

May 2016
Late Spring
Fishing Edition

ODU MAGAZINE™

***Carp On
Lures***

***Spring
Sauger***



**THREE
TECHNIQUES
FOR THE
SMALLMOUTH
SPAWN**

A CASE FOR BIG PIKE

**THE PERFECT
TURKEY HUNTING
PLAN**



Enjoy this edition of ODU Magazine and look forward to the first summer edition in a couple weeks. It is already in draft mode with many great articles to keep those summer time rods busy. This edition hits on bass, pike, walleye and much much more.

Memorial Day weekend for many families is the start to their outdoor recreation season. Fishing, camping, hikes, boating, biking and much more take up all our pre-summer activities. It is not too late to make some plans for some all American outdoor fun. This year get out to a park you never have been, camp in a new area or fishing on a new pond or stream.

As a teen and then in college, I made it a point to fish in a new place every chance I could. Here is an idea, get a local map and find all the ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams you can get to and access legally. Make a summer bucket list and challenge your friends to do the same. See who can catch the most species and compare notes throughout the summer. You will be a better angler at the end, guaranteed.

Summer Bait Picks:

Post spring bass secret baits: Picasso Lures FX Shock Blade (<http://user-pyajmgi.cld.bz/Picasso-Catalog#27/z> - pictured), Strike King's Spittin' King and the Rapala's Shadow Rap.



Late spring walleye baits: Matzuo Kinchou Minnows (<http://www.matzuo.com/kinchouminnow>), Hot 'N Tot MadFlash and the Musky Mania Li'l Ernies.



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

Publishing Team: Bill Schwarz &
Richard Barker.

Cover page is of O'Neill Williams and Travis Johnson, after day of redfish fishing. Photo courtesy of TJ Stallings. Thank You All!

Want to fish for redfish? You have to visit The Cajun Vista in Barataria, LA. Call them at 504-341-5614 or [E-Mail](#).



Cajun Vista photo (above) courtesy of TJ Stallings.

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

Contributing Writers: Bill Cooper, Captain Mike Gerry, Billy 'Hawkeye' Decoteau, Bill Vanderford, Dan Galusha, Bob Jensen, Mike Borovic, Dana Benner, Captain Mike Gerry, Charlie Robinton, Jason Mitchell, Wil Wegman, Ted Takasaki, Scott Richardson, Steve Pennaz, Mike Gnatkowski and Jason Herbert

Thank You All!

Trolling surprise baits for lake trout: Luhr-Jensen Hus Lure (<http://www.luhrjensen.com/luhr-jensen/lures/spoons/hus-lure/Hus-Lure.html>), Mepps Little Wolf and the William's Wabblers.

Striper spring baits: 10-inch Hogy (<https://shop.hogylures.com/category/1004/Hogy-Originals/1.html>), Tsunami Holographic Split-Tail Minnow and the magnum Wiggle Wart.



Have a wonderful late May and early June, and if the opportunity presents itself, take a kid fishing and give them the gift of fishing.

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

**Find us on
Facebook**

**FISHING
NEWS
HUNTING
NEWS**

**twitter**
ODUFishing

**twitter**
ODUHunting

Get Connected With ODU!


Pinterest



Did You Miss ODU Magazine's Last Three Editions?



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


[February Fishing 2016](#)

[March Pre-Spring 2016 Fishing](#)

[April Fishing 2016](#)



[Download PDF](#)



A Great Outdoorsmen, Angler, Pg. 7
Ritz and Glitz and 100 Fish Days, Pg. 14
Thinking about Turning Pro, Pg. 19
3 Techniques for the Smallmouth Spawn, Pg. 21
My Little Jekyll Island Beach Otter, Pg. 25
Carp On Lures, Pg. 26
First Trip Crappies, Pg. 30
Don't Flick, Pg. 32
UPF Clothing For All Outdoors People, Pg. 34
Fish Slow You Will Reap The Rewards, Pg. 39
Stay Happy and Healthy: Go Fishing, Pg. 41
A Case for Big Pike, Pg. 46
From One Extreme Vacation to the Other, Pg. 50
My Favorite Way To Fish, Pg. 53
Spring Sauger & Walleye Tactics for Rivers, Pg. 56
The Ethanol Issue Continues, Pg. 61
Follow The Fish For More Fishing Success, Pg. 62
An Over-Looked Cranks, Pg. 64
Basic Fly Casting Techniques, Pg. 68
Net Results, Pg. 74
The Perfect Turkey Hunting Plan , Pg. 80
Mossberg SA-2 AutoloaderSeries, Pg. 85



20% OFF

Entire Online Store
Enter Coupon Code at Checkout:
NFT20%OFF
Valid Through 6/3/16

shop.northlandtackle.com

Northland
FISHING TACKLE

ONE 751-6723 | 1-800-624-FISH | info@northlandtackle.com **CHECKOUT**

IMPROVED SHOPPING EXPERIENCE!

- Brand New Shopping Experience
- More User Friendly
- Easier Navigation
- **SHOP BY SPECIES!**

After launching our new website in January 2016 we have been looking for ways to improve it. We are happy to announce that we have rebuilt shop.northlandtackle.com! Make sure to check it out by clicking the link below!

Featured Products

FIRE-BALL® JIG & STING'R HOOK
Attach the "Sting'r" hook to tip the Short Striking Minnow.

UV MIMIC MINNOW®
New! Optically Brightened UV Colors

LIVE RIGGED PADDLE MINNOW
Photogenic HD Fish-Photo-Image® Head & Body

SWIVEL-HEAD JIG
Exclusive VMC Model

Categories:
Featured Tackle
Seasonal Tackle
Shop by Species
Specials
Accessories

Featured Products:
SWIVEL-HEAD JIG
TEAM NORTHLAND® LONG
FIRE-BALL® JIG
BIRD-SHOT BUCKTAIL, SPL

Shop Here

A man with a beard and a blue baseball cap is smiling while holding a large fish. He is wearing a red life vest with the word "MONTANA" on it. The background shows a body of water and a blue sky.

Getting To Know O'Neill Williams

Written By ODU Staffer

O'Neill told me, "It wasn't meant to be very much, really". He was asked by a marketing fellow once about how far this 'television thing' was going to go. The reply from O'Neill was, "Nowhere beyond the Atlanta area or a few Georgia television stations". That's not exactly how it has turned out so far.

***A Great
Outdoorsmen,
Angler,
Hunter and
Role Model***

So how does an Emory University graduate, professional bass fishermen and body building champion who once hit over .500 during a high school baseball season end up as one of the nation's most widely known outdoorsmen?



You have to start back during World War II, when O'Neill Williams was born Donald O'Neill Williams Jr. in October 1943. His Mom was a "spunky little hard worker" named Margaret Turpin. Margaret was married to a handsome Army Air Corp Pilot, O'Neill Williams. Williams says both his mother, from Clayton, GA, and his father, who grew up in Spartanburg, SC, were natural athletes.



"Each of my folks worked for AT&T, he in Charlotte

and she in Atlanta," said Williams, "They met while corresponding on the teletypewriter and finally ran away and got married in the summer of 1941 on the beach in Jacksonville."

Williams said his parents moved to Charlotte, NC, but it was a short stint, as his Dad volunteered for pilot training for WWII and left for Texas. Six weeks after the new O'Neill was born, Margaret traveled by train to visit Major's Field in Greenville, Texas to let O'Neill see his newly born son before he was to go the South Pacific war theatre.

O'Neill's mother was staying in a boarding house for a few days and her husband was on-duty living in the barracks. They were scheduled for their first afternoon of the three of them together but good



weather meant a day of flying so the meet was cancelled. It turned out to be a dark day for Margaret, as another plane, with engine trouble, crashed into her husband's plane while he waiting on the runway for takeoff. O'Neill Sr. was killed instantly. That was 72 years ago.

Undaunted and undefeated, when O'Neill was three years old in 1946, Margaret luckily found another true WWII hero, H. O. Nash Jr., a veteran of 25 bombing missions over Japan as a radio operator on a B-29.

"H. O. Nash, Jr. is the Father that O'Neill Sr. would have picked out to raise me, had he been able to make the choice," said Williams. "He was a wonderful Dad in every way."

As a 10-year-old, Williams made summer visits with his maternal grandparents to relatives in the North Georgia

Mountains. With warm days spent exploring the gentle little creeks below the ridges and the clear, placid lakes dotting the valleys, those grandparents generated in Williams a love of wild places, the critters that live there, and the gentle interaction of nature. O'Neill and his grandparents walked along the railroad tracks to the Tallulah River, and using cane poles rigged with black nylon line, they'd always catch a few little bream and an occasional catfish. It didn't matter. They were together with Williams learning about depression-era times and the lives they had shared.



Gail Olivia Williams, O'Neill's Wonderful Wife, Pictured Together

Williams' step-grandfather, though he certainly wasn't ever considered as 'step', was a Primitive Baptist preacher serving the small congregations in the farming communities around greater Atlanta and East Georgia. It was with Elder Nash that O'Neill was privileged to angle for catfish from the banks of the ponds owned by a few members in the congregations.

"Granddaddy, also known as 'Elder Nash', took me fishing," said Williams. "He was always decked out in a dark pinstriped vested suit, white shirt and tie and broad brimmed straw hat. I was in a T-shirt and jeans with rolled up cuffs. We must have looked like quite a team to the folks who let us fish in those ponds," he added.

With a row of forked sticks, gathered from the trees close by, holding an arsenal of Zebco 33s fanned out in the shallow water, little O'Neill and his grandfather filled the dark colored ponds with baits of chicken livers and red wigglers. Many a whiskered catfish ended on their stringer and finally at the dinner table.

High school in Atlanta was something different—and Williams made the most of it. Williams excelled at all sports, including baseball, football and wrestling. But after the traditional knee injury forced him out of football for good, he turned his sights to baseball and never looked back. He made the All-State baseball team, and his .567 batting average as a senior is still the all-time record in Georgia High School history. In the middle that charmed senior season, he was hitting a remarkable .818.

"I still love watching baseball today," said Williams. "It's a much more complex game than many people realize."

But when he wasn't on the diamond, Williams was developing a strong interest in fishing, no doubt spurred by the early days with his grandparents.

"Jeff Hobbins was a high school friend and we used to go to area pay lakes around the county," said Williams. "We'd figure out that baiting a section of the lake with corn for carp and cats could pay off

by allowing us to catch a tub full and then selling them to other fishermen that weren't so lucky," he said smiling. "Here we were a couple of 14-year olds and people would actually 'book' the fish we were about to catch." His friend spent most of his career with Browning and O'Neill on TV and radio. They had clearly developed their business acumen at an early age.

That business savvy that showed in his early teens on the bank of a pay lake was to guide him throughout his career, a gift that he would put to great use throughout his adult life.

Williams moved on to Emory University, where the degree he earned in economics was the second best thing that happened to him: he became reacquainted with a girl from his own high school who would become the love of his life, Gail Williams.

"A fraternity brother of mine had seen a class photo from my high school yearbook and wanted me to set up a date with her," said Williams. "When I called to ask her, she said 'I don't do blind dates', so my friend was out of luck."

But Williams was not. "I got up the courage to ask her out on a Friday night and when I saw her again, I thought she was the most beautiful girl I'd ever seen. It's ironic that her maiden name was Williams", he added. Coincidence or good fortune, the two were married three years later and recently celebrated 51 years together, raising two wonderful daughters, Amy and Allison. His granddaughter, Lorrie, is a certified surgical technologists Athens, Georgia, his oldest grandson, Travis, is the co-host of "O'Neill Outside" Television and Radio, the youngest grandson, Cody, is still in high school.



While O'Neill's career began in the food industry (he worked for Oscar Mayer), his love of the outdoors was building. He competed in many local bass tournaments and won the Georgia Bass Anglers 1979 Tour Championship—and even got some sponsors for his fishing.

But it was in 1982 that his career took off.

"I got a call from Steve Hines, a fellow in the local cable television business," said Williams. "The result was a 15-minute local outdoor interview show called the 'Metro-Channel Sports Fishing Report' with all 60,000 cable subscribers. The truth is that the show probably had about a hundred viewers and most of those were people I called and invited to watch," he laughed.

The TV thing that, "wasn't supposed to be much", traveled quite a route. Over the next 34 years, that small cable TV show grew to become "Fishing in

Georgia", "Southern Fishing", "Adventures Afield", "Reel Adventures" and finally "O'Neill Outside" and is now into 100,000,000 subscriber households nationally. You can watch it on Destination America, Pursuit Channel, FOX Sports Southeast, FOX Sports Sun, FOX Sports Arizona and the Hunt Channel.

"We've been honored to build a great audience over a long period of time," said Williams. The show normally delivers a rated weekly audience of over 200,000.

But Williams, whose energy at 72 is still extraordinary, set another challenge for himself.

"I decided I didn't like the shape I was in when I turned 40 so started weight training and entered the Atlanta Body Building Championship," he said. Always competitive, Williams took third place at age 43, the oldest athlete in the field. "To be honest, it's not like you had to look like Arnold Schwarzenegger, since I was in the 35-year-old senior division," he said.

But as if fishing, TV and body building weren't enough, Williams decided to take a crack at radio. "I knew that fishermen just can't stop talking, so I thought a radio call-in show just might work," he said. His first job was at Atlanta's WGST in 1990. "That was the home of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets and it was well known then, but not as much as WSB Radio. Still, I appreciated the fact that they gave me the chance, and I was making \$15 a week broadcasting for two hours on a Sunday afternoon."

Williams and WSB Radio, known for more than 50 years as "The Voice of the South", finally got together in 1992, changed the hours to a 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. timeslot. That



Travis Johnson, O'Neill's grandson, is growing his own brand in the outdoor media world. He has been a gracious student of the outdoors, with O'Neill Williams at his side.

www.travisjohnsonsooutdoors.com/ is Travis's website and showcases both his radio and television broadcasts/shows called Travis Johnson Outdoors.

Travis has ambitious goals for the future of his programs and career in outdoor media. It's all about going bigger and being challenged more. He wants to showcase hunting adventures that focus on the more demanding side of hunting. He intends to show the weekend hunter there is more to hunting than they already experience with each deer, pig or turkey season. Shows will focus on archery, harder terrain, incimate conditions if they happen and species that hunters only wish they could challenge themselves with.

Shows focused on fishing will have similar plans, which anglers can look forward to.

Travis has this to say to his loyal listeners, "Hang on; it will be a fun ride."



show, called "O'Neill Outside", now covers more than 38 states early on Saturday mornings and generates an audience of over 800,000. It will be celebrating 24 years of weekly broadcasts in May of 2016 and the show just may be the #1 outdoor based live radio talk program in the country. "There's really no way to tell," said Williams in characteristic modesty. "It really doesn't matter anyway, but it's flattering that so many similar types of shows have come along in the 24 years we've been on the air with WSB."

What was "not supposed to be much" has become a broadcast empire that just won't let go; a monthly video Newsletter to 300,000 subscribers, Facebook posts to millions, TV to an audience of 200,000, radio to 800,000, and a website with thousands of daily visitors. He also writes personal columns for Angler, The Outpost



TRAVIS JOHNSON, O'NEILL WILLIAMS'

GRANDSON WITH A NICE PIKE

Life , Outdoor Unlimited and Dude magazines with a total subscription base of over 600,000.

“The value is having met and worked with quality people along the way, said Williams.”

“There are so many that have been a part of our success, including Frank Carter, Jeff Alligood, Dudley McGarity, Wes Campbell and his family, TJ Stallings, Carol Robinson, Dave Altman, Kevin King, Tom Duncan, James Graves, Glenn Ivie, Paul Smith, Dan Lee, Roddy Sturdivant, Roscoe Reams, and others too numerous to mention”.

Williams says the list could go on and on but the one who always kept the standard the highest, kept the effort maxed and never allowed O'Neill to give up, was the beautiful young girl that refused the blind date but accepted the invitation from O'Neill. “She’s my life partner and as pretty as ever,” said Williams. In the last 54 years since that first date, Williams said only a very few days have not started and ended circled in diamonds.

I asked O'Neill if he's recognized in public from time to time and he told me this story; “I walked onto a Waffle House early one morning long before sunup and a fellow jumped down from a counter seat and hugged me and told me he loved me and I was his hero.

Flattered but not fooled, I recognized that he just wanted to say something nice, but what he said caused me to think of the true heroes in our lives. I can tell you with absolute certainty that being on television and radio does not make you anything special. Heroes are not rock or movie stars, sports professionals or politicians. No, the heroes in our lives are dedicated people like Firefighters, Policemen and Women, Soldiers, Nurses, Doctors, Emergency Personnel, Teachers and, most of the time, Parents. So, I can say without contradiction that, while what I do is a great way to earn a living, it's really “not so much after all”.





RITZ AND GLITZ AND 100 FISH DAYS

By Bill Cooper

The cypress swamps of southeast Missouri set the stage for my grand entrance into the world of catching behemoth largemouth bass on flyrods stiff enough to use as a pool cue in Ma Tally's Tavern.

Rainbow trout were touted as a sissy's fish by bar stool interlopers at Ma Tally's. I'd never seen a rainbow colored fish, but listened intently to the banter between the crusty old codgers that appeared to be better at guzzling Stag beer than catching fish of any kind. Sitting downwind of them, however, provided positive proof that they had indeed caught fish, perhaps four days previous.

One of the regulars wore a gold chain around his neck with a bowed up fish on it. In the heat of a discussion one day, he broke out the tarnished trout figurine to educate

***BEHEMOTH
BROWNS CALL
TANEYCOMO
HOME!***

***TANEYCOMO
RAINBOWS ARE
REAL SUCKERS FOR
TAN COLORED
SUCDS.***

his cohorts about the finer points of trout fishing.

A wide grin and a far off look overtook the old gentleman's face as he mentioned names like Yellowstone, Frying Pan, Bighorn, Madison and Gallatin. They meant nothing to me, but the old man told convincing stories about catching dozens of big, colorful fish.

It wasn't until I saw my first issue of "Outdoor Life" in 1959 that I became truly intrigued with rainbow trout. A handsome man with a broad rimmed hat and hip boots stood knee deep in a

clear, fast flowing stream. He held a well bent fly rod an arms length behind himself, while he slid a brightly colored 'bow into his landing net.

The nearest trout to our southern swamp lived several hours up in the Missouri Ozarks. I had never seen the hills, but longed to do so.

Fortunately, I had an uncle who worked for Monsanto in East St. Louis, who loved to trout fish. I held to his every word as he described waters so clear you could easily see every pebble on the bottom and the bright red stripes of hefty rainbow trout as well.

Years past, but I made my first trout fishing trip while in college while pursuing a degree in outdoor education. Two years later, I took a job as superintendent of Maramec Spring Park, one of the four trout parks in Missouri. I later transferred to Bennet Spring State Park as a naturalist and supervised the naturalist at Montuak, two more of the four trout parks.

I traveled the Ozarks in pursuit of trout. Trout parks, wild streams and private trout ranches became my regular hangouts.





Performance Sunglasses

O'Neill Williams



Four Lens Options

Signature Model

Get

**20%
OFF**

When you order
from
www.oneilloutside.com

Travis Johnson



Three Lens Combinations

Signature Model

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

I often heard stories about the fabulous trout fishing at Taneycomo Lake in southwest Missouri. The idea of trout fishing in a lake did not particularly appeal to me. However, after a bit of research, I discovered that much of Taneycomo was more like a river. Too, some very hefty rainbows and brown trout were caught from those waters annually.

I still had a hangup about fishing Taneycomo. The lake borders Branson, Missouri, one of the biggest tourist destinations in the United States. Ritz and glitz I could do without.

Eventually, I received an invitation from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Conservation Federation of Missouri to attend a media event at Taneycomo. Guides were provided.

I met my appointed guide at the docks at Lilley's Landing early one morning. We motored a few hundred yards upstream and began drift fishing. Almost immediately we began catching stocker size fish in the 10-to-12-inch range.

on the water often serves as a break from the fast paced tourist town. An added bonus for these families is the fact that the stocked rainbows are fairly easy to catch.

I enjoyed catching the stocker fish, but the method did not satisfy my urge to fish wilder waters.

An opportunity presented itself ten day after the conference ended. A short visit to Lilley's Fly Shop gave me ten answers I needed about where to flyfish and what patterns use. I could have never envisioned the results I would enjoy.

I awoke to a cold, windy March morning. Within minutes from Lilley's, I arrived 200 yards below Table Rock Lake Dam. The tailrace from the dam is the beginnings of Lake Taneycomo.

I scanned the shoreline as I walked down the bank. Fifty yards upstream, I could see the dimples of feeding fish.

My first offering, a #16 bead head Pheasant Tailed Nymph, disappeared as soon as it hit the water. My five-weight rod arched heavily and a resounding "ping" echoed through the cold morning air.

After adding a length of heavier I made my second cast and hooked up again. I arched my rod at arms length and slid a solid 41-inch rainbow into my landing net.

After catching a dozen or more respectable rainbows, the action slowed. I took the advice of the flyshop attendant and tied on a #16 tan scud pattern. My trout fishing world was about to be turned upside down.

Scuds are actually freshwater shrimp and Taneycomo teems with them. Trout grow quickly to large proportions feeding on the abundant food supply.

I kept expecting other fishermen to show up to get in on the fast

Brown trout are plentiful in Lake Taneycomo, too.



fish action. Only two fishermen arrived, one two hundred yards above and another below my position perhaps 300 yards.

My arms grew tired as one rainbow after another inhaled my scud pattern. If one fish missed a strike, another quickly attacked. Never had I enjoyed such spectacular trout fishing action.

A hot breakfast and cup of coffee seemed ten fitting end to a wonderful day of trout fishing on Lake Taneycomo. As I enjoyed the meal to the swoons of Perry Como, I reveled in the fact that I had caught well over 100 rainbow trout in three hours of fishing, all within a stone's throw of the ritz and glitz of Branson, Missouri.

Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery produces 350,000 ponds of trout each year. That equates to about 700,000 trout being released in the lake. For more trout fishing information contact Phil Lilley at www.lilleyslanding.com.

Next, I intend to concentrate on the behemoth brown trout that call Taneycomo home.



By Captain Mike Gerry

As everyone loves competition, and those who have competed with the best in many of the local and regional fishing tournaments have an inner voice telling you to try it on the big stage; the thought of being a professional always pops up. That voice in the back of your head tells you I know I can do it, I can compete with the best of them; so you're giving it some deep thought.

Well here is reality if you haven't thought it out; a professional on any level for any sport is a grueling process of endless practice, lonely days, long nights and a tiring process from the outhouse; if you good enough you progress. The things to consider are many, you travel constantly, probably have no personal life if you already have one before you turn pro then it becomes challenging at best; a life full of daily challenges and mental strain that can bring the best of the best to their knees.

The reality is not pretty, many of the pros spend endless nights sleeping in the back of their trucks; watching every dollar and every expense become a major challenge, or a dream to drive you until you

finally get to the top. The endless quest for sponsors sets in, you start begging for financial help, you turn to everyone you know to try and figure a way to gain financial support until you can make a good showing at one tournaments and prove your good enough to compete. This could be you, and planning to get to the top is full of challenges so understand what you're getting into as this quest for the big stage has changed many lives and challenged the best; so how good are you?

Is the chance to stand up on the big stage really worth it? Did the few local tournaments you won really set you apart to become one of the best so your dreams can be realized; it's going to be the biggest adventure of your life if you try it, just understand what is ahead!

Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service

www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com

www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville

Email: bassguide@comcast.net

Call: 256 759 2270



Fishing With Billy "Hawkeye" Decoteau



THE BASS
UNIVERSITY

By Billy 'Hawkeye' Decoteau

Three Techniques For The Smallmouth Spawn

Bassmaster Elite Angler Seth Feider pronounces his last name as 'Fighter', which by the way is also the way Seth defines smallmouth bass! "There is just something about smallmouth bass, in my opinion smallmouth bass are the hardest fighting member of the entire Black Bass family!"

Seth's passion for shadowing smallmouth bass within their seasonal transitional patterns has earned this young professional Elite Angler the reputation of being a smallmouth expert. And, like the hard fighting 'Bronze Back Bass' he pursues, Seth Feider is always a threat to win any tournament he competes in. Add smallmouth bass to the equation and it's 'Game-On'!

A Minnesota native raised within the land of 10,000 lakes, Feider's angling abilities were developed and fine-tuned on some of America's finest bass waters. Seth Feider's knowledge of smallmouth bass their transitional movements, preferred habitat and seasonal forage base allowed him to catapult his professional tournament bass fishing career in just a few short years!

"Average water temperatures during the spawning period usually can range anywhere between 50-70 degrees. Anglers chasing smallmouth bass within the months of May, June and at times July, will find

three stages of the spawn; pre-spawn, spawn and post-spawn all occurring at the same time throughout most bodies of water,” suggest Feider.

According to smallmouth expert Elite Pro Seth Feider, anglers need to cover water, while at the same time monitoring the water columns depth with a keen-eye. “It’s imperative to be looking for beds, cruising bass and isolated big boulders,” states Feider. Targeting large hard bottom flat areas covered with sand and rocks Feider concentrates along 6-8 foot depths where contours have sudden drop-offs into 20 feet.



Several key factors play into an angler’s success during this time of year. “Its necessity to make long cast utilizing spinning equipment spooled with light line. Adhering along the contour line places you in the prime area to visually locate smallmouths. The edge along the sudden drop-off becomes a roadway for cruising bass.”

Feider emphasizes the importance of long cast, cruising bass are always spooky especially in clear water. “Long cast not only covers water faster, it also keeps your bait ahead of you. As well as the cruising bass including the bass you do not see! Remember the eyes on a bass are on top of their heads looking up, they always see you before you see them,” instructs Feider, an Elite Instructor with The Bass University’s In-Class Training Sessions. (www.TheBassUniversity.com)

With smallmouth bass engaging in three stages of the spawn, Bassmaster Elite Angler Seth Feider’s arsenal includes three baits with three different techniques. “Smallmouth bass are extremely visual and





curious feeders, including those on beds. Topwater baits are excellent for covering water, making long cast, locating bedding smallmouth bass and enticing suspending post spawn smallmouths. My topwater bait of choice is the new Storm Arashi Top Walker; it's

small bait with three hooks. Smallmouth bass are notorious for smashing topwater baits. The three treble hooks on the Top Walker increase my hook-up ratio." According to Feider, he fishes his topwater walking bait fast, in fact extremely fast! "If I don't get a reaction bite within the first 10-15' I'll reel in and makes another cast. It's all about enticing a reaction bite and locating the smallmouths!"

More often than not Feider utilizes his topwater Storm Arashi Top Walker hard stick-bait to begin his day on the water. As he continues his search along the sloping contour his second choice in baits just might shock most bass anglers? "Pre-spawn and post-spawn smallmouth bass, especially cruising smallmouths require a stealth approach with non aggressive finesse size baits! This is where I incorporate swimming a VMC 1/8 oz. Black Dominator Marabou jig." When it comes to color choices Elite Pro Seth Feider ties on only one color Marabou Jig ... Black!

he Team Diawa Elite Series Pro mounts a Steez spinning reel spooled with 6 lb. Suffix 832 Lo-Vis green braid paired with a six-foot Suffix 6-8 lb. green fluorocarbon leader, onto a 7' Medium-light Steez spinning rod. "The 5.6:1 gear ratio on the Steez spinning reel allows me to swim my Marabou jig with a slow steady retrieve. While the small diameter braid extends my casting distance," says Feider. Adding, "Once my jig hits the water I begin my slow steady retrieve. Basically, I retrieve the jig the same as I would a single tail grub."



When it comes to hook-sets with light line and tackle Seth Feider is adamant on employing the hook-set by utilizing your rod and reel. "Smallmouth bass will missile themselves through the water column into the air if you apply hard hook-sets. Plus, with light-line you are more apt to have a break-off losing both your jig and the smallmouth! First set your reels drag system for a smooth side sweeping hook-set' allowing your rods parabolic action to apply the pressure for engaging the hook-set. When smallmouth take your bait they will swim off this is when an ultra sharp hook will penetrate and secure your hook-set. Once hooked let your rod and reel exhaust the smallmouth before landing it.... Patience is of upmost importance at this stage!"

Targeting isolated big boulders in 15-20 foot depths Feider turns to a Drop Shot for his third technique. "Big boulders are magnets for big smallmouth bass! I'll nose hook a 4" Erie Darter or small Diawa TD swimbait on a #1 to 1/0 VMC Sure Set Hook, and then clip a 1/2 oz. VMC tungsten Drop Shot weight on, before working all sides of the boulder." Feider claims the 1/2 oz. weight allows his Drop-Shot rig to descend faster, while also transmitting an excellent feel for reading the bottom. "When rigged with a swimbait this setup mimics dying baitfish and the smallmouths inhale the bait!"



What about smallmouths on beds? "Targeting bedding bass is similar to isolated boulders. Beds represent targets so I employ the exact same technique and Drop Shot baits for bedding smallmouth bass." Once again, Feider recommends making long cast pass the bedding area and slowing crawl your drop shot rig unto the bed. "Smallmouth bass do not waste anytime engulfing baits in and around their beds. This is one reason my Top Walker surface bait works so well for locating bedding smallmouths!"

"GET YOUR FROG ON"



If smallmouth bass swim within your region of bass waters, I highly suggest incorporating Bassmaster Elite Angler Seth Feider's three techniques throughout the entire Smallmouth Spawning period. They just might help you land a trophy smallmouth.

Follow Bassmaster Elite Angler Seth Feider by logging unto; www.facebook.com/SethFeiderFishing, and to purchase Seth's Tackle log unto www.TheBassUniversity.com.

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



My Little Jekyll Island Beach Otter

By Bill Vanderford

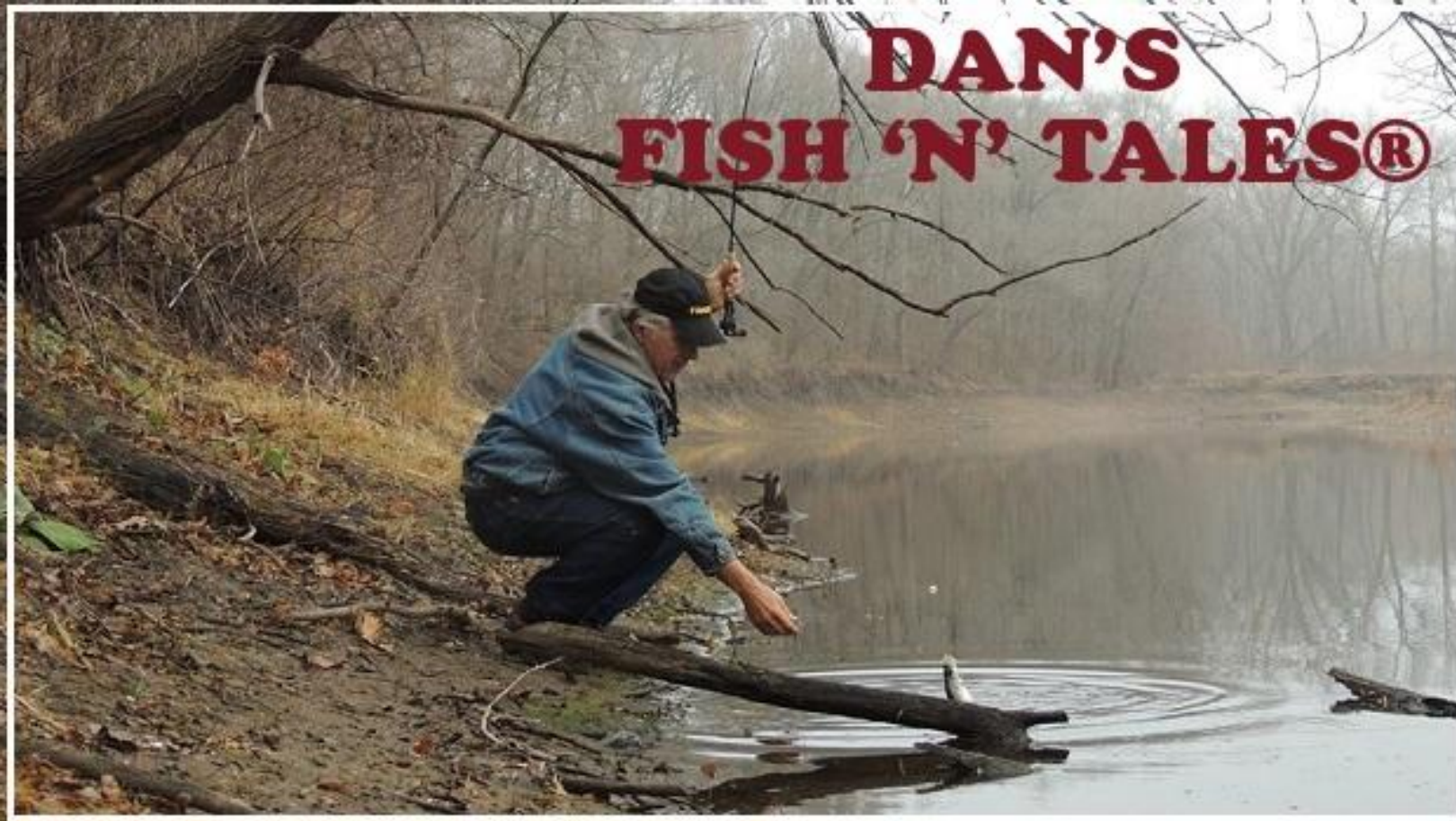
After 75 years of pushing life to the limit, very few things surprise or fascinate me as they did when I was young, but on a recent trip to Jekyll Island....something did! Though my eyes were stunned by the grotesque features of what should have been a beautiful little furry animal, a sudden feeling deep within attracted me to this tiny creature. It was an otter that was smaller than normal and of unknown age, but one that seemed unafraid of an old man carefully negotiating the jagged rocks along the north shore. He was wet...yet adept at scurrying across the incongruous rubble, but when our gazes met, there was an instant bond.

Upon closer inspection of his face, it was easy to see that his bottom teeth protruded straight out and the whiteness in his right eye told me that he was blind on that side. His wetness made it obvious that he had been scrounging for food in the nearby waves, but his approach to me revealed something else about his character. He had learned how to use humans as a source of food that was certainly more palatable to his deformed mouth than shell bearing creatures and bony fish. So, I quickly shared part of my peanut butter sandwich with him, which relaxed him so much that he fell asleep on a flat rock very near me.

As we both rested in the warm sunlight on this deserted beach, my mind traveled back in time to my recent experience with cancer. In the beginning, the VA gave me every test possible to find where this unexpected killer might be in my body, and followed that with several months of treatments that surely bought more wonderful years to my life. I had the best doctors, nurses and specialists working diligently every day to save my life and preserve my happiness...but my little furry friend had nobody. If he wanted to survive, he had to mend himself and change his natural survival habits in ways that went against all of his inherited instincts. I couldn't help but imagine how hard that must have been, but his will to live was much stronger than his fear of the unknown.

My trip to Jekyll Island was full of wonderful golf outings, unforgettable sunrises and sunsets, fabulous cuisine, walks on the beaches and time with friends, but only one chance encounter with a tiny creature captured my imagination. Even in my dreams, I keep going back to an hour spent with a magical little deformed otter who displayed more courage and tenacity than all the humans I know. His example has changed my outlook forever, and has taught me to find the best in life...no matter how bad it may look! 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 www.jfish51@aol.com. or at his web site: www.georgiafishing.com.

DAN'S FISH 'N' TALES®



Carp On Lures

By Dan Galusha

The carp is a fish, which does not receive the respect it deserves. Many anglers joke about catching carp, but if they wanted to be perfectly honest, it is most likely one of the hardest fighting fish they have ever caught. People normally fishing for the species use dough baits, Wheaties, canned corn, mulberries, and, believe it or not, dampened peanut butter and bread, which is formed into doughballs. However, lures can also catch carp, and add new excitement to the experience.

Reservoirs, and any body of clear water, are a good place to use lures. While fishing for white bass in Bull Shoals Lake I have caught several carp. In fact, the smallest fish caught weighed over five pounds.



THE BEST ON THE WATER DESERVE THE BEST ON THEIR TRUCKS

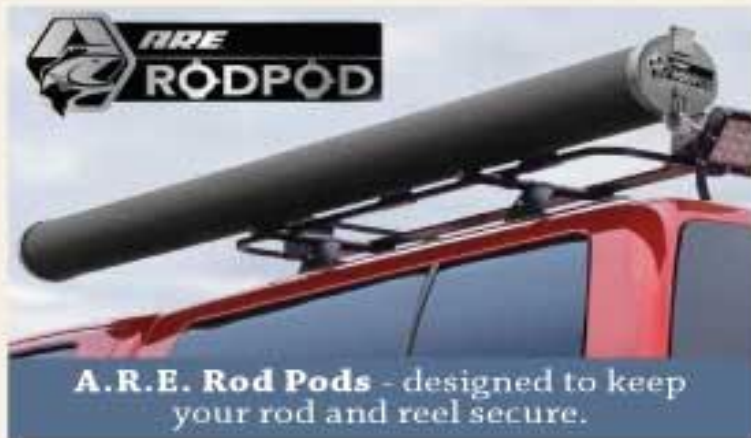


BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES ANGLER JUSTIN LUCAS

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

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

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



A.R.E. Rod Pods - designed to keep your rod and reel secure.

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

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

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

A.R.E.
Outfit for Life™

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

Spring has been my prime fishing time. It seems like whenever the white bass are in the backs of the creek arms the carp are close at hand.

The areas, which are having a lot of spawning action, are not where casts should be made. Back off down the creek a couple of hundred yards from the most activity, and fish back and forth along the bank nearest the old creek bed. It may take a few passes, but if big shadows are seen swimming in the clear water, and white bass are being caught, stay with it.



Sometimes very little, or no, spawning action is observed. If the big shadows are seen and white bass are present, this could be the best area to catch a carp.

Some of the best lures have been a Norman Deep Tiny N in a shad color, Tiny Rat-L-Trap in light colors and a white Road Runner, especially the 1/16-ounce, Pro Series Curly Tail model. Other productive baits have been a black, 2-inch Augertail Grub; pumpkinseed, 4-inch Berkley Power Finesse Worm with a 1/16-ounce jig head; and a pumpkinseed or smoke, 2-inch Power Grub.

Most fish have hit the baits when paralleling the shore, or the middle of the old creek bed. The original banks of the old creek bed also hold fish.

***Fishing a Bill Lewis
Tiny Trap for white
bass in the back of
Bull Shoals Lake's
Little Sisters Creek
helped lure in this
hard fighting carp.***

The author hooked into a big carp, and with the help of his late father, Claude "Andy" Galusha, the lunker was netted.

Retrieve the Tiny N and Tiny Trap at a medium, constant return, or with a rip-and-pause. The Road Runner, as with the other mentioned lures, is retrieved with a slow pump or straight "do nothing".

Strikes will come in many ways. They will hit like a freight train, pick the lure up with a slight tap and create line slack, or hold on as if the bait was hung up on the bottom.

For an angler wanting to catch a big fish over five pounds the carp is a great candidate. Bull Shoals Lake has some of the largest carp I have ever seen.

If you have the opportunity to visit the Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock in Bull Shoals, Arkansas take a look around the fish cleaning station where "gigantic" carp can be seen swimming - looking for a scrap of food. In fact, they are like boat dock pets, and there is food available to draw them closer.

The next time you want some big fish, "tackle busting" action, try using lures for carp.



If you have any questions on this or another fishing subject drop me a line through the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® website at www.dansfishntales.com. Also, visit the Fish 'N' Tales® Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dansfishntales, and click on the "like" and "follow".

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

FIRST TRIP CRAPPIES

By Bob Jensen

Spring came early in many areas this year, and that enabled us to get that first fishing trip of the year in early. For many of us, the first fishing trip of the open water season is for crappies. In some areas, fishing season for walleyes and bass and other species aren't yet open, but we can chase crappies and other panfish. If you want to get after some crappies right now, following are some ideas that could lead to success.

Crappies can be very accessible early in the fishing season. They can be caught from boats, but they can also be caught from docks or the shoreline. Crappies can be easy to catch this time of year,



they're abundant in many areas across North America, and they're great on a plate.

Just like any other time of the year, you've gotta' find the fish. Crappies will be around some form of cover most of the time. The cover could be in the form of reeds or a downed tree or a dock.

Early in the year, you want to find the warmest water. Find warm water with cover that's near deep water and you'll probably have crappies within casting range. Crappies like to have access to deep water. If the weather turns cold, they like to be able to move quickly to the deeper water. They'll also move there after they spawn.

Once we find'em, we need to show'em a bait. Several presentations will work, but probably the most popular and effective, when done properly, is to suspend a jig or a basic splitshot/hook under a slip-bobber. Slip-bobbers allow an angler to cast easily and present a bait right in the crappie's face.



Start with a sixteenth ounce Fire-fly or Gypsi jig: Go smaller if the crappies don't eat it. Color is one of the things you'll need to experiment with, as sometimes the crappies can be selective. Some very successful crappie catchers like a black jig because many of the bugs being hatched early in the year are black. These anglers like to "match the hatch".

However, I've seen many instances when a pink or chartreuse or orange jig is very productive early in the year, and there aren't very many pink or chartreuse or orange bugs in the water. Keep trying different colors until the fish show you what they want.

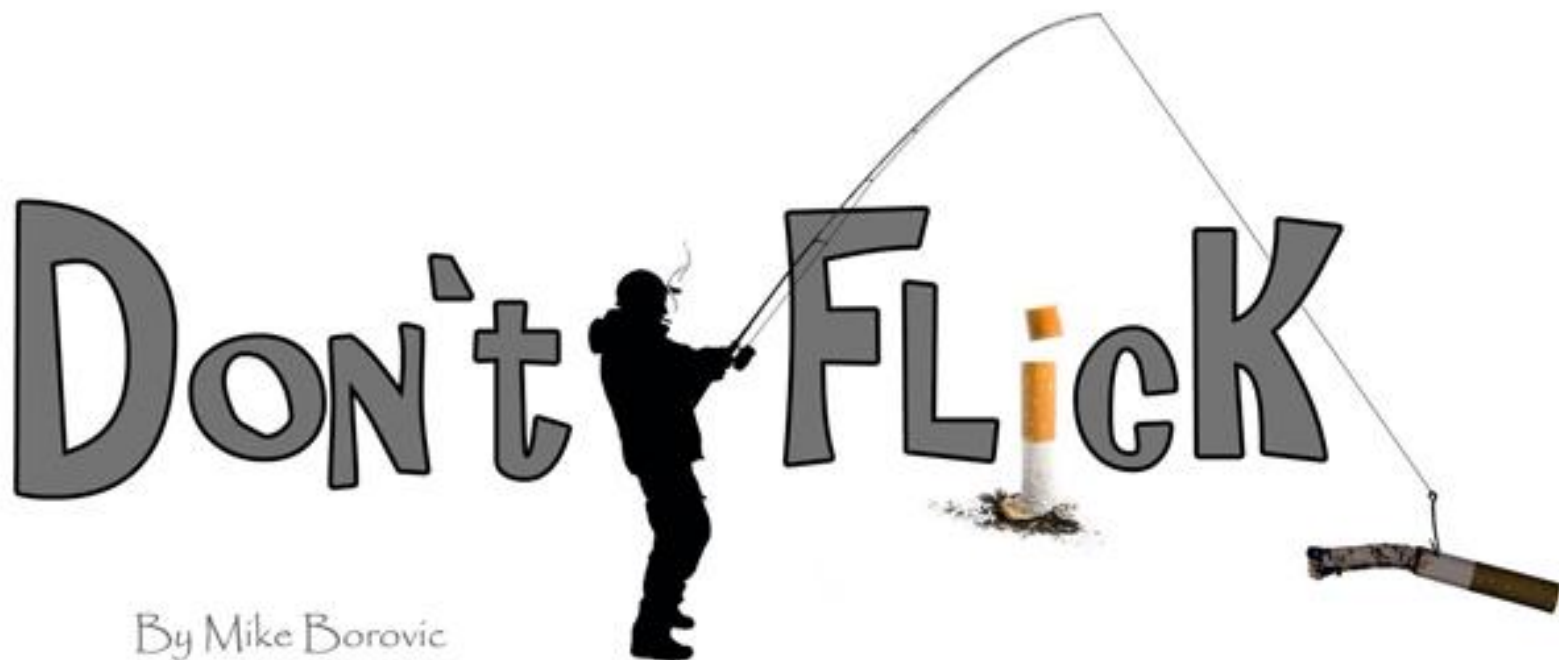
Small minnows will work well on the jig, but so will a plastic tail. Something like an Impulse Mini Smelt or Tapeworm have put lots of crappies in the boat in the past couple of years.

A key consideration is where you set the bobber stop. It is very important to suspend your bait a bit above the fish. If you think the fish are four feet below the surface, set your bobber so it is about three and a half feet below the surface. You don't want the bait below the fish. Fish of any specie are more likely to go up for a bait than down.

If the bite is really slow, tie on a hook with a couple of split shot. Put a minnow on the hook. Even the most finicky crappie will usually hit this set-up.

Crappie action can be very good right now. Keep a couple and put the rest back. Just like any species of fish, crappie numbers can be fished down quickly. In particular, overharvest will reduce the average size of these great fish. Put a few back and we'll be able to enjoy this early season action for a long time.

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



By Mike Borovic

I'm often astounded by people so oblivious that they think cigarette butts don't count as litter.

Even worse, I am disgusted and appalled, that as an angler, hunter and an ambassador of my outdoor life-style that some fisher-people think nothing of flicking their cigarette butt into the Detroit River.

Seriously, are you that stupid and lazy?

Certainly not all waterway trash is from fishermen. And if it appears that I am only pointing fingers at anglers while the rest of the world continues to disrespectfully dump their trash where they stand... well, I am.

Why?

Because it's my duty. And because YOU know better!

As a responsible angler and an ethical outdoors person, you, of all people DO know better.

Think of what this does to educate our youth. Think of what this portrays to the nonfishing and nonhunting people. It's not okay to find snippets of fishing line, empty packaging of Water Gremlin

sinkers, plastic worm containers, discarded water bottles and Powerbait containers along streamside. There's no imagination needed to know where these items come from but the worst is the blatant disrespect for our natural resource and that is the actual witnessing of someone flinging that cigarette butt into the river. This I've horrifyingly watched a thousand times too much.

It not only unsightly degrades and damages the resource, it taints my experience. I am a smoker of about 32 years, or at least I was 5 months ago, and never, in the years of smoking did I slothfully flick a butt into the waters I fish or the woods where I trek. For those who know me have only witnessed me discard them to my pocket for proper disposal afterwards.



On my boat you will always find a lidded ashtray or small bucket of some sort to dispose of your garbage or cigarette butts.

I remember as a young grasshopper, a friend and I were on the river jigging for walleye and for the first time I really became confused when he flung his butt up stream into the river instead of dropping it into one of the pails. I watched that butt float, drifting past us just a few feet away from the transom where I operated the electric trolling motor. It was at that precise moment, (as I still can vividly remember the contrasting colors of that yellow butt against the deep blue-greenish hue of the river), which I thought to myself, something wasn't quite right about that.

I am not that kind of fella to outright knowingly embarrass anyone. I am more so that guy to just pick it up myself and carry on but once there was a friend of a friend who really touched a nerve and that was when we were conversing in my driveway when he threw his butt on the ground and proceeded to extinguish it by smushing it out with his shoe. I calmly left the conversation and returned with an ashtray from the garage and handed it to him. I asked, how he would feel if I came over to his house and pooted a big brown steak on his driveway because to me that is no more disrespectful then what he had just done. Needless to say, he did pick it up.

Try and fathom this for a moment; cigarette butts are without question the most littered item in America and Canada. It's estimated that there are over 1.3 billion smokers across this planet who purchase and consume over 5 trillion cigarettes each year or about 105 billion cigarettes per week which results in trillions of butts being tossed outside at a rate of nearly 2.3 million butts a minute. Every year in Canada alone, Canadian smokers toss away 8000 tonnes of butts, according to Ottawa reports.

The part I can't figure out is why littering fishermen think it's okay to dump their sheet in our waters. Cigarette butts are NOT biodegradable; in fact, they are made of cellulose acetate, a type of plastic that can take more than a decade to decompose within the environment. They also

contain a cocktail of toxins, enough that only one butt to two gallons of water is lethal enough to kill tiny crustaceans, which as an angler, you know, is a crucial link to the fish's food chain.

Ain't this the cutest little thing you ever saw?



Check out this MICROTRASH CONTAINER from Fishpond. Perfectly provides a handy no excuses convenient way to PACK IT OUT. Perfect for fishing line, paper, plastic wrappers and you guessed it... Cigarette butts!

There is no questioning that fish have been caught with ingested cigarette butts in their stomachs, especially top-water feeders like trout. A little effort goes a long way towards helping to keep our waterways clean. I will continue to do my part and even improve on that. I hope you will to.



UPF CLOTHING FOR ALL OUTDOORS PEOPLE

By Dana Benner

Though I began writing this piece while sitting on a plane heading for the desert regions of Northern and Southern Arizona, I have been using UPF clothing, namely shirts and shorts, while both fishing and working in my yard. I started using UPF clothing because while I was fishing or working in the garden, I felt like I was literally cooking. That is when I found UPF clothing. I saw how popular this clothing was with offshore anglers in Florida and California and I figured if it worked for them, it would work for me.

Despite what I found out through my use here in New Hampshire, I wanted to put this clothing to the real test in the deserts of Arizona where it is extremely hot, especially in the summer. My trip started in the town of Williams, near the Grand Canyon, and ended in Tucson, which is located in the middle of the Sonoran Desert. Why, you may ask, was I doing research on this product? The reason is simple; I wanted to find out whether all of the hype was a marketing ploy or was this something that we all could really use. For this trip I reached out to three major companies that produce UPF clothing: HUK, Hook and Tackle and Salt Life.



FIERCE...TOUGH...PROVEN™



Cuda 7.5"
Mono/Braid
Fishing Pliers &
Wire Cutters



Cuda 4" Titanium
Bonded Fillet Knife

**GET HOOKED
ON CUDA**

CUDA FISHING TOOLS

www.cudabrand.com



**TITANIUM
BONDED®**

So what is UPF clothing and what is the big deal?

UPF stands for Ultraviolet Protection Factor and basically it is a rating system that is very similar to SPF (Sun Protection Factor) only UPF is used for clothing where SPF is used for skin. UPF gauges a fabric's effectiveness against UVA and UVB rays. I know this all sounds like a bunch of big words designed to sell something, but stick with me on this. With the growing concern over skin cancer, protective clothing is just another tool in the effort to protect us from the effects of the sun if it works.

Many of you are saying, "I have never heard of anyone getting a sunburn through their clothing" and believe me I was of the same mind. From just regular daily activity many people don't usually get enough sun exposure to really worry about it, but

what about those of us who do spend a great deal of time outdoors? People like fishermen, who are exposed to the rays of the sun day in and day out, are the ones that really need to pay attention and that is why I started wearing this clothing.

Studies have shown that all clothing offers some protection against UVA and UVB rays, but it is the degree of protection that concerns many. Here in New England we consider the UV Index number of 9 being very high (which it is), but due to our location that is about as high as it gets and it doesn't happen every day. On the other hand, Arizona gets a UV Index number of about 11 on many days (11 is the highest number on the index). That means without protection a person can get a serious burn in a matter of minutes. This made Arizona the perfect place to perform my tests.

UPF ratings run from 15 to 50, with anything greater being given the rating of 50+. While all clothing offers some protection from the sun, studies indicate that anything rated under a 15 rating doesn't offer very much protection at all. A plain cotton t-shirt is rated between 5 and 8.

The use of UPF clothing really started with the sport fishing industry, particularly those fishing the ocean in places like Florida and Southern California where anglers are exposed to both direct sunlight and light being reflected off of the water. It was through this venue that I first found out about UPF clothing. I thought to myself, "If it works for anglers, would it be something to benefit those of us who work in the outdoors?"

While in Arizona I teamed up with Mary McDowall of Arizona Off Road Tours out of Camp Verde, Arizona, and took a four-wheeler into the Prescott National Forest to do some exploring. Despite the early morning start the sun was already beating down on us and it was only to get worse. Mary was wearing Columbia UPF clothing and I was wearing a shirt from HUK. I asked her opinion on UPF clothing, "This clothing is a must here in the desert", Mary told me. "There is little to no shade, so anyone coming out here needs to have all the protection possible and this clothing is just one tool." She





also added that sun screen should also be worn on all exposed skin. Here in Arizona the sun is the most dangerous thing. At the very least a serious sun burn can disable you. At the worst, too much expose can kill you. Proper clothing, sunscreen and plenty of water are a must.

Most UPF clothing is made from a polyester blend fabric. Why not cotton, you may ask? I have asked the same thing. What I found was that while cotton does offer some protection, it is not woven as tightly as the polyester blend and it is this tightness that offers the protection. Cotton also absorbs sweat and dries very slowly, unlike the polyester blend. I experienced this first hand while fishing in Louisiana. I was wearing cotton t-shirt. The temperatures were in the high 90s with humidity at around 90. The t-shirt quickly became soaked with sweat and just clung to me. There was no cooling

process going on. I firmly believe that if I had been wearing some of this UPF clothing my time on the water would have been more comfortable. My concern was mainly about the polyester-blend material trapping heat next to my body. We have all experienced the synthetic clothing of the past where you would bake because of the trapped heat (remember the disco era?). Things are different now. Most of the UPF clothing is made with vents that allow trapped heat to escape. These vents also allow air to flow through the shirt and thus aiding in the cooling process.

I asked Chris Ellis from HUK and Larry Laska from Salt Life about the difference between the cotton t-shirts we all wear and the UPF shirts. Both said basically the same thing. When wearing cotton your body can't cool down because it doesn't allow cooling breezes to reach your skin. The very nature of



- 3D View
- Satellite overlay
- Daily updates
- SonarChart: 1 ft HD contours

Save \$

30

April 1-30, 2016
At dealers in US & Canada

Sources:

HUK

www.HUKgear.com

Hook & Tackle

www.hookandtackle.com

Salt Life

www.saltlife.com

Arizona Offroad Tours

MyArizonaOffroadTour.com

Blazin' M Ranch

www.BlazinM.com

the polyester-blend, combined with the venting solves that problem.

Long Sleeve VS. Short Sleeve:

HUK, Hook and Tackle and Salt Life all make both long and short sleeve shirts, so which is the best to wear? I believe that is up to personal choice. Obviously, the more skin that you have exposed the more the sun will affect you.

Here in New England, where the sun is not so intense, you can get away with short sleeves. Arizona was another

www.tacticalmonkey.net

AMMO

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



**an online store
for heroes!**

question and I quickly learned that long sleeves

were the way to go there. When I did wear short sleeves I made sure all of my exposed skin was covered with sunscreen.

Is UPF Clothing For You?

That is the million dollar question. I guess that question is best answered on who you are, where you live and what you do. If you are working in open country, under direct sun, then yes I would buy it and wear it as it is well worth the investment. I liked these shirts so much that I wore the Hook & Tackle shirt to the Blazin' M Ranch for a chuckwagon barbeque. This shirt kept me cool and looked good doing it. I found all of the UPF clothing, both shirts and shorts comfortable to wear and they did do the job they were designed to do. Is it perfect for all situations? I would have to say "no", but, as a follow-up, what is?





FISH SLOW YOU WILL REAP THE REWARDS

By Captain Mike Gerry

As we move into some transition time of year, there are fish in all phases of the water column; they are shallow, transition depths and deep. The problem becomes which ones do you target and what type of presentation works while they move into and out of these stages of depths.

There is one common thread that will help you produce bites, that being to slow down your baits and let the fish see them and react to the bait; if you fish too fast the bait will be by the fish before they react. With bass in all phases of seasonal change from spawning fish to post spawn the bass are lethargic, they are either worn out from the spawning process or just moving into the spawn and they will react slowly until they complete their transition. As an angler you must recognize that their bodies are tired and need to heal or they are just starting to move into the spawn making a slow presentation the only way to find consistent bites.

It really doesn't matter what bait your fishing you can slow down any presentation, it's easy to drag a worm, slowly crank any crank bait or slow roll a spinner bait they all will slow down and give you a better chance to catch a fish. One of the best presentations this time of year is a Carolina rig; you can easily drag it on the bottom and move it with precision around stumps, road beds and more. One of the most tantalizing presentations fishing crank baits is when it rises up, it is nearly irresistible and when you stop a crank bait they slowly rise giving you a great slow presentation. I also find that big bladed spinner baits, slowly kicking up dirt and making noise around stumps can be as deadly as any bait you can fish with; this slow presentation is dynamic and catches big fish it is one of the best slow moving baits ever made.

Slow down, be precise let your baits do the work and this in-between time of year will offer you some great catches.

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

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)



STAY HAPPY AND HEALTHY GO FISHING

By Charlie Robinton

Fishing is a rewarding sport that can be exciting and relaxing at the same time. It is also a wonderful and often overlooked way for anyone to burn calories while having fun in the outdoors

WADING
BURNS CALORIES

4 hours
1000 calories



Slippery rocks challenge your balance.

Swift river currents cause resistance that strengthens muscles in your legs as you wade.

Visit
www.fix.com for
more fishing and
camping
information.

Many people assume fishing just means sitting around in a boat or on the bank waiting for a bobber to go under, but it can be so much more than that. In reality, there are many types of fishing that challenge you both physically and mentally. From stalking rising trout while wading in a mountain stream to kayaking on the open ocean while trolling for yellow fin tuna, there is a type of fishing that will keep your mind and body engaged no matter your interest or experience level. If you are looking for a way to de-stress, stay fit, and enjoy being outside, fishing might just be for you.

PHYSICAL BENEFITS

One of the not-so-evident benefits of fishing is that it is a great way to get some exercise. Of course, you aren't going to burn many calories sitting on the shore and drinking beer, but an active day spent wading in a stream or hiking to a remote lake is a fantastic way to get a workout without going to a gym or a yoga class. Consider that a person of average body mass and fitness level will burn about 250 calories in an hour of walking on a treadmill. Actively fishing can involve a number of activities, such as wading against the current in a stream, hiking, repeatedly casting and reeling, and even climbing or boulder hopping in certain kinds of terrain. It is estimated that even light wade fishing burns over twice as many calories over a one-hour period. Spending time in the gym is great for short, high-intensity workouts, but it can be a hard habit to build for people who aren't used to lifting weights. Being active doesn't have to be a chore. During a morning or afternoon of fishing, you could burn from 500-1,500 calories without even realizing it.

TOTAL BODY WORKOUT

A day of fishing can be a total body workout.



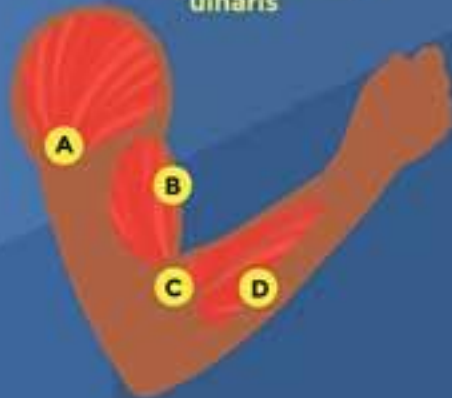
Fishing is not just a great way to burn calories; it also calls upon small muscle groups we don't normally use and helps us build fine motor skills. Navigating rough terrain and slippery rocks while resisting the current in a river challenges your balance, building strength in the little-used muscles and tendons in your feet, ankles, calves, and shins. Hiking up steep slopes or riverbanks builds strength in the large

CASTING WORKS THE ARMS

How casting works the small muscles in your arm.

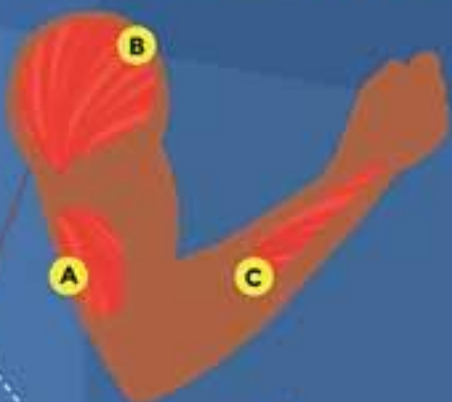
Raising the rod for the backcast:

A: Deltoid
B: Bicep
C: Extensor digitorum
D: Extensor carpi ulnaris



Making the forward cast:

A: Triceps
B: Deltoids
C: Extensor carpi radialis



muscles of your legs, such as the quadriceps and hamstrings. These activities also provide a solid cardiovascular workout, especially at high altitudes where you can find some of the best trout fishing. The best fishermen learn to develop casting accuracy through practice. This helps build hand-eye coordination and strengthens the small muscles in your hands, wrists, forearms, biceps, triceps, and shoulders. Fishing is such a great, low-impact activity that it is widely used as a rehabilitation therapy by psychologists, counselors, and physical therapists. Even the U.S. Veterans Health Administration has adopted the use of fly fishing and fly tying as a recreational therapy for injured military veterans because these calming, repetitive, low-impact activities help them regain strength and the use of their muscles.

Although it may not feel like it while you are out on the water, spending a few hours at the river or lake can be a great workout. Going fishing is not only a fabulous way to stay active and healthy but it is also a perfect activity to help calm your mind, relax, and let go of the stress in your life.

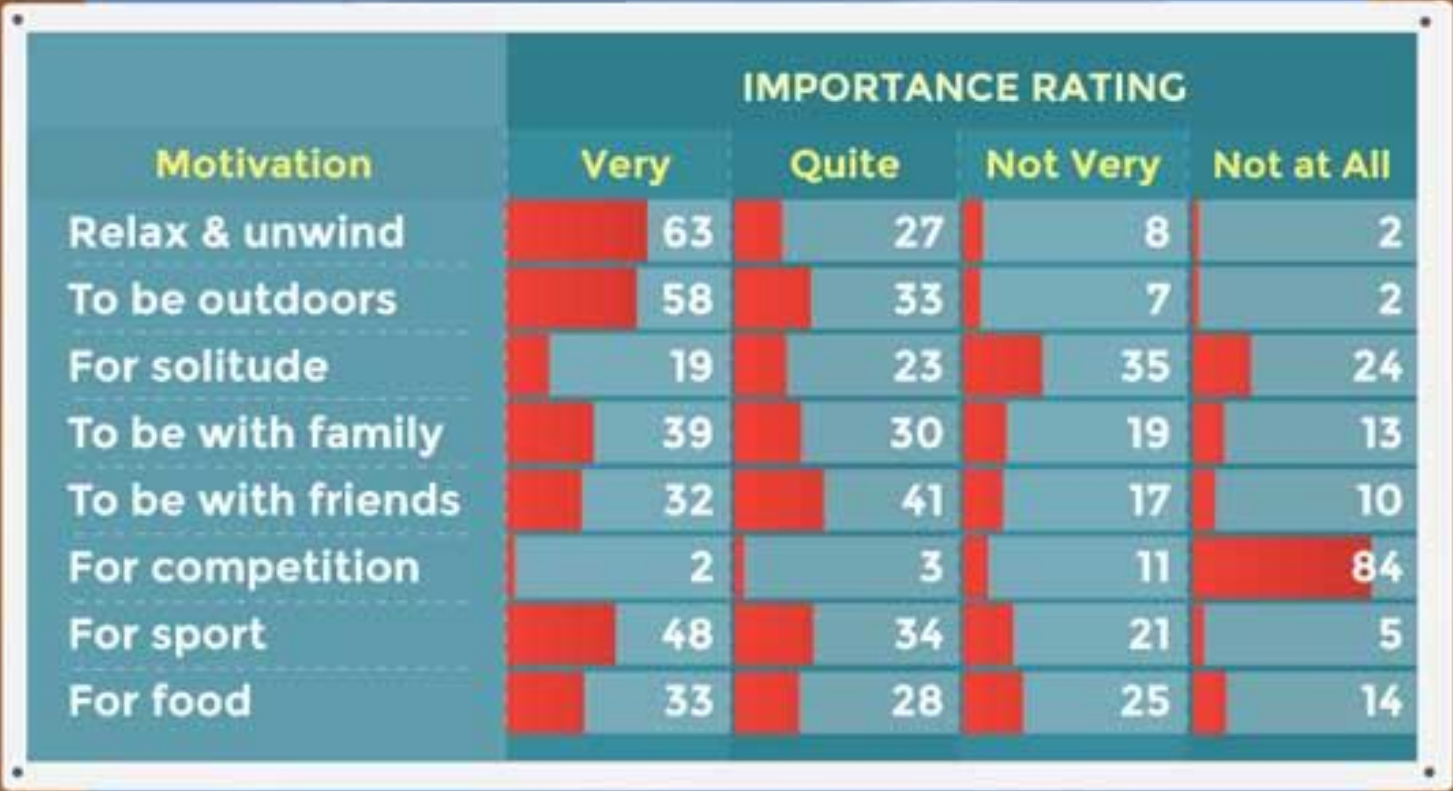
MENTAL BENEFITS

Fishing is by nature a reflective and meditative activity that forces you to slow down and enjoy your surroundings. People fish for many reasons. Some fish just for food and some for sport, while others just want an excuse to be outside or get together with friends. No matter what gets them out there, any fisherman can attest to the supreme sense of relaxation and calmness that spending a morning or evening doing their favorite

activity provides. This very quality has made fishing a popular therapeutic exercise used by counselors and therapists who work with veterans, people with chronic illnesses, and others who have experienced trauma in their lives.

Whether you are trying to cast to a far-away pocket on the opposite side of the stream or observing an insect hatch to determine what the fish are biting on, fishing challenges your mind and demands your undivided attention. Therapeutic experts claim that, because fishing requires focus, it helps take a

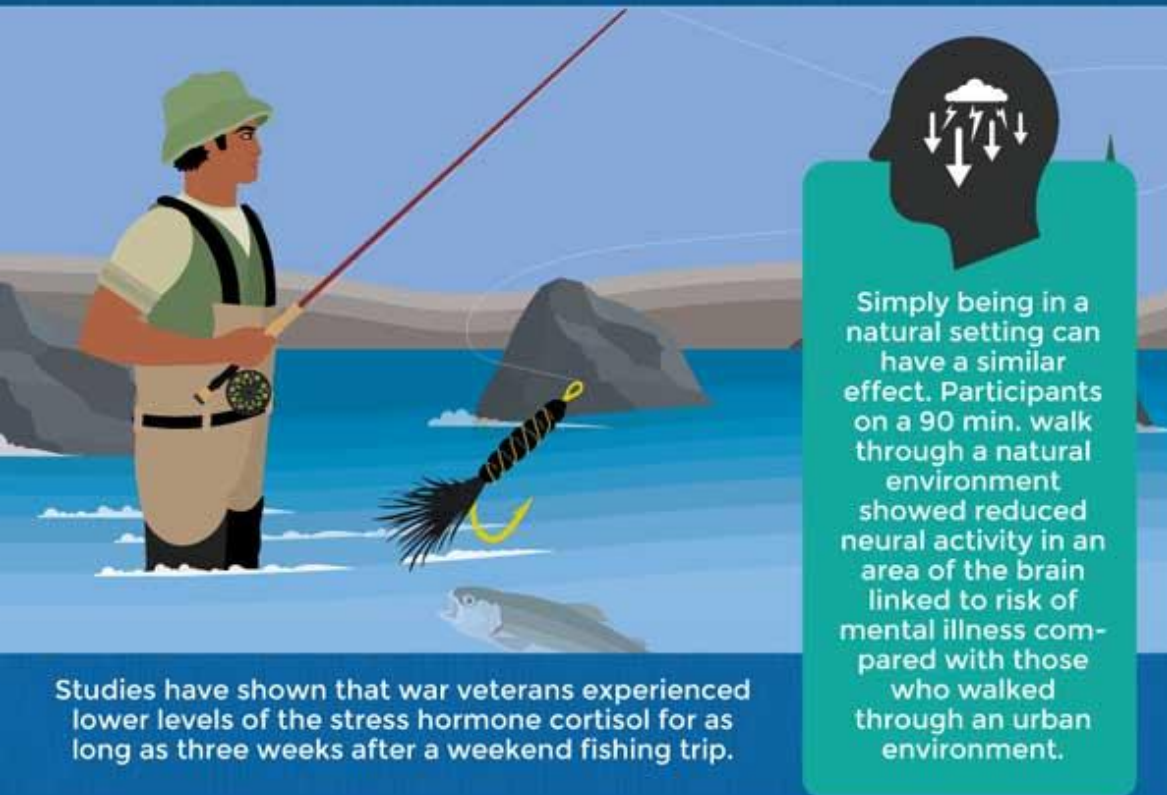
WHY DO WE FISH?



A 2003 Australian study found that factors related to health and mental wellness were key motivators in getting anglers out fishing

Source: Henry, G., and Lyle, J. 2003.
The National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey

FISHING FOR MENTAL HEALTH



Studies have shown that war veterans experienced lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol for as long as three weeks after a weekend fishing trip.

Simply being in a natural setting can have a similar effect. Participants on a 90 min. walk through a natural environment showed reduced neural activity in an area of the brain linked to risk of mental illness compared with those who walked through an urban environment.

Source: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

person's mind off internal conflict.⁴ Locating fish, developing a strategy, choosing the correct fly or lure, and properly presenting that lure to the fish all require critical thinking and creativity, which allow a healthy escape from stress, depression, and anxiety.

This has been proven in clinical studies in which cortisol (a hormone linked to stress) levels were measured in a group of Iraq war veterans before and after a weekend of fishing. Those who had been on the fishing trip experienced lower levels of cortisol for as many as three weeks afterward.

Researchers noted that their patients slept better, expressed lower levels of depression and anxiety, experienced fewer symptoms of somatic stress, and were far less likely to experience the feelings of guilt, hostility, fear, or sadness normally associated with PTSD and traumatic experiences.

Fly fishing expeditions are also a key element of the program "Casting For Recovery," which serves to organize fly fishing trips for survivors of breast cancer, both as a therapeutic measure and as a form of physiotherapy. This volunteer-based service provides free fly fishing retreats as a means to make support groups for breast cancer survivors more accessible.

One of the greatest things about fishing is that anyone can participate. It doesn't matter how fit you are, whether you are old or young, woman or man. There are no restrictions or limitations. It is one of the world's most popular recreational activities for good reason. It has helped countless people with chronic illness, post-traumatic stress, and debilitating injuries to recover and live full, healthy lives. It allows us to explore our natural world and stay active well into old age. Fishing is a calming, enjoyable activity that has the power to transform your outlook on life. Try grabbing a rod and heading for the river. You may just reel in a better way to live.

Fix.com Sources For Story:

<http://calorielab.com/burned>

<http://www.va.gov/health/newsfeatures/20110712a.asp>

<http://www.coloradoan.com/picture-gallery/news/2015/09/06/fly-fishing-therapy/71822180/>

<http://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/family-friendly-fly-fishing-by-tom-rosenbauer>



A CASE FOR BIG PIKE

By Jason Mitchell

Northern pike are such an incredible predator. Smooth and sleek with the curves of the most expensive sport car. Rows of teeth that resemble tooth picks. Amazing acceleration. Pike are cool and really big pike are simply awesome.

Consider this little tidbit of information. Northern pike are found throughout the northern hemisphere across the upper third of North America from New York to Alaska. These fish are also found across

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

northern Europe and Asia. A northern pike caught in the Balkens is almost identical to the same fish caught on Lake of the Woods.

The North American Continent spreads further apart from the European Continent at a rate of three inches per year. Now imagine how many years it took for the North American continent to separate from Europe. In all of those millions of years, the pike never changed. No room to change perfection.

Right now in the fishing world, particularly in Minnesota where musky stocking has become controversial on some bodies of water, there has been a stigma associated with esox because these fish are such perfect predators. While big northern pike and musky capture the imagination of anglers, they obviously eat other fish. My own perspective on these big predators is that big predators whether they be big largemouth bass, musky or big pike almost always point to a good fishing lake. The best panfish lakes, many of the best walleye lakes... good healthy fisheries almost always see predators that get to a top end size.

I think the argument that isn't getting discussed nearly enough is that you are probably going to have northern pike or musky of some capacity on just about any lake in Minnesota or Wisconsin. Would you rather have one forty inch pike patrolling a weed bed of fifty 12-inch hammer handle pike in the same vicinity? I can tell you which option is worst for a fishery.

The smaller inland lakes of Minnesota used to have a lot of big pike and on so many of these lakes, the big pike were simply caught and kept by anglers. On much of this water, musky have replaced pike as that large alpha predator and now serve that role to balance that particular ecosystem.

In some ways, musky are better suited to serve that role because by nature, musky are much more temperamental with short intense feeding windows and now with the protected slot limits, these fish can grow to a size to be useful for a fishery.

Pike are programmed much differently in that they are much easier to trigger and have much larger feeding windows. Big pike are going to get caught fairly quickly so the only way you will see big pike is either on large water where the size of the lake can diffuse fishing pressure or if a lake is remote or has little fishing pressure. When the big predators are gone, the pike population in particular seems to explode with extremely high populations of hammer handle pike. The high densities of hammer handle pike that never seem to get past 24 inches are what you have to worry about and recent studies from the Minnesota DNR confirm that.

Over the past twenty years, opportunities across the board to catch really big musky have gotten much better while the opportunity to catch really big pike is becoming tougher. In the lower 48, a northern pike over forty three inches is a rarer trophy than a forty eight inch musky, a twenty inch largemouth bass, a nineteen inch smallmouth bass, a twenty seven inch walleye or a ten inch bluegill. Good catch and release practices are crucial for conserving big pike populations on most water because of the fishing pressure we see today... just as those same practices are crucial for conserving big musky. If you think these big predators are the devil and want to kill them, fine have your hammer handles. Low population densities of esox are good, high population densities are bad.

There are still opportunities however to target big pike and these predators provide an incredible angling experience. Obviously, Canada reigns king for numbers of massive pike. Northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan have so much big pike water. If you draw a line from the Pas to Thompson Manitoba, the region to the north is staggering for big pike water. We traveled to Wolverine Lodge near Lynn Lake, Manitoba last summer to film and the quality of pike was top notch. There are also pockets of big pike scattered throughout northwest Ontario. In the states, I don't know if you can beat the Missouri River Reservoirs right now for numbers of quality pike. Fort Peck in Montana is incredible. Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota and Lake Oahe are both really good right now with good opportunities for fish over forty inches. My home water of North Dakota's Devils Lake produces some really nice pike. Minnesota's Red Lake, Lake of the Woods and Mille Lacs all have quality pike fishing opportunities for big fish. There are more under the radar lakes and flowages across Minnesota and Wisconsin that still hold big pike.



Big pike are such an amazing fish in my mind. Funny how when I take my eight-year old daughter and seven-year old son out fishing, their favorite fish are pike. I was somewhat surprised as to why they liked pike so much... after all the rest of the world seems

to be consumed with walleye. The answers were pretty straightforward. Pike are longer, splash more and they have cool teeth. I couldn't help but smile at these matter of fact answers that are coated with such simple honesty all young children seem to possess. I can't disagree.



NEW
GROUND
EFX

DISCOVER LOST TREASURES.

STORM
SERIES
MX50

- 8 METAL CATEGORIES AND ADJUSTABLE DISCRIMINATION
- 3 ELIMINATION MODES: ALL-METAL, COIN AND JEWELRY
- QUICK RELEASE EXTENSION ROD DESIGN, ADDS UP TO 14"
- 8" SUBMERSIBLE COIL

||||||| WWW.GROUNDEFX.COM

From One Extreme Vacation to the Other

By Wil Wegman

Ice Fishing Northern Ontario's Wilderness Lakes One Week, Then Down To Florida's Gulf the Next.

How Northerners Can Enjoy an Affordable Florida Family Vacation.



Part 1: A Trip to Snow and Ice:

Just before March Break, my friend Gerry Heels and I travelled up to his camp in Northern Ontario (just south of Gogama) for some ice fishing. We typically go twice each winter for 5 or 6 days, but our annual New Year's excursion had to be cancelled because of a lack of ice and snow. Although very little of the latter occurred in southern Ontario over the course of the 2016 winter, we were pleasantly surprised after our 7 hour drive north, and another hour by snowmobile, to see over three feet of snow, and to drill thru over 2 ½ feet of ice.

Before Wil's trip to Florida, he was way up north on an ice fishing vacation where he stayed in this cabin surrounded by over 3 feet of snow.



For the first three days of our trip the snowmobile trails in this very remote region, were in ideal condition and temperatures hovered just below zero. We were able to ski-doo into several seldom-fished lakes without problem. Our favorite lake trout lake – which only has a short month long winter season, was uncharacteristically slow, so we spent more time fishing another lake for splake. This lake trout /brook trout cross is one of our favorite winter species. Some days they will act more like a brook trout and hang out close to shore in water as shallow as 5-10', or sit next to beaver houses. The next day they could be

out further in 15-30 feet near points or off steep ledged shorelines. For our trip, the 15-18 foot mark seemed most productive and the black/gold Blue Fox Moresilda spoon did not disappoint. With almost every fish, we would mark them first on our Lowrance Elite Ice Machines, and it was incredibly exciting to see them hanging around our lures for upwards of a minute before they would strike.



Splake, from Northern Ontario's Wilderness lakes are fun to catch and great to eat. Wil on left, Gerry on the right


Unfortunately, the average size of the splake we caught this year, were nowhere near as large as the year before when we locked into several pushing 5 pounds or more. For those fish I would use a medium action HT Polar Fire Extreme rod but for the two pounders this time the medium-light action was better – and more fun! Splake from northern Ontario make wonderful table fare. With bright red, firm flesh, they can be pan-fried, baked or even barbequed and are as good as or better than any other trout you will eat. As a hybrid that does not reproduce successfully, splake are reliant on stocking efforts and northern Ontario lakes that hold them are all put-grow-take fisheries. For more details on which Ontario lakes are stocked with splake check out Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry site at: [Fish on line](#)

The other notable catch was a beautiful lake trout just under 10 pounds with red tinges to her fins that Gerry caught. It fell for a white tube jig and was the only fish either of us marked all day. That particular fish came on, what would be our last day, as the rains started in the afternoon and did not




let up until we left. In fact that evening, while sitting in the cabin, we witnessed a rare yet entertaining winter Thunderstorm – complete with a weird aurora borealis-type light show that lit up the northern skies. That night with the rains not letting up, we knew it would be doubtful that any of our lakes would not be loaded with slush- and therefore unfishable. Come morning, our worst fears were magnified as not only had we lost a foot of snow, but the crusts on the snowmobile trails were mushy and the sleds sunk in considerably! If we didn't get out of Dodge quick, we may be stuck here for quite some time. So the decision was made to hastily pack up and leave a full day early.

Our last fish of the trip was this nice 10 pound laker that Gerry caught. The next day, in the pouring rain we were lucky the trails out of



World's Leading Supplier of Premium Outdoor Gear



SHOP NOW!

camp back to the truck, barely held up.

Driving back to the truck in the pouring rain on our sleds, was not pleasant, but we did get back ok – safe and sound, with another memorable northern Ontario ice fishing adventure under our belts. It was now time to look forward to another outdoor adventure shortly after I got home ... from one extreme vacation to another! The upcoming transition from one extreme destination and climate to another was enticing to say the least.

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

Jimmy Houston




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

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

Daiichi

World's Sharpest Hooks



Brand "A" Brand "Z" Daiichi!





My Favorite Way To Fish

By Bob Jensen

It's warming up and more and more anglers are getting ready to go fishing. I know I am. I'm often asked about my favorite fish to catch and my favorite fishing technique. When I respond that I don't have a favorite fish or favorite technique, I am being very sincere: I just like to catch fish, and I use whatever technique is best for a particular situation. If I'm pressed for an answer though, and if I think real hard, I realize that my favorite thing to do when fishing is to catch largemouth bass that are in the reeds. I don't know why that is, but it is.

When the bass are in the reeds, they're often biters. There are several types of baits that are outstanding in this situation. For a long time, whenever we were fishing reeds, we started with a spinnerbait. Spinnerbaits fish through the reeds nicely: They're designed to be pretty snag-free, and that's a factor in the reeds. Baits with too many exposed hooks get hung up in this

type of vegetation, but spinnerbaits come through reeds very well, and best of all, bass like to eat them. I still use spinnerbaits quite a bit when fishing this shallow water cover.

However, in the past few years, we've been using a couple other baits even more when the bass are in the reeds. Probably the number one choice is a swimming jig tipped with plastic. A swimming jig is kind

of like a spinnerbait without the blade. It's pretty weedless and we retrieve it much like we would a spinnerbait. Sometimes the fish will be in the heavier clumps of reeds, other times they'll be cruising the reed flats. Make shorter pitches to the clumps, make longer casts to cover the flats. We're working the jig more like a jig when fishing clumps, we're fishing it more like a spinnerbait when covering larger expanses of water. A Jungle Jig in the Pumpkin Craw color with an action tail is outstanding.

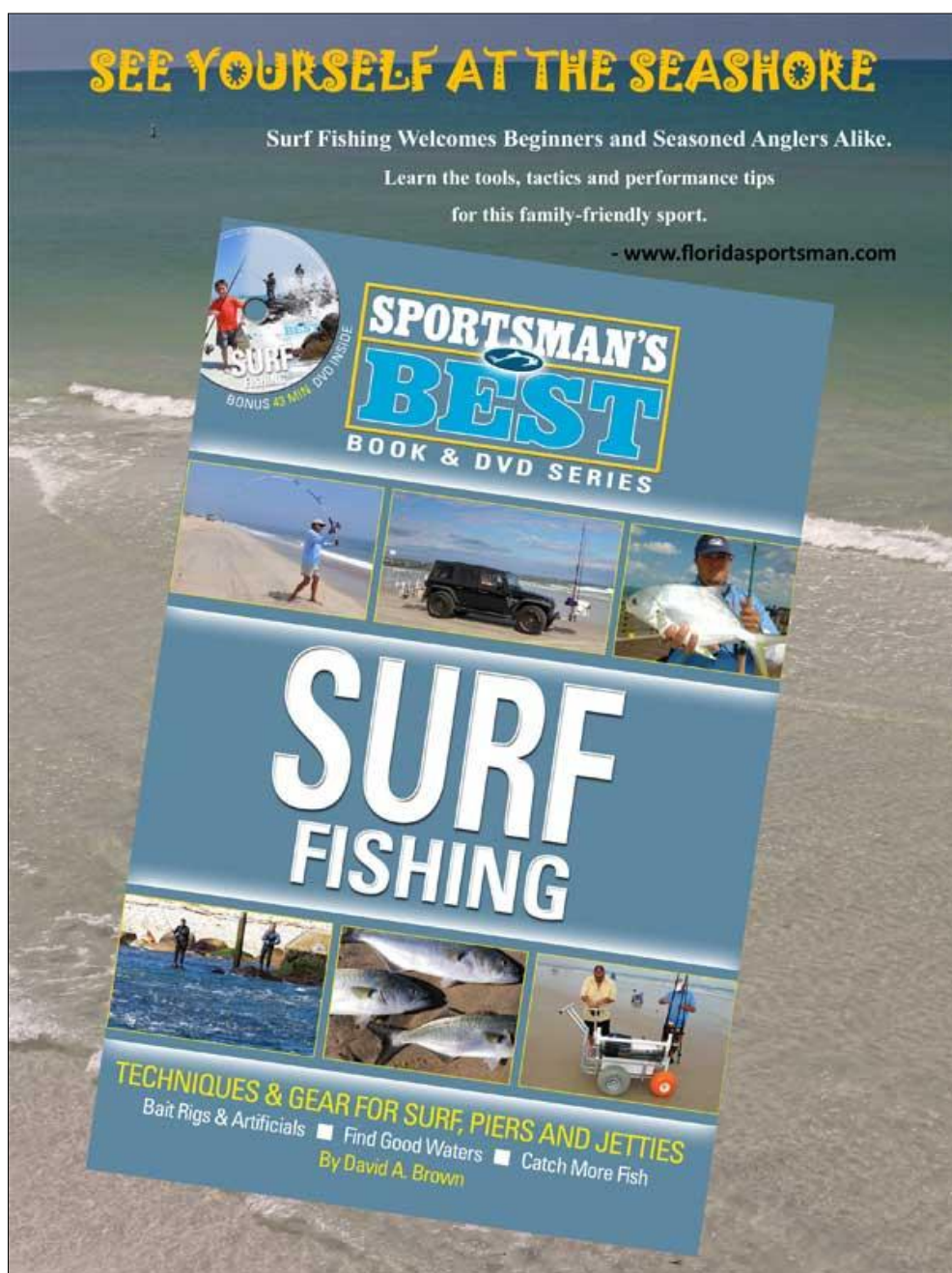
Another way to catch shallow water reed bass that works very well is with a plastic bait rigged weedless. An Impulse Jerk Minnow is very good for this technique. This bait is five inches long and white is a good color, although other colors work well also. I like white because I can see it coming through the water easier. It's important to know where your bait is, because often times you'll see a wake approaching the bait as a bass zeroes in on it.

Work the Jerk Minnow in the same reeds as you would the swimming jig. We fish the bait a foot or two below the surface. Give it twitches to make it glide through the water. This will usually be a slower presentation. When a bass hits, drop the rod tip for a second, then set the hook. Work the bait fairly quickly through the sparser rushes, but when it comes to one of those clumps, slow down. Even let it sink a bit.

It works well when two anglers are fishing for one to use the swimming jig, the other the Jerk Minnow. By doing so you're showing the fish two different lure styles, and you're giving them the opportunity to show you what they're liking the most on that particular day. Most days they'll show a preference, but not always.

Like I said earlier, I truly just like to catch fish and really don't have a favorite technique for doing so. However, next time you're on a bass lake, visit a reed bed and throw a swimming jig or Jerk Minnow. If there are any bass around, I'm guessing you'll see why this style of fishing is probably my favorite.

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



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

FLORIDA FISHING AT IT'S BEST!



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

**Click Here
to
Order
Online**

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.



SPRING SAUGER AND WALLEYE TACTICS FOR RIVERS



By Ted Takasaki
and Scott Richardson

Rivers can be a difficult challenge for those who are beginning walleye anglers. Water level, clarity, and water temperatures which change depending upon the unpredictable weather patterns are all lessons needed to learn. Rising water one day and falling water the next. Clean, then dirty and clean again. Rising temperatures will trigger fish movement upstream, toward spawning areas then back again. In addition, severe cold fronts can put a halt to the action.

Even with these challenges, spring time walleye and sauger action can be excellent. After years of fishing the Illinois River, we would put it up against many of the top sauger spots across the Midwest. There are few places where there are chances of catching so many fish over 3 pounds.

The presence of Asian carp on the Illinois has changed the

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

approach to the river a bit. You will want to stay between the buoys in deeper water when you run from spot to spot because the troublesome carp like to jump at passing boats and seem to concentrate in shallower water.

The Illinois River is a leader for sauger over walleye with the Mississippi River heavier with walleye than sauger. Although general locations for the two species are similar, there are noticed differences in how each river should be approached.

Focus on Current Seams

Walleyes and saugers behave in similar ways. Understanding how fish adapt to living in rivers is the key to pinpointing location. Over time, walleye and sauger have evolved to conserve energy to grow and reproduce. As a result, walleyes and sauger gather behind any natural or manmade current break that offers place to rest, to ambush food or both.

Movements across long straight river stretches are followed by rest stops at river bends where water slows on the inside turns. A good river map will pinpoint those spots quickly. Look for gravel, rock, sand, clay and even clam beds. If the current or barge traffic has cut a hole in the bottom nearby where fish can rest or ambush minnows, that's even better. Rushing water creates rolling washboard bottoms in soft sand and mud.

What you're looking for are eddies, which are areas of slack water created by current breaks. They can occur on both the upstream and downstream sides of points. They can be upstream and downstream from neckdowns where the two shorelines pinch together. Current also slows on the upstream and downstream sides of islands. Eddies form on either side of wing dams. Eddies form when current from a tributary or a feeder creek or factory discharge meets the faster moving water of the main river.

No matter what forms an eddy, the critical place to note is the seam where faster moving water meets the slower water. Fish can hold just inside the slower water on one side of the seam and ambush food as it moves by.

Wingdams are critical structures on the Mississippi. The rocks stacked perpendicular from the shoreline running toward the channel help direct current away from the bank to slow erosion. The water rolls as it hits the face of the wingdam. Water speed slows at the base. Walleyes and saugers will tuck in where they can wait for food. Use a Humminbird sonar with Side Imaging, which shows important features on wingdams that can hold fish, including trees, or a hole that has opened in the face. Wingdams on river bends are usually best. Where there are three wingdams or more are positioned in a row, target the first one upstream and the last one downstream first. If those two don't hold fish move on.



Precise reading of good sonar can also pinpoint transition areas between hard and soft bottom where fish gather because of the wider variety of food available at spots like those.

High water? Move toward the shore. Low water? Look for places that still have current. Move out toward the channel, move up toward a dam or downstream from neckdowns.

Tactics

Jigs, rigs, trolling crankbaits on leadcore – are all tactics which work great for catching walleyes and saugers in rivers. Everyone has a favorite approach.

A key tactic is trolling with three-way rigs. You can slide upstream slower (than slip jigging downstream) and you can move through a little eddy, along a current break and have a bait in their faces longer.

Slow troll against the current at about the speed of a slow walk on shore. Try putting enough weight on your three-way so that you can stay on the bottom with about a 45-degree angle between line and water's surface. The dropper should be approx. 8 to 10 inches long with a 4 foot leader to a floating, shallow running crankbait, or a single hook, or a floating jig head.

SHOCK THE COMPETITION"

- *Thumping Vibration fish can't resist*
- *Great Hunting Action Even At Slow Retrieve*
- *Available in range of sizes 1/4oz, 3/8oz, 1/2oz, 3/4oz, 1oz, 1.5oz, 2oz*
- *Large Sizes for fishing off shore ledges, deep river channels and structure*
- *Patent Pending design stays down without any lift*



Martens
Pro Angler

SHOCK BLADE

Trolling upstream with the gasoline kicker and a double crankbait setup will sometimes out fish three-ways. A 3- to 5-ounce bell sinker is attached to the dropper. A 3- to 5-foot leader goes to a crankbait clip for the first floating lure. A foot leader is then tied to the rear split ring of the front lure and leads to a crankbait clip for the second lure. Use shallow running, short billed crankbaits. Mix up colors. The clips make changing easy

Three-way rigs are also great for fishing the front side of wingdams. Simply position the boat upstream, let the rigs go back to the face of the dam and slide the boat from side to side to check out different parts of the dam. High water, try inside closer to shore. Low water? Try nearer the tip where there's some current.

Try trolling with leadcore line when the river is at normal pool or lower and when the debris in the water is scarce. Use medium-action rods and spool 18-pound leadcore on large line-counter reels that enable baits to be returned to the effective depth. Try different depths until a fish is caught. Troll with different types of deep diving crankbaits.

Jigs are an old river standby for good reason – they work. To slip downstream with the current, choose a jig heavy enough to maintain bottom contact and keep the line straight below the boat while it moves with the current. Braided line (I use TUF Line XP) increases sensitivity to feel strikes and improves hooksets.

Get current. Throughout the walleye and sauger range, rivers are the places to be early in the year. You just might experience the best fishing you'll have all season.



BILL VANDERFORD'S SWIRLEYBIRD SPINNER

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](http://www.georgiafishing.com/swirleybird-spinners)



The Ethanol Issue Continues

By Captain Mike Gerry

the water is heavier than the fuel so it drops to the bottom of your tank and hence you're using a fuel that has a different octane rating than you anticipated.

Lastly Ethanol fuel loses its components over short periods of time, it breaks down decreases its octane and stagnates causing hard to start engines, or engines that make a pinging sound or a knock. Hence your engine is hard to start, reduces its power and causes engine damage.

Lastly ethanol actually decreases fuel economy, yes; ethanol gas produces less energy than fuel without ethanol, so you get an inefficient combustion response, changing the engine timing and reduces throttle response. So, you have 2 choices use an additive or use gas without ethanol, I prefer E-10 ethanol free gas!

Boat motor companies have made strong efforts in the past few years to solve the ethanol problem being produced by E10 gasoline, most of their effort has been to no avail as problems continue. The real issue is the weekend boater that might use his boat just a few times a year, this gas is devastating to the out board industry to the few times a year boater.

There have been four major problems caused by E-10 ethanol fuel the first being that the fuel tends to have debris in it and as the fuel ages it tends to gum rapidly in the fuel tank. Ethanol itself is a strong cleaner that will strip away this gumming of the fuel. The problem is it disperses it back into the filters and injectors or carburetors, robs the motor of performance and causes your motor to run and act differently than it did before the E-10 fuel was used.

Next ethanol tends to collect moisture and cause large amounts of water to build up in the tank. Ethanol normally holds .5% water in suspension and as the gasoline collects moisture in the tanks it exceeds this percentage and causes the engine to run rough, stall and cause internal combustion issues in the engine. The problem is that ethanol provides the fuel with its octane and when it builds water

Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service
www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com
Email: bassguide@comcast.net
Call: 256 759 2270

FOLLOW THE FISH FOR MORE FISHING SUCCESS



By Bob Jensen

As the weather warms and the days get longer, more people are headed to the lake or pond or river to go fishing. When we go fishing, we want to catch something. There are several things that we can do to increase the chances for catching something, but the most important thing that we can do to help us catch more fish is to fish where the fish are. That sounds very simple, and it is, but it's so important to be fishing near fish if you want to have action. Fish will hang out in different areas depending on the time of year: They move around. For fishing success, we need to move around too. Following are some ideas for fishing where the fish are.

Fish have two tasks to perform: They eat and they reproduce. Depending on whether they're in the eating or reproducing time of year will determine where they will be in a lake or river or pond.

Right now in the Midwest, most fish are in some phase of the reproduction period, or spawning period. In other parts of the world they could be done spawning, or they might still have a layer of ice over

them. For now though, in the Midwest, most fish are either getting ready to spawn, they are actually spawning, or they've recently finished with this ritual.

Most spawning for most fish takes place fairly close to shore or in shallow water. For that reason, we'll want to concentrate our efforts close to shore or in shallow water: That's where the fish are.

After the spawn, the fish take a few days to recover. Then they go on a feeding binge. They'll be wherever the food is, and they'll continue to follow the food the rest of the year. After the spawn, all fish do is eat. If what they're eating moves, the predator fish will follow close behind.

Fish don't always do what we think they should do. In many areas, walleyes are thought to be a bottom-hugging fish, and, in many areas they are. If the food they're eating is near the bottom, the walleyes will be near the bottom.

But in a good number of waters, walleyes eat baitfish that suspend. These baitfish might be fifteen feet above the bottom. When the walleyes want to eat, they have to move to where the baitfish are.

Some lakes have bug hatches, and a variety of fish eat these bugs. The bugs hatch on the bottom of the lake and drift toward the surface. As the bugs move up, so do the fish that are eating them. If you want to catch these fish, you need to keep your bait at the depth where the fish are. Sonar is a huge help in keeping the bait at the level where the fish are. It also reveals the presence of predator fish and baitfish. Raymarine sonar units have different modes that provide different looks at the underwater world. They draw a clear picture and truly help us catch more fish.

Because the area where the fish are is changing, a successful angler needs to change lure presentation also. If the fish are off the bottom, you'll want to select a lure that runs off the bottom. A jig crawled along the bottom is great if the fish are on the bottom, but it isn't much good crawled along the bottom if the fish are fifteen feet up. A crankbait would be a better choice.

If you want to catch more fish, you need to follow them throughout the fishing season. Find the food they're eating, put your bait there, and you'll increase your odds for fishing success.

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

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

An Over- Looked Crank For Cold- Weather Bass

By Steve Pennaz

When you fish against a guy like Tony Owens, biologist with the Texas Freshwater Fishery Center in Athens, Texas, you pay attention to the little things or you get left in the dust.

Tony not only lives bass every day at his job, he regularly fishes tournaments in East Texas and knows how to catch fish.

But on this trip, he was struggling almost as badly as me. His spinnerbait pattern produced a couple good fish, as did mine (flippin' PowerBait Jigger Craws), but the cold front that blew



through the day before had shut the fish down. Texas’ world-class bass fisheries were built by stocking Florida-strain largemouths, a fish that doesn’t like it much when water temps plummet quickly.

When I tape an episode of “Lake Commandos” television show, I compete with my guest to see who can catch the most fish. While it’s always my goal to catch the most fish, really what I like about the show’s format is seeing how my guests react to not only what the fish are doing, but to what I am doing. And today, Tony reacted to the slow bite by fishing faster. Traditional wisdom calls for slowing down when dealing with cold-front fish, but I have found that it’s often better to actually speed up to see if I can trigger reaction strikes.

And one of the best baits for doing that is a crankbait.

The lake we were fishing was loaded with shad, which serve as the primary forage for the bass and other gamefish. So I switched over to a Berkley Flicker Shad, casting it on a medium heavy spinning rod loaded with 10-pound NanoFil to make it easy to cast long distances.

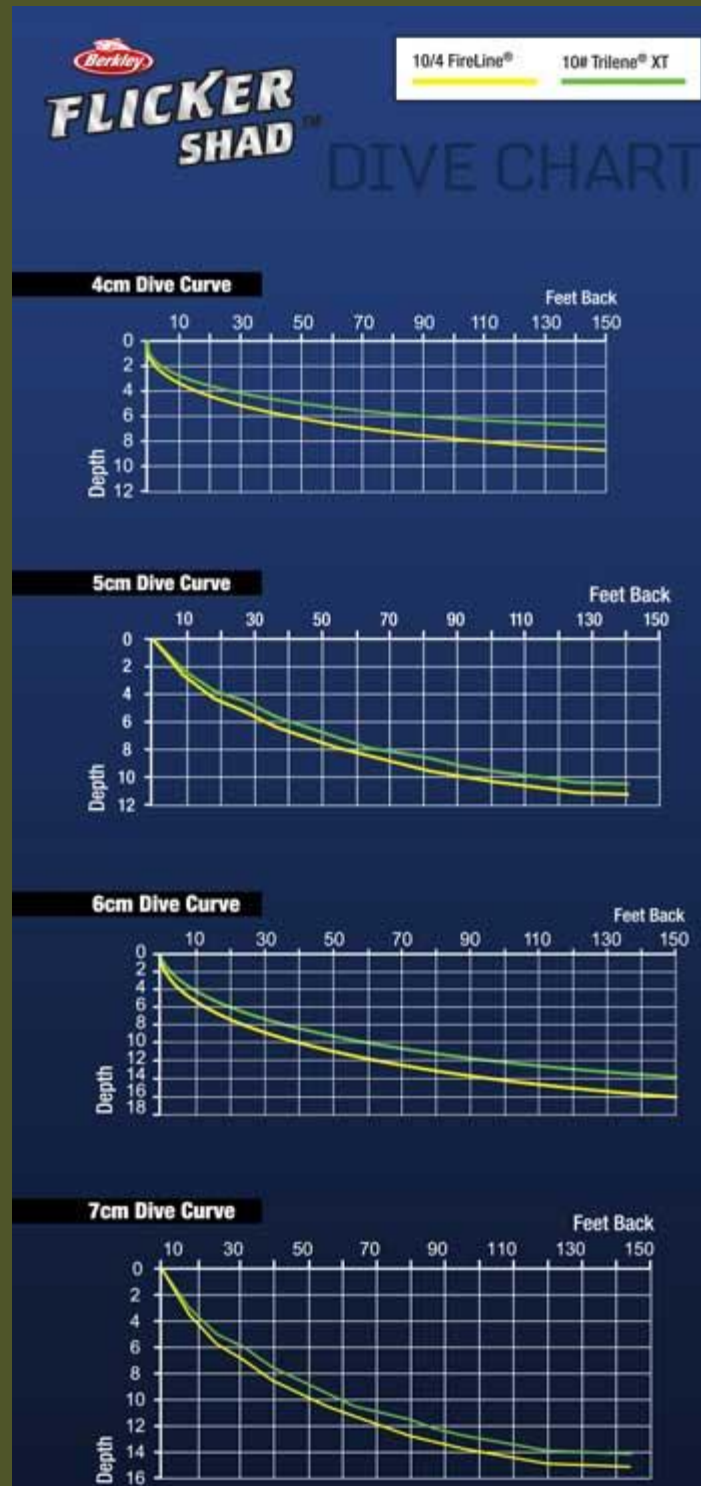
Most bass anglers seem to overlook cranks with subtle side-to-side rolls like the Flicker Shad, opting more often for baits that have a more aggressive action. But the shad imitators can be dynamite under certain conditions and I like to toss them after a cold front.

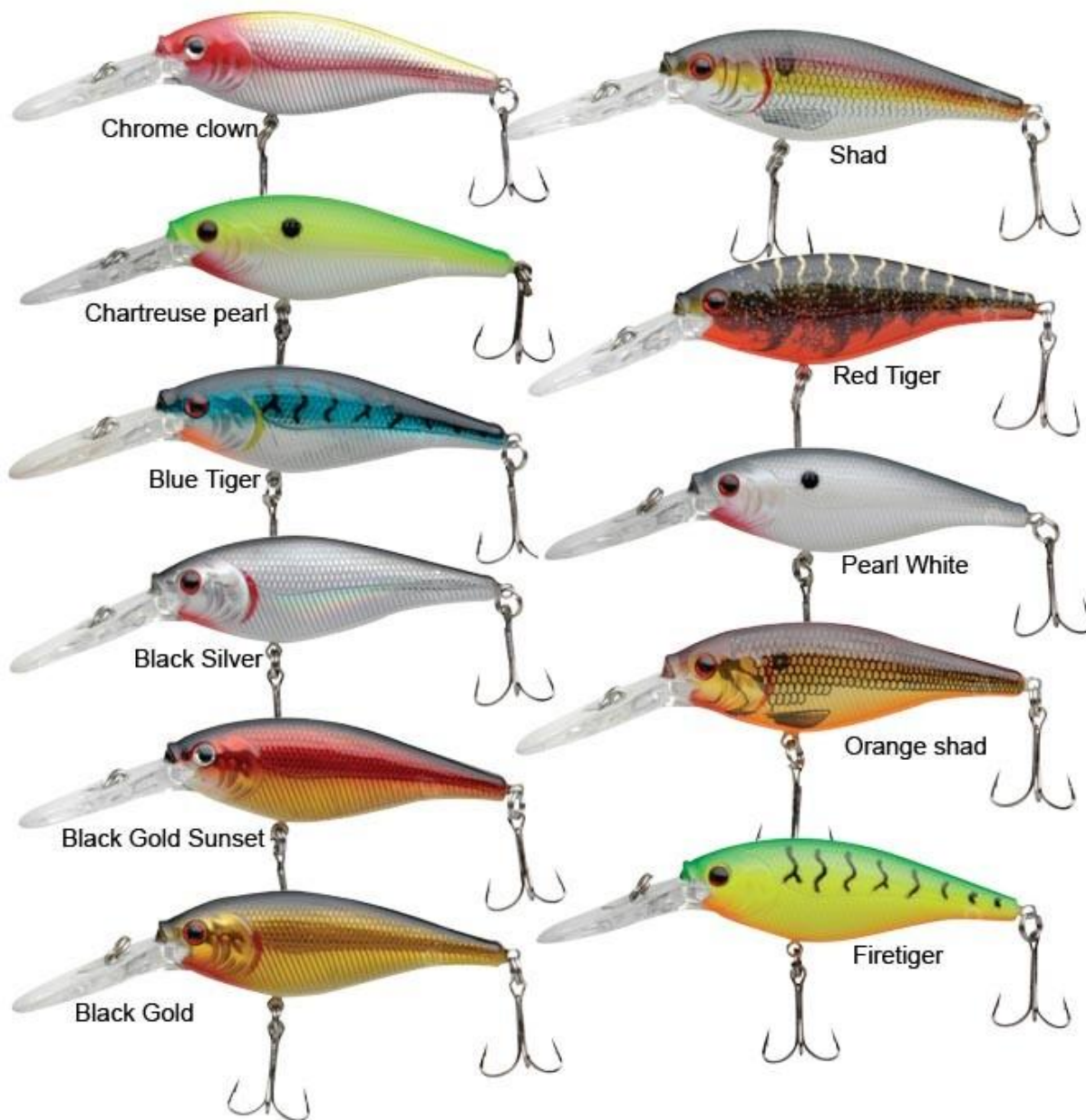
The fact is, I should have started the day with the Flicker Shad as the day before I had been targeting crappies on another east Texas lake, casting small #4 and #5 Flicker Shads, and while we caught a ton of slabs (one pushing 3 pounds!), we also caught a lot of big bass. In fact, we caught so many bass they interfered with our planned fish fry for that evening!

I was guilty of fishing inside the box of what’s comfortable. Like a lot of anglers, I had forgotten just how effective small, tight-wobbling crankbaits can be for early-season or cold-water bass.

Fact is, small, tight-wobbling cranks like the Berkley Flicker Shad can trigger bites when nothing else does.

A thin bait by design, the Flicker Shad has a tight wobble – actually, more of a roll – than a square bill. As such, it sends out an entirely different underwater sound, which is picked up bass both in the auditory sense and via the fish’s lateral line. Could be that thin, narrow baits with





roll produce an acoustical signature more akin to the sounds and vibrations that shad emit as they travel through the water.

Another thing that's great about the Flicker Shad is it's a great casting bait, which means you can cover great distances without spooking fish in clear or pressured waters. It also makes it a great option when you visually locate schooling bass busting bait on the surface.

When I locate schooling bass in open water I like to cast past the school,

working the bait quickly to get to the larger fish in the school, which are typically deeper than the smaller bucks. These larger fish have learned that the lunch falls right on their plate as smaller fish shred and slash shad high in the water column.

On rivers and reservoirs, I've found casting Flicker Shads (pictured above) along rip rap or timber and brush a great way to locate active fish. On natural lakes, I've gotten past my fear of fishing crankbaits around emergent weeds using smaller, shallower-running baits for ripping bait through small gaps or lanes in the weeds.

I typically choose Flicker Shads according to the depth I'm fishing – a #4, #5, or #6 for waters up to 7 feet -- and a #7 or #9 for depths over 8 feet. Consult the following dive curves to pick the best sizes for where you fish.

Four Go-To Colors

For cold, clear early-season waters, I rely on four color patterns that allow me flexibility on different waters. The first is Natural Shad, the match-the-hatch choice for lakes, rivers and reservoirs with

threadfin and gizzard shad. Second is Red Tiger, which mimics both crawfish and bluegills – definitely a solid early-season pick. Third, I like Racy Shad, which has hues of green and orange in it, as well as a chartreuse lateral line for dirtier, stained waters. And lastly, sometimes plain Pearl White can be a great performer, which mimics young white bass or shad that have been regurgitated by other fish – the same reason plain white Flukes are so effective.

How to Work ‘Em

I rarely fish Flicker Shads on a steady retrieve for bass. Instead, I use a fast twitch-twitch, twitch-twitch, which mimics shad movement. And the key to this retrieve is using spinning gear.

For me, I prefer a 7’ Abu Garcia Veritas with a little softer tip, like a medium power, fast action model. I like Abu Garcia Revo Sx20 (pictured) or Sx30 spinning reels for their smooth gearing, powerful drag and how easily line falls off the spool for long, accurate casts.

In terms of line choice, NanoFil Dyneema-based superline casts farther than anything on the market. Ten-pound Nano has the diameter of 2- to 4-pound mono and gives me the sensitivity I need ensure the bait is working as it should. It’s amazingly telegraphic. I can tell if one treble has a piece of leaf on it, even with 16 inches of 8- or 10-pound Trilene 100% Fluorocarbon leader. Speaking to the leader, I like it for making bait changes easier and it virtually eliminates the tendency of the line tangling in the trebles during the cast.

Consider adding an additional spinning stick and a subtle action crank like the Flicker Shad to your boat deck this season. Not only is this system effective for early-season and open-water bass – especially on shad-filled waters – it’s a solid MVP for anything that swims.

And if you ask me, that’s pretty cool. In my world more bites equals more fun!





AN INTRODUCTION TO BASIC FLY CASTING TECHNIQUES

By Charlie Robinton

Casting with a fly rod is an art form that can be both challenging and incredibly rewarding. It takes patience and practice to achieve mastery, but learning doesn't have to be difficult. With an understanding of a few basic principles and some open space to practice, even a beginner can quickly become a confident caster.

Fundamentals

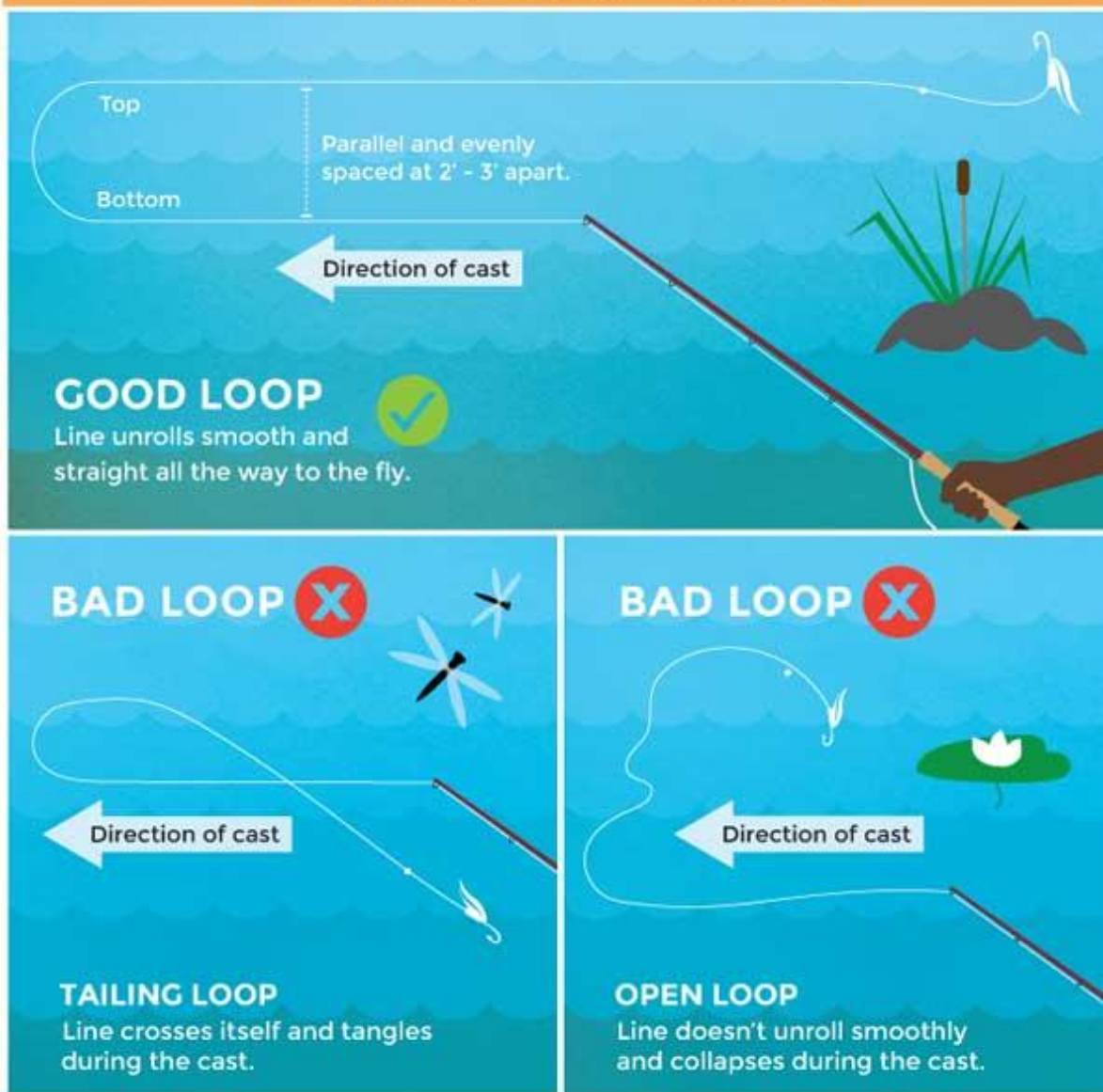
When casting with a regular fishing outfit, the angler typically uses a weighted lure or sinker tied to the end of a thin, supple fishing line, which is wound tightly around the reel. During a cast the weight of the lure or sinker, combined with the forward momentum generated by the cast, pulls the line off the reel. Fly fishing is different because instead of weighted lures and heavy sinkers, fly fishers use lightweight flies made of fur and feathers. Imagine how far you could throw a stone versus a feather and you'll have a good idea of the challenge presented here.

This is where fly line comes into play. Unlike regular fishing line, which is thin and level, fly fishing line is made with a thick PVC or urethane coating that adds heft. Energy from the casting stroke travels through the line almost like a whip, carrying the fly with it. In essence, the line is what casts the fly.

The Loop

During any casting stroke, the fly line trails behind the rod tip. When the casting stroke is stopped, the energy is transferred into the line, which continues to unroll in the direction the rod tip was traveling, forming what is called a loop.

PROPER LOOP SHAPE



There are a few things to look for when you are practicing that will tell you if you are casting correctly:

1. The top of the loop should unroll parallel to the bottom. The entire cast should unroll parallel to the ground.
2. The loop should be narrow, with approximately two or three feet between the top and bottom.
3. The loop should unroll smooth and straight from beginning to end, with the entire line and leader stretching out before falling to the water.

Loading the Rod

In order to create a cast, the fly rod must be “loaded” with energy, which is then released into the line. The concept is similar to shooting a bow and arrow: the bow must be bent, which stores energy that’s released when the bow unbends suddenly. The same is true for casting with a fly rod, but the energy load is accomplished by using a smooth accelerating motion in the casting stroke.

Energy Transfer

The energy stored in a loaded fly rod must be transferred smoothly into the line to create a good cast. Every casting stroke involves a smooth, building acceleration followed by an abrupt, deliberate stop. The abrupt stop allows the rod to return to a straight position, transferring the stored energy into the line and sending it out towards the target.

The Overhead Cast

The overhead cast is the technique you will use 90 percent of the time while fishing, and it is the base upon which almost every other casting variation is built. To practice this cast you will need a complete fly fishing outfit and a large open space such as a field or parking lot.

The cast can be divided into two separate parts: the back cast and the forward cast. The back cast is necessary to load the rod with energy to then make the forward cast.

The Back Cast

1. Stand with your shoulders square and grip the rod with four fingers wrapped around the handle, thumb on top and reel facing down. Pull about 25 feet of line off the reel and feed it out the tip of the rod. Lay the line completely straight and stand square to your target with your feet about shoulder-width apart.
2. Starting with the rod tip low, accelerate the rod up and backwards in one smooth motion.
3. Stop your acceleration just when the rod passes a vertical position. Your stop should be abrupt and deliberate. Pause for a moment as the line unrolls and rises into the air behind you. When the line is extended completely, the back cast is complete.

The Forward Cast

4. With the line extended in the air behind you, bring the rod forward in a smooth, accelerating stroke.
5. Stop with the rod tip high to allow the energy to transfer into the line and send it forward.
6. As the line unrolls, lower the rod tip. The line should roll out straight all the way to the fly.

Some Pointers

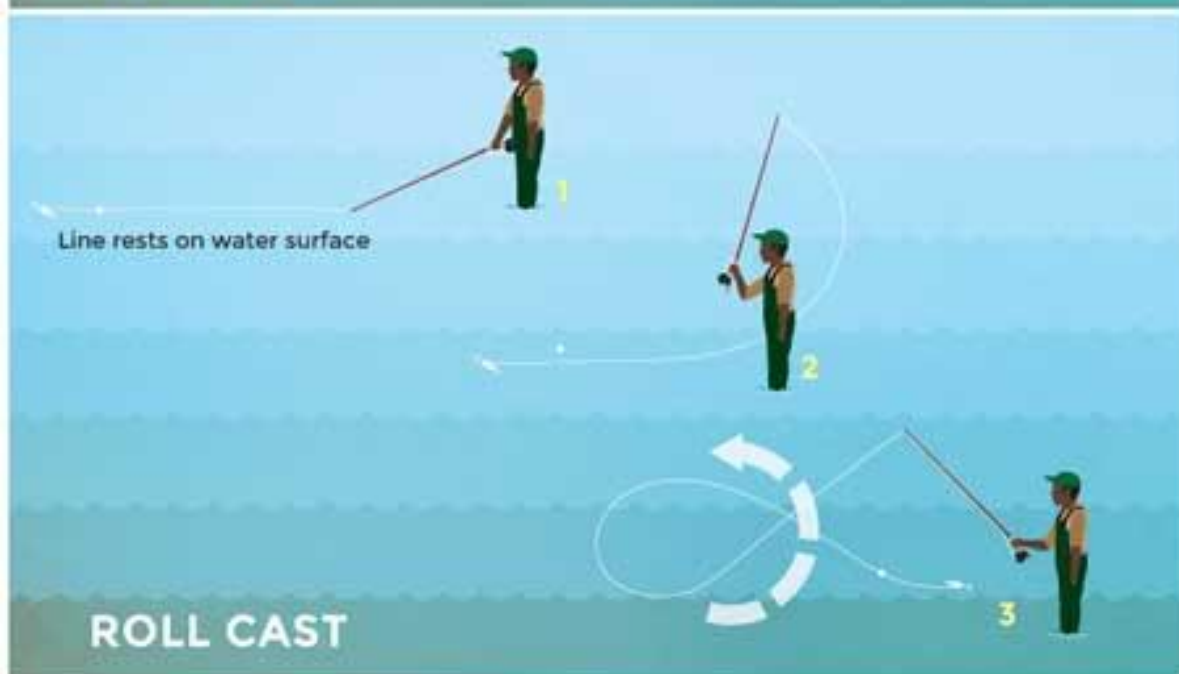
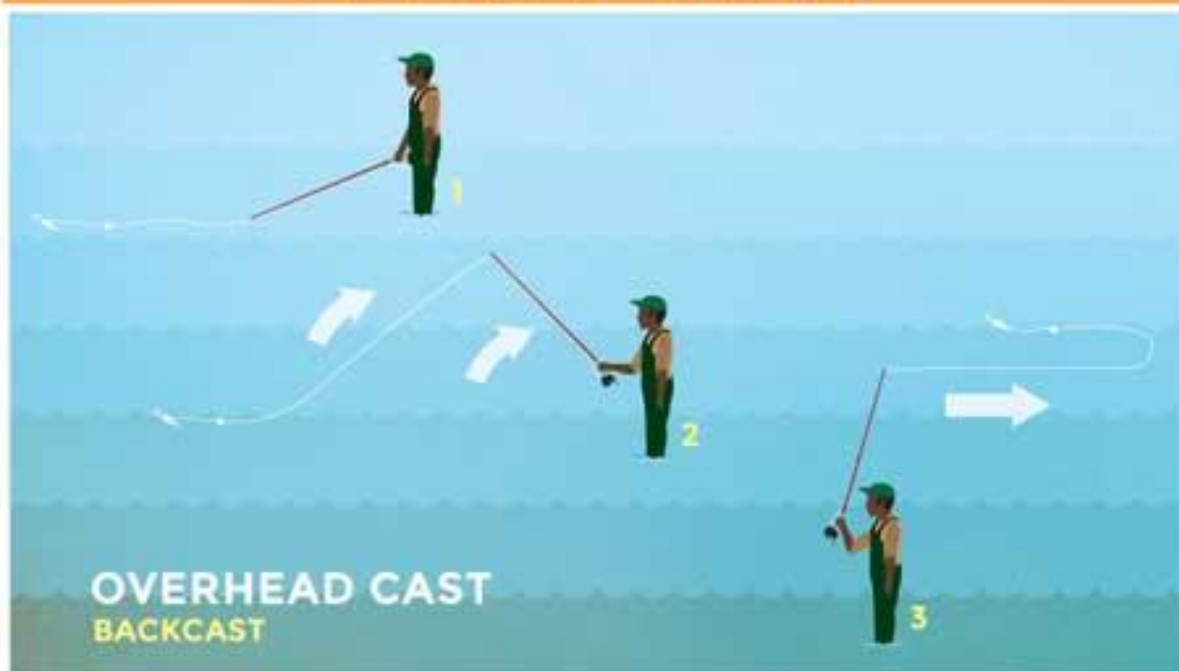
- Study the diagrams and pay attention



to where your rod tip is pointing during the cast. Both “stops” should be made with the rod tip high, just past a vertical position.

- Keep your wrist straight and your elbow close to your body, using your bicep and shoulder to generate the cast. Using your wrist is tiring and adds unnecessary motion to the cast.
- Make sure to pause during the back cast long enough for the line to unroll completely behind you. It is okay to look backwards during practice and watch the line extend.
- Begin and end the cast with the rod tip low and the line straight. When practicing, it is best to complete one cast before attempting another. Try not to rush it!

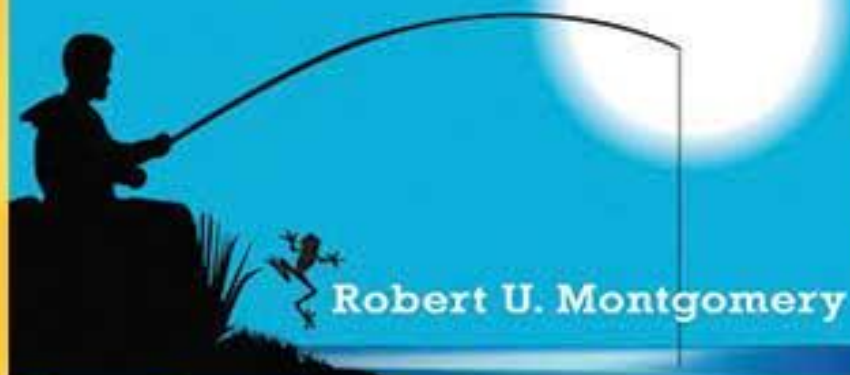
TYPES OF CASTS



The overhead cast is great in many situations, but it can be limiting if you want to make a cast with little or no room

Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies

Growing up
with Nature



Fish, Frogs and Fireflies: Growing up with Nature

A book for all nature lovers

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

www.fishfrogsfireflies.info

behind you. For these situations anglers use a specialized technique called the roll cast.

The Roll Cast

During the roll cast there is no aerial back cast. Instead, the line is drawn slowly backwards and hung in a slack loop (called the D-loop) off the tip of the rod, which creates the weight needed to load the rod for the forward cast. Done correctly it will appear as if the line is unrolling over the water's surface, which is where the name comes from.

1. To practice this cast it is important to have water, as the line must be anchored in the water to form a D-loop and unroll properly. Start with about 25 feet of line laid out in front of you and the rod tip pointed at the water's surface.

2. Slowly and smoothly draw the rod up and back with just enough force to drag the end of the line and leader across the surface of the water. Stop your stroke with the rod tip high, just past vertical. At this point the line should be slack and drooping behind the rod tip, creating a D-loop.

3. With the D-loop formed, accelerate the rod forward. End the acceleration with an abrupt stop and the cast should unroll smoothly over the surface of the water.

Some Pointers

- Draw the line back slowly, taking care not to pull it out of the water. The friction of the line on the surface of the water allows the rod to load in the forward cast.
- Pay attention to your D-loop. Look over your shoulder during the backward portion of the cast and make sure you are creating a slack loop. The more "D" you have, the better your cast will be.

At first, the steps to these casting techniques may seem disjointed. Building the muscle memory to bring everything together takes time. Go through the steps slowly and focus on using good technique. With a bit of dedication and practice you will be able to perform both of these casts automatically while fishing and you will have a solid base from which you can build and learn all kinds of fun and useful casts.

Why pay more for the Same Thing?

CREME invented the plastic worm in 1949. We are proud to offer you these lures at substantial savings.

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

1.5" Mini Tube 2" Crackle Shad 1.5" Spoiler Shad 2" Curly Tail Grub

It's the Same Thing® plastic baits

99¢ pkg

CREME LURE CO.
www.cremelure.com
5401 KENT DRIVE • TYLER, TX 75707

Why pay more for the Same Thing?

CREME invented the plastic worm in 1949. We are proud to offer you these lures at substantial savings.

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

5" Jive Bait 7" Ribbon 6.5" Straight Tail 4" Creature 6" Lizard 7" Stick

\$1.99 pkg

SEE YOUR DEALER OR CONTACT:
CREME LURE CO.
www.cremelure.com
5401 KENT DRIVE • TYLER, TX 75707

Why pay more for the Same Thing?

AT LAST, A REASONABLY PRICED UMBRELLA RIG!

WORKS GREAT WITH OUR "SAME THING" UMBRELLA RIG BAITS!

LOOKS & PRESENTS JUST LIKE A SCHOOL OF SHAD WHEN BAITED!

SEE YOUR DEALER OR CONTACT: **www.cremelure.com**

\$9.99 ea (suggested retail)

LIMITED TIME OFFER:
Send \$20 for 2 Same Thing Umbrella Rigs

POSTAGE PAID!

MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: **CREME LURE CO.**
5401 KENT DRIVE • TYLER, TX 75707

Net Results

By Mike Gnatkowski

The two most critical and exciting junctures when fishing are at the strike and when the fish comes to net. If the fish strikes aggressively and the hooks are sharp, the fish gets hooked solidly and battling the fish is largely a matter of rod pressure and patience. The most tenuous moment is when the fish nears the boat. With less line out, there is less stretch. Mistakes are magnified. Too much pressure can pull hooks out; not enough and the fish can shake free.

Assuming neither happens, netting must be a coordinated effort between the angler and the person wielding the net. Done correctly, the fish is in the net and in the boat before he knows what happened. Approach the netting process in an unsynchronized and haphazard manner and you'll be lamenting the big one that got away. If you're just fun fishing, it will be the source of a story that will be retold many times. If it's during a tournament or on a guide trip, it can have more drastic consequences.

Part of the equation for successfully netting fish is to have the right tool for the job. Anglers should consider the type and size of the fish they expect to encounter to pick the proper net. Elements to consider are hoop diameter and size; handle length and composition and net bag





depth, color and composition. A net that's perfect for one type of fish may be totally inadequate for another.

Bass anglers should consider Frabill's (<http://frabill.com/landing-nets/conservation-series.html>) new line of Conservation Series nets. Conservation Series nets are designed with safe catch and release in mind. All nets feature 100% knotless mesh netting, eliminating injuries commonly caused by sharp knots. Knots also tend to scrape away the slime layer on fish, which can leave them vulnerable to infection. Flat, linear bottoms reduce fish rolling and support the weight of the entire fish. Tangle-free coating prevents hooks from entangling in the net and facilitates quick release. Mesh guard hoops resist



wear and greatly extend the life of the net. The 20" x 23" and 23" x 26 Conservation Series nets should meet the needs of most bass fanatics.

While the Conservation Series nets are meant to treat fish with a gentle touch, they are anything but wimpy. The first impression you get when picking one up is strength. The heavy-duty aluminum handle is strong enough to be used as a push pole. Been there; done that. I've seen lighter yokes on an oxen. The net yoke is made of hard, thick, nearly indestructible material that will endure a lifetime of use and features Frabill's exclusive patented Pow'R Lok automatic yoke system. The Mesh Guard Hoop means the bag loops are recessed into the hoop instead of looped around it, which leaves one less thing to

snag on when getting ready to net a fish. The solid black hoop and sure-grip handle are a nice finishing touch.

Another option for bass anglers is Frabill's Crankbait Net. It took two years of development, but Frabill finally came up with a net specifically designed to keep crankbaits, stickbaits and other multi-hook lures from becoming entangled in the netting. We've all been there. Net a fish hooked on a crankbait and he starts flopping, creating a nightmare snarl. Not anymore. With the Crankbait Net your net-tangling frustrations are over. The Crankbait Net is available in 20" x 23" to 23" x 26" models with various handle lengths.

Frabill offers a couple of options when it comes scaling back the overall size of the net for storage and transport – key premise when it comes to fitting in a well, even overly geared-up bass boat. Frabill's Folding Net comes in 18" x 16" and 22' x 20' sizes that take up little space when collapsed, but are readily available when it comes time to scoop a 10-pound toad. The Power Stow Net comes in 20" x 24" and 14" x 18" models. The hoop in the Power Stow folds in half and the handle retracts for easy storage.

Handle length is largely a matter of personal preference, but is also dictated by the height of your transom and the amount of room you have for storage. Handles can stretch from 2 to 8 feet or more. It's always better to have a net handle that's too long than one that's too short.

Bag and hoop color are a consideration, too. Most anglers prefer net bags made from a dark material to prevent spooking fish prior to netting. Wave a flashing net over a fish near the surface and he's likely to panic. Dark, anodized hoops and handles and dark bags help keep things calm at the moment of truth.

Netting fish is an art form. When done properly, the process is a coordinated effort using a quick, fluid motion that results in a fish flopping on the floor or in the live well. The angler needs to stay at the back or side of the boat to keep track of the fish and the fight until the fish is ready to be netted. Only then should the person with the net step in front of the angler. The angler should be lifting and bringing the fish closer as the netter brings the net up under the fish. The angler needs to be prepared in case the fish makes a sudden run or burst. Done properly,



the netter should only have to lift the net as the angler leads the fish over the hoop.

One important point is knowing when a fish is ready to be netted. The fish should be within easy netting distance and show signs of tiring. Usually, the fish will be lying on its side. The idea is to slip the net under the fish headfirst without touching the fish until it is centered in the net. You can then put the net handle straight up in the air, effectively closing the net bag or swing the hoop into the boat. Be careful of nets with long handles. Wielding a long net handle around while paying attention to the fish and not to others in the boat can result in a knock on the noggin or worse.

Most fish are lost at the boat because of indecision or by being too anxious. Have a positive attitude that you can easily scoop the fish. Wait until the fish is well within range and shows signs of tiring. Don't reach. More fish are lost at this critical juncture because the netter reaches for the fish at the same time the angler gives the fish slack. If you reach too far, the net will flow out in front of the hoop and the fish is likely to get caught in the netting before he's safely in the net. The hooks get caught in the net and the fish shakes free. To prevent this, don't reach and hold the bag against the handle until the fish is over the net. Then open your hand to release the bag. Once the fish is in the boat the angler needs to release the tension on the line or give some slack to prevent the hook from flying out and causing injury.

Netting must be a coordinated effort. Done right, it means sweet success and high-fives all around.



A person wearing camouflage clothing and a cap is seen from behind, carrying a large turkey. The scene is set in a forest with a dirt path. The text "HUNTING ZONE" is overlaid in white.

**HUNTING
ZONE**

THE PERFECT TURKEY HUNTING PLAN

By Jason Herbert

Driving to my new hunting location helped to reset my hunting patience for the day. I had been in the woods since 5:30 am. It was now 11:00 am and my game bag empty. Most hunters would have given up long ago but, not me. I had a plan and was sticking to it. A short time later, around 11:25 am, my plan had worked. Three long beards approached and responded to my sweet calls like they had read my plan. By 11:30 am, I had one giant Tom slung over my shoulder heading back to the truck. Success!

I love to turkey hunt, but sitting for long durations is a challenge. When I first started turkey hunting, I'd hunt in the same spot until about nine o'clock and then head home. On the way home, I'd see toms strutting everywhere. Through observation, I soon realized something was wrong. Since this time of "enlightenment", I developed a solid plan to hunt turkeys in phases. My plan has worked very well for me and hopefully it will for you too!

The key to the plan is each phase of the hunt consists of the time of the day that typically corresponds to certain turkey behaviors. I hate wearing a watch, but when I am executing my hunting plan, I use the clock on my cellphone to keep me on track, work my hunting phases and remain disciplined. If I get bored or distracted, hunting time seems to move very slowly, and the clock keeps me



honest. When heading out on a turkey hunt, I make sure to have supplies, food, and water, because I don't plan to come home until a gobbler is down or it's dark.

It is important to check local hunting regulations. In my area hunting is permitted all day, yet in some states, you may not be able to do so. Either way, maximize your time in the field and invest your time wisely.

I have a dedicated process for preparing for the hunt. I usually dress in Scent Blocker Merino wool base layers, followed up with my Recon pants or Spider Web Recon safety bibs. On top, I'll wear the Trinity 1.5 Performance shirt and one of my ScentBlocker hoodies. Scent control doesn't matter for turkeys, but I like to use it in the spring anyway for a few reasons. First, I don't want to spook any deer! Spooked Deer will alarm any nearby turkeys and send them running to the hills. Secondly, I like to try and shoot coyotes whenever possible, and they are very active in the spring. Being scent free is crucial for harvesting a coyote.

As the spring gets warmer through the season, the biting bugs like mosquitoes and ticks come out in full force. I scrap the scent control gig in the name of self-preservation. Not only are biting bugs annoying, but they're also dangerous! With all sorts of new bacteria and viruses being introduced to us each year, I do not desire to become an all you can eat buffet for the local insects! To keep biting bugs away, I rely on Scent Blocker's Bug Blocker Insect Repellent for Mosquitos and Bug Blocker Insect Repellent for Ticks to keep me safe and comfortable.

Regardless of the time of year, I am scouting or hunting turkeys; I always have my Torched Turkey hunting vest. I love this vest for several reasons. First and foremost, it is comfortable. I can either sit on a short stool and use the folding pad as a backrest, or flip it down to sit on the pad.



I'm really unorganized, and this vest has pockets everywhere. I might not always know exactly where I put something, but I can guarantee it's in the Torched Turkey vest. I like the ability to sit as still as possible while scavenging through my vest for the perfect call. And when the hunt is over, the Torched Turkey vest has a huge bright orange safety flag that folds out of the back for a safe carry of the big old tom back to the truck.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

Now back to my detailed plan. The first phase of the plan is the hunt at first light before the song birds start chirping. When the birds start to chirp, the turkeys wake up. If possible, sneaking in before they are awake decreases my chances of getting busted. At this early point, I like to get as close to roosting areas as possible. The idea is to be as close as possible when the toms fly down and start to gather their hens. Hopefully, my decoys and soft calling will catch their attention and bring them into gun range. Once the birds fly down, this area will be my key area to hunt for several hours. The birds will mill around, feed, flock together and eventually head off to other areas. If I have not killed a bird in phase one, I switch to phase two around 9:00 am.

Phase two consists of moving to scouted strutting zone. A strutting zone is an open area where a tom can strut and be seen showing off from far away. I prefer to hunt field edges during this portion of my hunt. If you do not have access to fields, try open ridge tops or flat river bottoms. When I move to a new spot, I get to stretch, re-charge my batteries and re-focus. I quickly get set up and start calling. Sometimes I use a decoy if the terrain works for its use. Around midmorning, the hens will leave the toms and return to their nests to tend their eggs.

At this point, the lonely toms will try to find and swoon more lonely hens. Usually, they will head to a strut zone to show off a bit, hoping to find a new girl. I like to beat them there. These strutting toms are

usually pretty cooperative to calling efforts. I have found, hunting the strut zones till about noon or shortly after works very well.

Depending on conditions and if birds respond, I now make a crucial decision to stay or go. I am blessed with access to many small tracts of turkey hunting property. More often than not, I am ready for a change so that I may drive to another property. When I get to a new property, I head straight to a strut zone. This can be a difficult task. Quite often, as I am arriving at the new location, usually around midday, the toms may have already beaten me to the fields. This situation is fine, but you must be careful approaching the area to prevent from spooking the birds. I'll just set up as close as possible and start working them. If there are no birds in the strut zone, then I quickly and quietly get set up, because the birds will not be far away.

One memorable hunt occurred on a high point in a hayfield, yielding a perfect strut zone. The toms came in on a string as I started calling, because, at that point in the day, their hens were on the nests, and this new "girl" in town caught their attention. I am quite sure, if I had been in that spot all morning, calling the entire time, the birds would not have been so eager to respond.

If the second strut zone doesn't pay off after a few hours, hop back in the truck and drive to the third, fourth, and fifth area. Keep checking all of your known strut zones at this time. I have called in several nice birds to gun range late in the afternoon and early evening hours by setting up in these areas. I have noticed at this time of day, birds don't gobble as much, so keep your eyes peeled. The birds may come in very quietly.

If you can't go to another property, I have a trick for you to try. Pretend like you left

Pass on traditions... not corrosion.



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

Spray Shield is an unbelievable protectant, lubricant, and cleaner. It is not 'heavy' and works down to -70°F – it's obvious why our military uses it.

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

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



Are you serious about your guns?

Learn more about Gun Protect at www.mygunprotect.com

your existing hunting area. By now, every turkey in the area has heard your calls, so it is time to take a break. This is hard to do for a lot of turkey hunters, but it is important the calling stops for a while. Around 1 PM, I'll head back into the woods and set up around a dust bowl. Turkeys need to dust frequently to rid themselves of irritating mites, and dust bowls are a great midday social gathering spot. If an active dust bowl is accessible, sit by it for a few hours in the early afternoon and be patient because eventually birds will show up.

Around 3:00 pm my next phase of hunting kicks in as I change strategies and tactics. I'll start "running and gunning". I wander around the property ever slowly, taking cover where possible, calling the whole time. I like to change calls now and mix up the cadence as well. Calls tend to lose their effectiveness each time they are used, so a fresh set of calls and a new style could really change your luck. Walk to all of your old spots, calling and listening. Keep it up till you find a bird to work or until it gets to be evening.

My final phase, in the late afternoon or early evening, I head back to where the day's hunt started. The hunt has come full circle, and I'm back to the roosting area. The turkeys will need to come back to roost eventually, so this is a great time to set up and be very patient. When I am in a roost area, I do not call or use a decoy at all. If you do not kill a bird this way, listen for roost gobbling because if you hear it, this is tomorrow mornings new starting point. Toms will typically gobble quite a bit before dark, trying to gather and inventory hens in the area.

By having a plan, managing time and exercising a little self-discipline, I have become a much better turkey hunter maximizing my efforts to the

areas turkeys move to throughout the day. Many of the toms that I have harvested, were taken after 10:00 am and may have been on my second or third tract of property hunted in a single day. For the greatest success afield, it's best to hunt where the birds go throughout their daily routine and stick to your plan to be there. It will pay off big!





Mossberg International™ Adds Two New Versions to SA-20™ Autoloader Series

Easy-Handling, Lightweight 20-Gauge All-Purpose Field and Turkey Shotguns

Mossberg International has brought two new versions of its lightweight, soft-shooting SA-20 autoloading shotgun to the market – a nicely-appointed Walnut-stocked SA-20 All-Purpose Field version with 26-inch vent rib barrel, and the SA-20 Turkey model with Mossy Oak Obsession® camo stock and forend and easy-to-handle 22-inch vent rib barrel. These gas-operated autoloaders are perfectly-suited for wingshooting, target shooting and turkey or small game hunting.

The SA-20 has a well-designed gas system that vents excess gases to reduce recoil and eases stress on the operating components for smooth, reliable operation. Comfortable-to-shoot, these perfectly-balanced 20 gauges are 2 3/4 and 3-inch capable with a five-round total capacity (one less with 3-inch shells). Other standard features include easy-load elevator; interchangeable choke tube system; and convenient cross-bolt safety.

The SA-20 All-Purpose Field Walnut (75789) shotgun has a classically-styled, gloss-finished walnut stock with traditional checkering on the forend and grip. Complementing the wood stock is a polished blue finish on the exposed metalwork. The 26-inch vent rib barrel comes equipped with front bead sight and SA-20 Sport Set of choke tubes (Full, Improved Modified, Modified, Improved Cylinder and Cylinder) for added versatility with this all-purpose, 20-gauge autoloader. MSRP: \$654

With today's advancements in turkey loads, the 20-gauge platform is growing in popularity with turkey hunters of all ages and Mossberg International's SA-20 Turkey (75790) is designed to maximize performance. This easy-handling package features a 22-inch vent rib barrel with Extended Turkey choke tube and is topped with a Fiber Optic 3-Dot Sight, ideal for low-light conditions. The durable synthetic stock and forend are effectively-covered with Mossy Oak Obsession, a pattern that builds on elements of ghost shadows, realistic limbs and a lighter background, enhanced with the addition of spring tones. Completing this turkey-hunting model is a matte blue metal finish; receiver-mounted top rail for ease of adding optics; and dual sling swivel studs. MSRP: \$644

Joining All-Purpose Field Synthetic models, including a SA-20 Bantam offering, and SA-20 Railed versions are the two newest members of this soft-shooting family, the SA-20 Walnut and SA-20 Turkey shotguns. The comfort, fit and reliability of these 20-gauge autoloaders allow you to enjoy your day afield without sacrificing performance. For more information on the complete line of Mossberg International SA-20 shotguns, please visit www.mossberg.com.



ODU MAGAZINE™

