Fall Fishing September/ October 2015

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October Beauties

A Bait for All-Seasons

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The Crankbait Chronicles III, Pg 7 There's Still Lots Of Time For Fishing, Pg 13 What Makes Fall Fishing Great, Pg 17 A Bait for All-Seasons, Pg 19 The Do-Techniques, Pg 23 Getting Kids Hooked on Fishing, Pg 29 Bass Fishing The Harris Chain With The Frog Ninja, Pg 32 Fish The Weedline In The Fall, Pg 39 Choosing Frogging Mats, Pg 41 O'Neill Outside - So you want to go fishing, Pg 42 Cutting Edge Panfish, Pg 44 6 Things To Watch Out For With Walleyes, Pg 47 Fall Fishing Ideas, Pg 52 Go Shallow, it can be the Difference Maker, Pg 54 The Arashi Top Walker Built To Keep'em Buttoned, Pg 56 Catch More Fish With Storm's Arashi Deeps, Pg 60 **October Beauties, Pg 63** The Top 25 Of ICAST 2015, Pg 74 to 95





Fall is the best time of year for sportsmen. The best fishing. The best hunting. The best in the outdoors. Most of the bugs have bugged out. The lakes have all emptying of jet skies and pontoon boats. If you think of it, sportsmen have the run of the outdoors.

This fall edition of ODU Magazine is in a set of three magazines set to release. Bass and walleye make up the majority of articles to follow. At the end of the magazine anglers can look forward to our 25 (+1) best products from ICAST. These products are the ones that made the biggest impression on us and we feel will help anglers coast to coast make their time fishing more successful for the upcoming spring and summer. Highlighting this edition and stoking hunting interests is a wood duck hunting article by Mike Borovic.

This magazine is followed by our 1<sup>st</sup> hunting magazine, in a week. Every February ODU Media sends out a questionnaire asking selected subscribers a host of

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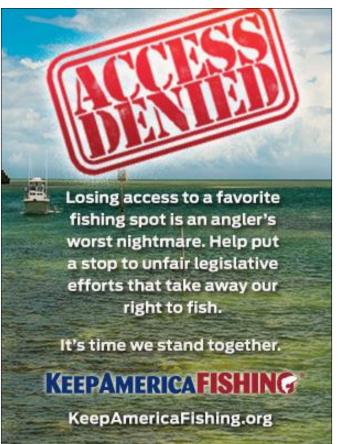
**Contributing Writers:** Bernard Williams, Bob Jensen, Mike Gerry, Billy 'Hawkeye' Decoteau, Dan Galusha, Casting Carter, Bob Jensen, Captain Mike Gerry, Bob Bohland, Ron Presley and Mike Borovic. Thank You All!

**Photos:** Cover photo provided by and of Mike Borovic. Index page and inside cover for the ICAST Top 25 provided by Hobie.

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questions about fishing and hunting. Based on the results two years



running, more of our new readership considers themselves hunters and anglers. Our best way to respond to this interest is to produce a magazine directed at these readers. Stay tuned and it will be in your email box soon. If you want to subscribe and not miss any editions of ODU Magazine here is a link to make sure you get every monthly magazine from ODU: <u>http://www.odumagazine.com/magazine-sign-up/</u>

Final in three weeks our late fall fishing and ice fishing combo edition will be released. This is a well mixed edition, that will include new ice fishing products to keep your eyes out for at this season's ice fishing expos, Cabela's, BPS etc. For those open water anglers you will not be disappointed and be able to find a few winter secrets to help you on your way in colder and cooling waters.

And please, enjoy the outdoors.

Larry Thornhill and William Schwarz Co-Founders of ODU Magazine





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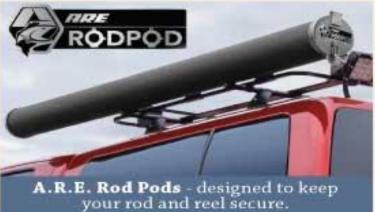
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#### **BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES ANGLER JUSTIN LUCAS**

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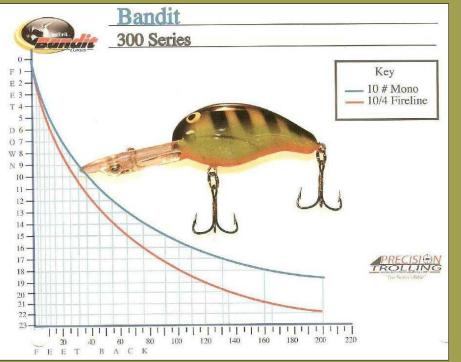
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## The Crankbait Chronicles III Equipment 101

#### **By Bernard Williams**

When I started my college career as a freshman I had to take 100 level courses. It's called introductory courses and learning a new crappie technique is no different. That's the basis of this article. I will introduce you the basics of pulling crankbaits for crappie. This crash course will begin with equipment needed and

explanations why it's necessary. So, grab a cup of coffee and get ready for class.

Depending on how much you want to invest in your setup, it will determine how successful you'll be in the end. I'll give you choices and recommendations based on my years of trial and error.

#### **Boat**

I'm not going to recommend a brand or a type of boat necessary to pull crankbaits. I've seen it done from 12' to 25' boats. I'm going to leave it up to you. I will tell you that you need something that's going to get you safely to and from your fishing locations. For smaller boats, please be aware of the weather conditions while fishing. I've been on the lake and not noticed approaching bad weather and got caught in a bad storm by being too careless.



#### **Trolling Motor**

To me this is one of the most important tools needed to be a successful crankbait fisherman. You need an electric steer trolling motor. You have several choices in models but recommended only one vendor, MinnKota. No matter which motor you choose be sure to at least get AutoPilot. You'll need a motor you can set on continuous and includes AutoPilot **Navigation** the System that keeps the boat straight. Your choices are: Powerdrive V2, Terrova, and



Ulterra. Their prices range from \$750 for the low-end Powerdrive V2 to \$2,550 for the high-end Ulterra.

Adding the i-Pilot remote control is an added convenience feature that frees you from being locked to the foot control. It's a useful feature but not a necessary requirement.

#### **Rod Holders**

Ask any crappie fishermen using any technique other than single pole jig fishing and they will tell you a good set of rod holders are required equipment. My rod holder of choice is the Spyderlok Trolling Rig. It's all aluminum anodized construction easily

accommodates 4 rod heads with its 24" crossbar. The mounting plate is flush with the carpet; no tools necessary for use. What I like most is the height adjustment; 12' - 20', with a 360° rotational for the cross bar and rod holder. The SureLock adjustment teeth stay in place when you're pushing or pulling crank baits.

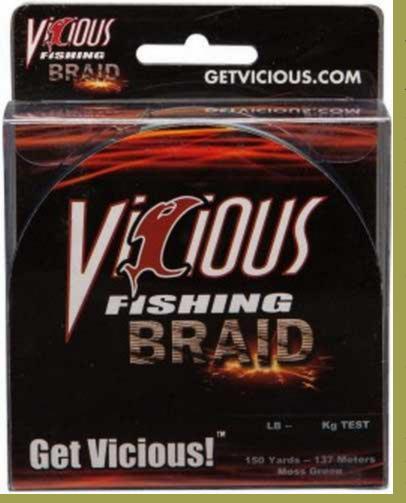
I pull crankbaits while sitting in the middle of my boat. I can set 4 rods on each side and run the trolling motor and watch the depthfinder at the same time all by myself. If I have a partner, he/she can sit at the back and control up to 8 rods. Being able to adjust the rod holder height up



or down makes it easy when I have kids fishing with me.

#### Rods

The rods I use are B'n'M Pro Staff Trolling Rods (PST Series). The lengths are as important as the rods for line are separation. I have rod pairs ranging from 8', 10', 12', 14' and at times 16'. I choose the PST's because of the sensitivity and backbone. You don't want a super stiff rod nor do you want a slow, soft rod. The PST is the perfect rod for its hooksetting and fish controlling abilities. The sensitive tip adds action to your crankbait.



#### Reels

You have many choices in reels but only one choice in reel type, Line Counters. Line Counters allow you to be more precise when pulling cranks. If you catch a fish at 85', you can return the crankbait to the exact distance. Okuma Magna Pro is my reel of choice in the MA-15DX model. This reel starts at around \$40. I know fishermen that use bait casters and spinning reels with measured success. They mark their line in 10' - 25' increments. I like to use a bit more precision in my fishing so I with line counter reels.

#### Line

Many of my crankbait friends use mono, I on the other hand believe in braid. I use 15# or 20# Vicious Moss Green Braid. I choose braid for several reasons: no stretch, small diameter, less drag, strength and durability. I can spool up once per season. I don't have to let out nearly as much line and still reach the depths. With shorter distances between the rod and crankbait I can make tighter

turns. This saves time and increases my catch ratio. The primary reason for using braid is to eliminate losing crankbaits to hang-ups; crankbaits can get expensive. I seldom lose a lure using 15# and I never lose a lure pulling 20# braid because the hook usually straightens.

#### Depthfinder

I've used Lowrance, Humminbird, and Garmin. I'm going to let you choose. I do recommend you get one that allows you to split the screen between sonar and mapping. You will need an up-to-date lake map chip that shows the lake in 1' contours. I recommend you turn on the tracking feature of your



depthfinder in order to show where you've been. This allows you to retrace your productive tracks. Use your GPS waypoint marking feature to place marks where you catch fish or see potential structure or cover.

The Lowrance Elite-7 CHIRP is an excellent choice for an affordable depthfinder. It combines CHIRP Sonar with DownScan Imaging, built-in GPS antenna and base mapping. It has slots for lake map chips from Navionics, Hot Maps, and Fishing Hotspots. I recommend CHIRP sonar technology because it provides greater sensitivity, improved target resolution and superior noise rejection for clearer, easy-to-see bait fish and game fish targets.

#### The HydroWave

Another tool I've added to my crankbait pulling arsenal it the HydroWave Electronic Feeding Stimulator. The HydroWave is a patented electronic device that produces sound that causes an instinctive response in nearby predatory fish. Fish can hear the sounds and feel the vibrations of the sound waves in the water. Fish are drawn in the direction of the device eager to strike any bait it sees. Sound



travels further and faster in water than it does in air, around 4.4 times as fast, about 5,000 feet per second. The speed combined with the poor visibility of water is the reason that fish rely heavily on vibrations and water movement to detect their prey.

Professional Outdoor Writer and Photographer Brad Wiegmann says, "The HydroWave was designed to mimic noises of baitfish or other prey game fish feed on. The game fish hear and feel the sound-reacting in a positive manner, sometimes stimulation a feed response. Kind of like two kids fighting over a limited source of candy, one fish will grab the lure and swim quickly away causing other fish to go crazy trying to find something to attack. I also believe the main reason HydroWave stimulates a feeding response is it gets baitfish more active. Anytime it's on and you get within a certain distance, shad will pop the surface or even start darting or swimming around. Active bait fish simulates fish into biting. Any advantage makes a big difference."

#### The CRANKBAIT

This article would not be complete if I didn't offer my choice of crankbait. I choose Bandit Lures in the 200 and 300 series. "Bandit Crankbaits have a compact shad profile that's perfect for attracting Crappie, and they run true right out the package. Over the years of long lining, we know that the 100 Series runs 3- to 7-feet deep, 200 Series runs 7- to 12-feet deep and the 300 Series runs 9- to 17-feet deep, depending on how much line we have out and the line test," according to Kent Driscoll.

Bandit was the first crankbait company to recognize that crappie fishermen were using their lures. They designed a series of Crappie Colors and Hooks. They changed their hooks to smaller red hooks for added crappie attraction. With names like Awesome Pink, Orange Crush, Grenada Shad, Sardis Gold,

Chrome Clown, Hotty-Toddy, and Chartreuse Sparkle, one can see why Bandit knows their baits belong in every crappie fishermen's tackle box.

#### The Trollers Bible

What good is it to have all the equipment, in the right location, see fish on the depthfinder and not know what distance to troll your crankbaits? It makes no sense whatsoever. I would like to introduce my readers to a tool that I've found to be priceless. It's called a Precision Trolling Book. Many anglers call it the Trollers Bible. It can be found at <u>www.precisionangling.com</u>.

The Trolling Bible has the dive curves for almost every crankbait on the market. It was created for walleye fishermen but crappie fishermen have embraced it fully. I normally fish the 10' to 12' range with 15# braid. Since my braid has the same diameter as 4# mono the dive curve tells me I will need between 45' to 50' of line out. So I set my lure in the water, set my line counter to 0 and flip the release. When it reaches around 46' to 47' I stop it and let it go to work.



#### Conclusion

I could write an entire article on every topic mentioned. That is not my goal or aim. I try to cover the highpoints and get to the point as quick as possible. There is no need to expound on a topic too long because you'll eventually get bored. I advise the beginner to take this article as a checklist of required equipment. I also advise you to buy the best affordable equipment the first time and you won't have to spend money upgrading.





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## THERE'S STILL LOTS OF TIME FOR FISHING

#### **By Bob Jensen**

Labor Day indicates to many people that the end of summer is near, and to some that means it's time to put the boat and their rods and reels into storage. Anglers who quit fishing in early September are missing out on two months of some of the best fishing of the year. Keep the following ideas in mind and





you'll discover that fishing in the fall will add a lot of time to your fishing season.

Keep in mind that different bodies of water will be productive in the fall at different times. A shallow lake with dark water will often be better earlier in the fall, while larger, deeper lakes with clear water will turn on a little later in the year. Small shallow lakes cool off earlier, so the fish in those lakes are reminded by Mother Nature that autumn is coming and they need to fatten up. This reminder comes later to fish in the larger, deeper lakes. Rivers will continue to provide great open water fishing after the lakes in the area have frozen over.

As the water cools off, slower presentations will become more productive. Crankbaits can be good for





walleyes and smallmouth bass early in the fall, but a jig and minnow or jig and soft-bait will get better as the water cools off. A Fire-ball jig tipped with a big redtail minnow is an outstanding presentation, but a longshanked jig tipped with an Impulse Smelt Minnow will be just as productive in the fall much of the time.

The same thing holds true with largemouth bass. They will

aggressively eat a spinnerbait or buzzbait early in the autumn, but as the water cools, largemouth will be more frequently caught on a Jungle Jig tipped with a piece of soft-bait with a subtle action.

Another presentation that we've been employing a lot in the fall is a dropshot rig. I fondly remember my introduction to dropshotting. It was October a good number of years ago. My friend Barry Day and I were on West Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa. Barry was in on the early days of dropshotting and was going to show me how it's done. As we were putting the boat in, a boatload of anglers were leaving the lake. They suggested we forget about fishing: They'd been throwing spinnerbaits for several hours and action was sparse. Barry assured me that we'd get bit. Barry was right. In the next four or five hours we caught a bunch of smallmouth and largemouth, a few walleyes, a couple of pike, and a variety of panfish, all on dropshot rigs. Just remember that in the fall, slower presentations will often be better. Be sure to try an Impulse Leech on a dropshot rig.

Also remember that much of the time, larger, bulkier baits will be better in the fall, especially if you're



looking for big fish. Not always, but often.

Autumn weather can be chilly. I always have my Cabela's Guidewear in the insulated version in the boat this time of year. Guidewear will help you stay comfortable in conditions that could be uncomfortable, and that makes your time on the water much more enjoyable.

Autumn provides lots of outdoor opportunities and what to do can be a tough call. Just remember that the fish are hungry when you're making your outdoor decision in the next couple of months. That reminder can make your decision a little easier.

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As we work our way through the second half of the year, many of us miss some of the best fishing of the year for many reasons. Family to holiday's, from hunting season to football always seem to get in the way of some great times on the water; if you're a real bass enthusiasts I suggest you plot out some time to get on the water as there are many great reasons why you should fish that will trump many of those reasons you should not.

Fall fishing can be some of the best top water fishing of the year, of course timing is everything but when it comes to top water bites those big hogs get aggressive on top and a variety of top water baits can bring you some great success. If you're a frog fisherman, a buzz bait type or a spook lover all will produce during the fall and it can be some of the best times on the water. I know from my many years on the water that the mental high you get from a big top water explosion is second to none, and you can experience it yourself.

Many of us don't think about it but the



# WHAT MAKES FALL FISHING SO GREAT

#### **BY CAPTAIN MIKE GERRY**

timing of the fall can also allow you to roam the lake free of the many large tournaments that haunt you during the spring; most of the big events are over and the lake can be void of some of the enormous pressure. Add up the loss of tournament pressure with those that take up hunting, family commitments, football games and more and you can find yourself somewhat alone on those big bodies of water with

just a few other fall enthusiasts around you.

As the bass progress through their fall feeding frenzy and the water starts to cool to the low 60's you can really find some big hogs to add to your personal bests; fall is big fish time of year the bass are fattening themselves up by gorging themselves on bait and some of the biggest bass of the year become really aggressive.

Fall fishing is great; don't miss your chance to enjoy it!

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# Fishing With Billy "Hawkeye", Decoteau

## A BAIT FOR ALL SEASONS

#### By Billy 'Hawkeye' Decoteau

MASU I

The Bass University instructor Randy Howell is proud to say, "Fishing has and continues to be the only occupation I have had my entire life. If I am not competing in a bass tournament, filming for a TV Show or video, etc. then I am on the water fishing with my family. And, if we are not out on the water, then we are fishing from shore......And, that is always Family Fishing Fun!" (<u>www.RandyHowell.com</u>)

The 2015 Elite Series Lake Oneida Champion describes 'Family Fishing Fun' as being together casting for bass, pan fish, crappie, bluegills or whatever will bite their baits! Thus, enters one of the Howell family's favorite 'Family Fishing Fun' baits the Blakemore Road Runner 1/4 oz. Buffet Rig. Randy is quick to point out, "Multi-lure rigs are not allowed on the Bassmaster Elite Series, however this bait is just too good, too much fun and one every angler needs in their tackle box!" (www.TTIBlakemore.com)

According to TJ Stallings of TTI Blakemore, Randy Howell's enthusiastic passion for the 1/4 oz. Buffet Rig's ability to catch crappie, bluegill including bass, lead to the development of their 3/8 oz. model designed for large crappie and bass. "We titled the 3/8 oz. model 'Randy's Bass Buffet', informed Stallings.



JNIVERSITY



Howell suggest his balance tackle for the 1/4 oz. Buffet Rig is a Daiwa 7' medium action Tatula spinning rod, saddled with a Daiwa 2500 series Ballistic spinning reel. "I spool on 20 lb. braided line. Plus, it's imperative to utilize a swivel with the 1/4 oz. Buffet Rig to avoid line twist." Randy recommends anglers consider attaching a SPRO #10 Power Swivel and then a 2' Gamma fluorocarbon leader to their Bass Buffet Rigs.

Double hook-ups are not uncommon with a Buffett Rig and more often than not the second fish is a bass. Blakemore's TJ Stallings reports registered double hookups of smallmouth bass in streams. "I honestly feel the key to success of the Buffet Rig revolves around the subtle sounds and vibrations created by the Road Runner willow leaf under-spin blades", claims Randy Howell. Stallings agrees, "The Buffett Rig incorporates a single wire harness, similar to spinnerbaits. And, the smaller swimbait style plastics mimic realistic baitfish swimming motions."

When it comes to rigging the larger 3/8 oz. Bass Buffet Rig, Randy Howell moves into bait casting equipment. "I personally prefer bait casting rods/reels with 3/8 oz. baits. However anglers may certainly get by with spinning equipment with the 3/8 oz. model." Spooling a Daiwa 7.3:1 Tatula casting reel with 12 lb. or 14 lb. Gamma Fluorocarbon, Howell mates his reel with a 7' medium action Daiwa Tatula casting rod.

"One of the most unique features of Road Runner Horse-Head style baits lies within the simplicity of the bait when retrieved! Cast the Buffett Rig out and then reel straight in without adding any additional action to the bait," says Howell. TJ Stallings adds, "It is extremely important to slowly, repeat slowly retrieve the Buffett Rig, especially the lighter 1/4 oz. model!"

The Bass University Instructor highly encourages anglers to become familiar with the versatility of the Buffet Rigs. "Cast on points, over shoals, ends of flats and to schooling bass. When your sonar unit shows suspended fish, let the Buffet Rig fall to the same depth and slowly reel through. And, one more very important time to throw the Buffet Rig is when the bass bite is non-existent!"

Thus enters Randy Howell's totally legal B.A.S.S. Elite Series Half-Buffet! Or as Randy Howell and Road Runner Lures refer to it as Randy's Swim'n Runner! Collaborating with Road Runner Lures, Howell's passion for throwing 3/8 oz. baits paired with the uniqueness of Road Runners 'Horse-Head' design, under spin sound, vibration and ability for an extremely slow enticing retrieve, resulted in Randy's Swim'n Runner!



"The built-in subtle rolling action of the patented

'Road Runner Horse-Head' design makes it an extremely effective cold-water bait!" Continuing TJ Stallings explained, "Bass are very lethargic during cold-water situations, consuming their energy they refuse to chase fast moving baits. Instead bass concentrate on small slow moving easy meals."

Randy's Swim'n Runner's overall length of 4" along with its slender profile signals an easy non-intrusive forage base. When retrieved slowly through the strike zone of suspended bass the first thing



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bass see is the slowly revolving willow leaf. "The willow leafs flashing natural baitfish mimicking enticing vibrations over the lurking eyes of lethargic bass is just too easy a meal to refuse." Stalling adds, "The eyes of bass are on top of their head, therefore we felt it was imperative for all of Randy's pre-rigged Swim'n Runner soft plastic baits to have white colored bellies to resemble natural forage."

Pre-rigged in 1/4 oz. and 3/8 oz. Randy's Swim'n Runners offer anglers seven life-like baitfish colors, while each package includes a spare plastic body. According to TJ Stallings, Randy's Swim'n Runner comes equipped with a needle point Daiichi round bend hook. "More often than not cold-water lethargic bass will hit a bait with a soft-bite, having an extremely sharp Daiichi hook increases an anglers hook-up ratio."

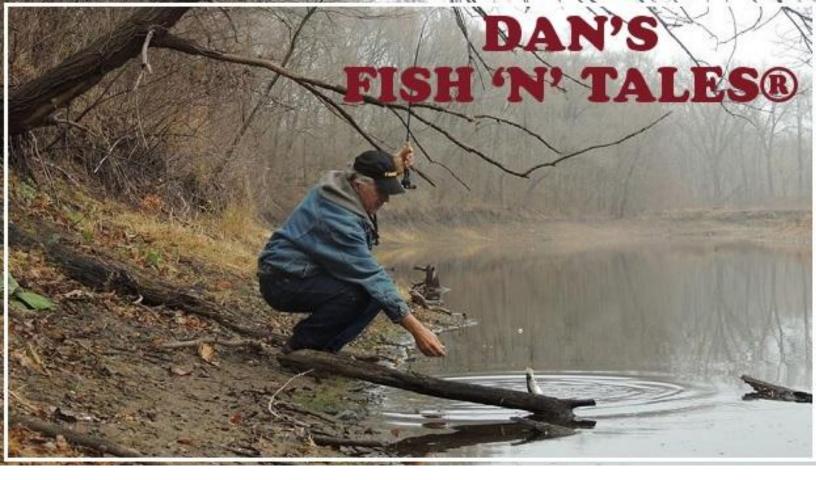
As an added bonus to anglers TTI-Blakemore has produced Randy's Swim'n Runner heads un-rigged with 3 Swim'n Runner heads per package available in 1/4 oz. and 3/8 oz. sizes. "These are the exact same seven colored heads, with the same Daiichi forged Needle Point hook as in all our pre-rigged Randy's Swim'n Runners!"



Just as in Casey Ashley's 2015 Bassmaster Classic Victory on Lake Hartwell under cold-water conditions. Where Casey utilized a Road Runner Horse-Head under-spin design impelled with a Zoom Fluke, anglers will have the same opportunity to purchase and rig their favorite soft plastics on Randy's Swim'n Runner Heads. Best of all this is a rig for 'All Seasons'! If you fish river systems, then I highly recommend you add these awesome baitfish mimicking baits to your tackle box.

See you in The Bass University Classroom, God Bless and Best Bass'n.





# THE DO-TECHNIQUES

#### By Dan Galusha

In most everything we do there are "do's" and "don't's". In fishing there are three techniques that can be called "Do's". These are the "do-nothing", "do-less-than-nothing" and "do-something". While the threesome is somewhat similar there are some differences.

The lures used for all three of these methods are in the soft plastics variety. For all three I will us a straight-tail finesse worm, usually a Havoc 4.75" model, 2"- 4" Gulp Alive or Power Minnow, 5.5" Stanley Sidewinder and a 3" or 4" tube. With the last two on the list a curl or ribbon tail worm, and kicking tail (eg. Havoc Pit Boss Jr.) is added. The final one on the list will also have a swim and stick (jerk worm/shad) bait. Colors are up to the angler, but I like using shad or pearl colors for any of the lures simulating bait fish, and black, watermelon, June Bug and green pumpkin for all the others.

The best way to rig all of the lures mentioned is with a lead head jig, swinging head jig with sprout worm or Fat Gap/Xgap style hook, or skirted jig. A Texas rig can be used with the "do-less-than-nothing", with a Daiichi Copperhead, Bleeding Bait series hook rig being added to the jerk worm when using the "do-something" technique.

As mentioned before, these techniques are similar with slight differences, but are all extremely simple to use. The following are descriptions of each.





Using the "Do-Something" technique for fishing a white Blitz Spyder Finesse Jig with an Auger Frog along edges of heavy weeds induced this bass into striking.

#### **DO-NOTHING**

This is the most well know of all three of the "Do's". It is referred sometimes to as "slider fishing". Allow the lure to reach the desired depth, and start retrieving at а constant slow speed, doing nothing to give lure the any additional action.

In the past I have been told that this resembles a minnow swimming along, as there is very little movement when it is not excited.

#### DO-LESS-THAN-NOTHING

Another name that is sometimes used for this technique is "dead stick". Not much to do here, but make a cast, let the lure fall to the bottom and set. The secret is to figure out how long to let it set. It

Some of the authors favorites – Blitz Spyder Finesse Jigs with Auger Frog trailers, and a replacement of a Pit Boss Jr.



can either be moved a little and set again, or reeled up and make another cast.

My favorite head to use is the new swinging jig from Kick'n Bass, which allows the hook and bait to swing upward while the head rests on the bottom.

To me it is one of the most boring techniques an angler can use, and

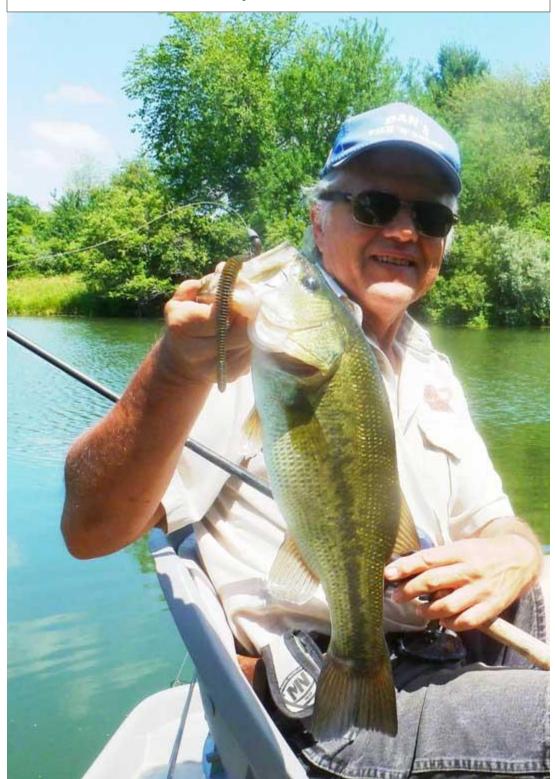


takes a lot of patience. Fellow outdoor writer and fishing buddy, Johnnie Crain, definitely had the patience, and by figuring out that his worm had to set long enough for him to pour another cup of coffee, he won a bass tournament at Lake Geode in Iowa.

#### **DO-SOMETHING**

Although I've caught a lot of fish on the Do-Nothing, this technique is my favorite. Not just because I use a bigger variety of lures, but also because I actually have a little action to the bait.

Doing Less-Than-Nothing with a Stanley Sidewinder, Texas rigged on an Xpoint Xgap hook, along an old creek channel produced several fish in deeper clear water.



To start, use the same method as with the Do-Nothing, but use a lure with a kicking, curl, ribbon or swim tail to have a little action. From here on the retrieve can be varied slightly and use the straight-tail, minnow and jerk worm/shad lures. With all of these the lure is allowed to have a very minor up and down swimming motion, with a few slight pauses for a slow drop before restarting the swim or straight retrieve.

One of my favorites for this technique is a Blitz Spyder Finesse Jig rigged with a Pit Boss Jr. or Mann's Auger Frog.

Something that help can produce strikes and have longer hold times when fishing such slow techniques is the application of Kick'n Bass Fish Attractant after about every 10 to 20 casts, and every strike. The applications would be more often when fishing very heavy weeds, or when trying to form stronger odor/strikes My zones. favorites are Anise Shad, Garlic and Crawfish.

These techniques are not a



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TrophyCatch is a free program that provides valuable rewards to anglers who document and release largemouth bass over eight pounds. Bass legally caught anywhere in Florida are eligible.

Go to TrophyCatchFlorida.com for details on how to register and submit your catches.

Photo © GlenLau.com





Enter for a FREE chance to win a Phoenix bass boat, powered by Mercury and equipped with a Power-Pole, trailer and cover. Just register at TrophyCatchFlorida.com.



Len Andrews, Hall of Fame entrant, with a Florida largemouth bass.

P. Gabrielse holds a lunker bass, showing the fish with weight visible on a scale.



1- Photo with weight visible on scale, ENTIRE bass body visible





ecommender

2- Bass must be released.



3- Submit entry at: TrophyCatchFlorida.com.



A new swinging style jig head with a Texas rigged Pit Boss Jr. fished with the Do-Nothing technique helped lure this nice bass to the line.

"cure all" to fishing, but sure can help when the fishing gets tough, and needs a bit of finesse to bring it back to life. They will also help an angler learn a little more about fishing soft plastics, how to react to light strikes, and provide a lot of opportunity for experimenting.

If you have a question about this or another fishing subject, drop me a line through the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales<sup>®</sup> website at <u>www.dansfishntales.co</u> <u>m</u>. This site also provides links to Dan's

Fish 'N' Tales<sup>®</sup> You Tube channel, and for "liking" the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales<sup>®</sup> Facebook page, where you can follow my tips and fishing reports along with other related fishing information.

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

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)





#### **GETTING KIDS HOOKED ON FISHING**

It's so exciting to catch a fish. When you feel the tap-tap-tap on your line and then your rod bends – you have no idea what is on the other end! Is it the biggest fish you've ever seen in your life? Or a minnow? Your imagination goes wild as you are reeling in your catch!

Almost anywhere you are in North America you have access to water: oceans, lakes, rivers, streams,

ponds...and I bet most of those places have fish! You can fish from the shore, a kayak, a boat...I fish from my paddle boat all the time! Adults need fishing licenses, but most kids don't! It's a great family activity that can be enjoyed by everyone – girls, boys, parents, grandparents, anyone! And, when you go fishing, you learn about the environment and nature. Those lessons can't be taught in a classroom or on a computer!



Now, I've been fishing for a long time – since I was two! And I've built up a lot of patience for fishing – but most kids have a hard time with fishing at first. It's a sport of patience! So if you are going to take a kid fishing, or if you are a kid

and going fishing with an adult, I have a few tips for you!

1. Pick a nice day: not too hot, not too cold. You want everyone to be comfortable and not complain – so bring layers and appropriate clothing.

2. Pack a bag: Bring sunscreen, bug spay, sun glasses, drinks and snacks! Folding chairs are great for when you







this year. It's a fun sport for all ages! Have an idea or

Hopefully you'll get out fishing

to

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at:

want me answer question in future Bobber Bites column? Write to Casting Carter carter@castingc arter.com

get tired. Think of your kids' favorite snacks and bring them as a special treat for the trip. My "fishing food" treats are Yoo-Hoos and Beef Jerky!

worms! 3. Get some Bring age-appropriate equipment like closed-faced reels and shorter rods, plastic bait, worms and bobbers. Help with casting if needed to avoid injury (use caution with hooks and rods). Bring a bunch of panfish bait (that will probably catch fish) and then let kids pick out what they want to use – give them some decision making authority even if you disagree with their choice! That's OK!

Practice CPR: Catch, Photo and Release. Teach 4. kids the importance of safe fish handling and conservation.

5. MOST IMPORTANT: Have FUN! It's a learning experience but also a time to be together! Any fish, or no fish at all, is OK! It's not about the FISH. Sing songs, laugh, tell stories. PUT AWAY YOUR PHONE or gaming device (well, except to take a few photos). Make the day all about being with your kids! Just enjoy your time together.







Bio: Casting Carter is a kid entrepreneur from Manchester, NH. He founded Kid In Outdoors, LLC with the mission to get kids off of video games and outdoors and is nationally recognized as an industry spokesperson and advocate.

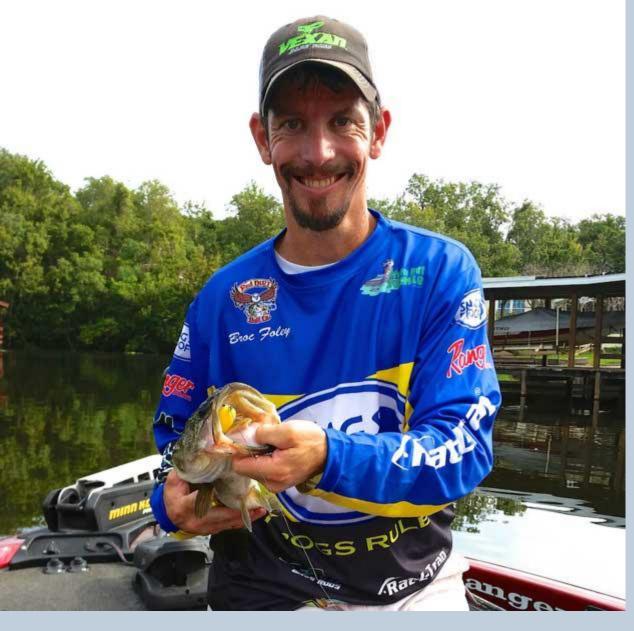
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**BASS FISHING THE HARRIS CHAIN WITH THE FROG NINJA** 

#### By Capt. Ron Presley

The best time to throw a Snag Proof Frog is everyday, according to central Florida bass angler Broc Foley. "It is all about risk and reward for me," stated 36year old Foley. "I can put on a worm and catch a lot more bass, but when I throw my

Snag Proof Frogs I know I am going to catch quality fish."

Foley is and Indiana native, but he is no stranger to Florida. "We made a lot of fishing trips to Florida when I was growing up and I always loved to fish here," said Foley. When the opportunity arose he took advantage of it and moved to Florida permanently. He makes his home in Umatilla. Foley considers the Harris Chain of Lakes and the St. Johns River his home waters.

Bass fishing is very important to Foley, but he lists bass fishing as third in his list of priorities. "How bad



am I hooked on bass fishing? My life in order of importance is God, family and bass fishing. I think that explains it."

Froggin' is Foley's go to technique for catching big bass. "Whether it is skipping under overhangs, fishing open water or targeting specific structure, I like to fish frogs," elaborates Foley. "I fish frogs 12 months of the year. I personally carry over 100 frogs in my boat. I have at least three rods rigged with a Snag Proof Frog every time I fish."

His reasoning is simple. "I fish frogs because they catch bigger than average fish, but they also put keepers in the boat. Plus, there is the thrill of the bite. Who doesn't love a big fish blowing up on a frog?"

A frog is more than a frog and understanding that helps choose which one to use on the next cast. "Anglers need to realize that a frog represents more than just a frog. Bobby's Perfect Frog and the Wobbletron, for example, might represent a rodent or other water creature because of the wider profile. Ish's Phat Frog, because of its profile, skips and walks easily, mimicking baitfish and bluegill in distress."





Every cast has a purpose for Foley. He is never prospect casting. Rather, he is throwing to a specific target where he has every intention of catching a big bass. He is so technically and mechanically dedicated to his goal of casting frogs in unusual places that he has become known among his fishing pals as the Frog Ninja.

The term ninja describes a person who excels in a particular skill or activity and Frog Ninja is the perfect nickname for Foley. The name ninja comes from ninjutsu, a Japanese martial art form that includes stealthy movement and camouflage. Stealth and camouflage could relate to a lot of anglers, but add the ninja functions of infiltration and assassination and you have described Foley's pursuit of the wily bass.

Foley infiltrates the bass's surroundings with precision casts that go where none have before. lt is that gone risk/reward thing again. "I like to throw way back in the cover," instructs Foley. "I may not even be able to see the frog. If I get a bite, I set the hook." As a result Foley has hooked alligators, and other addition to his critters in



intended target of big bass. His covert methods of waging war on bass have earned him the ninja nickname. He truly does excel in his sport.

"I target a lot of areas that are not frog areas, per say," comments Foley. "I target areas where there are bluegill, baitfish, or anything that will get a bass's attention. Bass are predators. They are going to eat anything they can, whether it be a muskrat a duck or a bluegill."

Fish with Foley for a day and it will become perfectly clear that grass and lily pads are not the only place to catch big bass on frogs. "I fish a lot of laydowns and vertical structure," explains Foley. "The majority of my fish are not caught in the grass, but there may be some grass around. I always look for something unique, something out of the ordinary. It may only be a 5 x 5-inch piece of grass mat that drifted up against a stick or a dock piling. The point is, it is something different than the surrounding water. Too many people overlook the subtle differences. Most people don't think a 10-pound fish is going to set under a five-inch strip of grass. It is a common mistake that average anglers make."

The Harris Chain of lakes is highly developed with residential housing and boat docks along a lot of the shoreline. "The main structure on the Harris Chain is Kissimmee grass and boat docks," explained Foley. "Some of the docks will house boats and others will not. You'll also find eel grass, lily pads and sea walls. On Lake Griffin, which is part of the Harris Chain, you will be fishing a lot of lily pads, eel grass and lay downs, but it is not nearly as developed as the other lakes on the chain."

When he is on the Harris Chain Foley mainly fishes shady areas, isolated grass, docks and pontoon boats. His choice of frog usually depends on the season.

"In the spring I'm going to fish canals, areas leading into canals and pockets off the main lake," instructs Foley. "I look for eel grass and any kind of floating mat, especially in the spawning areas. The



fish will be in these areas for both pre and post spawn periods. My frog of choice in the spring is Bobby's Perfect Frog or Ish's Phat Frog. My favorite spring colors are Fred's and KC Dragonfly.

When summer rolls around shade becomes the key. "I'm looking mainly for overhead cover in the form of lily pads, boat docks or overhanging brush," says Foley. "I will also fish a lot of main lake

grass, especially if there is a shell bar or some deeper water close by. Baitfish and bluegill will spawn in these areas and draw the bass in to feed. When I say deep water I'm talking five to seven feet of water. This time of the year is when the Wobbletron is at its best. The fish are aggressive and the Wobbletron causes a lot of commotion. You can fish it fast and cover a lot of water with it." Foley's favorite summer colors are Sticky Green, Tweety and Fred's.

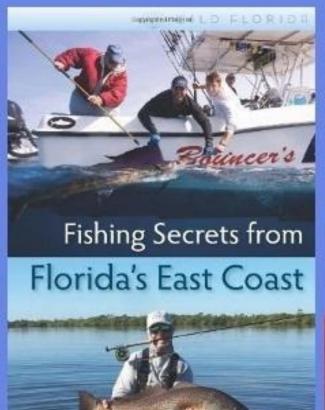
In the fall and winter Foley starts probing the Kissimmee grass in the main lake. "My target is not the main stands of Kissimmee grass, but the little cuts and holes. It is these variations in the grass where bass can chase small baitfish, shiners and bluegill. I prefer the sparse grass or isolated patches because it is a lot easier to dissect and pick specific targets. This is the ideal time for Ish's Poppin' Frog because you can fish the holes in the grass and it mimics baitfish. It also sounds like the popping noises that a bluegill makes when they are eating bugs in the grass." His favorite fall/winter colors are Papa Midnight, Cali, and Original Green. "I throw Fred's pretty much all year long," adds Foley.

Later in the winter season Foley looks for isolated lily pads or other structure around canal entrances. "Typically the bass are going to fatten up in winter preparing for the spawn. I like to target mouths of canals or any spawning areas for any type of structure where they can ambush prey. Typically the prey is not going to just roam in open water so the first piece of structure is where they'll go and where I want to toss a frog."

As far as his equipment, Foley likes a rod with a lot of backbone to pull fish from heavy cover. "I keep it very simple on equipment," states Foley. "If I am fishing isolated targets, skipping under cover and fishing scattered grass I use a 7-foot heavy action Vexan Bass Rod. I spool my Abu Garcia Revo 7:1:1 with 60 pound Seaguar Kanzen Braid."

Ron Presley offers anglers valued fishing insight and information on Florida's saltwater angling opportunities, detailed in the following two books.

# **FLORIDA FISHING AT IT'S BEST!**



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Secrets from Florida's Master Anglers offers both tourists and natives a fishing resource like no other. Professional fishing guide Ron Presley conducted privileged interviews with twenty of the state's top charter boat captains. The result is this collection of tips and techniques sure to make your next excursion a success whether in Florida or your own home waters.



"When I'm fishing matted grass, heavy Kissimmee grass or open water, I will use a 7-foot 8-inch Vexan Bass Rod with Abu Garcia Revo 8:1:1, also with 60 pound Seaguar Kanzen Braid. I like the longer rod in this application because I can make longer casts and I have more leverage when pulling bass out of the thicker grass."

Foley attaches his frogs with a Palomar knot and blackens the first couple feet of braid with a magic marker for camouflage. He adds a little fly-line wax to the line and the skirt on the frog. "The fly-line wax helps float the line and I put it on the skirt to help it flare out more and make it float," instructs Foley.

A Snag Proof Frog plays a role in all of Foley's fishing, whether it is recreational or tournament fishing. "I would say 99 percent of my tournament wins are related to fishing frogs. I am either catching fish with them or locating fish with them. A prime example would be when the fish keep blowing up on a frog but won't eat it. That is the time to throw a follow up bait because that fish has shown itself to me."

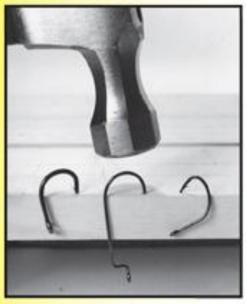


It is obviously that ninja mentality at work when Foley admits to fishing for only five bites a day. "Honestly, every tournament I fish, January thru January, I always have a frog tied on," exclaimed Foley. "Frogs are a very versatile bait. I may only get five bites, but they are the right bites."

Broc Foley is sponsored by River Rat Tackle, Red Dirt Baits, Vexan Bass Rods, Snag Proof Lures and Bill Lewis Lures.

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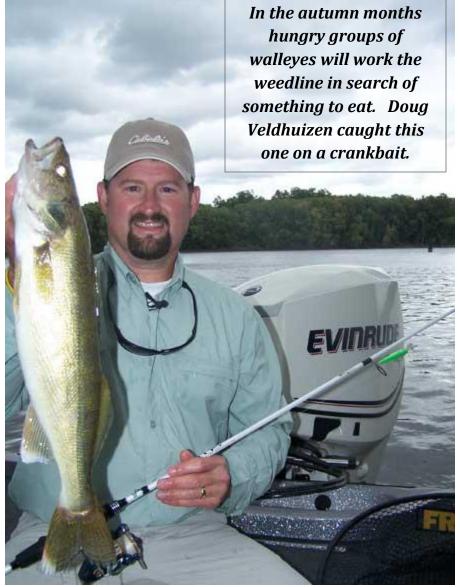


### FISH THE WEEDLINE IN THE FALL

#### **By Bob Jensen**

The weedline is a great place to find and catch fish all during the open water fishing season. Lots of anglers even work the weedline while ice-fishing. Simply put, there is almost always a fish somewhere along the weedline that is willing to get caught.

In the autumn months a variety of fish will be in the vicinity of the weedline. You might have a school of crappies suspended just off the edge of the deep weedline, there might be a group of largemouth on a corner of the weedline, and just a little farther down the weedline where the vegetation juts out a bit and forms a point, there could be some walleyes. And it's not



unusual to find a bonus musky or northern pike roaming over the tops of the weeds or along the deep edge. Although there may be more fish grouped tighter in different areas, the deep weedline in the fall will often provide a smorgasbord of fishing action.

Lots of techniques will take fish along the weedline in the fall. If you're after walleyes, try the largest Mimic Minnow or Mimic Minnow Shad. Move it aggressively: Lots of hops will trigger the most fish until the water really cools off. Then a redtail chub worked slower on a jig or live-bait rig will produce. If largemouth bass are the target, tie on 6.5 Hornet and work it parallel to the weedline. Work it a



different speeds and with your rod held at different angles to get the bait to run at different levels along the weedline. Sometimes, especially on warm, cloudy days, the bass will be over the tops of the weeds. Throw the bait over the weeds, keep your rod tip high, reel slowly, and hang on. If they bass are there, they'll let you know.

Another outstanding way to catch largemouth



they're bass when along the over or weedline is with a spinnerbait. Use one with a big blade. Tip with plastic, it something like an Impulse Paddle Shad or Paddle Minnow. You want some tail action, but not a lot.

Cast the spinnerbait over the tops of the weeds and work it back to the weedline. When you think it's near the deep edge of the weeds, let it fall.



Keep your line tight and watch and feel for a tick. The strike won't be hard, but it will be distinct. Reel down and set hard. After a few fish you'll know if they're over the tops or along the edge, and sometimes they'll be in both places.

If it's a calm late afternoon or early evening when you start fishing, and you see fish dimpling the surface near the weedline, move very quietly toward the dimpling and throw a sixteenth ounce Thumper Crappie King jig/plastic. Swim it slowly through the area being dimpled and you'll probably catch some crappies. The dimples are created by crappies sucking bugs off the surface. Since the crappies are feeding on the surface, you'll want to swim your bait just a couple of feet below the surface of the water.

Another crappie killer we've been using a lot the past couple of years is a #4 Hornet. If the crappies are home, they'll hammer this bait aggressively.

The weedline can provide lots of fall action. Make sure you're fishing healthy green weeds. Keep



moving until you find the fish. When you find them, they'll usually bite. You'll see Mother Nature at her best and you'll have the opportunity to have a good time: What more can you ask for?

To see all the newest episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, new fishing related tips, and fishing articles from the past, visit <u>www.fishingthemidwest.com</u>. If you do Facebook, check us out for a variety of fishing related things.



When you have miles of great looking grass that all looks good, something has to stand out so you can make a choice; where do you fish and what makes one clump of grass look better than others? These are the questions you have to answer every time you get on the water and start looking for that frog bite. To me there are some easy answers you just have to store them in your memory bank so the choice becomes easy.

First of all I look for grass that has become burnt looking and cheesy where your frog makes a trail through the cheesy grass. Next let your ears be your guide; as many of us painfully know, the grass knats can be a pain, but when you hear blue gill feeding on those nasty knats and they are making a popping sound; you have found some perfect mat choices. There are certainly many other keys to finding great



# CHOOSING FROGGING MATS

**By Captain Mike Gerry** 

frogging mats but these two are where I start.

Once you have found some key areas as mentioned above then you start narrowing the choices down even further and other elements lead you deeper into frogging territory; for example water current, if the area you have identified has water current moving around it from wind or dam control you have once again narrowed your choice to even a better set of elements. Grass mats make all kinds of different formations, but when they form points or have outside and inside bends where the bass can feed from you have once again narrowed your choice and gotten closer to the some of the best frogging areas on the lake. There are also other visual keys that can define a good frogging area; blow holes are one, if you visually see where bass have exploded through the mat that's some pretty telling indicator that there is bass in that mat area. Many times you can also see the drag lines where another angler has dragged a fish from that very blow-hole indicating that this area is being fished for a good reason. Lastly I like scattered grass much better than the real thick stuff as the fish can identify what is above them easier when the nasty foamy cheesy look has some scattered effect to it.

Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville Email: <u>bassguide@comcast.net</u> Call: 256 759 2270



# So you want to go fishing?

#### **By O'Neill Williams**

You're the neighbor down the street asking to go fishing and you're adamant that, since he's a 'pro' and goes often, you wants to know what makes it so important in his life and how you can find it so exciting also. Actually you've asked him several times and now he's given in and you are availing yourself of his largess.

Would you take a bit of advice so, just maybe, he'll invite you again? Wanna know? Play close attention now. If you do these things, you may make a friend in the neighborhood that has a boat, truck, expertise, history, talent and the time to take you fishing.



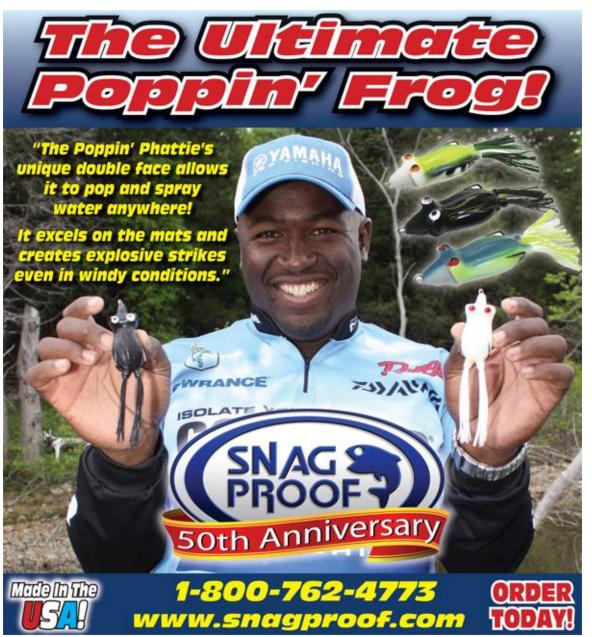
Bring along your cell phone and offer to take photos of your host catching bass. He's often alone and has difficulty doing that with a selfie.

Buy all the boat fuel, not your share, not half, ALL of it. Now, wait a moment, there may be fuel left when you return after the excursion. So what? On the way back home, insist on topping off the tank. Remember, you don't have to make payments on this very expensive rig whether it's used or not, he probably does. Offer to buy the fuel for the truck also. At 12 miles per gallon and, maybe 80 miles plus for the trip, it's expensive to pull the boat. You pay for it.

Bring all the food, ice and drinks. If your host wants to stop along the way and have breakfast, insist on buying it. If you expect, according to the plans you discussed, to be fishing beyond lunch time, have sandwiches and drinks with you when you meet that morning.

Bring no more than a couple of rods and reels and a small tackle box, not a steamer trunk full. I can you assure he probably has plenty of tackle and the boat is likely already full. You old stuff is





probably not in good shape, is outdated and will just prove to get in the way. Ask beforehand if he wants you to bring anything. He probably will not.

Offer help at the dock, grab the lines, manage the boat, and help unload. Just don't sit there with a smile enjoving the sunshine and breeze and depend on having him do everything. Help out. If you're at a dock, hold the boat, tie the lines, keep the boat from banging the sides, be available to put the plug in the boat, remove it after exiting, and offer to clean up the boat when you get back to his house.

Learn how to back the trailer at the ramp so your

host can be in the boat and handle it in the water after launching. You park the truck and trailer and, oh, I forgot, pay for the launch fee if there is one.

Pick up the trash in the boat at the end of the day and offer to help wash and dry the boat after you return.

If you don't do these things, your partner will have to do so. What you won't have to do is buy a \$50,000 bass boat, \$10,000 worth of tackle and accessories, a \$40,000 truck to pull it, pay \$350 of local taxes, tags and permits for the boat, a \$500 insurance policy and provide a secure place to keep it.

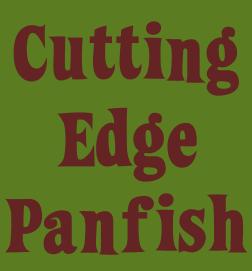
If you do not do these things, the fishing trip you've asked for will cost him at least \$300 per day. This time, you pay.

Lastly, just to be sure you'll be asked again, don't catch more bass than he does.

For more tips on fishing etiquette, tune in "O'Neill Outside" radio on Saturday mornings at 4AM eastern on WSB Radio AM750 or on the Internet at <u>www.wsbradio.com</u>.







**By Bob Bohland** 

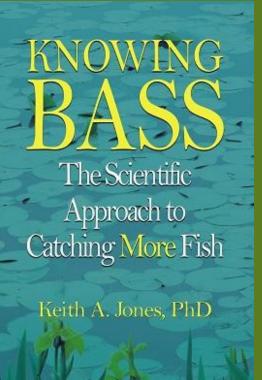
I am a fisherman, and I am a nerd. These two things are not independent of each other. When I was younger, I was the kid taking notes while watching B.A.S.S, Bill Dance, Tony Dean, Hank Parker, etc on Saturday mornings. Most of the fishing magazines that come to my house end up with notes and scrawlings all over them within a day or two. To anyone but myself, it looks like chicken scratch that ends up blending together like a 3-year old drawing with crayons on a wall.

Therefore, scholarly articles about fish and their behaviors excite me to no end. Give me a university or governmental study involving crappies and their migration through a lake and I will be taking notes and studying it like a college student cramming for midterms. I have brought this fascination up with other anglers and they all give me the same confused look, yet there are so many little nuggets to be gleamed from these journals that will help make you a better fisherman if you are willing to take the time to read them.

#### **Translation Please?**

The hardest part about learning from these scholarly writings is deciphering the academic blathering you will inherently come across. With some of these, you would swear they were getting paid by the amount of four and five syllable words they used, while others will have you scrambling for a dictionary repeatedly. Here are a couple excerpts I have found recently, along with a translation. These are what I learned from reading these articles, so I fully admit that my ideas may be a bit skewed.

"Experiments in which bluegill sunfish (Lepomis macrochirus) were given a binary choice between prey of different sizes presented at different distances showed the fish selected the prey that appeared largest, either because of its actual size or its proximity to the fish. This paper incorporates this mechanism to prey selection by apparent size into a model of blue gill predation. According to the model, bluegill, in choosing the apparently largest prey under all conditions, alter their diet composition



depending upon the abundance of prey. When prey are abundant, bluegill predominantly select prey of the largest size class available because these have the greatest probability of appearing largest. As large prey become scarce and smaller prey have a greater chance of appearing large, the fish tend to eat more prey from smaller size classes. When the model is tested against data from published fishfeeding experiments, the predicted size ratios of prey eaten correlated accurately with the observed ratios and numbers of prey eaten." (Apparent Size as the Determinant of Prey Selection by Bluegill Sunfish (Lepomis Macrochirus) W. John O'Brien, Norman A. Slade and Gary L. Vinyard)

See, wordy, isn't it? Essentially what this passage is saying is that bluegills, when they are hungry, want something big to eat. We can all relate to that though, if you are hungry are you more likely to reach for a hamburger, or walk around your house eating an M&M here and there? You want to catch big fish? Use a bigger bait than you normally would.

"In this study, fast bluegill growth was correlated with low water clarity, shallow maximum depth, and high total alkalinity." (Bluegill Growth Rates in Minnesota. MN DNR Investigational Report 458, Cynthia Tomcko and Rodney Pierce)

This study gives a great glimpse in how to target big bluegills. Eutrophic lakes, generally those that are shallow and have low water clarity produce fast growing bluegills. These lakes are generally very fertile, and have an excess amount of insects that sunfish need to grow big and fast. Essentially, lakes that have a ton of food for fish to get fat, have fat, fast-growing fish in them.

Going from taking notes while watching fishing shows to scouring Google Scholar in the hopes of finding one more bit of information pertaining to fish is quite the jump, even I have to admit it. The change for me, happened in college, when someone gave me a copy of the book "Knowing Bass: The Scientific



Approach to Catching More Fish" by Dr. Keith Jones. The information in the book covers everything from how fish use their vision and lateral line to track prey to how they perceive different smells and tastes of their food. If you are crazy about fish and learning about fish, it is a must read.

In the days of smart phones, tablets, and wifi being ever-present, there is no longer any reason not to look through this info when you have a chance. Google Scholar is a great resource, you can just type in the species of fish you are interested in reading about and there are dozens of options available for you. Another great resource is the American Fisheries Society, which has a long history of information, even the Minnesota DNR has a large number of their "investigational reports" available on their website for free to the public. It's 2015, go learn more about the fish you are targeting, being a nerd is cool now!



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## 6 THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR WHEN FISHING FOR WALLEYES



Among the differences between Rapala<sup>®</sup> pro anglers and recreational anglers is a depth of experience that enables the pros to avoid making — and repeating — common mistakes on the water. Here's six unforced errors to watch out for. You'll catch more walleyes if you do!

#### 1. Fish Too Deep, Too Soon

The biggest mistake many walleye anglers make is fishing too deep, too soon, says angling legend Al Lindner.

"There's going to be a lot of walleyes that are going to be up on shallow-water flats early in the season," Lindner says. "In many bodies of water, the biggest percentage of fish I would say come from six to 20 feet of water, if I'm daytime fishing."

In the early season, Lindner recommends fishing a VMC<sup>®</sup> jig dressed with a minnow between the shore and the first distinct drop-off. "In a lot of our lakes Up North, that first drop-off is somewhere around 10 or 12 feet," he says. "I'll be fishing from there, in shallow."

At night, Lindner will troll through the same areas with a Flat Rap<sup>®</sup> or an Original Floating Rapala<sup>®</sup> on



line rigged with a few split-shots. "It's that simple!" he says. "If you don't vary from what I just told you, you're going to catch plenty of walleyes."

#### 2. Troll Too Slowly In Cool, Early-season Water

Conventional wisdom says you should troll slowly in cool water. But conventional wisdom is often wrong. In-Depth Outdoors TV host James Holst has seen this time and again on Lake Pepin, a wide spot on the Mississippi River south of the Twin Cities.

"We troll at two miles-per-hour and all we catch is white bass and sheephead," Holst says. "We throw a little speed at these fish, and all we catch is walleyes. ... So make sure you try speeding up. For us, it's just magic."

With mid-May water temps in the mid-60s, Holst will troll Lake Pepin at 2 3/4 to 3 mph. Although trophy fish are less frequent, he says, you can expect to catch a lot of fish. "This is a pattern I've used for many years to put numbers of eating-size fish in the boat," he says.

#### 3. Reel In Too Fast and Lose Focus

More often than not, says Rapala Director of Field Promotions Mark Fisher, most anglers fish too fast. That can mean reeling too fast and losing focus too soon.

"You finally got the spot, relax and fish it!" Fisher exhorts. "Don't start immediately trying to figure out your next spot to cast to. If you're already thinking about spots 2, 3, 4 5, you're not really focused on the moment."

That was in Fisher's mind when he helped Rapala design the popular Scatter Rap<sup>®</sup> series of baits. Scatter Raps hunt and search erratically when retrieved slowly. Fishing them too fast lessens their effectiveness.

"Speed is the one element that can really make your day," Fisher says. "I don't think we think about that enough. The Scatter Rap really forces us to do that — slow down and let the bait work."

#### 4. Stay Put After a Bite Shuts Down

If fish aren't biting today where you thumped 'em yesterday, move sooner than later. Some factor out

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"To be really successful as an angler, you can't just say 'I caught 'em here yesterday, but today the fish weren't biting," says James Lindner, director, producer and co-host of Lindner's Angling Edge television show and a Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Legendary Communicator. "There's a lot of environmental factors that could have changed overnight."

Once a hot bite cools off, moving to where environmental factors are more in your favor will usually be more productive than staying put. "But a lot of people don't do that," Lindner says. "That's why really successful anglers are so successful."



#### 5. Experiment with New Baits When the Fish Aren't Biting

The best time to experiment with new baits is when fish are really active — when you're catching them one after another. But most people try new baits only when their go-to baits aren't working.

"The best way to build confidence in a bait is to catch something on it," James Lindner says. So If you wait to try new lures until you can't get bit on your favorite baits, chances are you'll never gain confidence in the new ones.

"What happens is you tie on a bunch of different baits, throw 'em six or seven times and then cut 'em



off and trv something else -'Well, they won't bite that one!' And back in the box it goes," Lindner explains.

So the next time vou're having а "numbers great day," that's the time to tie on a new or under-used bait or two. "Not only

will you garner confidence that they do indeed catch fish," Lindner explains, "you'll also learn the subtleties of how to retrieve them best."

#### 6. Scale Down and Slow Down When the Bite Gets Tough

When the fish won't bite do you tie on smaller baits and fish more slowly?

"That's absolute reverse thinking!" exclaims James Lindner. For gamefish of all species, he says, "speed is a huge trigger."

When Lindner tells the following story in seminars, he says, many people nod along and laugh: "A lot of people say, 'Well, the fish aren't biting, let's move to another spot.' And then they reel in their baits really fast so they can leave. And then they'll catch a fish!

"But what happens next?" Lindner asks. "They say 'Hey, let's make a few more casts here!' But then they go back to reeling in their baits slowly — just like they were doing before they caught that fish. That fish just told you what they want! You gotta listen. It can be the difference between catching two or three fish or catching 30."

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#### **FALL FISHING IDEAS**

#### **By Bob Jensen**

It's time to start planning our fall fishing trips: Where we'll go, what we'll fish for, and how we'll present our baits. Fall fishing in northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and North Dakota might be kicking in now. In southern Minnesota, South Dakota, north Iowa, and southern Wisconsin, it will start in two or three weeks, and in Illinois and Missouri it will be a month or six weeks before it's considered to be the fall fishing season. However, wherever you're fishing, there are some consistent things you can do to catch more fish. Following are some of those things.

As with fishing any time of the year, you've got to be where the fish are. The predator fish will be near the forage fish or whatever else they might be eating. Find their food and you'll find the walleyes and bass and muskies and crappies and whatever else.

It's very helpful, and it will put fish in the boat, to understand some of the quirks of fall fishing. Back in the early 80's when I fished and guided on Leech Lake in north central Minnesota, I discovered this. Leech Lake is a very large, very productive body of water (It's even better now than it was then). Walker Bay is a deep section of the lake: The rest of the lake is fairly shallow. Walker Bay has a good population of tullibee. Tullibee are an oily baitfish and they spawn in the fall. Walleyes like to eat tullibee, and it's usually the larger walleyes that eat them. I can't remember exactly what time of year it was, but it was somewhere in the late September/early October range. The tullibee were spawning at night in shallow water that was bordered by deep water, shallow being six to eight feet and deep being down to a hundred feet. We pulled big crankbaits, eight to ten inchers, across the shallows, and we caught big walleyes. Not lots, but big ones: Twenty two inchers were about the smallest, and we took them up to almost thirty inches. This pattern wouldn't work in many lakes because most lakes don't have tullibee. This is why it's important to understand the quirks of the season and the water you're on. However, shallow night fishing can be good in a lot of areas for a lot of reasons. I've had memorable night success for walleyes below the dam on Lake Oahe in South Dakota and on Clear Lake in north central lowa, another lake that is so much better for fishing now than it used to be. In Lake Oahe the walleyes were eating smelt below the dam whenever water was running, in Clear Lake they were eating frogs that were entering the lake from a marsh across the street. Find the food, find the fish.

Use the biggest bait the fish will eat. If they're willing to hit a jig with a three inch plastic tail, try a jig with a four inch plastic tail. If they eat that, go larger again. Try a bulky tail. Use the biggest bait they'll hit and you'll usually catch bigger fish.

In some lakes the fish will go deep in the fall. Sometimes it's ok to catch those fish, sometimes it's not.



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If you're catching mostly small ones and their bladder is in their mouth when you bring them in, it's best to find shallower fish. Much of the time those small fish won't survive when you put them back, and much of the time they're too small to keep. Be considerate of the resource.



Autumn is a wonderful time to go fishing for many reasons. If you keep the things we just talked about in mind, you'll be on your way to discovering those reasons.

To see all the newest episodes of Fishing the Midwest television visit <u>www.fishingthemidwest.com</u>. If you do Facebook, check us out for a variety of fishing related things.



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### Go Shallow, it can be the Difference Maker

**By Captain Mike Gerry** 



As we move into the last part of the summer fishing gets tough, the deep water is hot in water temperature, the bass are lethargic and getting a bite can be tedious work. Sometimes the answer is not where you might expect it; as many times the bass have moved into very shallow water. Yes many times the fish by the end of August or early September are in two to four feet of water and you're out working the river channel wondering why you can't get a bite. Many times the fish out deep are suspending and just trying to get oxygen and just will not bite.

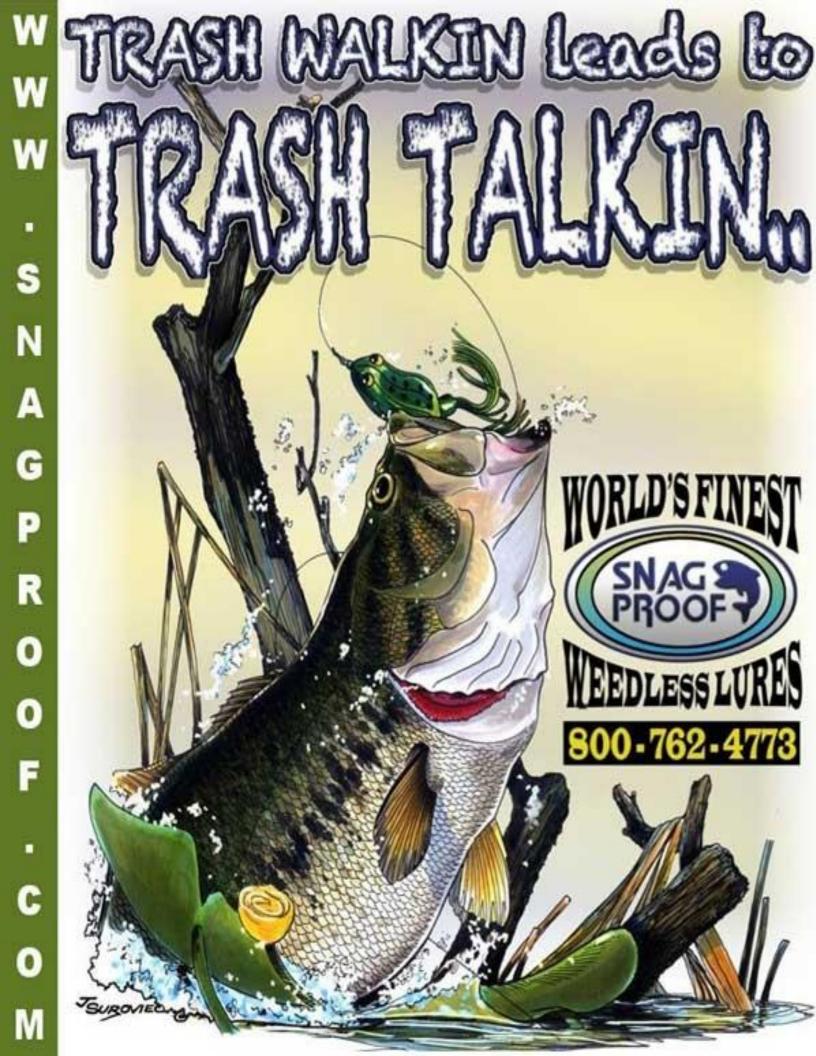
The answer is not where you might expect it, but deserves some the reason is sound and clarification. One thing that many people do not realize is, as the water heats up in the deep the oxygen in the water actually depletes and the bass move to the shallow water especially where the grass is rotting and dying off from the hot sun. The reason is the presence of dissolved oxygen; you see the rotting of the grass and the foaming and nasty coloring actually tell you that the grass as it dies produces oxygen; yes dissolved oxygen comes from the presence of dying plants and bass need the dissolved oxygen to stay active.

The presence of dissolved oxygen on the surface weeds is a factual biological process that occurs in shallow lakes where grass is present the chemical makeup of a water molecule is hydrogen and oxygen; as plants die in water they enhance the oxygen in the water and bass move to it to gain energy and feed. Surface water run-off from rain and streams also enhance the dissolved oxygen level along the bank. You ever wonder why that big blow up through the grass comes from two feet of water after a frog is so impressive, well its simple the oxygen aids the bass activity allowing

them to feed with energy. Going shallow in the late summer can make you a more informed fisherman and get you fishing where the fish are.

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#### STORM<sup>®</sup> ARASHI<sup>®</sup> TOP WALKER IS BUILT TO KEEP 'EM BUTTONED UP

Many topwater plugs produce more heartache than hook-ups. Storm's new Arashi Top Walker is not one of 'em.

"It's the best walk-the-dog bait by far now," says Brandon Palaniuk, a five-time Bassmaster Classic qualifier. "It's going to up my odds of putting more fish in the boat."

Available in both a 4-1/4 and 5-1/8 inch models, the Top Walker strides true even when retrieved fast, having been purpose-built to eliminate the missed opportunities all too common with lesser topwater options.

"When you look at the profile of the Arashi Top Walker from the back, you can see how its sides are just a little bit flatter," says Palaniuk, explaining how that design element prevents the Top Walker from rolling as it changes direction on the retrieve. "What that's going to do is allow the lure to continually walk with its hooks underneath the body. That increases your hook-up ratio almost two-to-one."

A long-glide walk-the-dog action, a powerful wake and a multi-ball cadence rattle sound signature combine to make the Top Walker a seductive little siren sure to call in the biggest bass from the farthest distance. Both models feature four bearings that broadcast a variable pitch frequency, mimicking the



#### ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

sound of schooling baitfish that predators can't ignore.

"They're gonna hone right in on it and want to hammer the bait," Palaniuk says.

Rotated hook hangers, a feature of all baits in the Arashi lineup, ensure that all of the Top Walker's three sticky-sharp trebles will grab fish and not let go. Lesser topwaters with only two hooks often yield more salty four-letter words than stout five-bass limits, according to Palaniuk.

"The more hooks I've got on there, the better," Palaniuk says.

The 4-1/4 inch Top Walker weighs 3/4 of an ounce and comes equipped with three No. 4 premium VMC<sup>®</sup> Black Nickel Treble Hooks. The 5-1/8 inch model weighs 1-1/8th ounces and comes with three No. 2 VMC hooks. Both models are available in 10 color patterns, most of them slightly translucent: Green Gold Shad, Hot Blue Shad, Pearl Ayu, Bluegill, Blue Back Herring, Wakasagi, Ghost Hitch, Pro Blue, Ghost Pearl Shad and Black Silver Shad.

Ghost Pearl Shad — mostly white with a purplish head — is a new color pattern in the Arashi lineup. "It's super cool," Palaniuk says.

Palaniuk recommends tying Arashi Top Walkers directly to a line that does not sink — either monofilament or braid. If water clarity and conditions indicate he can get away with it, he'll throw braid. In crystal-clear water, he might need to throw mono. Always avoid fluorocarbon though, because it sinks and will pull down the nose of any topwater bait and hamper its action.



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### GET DOWN QUICK, CATCH MORE FISH WITH THE STORM ARASHI DEEP 18 AND DEEP 25



Fishing is always better when you're catching, so why waste precious time trying to reach the right depth? Now, anglers can get to the strike zone faster offshore and force bass to bite with Storm®'s new Arashi<sup>™</sup> Deep 18 and Deep 25 crankbaits.

"Having baits that will get down into those deep strike zones quick and stay down there, that's super important," says Brandon Palaniuk, a fivetime Bassmaster Classic

qualifier. "A lot of times, you'll find fish deep on your graph, but they won't bite just any bait that'll reach bottom. You need to have an enticing action to grab their attention. With the new Arashi Deep 18 and 25, you're able to burn a crankbait way down there right in front of their faces and that will trigger reaction strikes."

As equipment and electronics get better and better, more and more people are figuring out how to find fish offshore "and that pressure you find in offshore waters drives bass deeper," Palaniuk says. "The Arashi Deep 18 and Deep 25 allow anglers to follow those fish and hit 'em where they live." The numbers in the baits' names indicate their maximum running depths.

"Before, you were limited on the tackle you could catch really deep fish with," Palaniuk says. "There weren't many reaction-type baits, moving-type baits, that you could effectively fish that deep."

Success came quick with the Deep 18 and Deep 25 for Palaniuk, who notched back-to-back top-10 finishes with the lures in major tournaments this May — the Bassmaster Elite Series event on Arizona's Lake Havasu and the Toyota Texas Bass Classic on Lake Fork.

The Arashi Series' renowned circuit board lip construction gives the Deep 18 and Deep 25 a thinner, but more durable bill that produces more action at slower speeds. "I can dig down into the rocks with Arashis week in and week out and



never have a problem with the bill chipping or anything like that," Palaniuk says.

The Arashi Deep 18 is 3-inches long, weighs 7/8th of an ounce, and comes armed with two No. 2 VMC<sup>®</sup> Black Nickel Treble Hooks. The Deep 25 measures 3-1/2 inches, weighs 1-3/8th ounces, and boasts two 1/0 VMC Black Nickel Treble Hooks. Both come in 16 fish-catching color patterns.

In clear water, Palaniuk will most likely throw more natural-looking color patterns, like Wakasagi, Pro Blue, Blue Back Herring, Ghost Hitch, Black Silver Shad, Green Gold Shad, Hot Blue Shad, Crappie, Baby Bass or Bluegill. "Even though there might not be a lot of light down deep, these Arashis will pick it up and shine down there," Palaniuk says.

In stained and dirty water, however, he will throw louder color patterns, like Hot Chartreuse Shad, Black Chartreuse Shad, Mossy Chartreuse Craw, Rusty Craw, Parrot and Red Craw. "A lot of times, it takes a big bright crankbait to get those fish to trigger," he says.

Like all Arashi baits, the Deep 18 and





Deep 25 feature an innovative selftuning line tie that allows the bait to get back on track quicker after deflecting off of cover. All Arashi baits also feature rotated hook hangers that accommodate larger hooks for a better hook-up ratio.

For more information on the full lineup of Storm Arashi crankbaits, visit StormLures.com. And, be sure to check out Facebook.com/StormLuresUSA for the latest tips and tricks on everything Storm.



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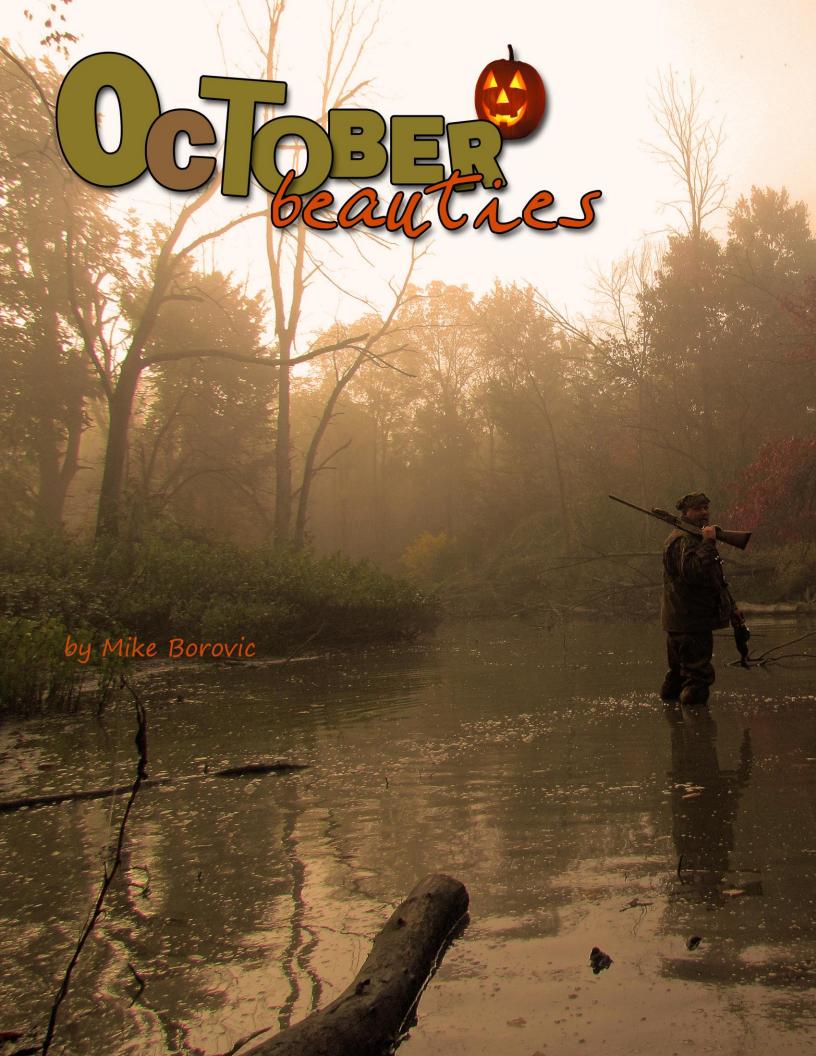
The cracking of frozen pin oak and silver maple leaves beneath each step was increasing ever so slightly in sound...

With each pause | dare not move...

As | anticipated her path, | could see her breathe in the chilled autumn air, and from this majestically God given creature, a flick from her tail through the dwarf birches between us confirmed all is well...

And too was content.

I. Mike Borovic





Whether it's a northern bull canvasback or a sexy sleek chocolate headed sprig; it doesn't matter. All of North America's waterfowl are magnificently beautiful in their own special way. But the wood duck or woodie if you prefer; now that is something else.

Amazing; adorned with all the colours of the rainbow and iridescently displaying a hundred shades of lustrous shimmer; can still hide its self among the bottomland timber swamps.

Teal have been said and been known to easily twist any waterfowler into a pretzel with a turn on a dime while having after-burners rivalling mach-one fighter jets. But have you ever seen a woodie rocket weaving in and out of the dense hardwoods? Without even ruffling a feather.

With a diet of only fruits and nuts, is there another duck whose flesh is of greater table fare?

Well I do feel for harvesting such beauty; but then again I am the hunter. And as a hunter, there is no one more appreciative then I am... for the woodie.

Without question, there are only few moments as magical to the whimsical flight of wood ducks in the predawn hours of a cool October morning. With my snout full of the stimulating aromatic perfumatory of autumn and the marveling hues of a purplish orange sunrise through the bottomland timber... I just can't think of a better place to enjoy a cup of coffee with a smile.

and a

It wasn't long ago that this magnificently decorated bird had virtually disappeared. Thanks to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, nest-box building projects, the 20-year nationwide hunting ban and today's continuance of hunter organizations, the woodie is thriving! Waterfowl hunters across Canada and the United States are once again enjoying woodies on the table, and so am I.

I've been waterfowling the north and south shores of Lake St. Clair since I was a duckling. As a well-seasoned, more appreciative hunter, I enjoy wood-ducking considerably more now. For me, it is often easier to hike 3 or so kilometres to a woodie hole than sit in a layout boat with a few inches of December's freezing slush while enduring sleet-driving northeaster winter winds blasting at canvasbacks. Don't get me wrong, I miss it immensely, but I'm just not getting any younger.

So... a woodie hunting I will go!

Unlike your mallards and pintails, woodies are a very different fowl. They don't quack; they squeal. They nest in trees, not grasses. They love fruits and nuts. You think whitetails love acorns? I've pulled seven whole acorns from a single bird's crop once and five small crab apples from another!

The most important aspect to wood duck



duck hunting is location. My favourite haunts are small woody rivers and sluggish creeks chuck-filled with timber debris such as stumps, stickups, fallen trees and sizeable downed branches. Although this is my kinda place, woodies aren't just restricted to such, they can also be found in sloughs, potholes, backwaters, ditches, flooded timber, farm and beaver ponds, and often times on the marshy edge of large bodied waters. No matter where they are, the key element is cover. Woodies are very shy by nature and for it's then time to hoof it in for a look-see around. And if the birds are there, you'll know it real quick as they take flight when spooked.

I like to utilize trail cameras when I'm scouting by placing them just above the water's surface and fastening them to a tree alongside the edge or a makeshift post stuck into the bank, this way I'm guaranteed to know what birds are working a specific location and when. Like deer hunting, keeping your intrusions to a minimum is crucial, as disturbing birds too



most part; they will be where they are the most comfortable utilizing emergent vegetation and wooded cover.

Scouting is the most important affair you can do in finding such untapped places. With the resources we have available today, there's no excuse not to be able to find any potential areas of interest. After locating such possibles on a good topographical map, often will only result in them abandoning the area for a greener pasture elsewhere.

As a young'un I was always eager to hunt those small wooded rivers with a canoe; an aggressive approach by going to the birds instead of them coming to me. Lately I have been taking joy in the out of reach places. Places so log-jammed that they are impenetrable to navigate by canoe. The only way in is by foot and guess what? I have a hunch the birds will be there, and with the solitude and all the beauty of October that one could ever imagine.

My experiences have shown that wood ducks prefer to fly real early in the morning, seemingly earliest than most other fowl. I'm usually all set up and taking a nap about an hour before sun up and more times than not, I can hear over a head the back pressure whoosh made by tiny wings and that cool call they have... squealing out whoo-eet, whoo-eet.

My morning hunts can generally be short, but I don't always like shooting a limit; I prefer to leave a bird or two for after the morning rush, that way I ensure myself another cup of coffee, while enjoying the beauty and simply being in my element. Merely to be in it at that very moment is a privileged blessing in its self.

After the morning lull, I usually can count on birds to work their way up and down the creek a bit. Occasionally I get lucky and sometimes I don't. For the most part, the visibility is very limited when they fly the topography of the creek because of all the bends and turns. They fly low and fast, twisting and turning in an aerial acrobatic display of awe. I'm always amazed how they never collide with one another or smack right into an over hanging cluster puck of tree branches.

Specifically having wood duck dekes (decoys) is worthwhile, and I'm a true believer in the 'less is more' when it comes to wood ducks in small places. Never in my life, have I set out more than a spread of three decoys (okay maybe once or twice). I rely on scouting efforts to be where the birds want to be and realism in my setup. I've spent hundreds of hours over the years meticulously painting and repainting





my decoys. I've gone as far as cutting the keels off and wiring the bodies to partially submerged logs as though to replicate resting and sleeping birds. I've been known to cut heads clean off from some decoys; brand new, right out of the box. I do this to alter the head position; reattaching them with fibreglass filled Bondo, drill out the eyes and sculpture in glass eyes (taxidermy) for some lifelikeness.

Careful placement of decoys is essential. I like to have at the very least a hen deke smack out in the middle of the creek or river grabbing all the attention. If you really want to get attention from the high flyers, your best to rig one of those dekes on a jerk line.

More often then not, birds will land 50 to 100 yards upriver or down



from your position, but not to worry; that's why you'll sweet-talk them to swim over. Woodies are very vocal, especially while sitting upon the water. You can entice them into gun range with a couple of their trademark squeals. A gentle, low volume, high pitch swe-eeeet, swe-eeeet ought to do it. The key is not to over do it. Once you've grabbed their attention, the best thing you can do is to remain motionless and quiet, and allow the decoys to do the work. Do not give away your position or your opportunity will fly away... literally.

I'm a minimalist, so the gear I carry is simple, and for a good reason; it's a gosh-darn long hau! On those cooler days, I prefer to wear my neoprene waders to lighten the load that's over my shoulder. A good waterfowl rucksack is essential. In it, I'll lug my three decoys, a box of shells, camera, small tripod, light weight gloves, head-net, mosquito repellent, extra headlamp and of course a full thermos of coffee.

I was told of the 3 keys to effective concealment at an early age while deer hunting in the northern swamps of Michigan that I found work for waterfowl as well. The first one being most important, and that is to not give away your position by movement. You need to remain motionless and only use your eyes. Secondly, your position is very important, so keep something natural between you and your intended target. Whether it is a tree, rock or bush, always hide behind something and always keep it between the two of you. And thirdly, you must get low. Getting down closer to the ground keeps you from being outlined much like a bowhunter in a tree with an open backdrop. And for extra measure, my uncle never failed to remind me to stay in the shadows.

Today, I'm gonna add a fourth, and that is camouflage clothing. Back then, we we didn't have much in the way of choices for camouflage. There was only the good old Woodland and Trebark pattern. At this moment in time today, what don't we have? The choice we're conflicting with now is just about selecting the proper camo for the habitat.

I like to remain mobile, and I don't like being confined to a blind or one specific area. I rely solely on the camouflage to do its job by concealing and blending me into the surroundings. I'm a long-time fan of Mossy Oak's original Bottomland camo; simple and



extremely effective in the shadows of the timbers where I hunt. But when I initially laid my eyes on Mossy Oak's Shadow Branch pattern back around the year 1999... I was as giddy as an 8th grade boy getting his first valentine!

Dreams do come true, because just a couple of years ago, Drake Waterfowl Systems partnered with Mossy Oak to bring us; a full line of waterfowl clothing painted with the Shadow Branch artwork.

Wood-ducking is a passion of perfection and obsession. It could be the frosty mornings with a slight fog lingering in the deadfall timbers of the bottomland swamps, or the sweet smell of decaying leaves and spectacular sunrises. It may even be the surrounding of autumn's vibrant colours or something as simple as the sharing of a good cup of coffee in the predawn hours gazing at the stars. Whatever it is, it's got me awake again at 3am.



I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable hunting season.

Mike







LOWINANCE

# ICAST 2015 Showcase Fishing Products To Keep An Eye Out For



# Hobie Mirage Outback Celebrates 15th Birthday With Special Edition

Starting November 2015, a new orange Hobie<sup>®</sup> will be seen on waterways around the world ...but there will not be many of them. In celebration of the 15th birthday of Hobie's iconic Mirage<sup>®</sup> Outback, a limited edition model with visually distinct special features will be introduced at ICAST...the Hobie Mirage Outback Limited Edition. Each of them will be individually numbered one to 500. The

Outback, Hobie's first boat with molded-in rod holders, is what kicked off Hobie's entry into the kayak fishing market and is now being used by anglers across the globe.

Over the past 15 years, the 12' Outback has medalled consistently on the sales floor and in tournaments while bringing sheer enjoyment to thousands of anglers. With increasingly more units in use every day, a celebration is well deserved. The Mirage Outbcack Limited Edition model combines the well-proven features of the current Mirage Outback (utility, speed and stability) with MirageDrive Turbo fins, an oversized rudder, hookless map pockets, custom on-deck EVA pad kit and large padeyes for attaching accessories in the cargo area. And then there is the visual look. The new custom orange color will not fail to solicit attention. Molded-in graphics subtly depicting fish species from all over the world and contrast color and logo stitching on the Vantage CT seat complete the picture.

# ProNav Angler Ushers In New Era In Boat Positioning

In a victory for anglers seeking high-performance boat control at an affordable price, ProNav Marine<sup>™</sup> has unveiled the revolutionary new ProNav Angler<sup>™</sup> GPS-guided autopilot system.



Designed to let anglers focus on fishing, not fighting to keep their boats on course, the compact, hightech device connects to the shaft of your bowmount trolling motor in seconds and allows you to control speed and a full suite of navigational functions directly from your smartphone or tablet.



Coupling GPS data with the feature-rich ProNav mobile app, the patent-pending system lets you lock onto anchor point coordinates and hold the boat in position regardless of wind, waves or current. When it's time to motor to another hotspot or distant landmark, the ProNav Angler Vector keeps your boat tracking in a straight line, automatically correcting for drift caused by the above-mentioned forces of nature.

The ProNav Angler also lets you create and modify unlimited routes both on and off the water from your mobile device or computer, allowing you to chart and retrace productive courses along prime lies such as weedlines, drop-offs and other structural sweet spots. Routes can be recorded and securely stored in the ProNav Cloud<sup>™</sup>, which allows infinite access from the devices of your choice, enabling you to toggle between phones and tablets, or even share information with trusted friends.

As a bonus, because it's easy to move the ProNav control unit from one trolling motor to another, you can use your system on multiple boats, all at a fraction of the cost of competitive autopilot and navigational systems.

The ProNav Angler is compatible with Minn Kota PowerDrive V2 systems and Android devices, with additional motor choices and IOS compatibility coming soon.

While the official product launch is set for late 2015, ProNav is offering a limited number of units for sale to beta users at pronavmarine.com for \$699. Early users will play a key role in the final rollout, and enjoy upgrades and enhancements, along with an unconditional, money-back satisfaction guarantee.



# NEW SEATROUT SYSTEM BRINGS Z-MAN'S INSHORE OFFERINGS UP TO 'SPECK'

Z-Man Fishing Products announced the addition of TroutTrick<sup>®</sup> soft plastics and Trout Eye<sup>™</sup> jigheads to its growing line of high-tech inshore bait offerings for the 2015 season. The company's recent acquisition of TroutTrick from founder Bob Sanders and partnership with Ralph Phillips Inshore Productions to distribute Trout Eye jigheads further Z-Man's efforts to offer the industry's most effective and comprehensive inshore saltwater product line. While designed specifically for targeting spotted seatrout, both products have proven to be successful on a wide variety of species including redfish, flounder, striped bass, snook and largemouth bass.

"Pairing the deadliest soft plastic trout lure I've seen—now constructed from 10X Tough ElaZtech<sup>®</sup> with a perfectly matched jighead creates a complete system that is simply unmatched its ability to catch fish when other baits and presentations are ineffective," comments Daniel Nussbaum, Z-Man General Manager and Executive Vice President. "Both products have unique features that set them apart from other inshore artificials and, paired together, will absolutely help anglers from Texas to Virginia catch more trophy seatrout."

The TroutTrick is the brainchild of former FLW touring pro turned inshore guide, Bob Sanders. "After throwing everything in the tackle box at a school of surface-feeding trout, I tried on my TroutTrick and





had a field day. I knew I was on to something," remarks Sanders. "The worked Florida lure from the Panhandle South Carolina's to estuaries and quickly caught on in the guide world, becoming a go-to lure for coastal fisherman in only a few short years. I knew we needed to take this lure to the fishing world in a big way, and Z-Man was the perfect company to partner with. With the addition of their proprietary ElaZtech technology and greater array of colors to choose from, the TroutTrick should have them jumping for in the boat this irresistible—and indestructible offering!" should have them jumping in the boat for this irresistible-and indestructible-offering!"

In the last four years since its inception, the TroutTrick has proven

time and again to be a profile that outfishes other baits in a variety of situations, from cold-weather conditions when trout are typically dormant, to the heat of summer when waters are heavily stained and most anglers resort to live bait. Many veteran anglers feel that the TroutTrick's slender profile and unique vibrations emitted by its ribbed body trigger reaction bites when other artificials fail to produce. The technique taught by Sanders is extremely easy to master and is even printed on the product packaging itself; simply give the rod two sharp jerks to bring the lure up several feet, allow the lure to fall straight back down to the bottom, and repeat.

"The TroutTrick is an amazing bait, and our ElaZtech material makes it even more durable and gives it improved action," adds Nussbaum. "I fi shed the ElaZtech versions paired with the Trout Eye jigheads religiously last fall and winter, and the combination consistently caught more and bigger trout than anything else I used. Bob did a great job introducing South Carolina to a lure and a technique that fl atout works, and we're excited to continue what he started and help spread the TroutTrick to other saltwater markets."

Rounding out the TroutTrick system, the Trout Eye jighead produces the ideal sink rate that optimizes the bait's ability to produce reaction strikes. Created by South Carolina inshore fishing guru, Ralph Phillips, the Trout Eye jighead features an oversized eye, superb balance, highquality 2/0 Mustad hook, and needlesharp keeper barbs that make rigging with ElaZtech easy and grip all types of soft plastics securely. The real differentiator with the jighead lays in its oversized 3D eyeballs that create a prominent strike target that game fish can home in on.

"In 40 years of fishing for blue marlin and seatrout to everything in between, I have learned that



predators strike the eye," remarks Phillips. "Our Trout Eye jigheads are designed to have the biggest eye possible for a jig this size, and they just simply produce."

"The Trout Eye jig is, hands-down, the best inshore jighead I've used," Nussbaum comments. "The keepers really grip our ElaZtech super-plastic, and the fact that it improves the effectiveness of TroutTrick made partnering with Ralph on distributing it a no-brainer!"

TroutTrick soft plastics are offered in 14 saltwaterproven color patterns—including the original 'Mood Ring' color pioneered by Sanders and several colors with hand-dipped, colored tails—and retail for \$5.99 for a package of six 10X Tough baits. Trout Eye jigheads sell for \$4.99 for a pack of three and are available in four different eye colors—red, pearl, glow and gold—to match various water clarity and sunlight conditions. Both products are made in South Carolina just a few miles from the estuarine waters where they have been vigorously tested and refined.

# New Savage Gear Hybrid Pike Blurs the Line Between Hard and Soft Lures

The new Savage Gear Hybrid Pike brings the best of both hard and soft baits. This hard bodied lure with replaceable soft tails will illicit the most savage strikes from musky and pike.



The core design of the Hybrid Pike comes from the 3D scanning of an actual jack pike. Each bait comes with two tail styles to give anglers two different lures in one. The paddle tail makes this bait look like the real thing while the oversized ribbon tail calls fish from great distances.

A unique wiring system allows the hooks to separate from the lure body for a higher hook up and hooked-to-land ratios. The wire is attached to a swivel in the head of the bait so fish can freely twist with the bait without throwing the hooks. This harness system utilizes ultra-strong hooks and rings to keep those trophy fish pinned to the bait.



# Casey Ashley gets his own Road Runner, the Casey's Classic Runner

Ashley won the 2015 Bassmaster Classic with a homemade "Road Runner" that his dad made for him. "I thanked him thinking to myself, I won't throw these". -Casey Ashley.

Ashley found some bass in waters over 40-feet deep. The slow retrieve of his dad's jig is what



won the \$300,000 tournament. How do you improve a homemade "Road Runner" that won the classic? Ashley added a premium hook, prism eyes, and shad inspired colors. "Heck, we even tested four brands of ball bearing swivels." –Casey Ashley. Casey's Classic Runner will be available in both 1/4 and 3/8 ounce sizes. Anglers will have eight colors to choose from, including the "pearl" color that won the classic. Twin packs of the heads will retail for about \$7.99



# The Newest Addition To Snag Proof's Evolution Series, The Wobbletron

Is the hollow-bodied frog market already too cramped? Or are we seeing more and more

imitators, and not enough innovators. Snag Proof has pioneered another great frog lure that is perfect for open water conditions. Their nearly 55 years of experience producing the best hollow-bodied frogs on the market truly comes through with this new frog. And may we say, all made right here in the United States.

Introducing the Wobbletron! The Wobbletron is bigger and heavier than the Bass Kicker, and sports a custom made wide gap double hook. The Wobbletron is great for thick weeds but shines in open water with a fish attracting gurgle on retrieve. The legs on the Bass Kicker come out to the sides and provide an erratic bouncy action, while the legs on the Wobbletron come out the back of the frog bubbling and rippling through the water.

The Wobbletron will be introduced in these colors initially, and we expect to add more down the line: Black, Pearl, Brown Bullfrog, Wild Bullfrog, Tweety, Chartreuse, Chicklet and Fred's.



# Wisconsin Engineers Super Weapons: St. Croix Legend Elite Musky

If ever a Skunkworks or black budget project existed for musky fishing, this is it.

Recently declassified at the Chicago Muskie Expo, meet St. Croix's new super weapons for marathon giant esox hunting – Legend Elite Musky.

"We've been working quietly behind the scenes for the past two years to create what serious musky



anglers have long awaited. Now it's come to fruition and the timing is perfect for musky seasons across the country," says Rich Belanger, St. Croix Promotions Director.

Think SR-71, Stealth, Aurora ... but the engineering precision condensed into a handheld weaponry that'll sling giant baits 24/7 ... a rod family that was designed specifically for hardcore musky-heads who can't stop, won't stop ... and for whom 12-hour casting days are standard operating procedure.

Lighter, stronger, more ergonomic. Great for anglers; bad for big toothy critters.

Preliminary specs point to Legend Elite Musky weighing 10-18% less than the St. Croix Legend Tournament, a big deal when you add up the hours, days, weeks and months that serious musky anglers spend on upper body workouts.

Whether it's baseballs or Bull Dawgs, injuries stink.

"As baits are getting larger and heavier and anglers put in longer hours chasing even bigger fish, the Legend Elite Musky Series represents that dream musky rod family that reduces physical fatigue and keeps anglers fishing longer, upping their odds at trophy 50-plus-inch fish," says Belanger.

St. Croix engineering head Dave Schluter says they quite literally went back to the drawing board with the new series. They cut weight by re-thinking the blank, utilizing SCV carbon fiber, a high-modulus, high-strain material that creates a lighter, quicker, faster and more responsive blank.

"Our new Legend Elite Musky also features a completely re-designed guide train utilizing Fuji® Torzite® for rings that are harder and half the diameter of the SiC Concept Guide System, and guide frame weight reduction while maintaining optimal guide opening size," adds Schluter.

With the overall reduced weight in the blank and less mass on the guide train, the rods practically "float" in the hand. Pick one up and you'll notice a significant reduction in tip mass. All that amounts to the lightest (and finest) muskie rods on Earth, which currently comprises four models:

- 7' 6" Extra-Heavy, Fast Action (LEM76XHF) •
- 8' Medium-Heavy, Fast Action (LEM80MHF) •
- 8' 6' Medium-Heavy, Fast Action (LEM86MHF)
- 8' 6" Heavy, Fast Action (LEM86HF) •
- 9' Medium-Heavy, Fast Action (LEM90HF)
- 9' Heavy, Fast Action (LEM90MHF) •

Legend Elite Musky is designed, engineered and manufactured in Park Falls, Wisconsin, and feature a 15-year transferrable warranty backed by St. Croix's celebrated Superstar Service.

# Jackson Kayak – The Kilroy DT

Jackson Kayak is introducing 10 new kayaks at ICAST. Anglers will especially appreciate the new Kilroy DT. Wider and longer than the regular Kilroy, the DT 'Delta Tango' is a tandem sit-inside kayak





fishing design, that can also be paddled solo by removing one seat. Tailored for a the outdoorsman, offering features for the kayak angler and hunter, the Kilroy DT has a unique molded floor system that adds features and allows for fully trimmable seating in both locations or solo. The Kilroy DT includes standard, full cockpit length tracks to accommodate accessories in any seating position, and includes a YakAttack Screwball and RAM rod holder. Multiple seating options allow for tandem paddling, solo paddling, Facetime seating, etc. JacksonKayak.com

# Thermacell's New Camp Lantern

The new durable, water-resistant Repellent Camp Lantern from Thermacell Repellent, Inc. provides bright light and repels mosquitoes. With a heavy-duty rubberized base, 50 hours of light at its highest setting, and the ability to keep biting mosquitoes, black flies and no-see-ums at bay, this lantern makes camping more enjoyable.

This versatile lantern has a weighted bottom so it can't easily be tipped, as well as a contoured bail for easy transport and storage. The olive-colored base is accented with black rubber that protects the lantern if dropped or knocked over. Battery life indicator changes color showing remaining power. With three light settings and SOS for emergency situations, the lantern globe can be detached to increase the intensity of the light for maximum brightness. The base hook also allows the lantern to be suspended in a tent or campsite from above for handsfree base camp operations. The Thermacell Repellent Camp Lantern functions as both a lantern and highly effective mosquito repellent simultaneously or separately.

The repellent is virtually odorless and silent, making protection from insects undetectable and unobtrusive at the campsite. The lantern will be available at major retailers in the camping section and has a MSRP of \$59.95.

Lantern Features:

- Light produces 300 lumens
- Light settings include: Low/Med/High/SOS
- D-cell batteries (not included) provide 50 hours of light on highest setting
- Battery life indicator turns from blue to yellow to red as power drains
- Water resistant
- Hanging clip on under side of lantern base
- Size: 9.5" tall by 4" wide
- Weight: 21 ounces without batteries



## **Orion Cooler 85**



Orion Coolers introduces its largest sized cooler, the Orion 85, which allows for storage of a multiple quartered game, limits of large fish, over a week of food storage, or enough ice for the family reunion at the lake. Transported via rafts, in the back of a truck, or strapped to a trailer, this Made-in-The-USA cooler gives you cold storage serving your longest, most aggressive adventures, or shorter group outings. For commercial operations, the

Orion 85 is the perfect choice when you need reliable cooling when there's a lot on the line to protect. Orion Coolers have a number of features and innovations unique to the rugged cooler market including multi-color patterns, YakAttack gear tracks for accessories, low profile camming latches, standing pad, motorcycle rope handles, integrated bottle openers and they are also lockable and bear resistant. OrionCoolers.com.

## **Mister Twister SwimSation**

In mid-2014, Mister Twister<sup>®</sup> introduced the superversatile Magnum SinSation. Bass, and bass fishermen like FLW Pro Clent Davis, loved it immediately. Clent used it during the 2014 FLW Tour season, and caught a ton of fish. But he had an idea. What if the SinSation had a swimming paddle-tail, like Mister Twister<sup>®</sup>'s classic, Sassy Shad<sup>®</sup>? Since Mister Twister understands the value of the input we receive from our Pro Staff members, we listened closely. After six months of testing and refining, we had a bait with the exact swimming action Clent was looking for a hybrid, with all the great features of the SinSation, plus an irresistible swimming action. We call it the SwimSation.



One of the obvious features that makes the 5" long SwimSation unique, is the front Curly Tail<sup>®</sup> arms that produce lift and glide along with pulsations and visual attraction. Next, the oversized paddle tail kicks wildly even at slow speeds. The entire body is ribbed and covered with a series of Poc'it<sup>®</sup> chambers to increase water disturbance and slow its swim. But now take a look at the overall shape of the SwimSation's body to reveal a feature that is not as immediately apparent, but just as important to its overall effectiveness. The body forms a subtle, hourglass shape. That slightly trimmed middle allows the paddle tail a much greater range of motion than other swim bait style lures. All of these features add up to create a bait unlike anything the fish have seen before. And, as we watch Clent Davis pile up paycheck after paycheck in the world's most competitive bass fishing tours, we know this is a bait fish love.



# Savage Gear Innovates With New 3D TPE Mayfly Nymph

Coming off a Best In Show award for soft lures at the 2015 ICAST Show for the remarkable PVC Crab, Savage Gear innovation leads 2016 with the 3D TPE Mayfly Nymph.

When mayfly hatches start each spring anglers know that gamefish will be exclusively targeting these emerging

snacks. Savage Gear has 3D scanned an actual mayfly nymph to create the first lifelike lure in both looks and swimming action. Made of ultra-durable TPE material these nymphs will catch everything from trout, steelhead, walleye, bass and much more.

The new 3D TPE Mayfly Nymph includes a segmented tail section for lifelike kicking action. The legs, tail and antennae all move on the pause and fall. Made from extremely durable TPE (Thermoplastic Elastomer) material the Mayfly Nymph will last fish after fish. The baits come pre-rigged on an internal jig head with a super strong, ultra-sharp #6 3X single hook. Ideal for light tackle spinning and fly rod applications.

This new addition to the Savage Gear 3D line up will be available in 9 colors to match any fishing situation, including some ultra-realistic colors to mimic the hatch.



# **Denali Lithium Series Rods**

To succeed on the bass tournament trail, you've got to be versatile. Today's anglers need to be ready for any situation, under any conditions,

any day of the year. In order to have versatility on the water, you've got to have it in your rod locker first. Our all-new Lithium series features 15 of the most technologically advanced, feature-rich, and versatile bass rods on the planet. Our engineers put thousands of hours both in the lab and on the water to produce a lineup that performs 100% of the time, no matter what conditions the tournament trail throws at you.

With the Lithium series, we didn't just add a chapter, we re-wrote the book.

From their ultra-lightweight Interloc blanks to their jaw-dropping woven silver graphite, the Lithium series rods have integrated form and function in a way never before seen in a bass rod – and all at a price point that's easy on the wallet.

Special Features: All-new Interloc blank technology • Ultra-lightweight ergonomic reel seat • Ring-lock semi-micro guides • High-strength woven silver-graphite • Hybrid Cork/EVA custom contoured split grips.



#### Vicious Fishing's New Live bait Dye

Vicious Fishing will be expanding its offering of licensed products with the introduction of Vicious Bait Dye at the ICAST Show in Orlando next week. Vicious Bait Dye is a patent pending product from brand partner, Magic Fish Dye, LLC. The product is the first of its kind to allow for complete color coverage by fully submersing live baitfish -- or other bait such as shrimp or squid.

Vicious Bait Dye colors currently available include Outrageous Orange, 14-Carat Gold, Pretty-n-Pink and Predatory Purple. Also under development is a glow-inthe-dark chartreuse. The process to color bait can take as little as five minutes. Vicious Bait Dye comes in a four



ounce bottle which can be used to color up to three dozen minnows and will retail for \$9.99. It is completely non-toxic and bio-degradable meaning it's safe for the environment as well.

Magic Fish Dye president, George Pfeiffer stated, "We are very excited to be working with the guys at Vicious on our bait dye. Our product is truly one of a kind in that it doesn't require anglers to individually dip bait. Everyone has walked down the aisles and glared at the unbelievable selection of colors for artificial baits. It's proven that live bait catches fish easier than artificial bait, but now live bait users can enjoy this color advantage. Vicious Bait Dye makes live bait irresistible!"

"The product is amazing and has applications for both freshwater and saltwater anglers. For the millions of anglers that regularly fish with live bait, it's a game changer. We were thrilled when George shared his vision with us and look forward to sharing Vicious Bait Dye with our customers and anglers all over the world," said Jeff Martin, Vicious Fishing President.



# New CastMate Systems<sup>™</sup> V2.0 Float Tube Tackle Management System from Team Fish

The new CastMate Systems V2.0 tackle management system offers everything owners of single angler inflatables love about the original CastMate...and more. The next-generation CastMate Systems V2.0 is composed of corrosion-resistant marine-grade aluminum and holds up to 12 attachments (four more than its

predecessor. Simple to attach to either one or both sides of a float tube or pontoon boat using the polypropylenes straps and Velcro ties included with each unit, the CastMate Systems V2.0 puts a wide variety of essential fishing tools and accessories at the anglers fingertips. Accessory attachment options range from holders for rod and reel combos, landing nets and cups, to mounts for tackle boxes, fishfinders and cameras. And, thanks to the improved design of the CastMate Systems V2.0, all of these accessory holders and mounts can be attached, repositioned or detached quickly and easily without disassembling the frame.





The CastMate Systems V2.0 (\$89.95 MSRP) greatly enhances the on-the-water experience for float tube and pontoon boat anglers, ensuring that important fishing items are secure and accessible without interfering with casting or fighting a fish. Each 33" x 12" frame comes with one Lo-Mount and one Hi-Mount rod holder that allow for height and angular adjustments to suit individual angler needs and preferences.

In addition to the CastMate Systems V2.0 itself, Team Fish has also introduced three

new-for-2015 system accessories, including the 24-inch Selfie Stick, the V.20 Cup Holder, and the FishMate.

The Selfie Stick (\$29.95) attaches to the V.20 frame and securely holds a camera, such as a GoPro or Sony Action Cam, to the standard tripod-type threaded adapter. This makes it easy for float tube and pontoon boat anglers to shoot above-water still shots or video. With a flip of the wrist, you can rotate the Selfie Stick 180 degrees for underwater filming.

The new V2.0 Cup Holder (\$19.95 MSRP) holds a container filled with up to 40 ounces of your favorite beverage, and when not being used for that purpose, doubles as a reliable holder for a rod, fishing knife, or hooked lure. The specialized adaptor at the base of the cup holder also enables it to serve as a secure mount for a Humminbird Fishin' Buddy sounder.

FishMate The (\$59.99 MSRP), a unique underwater video carriage system designed for use with the CastMate Systems V2.0, can be used with any waterproof It's a camera. stand-alone, effective and affordable alternative to



more expensive underwater video systems currently on the market. Just attach your camera to the FishMate's secure tripod-style mount, select a viewing angler, lower it to any desired depth using your own tackle, and you're ready to take some amazing underwater footage as a predator moves in to attack your bait or lure. The FishMate's included line release attachment, which operates much like a downrigger, makes it possible to capture the excitement of the strike.





# Matzuo America Unveiled These Hot New Baits

The Surassha, which is Japanese for Slasher, is the latest in a line of hot-selling hard baits featuring Matzuo America's signature "bloody red" flared gills. This new top water bait includes professionally engineered chambers that create a unique knock and ping sound that the fish have never heard before. The flared-gill design makes the Surassha spit and splash like no other bait on

the market. Weighing in at a half ounce and featuring a weight transfer system, there's no doubt that anglers will be able to cast this bait a country mile! With seven custom color choices available, the Surassha offers options for any fishing condition.

In addition to the Surassha topwater, Matzuo America unveiled two new spinner baits, the Double Shockwave Spinner and the Monsuta Spinner. The Double Shockwave Spinner adds an additional polished brass blade to the existing (and extremely successful) Shockwave Spinner for twice the flash, twice the vibration, and overall more fish.



The Monsuta Spinner is a new double-bladed spinner for muskie and pike. It combines dual magnum Indiana brass blades, with a "triple threat teaser" tail comprised of natural bucktail, flashabou and marabou for a unique and irresistibly pulsating tail action.

"We are excited to build upon the success of our existing Matzuo America's lineup, by adding these new performance top water hard baits and double bladed spinner baits to our spring line up for 2016. It is important that we carry through on the Matzuo America promise of quality innovations at an affordable price for all levels of anglers," said Tim Austen, product manager.



Matzuo America takes pride in offering the most innovative and cost effective products in the market. Through the combination of tried and true features and surprising innovations, Matzuo America has built a reputation of delivering proven products at a surprising value to consumers. It is this dedication to continuous improvement and innovation that makes this relative newcomer one of the fastest growing companies in the hard bait industry.



# **Blending in with Braid**

Saltwater anglers prefer to blend into their surroundings.

Look at their boats, clothing and equipment: each is designed to outwit wary fish, so why expect anything else from braided line? The new SpiderWire<sup>®</sup> Stealth<sup>®</sup> Blue Camo Braid<sup>™</sup> blends into blue-water surroundings to give saltwater anglers an added advantage.

Saltwater Blue Camo matches the blue, white and turquoise environmental colors to better conceal its identity. An addition to SpiderWire's Stealth lineup, Stealth Blue Camo is a tough, sensitive line designed with saltwater anglers in mind. A camo pattern alternates between deep blue, turquoise



and white line segments that blend into the fish's environment. Above water, the white segments of the line make it visible to the angler for added support in detecting the tug of line-shy fish.

SpiderWire uses Dyneema<sup>®</sup>, the world's strongest fiber, to construct the line. The braided line is available in 10- to 100-pound test line and comes in 125-, 200-, 300-, 1500- and 3,000-yard spools.



# Innovation Comes to Precision Spinning Gear

Top-end performance is the defining characteristic of every Abu Garcia<sup>®</sup> product. Since introducing the Revo<sup>®</sup> spinning reel to the world in 2009, Abu Garcia has given anglers a decisive advantage each time a Revo spinning reel is deployed on the water. Precision engineering, sleek design and cutting-edge performance only begin to describe the new spinning lineup from Abu Garcia. Advancements such as the Rocket Line Management System<sup>™</sup> and the AMGearing<sup>™</sup> system on the newly designed Revo spinning reels combined with the lightweight and compact design of the family embody Abu Garcia's commitment to excellence as well as functionality and style.

Each Revo is equipped with the Rocket Line Management System, which is a combination of bail angle, spool lip design and slow oscillation that gives anglers the ability to cast farther and manage line more effectively. These reels also feature a Carbon Matrix<sup>™</sup> system, which provides anglers with the smoothest, most consistent drag pressure throughout the entire drag range.



Abu Garcia is adding the Revo MGX to its list of finely tuned spinning reels. A new AMGearing system and X-MAG gearbox highlights a bevy of new features that set this reel apart from any spinning reel on the market. The AMGearing system is a finely tuned, machined gear that has better tolerances and better performance throughout the life of the reel. This feature is available on all Revo models except the Revo S. The X-MAG gearbox design provides a super light yet extremely strong gear housing.

Abu Garcia pulled out all the stops with the new Revo launch, which includes the MGX, Premier, STX, SX, S and Inshore reels. Each is precision engineered to compete at the highest professional levels. Revo spinning continues to outperform the field and remains a leader in innovation.



# Panic Prey Brings Big Action and Extreme Castability To Topwater Game

Topwater baits are very effective at covering water quickly when looking for schooling and aggressive fish. Anglers love the ferocious strikes that topwater



plugs are famous for inducing and the Savage Gear Panic Prey is the perfect saltwater lure to draw in big topwater bites.

The Savage Gear Panic Prey was designed to be the longest casting, easiest walking bait on the market. The Rear hook hanger is elevated on the bait, which allows the hook to fold over the top of the bait for longer, straighter casts. The front lip design is enough to spit some water like a popper, but still allows the bait to give a side-to-side "walking" action. A feathered rear treble hook adds to the baitfish profile, and the specially designed sound chamber calls in fish from far away.

Carrot Stix<sup>®</sup> Showed Off The Next Generation, State-ofthe Art Elite Tournament Rods

Defined as "the most advanced and innovative rods in the Industry", Carrot Stix's new Gen X Elite Rods were produced from years of genuine experience from unprecedented experts, professionals, and legends around the world.

"Carrot Stix™ is proud to offer a new series of rods. Carrot Stix Gen-X Elite for



the Experienced Angler. With the Building on the resounding positive feedback from our CTi Pro series rods offered in 2014 we have added the Appeal from Professionals and Experts that are continuously contributing to the "Ultimate Fishing Experience" and now we are proud to be introducing the Next Generation of Tournament Rods" for the Ultimate Winning Experience.

The New GEN-X ELITE Rods boast an improved strength of up to 40% in their league due to an all new blank weave, making the whole rod Ultra-Light & Ultra-Sensitive.

Comes with an imported 5A Grade Cork Handle – These Gen-X Elite rod's new generation of Polymer Nano Fibers improves properties such as Shock Resistance, Vibration Absorbance, and Heat Resistance.

Uses the all-new MicroWave<sup>®</sup> Guide System with its Light Weight Solid Titanium Frame, Running Guides, Strengthened Durability, Corrosion-Free, Line Control System your Line-to-Guide flow is Super Smooth.

This Rod is indeed for the Experienced Anglers who wants to know what's going on under the water.

Pro's and Alike are always privileged to a High End Rod at the Most reasonable Price point that still

include most of the Added Functions that are required for this Rod to participate in Tournaments more frequently than most. Carrot Stix Plays Tribute to the Wild Wild Pro's.

Wild Wild Pro Casting & Spinning Rods come with an Ultra-Light and Ultra-Sensitive 4A Grade Cork. All new MicroWave Guide system allows for more control and much longer casts. The Wild Wild Pro boasts an improved strength of up to 40% due to an all new blank weave.

The best of Carrot Cellulose Nano Fiber properties include better Shock Resistance, Vibration Absorbance, Heat Resistance and an overall smoother Line-to-Guide flow.

Wild Wild Green Pro Salt Water Rods



Wild Wild Green Pro Inshore Casting Rod come with an Ultra-Light and Ultra-Sensitive 4A Grade Cork, featuring FUJI with an Ultra-Light and Ultra-Sensitive 4A Grade Cork, featuring FUJI strength of up to 40% due to an all new blank weave. The best of Carrot Cellulose Nano Fiber properties include better Shock Resistance, Vibration Absorbance, Heat Resistance and an overall smoother Line-to-Guide flow.



# It's Not Your Everyday Fluke Bait, It's A Mann's Reel N' Shad

Replicating all of the appetizing movement of baitfish, the Mann's Reel N' Shad makes it easier than ever to tempt big bass into biting. Designed with a slit running down the middle,

the Mann's Reel N' Shad permits water to flow through the body, producing a turbulent action with a straight, no-frills retrieve.

Included with five total bodies (four loose and one pre-rigged), the Mann's Reel N' Shad allows anglers to open up the package and begin fishing immediately. For added durability, the Mann's Reel N' Shad utilizes Mann's trademark HardNose technology for a reinforced rigging that won't slip or slide while fishing. Available in a number of bite-inducing colors, the Mann's Reel N' Shad delivers an innovative construction and a baitfish action that is incredibly "reel-istic."

# Portable and Powerful, The New FishHunter

FishHunter Directional 3D is a completely portable fish finder that packs the power of 5 transducers working at a dual frequency into a sonar that fits in your pocket. FishHunter Directional 3D features its exclusive patent pending technology to allow you to see picture quality renderings of bottom contour



up to 160 feet below the surface and up to 200ft away.

"Fishermen and fishing enthusiasts often spend hours trying to find fish and fish habitats and we have spent 2 years developing the NEW FishHunter Directional 3D to show you what your casting or potential fishing area looks like before you start fishing. Ultimately, our goal with FishHunter Directional 3D was to create a breakthrough in the way



that fisherman can view the information below the water surface and we were very excited about our ability to combine 3D rendering software and traditional transducer data to create views and features that no one has ever seen before," says the CEO, Michael Smith. "Of course making sure that that it still fits in your pocket so you can take it anywhere you want to fish was still critical to our design plan."

FishHunter Directional 3D fish finder provides Anglers with the ultimate versatility, featuring 6 Sonar View Options including the NEW and patent pending Directional Casting, 3D Bottom Contouring and 3D Bottom Mapping:

#### **Directional Casting**

When you cast out your FishHunter Directional 3D sonar, this breakthrough feature powers up 5 transducers to provide a 360-degree view of the water beneath your sonar and tell you where the fish are located in relation to the floating sonar. By viewing the left hand side of the screen, you can see the depth and location of any fish present beneath your sonar and know where the best location is to cast your line to catch those fish. Select a specific transducer from the left hand display and see the bottom contour represented by that transducer instantly on the right hand side of the screen.

#### **3D Bottom Contouring**

We combine the output of 3 dual frequency transducers to give you the most realistic bottom view available today. Leveraging 3D graphics software and the information from the 3 transducers, FishHunter is able to draw and incredibly realistic view of what the bottom structure looks like. You can even change your angle of view with a swipe of the screen so that you can look down or across the bottom.

#### **3D Bottom Mapping**

Cast FishHunter into the water, enter its distance from you, then reel it back in and you have just created a 3 dimensional map of the bottom contour at your favorite fishing spot. Toggle on/off the grid overlay and know exactly where the drop offs are, their depth and proximity from your location. Then GPS tag this 3D Bottom Map and save it so you can review it anytime you want.

FishHunter Directional 3D is amazing precise due to its 5 powerful, dual frequency transducers,



operating at 381kHz and 475kHz. The device has the power to reach and analyze to a depth of 160 feet and a 200 foot range, in both fresh and salt water. FishHunter works in all marine weather conditions including ice fishing and works with more than 7,000 IOS and android smartphones and tablets.

Fisherman and fishing enthusiasts don't need a cell tower connection to use the FishHunter but rather simply pair their FishHunter with a smartphone or tablet using Wi-Fi (which is 4 times faster than blue tooth) and then cast it in the water. They can then check their smartphone/tablet to see the bottom contour, water depth, temperature, and fish locations."

# New WaveSpin Vision 65 and Legend 250 Reels

Two unique tangle-free light-tackle spinning reels, featured at tackle trade show

WaveSpin, the popular light-tackle spinning reel company with the patented and award-winning tangle-free spool technology launched a decade ago by the late celebrated angler Doug Hannon, was featured in its two newest innovations at the ICAST trade show.



The Vision 65, the largest reel in the line, joins the smaller Legend 250 introduced last year as the top end pair of WaveSpin's quality lineup. Both carry two-year warranties.

"Our reels cover all mid range price points and our brand-loyal customers are our biggest buyers," said WaveSpin's Russ Riley. "Many purchase several at a time, for themselves and as gifts for friends to experience the excitement of fishing. They'll appreciate these versatile reels."

#### The Vision 65

Last year WaveSpin showed a prototype of the Vision 65, to pro fishermen, saltwater captains and many of Doug's angling buddies. Each was asked to critique its construction, feel, appearance, line capacity, weight and price. Riley said these in-the-know anglers were very straight forward on what they were looking for in a quality reel, to serve a variety of their needs.

"Their criticisms gave us a clear path to our final production model," he said. "After that, naming the reel for 'the vision' they shared with Doug was easy. He wanted to make quality fishing equipment, fun to use in fresh and saltwater, reasonably priced and problem free."

The Vision 65 is WaveSpin's first reel for anglers targeting a wide variety of larger offshore and inshore fish. It will also find a home in the hands of freshwater anglers pursuing meatier fish like salmon, musky, stripers and catfish with friction-less, tangle-free casts.





"It weighs just 19 ozs on a solid aluminum frame with precision metal gearing, eight high- end Japanese sealed-bearings, a super smooth 10 disc drag system producing up to three times stronger drag tension than top competitors, instant antireverse and the smoothest operation ever experienced. It holds 300 yds. of 12 lb. mono or 50 lb. braid and is retail priced at \$169.95."

Legend 250 receiving huge acceptance by anglers

"With a lighter weight on a gutsy CNC aluminum body (9.5 ozs), is the Legend 250, named for Doug.

It sold out several times as anglers found its demand ideal for targeting bass, walleye, pike and trout, plus inshore saltwater fish like snook and redfish and lists for \$139.95."

Hannon, better known by millions as "the Bass Professor," was considered a genius on fish, fishing and perfecting tackle designs with which to catch them. He died suddenly in 2013. He's enshrined in the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame and nominated for the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame. WaveSpin company executives say they will carry on Doug's legacy expanding the product line with more advancements.

"Doug would've been proud of the quality in these reels and the Triple Crown Award- winning MicroWave Guides now on more top brand fishing rods across the world," Riley stated.

WaveSpin's six reels are marketed on its website and at independent tackle stores.

For more go to WaveSpin's website at <u>www.WaveSpinReel.com</u> or contact Russ Riley at 989-967-8426, <u>Russ@WaveSpinReel.com</u> or ask your dealer to order it for you.

# Salmo Bass Bug Breaks all the Barriers

Salmo Lures of Poland has created an innovative new lure design to capture the imagination of bass anglers here in the USA... it is called the Bass Bug. This bizarre looking lure is sure to get a few chuckles



from anglers, but when you start fishing with it, you can see this is an extremely well designed lure that actually fits the bill for what many anglers are looking for a "Wake Bait" style of crankbait.

"For 25 years Salmo has been revolutionizing hard bodied lure profiles and lure actions with great success, stated Peter Piskorski, owner and head lure designer for Salmo. "It is clear from a salesman's perspective you need to have lures that look like a real baitfish, but from a fish's perspective, their needs are far different. Who would think a bass would love a plastic



night crawler or a hunk of wire shaped like a safety pin and spinner? а T approached the creation of the Bass Bug by not copying the existing wake baits like everyone else has done who import copycat lures China. from studied what made a bass strike a wake bait and designed a lure just for this



application. I was not at all surprised with the success it has been having with our bass fishing experts in the USA and Europe."

For casting distance, anglers will find the Bass Bug will cast farther and straighter than any lure in its class. Wake Bait fish are in shallow water and the farther away from the boat you can cast, the better your odds get. We know that wake baits need to move water to create a bulging wake to call in the fish, but not ride too high in the water to improve hookups. The Bass Bug will shock many in that line size and speed of the lure does not hurt the action of the lure. You will simply not find a better lure for this purpose. Does it look like other wakes baits? Nope, it was never intended to be a copycat lure since I believe the ultimate "Wake Bait" needs to appeal to the fish first and the fishermen will follow. When you add TWO rattle chambers with the Salmo long cast system and a large KVD Triple Grip hook, you have a lure that converts more strikes than any other style wake bait.

So for casting range, action and hooking success, the Bass Bug is a true game changer and one that will earn its place in the tackle boxes of bass anglers around the world by doing what it does best...catch fish.

# Field & Stream Shadow Caster Angler Kayak

Let Field & Stream outfit you with what you need to haul in the big ones this summer. From clothing, to fishing gear, to kayaks, Field & Stream products can help make the most of your time on the water.

Designed for the angler who demands the best from himself, as well as his gear, each one of these products boasts materials, qualities and features





that will live up to the highest of expectations, but at prices that will make everyone happy.

Paddle to your favorite fishing hole in the Field & Stream Shadow Caster Angler Kayak. This kayak is easy to maneuver, yet it is loaded with space for all of your important fishing gear. The Shadow Caster Angler Kayak is extremely stable, providing you with peace of mind for when it's time to stand in your kayak. The no-slip decking and stand-assist strap give you the confidence you need to enjoy your day on the water.

Features:

- One-person sit-on-top kayak
- Patent-pending Lift Link seat raises 5 inches off the deck and flips back for additional standing room
- Tri-hull design delivers tracking and maneuverability
- Durable construction provides stability on the water
- Twist-lock foot pegs for quick adjustments
- Two universally compatible 33-inch accessory tracks
- Non-slip deck
- Stand assist strap for casting out
- Two flush mount rod holders located behind the seat
- Two paddle parks
- Stern storage well for stowing gear
- Double twist-lock hatch provides waterproof protection
- Designed to be paddled while standing
- 12 feet in length

# Multi-Tools Can Be Life Savers

The Creek Company introduced the Walton's Thumb<sup>®</sup> Fisherman's Multi-Tool. First made in the early '70s by Hank Roberts, this ingenious fisherman's tool has so many unique and useful features for the fisherman, it needed to come back. Named after Izaak Walton, famous



author of The Complete Angler and the use of our opposing thumb, the Walton's Thumb<sup>®</sup> features 10 unique functions that any fisherman can appreciate. There are 4 lever operated functions, including Pincer, Cutter, Crimper and Split Shot Remover, and 6 more including the folding tools: Knife, Screw Driver, Split Ring Remover, Scissor, Hook Eye Cleaner/Knot Pick and Lanyard Ring. The Walton's Thumb is made of stainless steel, small enough to hang from your vest or keep in your pocket and packed with unique features not found on any other fisherman's tool. Walton's Thumb<sup>®</sup> the Ultimate Fisherman's Tool and the perfect gift for every angler.



# ODU MAGAZINE"