

ODU Magazine™

Ice Fishing
November 2013

5 Tactics To Start Your Ice Season



*Ice Fishing
Equipment
Guide*

**On The
Hunt For
Winter
Crappies**

**Adding to the
Ice Revolution**

**Introducing Kids
To Ice Fishing**



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As many of you know I like to review my editor's notes that I have made over the past few years. I just like to see just how much if any things have changed this past year. Here is what I said last year. "The elections(s) are finally over, and hopefully your candidate won, if not as my daughter tells me "Get over it dad". Now I can't wait to see what ads take over our

airtime, yea, right, one thing that we know for certain, they won't be centered on hunting or fishing".

Well obviously that was a true statement. The elections are indeed over, but obviously, the politicians did not head my



NOTHING BEATS ICE FISHING....NOTHING

HT  
WWW.ICEFISH.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 and Hunting News should be e-mailed to:
webmaster@odumagazine.com

Contributing Writers: Bob Bohland, Tom Gruenwald, Mark Strand, Brian "Bro" Brosdahl, Dan Galusha, Scott Maki" Brauer, Lawrence Gunther, Corey Bechtold, Jason Mitchell, Scott M. Petersen, Matt Johnson, Rob Fuchs, Rob Conley, Marianne Huskey, Glenn Walker, Len Lisenbee and Ty Leger

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daughters' advice and get over it. The politicians are all acting like a bunch of spoiled kids and obviously can't act like grownups and get over it and don't care who they hurt. Can you believe with everything's that's going on one politician had the time and the gall to say that she had introduced a bill to Congress to address the issue of changing the name of the Washington Redskins because she found it offensive? Did we send our leaders to Congress to address a naming convention for sports team? God I hope not; I would like to think that they have better things' to do.

This year the November and January issue will be focused on "ICE FISHING" and the December issue will be all about "Winter Fishing". And as usual, the February issue will be a Classic update and our New Product Tackle Box.

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.

Let's all make some time to enjoy the blessings that the good Lord has given us! Get outside and enjoy life. You may not be able to, tomorrow.

Please enjoy the Outdoors,

Larry Thornhill, Editor & Chief

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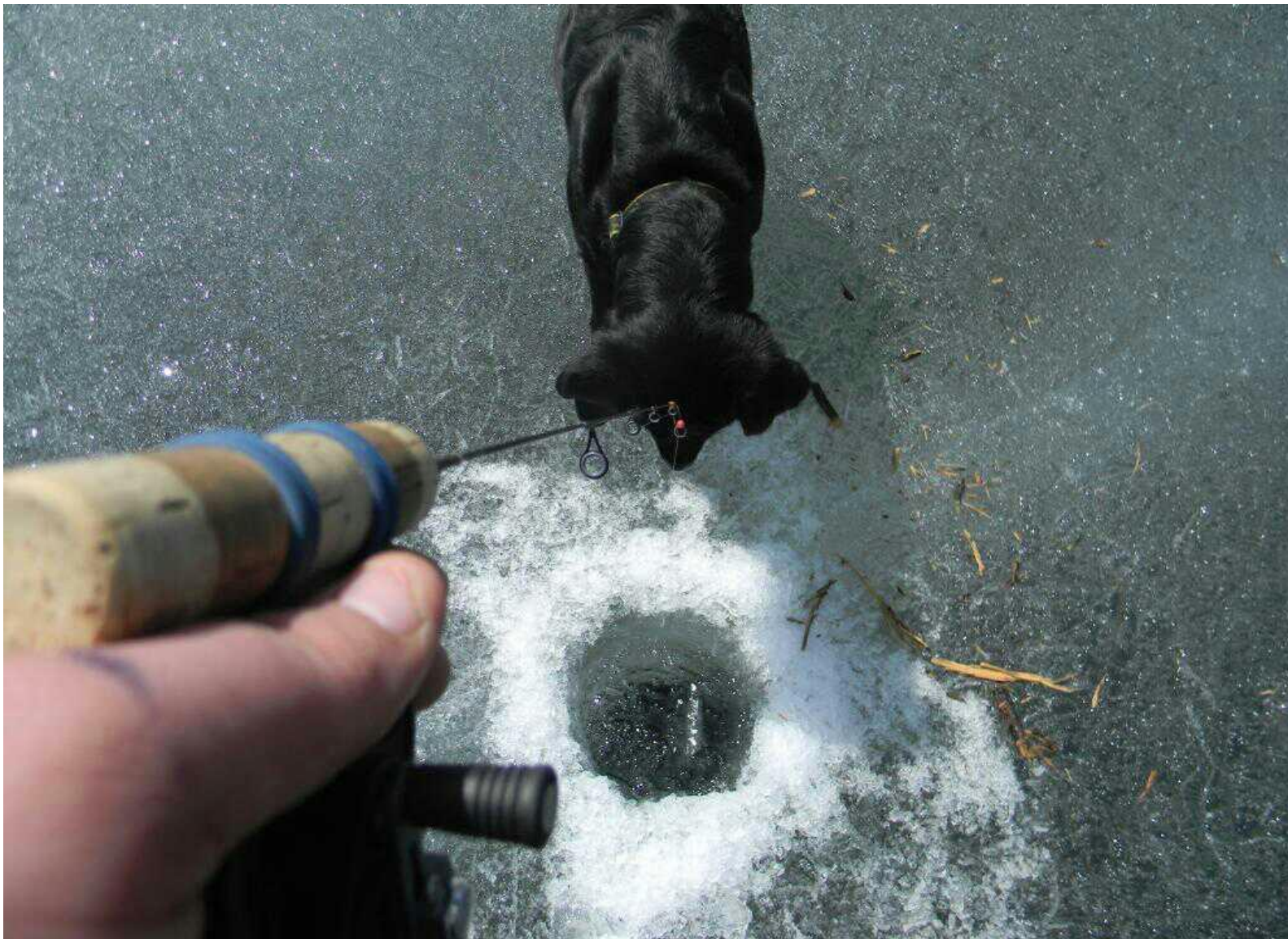
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A good spring bobber will help you notice strikes from finicky fish

Refining Your Panfish Presentation

By Bob Bohland

Panfish can either be one of the easiest fish to catch or the most frustrating. Most days it doesn't seem like there is much room in between. However, even when they are at their most fickle, there are several things you can do to draw strikes, even when everyone around you is being flummoxed.

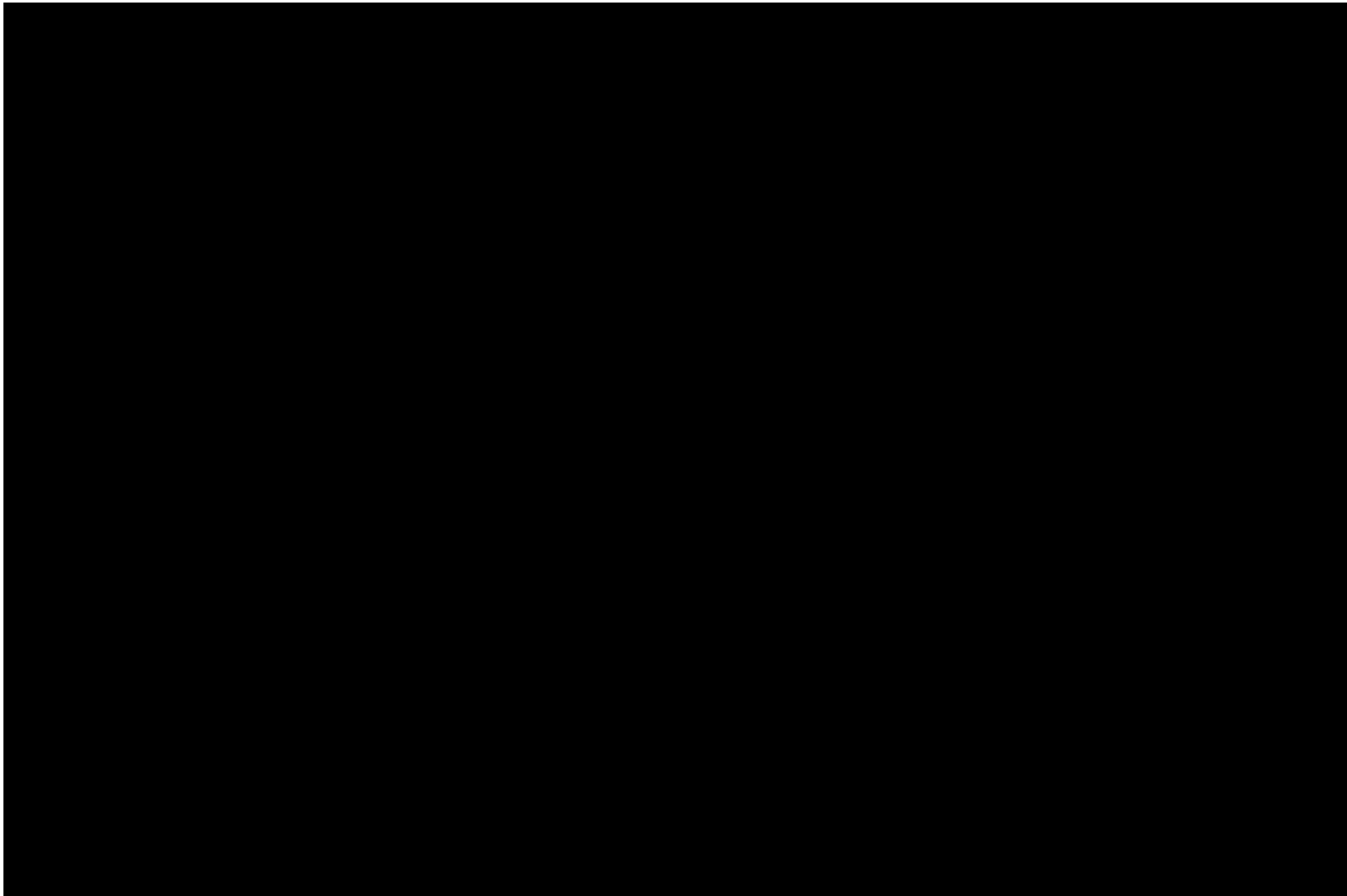
A friend of mine once wisely compared crappies to Labrador retrievers. "If I drop a ball in front of my dog," he said, "she looks at me like I'm an idiot, but if I throw the ball, she will go through anything or anyone to get it." Crappies behave in much the same way, if you put your bait directly in front of their face; they will often stare at it briefly until something more interesting happens off to the side. Put the same bait down near the crappie and play a game of keep away, and watch their predatory instincts kick in. A little secret for you, fish (actually all predators) are not used to their food getting up in their face, nothing wants to get eaten. They will struggle mightily and try to put as much distance between themselves and the predator as is possible. This is what you need to make your bait look like it is doing. Practice your "evasion" techniques with your bait and you will be more likely to be rewarded with a fat crappie flopping on the ice.

Getting panfish to chase your bait is a great starting tool, but many anglers are convinced that they have to continually go up with their baits. But guess what? Prey can swim down as well and often, when fishing near the bottom or in shallow water, their first instinct is to seek shelter. This can mean weeds or burrowing down into the muck. In shallow water, there simply isn't enough room to continually raise the fish up 10-15 feet like you can when basin fishing; likewise murky waters limit how far you can take the bait away from the fish before they lose sight of it.



Big bluegills like this one are suckers for a bait pounded on the bottom.

This is where the “yo-yo” comes into play. Exactly like it sounds, the yo-yo is getting the fish to



move up, and then if they do not commit, lower the bait below them. When the fish starts to move down, raise it above them again. By doing this you can extend the time you keep a fish interested. This has a couple of benefits. One, the longer you can keep a fishes attention, the more likely it is to bite. Two, the longer you can keep that fish there, the more likely another fish is to come along and want your bait. As I said earlier, panfish behave much like dogs, and there is no way I know



An inline reel like this Black Betty helps rid your line of that dreaded twist.

of to get a dog to chase something faster than to have another dog going after it as well.

Keeping a fish interested in your presentation is only half the battle, however. A moving bait will keep the fishes attention, but only the most aggressive fish will attack while there is constant movement. You will need to occasionally mix in a trigger. This can come in the form of a slowing down of your jigging, or just an all out pause. The problem many see with trying to include this trigger, is that with standard spinning reels, your line twists every time you turn that handle. So when the time comes for that pause, your lure will continue to spin. Try sight fishing with a spinning reel sometime, and you will see it. Panfish, bluegills, especially, will just sit back and wait for that spin to stop.

Luckily, many advancements in the technology of fishing reels have been made available to the general public in the last few years. My favorites have come from the guys at 13 Fishing. For shallow water, it is hard to beat the ease of use of the Black Betty (pictured). However, for deeper water situations, the 6061 and the new teardrop shine with their ridiculous retrieve ratios and free spool options



The main idea behind these tricks is to make your lure behave like the prey the fish are feeding on every day. Eliminating line twist will allow you to pause the lure and give the fish that ambush point much like an indecisive minnow. However, keep your pauses brief and periodic, as the goal is to keep the fish moving to keep their interest. The longer you keep that interest, the more likely you are to get bit when fish turn inactive.

Today's Transformed Tactical Tip-Up Techniques

By Tom Gruenwald

There's a misconceived notion among many ice anglers that tip-up fishing consists strictly of drilling a few holes, setting tip-ups in place and sedentarily waiting for a flag.

And, in select instances, that may be the case. After all, tip-up fishing can be a relaxing way to sit back and enjoy a day on the ice--and often, a productive one at that.

But you can be certain there's no lack of motion among today's hyper-mobile ice anglers. Modern tip-up tactics incorporate well-planned, highly efficient approaches to ensure water is being covered both thoroughly and effectively.

Conceptually, these strategies are really no different than classic summer fishing methods. In open water, it's possible to motor onto a lake, anchor your boat and sit in place watching a slip float and be successful—especially if you've located an active school of fish holding on a specific piece of productive structure. But most anglers understand they're more likely to experience consistent success if

that boat is used to move strategically from one productive location to another, meticulously working specific features using pinpoint boat control to maneuver around tight structural contours and related break lines.

Similar approaches can also be used in winter. Sure, compared to open water, this process requires a little more effort than operating a trolling motor, or as the case may be, having a technologically advanced, GPS guided trolling motor programmed to guide you along a set course. When navigating ice, you may need to steer around areas of unsafe ice and pressure cracks. Traverse deep snow or slush. And you'll need to drill multiple holes along the course,

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working to keep them clear as you monitor, adjust and move your sets. But the results are well worth the extra effort.

One approach is to locate, then save coordinates for the same features you'd target in open water. Consulting a detailed map, identify features and breaks lining expansive vegetated flats and pockets within them, the edges of prominent structures such as rocky points, bars or reefs and productive looking saddles between them. All are all primary targets.

Secondarily, search for specific “spots on the spots” along these key features likely to concentrate forage and fish. These may include inside turns, deeper slots extending shoreward toward shallow flats, fingers or irregularities extending into deep water that may provide convenient migration routes for fish to follow back and forth between deep and shallow water, and any prominent indentations, pockets, transitions in cover type or bottom content in or along these specific locations. All comprise especially productive places to position tip-up sets.



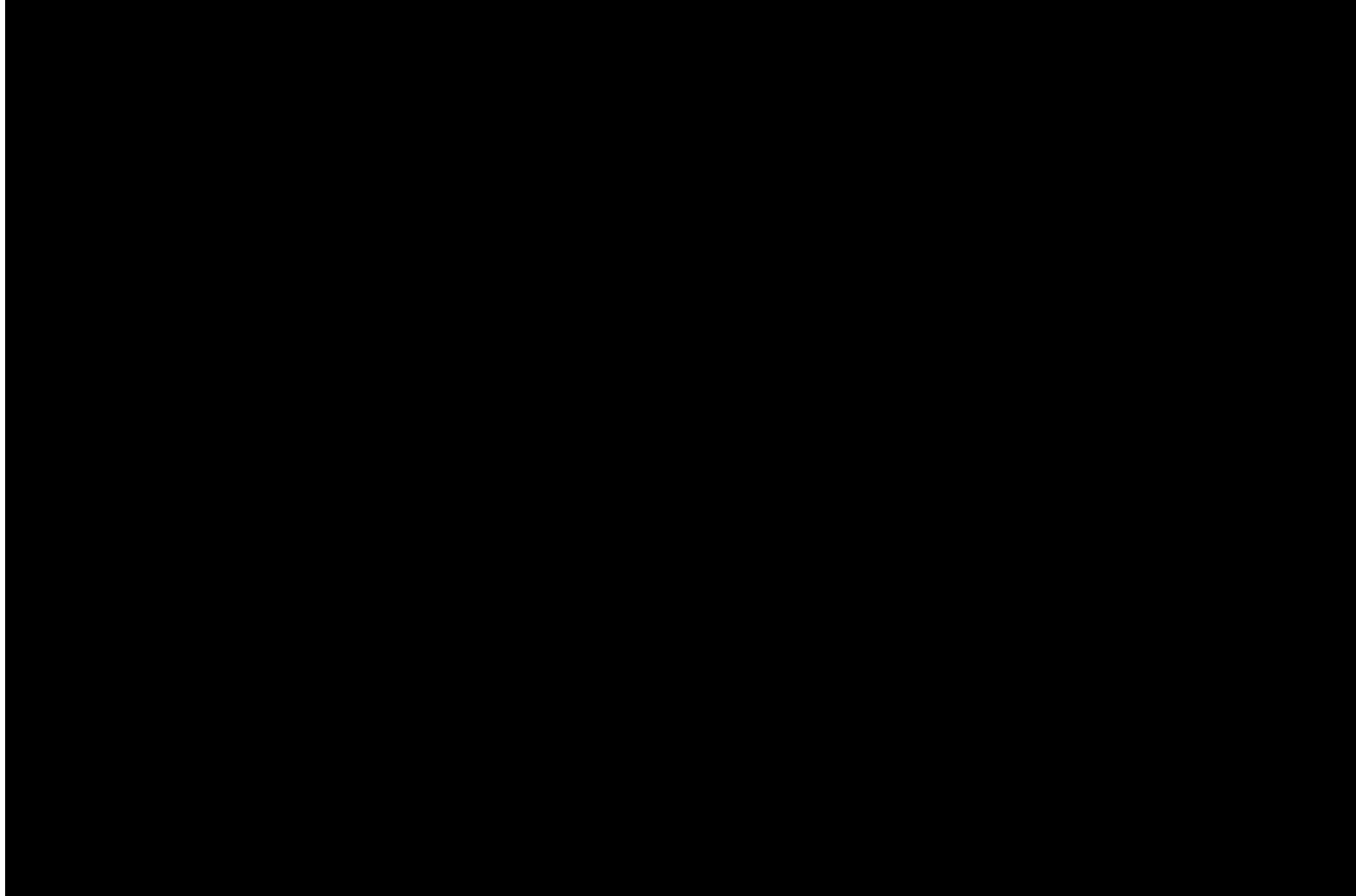
The author pulls a tip-up from the back of his set and prepares to move it to help cover water.



HT's Polar Pop-Up Magnetic Tip-Up offers a super sensitive magnetic trip, is completely wind trip resistant and as a bonus, offers a relatively high profile.

Of course, quality, smooth operating, tension adjustable tip-ups are a must, and I won't rely on anything less than the proven quality of my long-standing Polar family models. Guaranteed against freeze-up, my Polar, Polar Therm and Polar Pop-Up magnetics are all time-proven classics I can depend on to perform given even the harshest conditions, and HT's newer, high profile models such as the Mammoth or Arctic Bay Polar excel when fishing deep snow, doubling as high-visibility line markers when I'm ice “trolling” lengthy sets. They'll perform for you, too.

After finding key locations and marking their associated coordinates, begin connecting the dots between each—this will outline strategic courses to follow. Simply choose a good starting point, allow your GPS to lead you there and begin working the area by drilling a line of staggered holes in zig-zag fashion along your established routes. I always use my Vexilar to evaluate each hole along the way--or upon



discovering holes offering prime combinations of depth, bottom content, cover and forage, my Fish Scout underwater camera. This allows me to confirm specifically what I'm seeing and maximize my efforts by aligning my tip-ups in holes appearing to offer the greatest potential.

For best results, drill an extended line of carefully spaced holes well in advance, and working in groups, have each member of your team set tip-ups in alternating fashion, allowing each to sit for an agreed upon period of time, but always spending longer intervals in primary, consistently productive holes.

Once your allotted time has expired or the action slows, pick up the first tip-up, and in leap frog fashion, move it forward to the next available hole down the line, always using your electronics to search for combinations of depth, bottom content, cover and forage that may help you identify patterns. Again, wait things out for a pre-arranged length of time, then repeat the process, continuing to use this same game plan as you work strategically along the desired feature or contour, focusing on holes positioned over key turns, slots, fingers or areas of cover attracting fish and varying the depth settings of your baits, seeking patterns.

To better pinpoint the most productive presentations, experiment with assorted leader types and lengths, a variety of rigs, hook styles and sizes, baits and hooking methods, too. Try different kinds of minnows of varying profile and size—in both live and dead bait sets. Attractors such as colored beads, rattle chambers, spoon or spinner blades or bits of colored



The HT Arctic Bay Polar tip-up presents the famous guaranteed against freeze-up mechanism, and a high profile that offers high visibility, even in deep snow.

yarn can all be important variations that may prove the difference between good or excellent catches—or on some especially tough days, help yield some fish as opposed to none!

By combining this mobile approach with a versatile array of presentations, you'll be able to learn and close in more effectively on the best producing combinations.

Finally, note this method does pose some of the same challenges you'll encounter in summer, namely, locations along your established route already being occupied by other groups. As in

open water, don't encroach or be disruptive, instead show consideration and always give others a respectable amount of space as you work around their sets.

I realize this mobile approach certainly won't appeal to all tip-up anglers, some may simply prefer to focus on primary locations, sit back and wait for fish to come to them—and there's nothing wrong with that philosophy. Some days, knowledgeable ice anglers fishing their home waters and following this "sit 'em out" strategy within locations historically proven to be consistently productive may actually out-fish more aggressive anglers going through all the extra effort associated with covering water.

But most days, you'll find searching for and reaching out to the most active fish—one here, one there—is what it takes to improve your total catch. Mobile approaches such as the one outlined here allow a much greater opportunity to learn new waters by covering wider expanses with varied presentations--and in most situations, placing your tip-up sets in front of a greater number of fish with varied presentations set at staggered depths will help you close in on the most productive patterns, faster.

That's something mostly claimed to be a primary advantage by those who favor jigging. But today's serious tip-up anglers fully understand the same actively engaged strategies can be applied effectively using tip-ups--and also know covering water with more tightly anchored, baited tip-up presentations will, at times, out-produce even the most refined jigging approaches.

And that, not coincidentally, is why I love upgrading to and implementing today's transformed tactical tip-up techniques!



The author along with HT pro staffer Andrew "Smitty" Smith, prepare to set up and HT Polar Therm tip-up. In addition to the guaranteed against freeze-up Polar mechanism, the hole cover frame blocks ice formation and prevents blowing snow from entering the hole.

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ADDING TO THE ICE REVOLUTION, PART 1

By Mark Strand

The modern ice fishing revolution is about mindset and tools. About approaching ice fishing as real fishing, rather than focusing on its limitations.

We all know the limitations. Mainly, you can't cast or troll, in the traditional sense. You have to drill a hole through the ice for every "cast" you make, as Dave Genz says. But if you follow the history of the ice revolution, you also know Genz has been highlighting the advantages ice anglers have – especially the ability to settle over a spot, tightly control your presentation, and closely observe the reaction fish have to that presentation.

Done right, you can experiment with the most crucial moment in fishing better through the ice than over open water – that make or break time when fish are closely inspecting your bait, and the decision is made to suck it in or move on.



Pounding claims another victim! Dave Genz holds up a monster crappie caught by using the famous pounding presentation. (Photo: davegenz.com)



When you marry mobility and specialized gear with the right mindset, says Genz, “you’re definitely a fisherman in the winter.”

In addition to mindset, the revolution has always been about gear. These two things are so interconnected that you can’t have one without the other. A mobile mindset, in other words, does no good if you don’t have an auger that can easily drill lots of holes. Makes sense, right? Likewise, the intention to experiment with presentation cannot be carried out unless you also have a good rod that can make that bait dance in various ways.

So What’s New?

This is the big question every year, as Genz makes his annual tour of the Ice Belt, talking to anglers at sports shows, in tackle shops, and out on the ice. “It’s the first question everybody asks,” says Genz. “So what’s new this year?”

The difference in the way Dave handles the question is this: he focuses on whether a new piece of gear will actually come with him on the ice. You might know his mantra: bring everything you need, but nothing else. As time goes on, his pursuit of mobility has not slowed one bit. And his drive to keep overall weight down has actually intensified.



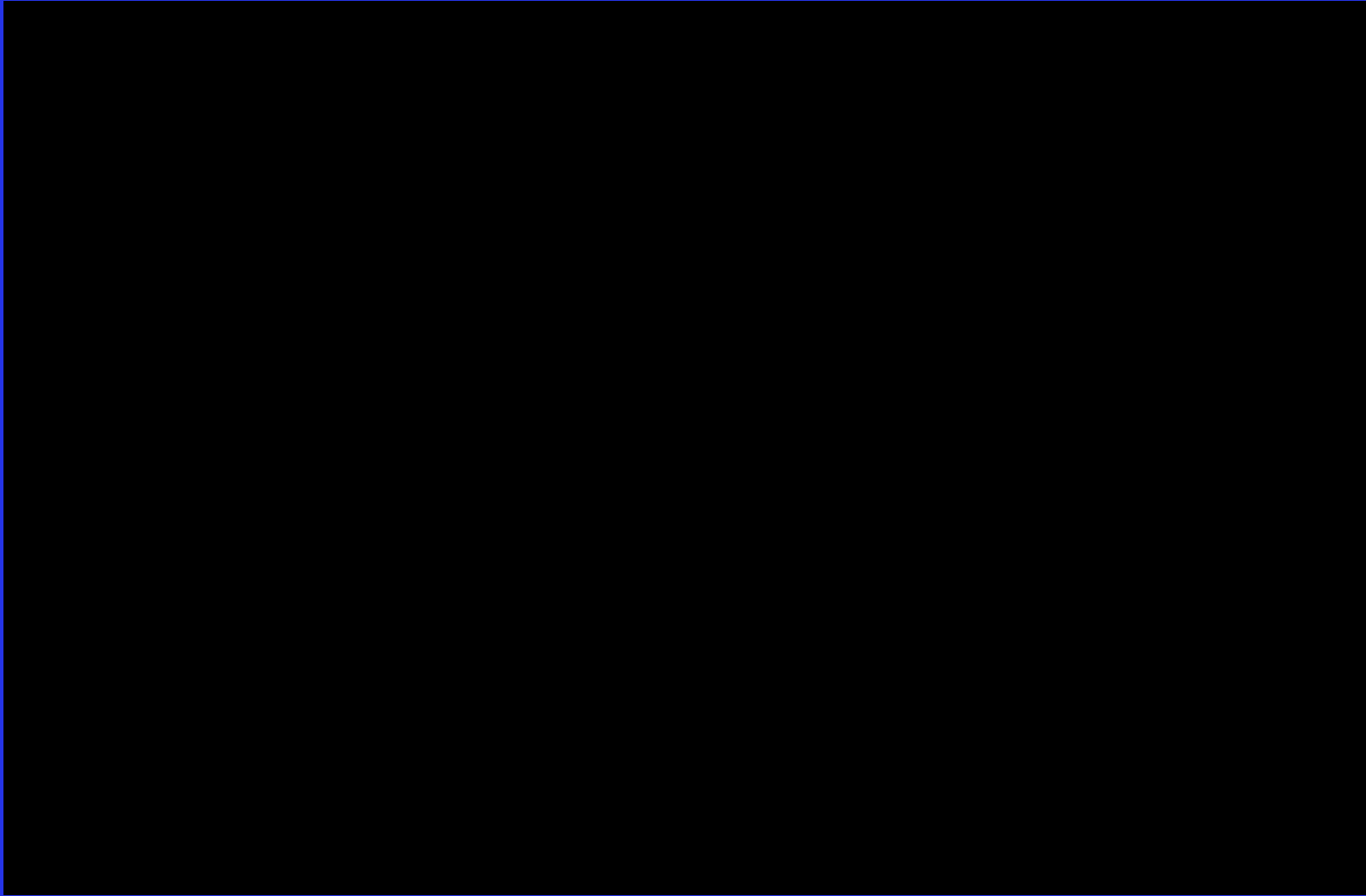
So when Dave volunteers a product review, it comes from one place: whether that piece of gear comes with him on every mission, or plays an important role in certain situations. You don’t get a long list of features and benefits that sounds like a press release. You get the Reader’s Digest version, from the king of common sense.

This is what you’re likely to hear from Genz this winter, if you ask him what’s new...

“The handle for the electric drill,” he begins, and we’re off and running. He’s talking about the new Ice Auger Conversion Kit from Clam (pictured above assembled). For more than 30 years, Genz has been a fan of electric augers and the promise they hold.



“Now we have something that turns your 18-volt portable drill into a real auger,” Dave continues. “I’ve been experimenting with different setups for the last five years, cutting lots of holes with my drill, using adapters that connect directly to the auger bit. And I’ve twisted my wrist more than once, where it takes half the summer before it quits hurting.”



Your portable drill fits into the conversion kit, and you wind up with familiar auger handles and a lever to press on to start the drill. “There’s an industrial ball bearing that absorbs the load,” explains Genz, “so your drill is only used to spin the auger, not to support the auger torque. That extends the life of the battery and the drill itself.”

The bearing system is a huge key, he says. “It turns it into a real auger,” he stresses. “You get the speed (rivaling gas augers) now, using a lightweight drill.”

Bring two fully-charged batteries, and an inverter so you can recharge batteries off your vehicle, ATV or snowmobile. “If you’re set up like that,” Genz says, “there is no limit to the number of holes you can drill.”

Using portable drills as ice augers have become popular in fringe areas of the Ice Belt, where the ice rarely gets very thick. However, now, for the first time, Genz is ready to say that they are legitimate tools in all but the most extreme conditions. They are lightweight and ‘stashable’ inside the sled of a Fish Trap. “Electric (augers) is the future,” he says, “but they’re here now,

too.” His prediction: battery technology, driven by the needs of on-the-go smartphone, tablet and laptop computer users, will continue to improve, benefitting applications like this.

The Conversion Kit is actually three separately-available components: the handle section, a standard-length auger, and an extension for thicker ice.

So what else is new?

Rod technology continues to advance. Lighter-weight guides and sophisticated blanks built to simulate performance of a much longer rod are resulting in tools Genz is excited to use. He has a, well, uh-hum, well-deserved reputation for being starkly honest about whether a given rod will allow you to fish with the famous ‘pounding’ presentation. That, and whether they help you feel the distinct bounce of your bait at the bottom of each pounding cycle – the secret to feeling bites. (When the bounce goes away, when the weight of the bait either disappears or becomes ‘different’ that usually means a fish has it.)

Learning the ‘Genz Pound’ has long been one of the cornerstones of his fishing system. This style, based on letting fish see (and feel!) a certain cadence (another one of Genz’s favorite words), brings bites when other approaches don’t work. It takes a quality rod to do this. It has to be both stiff and resilient. This is the secret sauce. It has to both flex with, and rebound from, extremely fast, almost vibrating, presentations. All while helping you feel what your bait is doing, on every little bounce.

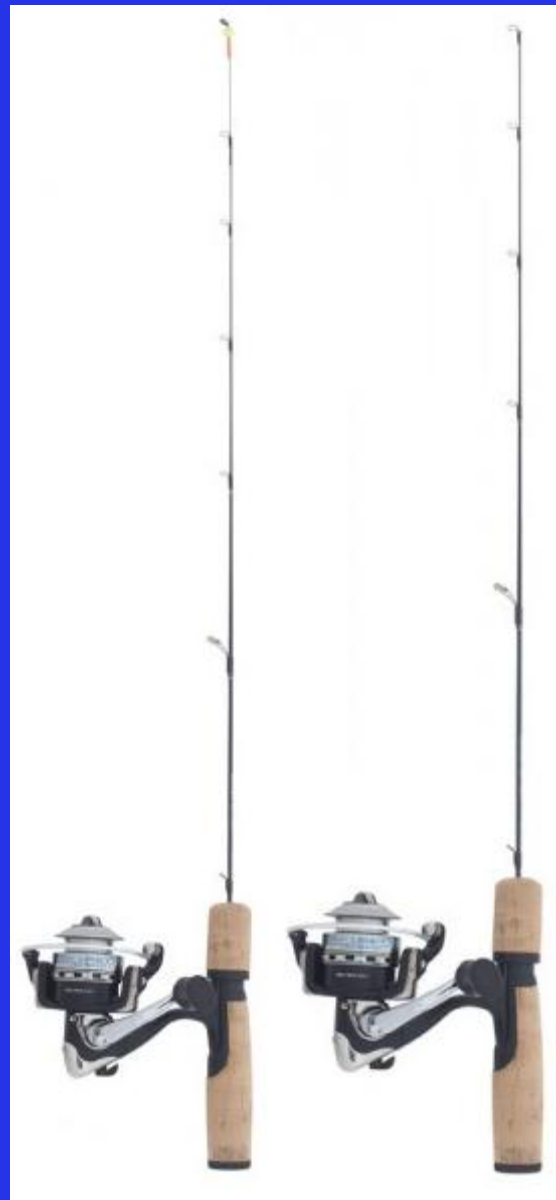
If you learn anything new about ice rods this year, let this be it.

The correct rod has to transmit the feel, so you come to know that feel, so you come to know when the feel goes away, or changes just enough. A mushy rod – or even a rod that sports the right characteristics but is either too stiff or too soft to match up well with the weight of a given bait.

Again, it’s a matter of having the right gear to execute an incredibly effective fishing style.

Until this year, there has been a detectable performance gap between the best widely-available rods and the best custom rods. Genz is more than excited about the new Legacy Series rods (pictured above) by Clam, saying that they are as good as any he’s ever fished with.

“Just pick one up,” Dave says, “and you can tell right away. The guides are very light; they have all the attributes of a custom rod, and they come with a good reel that has a smooth drag.”



We'll have more to say this winter about distinct styles of presentation and how the qualities of the right rod vary with each. From a rod performance standpoint, the pounding style, with the premium placed on responsiveness and feel, is the most demanding. The right rod for pounding can also be used for other styles, such as a smoother swimming presentation. But you cannot take a softer rod, or a rod equipped with a spring bobber, and make it work well for pounding.

What else?

Feel is enhanced, especially when using lighter baits, by using tungsten jigs. Tungsten is about 30 percent heavier than lead, apples to apples, so the feel advantage is there for the taking, as long as the jig design maximizes it. Genz helped with the new Tungsten Drop series jigs.

When a jig is "heavy for its size," it makes Genz smile. Forever, he has preached efficiency in ice fishing, "and a huge part of that is seeing how fast you can get up and down in deeper water," he says. "Every new hole, every drop, is like a cast. If I can make a lot of casts out there on the ice, it's going to help me find fish faster, and catch more."

The tools and techniques are impossible to separate, and the process of evolution and refinement continues. More on this next time.

Note: Dave Genz, known as Mr. Ice Fishing, was the primary driver of the modern ice fishing revolution. He has been enshrined in the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame for his contributions to the sport. For more fishing tips and to order his info-packed new book, Ice Revolution, go to www.davegenz.com.

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A Different Approach To Lake Trout

By D & B Ice Adventures

No matter what you are fishing for, you will find people going about it different ways. For this one reason, fishing with numerous people is one of the best way to expand tactics and techniques.

A few years back, while in college, a friend asked if I was interested in a trip to look for lake trout. Having never caught a laker at that point in my life, I jumped at the opportunity. He warned me that the success of the trip would be dependent upon the availability of smelt and that he hadn't been yet since the season had only recently opened. Other than that, a simple set up on a tip up would suffice.

With the way my work schedule worked out, I wasn't able to be at the lake until 8 am, missing the morning bite by only a few hours. Not knowing where to go and no cell phone service, I waited in the parking lot for what seemed like forever watching dozens of other fishermen tend to their flags.

It didn't take long for me to realize that the morning bite was one that I shouldn't have missed. As I opened the door, a 24 inch laker flopped on his car mat. He was late meeting me because

the bite was so crazy. He had caught his smelt early and was set up before sunrise with a steady run of fish coming through the ice. The fish were active that morning and needless to say, I couldn't wait to get back out to the spot and start fishing!

After examining the area that we were going to fish the night before with both aerial photographs and bathymetric chart, I



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figured out why the fish were there. We were fishing a rocky hump coming up to only four feet of water protruding from deep water (100'+) on one side and a 30-60 foot flat on the other. This area offers just about every type of water the trout could desire.

On the 3/4 of a mile ride out, the anticipation grew. Because his morning run was so good, the first task was to go catch more smelt. In this lake, we look shallow at the mouths of small streams where the smelt stack up in the fresh, oxygenated water. The one we were at on this trip trickles out into 1-3 feet of water. We used Hali jigs with size 16 jigs tied in line above. As most smelt fisherman know, their bite is normally light to none so basically the tactic is to watch for the line moving to the side.

After catching enough smelt for the rest of the day, we punched our holes and got to setting up.

As we started filling out our spread, my friend

placement in the water column. He told me to stick my face in the hole and watch for a second while my eyes adjusted. When I did, I could see the bottom clear as day. The water was about 15 feet deep and he proceeded to tell me that this whole lake is crystal clear. With much of the terrain below us varying greatly, the majority of the fish caught are forcefully moving up or down in the water column. Either way, setting the smelt only a few feet below the ice tends to be more productive than close to the bottom because of how much they have to move to navigate. We were also trying to avoid snagging up in the bottom that was clustered with boulders.

The rest of the day was filled with chasing flags and great comradery with a few more friends





that showed up. At one point, we set up a pop up shanty and punched a few holes. With the surroundings blacked out, we spend the down time between flags sight fishing. We were set up over a small rock/sand bottom in about 12 feet of water. The fish were cruising through and super aggressive. In later trips, laying on our bellies with our face in the hole turned out to be one of our most successful techniques when shanties weren't available.

Since that first trip, I have been back quite a few times and tweaked my approach for catching these trout. I now prefer to fish in the dark. The best bite seems to be a few hours before sunrise or after sunset. Also, I still fish high in the water column but if I stay for a mid day bite, I like to stagger my baits high and low in the water column and move them over slightly deeper water. The fish seem to settle down for the day but still cruise through checking our any disturbance. For that reason, jigging is the most productive method with high sun.

As for jigging, I have now upgraded from sight fishing to the use of a Vexilar. My face stays warmer and I can usually tell the mood of fish within the first few seconds of an encounter. I find that if they don't strike in the first few seconds after showing up, I reel as fast

as I can to the surface and entice them. Lakers are one of the most aggressive fish that I have found!

The final tactic that has proven highly productive through the years are crayfish. I have caught numerous fish that came out of the hole/puking them up and when available, they are be my first choice bait. Live or dead they work! I have spent numerous hours looking through the ice



for crayfish crawling around the bottom to put on my hook. Luckily, the rocky waters that I fish are quite populated with them. They bite well on any live bait that you put in front of them!

Regardless of what or how you fish, there is no set way that is fool proof. Keeping your options open and having a few tricks up your sleeve is the best way to stay productive on the ice.

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On The Hunt For Winter Crappies

By Brian “Bro” Brosdahl

Crappies are one of my favorite fish to catch during the winter. They can be a challenge to locate and often take some finesse to catch, but they are usually willing to bite if anglers do the right things.

Crappies are visual feeders with very good eyesight. Anglers may be able to catch a few crappies with crude presentations, but it usually takes good electronics, light line, small lures and properly matched rods and reels to consistently catch numbers of crappies.

Location is often the biggest key to catching crappie. Anglers need to be able to find crappies in different types of lakes, so it is important to know what crappies like and how they behave in different situations.

Crappies are forced to use whatever habitat is available to them in their home lake, so the type of habitat crappies use during the winter can vary greatly between lakes.

Anglers need to build a base of knowledge in different situations, so they can draw on their experience when they face new lakes. Each time anglers have success finding and catching crappies, they should try to understand why the crappies were there and what they were doing. This allows anglers to apply what they learned to other lakes with similar habitat.

Crappies in many lakes use deep water in the fall and most of the winter. This gives anglers the opportunity to do some scouting out of their boats before ice forms on the lakes.

The most important criterion for a good crappie lake is to have several age classes of catchable crappies present in the lake, which gives anglers the best chance for success.

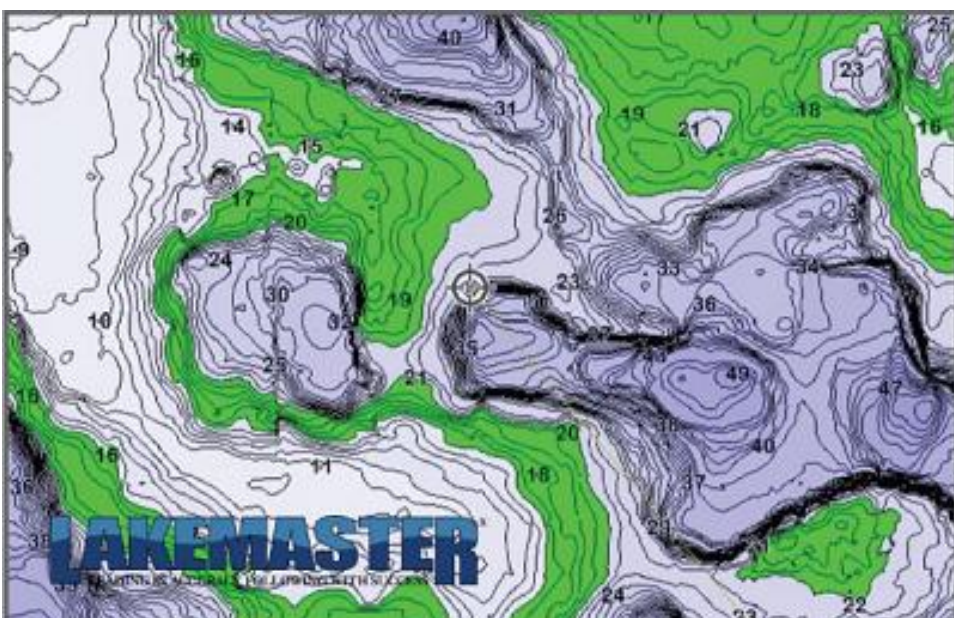
Crappies can be almost agoraphobic (fear of open spaces) during the winter. They like to use open water, but they like to stay close to some sort of structure, rather than aimlessly wandering the abyss.

Crappies in many parts of the country feed primarily on zooplankton during the winter, but they supplement their diet with minnows and insects like blood worms and mayfly larvae.

The ideal situation for finding crappies during the winter is on lakes that have well defined deep holes, so the crappies have a limited number of options. The task is made even easier if the lake is included on my LakeMaster map chip.

Lakes with poorly defined basins with huge areas of similar depth and similar bottom structure can make it much tougher to locate crappies during the winter. I still look for edges of the basin or inside turns along the basin or any unique features in the basin that give crappies some sense of structure in the open water.

If the lake is on my LakeMaster mapchip, then I can use my Humminbird 597ci portable unit to locate potential areas to drill some test holes and then switch my Humminbird unit to sonar mode, so I can check the holes for fish.



I like to go stealthy whenever possible, so I use a small drill bit in my auger and drill holes in strategic locations, rather than drilling random holes that leave behind a bunch of moon craters that give away my locations.

When I stop to fish, I like to cover-up and stay warm in my Frabill Fishouflage Thermal Ambush Deluxe, so other anglers can't see

what I am doing when I am whacking the fish.

Non mapchip lakes give anglers the opportunity to find things the old fashion way. I like to work backwards and start by finding the deepest holes in the lake. Once I have identified the deep holes, I begin to dissect the open water areas.

From past experiences, I know the types of areas crappies like to use. I try to identify what types of structure the lake has to offer, which helps me predict the areas the crappies are most likely to use.

Some of the types of structure's crappies like to use in the winter include depressions and rises on deep flats, steep breaks and turns at the basin edge, bottle necks, narrows, deep water between structures, rocks, brush piles and anything else that provides "isolated open water" in the basin.

Clear water lakes might have both a day bite and a night bite for crappies, while stained water lakes usually have a better day bite than a night bite.

Crappies are usually easier to catch when they are on a feeding movement. Crappies often take a circular route when they feed, heading into structure when they get active and returning to a resting area when they are done feeding.

Anglers need to be able to find the crappies resting areas or find some location that is along their pathway when they go on their feeding movements.



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Time of day, weather conditions, snow cover and stain in the water are all factors' anglers must consider to figure out where the crappies are likely to be at any given time.

Crappies on lakes without much deep water will still use the same principles, but less is usually more on the shallow lakes. It could be a weed edge, a subtle change in depth along the edge of the basin or changes in bottom type, where hard bottom turns to mud.

My position as product developer for Frabill and Northland Tackle allows me to design my own rods and baits for crappies and other species.

I have three favorite rods for crappies. I like the new Frabill Bro-Series 261 30" Straight line combo, the 27" Bro-Series crappie combo and the 28" Bro-Series Dead Stick, all with Quick-Tips.

Many of the baits I designed for Northland Tackle work well for crappies. In order for

light lures to work properly, they need to be paired with light line. I prefer 3 pound test Northland Fluorocarbon as my "go-to" line for crappies.

Some of my favorite crappie baits include Bro's Bloodworms, Bro Bugs and Mud Bugs. I usually tip them with Impulse plastics or live bait. Sometimes I use both live bait and plastics together.

I like to carry one bait container filled with eurolarvae and one filled with wax worms. I usually use a single wax worm or several eurolarvae to start out, but when conditions get tough, I downsize to a size 12 Mud Bug tipped with a single eurolarvae, which usually does the trick.

I like to down-view with my Aqua Vu AV Micro, so I can see light biting fish take the bait, so I know when to set the hook. It also helps me identify fish I see on sonar without having to catch a fish.

Anglers need to remember crappies are very fragile and will start to have trouble with the bends somewhere between 20 and 25 feet of water. Even if crappies appear to be making it back down the hole, they often float back to the surface and die under the ice. Anglers should only practice catch and release for crappies when they are fishing less than 20 feet below the ice.

Good Luck, Brian Brosdahl (Bros Guide Service & Brian Brosdahl Promotions, 218-340-6051 bbro@paulbunyan.net and www.brosguideservice.com)

DAN'S FISH 'N' TALES®

10 Steps To Successful and Safe Ice Fishing, Part 1

By Dan Galusha

The popularity of ice fishing has been growing constantly. Part of this is because it's not that difficult to learn, provided a person learns the proper steps, which includes being safe.

A few years ago I was asked if I could think of 10 steps for people to follow that would produce success. Part of these steps concern safety, as without this a person will not be successful.

Here are the first 5 steps. Next month you will read the remaining five.

Ice Awareness

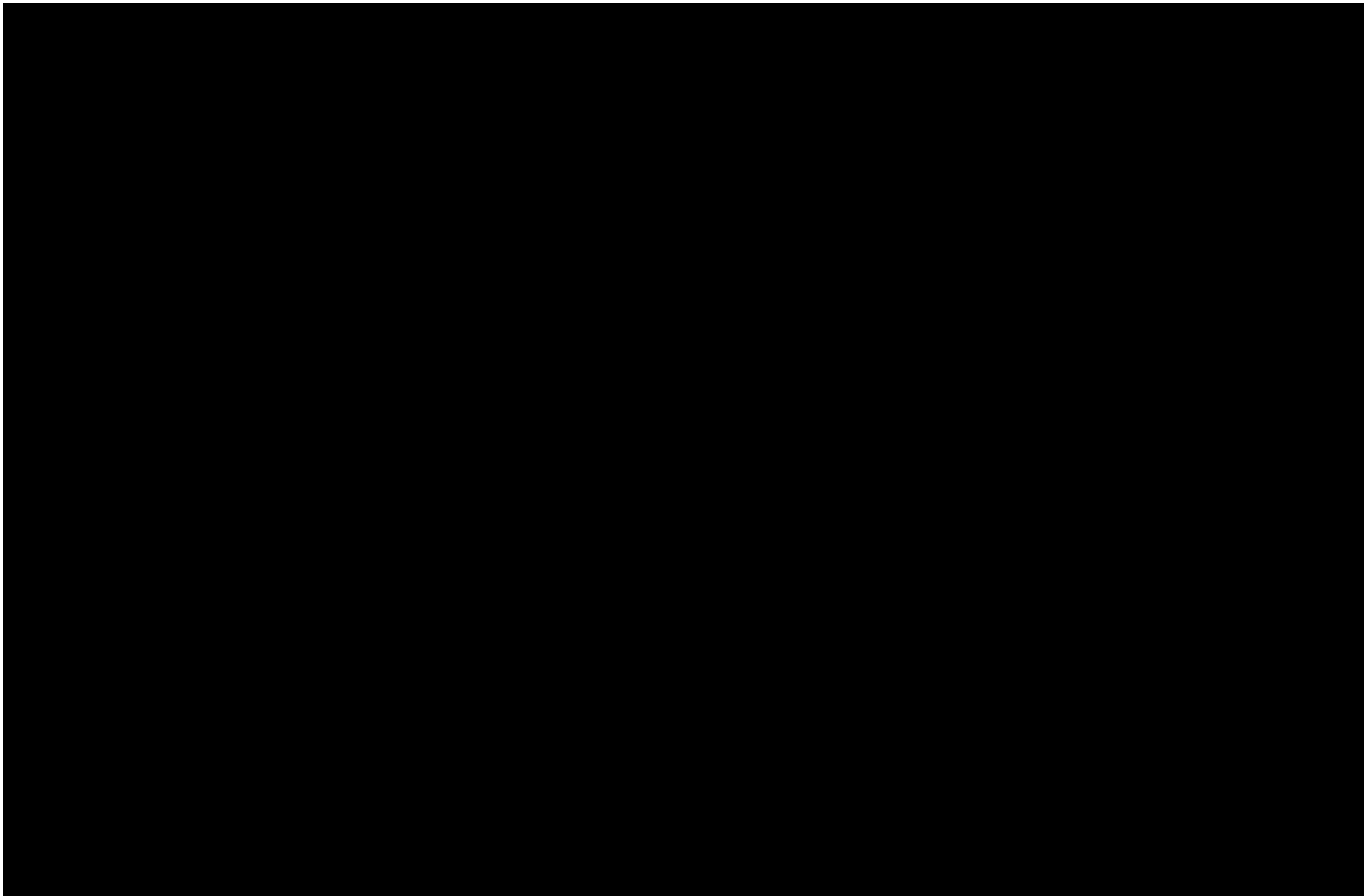
The most important factor is being aware of what the ice is doing. Early in the season it is thin, and forming. This is a time when people may push it a bit and venture out on too weak of an area. As the season progresses, it is still "growing" ice, especially on very cold nights and days, when a loud deep bass "thunk" can be heard as it cracks the thicker ice. When the formation starts ending towards the end of the season, and the weather is warming there is "rotten", "honeycomb", and "black" bad ice. If heavy rain comes at this time the ice can be very dangerous. Never try to go out on these types of conditions.

At any point in the season there can be other dangerous areas, such as springs, warm water flowing from some source from shore, heated rock areas, and several other possibilities. Snow can hide these spots, but if the snow is slushy, or has a discoloration, then it may be best to avoid going across such an area.



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According to the Iowa DNR, one person can safely walk on 2 inches of ice. I prefer their higher estimate of 4 inches for the first time of heading on to the ice, and my favorite thickness is 6 to 12 inches at the first and middle of the season. Of course, as you go, further north gets much thicker, and vehicles of all sorts are driven on to the ice, which will bring up other safety factors that should be discussed with your local DNR people.



Comfort and Warmth

Comfort and warmth work for both safety and success. It is important to stay warm to prevent hypothermia, and being comfortable can help anglers concentrate on their fishing, which will produce success.

The first thing for this is proper clothing. A good snowsuit with full hood and face guard, pack boots, and gloves are a primary start. It helps to wear layers of clothing, with a heavyweight t-shirt, shirt, sweatshirt, and then the snowsuit jacket. For the bottom a person can use thermal underwear, but I've found that thermal jeans are quite enough if teamed with good snowsuit pants, or snow bibs, such as Vexilar's Tundra. Pack boots can be warm by themselves, with regular work socks, but using a heavier hockey sock can be helpful. Gloves that are designed for winter sports are best, and many of the snowsuit companies have their own brands. There are also gloves that will be more flexible, and work inside ice shelters, or outside on warmer days. One of my favorites is Frabill's FX series.



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This brings us to the next comfort point – shelters. A good shelter is very important. I prefer one that will work as a windbreaker, or pull completely shut to enclose the angler and holes. The one I use is a Frabill Thermal Trekker Deluxe, which has ample windows, plenty of space, two comfortable “bass boat type” removable seats, and a front and back door.

If this is not enough warmth then a heating unit of some sort can be used. This can either be in the form of a propane lantern or heater.

Hand warmers are another source of keeping hands and fingers warm and help prevent frostbite.

Safety Equipment

Again, safety is a prime concern, and with that in mind, an angler needs safety equipment. Four basic things are needed – floating picks, which are on a cord, and carried around the neck, ice grippers/cleats for the bottoms of the boots, a whistle for attracting attention for help, and a rope to throw to someone in trouble, or to throw to a person to help you out. Frabill has a safety kit available, which includes some of these items, and Vexilar has an easy access pocket with a whistle on the front of its Cold-Snap parka. These items are not that much to carry on the ice, and they could help prevent a broken bone, injury, or loss of a life.

Drill, Chisel and Dipper

Once a person is on the ice it is time to get a hole drilled. It is nice to get it done as quickly as possible. For this purposed a power drill is best, depending on an angler’s budget. Hand



No matter how big the bluegills, or how good the fishing, John Francisco never leaves shore without his “safety picks” around his neck, to be always prepared for that possible unforeseen bad spot in the ice.



After making sure that the ice is at its safest, Rob Groene introduced his daughter to ice fishing, as she quickly learned what the flashes were meaning on her father's Vexilar. In fact, she even made up a song about what she called a "Collect-X-Avar"

seems like things are put together on an equal quality. The older combos, with the big plastic line storage reels are still used by many, especially if using floats, but since I straight line fish in most situations, and fish some deeper water, the spinning and straight line reels are much better for changing depth, and playing a fish.

There are several lines on the market targeted on ice fishing. These cold weather lines work well, but I prefer a selection of Magna Thin in 4, 5 and 6 pound test.

Be sure to check out next month's Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® for Part 2 of this article.

If you have a question about this or another fishing subject, contact me through the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® website at www.dansfishntales.com.

Until next time, get out on the water and have a great day of fishing.

drills and chisels will work, with a 24-inch handle Mille Lac chisel working well for opening old holes, or when fishing 3 to 4 inches of ice. A dipper is a must, and one that can clean quickly, and not freeze up is best. I like using the long handle, big ladle unit produced by Frabill, as it also eliminates a lot of bending over.

Rods, Reels and Line

In the past rods and reels were not very high-tech in ice fishing. Now days things have changed. I suggest getting spinning and straight line reels that are made for ice fishing, such as Frabill's units, which come in matching combos. I'm not a big fan of combos for open water, but with ice fishing it

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This Tip-Ups Tops

Frabill's Snow Shoe Tip-Up a veritable lucky rabbit's foot in deep snow.

Ice fishing in some snow-belt regions can get downright daunting, even difficult. Thick snow blankets the hoarfrost, making hole to hole travel an adventure in itself, let alone finding the right fishing equipment to handle the knee-deep bog of white frozen fun.

Still today, in places where schools don't close except during the most severe sub-zero blizzard conditions, snowshoes are standard issue. These webbed strapped-to-a-boot's-underbelly devices—thought to have gotten their start in Asia 6000-plus years ago—keep trekkers “floating” on top of deep snows rather than dropping crotch deep.

Anglers who ice fish in these realms face additional challenges as much of today's gear, the tip-up included, surrender to such snowfall. But the designers at Frabill—leader in ice-fishing gear and apparel—saw the need for deep-snow specificity and created the Snow Shoe Tip-Up.

“Frabill's done a great job crafting this tip-up for anglers who have to deal with deep snow,” says Ice-Fishing Guide Brian “Bro” Brosdahl, who's based out of Minnesota's near snowfall record-holding Grand Rapids area. “The Snow Shoe Tip-Up stays put, even when sitting on top of fresh and fluffy snow, making it easy to see when a fish has grabbed the bait and tripped the flag.”

Molded into a heavy-duty composite snowshoe-like shape, the “webbing” pattern formed within the Snow Shoe's base allows it to nearly levitate over deep snow or slush surrounding a freshly drilled or chiseled hole. This allows easy visibility of the flag when a fish inhales the bait and also prevents the apparatus from freezing in – a chore to remove when it's dark and time to head for home.

The Snow Shoe's base is also perfect for large predator fish, as it cannot teeter and slip down a hole, even massive 10-inch borings. Likewise, the extra-large 200-yard capacity spool makes it doubly effective on the quick 100-yard dashes of big toothy critters. But it's also great for light biters, as the device's duel trip settings and Ultra Glide super-smooth shaft system and friction-free spool won't alert picky eaters that they've been nabbed. Further insurance for real-world ice conditions, the shaft system comes pre-filled with Frabill's exclusive Sub-Zero lube.

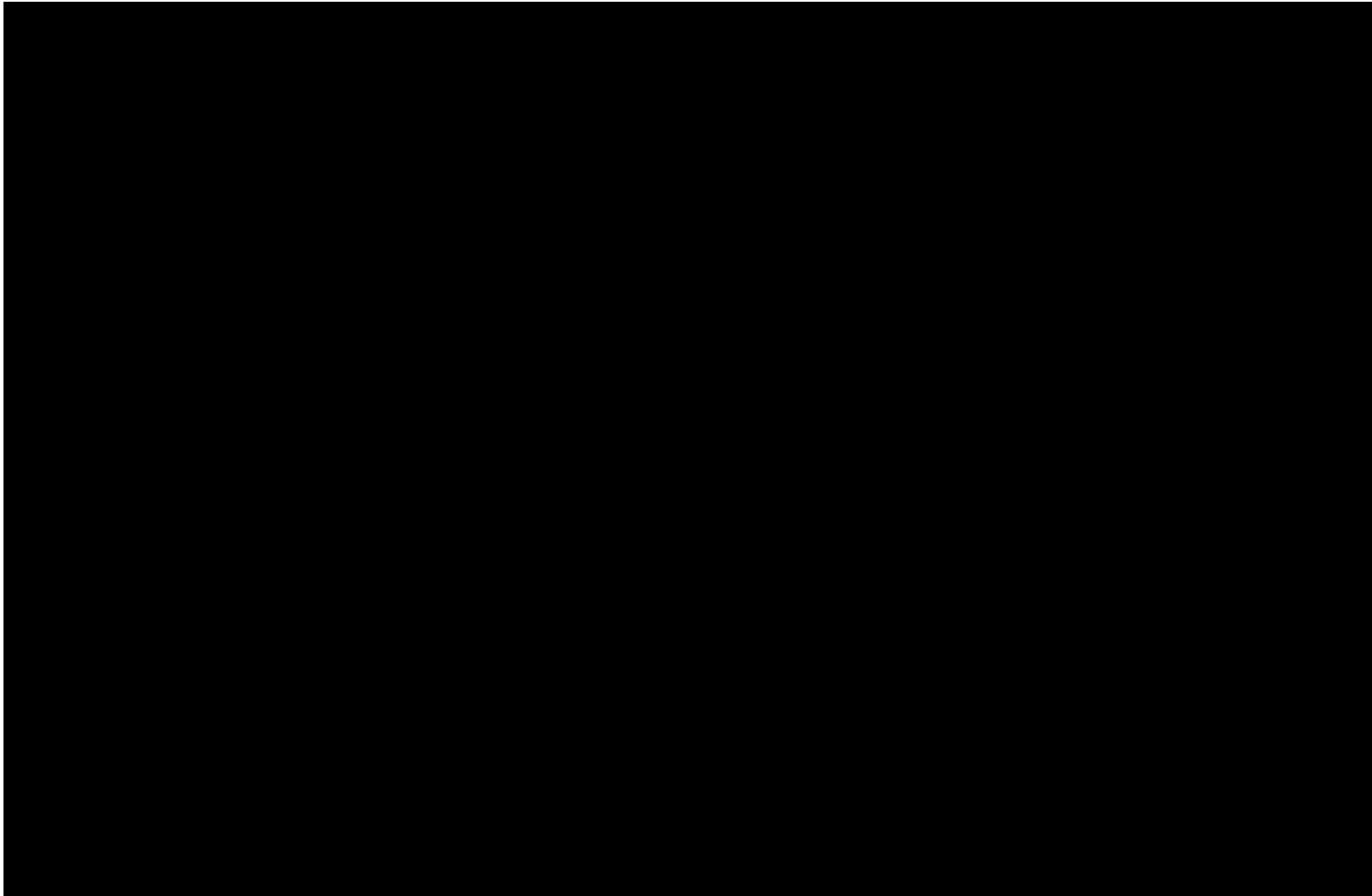
Like an armada flagship, the Snow Shoe flies an extra-large flag atop the longer-than-the-norm 17.5-inch flag arm, which allows anglers to see when it's tripped from afar. And when day's done, the Snow Shoe folds up simply and neatly, its unique compact shape allowing for several to be placed in a Sit-N-Fish and carried back to shore tangle-free.



Up to the challenge of ice-fishing in snow country? The Snow Shoe Tip-Up will stay atop the snow so you can stay on top of your game.

ABOUT FRABILL
Frabill, Inc. (Plano, IL) is in its 75th year of engineering premium, trusted fishing equipment. Frabill's ice fishing product lineup consists of portable ice fishing shelters, rod and reel combos,

tip-ups, bait containers, portable aeration, and premium ice fishing apparel, including FXE Snosuit. Openwater products include landing nets, portable aeration, bait containers, bait care, bait traps and seines, accessories, and premium openwater apparel, such as FXE Stormsuit.



Fish Fry To Fish Fry

By Scott “Maki” Brauer



When a mommy bluegill and a daddy blue gill love each other very much they will have babies as many as three or four times each year. Even though they love their babies, this does not stop them or their neighbors from eating them. In fact, nearly any of us who clean fish and look for predator cues inside of their bellies and mouths, find small bluegills from half

inch to one inch, in almost every species that swims. So... it makes perfect sense that we would from time to time throughout the ice year use a small imitation bluegill fry to “Match the Hatch”.

In our area of Upstate New York gills will hatch as late as early September so by the time the ice cover is on the little gills are large enough to be seen and eaten. With the myriad of plastic options that are out there it's almost too easy to customize a bait and make it look like a small fry. It's also possible by squishing most of the meat out of a wax worm and then ripping the tail a couple of times to make that look like a tale of a baby bluegill. To put either one of the fry imitations on during a certain period of the ice season can be very deadly. Each year, some of my largest gills, sunnies, crappie and perch (fry pictured below) come using the baits show in the pictures. The combination of making the fish believe that what they're looking at is a baby bluegill, or the presence of bait protein in the water proves to be too much for them to withstand. Understand it is illegal in most states to fish with panfish as bait so imitating the small gill fry is our only options.



This is also a great opportunity for a fisher to gain confidence in artificial bait and to learn some things about how artificial fish differently than live bait. To me the difference between artificial bait and live bait is, with live bait when you drop it down the hole the bait is going to do whenever it wants. When we drop plastics down the hole, we are in complete control of the action at the point of contact with fish.

So we talked a little bit about why it's important to imitate fry, now let's talk about where we find them in the lakes during the ice season. Small fry will almost always be found in and around very thick vegetation and cover, as you can imagine they do not feel safe in the wide open, so they have a tendency to hang in the heaviest cover which is holding zoo plankton or small insect larva for them to feed on. In almost all cases, you will want to check travel corridors and thick vegetation cover to see a small gill are in the area. If you have a camera, this is a great opportunity to use it to find where the baby bluegills are. Also take note of how they are moving and the approximate size for that year of young so that you can imitate both. These tools and information will give you the best possible opportunity to “Match the Hatch” that's occurring currently down below the ice surface. I try whenever possible to create a presentation that is very similar in size and action of what they are currently feeding on. I use a multi-tailed

plastic like our Maki tipped up on edge to put a lot of action in the water and not only does it look like a fry it pulls bigger bluegills from one weed bed to another or from a travel corridor into the heavy cover, and this one-two punch will land bigger fish for you.

Using a fish fry just may lead to having a fish fry. Whether you're using maggots, waxes or artificial baits, getting the fish below the surface of the ice to believe that what they're looking at is, in fact, a small bluegill can absolutely fill your bucket during the winter season. So as your preparing your plan for the day don't forget... fish eat fish and if we want to eat fish we should feed the fish... fish! That's a mouthful and speaking of a mouthful don't forget to take a look inside their mouth and bellies this ice season then mimic what you find as closely as you can, and your production will go up significantly.

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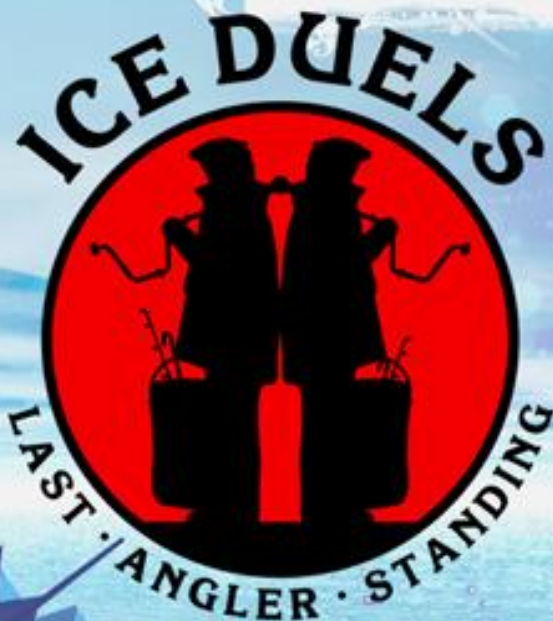
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- 1: specifically: a formal combat with weapons fought between two persons in the presence of witnesses
- 2: also: a hard-fought contest between two opponents
- 3: example: "I challenge you to a DUEL."

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**Lake
Champlain
Has The Ice
Anglers
Crave**



Five Steps to Selecting the Right Bait

By Lawrence Gunther

Over the past ten years fishing has witnessed a revolution brought on by the merger of technological innovation, scientific research and knowledge passed on by generations of fishers.



FeelThe BITE!

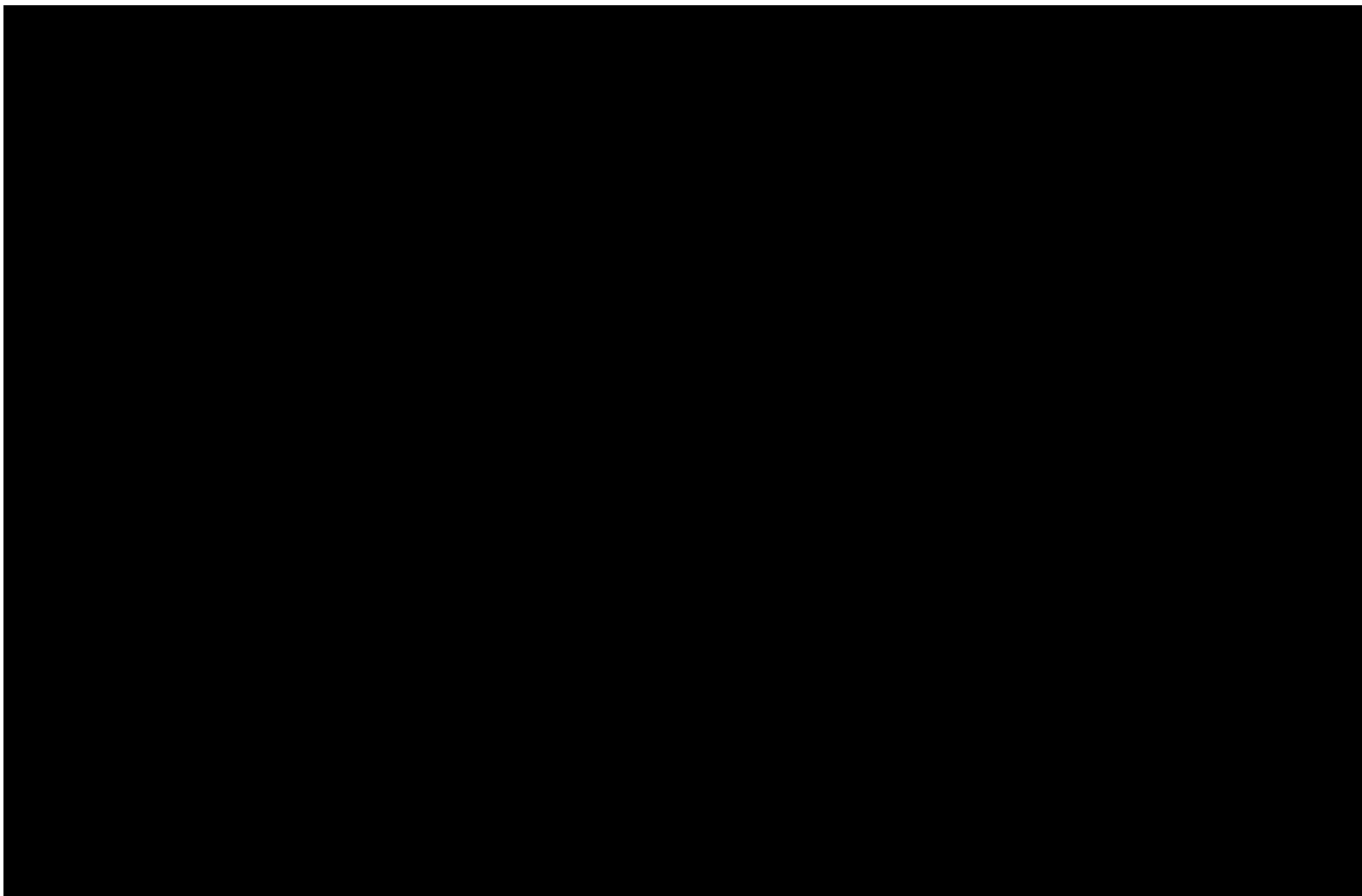


The result has been ever-more innovative baits. Manufacturers are also working closely with their field staff to fine-tune their new offerings, and are publishing ever-more detailed instructions on how best their baits can be used. For recreational fishers, it's meant a steady reduction in the use of live bait and more productive days fishing. And, when minnows can cost as much as 50 cents each and night crawlers a quarter, switching to artificial makes for sound economics. So what is it that makes a good artificial bait?

Some of the variables manufacturers take into consideration when developing and marketing artificial baits include matching-the-hatch, light levels, time of year, intended species, water temperature, underwater structure, use ability, longevity, cost effectiveness, environmental impact, fishing trends, etc. It may seem like a long list, but when you take the time to think about how you as a fisher take each of these

factors into consideration when deciding how you're going to invest your time and money, I would guess that most of you would probably come up with even more considerations than this.

Of course there's always the "if it aint broke, don't fix it" approach to fishing that accounts for many of the tried-and-true baits that can be found in our tackle boxes. These most often are reaction-style baits and not the sort of things we turn to when we need to slow things down. And



if we are going to be really honest about those old favorites, our reason for keeping them around probably has more to do with their ability to be applied somewhat successfully under a variety of conditions – a sort of “one size fits all” style of lure that we wouldn't mind being stuck with on a desert island. But, since the chance of any of us ever being stranded tropical is pretty much nil, why are our tackle boxes filled with ump-teen different versions of the same style baits?

Premium bait manufacturers are counting on fishers to possess a certain level of competency when they launch a new bait. These same companies also assume that we will take the time to learn how to properly apply their latest innovations. It's this spirit of cooperation that is responsible for the sport's evolution.

Successful fishers begin the process of selecting which baits will be used during an up-coming fishing trip many Days before lines are actually wetted. It starts with researching the aquatic environment we plan to fish, takes into consideration the tactics and equipment we have at

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hand, and then determining which baits possess the elements that most closely complement the aquatic conditions and our available resources. In short, the right bait at the right time under the right conditions. Other than weather, little about fishing concerns luck.

No doubt, in addition to the brain-numbing variety of baits on the market, making bait selection even more difficult is the insistence of some manufacturers that their baits do it all. To counter for this absence of information, deciding on what bait to

buy and use comes down to both a fishers direct experience and what they have learned from trusted experts by reading articles or listening to seminars. More-and-more though, bait manufacturers who have made the investment in developing quality baits are including educational materials on when, where and how to get the most out of their product on the water. The internet has been a game changer in this regard.



Tackle manufacturers are now able to launch new products at the time of their choosing; no longer being tied to a few days each year based on the schedule of an annual outdoor show. They also recognize the value of getting their baits into the hands of trusted experts so these fishers might, in turn, offer-up their opinions and tips through social media.

With so many choices available to fishers it's understandable why some have grown slightly cynical of the motives of bait manufacturers. Mistakes can happen however, and it's not uncommon to find baits in bargain bins never intended for fishing conditions within 500 miles of that stores location. Choosing to buy baits based on first impressions alone might offer one an immediate thrill, but it's completely reverse to how the process should unfold.

The following five steps should help you to maintain control over your tackle purchasing experience. Oh yes, indulging your compulsive tackle purchasing desires should be relegated to an optional sixth step.

1. Go on-line and speak with local experts to identify currently productive fishing techniques and baits specific to the region or body of water you plan to fish.
2. Assess recent and potential climactic and other external influences relevant to the time you plan to fish.
3. Conduct a review of your tackle and equipment best suited to the range of anticipated fishing scenarios being considered.
4. Take stock of what you have at hand and make a list of tackle you need to acquire.
5. Consult with your local tackle stores staff to identify what available stock might best fit your needs.

Now's the time to begin organizing your ice fishing gear, researching what bait manufacturers have brought to the market, and sorting out your old and new baits according to the different situations you might encounter. Don't just focus on preparing equipment and tackle that has brought success in the past. Give thought to how you might turn traditionally unproductive fishing scenarios into rewarding outings. By Expanding on your repertoire of skills through investing the time to research and experiment with new products designed to address specific challenges that continue to cause you grief, you too will experience more productive days under differing conditions.

For more tips on how to better Feel the Bite, visit my Feel The Bite! Blog at www.LawrenceGunther.Com.

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Introducing Kids To Ice Fishing

By Corey Bechtold



When it comes to taking kids fishing there are a few rules that you need to play by. First is to make sure the outing is a positive experience. Having snacks with you is a must. The fish don't always bite so they'd better have some food to munch on. Another tip would be bring along a football, Frisbee or something

else for them to play with if the fish aren't "jumping out of the holes." Take time away from your main goal and make sure they are having fun. When you get to an area that the fish are biting make sure that all the kids are catching the fish. This is the best time to teach them what Ice fishing is all about. Put the Vexilar in front of them and be sure to show them what's going on. Kids are very resilient when it comes to figuring out electronics. Paying attention to the Vexilar is like a video game to the kids. Unfortunately once they understand the electronics you probably won't get it back. Kids understand what works and having them know that fish are underneath them makes them concentrate very hard.



If you have multiple holes around you be sure to let the kids know where they are.

Every kid happens to find the open hole from time to time, and a wet boot makes for a very short outing on the ice and an unpleasant one. Kids are going to be the stewards in the future

so being sure to pick up after yourself is a good habit to get into. Furthermore, try to pick up other trash that another angler may have left behind. Nobody wants to see garbage left out on the ice. Another tip is to teach the kids the importance of Selective Harvest and Catch and Release. When kids know how important, it is to keep only what you need for a meal they remember to do the same in the future. Make sure to have a camera around to capture the moments and reward the kids for doing well on the ice.



Jumbo Perch Talk

By Jason Mitchell

When we look at catching jumbo perch through the ice, I dare say that we typically catch ninety percent of the fish in a ten percent window. Perch fishing on most bodies of water consists of drilling holes to get on fish and getting that one or two flurries that fills the pail. You can go from zero to hero in about twenty minutes when you finally strike pay dirt.

The key to putting the smack down on fish is maximizing the opportunities. Being efficient, getting fish up the hole, getting the fish unhooked and getting that lure back down to the fish is paramount. What kind of bite, how the fish respond, how far you have to pull fish and how deep of water can all be considered when choosing lures and rod designs to maximize your efficiency.

On the best bites in less than twenty feet of water, single hook spoons like the Northland Tackle Forage Minnow are very efficient because they drop down fast but the single hook and shape of the spoon makes popping the hooks out of fish extremely fast. In fact you can bend the hook



The author, Jason Mitchell with a jumbo perch that tipped the scales at over two pounds caught on Devils Lake, North Dakota.



out slightly and often get fish unbuttoned by just letting the fish hit the ice hard. Typically, however there are compromises as the fish are not suicidal and have to be worked.

Slightly tougher bites often call for a spoon or lure with treble hooks. The advantage of a small treble hook on a tougher bite is that the hook is pointed towards of fish regardless of direction the fish approaches the lure and the fish do not have to suck in the lures so far before you can set the hook with a decent batting average. On lakes where perch are really keying in on invertebrates like blood worms or scuds, small horizontal jigs get bit more but anything small

takes longer to get back down on top of active fish. If you have to go small, definitely use a fast dropping jig like a Hexi-Fly or Tungsten Fireball (pictured above).

Here is something else to consider when using lures. When you are not marking fish whether you are popping from hole to hole or sitting over one location, work that lure hard to pull fish in. Perch are curious and you can often pull fish from a considerable distance. Also, when you can pull fish over to you and also pull fish up off the bottom high, you can often create a more aggressive feeding window. One of the best baits for pulling perch and getting fish wound up high off the bottom is the classic Salmo Chubby Darter (picture below).

When you get fish under you, lift the fish if possible. If you can change the shape of the school so that they start to stack up vertically versus horizontally, you are going to catch way more fish.

Sometimes when you set the hook on a fish and reel the fish in, the commotion scatters the fish. These fish are typically not overly aggressive and you will have to take what they give you. Often however, when you reel in a fish, another fish or two follow up the fish you are reeling a short distance. These fish are primed to be worked over. The easiest way to manipulate the



aggressiveness of perch and really get them wound up is to set the hook on a fish and lift it up above the rest of the fish by three or four feet and just let the fish fight. Let the fish fight until more fish start rising up to the fish that is on the end of the line. After these fish are up off the bottom, bring the fish in fast and get back down fast. You are going to be greeted by a few eager fish that typically hit you before you can get the bail closed.



Sometimes, perch seem to have attention deficit disorder where they just don't stop moving and during the short duration of time that it takes to reel in a fish, unhook the fish and get back down, the fish are already moving on. When fish are burning through spots fast, what can work well is to hook a fish and just leave the fish up off the bottom and

fish out of a second hole. One fish can sometimes keep the rest of the school around. Using a team work strategy with a buddy can also monopolize the situation further as well as you can always keep a lure in the water.

On torrid bites, use a fast action graphite not just for sensing the bite and getting good hook sets but you can spin the reel handle faster and get that fish up to the top fast which speeds up turnaround time. Our 26 inch perch rod and 24 inch walleye rod in the Jason Mitchell Elite Series line up are perfect. On a tougher bite where the fish have to be coaxed more, I don't think there is a better rod on the market than the classic 28 inch Meat Stick which was also developed in our line of rods. Match the rod to what the fish are showing you to maximize your efficiency.

Finally, get in tune to what you are seeing on your electronics. On the toughest bites where fish are picking up invertebrates out of the mud, an underwater camera like the Vexilar Scout (pictured below) is going to give you an edge. Most of the time however, I am staring at my trusty FL-22. You just cannot beat the information that the raw analog signal gives you on this unit. You can look into the bottom and tell if fish are cutting across the cone angle on the edge and also tell if fish are accelerating or changing their body posture. Other sonar units only show you a line where as the Vex gives you so much more intel if you learn to use it.

Combine all of these factors to make the best decisions and good decisions regarding matching up rods, lures and strategy with what the fish are giving you makes you more efficient. If the target is jumbo perch this winter, the folks who are the most efficient typically come off the ice with a heavier bucket.





5 TACTICS TO START YOUR ICE SEASON

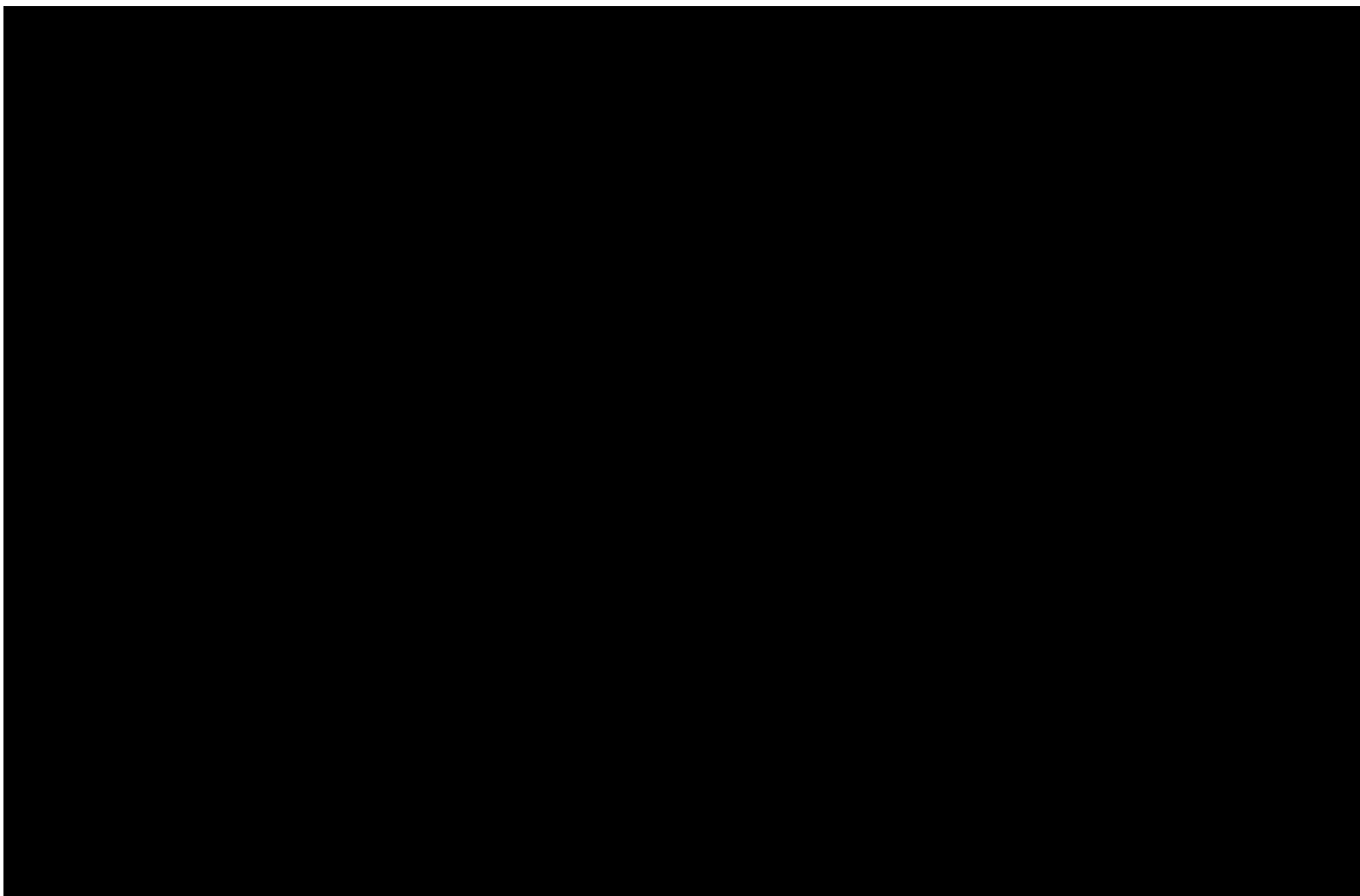
By Scott M. Petersen

The waiting game is on. Checking into a few of the chats that are happening out on the net at this time of the year the number one questions that is being asked is “when will we be able to get on safe ice”? I guess I am waiting for that same answer, but one thing I do know when I get the word that it is safe to get on the ice I will be ready to go. Let’s look at a few tactics to get your ice season off to a good start this year.

Start Small

Early ice is a walking affair so keep your early ice choices on the small size. For me walking will be the case until it is safe to drive onto the ice so I tend to pick smaller lakes to start the ice season with and move up from there. This is the time of the year that you want to start by checking some of the smaller lakes that you may pass on your way to work or may have even gone past to get to your favorite lake this summer. Many of these smaller lakes get little if any fishing pressure at all. One reason could be they may be land locked with houses or probably the biggest reason is many do not have public boat landings. The residents around the lake know what the lake has to offer, but most of the time they keep what is there to themselves. Now is the time to do a little exploring. I have a small set of lakes that are dynamite to fish with big crappies and bull gills and the only time they get any pressure is when the water is hard.

If you are not the exploring type look towards little lakes that you fish or pick small bays on larger lakes and fish these areas. I generally try to target lakes that are 500 acres and smaller as my first ice lakes. This size allows me to cover the majority of the lake and all its structure if the snow cover is minimal.



Go Green

You have been hearing this a lot now days and it is even getting into your fishing. Go green means look for good green weeds. Green weeds are the key at this time of the season just like they are during the summer months. Green weeds give off oxygen which will draw food; baitfish, and the game fish will not be far behind. As the season goes on if the snow starts to pile up the sunlight will get knocked down and these weeds will start to die causing the fish to relocate, but when green weeds are in their prime you should be fishing them.



One of the easiest ways to find green weeds may be off of prior lake knowledge, if you have fished the lake before and you have a pretty good idea where the weeds are located. If this is not the case you may have to drill a few holes and use your electronics or underwater camera. If the water is clear

enough a lot of times you can just look down the hole and see them. So this year at the start of the season go green.

Let's Get Small

This happens every year you get the call that the ice is safe and let's go ice fishing this weekend. It is Wednesday when you get the call; you have a few days to get your equipment ready. The next day or Friday you get your reels off of the summer rods and put them onto your short rods, tie on a few baits and you are ready to go. This is probably one of the biggest mistakes that winter fishermen make year after year. To put the most odds in your favor you have to downsize your line and go small.

Example; the majority of us fish with 4lb to 6lb test line for summer crappies and gills. When fishing around weeds, docks and reeds during the open water season this line choice is pretty common, but when it comes to winter crappies and gills you have to downsize your line to 2lb and even 1lb if the bite gets extra tough to be in the ball game. In the summer the water color is on the green side with all the things going on you can get by with a larger size line. But during the winter months when the water clarity is at its cleanest point, and throw in the fact that you are not moving at this time of the year, and the fish get as much time as they want to look at the bait before they decide to bite, you need to downsize your line size.



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Fish in the Fast Lane

When you are limited to the spots that you can hit start by fishing high percentage spots. Some of finding these high percentage spots will come in your before ice scouting but if you did not have a chance to pre scout the water you will have to rely on your GPS with a Lakemaster chip or a lake map. Points will be the most obvious spots to fish, but they will get a lot of fishing pressure during

the early season, so fish them and take what they have to offer but look for other key spots in the area also. Inside corner weedline turns, small weed points and drop offs are all key features that should get your attention at this time of the season.

One tactic to look at and try to figure out is where fish are coming from and going to. When you are searching try to look for key migration paths or what I call fish fast lanes that the fish use during this time of the season to get around. I have a few different lakes that I target during early ice where I have figured out some early season crappie fast lanes that they use every year in moving between shallower to deeper water every day. This fast lane has taken myself and a few fishing partners a season or two to put together, but it has paid big dividends during

early ice the past couple year. If you can find areas like this they will hold true year after year so it is worth the extra work that it will take to put this fast lane pattern together.

Stay Light and Mobile

This may sound like a broken record but this is what makes today's ice fishing tick. For many years we have had a wait and see attitude when it came to ice fishing. This has now changed; to be more successful in ice fishing you have to be on the attack instead of using the wait and see method. If you are still fishing out of a permanent shelter you may have to play the same old game of wait and see but how you put the most odds in your favor is you have to be on the ice during the peak feeding times when the fish are in your area. Peak times to be on the ice as a start will be sun up and sun down periods, and after a few days on the ice you should be able to tell when this peak feeding times in your area will be.



For others once you find fish you have to stay mobile to stay on the active fish. I have seen this happen year after year that once I made contact with the fish if I did not move with them my day of quality fishing would be over pretty quick. Yes you will have days when the bite will last all day long sitting in one place but there will be more days than not when you will have to be on the go to get the best bite of the day. I remember a string of days last year that I got onto my best crappie bite of the year. On the first day we hit a good slab crappie bite that started at 9am but only lasted for about 30 minutes. The crappie we caught were worth the short bite time and pretty much after that little flurry the bite was done for the rest of the morning. The next day I was on the ice earlier and set up; ready to go by 5am. My plan this day was to head the crappies off at the pass; I was looking to get

more out of the bite today. Well the second day was pretty much like the first; the bite started at 9am like clockwork and was over in 30 minutes, but today when the bite died I moved down the breakline about 100 yards to catch a few more crappies before they made their final exit.

When I hit the ice the 3rd day I made a few changes again for one I was on the ice and got set up like the two days prior before 9am. At 9am like clockwork my Humminbird Ice 55 lit up like a Christmas tree and the bite was on but when the bite slowed down I picked up and moved down the breakline. After a few minute lull; the action started all over. I repeated this 3 times and I was able to stay on the bite for the rest of the morning until I finally shut the crappies off by catching and releasing them. If I would have stayed put and not moved like I did the first two days I would have not been able to catch as many fish as I did, but with me moving with the crappies the last day I was able to catch numbers of fish instead of just a few.

Hopefully safe ice is not that far away and this year we get back to the good ice fishing of the past. When you get the call this year that the ice is safe; be ready to go and try a few of these tactics to make this year's ice fishing season the best ever.

Create some memories please remember to practice CPR (Catch, Photo and Release). The future of fishing is in your hands. For more timely ice fishing tips and tactics please log onto www.fishinginsider.com

Can You Turn a Negative Fish into an Aggressive Biter?

By Matt Johnson

Maybe --- but it can take some real effort. You have to pull out all the stops and then if you can't figure out what to get a reaction with, then it may be time to move. What top anglers due to get the fish to bite when they don't want to...

Fish are simplistic, for the most part. They need to eat to survive. The idea of dropping down a tiny bite-size morsel for the fish to eat seems

easy enough, but what about when those fish snub the bait and turns away an easy meal? Do we just sit it out or tell our friends the fish are not biting? Definitely not! It's time to dive into the bag of tricks and pull out methods that work...

Oftentimes we are quick to change the size of the presentation we are using, but you don't have to always follow the rules. I prefer to change the jigging action first. I'm a firm believer that every fish will bite if the bait is presented in the right manner and action. The fish will commit if it feels it has a suitable dance partner. Change your jigging sequence and you'll induce hunger. Also keep in mind the option of changing the direction of movement both up and down, meaning working the entire water column even when a fish is present on your flasher. Dropping the bait below a negative fish and holding it motionless can trigger a strike too.

Breaking away from the live-bait realm can also pay off in dividends. Switching to a plastic, whether scented or not, can trigger even the most skittish of biters. The finesse tails available today quiver ever-so-slightly forcing negative fish into a feeding frenzy. One trick with these finesse tails is to never stop the bait from moving. I encourage you to keep the plastic constantly quivering even when a fish begins its staring contest. We are too quick to stop the bait once a fish moves in, and that can sometimes be the biggest mistake we make.



Look for soft and subtle baits and don't neglect the offerings loaded with tentacles. Yes, they might break off, but when the going gets tough, you need to only plan for one bite at a time.

Another way to entice those negative biters is to keep things natural. By this, I mean offer something in a dark brown, purple, black or blood red in color. Leave the glows at home and "match the hatch." The ice fishing community is so saturated with glow options that we now feel we're doing something wrong if we don't fish them. I'm not saying to forget the glows completely, but I challenge you to try more natural colors when seeking that extra bite. Small blood-red noodle plastics can effectively imitate blood worm. All-black jigs can easily resemble a variety of aquatic insects. These are just a few options of natural baits, look in your tackle arsenal and find more. Fish simple and slow, give the fish what they already eat in the natural environment.

Probably, the most effective trick when nothing seems to work is to just simply pack up and

move. Moving can mean to a new spot on the lake or to a new lake all together. Don't fall victim to sitting in one spot if the fish are not biting. I can assure you that there are biting fish somewhere; you just have to take the initiative and go find them. Making small moves across a piece of structure is a great way to start. Followed by more drastic moves where you take the cruise across the lake to a whole new pattern. And if all else fails, hop on the road and attack a new body of water. The old saying "don't beat a dead horse" can sometimes ring true when sitting out on the ice. Move and be the mobile ice angler, I know you can be!

While our days might not always be plentiful, we still can expect to catch fish regardless of the conditions. With a little patience and adjusting, we can entice even the most negative fish into biting. Change your action, string up a finesse tail and dust off the black jigs, the fish are waiting!





THE RUN & GUNNER

By Rob Fuchs and Rob Conley

Lightweight and agility form the base for hit and run tactics, fast moving, quick striking, until he finds actively feeding fish.

Only carrying minimum gear, bare to the bone, constantly on the go... It's a challenging task but when well executed it can be tremendously rewarding, laying the foundation to future success for seasons to come.

DRILL, FLASH, SLUSH, CATCH, MOVE

In a nutshell, these are our most important tools

- Auger
- Flasher
- Slusher

- Pliers \ Pocket knife



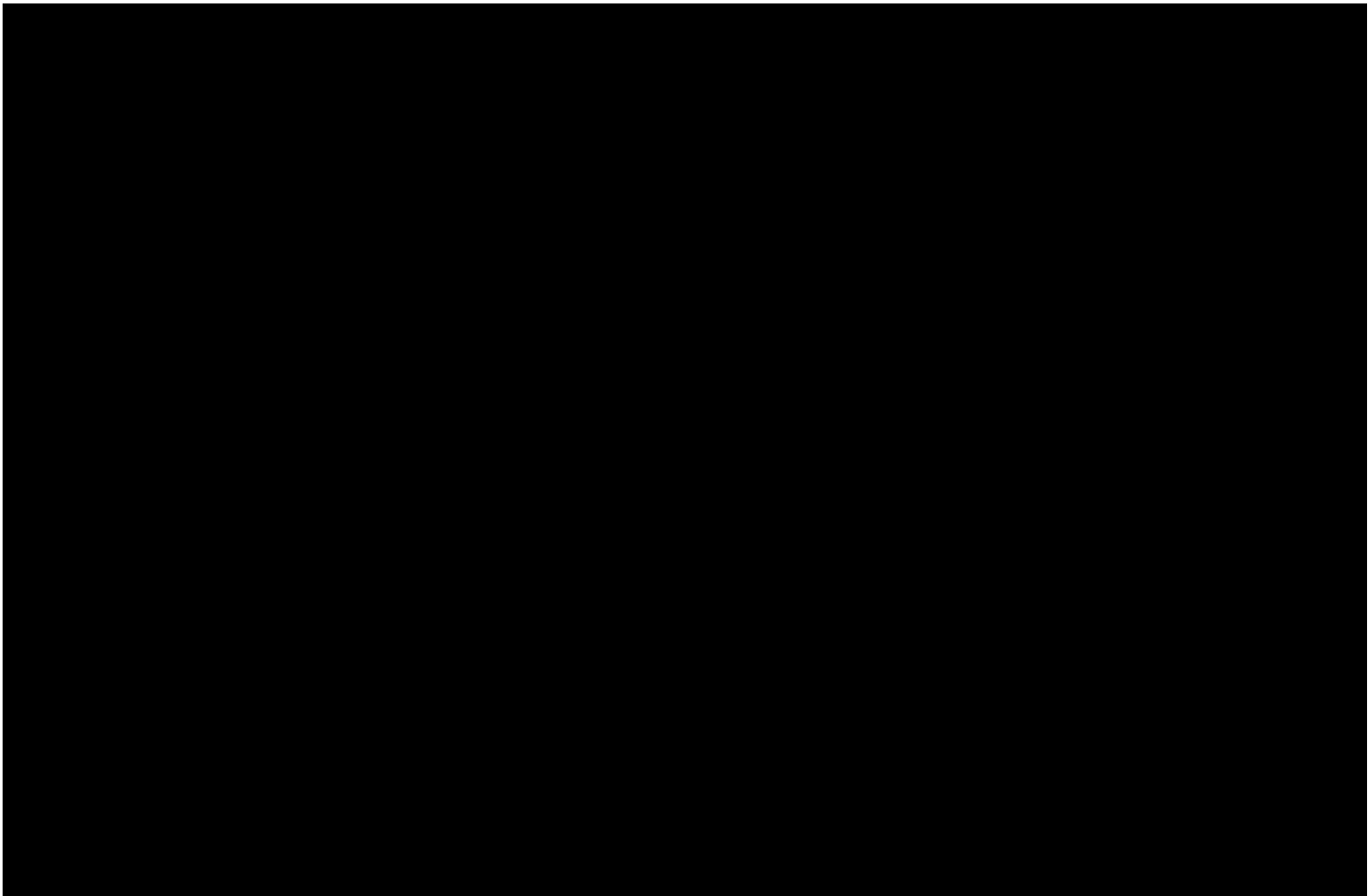
The auger, 8" if we are targeting trophy pike and walleye but the bigger diameter will also slow you down significantly. In general a 6" drill will get the job done more efficiently. Don't forget to plunge your hole when you are done drilling, this will eliminate pesty slushing and will save essential time.

The R&G's best friend is a flasher, instantly knowing your depth with comparison to charts and your GPS will tell you if you're in the right spot or not. We don't spend more than a few minutes over one hole. In general when there is fish close by they will key in to your offerings and show up on your screen, if it stays empty move on.

A good slusher comes in handy on those super cold days. We prefer the metal kind, since they can be used to quickly pop open older holes, also once frozen over they can withstand a beating on the ice to free them up again.

Pliers are gold, unhooking fish as quickly as possible in frigid conditions is most important, delicate fins covered in water, exposed to wind-chill will freeze to death within seconds. Fingers get cold fast and vital sensitivity goes first, pliers get the job done regardless.

My trusty old pocket knife will take care of dissecting minnows into bite sized little pieces. A pair



of sharp clippers will make short process of heavy braid and steal leaders, making retying a breeze.

Always dedicate different pockets to different tools, this way you know where everything is at all times. When you have to think fast these little tweaks will make all the difference in the world. Again, the less time is wasted with scrambling and fumbling, the more the R&G will fish and catch.



FINDING STRUCTURE

This is the key to the game, always be looking for the usual suspects,

- Points
- Breaks
- Humps

The targeted species will dictate which one we will fish in particular but burn those 3 in to your mind and you can't go wrong.

Shallow bays, away from the current or with close access to deeper water or both, are always a safe bet for any species.

Searching for and fishing on their feeding grounds is the main objective, eliminating less fruitful waters and staying on the fish is the ultimate goal. Knowing what fish like doing where and when will help establish useful patterns.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

Google maps; Navionics and Anglers Atlas are great tools to scout out an area before hand. Mark potential hot spots in your GPS. My iPhone is the ultimate multi tool; it has everything we need under one hood, paired with a waterproof case it becomes the teams tactical unit.

Electronics should always be attached; those numb hands become notoriously clumsy; a simple lanyard is the winning ticket here. We have seen it over and over again; things just naturally have the tendency to slide down into the abyss. A 2 dollar investment will save yourself cries of despair.

If no technology is available, or in case it fails, use your surroundings to your advantage. Carefully study shore lines and guesstimate how they could continue under water. A pit stop at the local bait shop and a little chit chat with the owner can eliminate hours of searching. Always be prepared, you can never know too much!

CLOTHING

The R&G doesn't use portable shelters or huts; good clothing is the most important aspect to help brave the elements.

- Wind and water proof outer shells
- Warm and breathable inner layers

Being able to quickly undress and peel back when we drill a bunch of holes is vital. Sweat is your biggest enemy, staying dry and warm your main concern. An added bonus to this lifestyle is the amount of drilling that keeps the body exercised and the blood flow going.



Waterproof gloves are a must, when things get hectic at the hole and you have to reach in for some reason you can do so confidently. Paired with a set of warmers they can mean the difference between do or die.

A pair of knee guards, water resistant boots, a warm hat, polarized shades and a lightweight back pack will put the finishing touches on our R&G.

TACKLE

The R&G carries an elite selection of trusted weapons of confidence; there is no room on board for half the bait shop so downsizing is key. Our standard selection always contains (from light to heavy):

- Tiny tubes and jigs
- Williams wabler's in silver/ blue or gold
- Swedish Pimples
- Buckshots
- Blades in perch and shad
- Raps in perch and shad
- heavy macho minnows
- large spoons and tubes

Additional gear

- Swivels
- spare hooks and trebles
- stingers in various sizes
- pretied heavy mono and steal leaders
- split shots





As for bait, frozen minnows are the perfect choice here as there is no room for bulky buckets and such. Instead easy to handle zip lock bags with small army's of leftover minnows are much more appropriate.

The R&G is usually equipped with a medium heavy and a light rod, both rigged accordingly. A light fluo carbon line in the 6-8 lb range is well suited.

In addition the R&G can carry a tip up, when he works longer on a particular area deploying a second line will double the odds. If time is available than most likely the tip up will produce the bigger and better fish. It often attracts fish from further away, a seemingly free meal can sometimes fire them up and a suspended shiny silver minnow is visible from quite some distance underwater.

CONCLUSION

The key elements for this build are staying on the move and being as light weight as possible. Spending a day out on the ice jumping from hole to hole, exploring new territories, finding new honey spots has its perks. Fortune favors the bold!

Ice safety is at the utmost importance, venturing into an unknown area



should never be taken lightly and always be handled with care. The R&G never goes out alone and always comes prepared.

We will never lose the fear and respect for the ice; we treat 4" the same way as 15" and don't take it for granted. Ice conditions can change drastically fast. Keeping track of ice thickness can help point out weaker spots.

The R&G's ability to conquer great distances allows him by default to run into more fish. You never know, you just might walk right into a monsters backyard...there is only one way to find out and it's the Run and Gunners way.

It's not for the faint hearted and willingly enduring long, cold hours outside is not everyone's cup of tea. For those who will though, it can hold adventures and treasures and the experience has taught that it always seem to be well worth the hardship.



So don't just sit there this winter, gear up light, go on a hunt and make your own luck.

If you are seeing our work for the first time we are Rob Fuchs (Basstard) and Rob Conley (Smooth). Two best buds from Ottawa, Ontario that spend every free moment on the water all year long. Whether it's wading the rivers or braving the ice, we always stay passionate and dedicated in pursuit of the biggest and meanest Ontario has to offer. To follow our adventures or see more of our work, please check out www.thebassassins.com or www.facebook.com/TheBassassins.

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November 2013 - Issue #33



Cold Weather - Hot Fishing

Scratching the Panfish Itch

By Garrett Svir



It's finally my favorite time of year, early ice. My auger is tuned up and ready. My new Clam shelter is assembled, and my Vexilar battery is charged. My thoughts have started to drift to what skills I would like to hone this season. The addicting part of ice fishing for me is putting together the puzzle and unlocking the mysteries of the world below the frozen surface. That equals finding fish where others seldom look. According to a recent survey on my Facebook page, an overwhelming amount of anglers say the greatest skill an ice angler can improve on is the art of finding fish. This was seen as a greater skill than jigging style and bite detection. Then why do some anglers congregate over community hot spots, so accepting that the fish are simply not biting? These anglers have yet to be stricken with what we refer to, in my group of friends, as

the fish itch.

The fish itch is extremely contagious and usually comes on shortly after having success off the beaten path. Far out of sight, anglers with the fish itch, strike out confidently over fresh untapped ice. Symptoms begin as a feeling of persistence that drives you to keep searching until you have located fish. As symptoms eventually progress, you will begin to find larger concentrations of willing biters. Rumor has it that some anglers, who have had the itch for years, will eventually be able to pursue some of the largest specimens in a given lake, known as slabs and bulls. You will begin to recognize anglers with the itch this winter as they move quickly between holes, Vexilar in hand. If you have been stricken, here are some ways that you can scratch the fish itch this season.

Lessons from the Past

Taking lessons from the past is a huge part of finding fish on your own and gaining confidence away from the community hot spot. When going to a new body of water, try to find areas that have the same characteristics as the areas where you have caught fish in the past. Panfish tend to relate to similar areas on most bodies of water. Learning to identify fish holding



characteristics and translating them to different bodies of water will lead to future success. One of my favorite crappie spots is a 20' depression in the middle of a small shallow bay. When I study a lake map of a new body of water, I always highlight areas that mimic my favorite spot back home. One tip can be to visualize a contour map in 3D. Looking for fish holding areas on a piece of paper can be difficult. When you begin to see maps in 3D, you will get a feel for how fish relate to a particular spot. You will begin to understand how they find cover from predators, and how they find food.

Drive thru Panfish

Drive through the community hot spot. It is always worth seeing what type of areas the locals are fishing. Let's say many of the permanent houses are spread out over a 30' hole, surrounded by a shallow weed flat. I will begin to search the lake map for other areas with similar traits. Chances are if you can find a similar spot with less fishing pressure, you may hit the jackpot. It can be a huge advantage to work in a team with one angler walking ahead drilling, while the other follows with the Vexilar. Quickly driving up to each hole on the snowmobile and swinging the transducer in different directions will let you know if fish are present. If fish are seen when swinging the transducer, it will alert you to which direction to drill next. Once located, we drill holes closer together until we are right on top of the bio mass. Missing a school of fish by ten feet is like missing by a mile. The new Pro View Transducer from Vexilar has been a real game changer the past few seasons. It allows an angler to control the cone angle with the gain knob. The ability to search a larger area with fewer holes is a huge advantage and allows for more time scratching the itch.

Be Shallow

Searching shallower than everyone else will often produce the largest panfish in a given



water system. Panfish grow large because they are able to avoid predators, including anglers. Noise from anglers can push large panfish out of deep water and into heavy cover. Once in the weeds they will find the oxygen, food, and cover they need to thrive. The two factors that seem to draw fish are green healthy weeds and proximity to deep water. Coontail and curly leaf pondweed specifically will often stay green, even through the harshest fall weather. Hungry panfish will roam through the weed stocks, like a pack of lions, looking for that next easy meal. While pre-fishing for a tournament last winter, my wife and I stumbled on an interesting pattern. While most anglers drilled out deep basins looking for plankton feeders, we found huge bluegills gorging on Amphipods or freshwater shrimp on a large weed flat. Watching these fish with our underwater camera uncovered larger bluegills than we had ever encountered on this lake. We watched in fascination as these fish made their way through the weeds with ease, sucking shrimp off the stocks. Shallow water is where fishing fast really shines. Because fish aren't as visible in shallow water on electronics, we briefly fish each hole we drill. By drilling a large amount of holes we are assured to find the open patches, pathways and edges, which hold the largest numbers of fish.



It's a Slippery Slope

Steep drop off's surrounding main lake structure can also hold large concentrations of fish. These areas hold food such as mayfly larva and dragonfly larva. While these food sources can be present in many different areas, the base of a steeply dropping slope will provide some of the highest concentrations. For years, panfish guru Dave Genz has talked about these sticky bottom areas. These areas house the correct type of substrate to allow larva to burrow.

It takes a certain type of angler to strike out away from the pack to uncover that next hot pattern, an angler with the fish itch. Once you get the itch, you may acquire a renewed passion for the hardwater season. It just may leave you dreaming for a late spring. Photography by Kim Svir

Stop Feeding The Fish!

***Dave Genz Says
Make'em Strike, Instead***

By Mark Strand

Some of you have noticed that Dave Genz has been on a 'cadence kick' for more than a year. He talks, increasingly, about how your presentation has to feel good to the fish. It needs to smell and taste good, too, and it never hurts when it looks right (where clarity and lighting allow fish to see it). But to get to the point where a fish is attracted close enough to notice what your bait smells and tastes like, the motion of your presentation – and the signature of its felt signals on the fish's lateral line – have to communicate possible food item.

During the winter of 2012-13, Genz became more convinced than ever in the value of 'pounding' the lure while presenting it to fish. On most days, he says, the catch rate is higher for those who create extremely fast, vibrating

motions. Up-down, up-down, up-down goes the wrist, in minute movements. Boomp-boomp-boomp goes the bait, kicking, rocking, looking alive. There isn't much to see, if you watch someone doing it.

But there's a lot for the fish to feel, and you can slowly raise or lower the bait as you pound it. It feels like life to the fish, which are accustomed to feeding on things that move like this.

He's talked about this a lot, but Genz wanted to mention again that this aggressive (whatever that means) presentation style not only brings fish in from a distance, but closes the deal, gets them to open their mouths, once the fish get right up to your bait.

Even anglers who subscribe to pounding tend to stop doing it when fish show up. It's human nature. Dave talked about one of his numerous extended road trips, from January, 2013. He was traveling and fishing with Joe Jackson (longtime Clam and Ice Team pro), during which there were numerous days they caught more fish than their guides and hosts – because they sent the right signals to the fish.



With one nice walleye flopping on the ice, Dave Genz is back down looking for more, aggressively pounding his lure. Rather than slowing down when a fish shows up, in an effort to "feed it," Genz says we should keep a hard-pounding cadence going, and force the fish to strike. (Photo: davegenz.com)



“I’ve been observing guys who were sight fishing,” said Genz, “and seeing that those fish were just not going to bite their lines. When the fish show up, they stop doing what brought the fish in. They slow down, and the fish loses interest and goes away.”

“Same thing when people use spring bobbers. You just can’t get that sharp cadence with a spring bobber. When fish show up, they slow everything down. They’re trying to feed ‘em. Joe and I were so much more aggressive; we made ‘em strike.”

“You can make those fish bite if

you get the right cadence going. We used to call it the pound, or pounding it, and I don’t know if everybody understood what we meant by that. But now that we’re talking about cadence, that word is catching on. You can work with the same thing in summer fishing, like when you try small, medium, or large spinner blades on a crawler harness. You find what cadence the fish want that day. When you change the blade, you change the rhythm, the cadence. A different blade can trigger more fish.

“That’s what we’re doing, when we’re pounding the bait when we’re ice fishing. We use a lure that matches up with our line and our rod, so we can feel that bait as we’re pounding it. It’s that crisp cadence that catches fish.

“The problem with spring bobbers, and those rods with real flexible tips, is you can’t get that cadence going and keep it going. It smooth’s it out too much. You have to find the exact movement they want and keep giving it to them. If the rod tip is too floppy, it dips down too far and flips up too far. Same thing when you put a spring on the end of the rod. They’re too soft. I don’t want to condemn that smooth presentation, because it’s fine if that’s what the fish are looking for. But when they want that crisp cadence, you can’t give it to ‘em unless you’re using the right rod, and it’s balanced so the line hangs straight with no kinks in it.”

Plastics can be Deadly Fished ‘Smooth’

When using soft plastics, Genz has noticed that the smoother, ‘longer wavelength’ cadence produced by soft-tipped rods and spring bobbers can produce well.

“That nice smooth, rolling motion can produce (with plastics),” he said. “And the plastics seem to, sometimes, be better for continuing to catch fish out of the same hole, after the bite slows down. There are places and times when the guys using plastics are catching more than the

guys using live bait. That's because the plastics are better than they used to be, and we're learning more about how to catch fish with them."

Dave, a diehard live-bait fisherman, is, in fact, working on refining a soft plastics system that he says he'll be ready to talk about in time for next winter.

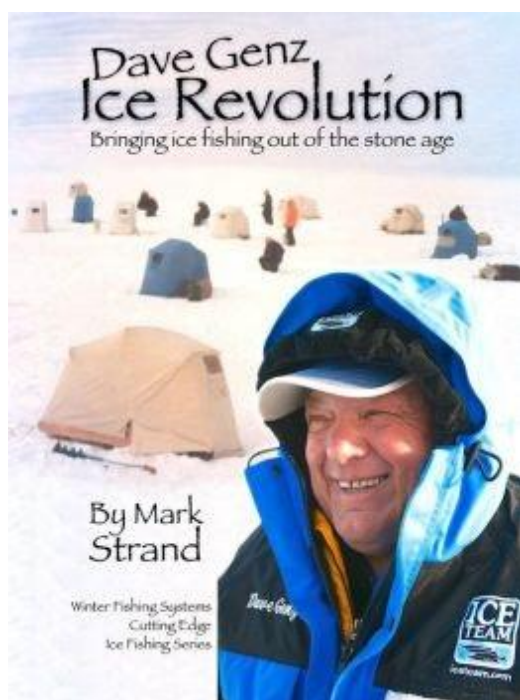
Aggressive Fish are the Exception

If you drill enough new holes and get over enough biters, you can put together a good catch with virtually any kind of rod, spring, bait, and presentation.

"When you drop that bait down for the first time in a new hole," says Genz, "a lot of times the first fish rises up and bites it. It meets the bait halfway down and your line goes slack. That one, you don't have to do much to catch. It just happens. But then, after that fish, the other ones are less aggressive. You have to do more to catch them.



"I try to get the fish to charge my bait, and keep doing what brought him in. I keep the cadence going, and keep looking for exactly how he wants it. I usually slowly take it away from him, make him chase it."



Many other anglers tend to slow down or even stop the cadence once a fish shows up – especially when sight fishing.

"Something happens when you can see the fish," says Genz. "As the fish gets closer, you tend to go slower. Breaking the rhythm breaks the spell. Going from a crisp cadence to a stop is too much for the fish to accept, especially when the lure starts to spin after you stop the motion. We have to stop trying to feed 'em, and start making 'em strike."

Note: Dave Genz, known as Mr. Ice Fishing, was the primary driver of the modern ice fishing revolution. He has been enshrined in the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame for his contributions to the sport. For more fishing tips and information on the new book, Ice Revolution, go to www.davegenz.com.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
 All guests should arrive and stay overnight in Manaus on the Friday before their scheduled Saturday tour. On Saturday morning, after breakfast, guests will be transported to the local airport and take a quick flight to the best fishing spots of the region.



Amazon Fishing Packages' dates and rates for 2014 are below. Prices and rates might change without further notice.

1st Schedule From June to the 1st half of September 2014

River Region: Madeira, Madeirinha, Sucunduri, Pineapples, Acari, Uatumã, and more. Price per person: \$3550,00 Includes: Air Ticket round-trip Manaus/Olinda/Manaus and one night hotel stay in Manaus. Groups of 16 to 18 people for 6 days of fishing.

2nd Schedule From the 2nd half of September to the 1st half of October/2014

Regions: Rio Negro Mid Section, Jufaris, Demeni, Branco, and more. Closest city: Moura-AM. Price per person: \$3550.00 Includes: Ferry Boat round-trip to Manaus/fishing spots/Manaus and one night hotel stay in Manaus. Groups of 16 to 18 people for 6 days of fishing.

3rd Schedule D From the 2nd half of the October/2014 to March/2015

Regions: Barcelos and Santa Isabel do Rio Negro. Rivers: Negro, Caures, Cuiunim, Padauari, Preto, and more. Closest city: Barcelos-AM. Price per person: \$3850.00 Includes: Air Ticket round-trip Manaus/Barcelos/Manaus and one night hotel stay in Manaus. Groups of 16 to 18 people for 6 days of fishing.



ATTENTION

The above information is subject to change due to region's water level. The values mentioned does not include airfare tickets from your origin destination to Manaus.

Administration: São Bernardo do Campo - São Paulo - Brazil
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Life Saving Breakthrough on the ICE

By Marianne Huskey

In the early 90's Ice Fishing became a passion of mine. I remember my first ice fishing experience in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on Munuscong Bay of the St. Mary's River. Walleyes and Perch were the main species for us with an occasion Northern Pike rolling through.

During my thirteen years living in the Upper Peninsula, I spent time ice fishing on many Michigan bodies of water, including the St. Mary's River, Saginaw Bay, Burt Lake, Mullet Lake and the Les Cheneaux Islands.

Each body of water came with challenging ice conditions. On the Great Lakes, you can always expect conditions to change with current and wind.

Every year we would hear about a large chunk of ice breaking off in Saginaw Bay. Along with the large chunk of ice would be stranded ice anglers and their equipment waiting to be rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard.



On the inland bodies of water pressure cracks would form causing locals to build bridges or find alternative routes to get to their favorite fishing hole.

Regardless of the challenges, Mother Nature has tossed our way we would manage to find our favorite spot and spend the day in our shanties watching a bobber, jigging or simply staring down the whole waiting for the next bite.

On occasion if you decided to sit down your ice-fishing rod and step outside it was bound to happen.

That lone Northern Pike would grab your bait and along with it he would take your favorite ice rod.

The rod was lost!

As your buddies are laughing, and you stomp your feet calling that Northern Pike every name in the book, the fact of the matter is "You can replace the rod and reel with a new one"

Most of us have lost a rod/reel down the hole and could replace it, but some of us have endured a much greater loss.

I have known many friends and acquaintances who have lost their lives while ice fishing! The currents of the Great Lakes have taken lives on the ice with changing ice depths over the years.

Both early ice and late ice with the look of thick black clear ice can persuade even the most cautious of anglers to cross a dangerous area.

I myself can recall heading out on Burt Lake for early ice and those big perches. After driving my ATV onto the ice with my son (who was 10 at the time) I unloaded the gear and drilled my first hole.

The breath from my lungs was sucked out of my chest as the ice auger went through so freely. I would say I was lucky to have 1 ½" of ice under me. My first reaction was to yell to my son and tell him to head to shore immediately. Then I looked at the ATV and prayed I would be able to get on this machine and carefully drive it back to safety.



As the years have passed an ice angling has progressed so have the safety measures we should all be taking before heading out!!!

We can start by using items such as the Frabill Ice Picks. These Ice Picks can be used to assist after you have fallen through the ice. With an ice pick in each hand, you can gain leverage and crawl back to safe ice.

Wear a whistle!!! If you need to help the whistle will allow others to locate you even in low-light conditions.

These small tips are great for all anglers but the best safety tool I have seen in all my ice angling years would be "The Nubulus Emergency Flotation Device"



In 2012, I received a call from Duffy Kopf. Duffy was aware of my angling experience and Huskey's Guide Service.

He asked me to take a look at this life saving product. The Nubulus has proven its self-time and time again with over 100 lives being saved since its first use.

Packaged in a small rectangular shape measuring 17.5" x 11" x 5". This life-saving unit can be inflated manually by a CO2 canister via the attached lanyard. The flotation buoyancy is 1000 lb. capacity. The Nubulus Emergency Flotation Device can be mounted to the front, side, or back of any ATV or snowmobile.

If an emergency situation arises you can inflate the device and toss it to a person in danger or if you and your ATV or snowmobile goes through the ice, you can pull the lanyard, and the Nubulus will offer temporary flotation to allow time for rescue.



PACKED (TOP) VIEW

Many of our ice rescue teams are now carrying the Nubulus as standard ice rescue equipment. The Nubulus will be available for purchase at the St. Paul Ice Fishing Show on December 6-8, 2013.

You can also find more information about this life saving product at <http://www.nubulusflotation.com/> Or by calling Duffy Kopf @ 608-576-2700 or email Duffy at ljkopf@tds.net

Marianne Huskey is a Professional Walleye Angler, the owner of Huskey's Guide Service in Green Bay, WI and a public speaker at National Boat and Outdoor Shows throughout the Midwest. For more information visit www.mariannehuskey.com

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The author Jason Mitchell believes that inshore opportunities are some of the best kept secrets for big walleyes on many large natural lakes right now.

Walleyes on the Rim

By Jason Mitchell

Each early ice season is almost a space race in regard to reaching spots further out on fishable ice while still being safe. Simply put, there are just spots that we know will be good and usually, the first people on those spots are going to catch some really nice fish. This phenomena happens on Lake of the Woods, Mille Lacs, Devils Lake and several other major walleye fisheries. The spot we can hardly get to always seems to pull at anglers' curiosity the hardest. What surprises many anglers however is on just about every fishery, there is a percentage of fish that remain fairly close to shore and typically shallow at first ice.

You don't always have to be the first angler to fish the Boot on Mille Lacs or Knight Island on Lake of the Woods to experience great walleye fishing early in the season. Granted, like any locations the bite diminishes drastically as pressure builds so half of walleye angling is just thinking of locations that might have fish and haven't had all the activity yet. GPS Chips sure have made that a lot more difficult. You see the trouble with the Chips is that everybody else has them to!

Back in the day, not everybody knew how to reach or find all of these offshore locations that load up with fish. Everybody relied on shoreline structure because they could reach the spot and eyeball enough landmarks to find it again. Back in the day, the people that knew about the offshore stuff and were able to find it had gold mines all to themselves. Now flash forward a few years. There are just not that many secrets, most of the spots are mapped and can be bought by anybody. The result has been a huge shift towards offshore structure. Guess what has happened now? There are some really good shallow patterns that are sometimes more dependable than the classic and renown offshore patterns because of the pressure aspect.

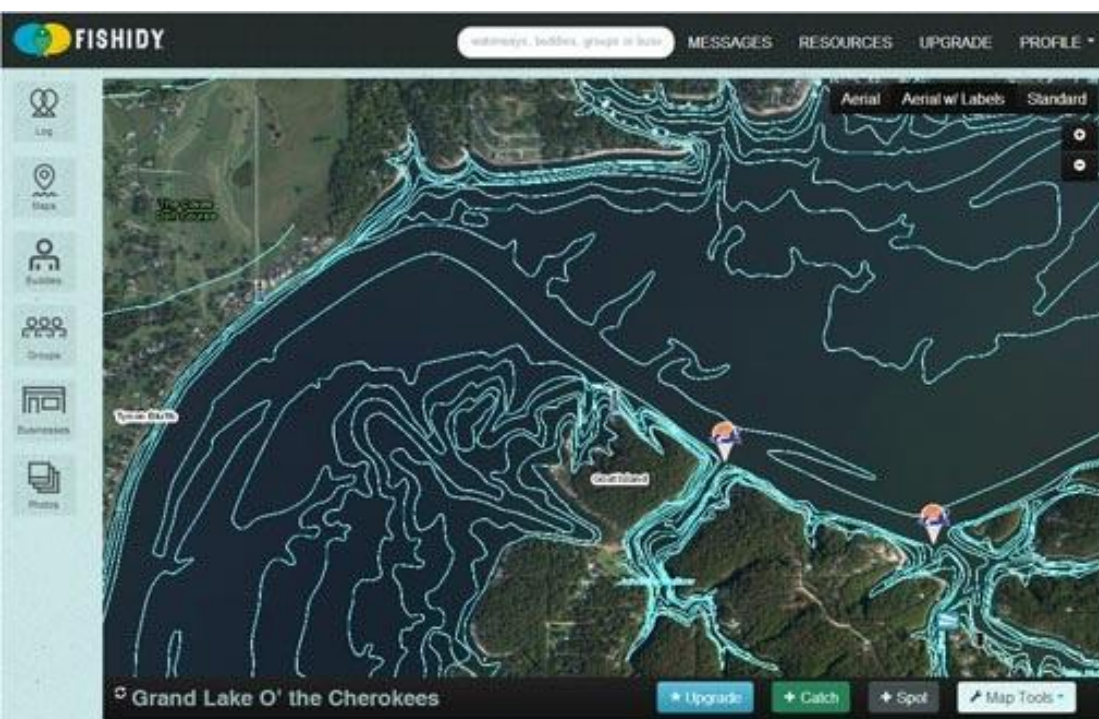
If there is a trend that we are seeing on the really big lakes, it has been that some of the steadiest opportunities for big walleyes have been coming along the shallow rim of the shoreline. For the most part, the shallow water connected to the shoreline is a morning and evening bite on many lakes but not always. What these locations are however as everybody races offshore is overlooked.

Finding locations that are overlooked is often the key. I have often stressed that the best fishing happens to the person who finds the fish. What can make walleye fishing “inshore” intimidating can be just the amount of shoreline to cover. Large shallow flats or gently tapering shorelines just don’t have the obvious spot that screams at you to drill a hole. Much different ball game than zooming in on a classic mud hump or reef and picking it apart with less than a dozen well aimed holes. Here is the other beauty of shallow water, the variations are subtle yet important and often don’t yet show up on chips. There are still some really great secrets in shallow water.

Any outside point or inside turn with any kind of rock is a classic walleye magnet on just about any lake. These locations get a lot of attention especially at first ice. Many anglers will work these classic gravel or rock locations between ten and twenty feet of water. An adjustment that is difficult for some anglers to do and is worth a try is to slide even shallower and closer to shore especially if fishing pressure cools the spot off. People often automatically assume that the fish pull out deeper and progress offshore but you will be surprised how often fish do the

exact opposite. The downfall can be that the fish move or are active for very short windows but we have stuck a lot of big fish way up inside on this pattern on several large, predominate fisheries.

Other classic shallow water goldmines for big lakes are any sand bars or sand flats that have a nice sharp lip or break on them that plunges down into deep water. Large flats especially if there is some weed growth



can hold a staggering amount of fish but little dips, depressions or troughs within the flats are often the sweet spots.

This article isn't necessary to convince you to fish shallow or inshore but rather contemplate options that aren't getting pressure. There are times when I have wasted a lot of time trying to find different fish or patterns and finally admitted that I would have been better off fishing right in the pack. There are other times where you can pounce on a location first or figure out some little detail that will keep you successful as more anglers gather around.

We have some really great offshore memories but what we are seeing is that as more anglers use and understand GPS with map chips, the inshore locations get touched less and less and over time, the tide starts to go the other way. We are starting to have massive locations to ourselves, we are often finding large schools and aggressive fish that have seen no pressure and we are finding big fish. What is ironic is that this will happen for a while and then more people will be on to these patterns and over time, these locations won't be as productive because there will be more people doing it.

What we will be looking for than is some other under the radar pattern where we can find fish that have been avoiding pressure. Fifteen years ago, the go to move was finding structure off shore for untouched fish and big fish. Now if I were to put my money down, I would lay it on the shoreline in water shallower than what most anglers' feel comfortable fishing.

More and more in the future, the current trends and attitudes of fellow anglers will often have as much influence on strategy as the fish themselves. In other words, you won't just be able to think like a walleye, you also have to factor in pressure. The trump card is a lack of pressure. Fish that haven't been worked over make you look good. The fish compete against each other and larger schools get competitive and aggressive by default. When the fish get beat up a little bit, that competitive nature drops dramatically.



Ice Fishing Equipment Guide



At the time that this magazine is being released, ice has already arrived throughout Canada and many parts of the Northern border country of the United States. In higher elevations some anglers are already finding a few spots of safe ice, but not much. So that means it's time to make some choices on new and replacement ice fishing gear. ODU, with the help of a few contributors, has picked out several great additions to your ice gear collection. Have a safe season, take a kid fishing and pass on the gift of fishing.

Lures & More...

Maki Plastics

For fun, put a Maki plastic on a ice jig and try to hold it motionless in the water. CLAM and Ice Team Pro Jason Durham says, "It's absolutely impossible to keep it still. They move and undulate and look like so many things naturally available to fish in their underwater environment." Fish them and you'll see why we chose to make Maki plastics as a must haves in your ice tackle box/bucket.



Challenge the fish. Let them eye 'em up. These plastics look right, produce the right vibrations, and the texture feels natural to fish when they bite down. They're hand poured, soft and consistent. Infused and coated with Maki Juice, worm particles and fish proteins in an anise-anchored formulation.

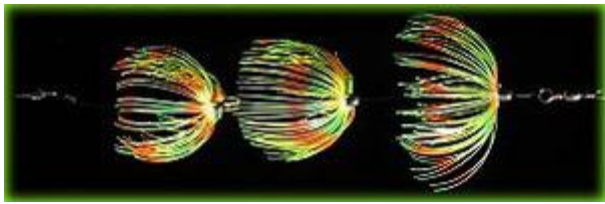
What anglers say about Maki. "Maki is by far the best plastics I ever used. That's all I use for past four years. I have posted a lot of pictures and video on forums all on a 3mm jigs and 2lb P-line." and "I would highly encourage all of you too look them up and give them a try, they are truly amazing."



Swedish Pimple

The Swedish Pimple is a superb ice jigging lure. This type of lure has been widely used in Sweden for over 100 years with exceptional results on both fresh and salt-water fish. Jig it, summer or winter! Their proven ability to take walleye, trout, Coho salmon, northern, bass, pan fish and many salt water species makes owning this lure a must for most fishermen. As a general rule the larger sizes are for game fish in deep water lakes.

The smaller sizes are for pan fish in shallow lakes; or trout, bass, etc. in rivers. All sizes will produce game fish and pan fish if both types inhabit the same waters. Ultra-lite and light action rods, with balanced reels spooled with 2 or 4 lb. Test line teamed with a Swedish Pimple, Vingla or Flute Spoon has brought many large pan fish to the dinner table.



Teaser Leader - Trophy Series

This fishing lure the Teaser Leader TM Trophy Series from Ladredge Outdoors turns a 120 lb test, 70 strand nylon coated leader into a school of baitfish. When fish start feeding, it triggers an instinctive response from

predators. Three silicon skirts lined with a holographic foil sparkle and flash to create the perfect illusion of small fish trying to escape from whatever lure a fisherman wants to use. Muskies, pike, salmon and other predatory fish can't resist this fishing lure and take part in the food chain chase. Year-round applications make it perfect for casting, trolling, live bait, and winter tip-up fishing. Available in 6 color variations and glow-in-the-dark options.



The Whip

There are similar, more expensive, plastic tails out there but none of them are as lifelike or produce the irresistible whipping, tail flicking, action like The Whip™. Often when the fish are neutral and the bite is almost completely shut down, The Whip™, fished with the proper technique, will trigger

bites when nothing else will. Now after 30 years of sharing plastics with friends and curious fishermen out on the ice, The Whip™ is finally available to everybody. <http://www.icefishingtime.com/>

Reel Weeds

Make your own instant fish habitat with Reel Weeds Structure on a String, which provides an attractive haven for fish in cold, barren winter waters. Fish seek structure for refuge and food. When they find it, especially in winter, they stick to it. Structure on a String is a depth-adjustable system that includes approximately 4 feet of weighted Reel Weeds



structure, 40 feet of cordage, an adjustable "ice free" float, and a storage unit. Simply lower the natural-looking foliage structure, and the adjustable ice-free float keeps it upright. Then wait for the structure to begin attracting fish. Commence fishing and when you've caught your limit, haul it all in and head home. Custom-manufactured weights bull the Structure on a String through the water and to its destination. Simply surround yourself with this affordable and effective weed structure and get ready for some action.

PK Spoon



PK Jigging Spoons are the most dynamic spoons put on the market in years. The weighted design gives this bait an unparalleled action that calls in fish and causes them to strike. The counterweight system gives the lures an action that other tackle companies only dream of manufacturing. Each lure features glowing eyes to help attract fish in low light conditions. The lure comes in 7

color patterns: Firetiger Glow, Red Dot Glow, Copper, Nickel, Firetiger, Pearl Chartreuse and Shad. This is a must have lure for all walleye, bass, trout, pike, muskie and panfish fishermen.

Jammin Jigs All Purpose Kit

62 Jigs to get you panfish, trout and walleyes. This jammin' kit gives you rockers, tube jigs, water bugs/fleas, teardrop jigs of three sizes and beetle jigs. With this kit you are set to go and hit the ice with your family and friends. Jammin Jigs has picked the best most productive colors as well.

<http://jamminjigs.com/>



NORTHLAND'S BUCK-SHOT® GLIDER SPOON and BUCK-SHOT® UV SPOON

Traditional spoons flash, drop and wobble. But there's more to spoon fishing than the same-old game of lift-drop-flutter. Especially when revolutionary action and attraction convert old friends into new trends.

First things first, there's the wing thing. NORTHLAND'S new BUCK-SHOT® GLIDER SPOON propels their legendary BUCK-SHOT® GLIDER SPOON design to new heights and flights, sprouting wings to make the lure sail, slide and glide as it slowly wobbles downward. Its

exaggerated wobbling action draws fish attention and drives them crazy.

"The BUCK-SHOT® GLIDER SPOON features molded-in 'wings' that cause an erratic darting, flying and gliding action that mimics a wounded baitfish," says Team Northland® Pro Staffer Tony Roach. "Coupled with the exclusive Baitfish Image® finish and proven Buck-Shot® rattle, it calls 'em in and triggers 'em to bite." Available in three sizes—1/8, 1/4 and 3/8 oz.—and six seductive colors including four "glo" patterns—they reach out to tantalize everything from Perch and Walleye to Bass and Trout.

Second but equally exciting, every freshwater angler worth his salt knows that UV paint finishes are the hottest things in fishing. That's why NORTHLAND added UV paint to the Buck-Shot® lineup, increasing lure visibility by gathering and reflecting ambient ultraviolet light to draw increased attention from nearby predators.



"Cold-water spooning just got hotter by incorporating highly visible, UV-enhanced, optically-brightened finishes into the UV BUCK-SHOT® SPOON," Roach adds. "Combined with the ticking, thumping and clicking attraction of the Buck-Shot® brass rattle, the colors, visibility and action of this spoon help me put more Crappies, Walleyes and Perch on the ice." They're available in three sizes—1/16, 1/8 and 1/4 oz.—and 6 brilliant UV forage patterns guaranteed to alert and convert "sighters" into biters. For a night and day difference, all year long.

Ice Fishing Tips...

HT Windlass Tip-Up

The Windlass Tip-Up by HT Enterprises is a great way to ensure your ice jigs impart the constant dancing action that drives fish to strike. Thanks to an innovative design, the Windlass Tip-Up can impart a jigging action with only a slight breeze. A spring -adjustment bracket controls the amount of jigging motion, which means you can customize the amount of action to the bite while still enjoying hands-free fishing. Made high-impact plastic with a very stable base, the Windlass Tip-Up boasts plastic spool with adjustable tension drag, sensitive trip mechanism and a blaze orange indicator flag.



Heritage Laker Tip-Up

The Heritage ® Laker Tip-Up is constructed of sturdy hardwood. Its colorful finish makes it highly visible against the white snow and ice of your favorite hardwater fishing spot. This tip-up has a 3 in. spool that holds 100 yds. of 36 lb. line. It also has a stainless steel trip level, brass nuts and bolts, a grease-filled heavy copper

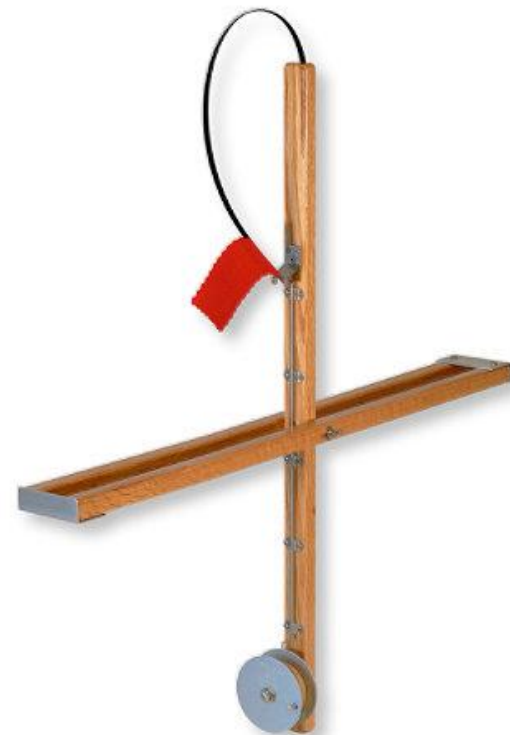
tube, a brass locking tension system, and a reel with hook keeper cork and storage holes.



Beaver Dam Round Tip-Up

Unique wood and slip-resistant rubber construction provide insulated performance against freezing and won't lift or slide in heavy winds. Also, the wood and rubber materials

don't produce fish-spooking noise in adverse weather. Smooth-operating metal components withstand years of rugged use. The 10" version easily stacks in a 5-gallon bucket for convenient transport. Comes in either a 10" diameter fits 6" to 9" holes. 12" diameter fits 10" holes.



Jack Traps

Made in Maine, Jack Traps are the best ice-fishing traps we've ever used. Super-durable construction includes kiln-dried ash, aluminum hardware with stainless-steel screws and two coats of marine polyurethane. The stainless-steel tripper rod is held in place with five holders and filled with lithium grease to prevent freeze-up – the flag will trip every time a fish takes the bait. You can repack the grease as

needed through a fitting under the center holder. Bright red felt flag stands over 3' in height when tripped, making it visible from a great distance. 3" reel comes loaded with 180' of waxed nylon ice fishing line.

Rods, Reels & More...

HT'S New "Accu-Cast" Deluxe Wide Arbor Series Spinning Reel

HT has taken innovation to another level: Introducing the new WIDE ARBOR ACCU-CAST. This innovative design reduces line coiling, plus allows you to spool up with line you will truly use. Why spend money (and time) wrapping yards and yards of useless backing onto your reel when you seldom need more than 30 or 40 yards for most ice fishing applications? Now you can spool up only with what you really need—without wasting money or time!

The high performance, WIDE ARBOR ACCU-CAST SPINNING REEL features five bearing drive, infinite anti-reverse, machined aluminum handle and spool, plus a soft rubber paddle for a comfortable, sure grip.



13 Fishing Black Betty Ice Reel

The 13 Fishing Black Betty Ice Reel is a great replacement reel for any rod using a standard spinning reel. The 1:1 retrieve ratio is great for repeating your presentation at the desired depth. This style of reel allows the line to feed straight off of the spool eliminating line twist, line coiling and the spinning of your lure/tackle.

The Black Betty Ice Reel has interchangeable retrieve, right or left hand. The aluminum revolver custom spool adds durability as well as aesthetic value to the reel. An oversized EVA handle knob allows use without the need to remove gloves or mittens. A smooth cork drag provides protection for light lines and

hard fighting fish.

HT'S New "Bucket Rocker" Rod Holder

Why didn't anyone think of this before? HT's new BUCKET ROCKER ROD HOLDER is an ideal secondary rod holder! This lightweight, easy storing system hooks on any five or six gallon bucket, and extends out to a pivoting cradle that holds your rod securely. The BUCKET ROCKER ROD HOLDER can be used simply as a convenient secondary rod holder--with the added



advantage you can jig your presentation by rocking the combo without removing it from the cradle—yet your combo can still be lifted out freely whenever you're ready to set the hook. The BUCKET ROCKER ROD HOLDER also can be employed as a "tip-down" style bite indicator system.



Frabill Straight Line 261 Bro Series Combos

The composite construction of Frabill's 261 Straight Line Reel boasts durability and won't feel cold to the touch. Line feeds straight off the large and balanced spool with a 2.6:1 gear ratio that maximizes retrieval rate and prevents coiling. Freespool setting sends the smallest jigs to the bottom with ease. Long stem positions reel away from the rod to accommodate heavy gloves without getting in the way. Ambidextrous reel handle fits right-handed and left-handed anglers alike. Sub-Zero® lubricated for slick operation in freezing temperatures. Audible/silent bait alarm for dead sticking finicky walleye. Materials in the rod's blank match the specific technique. Aluminum-oxide ice guides reduce freeze-up for easy line flow. Aluminum reel seat holds on and won't let go.

On The Move

Lakewood Ice Pack

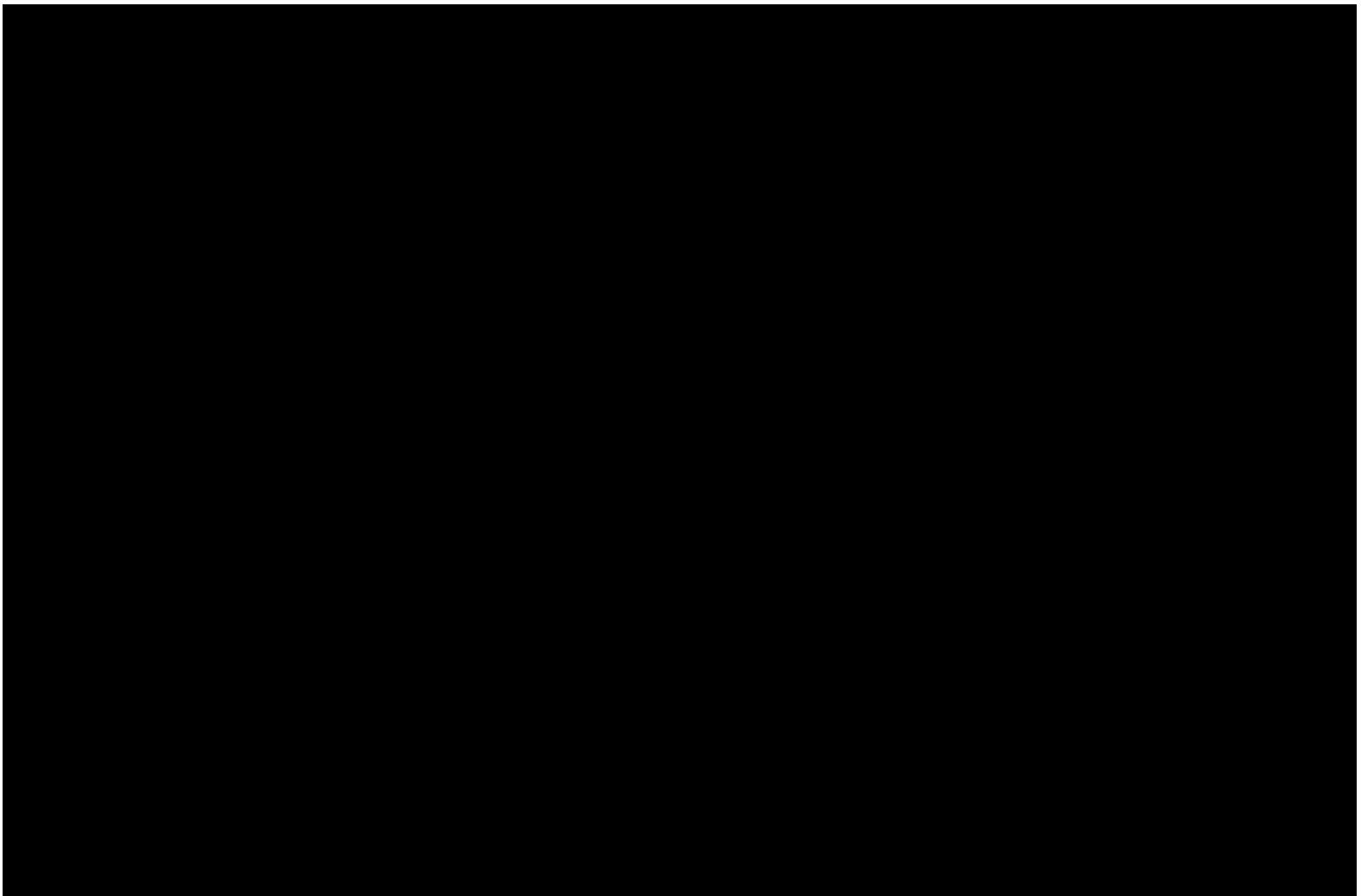
Now 2.5" higher to accept the largest tip ups. Gear pockets for tools also acts as a third hand for restringing. Bottom pocket and Velcro securely holds up to 5 jig poles on side of case. Heavy-duty ballistic bottom helps keep water out and prevents tears. Mesh pocket for round tip ups and wet items. Adjustable shoulder straps with extra large loop handle allows you to carry it with gloves on. Two large zippered pockets on the side provide tons of storage. Color: black only. Also doubles as a really big muskie bait carrier that is 1/3 the size of The Extreme.



Trapper Pack Basket, Waxed Canvas

Soft-sided version of our traditional wooden pack basket made with the highly water-resistant waxed canvas used in our luggage collection. Use it for ice fishing, day hiking, carrying outdoor and dog training gear and more. Stands up straight for easy loading and unloading. The top can be closed with the cinch strap. A padded back panel and contoured shoulder straps help you carry the basket comfortably. Interior zip security pocket. Durable leather bottom. Canvas is 100% cotton. Polyester lining.





It Will Take Power To Cut Them Holes...



Polar Fire Power Augers

Reliable, fast cutting power augers play a critical role in any successful ice fishing approach, and Polar Fire augers have been engineered to perform!

Commanding 33, 43 and 52 cc two cycle or 35 cc 4 stroke power heads all fire quickly and run smoothly, warm to full-speed operation seconds, then operate quietly with unsurpassed reliability—all while delving out outstanding stability and powerful torque as a solid base centering ring and point system surrounding razor-sharp blades cut efficiently and smoothly.

Polar Fire augers are built to last, too, using rugged, cast aluminum gear housing and solid all steel flighting. Add ergonomic, comfort-grip foam handles for supreme handling, and it's easy to see these machines were built to perform.

ION Electric Ice Auger

Drill up to forty holes through two feet of ice on one lithium-ion charge! The ION Electric Ice Auger gives you power-auger performance without the hassles. The ION is fast, powerful and lightweight, making it easy to carry. In fact, the ION weighs nearly 40% less than many gas-powered augers. This Electric Ice Auger features lithium-ion technology, and is so quiet you won't scare the fish. ION's steel auger cuts holes like a gas-powered auger, but without the usual noise and bone-jarring action. Better still, there's no gas, no oil, and no fumes to contend with! The ION Electric Ice Auger features a Spot On centering ring that allows you to reopen frozen holes. A Straight Through blade design translates to a smooth, no-catch breakthrough with no jagged ice at the bottom rim of the ice hole to fray line. Other features include an onboard, high-energy 40V MAX lithium-ion battery, easy-grip handlebars, large ergonomically positioned trigger, and a compact, lightweight transmission with planetary gears.



Jiffy 4500 Series Pro 4 Propane-Powered Ice Drill

An industry first! The Jiffy 4500 Series Pro 4 Propane-Powered Ice Drill is the first of its kind. This world class wonder sports a 49cc, 4-stroke, propane-powered engine that's clean and quiet. The Jiffy 4500 Series Pro 4 Propane Ice Drill starts easily, with no priming and no flooding. Because there's no smoke, you can operate the Pro 4 indoors! The Jiffy 4500 Series Pro 4 Propane-Powered Ice Drill features a high-torque transmission and Stealth STX cutting technology. A serrated ripper blade and power point blades last 2-3 times longer than conventional blades.



What's Going On Under The Ice...



Vexilar FLX-28 Ultrapack Case W/ Proview

Vexilar's ultimate sonar for ice fishing, the FLX-28 Ultrapack includes all the essential electronic equipment an angler needs. Brushless data-transfer technology around the center of the LED flasher for digital depth reading. Auto ranging in 5-ft. increments starting at 10 ft. and going to 300 ft. lets you know exactly how deep you're fishing. Crystal-clear 525 lines of resolution with a five-color palate selection lets you distinguish what's under the ice. A unique weed mode eliminates confusion by letting you see your presentation and more easily distinguish fish from cover. 1/4" target acquisition lets you see the bait drop onto their nose. With two zoom zones you can focus and hone in on the depth fish are biting. Day and night display settings won't strain your eyes no matter the light conditions. A low-power option for fishing shallow water quiets the transducer to eliminate spooking fish. 20 interference rejection settings won't catch the signal from other sonar units, eliminating distortion.

Vexilar FL-12 Genz Pack 12 Degree with Pro Mod

The streamlined flat surface area of Vexilar's FL-12 Genz Pack won't trap rain and snow and increases the viewing angle by 50%. LED flasher light saves energy for more time on the water. Crystal-clear 525 lines of resolution with a three-color palate selection let you distinguish what's under the ice. Depth ranges of 20 ft., 40 ft., 60 ft., 80 ft. and 200 ft. with bottom 6-ft. zoom zone you can focus and hone in on biting fish. A low-power option aids in fishing shallow water or thick weeds. Interference rejection setting won't catch the signal from other sonar units, eliminating distortion. The FL-12 unit is mounted to the iconic little blue box that holds the included 12-volt battery and Ice-Ducer Transducer.





Hawkeye Handheld Sonar System

Compact and effective. Built to be handheld... in fact you can aim the beam of this Sonar wherever you want to see, just like an underwater flashlight! Accurately provides instant depth readings, from 3 to 199 feet.

At the press of a button the display gives real-time temperature (water or air) and fish readings. Use it in the winter to shoot through ice BEFORE cutting your hole. Use it in the summer as a range finder and temperature meter while diving. Use it as a backup depth sounder on your pleasure boat or scan for channels

in your dingy. Features: SideScan fish sonar finds drop-offs, ledges and other hiding places, Algorithmic programming, Instant depth readings and updates, English and metric calculations, Auto and manual readout modes, Dry seal battery housing, waterproof to 200 feet, Floatable, Dual temperature readout & Integrated wrist strap.



Aqua-Vu Micro 5 Underwater Camera

The Aqua-Vu Micro 5 Underwater Camera offers amazing color and clarity in a handheld package. The Micro 5 with DVR features a high-resolution 5" color LCD with an IP67-rated waterproof case and sunshield/screen protector. The Micro 5 features enhanced color camera optics with a 3X digital zoom and 100' of cable with an integrated cable management system. A built-in DVR boasts an 8 GB internal memory and a handy USB port for connecting to your computer. An adjustable infrared lighting system is included for dark and dirty water viewing. A rechargeable lithium-ion battery provides up to 8 hours of run time. Includes a battery charger.

Hydro Glow LED Fish Lights



Ice fish at night with these lights makes a difference. They are the latest design (patent pending) of functional, energy efficient and durable lights for night fishing. Featuring high intensity LEDs for the best light output under the water. Hydro Glow's proprietary coating protects the LEDs from water as well as the "banging around in the sled or ice basket" that often occurs during the night, making them virtually unbreakable and providing unmatched durability for many years of night fishing enjoyment. The HG3108 is two feet long in length and 1 amp, offering unsurpassed light output for maximum bait attracting capability.

Get Something Over Your Head...



Frabill Fishouflage Ambush Headquarters

The Ambush Headquarters bears the Frabill patented Fishouflage and is equipped with the same rip-stop panels, 900 denier skirt, and thermal top of the Ambush Outpost but with increased fishing space. Consider this your auditorium on ice with the ability to comfortably house six anglers. Features include: 900 Denier skirt provides maximum durability in high-stress location, Fishouflage Rip-Stop side panels offer an increased weight to strength ratio, Thermal top offers improved heat retention and prevents condensation, Corner doors (2) with heavy duty zipper, Four Clear View removable windows, MaxVent system adjusts for optimal venting Reflective piping on all four sides, Includes transport bag & Includes anchor kit.

The Zack Shack

The problem with most fish houses on the market is they are big, heavy and cumbersome to move. At The Zack Shack® we build the strongest, most lightweight, compact, and portable fish house on the market, with its 1400 lb payload capacity and 30 second set-up time, it's the most practical fish house.

In an effort to hold down both weight and cost, some non-essential items are not offered. The Zack Shack® is probably the only fish house you will use more in the summer than the winter.

With the New ZS60 Door it will allow you to drive your lawnmower, ATV, snow blower, or snowmobile right into the house.



Clam Corp Six Pack™ Series 1660 Mag Ice Fishing Shelter

While hub-style shelters are an extremely popular category, Clam has taken this category to a whole new level with the Clam Corp Six Pack 1660 Mag Ice Fishing Shelter. This revolutionary, patent-pending design provides more fishable area (94 sq. ft.) than comparably priced models, yet folds down to a small pack size. Designed to comfortably

accommodate 5-7 anglers, this shelter features six side walls instead of four. An oversized skirt is included for ample snow banking, and an oversized carry bag is included for easy re-packing. Six ice anchors and tie downs allow the shelter to be secured in windy conditions. Crafted of rugged 600-denier fabric, the shelter is 11.5 feet in diameter, with a center height of 90". Weight is only 46 lbs. Imported.

Eskimo Stingray Auger/Shelter Value Pack

Best starter kit available. Everything you'll need for your ice-fishing expedition is contained in Eskimo's affordable Stingray Auger/ Shelter Value Pack. Total pack weight: 82



lbs. Included: High-performance Stingray S33 auger features a 33cc two-cycle Viper engine with a high-speed ball-bearing transmission. Heat-treated gears offer an optimum gear ratio for maximum torque. Dual 8" stainless steel Quantum blades with centering ring that prevents it from drilling angled holes. Two-person, Quickfish 2 Pop-Up shelter features Eskimo's Rugged Extreme Durable fabric that protects from harsh weather. 60" x 60" setup size with 67" of headroom. The 18-lb. shelter also includes ice anchors, tie-downs and a carry bag. 300-denier polyester. Single folding chair is the perfect size, made specifically for ice fishing in the Quickfish shelters. And. Easily transport everything in the 60"L x 31.5"W x 7"H polyethylene sled.

Real Magic

I know this may sound ingenious, but TTI Blakemore sells a lot of Real Magic because it reduces icing on line and guides. It keeps those jig rods running smooth. It is sort of a trade secret that many ice anglers know about, but rarely have a chance to mention between as the fish catch stories. It even keeps zippers on ice-houses from freezing. There's no smell after it dries too!



What To Wear

Clam Ice Armor

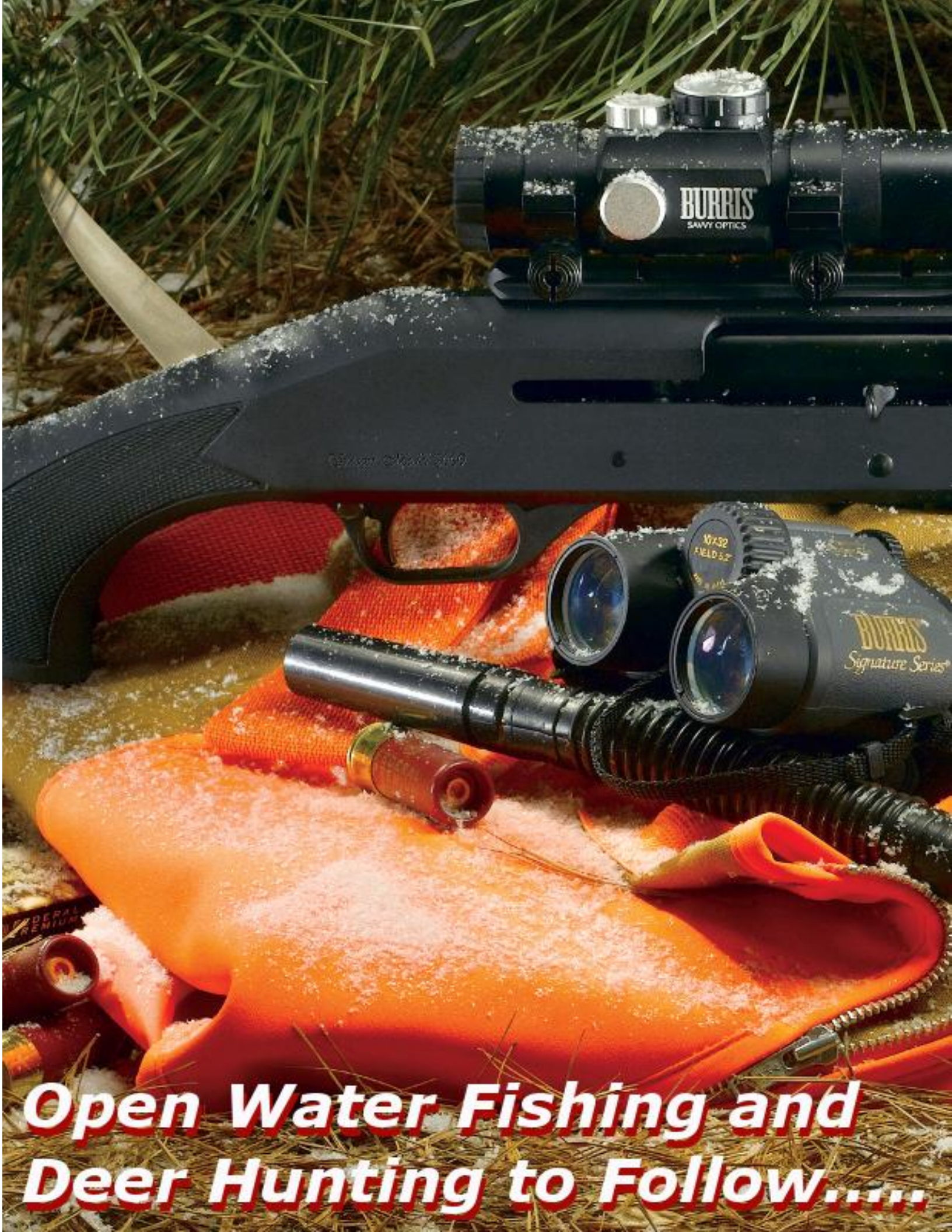
Built to weather ice-fishing extremes, this rugged parka and bibs combo sports a 500-denier ballistic-nylon shell that resists cuts and abrasions from sharp ice. Plus, it's windproof and waterproof, so it shrugs off even the worst winter weather. Reflective stripe and piping accents increase visibility in low-light conditions. Strategically placed, fleece-lined slash and cargo pockets provide ample storage space. Attached hood is adjustable and protects your head from the elements. Padded knees and rear. Zippered legs for easy on and off. Neoprene cuffs seal out cold drafts. Easy-to-grab rubber zipper pulls.



Frabill Ice Fishing Suit

Premium outerwear system engineered for hard-core ice anglers. Rugged, waterproof, windproof, breathable shell offers full seam-sealed protection. Both have fleece-lined handwarmer pockets and oversized cargo pockets with dual drain holes. Suit includes jacket and bibs. Jacket has core-warming 180-gram thermal insulation in the body and 120-gram in the sleeves. Ice-angler-friendly highlights include a custom tackle-box pocket with flip-down Sherpa fleece hook pad, fully articulated elbows, 360° reflective piping for nighttime safety, adjustable neoprene sleeve cuffs, and internal pockets for sunglasses and electronics. Bibs have 120-gram thermal insulation throughout. Fully adjustable shoulder straps. Full-length ankle-to-hip leg zippers. Top-of-leg zipper vents. Durable padding in knees and seat.





***Open Water Fishing and
Deer Hunting to Follow.....***



Fall Time Tactics For Big Bass

By Glenn Walker

Fall, the season of change, the days are getting shorter; air and water temperatures are dropping, and big bass are putting the feed bag on BIG TIME! With the cooler temperatures, bass are getting the sense to feed up heavily prior to the winter months and many times these bass are grouped up and when you catch one, you'll catch many.

In the fall I'll spend a lot of time fishing the Mississippi River or small lakes around the Twin Cities metro area and a lot of times, I'll employ many of the

same techniques, as I'm keying in remaining vegetation in both scenarios.

During the early fall when the vegetation is still present and matted, I like to cover as much as possible at first to locate where the bass are grouped up. One of the best ways to do this is to use a topwater floating frog, as this bait will sit on the mats and call big bass to the surface. I like to use a frog that will walk-the-dog, as many times strikes will occur when you are retrieving the frog all the way to the boat.

I like to use a Snag Proof Ish's Phat Frog as it can walk-the-dog right out of the package and moves across lily pads and matted grass with ease. When selecting colors, I like to go with two options in the fall, either white, as it mimics shad or a brown colored one as it mimics sunfish that are still up shallow. By covering water with a frog, you can search out for the greenest and living vegetation quickly, as this is where many times the bass will be located.

To get the most action out of your frog and to help you get the bass out of the heavy cover, you'll need a stout rod, but with a soft tip. This will help you give action to your bait and then with the solid backbone of a rod and heavy braided line, you'll be able to get those pigs out of the thick stuff.

When searching out fish holding areas in vegetation, I like to look for areas that have



other forms of cover located in or near it, such as lay down, boat docks or a rip rap section of the bank. A key item that needs to be close by is deeper water because if a severe cold snap hits, those bass are going to retreat to that deeper water very quickly. On the river systems, these areas are typically close to the current and on lakes look for areas near deep water humps or points.

Once I've located a tight group of bass, whether it be in a weed clump, around one of the remaining boat docks on a lake, or along a section of bank with laydowns, I'll slow down, drop my Minn Kota Talon's and flip a jig or Texas-rigged plastic to those key pieces of cover.

Many times as the cool night temperatures begin to kill off some of the milfoil, I like to go flip the remaining living, green milfoil. Since the vast majority of this vegetation has died off or gone dormant for the year, the bass will school up in the areas where the good, green vegetation is still. Not only does this help you as an angler quickly find fish, but also once you find those fish they'll be grouped up and ready to bite!

Since I'm flipping this milfoil in anywhere from 5 to 10 feet of water, I'll either rely on a ½ oz. jig in black/blue or green pumpkin or a Texas-rigged soft plastic. When selecting a jig, two of the qualities you'll want to look for include a sharp, heavy duty hook, since you'll be using braided



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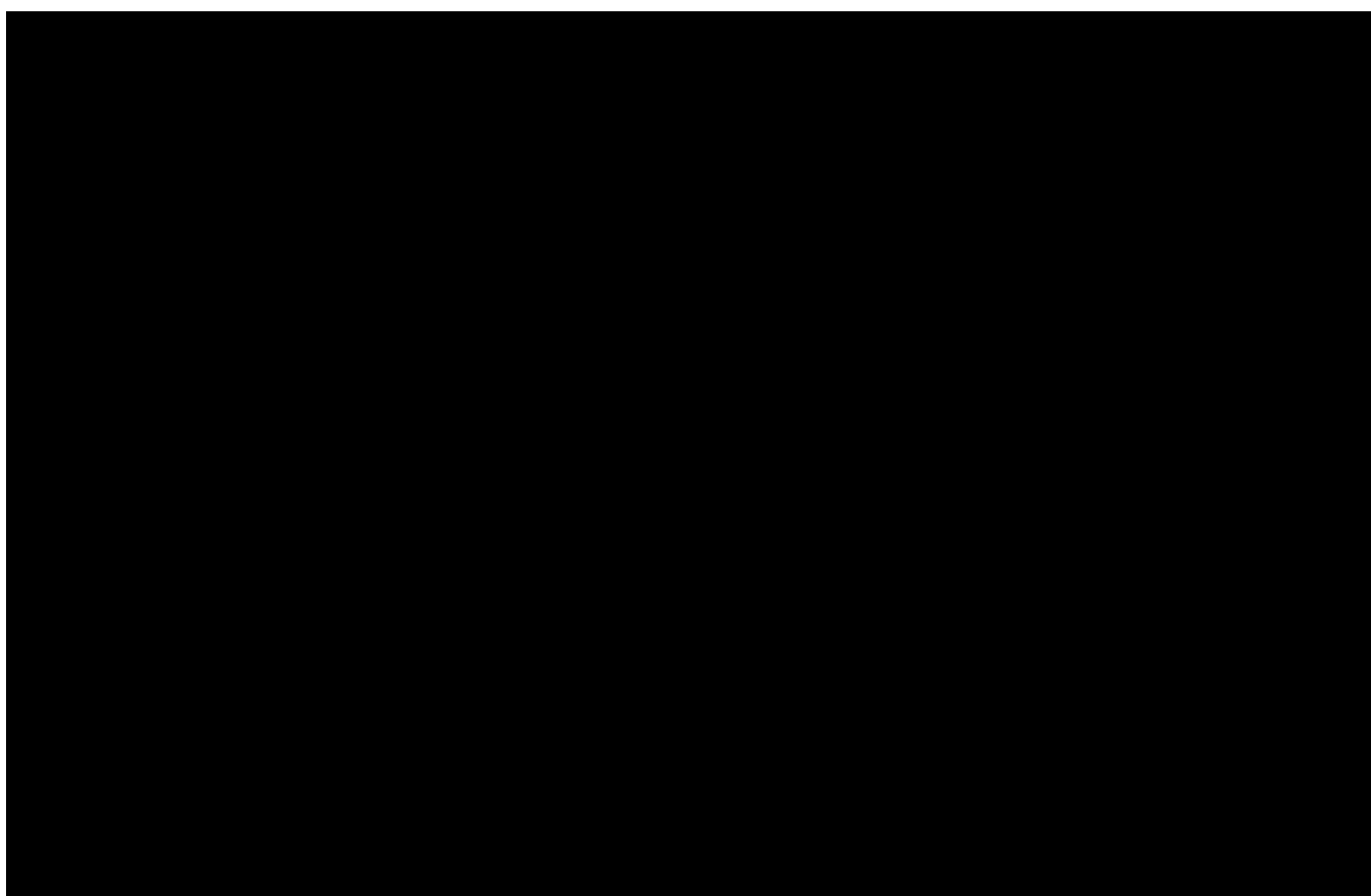


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line you don't want the hook to bend or break. The other design features in a jig, that will help you spend more time fishing and less time hung up in the weeds, is a line tie that will not get hung up.

When I go to a Texas-rig, I'll start with a $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Eagle Claw Lazer Sharp tungsten weight that is pegged with a bobber stop. On the business end, I'll tie on a 4/0 TroKar TK130 Flipping hook and since I want my plastic to slide right through the mat, I like to use a bait with a slim profile and not many appendages to get hung up on the way down.

Many times I like to use a small creature bait or small craw bait, such as Zoom Super Speed Craw or Z-Hog in black/blue or green pumpkin.

When flipping to this vegetation or cover, I flip it along the edges or in the open water pockets and let the bait sink to the bottom. Once it is to the bottom, I'll pop it up and down a few times and if I didn't get a bite, I'll reel it up. This bite is a very strong reaction bite, which is why I don't let my bait sit in one spot too long.

Since you are flipping a very heavy cover, you need to get a solid hook set and get the bass turned out of that vegetation so you'll get them in the boat. Using a braided line and flipping stick rod will help drive that hook into the fish's mouth and then help you get them out of the cover. I use Seaguar Kanzen 60 lb. braided line and a 7'6" Wright McGill Micro Guide Heavy Cover rod. What is so unique and beneficial about the Micro Guides is that they give you

increased sensitivity because your line is closer to the rod blank, along with increased casting distance since there is less resistance by the guides.

I highly recommend that you get out on your favorite lake or river and take advantage of some great fall fishing opportunities for big bass.

Glenn has been fishing tournaments for over ten years, spreading his passion and knowledge of the sport via articles and videos. He keeps busy fishing events across Minnesota and on the Mississippi River. Glenn's sponsors include: Humminbird, Jeff Belzer Chevrolet, LakeMaster, Mercury Marine, Minn Kota, Onyx, Plano, Rayjus, RC Tackle, Seaguar, Snag Proof, The Rod Glove, TroKar and Wright & McGill. For more information check out www.glenwalkerfishing.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/glenwalkerfishing.





The goal of The Bass University is to help each angler, from beginner to expert, to take their fishing skills to the next level! The Bass University classes and On-Water Training provide top notch bass fishing education to our students from the TOP professional anglers in bass fishing!

New for 2014, The Bass University is creating an all new stellar line-up of class speakers with the latest topics to focus on the geographical location of each class with emphasis on patterns and techniques that are winning on the professional tournament trails. Also, On-Water Training trips taught by the instructors on many bodies of water across the country are now available!

The Bass University's Instructors feature many of the greatest professional anglers in the world, that include Mike Iaconelli, Brent Ehrler, Greg Hackney, Shaw Grigsby, David Dudley, Ish Monroe, Gerald Swindle, George Cochran, Ott DeFoe, Scott Martin, Davy Hite, Brandon Palaniuk, Larry Nixon and many more.



2014 Class Schedule:

- Raleigh, NC- Jan. 11-12. North Carolina State Fairgrounds
- Edison, NJ- Jan. 11-12. New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center
- Niagara Falls, NY- Jan. 25-26. Convention and Event Center Niagara Falls
- *Worcester, MA- Feb. 8-9. DCU Center **SAVE 25% through Oct. 27th!***

Classes run from 8am to 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Each day there is a hands-on break out session with the instructors as well as a question and answer round table discussion. All students receive a course booklet, t-shirt, and a loaded tackle gift bag! There will also be tons of great raffle and contest prizes!

**Register at www.thebassuniversity.com
Never Stop Learning!**

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ODUMagazine™



Young Lady Is Truly An Outdoor Wonder

By Len Lisenbee



I received an e-mail from my good friend Dave Monahan last week that really captivated my interest. He described a teenage girl that went hunting by herself after school and tagged a nine-point buck. And when I looked into it, I found so much more that simply amazed me. This young lady is an outdoor princess.

Jennifer Abbott is a 16 years-old Junior at Waterloo High School. After her school let out she went hunting on a farm near Clyde NY. Around 4:30, as she was heading out to her tree stand, she thought she might have spooked a large deer. It might have even been the same buck.

She sat in her stand wondering about if, had she gotten there just a little sooner, she might have gotten a shot if it was a buck. She sat there feeling a little down over that missed opportunity.

She put her head down for a moment, and that is when she heard leaves' rustling nearby.

When she looked up, she saw a large buck coming in on the same game trail that the big deer she had spooked earlier had run away on. As the buck came closer it was going between and behind trees. She picked a tree that the buck would go behind and used it to quietly draw her bow back to full draw. The big buck continued to come closer, and when it was around 15 yards away, it stopped.

She was not sure if it had winded her, but she was not taking any chances. She let the arrow go, and it was a near-perfect shot. The deer bolted and ran, and she found it around 80 yards from her stand where it had collapsed.

By this time, it was around 5:30. She called her dad to tell him of her success and ask for some help. When he arrived at the farm a short while later he found her dragging the buck out of the woods.

It has already been expertly field dressed by her.

TRASH WALKIN leads to TRASH TALKIN.



This is only the second year that 'Jen' has been bow hunting, but it is the fifth year she has been hunting. This buck was her first with a bow, but she managed to harvest a big 6-point buck with a shotgun (at 75 yards) when she was 14. And, she has successfully hunted turkey, ducks and geese since she was 12 years old.

What impressed me even more is that she has been shooting Trap since she was 12, shooting alongside her father Jerry. She shoots in the Little Brown Jug and Inland Waters Trap Leagues. She is also a junior member in the North Seneca Sportsman's Club.

Oh, and when she is not out hunting or shooting she spends part of her time playing high school softball and basketball for the Waterloo Indians.

I mentioned earlier that I found this outdoor tale of Jennifer Abbott simply amazing. While I have not met her, I feel a real bond of sportsmanship with her. I can only wonder if she also likes to fish.

Len Lisenbee is the Daily Messenger's Outdoor Columnist. Contact him at lisenbee@frontiernet.net

Deer Hunting Tactics: Private versus Public

By Ty Leger

Deer hunting in Rhode Island can be a challenge, involving small parcels of land surrounded by suburban sprawl. Despite the many public Management Areas spread



throughout the state, hunting pressure in these areas can often be high and competition intense. Permission to hunt private land is not always easy to come by and properties tend to be small, limiting locations to hang a stand and forcing hunters to make do with less-than-ideal habitat and resources. Recognizing and seizing patterns and opportunities that many others overlook can find success in either situation, however.

Public lands, including Great Swamp, Arcadia, Big River, Burlingame, and many others, tend to attract quite a crowd during deer season. Each hunter tends to try to arrive early and get as far from the trails, roads, and other hunters as possible, hoping to intercept deer looking to get away from the pressure. While this tactic can produce results it is not always necessary—and, in fact, will often backfire as this tends to be the attitude of others as well. With the highly-developed networks of parking areas, hiking trails, roads, and the fact that these areas are relatively small, trying to distance yourself from the crowd is nearly impossible. Typical strategies for calling in deer, such as rattling, grunting, and doe bleats, can also hurt your chances. In the highly pressured environment, with so many other hunters trying to call, deer can quickly become very wary and will often either avoid or cautiously circle downwind of any attempts to call. Scent attractors can also spook the deer on public land due to the number of hunters employing them. Most hunters also tend to hunt

early morning or evening. The 10 am exodus from the woods or the 3 pm arrival of the evening crowd will often get the deer on their feet and moving, providing patient hunters a chance to capitalize on others' movements. Setting up close to the road between trailheads, staying on stand through the day, and doing little to advertise your presence will often be more effective than putting miles on your boots and using calls and scents to attempt to draw deer close.

Hunting private land is a huge advantage but also not guaranteed. Most properties tend to be small and surrounded by neighbors, many of whom may not share the property owner's support of hunting. Once boundaries have been identified, and a stand or two placed it is very important to realize that you know the area, patterns, and even people who belong intimately and any changes will likely be noticed. Any unfavorable change or mistake can potentially spook the deer enough to change their patterns and ruin opportunities, especially for mature deer. It is therefore, much more critical to manage human odor by only hunting when wind is favorable and using scent control resources, including scent elimination soap and shampoo, sprays, rubber boots, and cover scents. The good news is that these properties typically do not receive additional hunting pressure—calling and attractor scents can be very effective. The biggest factor in hunting a private property tends to be scent control and trying to ensure the resident deer do not pattern you.

Whether on private or public land, Rhode Island deer hunters must cope with small parcels of land. The presence or absence of competition from other hunters, however, will dictate which strategies help find success and which ones will leave you empty handed.





BASSASSINS

