Late Summer Fishing Aug-Sept 2016

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OLU MGAZINE

ODoors Unlimited

ODU MAGAZINE"

The "HOOCH" **Below Lake** Lanier

Sand loes Salty Fishes Finesse

Tactics That

Worked In

August



Fall is at our doorsteps and we are ready to invade the lakes here at ODU land, with the exit of the vast majority of pleasure boaters. Good luck to all anglers seeking out true giants and records. As for our hunting community get your stands and blinds set, baits and scents



dropped and have a safe early hunting season.

What do you get out of Pokemon that helps a child to grow...NOTHING. This is merely the opinion of the publisher. Fishing teaches a laundry list of things - nature, biology, animals, insects, weather, patience, ones appreciation for our natural resources, math, friendship, chemistry, ecology, physics, sharing, cooperation, teamwork... I can go on

Seriously, POKEMON is an almost zero. I support the game if a kid, gets it (Pokemon Go) every once in a while to stir their imagination. If you are a teen or older I have a suggestion for you and your parents. Go to the internet and access one of several great websites (www.odumagazine.com,

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

Publishing Team: Bill Schwarz & Richard Barker.

Cover image is of and provided by writer and ODU contributor Mike Borovic

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: Bill Vanderford, O'Neill Williams, Dana Benner, Mike Borovic, Dan Galusha, Jason Mitchell, Brad Wiegmann, Brian "Bro" Brosdahl, Capt. Mike Gerry, Dan Johnson, Chris Flint and Josh Lantz

Thank You All!



www.crappienow.com, www.fix.com/blog/) and learn about fishing for bass and panfishing, visit Walmart, or whoever sells fishing equipment near you, get a friend to go with you, buy the equipment, go find a pond, fishing hole, or shore line and wet a line (go fishing). For parents this will be the BEST thing you do with your kids watching them explore and more. For the older ones you will get the same experiences, but from different perspectives.

This is a point to a bigger picture. The last two years I have spent less and less time fishing, up until this late spring. Other commitments held me back, but in reality I just didn't make it a priority. So parents take your kids fishing. The excursion to the fishing spot and back can be just as fun as the fishing trip itself.

OK OK, you don't have a clue how to fish, I get it. How does and a mom or dad take a kiddo fishing, if they themselves have no idea where to begin? Let's get this straight first, you don't need \$500+ in equipment to go fishing, and don't let someone tell you otherwise.

Here is what my 11 year old did as a test and was very successful with it. The test was for him and me to go fishing on a budget.



- We asked friends about local places to catch panfish and bass, so to keep it fun and easy to have success. COST \$0.00
- 2. Find a friend who has a canoe and ask him/her to loan it, with the life preservers, paddles and extra floats for safety. Just ask around, I week did а before this writing as a test and I found 8 canoes to COST borrow. \$0.00



- 3. If the canoe does not have an anchor, make one with a detergent jug, rocks and 20 feet of rope. COST \$5.00. Quite easy to figure out. It will make the fishing easier when you want the canoe to stop in an area and you want to focus on fishing. The anchor will not work in running water though.
- 4. Purchase: Two 6 foot Shakespeare spinning tackle combos from Cabelas, Bass Pro or Walmart. Perfect for bank and canoe fishing. Get medium action if you can. COST under \$40.00 (Walmart)
- 5. Purchase: 2 bags each of 5 to 6 inch soft stick baits, any brand, in black, green and light brown. COST under \$12.00 (Walmart)
- 6. Purchase: two packs of Eagle Claw -Lazer Sharp Extra Wide Gap Worm Hook size 3/0. COST \$6.00 (Walmart)
- 7. Purchase: 300 yards of Stren Original Fishing Line in 6 pound test. COST under \$10.00 (Walmart)
- 8. Purchase: Panfish Kit. COST under \$20.00 (Walmart)
- 9. Learn to tie a Palomar Knot for your hooks <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOc3Q6-BnZ0</u>
- 10. Learn to bait a soft stick bait <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWGjL4w-Qx8</u>
- 11. Remove the line that comes with the reel and replace with what you purchased. Learn how to put new line on here <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9GHF0oShFE</u>
- 12. Learn to fish a soft stick bait https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4gg0nHzYRw
- 13. How to remove a hook from a fishing mouth <u>http://www.wikihow.com/Unhook-a-Fish</u>
- 14. Learn to fish a panfish jig <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/midwestcrappie/videos</u>

With this equipment and knowledge my son used for approved YouTube videos, he was able to catch in a four hour period with me 7 bass to my 5 and 5 white perch/1 sunfish to my 10 white



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The key was watching all the videos and getting reliable tips where to go. 28 fish in four hours was a great day.

This edition of ODU Magazine has a very special feature that each year becomes our most read section and shared magazine our "Top 25 Products of ICAST". This year we hope we did not disappoint. Bass, redfish, walleye, snook, and more are on the plate for our readers to dig into. Enjoy this edition of ODU Magazine and be safe on the water.

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

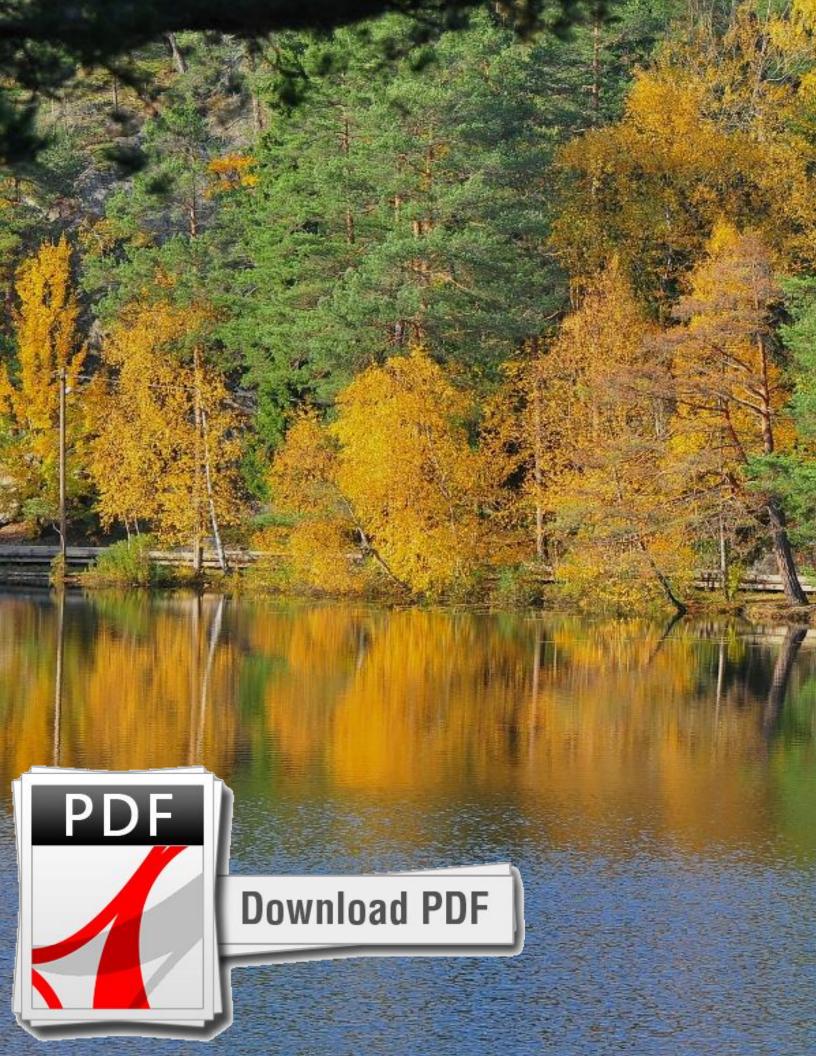




Did You Miss ODU Magazine's Last Three Editions?







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THE "HOOCH" BELOW LAKE LANIER OFFERS BOTH NATURE AND GREAT SUMMER FISHING

By Bill Vanderford

The summer heat and record-setting boat traffic finds lots of fishing folks looking for other options this year. Many of those who still love to fish or observe nature, however, look to the cool waters of the "Hooch" below Lake Lanier as a viable option. The water coming from below the dam at Lake Lanier is always near 50 degrees, and the scenery is breathtaking! Abundant wildlife that could include turtles, muskrats, beavers, great blue herons, ospreys or an occasional eagle can be seen, and the lower Chattahoochee River is teeming with explosive brown and rainbow trout to catch.

Adequate ramps are available near Abbott's Bridge (Highway 120) and Medlock Bridge (Highway 141) and McGinnis Ferry, so anyone with a canoe or small, aluminum jon boat can carefully fish the river. Nevertheless, a few of the rapids and other shallow places can be rather difficult for any newcomer to the river.

Both stocked and native rainbow and native brown trout can be found almost anywhere in the river. They are in both the fast and slower water areas as well as both the deep and shallow parts. They utilize rocks or fallen trees as cover from which to attack any edible creature that might be swept by with the current, and many of these hiding places are right down the middle of the river.

Though Chattahoochee trout might hit a multitude of tiny lures, the most productive artificial offerings seem to be smaller jerkbaits or Swirleybird spinners. When using these lures, always cast across the current and allow the lures to spin or flutter naturally in the current. In deeper, slower sections



of the river, a slower retrieve is better for attracting the hungry trout. Gold or silver are normally the most popular colors, but other shades of lures have been successful as well.

Since the river teems with crawfish and stone flies, Small plastic worms in red or other bright colors are also productive at times. One can also cast artificial insects with a fly rod to lure the trout.

Though the early morning or late evening hours provide a darker, foggy atmosphere that makes trout quite active in the clear waters of the "Hooch," anglers catch trout throughout the day. Overcast days can also be excellent, but during the heat of summer, morning seems to be the best time.

Learning to fish a fast river with all the currents, obstacles, and rapids can take some time. Therefore, "newbie's" to the river seem to have trouble "reading" the waters. Another option is to enjoy the river with a great fishing guide (<u>www.georgiafishing.com/chattahoochee-river</u>. Nevertheless, the Chattahoochee River has a healthy population of trout that are fairly easy to catch. So, instead of running off to some exotic waters this summer, enjoy the beauty and coolness of the "Hooch" and experience the excellent wildlife show and some of the best summer trout fishing available anywhere! 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. Images from B. Vanderford.



Uncle Ben

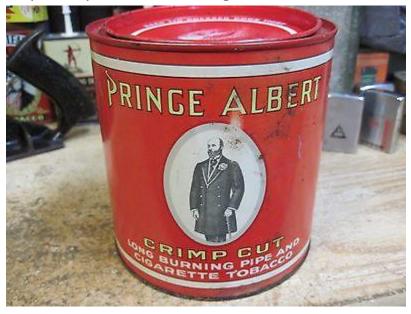


By O'Neill Williams

Until I was about 9 years old, when visiting my cousin in North Georgia, all I had to use for fishing was a cane pole. I didn't mind. It had black nylon line, a lead split sinker or two and a small simple straight shank hook. I kept it leaning up against the corner of the back porch next to the well. My cousin and I went fishing every day when we finished his chores. We drew water from the well before breakfast so anyone who wanted could wash their hands and face. This was before a bathroom on the mountainside. We raked the hard packed dirt area around the back steps to give it a fresh look then fed the chickens and dogs. We 'slopped' the three hogs, that is took what was left over from breakfast along with a few ears of corn, the pigs were kept in a pen out back beyond the outhouse. The pen had a little tin roof shed so that pigs could get out of the sun. We did that twice a day. The outhouse was a two-holer. We probably did that only once. Being little boys, we could do that anywhere and probably did.

Anyway, I liked fishing with that cane pole. My cousin had one just like it. We would catch a bream or two, sometimes a horneyhead and maybe a catfish from the Tallulah River that ran out of Lake Burton, then through Lake Seed and before it formed Tallulah Lake. There was no bridge across the river in getting to the little dirt road to his house so if the river was low enough, you simple 'forded' across the rocky bottom. There was a 'foot log' with a walled up little platform full of big rocks in the middle of

the river where the two logs joined. There was a water snake that lived in rocks. We looked for him when we walked the log. Sometimes we copped a quick glance before he darted away. We'd walk along the railroad tracks that crossed in front of his house for about a mile then over the trussel that still stood and fished in the deep hole under the tracks. Our bait was red wigglers and an occasional night crawler from the area around the barn. It was easy for a couple of 9year olds dig up a few. It didn't take long. We'd put them in a Prince Albert tobacco can. I do not recall where the can came from. It might have been his dad's. Seems to me he rolled his own







Back to the cane pole. My cousin, Winifred, would keep it handy and not use it until I returned the next year. It was just like I left it on the porch in the same spot.

Fast forward to age 10 and with a couple of more summers adding to our adventures. By that time, we'd already graduated to walking the four miles to Lake Rabun and fishing off the steep rocky outcroppings. There I caught my first Warmouth Bream. It looked like an oversize Bluegill with a big mouth. We took it home and cooked it as a supplement for suppertime. My great Aunt Cleo, Winifred's mother, cooked on a wood stove. One of our jobs during the day was to cut kindlin', small pieces of wood, for her to put in the stove fire. Guess everything turned out OK, as I don't ever remember being hungry. No, come to think of it, no matter how much I ate, I was always hungry but that's another story.

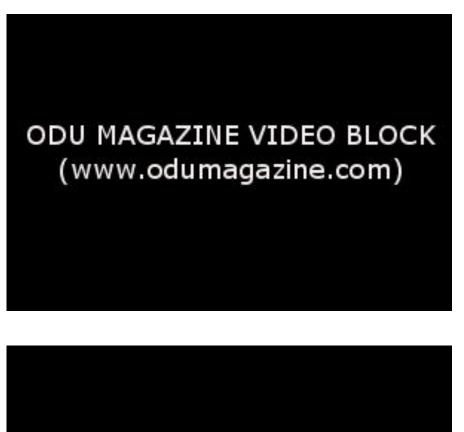
Enough about the cane pole. This story is about my Uncle Ben.

In the Fall, when I turned 11, my Uncle Ben came by the house, we lived in a little

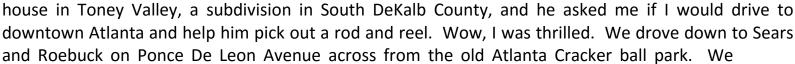
after supper. He'd sit on the steps outside the kitchen door, use his Barlow knife and whittle little sharp pointed sticks then toss them aside.

There must have been a purpose but I do not know what that might have been.

I went there for couple of weeks every summer with my grandparents. They were both from the Clayton, Lakemont and Wiley, GA area so the summer visits were a kind of going home of sorts for them. For my cousin and me, it was playtime every day.



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picked out a Shakespeare Ted Williams model open face reel, a matching rod, spooled it with braided nylon line, a little plastic Old Pal tackle box and even put a few hooks, a box of split sinkers, a black and white bobber and one Lazy Ike lure for bass fishing. I was so proud to be able to have a hand in such crucial choices and was surely grinning ear to ear. Ben was all fixed up. He'd probably spent \$15 all at once on fishing tackle and I was impressed beyond belief. never having witnessed such extravagance before.

We parked in the drive way at my parent's home; the driveway was so short it could only handle two cars at a time. I piled out and ran into the house to show off all Ben had bought. After the description, Ben fell silent. He'd had the idea all along. Once all the fabulous purchase had been lined up neatly for all to see, he gave it to me.

That was 61 years ago. Ben has long since gone but here I am telling the story to you. Why? If that event is so marked in my memory and has for so long and meant so much to a

little wide-eved fisherman, I shout it out again to encourage you to be an Uncle Ben to as many little boys and girls as you Take the can. challenge, follow his lead. Make a little boy or girl happy with an outfit to fish from the bank of a small creek. pond or Maybe they'll write about it one day.



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By Dana Benner

It wouldn't be a trip to the Florida Gulf coast without wetting a line, so here I was getting ready to go out with Peter Root, owner of Naples-Fishing Charters out of Naples, Florida. Our goal was to fish the backwaters and near shore in pursuit of redfish, snook and tarpon. I have fished for "Reds"

in the past and they are always fun to catch, but snook and tarpon will be a new experience for me.

We were to go out to catch bait and it is about an hour ride from my hotel to the dock which meant an early start. It was 6am when I met Peter at the dock. As soon as I loaded my gear we were off. Peter

had decided to hold off on the bait, opting to try our hand at some early tarpon. Leaving the harbor we headed into the Gulf of Mexico and turned south. It was a 10 minute ride to where we would be fishing. Despite the previous evening's thunderstorms, the Gulf was smooth as glass.

Once into position Peter rigged our gear. Each of us were using Penn Bluewater rods coupled with Penn Spinfisher reels. These reels were spooled with 65 pound test braided line with an 80 pound test fluorocarbon leader. Onto the leader was tied a circle hook. Each hook was baited with a blue crab and fished under a float. We were in 10 to 15 feet of water and the tarpon were rolling all around us, which gave me a good feeling. I would feel even better if one decided to take one of the crabs.

After about an hour, despite the tarpon in the area,



we were getting no action. The decision was made to move on. In this particular case we decided to try to catch some bait and go after snook and redfish. This was a learning experience for me as I had never seen someone use a casting net first hand. According to Peter the bait of choice was greenback herring and this is what Peter was able to catch. lt wasn't long before we had a live well full of herring and was on our way to our first snook location.

Our first spot was along a mangrove edge. Once again Peter made our gear ready. Here we were using light gear which consisted of St. Croix medium to medium-heavy rods



coupled with Penn reels. The reels were spooled with 30 pound test braided line, onto which was tied a 20 pound test fluorocarbon leader. Onto a circle hook Peter attached one of those herring. For the most part I am a lure angler, so using bait, especially bait this large, was a little different for me. It actually took me a few casts to get the hang of putting the bait where I wanted it to go and not get it



caught in the mangroves.

Peter explained to me that both snook and redfish relate to structure so there was a good chance to hook into either at this location. Armed with that information I made my casts trying to get my bait as close to the mangrove roots as possible. We also targeted the areas of shadows.

I started seeing swirling water and boils out away from the mangroves, in more open water, so I decided to make a cast in that direction. I felt the herring on the end of my line dancing frantically like something was after it. All of a sudden my rod bent in half. I hauled back and set the hook the best that I could. This was no snook or redfish that I had on the other end of the line. Whatever it was it was heavy and felt like an anchor and it was going to be a match for both me and this medium action rod. I had the fish on for a minute or two and then it was gone. Peter told me that it was a good chance that the fish was a big catfish. I guess I'll never know. Picking up we moved to an area of private docks around some very expensive homes. This is where we started picking up the snook. Casting under the docks and around rock walls I picked up the first snook of my life and it measured a little more than 22 inches. After a couple of chasers we moved once again, this time back to the mangroves. The next snook measured about 24 inches and then another two in the 22 inch range. This same area produced a small barracuda that was lost at the boat. It also started to produce Jack Cravalle.

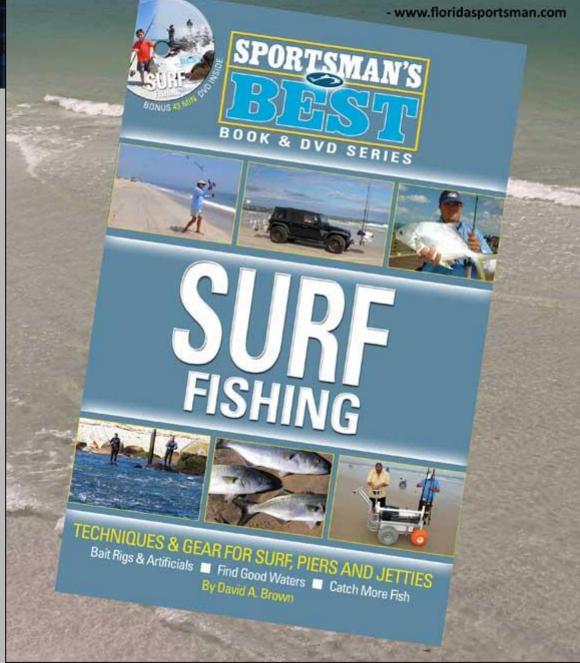
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Though these were not big jacks, they were fun to catch. For this New Hampshire boy, these jacks reminded me of Bluefish. The jack that I caught was only about two pounds, but it was another first for me.

All too soon my fishing trip came to an end. Though no redfish were caught and the fish I did catch were not huge, I had a great time. Peter is a great guide and will put you on the fish. It is up to you to catch them.

Capt. Peter Root Naples-Fishing Charters Contact Peter at: <u>PeterRoot@comcast.net</u>



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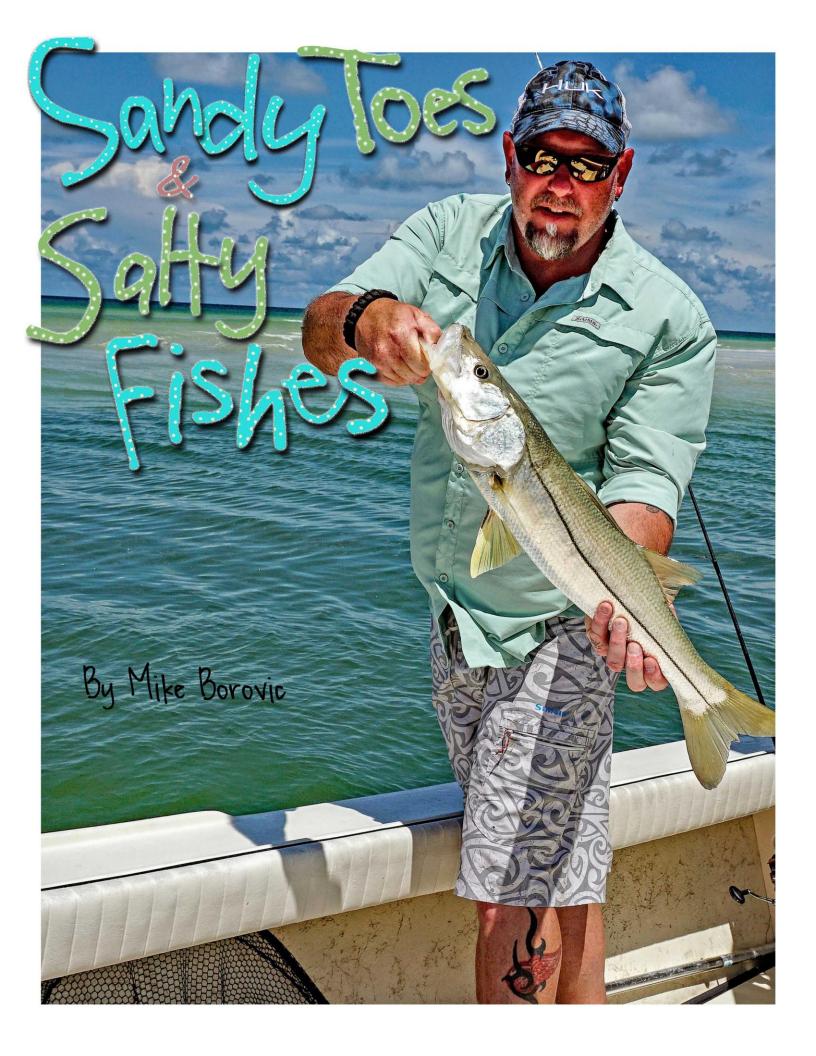


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It all came together this past winter when Linda and I had a conversation of wishes, wants and needs. She mentioned black bear hunting and I whimpered, northern Ontario Brook Trout. Then she blurted out, "I've never seen the ocean"!

Well slap me silly Sally! I knew just the place and where we could catch some fish too.

With a twinkle in my eye, I also knew this would be a given opportunity to chase some Snook, something I've wished to do for a long time. So after securing the time away from work, I called

on a friend by the name of Captain Jim Bennett. Jimbo has successfully been chartering clients as he runs a full time guiding service in Florida's central Gulf Coast area.

However, before we met up with Jim, we spent a couple days beforehand fishing the green water in the Gulf of Mexico out of Clearwater Beach Florida for White Grunts. These are the fish I have always targeted on my visits to the sunshine state because they are so much fun to catch and taste amazingly good.

Fishing for Grunts is very much the saltwater version of fishing for Yellow Perch back home on the Great Lakes. To tackle these beauties all you need is a stiff medium action rod spooled with 20lb test line, rigged with a 3oz sliding egg-sinker and a 1/0 circle hook on a 3-foot lead, and some small cut pieces of squid for bait.

You can locate Grunts on hard bottom starting from shore all the way to the outer reef edge in waters less than 100 feet. I don't know what it is but there is no comparison between the battles of freshwater fish and saltwater fish. A 12" grunt will scrap like a 4lb Smallmouth Bass all the way to the boat!

One of the splendors of fishing from southern beach-towns like Clearwater is there never seems to be a shortage of pier restaurants that will cook your catch for you. This is great for the vacationing folk visiting from out of the state like myself.

Grunts grunt by grinding the pharyngeal teeth, amplifying the sound with the air bladder. Sometimes it can be heard topside when you take them off the hook.







So the day finally came and with a "gone fishing" jingle dancing in my head, we set out early one morning in search of treasured silver. We basically targeted the affected areas of the outgoing tide that showed a distinct visual drop-off. Theoretically, with a dropping water level, this should squeeze the bait fish on the shallow flat over the edge, which in turn should naturally create a nice ambushing area for the Snook. And did it pay off? I've been to Clearwater Beach a few times but never fished the inshore-flats until now. Fishing the Honeymoon and Three-Rooker Island area in the St. Joseph Sound couldn't be any more stunning. With mile-long stretches of sugary-white, powder soft beaches, lushly mangroves surrounded by gin clear water in shades of green and Caribbean blue, and a seabed that is luxuriously carpeted in a seagrass meadow... I assure you it does not get any sweeter. Absolutely not.



Well, does Santa wear a red suit on Christmas Eve?

We smashed fish after fish!

Are we really allowed to have this much fun I thought? Because I almost feel guilty. I never could have imagined that Snook on light saltwater tackle would have been such a hoot. Seriously, this is about as much fun as one can have without taking their clothes off! The setup couldn't be any simpler, with a 2/0 circle hook tied to a fluorocarbon leader from 15lb braid; baited with a small Grunt works perfect. Cast that out with a medium action rod and get ready to hang on to a grab-handle! You will certainly know when a fish is around as you will feel the bait frantically try swimming away. And then suddenly without further warning... **the cupcakes hit the fan!** And that's when you find yourself in a cardio thumping side-to-side rodeo ride with a Sideliner!



When these Snook grab and go... you better hold on with all you got because your reel is about to SCREAM my friend!

I have been fortunate to have fought some nice fish, some near 50 inch Musky and a few Detroit River Sturgeon, but the battle of a big Snook is awesomely impressive! You can expect some marathon reel screaming runs and many times a spectacular show of aerial acrobatics. There's no doubt. The common Snook is a real fighter. For those who have battled large Sideliners on light-tackle know exactly what I'm talking about because your ear to ear smiles right now will rival any child visiting Disney Land for the first time!

After the morning's feeding bonanza, we switched up baits and by going smaller we were able to hook into some Spotted Seatrout. Then Lucky Linda hooked into a respectable Red Drum, but unlike the reddish tinged drums we usually see, this Redfish was colorless, which only made it that much more unique. Jim said it's because this fish has spent most of its time around the nearshore Gulf side beaches which is a bit unusual as most Redfish in this particular area are targeted and caught on the grassy flats and closer to the mangroves.

So now that she has caught a Snook, a Trout and a Redfish; this qualifies her for the "**Slam**". Not to be confused with the other dozen or so, but a "**flats or backcountry slam**" is when you catch all three gamefish species of the flats, on the same day. So



Big baits for big fish!





after a couple celebratory high-fives it didn't take any more than a friendly glare at Jim :) for him to know I too wanted to slam. Being the great guy Jimbo is... he knew exactly where to go. So we reeled up and headed for a cluster of mangroves and sure enough, on my second cast, I hooked up and completed my own slam. So with that and the baking 103° temperature, we called it a day. And a good day it certainly was. $\cdot \tilde{} \cdot \cdot , ><(((9>$



Spotted Seatrout are very delicate with prominent canine teeth. Not exceedingly strong fighters but they have a hard strike, great table fare and quite abundant inshore and aboue oyster bars. Having Jim aboard a vessel is a blessing, friend or captain, he is a wealth of knowledge who knows his local waters like the back of his hand. No one can guarantee that anyone will catch a behemoth, but at the very least, it's Jim that can put you in a position to have that opportunity. If you don't know the waters you intend on fishing, then hiring a local guide will be the smartest and safest thing you can ever do. If you are interested in experiencing inshore or nearshore saltwater fishing in the west-central part of Florida, then I personally recommend you give Jimbo a call. He covers a huge area and tackles a great variety of species. You can also check him out on Facebook at Trophy-Trips (West Central Florida's Premier Fishing Charter Service).

Editor's note – Congratulations to Mike on his newly acquired Fishbum Field Staff position! We're loving the new jersey he is wearing on the cover page garnished with the ODU logo. Sweet!

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Most gasoline now contains 10 percent ethanol (E10). But, you may see higher ethanol blended gas available for sale – such as 15, 30, 50 or 85 percent ethanol gas. They may even be cheaper than E10.

However, these higher ethanol blends are not meant for small engines, marine engines, utility vehicles and outdoor power equipment including boats, mowers, garden tractors, chainsaws, snow throwers, trimmers, generators, power washers, blowers and more.

Gasoline containing greater than 10 percent ethanol can damage or destroy these valuable investments.

In fact, using any gas that contains more than 10% ethanol is harmful and illegal to use in outdoor power equipment and in marine engines. Today you may come across a gasoline blender pump, which dispenses various ethanol blends, and you might be tempted to buy the least expensive fuel - which may likely contain higher ethanol content. But, price is no longer the way to choose your gasoline safely. You have to choose the right fuel.

Read the equipment's operating manual for specific fueling requirements, and select the correct gasoline for that specific product.

When you pull up to the gas station, look before you pump. Protect your investments. Choose E10 or less for your outdoor power equipment and marine engine products.

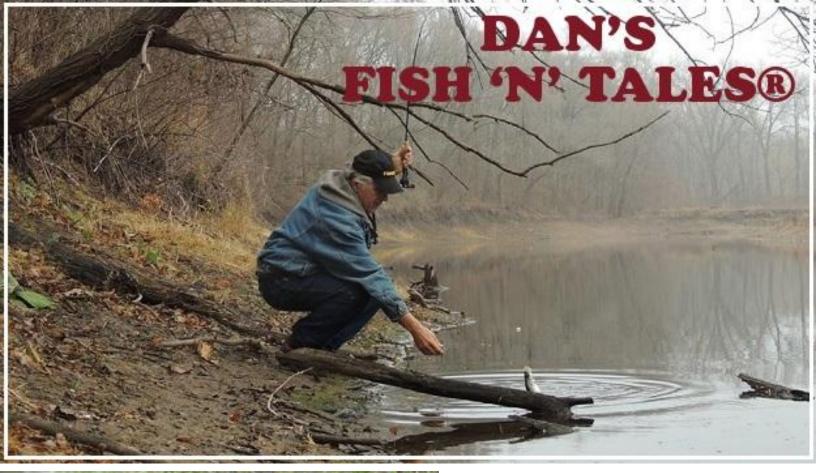




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The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) is an international trade association representing small engine, utility vehicle and outdoor power equipment manufacturers.

For more information, visit www.OPEI.org





Fishing The Heat

By Dan Galusha

Anglers have always had the idea that when the weather gets hot the fishing goes bad. That is definitely not true, nor do you have to get up at the crack of dawn to find good fishing.

Some of my best fishing days have been in hot weather, and during the warmest time of the day. I've caught some of my largest fish in several species from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the summer months. The most productive TV

A smelt colored, 2-inch Power Minnow on a small jig head, fished with a finger jigging technique, or drifted with a wave action under a float along a weed line, can be deadly for catching big bluegill.



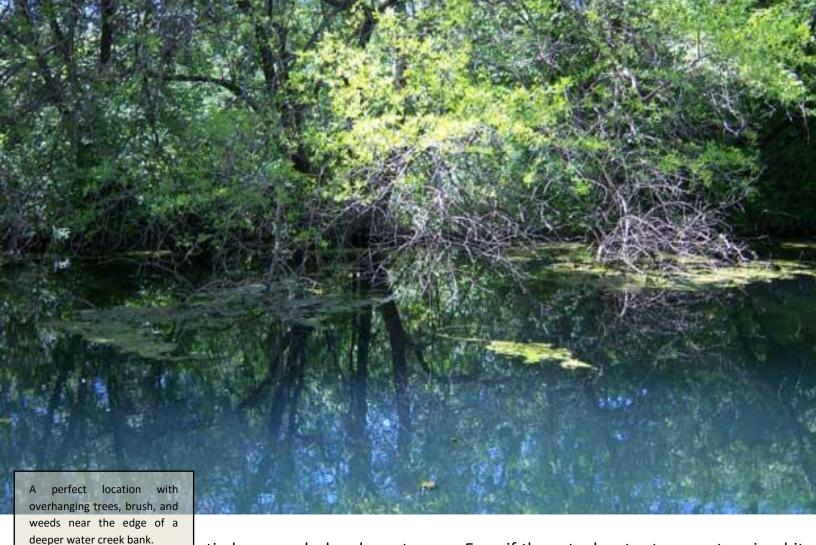
with some weeds that extended out towards deeper water, held some nice bluegill, such as this 11-incher that hit on a 1.5" Gulp Alive Minnow that was retrieved with a finger jigging technique.

show that I have ever filmed was in conditions of a 106° heat index, while fishing rip rap along a dam in the sun, and submerged timber in the middle of the lake, which resulted in 30 bass, none being less than 2 pounds. I've also caught numbers of nice size crappie and bluegill in open areas without shade, and some in overhanging areas.

There are four main keys to locating fish in these conditions – water temperature, cover, oxygen and food source. Like the late John Eastwold of the Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock said, "The fish are where the kitchen is located, and if the food supply isn't there, then neither are the fish." In most cases the food supply will be where the best of the other conditions are found, but if not; then don't waste time.

The best water temperature is the lowest that can be found. In some cases that means finding shade,





timber, weeds, brush or stumps. Even if the actual water temperature is a bit higher, current, whether water or wind, can help make conditions more

comfortable by providing some temperature difference and producing a better oxygen level.

Don't ignore any rip rap cover, even if it is in warmer water. As previously mentioned, if there is some form of current running parallel or into it, then definitely spend some time in that area. Look for anything different along the area, such as a drop-off, depression or some sort of different piece of cover, such as a log, or even an overflow area along a dam.

When fishing current, milder speeds are best, but also look for breaks and eddies behind them. Brush piles, log jams and rock piles are all good current breaks on rivers and canals. In fact, in the case of the Hennepin Canal, there are tubes through which you pass to go from one pool to the next. These tubes, especially the down current side, many times hold fish. Similar structures can be found in other bodies of water, maybe not as large, but they still are tubes that will hold fish, especially if water or wind current is passing through.

During any time of the year baitfish busts are a dead giveaway that fish are feeding in an area. This is not always seen, so if baitfish are seen swimming in areas, or crawfish pieces are found drifting along shore, then these are areas to target. Baitfish can also be found on a depth finder, which can be used to find other structures such as drop offs, submerged brush, and old creek beds. Another reason that locating food is so important is that fish feed more in the hot weather since their metabolism is controlled by temperature. So, as it gets hotter they feed more.



Three of my favorite covers for this time of year are docks, overhanging trees and weeds. I especially like docks and overhangs that are near deep water and have weeds or wood cover off of the dock's deep end, or a drop-off parallel to the overhanging trees. Overhanging trees not only provide shade, but also naturally chum the water with fruit and bugs. Weeds that come to the surface, and have gaps between "weed islands" or weeds that have a drop-off edge along deeper water are great fish holders. There have been several times when I've fished in the heat of the day around a gap near a "weed island" and caught larger crappie and bluegill.

Except for when I'm trying to locate fish quickly, my fishing techniques are slower. When trying to locate fish I'll cast 1.5" Gulp Alive or 2" Power Minnows on a small B-Fish-N Precision jig head (used with finger jigging technique), Road Runners of different types, Mini Traps and Stanley Baby Wedge spinnerbaits (for larger crappie) around the cover. If fish are found, then I'll keep casting the most productive lure until the action slows.

The next step is to fish slower with a Road Runner, Gulp Alive or Power Minnow, or a Ratfinkee, Ratso or Mini Mite under a float with a Crappie Nibble. I will retrieve the lures or drift the float rigs along rip rap, weed lines,

No shade other than some weed islands were present, but a gap with some wind current held several nice crappie, such as this 13-inch fish that hit on a Road Runner Reality Shad.

points and off of drop-offs. In brush, logs, trees and stumps I pull the lures up and down in every little nock-andcranny, making sure to cover every possible spot. This includes working the root system that goes out from а submerged stump. These are areas where thin wire hooks come in handy so that they can be pull free easily, especially if using thin, but heavier pound test, braided or Nanofil lines.

The tactics discussed in this article are primarily targeting shallower lakes, rivers and canals.



Fishing these same conditions in a deep reservoir will be somewhat different since fish have more depths, steeper banks and bluffs, and different structures to move to. In either case, and especially

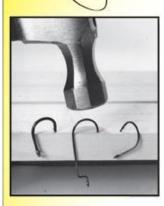
John Francisco proudly displays a 15-inch crappie that he caught in submerged brush located in deeper water along an old creek channel.

with the deeper areas, a good depth finder with a temperature probe, such as a Vexilar Edge 3, or the new Sonarphone that works with a Smartphone or Android tablet, will be invaluable.

People who go early and late will catch active fish, and find them moving around and out a bit more. However, don't pass up the "heat" fishing, as it can be just as productive, for all sizes of panfish, and a lot of fun for the angler that likes to fish slow, in all sorts of cover.

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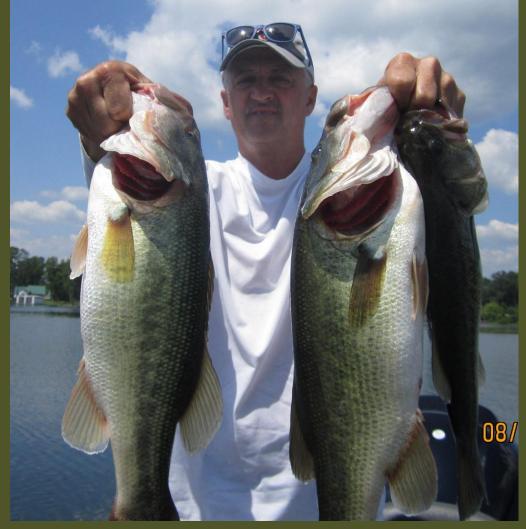


Remember, when fishing in very hot conditions, take breaks, drink plenty of water, and look for the conditions discussed in this article.

If you have any questions about this or another fishing subject, stop by the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales[®] website at <u>www.dansfishntales.com</u>, or Facebook page at <u>www.facebook.com/dansfishntale</u> <u>s</u>, and drop me a line. The website also provides links for the ODU Magazine website, as well as the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales[®] You Tube Channel.

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





SIX TO TEN FT. CRANK BAITS

By Capt. Mike Gerry

Every year as the fall approaches, I start to remember the falls of the past where we could catch 100 fish a day on small medium running crank baits. I recall the endless numbers of fish we could catch just by working that bait off the edges of the grass beds. The key was just hanging your bait slightly on the grass as it thins down the water line off the edges. Hanging that bait caused the crank bait to pull. deflect auick and make а movement that created a bite.

It was an unbelievable fish catcher; it appeared to me that every other cast someone in the boat would catch a fish; sure many of those bites were small fish but also a big bite was part of the catch and it just continued all fall long. I contend those days haven't gone that we can still find the fish that will react to small crank baits we just have to move continually during a fishing trip until you finally find that group of fish that are competitive enough to react to these crank baits.

Today's preferred crank bait for me is the SPRO Baby Little John, the tight wobble has always been the key to this presentation and this bait certainly moves and wobbles tightly as it is retrieved through the water. I think the tight wobble makes a sound that becomes an attractant for fish and they seek it out as your working the bait. The biggest advantage of this fall presentation is that anyone and everyone in the boat catches fish, you just have to keep your bait in the water, be persistent and believe in it and no matter your age, or fishing experience you can have a successful day in the fall working these small crank baits. I think the biggest difference for today's success is that there is just not as many fish as there use to be so a good day may not reach the limits and numbers of the past. I do believe that having the staying power to spend a day working small crank baits will yield you some fun and good times; you just have to stick with it.

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WALLEYES IN A SNAP

By Jason Mitchell

Trolling patterns that cover water and break down big locations with crankbaits often seem to dominate the walleye scene come midsummer. As fish pull out over deep contours or basins and in some cases suspend over open water, nothing beats a crankbait for eliminating water.

Part of what makes trolling crankbaits so effective as we move towards the heart of the summer is that a crankbait is the fastest presentation you have. With speeds that can range from two to over three miles per hour, you can simply cover more water. Once the water warms up beyond 70 degrees, you can often get away with faster trolling speeds that surpass two miles per hour and mv recommendation is to troll as fast as the fish will let you get away with because catching fish is often simply just eliminating water (you eliminate more water when you can troll faster) and running a lure in front of as many fish as possible.

Over the past ten years, one hot trend on so many inland lakes and even some reservoirs has been running smaller hard vibration lures like Salmo



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Hornets behind lead core line. Over the past five years, we have also seen another trend gain some serious momentum and that is using big snap weights. In fact, using snap weights as large as four or five ounces that get out quickly and fish closer to the boat is actually starting to replace lead core which has been a staple for walleye anglers.

Now snap weights have been part of the walleye trolling routine for quite some time but many of the old snap weight methods mirrored the Great Lakes origins. That is clips with varying weights that ranged from

½ ounce to four ounce sizes where anglers employed a 50/50 rule where the lead to either the crankbait or spinner harness was always the same (50 feet) and anglers changed the snap weight size to vary the running depths as anglers typically ran several lines out to the sides of the boat with inline planer boards.

With off shore trolling roots from Great Lakes fisheries, this snap weight trolling method has morphed into something completely different as you move west. Four to five ounce snap weights are often fished



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six to ten feet in front of the lure and these heavy weights can often be fished right below the boat. The set up time with this heavier system is so dramatically quick. There is no waiting. The speed of set up is one of the greatest advantages over traditional lead core.

Because of the tighter and closer proximity to the boat combined with this much quicker deployment time, we can often have an easier time of following tight outside and inside cuts as we follow a contour. The snap weight is never far from

the transducer. While snap weights will lift and fall as boat speed changes, the lift and fall of such a heavy snap weight is not as dramatic as what you would find on smaller snap weights or lead core. Big waves or outside and inside curves will cause the lure and snap weight to surge and stall but speed will do little to adjust to changes in running depth.

Because of these characteristics, these heavier snap weight systems shine whenever you need to follow a specific depth range that is beyond twenty feet of water where the boat has to follow the contour. Because of the speed of deployment, anglers can often fish tighter areas than where you would typically dare to use lead core.

Fishing these magnum snap weights can sometimes feel more like bottom bouncer and spinner presentations than traditional trolling. Drop the snap weight down to the bottom and reel up until the snap weight isn't touching the bottom and the crank bait is running clean and free.

Sometimes referred to as a "poor man's down rigger," you can effectively use snap weights to efficiently fish down to sixty feet of water pretty easily. You essentially putting are cranks right behind and below the boat and can deploy extremely quickly. advantage Another to using snap weights is the simple efficiency where you are fishing closer to the boat and don't have as much line to reel up when catching a fish. If you can



reel a fish up on fifty feet of line, you will lose fewer fish than if you have to reel up a fish on a hundred feet of line.

Typically, extremely clear water like you find on the Great Lakes fisheries or bodies of water with zebra mussels require much longer leaders between the lure and the snap weight but most inland waters will suffice with a lead that is the length of the rod. Seven to ten feet of line will work and the shorter lead between weight and lure sure makes netting fish easier without having to remove the snap weight.

Most anglers will use a ten or fourteen pound braid for the main line for the added sensitivity. Even with the snap weight, you can still usually tell if the lure is fouled or out of tune. Line counter reels are necessary paired up with a trolling rod like the Jason Mitchell Pro Walleye Series Great Lakes 8'6" Trolling Rod (JM861GLMH) which is a great all purpose trolling rod for running boards, snap weights and lead core with a retail price of less than sixty bucks.

Of course with your trolling spread, you can mix up some snap weights with lead core, wire, Dipsy Divers or flat lines. Most inline planer boards will handle up to three ounces of lead depending on the amount of line, speed and height of the waves. In my opinion, snap weights really begin to shine in July and August when the water warms up as the pendulum action you get with changes in speed often seems to trigger fish. Often noticed that lead core would often shine on the "off" days where as snap weights would kick in when the fish are on.

In states where multiple rods can be used, anglers often run smaller shad profiled baits off snap weights while long lining deep divers further out the back of the boat to stagger the lures. One of the most impressive deep diving crankbaits on the scene right now for long lining in deep water is the Salmo Free Diver. This particular lure will reach about forty feet of water without adding weight and has a loud rattle. Because of the exceptional dive curve of this particular lure, the Free Diver is a nice compliment to snap weights to sneak an extra line or two behind the boat.

This summer, make sure to incorporate snap weights into your walleye-trolling arsenal. Snap weights have a way of simplifying trolling in that you drop a heavy weight behind the boat and reel up the lure off the bottom. A simple and effective way to get your favorite lures into the zone in front of fish.



GREEN GRASS GRASS AND BIG BASS BASS

By Brad Wiegmann

In a place you can only dream of, where you are always free to move in your kayak. The challenge is not how long you stay, but how far can you go. It's a place of green grass and low water forever.

Professional bass angler, Scott Canterbury, knows where there's grass, there will be big bass. "I grew up fishing shoreline grass on the Coosa River. It grows up and covers



the ponds and lakes so you have to know what lures to fish if you are going to catch bass," said Canterbury.

Canterbury has many lures in his tackle boxes, but when fishing shoreline grass he likes swimming a jig in it, flipping a Scott Canterbury Flipping Jig, throwing a buzzbait or fishing soft plastic stickbaits. What lure Canterbury fishes with depends on the time of day and how aggressive the bass are feeding.

Recently, Canterbury has taken up fishing from a kayak, but not just any kayak. He has a Jackson Kayak (<u>www.jacksonkayak.com</u>) Coosa HD. It's not your traditional recreational kayak. The Coosa HD is packed with features; however, it's the stability to let anglers like Canterbury stand up and fish from a kayak.

Here's a quick look at the specifications on the Coosa HD. It measures over 12-feet long with a width of 34-inches. The unique hull allows it to be used in everything from flat lake water to inshore saltwater.

Even fishing out of a kayak, Canterbury approaches catching bass the same way he would out of a bass boat. "My Coosa lets me not only fish areas where I do out of my Ranger fiberglass bass boat, but also go into areas that are unreachable because they are super shallow. I fish everywhere from ponds, little lakes to areas there's no way to get to with my big boat," said Canterbury.

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There are many species of aquatic vegetation: submergent, emergent, floating-leaf and free-floating. These species of aquatic vegetation commonly grow in lakes, ponds, rivers or reservoirs.

Emergent plants have a large amount of leaves, shoots or even flowering structure above the surface. Some examples are cattails, bur-reed, sedges or bulrushes. Submergent plants have most of the plant below the surface. Examples of that would be milfoils, pondweed and coontail. Floating-leaf plants have leaves floating on the surface. Examples include some pondweeds and water-lilies. Free-floating plants may or may not be rooted to the bottom, but normally will be in a floating mass or even tangled in other plants. Examples include bladderwort and duckweed. Sometimes, coontail is also included in with other free-floating plants because it's easily dislodged by boat or wind action.

If the bass are non-aggressive, Canterbury will switch to a Netbait Salt Lick. The Netbait Salt Lick is a 5-inch soft plastic stickbait that



has no appendages. "They can be rigged weightless or wacky rigged style, I like to rig them Texas rig style so it comes through the grass really good. The fish love it rigged that way," said Canterbury.

When the bass are aggressive,

Canterbury fishes a Dirty Jigs Tackle (www.dirtyjigstackle .com) White 1/4-Scott ounce **Canterbury Pro Buzz** rigged with a Bruiser Baits Thrasher. "The ¼-ounce is mv favorite because it's more versatile than the 1/2-ounce as far as casting goes," Canterbury. said Canterbury will work the buzzbait around the edges or sparse batches of grass anticipating a big bite from aggressive bass. Canterbury will switch to fishing his



Dirty Jigs Tackle signature series 1/2-ounce Scott Canterbury Flippin' Jig once the sun gets up.

To fish aquatic vegetation, Canterbury will get his kayak on the edge of the grass paralleling the edges. If that is not productive, Canterbury will cast into the thick grass where the bass are hiding.

Green grass and big bass forever could be Canterbury's rally cry to other anglers. Canterbury loves fishing out of a kayak to places where fish have had no pressure on from other anglers. For Canterbury, it's brings a different way of approaching bass fishing that produces big bass.

AUGUST IS BEHIND US AND DID YOU KNOW?



Finesse Tactics That Worked In August For the 'Eyes

Tap more walleyes with a simple presentation any angler can fish

By Brian "Bro" Brosdahl

To be fair, the month of August gets a bad rap. For most anglers it's simply a transition month we put up with—a chapter between the hot summer walleye action in July and the start of early-fall patterns in September. Some anglers don't even fish walleyes during the "dog days," slinging treblestudded 2"x4"s to muskies or chasing bass in the cheese instead. The fair-weather crowd doesn't even leave the dock, turning their energies to deer property or honey to-do lists.

Too bad for them! Fact is, August is actually a great time to catch walleyes! The sustained summer heat of August kicks the walleye metabolism into overdrive and they're forced to eat, eat, and eat some more. Same reason muskie anglers love August. As fish eat more, there's simply a better chance for more bites, pure and simple.

Sure, August is great for trolling 'crawler harnesses on bottom bouncers or crankbaits on lead-core along deeper breaks and over main-lake humps, islands and points. And nighttime is often the right time in August, when long-lining cranks over shallower flats (especially just before, during, and after the full moon) can fill a box full of fish pretty quick. The skeeters are another story, though.

So, while bottom-bouncers and night long-lining both catch August 'eyes, I prefer to do other things, fishing lighter presentations wherever possible. Let me explain.

Fish Like A Kid

This August I challenge you to fish like you did as a kid. What I mean by that is leave the bottombouncers, planer boards, and lead core in the rod lockers—stuff we weren't using when we first started fishing. Well, maybe some kids are. But you get my drift.



Instead, grab a handful of 1/8-, 3/16-, and ¼- jigheads, some curly-tail grubs and paddle tails, hairpin spinners, and hit the water. Some small leeches, fatheads, and 'crawlers aren't a bad idea, either.

The system is simple as pie. Attach a clip-on hairpin spinner to your favorite jighead, thread on a plastic, and start trolling. Fact is, the clip-on hairpin spinner is probably the most overlooked piece of tackle in our boxes, yet turns any jig head, curly tail grub or paddletail into a multi-species fish catching machine.

I use Northland Thumper, Whistler or RZ jigs with a 2"-2.5" Impulse curly-tail or slightly larger paddle tail. White, firetiger, perch and crawfish colors are typical producers. Me, I probably fish white more than anything else.

Fished on a medium-light 6'3" to 7'0" spinning rod like a St. Croix Walleye Tournament Series, Legend Elite, or AVID, and you're in for some serious fun, even with "eater" class walleyes. As far as line choice, I use Sunline SX1 10-lb. green braid. You can use a fluorocarbon shock leader if you're trolling in open water, but for our purposes there's no need for it when trolling in and out of the weedy matrix. These fish are not line shy.

It's far from tournament rocket science, but it's deadly on waters across the Walleye Belt-river anglers



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already know that. But we lake guys have overlooked the hairpin/plastic combo for too long. Let's bring it back! It's sort of like digging our your old LPs and jamming to Led Zeppelin or the Stones on actual vinyl. Yep, still sounds great—maybe even better than I remember!

Where to Fish It

On northern MN lakes like Leech, I'm ditching deeper humps in favor of weed edges, weed tops (cabbage and coontail), sand grass flats, and weed/rock transitions. Although it's August, there are still fish there (and often lots of them), even if the crowd is fishing much deeper. Keep in mind that walleyes are going wherever there's food and shallower and mid-depth locations with weeds often hold some of the best forage. Forget the thermocline right now; it's now always about water temp.

How To Fish It

Get the boat up to 1.0-1.2 mph, cast the hairpin spinner and plastic combo behind the boat and start covering water. I like to start by identifying a target depth range with the LakeMaster Depth Highlight on my Humminbird HELIX 10 SI GPS. For example, choosing 10 feet, +/- 2 feet, so everything between 8 and 12 feet shows up in green. Then it's as simple as watching my map in split screen with 2D sonar on the other side. Stay in green and you're good; monitor the 2D for weeds and you get the idea. Then, when you get a fish, drop a waypoint.

Depending on the depth – which could be anything from 4' - 15' -- let more or less line out. The beauty of the hairpin spinner – especially on braid -- is that it's practically weedless. Tickle the weed tops, and if



you do get hung up on a weed, rip the rod tip forward. Often times a walleye will smash the bait immediately after.

Now, if you're fishing on the tail end of a cold front or foul weather, consider slowing your troll to .9 mph. Even at that speed, you should get some loft from a 1/8 or 3/8-oz. hairspin combo when trolling in 8'-10'. Keep in mind that in weedy or rocky areas walleyes will swim up a few feet to hit a presentation; you don't have to be near bottom. In these same post-frontal conditions you can add some scent to the equation to up the odds. A fathead, half 'crawler or small leech often works wonders.

Stop and Pitch

The nice thing about trolling the hairpin spinner combo—as opposed to a spinner harness—is when you catch a fish you can immediately pitch back to the area. At 1.2 mph you have plenty of time to get right back in the zone without having to turn your boat around, so you can cover an area faster and more effectively. In these areas and this time of year, where there's one walleye there's typically a pod of several more—sometimes large schools. I can't tell you how many times I've stopped the boat, hit the button on my Minn Kota Talon, and whacked fish for up to an hour or so with clients. It's simply a

matter of casting the bait out, counting down until you hit bottom and slow-rolling back to the boat.

Low Impact Fishing

The hairpin combo is a great presentation for anglers of all levels. From kids to the elderly, it's really low impact. The chance of getting hooked is minimal, unlike tossing or trolling cranks, and it's not hard on your body, as opposed to pulling heavy bottom bouncers. Anyone who's had shoulder or wrist issues can tell you that bottom bouncers aren't a hell of a lot of fun. This system is light and easy to hang onto. Anglers can drag it, jig it, cast it, and the you're able to feel the bite and YOU actually set the hook. It's really hand-to-fin combat with walleyes in the middle of the summer and it's a blast! Sure, there are times we still use bottom bouncers and harnesses for control – but simple jigheads on hairpin spinners work really, really well. Just ask my clients.

Now get out there—and fish like a kid!

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

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



Finesse Time

By Capt. Mike Gerry

I know many of you have read where I have said that I am not a big fan of finesse fishing; in fact many have heard me verbalize it.

It's true I am not but I believe we have reached a time in the dog days of August where working finesse baits might be your best alternative, and the easiest way to catch a fish.

All I can say is don't shoot the messenger, the dog days have slowed the bite and power fishing is hitand-miss and it seems the best way to have success is to down size some and slow down your presentation. The few finesse presentations I revert too is first fishing a Punisher Lures Shaky head; a small 1/8 oz. shaky head rigged with a small finesse worm or a sinko type worm fished along the grass edges will get you bites and many times it can be a good fish. Just be patient, work it slowly and find some productive water; it's also a bait that can ignite small schools of fish, it has that tantalizing drop that ignites bites. I am also high on fishing a weightless sinko rigged with a big hook and maybe even a swivel to contain the line twist especially if you're a spinning rod fisherman when your finesse fishing. The sinko goes back many years to the introduction of what has been called dead sticking; meaning you work it very slow, let the drop of the bait be the action and just be patient. Many times working a sinko in grass that seems to have holes in it where the bait drops slowly into the holes especially in low light conditions can be great during these dog days.

Don't overlook the fact that both these presentations can be worked in deep water; if you scan the bottom and find a school of fish in deep water both of these presentations will catch you fish and maybe even win a tournament. It takes patience, it takes a commitment to let that bait get to the bottom, but if you can stand the wait the results are worth it. Many times on the newest Lowrance technology you can actually see the bait drop on your electronics and watch the results right before your very eyes. I know many don't believe it, but it can be done the clarity of the newest Lowrance HDS technology will expose this technique for you.

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Understranding Gamefish Strike Zones

By Dan Johnson

Many anglers agonize over finding the hot lure or perfect color pattern for the conditions at hand, but veteran guide Bernie Keefe argues they'd catch more fish by focusing on strike zones instead.

"A strike zone is the area in which fish will respond positively to your presentation, and the size of these areas changes frequently, even during the course of a day on the water," he explains.

While Keefe concentrates most of his time connecting clients with feisty trout including lakers, browns and 'bows, along with Kokanee salmon, he's also a veteran walleye and pike fan, and says the strike zone concept applies to virtually any gamefish.

"Same with technique," he says. "Strike zones are a big deal whether you're casting, jigging or trolling."

According to Keefe, a number of factors can cause a fish's strike zone to expand or contract. "Weather and light conditions can play a role, as well as the mood of the fish and whether or not its stomach is



empty," he explains.

"Many days," he continues. "Trout are aggressive and hungry first thing in the morning. They have no trouble swimming 10 to 20 feet to attack something that catches their eye. If I'm trolling, this means I have plenty of leeway positioning my lures in the water column."

However, as the day progresses and the trout's bellies become full, their ambition begins to wane, and with it, their willingness to chase down far-off meals.

"It's not unlike Thanksgiving Day," Keefe quips. "After dinner, you're not getting up off the couch to get a turkey sandwich in the kitchen. But, if someone waves a slice of pumpkin pie in front of you, and all you have to do is raise your arm...that's a whole different story."

When the strike zone shrinks during a trolling trip, Keefe keeps a close eye on his Lowrance depthfinder to pinpoint trout location, and fine-tunes lure running depths to match until he puts the piscatorial pie in front of the trout's nose. "I adjust depth in 1-foot increments until I start getting bit again," he says.

He takes a similar tack when jigging. "Active fish may chase a jig ripped a foot off the bottom," he says. "But if they want it within six inches of bottom, you're wasting half of every jig stroke on unproductive water."

Currently, one of Keefe's hottest jigging patterns centers on a reduced strike zone. "I rig a 5-inch Berkley





Jerk Shad on a halfleadhead. ounce drop it to bottom and then slowly raise and lower it," he says. "The trick lately has been limiting lifts to 12 inches. Raise it any more than that and the fish won't bite."

Even when targeting active trout, it still pays to keep strike zones in mind. "I

love casting stickbaits like the Berkley Cutter 110 to hungry brown trout cruising windswept rocky shorelines," he says.



"The fish are superaggressive," he continues. "But that doesn't mean you can get sloppy. The strike zone typically extends from shore out to the scum line generated by currents reverse bouncing off the bank. Cast outside this area and your success rate drops like an anchor."

Keefe encourages anglers to consider the strike zone factor at all times, and be prepared to

react accordingly. "If you stop catching fish, don't assume they quit biting or you need a different lure," he says. "Try focusing your presentation on a smaller area, you might be pleasantly surprised."





FISHING THE MOMENT

By Chris Flint

The 2016 season is finally here, I want to first say thank you to all my sponsors, friends, family members and followers who have helped me out chasing my dreams each season and wished me words of encouragement. I am very grateful for everyone that supports me and the great responses that I get from my articles that I post now and again. Speaking of that I often get asked why I have not printed an article in a while, well here is the simple reasoning. Each article I write is obviously related to my fishing experience and life on the road during the tournament season. But I also try to tell a story about life in general to inspire, motivate or maybe just put a smile on someone's face. I realize not everyone is an angler or may not even like fishing so many of my articles include life experience. Most of my writings are developed as I lay in bed and try to drift asleep each night. Thoughts run through my head, sometimes I will wake in the night and write down and idea to save it for a later time. I normally do not write the story until it continually resurfaces in my thoughts several times.

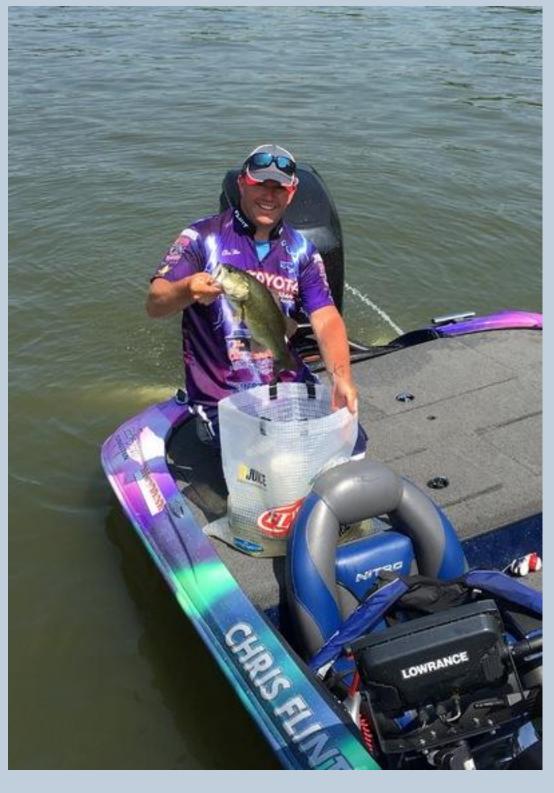
I have been in Law Enforcement for the last 17 years and I have seen plenty of negative things that I just assume forget, but on the flip side there are plenty of great memories that are burned into time which I will never forget. The same thing reflects on my fishing adventures. I have spoke in the past about goals, dreams and challenges all of which make life interesting. This week's topic I want to reflect on the moment and how it relates to all of us, including myself and how I approach tournaments each event.

Moment- a brief period in time often related to something of importance. When you sit back and think of that definition as a sportsman there is great significance to that definition. All of us can reflect back to that particular moment in time as an outdoorsman you will never forget, like a small movie clip forever etched in your memory.

Every tournament I fish I have an angler fishing with me out of the back of my boat. Many times I do not know the person other than we both share a common passion for the outdoors. An 'ice breaker' question I often ask to that person is "What is the biggest fish you have ever caught?" The question also has a hidden agenda. Many of the times I will get a short story from that angler about their trophy catch, they are describing a moment burned in time they will never forget. The thing many outdoorsmen do not realize is they might have only caught or harvested a few trophies but their mind is filled with personal trophies that they are unaware of. The question usual continues in a conversation about other great catches and outdoor experiences that person might have had. What we fail to

recognize sometimes is for an outdoorsman a trophy is what you make of it during that moment. The moment for me as a person and a professional angler has multiple meanings and I cherish each and every moment I live and breathe.

As a tournament angler the moment is as important for me as the lures attached to each and every line I throw. Arriving at a new body of water and having never fished it can be a real task to overcome to locate fish quickly in a limited amount of time. The moment I pull up to the launch I am reading every period in time as I take steps to locate and catch fish. What are the factors I have to consider? Sun, wind, rain, time of year, fishing pressure, habitat and forage in the system that I am fishing. Are the fish deep, shallow, suspended are they active or are they inactive? A small glimpse into a huge group of things you must consider. Some of the best anglers in the world are that way because they have become better than everyone else at living the moment and making



adjustments in the fishing style to make sure they put fish in the livewell each event. It was not until last year that I have been able to somewhat come to terms with learning to fish the moment and as a result my season finished far better than I ever would have in previous years.

An example I reflect back on was the final FLW event at Lake Erie in Sandusky, Ohio. I went there with expectations of being able to land giant bags of smallmouth because that type of water fishes to my strength. Day one and two of practice quickly came and went and I never landed a fish. This

event was important to me because I sat ranked in position to make the Rayovac Championship for the second time in my career. Day three came and once again did not improve as I had one keeper smallmouth and it was obviously a random fish and it was likely I would not find another fish at that location. Day four practice arrive and I realized I was not going to make the Championship with only a few fish and I needed to do something different. I decided to go and fish for largemouth, stupid I thought to myself why would I fish largemouth on one of the best smallmouth fisheries in the country but I had no choice. I figured I need about five fish at least during the two-day event in order to make the championship that would give me enough points to qualify.

I pushed into the break walls and back Marinas in search of largemouth on one of my last full days of fishing. I quickly found fish although they were small averaging two pounds. I fished through the rest of the day locating a fairly big group of small fish which boosted my confidence. I finished up the practice half dav of next graphing and just looking at some other potential locations to catch some largemouth.

Day one of the event came and as I launched my boat and reflected on that very moment I knew I was in trouble. A strong North wind had moved in and was blasting the area where I had been catching fish. I knew I would have to make some changes in my techniques but



still tried to remain confident I could go to those locations and catch what I needed. I arrived at my location and met three other boats in that small area, it was obvious they also had a hard time finding the giant Lake Erie Smallmouth. I put my head down and went to work fishing the conditions that were dealt to me, boats came and went. I stayed thinking I would get my bite to work but it didn't. I knew my day was slowly crumbling and I had to stay in that moment and make something work. I told my coangler we were done with largemouth and that we were going smallmouth fishing. I can't imagine what he was thinking when I pointed to where we had to go especially since I had not caught any during practice. I still had confidence and I knew how to catch smallmouth as good as anyone else in deep water.

I fired up the big motor and nosed the boat toward the middle of the lake and headed out, the conditions were rough and it was noon when we arrived at a potential spot. It was nothing I had

ever fished just a potential area where some fish may or may not be. Within a half hour I boated the first fish about three pounds. Confidence was rising and I was reading the particular moment in time like a mind reader telling you your fortune. As quickly as that came it went as another 45 minutes passed without a bite. I drifted along hoping to run into something. The feeling of failure started to sink in and I knew it was time to shake it off and move and make that momentum come back. I began just idling along looking for something special and trying to read the moment to the best of my ability. As I am trying to make something happen I pass over a large rock in 30 feet of water with one big "mark" or fish sitting on the back side of it. I dropped a waypoint and wheeled the boat into position. My first cast I watched my bait on the graph hit the bottom right in front of the mark. I clicked the bail over and the fish was on a nice four-pound smallmouth. The next hour my co-angler and I went to work and put a few fish in the boat. I ended that day with 3 smallmouth weighing 10 pounds 4 ounces. I fell two short of a limit but it was obvious I was on quality fish.

VEDER

TENNER

That evening was somewhat disappointed that I did not figure Lake Erie out like I thought I would be able to. But I also had a huge confidence going into the second day. I told my wife that day two was going to be a huge comeback and that we were going to the championship. Day two came with similar conditions to the first day and I started where I left off with the smallmouth. My first cast never hit the bottom and I was hooked up on a 5.5 pound beast. Our day came and went boating fish after fish. I hit the scales and dropped 18 pounds and 8 ounces which moved me up to the 42 spot. That finish also ended my year in the standings ranked 24th overall out of 187 anglers and secured my spot to the Championship later that season.

Reflecting back on those moments I realize that

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

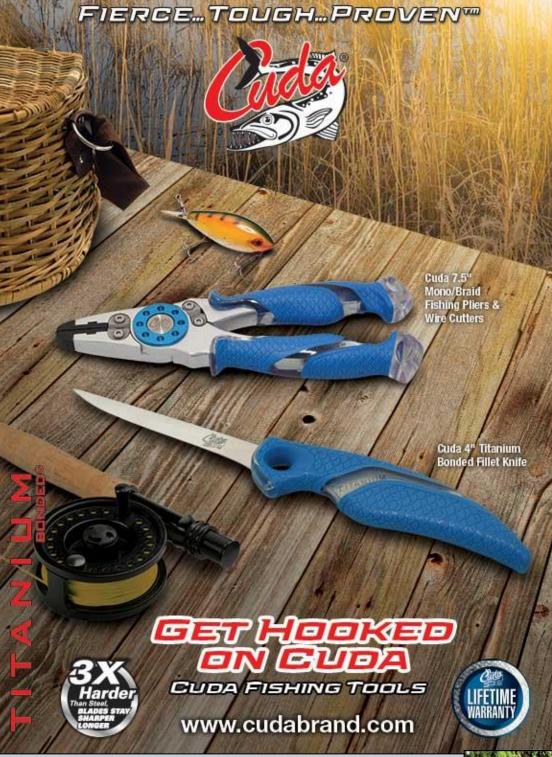
ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

without being comfortable and making adjustment throughout the practice period and the tournament I would have never had such a successful season. Although that bag of fish was not the heaviest catch I had ever caught or was that 5.5 pound fish in my mind they are personal trophies burned in a memory at that moment in time that I will forever cherish.

I wrote this story back in December of 2015 and never shared it, saving it as a reminder to myself as to what I had to do during the 2016 season. I recently returned from the first Northern Costa Series event which was held on the Potomac River in Maryland. That event proved to be again a mental challenge for me. My practice period was great and I was able to locate better than average fish and I was confident going into that event that I would do really well.

Day one of the tournament came and as I fished my location I quickly learned that my fish had changed and they were not biting, and after spending five hours fishing that area I was unsure if they were still there. I had wasted five hours of my day doing exactly what I said I would never do again, not fish the moment and let the fish tell me what was going on. I made a move late in the day and I was able to scramble and catch three fish. It seemed what I had figured out had disappeared and that Day Two looked like it was going to be a real challenge. The only promising thing was that I left an area at the end of the day with a strong frog bite going on.

I returned to camp that evening and re-tied for a topwater grass bite and I was going to work that area hard to make a comeback and get some points in place for the 2016 Championship. As I finished getting ready the park ranger passed by and told me that there were strong storms and a tornado



four nice fish as the day came to an end. Each fish came on a different lure that I fished when the moment felt right. Catching fish on a horny toad, frog, chatterbait and a spinnerbait. I did not have the finish I was hoping to start my season off with in the first event but once again I taught myself something and each time I am able to learn something from an event it will only make me a better competitor.

Don't chase your dreams....catch them!!! Meat Chris at this link - <u>http://chrisflintfishing.com/about/</u>

warning for the evening and night. Right then the winds came along with a storm. I laid in bed that evening thinking my frog bite was probably going to be gone, just then this article came into my head and I reflected back at what I might have do catch fish to to tomorrow. I was not going to worry I was going to look at my areas and let mother nature tell me what I needed to do to catch fish.

Day two came and the water was turned up and looked like chocolate milk as I arrived at my frog spot, I could not even see the grass in the area which I knew was there. By looking at that area I knew the bite would be horrible, I also knew fish were still there. It was a hard decision but I left that area and started on new water where I thought I could catch fish. That day I never really produced a pattern. I just relaxed and fished. I was able to land

OUR WEEKEND ESCAPE

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Crappie and Bream On the Plate

By O'Neill Williams

O'Neill is fortunate to try fishing for some really wild critters and really wild places. It goes with having a television show. OK, OK, I'm bragging. However, the truth is now at being 73-years old in October of 2016, I'm enjoying the little close by streams and ponds and angling for a fresh fish dinner. With that in mind, have you rounded up a cooler of crappie or bream of late? Other than North Georgia's Walleye, which are difficult at best to harvest, you really do have to be a specialist, Crappie and Bream are the very best. I hardly ever fry a largemouth or spotted bass or a striper or hybrid. Catfish are good but I'm getting lazy and rarely will go to the trouble of cleaning them not when you can buy them already fully prepared at the grocery store. I'll admit, if the catch has been with a child, whatever we catch, we fry and eat. It's part of the deal so to speak.

Anyway back to the subject. What was the subject?

Oh! Pan fish, that was it, wasn't it?

Ever tried any of the Georgia State Parks and Recreation areas? Most of the time the cabins are

available even on late notice, clean, fully equipped and the docks and piers around are just loaded with bream and even some respectful crappie most of the year. It makes such a difference in preparation and fulfillment when you're doing something simple and can be ever so rewarding. A few weeks ago, I was in Bass Pro (what a surprise?) and saw these little boxes of dried crickets, super worms, what looked like meal worms and some leaches. What a great idea. I've always been a proponent of live baits when fishing with a child because you can let him or her play with the bait if the fishing is slow. There I go getting off the subject again. The little boxes of very usable fish bait for panfish are called Fisher's Choice. The keep for months at a time, stay the hook, still smell like they did when they are alive, when they all were but aren't now. The reward is that around the docks and piers at the state park lakes or your now best friend's pond the pan fish just love them. You and the chosen underage relative or even a neighbor's child can catch a mess, fry them up and enjoy both the adventure, the attention and the meal. Sounds like a good idea to me.



Growing up, I played all the team sports from Cub Scout baseball at age six to the usual mixture of pursuits through college. I remember them well. Team successes, failures, championships and alsorans, but the singular memories and what I write about most often are the one-on-one minuets, hours and catches with my grandparents. We didn't have a boat, often didn't have rods and reels, only a cane pole and a box of red wigglers.

What I'm privileged to remind all of you is this: Reach out to your children and grandchildren, children in the neighborhood whose dad isn't a fisherman or outdoorsman. Pick up a box of crickets, worms or whatever and drop a bait down around the docks at a state park, catch a few and instead of being on a clock to return home, stay there, cook a meal, watch a sunset and take photos.







ICAST

Every September ODU Magazine shares the top 25 products we saw during our ICAST visit the prior July. Most of the products didn't receive awards, but are products we as a team thought would be quite handy on an upcoming fishing/boating trip.

This year's top 25 has products we feel really made the grade and show to you, our readers what you should next consider to be in your next shopping spree.



can only be at one fishing location at a time...

BaitCloud,[™] headquartered in Canada, has developed and formulated a series of fish attractant products that enhance and stimulate activity and fish catch rates at your specific fishing location. Location is always one of the key variables to fishing, and the location selection can be guite daunting: Lake of the Woods: 1,679 sq. miles of ice fishing possibilities; Kentucky Lake: 2,064 miles of shoreline; Lake of the Ozarks: 25,000+ docks;

Lake Simcoe: 725 sq. miles of options. You

So consider, what if the equation could be changed... what if you could make the fishing spot you have chosen more productive by attracting baitfish and gamefish activity to your fishing area?

BaitCloud[™] is a formulation of fish attracting components designed to activate and draw nearby fish to your fishing location utilizing multiple sensory methods: 1)via smell; in fish oils, amino acids, and proprietary scents 2) via sound; in effervescent bubble action 3) with sight; in Bio-Glitter scale reflections 4) by feel; with lateral line awareness to the action plume. BaitCloud is produced into a ball of approximately 1.5 oz. and 1.6" in diameter that is designed to sink into the water column at your desired fishing spot. Once submerged into the water, the BaitCloud reacts into a fizzing bubbling action which releases the concentrated attractants into the surrounding water, and begins to create fish activity. The release of ingredients creates a zone of activity that incorporates baitfish scents; Bio-Glitter a bio-degradable iridescent scale pattern that mimics fish scales, and the impact of the effervescent action in attracting and stimulating nearby fish to aggregate at this source of activity.

The BaitCloud balls are made of a proprietary mixture of food-grade ingredients that do NOT contain fish parts as chum and do not contain "live bait" or "prepared bait" that would disqualify the product for tournament use or some fishing regulation rules. The product will not sour or become rancid, and has a shelf life of approximately one year. BaitCloud is proudly manufactured by the company in Canada in a food grade, clean manufacturing environment. All ingredients in each BaitCloud are 100% earth-friendly and bio-degradable. There is no packaging to dissolve in the water, the product is designed to sink and dissolve in its delivered ball shape. BaitCloud is retail packaged in a clear plastic tube (H: 5.5" x 1.75" D) that contains three balls, that also serves as carry packaging for the angler. MSRP is \$10.99 per tube. There is a point-of-sale display format designed into each case lot of 12 tubes



per case for ease of retail merchandising.

While the options to use BaitCloud to enhance the angler's efforts are widespread, here are a few Technique specific examples where BaitCloud would find great applications:

• Ice Fishing: Get your hole and set up ready and then use BaitCloud to bring fish in close for your vertical presentations. A perfect application for maximizing your location and set up. Great for situations where there are a lot of anglers and pressure on locations. Can re-invigorate action when the bite slows.

• Shoreline/Dock/Pier Fishing: Anglers who are in a fixed location can benefit greatly by being able to call fish to their location with a multi-sensory attractant. You may be at a location for extended periods and are able to stimulate fish activity and baitfish presence with use of BaitCloud.

• Carp Fishing & Tournaments: Carp are known to be one of the most scent driven feeders, and with pond or event Derbies, big prizes are often at stake. Utilize Carp specific BaitCloud products to draw the most activity to your stake out. Make your area come alive with stimulated activity.

• Limited Time: You are ready to take a youngster fishing, and you want it to be a special time, but you've only got a few hours to fish, and attention spans can be short. Use BaitCloud to immediately stimulate maximum activity around your fishing spot, and to jump-start an exciting and productive time on the water!

• Gathering Bait: Guides and anglers alike sometimes have difficulty in having baitfish concentrated enough where they can be effectively captured with a cast net, or are at difficult locations to utilize a cast net. Place BaitCloud near where baitfish are scattered, wait 15 minutes to let baitfish aggregate and then net bait at your preferred location. No lines or apparatus to interfere with netting!

BaitCloud is currently delivered in seven distinct formulations, developed for specific species (see chart appendix) targeting. Each formulation is color coded according to its product for easy identification.



FELL Marine in the is business of saving lives. At this year's ICAST Show, attendees were introduced to the MOB+ (which stands man overboard), for а wireless cut-off switch that is packed with features to enhance safety, making the old cord-based system obsolete.

FELL Marine's



Every year there are many boating accidents with tragic outcomes. Now one company's aim is to make a difference. FELL Marine's MOB+ stops the boat if the driver falls overboard. Created for

maximum wearability, it can be worn as a wristband, in your pocket, clipped to your life vest/belt or around your neck on a lanyard – all designed with the mariner in mind.

It is well known that the cord-based system which exists in most boats today is rarely (or never) used. Sadly, due to operator inattention, improper lookouts and operator inexperience, there are over 4000 boating accidents that involved more than 600 deaths each year in the US alone*. FELL Marine hopes to be able to lower these statistics with this new innovative product, tailored in order to get people to wear safety devices without compromising their style, look, and comfort, great design is imperative. But behind great design lies great technology. The MOB+ uses the proprietary WiMEA Protocol developed by FELL

Marine. With its lightning-fast reaction time, 4D Antenna Diversity and AutoMOB features, it is like no other wireless protocol out by using state-of-the-art electronics and UniqueID technology, MOB+ does not interfere with existing systems in the boat and will not be affected by other adjacent wireless systems. AutoMOB stops the engine automatically if the pilot falls over board and allows remaining passengers to restart the engine after 6 seconds to pick up the person in the water. The system can be universally installed in all boats with all engine configurations with simple plug-and-play connections.

FELL Marine's mission is to create products that engage and contribute to increased freedom and experience for their users and customers. FELL insists on the highest quality materials that can endure rough maritime use and are durable enough to withstand the abrasion from salty water and blazing sun.



Abu Garcia Revo MGXtreme

Abu Garcia[®] designs and creates premium reels that push the limit of today's low profile reel market. Abu Garcia now offers the lightest Revo baitcasting reel ever produced with the new 4.5-ounce Revo[®] MGXtreme[®] that they introduced in the 2016 ICAST show's New Product Showcase in July. The reel is packed with features serious anglers demand to make them more efficient and more effective on the water.

This reel is the product of hard work and determination to give anglers something never seen before in the baitcast market. By offering a reel this light, Abu Garcia is solidifying its spot as the top innovator in the fishing reel market.

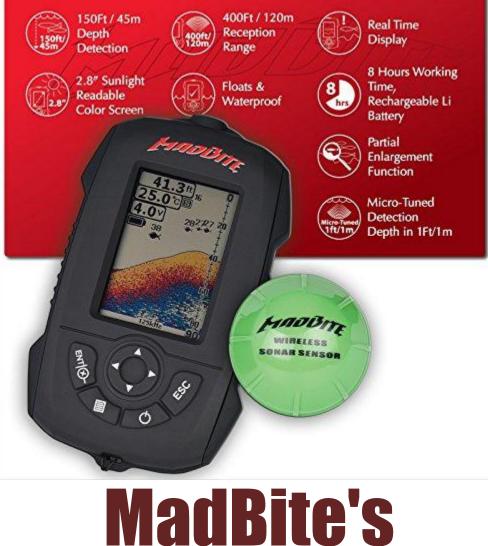
The new Revo[®] MGXtreme incorporates a new Super Lightweight Concept (SLC[™]) spool design with hybrid-ceramic bearings for improved casting performance. The one-piece X-Mag[™] alloy frame and C6 carbon sideplates greatly reduce weight while providing a stable platform for anglers looking for durability and top-end performance.

Packaged in a compact design, the Revo MGXtreme is generously equipped with stainless steel HPCR[™] (High Performance Corrosion Resistant) bearings as well as hybrid ceramic spool bearings. The Infinitely Variable Centrifugal Brake (IVCB-4[™]) and Carbon Matrix[™] star drag systems used on the MGXtreme are rigorously tested for maximum performance.

Everything on the Revo MGXtreme screams high-end performance, from the aircraft grade aluminum main gear to the titanium coated line guide to the Infini II[™] spool design. For added comfort and function the reel includes a recessed reel foot, compact bent carbon handle with round cork knobs. EVA knobs are also included.

Each feature is designed to give anglers a high performance reel, as well as elevating every angler's ability. MSRP for the Revo MGXtreme is \$499.95.





MadBite's FX 3000

MadBite, a division of Eposeidon Inc., in Garden City New York unveiled several new electronics based products at ICAST. MadBite's new sonar fish finder, the FX 3000, is a platform for other yet to be announced MadBite recreational fishing electronics.

Eposeidon has announced they are keeping several new products secret until ICAST. Only their design team and executive staff have seen the prototypes. Patents for a device the company code named "Einstein" are pending. An exception to the secret product lineup is the MadBite FX 3000 fish finder. MadBite introduced the completely new generation fish finder earlier in 2016 that received strong, favorable reviews.

The MadBite FX 3000 has a remote floating transducer pod that can be cast from shore or set out from a boat or kayak. Its wireless transmitter technology transmits fish finding and water info including depth and temperature up to 400 feet (120m). MadBite's FX 3000 portable fish finder's circuits have up to 15 times a

second sonar signal (wave) detection providing best-in-class real time fish finding info and the fastest response. It features improved electronics and includes 2.8", 512-color full color LCD front lit screen that is readable in full sunlight. Like the remote transducer, the hand-held receiver floats and is waterproof. FX 3000 available display languages include English, Spanish, and 15 other languages.

the basis for many of the new, innovative and different products coming out of MadBite and KastKing[®] in the future."

Show Awards in 24 categories. Eposeidon's KastKing[®] division won a Best of Show Award at ICAST 2015 for its unique design. Eposeidon's KastKing[®] and MadBite brands will combine to enter more than 40 products in 14 categories of the New Product Showcase.

"Our company is highly efficient," says Tate Cui, Eposeidon's CEO. "We can go from a concept to the drawing board to production quickly. We believe in innovation instead of stubborn tradition. The Einstein project is an example of that. Most companies do not have the strong will or the speed advantage that we do to get new products to market. We are excited to show our new designs."





SpoolTek Lures Extra Heavy 6" Fatty

Anglers fishing heavy current and deep water applications will now be able to reach fish they previously couldn't with the new Extra Heavy 6" Fatty. This new Extra Heavy model weighs 3.75 oz., a full 2 oz. more than the original Pro Series 6" Fatty. The Extra Heavy 6" Fatty will be offered in 6 colors, including Great Sardini, Silver Digger, Electric Ladyfish, After Hours, Gunsmoke and Blue

Back Herring.

Like all SpoolTek Lures, the Extra Heavy 6" Fatty features patented Concealed Leader Technology. After hook-up, a concealed 18" length of 80lb. steel cable leader deploys from an internal spool. This heavy leader provides added abrasion resistance, enabling anglers to tie lighter leader or mainline directly to the lure for a better, stealthier presentation. A deployed leader distances the lure from a fish's mouth, making it extremely difficult to shake free, greatly improving the ratio of strikes vs. landed fish.

This heavier model takes the success of original 6" Fatty to an even broader range of fresh and saltwater applications, as reported during extensive field testing. Musky anglers accustomed to fishing heavier baits at a faster clip like the way it tracks. Striper guys in the northeast are able to get down to deeper fish in fast current. Offshore saltwater anglers have had success jigging deeper wrecks and reefs in excess of 100 feet for snapper, grouper and other species.

Bill Lewis Stutterstep

Originally designed for tiger-fish in Zimbabwe, the Bill Lewis Stutterstep has proven in early testing to

be a phenomenal bass lure. Most impressive, the StutterStep offers up to three distinct topwater actions that aren't exactly like anything we've seen before. This may be the



beginning of a new topwater category.

Its namesake "stutter-step" action allows for the angler to make the bait walk on 90-degree cuts instead of the standard 45-degree walks that traditional walking baits get. Instead of the lure coming right to the angler, this allows for the lure to be "stutter-stepped" back and forth right next to targeted cover prolonging its hang-time over the strike zone.

Check out video of the Stutter-Step action.

The "wobble-wake" action is what happens when you reel a StutterStep over slick water, while using no rod action. It's a slow-medium, buzz-bait style retrieve that leaves the 'Step wobbling and waking across the surface.

Check out video of the Wobble-Wake action.

The "wag-the-tail" action is a cover-water-fast type retrieve. While steady reeling the StutterStep, the angler puts soft-rhythmic twitches on the rod make the lure's tail kick side to side while the whole lure body shifts back and forth.



An savvy group of anglers prefer the unique qualities of glass to graphite in situations where a more forgiving rod is required. Especially when big predators like smallmouth and largemouth bass slash at crankbaits or other lures fished with a steady retrieve. The ideal crankbait rods have a soft enough tip to allow fish to eat without pulling hooks, but plenty of power for ripping lipless lures through the weeds and

Legend Glass Casting Rods

driving home meaty trebles. And once the fight is on, a competent cranker's more moderate action is a great help in keeping hooks firmly locked in a hostile bass's maw.

But is glass a thing of the past? Not when the rod wizards at St. Croix take the core properties of glass and lace it with unbridled technology.

New for 2017, St. Croix Rod announces its super-premium line of Legend Glass Casting Rods, a four-rod series born from 68 years of American rod-building know-how and the very best materials and components available. Each of these all-new rods delivers the full benefits of glass in its intended applications, plus the elevated feedback, increased strength, reduced weight and heightened manufacturing quality that are absent in the marketplace. Don't let their traditional, deep-honey finish fool you. The attractive color is a throwback to the days when St. Croix pioneered color-impregnated glass. Neat, huh? Well, that's where the similarity to any fiberglass rods of the past ends.

The Best Rods on Earth begin with the highest quality blank materials and expert manufacturing techniques and processes. These modern Legend Glass Casting Rods feature premium, linear S-Glass blanks built on St. Croix-exclusive Integrated Poly Curve (IPC)-engineered mandrels. Designed to eliminate all transitional points in the rod blank, IPC rods feature smoother actions, increased strength and greater sensitivity, while 100% linear S-glass is also stronger, lighter, higher in modulus and more dynamic than traditional, woven E-glass. The results are the finest, high-performance fiberglass rod blanks ever created.

Proof that St. Croix's new Legend Glass Casting Rods are worthy of their name; each model is expertly outfitted with top-shelf, task-minded components.

Cranking is tough business. Legend Glass Casting Rods are designed to minimize wrist and hand fatigue over extended fishing sessions, courtesy of split-grip, super-grade cork handles and angler-favorite Fuji[®] ECS reel seats with frosted silver hoods. The heaviest-duty Legend Glass model features an alternative Fuji PSS-SD palming reel seat, which places the trigger on the outside of the palm, rather than between the fingers, for extra comfort while fishing extremely deep-diving crankbaits.



The Sebile[®] Magic Swimmer[™] and Magic Swimmer[™] Soft are two of Sebile's most renowned lures. The second generation Magic Swimmer reflects his vision of a lure that undulates its jointed body and presents a very natural swimming action that attracts saltwater species such as Striped bass, California yellowtail off the islands of southern California as well as tarpon and redfish along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

With enhanced features like refined colors, added body detailing and reinforced mesh body, the Magic Swimmer is better than ever. Sebile also improved materials to battle the saltwater conditions by giving anglers stronger hooks and split rings.



Its natural swimming action is just too much for sloppy or aggressive gamefish to resist. Available in hard and soft versions, the Magic Swimmer is all about the tapered nose and humpbacked head, which slices through the water to perfectly mimic swimming baitfishes.

The hard version of the Magic Swimmer is available in floating, slow-sinking and fast sinking models. It is equipped with a removable tail double hook plus a finesse worm screw and a treble hook on the belly. The body has been reinforced compared to the original version. Sebile recommends removing the tail double hook when targeting large and powerful fish, as one belly treble hook is enough to hook, fight and land a strong opponent, without the risk of a tail hook damaging the eyes or head of it during the fight.

The Magic Swimmer Soft is as versatile a crankbait as they come. It has a recessed groove in the top of the lure's back that conceals the hook's point. Strategically placed holes in the nose and throat, and slots on the belly and back allow the Magic Swimmer Soft to slide on the leader when the fish is hooked, making it a more durable bait. The 2nd generation Magic Swimmer Soft is now mesh-reinforced, which increases strength and longevity of each bait. Each is sold with the newer 15 degree open wide gap weighted hook, incuding one pre-rigged weedless bait.



LIVETARGET continues its delivery of innovative and industry leading product designs with a complete family of soft plastic Swimbaits presented in nine forage species types, utilizing the most prolific baitfish species anglers seek to emulate. The portfolio of new items spans both Freshwater and Saltwater lures, adding to the array of over 750+ lures that LIVETARGET offers to entice game fish with a variety of techniques and forage types. This release summarizes the new Swimbait Series models being announced.

LIVETARGET's Swimbait Series takes a bold approach to swimbait designs by delivering a complete factory-rigged lure that requires no additional hooks or weighting. In addition to having no extra expense for rigging, the manufactured features that are built into each model provide anglers with an advanced, engineered swimbait that incorporates features which would be impossible in a hand-rigged lure.

Tobias Wiegand, lead Swimbait designer commented on the importance of factory-rigged, "When we

designed the Swimbait Series, we wanted to create a set of features that allows anglers to open a swimbait package and have a lure that runs straight and true. Each lure has unique features for hook placement, weighting, action, and snag resistance that would be impossible for hand-rigged swimbaits. We knew we could deliver the LIVETARGET anatomy and color patterns, but we wanted to make it 'factory engineered' for uniqueness and quality, and do this for each lure size."

Swimbait Series factory rigged features include:

- Factory-Rigged: internal weighting molded inside the lure body provides for a true-running lure every time
- Extra Wide-Gap Hook: matched for size and integrated into the body of the lure, creates a low profile hook to minimize snags
- Dorsal Fin Shield: aligned with the hook point position to create a shield effect as a snag-resistant weedguard
- Accessory Pin: designed into each model to allow anglers to add extra hooks or willow leaf spin blades for customization options
- Natural Profile: body profile matches to each forage type, featuring a unique tail anatomy that produces the ideal profile illusion of a real baitfish
- Oscillator: causes the tail to swing side-to-side. Every Oscillator is strategically designed to generate a species specific life-like swimming action

Wiegand summarized the release with this additional comment, "By factory-rigging these lures, where all the components are internal to the lure, combined with our LIVETARGET anatomy and color patterns, we think this will be as close as an angler can get to fishing with live bait."

Berkley Fusion19 Slow Turn Hook

Berkley introduced a way to increase action to any presentation with the Fusion19 Slow Turn hook

This uniquely bent fine wire hook produces a spinning action that leads to more strikes. With an exaggerated bend, the Slow Turn improves the action of lures even at the slowest trolling or retrieval speeds.

The Slow Turn features an innovative bait keeper with high holding power for both artificial and live bait. This is key when trolling at higher speeds and results in less baits slipping off.

The Fusion19 Slow Turn paired with a Gulp! nightcrawler is killer on walleye in any season. The distinctive hook is forged for increased strength and is available in four sizes. With a sleek, smoke satin finish and Slickset coating, the Fusion19 Slow Turn has an MSRP of \$5.99 in a unique package.





For years, the Zander Shad has been one of Matzuo America's[®] most popular and effective baits. This all-purpose jerkbait has been a staple of anglers targeting Zander and Walleye. This year at ICAST 2016, Matzuo unveiled the Zanda, a new take on this old favorite, which brings together the best and most effective elements of past Zander Shad generations and combines them with all-new features to deliver a lure that is bound to be an essential weapon in any angler's arsenal.

Listening carefully to fishermen, the Matzuo pro staff, and the brand's product testers, Matzuo set out to identify what worked and what could be improved on the Zander Shad. After close examination of that feedback, a series of improvements and additions were made and then tirelessly tested for effectiveness, in the end resulting in the new and improved Zanda jerkbait.

Matzuo added a dorsal fin along the back of the body of the bait, a feature brought back from the first generation of the Zander Shad. The addition of this dorsal fin results in a tighter, less-erratic wobble and more life-like swim pattern through the water. In addition, a host of new, highly-reflective prism colors were added to the lineup, including exclusive custom colors designed specifically for the Zanda by respected lure designer and painter Todd Leopardi.

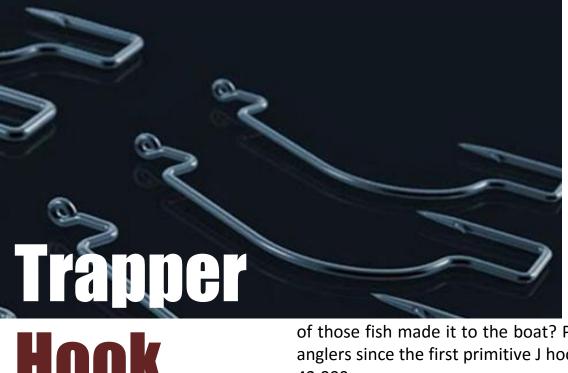


The Zanda's hooks have received an

upgrade as well, adding Matzuo Angle Grip XX Strong Treble hooks along the body. These hooks have a shorter shank, and wider gap for stronger and higher hook-up percentages. The larger baits have a third set of Angle Grip XX Strong Treble hooks at the front, resulting in an increased chance of hooking from strikes at any angle, while not affecting the action.

Like its predecessors, the Zanda will be offered in both a deep diving depth perfect for trolling, as well as in a suspending shallow diver for casting. Each will now be available in sizes 9 and 11.





Take a long look at the hooks in your tackle box: their basic J shape hasn't been altered for centuries. That's about to Welcome change... the **Trapper Hook from Trapper** Tackle. Years of research, engineering, field testing and refinement have vielded a hook that holds both baits and fish better than conventional hooks.

How many bites did you get on your last trip? How many

Hook

of those fish made it to the boat? Poor fish retention has plagued anglers since the first primitive J hook was cast into the water over 42,000 years ago.

Problem: The round bend of a conventional J-hook creates a pivot

point that causes the hook to rotate in a fish's mouth, expanding the initial point of entry and creating an easy path to escape.

Solution: The unique, patented design of a Trapper Hook replaces the traditional round bend with a pair of right angles at the base of the hook shank which are not only hard for fish to overcome, but they also restrict the hook's ability to rotate out of the fish's mouth. As a result, the Trapper Hook dramatically increases the percentage of hooked fish that'll make it to the landing net.

Problem: Anyone who has dressed any variety of J-shaped hooks with a soft plastic or live bait is familiar with the frustration of having to adjust baits that slide up the shank before making another cast. Weed cover, structure or the action of casting and retrieving baits are all culprits.

Solution: The Trapper Hook's remarkable "why didn't I think of that" geometry, with two right-angle bends at its base, helps keep the bait in place. All manner of soft plastic offerings, including worms, flukes, stickbaits, toads and creature baits perform better when they are rigged properly and locked in the Trapper Box. Live bait such as shiners, minnows, shrimp, and crabs as well as salmon eggs, corn, dough-baits and catfish cube-style baits are retained in the Trapper Box with equal efficacy. With less time spent fixing baits, anglers can make more casts and spend more of their limited fishing time making effective presentations that trigger bites.

Years of research, design and extensive field testing by anglers across the nation have yielded a line of general use and technique specific hooks from Trapper Tackle. Former Bassmaster Elite Series Pro Vince Hurtado has been working with the Trapper R&D Team since last year, using the bass-infested waters of the California Delta like a laboratory. "With over 300 fish catches I noticed a significant improvement in landing ratios. This hook will raise any angler's game and that's why I am proud to be part of the Trapper Tackle team", said Hurtado. Now it's time for anglers fishing for bass, walleye, musky, pike, crappie and other species to experience the fish and bait-holding effectiveness of the Trapper Hook design.



Bullet Weights Tungsten Flipping Weight

Bullet Weights expands its selection of bass-specific sinkers with a new two-ounce size of the popular Tungsten Flipping Weight.

The Tungsten Flipping Weight line now ranges from ¼-ounce to two-ounce sizes. As a result, anglers can choose the perfect-size sinker for most any situation.

"Bass anglers know that if a sinker is too light, it fails to penetrate thick cover and the flip, pitch or cast is wasted," said Bullet Weights President Joe Crumrine. "We added the heavier two- ounce size to our Tungsten Flipping Weight line in response to numerous requests. The demand for tungsten is growing among avid bass anglers because it has greater density than lead, which makes a tungsten sinker about 50 percent smaller."



Compared to traditional bullet weights, which are tall and thin, flipping weights are shorter and thicker. They're designed to match the bulky soft-plastic creature baits usually rigged with them and provide a lifelike presentation without snagging on weeds or wood. The flare and taper of a flipping weight punches a hole in thick vegetation, allowing a creature bait to easily follow behind and fall into a fish's strike zone.

The new two-ounce Tungsten Flipping Weight comes in black or green pumpkin, and because the PermaColor ™

paint is baked on, it won't crack, chip or peel. Each sinker features a concave base for a perfect fit with soft plastics, and the smooth insert-free inner bore won't fray an angler's line. Manufacturer's suggested retail price is \$13.99 per pack.





The South Bend Egg Aerator (US Patent Pending) is the first selfcontained, free-floating aerator that takes the hassle out of aerating your live bait or live well. The smooth, fish-friendly egg design is free

of corners and sharp edges that could harm live bait or catches, and it requires no wires, brackets or long tubes that could

get kinked or tangled. An additional tube is included with each unit, which allows for the option to aerate from the bottom of a live-well or bucket. The

South Bend Egg Aerator

Egg Aerator is a year-round fishing solution, since its free-floating design allows it also to be used to prevent hole freeze-up when ice fishing.

The very fact that fish live in the water means that those who seek them are adventurers by definition. Every boat ride offshore, stroll down the dock, or trip out onto the ice carries a degree of risk; the most severe of which is drowning. It's the number-one cause of all fishing and boating related fatalities. Safety-conscious anglers seek to minimize this constant threat through awareness, common sense, and always wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). Unfortunately, in a rush to get out on the water, safety precautions often take a backseat to angler excitement.

Frabill I-Float Suit

Ice anglers face increased threats due to cold waters, bulky clothing, and additional difficulties in getting out of the water – through self-rescue or with the assistance of others. So one would think that wearing a PFD would be standard operating procedure on the ice. Truth is, PFDs aren't donned by most ice fishermen for a variety of reasons, but most often because of the perception that they're bulky, uncomfortable, restrictive and impractical.

To the folks at Frabill, the undisputed worldwide authority on ice fishing, safety and preparedness are of utmost concern. It's why every I-Series jacket is sold with a set of Frabill Ice Picks included, and why every highly functional piece of Frabill I-Series apparel is designed with integral ice pick-holders, 3MTM ScotchliteTM Reflective Material, and carefully engineered mesh drain ports that shed water weight and help facilitate self-rescue.

It's also why for 2016, Frabill's commitment to angler safety is reaching all-new levels.

"The newest addition to our I-Series apparel, the Frabill I-Float Suit



(Jacket and Bibs) is one of only a few flotation assisting ice fishing suits on the market to be recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard as a USCG Certified Personal Flotation Device (PFD)," says Frabill Brand Manager, Dexter Dornan. "The result is one of the safest, most technologically advanced, highperformance, cold-weather fishing suits an angler can wear, while providing all the benefits of built-in U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation."

The new I-Float Suit shares all the proven safety features of Frabill's other I-Series apparel, combining signature ergonomic design, durable construction, self-drainage openings, integral ice picks and 3MTM ScotchliteTM Reflective Material with a new high-visibility USCG Orange lining and garment accents for better detection while out in the elements.

Thoughtfully engineered from hood to cuff and everywhere in between, the new Frabill I-Float Suit provides protection against the risks associated with cold-weather fishing. And while it has been designed primarily with ice fishing in mind, the I-Float's exclusive technical features and benefits are expected to draw a loyal following with open water anglers as well; from Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, throughout the Great Lakes, in the Northeast and everywhere in between. "No matter how and where you fish in cold weather, a warm, waterproof and windproof suit that provides the exclusive advantages of USCG-approved flotation is going to attract a loyal following," continues Dornan. "Throw in fully-articulated knees and elbows that allow anglers unrestricted movement without binding, and you have a suit that's not only extremely safe, but one that anglers are going to love to wear... and that's the idea."





When you see the Lunkerhunt Link™ up-close, you will marvel at its realism and patterns. You will



immediately think of a dozen places where you want to fish it. You can tell it is a fish catcher just looking at it. It is when you make that first cast, and the Lunkerhunt Link[™] springs to life, that you will get truly excited. You get caught up with it, playing with different cadences and retrieves as it walks its way across the water. The action comes effortlessly. Whether you are casting a chasing baitfish body style or a snake design, the strikes they generate are ferocious.

It is hard to believe how with a minimal amount of effort, the Lunkerhunt Link will walk on the water, glide, go erratic, walk the dog, or create a

serpentine action. The hydrodynamics of the Lunkerhunt Link make creating the topwater retrieve you want easy.

It is the design of the Lunkerhunt Link that really sets it apart from other hard lures or walking lures in the industry. It is the only hinged walking topwater currently available to the fishing market. The Lunkerhunt Link's innovative construction and ultra realistic Naturals Series finish make it as lifelike to anglers as it is to fish.

The Lunkerhunt Link replicates some of North America's most popular forage and it comes in two styles: chasing baitfish which replicates fleeing minnows, and serpent, which mimics the slithering action of a snake or eel along the water's surface.

The Link is available in two sizes, 4.5 inches and 6.75 inches. It is also available in 9 natural forage patterns.



Luhr-Jensen's Hydro Vibe Extreme trolling bait is now available in two sizes and eight new color patterns that's twice as many of both as before.

Previously only available in a 5-inch, 7/16-ounce model, the Hydro Vibe Extreme is now available in a 3 7/8-inch, 1/4-ounce size. The new, smaller model is equipped with a size 4.5 blade and a No. 1 VMC[®] treble hook.



The eight new color patterns

Luhr-Jensen's Hydro Vibe Extreme

vibration ensures added attraction for big-time strikes.

The Hydro Vibe Extreme features a stainless steel wire shaft and rigid-hook design that provides top-to-bottom strength and full body vibration. Two metal bearing beads support the bait's clevis for maximum blade spin and rod tip response, practically eliminating near misses. are: Gold Pink/Pearl UV, Gold Flo. Red/Pink, Gold Chartreuse/Green UV, Nickel Pink/Purple UV, Gold Chartreuse Blue Dot, Orange Yellow Ice Green Tip, Orange Yellow Ice Pink Tip and Gold Ice Red Tip.

When it comes to high-endurance, deepwater salmon fishing, trolling spinners is a highly effective technique. With its exclusive design, the Hydro Vibe Extreme allows for increased vibrations as water passes through a special "vent" in the spinner blade. Paired with a lighter, yet extremely strong wire construction, the Hydro Vibe Extreme requires less pulling effort to initiate blade rotation. At the same time, increased lure



Neko Hook & Neko Weights

Let's face it, most bass by now are familiar enough with wacky rigs that they're often unfazed by them. Freshen up your finesse game with a new VMC[®] Neko Rig.

"The Neko Rig is one of the hottest new finesse trends going around right now," says Michael Iaconelli, the only angler to have won a Bassmaster Classic, Bassmaster Angler of the Year and B.A.S.S. Nation Championship. "If you use traditional finesse techniques, like soft stick baits and wacky rigs, give this Neko Rig a try. You're going to catch fish you never thought you'd catch before."

Here's why:

"When you let the Neko Rig fall on a semi-slack line, this thing's going to fall almost backwards at an angle," Iaconelli explains. "And it's this natural, erratic glide that — especially in slightly stained and clear water — drives the fish nuts."

VMC's Ike Approved Neko lineup includes several sizes of Neko Hooks, Neko Weights and Half Moon Wacky Weights. The weights are designed to embed in — and stay put in — one end of a soft-plastic stick worm.

The Neko Hook features a black-nickel finish, wide gap, 3-degree offset point, resin-closed eye and a forged, long shank. It's available in four sizes: 2, 1, 1/0 and 2/0.

"Nowhere in fishing is the hook more critical," Iaconelli says. "The Neko Hook is the premiere hook for this technique. You hardly lose any fish with this at all. This is a high-percentage-style hook."

VMC's Neko Weight features conical ribs, which firmly anchor it in place without damaging your worm. Its thin profile allows you to modify your rig's action. It comes 10 per pack in four sizes: 1/32-ounce, 1/16-ounce, 3/32-ounce and 1/8-ounce.

High definition has transformed TV watching from dry and lackluster to dynamic and utterly engrossing. The video technology progressive continues to blow people's minds hyper-realistic with its digital picture and sound. HDTV is like "being there," viewers say, right in the middle of the action. The dazzling color and clarity of the viewscreen virtually transport you to the scene, almost as if the video landscape beckons you to interact with it.

In the realm of underwater viewing, such spectacular screen detail has proved to be a massive advantage, as Aqua-Vu unleashes the amazing new

Aqua-Vu HD700i



technology for two decades, Aqua-Vu released the industry's first high definition underwater viewing system for fishing last winter—the ice fishing-centric Multi-Vu HD. Now, the company has taken the technology to dazzling heights with the HD700i, a complete HD underwater viewing system, including the

first truly daylight viewable LCD and progressive XD Camera.

The transformation from analog to digital underwater video has delivered dramatic rewards for anglers. Foremost among them is low light vision—the ability to display a colorful, crystal-clear screen image, even in dark water and well past sundown, when a lack of light has long rendered most underwater cameras ineffective.

Last winter, while testing the new XD Camera, Hall of Fame angler and world-renowned photographer Bill Lindner captured some staggering comparison footage, detailing the dramatic differences between existing underwater technologies. "The variation in screen quality blew us away," said Lindner. "With the Aqua-Vu XD cam, we were seeing fish and vegetation in total color, even in 10- to 12-feet of water, an hour past sunset.

"Above the water and below, I have used probably every camera on the market," Linder continued. "Honestly, this new XD Camera from Aqua-Vu yields the sharpest, brightest, cleanest underwater



images I've ever seen, even exceeding the popular P.O.V. cams. The low light capabilities of the HD700i are incredible; unheard of."

Headlining its epic spec list, the HD700i system includes a 7-inch daylight viewable LCD, which displays HD underwater video at an extra bright 1800 Nits—4 times the screen brightness of previous technology. The monitor boasts an impressive IP67 waterproof rating for total peace of mind. The LCD also includes an auto-heat function for seamless use in cold weather. An HDMI video-out port provides an interface for digital recording devices or auxiliary HD TV monitors, such as for large ice fishing houses. (The digital video signal allows for superior resolution on big screen LCD TVs.)



Re-engineered and reduced in size, Aqua-Vu's new XD Camera is sheathed in a tough zinc-alloy casing, muted in matte black for superior underwater stealth. Other advantages of scaling down the optics, say Aqua-Vu engineers, include major boosts in user-friendliness and portability.

To keep the camera tracking straight forward and backward as well as multiple view angles, the XD Camera includes quick-change trolling fins for forward and reverse viewing and ice fishing position clips for up-, down- and side viewing. The HD Aqua-Vu also features a patent-pending Strike-Vu[™] sight fishing system for viewing lures in real time. Connecting camera to LCD is 100 feet of 200-pound test optical cable.

Operating at an industry-best 720p HD resolution, the XD Camera provides a crystalline, color underwater picture. Possibly even more impressive than the HD700i's daylight viewability and vivid video, however, is its ability to project a clear image in dark water. Beyond the XD Camera's built-in, anti-spook IR Lighting, the optics is also imbued with a low-light image sensor, yielding never-before-seen clarity in dark or dirty water.

"My passion is filming underwater footage of fish in their natural habitat," Lindner said. "But as a fisherman, I also recognize the amazing applications of this new HD Aqua-Vu system. It's going to show anglers the underwater world like they've never seen it before. And the camera's low light abilities mean they'll be able to observe night time feeding behaviors of walleyes, crappies and other fish, perhaps for the first time ever."





ShroomZ jigheads

Engineered with a solid nose for easy rigging on Finesse ShroomZ[™] jigheads, the 2.75" T.R.D. TubeZ exemplifies, quite simply, the perfect Ned Rig-sized tube bait profile that's ideal for both Midwest finesse bass and

crappie fishing tactics. Its buoyant ElaZtech® makeup and thin, round tentacles cause the bait to stand up and come to life at rest, and its salted, super-soft, and dimpled body provides an incredibly natural

feel to ensure longer holds and more consistent hooksets. Available in 8 dependable colors, a six-pack of the T.R.D. TubeZ retails for \$4.49.

A skirted, Midwest finesse-style mushroom jighead that's known to entice strikes in tough conditions, the ShroomZ Micro Finesse Jig's 100% silicone skirts in custom-designed patterns provide a realistic appearance, lifelike action, and tantalizingly slow fall rate that is simply deadly on finicky bass. Armed with a light-wire, size 1 black nickel jig hook perfect for effortless hooksets on finesse tackle and a dual multi-strand wire weedguard for improved snag resistance, its wire trailer keeper is compatible with ElaZtech baits—namely the Finesse T.R.D.™, CrusteaZ[™] and Finesse ShadZ[™]—and traditional soft plastic trailers alike. Available in 6 matching head and skirt color schemes, MSRP for a 2-pack of ShroomZ Micro Finesse Jigs is \$4.99.

The Tauten Line Welder is a compact, hand held or mountable, rechargeable battery-powered device for making connections to fishing line with a molded-in-place polymer sleeve.

The application and technology was originally developed for surgeons making "blind" suture connections in order to eliminate knots that can fail.

Tauten Line

The polymer weld takes about 35 seconds to form a perfect loop connection to a lure or hook, or when connecting two lines together (including braid to fluorocarbon), and is at least as strong as the line. It works with all popular line types and sizes.

The LineWelder is water-resistant and floats. Its lithium-ion battery delivers more than 100 welds per full charge. The replaceable polymer cartridges provide about a dozen welds each.

welds each. The Tauten LineWelder System comes with welding head, AC and USB chargers, and 3 welding cartridges. MSRP \$189.95.

The device's bayonet-mount design allows for easy changing of additional welding head options and accessories. One head is designed specifically for connecting braid to fluorocarbon or monofilament.





3 products in one selection for the top products from ICAST 2016. Freedom Tackle Corp. announced the following additions to their line of Customizable Swing Hook Products for 2017. These new products were debuted at ICAST and will be available in fall 2016 to consumers.

Marabou Jig

The Freedom Marabou jig is a must for any serious walleye or smallmouth angler. Features the Freedom changeable swing hook that doesn't allow the fish to get leverage using the jig head. Coming in two sizes, 1/8 oz. & 1/4 oz., and 6 popular colors, the keel

weighted head keeps the razor sharp hook in the upright position ready for your hookset. Want to switch to live bait or a weed less lure? With a simple twist of the hook you can replace the marabou hook with your own hook and rig anyway you want giving you the ultimate in customizability. The

Freedom Marabou head is also ecofriendly and can be fished anywhere in North America. MSRP is \$3.99 USD

Hydra Shad Hair Jig

Utilizing Freedom's top selling Hydra Swim head, the new Hydra Shad jig is ready for action. The 6-inch-long bucktail and feather

Freedom Tackle Gets Three

wrap creates an irresistible action that catches big fish. The swinging hook design and stout hook will help ensure your catch makes it to the boat. 4 colors and 4 weights will allow anglers to fish shallow or deep, fast or slow to match conditions. Need to give the fish something different to look at? Remove the hair jig hook and replace with any hook and soft plastic and you are ready to offer a traditional swimbait offering with the Freedom Swing hook advantage. MSRP is \$7.99 USD

Double Willow Leaf Spinnerbait

The Freedom Spinnerbait has updated this old standard with it's patented Removable Swing Hook design. The Freedom design allows the hook to swing freely so the fish can not get leverage during the fight. With the wire bait keeper and the extra strong worm hook this spinnerbait can be rigged completely weed-less with your favorite spinnerbait trailer to get into the toughest places where lunkers live. The hook is removable and can be replaced with your favorite brand to match larger or smaller trailers allowing for maximum customization. The Spinnerbait weighs in at 1/2 oz. and comes in 6 colors with coordinating Double Willow leaf blade configurations. MSRP \$8.99 USD



The new TackleWebs[®] Hook and Loop Cup Holder brings an end to plastic folding cup holders that retain water, rot in the sun and crack when they are bumped. Large enough to hold a 30-ounce Yeti[®] Rambler[™], the Hook and Loop Cup Holder is made from marinegrade, weather-resistant materials and can be easily attached to most flat surfaces and installed in tight spots. The cup holder comes ready to install with easy peel and stick marine- grade hook-andloop fasteners which eliminate drilling into hulls and the need for back access for through bolts. Just clean the mounting surface, peel off the adhesive cover and press to the mounting surface. Unlike unreliable suction cups that warp and lose their hold within a short period of time, the adhesive on the back of the hook and loop fasteners contains proprietary glue that will adhere securely to almost any surface. The marine-grade proprietary glue will last for years even in the harshest, wettest conditions.

Although its primary purpose is to hold cups, the patent-pending design of the TackleWebs Hook and Loop Cup Holder allows water to drain from the cup holder, which makes it ideal for other objects like cell phones, wallets, sunglasses, keys or pliers.

TackleWebs Hook and Loop Cup Holder

The Hook and Loop Cup Holder weighs less than three ounces and features a compact design that allows it to be installed just about anywhere inside a boat. Whether it is on the side of a center console, inside of a windshield or the underside of a console, the new Hook and Loop Cup Holder from TackleWebs is a great addition to any boat. With an MSRP of \$14.99, there is no reason not have multiple cup holders strategically placed in the boat, vehicle or shop.



Hodgman[®] has a solid foundation of giving anglers confidence of sound footing while fishing. The Hodgman H-Lock[™] Locking Interchangeable Sole System provides a wading boot system that anglers can trust, knowing they possess the ability to attack any terrain using the wade boot system. It's the most innovative and intuitive wading product on the market and is available only on Hodgman Vion, Aesis and H5 wade boots.

The Hodgman H-Lock Locking Interchangeable Sole System allows anglers to swap soles for ideal traction control in any terrain or aquatic environment. The dual lock system holds the sole securely in place. Once engaged the sole will not come off unless both the front



and rear locks are disengaged simultaneously – rendering all other removable sole systems obsolete. Soles are available in felt, studded felt, WadeTech[®] and studded WadeTech.

Hodgman H-Lock Locking Interchangeable Sole System

The Hodgman Vion wade boot features waterproof nubuck leather and is fully neoprene lined with a 3D molded toe guard. The Vion wade boots come in sizes 7 – 13 and come available with two interchangeable sole options – WadeTech and Felt, or WadeTech and WadeTech Studded.

The Hodgman Aesis wade boot utilizes the BOA[®] M2 closure system for quick adjustment on demand. The Aesis wade boot also features an abrasion resistant synthetic upper construction and a reinforced rubber toe.

Hodgman is also offering the H-Lock Locking Interchangeable Sole System with its H5 wade boot. This durable wade boot features a corrosion resistant hardware lacing system, abrasion resistant synthetic upper construction and a reinforced rubber toe. These boots are constructed from abrasion-resistant synthetic material, and for added durability sheet rubber protects high wear areas. Each step with the Hodgman Vion, Aesis and H5 wade boots is light, as the innovative draining system of the sole drains water from the bottom of the shoe and cleans the track system free of debris. These boots are saltwater ready with corrosion resistant hardware and the D-ring on the tongue provides a secure location for attaching gravel guard hooks.

The Hodgman Vion, Aesis and H5 wade boots utilize double and triple-stitched panel construction for long-term durability required by anglers who spend many days on the water each year. Additional replacement soles sold separately include: felt, studded felt, WadeTech and studded WadeTech. Each stud is tungsten carbide tipped. MSRP for the Hodgman H-Lock Wade boots starts at \$149.95.





The award-winning Reverso Automatic Outboard Flushing System was on display at ICAST for the first time in the Marine Accessories Pavilion. Winner of an NMMA Product Innovation Award at IBEX 2015 and a BoatingIndustry 2016 Top Products Award, the Reverso Automatic Outboard Flushing System eliminates the slow, cumbersome process of manually flushing outboard engines after a day on the water.

With the push of a button, the patent-pending, permanently-mounted onboard system systematically flushes each outboard engine and automatically shuts off when the flushing cycle is complete. Just one hose connection is required.







SHOOTING AND EATING ROAD KILL IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

By Dana Benner



I got an email from my friend Mark up in Lancaster

asking if I wanted to come up for a few days. He had just joined the Groveton Fish and Game Club and they were hosting a sporting clays event. Seeing that Mark had never shot sporting clays and I needed a break from writing (yeah, right. Like that will ever happen.) I loaded up the guns and ammo and headed north.

You'll notice that I said "guns" and not just "gun". You see, the Groveton Fish and Game Club have a pistol and rifle range as well as a sporting clays course, so I figured I could get some range time there as well. I loaded my Mossberg 500 12 gauge pump and three boxes of Federal Steel Target Loads in #7 shot; my Marlin Self-Loading .22 rifle and two boxes of CCI Mini-Mag .22 LRHP; and my Springfield XD-S .45ACP pistol with a box of American Eagle FMJ rounds. I also threw in my fishing gear, just in case we had time.

When I arrived at Mark's I was not only greeted by Mark and his wife Wendy, but also by four of their six dogs. I love Wendy. She says what is on her mind, but has a heart made of solid gold. After I unloaded my gear she laid down the ground rules. She would be cooking and if we, (mark and I) weren't their when it was ready then we would just have to fend for ourselves. She wasn't going to wait on us, so if we wanted something, just get it. It was great! Wendy is a great cook so I wasn't planning on being late for any meal. On this particular evening she was making stew. This was no ordinary stew; it was "road kill" venison stew.

Always interested in a good story, you know I had to ask to hear it. It seems that last fall a minivan hit a



button buck on Mark's road. They called the police who in turn called New Hampshire Fish and Game. The Fish and Game officer, after filling out the paperwork, asked the driver if they wanted the deer; they refused. Being non-wasteful people, Mark and one of his neighbors got permission to take and process the deer, which they did. Some of that deer was now the main ingredient in this stew.

After the story about the deer, Mark and I went over our plans for our afternoon's shoot. Mark, who is a great upland hunter, was a little apprehensive about





the clays. I just told him relax, have fun and to make believe that the clays had feathers around them. We grabbed our guns and headed out. When we arrived there were a few other shooters already there. Being true northern New Englanders they kind of held back because I was a stranger and a "flatlander" to boot. For those of you who don't understand what a "flatlander" is, you first have to understand New England. Northern New England, particularly New Hampshire, is made up of mountains where southern New England is "flat". Being from southern New Hampshire, I was a "flatlander". They soon found out that I could hold

my own with the often sarcastic Yankee humor and I was accepted right in.

For a small club Groveton has a very nice and well organized clays course. While all of the shot are doable, many were pretty tough and I missed my fair share of them. The great thing was that this was not a completion, so everyone was watching each other shoot and pointing out what we were all doing wrong in an effort to help make the next shot better. After a few hours and 2 ½ boxes of shells later it was over. It was now time to head back for that stew.

The next morning Mark and I headed back to the Club; this time to shoot the rifle and pistol ranges. Mark decided to bring his Smith & Wesson .45 ACP as well, which made for some fun shooting. Between the two of us we probably went through about 50 rounds of the American Eagle ammo, both of us alternating between Mark's Smith & Wesson and my Springfield. The Smith & Wesson is nice, but I still like my Springfield.

Next we moved to the rifle range where we broke out my Marlin .22. This rifle is just plain fun to shoot. Before we knew it we had gone through about 100 rounds of the CCI ammo that I had brought. We decided to stop there before the day became too expensive. We spent the rest of the day doing odd things. I re-spooled one of Mark's reels for him; gave him a lesson with the goose call and spent an hour or two fishing for brook trout. We then threw a couple steaks on the grill and just got caught up on things.

All in all it was a very relaxing time. I had a chance to get caught up with some old friends and I made some new ones along the way. All of the people at the Groveton Fish and Game Club made me feel welcome and they told me to come back anytime. It is small groups like this that keep the hunting and shooting sports alive, so please support them. Now it is time for me to throw the shovel and a bucket in the back of the truck, drive the back roads and find something for dinner.



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Ten vegetation-taming tips for deer hunters

By Josh Lantz

As you read these words, summer's lush, green growth is wrapping itself around your hunting stands and ground blind locations. Now is the time to begin thinking about trimming limbs, branches and brush that might otherwise interfere with a successful hunt this fall.

Of course, there's a right way and a wrong way to do almost anything. Follow these ten tips for productive and prudent pruning.

Safety first

Trimming elevated vegetation is inherently dangerous. Always wear a safety harness while trimming from an elevated location. Wear proper protective clothing including safety glasses, gloves and chaps if trimming with a chainsaw. Bring a buddy in case there are any oper



with a chainsaw. Bring a buddy in case there are any emergencies.

Bring the right tools

The vast majority of all trimming jobs are adequately conducted with a quality limb saw and a pair of pruning shears. Ratcheting shears, a long-handled lopper, and a limb saw with a long, telescoping

handle can often make things easier. In some cases, a ladder may also be required. Use your buddy to steady your ladder while climbing.

Trim early and often

Most vegetation will be fully developed by mid-summer. But just because you trim now doesn't mean you're hunting sites won't require some additional attention before hunting begins. Carry a small, folding limb saw and a pair of pruning shears with you whenever you head to your stands prior to and during hunting season.

Plan your ingress and egress

Consider the prevailing winds, and then plan primary and secondary routes to and



from each stand or blind location. Once you identify your routes, clean a trail into your stand sites. You can reduce the odds of bumping deer by taking time to clear your paths of sticks you might step on or noisy brush that may snag you or your gear.

Clear the climb

Remove enough brush at the base of each ladder stand, treestand, or ground blind entrance to remain quiet during entry and exit. Also trim any branches or twigs that you might brush up against and create noise while climbing in or out of your stands.



Clear shooting lanes

Sit in your stand or blind and try to draw your bow or shoulder your gun in the directions you believe deer are most likely to appear, then cut away any limb or twig that might contact you, your gun barrel, arrow or bow - including the small stuff that might get caught between your cam and bow string. While still in the stand, identify any major limbs that might deflect your arrow or bullet on the way to its target and do your best to eliminate those as well. Think seriously about shooting lanes. Our initial thoughts on the places we believe shot opportunities will occur are often dead wrong. Think about the bucks you've observed approaching a field or food plot. Did they stroll up the trail and stop at the very edge? Rarely.



Recall past encounters and you'll realize that bucks typically stop well short of those edges, defined remaining close to the comfort of thick cover as they scent check and look for other deer. Mature bucks also rarely use the main deer trails

used by does and yearlings, preferring to stay just downwind of those primary trails during travel. Look for windows five to ten yards back from field and clearing openings and primary trails, then clear appropriate shooting lanes.

Don't over-trim

Cutting brush and limbs in and around your stands and blinds is important, but don't overdo it. You'll want to leave some vegetation for concealment, especially around the bottom of the stand and your lower body. Try to picture what your stand will look like once the trees drop their leaves in the fall, then trim accordingly. You can always remove more later.

Prepare ground blind locations

In addition to trimming relative to ingress/egress and shooting lanes, portable ground blind sites require additional considerations. Clear the ground where any portable ground blind will be placed of any sticks, brush or leaf litter that may produce noise once hunting begins.

Keep camera sets clear

Stand sites and shooting lanes are obvious trimming priorities, but don't neglect your camera sites. Limbs, grasses or other vegetation within your camera's field of view can sway in the wind and trigger the shutter, resulting in an annoying abundance of worthless images and reduced battery life.

Don't leave a noisy mess

Trimmed limbs and twigs shouldn't be left to lie on the ground, as they may be stepped on and alert deer. Instead, use them for extra concealment around the lower portion of your stand or around the outside of your blind.



Spotlight Bergara B14 Timber Rifle

Gun

The New Bergara Bolt action rifle will surprise you with its silky smooth action and its excelent trigger. You will like it when you see it, but you will love when you take it.

BERGARA B14 is designed and built for the most demanding hunters and leisure shooters.



Our B14 action is accurate, reliable and probably the smoothest bolt action on the market in its segment.

It features a two-lug bolt with a 90° opening angle and the dimensions allow easy customization with all kinds of accessories (rails, mounts, triggers, stocks...) available on the market.

This superb action in combination with a free floating BERGARA barrels guarantees excellent accuracy.

We present the B14 with floorplate first, but a detachable magazine is foreseen to be on the market as conversion kit, in autumn. The floorplate capacity is 3+1 for magnum calibers and 4 +1 for the rest. The capacity in the detachable magazine for standard calibers is 3+1 and for magnum calibers 2+1.

The very crisp trigger is easily adjustable to the users' ideal pull weight making it an important additional security and accuracy element. (The rifle leaves our factory with a 1,4kg trigger pull weight).

We created our stocks for optimum comfort in all shooting positions. For those who prefer elegance and timeless design rather than easy care, the TIMBER model with its oiled walnut stock is the good choice. This walnut stock includes epoxy pillars which protect and avoid deformations of the wood and keep accuracy level stable over the time.



