April 2016 Spring Fishing

ODU MAGAZI

Catching Trophy Bass 101

Walleyes

In Small

275

Preparing for Opening Day Muskies

PRRI



April is almost at the end and anglers are all in at this point. Good luck to all who are venturing out this spring.

This edition of ODU covers bass, walleye, crappie, catfish, flounder and musky fishing on the angling side. At the end we have switched over to give a read through on

Editorial Team Leader: Bill Schwarz, Bill@odumagazine.com.

Publishing Team: Bill Schwarz & Richard Barker.

Advertising inquirers for our fishing or hunting magazines, ODU Fishing and Hunting News should be e-mailed to: <u>odu.media@odumagazine.com</u>

Contributing Writers: Bob Jensen, Captain Mike Gerry, Danny Barker, Brian Bro' Brosdahl, Jason Mitchell, Brian "Koshie" Koshenina, Dana Benner, Dan Galusha, Bill Vanderford, Tony Lor, Jake Bussolini, Amy Whitley, Scott Glorvigan and Lance Davidson.

Thank You All!

camping basics and several hunting articles to keep you enticed for this year's pig and deer seasons.

Politics. Why would we even bother supplying our two cents on this already overwhelmingly tense subject? Focus! Trump, Cruz, Clinton, Sanders or whoever gets the final honor to lead the United States of America in November, still needs to be someone who serves with our outdoor interests in mind. Fishing, access, hunting and gun ownership still make up many of our lives interests and rights. Remember to register to vote, choose wisely, learn who best helps out our outdoor interests and remember local/statewide politics can be as important as national.

> And please, enjoy the outdoors. Larry Thornhill and William Schwarz Co-Founders of ODU Magazine

Did You Miss ODU Magazine's Last Three Editions?



Click the magazine cover of the edition you want to read to get connected:

February Fishing 2016 March Pre-Spring 2016 Fishing Dec 15/Jan 16 Ice Fishing

Ideas For Early Season Fishing Success, Pg 6 My Favorite Big Baits for Big Fish, Pg 9 **Catching Trophy Bass 101, Pg 10** Leech Lake, Pg 13 **Tips for More Walleye this Season, Pg 20 Preparing for Opening Day Muskies, Pg 25** In Pursuit of Winter Flounder, Pg 29 **Natural Fish Locators, Pg 33** SuperCat Rods to the Ultimate Tough Test, Pg 41 **Pier Fishing In North Carolina, Pg 44** Fishing Should Be Fun, Pg 47 Walleyes In Small Rivers, Pg 48 Spring Fishing, Pg 50 **Consider Color For More Fishing Success, Pg 52** South Carolina Crappie Championship, Pg 54 Get Loud, Catch More Walleyes, Pg 56 Fishing Guides can be blessed, Pg 59 What to Bring to the Campsite, Pg 61 Effective mineral white-tail supplements, Pg 68 **Preparing For Pig, Pg 74** There Can Be Only One, Pg 79 **Mossberg Pro Series Waterfowl Shotgun, Pg 85** Browning's OneSixOne Crossbow, Pg 87





Ideas For Early Season Fishing Success

By Bob Jensen

More and more, anglers are getting on and in the water. Some folks are fishing from boats, some are wading, and some are fishing from docks or shore. Some anglers are catching fish, some aren't catching too much. If you'll be fishing in the next couple of weeks, keep these fishing thoughts in mind.

Early in the season it pays big dividends to understand a little bit about the fish you're chasing. In the Midwest you can chase several species of fish on the same body of water. Depending on where you live, keep in mind that, right now, northern pike Crappies across the Midwest are biting right now. Travis Carlson is an expert when it comes to catching slab crappies.



have probably completed spawning or are at least close to doing so, walleyes are probably spawning, and bass and panfish are getting ready to spawn. While you might want to catch walleyes, you will be better off trying for pike or panfish. When fish are spawning, that's what they have on their mind. They aren't real interested in eating, so, although some males might be willing to take your bait, if you want to feel a tug on your line, you will increase your chances for that if you try for pike or panfish.

Also, keep in mind that the water is still pretty cool, and many fish don't want to chase a bait in cold water. A slow presentation will often be best. If walleyes are the target, try crawling a stand-up Fire-Ball jig tipped with a minnow across the bottom. Give it plenty of stops as you drag it. The stand-up head is better this time of year, as it "stand up" when you stop it. The fish can see the minnow better with the stand-up head, which increases your odds for getting bit.

Same thing is true for most other species. A spinnerbait that's retrieved slowly will be good for pike, but an Impulse Jerk Minnow (pictured) will be even better. These baits can be retrieved slower than the spinnerbait, and the pike like that. So do most bass.

When crappies are the target, small а try minnow under slip-bobber. а The slip-bobber will allow you to suspend a bait at a certain level, and that's a big deal this time of year. You'll need to



experiment a bit to determine what the proper level is, but once you do, you'll be able to get fish to bite that may have gone uncaught. Remember that most fish see up better than they see down, so set your bobber stop so the bait is at the fish's eye-level or just a tad higher. Baits that are below a fish rarely get eaten.

When you're fishing with a slip-bobber for panfish, remember that because the bait is almost motionless, the fish are going to be able to get a good look at it. Many anglers go with less visible line to reduce the chances of spooking the fish. Also tiny jigs perform better on light line. Four pound test Sunline Super Natural is a very good choice. It handles well and the fish have a hard time seeing it. If the ultimate in invisibility is your goal, go with Super FC Sniper. This stuff is as good as it gets.

Keep these ideas in mind and you'll increase your chances for early season fishing success.

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



FIERCE... TOUGH... PROVEN

Cuda 7.5" Mono/Braid Fishing Pliers & Wire Cutters

> Cuda 4" Titanium Bonded Fillet Knife





www.cudabrand.com



My Favorite Big Baits for Big Fish



By Captain Mike Gerry

There has never been a doubt in my mind that if you want to catch big fish and your patience matches your desires you can eliminate lots of small bites by fishing with big baits; and as I have stated I have my favorites. The thing is there are more new big size baits being introduced on the market every year; so if you favorites lose their luster have no fear there are plenty of new looks to come.

My first and most fished big bait is a ³⁄₄ oz. big hook Tight-Line football jig; it is by far the bait I fish the most when I want that big bite. My

reasoning though has some differences outside of the fact it is big bait; but when rigged with a Missile Bait D-Stroyer as a trailer it has a big profile and catches big fish. The other reason is the pure fact that the heavy football head gets to the bottom and in most cases can be dragged slowly regardless of the current or wind.

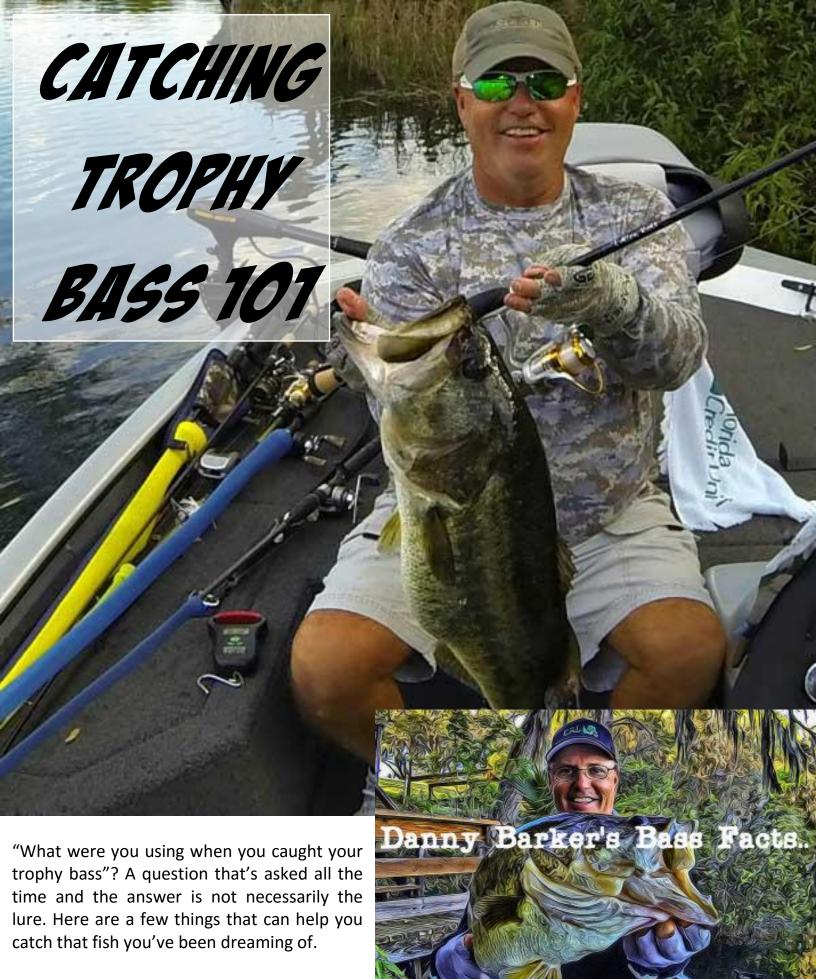
Next is Picasso Lures swim bait heads, you can purchase their swim bait heads up to 2 oz. in weight and purchase them rigged with #7 size hooks that can really offer some deep fishing ability along ledges and creeks that can be slowly worked in water as deep as 30 feet if needed. Rig this with 7 inch swim bait and you have a monster bass fishing bait that will stretch your line for sure with some monster fish.

My next favorite bait for that big bite is the SPRO Little John 70 DD crank bait (pictured); this bait will dive to 20 plus feet of water and when you over a school you can really pull some monsters out of the deep. SPRO being part of Gamakatsu has some of the sharpest hooks in the world on them; I've seen these crank baits hook 2 sometimes 3 big fish and bring them up from 20 ft. of water. Last year I had a

12 year old boy have a triple on one of these with the smallest fish being almost 5 lbs. You talk about exciting; big baits big fish and patience you can really put a hurting on some big bass.

Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service, www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservic e.com, www.facebook.com/FishGuntersvill e, Email: <u>bassguide@comcast.net</u> & Call: 256 759 2270





1) Time on the water: Bottom line, this is one

of the most important elements of catching a trophy bass. They're tons of formulas that tell us when





private lake, pond or other productive waters is to easy.....I say more power to you if can access these area.....my feeling is if you catch a trophy bass from a mud puddle it's still an accomplishment.

3) Fish your own strengths and baits: Lots of attention has been given to the large swimbaits and the big fish they produce. Make no mistake

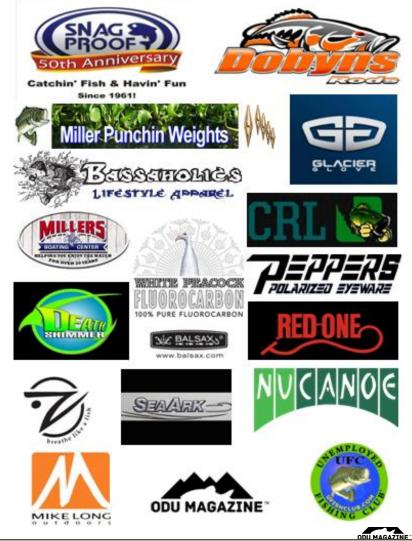
and what times are best but my pat answer is go as often as you can. One of my favorite sayings is you can't catch em from the couch LOL

2) Fish Big Bass Waters: Locate lakes, rivers, ponds and bodies of water that hold big fish. Living in Florida we have the unique pleasure of fishing for pure Florida Strain bass which happen to be the Biggest Meanest green fish around I so our choices are many but you still need to find certain areas and patterns that produce the bigger fish on a consistent basis. Some folks say fishing a

Danny Barker Trophy Bass Hunter, Writer/Blogger/Field Editor

E-Mail <u>dbbasser@earthlink.net</u> ODU Magazine..... <u>http://www.odumagazine.com/</u> UFC Writer/Moderator.... <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/UFishClub/</u> Mike Long Outdoors writer.... <u>http://www.mikelongoutdoors.com/</u> Facebook... https://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/danny.barker.90

Sponsors



have you must them in your arsenal but don't locked into get thinking that's the only way. Be versatile, my personal best 14.6 was caught on a Lucky Craft Pointer 100 ripbait (pictured). Believe it or not I've caught fish up to 9 lb's on a drop shot and 8 lb test line. Florida which is mainly



known as a power fishing state has come around to using finesse fishing techniques as a way to catch trophy bass as well..... Don't get locked into one method A friend of mine from California once said "If you fish like everyone else fishes, you will catch what everyone else catches. If that's enough for you, then by all means.... but if you want more, it's time to step out of the box."

4) Preparation: Use the best tackle you can afford. Good rods, reels and fresh line along with sharp hooks are a must. Another piece of advice...Retie, retie, and retie I can't tell you how many good fish I've broke off before learning this lesson. Remember use the right set up for heavy cover and use your



lighter stuff in open clear water areas. Also keep the noise level to a minimum. Note: Before you start fishing be sure that your gear is setup....i.e. ...net is ready, GoPro or camera is set, rods out of your way just have a mindset that the 1st cast you make could be ONE and you're prepared to do battle.

So you see it's not just the bait, it's all the above don't get discouraged it can be a long lonely pursuit but in timeIt will happen! Somebody said you got skunked; my response is "nope I was only one cast away from the fish of a lifetime".....Until next time good luck and Chomp On!!







By Brian Bro' Brosdahl

The average ice-out date for Leech Lake is April 27th, but there are 51 days between the earliest and the latest ice-out dates on record for Leech Lake, so the timing can vary greatly from year to year.

The 2016 Minnesota Walleye Opener is set for Saturday May 14th, which is the latest date possible because the season opens on the second Saturday in May each year.

There will be at least a couple weeks of open water on Leech Lake this spring before the walleye season opens. If the mild winter weather is an indication of what might happen this spring, then there could be an early ice-out followed by a late opener.

The sequence of events is basically the same each spring. The biggest difference is the time frame when everything happens and whether it is an early spring or a late spring.

Water temperatures are the

biggest factor in determining when things happen in the spring. Surface water temperatures are most accurately taken first thing in the morning, before the sun starts warming the water.



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

Water temperatures spike during the day, but the critical measurement is how much heat the water can hold overnight.

Walleyes, perch and northern pike spawn while water temperatures are in the mid 40s. Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappies, sunfish and muskies spawn later in the spring, when water temperatures reach the mid 60s.

An early spring will mean the walleyes will be further along in their post spawn migrations when the season opens, while a cold spring would produce the opposite results.

This always sounds good in theory, but anyone who has lived through their share of Minnesota springs realize that everything can be going along great and then a protracted cold front arrives that refuses to leave.

If the water temperatures stop rising and begin to fall before or during the spawn, everything stops in its tracks. The spawn won't resume again until the water temperatures recover to the same point and begin to rise again.

Northern pike start to enter the shallows and backwaters before all the ice is off the main lake. Pike will run up anything with current, looking for some little calm protected area where they can spawn.



SHOCK THERAPY! GETCHA SOME

40C

Pike often spawn at night, with one or more smaller males surrounding the larger females. Pike are capable of spawning in something as small as a ditch and sometimes spawn in flooded backwaters where their young may get landlocked as the water levels recede.

Perch are another early spawning species, with the perch laying their eggs in strands on the old stalks and stems of last years' standing weeds and also in old hard stemmed reed beds. Perch usually prefer the deeper patches of weeds over the ones in shallower water.

Anglers have a short window of opportunity immediately after ice out to fish for perch in the spawning areas. The male perch show up first and stay latest, with the female perch showing up right before they are ready to spawn and they leave right after they finish spawning.



River spawning walleyes split into multiple groups in the spring, with fish running up different rivers or streams or moving through a chain of lakes to reach some fast water section of river to spawn.

Another group of walleyes in most lakes stay within the boundaries of the lake and spawn on shoreline or mid-lake areas with the right mixture of bottom content, depth and wave action.

All spawning walleyes are looking for similar areas of broken rock and gravel to lay their eggs. The river spawning walleyes incubate their eggs with current, while the lake spawning walleyes use wave action to accomplish the same results.

SUIRLES BIRD

SPINNER

The best thing anglers can do in getting ready for the walleye opener on Leech Lake would be to track when the ice goes out and plot the progress of the water temperatures.

The walleyes will spawn between 44 and 48 degrees in both the lakes and the rivers, with the river spawning walleyes usually a week to ten days ahead of the fish that stay in the lake.

Female walleyes take longer to recover after the spawn than male walleyes. Anglers can usually start catching male walleyes within days after spawning, while female walleyes can take more than a week to recover before resuming normal feeding patterns.

Male walleyes will start getting active when the water temperatures

The Swirleybird Spinner is World Famous and has the perfect size and action to imitate any baitfish! It casts easily and maintains its attractive qualities from the time it hits the water until the end of the retrieve with no extra effort. These attributes make this unique lure perfect for anglers of all ages and skill levels anywhere in the world, for almost any predator fish and during every season of the year.

Buy them online at: http://www.georgiafishing.com/ swirleybird-spinners



reach the upper 40s, while female walleyes usually take until the water temperatures get into the mid 50s before they start to get active.

Post spawn walleyes are looking for the easy button in the spring, whether it's small perch or spotail shiner minnows coming into the shallows to spawn.

There is very little cover for baitfish early in the season, so any area with new weed growth or areas with rocks and gravel are usually key areas for feeding walleyes.

Once the female walleyes have recovered from the spawn, they show up hungry and ready to feed. On Leech Lake, the big females usually show up on the windward sides of points and shoreline structures that are holding the most baitfish.

The more time that passes after the walleyes finish spawning, the more fully dispersed back into the lake they will be when the season opens.

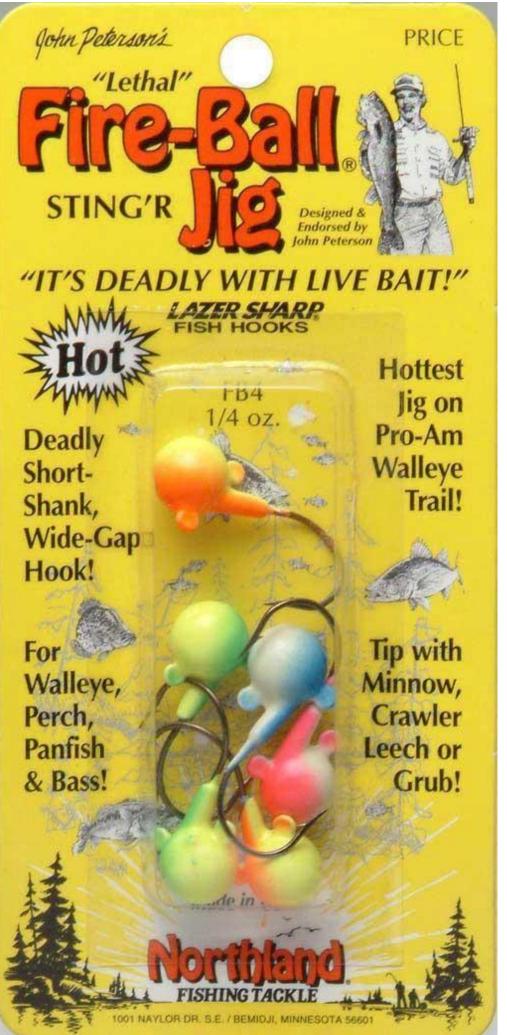
Many walleyes spawn in the rivers at the north ends of the bays. Once they spawn, they work their way down the bay towards their early summer locations.

Presentations for walleyes early in the season include jigs, slip bobbers and slow trolling minnow baits after dark.

I am a big fan of jigs, so I will rig my St. Croix Legend Tournament Walleye rods with 10 or 12 pound Sunline SX 1 Braid (pictured) then use a tiny swivel to attach 12 to 18 inches of 8 pound test clear Sunline FC fluorocarbon leader. This allows you to feel your jig even in windy conditions.

I use Northland Fireball Jigs (pictured) with the short shank when I want to fish walleyes in the rocks. I will use a light jig, usually 1/16th or 1/8th ounce jigs to keep bottom contact to a minimum to help avoid getting snagged.





I prefer the Northland RZ Jig with the longer shank in 3/16th or ¼ ounce when fishing through new weed growth, so I can double hook a shiner minnow to help make it more weedless. I prefer a heavier jig so I can give the jig plenty of action and still keep it close to the bottom.

Shiners are excellent bait if you can't find them rainbows and fatheads will also work.

Keep them super lively in a Frabill Bait station with a bubbler.

I like to make a trip or two out on Leech Lake before the walleye season opens so I can look for new weeds and check on the water temperatures and maybe graph a few fish on my Humminbird Helix 10.

I also like to check on the crappies and bluegills on Leech Lake early in the season or head for the Rainy River for sturgeon while I wait for the walleye season to open.

Good luck this Minnesota Walleye opener.

Follow my fishing adventures on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram.

Brian "Bro" Brosdahl, Fishing guide and promoter, please check out these sponsors: Frabill, Plano, Northland Fishing Tackle, Aqua-Vu, Humminbird, Minnkota, Cannon, St Croix Rods, Sunline, Ranger Boats, Evinrude Motors, Costa Del Mar Sunglasses.





O'Neill Williams



Signature Model

When you order from www.oneilloutside.com



Signature Model



Get

Three Lens Combinations

TIPS FOR MORE WALLEYE THIS SEASON

By Jason Mitchell

Fishing can remain frustrating, humiliating and most of all humbling regardless of how much you get to fish or how much you think you have learned. There will always come a time when you feel like you just hit a wall. Anybody who has never been stumped on the water just hasn't backed the boat down the ramp too many times or they are not being honest. Either way we have probably all pounded a lake from before sunrise to after sunset with our pride seriously tarnished.

I can't tell you how many lessons I have had to learn over and over in my life but regardless, here are a few guidelines that just might help you catch a few more walleye this season. Believe me when I tell you that some

The author earned a reputation as a top walleye guide on Devils Lake, North Dakota, now hosting the popular outdoor program, Jason Mitchell Outdoors. www.jasonmitchelloutdoors.com of this Intel is hard earned. None of you want to know how many tough days of walleye fishing I have had in my life.

Tip One: Understand Water Clarity

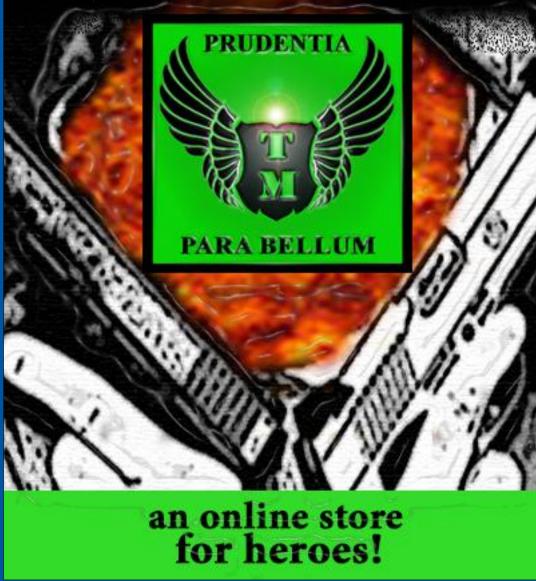
One of the secrets to catching walleyes consistently is iust avoiding bad situations. Extremely clear water and extremely turbid water are two conditions when to avoid possible.

You can sometimes find the right water by using wind. On really clear bodies of water, wind will give the windblown area of the lake just enough stain. On the flip side, what we see so often on windswept prairie dish bowl lakes is that wind can whip up too much turbidity in the water and we end up looking for areas that are out of the wind so that the sediment can settle.

Fishing is usually better in stained water, that is water that has some color and this stained water often gets moved or pushed around the lake with wind or current. There is a difference

www.tacticalmonkey.net

AMMO Tactical Gear.Backpacks.Knives - Optics - Holsters - Survival Gear-



between stain and turbidity. Fish can still see well in stained water but can't see well if the water is turbid.

This is why mud lines have a life cycle. Mud lines create an opportunistic window when waves crash up against a bank until a veil of turbid water protrudes from the shoreline. In the early stages of the mud line, the plume of churned up muddy water reaches out and hangs like a veil in the top of the water column and at this stage is typically when mud lines are the most productive. As the wind continues to pound and the veil becomes bigger and sinks down through the water column, the bite will often dissipate.

So often when wind churns up sediment and clouds the water, the day after the big wind can sometimes be the best because as the sediment sinks, the visibility increases yet still offers some stain in the water.

What also happens is that the water will get a green color as it warms up so we often find stained water with the temperature gauge. Colder water is often much more clear and warmer water is typically more stained.



Tip 2: Focus on the Process

So often with walleye fishing, the key to catching fish is to find fish. At times, locations will let you down; specific spots will let you down. Tried and true patterns will sometimes disappoint. What never fails however if you have enough time is an honest and thorough process of elimination.

In order to truly be successful, you have to almost turn off human emotion and start checking off possibilities from the list. The walleyes should be shallow but they are not, next step is eliminating main lake structure in depths from twenty to forty feet as an example. The key is to keep checking off possibilities even if the possibilities don't feel right at the time. So often, there are things happening in an ecosystem that we don't have a grasp of until after the fact.

When it comes to finding fish, the least you know going into the day is sometimes better because you



can adhere to the process of elimination easier. If you give something a good honest effort and it isn't happening, turn the switch. It is always amazing how many anglers will cling to a spot or pattern for agonizing amounts of time.

Been guilty of beating a dead horse myself. This is why a clock is an invaluable fishing tool. Use the element of time to force yourself out of ruts and also use the clock to slow you down when you begin to scramble. What can also happen in search mode is not giving any one spot enough time. Commit yourself to hour increments as you begin the process of elimination so that your day has some structure and you can stick to the strategy.

Tip 3: Worry about Efficiency

I honestly believe that most anglers worry about the wrong stuff. They get hung up on matching the hatch or they simply out think the fish. With everything that you do in fishing, focus on becoming as efficient as possible because this can greatly increase your likelihood for success.

Consider this, if you can become twice as efficient, you can basically become twice as successful. Do some real honest self-evaluation and try to do an honest assessment of how much you actually have a lure or hook in front of fish. If you can take steps to become more efficient, you will basically increase your success exponentially. If you can land a higher percent of the fish you hook or hook a higher percentage of bites, your success climbs.

Most people want some secret formula. Some B.S. reasoning that if there is sunshine, you need to use bright colors or if there are perch in the lake, you need to worry about using a perch color. Worry about being in the right place at the right time and when you get an inch, take a mile. You do all of these things right and you can use the wrong color to catch all kinds of fish in the right spot at the right time until the paint is all chipped off.

Tip 4: Chameleons Catch More Fish

We all have our favorite way of doing something. We all have something that gives us confidence. Sooner or later however, there will come a time when you are simply an observer. Somebody else is catching all kinds of fish and all you can do is watch. A little humility can do an angler a lot of good if

you let it.

When it is your turn to watch somebody else put on a clinic, embrace the opportunity and let the experience make you a better angler. That means no excuses or over evaluation. Adjust and match, be the chameleon.

Again, don't get hung up on cosmetics but monitor and break down the big picture, watch the jig stroke, the rate of retrieve, casting angle, visualize what that successful presentation is doing in relation to the structure and fish. Visualize what the lure or presentation looks like. If you are fishing below the boat, look to see what the angle is from the rod tip to the water and match that angle with the angler that is catching fish. Test location versus presentation so that you gather better information. Locational nuances to test might be pushing the boat up or out of the break.

When somebody is catching fish and you are not, the best thing that can happen to you as an angler, is to figure out why. This often means you will have to swallow some pride.

Tip 5: Make Time to Learn

As a guide, it was easy to go right back to the same old well because of the familiarity. Could be as simple as going back to a good spot or sticking with a presentation that had worked well in the past. There are times however when we cling to the past as anglers and that experience that works so well for catching fish can start to work against us.

Spend parts of your day exploring. Make a point to try something different each day. Mix up exploring the unknown with the tried and true. Force yourself to embrace the unknown. Experiment with new lures, new tactics and most of all new locations. Try approaching old locations with a different mindset.

What I have found for myself personally is that learning new things keeps fishing exciting and fresh. I sometimes hear anglers complain that there is nothing new in walleye fishing but it is safe to say that anglers who are learning nothing new are not making an effort.

By forcing yourself out of the rut, you not only expand your knowledge but also increase the amount of satisfaction from fishing.



Preparing for Opening Day Muskies

By Brian "Koshie" Koshenina

It's time. You've suffered through withdraw long enough. All the sleepless nights, all the late evenings, all the endless days watching videos of last year's bounty. All the line spooling, lure buying, boat prepping, all the hard work gearing up for Muskie season comes down to this day "Opening Day". Are you ready?

If you're like me, opening day, of the Muskie fishing season, is one of the most anticipated days of the year. I live in Minnesota where winters are long and seasons are short. The Muskie season ends December 1st and doesn't open until June the following year. That leaves a lot of time in between to suffer through withdraw. I do ice fish but that's generally done just to get my mind off the upcoming season. I hit the sport shows which pretty much causes me to go "broke" and to suffer withdraw even more. There is one good thing about having such a long period in between the season and that is being fully prepared.

I start my preparedness right after the season ends. Before I put all my Muskie gear away for winter storage I inspect each piece of equipment for wear and tear. This means that every rod, reel, lure, hook and net gets a good look over and repair if need be. The reason I do this is once I put the gear away I tend to forget that I might have an eyelet that needs repair or a lure that has dull hooks. If you have the time, look your gear over and save yourself from possible issues that could occur at the worst possible time, on the water.

It was once told to me by another professional Muskie Guide that you should replace your fishing line



twice a season. Personally, I think that's a little overkill. I do however think that you need to look at your line closely and carefully every few months for wear and tear. Like most Muskie Hunters, I use braided line. I have used all most every brand of braid on the market and I have yet to find a scenario where I have needed to change line due to nicks and tears in the same season. However, if you do find your line fray it could be due to a sharp or missing eyelet on your rod.

Just because you find a missing or sharp eyelet doesn't mean that you need to replace the whole rod, at least that's what my wife tells me. So I have become an accustomed to taking my rods in for a repair. It's a good idea to have the professionals inspect the rod for anything you might have over looked. It's also a good idea to take your reels in for some maintenance. I like to take my reels apart at home and oil the parts but a person that knows what they are doing can identify a possible problem before it happens. I was fishing in a tournament a few years ago and I had a big fish on early in the day. As I was reeling my handle was spinning but the fish wasn't getting any closer. I found out after I took the reel apart that I didn't put it back together correctly after I oiled it. The fish that I lost would have easily put me in the

money for that tournament.

Hardcore Muskie fisherman will tell you that one of the most important tools you can have is a good file to sharpen dull hooks. Most people tend to overlook sharpening hooks because most lures are kept in a box where the hooks are not exposed. What those people do not tend to realize is those lures like to move in the box which rubs and bumps the edge of the hooks and causes them to dull as does using them on an outing. During the winter I take each lure out for inspection and hook sharpening. It seems tedious, there are a lot of hooks, but it's necessary to do because the last thing you want is to lose the fish of your lifetime due to a dull hook that wouldn't penetrate the mouth. I also sharpen hooks on the boat before I cast them out.

Your net is possibly the most overlooked tool in your arsenal. This too can have issues that you might not be aware of until it's

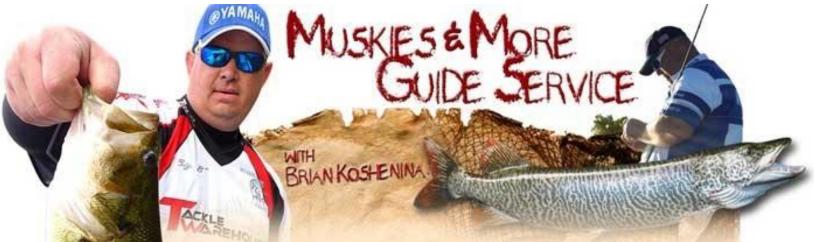


ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

too late. Just because it is stored most of the time doesn't mean it can't fray. Net dryness, cuts and tears can lead to a weaker net which can lead to a lost fish. Each winter I will go to my local bait shop and purchase new netting. It's cheap and very easy to replace. It might take you a few minutes to replace the netting but it only takes seconds to lose a fish.

I know the things I do might seem like a no "brainer" but just missing one of these steps before opening day can turn a well anticipated outing into an unexpected nightmare! Trust me when I say this, most of the things I have learned over the years have been by trial and error. If you follow my advice, do things early and take the time to prepare, you will have a smooth opening day of Muskie Fishing.

Brian "Koshie" Koshenina is a Professional Guide <u>http://muskiesandmore.com/</u>, tournament fisherman, ODU Staff Writer, Certified Mentor, Volunteer, Pro Staffer for Hook Look Lures and Rods, Onyx and Snyder's Lures



기비뷰() 몸) 망) 많은 **ON THE WATER** DESERVE THEE BEST **ON THEIR TRUCKS**

11:13

BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES ANGLER JUSTIN LUCAS

In 2014 Justin fished his rookie season on the Bassmaster Elite Series. He finished 2nd in the Rookie of the Year standings and 11th overall while knocking down 3 top 10 finishes.

Justin's truck is equipped with an A.R.E. Z Series truck cap and A.R.E. Rod Pods providing him with the best fitting cap and accessories on the market today.

We have Justin covered - so he can just go fish.





\$200 COUPON FOR **B.A.S.S.** Members

PHOTNIX

There's no need to sign up for a rewards program to try and earn money back on your truck cap or cover purchase. You're already a winner in our book.

Visit www.4are.com/bassmaster and enter code ARE0615BASS to access a special \$200 off coupon - and you're covered!

Toll Free: 800.649.4ARE www.4are.com/bassmaster

h Pursuit Vinter Flounder

By Dana Benner

It is the middle of March and my freezer is empty and the lure of fishing is more than I can deal with. Tomorrow I head for the coast and try my hand at Winter flounder, better known here in New England as the Blackback. During the winter this fish spends most of its time in deeper water, but in the spring the Winter flounder heads into the shallows to spawn and it is these spawning fish I will be targeting. While the waters may still be a bit cool, this has been a crazy year so it is worth a try.

Winter flounder:

Winter flounder are probably the species of flatfish that is

most often caught along the New England coast. Other species found in New England waters include Summer flounder, Yellowtail flounder, American plaice and Atlantic halibut. While I will never say "never", the Atlantic halibut is a very deep water fish and thus it is highly unlikely that any shore bound angler will ever run into one.

As mentioned previously, Winter flounder spend the colder months in deeper water coming into the shallows as the water warms up, usually beginning in April or May. Seeking out calm coves in



the shallows that hold a bottom made up of gravel and sand, the flounder lays on the bottom waiting for prey to come to them. Flounder are not built to chase down prey so unless your offering is extremely close to where the fish is laying chances are you won't get bit. That is why it is very important to work an area thoroughly before moving on. The good news is that where you find one your chances are very good that you will find more.

When fishing Hampshire New coastal waters make sure to familiarize yourself with the rules. According to the 2016 New Hampshire Saltwater Fishing Digest, anglers fishing New Hampshire take eight Winter waters can flounder per day. The minimum keeper size is 12 inches.

Equipment:

As I watched the Weather Channel trying to figure out what the



weather would be like I began tying up some weights to run on my flounder rigs. The idea is to keep the baited rigs on the bottom without impeding their movement. As the New Hampshire coast is well known for its rocks, this obstacle needs to be dealt with as well.

My Tsunami Flounder Rigs have two leadered hooks running off of a three-way swivel. The third end



being tied to the main line. Also tied to this point is a snap-swivel where a weight is attached. I could very easily attach a weight directly to the snap-swivel, but that could give me troubles if the weight



gets hung up in the rocks. If my line breaks at this point I will lose my entire rig. This is how I addressed this possible problem.

Taking about four inches of Berkley Trilene XT eight pound test monofilament line I tied a #5 Berkley McMahon barrel swivel to one end. This will be the end attached to the snap-swivel. To the other end I tied on a ½ to one ounce lead or brass weight. If this gets hung up in the rocks the eight pound test line will give and all I will lose is the weight. A cost I am willing to pay.



My rods consisted of a seven foot Smoke Quantum Inshore mediumrod and heavy foot seven Shakespeare Tiger medium action rod. Quantum The Smoke rod was with coupled а Quantum Smoke Inshore PT spinning reel spooled with pound 10 test Berkley Trilene XT line. The Shakespeare Tiger rod was coupled with а Tiger spinning reel spooled with ten pound test Stren Easy Cast line. Both rods also had six inches of 20 pound test Stren Fluorocarbon leader material. Onto one rod was

rigged a ¼ to ½ ounce leadhead jig and the other had the flounder rig. Though many flounder anglers like to use pieces of clam or mussel, on this day I was using Gulp saltwater soft plastics, namely their Peeler crab and Ghost shrimp.

The Trip:

The weather was being reported as another warm day, so my friend Stan and I decided to head out. I



picked up Stan at around 7:30am and the weather was perfect in Goffstown, New Hampshire. It was warm and there was no wind. Our first stop was Pierce's Island in Portsmouth and here we found an entirely different story. There was a strong onshore wind and it was cold. Despite this I decided to give it a try. Always the optimist, I grabbed my Yeti Hopper cooler (to put all those flounder I going to catch in), my rods and headed down to the water. Once at the water's edge it was even colder so I reached into my pack and pulled out a pair of gloves. Also in my pack was my Hodgman Aesis shell jacket just in case it decided to rain. I almost put it on to break the wind, but I didn't.

My biggest issue turned out to be the wind. The gusts made casting extremely difficult. After about an hour of battling the conditions with nothing to show for it we decided to move to a more sheltered area. Our next stop was Goat Island in New Castle. Here casting was much better and I had high hopes. Cast after cast I made, working the area, but nothing was happening. I started to do the worst thing an angler can do; I started to doubt myself. Maybe I was doing something wrong. Was it my gear or was I using it wrong? More than likely I was doing everything right and my problem was that the water was still too cold and the fish hadn't moved in yet. After all, it was still March. Packing up we decided to move further down the coast and see what was going on there.

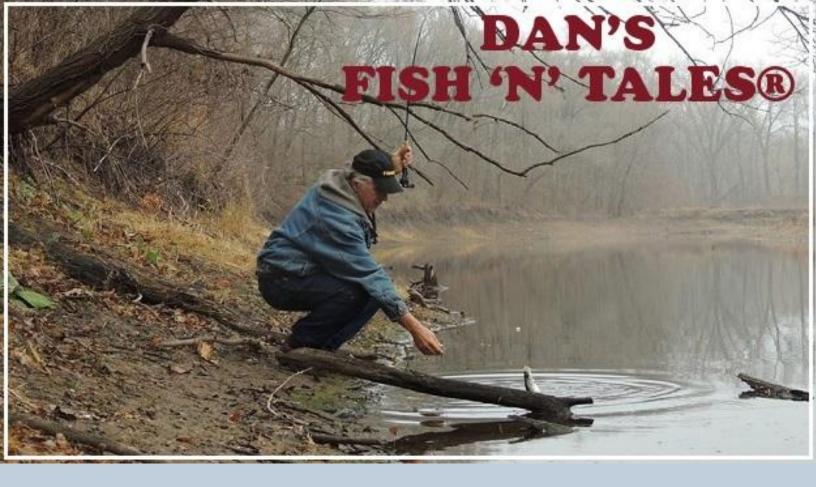
What we found was not encouraging. All along Route 1A the parking spots were full of cars, but they were not anglers. Instead the cars belonged to surfers. The wind had picked up and there were some pretty good sized waves breaking on the shore. No calm waters here so we decided to head for home. Once home I made ready to put my gear away, an act that included rinsing off my reels and then



spraying them down with some GetSome 1000 to help protect them from the damage that comes with saltwater.

In my mind we had a pretty good day. It was the middle of March and I was out fishing. Yeah, we didn't catch any fish, that fishing. but is Despite what all the magazines and TV pros want you to believe, more times than not anglers will go home empty handed. That is okay because that makes those times when the big one tugs on your line all that much more special.





NATURAL FISH LOCATORS

By Dan Galusha



A tube, joining two lakes, with current, log jam and jumping baitfish, is an ideal place to fish. The electronic age has offered many benefits to the fisherman. It has also, in some ways, done an injustice to the beginner and novice. They have been led to believe by simply pushing a button, dropping a probe, taking a reading and watching a screen that fish will easily be caught.

It must be realized that electronic fishing aides are great tools, which should be combined with a "natural" knowledge, and not magical devices providing a 100 percent success rate. This knowledge is developed over a period of time by observing what nature is trying to convey.

Nature's primary visual fish locators are birds, turtles, wind, current, sun, weeds, shoreline contour, and bait. While often combined, each has a role in helping locate fish.



The following is a brief breakdown of the uses of each category.

BIRDS

The best birds to watch are the heron, gall, black bird and crow. All of these can indicate the presence of bait. Herons are shallow water feeders that will lead you to active bait fish, or areas of dead or crippled bait where larger fish are feeding. If the herons are setting high above the water, or flying around, then chances are the bait is deeper, out of the area or holding tight. This is a time for moving deeper, searching other areas, or flipping cover for inactive/tight holding fish.

Galls that are flying and diving will indicate active bait and feeding fish. They are good open area locators. If they are seen setting or bobbing around in the water, then look elsewhere.

Two shoreline scavengers are the black bird and crow. They will be seen walking the shore feeding on pieces of bait. Several times they have shown me a rocky shore where bass are feeding on crawfish. Always try to get a close look at the food on which the birds are feeding, as this will provide a better idea of proper bait selection.



FROGS AND TURTLES

The frogs and turtles are excellent indicators of the warmest water areas in early spring. They will show a strong presence along a warm shoreline, giving an angler a prime area on which to start.

A turtle sunning himself is a good indicator that this is the warmest water, which is an ideal locator for spring and fall.

Later in the season frogs can be a very useful tool. If

there are many of them croaking, to the extent of almost wanting to shout "shut up", then often the fish are actively feeding. Also, if the frogs are holding tight to shore, especially if there is a water cover such as duckweed, then this may indicate that bass are active, and perhaps feeding on topwater lures.

WIND

Wind performs several tasks. It stirs the water, creates break lines and provides a current.

The stirring action will help water temperature change, wash out bait along a shore or weedy point, and provide clarity break lines.

Another type of break line is formed where wind rippled water meets calmer water. This is found on one side of a point, across the mouth of a cove, or wherever there is some form of a wind break. These can be excellent locations to use crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Retrieve the bait out of the rippled area and into the calmer water, or parallel the break along the transition area.

Wind blowing parallel to a shore or through a gap in an island will provide a current. Areas with little or no natural current can benefit greatly from this occurrence, especially during hotter weather. Position the boat into the wind and fish it as a normal water current.

CURRENT

As mention with the wind, current can be a great benefit. Rivers are the primary fishing areas for locating natural current.

Different speeds of current can help form a pattern. For example, if fish are found in a mild current

then chances are that another location with similar current will produce fish. These speeds can also help push fish to current breaks, as is often found in very fast water. Current break lines formed anything are by breaking the natural flow. The edges of these can be excellent fish holders. I've done very well casting my catfish bait across these break lines, and allowing it to drift parallel to the break and just inside of the calmer water.

Any unusual currents, such as water from a drain tube or cutting through a land gap, eddies, and wherever food is being washed out are all potential fish holders.

While current can be important

Shad bust can even reveal areas of big crappie, as this one hit a Rat-L-Trap.

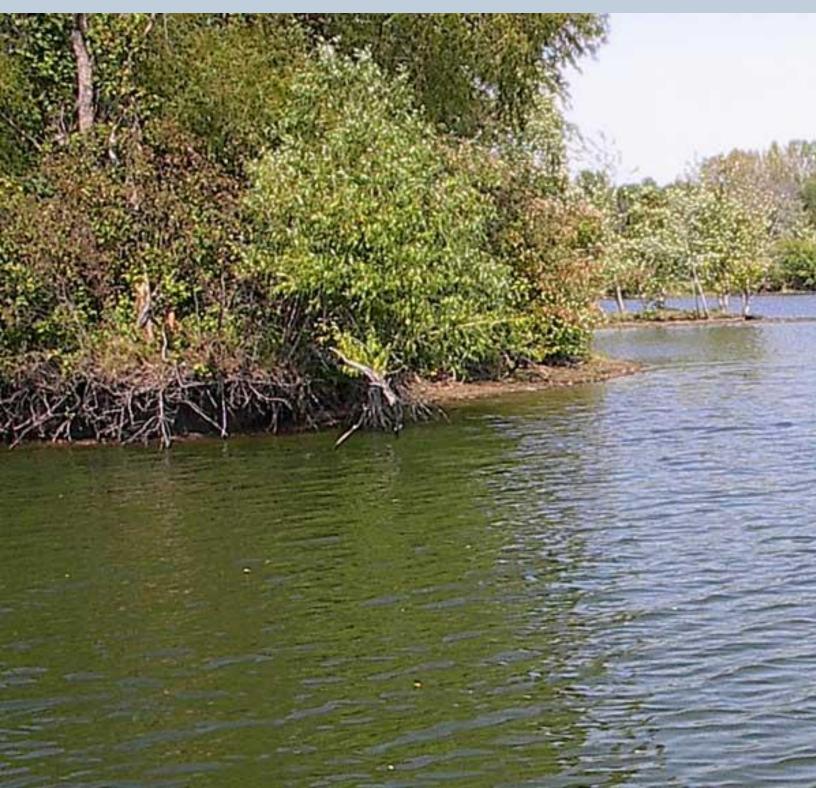


at any time, it holds more importance during hot weather. Fish will choose the cooler more aerated areas provided by current, over calm and stagnated water.

When fishing for bass, face the boat into the current, make casts in the same direction and retrieve the bait with the current. This will allow the bait to flow in the same direction as that of the food on which the bass are feeding. Fishing the other direction will provide less boat control, and you will be presenting the bait to the back of most fish. Gaps between bodies of water are ideal fish locations, especially if there is a natural or wind current.

SUN

Warmth and light intensity are the two factors provided by the sun.



On a bright sunny day in early spring or late fall, shallow areas along an open shoreline will warm, resulting in the potential for some great fishing. In the same respect this open area could be too sunny and hot in the summer, unless there is a weed cover, at which time the sun would push the fish into the weeds.

Light intensity can help in color selection and fishing location. A general rule to follow on color has always been light colors on bright days and dark colors on dark days. As for location a basic rule is clear and/or open water on dark days, and cover, shade and stained water on bright days. Of course, there are always some variations in these rules.

WEEDS

Weeds are a very important part to fish life - being a major key to fish location. They provide oxygen,



Tubes that join bodies of water, and have current are an excellent spot, especially when fishing the side where the current is flowing out of the tube.

filtration, cover and a prime feeding area. For all of these reasons never pass up weeds.

The slope of a point and shore can also be seen by looking at how the weed tops progress downward into the water.

Outer weed edges, over and between lily pads, tops of submerged weeds, and isolated weed clumps on a shallow flat are all excellent fishing areas.

SHORELINE CONTOURS

Analyzing a shoreline's contour will quickly provide an idea of a desired fishing location. For example, a sharp dropping shore will most likely indicate a sharp drop beneath the water, while a gradual sloping point should continue in the same manner out into the lake.

The same type of factors can be applied to river cuts, chutes and sloughs. For example, cut-away and straight up-and-down banks on an outward swing can indicate a hole, which could be a good catfish hideaway, or if there are roots an ideal place to flip a worm or jig for bass.

BAIT

Everything mentioned so far has either been for locating or holding bait. This should be no surprise since the most important key to locating fish is locating their feeding area. As the late John Eastwold, of the Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock, always said, "Locate the kitchen, and you'll find the fish."

Pitching a tube, and working it with the current in a stump field, yielded this nice bass. The types of bait can vary, but the most important are bait fish (minnows, shad, etc.), crawfish, bluegills, and leeches.

One of the most common bait indicators is the shad "bust". This reveals areas in which fish are actively feeding. They can occur in any depth or type of water. Be sure to fish such an area completely, and continue fishing it even after the activity has



disappeared. Use different baits and depths until it is certain that the fish have quit biting.

Bass love crawfish. They can often be seen crawling around rocky shores. This is especially true in clear water. Crawfish mounds along a mud shore is another indication of their presence. Fish these areas with crankbaits or slow moving "bottom bumping" baits, such as jig combinations, and plastic tubes, worms and grubs.

Learning to watch for "natural fish locators", and analyze what is being seen is very important. Combining this with overall fishing knowledge, electronic aides, the proper selection and use of tackle, and as much time on the water as possible will greatly enhance your fishing success.

If you have any questions about this, or other fishing subjects, contact me through the newly remodeled Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® website at www.dansfishntales.com. You can also stop by the Tales® Dan's Fish 'N' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dansfishntales, where you can drop me a note, and click on the Like/Follow watch videos buttons, or at www.youtube.com/dansfishntales.

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

CATFISH GUIDE PUTS SUPERCAT® RODS TO THE ULTIMATE TOUGH TEST

For catfish folks, choosing the right rod is serious business. But when catfishing is literally your business—as in, people pay you to find and catch 'em—selecting sticks can be as important as surrounding yourself with loyal, professional employees.

At least, that's the way popular catfish guide, Captain Brad Durick views things. "My SuperCat rods show up every day with their game-faces on," he laughs. A meticulous keeper of his catfishing records, Durick racked up some staggering statistics during a highly successful season on the Red River of the North— the undisputed king of trophy channel catfish streams. "From May until October, six SuperCat rods battled and beat over 14,000 pounds of catfish. That's over 1,500 big channel catfish, with nearly a hundred from 20 to 26 pounds. Add in another 150 fish from the Canadian side of the river, and I figure my SuperCats have beat back around 8 tons of tough, mean Red River catfish."

Other than a seemingly permanent layer of catfish slime, Durick's rods suffered not a single meltdown,





malfunction, or even so much as a hangnail.

"In close to 100 days on the river, these rods never took a play off," Durick confirms. "We probably subjected them to more abuse in a single season than could many anglers in a lifetime. My clients and I aren't exactly easy on equipment, either. Torqueing on rods in rod holders, wrenching hooks out of snags, dropping and stepping on them on the boat floor—it all happens daily. I'm amazed all my SuperCats are still alive and kicking."

Beyond their undisputed toughness, Durick calls out the rods' high-level performance. "I've become a big believer in S-Glass, and Rippin Lips was the first company to build catfish rods with this amazing material."

Compared to traditional E-Glass, Durick says his S-Glass SuperCat rods flex more naturally, yet offer



exceptional strength and backbone for battling bruiser catfish—including 20- to 30-pound channels, or trophy flatheads or blues. He also notes that S-Glass offers a higher modulus than E-Glass, translating to a lighter, more sensitive blank.

A full-time circle hook supporter, Durick fishes with rods in holders; he relies on the rod's anatomy to signal a bite and solidly set the hook. "I need a sensitive rod tip that transmits the smallest bites, but it also needs to be soft enough so fish don't feel the hook or reject the bait. At the same time, I need plenty of backbone to set the hook and fight the fish. A lot of rods are passable with circle hooks. But my 7'6" medium-action SuperCats are perfect."

Offered in eight different lengths, actions and configurations (casting and spinning), Rippin Lips SuperCat rods (\$36 to \$85) sport S-Glass / Graphite composite blanks. EVA split-grip handles yield optimal balance for battling big fish. Extra hard, chrome-plated stainless steel guides hold up to mono as well as braid, and are wrapped and epoxy coated for extra durability. Glow-in-the-dark rod tips enhance nighttime visibility.

Durick's super stats speak for themselves: One season. Fifteen hundred hard-pulling catfish. Eight tons of apex river predator; the biggest, toughest channel catfish on the planet. Six Rippin Lips SuperCat rods—each one alive, kicking and ready for the next rumble.

About Rippin Lips

Headquartered in the heartland of lowa's catfish country, Rippin Lips (www.rippinlips.com) has been creating cutting edge catfish bait and tackle since 2008. Their popular Bootleg[™] Dip Bait—whose top-secret recipe continues to be tweaked and fine-tuned— fools tons of catfish every season. An innovator of catfish rods, Rippin Lips' SuperCat[®] series has become a top seller among the hardcore catfish crowd, built with leading edge S-Glass composite blanks. Complementary products such as Scent Trail[™] Fish Attractant, No-Trace™ Scent Eliminator, and Tournament Grade Circle Hooks are used daily by the top catmen in the country. With design input and guidance from elite tournament anglers and guides, Rippin Lips continues to rise in the ranks of respected catfish bait and tackle.



PIER FISHING IN NORTH CAROLINA CAN BE AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

By Bill Vanderford

The salty breeze in your hair and the smell of the ocean are always enough to make the juices flow, but the added mystery of catching something unknown is even stronger for all anglers who venture out on piers to fish. Many of these majestic walkways into the sea have been destroyed by time or storms, but the area near Wilmington, North Carolina has either rebuilt or restored many.

Probably the most famous fishing pier in this area is the Johnnie Mercer Pier in Wrightsville Beach (http://www.johnniemercerspiernc.com), which was built in the 1930s but was reduced to rubble by hurricanes Bertha and Fran during the 1990s. Today it is a model of modern engineering with reinforced concrete capable of sustaining 200 mph winds. It extends 1,200 feet out into the ocean...making it a prime spot for anglers to catch migrating king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and bluefish during the spring and summer months.



The Kure Beach Pier (http://www.kurebeachfishingpier.com) began operation in 1923 and is the oldest



fishing pier in North Carolina. It has also been hit by hurricanes more than 10 times and destroyed 3 times. Nevertheless, it was again rebuilt to more than 700 feet in length in 1997 and is one of the more popular places to fish in the Wilmington area. Another popular angling spot is the 700 foot long Carolina Beach Fishing Pier (910-458-5518). Because of the pilings and debris from former piers, this platform is especially good for catching bottom fish like flounder and sheepshead.

Not too far from Wilmington is the Sunset Beach Pier (www.sunsetbeachpier.com/fishing.html) built

originally in 1960 and later rebuilt over the wreckage of the Vesta, a Blockade Runner ship from the War Between the States that ran aground in 1864. The Vesta was 34 feet wide and 180 feet long and sat parallel to the beach (east and west) when the first pier was built. Today, the shifting sand has taken over, and it is totally submerged.

Tons of big and small fish are caught annually from these historic North Carolina fishing piers making it easy for anyone to fish...regardless of age or financial status. Depending on the season, it is possible to catch cobia, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, red drum, sea trout, amberjack, jack crevalle, sharks and many other smaller species.

As with any kind of fishing, there are days on a fishing pier where you only get



the ocean breeze and some sunburn, but the real possibility of catching supper or even a world record is always present. Where else can you economically enjoy the magic of being out on the sea, watching a colorful sunrise or sunset over the ocean and even catching a few fish? This is the lure that keeps anglers returning to some of the last true fishing piers along the Wilmington, North Carolina Coast!

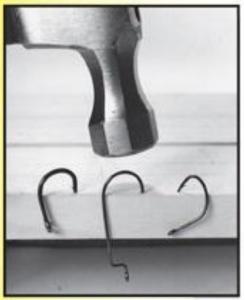
Bill Vanderford has won numerous awards for his writing and photography, and has been inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame as a Legendary Guide. He can be reached at 770-289-1543, at jfish51@aol.com or at his web site: www.georgiafishing.com



Want to kiss more fish like this? Then switch to Dailichi Hooks!



Brand "A"



There is more to Daiichi than just being "sharp".

High carbon steel and scientific tempering means your hooks will stay sharper, longer.



Brand "Z"

Daiichi!





By Captain Mike Gerry

I have seen many days on the water where the tough days of fishing bring out frustration for many anglers. You're on the water for hours and getting a bite seems impossible or its more work than you

anticipated; to me you just can't let your competitive drive take the fun out of your day. Don't make it work, fishing is relaxing and should put a smile on your face regardless of your results that day.

We all love to win, to be first and be recognized by our peers as good at what you do; I know that this drives many of us it's the competitive spirit the drive for success that forces your reaction to good and bad days on the water. The key to me is just taking that spirit and making it your friend; putting the work day behind you and soothing your mind and inner spirit should be enough to make fishing fun regardless of results. The thing is when we all do things we feel compelled to be the best and that driving force, if you let it, will take the fun out of a day on the water. We all have frustrations today's world is tough, making a living is certainly not easy and the pressures of everyday life never goes away; I believe we all fish to help relieve that pressure so don't let the bad days control your emotion.

Make fishing your way to overcome the tough days of just existing enjoy yourself and smile it will help you be at peace with yourself, come off the water at the end of a day and look back at it as fun it will help you survive the tough days we all put in. As a guide fishing everyday trying to make a living and making sure I can pay my bills can be enormous pressure; I don't let it, I just make fishing fun and thank God for the ability to do it and you should too!

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







By Bob Jensen

It appears that spring is attempting to make an early return this year. All across walleye country, anglers are getting in and on the water in search of 'eye action. The small rivers that are so abundant across the Midwest get a lot of attention at this time of year. Here are some ideas that might help you catch more walleyes in those rivers in the next few weeks.

Warming weather is usually best, cloudy overcast days that are warm are my favorite. The sun feels good, but walleyes like it cloudy. However, if the sun is going to shine, It was a warm, overcast day when river expert Loren Waalkens caught this nice walleye.



go early or late in the day.

Fish slow. When the water is cold, fish of all species usually prefer a slower moving bait. If you can keep a sixteenth ounce jig and minnow near the bottom, that's a good bet. If it's a rocky bottom, swim the jig just above the rocks. If you're not getting snagged every now and then, you're probably working the jig too fast. On sand bottoms, crawl the jig and give it frequent stops. When the jig stops, the minnow will continue to move, and that is often what it takes to get a walleye to bite. Fire-ball jigs are as good as it gets when you're using minnows.

Also try swimming the jig with a piece of plastic, something like an Impulse Swim'n Grub. You'll cover more water, get snagged less, and at times the walleyes will prefer this presentation. Use a tail that contrasts in color with the jig head.

Cold, dirty water can make fishing tough. At times, especially in the spring, cold dirty water is a reality. Find the warmest, clearest water you can if the river you're fishing is cold and dirty.

In stained water Rattlin' Hornets do a good job. The rattles make the bait easier for the fish to find. You'll want to keep your bait very close to the bottom. That's why the Rattlin' Hornet works well in stained water. It makes noise as it contacts the bottom.

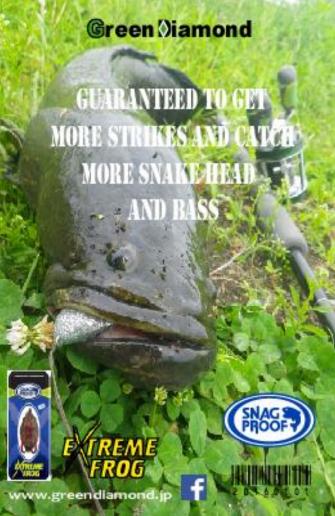
Wading anglers can do very well this time of year. Walleyes will be very shallow at times. Sometimes, in some rivers, you won't be able to get to them with a boat because they're so shallow. If wading is the best approach, it pays to be very quiet. Get into a casting position, then work the area thoroughly

before moving. Quiet wading anglers catch more fish than noisy wading anglers.

One other way to catch'em: Try a slip-bobber with a jig and minnow. Set the bobber stop so your jig a just a few inches off the bottom. This will take some experimenting, and you'll still get hung up every now and then because a river bottom isn't a consistent depth. However, this presentation will enable you to work an area slowly with your bait right in the fish zone much of the time. Give slip bobbers a try when the fish are lethargic.

The way the weather forecast looks, we could have an extended and earlier season for walleyes in small rivers. Make sure that the state you're fishing in allows for walleye fishing this time of year. If it does, take advantage of it.

To see all the most recent episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, new fishing related video 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.





Spring Fishing

By Tony Lor

Spring fishing can be one of the best fishing time of the year i would say. You'll catch a lot of fish, good quality ones, too. Whether you are fishing for panfish or bigger game fish, it can be a bunch of fun with family members or good friends. Sometimes just even by yourself. Can't beat that one bite.

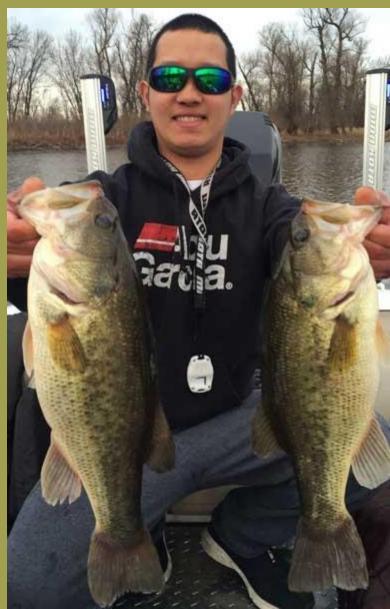
This time of the year, depending on where you're from, fish can stage differently. For an example, I'm from up north where we have cold weather and as season changes, we experience water condition changes. Water temps from below freezing to warmer temps. Fish moving from their winter holes to staging areas on the erge of going to their spawning grounds. Not as the south where fish would move

much faster. Spring can be a lot of fun

and excitement for them big old toads.

By the time mid spring comes by, fishing is a big boom everywhere you go. That's when a lot of anglers get their boats going and start chasing prespawn to spawning fish. Sometimes even post spawn fish depending on how early or late we get spring weather up here in Minnesota. Chasing these midspring can be very easy if your timing is right. At this time of year, fish can be spawn or post-spawned. It can also be very hard to get a bite also. That's why you have to do some homework early in the season.

An competitive bass angler myself, when the ice is out i'm out there on the lakes looking and scanning structures and contour lines for potential spawn routes. Looking for big flats or small pockets to back shallow hidden bays. When mid-spring time comes, majority of game fish such as Walleye, Northern Pikes, Largemouth and Smallmouth bass season opens up, Thats when you head straight to the



spawning grounds and go to town on em. Having a good time catching some biggens can be a sweet memory to remember forever.

Studying and follow these fish around as they move accordingly to the weather and water temperatures is good to do. Knowing what these fish are doing is a big key in my books to catching em. Its also a good learning experience. Spring time is a good time for them pictures to be taken and memories to be kept. Your chances of hooking up to a hugh lonker in the spring is high. Their feeding well and up shallow. Very easy to be targeted.

Spring will soon end and late spring come and onto summer. As water temps rises and fish will move into deeper waters or



into a place where they cannot be found. Then



that's when you have to start doing more homework and spend more time on the water. Trying to find'em and duplicate your findings. More frustrations and headaches will come. Enjoy spring fishing as much as possible as late spring or summer can do you some bad days on the water. As I always say to my friends and family members, "all you can do when they aren't biting is keep your head down, take a deep breath and keep casting and keep going at it. Never give up. It can take one right cast to make a big difference in your day. Maybe a big difference in your lifetime as you can hold that title of having a state record fish under your belt".

Tight lines everyone. We'll see you all on the water. Be safe and fish hard. There is lots of lunkers waiting for you in the water. Just waiting for you to cast that lure into its face for it to smack it. Go have a blast. Spring is finally here.



CONSIDER COLOR FOR MORE FISHING SUCCESS

By Bob Jensen

It's at about this time every year when many anglers take a look into their tackle containers to do an inventory of baits that are needed to start the new open water fishing season. We make a note of baits from previous years that are running low in our inventory, and we also think about new baits that need to be added. One topic regarding baits that is frequently a question is color: What colors do we need? Lure makers are always introducing new colors. Many anglers ask themselves and their fishing friends, "Does lure color really matter to the fish?" Mike Frisch had a Pumpkin Craw Jungle Jig with a contrasting plastic trailer on the end of his line when this big guy bit.

Beginning and expert anglers alike are always trying to figure out how much impact lure color has on our fishing success. Following are some thoughts on lure color.

In the minds of many of the best anglers the lure color question is simple: Sometimes color matters, sometimes it doesn't. When the fish are biting, they'll often hit any color you put out there. When they don't want to eat, color becomes one of several very important considerations. There are times



when having the "right" color of bait on the end of your line will result in more fish being caught.

There are ways to increase the odds of showing a fish the color they might prefer on a particular day. Let's say we're after walleyes, and we're using jigs with a plastic trailer. If there are two anglers in the boat, one angler should try, for example, an orange jighead with a chartreuse tail: That's a great walleye color combination almost anywhere. The other angler should try maybe a blue head, purple body. By doing so, we're showing the walleyes four different colors. We're increasing the odds of showing them the color they want on that particular day.

Now let's say the angler using the orange/chartreuse combo is catching more fish. If you really want to fine-tune your color option, one angler should try an orange head/orange tail jig, the other should tie on a chartreuse head/chartreuse tail jig. By doing so, we're going to see if there really is a dominant color on that particular day. Sometimes there will be a definite color preference.

Conditioning is another consideration. Sometimes fish become conditioned to a particular color. That orange/chartreuse combination we just talked about gets used so much that the fish become a little reluctant to hit it. If you've been catchin'em good on a particular color or pattern but that patterns

dies, try a different color. You'll probably catch a few more.

Some anglers aren't sure of the importance of lure color. These are the same anglers that have boxes full of baits of different colors, or they have a bunch of marking pens in their boat so they can change the color or appearance of their bait quickly if needed.

If you spend some time on the water, and if you experiment with color, you'll probably decide that, at times, if you're using the right color, you'll catch more fish, and if you're not using the right color, you're catching might be limited. This year, experiment with different lure colors and see what you find out.

To see all the most recent episodes of the Fishing the Midwest television series, 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.

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!



Fishing Secrets from Florida's East Coast



resource like no

or your own home waters.

Secrets from Florida's Master Anglers offers both tourists and natives a fishing

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

Author and experienced fishing guide Ron Presley offers practical information to anglers of all skill levels and interests in this clear, concise guide. He provides the essential information anglers need both to have a successful excursion and to protect the fishing resource for future generations. Also featuring valuable from contributions twenty-eight local guides and experts-all discussing the communities and waters they know best.



other. Professional



South Carolina Crappie Championship, Writers Have Fun

By Jake Bussolini

Greenwood Lake South Carolina was the site of the 2016 Crappie Masters, South Carolina Crappie Championship. It wasn't ideal weather for this event since the lake levels had changed radically in the days prior to the event and the waters were slightly murky. A

sidelight of the event was the media day competition, where outdoor writers and other media personnel had a chance to ridealong with one of the competitors to test their skills at outsmarting these crafty fish.

I was assigned to Scott Williams, a well known professional from Cochran Georgia. Scott was a regular in regional tournaments, fishing as a team with his father Billy who was hosing another writer. But on

Thursday, March 3rd, the day before the start of actual competition, Scott was hoping to show me how it was done.

I had fished Greenwood Lake a few years ago for catfish but this was my first attempt at catching crappie in those waters. It wasn't exactly spring-like weather when we launched and made our high speed run to the spot that Scott had selected. Once we found the selected spot and my face thawed out, we got the eight lines into the water for the 1 MPH troll around the selected inlet.

The action was slow but steady and we caught a wide variety of fish from a small striper and white perch to a largemouth bass. The crappie were harder to figure out and when they did get hooked they seemed to have the secret of pulling off before we could get them into the boat. We did however get some fish



and when we finally got to the weigh-in, we were just a little short in weight. But the event was great fun.

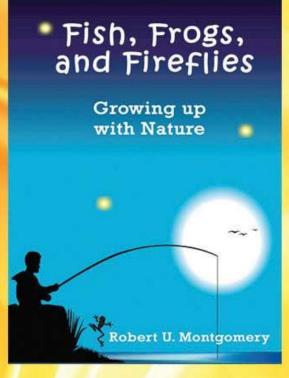
On the first day of the tournament, Scott and his Dad Billy weighted in a 9.55 pound catch which put them in 12th place so they had to change their technique for the second day which they did. The second day catch for the team was 11.43 pounds which was the high for the day but only raised them to 6th place overall with 20.98 pounds of fish.

The winners of the event were Ray Koon and Mike Huffstetler with a



World's Leading Supplier of Premium Outdoor Gear





Fish, Frogs and Fireflies: Growing up with Nature

A book for all nature lovers

Award-winning outdoors writer Robert Montgomery and 12 friends explore what and how we learn about life from the everyday miracles of nature

www.fishfrogsfirelies.info

two day catch of 23.06 pounds. The winners are shown below.

The winning team took home the first place prize of \$4000 plus a bonus of \$500 for using E10 fuel in their boat.

The Greenwood Lake Visitors bureau sponsored the media day event and luncheon and we give our thanks to Kelly McWhorter for her efforts in our behalf.

> Jake Bussolini is a freelance writer who has written several books about freshwater fishing. His books can be seen on www.booksbyjake.com



Make Some Noise Get Loud, Catch More Walleyes

By Scott Glorvigan

Anglers across the Walleye Belt keep commotion to а minimum to avoid spooking skittish walleyes. But there are times when silence isn't golden. In fact, SO making a little noise can often help you catch more fish, year-round.

"We've been taught that stealth is critical to success, but there are many situations where using sound to attract walleyes can increase your catch rates," says veteran guide and tournament champion Scott Glorvigen.

To be clear, he doesn't advocate creating а clamor of cataclysmic "Dropping proportions. an anchor on the bottom of an aluminum boat isn't going to make the walleyes come charging in," he laughs.



"But the judicious use of rattles inside spoons, crankbaits and other presentations can call fish from a distance."

Glorvigen likens the art of using fish-attracting rattles to calling game in other outdoor pursuits. "When I duck hunt, I use a call to bring the birds into my decoys," he explains. "And a rattle bag or antlers are standard gear for serious whitetail hunters hoping to rattle up a big buck."

In a similar manner, he says rattling lures pique a wandering walleye's curiosity and encourage it to move in for a closer look.

Such tactics aren't new, of course, but they're still underutilized among the vast majority of walleye anglers. "Especially in the open-water period," he notes. "But even in winter, people don't take full advantage of how a rattling spoon or lipless rattlebait can bring in walleyes from the surrounding area."

Besides luring fish within visual range of your wares, Glorvigen says rattling tends to attract the most aggressive 'eyes in the neighborhood. "The ones that are most active and likely to strike," he adds.

"And even if they don't hit the noisy jigging presentation, incoming walleyes will often slam into a more sedentary bait positioned a few feet away, like a live minnow on a dead rod," he continues.

Glorvigen has been a firm believer in the power of sound ever since watching Northland Fishing Tackle



founder John Peterson use a prototype of the Buck-Shot Rattle Jig during an In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail tournament years ago.

"We were up on Lake of the Woods, and John absolutely put on a clinic, catching fish after fish amidst a crowd of other anglers who were struggling to get bit with traditional silent jigs," he recalls.

Following Peterson's lead, Glorvigen used sound to win the 2004 PWT Championship on Houghton Lake, Michigan. "Using rattle beads on my nightcrawler rigs was key to catching enough fish in the lake's turbid water to win the tournament," he says.

The \$100,000-plus payday confirmed the

importance of sound under the right conditions. "Whenever visibility is compromised, due to low light levels, stained water, vegetation or other factors, rattling lures can be a huge factor," he explains. "They can also help you call walleyes from a distance in clear-water conditions."

For example, when pulling crankbaits in summer, Glorvigen relies on lures with internal rattle chambers like Rapala's Down Deep Husky Jerk to widen his trolling spread's sphere of attraction in the underwater world. "Same thing when pitching jigs into weedy cover," he adds. "A rattle helps walleyes home in on the bait."

When jigging, Glorvigen recommends a slow, shake-rattle-and-roll approach that gives fish time to move in and locate the jig. "In more open water, you can move a little faster," he notes.

He also encourages anglers to experiment with lure styles pigeonholed to a specific season or situation. "For example, we use lipless rattlebaits like Rippin' Raps, Cordell Spots and Rat-L-Traps through the ice on big-water fisheries like Lake Winnipeg all winter long," he begins.

"But come summer, how many fishermen would think of vertically fishing a rattlebait? Not very many. Same thing with a rattling jigging spoon like Northland's Buck-Shot Rattle Spoon or the Buck-Shot Flutter Spoon. Yet these rattling lures are every bit as deadly during the soft-water season."

Toward that end, Glorvigen advises anglers transitioning from late-ice to early open-water opportunities to keep their winter weapons handy.

"Next time you go out jigging in a river this spring, don't keep the rattle spoons on the bottom of your tackle box," he says. "Tie one on and give it a try. You might be pleasantly surprised at how well they work at the 'wrong' time of year."





FISHING GUIDES CAN BE BLESSED

By Captain Mike Gerry

The older you get the more you realize that just having something to do that is fun and offers you an income can have great rewards. I certainly don't have much in the way of money or income to keep paying my bills so keeping an income and enjoying what you do is a blessing; at least it is for me.

Every year folks ask me how long I am going to continue to keep guiding; I know they are just being nice and trying to create a conversation so my answer has been pretty standard; as long as it is fun! The thing about it is without making a day fun on the water it wouldn't be worth being out there; yes the fun is in catching but it's also in the relationship you have with the customers in your boat, the smiles the interaction and the thrills all add to what it is all about for me.

Fishermen are by nature just good folks, they go to the water for a way to pass off pressures, or interact with their children or a friend and make fishing something special in their lives and it makes my day all worth it. This for me is what being on the



water watching the sun rise or set is all about, catching fish is the goal but the secondary goals and accomplishments, the friendships, the conversation and the time together are the rewards and for me it makes some of the tough days the reason I get my solace being a fishing guide.

I also believe that when you're working with the public day after day and year after year in a service

Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville Email: <u>bassguide@comcast.net</u> Call: 256 759 2270 industry like guiding can take the fun out of anything if you let it; so being upbeat, making the best out of cold weather, intolerable winds or the fish not acting right and getting lock jaw gives you a reason to live. As we all learn getting older is tough, keeping a reason to exist everyday through fishing changes it all and becomes your silver lining!

CAMPING ZONE



Coleman,



Camping Packing Lists and Tips

Visit <u>www.fix.com</u> for more fishing and camping information.

Everything You Need to Bring to the Campsite

Family camping trips are an excellent way to spend time together in the outdoors and enjoy a vacation on a budget, provided you have some camping tips and hacks up your sleeve. Otherwise, it can take as long to prepare and pack for a camping trip as the trip itself! To ensure that you're ready for that next weekend trip to the woods, use the following camping packing lists and tips.





The Camp Kitchen

Organizing and packing your camp kitchen is often the most complicated part of preparing for a camping trip. The workaround is having dedicated camping pots and pans, utensils, and kitchen gadgets stored apart from your home kitchen, which will save you time and effort in packing and unpacking daily supplies. Here's what you need:

Kitchen Packing List:

- Camp stove: Opt for a lightweight backpacking stove or traditional car camping stove.
- Fuel: Make sure you have the correct propane fuel for your stove.
- Plates, cups, and eating utensils (1 per family member): Use paper products or opt for reusable mess kits, which are available in outdoor stores.
- Tablecloth: Buy a cheap one at a dollar store.
- Dishwashing tub: Opt for a plastic tub or nylon, sealed, collapsible tub.
- Dishwashing supplies: Paper or cloth towels or dishrags; dish soap; and sponge.

- Matches
- Fire starter
- Ice
- Cooler
- Tarp
- Grill (optional): Most campsites provide a grill over the fire pit.
- Camp table (optional): Helpful for organization, but not necessary.
- Kitchen tools/utensils: Spatula, allpurpose knife, potholders, serving ladle, butter knife, tongs, long skewers for s'mores or meat-on-a-stick, and tin foil.



Try this kitchen packing hack: Store your kitchen tools and utensils in a toiletry bag or other small bag to keep them organized and clean between uses at a dusty campground. It will be easy to hang them from a tree branch for easy use when you're at your site.

The Camp Sleeping Quarters

Everyone wants to be warm and cozy at night! Whether you're camping in warm or colder climates, everyone in your family will need the essentials to ensure that they're safe at night. Store tents and sleeping pads in a second large tote, making it easy to pack up the car and head to the campsite at any time.

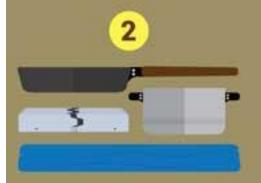
Sleeping Packing List:

- Tent(s): Opt for one large family tent or 2–3 smaller tents. Larger tents have the advantage of space, but small tents fit in cozier campsites.
- Sleeping bags: Buy sleeping bags rated at 20 degrees F, unless you know you'll be camping in colder climates. A 20-40 degrees F bag works for most camping experiences. Down or down-alternative bags pack down smaller and are lighter and warmer



What you need to pack an organized camp kitchen: Start with a large, clear tote. Totes will be easier to pack in a car, and make it easier to look for supplies.

1



Place the tarp (for covering your kitchen in rain) at the bottom, followed by the folded stove and pots and pans.

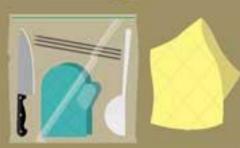


Assign each person a zip lock bag of personal utensils, plate, and cup.



Place similar items in zipper bags, such as all dishwashing items together, all fire-starting items together.

5



Kitchen tool bag goes in last. Top with dishtowels to keep out dust and dirt. than cotton or nylon/polyester bags.

- Sleeping pads: Opt for thick blow-up mattresses for car camping, or save space with backpacking pads that inflate with just a few breaths of air.
- Ground tarp: Don't skip the ground tarps. They protect your tent floor and keep the dew and cold at bay.
- Towels and personal hygiene items: One per family member!
- Flashlights or headlamps: One per family member. Everyone should have their own light source for safety and convenience.
- Lantern: One per family will do. Ideally, your lantern can transition from kitchen area to tent and back.

Try this sleeping quarters hack: Buy a ground tarp one size larger than your tent, and use the overhanging space as a place to take off shoes and wipe off feet before entering the tent.

The Campfire Area

Camping just isn't camping without a comforting campfire, right? The campfire area is important, but there's good news: it's easy to pack for!



If weather cooperates, let bags air out during camping days on top of tents.



At home, always store bags in a large bag off the ground. Hanging in a garage is a good bet.

3

Stuff a sleeping bag into a stuff sack only for packing and backpacking.

Campfire area packing list:

- Firewood: Buy on-site, or save money by buying it at a local grocery store.
- Matches and fire starter: You'll already have these in your camp kitchen supplies. The type of fire starter you use is up to you; we like fire disks or fire cubes.
- Axe or hatchet: Useful for breaking down firewood.
 Store away from children.
- chairs: • Camp Some include campsites а bench around the fire ring, but for most, you'll want collapsible camp chairs. To save space in the car, opt for the smaller, lighter versions sold in backpacking stores.
- S'mores: Be sure to bring the ingredients for this tasty campfire treat!
- Deck of cards or board game: Everyone enjoys playing a game around the fire.
- Lantern: This item is already with your sleeping supplies!

Try this campfire area hack: Never bring firewood all the way from home. It takes up lots of room in your car or truck, which could otherwise be used for other items, and it could be banned from your campground if you're driving any distance. Campgrounds often require local wood to be burned in an effort to reduce foreign insect species from invading new areas.

FIRE CUBES Are waterproof, and will burn a long

time. Use them in poor weather.

Miscellaneous Items Campers Love

Think you have everything you need? Probably not! Read the list of extras below and decide what you can't live without!

- Insect repellent or wristbands
- Sunscreen
- Toilet paper and shovel (if you don't have a campground restroom)





DIY FIRE STARTER Simply combine dryer lint and wax. Stuff mixture in an empty paper roll.



- Inflatable wading pool for small children to play in
- Playpen for babies to stay off the dirt (sometimes)
- Clothespins and a clothesline to hang wet clothing
- Extra sheet or towel to hang in the tent to create "rooms"
- Hammock
- Baby wipes to clean hands and faces
- Camera
- Water/wading shoes
- Small net and bucket to use in streams
- Small toys for kids to use in camp
- Bikes or scooters for larger campgrounds

When you get settled in at the campsite, don't forget to pack a list of camp rules and games for kids. Kids and campgrounds go together perfectly, as long as a few safety rules are in place. Make sure kids know the following in the camp kitchen, sleeping, and campfire areas:

1. Never run around the campfire.

2. Ask before using any kitchen knives or hatchets.

3. Turn off flashlights and headlamps after using to save batteries.

Ask before exploring 4. а parent а campground.

Once you're set up at your campground, entertain kids at the campsite by encouraging them to collect natural objects like sticks, moss, leaves, or bark to make into art pieces. Kids also love having scavenger hunts around the campground (bring a list of items to collect) or riding bikes or scooters around the camp loops. If you have a cell phone with you, encourage kids to look for geocache treasures. There are caches at almost every campground across the United States.



The Complete Camping Checklist

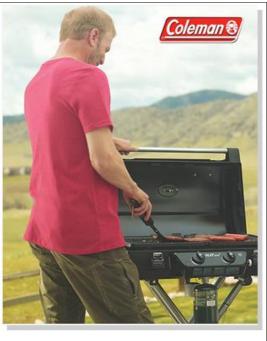
Whether it's your first time or thousandth time camping, using this checklist will come in handy for your next trip!



The Complete Outdoor Adventure Checklist

By The Coleman Company

Nothing rejuvenates the soul more than an outdoor adventure. Be prepared & keep these important items in mind before heading out!



The Complete Barbecuing Checklist

If you're planning a big backyard BBQ party, tailgate, or sit down at a local park, this checklist will keep you right on track!





HUNTING ZONE

Bass Pro Shope

By Lance Davidson

Effective herd monitoring and overall increased herd health are two good reasons to create mineral supplement sites for white-tailed deer. And while the practice of baiting during the actual hunting



season is legal in some states, the creation of mineral supplement sites for that specific purpose is beyond the scope of this article.

Effective mineral supplementation involves the practice of placing high-mineral-content products in locations where they can be readily located and consumed by deer. These products take many forms, but the most popular are compressed blocks that deer lick and granulated powders that mix with the soil.

Formulations differ as well. Most products marketed as mineral supplements contain one or more of the key minerals believed to aid in antler growth or have other nutritional benefits to whitetails. These elements are Sodium, Calcium, Phosphorus and Magnesium. Manufacturers may add other contents to make their mineral supplementation products more palatable, more nutritional, or easier to find.

Know your game laws

Anyone considering the use of any deer attractant should have a complete understanding of their state's game laws. Some, like Illinois, outlaw the practice of feeding wild deer completely. Others allow the practice, but have very specific requirements dictating how and when all traces of any attractant (considered bait) must be removed prior to hunting season. Such laws are often confusing, so consider contacting your state's fish and wildlife law enforcement agency if you have any questions whatsoever.

Why?

As previously mentioned, mineral supplement sites provide deer with helpful minerals that may be absent or lacking in their natural diet. Science has proven that whitetails have the ability to store excess calcium and phosphorus in their bones and draw upon those reserves when needed. Additionally, mineral supplementation in domestic livestock has revealed documented health benefits relative to appetite, digestion and reproduction. That said, a variety of opinions exist regarding the benefits of mineral supplementation as it relates to antler growth in wild white-tailed deer. The fact that deer use mineral supplement sites so readily in so many locations, however, suggests to most hunters and property managers that the practice is a worthwhile and beneficial undertaking.

Mineral

supplementation is also employed to concentrate deer near game cameras for ongoing monitoring – a critical of aspect game management. Hunters and property managers want to observe antler growth, deer

herd health, and a well-executed mineral



supplement site is a great way to concentrate deer for this purpose, while also providing beneficial nutrition.

When?

Deer usually begin using mineral sites in early spring, and may continue to use them through early fall. This period of heavy mineral use coincides with the fawn-rearing and antler-growing periods. For this reason, most hunters and managers establish their mineral sites in the springtime.

Where?



Locate mineral sites based on primary considerations. two First, select areas that make it easy for deer to visit, while offering them a degree of security. Consider sites close to prime bedding areas. Primary trails between bedding areas and food or water sources offer good locations. Areas where such trails intersect are ideal. Second, consider your soils. Rocky or clay soils are best for powdered or granular products. Sandy soils leach minerals faster, which means they must be applied more frequently. Solid blocks and licks can be placed anywhere.

A final locational consideration involves camera placement. The distance from your camera to the far side of your mineral site should be well inside your camera's effective flash range. Place your camera so small branches or other items that might sway in the wind won't trigger its sensor.

Not all cameras are created equal. High-resolution models with invisible IR flash, generous range and long battery life are top choices for mineral



site monitoring. Models with video capability will provide additional helpful information – like the directions, which deer arrive at and depart from your site.

What?

Phosphorus, Calcium, Magnesium and Sodium are widely held to be the most beneficial minerals for deer in most areas. A product like Evolved Habitats' Rack-Up Trophy Class is a good starting point. This new mineral attractant contains the highest concentrations of Phosphorus, Magnesium and Calcium ever produced by Evolved, and only costs about \$13 for a 6-lb. bag.

To make sure deer find and use your mineral site, consider mixing in an attractant like Wildgame Innovations' new Persimmon Crush. This powerful, double screened attractant combines the natural attracting fragrance and flavor of real persimmons with an ultrahigh 16% fat content and carbohydrate blend to create a highly palatable attractant and nutritional supplement deer can't resist. At a price of around \$15 for a 5-lb. bag, Persimmon Crush is an effective and economical means of

helping deer find and use any newly established mineral site.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

Adding a source of Sodium will maximize the frequency and duration of deer visits to your mineral sites. Evolved Habitats' new Molasses Brick uses real molasses to appeal to a deer's senses of smell and taste, while sodium and other trace minerals play to their instincts. These long-lasting 4-lb. bricks sell for about \$6. That said, some biologists maintain that excess Sodium can have negative effects on nutrition. Deer receive ample Sodium from natural, green vegetation in many areas, so consider offering Sodium to your deer herd when they need it most – from the end of hunting season until the spring green-up.

How?

Once you've determined where to locate your mineral sites and what they'll consist of, they're relatively

simple to create. Most granulated products are designed to mix into the soil. Simply remove leaf litter and other debris to expose the soil, then dig a shallow hole or pit. Just a few inches is sufficient. The idea is to contain the product at your chosen site and eliminate runoff. After pre-mixing any separate products, dump the mix into the pit and lightly rake it into the top few inches of soil.

Maintenance

Physical evidence at your sites and your game cameras will tell you the degree to which they are being used. Give them a couple weeks. If use is light, consider adding additional attractant products. If it's heavy, refresh sites with new mineral products as necessary. Most hunters and game managers check and refresh mineral sites every 3-5 weeks after they become established, but set your own reasonable schedule. Do what's necessary to keep deer visiting, but avoid adverse effects to your deer's natural behaviors. Don't return too frequently, and consider limiting visits to mid-day.

Finally, use due diligence as hunting season approaches. Again, know your state's game laws with respect to feeding or baiting wildlife, and make sure your mineral sites are removed in accordance with those laws prior to hunting anywhere in their vicinity.





NOR PRG

By Dana Benner

I remember the first wild pig I ever harvested. It was about 30 years ago on the Big Island of Hawaii. Wild pigs in the Hawaiian Islands were originally brought there by the ancestors of the modern Hawaiian people and today can be found in growing numbers on all of the islands. Like wild pigs everywhere, they are very destructive to the crops of the local farmers. Though the pig that I took didn't even scratch the surface of pig control I felt that I was doing my part. The pig that I harvested was prepared by some of my Hawaiian friends in the traditional way.

Ever since then I have been interested in taking wild pigs. As many are well aware, these feral animals are plaguing every inch of the country. Some states regulate them as game

animals, while others consider them nuisance animals with no regulation. Such is the case here in New Hampshire. The pigs here are considered feral animals which stem from animals the originally got loose

from a local game farm. Hunters need to get permission from the game farm to hunt them, but that is always given. Other than that the pig hunter only needs a valid New Hampshire hunting license.

Few hunters seem to actively pursue pigs here in New Hampshire, with most of the pigs taken being done so by local deer hunters. I, for one, am obsessed with the pig, spending as much time in the field as I can. The trick with pigs is finding them. Often traveling in family groups these animals roam a



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

wide range, going to where the food is. Because pigs will eat anything and everything pinning down those food sources makes finding pig that much more difficult. Just because they were in one area one day doesn't mean they will be there tomorrow.

As previously mentioned, most of the pigs taken in New Hampshire, and many other places, are taken by deer hunters. That means that most of the rest of the year they are not pressured and that makes them more vulnerable to people like me. With that being said, to hunt pig the hunter needs to be

prepared. Pigs are smart and while their sense of sight is a bit weak, their senses of smell and hearing are extremely acute. You also need to remember that you not only need to "hide" from one animal, but you have to contend with multiple ears and noses. Once they know you are there the hunt is over.

Blending in and Hiding Your Scent:

Blending in means being prepared for anything. I have found that winter is a great time to track pigs, but because of the lack of food they are always on the move.



SEE YOURSELF AT THE SEASHORE

Surf Fishing Welcomes Beginners and Seasoned Anglers Alike.

Learn the tools, tactics and performance tips for this family-friendly sport.

SPORTSMAN'S

BOOK & DVD SERIES

D

BONUS 45

e k

www.floridasportsman.com

TECHNIQUES & GEAR FOR SURF, PIERS AND JETTIES Bait Rigs & Artificials 🔳 Find Good Waters 🔳 Catch More Fish

FISHING

When you do find them you just hope they don't find you. During the warmer months I wear the same camouflage clothing that I wear for turkey hunting, a mixture of greens and browns. In the winter, when there is snow cover, it is a different story. Here I wear a pair of Yukon Gear pants and jacket in Mossy Oak winter pattern over my normal hunting clothing. When sitting in snow covered brush it is important to stay warm and dry, because if you aren't comfortable you can't sit perfectly still. This clothing allows me to do that.

While blending in is important, masking your scent is probably even more important. There are sprays available on the market and I know plenty of successful deer hunters that swear by them, but I have my doubts on their effectiveness when hunting pigs. Any scent that is foreign to them will put them on edge. For that reason I started using a product called Scent Crusher which is put out by MoJack. This product uses ozone to neutralize odors. This same process has been used in home air fresheners for years, so why wouldn't it work for hunting?

Prior to my pig hunt I wash my clothes with scent free detergent and shower with scent free soap. I then put my hunting clothes in the Scent Crusher gear bag, put the ozone machine in the assigned pocket on the bag and turn it on. Once on the road I plug it into the outlet in my truck so the machine will de-ordorize the clothing. Once at my location I put my hunting clothes on.

Firearm and Ammo:

My gun of choice for pig is my Mossberg 500, 12 gauge pump shotgun fitted with a fully rifled barrel. I use not scope as I have found that it is easier for me to pick up my target using the open sights. My ammunition is Federal Barnes Expander tipped sabot slugs. As pigs are tough to bring down I want the largest punch I can shoot and these shells are it. Why a shotgun you may ask? Most other places where pigs are hunted the firearm of choice is a .308 or a 30-06 rifle. Rifles are not allowed n some sections of

New Hampshire, but and shotguns are а shotgun is very easy to maneuver through the brush. While I do not carry a sidearm, many pig hunters do, as a backup gun. It is actually not a bad idea, especially if you need to go into a thicket after a wounded animal. If I was to carry a sidearm it would be a nothing revolver and smaller than а .357 magnum. Be sure to take time to sight in your firearm, no matter what it is.



Despite all of my preparation I have yet to bag a New Hampshire pig. I have seen them and in some cases they have not seen me, but just because you can see them don't mean you can get a good clean shot off. I never will take a questionable shot for a couple of reasons. First, it is just plain wrong. Second, with the exception of a bear, a wild pig is the last animal I want to follow into the brush after it has been wounded. With their razor sharp tusks, these animals can make short work out of the unwary hunter.

With no closed season here in New Hampshire wild pigs offer year round hunting opportunities. Take advantage of wild pigs to put food in your freezer. It will require you to do your homework, but it is well worth it. Just make sure you are prepared before you head out.

RANC

Kaline

"The Poppin' Phattie's unique double face allows it to pop and spray water anywhere!

It excels on the mats and creates explosive strikes even in windy conditions."



1-800-762-4773

www.snagproof.com









Okay, we're kidding. There are three. Tenzing's top-selling TZ 2220, TZ 4000 and all-new TZ 3000 hunting packs are available for 2016 in the high-performance Kryptek HighlanderTM camouflage pattern.

From the beginning of man's hour we came; toiling for our hard-earned subsistence through the centuries. The ongoing experiment in the chase for wild, unspoiled protein led to continual advances in weaponry, tools and tactics, which the successful embraced and further refined. Those who remain, today, continue seeking innovation; searching for enhanced concealment, stealth, and the perfect tool to store and transport their compliment of weaponry to and from the field of battle. But the ultimate hunting pack has been elusive... until now.



Welcome to Gun Protect! This family of products provides Corrosion Protection at the molecular level for your guns and ammunition. All Gun Protect products are used by the US Military, made in the USA, and are compatible with each another. We know you are serious about protecting your guns and ammunition. When you use the Gun Protect as directed, you'll pass your guns down to future generations.

Spray Shield is an unbelievable protectant, lubricant, and cleaner. It is not 'heavy' and works down to $-70^{\circ}F - it$'s obvious why our military uses it.

Weapon & Ammo Cloaks and Safe Environment Modules are infused with the most advanced technology in molecular anti-corrosion called CIS (Corrosion Inhibiting Skin).

We back up all Gun Protect products with our No Hassle Warranty good for 90 days. You'll never see a warranty policy this strong.







Are you serious about your guns? Learn more about Gun Protect at www.mygunprotect.com

Driven infinite by an commitment to technological for innovation hunters, Tenzing[™] Outdoors continues to crank out new, high performance products poised to do more, carry more and elevate the hunting experience by doing it better than anything else out there; no matter where or what you hunt.

So how do you improve staple performers such as Tenzing's TZ 2220 Day Pack and TZ 4000 Pack, while elevating an allnew-for-2016 pack to an even higher level of performance?

Dress them in one of the hottest and most technologically advanced, new camo patterns available today: Kryptek HighlanderTM.

"Today's hunters are detailoriented," says Jay Robert, backcountry hunter, product designer and soul and spirit behind the Tenzing brand. "They demand and deserve products that not only perform without



exception, but also provide options and allow for personal choice. Camouflage selection is equal parts science and preference. We can't live up to our name or our customers' expectations if we fail to keep up with today's latest, top-performing camouflage pattern options."

Kryptek HighlanderTM is one of those patterns. Specially designed for varied geographic regions and elevations, Kryptek HighlanderTM increases stealth when pursuing a wide range of quarry in mixed terrain.

TENZING TZ 2220 IN KRYPTEK HIGHLANDER TM (Model 972350 / UPC 97243-7)

With 2,228 total cubic inches of interior space and weighing a scanty four pounds, the TZ 2220 allows you to hunt light and fast while keeping everything you need secure and within reach inside a total of 11 well-engineered compartments and pockets. Additionally, the workhorse TZ 2220 is engineered for unmatched wearer comfort.

KEY FEATURES & SPECIFICATIONS

- Internal Aluminum Frame Stay
- Padded Hip Support
- Channeled, Air-Cooled Back Pad
- Foldout Bow and Gun Carrying Boot
- H2O Compatible (2-Liter)
- 11 Total Compartments and Pockets
- Six Specialized Zip Pockets
- Four Lateral Compression Straps to Secure Load
- Two Lower Compression Straps to Attach Extra Gear
- 2228 Total Cubic Inches
- 4 lb. 0 oz.
- Main Compartment: 22"x11"x6.5"
- Face Compartment: 16"x10"x12"
- Expanding Side Compartments (2): 8"x5"x2.5"
- Mesh Side Compartments (2): 8"x5"x2.5"
- Hip Compartments (2): 15"x9"x1.5"
- MSRP \$249.99 / MAP \$239.99

In addition to Kryptek HighlanderTM, the TZ 2220 Day Pack is also available In Mossy Oak



Break-Up Country, Realtree MAX-1, Realtree Xtra and Loden Green.

TENZING TZ 4000 IN KRYPTEK HIGHLANDER TM (Model 962350 / UPC 96238-4)

The versatile TZ 4000 can be configured to three primary sizes, providing big game hunters with all the space and function their hunts may demand. A series of expanding pockets and compartments are arranged in a compact vertical design affording up to 4000 cubic inches of storage space. 21 total pockets and compartments allow hunters to load up all the gear they need for a multi-day hunt.

KEY FEATURES & SPECIFICATIONS

• Fully Adjustable Frame Suspension

- Two Fluted, Rigid Internal Aluminum Frame Stay
- Padded Hip Support
- Channeled, Air-Cooled Back Pad
- Foldout Bow and Gun Carrying Boot
- Foldout Rain Cover
- H2O Compatible (3-Liter)
- 21 Total Compartments and Pockets
- 3 Specialized Zip Pockets
- 3 Compression Straps to Attach Extra Gear
- Expandable, Breathable Meat Compartment
- Five Horizontal Compression Straps to Secure Load
- Four Vertical Compression Straps to Secure Load
- 4000 Total Cubic Inches
- 7 lb. 6 oz.
- Main Compartment: 24"x12"x6"
- Meat Compartment: 24"x12"x5"
- Face Compartment: 15"x6"x2"
- Expanding Side Compartments (x2): 20"x5"x1.5"
- Hip Compartments (x2): 4"x9"x2"
- Mesh Compartment: 15"x5"x1"
- Side Pockets: 7"x5"x1"
- MSRP \$409.99 / MAP \$384.99

In addition to Kryptek HighlanderTM, the TZ 4000 is also available In Realtree MAX-1, Realtree Xtra and Loden Green.





ALL-NEW TENZING TZ 3000 IN KRYPTEK HIGHLANDER TM (Model 952350 / UPC 95235-4)

For 2016, Tenzing proudly offers an all-new mid-to-large-sized utility pack that will appeal to all manner of big game hunters. Conceived to fill a void betwixt the company's best selling TZ 2220 daypack and the overnight-capable TZ 4000, the new Tenzing[™] TZ 3000 combines big game grunt and expedition capacity with a relatively compact, access-inspired design.

KEY FEATURES & SPECIFICATIONS

- Two Internal Fluted Aluminum Frame Stays
- Padded Lumbar Pad and Waist Belt
- Channeled Air Cooled Back Pad
- Fold Out Bow and Gun Carry Boot.
- Fold Out Rain Cover
- H2O Compatible 2 or 3 Liter
- Available in Realtree MAX 1 or Kryptek Highlander
- 3100 Total Cubic Inches in X Total Pockets and Compartments
- 6 lb. 4 oz. Total Weight
- Main Compartment: 23.5" x 11" x 9"

• Top Compartment: 10" x 10" x 2"

Face Compartment: 14" x 10" x
2"

- Hip Pockets (x2): 5" x 9" x 2"
- Mesh Side Pockets (x2): 6" x 7.5" x 2"
- Internal Side Pockets (x2): 19" x 6" x 5"
- MSRP \$339.99 / MAP \$329.99



There can be only one. One company, that is, with the most complete line of high-performance hunting packs in the exciting and advanced Kryptek HighlanderTM camouflage pattern. So hunters rejoice. The evolution of the complete hunting pack is nigh; brought forth in a trinity of glorious, high-performance iterations from the company that helps hunters go further and hunt longer, no matter where their pursuits lead them.

Tenzing's best-selling TZ 2220, TZ 4000 and all-new TZ 3000 hunting packs in Kryptek HighlanderTM will be available starting in early winter of 2016.





Mossberg Pro Series Waterfowl Shotguns Built for the Hardcore Duck Hunter

O.F. Mossberg and Sons, Inc., has been a leader in the waterfowl market since the company's development of the first 12-gauge 3 ½-inch pumpaction shotgun in 1988. Continuing its tradition of delivering reliable, purpose-built shotguns to the market, Mossberg is pleased to offer the 930[™] and 935 Magnum[™] Pro-Series Waterfowl autoloading shotguns. These new shotguns are available with the most versatile and effective "pure grass" camo pattern, Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades. And with the Pro-Series special finishes and competition-proved parts, these premium



autoloaders are built to increase performance and stand up to the rigors of waterfowl hunting from the first flights of teal in early fall to the frigid conditions of late-season goose hunts.

Mossberg's Pro-Series shotguns feature boron nitride-coated gas pistons, piston rings, magazine tubes, hammers, sears, return spring plungers and return spring tubes for enhanced corrosion resistance and ease-of-cleaning. The addition of a stainless steel return spring ensures reliable, corrosion-free operation of the recoil system. The shell stops, bolt slides and elevators receive additional finishing which reduces overall friction on internal parts and provides for faster follow-up shots.

At the core of these smooth-cycling 12-gauge autoloading shotguns is Mossberg's dual vent-gas system for reliable operation shot-after-shot and recoil reduction. Performance-enhancing features include a beveled loading gate for ease of reloading; front fiber optic sight, ideal for low-light conditions; Mossberg's Stock Drop System that adjusts the vertical angle of the stock (drop at comb) for a customlike fit; and 3 choke tube set (Full, Modified and Improved Cylinder) to modify your pattern based on your shotshell choice or the hunting conditions. Both the 930 and 935 Magnum have an easy quickempty release button which provides for convenient unloading of shells from the magazine. Further distinguishing these high-performance shotguns from the competition are receivers engraved with "Pro-Series Waterfowl."

The 930 and 935 Magnum Pro Series Waterfowl shotguns feature the latest in concealment with Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades. With over 25 years of camouflage pattern development, Mossy Oak concluded that the most effective waterfowl pattern was one that was purely grass. New Shadow Grass Blades incorporates unique, individual blades of coloration and position with a thatch background of





other lesser pressed-down grasses. The contrasting depth and distance gives Shadow Grass Blades a realistic, 3D appearance and superior ability to break up a hunter's outline.

The fully-camouflaged 12-gauge, 3 ½-inch 935 Magnum Pro-Series Waterfowl (82042) shotgun has a 28inch overbored, vent rib barrel. The overbored barrel in this hard-hitting magnum further reduces felt recoil and delivers consistent, dense patterns. The 930 Pro-Series Waterfowl (85141)12-gauge, 3-inch shotgun features a 28-inch vent rib barrel and full camo coverage. MSRP: \$797 - \$931.

The rugged-reliability and enhanced performance features of Mossberg's Pro-Series Waterfowl shotguns lead to your success throughout the waterfowl season. For complete specifications on this series of 12-gauge autoloaders, please visit <u>www.mossberg.com</u>.





Browning's OneSixOne Crossbow from the ZeroSeven

As part of the ZeroSeven series, Browning Crossbows introduced the OneSixOne Crossbow. Packed with innovative and patent pending features, the made in the U.S.A. OneSixOne Crossbow continues the Browning tradition of "The Best There Is".

Rated to shoot at 350 FPS, the OneSixOne comes mostly assembled for easy set up and use. Simply put the front end on the stock and tighten the nose bolt. The bow includes a premium Cross 4 x 32mm push button illuminated scope with auto shut off, three 22-inch premium carbon Browning arrows, and Browning's custom quiver which places it in line with the stock.

To provide a better, more consistent trigger, the ZeroSeven Browning Crossbows has a pull weight of only 3 lbs and with the Frictionless Release Technology, a responsive and smooth release. The



frictionless sear on the trigger allows for a smooth feel with zero trigger creep.

For added safety, the ADF (Anti-Dry Fire) feature of the bow will not allow the safety to be off if an arrow hasn't been loaded. In addition, the Triggertech designed trigger won't fire unless the arrow has been loaded with the proper vane facing down. This ensures positive contact between the arrow and the string for more accurate, consistent and safer shooting.

The patent pending flight track hook groove keeps the cams aligned when cocking the bow. This design allows for an even and consistent draw and results in better timing for the cams when fired to produce better accuracy.

The OneSixOne comes with a Rope Cocking Device (RCD) or the Browning Crank Cocking Device (CCD) can be purchased as an add-on accessory. The crank cocking device once installed, is housed under the hinged cheek piece. Simply press the button on the butt stock and the cheek piece lifts up revealing the cocking mechanism.





The soft touch textured feel Comfort Ledge Palm Rest has custom soft molded finger reminders that help with vibration, sound suppression and added safety for the user when firing.

To add more customization to the crossbow, it will feature picatinny rail on the left, right, and bottom of



the forearm. The quiver can be placed on either side of the bow and lines up parallel to the stock.

The OneSixOne will come in black and has an MSRP of \$999.99 and a MAP of \$799.99.

Product Specifications

350 FPS Draw Weight 135 lbs Power Stroke 14.625" Kinetic Energy 109 Ft Lbs Weight 7.2 lbs Triggertech Trigger System Frictionless Release Technology Anti-Dry Fire Technology **Browning Comfort Ledge Palm Rest** Flight Track Hook Groove For Rope Cocking Device and Crank Cocking Device **Browning Rope Cocking Device** Left, Right, Bottom Picatinny Rail **Browning Soft Sound String Suppressors** Cross 4 x 32mm Illuminated Crossbow Scope 3-22" Premium Carbon Arrows **Premium Browning Quiver** Laminated Custom Limbs **Magnesium Riser** Made in U.S.A.



ODU MAGAZINE