to reach the fish. If you can count to ten, and your slip bobber is still lying on its side because the bobber stop hasn't pulled to the bobber, you are wasting time. Here is the other factor, small bobbers that have just a little of the tip poking out of the water can't be seen once they drift from the boat. I can understand trying to subdue the motion of waves on the presentation but there are better ways to do this without sinking the bobber to the point where you cannot see it. In all honesty, there are so many situations where some resistance is good for Walleye.

The reality is that every fishery is a little different and there are many ways to skin a cat. What we have found, however, is that we are often much more effective with slip bobbers by being somewhat unorthodox to conventional slip bobber wisdom. The basis of the system is this; put and keep good bait in front of fish. Some of the nuances, however, surprise some anglers.

I like to use the largest slip bobbers I can get away with. I am not talking jugs, but if I were to pick one size, it would be the Northland Tackle Lite-Bite Classic 1-inch oval slip bobber. Why the larger float? Because it will hold up more weight, which gets down to the bottom faster as soon as the bobber and bait hit the water. When running several rods, it is easier to manage the course or drift of each bobber. The other advantage is that I can fish further away from the boat and see the bobber in heavy waves. Walleyes don't have any issue pulling them under, they just disappear. Because I often had to deal with pike and flooded timber, I liked to use a braided line for my main line from a durability standpoint, but the bad part about braid is that bobber stops slide. Bionic is one of the better braided lines for bobber stops' sticking. Use a heavier braid like 14-pound test so that the bobber stop can stick good.

Below the bobber, I rig a small egg sinker instead of using split shot, and I tie on a snap swivel. Now why the egg sinker? Egg sinkers don't get tangled in the net so much or wrap up in itself as bad as a removable split shot. Pull on the line and the tangle pops and untangles out of the net after getting a fish, just a little tip to speed up your get back in the water time. Below the sinker and snap swivel, we attach a short snell that either has a plain hook or a small jig. In timber, I would often rig up a snell that would break off versus the main braided

line, so I didn't have to chase bobbers around the lake. Another option if you are targeting big fish in really snaggy timber is to forgo the swivel and leader and just tie the hook or jig directly to the braid and use a bobber stop above the jig and below the bobber to keep from losing bobbers.

When the fish are biting well, you can use either plain hooks or small jigs and catch fish. Obviously, the number-one focus is sitting on a good spot. Both plain hooks and jigs however have a place. There are times, for example, in strong winds where the swells were big when plain hooks, and longer leaders were the ticket. I believe what was happening was that the waves were pushing the presentation up and down too dramatically and by using a longer snell and plain hook; the whole presentation was subdued with less up and down movement.

Small jigs on the other hand can add a small flash of color which seems to help at times. A great wide gap hooked jig for slip bobbers is the 1/32-ounce Fireball. Most 1/32-ounce jigs have tiny pan fish hooks so a small jig with a walleye size hook is really beneficial. Bait selection can really vary from lake to lake but across the board, leeches are tough to beat below a slip bobber. Especially when using a plain hook, hooking the leech through the middle will increase the

Everything you need to plan your next fishing trip!

- Fishin' Times
- Moonrise/Moonset
- Sunrise/Sunset
- Major & Minor Feeding Times
- Current Moon Phase
- Weather
- Big'Uns log/photo gallery
- Fishing News & Tips
- Podcast
Tightlines® with Sammy Lee



For iPod Touch, iPad or iPhone and Android
www.fishmateapp.com

FishMate®
the ultimate app for anglers!

swimming motion of the leech and is too much for most walleyes to ignore. Half crawlers can be deadly behind the 1/32-ounce Fireballs, just thread the crawler so it can hang straight off the back of the jig. Minnows are another staple. Shiners are often lip hooked. Chubs and rainbows can be tail hooked.

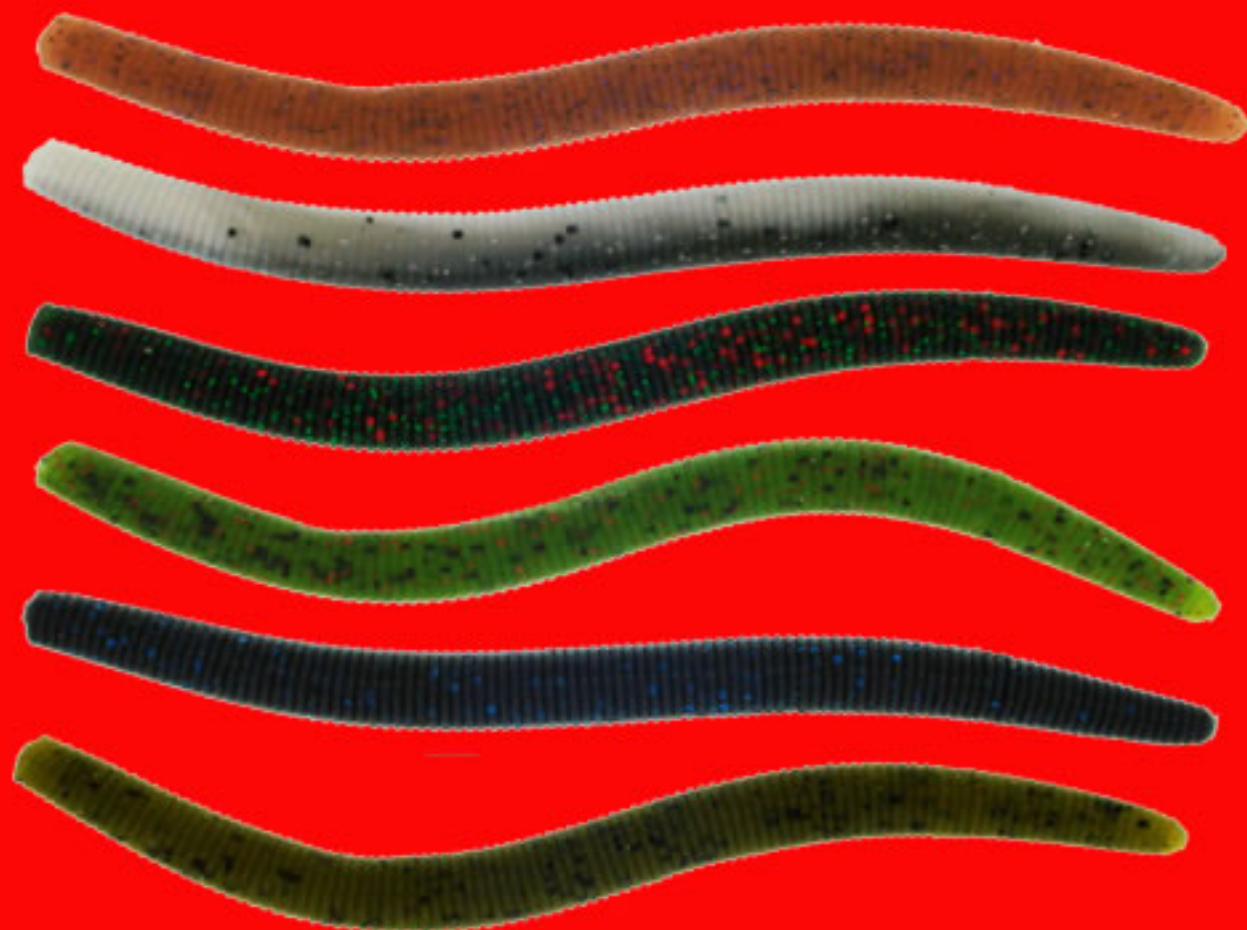
Long rods with some back bone allow anglers to fish slip bobbers further away from the boat allowing you to make longer drifts and cover more water. We designed an eight foot telescoping slip bobber rod that was designed specifically for corking walleyes. One feature we added to the rod which can be used as a tip for any rods that you already own... every foot of the rod blank we marked with a white dot. This allows you to use the rod blank as a ruler for making quick adjustments to your depth setting. When running several rods, you will speed up your adjustment time dramatically as you hop from spot to spot. Our rods already have the markings but an angler can mark any rod with either tape or some other marking to create the same concept.



Slip bobbers are effective and efficient because you can sit on a good spot with a good-looking presentation, i.e. Jumbo leech squirming and swimming frantically about a foot off the bottom, what is there not to love? My making a few adjustments, however, you can fine tune this presentation to become more efficient when focusing on walleyes.



***Wave Introduces the new
Super Soft Pro Series!***



www.WAVEFISHING.COM

Fish with a Platypus?

By Larry Thornhill



Even by modern creature bait standards, the Wave Fishing Platypus is a strange looking bait. Two front tentacles with their feet turned vertical, two rear tentacles with flappers turned horizontal and a big, wide flat tail make it look like something that bass would run from, and you couldn't blame them if they did.

Other than the obvious, one of the things that make this bait so unique is that it looks pretty much like the real thing. Endemic to Australia, the Platypus is a fearsome looking animal—it's often described as a duck's bill on a beaver's body—that's fully capable of surviving in the wild. It'll grow to something just short of 2 feet in length and a big one will weigh over 5 pounds. Add to that the fact that males have venomous stingers on their back feet and you begin to get the picture.

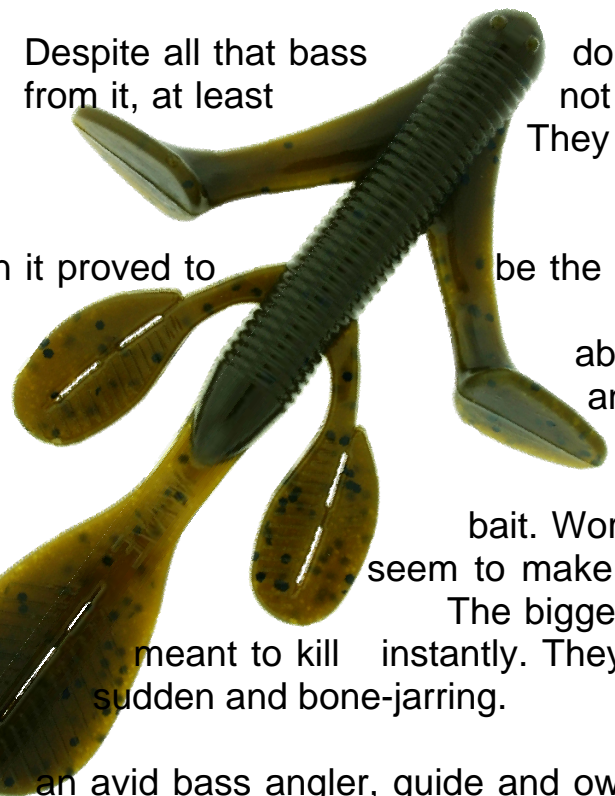
inch model produced and sold by Wave Fishing. it with a vengeance.

On a recent trip with Sean Lewis to Lake Gaston it proved to choice for us. We Texas rigged it with a heavy (pegged) and a EWG style hook. That's simple as it gets for us bass and it's easy on the pocketbook, too.

On that trip it basically qualified as our universal around isolated cover or thick vegetation didn't difference. The bite was good either way. grabbed it with solid strikes that were playing for keeps. The strikes were

Despite all that bass from it, at least

don't run not the 4- They attack



be the bait of sinker about as anglers,

bait. Working it seem to make much

The bigger bass meant to kill instantly. They were sudden and bone-jarring.

"I like any sort of creature bait," says Lewis, an avid bass angler, guide and owner of Twin Lakes Outfitters, a tackle shop located in South Hill, Virginia. "But the Wave Platypus

is really something special, and I've fished just about all of them.

"The plastic is somewhere in the middle between tough and soft, just right for a creature bait. If you Texas rig it properly, it'll punch through heavy vegetation with no problems but at the same time do very well around rock, wood and isolated grass. To be honest I'm in love with it. It's the absolutely perfect creature bait for Texas rigging."

Lewis defines rigging it right as using the right type hook and hanging the bait perfectly straight. With the Platypus he uses something in the 3/0 size range for his EWG style hook.

"I want the point of my hook to penetrate just at, or slightly below, the first set of tentacles. That'll make a big difference in how many fish you hook. At times they'll have a tendency to pick the bait up by the tail and move it out of the way. (They do this with all creature baits, most especially around the spawn.) If the bait hangs straight as an arrow and the hook is back a ways you'll still be able to hook them when they start doing that."

Lewis' retrieve is much like you would work a jig. Try a combination of slow lifts and drops, as well as hard snaps up, until you find what the fish want. Most of the time he'll fish with a slower lift and fall in shallow water, and a harder upward snap in deeper water. And, upon occasion he'll swim his combination just over the top of the structure or cover he's targeted making sure he bumps into something occasionally.

On our trip we had the most success with New Orleans as a color choice but Lewis is quick to point out that, although that's his favorite, Black Blue Sapphire will kill 'em, too.

"If there's one thing I'd tell guys about this bait it's to give it a try this summer. Texas rig it real straight with a big EWG hook and find you a ledge or a patch of weeds way out in deep water. Throw it right into that stuff and start fishing. You'll have a boat full of bass before you know it!"



May Big Bass Come Your Way

By Chris Jenkins

For the majority of the anglers on the water this month, it's all about the numbers. Considering the fact that water temperatures have risen quickly this year, the bass's metabolism should be in overdrive. Smaller fish tend to eat smaller meals, and will be constantly on the lookout for food. That is the cause and effect of higher catch rates for most anglers.

If your interests lean more toward a larger fish this month, I can certainly try to point you in the right direction. During low-light conditions, your odds will always increase when targeting the biggest fish in the area. Dusk and dawn are vital times to be on the water going forward. Despite being a top predator, big bass are skittish in my opinion. Other than to spawn, the only time they feel comfortable in the shallows is under low-light conditions unless the water is extremely dingy. That being said I try to launch an all-out attack when the time is right because there never seems to be enough time during peak conditions. I will generally try to adhere to what some anglers refer to as a "Milk Run".

A milk run consists of several high probability spots on any given body of water. Timing is



crucial when you are trying to reap the benefits of a “golden hour”. That’s why I try to use baits that will allow me to cover water in somewhat quick fashion.

High probability areas for me consist of points, feeding flats that are near to a drop off, grass lines in near proximity to deeper water, and of course, any good-looking wood. If I can map out three to five spots that meet the criteria, I can usually work them effectively in an hour or two. For me, the lure selection may look something like this:



A buzz bait, a swimming jig with an obese trailer, a large walk the dog style bait, and a wake style swim baits as well as a swim bait to cover sub surface fish. I will also always have a jig or Texas rigged soft plastic on the deck to hit target specific spots like wood.

When addressing any spot I will kill the gas motor a safe distance away to prevent spooking fish. Again that is just my paranoia speaking. For points, I will sit off to one side and make a couple of casts to the shallow end. I will then pull my boat up onto the shallow end of the point and make several cast to the deeper sections and draw fish shallow in the hopes of making one commit to my lure. When fishing the edge of feeding flats and grass lines it is imperative that you make casts that parallel the edge of the cover and or structure we are speaking about. The reason is your lure will remain in the highest percentage area for the length of the cast. If you have someone in the back of the boat, this is certainly going to irritate that person, but just tell them you are marking a lot of fish behind the boat or blame it on the wind.

If your schedule does not allow you to be on the water during dusk and dawn, there are certainly other opportunities during the course of the day to catch fish. I usually find offshore structure with my Hummingbird Depth finder and look for fish. It is pointless to wet a line if there are no fish present. I scour areas like underwater humps, Creek channels, and deepest

section of points. If you can find a point that extends out to a creek channel, you have found a sweet spot that has the potential to hold not only lots of fish, but some really big fish as well. Planting brush piles is certainly a good idea too.



ODU Magazine

SPRING FISHING

**Santee Cooper
Says It All
Sneaky
Sheepshead**

Take a Kid Fishing

**Suwannee Bass Thrive In The Pristine
Water Of Florida's Big Bend**

**Calling Turkeys On Pennsylvania's
Public Lands**

Warm Up with Hot Spring Panfish



When fishing deeper water during the summer months, I like to use a bait with a large silhouette and one that puts off some vibration. I have always been a big fan of Berkley's Power Bait lures. The ten-inch worm has accounted for a lot of big fish for me, even at night. Now Berkley has introduced a twelve-inch version that is a must-have for any angler who wants to increase his or her odds of catching the fish of a life time. Unlike jelly, spray, or dipping type scents that wear off quickly, Power bait is actually cooked into the material of the soft plastic. Thousands of hours of research have gone into creating Powerbait. Bass do not eat garlic, or anise licorice. And let me enlighten you on something else: all that table salt that is poured onto soft plastics is designed to catch the angler ...not the fish. The chemo receptors in a bass's mouths are too small to even detect that type of salt. Actual prey salt that is derived from the likes of bait fish, worms and crayfish are the only type of salt that can be fitted into their receptors. If you are going to

build confidence in something...build it using something that actually, works.

If you find that your Powerbait lure has lost some of its pungent punch, take a nail file and scratch up its surface to release a wave of... dare I say "fresh new scent". It's cooked in and keeps working. Any ways, I like to hop and drag big worms when I am fishing the aforementioned structural spots. I also on occasion toss out the biggest lipless crankbait (Rattletrap) I can find and let it sink to the bottom. Then I just rip it off the bottom and let it flutter back down. Bear with me here, but you can apply the same technique using a five-inch spoon. I know it sounds absurd, but when there is a school of fish present they will fight over what appears to be a wounded bait fish. If you prefer to crank, try the Sebile D S Crank. This thing runs to depths of 20 feet. Plus you will not get it snagged thanks to the unique hook system.

These are just some things to think about, and I hope one of my recommendations will help someone land the fish of a lifetime. Send me an email if you have any questions or suggestions. Respect and enjoy our waters. sowbelly.hunter@yahoo.com



Bobby's 1st trip



KEEPAMERICA FISHING
The Voice of the American Angler

People want to stop
you from fishing.

We won't let that happen!

Get Involved Today at
www.KeepAmericaFishing.org

Join
KeepAmericaFishing!

Get Involved Now at www.KeepAmericaFishing.org!



KeepAmericaFishing™ is a registered trademark of the American Sportfishing Association.

ODU



Tarpon Season Takes Off Key Conditions Influence Migrating Fish

**By Capt. Bill
Miller**

Without any question, the most eagerly anticipated event for fishermen on Florida's Gulf Coast is the beginning of tarpon season. They're

known as the "silver king" for good reason, and these powerful, shimmering giants present one of the most challenging and rewarding pursuits the sea has to offer.

Each year, tarpon season starts with two types of early-season fish – local residents and the first wave of migrating tarpon. The locals seem to live here year-round and they spend their winters in places like the power plants, marinas, deep creeks and rivers like the Hillsborough, Manatee, Little Manatee and Alafia.

Here's a look at the key factors that influence spring tarpon movement:

WEATHER: Warm, stable conditions like we have mostly had this year will bring the residents out first and right after that, the travelers will arrive. The travelers usually arrive on a new or full moon. This year a big bunch arrived on the new moon in April. When the weather is nice, the new arrivals will feed heavily, but bad weather will slow the migration and if the fish are already here, rough conditions usually push the tarpon offshore until things clear up.

WATER TEMPERATURE: Historically, we can expect to start noticing the arrival of migrating tarpon and the appearance of resident fish coming out of their wintering holes when the water



temperature reaches the upper 60's. At 70 degrees, the fish should be showing up steadily, with their earliest appearances around bridges at night.

FOOD: The spring baitfish migration is a key factor in the arrival of tarpon from the south and west. When the food starts moving, the predators follow.

TIDES: I have not seen tides playing much of a factor in when migrating tarpon arrive or where they go. However, when they settle into where they want to be, they will usually feed on the stronger tidal flows, as they will throughout their months in our area. Just remember that strong tides don't always mean a good tarpon bite. Sometimes the bite will be on the changes of the tide. Also, certain spots don't produce well on hard tides, so pay attention to how your bait presentations and if the fast moving water is a hindrance, choose another spot.

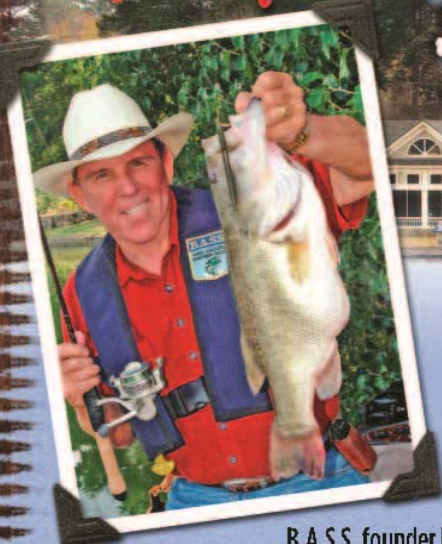
As we get deeper into spring, the days will grow longer and the tarpon migration will pick up steam, as the fish's internal calendar tells them it's time to move. The full and new moons of May will have the tarpon ready to play and from then on, it's going to be several months of fun for bay area anglers.

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.



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.

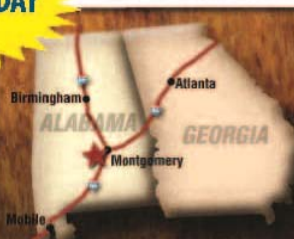
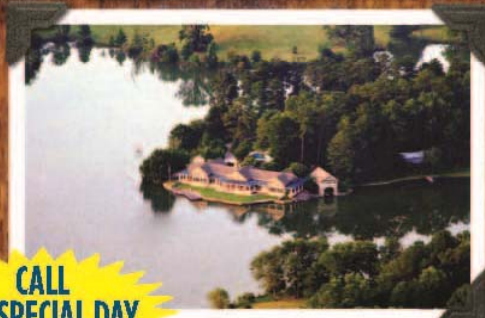
Named "Best Bass Lake" in America by "Outdoor Life" Magazine

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

Shockingly Good Chinook Fishing On Lake Ontario

By Vic
Attardo

Over 300 feet of copper wire, thick as an electrical cord, stretched from a downrigger rod into the deep waters of western Lake Ontario.



Capt. Bob Cinelli shows off a spring Chinook salmon from western Lake Ontario. – Photo by Vic Attardo

In the distance -

- at least a five-mile distance -- a heavy line of indigo clouds carrying rain and lightening sped towards our position.

Roy Letcher, mate on the 36-foot “White Mule,” stood on a flat pool of water in the stern where he had just finished cleaning a half dozen big Chinook salmon, holding a rod and feverishly reeling in the copper line so we could beat the storm.

Suddenly Letcher let out a slight exclamation of pain and surprise.

“I just got shocked,” he said.

Next to him, I was reeling in another line with the same seven-strand copper wire, very happy to have caught some of the Chinook the mate had just cleaned. My feet were probably wet as well and I had sneakers on. As I lynched the copper line onto the reel, I felt a strong sting on my fingers -- first one, then a second and a third in quick succession.

“I just got shocked too,” I said.

The sensation felt like the time that, as a boy, I had crawled under an electrified cow wire to reach a farm pond full of fat bluegills and I was buzzed on the butt. Ooooh!

Neither burst was enough to knock me down, but I was reminded that Ben Franklin and Thomas Edison had learned to control electricity – somewhat -- and that the Great Creator still knew how to ionize the sky so that any fisherman, stupid enough to trail a metal

conductor into deep water with a thunderstorm bearing down, would be given a lesson in electricity as well.

Science aside, this spring Chinook, or King, salmon are running like gangbusters through the western basin of Lake Ontario and the White Mule's Captain Bob Cinelli had taken us directly to the hottest fishing grounds.

Equipped with two 400-Horse Power inboard motors, Cinelli and his boat – so named by his wife because the craft was ornery and stubborn in its rebuild – got us quickly out to the salmon spot, about four miles off shore and another four miles west of the harbor village of Wilson.

"The lake drops 100 feet in depth for every mile you go out, then it levels out at about four miles," Cinelli said, indicating we were fishing in about 300 feet of water with the Canadian city of Toronto as clear as the writing on the Stanley Cup that the Flyers won't hoist yet again.

Cinelli's eyes worked the twin color monitors at the helm looking for smudged pods of baitfish and the larger check marks that might indicated salmon and other game fish. But he also scanned the water, not for jumping fish or diving gulls, though either would have been welcomed, but for water color.

ODUM Magazine™

 Find us on
Facebook

**FISHING
NEWS
HUNTING
NEWS**


ODUFishing


ODUHunting

Get Connected With ODU!

ODU

There were two colors on the vast expanse of Lake Ontario just out from the Niagara River – light green and dark green.

“(Light) green has more life in it,” Cinelli said, “life” being microscopic plankton which would attract bait fish such as gizzard shad and alewives. Chinook grow fat on shad and alewives so naturally they head to the green water too.

“This green water is from Lake Erie,” Cinelli explained, as Erie is the next lake upstream and the water comes by way of Niagara Falls.



Though you might think this green water takes a fixed course from the river out into Lake Ontario that

is not the case. It swirls like the chocolate tracks in a half-eaten, half-gallon of fudge ripple ice cream. For instance, the day before we fished featured a west wind; this day there was a mild north wind so, overnight, the green water had moved away from Toronto and miles to the east. When I asked Cinelli if he was looking for specific bottom structure to find fish, he shook his head saying the western basin doesn't have structure.

“The way to think about is that the wind is our structure. Where ever the wind takes the green water is where you'll find spring Chinook.”

Though Cinelli (710-860-9774) has lived his life along the western basin and can fish anyway and anywhere he pleases, he prefers deep-water trolling because of the challenge.

“I like this fishing the best because you have to think every day,” he said. “Think of it as river fishing with the river banks always moving.” This spring Cinelli's thinking started earlier than normal. Courtesy of the Pottstown Mercury.

“The Chinook bite began in the beginning of April and it usually doesn’t start until the beginning of May,” he noted.

It should continue until the third week of September – traditionally – which could mean that Cinelli and mate Letcher will expend a lot of brain cells by the time it’s over.

Letcher, citing the physical abilities of the Chinook quarry, described other demanding aspects of this game.

“These fish can move 50 miles overnight,” he said. As for presenting the bait and fighting the

salmon, “A couple of tail flaps and they’ll move 30 feet or more.”

Capt. Cinelli agreed.

“This is a physically demanding sport,” he said.

Early on I found out how demanding when a 15-



pounder struck on the deepest and longest downrigger line. The Chinook pulled out copper wire like a PPL crew stringing cable off a table-size spool. Forty or fifty yards were gone between the time the hook was set and I could turn the reel to gather wire.

A lot easier was when the Chinook hit rods equipped with regular mono and the only attachments were a dipsy diver and flasher ahead of a light-weight spoon. It also helped when Cinelli turned the White Mule’s wheel thirty degrees to disorient the fish and take pressure off the rod.

In the end, no one on board cared about the shocks from the approaching storm since before that, the fishing was so shockingly good.

For more info, contact Cinelli at the above phone number. He says he’s “old school” so has no web site; or visit the Niagara Tourism and Conventions at www.niagara-usa.com.

Want to?

Look Great! Feel Great! Do Great!

Visit: TournamentWear.com



10% discount use or mention code ODU10



TournamentWear.com

or call 321.214.9557

ODU



Really A Trout Fishing Fix?

By Larry Thornhill

I don't know about you, but I occasionally get the urge to do something different and break my normal routine? I.e. eat Mexican instead of Seafood, go to the movies instead of renting, fish Santee Cooper instead of Toho or Kerr. Conversely, really do something wild and crazy like going trout fishing instead of bass fishing.

Just like my Santee fix's, I like to break the routine and go trout fishing. Call it strange. Nevertheless, I like dawning on a set of chest waders. I have never been coordinated enough to feel comfortable in regular waders and besides that, filling up a set of waders with ice-cold water is no fun. It can ruin a trip in a heartbeat. To answer your question, yes I have done it numerous

times and believe me it's no fun breaking through the ice to get into your favorite stream and, step or fall into a hole and fill up your waders. It's not only invigorating, but it's awfully hard to walk when your waders are filled with ice-cold water. And yes, I have done it enough times that I make sure that I "ALWAYS" take a change of clothes.

This bass fisherman has never mastered the art of fly-fishing and probably never will, so I take the easy way out and use an ultra light spinning rod, something in the six to a seven-foot range with four to six-pound line preferably fluorocarbon with an ultra-light reel. I have found over the years that this combination can be used with a wide variety of lures, i.e. inline spinner baits, salmon eggs, flies can get a little hairy, but definitely doable.



When was the last time you were truly next to Mother Nature? I mean truly one with nature? It's amazing what it feels like to dawn on a set of waders and ease your way into the mountain stream.

Recently, a friend of mine, Santa Dan, from Jacksonville, Florida and his wife and mine went to Hiawassee, Georgia for a few days of R&R and a little trout fishing. We rented a cabin that was nestled between the mountains and just about 100 yards away from a mountain stream. We unloaded the gear and headed back into town to get our fishing license. Little did we know that all we had to do was call the state hot line, give them our credit card information, and we were good to go.

I was chomping at the bit to get my adventure started. This was the first time that I had been trout fishing in years. I unpacked my chest waders, spinning rod, tackle, and waders and off I went. I found a convenient place to gracefully work my way into this mountain stream and the adventure began.

Believe me when I tell you there's a world of difference when you're trying to work your way down, or up in some cases, a mountain stream with rocks covered with moss and slime, boulders and holes all just waiting to fill your waders with ice-cold water, than fishing out of a bass boat. I slowly worked my way down the stream looking for some



GREASY CREEK



OUTFITTERS

Southwest Virginia's Premier

Guide Service

New River Float Trips

Spin and Fly

~ Smallmouth ~ Walleye ~ Striper ~ Muskie ~

Multiple Raft Trips Available

WWW.GREASYCREEKOUTFITTERS.COM

Toll Free: 855-463-4740

unsuspecting trout. I forgot how difficult it was to walk, cast, look out for mossy rocks, holes, fight the current, etc., etc., etc., all at the same time. Who said that men can't multi-task? I never realized just how good I am at multi-tasking until I wrote this story. Dang my wife really doesn't have a whole lot over on me when it comes to multitasking, yea right. Just think guy's you can do all this and still put some food on the table.

I by no means claim to be an expert in anything, just dangerous in a lot of things, and I love to fish. Try and picture this scenario in your mind for a minute and you will have a better understanding why I love my trout fishing fixes. You have already dawned on your tight-fitting waders, waddled to the Creek. Yes, I said waddled. I have never been able to really walk in waders. You have eased your way into the stream, and please don't try to get in close to the rapids; this will almost guarantee you immediate disaster, and cold water in waders is no fun. You start your trek downstream, you get used to the water guiding you, where it wants you to go, not where you are intending to go. By now, you are starting to get the feel of how to maneuver over and around rocks and boulders. Then suddenly up pops a nice deep hole that takes you from walking in waste deep water into a chest deep hole. You scramble to regain your balance, as if you ever truly had it, and afterwards in your panic to maintain your balance to stay upright and out of the water, you slip into a crevice. It truly didn't matter if you saw it or not your destiny was already sealed. You had to try to maintain your balance. You recovered from all this two-step action, regain your balance and up pops another hole. You think what in the world am I doing in this trout stream? It definitely was a lot safer in my bass boat.





You finally start feeling that hopefully all those god-forsaken opportunities are behind you, and you start to get settled into the routine of fishing. Up to this point, you hadn't noticed there was no noise; except for the music that Mother Nature was providing, free of charge, water rushing down the mountain stream, over mini waterfalls and around your waders. No boat traffic, just birds' singing and silence. You glance around and occasionally spot a deer in the nearby pasture. The next thing

you notice is male and female Mallards swimming by and don't even give you a second glance. They just kept swimming downstream, stopping occasionally for a drink and something to eat.

Yes, I love trout fishing, but I am truly not sure what I love the most, the fishing or being one with nature. I really enjoy getting in a trout stream and matching my wits, agility, and angling abilities with nature.

I don't believe a meal can be much better than taking a trout directly from the stream, to the frying pan, and onto your dinner plate. Throw in some fried potatoes, mix in some green and yellow peppers a little onion and garlic and you will think that I have died and gone to heaven. Furthermore, adding a cold beverage helps. It's amazing the sweat you can work up fighting the rapids.

When you're ready for a change of pace, think about trying my suggestion and try a trout-fishing trip. It's relatively inexpensive, full of numerous opportunities and a whole new adventure.

FYI, for the purpose of this adventure I visited:
Hiawassee
3562 Riverfront Lane
Hiawassee, GA 30546

KEEP AMERICA FISHING
The Voice of the American Angler

People want to stop you from fishing.
We won't let that happen!

Get involved today at
www.KeepAmericaFishing.org

FISH!
KEEP AMERICA FISHING.ORG

KeepAmericaFishing™ is a registered trademark of the American Sportfishing Association.

Get Involved Now at www.KeepAmericaFishing.org!



History Lessons

By Bob Bohland

We have all had a great fishing spot ruined. Whether it is from a mouthy friend who likes to brag, someone else finding your spot, or just dumb luck by a few locals. There isn't much you can do other than fish with the rest of the crowd (which can amount to torture to me) or find a new honey hole. This can take a lot of work and, at least in my experience. A lot of failure before you hit pay dirt again. Many keep a log of lakes they have fished and what they have caught, sometimes even with pictures or GPS coordinates to remind them. Why keep old lakes that have gotten out in the back of your mind? Simple, because pan fish, especially crappies can recover in lakes that have seen the limelight of internet forums, magazine articles, and TV shows, and can return to their once lost glory.

The Alexandria, Minnesota area is home to a lot of very productive lakes, but these lakes also see a lot of pressure. Anglers in the area travel from hot lake to hot lake seemingly like locusts, but for area guide Joe Scegura, it is all just part of the game. Like a dealer at a 3-card Monte table, Joe always seems to pull another great fishing spot from out of nowhere. His secret? "I always keep detailed logs of where I have found good fishing, and in time go back to those notes to re-find lost gems."

Logs are a detailed part of any consistently successful angler's tools. These can range from the more advanced, such as spreadsheets or Word documents, to something much more simple, "Heck, I keep notes on my calendars," says Scegura, "Every time I get back from a trip, I write down conditions, what lakes I hit, and presentations that worked for me that day." Another thing that many anglers do is to add GPS coordinates to their notes; this can help you track fish movement from season to season, and even from day to day. Since the weather in our area of the country isn't exactly known to be consistent, water temperature data in your logs can really help pin down fish movement from year to year. Depending on the forage base available for fish, this recovery can happen in as little as 2-3 years, but in some lakes, it can take up to 8-10 years. Detailed notes with dates that a lake is producing can help narrow down where you should fish. If you haven't done so already, start keeping a fishing log, whether it



be on your computer or handwritten, and be honest with yourself. If you exaggerate and write that you were catching 13" crappies, when, in reality, they were at best 11" you are only hurting yourself, this is where an accurate measuring tool such as a Fish Trough can help you keep accurate records. When you put a fish on the board, there is no 'fudge factor'.

Another great source for filling the backlogs of your notes if you are just getting started is internet forums. There are a lot of great reports available, and they are updated every day, if not from hour to hour from a variety of sources. Doing a search for a few years back on some of these forums can lead you to some very successful spots to try. The surprising thing with most anglers, especially the ones that follow the hot bite around, is that they have a very short memory. So by keeping a record of what the 'flavor of the month' is, you can have a great lake almost to yourself after the masses have forgotten about.

“The funny thing is,” explains Scegura, “is that many times when fisherman think a lake is fished out, often the fish are just retreating to another spot on the body of water due to commotion. Lakes that produce year after year have places for these fish to retreat once the army of anglers arrives. They don’t have to be especially large lakes, but if they have a place to get away from the commotion and the pressure the fish will often survive the onslaught and can be caught in subsequent years” So you shouldn’t always assume that just because the fishing has slowed that the fish have all gone home to fill freezers. Often, they have simply moved due to the amount of pressure, and noise, which is created by a large amount of anglers congregated in an area for an extended period of time.

Joe conducts what he calls ‘spot-checks’ on lakes in his logs, “often I can gauge how hard a lake has been hit or how fast it is recovering pretty quickly. It doesn’t take too long to dump the boat in a lake and hit a couple spots to see what the size structure is like before I head off to a new place.” By periodically checking his lakes, he can find out how hard the fish population was decimated and set a timeline for when the lake starts producing quality fish again for him to put his clients on.



“Generally you are looking at a five to seven year turnaround for a lake that has been hit pretty hard; however lakes with those escape areas can recover a lot faster,” states Joe “but it really depends on the quality of the forage available to the fish. If the lake isn’t known for fast-growing pan fish, it can take longer for them to recover. Conversely, a lake that is well known for producing bruiser pan fish may recover much quicker due to a better forage base. I have also seen spots that anglers think the fish are gone, when, in reality, it is because there is just so much food available that they won’t bother with most presentations because they are full. This can happen from an insect hatch or even a boom in the minnow population.”

There are also lakes that are known for only providing good bites during certain times of the year, “Lake Osakis is one that really sticks out in my mind,” Joe explains, “No matter how hard it is hit, the lake only

seems to produce numbers of quality fish at certain times of the year.” Other lakes can follow this pattern as well. One of my favorite lakes, (although, I am a bit biased since I have been fishing it since I was 5) only produces trophy caliber fish during early ice and spring. Though neither Joe nor I really understand why this happens, it is something you truly cannot avoid, “your best bet is still to look at your past logs and find out when the fish were biting, what they were biting on, and where.”

The next key for conducting spot-checks of your own lakes is your past water temperature logs.

“Obviously lakes with darker water heat up faster after ice out, so temperature readings become vital for truly tracking the fish,” adds Scegura, “even shallower bays with dark bottoms can truly heat the water up more than the rest of a lake.

So it pays to keep your temperature recordings according to location.” In darker waters it can be more difficult to conduct your spot-checks. This is when Joe uses a flashy presentation, “I like to throw something big and bright to really get their attention. I am trying to move through areas quickly to gauge the population and size structure, so a bait like the Lindy Watsit Spin or a Dancin’ Crappie Spin Jig really helps get their attention and get them to commit. The sizes of these baits also lets me select for larger fish in the school and lets me know what the larger-sized fish population is like, which is what I am really after.”

Don’t give up on your old hotspots, these gems held great fish for you in the past, and they are capable of doing the same in the future. Just don’t forget the lessons Joe Scegura has learned over many years of guiding in a populated area: 1.) A good memory or good logs are your best friend. Wait until the hype dies down about the bite and hit it again. Keep going out there and keep tabs on how the fish population is recovering. 2.) Know how good the forage is in the lakes you are fishing. The better the forage available, the quicker the fish will recover from heavy pressure. 3.) Keep it to yourself! A great pan fish bite is harder and harder to come by these days. Going out and bragging to everyone in earshot about the great fishing you had on Lake X will only end with the demise of your bite.

Joe Scegura's Guide Service offers guided fishing trips across Central Minnesota, primarily on Alexandria area lakes, Mille Lacs Lake, and the northern part of the Mississippi River. Joe can be reached through his website at www.jsguideservice.com



Tournament Wear
Look Great! Feel Great! Do Great!

Quality Fishing Jerseys, apparel,
sunblock hats and more.

10% discount use or mention code ODU10
Visit TournamentWear.com
or call 321.214.9557

Daiichi

World's Sharpest Hooks

\$500,000

I.G.F.A. All-Tackle

World Record Rewards

- **Walleye**
- **Largemouth Bass**
- **Saltwater Striper**
- **Speckled Trout***

***AKA: Spotted Sea Trout**

**Register
NOW!**



**or visit: worldrecordhooks.com
for details and to register.**



Special Father's Day Edition of O'Neill Outside

By O'Neill Williams

He came back to Georgia in 1945 direct from 25 bombing missions over Japan as a decorated radio operator on a B-29, the only one in his radio class to return alive. He met and married an attractive 25-year-old war widow with a 3-year-old son.

He became an instant father.

He's never talked much about those 18-hour flights from the islands of Tinian and Iwo Jima over Japan. About twilight, the four giant engines roared to life

and eight young specialists, barely past their teens, settled in the position for the creaking; vibration filled takeoff over a dark Pacific Ocean, not knowing what level of resistance might await them. As the sluggish propeller driven flying fortress dodged exploding aerial flack, he ignored the noise, cold, and fear that must have been a constant companion, and focused on the duties that would help finish the attack and return the crew safely. It surely took a young

man to think of himself as immortal to endure and perform so fearlessly.

The post-war years in the late 40's were busy living and making due to raise that youngster and a 2nd son four years later. In those child-rearing times, the children must have been a priority because those two sons always felt they were. Affluent life style? Absolutely not! Riches? Yes, but of another, more lasting variety.



He became the father of two.

You see, 'father' is a word that requires acts of love, sacrifice, patience, and of enormous responsibility to wife, family, and employer. It's not a title to be taken lightly. That little boy, he so willingly accepted responsibility for in 1946, was a busy guy over the formative years, playing baseball, football, basketball, soccer, swim team, diving, wrestling, and even a growing interest in fishing. You know, in all those years, while not being able to provide experienced instruction for such an array of sports, after all who could have, that father never missed a single game or event. In the 15 years of dates and times, he was always there. He never missed once. Not to be the abusive, shouting, sideline parent of today, but to simply offer the support to smooth over the failures and rough spots and to give the 'atta boys' that would keep the effort maxed out and confident.

Yes, he became a father to me and has performed as such since I was three years old and continues to do so today. He has yet to ever miss a day of being there for that, too.

This Father's Day, consider the unselfish attention and caring you hopefully received from your father who so capably gave you the correct example necessary for you also to be a father. Then go tell him, you love him.

I just did.





Shake-E-Footballs

Shakey Head Style Football Jig Head

- Flexible Nickel Titanium Spring
- 6 Great Colors
- Picasso developed Duraseal Coating
- Chip Resistant
- Super Smooth
- Extra Hard



724-409-4400
www.PicassoLures.com



**Yahoo!
Wahoo!**

By Lou Mintzer



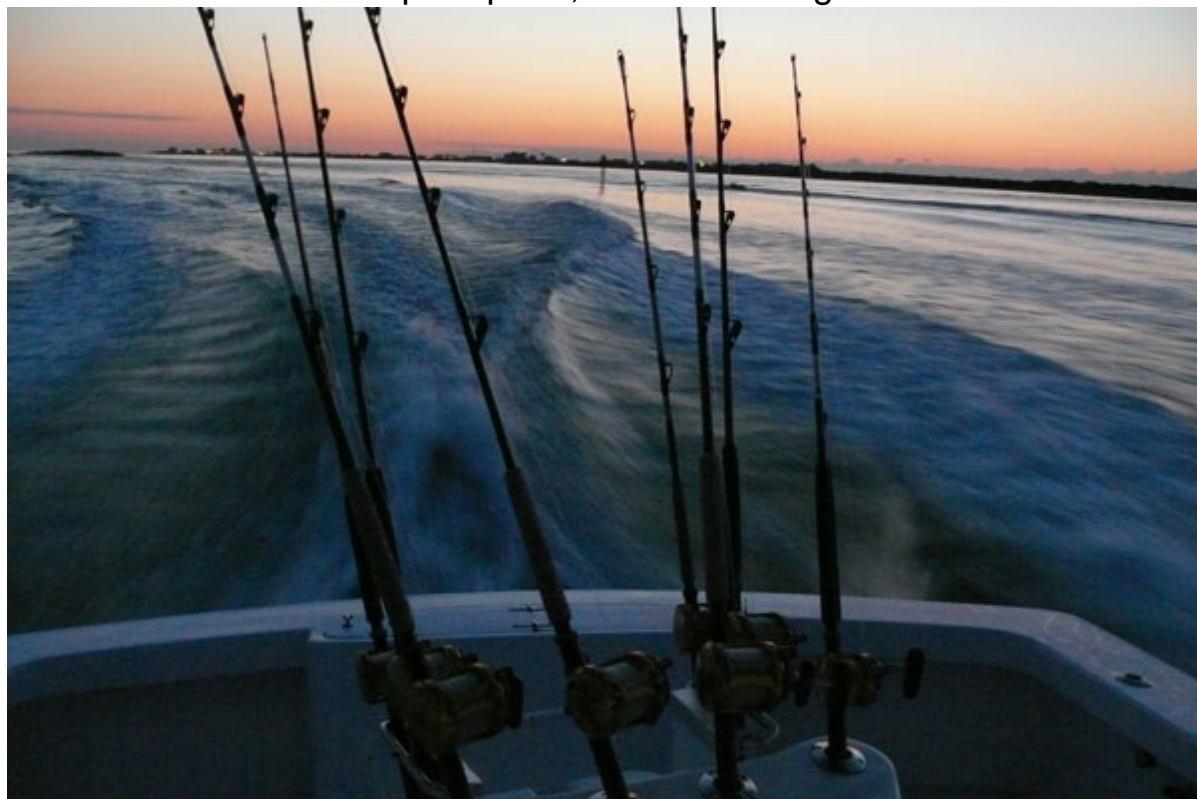
Seven fishing buddies from the Lake Norman area, Rich Doering, Howie Anger, Jake Bussolini, Jim Tatum, Frank Monaco, Lou Mintzer and Big Gus Gustafson, headed east a couple of weeks ago for a few days

of offshore fishing at Hatteras, N.C.

Three of the guys arrived Sunday night and went on a shared charter Monday morning for wahoo, mahi-mahi and hopefully tuna. They were set up with three anglers from Ohio. This was the first week of this season, and they had their pick of boats. The boat they hired, "Boss Lady" had not been out for weeks and experienced some mechanical problems along the way. Another boat came to the rescue with spare parts, and the fishing was on.

(If you don't have 5 or six anglers for your own charter call the marina, and they will try to set you up with other anglers.)

Jim Tatum, landed a 20 lb mahi-mahi, his first ever and his first deep sea adventure. Rich Doering and Howie Anger had one wahoo each. The Ohio boys had a couple more



Rich cooked up a great seafood buffet that night.

Four of us arrived on Wednesday. Some of the wahoo ended up in a low-country boil with shrimp, corn and potatoes. Rich once again did a great job, and we ate like kings.

Thursday, the high winds kept most of the charter boats at the dock so our gang went on a half-day head boat trip on the Hatteras Lady. Fishing was slow; the wind was blowing, and the captain kept the boat moving looking for fish. Rich caught the only keeper, a nice trigger fish. The rest of us caught plenty of little sea bass, pin fish and lots of small mackerel for bait on future trips.

The winds died down during the night and at dawn Friday, it was calm and clear. We boarded the 54' Hatteras Fever II with Captain Buddy Hooper, Mazey, the fish dog and the mate, Cat Peele.

Captain Hooper and his friend Ricky Scarborough built his boat 22 years ago. Hooper, a Hatteras native has been fishing since he was 8 years old and a captain since 1973. Check out www.hatterasfever.com for information.

Rich, Lou, Jim, Big Gus, Howie and Jake were ready to catch some fish.

Cat was busy from the start, rigging ballyhoo and getting the rods ready. After a little over an hour, we slowed down at the first spot called the Rock Pile. Cat got eight lines in the water and within 10 minutes, Rich Doering jumped into the fighting chair and took the first strike.



We all jumped up and cheered him on. Unfortunately, a nice wahoo executed a quick release right at the transom. An hour later Howie Anger, boated a bonito; bait for later. Then we had two hours to enjoy a beautiful quiet boat ride. No strikes, no fish. The captain got on the radio, yelled at the mate. We helped Cat reel in the lines, and we roared off to a spot known as "Triple Zero."

After about 30 minutes we slowed down and Cat quickly got the baits back in the water. It was quiet until about 11:30 and then all hell broke loose! We yelled, "Fish on! Yahoo Wahoo!" three of us jumped into the fighting chairs and started cranking the reels. Cameras clicked as three nice wahoos hit the deck, flopping wildly. Then we caught a couple of small black tunas, mahi and more wahoo. Lines, leaders and ballyhoo littered the deck. The bite died off, and we moved to the 880s and put a couple more in the box before heading back to the dock.



We had almost three rounds each in the fighting chair and ended up with 10 wahoo, three black tuna, two Mahi-mahi and the bonito and over 230 pounds of fish. Jake Bussolini caught a citation wahoo weighing 40.6 pounds. Jim had a 37-pound of wahoo, Jim was all smiles and exclaimed, "This was a dream come true, my first saltwater trip and I caught a mahi and a big wahoo. Life is good!" What a day!

We were really surprised at the big crowd lined up to see the boats unload their catch. We just happened to be on the best boat of the day. Our catch is pictured on the Hatteras Fever fishing report.

Another night of great fresh seafood and a noisy poker game ended our stay.

Rich is already planning a week of offshore fishing in late September and wants to charter the Hatteras Fever II for several days. Contact Lou at lou_mintzer@hotmail.com



I Have Lost My Mind

By Craig Stapon

As soon as the ice is off these beasts roam the shallows with a feed bag on. Spring Lake trouts are a blast to catch. Often forgotten as the normally dwell in the depths of many lakes in spring they can easily be had.

I love to troll for them early in the year. There are many different baits that work during the early season. I love to use shad raps, these babies' dive to about 15 feet, and I can work the drop offs very effectively. My favorite is the fire-tiger SR7; this bait put a pile of trout in the boat by trolling 2-3 mph.

When they hit, all I can say is wow! It's like a freight train, and it will stop you dead. My first reaction for a brief moment is to wonder if I snagged up. That thought is erased pretty quickly as the reels drag is put to the test. My wrists get sore as these Lakers truly put your angling skills to the test.

I always use a mono line when fishing for trout. What might surprise you is the fact that I use a 20-pound fluorocarbon tied directly to the lure. This is a very strong line that is invisible in the clear waters that I fish. I have also tagged many large Pikes without trout hunting. The 20-pound line is strong enough to do battle with a big fish but more importantly it prevents the lure from diving to deep. I also like the fact that the line will stretch a bit after a strike allowing for more hook ups as a braid will often rip their mouths apart.



I have caught trout casting shorelines with a sand or gravel base in less than 1 foot of water. You can imagine my surprise when a 15-pound trout ate my husky jerk while I was targeting shallow-water spring walleyes! That is a battle that I will remember for a long time. The fish

fought like a demon. Understand that it is water temperature that draws the bait fish to the shallows and the feisty trout are soon to follow. They put the feed bag on in spring and will just about hit any tasty morsel. Shiners, Perch and smelt are the targeted prey. The trout can travel in loose groups early in the season, and it is possible to catch multiple fish very quickly in one location. I like to look for sharp drops from shallow water as the trout can be spooky and look for easy escape routes when threatened. Work the edges of the drops and success will often follow.

Watch the moon phases and major and minor feed times as this really works. I have never seen a fish that is as predictable as a Lake Trout. When they are on it is nuts, when they are off you could have more fun watching the toast burn! Increase your chances, watch the water temperatures! As soon as the water reaches 51-52 degrees the Trout starts to leave for their summer haunts. Deep water is cool, and that is what trout prefers. So take your chance throw on a spoon or a crank and hit the shallows early in the year for some of the best trout action ever...

Fishing the New River Valley for Over 30 Years



Situational Awareness (Or common 'fishtakes' we all make)

By Darin Gillenwater

New titanium reel...CHECK

High dollar rod...CHECK

\$5,237.54 worth of every conceivable lure in every available color...DOUBLE CHECK

Making your mind up as to which of those lures you're going to catch fish on while you're still in the shower...PRICELESS!

OK...so maybe you don't have that kind of worth in your lure selection, but that is irrelevant. What IS, however, important is when you make your decision as to what you will throw at them? Now, I am guilty as sin of day dreaming about the day's activities when I'm getting ready to fish, and I will admit that I am pretty specific about it; right down to the lure I'm using.

I will also admit that whatever lure I'm thinking about the night before or in the shower, the morning of a fish hunt, is often the one that I am reaching for first when get ready to tie on. Not a problem if we are looking at trying out a new lure that someone threw at us to try, as long as the conditions are right, but think about it. if you're inside your house at oh-dark-thirty, waking up in the shower and thinking about how successful you're going to be with a watermelon colored worm that you caught your last pig on, or you convince yourself that because the color of the sky outside your house is clear as a bell and the wind is calm you need to go ahead and tie on a top water bait to be ready when you get there, are you really setting yourself up, for success?

Time and again, fishermen start tying on lures in their driveway based on what the weather is like there, or what worked yesterday, only to find out on the water that the choice was way off. When we get to letting ourselves make decisions based on what we think will work when we are nowhere near the hunting grounds, we throw situational awareness out of the window along with our odds at success. At best, if we heed common sense, we waste our time cutting off the wrong lure and putting it away when we could have been patient and grabbed the best one for the job first after we got a chance to look at what we are dealing with. It works...if you believe it! <http://www.greasycreekoutfitters.com>

Hatchery Bass Making A Difference In Florida

**By Bob Wattendorf
With Rick Stout and
Dave Yeager**



Fisheries biologists often refer to a three-pronged approach to fisheries management: habitat, fish and people. To develop and sustain high quality recreational fisheries, all three components need to be addressed.

Most biologists tend to stress that habitat – from water quality and quantity, to the amount of structure, including aquatic plants and resulting forage – may be the most critical. However, managing fish, which is often seen as stocking more or “better” fish, is often the first thought of anglers. Meanwhile, the people aspect, which includes engaging the public in stewardship of the resource, participation in outdoor recreation and regulations regarding harvest, is often the most visible approach.

This column will focus on fish stocking but show examples of how the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) integrates all three of these management aspects to make stocking successful. And, it emphasizes that even after nearly three-quarters of a century of active state fisheries management, learning how to use hatchery fish effectively is still a learning process.

Lake Talquin, an 8,800-acre reservoir near Tallahassee, is an excellent example of the FWC’s three-tier approach. The reservoir, which was formed by damming the Ochlockonee River for hydroelectric generation, is best



known as a crappie and bream fishery. Historically, the steep embankments provided a limited littoral (shallow area near the shore) zone for bass to spawn and where submerged aquatic plants could grow. Those plants help shelter the eggs from currents and also provide places for baby fish to hide and feed. As a result, natural bass production in the reservoir was not optimal.

Consequently, FWC biologists implemented its three-phased approach to manage largemouth bass in Lake Talquin, beginning in 2000. These activities included planting shoreline vegetation, stocking hatchery fish and implementing an 18-inch minimum size limit on black bass. Today, native bulrush, much of which was transplanted by FWC programs, comprises 5 percent of the shoreline. The long-term goal is to have bulrush on 7 percent to 10 percent of the shore. Once accomplished, natural reproduction of bass and other sunfish should be enhanced.

Meanwhile, since 2000, FWC has stocked more than 700,000 advanced-sized (3- to 4-inch) hatchery bass to improve the population. These fish are extremely difficult to raise to this size in large numbers at hatcheries because of their cannibalistic nature and the amount of pond space and time required. However, these stockings using fish from the two FWC freshwater hatcheries (Blackwater in Santa Rosa County, and the Florida Bass Conservation Center in Sumter County) proved immensely successful.

Timely releases of 2- to 3-inch hatchery bass, reared in ponds on natural food, resulted in 17 percent to 40 percent of the young fish collected in Lake Talquin from October 2000-2003. These young hatchery fish were born the previous spring (called Age-0 fish by biologists). Three years later, hatchery fish comprised about 25 percent of the angler catch from bass tournaments on Lake Talquin. These fish were identified using a metal-detecting wand to determine the presence of a coded-wire tag. These tags are about the size of the tip of a mechanical pencil lead, and biologists implanted them in the cheek of the hatchery fish before stocking (see MyFWC.com/fishing, and click "Stocking Locations/Info" for a video of the tagging process).



Since 2010, at least 15 hatchery bass weighing 8 to 11.5 pounds have been recaptured from Lake Talquin. Since only about one-fifth of the stocked fish were tagged from 2000-03, many more fish could have been harvested, or caught-and-released, by anglers who didn't know they were holding a hatchery-spawned

BIG FISH

www.bigfishtackle.com

BASS FISHING BOARD



**Awesome Bass Fishing Tips,
Product Give-Aways,
Instant Answers To All
Your Bass Fishing Questions!**



**Fishing Forum with over
100,000 Members**

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE FORUM NOW

www.BigFishTackle.com

bass. Supplemental stocking and aquatic plant management activities, as well as the 18-inch minimum length limit may all have contributed to the success of the largemouth bass trophy fishery on Lake Talquin.

This accomplishment is impressive, given that successful largemouth bass stockings into existing populations have been very limited in Florida and the southeast, and were generally discontinued. Previous stocking efforts typically involved phase-I fingerling bass, which were pond-reared in hatcheries on zooplankton to a size of about 1 to 1.5 inches. Those fish quickly became vulnerable to predators when stocked in public water bodies. Given the prolific nature of bass when suitable spawning habitat is available, the supplemental hatchery fish typically did not contribute much to anglers' overall success.



Unfortunately, raising enough 3- to 4-inch bass in hatchery ponds to supplement a significant number of lakes in Florida is cost prohibitive. As a result, two alternate approaches are being experimented with. The first involves use of new artificial diets and a method FWC developed to train fingerling bass to consume it, rather than each other, so they can be grown in intensive tank management systems more cost effectively. The other involves tricking the adult bass in hatcheries using light and temperature to spawn earlier (or later) than they would in nature. This allows pond-reared, phase-I bass to be stocked earlier in the year when there is better forage, such as baby threadfin shad.

Charlie Mesing, the Habitat and Species Conservation biologist responsible for helping manage Lake Talquin, and other FWC scientists experimented with the latter approach



recently. Their 2008 scientific publication concluded that stocking low numbers of 3- to 4-inch pond-reared bass prior to the threadfin shad spawn, which occurs around the middle of May in Lake Talquin, can result in significant fishery improvements.

In March 2012, FWC released approximately 800,000 small bass (1-2 inches) as a one-time early "experimental stocking" to compare to previously larger sized fish stocked in May from 2000-2010. Moreover, all of these

fish were carefully tested to make certain that they contain the proper Florida bass genetics, were disease/parasite free and will not adversely affect the fish populations into which they are stocked.

Largemouth bass are not the only fish stocked in Florida's fresh waters by the FWC. Anglers can learn more about the species and locations stocked by visiting MyFWC.com/Fishing. Recently, signs have been posted at boat ramps where stockings have taken place. The signs have a QR code that allows anglers with smart phones to scan it to learn more about the stockings that took place at their locale.



Blackwater hatchery is responsible for much of the striped bass and sunshine bass production that takes place in Florida. Being at the extreme lower limit of their range, striped bass were already challenged but damming of their spawning rivers nearly completely eliminated natural reproduction. The sunshine bass is a hybrid created in the hatcheries by crossing a female white bass and male striped bass, and they don't reproduce naturally. So the fact is that if you catch either of these fishes in Florida, they almost certainly came from an FWC hatchery. Recently, several trophy-sized striped bass have been reported from Panhandle rivers, owing to these stocking efforts.

During 2010-11, more than 4 million freshwater fish were placed in public waters. FWC is on schedule to meet or exceed that goal for 2011-12 and continues to study ways to make stocking more successful, while enhancing habitat and using appropriate regulations to ensure Florida remains the Fishing Capital of the World.

Instant licenses are available at MyFWC.com/License or by calling 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Report violators by calling 888-404-3922, *FWC or #FWC on your cell phone, or texting to Tip@MyFWC.com. Visit www.MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "more news," or scr.bi/Fish-busters for more Fish Busters' Bulletins.

Santee Cooper Country

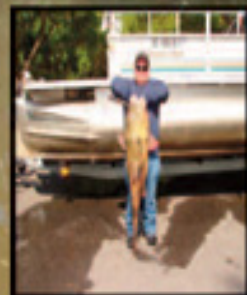
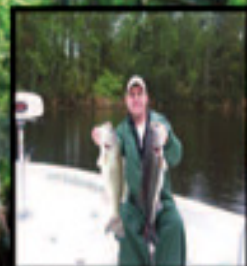
is where you will find South Carolina's
"Great Lakes", Marion & Moultrie

Our lakes cover 171,000 acres and hold 8 state and one world record. Our fishing is great all year long so, come and see if you can catch the next record fish. What are you waiting for?

For information on fishing, guides, marinas, camping, restaurants and motels in Berkeley, Calhoun, Clarendon, Orangeburg and Sumter counties call, email or visit us on the web.

Outside SC 1-800-227-8510
in SC (803) 854-2131

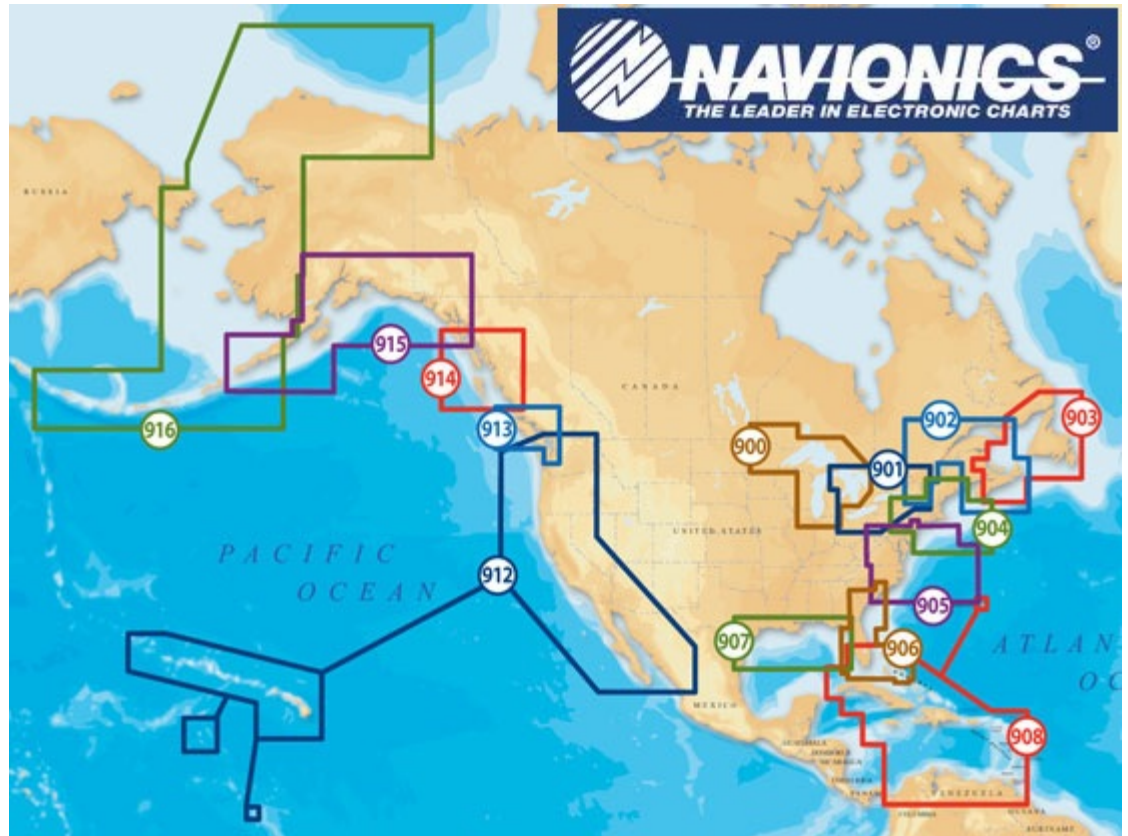
www.santeecoopercountry.org
tourscc@oburg.net



The Value of Having Fresh Data

By Paul Michele

How often have we used our car GPS only to find the road or street we are looking for doesn't exist or taken a turn down what "used to be" a two way street? Your GPS warns you about updating your software for safer driving. The same thing holds true for your electronics in your boat. There may not be a reminder, but having the latest fresh data is important for boating safety and successful fishing days.



When purchasing a new plotter, you'll find that many of them come with an embedded chart. This chart was created so the plotter is ready to be installed and used right away. The question is, how old is that data, is it the best, and can it be upgraded? The age of the data is unknown. Once a chart is embedded into a plotter, it doesn't change. What's given is the data the manufacturer could find at that time so the plotter has a functioning chart to run on and then focuses on the plotter itself. It is created to help the overall boater without being too specific on any one area. However, plotter manufacturers do offer chart upgrades that can be purchased on a regional chip format to keep you safe and successful on the water to give you better than what comes embedded.

Charts are all sold by regions. The goal of a charting company is to give you the best, most-recent data possible. Charts are updated for safety with navigation aids, bottom contours, rocks, etc. that get added to a chart to keep your boat and crew safe and avoid dangers. We all want to have a safe boating day and keep our boating investment safe either locally or while vacationing in new, unknown areas. According to a recent study, there are currently over 10 million chart errors worldwide and depending on the charting company, corrections are updated yearly, bi-yearly or in the case of a very modern program by Navionics, DAILY. A popular question is, how much really does change on a chart? Based on the above-mentioned study of 10 million errors worldwide, there are. A LOT of corrections made. NOAA land contours are out of date in many areas; sand bars shift, new buoys are positioned. It sometimes is not even how much has changed but what has been added is a better question.

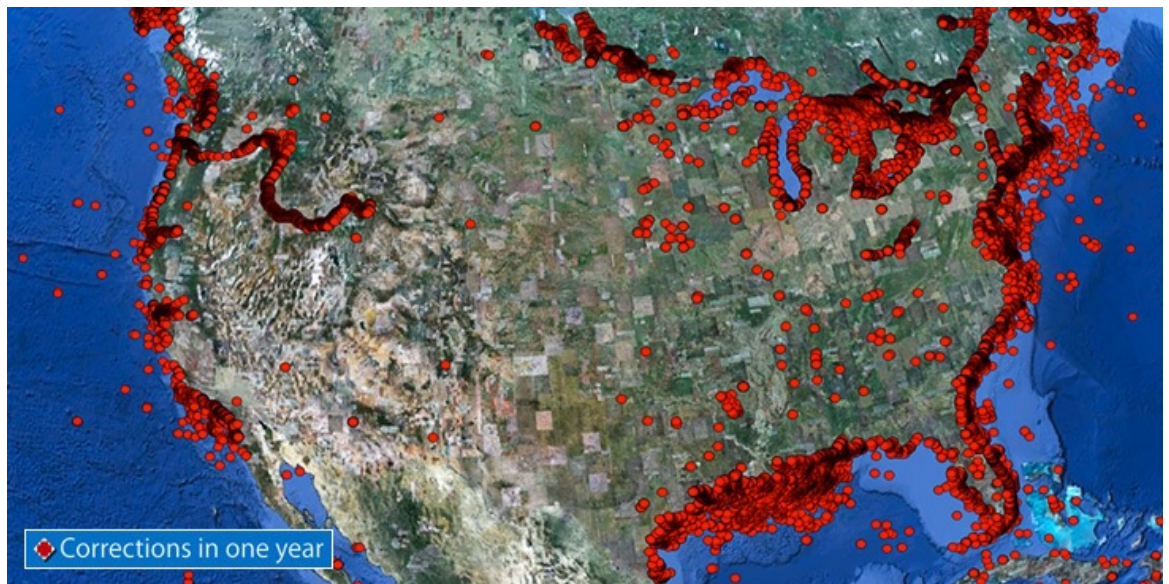


Fishing data embedded in a plotter is also what can be given to help the average fisherman get a start in finding fish. Charting companies' goals are to improve that data for your region to give you much more information. Successful fishermen want the freshest data for a lake to be able to see the most recent bottom

contours, underwater structures, fish traps, sunken houses, or any other "fishy" structure. Government agencies are adding yearly fish reefs all the time to fresh and saltwater. New lakes and more recent corrected/accurate lake surveys are also only available by updating charts. Without having the most-recent data, this information doesn't show and your loud mouth buddy who just updated has the advantage.

We most recently have been new "user added" data to charts. Active Captain is one such company that allows users to add items to charts and viewable on a computer. Raymarine and Navico have what is called a "Community Layer" which is created by Navionics and is information boaters/fishermen have added to charts via mobile phones or computer charting. This feature can be turned on or off to view what the boating/fishing community found yesterday. This could be a sunken vessel, fishing location, or new tiki bar that a user felt important enough to let everyone know exists. Whenever a boater/fisherman updates his chart online they get that new information that day.

How does one get the freshest data for their plotter? Charts can be purchased at any major retailer and depending on the charting company updates are done in a few ways. Some have a rebate program to send in your old chart after purchasing a new one and have the rebate check mailed to you. Secondly, some require that the chip be mailed to the manufacturer and updated at their facility and sent back to you. The third and most recent is online updates where the chart is plugged in and updated online via your computer anytime. So don't be left in past history, update your charts and have a safe day on the water, protect your boat, and most of all... beat out that bragging buddy of yours.





Inner Peace Through The Great Outdoors

By Eric Badofsky

"A dream deferred... dries up like a raisin in the sun."

-- American poet Langston Hughes

Nearly ten years ago, when my 9-year-old son Ben, went on our inaugural father-son Dove in northern Mexico; I felt confident that it would be just the first in a long, rewarding succession of outdoor adventures. He and I would experience together on his promising road to adulthood. My confidence was grounded in a conviction that most parents – including myself – have long taken for granted: the blessing of their children's good health.

It was there, in a burnt orange sorghum field just south of Abasolo, watching Ben face off against wave after wave of fast-flying white wings, that I suddenly realized just how lucky I really am... how lucky so many of us hunting and fishing parents truly are. Here was a kid with nary a worry in the world, discovering, first-hand, the thrill and challenge of the hunt,

something he'd dreamed of since he was six years-old – still far too small to shoulder the Browning 16 gauge his grandpa had handed down to him (even with it's sawed off stump of a stock). And here I was, fortunate enough to be making the kid's dream come true...



It just doesn't get any better than this, I thought to myself.

Tragically, there are thousands of families, just like mine – and perhaps yours – who share a passion for hunting and fishing, but who can't share the assumption of robust health. They're families with

children suffering from a critical illness, devastating disease or crippling disability – in many cases threatening to rob them of their lives before they reach their next birthday. Like Ben, these kids (and their parents) dream of their own outdoor adventures, but – unlike Ben – their dreams may never be realized...

Until now.

Bringing kids' dreams to life with free hunting and fishing trips is the exclusive mission of the United Special Sportsmen Alliance (USSA), a grassroots, all-volunteer charity organization founded by serious illness survivor Brigid O'Donoghue in 2001, in the wake of the nation's leading "wish-granting" charity buckling to animal rights groups and banning hunting & fishing trips for disabled and terminally ill kids.

"Our goal is to give these kids and their families something to really look forward to during a very difficult chapter in their lives," says O'Donoghue, "...not only to help sustain and recharge them during a critical time of need, but also giving them a peaceful, welcoming place to focus on the quality of life, family ties, and the wonders of our natural world. And if we can add some thrills and





excitement into the mix, that's just a bonus. Our job is to create memories for these families that last forever."

To date, Brigid and her all-volunteer team across the country has sent more than 7,000 deserving youngsters on hunting and fishing dream trips, with the ultimate goal of making wishes come true for 1,000 or more kids every single year. Of course, USSA couldn't even exist, much less set such lofty goals for itself, if not for the support of hunters, anglers and those in the outdoor business community, who so selflessly contribute their time and resources to bring these children "Inner Peace Through The Great Outdoors" (the charity's slogan).

Unfortunately, with the recent economic downturn comes a critical shortfall of trip sponsorships, contributions and critically needed gear, forcing USSA's volunteers to work all the longer and harder to meet the needs of an ever-growing "wish list" across the country. Disturbingly, USSA now faces a challenge the likes of which Brigid and her volunteers have never encountered during the group's 10 years in existence: Not only surviving the recessionary climate, but actually growing stronger in spite of it.

That's where you – my fellow hunters, anglers, manufacturers, retailers, taxidermists, guides, outfitters, lodge and preserve owners – can step in and play a crucial – indeed, heroic – role in these youngsters' lives, in any of several ways. If you know of a critically ill or disabled child who dreams of taking the hunting or fishing trip of a lifetime, please contact us at (847) 676-8424, or ussa-kids@comcast.net, and we'll have USSA volunteer contact you as soon as possible. If you want information about spreading the word about the USSA, donating your services or sporting gear please contact us for further information as well. We can use the assistance.

Eric Badofsky is Vice President of the United Special Sportsmen Alliance, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) charity serving children with serious illnesses or disabilities, regardless of gender, race, religion, or other circumstance. For more information, or to volunteer your time and talents, call (847) 676-8424, or log onto www.ChildsWish.org.





RESPECTED
IS OPEN ACCESS
www.respectedaccess.org

PLACE INVADERS

Stop the spread of invasive species by refusing to give them a free ride. Thoroughly clean all off-road vehicles and related gear before transport. Remember to tread lightly and check for hitchhikers.

tread lightly![®]

THIS PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT IS POWERED BY

How To Extend Your Roll Cast With A Smile And A Power Stroke!

By Jared Mertens

The year was August 2003, in San Francisco, California. The place was the Golden Gate Casting Club, where the likes of Mel Kreiger, Steve Rajeff, and other casters of that caliber hang out. This would be the destination of my first attempt at tournament casting with a fly rod. This is the place where I began to change my understanding of the roll cast.

There was a gentleman by the name of Tony Yap who introduced and demonstrated the different events that were involved in the American Casting Association Championships. He started out with a couple of the accuracy events, which were done on water. The thirty-inch casting rings reminded me of miniature hula hoops floating on the water. Depending on the fly event, you had to place an ACA certified dry fly into the middle of the ring to receive a score. The first time I performed the Dry Fly event, I was overcome with an overwhelming feeling that this sport could be my next addiction.

There are two rounds for the dry fly event. The first was accuracy casting at five targets. The targets ranged from ten to seventy-five feet. In this round, the caster can only perform two false casts to each target. The second round is to the same targets, but with only a roll cast. I thought coming from the East coast the performance of my roll cast would be very good, that is if compared to some of the tournament casters. This soon turned out to be a very humbling situation. My roll cast would reach out to the farthest targets, but not with



the ease and consistency like most of the tournament veterans. That moment started my pursuit of trying to extend my roll cast to extreme distances. This starts the performance and mechanics of the famed and under looked roll cast.

Step One: The line must fall behind your ear creating a D- loop. The rod must stay on a 45 degree cant away from the body. The reason for the cant is to have the path of the tip and the direction of the fly line not collide. The collision will occur if the



rod cant is not performed. Always remember to slide the fly line and leader slowly across the surface of the water to your stopping position, which is just adjacent to the ear. The surface tension of the water will create an anchor point with the weighted part of the fly line, which will in turn load the rod properly to let you perform the casting stroke correctly. *Note to self: The cast you will perform is not a momentum cast like the forward and back cast. So, remember, to pause to let the fly line slide back. Example: take a sip of Tea, coffee, or soda, visualizing the pause, to let the line end at the stop position. Now, the power stroke will allow the caster to create the correct load factor on the rod in the forward motion. The caster will then stop the tip of the rod at the desired height of 25% just above the surface of the water.



Step Two: The extension of the roll cast comes from the performance and understanding of the back D-loop. Before coming directly back to the stopping position (adjacent to the ear), the caster will perform a flip of the fly line. The flip of the fly line will put more of the line behind the caster. By performing the flip, which happens on the top arc of the back cast, the end result will be more belly of the line behind you while maintaining an anchor of the leader. Also, a small part of the fly line has the pull and load factor on the rod resulting in great performance. *Note: Adjusting the back cast rod arc when increasing distances is a must to obtain long line performance.

If performed correctly, with a smile of course, one can achieve greater distances with the same amount of effort used through the power casting stroke! Like my grandfather always said "Practice makes perfect!"

Another Attempt at a Trophy Peacock Bass

By Jake Bussolini

In March of 2010, I ventured down to Miami Florida to establish a personal-best Peacock Bass. Back then I was 74 years young and still raising the bar each year for bigger and better fish. I described my adventures that year in a magazine, indicating that it was a great experience, but that the 5 pound trophy that I was after had eluded me.



I put the Peacock challenge aside for two years because I was working on another goal, to publish a text book about cat fishing. For nearly two years, Mac Byrum and I traveled around the country in my Cessna 172 aircraft, doing research for the new book. Writing about catfish didn't start out sounding very exciting, but soon after we started the venture, we had boated our personal best blue catfish with Mac boating his personal best a 56.5 pound blue catfish and my personal best a 45 pounder. That was the first in a series of trips to the James River, near Richmond Virginia.

After nearly two years of crowding ourselves into my airplane and looking for new experiences in Georgia's fishing for flat head catfish, in Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina and North Carolina gathering data, we finished our research in Grand Forks North Dakota. Channel catfish are plentiful throughout the Carolinas, but for big channel catfish, we needed to fish The Red River of The North. This was a great climax to our studies because

again, we both established our personal-best channel catfish, with Mac landing a 20.5 pounder and my personal best 21.8 pounds, shown below.

The fun was over and in November of 2011 when the book was finally released. We called it "The Catfish Hunters". The reaction to the book among catfishermen has been fantastic and book sales for the first month soared beyond our expectations

Now at 76 years young, there were still some objectives that I had not reached. I'm a student of freshwater fishing, and that's what I write books about. My books can be reviewed or purchased through my web site, which is www.jakestakenonfishing.com. However, none of my published writings have listed the accomplishment of my goal of catching a 5-pound Peacock Bass. Few fishermen have fished for this elusive fish because there is only one small area of the United States where they can be fished.

In 1984, the Florida Department of Fisheries attempted to seed the Peacocks in several waterways, but the only area where the water was consistently warm enough was the flood-control canal system in southwest Miami. Peacocks are native to Brazil, and they require an ideal water temperature of 70 to 80 degrees. My first trip to Miami in 2010 followed a short cold spell and some of the Peacocks that year suffered from a three day cold-water fish kill. Even with the big peacocks in short supply, I learned quickly that Peacock Bass act like Smallmouth Bass on steroids when they are hooked. Since I release all the nearly 2000 fish that I catch each year, the thrill that I get from fishing is the challenge of luring the fish to my bait and then becoming the winner on the retrieve. That challenge sent me back to Miami again in 2012 to fish with Chuck Westlake one more time, looking for that 5-pound trophy.



There are several things that excite

me about Peacock fishing in Miami. The first is the waters that are fished here. These flood-control canals are literally back yard waterways through some of the very fine areas on southwestern Miami where a typical view is the very beautiful *Bogenvillia* bushes that line some areas of the canals.

The area that we launched was called the Falls Area of the C100



Canal because it was adjacent to a mall named The Falls. The boat that Chuck Westlake uses is ideally suited for this type of fishing because it is sleek and fast, yet comfortable for the flip casting and trolling that is needed to excite these fish. The relatively narrow area available to fish is another element of peacock fishing that interests me.

I have learned that fishing for Peacocks is quite different from other fish that I go after. Most other fish are bothered by the presents of sunlight. Peacocks seem to behave opposite that habit. The smaller females come up near the rocks and retaining walls as soon as the sun rises. To effectively fish them in the early-morning hours, Polaroid sun glasses are a must. Sight fishing has never been one of my favorite methods of fishing, but for the early-morning females, it's a necessity.

Since I was not interested in small females, I chose to troll near the bottom of the water column. The big males seem to reside there during the early-morning hours, then come up toward the shallow water in the afternoon, when the sun is directly overhead. My plan, therefore, was to go deep in the morning and afterwards revert to flip casting in the afternoon. The waters of these canals is only between 10 and 15 feet deep so fishing deep only required a small split shot as weight.

Peacocks can be caught on nearly any type of artificial bait, but the best bite seems to come using 3-inch shiners as live bait. If the shiners die, forget it, you'll be wasting your time. Hooking the shiners up through the lips seems to keep them live longer than other hooking methods, so that's what I did. Trolling at a slow .6 Mph keeps the shiners flowing naturally in the water.

My first hit was soon after we started so I thought that this was going to be a good day. It wasn't the big male that I was seeking, only a 3-pound female, but it was a good start.

The first catch was big enough to remind me what a beautiful fish this is and surely brought back memories of the great fight that the Peacock presents. The great fight is another of the peacock specialties. There was a slight lull in the bite, but I kept trolling for the big male. I did hook a small male next. The male peacock is clearly identified by the large hump on its head.



The male might not be quite as beautiful as the female but the fight is just as good. As the day progressed, the bite was consistent. I had a couple of short lulls in the catch, but the catch rate was slightly greater than 2/hr all day as shown on the plot of my cumulative catch below.

Perhaps the most surprising factor of this day was that at high noon when I expected the big males to come closer to the surface, they were nowhere to be seen. By alternating between flip casting during site fishing periods, and trolling close to the bottom, I did manage to catch 17 fish, but the trophy 5 pounder again eluded me did hook two larger fish while trolling but one simply got off and a second large fish broke the line. As is usually the case, they were probably my trophy fish.

The lull that occurred in the middle of the day, was, at the time an encouraging event. I thought maybe a transition was taking place where the big males were about to come up during the high sun, and the females were taking a break during the transition. However, no such luck, the males never came up that day.



There had not been any significant rain in the Miami area for several weeks, and I made the decision to use the second day of this trip to improve my odds of catching a trophy Peacock. Sometimes, stuff happens, no sooner we got the boat back on to the trailer; the sky opened up, and the thunder storms lasted all night and well into the next day. My second day of peacock fishing was totally washed out and for another year my quest for a trophy Peacock was halted.

Jake Bussolini is a retired aerospace executive who has become a published freshwater fishing author. His engineering background permits his books to take on a different twist, mixing the science of fishing with the sport of fishing. Jakes books and also his blog about freshwater fishing can be accessed on his web site at www.jakestakeonfishing or his blog can be directly accessed at www.jakesfishingfacts.blogspot.com.



Photo By Sylvia Garrison