

# ODU Magazine™

Fall Fishing 2012

**BASS  
ON  
WEEDLESS  
SPOONS**

**Drought  
Can Be A  
Blessing**

**Jugging  
For Cats**





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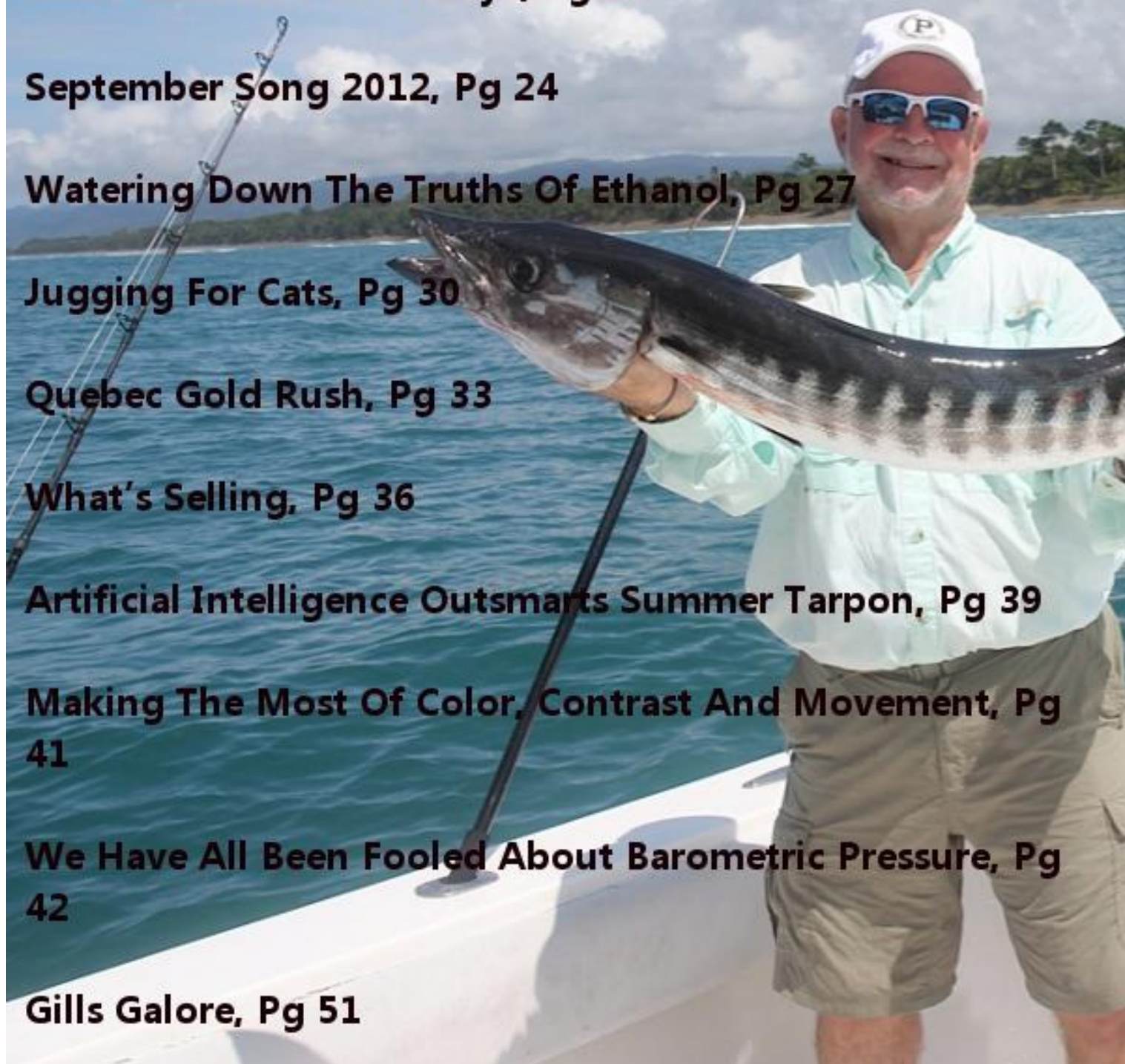
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“Southern Hospitality” is still alive and well in Virginia at least, and thank god for that! Recently, my fishing partner, Sean Lewis of “Twin Lake Outfitters” and I were pre-fishing for the “Snagproof Open” on the Potomac River. On practice day our opportunities were abounding. However, the one that broke the camel’s back was when our trolling motor died. The only way we could get it to run was in the high bypass mode. I called a friend of mine in the area Steve Chaconas, (National Bass Guide Service), in Alexandria, VA, and he suggested I call Todd Neale, Manager at Sportsman Marine at 703-583-0300 and tell him about your problem. Keep in mind that this is 1 pm on a Saturday afternoon and they close at 2. I called Todd and he said sure stop by, and he would see what he could do.

Luckily, the shop was right down the street, and we arrived a few minutes later. We described our problem, and he took a look at the unit and said that it was an older unit, and he did not have the parts to repair in stock. He said that he would have to order them and it would take a few days, which we did not have. We explained that we had a tournament the next day and ask him if he had any suggestions. He

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**Photos:** Cover photo of and by Jason Mitchell. Indexed photo of Crocodile Bay Resort’s Water Front by Larry Thornhill.



suggested that we borrow his. It looked like a brand new 36-volt trolling motor and we could return it tomorrow. Now keep in mind that we had never seen this guy before, and he offered to loan us his trolling motor for the tournament. He said the shop was closed on Sunday, but we could just lay it in the back of his pick up, and he would get it on Monday. Sean and I looked at each other in disbelief and could not believe that he just made us that offer. There we were two perfect strangers, that he never saw before and didn't know from Adam, and he offered to loan us his trolling motor. I don't know about you, but I have some buddies who would not have made me that offer.

So please if you are ever in the Woodbridge, VA area and need some repairs done on your boat, please stop by and see Todd Neale at Sportsman Marine. His address is 2629 Hanco Center Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22191 703-583-0300. He saved our day.

Thanks Todd we owe you.

Please do me a favor whenever possible take a kid fishing? Remember they are our future, and you will never regret putting a smile on their face.

Please enjoy the Outdoors,

Larry Thornhill  
Editor & Chief

# Snag ProofTV





# Low Water and Drought Can Be A Blessing

By Bill Vanderford

Starting with an abnormally warm early spring and blistering hot summer, the weather this entire year has been quite different. Much of the country has seen nothing but plenty of sun and very little precipitation throughout the period resulting in record low water in reservoirs.

As with most things in life, lots of people look at these changes in a negative way. Not me! I'm going to find the 'Silver Lining' in almost anything, and lower water this year has some very



Photo Credit to  
Bill Vanderford

definite pluses for outdoors lovers!

Simple, common sense would indicate that the lower water levels force the fish in the lake to live in a much smaller environment. Therefore, more fish inhabit much less water area, which makes them far easier to find and catch, and this is a tremendous opportunity for anglers!

Standing trees, huge rocks, underwater ridges, and other sunken debris are beginning to surface as the water levels recede. This phenomenon has a positive effect on the lake, the fishermen, the visitation, and the manner in which a lake is utilized.

For the angling fraternity, these newly exposed structures become visible targets of opportunity that enhance fishing possibilities. Also, it gives smart fishermen a chance to mark these places and objects on a map or GPS for later use when the lake is at or above normal levels.

This period of lower water levels also tends to reduce greatly the numbers and size of boats that run wildly around the lake. Therefore, visitation is reduced tremendously, and the lake becomes a haven for kayaks, canoes, and other smaller craft. The serenity that comes with lower water brings out wildlife and birds that are



Photo Credit to  
Bill Vanderford



rarely seen during more hectic periods. This is especially true on trips taken up into the rivers and feeder creeks above any lake.

After the lake has receded, the upper rivers become considerably longer and shallower, and navigation is only possible with shallow-running boats, canoes, or kayaks. Nevertheless, it is always a pleasure for expert anglers, parents and children, or couples to explore the upper river areas for great fishing or to see nature as they have never seen it before. The fishermen have opportunities of catching different fish that rarely venture into the main lake, and the others are treated to an ecological world that most never dreamed existed!

As for the lakes and rivers, the lower levels allow vegetation to grow in newly exposed areas and old sludge to dry and become renewed topsoil. When the waters return in the spring, as they always do, the new growth and rejuvenated soil will add underwater habitat and food for the fish, aquatic animals, and birds.



The changing seasons and different weather patterns are often viewed as detrimental by



many humans, but these moods of nature always seem to bring positive results in the end. Therefore, keep an open mind and don't give up on the lakes and rivers just because their waters are low. This is a natural metamorphosis that is beautiful to experience, and will result in magnificent splendor for the next spring season!

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](http://www.fishinglanier.com)



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## “Hear We Go A Noodling,” The Modern Way

By Larry Thornhill

Earlier this summer, my daughter, son-in-law and I were fishing with Sean Lewis from Twin Lake Outfitters on Lake Gaston, and we were all complaining about grouching about how hot it was i.e. temperature was approaching 100 degrees with the air temp around 115, but the water temp was not bad at around 76 degrees. When Sean asked us if we were interested in doing some Noodling the next day?

Now what thoughts run through your mind when someone asked you to go “Noodling”? I will bet it’s not one that makes you jump to your feet and start chanting when can we go, let’s go



now, can we, can we, please. My first thought was you are crazy? I get just about as excited about thinking about going Noodling as I do going to the dentist. My first response was “NO “ I may be a little crazy at times but not crazy enough to do this even when it’s this hot. I am not going to jump into the river up to my waste in muck, mire, snakes, trees, rocks, holes, etc., etc., Then to top it off you want me to bend over and put my hands in a hole, feel around to try to find something



that I can't see until I feel something, grab it and try to pull it out. No, No the exclaimed that's not it. It's a lot of fun easy to do and even the kids can do it. Yea, right I responded.

Then he went on to explain what modern-day Noodling was and what he was talking about. He said you cut a



swimming noodle into either three or four pieces, one like the kids use in the pool, inserts a one-inch diameter PVC tube through the hole in the middle, glues a cap on each end, inserts an eye bolt and attached a five-foot length of masonry line, leader and a hook, (see photo) ad bait, water and your ready to go a "Noodling".

My daughter declined the offer but Carlos, and I decided to give it a go and boy are we glad we did. What a blast.

In Virginia, you are only allowed 10 (ten) Noodles out at a time per individual, but picture this. Sean says he takes kids out and has a tournament between the kids on how many fish they can catch and the biggest fish, etc. you can customize your tournament to whatever the





kids want, and as long as you have food and drinks they have a blast. By the way, believe me, its not just kids, we had a blast. Since a noodle comes in different colors you can make different sets of noodles for everyone on the boat.

Just imagine fighting a 40-pound catfish or anything else for that matter by hand. That night Carlos caught the biggest fish of the night weighing just a little over 10 pounds, but we had a lot of them in the pound and a half to the five-pound range.

Believe me when I say it's relaxing, but it can be hectic at times. Just imagine setting around waiting for twenty or thirty noodles to tip up. However, when the first one does tip up, you should wait until it goes under. Sean explained that this was in turn the hook setting process. When one goes under the resistance created by the catfish in this case causes the hook to be set. But, as we found out it also pays to set the hook again when you feel a tight line. We missed a lot of fish that night by being overly anxious, chasing the noodle down as it was floating away, and trying to reel it in, I guess I should have said to roll it in or whatever.

Anyway if you want to try something fun, relaxing, exciting call Sean Lewis at Twin Lake Outfitters in South Hill, VA at 434-447-2710 and tell him you want to go A Noodling, and that I sent you. Make sure you take plenty of eats and drinks for both, you and the kids, because you are going to have a BLAST!!!

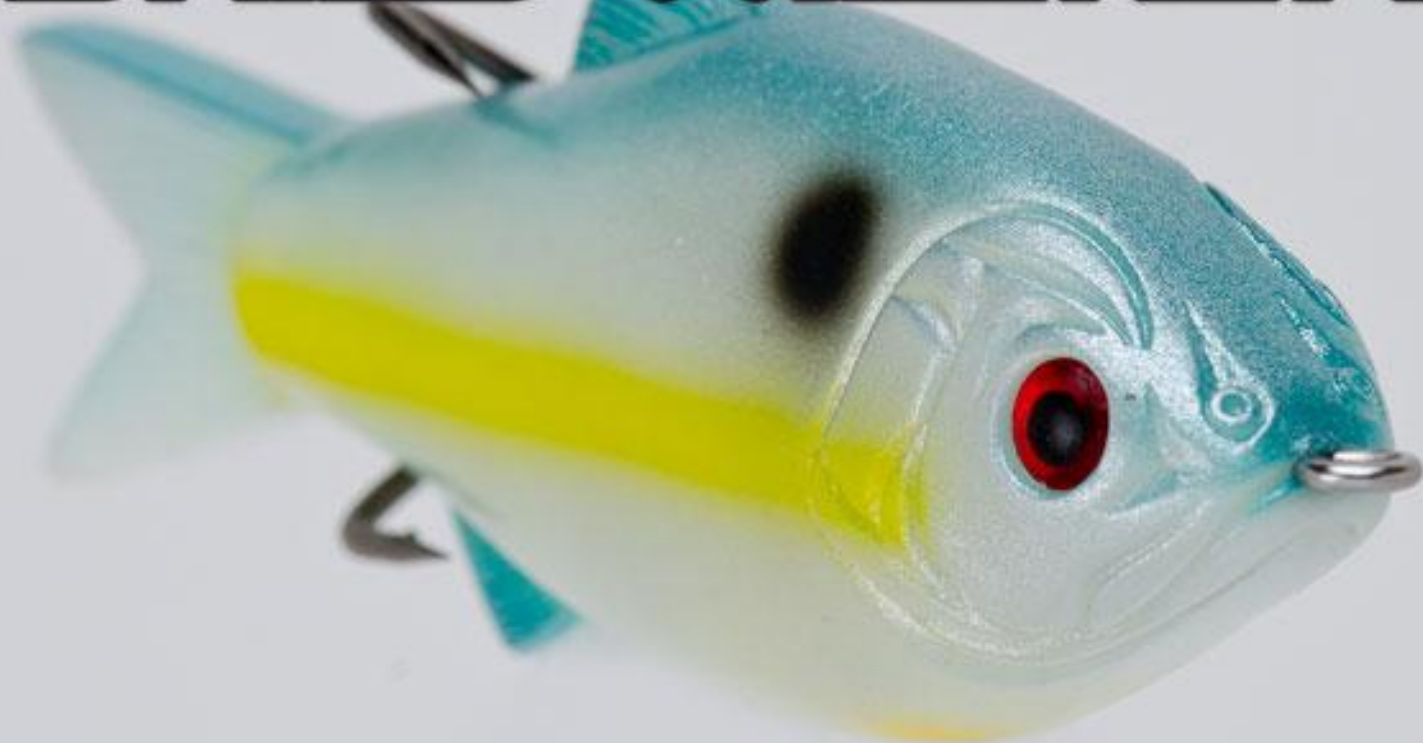
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# Bass on Weedless Spoons

By Jason Mitchell

There are many weed less soft plastic and frog options that can be pitched into wild rice, reeds, lily pads and slop. Whenever there are stems or branches sticking out of the water, however, weed less spoons can be tough to beat. Weed less spoons are typically going to be a little heavier than most weed less frogs or soft plastics rigged to work weed less over the tops of weeds, so they do have to be retrieved faster but the shape and weight enable an angler to punch through the vegetation that is growing above the water much easier. For wild rice and pencil reeds, for example, where you want to cast with the seam of the stems and get back into the cover as far as possible, spoons really shine.

There are a lot of good weed less spoons on the market. The



Weedless spoons like the Northland Tackle Jaw Breaker can be fished effectively through heavy cover and can be fished fast, enabling the angler to cover a lot of water. Pictured is the author, Jason Mitchell with a beautiful bass that was pulled out the middle of a dense pencil reed bed.



Johnson Silver Minnow is a classic that has been catching fish for years. The Northland Tackle Jaw Breaker Spoon is a modified spoon with a heavier weed guard that was really designed for penetrating thick wild rice and other hard to fish stems that collect on the hook and guard. What surprises many anglers new to weed less spoons is that there is some versatility with spoons depending on the retrieve and how the spoon is tipped. Spoons tipped with a craw or beaver tail style body will typically ride high through the water where the spoon drags across the surface while the soft plastic ripples or flops behind. Spoons tipped with a straight curl tail worm or ribbon tail worm will typically wobble and zig zag just under the surface and can be rigged to flutter down into open pockets and edges.



**Johnson Silver Minnow**

The key with using these spoons in the heavy cover to their utmost effectiveness starts with good casting and getting the lure moving through the water at the right pitch or angle with the

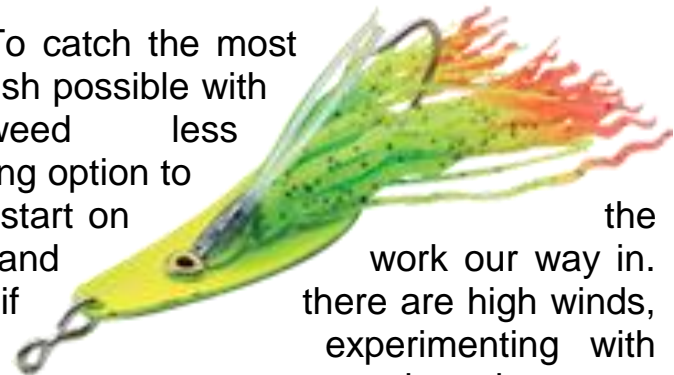
line to the rod tip at the right angle. These fundamentals are important because if the lure starts moving with the correct angle and speed as soon as it hits the water, the lure is going to move or load up fewer weeds. Many weed less presentations go through weeds just fine but if the stalks and stems are loading up and moving as the lure moves through the water, you are not going to catch as many fish. If you can see weeds moving as they hang up on the lure, the lure is not going to catch as much even if the weeds eventually slide past the weed guard, and the lure comes clean.



**Northland Tackle Jaw Breaker Spoon**

spoons, match up the right retrieves to the right tipping option to match up with the profile of the spot. Typically, we start on the edges of good cover like wild rice or pencil reeds and On hot sunny days during the middle of the day or if fish often push deep into the bed. Often, the soft plastic trailer regarding size, profile and

To catch the most fish possible with weed less



the work our way in. there are high winds, experimenting with color is more



crucial than experimenting with the spoon. Spoons will catch plenty of fish without being tipped, and spoons like the Jaw Breaker have a killer skirt that really looks good in the water but in many cases, the spoon is just a vehicle to deliver a soft plastic craw or worm. The weight of the spoon enables further casts and also enables the presentation to slice through vegetation above the water easier. For penetrating thick stands of wild rice and pencil reeds, weed less spoons really one of the most efficient ways to pull big bass off of these locations. If nothing else, use the spoon as a search lure in the heavy cover. Spoons can be fished fast and if a fish blows up and misses the spoon; an angler can always follow up with a traditional jig and pig or Texas rigged soft plastic.

For many anglers, weed less spoons often get overlooked. Weed less scum frogs are really popular right now as are other soft plastic options but these presentations shine when there is not much vegetation above the surface of the water as these lures don't have the weight to fall through stalks and stems. When fishing ultra shallow cover that hangs up soft plastics and frogs above the water, this is the perfect situation for weed less spoons.

Caption for Photo: Weedless spoons like the Northland Tackle Jaw Breaker can be fished effectively through heavy cover and can be fished fast, enabling the angler to cover a lot of water. Pictured is the author, Jason Mitchell with a beautiful bass that was pulled out the middle of a dense pencil reed bed.



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## **Gulf Coast Redfish Gathering,**

### **Prespawn Aggregations Offer Great Opportunity**

By Capt. Bill Miller

Redfish are one of the most popular inshore species throughout Florida's Gulf Coast. Powerful, abundant and eager to eat a variety of baits, this species keeps shallow water anglers busy during the year.

Inhabiting coastal waters across the calendar, redfish like hanging around docks, oyster bars and rocky structures. But starting in late summer, anglers will notice the redfish starting to gather up in big schools on the flats.

These aggregations appear to be part of the annual redfish spawn, which starts in August and runs through mid-November along the Gulf coast. Although the fish gather on the flats and around nearshore structures, the actual spawning occurs in deep offshore waters.

The spawning redfish schools usually comprise giant masses of big reds up to 40 pounds or more. Some anglers and scientists believe that the smaller redfish will leave the flats and meet up with the big females to participate in the spawning ritual and then return to the shallow water.

Fishing the schools of pre-spawn redfish on the flats takes requires considerable stealth. Today's fish are educated due to the amount of boat traffic and anglers fishing for them. Years ago, you could ride over the flats and look for the big schools to "hump up" and push a wake as they moved away from the noise. Once you spotted the wake, you could run up in front of them to an intercept point and catch all you could handle.

If you try that today, the redfish will be off the flat and long gone before you even slow down. Not only that, you'll quickly earn the disdain of any nearby anglers, who will loudly voice their resentment.

The proper way to approach a redfish flat is to slowly motor to within about ¼ mile and then use your electric motor on low speed to close the distance. Chasing a redfish school with your electric motor used to work, but not anymore. The fish will run right off the flat if they



hear a high sped electric motor approach. For optimal stealth, approach on a wind drift, or silently push pole.

Considering how spooky redfish can be, the widely accepted method these days is to find a spot on the flat where reds have been seen and let them come to you. Another outdated tactic – chumming heavily with live whitebait to rally the reds up into a feeding frenzy – has also run its course. The reds have gotten trained to that routine and it doesn't work nearly as well as it used to.

Freshly cut dead bait has replaced slinging handfuls of livies. Tossing out pieces of threadfins, pinfish or ladyfish for chum puts a scent trail in the water and that appeals to the sensitive noses of hungry redfish. When the reds come to investigate the smell, they'll find your hooked baits.

Popular fall redfish areas include Long Bar and Stephens Point in Sarasota Bay, The Bulkhead running along the Manatee County shoreline, the south shore of Tampa Bay from Cockroach Bay to Joe's Island, Tarpon Key, Pinellas Point, Weedon Island, Big Island (sometimes called 4th Street), and Coopers Point in upper Tampa Bay.

The red drum management story is one of great success. In 1989, a slot limit of 18-27 inches, a bag limit of one redfish per person and a closed season from March to May was implemented. The redfish stock flourished to the point that the closed season was eliminated. Most recently, the daily bag limit became two per person in the Northeast and Northwest regions of our state. Tampa Bay is in the Central region and the bag limit here remains one per person. The good thing about fall fishing is that you'll have the opportunity to tangle with as many redfish as you can handle.

For fishing videos, catch photos and lots of angling resources, visit [www.fishingwithbillmiller.com](http://www.fishingwithbillmiller.com). For fishing charters in the Tampa Bay area, call (813) 363-9927.



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## Blade Baits for Fall Walleye

By Darl Black

During the late fall, visitors to 13,000-acre Pymatuning Reservoir on the Pennsylvania-Ohio border will observe uniform action being undertaken by anglers fishing from boats. The repeated up and down motion of anglers' arms gives the appearance of a field of oil pump jacks harmoniously at work. However, rather than oil, these fishermen are looking to strike it rich with golden-hued walleye.

The lure being used is a blade bait – a teardrop shaped metal fin roughly two inches in length with lead molded to the bottom, a treble hook fore and aft, and a line attachment hole on top of the lure. The blade vibrates wildly back and forth when pulled through the water, sending out alluring flash and unique vibes.

A wide variety of fish species find this combination of attraction in a small package to be irresistible during the coldwater period.

From mid-October until ice up, blade baits account for more walleyes than any other artificial or live bait presentation on Pymatuning Reservoir. Of course Pymatuning isn't the only lake where anglers enjoy blade bait success. Ten miles down the road on 900-acre Conneaut





Lake, late fall fishermen will be observed probing the deep water with blades for schooled white bass feeding on shad. Here the state record white bass was caught on a blade.

From the upper mid-west, across the Great Lakes and mid-Atlantic, and into New England, the simple blade helps anglers achieve their goals of catching walleyes, yellow perch, crappies, black bass

and white bass when water temperatures are below 55 degrees.

The first blade bait was introduced more than 50 years ago. Since then a number of similar lures have made an appearance, often with brands limited to small geographic regions. Blades differ slightly in action, flash and harmonics based on the thickness and shape of the blade, as well as placement of the line-tie hole. Walleye – or rather walleye fishermen – seem to prefer a thicker metal blade with a harder thump when pumped. And walleyes (or walleye fishermen) favor painted or prism-tape blades opposed to bare metal finish.



At Pymatuning, the original Heddon Sonar ([www.lurenet.com](http://www.lurenet.com)) remains a preferred blade among 'eye anglers, although a significant challenge comes from the Vib"E" ([www.rodbendertackle.com](http://www.rodbendertackle.com), pictured to the left) which offers better balance for jigging vertically. Of course other blades produce fish as well.

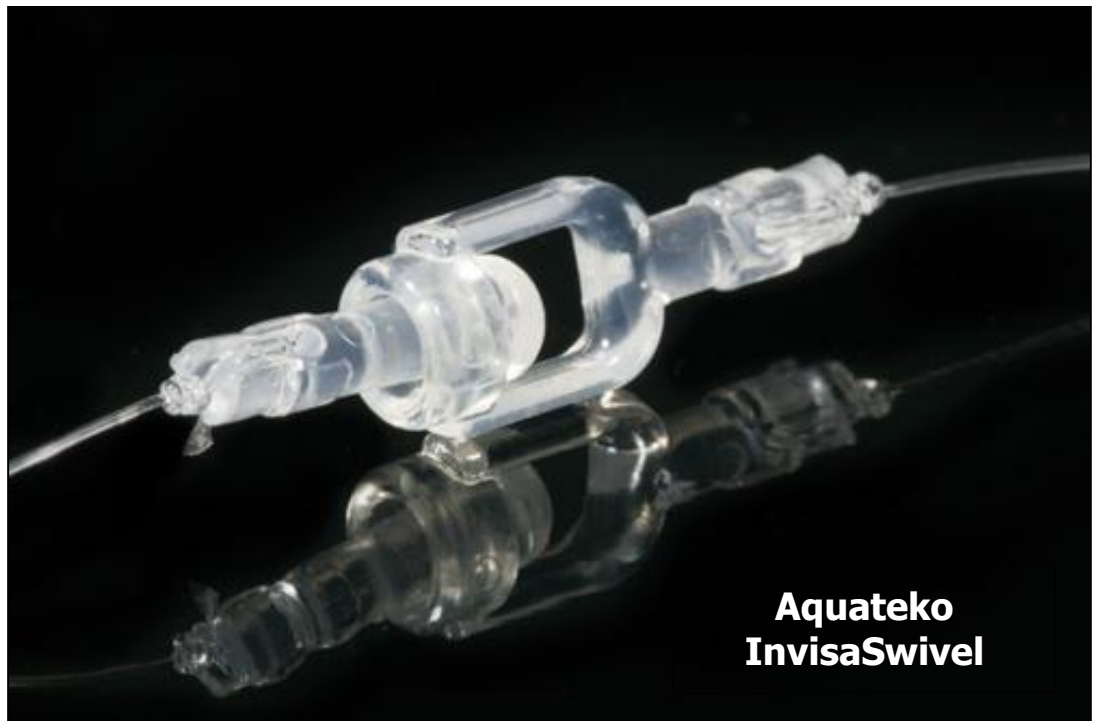
When it comes to presenting a blade to walleye, vertical jigging is employed by the vast majority of anglers in the fall. In part, vertical jigging gets the nod because targeted depths range from 15 to 40 feet, thereby allowing anglers to literally fish on top of the school while watching the action on sonar. Because walleyes will be concentrated in small areas, once a walleye school is located the vertical presentation keeps the lure in the fish zone. Here's another bit of information to consider: if catching yellow perch or white bass, chances are pretty good that walleyes are also in the general area feeding on the same baitfish.

The yo-yo action of vertical jigging simulates an injured preyfish struggling to right itself and rejoin the baitfish school, but continually falling back to the bottom of the lake. It is an angler-created scenario which predator fish cannot pass up.



Having a full range of blade weights from 1/4- to 3/4-ounce models will keep you prepared to address all range of depths. Personally, I prefer spinning tackle for fishing blades of 1/2-ounce or lighter, using a moderately fast taper rod spooled with 12-pound Gamma Polyflex line. Other anglers lean towards baitcasting outfits and may choose fluorocarbon. Braid or superline is a poor choice

because some stretch in line is beneficial when vertical jigging.



Before wetting the blade for the first time, here are a few tips on rigging.

- (1) Replace stock split-double hooks found on most blades with treble hooks attached by split rings. This will increase the number of fish landed.
- (2) Always attach the blade to the line with a snap. Several brands of blades are packaged with a snap; otherwise, use a #2 dual-lock wire snap.
- (3) Tie a smooth, strong, easy-rotating swivel in line approximately 15 inches above the blade to help reduce the line twist that inevitably occurs when vertically jigging a blade. Do not use a cheap wrapped wire swivel, but a premium SPRO Power Swivel or an Aquateko InvisaSwivel.

Of course it is critical to drop a blade where walleyes are most feeding. You've got to find the right fishy spot with your sonar unit. (That's electronic depthfinder sonar as opposed to a Heddon Sonar blade!) With baseline information on the typical depth of walleyes in the particular lake you are fishing, cruise high profile areas looking for baitfish schools on the sonar. Typical fall locations include points, extended breaklines, channel drops, deep flats adjoining the channel. When the sonar shows something interesting on or near the bottom, it's time to deploy a blade.

Permit the blade to free-fall to the bottom and engage the reel. Take up slack line so the line is taut between rod tip and lure. Gently sweep the rod tip upward until you feel the blade vibrate. Then slowly lower the lure back to the start point. This gives you a feel for what it takes to activate the particular blade at a particular depth. Now you can begin experimenting to find out how the fish want the blade presented on the given day. First try sweeping the rod tip upward about 12 inches and sitting the lure back down. Then try pumping the lure about 3 feet off the bottom. Or try a harder-but-shorter upward rip. Let the fish tell you how high and how hard to move the bait.



But it's how you handle the descent of the lure that will reduce tangles and provide the best opportunity to detect a strike. Do not let the bait fall back on slack line after each lift. Instead, ease it down by following the sinking blade with rod tip, watching the entry point where the line disappears at the surface. I call it dropping it on a semi-slack line. That's a BIG secret to successful blade fishing.

When you feel a tick on descent, see the line jump, or detect resistant when you go to lift the blade, set the hook with a full upward sweep!

A lifelong angler, Darl Black's articles

on freshwater fishing have appeared in outdoor publications for nearly three decades. He publishes a regular internet newsletter on fishing in NW Pennsylvania on behalf of the Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau ([www.visitcrawford.com](http://www.visitcrawford.com)).







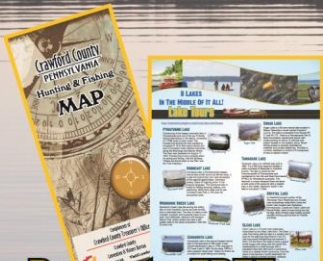
## September Song 2012

By O'Neill Williams

It's September and in a few short weeks, we'll be feeling the temperatures begin to drop, and the air get dryer. It'll feel good. The football season and match-ups will drift into your thoughts. The golden days of autumn will wrap us in crisp, dry days just filled with

outdoor activities. You'll have lots of things to do, lots of trips to arrange; fishing will be excellent. Deer hunting will be the talk of every guy in camo; thousands will fill local stadiums for Friday night high school contests and the colors of burnished yellows and dark reds of the mountains will draw campers from all walks of life. You and your family will be really busy. I've been there. I know what you'll do; you'll try and do it all. That's OK.

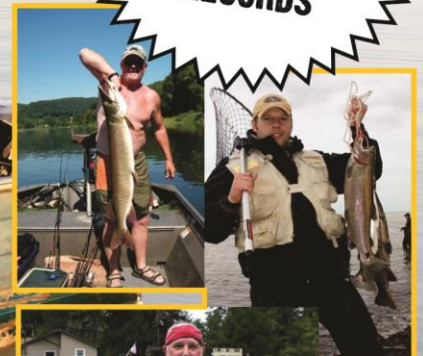
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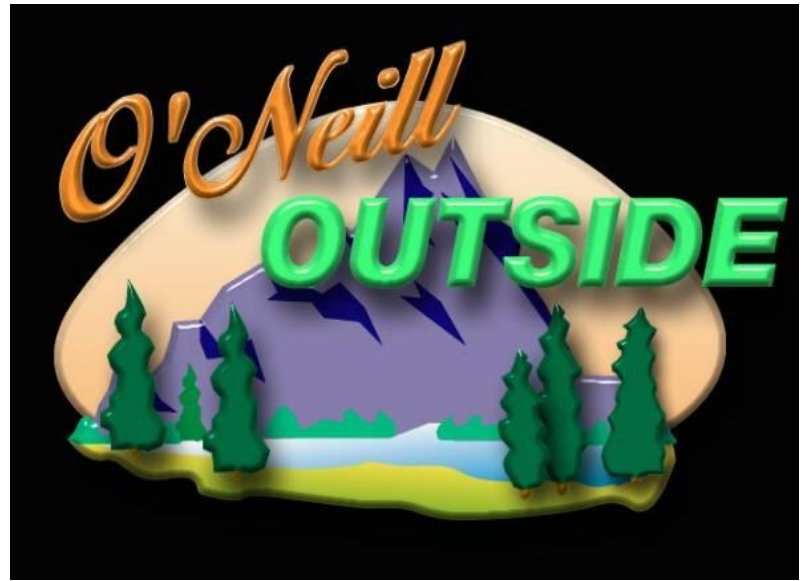
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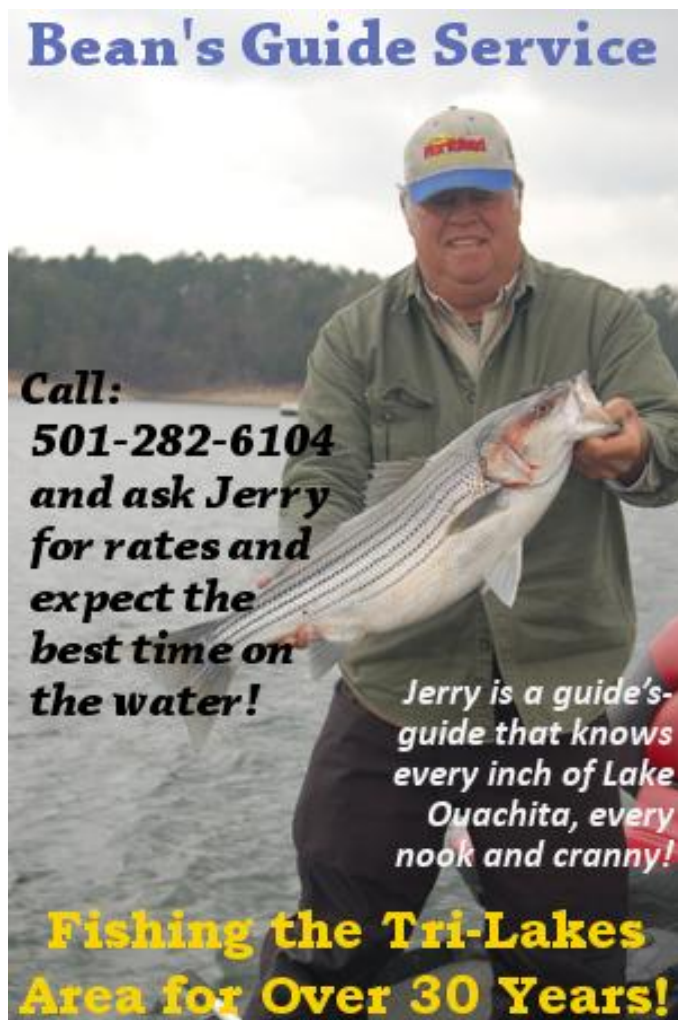


But what I want to recommend here is for you to recall those times as a youth when your family weren't quite so busy, when every moment wasn't filled with planned activity, when every evening and weekend wasn't with a group of thousands. Take a moment to recall long ago when you and your dad went fishing alone or walked the edges of a frosty cornfield with shotguns cradled. Sometimes it's better to be able to look forward to individual instruction, individual attention and one on one conversation.



Don't you remember when you, and your father or grandfather had a fishing or hunting trip planned, and you knew it was going to be just the two of you? I do. I was always lying in bed wake and waiting for the sounds of the floor creaking as he got up and started the day. My mother would make lunch, and we carried it in a brown paper bag. We had no coolers. We just took a Mason jar that doubled for a thermos. I dressed in jeans with big rolled-up cuffs, a striped tee-shirt and an Atlanta Crackers' baseball cap. I had one old square fiberglass rod and a Zebco 33. Boy was I nervous. I either talked a mile a minute or not at all.

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We bought a small box of red wigglers for 50 cents. The bait shop guy would pour the wigglers out on a cardboard sheet to make sure there were plenty there. If an extra coin or two was available, a small sleeve of crickets came along too. Sometimes, in preparation, I would catch grasshoppers or crickets myself for several days before hand by putting a piece of loaf bread in a gallon jar in the bushes on the lot next door. I'd catch a dozen or more. As far as the catching goes, a few lonely bluegills fell to our offerings, but it didn't really matter, we were there together. I would roam the banks trying one spot after another thrilled at the sight of a small bass or two and thinking that one would bite on the next cast.

The point is to spend some time together planning and going. I've never forgotten those days. I'm sure you remember them too. Why not plan a trip soon with your son, grandson, daughter or granddaughter, not to a football game, not with a crowd, just you two. I guarantee you'll see eyes light up in anticipation and a little person thrilled to be thought of as so special as to be taken fishing.



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# Watering Down The Truths Of Ethanol

By Chris Jenkins

When did things get so complicated? I am a creature of habit and could do without surprises all together. Being a fisherman as I am, there are a lot of interactions with boats, trailers, and all the things that are associated with the sport. Over the years, I have come to accept that there will be surprises whenever a boat is brought into the picture, and those surprises are not usually welcome or advantageous to me.



We all know that when you own a boat, “STUFF” happens.

Well, if it's not bad enough, inconvenient enough, and costly enough, when this “Stuff” happens, the government has managed to find a way to kick us when we are down. The particular boot that they use to deliver this punishment is called ETHENOL, and it can leave a wicket divot in our wallets. I am reading, listening, and learning what I can about ethanol and trying to separate fact from fiction. Five years down the road I may read this and kick myself or pat myself on the back, but I do feel it disserve our attention today.

Ethanol is an alcohol-based fuel made by fermenting and distilling crops that have been broken down into simple sugars. In the U.S., ethanol is generally made from starch crops like sorghum or corn. Ethanol was thrown in the laps of the public by claims that an oxygenate was necessary to improve air quality by reducing automobile pollutants. I was told that vehicles made since the mid 1980's have automatic sensors that regulate the oxygen/ fuel mixture to provide the most efficient combustion and doing exactly what an oxygenate (ethanol) is supposed to do thus making it unnecessary. Furthermore, we can forget about the improved air quality from ethanol, the EPA has said that ethanol produces more nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons (components of smog) than regular gas.

I don't think you are interested in the EPA or government plans though, and I am out of my element in those fields, so let's get back to boats.

It has become common knowledge that small engines aren't designed to run on ethanol and in many cases are ruined from it. My co-worker and friend recently has had a generator lock up on him due to phase separation associated with ethanol. Not only, a victim once was he, but twice when his Mercury 150 outboard left him stranded. The mechanic replaced both fuel injector banks, cleaned his fuel tank, and replaced every rubber hose because they were deteriorating from the inside out. The 10% ethanol blends was said to be the culprit as he was handed a \$4000 bill for parts and labor. His is but one story, unfortunately there are

thousands of similar incidents out there and every day the list of victim's increases. You see, ethanol acts as a solvent and remove gum, varnish, and even dissolves the resin that binds fiberglass threads together. It can eat away at rubber hoses on older boats and destroy gaskets in quick fashion. Typically, before this land slide occurs, smaller particles and foreign objects can become trapped and clog fuel lines and injectors, which equate to big bucks. If that isn't bad enough, ethanol attracts water and causes a phenomenon called phase separation. When enough water is absorbed by ethanol blended gas, the ethanol and water solution separates from the gasoline.

On several occasions, I have let one of my trucks sit for a week or two without being started. When I did get around to using it I would notice what seemed like a mis firing of the plugs when I tried to accelerate. The same thing seemed to happen to my Yamaha out board boat motor if I didn't run it every week. What was happening was a classic case of phase separation, so I began the ritual of adding Sta-bil fuel stabilizer to be on the safe side? It will not eliminate phase separation, but it will slow down the process and help keep your fuel system clean. However, after seeing my co worker part with his hard-earned money and the early-warning signs in my own back yard, I called Martin Peters at Yamaha. Martin was extremely helpful and took the time to answer all of my questions. I found out that Yamaha makes a 10 micron fuel/water separator to help us do battle against the evils of ethanol. I will try to do the equivalent of pulling a rabbit out of my hat by trying to explain what this devise accomplishes. Actually, it's not that complicated and makes perfect sense. A micron is short for micrometer, which is a unit of measurement and is equal to one-millionth of a meter. The

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- ***For open water frog fishing, it's very important that you use 30 to 50 lb. braided line. The smaller the diameter of the line the easier it is to walk the frog. Heavier braided line won't work in open water.***
- ***For heavy, matted vegetation, use 50 to 80 lb. braided line.***

diameter of a human hair is about 40 to 120 microns to give you an idea about the size we are talking about. After a simple installation, fuel will pass through this unit before it enters the motor and through what looks just like an oil filter. In the filter, there are layers of paper or media and that is where dirt and debris are trapped. The pore size in the media determined micron rating and the percentage of dirt that a filter removes determines its efficiency.

Besides being incredibly efficient, this filter has a compartment on the bottom that traps water, which is heavier than fuel. It is recommended that you change the filter every fifty hours unless your motor is new in which case you would change it every twenty hours until the break in process is complete. Yamaha makes a Mini 10 micron fuel/water separator for outboards up to 115 horse power and a standard 10 micron fuel/water separator for larger motors. Starting at about \$41.00, there is no reason to jeopardize the health of your motor another day. Unfortunately, there are those that are making a lot of money from ethanol, and as long as that happens it is here to stay. In fact, we recently just dodged a bullet when a request to increase the blend of ethanol from 10% to 15% was postponed. If you love the water as much as I do, it is critical that we take all the necessary steps to ensure that our next trip is not the last. Check out Yamaha's 10 micron fuel/water separator online and if you have any questions feel free to send me an email or call Yamaha's customer service, which is extremely helpful and knowledgeable. We all love the water, just not in our gas. [www.yamaha.com](http://www.yamaha.com)

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## Jugging For Cats

By Travis Johnson

September is here, leaves are starting to turn, and the afternoons are cooling off. Deer season is just around the corner and hunters are stocking up on the last minute necessities for camp. Time to stock up on nylon cord, circle hooks, and the few remaining pool “noodles” left over at Wal-Mart from the summer. Wait a minute; what do those things have to do with deer season? Well nothing. Not only is it time to get ready to hunt that big Whitetail buck, the Catfish are biting. It is hard to beat a cool evening on the lake with a few good buddies and thirty or forty jugs spread out around the boat. It may seem like a lot of work, but it sure is fun.

### The set-up

Okay, so we now have our Tru-Turn wide gap circle hooks, trot line cord and “noodles”. Now what? First thing is to put a little time into setting up each jug. There are many different methods used to attach the line to the jugs such as  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch pvc pipe run through the center of the noodle, garden hose, or just using a wire tie and a swivel about four inches from one end. Once you have a way to secure the line to your “jugs” we need to determine the depth that we are going to fish. Most people fish staggered depths anywhere from 2 to 15 feet depending on the area being fished. It is a good idea to have several Jugs at different depths to help locate the fish. If you plan on jugging at night it may be a good idea to invest in reflective tape to make locating your jugs easier. Now we have our jugs rigged up and ready



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for the water, we just need bait. Catching live shad around docks or bridges seems to be affective but store bought bait will still catch fish.

## At the lake.

Be sure to check your local regulations on jug fishing before you get to the lake. There may be regulations as

to the number of lines or types of hooks and how to mark your jugs. Once we're at the lake, we have our bait; it's time to find the fish. If you know the lake well, it should be a piece of cake to find where the catfish hang out. If the lake is new to you, use of your depth finders and knowledge of the fish you are after will come into play when finding a spot to make your set. As soon as you pick a spot, it's time to start baiting hooks. Use different depths on the jugs to work your way out from shallow water out to deeper water near the channel. The jugs will drift with the current so start the sting to where your baits will drift through the area holding fish. When all the hooks are baited and in the water it is time to sit back, relax, and wait on the jugs to begin the tell-tale dance on the surface that indicates a fish has taken the bait. Just like any other type of fishing, some nights are good, some nights are great, and sometimes the fish just will not cooperate. But it is always a good time spent with friends.



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## Quebec Gold Rush...

By Anthony Badham

I want to share with everyone my favorite place to fish in the province of Quebec. It's called "L'Auberge La Barrière". Although only located about 90 minutes north of Montreal, when you arrive, it seems like you're in the great north. Peaceful environment in a quiet and breath taking wilderness. What's more, they have a multitude of species throughout their 11 exclusive lakes, including speckled trout, rainbow trout, arctic char and the most impressive, golden trout, a Quebec's exclusive. The fish are abundant and larger than average in size. Fishing is open all year round with the ice fishing season from December to April. I have sampled almost every month of fishing up there and October is definitely my favorite time of the year. Fall is upon us and the leaves are most beautiful, the cool nights and warm days set

the fish into a feeding frenzy to pack on a few pounds for the winter so I'm heading north for a weekend of fishing fun and who knows maybe break a few of my personal bests along the way.

My host and co-owner Jean-Michel Gélinais was pretty much born and raised in this fishing paradise. He knows almost every nook and cranny of their 4500 acres and can catch trout like no one else. We commence our first morning by trying our luck at rainbow trout and once again the bite is on; within the first hours we have numerous fish between 3 and 5lbs with a behemoth topping the scale at just over 7lbs... What a morning! The key technique is trolling





with light line on spinning reels with streamer flies, small floating minnows and trout nuggets behind a spoon used as a flasher, which is a very common technique in Quebec. A brief description would be to use a Lake Clear wobbler with about 3 feet of fluorocarbon behind it and hook a night crawler or artificial bait, in this a case a

Powerbait® trout nugget does the trick. For some reason, chartreuse is the most productive color thru summer and then pink prevails the fall, who knows why but if it works don't fix it.

After our impressive morning, we head to the lodge for a plentiful meal with Carole, Jean-Michel's mother. We engage in our usual fish stories while catching up over a good meal. The lodge offers a variety of meals and accommodations for up to 130 people. The site has 11 cottages, including 2 secluded chalets accessible only by water and running on propane for those looking for a rustic experience. They also have 10 suites that can accommodate 2-10 people. Service here is important and all accommodations include washrooms, hot showers, linens and articles needed for a carefree stay. Many cottages have fireplaces. Now that we have enjoyed dessert, we head to the main lake to try our hand at the exclusive golden trout.

The main lake is located right in front of the lodge and is full of golden trout, speckles and rainbow's ranging from a pound right up to a giant 11 pounder caught last spring. We have caught many fish with our





trolling technique, but decide to go for some larger specimens by casting micro tubes on flats and near weed lines. It does not take Jean-Michel very long to engage a huge golden. It's the biggest I have seen here so far exceeding well over 8lbs and giving him a fight of a lifetime. I net the fish and get a few quick pictures so we can release this jewel for someone else to capture. Catch and release is not usually encouraged on the main lake, as the survival rate is low. However, we are both experienced anglers and want someone else to enjoy the same opportunity at this magnificent specimen. After a few high fives and some chuckling, we decide to call it a day.

Following a peaceful night's rest and a good breakfast, we head over to Lake Marc to catch a few speckled trout and rainbows. In fact, this is a much smaller lake and only 2 fish per anglers are allowed as the size of the catches are impressive. It took us a little while to find the school, but they were eager to bite once found. My first fish is a nice 4 pound speckled trout followed by another 3 pounder of the same species. Jean-Michel, once again, shows me up with a nice 5-pound rainbow, these are going to make a nice supper for us and a few guests. After another successful morning has come to an end, we head in for lunch, while discussing our successes with other anglers, we discover that the arctic char were feeding big time this morning so we decide to spend my last afternoon at catching a few monsters.



At this time of year, the arctic char come in shallow and we can see them roaming on the flats so we cast our micro tubes a few feet past them waiting for a response. Seconds later, we have our first one on the line and it's over 4lbs. It's the start to a crazy afternoon as we catch fish after fish for about an hour. We ended up with 11 arctic char, with the two largest just over 6lbs. We take a few pictures and end our fishing adventure until next October...

"L'Auberge La Barrière" offers many different services, including hunting for pheasant, partridge, hare, bear and moose, with exclusive territories for each group of hunters. They can accommodate all your fishing and lodging needs. Please feel free to call (450) 884-5748 or visit their website [aubergelabarriere.com](http://aubergelabarriere.com) for reservations or any questions.

For further information, regarding this article or to contact Anthony Badham directly, please visit [anthonyjohnoutdoors.com](http://anthonyjohnoutdoors.com).

# WHAT'S SELLING?

By Ken Freel

Here's a spot check of what retailers, guides and manufacturers say is selling (and catching fish) in their neck of the fishing world.

## **Fishing Guide Jerry Bean; (501) 282-6104.**

Guide Jerry Bean fishes 365 days a year on Arkansas' beautiful Lake Ouachita, often cited as one of America's cleanest lakes; Bean loves to get his clients hooked up on whatever's biting, from trophy stripers to tasty walleyes and crappie. "I love Cotton Cordell's Red Fin swim baits in trout and shad colors, especially the bigger models for catching stripers," Bean says. "Also, Cotton Cordell's 3/4-ounce jiggling spoons in silver are effective when largemouth bass are moving into the creeks and channel ledges."



## **Kevin Bogan, owner of Kevin Bogan's Bait & Tackle, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ; (732) 892-8822 or [Kevin@kevinbogans.com](mailto:Kevin@kevinbogans.com)**

Successful tackle shop owner Kevin Bogan is known for his custom rods—along with selling hooks, lines, lures and myriad other tackle supplies. He's expanded lately into an entire new line of rods. "We've developed a line of fishing rods called Fish Poison," he says. "The blank



is jet black, and by keeping the wrapping simple, it keeps the cost of each rod down by \$30. The black stealth look blank has skull and crossbones on it, which anglers say looks cool.” These well-balanced, custom rods sell for \$130 to \$160 retail, according to owner Kevin Bogan.

**Scott Gartner, owner of Lethal Weapon Lures, LaCrosse, WI; (608) 782-5552 or [www.lethalweaponlures.com](http://www.lethalweaponlures.com)**



According to Scott Gartner, Lethal Weapons swimming jigs are big hits with fishermen. “These lures imitate shad very well, so they’re effective whenever shad are present. Shad will ball up and the bass will attack,” says Gartner. He also mentioned that anglers really like the fact that the skirts on

Lethal Weapons swim jigs don’t slide down the hook shank—providing more fishing time and less hassle.

**Chris Jenkins, Staff Writer for ODU Magazine on the REVO Reels; [sowbelly.hunter@yahoo.com](mailto:sowbelly.hunter@yahoo.com)**

Two years in a row the top editors and writers in fishing industry have crowned Abu Garcia with top honors for new product innovation. The new Revo® series from Abu Garcia won the “Best Freshwater Reel” at this year’s ICAST trade show in Orlando, Florida. The all new series has been completely redesigned to be lighter, more compact and more powerful.



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## Artificial Intelligence Outsmarts Summer Tarpon

By Capt. Bill Miller

When summer finds tarpon returning from their offshore spawning journey, the fish will start heading back into Charlotte Harbor, Sarasota Bay, Tampa Bay and Clearwater Harbor. Some will remain along the gulf beaches, but the inside waters will host the majority of fish until early fall.

Tarpon will eat live or dead baits, but my favorite option for late summer is an artificial lure. The trouble with natural baits is that they attract the catfish and small sharks inhabiting the bays this time of year. Their aggressive behavior makes me believe that they see you cast your bait and then run for it like a wide receiver in football running after a pass and as soon as your bait hits the water they are on it. This is very frustrating because you spend

all of your fishing time dehooking the cats and sharks.

Artificials occasionally attract trash bites, but far less than bait. My favorite artificials are the MirrOlure 77, 72 and 65 twitchbaits and the DOA Bait Buster. The bigger and heavier MirrOlures are effective because you'll often find summer tarpon in 10-20 feet and the extra weight lets you cover that water column more efficiently than with similar baits of smaller size. The same logic applies to the heavier Bait Busters designed for trolling – longer casts and faster fall through deeper water.

**Top colors:** It's hard to beat the old standby red and white and baitfish colors like green and silver and black and gold.

**Proper Tackle:** I fish these summer tarpon baits on a 7-foot casting rod or a spinning rod and a 5000 series reel. The reason for the spinning rod and the casting rod duo is to minimize fatigue. After a lot of repetitions with a casting reel, my hands and arms get tired. Switching rod types uses a different type of cast and makes it easier to continue fishing.

**Line It Up:** My reels are loaded with 50-pound braid. I tie a 5-foot piece of 30-pound fluorocarbon to the braid and I connect 12 inches of 60-pound fluoro to the 30 as a bite tippet. I use a circle knot to tie on the lures.

The reason for the 30-pound fluoro is to camouflage the braid. Also, the smaller diameter mono makes a smaller connection knot that will slide through the guides easier.

**Finding Fish:** I prefer to fish with artificial on slick calm days because the high visibility makes it easier to see rolling tarpon. Another sign to look for is diving birds and bait schools. When I find areas of tarpon activity, I slowly drift or approach with the electric motor and look for the biggest concentrations. I try to cast about three to four feet in front of a rolling fish. Sometimes I cast right in the circle left by the tarpon roll.

**Best Presentation:** I do best by letting the lure sink and then slowly retrieving it with a small twitches. Even though you see a fish on top, most of the bites come from below the surface, usually near the bottom. Continuous blind casting – similar to drifting a flat for trout – is the way to go when the tarpon are not rolling much.

When tarpon hit an artificial, it's usually on the lure drop and the bite is very subtle. I pay close attention for a tick on the line; something like a small pinfish bite on bait. When I feel that, I reel like crazy to get a tight line. When I feel good pressure, I find that a strong hook set or two is necessary to drive the hooks home.

**Tip:** Sharpening the hooks and pinching the barb closed slightly will help drive the hooks into the boney tarpon mouth.

For fishing videos, catch photos and lots of angling resources, visit [www.fishingwithbillmiller.com](http://www.fishingwithbillmiller.com). For fishing charters in the Tampa Bay area, call (813) 363-9927.



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## **Making The Most Of Color, Contrast And Movement**

By Darin Gillenwater

If you're a hunter or have ever spent time in the military, you've probably heard that phrase before and even if you haven't you've probably made use of it. To hide from your prey, or your adversary your choice of color, ability to minimize your contrast to your background and hide your movement will make or break your attempt at camouflage. Conversely, you will be looking for certain colors, mismatches in the background and movement in order to detect your quarry. In fishing, it is easy to forget that our success will often hinge on maximizing our lures' color, contrast and movement. While it is true that one of your 'go-to' lures will get you a strike on almost any given day, a little thought about "CC M" may surprise you. First, think of color- how visible will your choice be when looking up at the sky through the water? Is the water stained? If so, get a contrast through appropriate color choices; if the water is looking green, will you expect much from a green lure? Then we come to movement. Each lure has a movement that it was designed for, and you need to make sure you work it right; the difference can make, well, all the difference! Recently, a client was cranking a Long-A with minimal results. When I showed him how to slash it through the water, the fish were suddenly biting like crazy! Think "CC M" and success is more likely.

Darin Gillenwater is the owner of Greasy Creek Outfitters. Greasy Creek (a wild trout stream) flows through upland pastures in Floyd, Va. Legend has it that hunter's once skinned so many bear along its banks that the creek filled with grease.

[www.greascreekoutfitters.com](http://www.greascreekoutfitters.com)





## We Have All Been Fooled About Barometric Pressure

By Jake Bussolini

Barometric pressure has absolutely nothing to do with the behavior of a fish, it's a myth.

I'm fishing on this beautiful lake in early June, the sky is absolutely clear and the

barometric pressure is very high. There is no breeze as I start fishing about 8 am, and I say to myself, "fishing will be lousy today because the pressure is so high". That's what I have been taught and that's what I believed was true for many years. Eight hours later my partner and I caught over one hundred smallmouth bass. That evening the clouds rolled in as a front passed and the next day was overcast with a low barometric pressure. "This should be a great day" I thought, the pressure is low. At the end of that day the two of us caught about 90 bass. As catch and release fishermen of course all of these fish were returned to the water. This went on for seven days with great catches each day regardless of the barometric pressure.

This was really no surprise to me because several years ago, I thought seriously about this issue of barometric pressure, and because I remembered a little of the high school physics that I had learned many years before, I did considerable research on the subject, but it was rather simple mathematics that proved that my hunch was right. Barometric pressure has absolutely no effect on the behavior of fish. Let's trace my research.

Actually, the subject kept rattling through my mind because as a pilot, my life in the air was controlled by barometric pressure, so it was a life-or-death subject for me. The altitude readings of my aircraft equipment were all based on this pressure, because my altitude was always stated as "above sea level". I remembered that my high school physics class taught me that the people who first learned how to measure barometric pressure based all of their measurements on a sea level baseline. If that's true, I often wondered, how can anything below the surface of the water be affected by the pressure above the water?

Let's look at a basic definition. The air that we breathe is made up of nitrogen (80%), Oxygen (16%) and carbon dioxide (4%). The forces of these molecules are held together by the earth's gravity. Atmospheric pressure is defined as the force per unit of area that is exerted on the earth's surface by the weight of the air above it. As a result, this pressure varies with the altitude above the surface of the earth. The first instruments invented to measure this pressure were called barometers, so that term was substituted for this pressure to become



barometric pressure. Atmospheric pressure at the surface of the earth is defined as one atmosphere (ATM) and at sea level weighs 14.67 pounds per square inch. The higher the distance above the earth the lower the weight of the air column and, therefore, the lower the pressure. A more popular measurement term that has become standard for measuring this pressure is in inches of mercury, because the original measuring equipment was based on measuring the movement of mercury in a stationary tube, one square inch in diameter. The standard using this terminology is 29.92 inches of mercury. In most areas of the world today, inches of mercury is the measurement term used to define barometric pressure. Now let's get into the proof of my statement.

In 1647, a French mathematician named Blaise Pascal formulated the first proven theory of the pressure exerted on a solid body when submersed in water. In our case, that object would be a fish. Pascal determined that this pressure was equal to the sum of several elements and was represented by the equation;

$$P = pgh + P_a$$

In this rather simple equation, P is the hydrostatic pressure exerted by the water, p is the density of the liquid, g is the gravitational acceleration, h is the depth in the liquid column and Pa is the barometric pressure. Since the density of water is 1, and the gravitation pull is always the same on earth, both factors can be eliminated from the equation leaving a simplified equation that says that the pressure applied underwater is the sum of the barometric pressure at the surface of the water plus the hydrostatic pressure at a given depth. In this equation, the effect of barometric pressure is an additive but its effect stops at the surface of the water, below that Hydrostatic takes over as the variable.

If we look quickly at hydrostatic pressure, water has a force of 62.4 pounds of force per cubic foot of volume. Again summarizing the conversion math to get to what that is in psi per foot of depth, the answer is .433 psi per foot of depth. Trust me here, I have done the math.

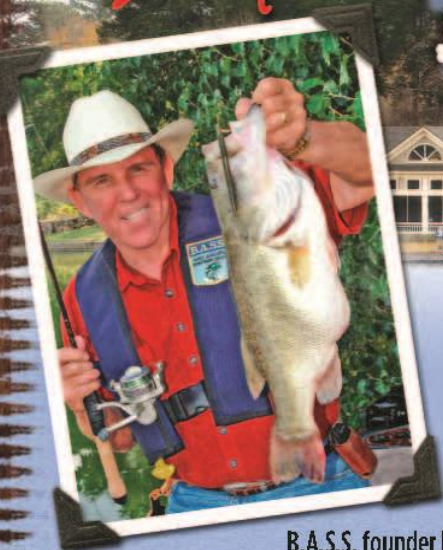
In order to simplify the remaining calculations, I will present on the results of the math by reducing all of the subject measurement factors to a common measurement of pounds per square inch. 1 Inch of mercury equals 0.49 psi, conversely 1 psi equals 2.04 inches of mercury.. Therefore if an object (or fish) is in water that is 10 feet deep, the hydrostatic pressure that it feels is 10 times .433 or 4.33psi. This pressure at 20 feet would be about 8.60 psi and these pressures have not yet considered the added surface atmospheric pressure.

Total pressure changes vs changes in barometric pressure at 10 feet of water depth		
Barometric pressure	Hydrostatic pressure (psi)	Percent change
29.92	19.039	0%
29.93	19.034	.02%
29.94	19.0479	.04%
29.95	19.0528	.06%
29.96	19.0577	.08%
29.97	19.0626	.10%
29.98	19.0675	.12%
29.99	19.0724	.14%
30.00	19.0773	.16%
30.01	19.0822	.19%
30.02	19.0871	.20%
30.03	19.0920	.30%
30.04	19.0979	.40%



Ray Scott's

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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.

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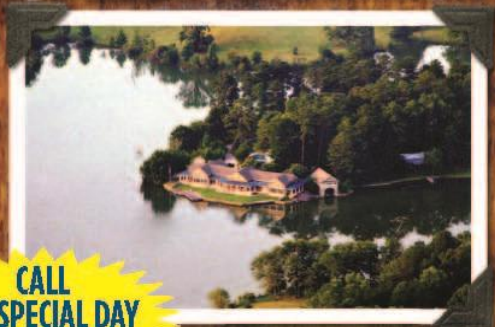
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**Call 800-518-7222 | Visit us on the web at [www.rayscottbassretreat.com](http://www.rayscottbassretreat.com)**

**An Alabama Black Belt Adventure**



<b>Hydrostatic pressure changes with water depth at std. atmosphere, 29.92</b>	
<b>Water depth</b>	<b>Hydrostatic pressure</b>
1 Ft.	15.10 psi
2 Ft.	15.53 psi
3 Ft.	15.96 psi
4 Ft.	16.01 psi
5 Ft.	16.83 psi
6 Ft.	17.28 psi
7 Ft.	17.70 psi
8 Ft.	18.13 psi
9 Ft.	18.55 psi
10 Ft.	19.00 psi

To determine the total of the barometric pressure and hydrostatic pressure that would be exerted on a fish at a depth of 10 feet, I ran the barometric pressure through its extremes from 29.92 to 30.04 and the results are shown in the table below.

This illustrates that over this entire range of barometric pressure, at a depth of 10 feet, the variation in total pressure varies less than 0.50 percent, a negligible change.

The hydrostatic pressure variations as they are affected by water depth are shown in the following table.

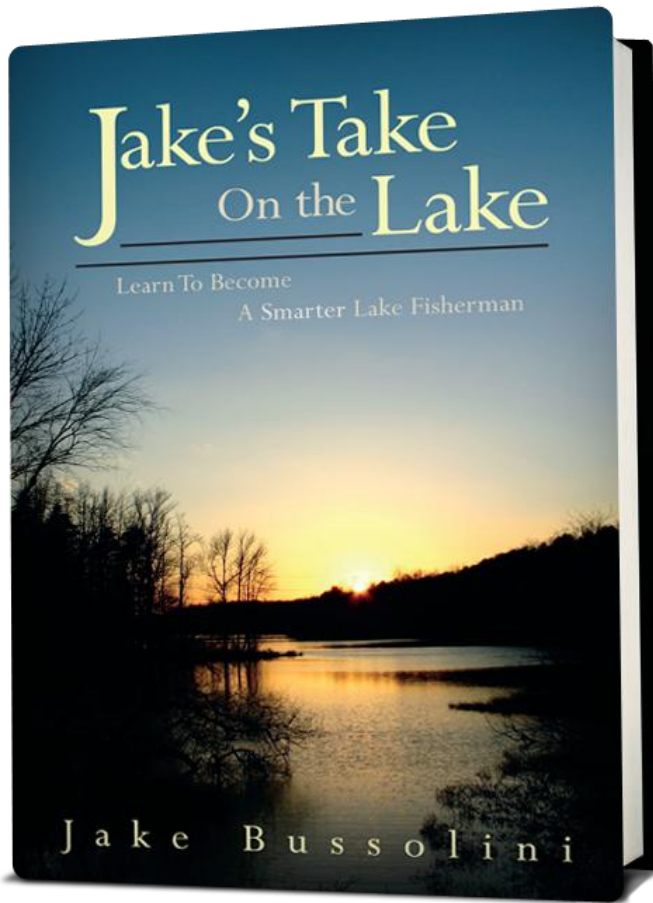
What these two tables show clearly is that barometric pressure has a nearly negligible affect on a fish at any depth, but the variable pressure is caused by the variations in hydrostatic pressure at different water depths. This is kind of like saying that I pick up a 5 pound stone and put a coat of paint on it and then worry how much weight was added by the paint, it's almost negligible.

Does this mean that we fishermen have been duped into thinking that fishing is good on low pressure days and bad at high pressure days, and is variable when the pressure is going up or down. The answer is yes and no. The real cause of changes in fish behavior is the presents or absents of sunlight.



Think about what happens when the barometric pressure changes. High pressure normally means good weather and the clearing skies and sunlight. As weather fronts come through and the barometric pressure drops, bad weather follows with gathering cloud cover and the absent of sunlight. I don't think that any experienced fisherman will argue that the presence

or absents of sunlight affects the behavior of just about every species of fish. So it's not barometric pressure that has an effect on the fish, it's the sunlight. I have asked several



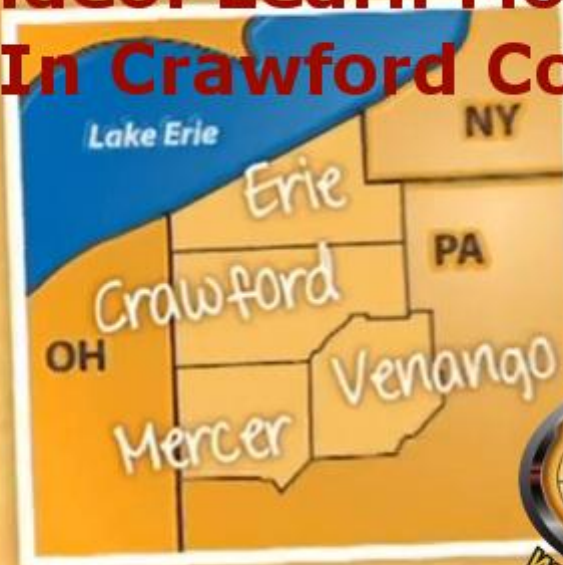
professional fishermen to give their opinion on this subject and in most cases I was given a story about how barometric pressure changes the forces in the float bladder inside the fish, causing it to change its behavior. If you believe that after reading this, I have a bridge that I would like to sell you.

Jake Bussolini is a seasoned fisherman and author of several books about freshwater fishing. His technical background has permitted him to blend the science of

fishing with the sport of fishing in all of his books. More of the detailed math that is summarized in this article is spelled out in detail in one of Jakes books, "Beneath The Surface".

This book and Jakes other books can be examined on his web site [www.jakesta keonfishing.com](http://www.jakesta keonfishing.com). You can also read many of his short works on his blog [www.jakesfishingfacts.blogspot.com](http://www.jakesfishingfacts.blogspot.com).

## Watch Video: Learn More About Fishing In Crawford County PA





# Classic Fall Crankbait Patterns for Huge Walleyes

By Jason Mitchell

The fact that walleye fishing is good come fall is no secret. Realistically, one of the best times during the year for seeing solid patterns develop with great fishing. Big fish are often fairly easy to target with some consistency. Despite how good the fishing is late in the open-water season, there are not that many people out fishing in the fall on many major walleye fisheries. Just too many things to do outside like hunting and for many people, they have got their fishing fix for the season long before fall. The only people left on the water are the real diehards, and their numbers are few.

Somewhere, there has to be a bite going on where the boat ramp is crowded, and people are playing a game of bumper boats but compared to spring and summer; the fall is pretty relaxed and quiet on much of the water I fish. The lakes are so quiet that, by and large, some of the best bites happening are on well known community holes. Now obviously community spots are good spots otherwise the spot wouldn't attract enough fish and boats to be considered a community spot, but these locations can really shine during the fall.



The author, Jason Mitchell holds up a jumbo walleye caught trolling a Salmo Bullhead SDR. Catch big fish in the fall by trolling big baits over prominent main lake structure or near current areas.

Typically, a community spot is a well-known spot that attracts attention. These spots are often large and prominent. Perhaps a large reef or bar that is a major staging area for fish or an incoming river or hole that can hold a good number of fish. Obvious structure typically attracts fish come fall. Bottle neck areas that funnel current along with any incoming current from rivers or creeks can also stack fish up. Most of these types of spots are no secret. Although these locations are all known spots on most bodies of water, the pressure is light come fall and these spots just seem to get better. These types of locations are good when there are a lot of boats around but really heat up after everybody puts their boats in storage.

The biggest lesson I have learned over the years about fall fishing is to not out think myself. There is no worry about finding little wrinkles or patterns that are off the wall because you don't characteristically have to factor angling pressure into the equation. Don't worry about finding a secret spot where there are no boats, typically you can fish the most well known spots on a body of water and not have many boats around. What can hurt your ego during the fall is that many of these well-known spots often fish much better than the small off-the-wall spots that might be considered secret.

This is a big adjustment for some anglers to make. Many good anglers succeed through the season by staying one step ahead of the crowds and finding small spots that haven't seen pressure. You really have to turn this switch off in the fall on many bodies of water. Fish the obvious spots and swallow your pride. The biggest fish each season comes from many of these well-known locations that are punched into just about everybody's GPS and the time to fish them is right now when not many boats are left on the water.

There might be many reasons why community holes light up come fall beside the obvious lack of angling pressure. Fish often seem scattered early in the fall but as fall progresses to winter, fish seem to stack up in areas. Come mid to late fall, fish often seem to form huge schools and at some point congregate into a pretty definite area. The spot has to typically be pretty big and obvious to hold a really large school of fish. Small spots are not capable of holding a gigantic school. The other thing that large spots do is stop or stall traveling fish. During the fall when the fish typically move a lot at some point, large spots intersect and stop

more fish. Typically, when fish put on a lot of miles traveling, they will get paler in color.

Incoming creeks, rivers and bottle neck areas that focus the current are also phenomenal places to target big fish during the fall. Typically as well, the fewer the locations



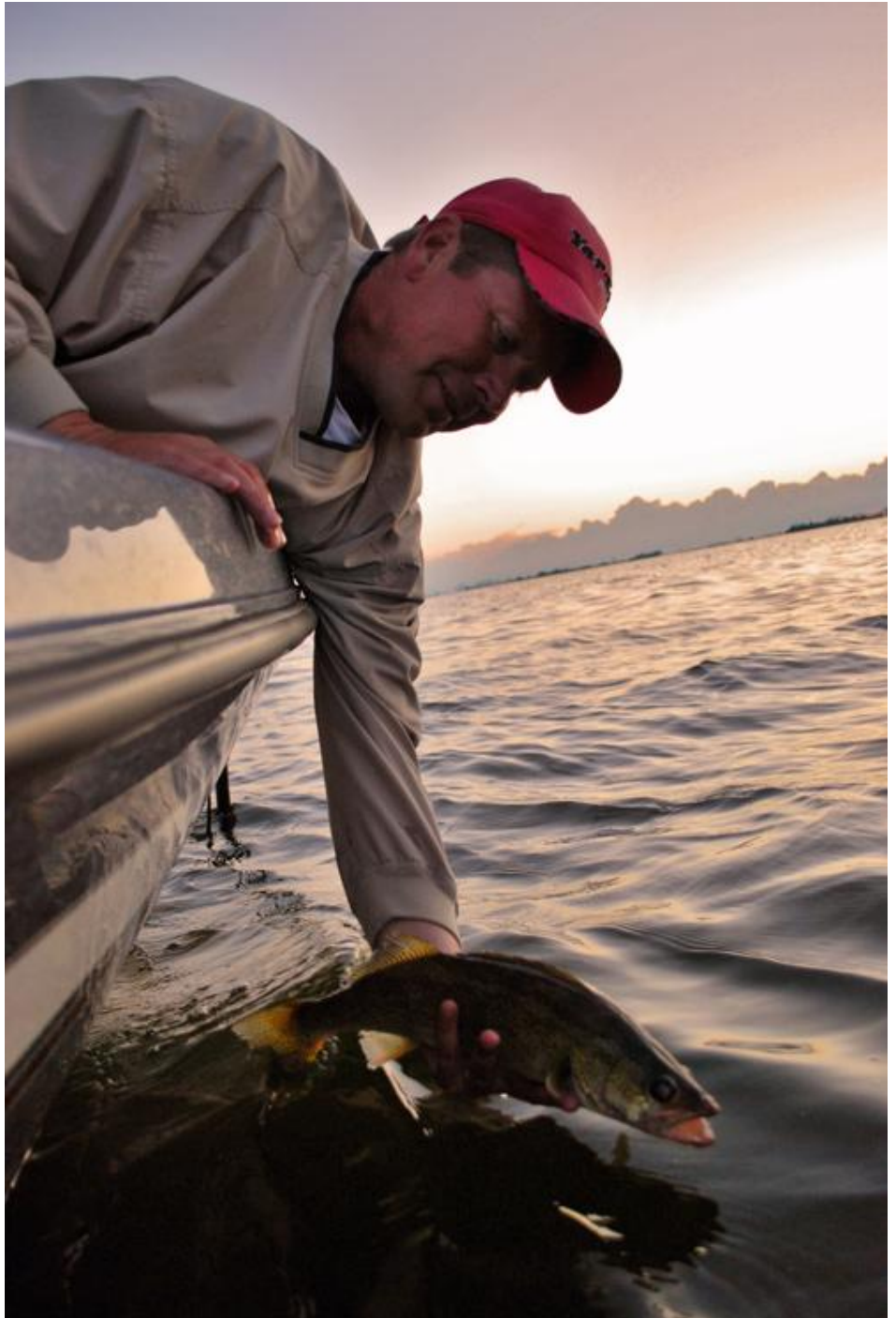


like this on a body of water, the better the spot.

On some fisheries, the game takes place after dark. Wading out on current seams and eddies next to incoming streams or causeways might be the hot pattern. Trolling stick baits along rip rap or across large reefs can also create top after dark patterns and usually these patterns fish best around a full moon. Daytime patterns can run the gamut but typically range from big prominent points and reefs with current.

Across the board, I have caught most of my really large fish in the fall by either trolling or casting some type of crankbait. Big fish love crankbaits any time of the year but they seem to be even more productive during the fall. Crankbaits tend to trigger the bigger fish in a school and enable you to cover water to fish through a spot fast. There are many theories as to why, but bigger crankbaits and lures seem to become more productive during the fall. Larger lures like the number 6 Salmo Hornet pulls hard and displaces more water than most crankbaits but they sure do become more effective late in the season. Short lining larger deep diving lures, so they move more water is a top tactic for triggering fish in the fall. Other great fall lures include the Reef Runner Deep Rippers, Bomber Long A Deep Diver, Rapala Jointed Shad Rap and the Salmo Bullhead SDR. Suspending stick baits are also a deadly lure option when fishing after dark. Lures like the Rapala Husky Jerk or Salmo Suspending Sting catch several trophies walleyes each season.

Big baits on big fish, fishing classic community holes and spots is the theme come fall across many walleye fisheries. Not many secrets this time of the year, you just have to commit the time to be on the water. If you can bear the cold and face fishing community spots, you have a great chance of sticking some of the biggest walleyes each season.



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*- Shaw Grigsby,  
TV Host, One More Cast*



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# LOWRANCE

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## Gills Galore

By Ted Takasaki  
and Scott Richardson

It's a cinch that bluegills don't get the respect they deserve. Most anglers prefer the thrill of playing tug of war with a huge muskie or watching a smallmouth bass rocket out of the water or feeling the throb of a super-sized walleye. Bluegills are bait, bite-sized morsels for the largest gamefish.

However, bluegills have a place in the fishing world. For one, they're a great way to introduce kids to the sport while spending quality time with the family on a hot summer day when prospects for catching other fish are slim. For another, some people think 'gills are the fillet mignon of freshwater fish. And who can deny that bluegills fight like heavyweights on ultra light gear?

Like any other species of fish, catching the big 'gills isn't a sure thing. There's a science to finding big bluegills just like there's a science to finding big muskies or walleyes or bass. Don't laugh when we use "big" and "bluegill" in the same sentence. The world record bluegill weighed in at more than 4 pounds!



Bluegills are the most widely available fish in many areas, and good-size 'gills are worthy fighters and superb table fare. Here, a nice summer bluegill fell to a Lindy Little Nipper jig. Spend some time this year pursuing bluegills in addition to other species.

We don't promise this article will lead you to the next record. However, you just might learn a trick or two that can make your next 'gill outing a thrill for the kids and the kid inside you. A 9-inch bluegill is a beautiful fish to behold.

### First some facts

The scientific name by a number of names few of their aliases are bream, sun granny.

for bluegill is *Lepomis macrochirus*. However, they go depending on what section of the country you're in. A copperbelly, sunfish, yellow belly, baldface, and

Bluegills are members of the (guess what?) largemouth bass, crappies and a few others. Adult inches. But as mentioned earlier, 12 ounces. That fish came from Ketona Lake, Ala., in 1950 when Give 'Em Hell Harry S, Truman was in the White House. It's a record that might stand for years to come – or it could be broken tomorrow.

### Thill Mini-Shy Bite

sunfish family along with smallmouth bass, spotted bass, fish range from 6 inches to 10 the world record is 4 pounds,

Besides identifying with the runt of the fishing world, kids love bluegills because they're literally everywhere from farm ponds, local lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams from Canada to Mexico and all points in between.

Bluegill spawns when the water temperature reaches 65 to 70 degrees F, and spawning can last from April in the south through the summer months in the north. Tradition has it the very best time to catch bluegills is at the peak of spawn during the full moon of June. However, bluegills don't all spawn at the same time and some female fish in the Midwest have spawned as many as nine times from May to September, according to the scientists. Fish move into shallow, sandy spawning areas featuring huge numbers of nests. Savvy anglers are out during the full-moon phase of July and August. But don't wait until spawning time. They can be caught during the day when they find shade and cover in weed beds, submerged trees, rocks, and docks. They can be caught at night near lit docks where they come to feast on insects attracted by the lights. They can be caught around the calendar, making them a favorite of ice fishermen.

Bluegills eat whatever they can get. Small 'gills eat plankton, but larger gills eat insects and worms, tiny minnows, even crayfish.

Because bluegills are so good at reproducing, competition for food can create situations where bluegill populations are stunted. The best bluegill lakes often feature many, but smaller predators like largemouth bass that can keep the bluegills in check.

### Lindy Fat Boy Ice Jig





Scientists are also looking at newer research that indicates bluegills might also stunt for another reason. Over-harvesting of big bluegills in a lake can remove the natural incentive for bluegills to grow large to dominate the population and have the best chances to reproduce. That means bluegills can be successful spawners when they are small and once fish start expending energy spawning, they have less energy to devote to growing larger.

The bottom line: don't take many big bluegills from their nests. Leave them to present a benchmark for other bluegills to reach before they mature.



## Fuzz E Grub

### Catching Big 'Gills

Use slip floats like the Thill Mini-Shy Bite. Weight them properly so they balance perfectly with a small ice jig, a regular jig or a small hook and allow just one-eighth of an inch of the red tip of the float to peek from the water. Action below the water will be telegraphed to the float anytime a fish touches the bait.

If you choose a jig, try small ice jigs like Fat Boys or #8 Frostees. Little Nippers and 1/32-ounce Fuzz E Grub jigs are also excellent choices. Dress the jigs with wax worms, spikes, nightcrawler pieces, small leeches or crickets. Try letting the bait rest below the float first. If that doesn't work, lightly jiggle it to see if the fish want some action to the jig. You can also cast along the weed edge or over the top of the weeds. Try this action...reel, stop, reel, stop, then slowly bring it back to the boat. This action imparts an irresistible swim, drop, swim, drop action.

Adjust the bobber stop up or down to test different depths in the water column. Bluegills move shallower and deeper to feed on light-sensitive plankton, which change depth during the course of a day. If the fish stop biting, try changing depths before you move.



Note: Takasaki is teaming up with Anderson Trucking Service to offer fishing tips to the company's drivers, along with the chance to win all-expenses-paid fishing trips with the Hall of Fame angler. Ted's Tips are found at [www.drive4ats.com](http://www.drive4ats.com), along with information on joining this industry leader, founded in 1955. Interested drivers can also call 1-855-JOIN-ATS.



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# WHERE THE BIG FISH ARE







Ken "Carp Zombie" Keene getting ready to attack a favorite lake of his in New York State. Photo courtesy of [www.BigFourCarp.com](http://www.BigFourCarp.com)

## **Carp Fishing in AMERICA... Eight of the HOTTEST VENUES and STATES REVEALED!**

**"Have you ever wondered about venues from around the world? I certainly have. But, before I start talking about venues, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Ken "Carp Zombie" Keene, and I am a carp angler from the United States."**

For me, the thought of sitting along the banks of a popular U.K. venue accompanied by fellow carp anglers would be a very memorable experience. I'm sure my passion for carp fishing will take me there one day but, until then I can only imagine what it would be like. While pondering that thought it occurred to me, if I am curious about foreign venues, then maybe you are too. If that's the case, then I would like to share with you some gorgeous venues and pictures of BIG VIRGIN CARP that have been caught and released here in the United States.

Several questions may have already entered your mind about the status of carp fishing in the United States. Well, I'm here to tell you that it is more alive than it has ever been and there is



a real buzz surrounding carp fishing here in America. While still in its infancy, carp fishing in the U.S. has grown a great deal. In recent years, the perception of carp fishing has changed considerably among the fishery departments, multi-specie anglers and people in general all across the U.S.

The venues mentioned in this article should give you some idea of the growing U.S. carp fishing industry.

Our first venue would have to be the St. Lawrence River. Most carp anglers worldwide know this venue to be the “carp capital” here in the U.S.

It’s the world’s largest deep-draft inland waterway, connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. The St. Lawrence River drops 226 ft (68.88 m) in some areas. Below Quebec, Canada the St. Lawrence broadens from a width of two miles (3 km) to 90 miles (145 km) at its mouth.

There are many steep drop offs known to hold zebra mussels that have been responsible in the past for lost fish due to fishing lines being cut by their sharp-edges. Getting familiar with your immediate swim, using a strong line and proper reeling technique will certainly help to avoid the infamous zebra mussel as well as prevent losing fish.



Map of the St. Lawrence River - “Map reprinted from MSN Encarta with permission from Microsoft Corporation



Terry Fishlock overlooking the mighty St. Lawrence River while the sun drops from the sky



Between the months of May and October is when the weather is at its best for carp fishing. Below are some temperature averages that you can expect while carp fishing on the St. Lawrence River.

- May - June 16 - 20 C (60- 70F) Dropping to 5 C (40 F) night.
- July - August 25 - 35 C (80 - 100 F)
- September 25 C (80 F) getting cool at night.
- October 10 - 16 C (50 - 60 F) getting cold at night.



Rob Nappi holding a 33.10 lb (15 kg)

What's so incredible about the St. Lawrence River is the landscape during the day and the picture perfect sky at night. It is simply breathtaking. While taking in the gorgeous scenery there are many 30+lb (13.60+ kg) bars of gold cruising in the St. Lawrence River.

Also, the St. Lawrence River hosts a couple of international carp fishing competitions that have gained much recognition in recent years. These competitions are the Specialist Tackle International Carp Challenge and the St. Lawrence International Junior Carp Tournament. There is no better place in the world to host carp fishing competitions than on the St. Lawrence River.



Bob Giordano holding a 43 lb (19.5 kg)

Whether you're on a private fishing session or in a competitive atmosphere, the St. Lawrence River is a spectacular place to visit.

*For more information about the St. Lawrence River or surrounding areas, contact Jerry & Marcy at [fish@allamericanangler.com](mailto:fish@allamericanangler.com). (www.allamericanangler.com)*

Not too far from the "carp capital" are several bodies of water in New York State which are home to BIG VIRGIN CARP.



Terry Fishlock holding a 30 lb (13.64 kg)



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*One of many gorgeous lakes in New York State – photo courtesy of [www.CarpDaddy.Com](http://www.CarpDaddy.Com)*

In the northeastern region of New York State, there is an enormous park called the Adirondack State Park. The park is made up of mountains and valleys and contains over 3000 ponds and lakes. It truly is a fisherman's paradise.

Like most of the states in the U.S., all of New York has a great deal of rivers, lakes and streams.

From these bodies of water, many 30+lb (13.60+ kg) carp have been caught along with some 40+lb (18.14+kg), and even a 50+lb (22.67 + kg) carp has made it to the banks.

In June 2005, for the first time ever, The World Carp Championship was hosted on the St. Lawrence River which borders New York State. This event brought anglers from several different countries that had a chance of winning a \$1 million prize if the New York State carp record of 50.04 lbs (22.69 kg) was broken. By far, this was the biggest cash prize ever available in any Carp Fishing tournament worldwide. Since the event, there has been some great 40+lb (18.14+ kg) caught but none big enough to replace the current New York State record of 50.04 lbs.



MIKE DRAGONE holding a 33+ lb (15 kg) common





RICK WALKER holding a 40.11 lb (18.2 kg) common – photo courtesy of [www.carpdaddy.com](http://www.carpdaddy.com)

New York State has a nickname, “The Empire State”. Sounds like a perfect fit to me. *For more information about New York State waters contact Rick Walker at [CARPDADDY@NYCAP.RR.COM](mailto:CARPDADDY@NYCAP.RR.COM) ([www.carpdaddy.com](http://www.carpdaddy.com))*

Just south of New York State is a well known area tourists flock to annually. I’m talking about Washington D.C.

Tourists come to see attractions such as the U.S. Capital, Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial but, the attraction that would appeal to any carp angler is the Potomac River.







From above the Marine Corps Memorial looking east: the Mall, including Lincoln Memorial (dark, in the right foreground), Washington Monument, the Capitol. Photograph by Roy Sewall

The Potomac River is often referred to as the “Nation’s River” because it flows through the nation’s capital.

This river flows more than 380 miles (611.50 km) and grows to more than 11 miles (17.7km) wide. The Potomac is a tidal river by the time it reaches Washington D.C.

It is at this point where the river dramatically broadens and low marshes in many areas border the shorelines.

What is interesting about Washington D.C. is in the late 1800’s it was one of the first locations in the U.S. to have carp released.

Carp anglers from the states of Maryland, Virginia, and other surrounding areas have exposed bodies of water like the Potomac of their treasured possessions.

The list of 30+lb (13.60+ kg) carp that have been caught





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from this venue is endless.

Washington D.C has a nickname, "Capital City".

Having a prestigious nickname like "Capital City" seems appropriate since Washington D.C. was one of the first locations in the U.S. to introduce carp.

*For more information about the Potomac River or surrounding areas contact Mark Metzger at [customtailor@aol.com](mailto:customtailor@aol.com) ([www.highcliffeclothiers.com](http://www.highcliffeclothiers.com))*

Now, traveling about six hours southwest of Washington D.C., we would arrive in the state of Tennessee.



Tommy Robinson holding a 33 lber (14.86kg). Behind him is a popular attraction called, "The Awakening Giant".



Pat Kerwin holding a 36.12 lb (16.4 kg) common





From the banks of the Tennessee River – courtesy of John Bramley

In this state, there is a river that has been notorious in the last couple of years for producing countless 30+lb (13.60+ kg) carp.

That river is the famed Tennessee River.

This river flows through four different states covering a distance of 652 miles (1049.29 km).

Nine lock and dam structures converted the river to a series of nine pools; each an enormous reservoir.

The Tennessee River is located in a slightly warmer region of the country, thus why the carp eat voraciously most of the year. This is probably one of the reasons why so many big fish have been caught.

In the past year, there has probably been more 40+lb (18.14+ kg) carp caught from this



A fresh cast at the dawn of a new day while fishing the Tennessee River -  
courtesy of John Bramley



river than any other river in the U.S.  
Tennessee has a nickname, "The Volunteer State".

A better nickname would be "The Land of Big'Uns".

*For more information about the Tennessee River or surrounding areas contact John Bramley at [sales@K-1baits.com](mailto:sales@K-1baits.com) ([www.K-1BAITS.com](http://www.K-1BAITS.com))*

With only half of the venues and states discussed, the second half of the article entitled, "Carp Fishing in America" will be featured in the December issue of ODU magazine. In the second half there will be four more states/venues revealing some of the great opportunities that await anglers in pursuit of the common carp, a species that is fast becoming a popular sport fish in the United States.

From your fellow carp angler who is abroad here in the United States,

Ken "Carp Zombie" Keene

[Ken@TheOnlineKeepsack.com](mailto:Ken@TheOnlineKeepsack.com), [www.BigFourCarp.com](http://www.BigFourCarp.com)



Brian McGill holding a 44.12 lber  
(20.01kg)Bramley

Below: John  
Bramley holding  
a 44.10 lb (20  
kg) common





