

Summer Fishing
August 2017



ODU MAGAZINE

**Rod
Tricks**

*Otter Creek
Rainbows*

**WORKING
THE RAP**

**HOW TO
GET
KIDS
INTO
FROGGING**

Where Could Hunting and Fishing Sports Lead

EDITOR'S LETTER



Summer is here and heading towards my favorite part of fishing season, fall fishing. It is simple, less boats on the water and the fish all are hungry in preparation for fall/winter. Before the leaves fall and the snow fly's (if you get the white stuff) take a kid fishing, and pass on our love and experiences in fishing. Are you prepping for hunting season yet? Maybe you are setting out blinds, inspecting tree stands or placing out field cameras. This is a great time to take a few kids and an parent who might be interested in hunting and learning a little

about what you do to have successful hunts in fall. Making the best of our outdoor heritage and passing on how we should value the outdoors is parimount.

ACCESS? Have you been to a new pond or lake this summer looking to wet a line with the family or visited an old fishing hole from your youth that are now not accessible? Well it happened to me. I was out with the kids this summer and knew of a series of old canels that were great for fishing right from the shore. I went there to find that the entire water body was surrounded by no treaspasing signs. WHY?

We had sometime and my kids were a little upset over what we were seeing. So we went for a walk on a portion of the canel, by road only to investigate. Well it didn't take long for two home owners to come walking out from their homes across the road from the canel. They were long time residents and were initially there to stop us from fishing. WOW.

We carried two fishing rods with us on purpose to get someone to talk to us and at least on this trip we caught something... The attention I needed to ask a few questions.

After a few laughs with Jane and Mr. Walker, who thought my method to investigate the no treaspasing signs was ingenious, we had a informative talk.

It was fishermen that lost the privalege to fish on these waters and people who visited the small grassy areas around the canal to hang out and cause trouble. What happen over years of public use, was non-residents would come to fish along the canel and leave garbage, lures, fishing line, worm containers and sometimes just dump junk before they left. This left the home owners to clean up and in some cases get into auguments, resulting in law enforcement being called.

The the two neighborhoods surrounding the canals had had enough and worked with the city to have the land put into sometype of right-of-way rights rule, that only allowed residence





access, while all other would be trespassers. Problem solved... in their eyes.

Jane and Mr. Walker give permission, as it is their right to do, to friends to fish, but they wish it wasn't like this. Mr. Walker used to swim in the canal as a teen and knew it was a valuable water way. He told me the bass and sunfish were huge. No one fishes anymore he says and some friends and neighbors put in a kayak once in a while. Otherwise the canals are used most in the winter for ice skating.

Very Sad.

We as outdoorsmen and women have the power to persuade others one way or the other. What will you do?

ODU has been operating for nearly 6 years with over 50 digital fishing magazines published. All our writers are very important to us and to all those who have contributed in 2016 and 2017 **THANK YOU one and all** >> Bill Vanderford, Dana Benner, Capt. Mike Gerry, John Simeone, Billy 'Hawkeye' Decoteau, Bob Jensen, Tom Gruenwald, David A. Brown, Joel Nelson, Jason Mitchell, Chip Leer, O'Neill Williams, Brian "Bro" Brosdahl, Mike Borovic, Dan Galusha, Wil Wegman, Ted Takasaki, Brian "Koshie" Koshenina, Jake Bussolini, Brad Wiegmann, Gerald Almy, Edward Chin, Steve Pennaz, Lawrence Gunther, Glenn Walker, Mark Strand, Adam Walton, Matthew J. Breuer, Garrett Svir, Harpa Hlín Þórðardóttir, Professor Gary Lee, Captain Ron Presley, Barb Carey, Bill Cooper, Lacy Byles, Carlee Magness, Matt Johnson, Alison Hudson, Joe Overlock, JP Bushey, Bernard Williams, Chris Flint, Dan Johnson, Josh Lantz, Jason Herbert, Scott Glorvigan, Tony Lor, Casting Carter, Justin Hoffman, and my friend Andy Westcott.



**This edition of ODU Magazine is about summer fishing and little hunting sprinkled in. Enjoy.*

The cover is from our friend in Iceland, Harpa Hlín Þórðardóttir who owns Iceland Outfitters. A travel agency focusing on fishing, hunting and high end sight seeing tours to Iceland. Iceland is known by its magnificent pure nature and it is the home of the mighty Atlantic Salmon. There are endless rivers and streams in Iceland where anglers



can fish for salmon, trout and char. First salmon rivers open early June and the latest close in October. Trout season is from April to October. Geese shooting is also a major attraction for hunters from all over the world. The season opens August 20th and prime time is from mid September through October. Email Harpa at harpa@icelandoutfitters.com.

....WS

Thank you to all who have contributed to make this and past editions a success!

And please, enjoy the outdoors.

*Larry Thornhill and William Schwarz
Co-Founders of ODU Magazine*

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

Publishing Team: Bill Schwarz, Jennifer Gonyea & Richard Barker.

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

Contributing Writers: Dana Benner, Dan Galusha, Bob Jensen, Bill Vanderford, TheNEXTBITE, O'Neill Williams, Brian "Bro" Brosdahl, Professor Gary Lee, Glenn Walker, Capt. Mike Gerry, Jason Mitchell, Joe Overlock, John Simeone & Harpa Hlín Þórðardóttir

Thank You All!

FREE FISHING MAGAZINES

**Bass, Walleye, Crappie,
Bluegill, Catfish,
Redfish, Musky,
Stripers, Trout, Salmon.**
Fresh-Ice-Salt





INDEX

Otter Creek Rainbows, Pg. 8

Flat Water Panfish, Pg. 11

Try Different Things For More Fish, Pg. 16

Remembering Cap'n John, Pg. 18

The 1 2 Punch for August Walleyes, Pg. 24

Thoeophile Bourgeois, Pg. 28

Walleye Is A Walleye, Pg. 31

The 14.10 Big Bass Black, Pg. 37

Working The Rap, Pg. 44

How To Get Kids Into Froggin', Pg. 47

The Battle We Have With Crank Baits, Pg. 49

Perspectives on Walleyes, Pg. 51

Rod Tricks Every Angler Should Know, Pg. 55

More Than Taking Game, Pg. 59

The American Boar Hunters, Pg. 63

Women Hunting in Estonia, Pg. 68

Where Could It Lead, Pg. 72

Command Performance, Pg. 74

REINVENTING BOATING SAFETY

WITH THE WIRELESS KILL SWITCH



MOB+™ WIRELESS ENGINE KILL SWITCH

STOPS YOUR ENGINE IF YOU FALL OVERBOARD

MOB+ Wireless Kill Switch offers the freedom you need to have a great experience while boating. Just relax and do what you need to get your game on board, while the MOB+ Wireless Kill Switch cares for your safety should a MOB (Man-Over-Board) event occur. Be safe to be free!



AutoMOB™
Automatic Wireless Engine Shut Down



Wireless STOP
50 Feet Air or Water Submersion
Instant STOP



dStart™
6 sec. Direct Restart Feature
- Fast recovery of person in the water

**50 FEET
OF FREEDOM**



xTAG™



xBAND™



xHUB™



xFOB™

WWW.WIRELESSBOATKILLSWITCH.COM

**FELLO
MARINE**
www.fellmarine.com



OTTER CREEK RAINBOWS

By Dana Benner

Vermont's Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area is one of those places where you must visit if you are at all interested in catching big trout. The fact that Otter Creek has some big trout is something that I can attest to as I did it on a recent visit to the area. What follows is the story of my visit.

Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area, which is much closer to New York than it is to my home in New Hampshire, is located along Vermont Route 7 just south of the town of Darby and is managed by the Vermont fish and Wildlife Department more for the benefit of Vermont's wildlife than it is for the comfort of the angler, which is fine with me. With that being said, the angler willing to venture out and make their way through tall grass and dense brush is likely to be rewarded with brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout which the State of Vermont stocks on a regular basis, tugging on the other end of the line. As the Vermont regulations limit the number of trout caught and kept at two fish per angler, there is no need to worry about the creek being fished out.

Ticks are always an issue when making your way to such a fishing location so I liberally apply Green Mountain Tick Repellent over myself before ever heading out. Being fully covered in bug

repellent I grabbed my gear and headed out. My gear for this day consisted of my six foot, six inch light action Abu Garcia Blue Sky rod coupled with a Zebco 304 spinning reel. Onto the reel was spooled with Stren Sensor four pound test monofilament. Of course I carried my "official" trout tackle box which is full of assorted spinners, spoons and everything else I may need.

Upon arriving at the river I was greeted by two other anglers. After a little small talk regarding how they were doing and finding out that they were not doing well in regarding the trout, we parted company and I proceeded to make my way upstream, scouting the area as I went. Before ever casting a line I always want to study what is happening. What are the physical characteristics of the body of water? Is it a sandy or rocky bottom? Is the water running high or low? Is it running fast or slow? What are the fish feeding on? Are there baitfish visible in the water or are the trout feeding on insects? As many of these questions need to be answered as possible in order to make the right presentation.

A man wearing a blue and yellow fishing jacket with "SNAG PROOF" and "FROGS" logos, a white neck gaiter, and sunglasses is smiling while holding a large fish. The background is a river with trees.

GOT YOUR FROG ON?

**Be sure
You Tie On
the Best!**

800-762-4773
www.snagproof.com

SNAG PROOF
Since 1961

From a high vantage point I looked down upon the river. Where I was located there was a bend. The edge closest to me had a sandy bottom, but the bank on the other side was undercut. On my side of the river there was also a good sized blow down in the water and the water on this side of the river was moving right along. The opposite side, near the undercut, was where the deeper water was and there was a series of swirls, almost mini whirlpools. All of this information told me that I wanted to be on the opposite side of the river and make my casts upstream towards the blow down. If I was a trout that is where I would want to be.

Normally I probably would have used an in-line spinner or a casting spoon here, but I opted

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

to use live bait instead, namely a nightcrawler. Tying on an Eagle Claw snap-swivel I put a #6 snelled Eagle Claw hook. Just above the swivel I put one small #7 split shot weight, which I figured was just large enough to get my offering where I wanted it. My intent was to allow the river to do all of the work for me. If I was a trout I would be hanging out on the edge between the faster moving water and the swirling water of the deeper section. This would be the natural funnel where food would be coming from. While I am not against using a bobber, and they are great in certain circumstances, using one here would defeat my intentions as it would carry my bait through the area too fast.

My first cast proved that my way of thinking was correct. Though I didn't get a hit, my bait did take track that I wanted. My next four casts had the same result. On my fifth cast I had a fish on. It was during my effort to reel in the slack line that the fish took the bait. In fact I had no idea I had the fish on until it jumped, clearing the water by a foot. It had jumped towards me, putting more slack in the line. I frantically reeled it in. This was one big rainbow trout and I didn't want to give it a chance of throwing the hook. It jumped two more times, each time more dramatic than the previous one. After the last jump my rod bent sharply as the trout took off away from me. After landing the fish I saw that I had no worry about the fish throwing the hook as it had inhaled the worm all the way to the sinker. This was the largest rainbow trout that I have caught this season, measuring 18 ¼ inches. Not bad for my first time fishing this location.

Vermont offers some truly exceptional fishing opportunities throughout the state with Otter Creek just being one of them. Get a copy of the rules and regulations, a Vermont fishing license and have a go at them.

DAN'S FISH 'N' TALES®



Flat Water Panfish

By Dan Galusha

The term “flat water” could be applied to ice fishing, but when the wind is calm the same term can be applied to a mirror like finish on the water’s surface. Fishing this type of water for panfish requires experimenting to find the right presentation, especially in clear water.

There are several different types of water surface conditions that range from the extremely calm (flat water) to the very rough (white caps). Other than for fly fishing, I have found the most productive to be a mild ripple that, when fishing with a float, will give the lure a slight up and down jigging motion, while drifting it over and past the desired fish holding area. This same mild ripple will act as a deflection of light and hide anything above the surface, such as the splash of the cast, and the float. However, all of this is gone when the water is at its calmest.

For this extremely calm water an angler must do all the work on presentation, and make as little of surface commotion as possible. An old trick that I learned many years ago from my grandfather is to use as small of float as possible as the main casting weight. With today’s rods, reels and line it makes it



Watch and listen...

**...download O'Neill's TV shows and
watch at your convenience **FREE!****

**Download
radio show
archives
too!**



O'Neill Outside Now

Visit: www.oneilloutside.com

shot.

The reason behind using the lighter weight terminal tackle is twofold. One, it has less splash on the initial entry on the surface, and two, the bait will have a slower fall to make it more natural, and help locate any fish that may be in the upper levels of the depth setting.

Rods, reels and line should also be selected for being able to make both long and short distance casts, while providing the line strength to pull free light wire hooks that get hung up in brush. For rods my selection is a 6' 8" or 7' River Runner, 7' Agility and 9' Berkley C-Series, with Pflueger Supreme model 8225 reels that are spooled with 15 lb. Gorilla Braid and 8-12 lb. Nanofil lines.

As for lures/baits, stay with your favorite small panfish varieties. Mine are any of Custom Jigs & Spins ice jigs, with Crappie Nibbles, Gulp Waxies or wax worms as trailers, and a small 1/32-ounce lead head with a 1" Gulp Alive Minnow threaded on as the body. I'll also use the small Panfish Road Runners on certain situations and retrieves, which will be mentioned later.

Best locations are submerged brush in or near deep water. In these locations the fish can be holding at any point – deep or shallow side, on top or in the middle. Normally, when the proper area is found most of the fish will be caught in that same type of spot. My two best locations, other than fishing



along deep water bluff shelves (that's another article in itself) have been above and on the deep side of the brush, which means snagging can be more of a problem, especially when fishing from shore.

To best illustrate the techniques to use, I am going to describe one of my favorite brush piles, and how I would fish it for bluegill and crappie. This is a pile in 9 to 12 feet of water, in the mouth of a lake arm, not far out from shore. The pile has a gradual slope to the deeper area, with the top coming to within approximately 3 to 4 feet of the surface. On one side there is the 9 to 12 feet of water, with the ends

and slope being at a depth of around 6 to 8 feet, and the shallow side – closest to shore - hitting around 4 to 5 feet.

I would start by setting my jig depth at 6 feet, and, if fishing from shore, would cast over the pile to the deep side. If the perfect surface chop were present, I would make the cast up wind so that it would drift past the outside of the pile. Now, as for “flat water” the cast would be made to the deep side, about 10 feet past, and to the left or right. After the “splash down” I would wait until the jig reached the full depth, watching the float all the time in case there was a pick up on the fall. Once the cast had settled

until most of the surface had gone back to calm, a retrieve paralleling the outside edge would be started in several different ways until the most productive is found. Depths may also be changed if hits all start to happen on the drop.

The first retrieve is a slow steady pull, without any jigging, but combined with pauses. Next try a slight hop of about 3 to 5 times, with pauses between. A pull-and-stop allows the jig to pull upward and then drop back down – especially effective if the fish are taking the bait on the drop. Both of these retrieves



are good when using a small Panfish Road Runner, which has a blade that flutters on the pull or fall.

If the fish are not taking any of these easier presentations start with something a little more aggressive, with a constant jigging all the way back. The “finger jigging” technique works here where you keep your reel turning while the line hits an extend index finger with every rotation. At this point you may want to combine pauses and the pull-and-stop technique with the more aggressive hop/jigging action.

Just keep experimenting with depth settings and retrieves until the right combination is found.

Remember that clear “flat water” is one of the most revealing on any mistake in a retrieve, movement, etc. So, try to keep things as calm and natural as possible, use longer casts, and not make a lot of movement whether fishing from shore or boat. Crappie, especially, are great “upward” lookers, and can see a lot on the surface.

If you have any questions about this or another fishing subject, drop me a line through the Dan’s Fish ‘N’ Tales® website at www.dansfishntales.com. You can also send a message through the Dan’s Fish ‘N’ Tales® Facebook page, where you are invited to “like” and “follow” it.

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



MAX
SERIES

Features

- IM7 Graphite
- Stainless Guides Designed to Protect Ceramic Insert
- Woven Graphite Inlay for Added Strength
- Winn Grip to Maximize Comfort and Grip
- Skeleton Reel Seats for Increased Sensitivity

\$119

LIMITED
THREE YEAR
WARRANTY

denali
rods

#denalifishing denalirods.com

TRY DIFFERENT THINGS FOR MORE FISH

By Bob Jensen



The author caught this eater walleye on a jig with a plastic tail. Plastics are catching more and more walleyes by more and more anglers.

About this time every year I start thinking about new or existing open water fishing techniques that I want to learn more about. One of the real keys to fishing success is being versatile. There are lots of ways to catch fish. Some techniques are kind of seasonal, others work better for bigger fish, and some are more productive when the fish are real finicky or real active. The long and short of it is, the anglers who usually catch the most big fish are versatile anglers. And, the anglers who catch the most fish are also usually versatile anglers. If you want to be more versatile, you need to learn more fishing techniques, or expand on the ones you're already comfortable with. Following are some fishing techniques that I would like to learn more about this open water fishing season.

We've been using plastic baits more and more in the past few years. When the walleyes or largemouth bass are on the weedline, it's hard to beat an Impulse Ringworm for the bass or an Impulse Paddle Shad for walleyes. Rig them on an eighth ounce jighead and start fishing. You're going to get bit.

However, in the past couple of years, we've been rigging our jigheads with other shapes of plastic with good success. For instance, the Impulse Dip-Stick worm was designed with Wacky Rigging in mind, and it's outstanding for that technique. But it also works really well on a jig head. The Jerk Minnow and Smelt Minnow were designed for jigs or worm hooks, but we've been using both on drop-shot rigs with very good results. Use a little or a lot of imagination with the baits you use and sometimes you'll come upon something that really does a good job.

We're also fishing plastics on spinner rigs for walleyes a lot more. Nightcrawlers on spinners have been the way to go for walleyes for years, but plastic crawlers are becoming a very good alternative to the live ones. One of the problems with live crawlers on spinner rigs in some waters is that small fish are constantly nipping at the crawler, and that ruins the crawler. The small fish nip at the plastic crawler also, but the plastic crawler is much more durable, so it's fishing more effectively for you.

We've been experimenting with planer boards a lot more. Boards offer so many advantages to an angler. They enable us to get more lines in the water more effectively, they get the bait out away from the boat which gets more bites from spooky fish, and they enable us to experiment with more baits: More lines in the water means more bait options. However, when we think boards, we think mostly walleyes and trout. But we've been using boards to increase our catches with crappies and perch

recently. We use boards for crappies and perch for the same reasons we use them for walleyes. Spooking is reduced and lure options are increased. Off Shore planer boards come in different sizes for different fish, they're easy to use, and they run better than any others that I've used. I'm planning on doing a lot more board experiments this year. Fishing is fun, and it's even more fun when you catch some. Become a more versatile angler and you'll catch more and bigger fish, and you'll enjoy your fishing even more.

To see all the newest episodes of the Fishing the Midwest television series, new fishing related tips, and fishing articles from the past, go to fishingthemidwest.com.





REMEMBERING CAP'N JOHN

By Bill Vanderford

The afternoon crowd that filtered daily through the maze of cars in the parking lot adjacent to Savannah's Riverfront never seemed to notice the shadowy figure perched on the far end of the concrete wall with sun-spotted hands clutching the butt-end of an antiquated fiberglass fishing rod. The stare of his clear blue eyes was continually glued to the heavy monofilament line that disappeared into the churning water below and he too appeared oblivious to the humanity around him.

For those who bothered to look, the fading light of day exposed the loan angler as an elderly man. An old straw hat covered the thin, white hair and protected an already weathered face from any further damage from the sun's rays. An even closer inspection revealed an ugly scar that began at his right ear, ran down his half-shaven lower jaw and neck until it disappeared below the threadbare collar of an old khaki shirt.

More than 80 years of ups and downs had taken an obvious toll on the old man, yet he always seemed content with his fishing. The few Savannah residents who ever noticed the aged angler or made his acquaintance referred to him almost reverently as Cap'n John. Nevertheless, his story is an interesting one.

John was born in 1922 to a poor immigrant family in New York City. Poverty was an accepted part of the neighborhood, and many youngsters of that time quit school to work, or left home at an early age to seek a better life away from the city. John, however, had a love of books and learning and read almost everything available to him from the school and public library. So, he remained in New York to help his family and acquire an education.

His infatuation with books led him to read many stories, including exciting tales of aerial combat in

World War I. He was fascinated by the exploits of American pilots like Eddie Rickenbacker and Germany's Manfred "Red Baron" von Richthofen. Despite being trapped in mountains of concrete, John dreamed of becoming a flyer.

When Hitler's "Blitzkrieg" viciously overran most of the weaker countries of Europe during the late 1930s and England cried out for help, John was among the first Americans to answer their call. He hitched a ride to Canada and joined a group of young Canadians and Americans who had volunteered their services to Britain's RAF.

Since he had the desire, but no prior flying experience, John was shipped off to England to be trained. Luckily his dreams of becoming a fighter pilot were fulfilled when he learned that he would be taught to fly the Hawker Hurricane. His youthful reflexes and uncanny feel for the heavy Hurricane were noted by his superior officers, and when the Germans launched a full-scale aerial attack at the British homeland on August 13, 1940, John's squadron was one of the first to respond.

The first week of the Battle of Britain was a learning experience for the young aviators assigned to the Coastal Command. They flew numerous sorties against the invading Germans, and though constantly outnumbered, their losses were few.

TAILORED FOR THE OUTDOOR WOMAN!



ADVENTURESS

HUNT. FISH. EXPLORE. LIVE.

~ FREE DIGITAL MAGAZINE ~
betheadventuress.com



"SHO



Aaron M.
Profession

War is cruel, however, and fate is not always kind to young heroes. During the second week of the air war over England, John's squadron scrambled to protect a small convoy of ships steaming toward Portland. The unarmed freighters were being dive bombed by 10 Stuka JU 87s, while some 20 BF 109s flew top cover for them. Despite the unsurmountable odds, the six Hurricane pilots knew what had to be done. They pushed their control sticks forward and dove into the Stukas with their guns blazing, knowing the 20 BF 109s overhead would instantly retaliate. Nevertheless, their efforts broke up the dive bombing, as several of the JU 87s went down in flames and the rest scattered. As John powered the control stick back toward his belly and kicked the left rudder pedal to the floor in an attempt to pull up into a climbing left turn to meet the diving Messerschmitts, his world exploded in a blast of light and pain as a 20 mm cannon projectile from one of the German fighters had found its mark. He instantly felt the rush of wind that poured in from where his canopy had been and experienced the salty taste and warm feel of his own blood for the first time. Consciousness was leaving him fast, and he knew he had to get out or die. So, he rolled the crippled aircraft onto its back, released the safety harness and plummeted toward the choppy English Channel. The last thing John remembered was pulling the handle that opened his parachute. His heroics, however, had not gone unobserved. The sailors on one of the ships had seen what he and his fellow flyers had done and quickly dispatched a small boat to pick up the unconscious pilot.

OCK 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*

artens
al Angler

SHOCK BLADE

World War II and flying were over for young John; but the wounds were not fatal. His bravery and that of many others like him had saved the tiny island nation, but his recuperation would require lengthy stays in numerous hospitals.

At his first recovery place, John met and fell in love with a beautiful nurse. She too was an American volunteer and could see far beyond the disfigured body of this hero. They were soon married, she became pregnant, and when the Americans entered the war at the end of 1941, they were sent back to the United States.

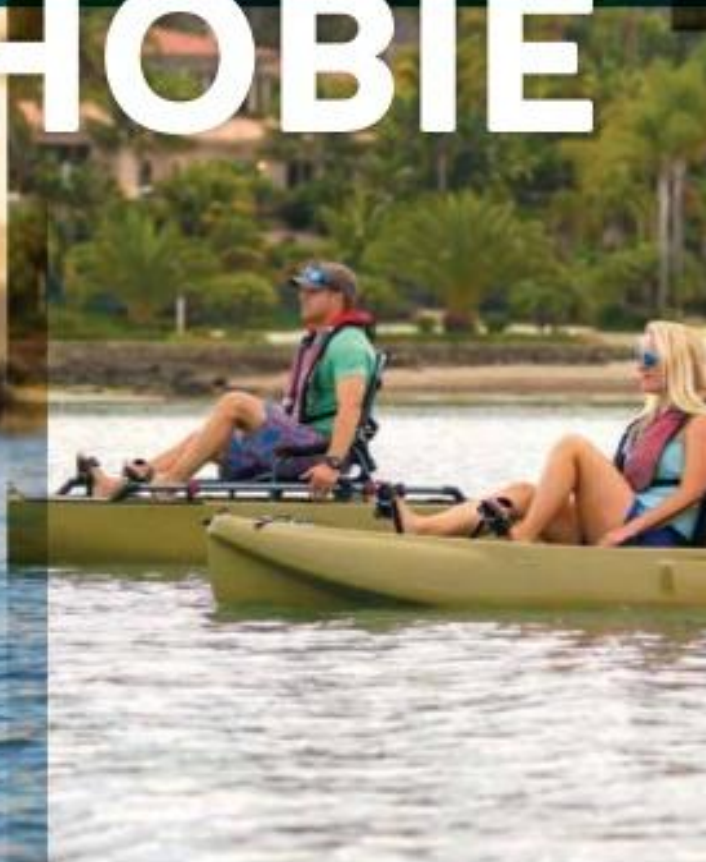
John continued his rehabilitation and his wife worked in a nearby army hospital until their son was born. The trio then moved to a farm in western Iowa to settle down, forget the war and grow corn.

The quiet country living agreed with John and his family. They spent hours enjoying the outdoors, which included numerous days of hunting and fishing and 20 years passed quickly. John's son inherited his love of flying and during his college days the boy entered the US Air Force ROTC program. Following graduation, he became a fighter pilot like his dad before him.

The Hobie logo is displayed in a stylized, cursive font within a blue diamond-shaped frame. The background of the top half of the advertisement is a photograph of a man in a white long-sleeved shirt and a tan cap, sitting in a blue Hobie kayak. He is holding a red fishing rod that is bent, indicating a catch. The kayak is on a body of water under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the distance, a small yellow boat is visible on the water.

Hobie

**YOU BELONG
ON A HOBIE**



War was raging in Vietnam, and soon the young son's squadron was sent to Southeast Asia. Like his father, the young combat pilot had a sense of duty that blotted out any fear of death. Therefore, when he was called in to make a low level attack on a group of North Vietnamese regulars who had some American Marines pinned down and surrounded, he didn't question the order. He came in on the deck and blasted an escape route with rockets and bombs for the trapped foot soldiers. But, as he started to pull the big jet skyward, a blast of gunfire hit something vital and the 105 disintegrated into burning pieces.

John's life was shattered by the death of his son and he began to drink heavily. In an attempt to comfort him, his wife would often accompany him to the local watering holes on many of his outings with the bottle.

While returning from one of those binges on a moonless night, John's car left the highway. It crashed into a big oak tree, leaving him with a broken arm and leg, but worst of all his wife died from injuries caused by the impact.


For more than a year, John sat alone in the darkened farmhouse. He ate or drink very little, accepted no visitors and spent his time crying and remembering.

The fields where corn had grown in such abundance became walls of weeds. The farming utensils began to rust, but he made no effort to save them. Then, one spring day after the last snow had melted, John sold the farm, withdrew his life savings from the local bank and rode the big Greyhound bus as far as Savannah, Georgia.

Quietly, Cap'n John spent the rest of his days fishing the bridges and docks in the Savannah area. During the season he would catch blue

crabs or throw a cast net for shrimp and mullet. Though he rarely spoke to anyone, the bitterness was gone, replaced by serenity and peace of mind seldom seen in people today. Cap'n John is gone, even though few know or care. But, to those of us who were lucky enough to share time with him, he is sorely missed!

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 jfish51@aol.com or at his web site: www.georgiafishing.com.



**Does this lure make
my Bass look fat?**

RAPALA

See the big, fat truth at rapala.com/how2TV

THE ONE-TWO PUNCH FOR AUGUST WALLEYES

By The Team At
The NEXTBITE

www.thenextbite.tv

Walleyes in August aren't always eager to bite, but if you hit them with a one-two punch, chances are you will find success!

During this time of year on many bodies of water, the walleyes are relating to structure. This includes both sunken islands and deeper drop-offs.

The first punch that you think of throwing is the trolling crankbaits punch; targeting fish that are relating to, and suspended near these types of structure. Quite often by trolling along the edge, just above rocks, or to the outside, just over the mud basins you will be able to trigger a bite. It is important to keep your baits a few feet off of the structure part of the bottom and follow the edges of the deep rock lines if possible. This isn't a time to troll around all willy-nilly.... Boat control and accuracy is the key!





When trolling smaller lakes with smaller walleyes, we will use Berkley Flicker Shads and Flicker Minnows usually in sizes 5 through 7. You'll be able to more accurately target proper depths with the "The Precision Trolling App" as this simple to use phone app will tell you how much line to let out to get the lure to the desired depth.

If you need to get the lure deeper than what the natural dive curve of the bait will allow, use Off Shore Tackle weights to get it where it needs to be. Also use Off Shore boards to target the suspended fish that lie suspended just to the outside of the structure edge.

If your favorite lake has larger walleyes, like many of the Great Lakes, or for instance, a Lake of the Woods, you should use larger baits. A #9 Flicker Shad is lure that you can use on occasion, but the #9 and #11 Flicker Minnows should be your bread and butter!

When it comes to speed, go as fast as you can, but still consistently catch fish. The faster you can troll means the more water you'll cover throughout the course of the day. If the water temperature is hovering around 70 degrees, try trolling from 2.0 to 2.2 mph. If it is below 70 degrees, slow it down to 1.4 to 1.8 mph. Once it gets above 70, experiment with speeds up to 2.5 mph.

There are a couple of things that really aid catching walleyes during this type of bite. The first is having really good mapping, so you can see where the rock bars and long points are. With Navionics SonarChart Live you can actually update your maps (if you're using a Lowrance HDS Gen 3 or Carbon unit)...in real time! This is an awesome feature, allowing you to map out detail on a piece of structure that you otherwise would not be able to see!

Trolling the edge of structure is where the Lowrance Sonar StructureScan features, with SideScan, really gets a workout. You'll be able to view structure, game fish, and baitfish off to the side of the boat. When fishing this type of bite use your SideScan to look for the distinct rock to mud or sand edge. Between the mapping and sonar, along with good boat control you'll always be able to stay on the edge. There are many times that August fish will stay tight to rocks or drop-offs and this is where your second "punch" comes in. Up until a few years ago, it was thought that the only way to catch walleyes on this

deep rock slope and edge was to troll right over their heads. If the fish were active, they would come up to hit the bait. Now when you see fish relating tight to bottom you should go for the reactionary bite by tossing a Moonshine Shiver Minnow at them. This is a really cool way to fish!

When targeting large walleyes, you'll want to use a size #3 Shiver Minnow, but before you head out fishing, replace the small "ice" treble on the belly of the lure with a Mustad #6 KVD Elite Triple Grip Treble (model TG58BN). This hook gives the bait a bigger "bite" for better hooking and the inward bend of the hook helps keep fish on. For lakes that have smaller walleyes use the size #1 and #2. You will not have to change those hooks as they work well right out of the box.

The line to use on your spinning gear for this presentation is the bright colored 10-12lb. test Berkley Nanofil in Hi-Vis Chartreuse. This will help you to see when the bait makes contact with the bottom. Since this is a no-stretch line, it is sensitive enough to feel everything the lure comes in contact with. Nanofil is also a thin diameter line, so it there isn't a lot of loop in the line when fishing in the wind. This line also provides for great long distance hook-sets and is strong enough to fight fish that hit hard!



To help cut down on visibility of the line to the fish, reduce lure tangles, and to add some protection from abrasions when running across zebra mussels and rocks, use a 3-foot leader from the main line to the lure of 10lb. test Berkley Trilene 100% Fluorocarbon.

Look for your fish first! This is done by driving around structure elements on the lake while graphing for fish with your sonar units. With Lowrance units, when you mark a fish, or preferably a small group

of them, you can scroll back on the sonar and place a waypoint directly on the marked fish. You can now position your boat to cast to those fish using the waypoint as a reference.

When fishing in rough conditions move upwind and anchor, or in calm conditions move to the side and cast to your “located” fish. A highly accurate trolling motor, like the MotorGuide Xi5, plays an important role in this type of fishing. Once positioned, put the motor in “Anchor Mode” to hold the boat in place. If you want to move a few feet in any direction use the “jog” feature to put you where you want to be.

TRACKER boats

Don't call it a boat, because it's so much more than that. It's a fishing machine. It's immediate access. It's an adventure. It's more time on the lake, canal, river or estuary. It's a state of the art tool. It's a sword and shield. It's a beauty queen with bite. It's a rusty steed. It's a key character in every fish tale. It's quick like a gazelle and stealthy like a cheetah. It's won championships, beer and rounds of drinks. It's a fighter that never gets knocked down. It's ready for any assignment.

BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY...



IT'S MORE THAN A BOAT. IT'S A TRACKER.



Your rod cadence is extremely important. Start by sweeping the rod up about three feet; almost to the point of snapping it up. Doing this makes the lure dart to the side.

Follow this by immediately dropping the rod tip to give it slack and let the bait glide as you reel in the slack line. The instant the lure hits bottom, repeat this cadence. Most bites will come on the drop while there is slack in the line. Be sure if you feel weight on the line as you go to make the next pull to set the hook hard to bring in your Next Bite!

THEOPHILE BOURGEOIS

By O'Neill Williams



Every once in a while, say yearly at least, save your pennies and grab a destination, a new fishing hole, new tactics, meals, experiences. It's an idea whose time has come. Get my point?

Well here's one, one where the fishing's great and perfect to enjoy with your sons, daughters and even dads

and moms. Read on. You'll get idea. This is a good choice for your search.

Cajun Vista Lodge in Barataria, Louisiana. Owned and operated by one of the most pleasant, hardworking fellows I've ever met, Theophile Bourgeois. Well, actually his name is Theophiles Jean Anton Bourgeois III. Cool huh? Instead of reading on, you can check him and his facility out by visiting www.neworleansfishing.com or www.cajunvistalodge.com and those two websites will fill you in completely. However, since you're already into 10% or so of my feeble attempt at communication, stick around a bit. I don't get paid for this and only do it because it makes me feel important, so do me a favor and read it. If you stop now, you'll hurt my feelings and I'm sensitive.

Barataria Bay is an hour south of New Orleans and, if so inclined, you can stop there for a stroll down Bourbon Street, but since this is a fishing column, we'll have to handle that subject later.

So, what's at Cajun Vista Lodge? Let's describe it this way; once you part the truck, you'll hang there for a few days and not drive another inch. Three grand meals of ultra-fresh seafood smothered with Cajun seasoning with Gumbo and



smoked sausage on the side enjoyed daily, prepared and served by loving hands, boats manned with Coonass guides completely at home with the locations of myriads of schooling speckled trout and redfish and finally comfortable, spacious private bedrooms and baths. Don't stay too long. You'll get completely spoiled. And why not, you only do this once a year or so. The only downside to the whole visit is that you'll have listen to that whiney Cajun music. It'll get old fast. Toefiel will change the station but it won't help, it's on every channel.

Cajun Vista Lodge can accommodate 60 fishermen comfortably. In a hurry to go? I am and will be there in September of '17 with a group of 30 or more. Make your plans now for the Fall.

Back to the important part.....the fishing.

Ok, here goes. Barataria Bay is inside what it called 'the marsh', otherwise known at the Atchafalaya Basin, a 30-mile wide, 90-mile long stretch of rich fertile water full of grass, lily pads, canals, all 4 feet deep with millions of Speckled Trout and Redfish. The 'marsh' is the direction and route that the Mississippi wants to flow but the river has been managed by some very smart people to go to New Orleans via giant berms. It's all about economics and I understand that. We can't let New Orleans dry up, after all, remember Mardi Gras? As an illustration of the amount of catchable trout, the legal limit is 25 per day per person and, by lunch time, daily, the boat, with three to five fishermen, will have a limit. 75 to 125 trout. Really! Why so great? For the last few centuries, the Mississippi River has been dumping fertile water into the 'marsh' from the Midwest and the fish population enjoys it. It's a giant 'nursery/hatchery' for game critters.





How about the Reds? Wow! Put on a Road Runner with a plastic trailer or a shrimp tipped jig under a popping cork, cast to a cut or creek branch filtering from a grass line and hang on. You'll will have another limit before lunchtime, then go back out. The Reds are big, healthy, strong, hungry, brightly colored and living there by the millions ready break your light leader, bend your rod and make you smile heartily. If it helps with the struggle, know that you'll probably be eating the rascal red that night after he's spent a few minutes on the Big Green Egg and he's served to you with Cajun Rice and hot sauce and, if you've been nice and so inclined, a cold beer.

I'm including a few photos to whet your appetite for such a trip. It's only about seven pleasantly driven hours from the Atlanta area and totally worth the expense and effort. The downside is that you will be totally spoiled and desirous to returning monthly which, I might add, you can do because the season is 12-months long. If you like, and haven't already made plans, be in touch with me, O'Neill, via my Facebook page ([oneilloutside](#)) or website or call directly to Cajun Vista and speak to Josie and come along with us. It's a group of guys from here and there that I call the "Deeply Disturbed Fishermen". The dates are September 21 – 24, 2017. Travis and I will be there to exchange stories about each day's adventure.



Walleye Is A Walleye

By Brian
"Bro" Brosdahl

A walleye is a walleye, no matter where you find them in the U.S. or Canada. How the walleyes react to their environment can vary greatly between lakes. Walleyes have split personalities and can adapt to many different situations.

Walleye anglers have to learn to pattern walleyes based on the predator-prey relationship. Once they find the walleyes, they have to use presentations that fit the situation to be able to catch walleyes consistently.

Most innovations in walleye fishing have come from tournament anglers and guides, who make their living

catching walleyes.

Tournament anglers need to find the big walleyes and also the largest slot fish and be able to catch them in order to make money and get sponsors. Guides need to produce fish for their clients on a daily basis in all types of weather, so they can make their customers happy and keep their calendars filled.

The predator/prey relationship is the key to walleye location in almost every situation except spawning. Walleyes are constantly searching for the best feeding opportunities, so their location changes constantly during the summer.

Walleyes need to stay close to an abundant food source at all times. Walleyes schooling nature and their superior eyesight are walleyes biggest advantages over their prey and allow walleyes to thrive in many different environments.



Each lake has their own unique set of circumstances, with a forage base that usually provide walleyes with several different feeding opportunities.

Most fish, including walleyes spawn in the spring. Whitefish, tulibeets, char, salmon and some trout species are the notable fall spawning exceptions.

Walleyes spawn early, so by the time they are done spawning, there are many baitfish species like shiners that are just moving into the shallows to spawn. This gives walleyes their first post spawn feeding opportunity in most lakes.

Spottail and emerald shiners are the key forage for post spawn walleyes in many lakes, while yellow perch, smelt, herring or some other type of baitfish may be the key forage for walleyes in other lakes.



GEAR UP FOR STEELHEAD

SPIN-N-GLO®

The Spin-N-Glo is responsible for more steelhead caught than any other drift lure around. The wings of the Spin-N-Glo turn in the slightest of currents and that motion, added with color and floatation make it perfect for drifting, plunking, or backtrolling for steelhead.

Available in several steelhead sizes, and nearly 100 colors, the Spin-N-Glo can be fished alone or with bait and is favorite addition to most any diver and bait rig.

LIL' CORKY® EGG IMITATION

For decades drift fishermen have known the value of adding a Lil' Corky to their rig. Fished alone as an egg imitation or when added to bait, the "Corky" helps float bait just off the bottom where steelhead can grab it. With over 100 different colors and six sizes, there is a Lil' Corky for every water condition.

MAG LIP® 3.0 & 3.5

The Mag Lip high action trolling plug has quickly become a favorite of steelhead anglers. The Mag Lip 3.0 dives up to 10 feet and the 3.5 will dive up to 14 feet. Combine a large assortment of proven color combinations with the erratic, "skip beat" action that comes in every Mag Lip, it is no wonder guides and serious anglers are turning to Mag Lip for steelhead...summer and winter.

"COWGIRL"


YAKIMA BAIT.
yakimabait.com

facebook

have an effect on walleye location. Walleyes may have to compete for habitat with species like northern pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass, muskies, catfish and even trout and salmon.

Each gamefish species stakes out their claim to different feeding areas in the lakes. Fish often share feeding areas with other species, especially on lakes where suitable habitat and forage options are limited.

Cabbage weed beds are a good example of an area that can be used by multiple species. Walleyes, northern pike, muskies and bass may all use different parts of the weed bed or they may use the same areas at different times of the day.

Hypothetically speaking, the bass could use the inside edge of the weeds, the pike could use the ambush points on the flats or inside turns, while muskies usually come and go where they please. This leaves walleyes the deep weed edge and the points, with walleyes also capable of turning into night feeders and using the same areas at night.

Walleyes in inland lakes relate to the bottom most of the time, at least during the day. Walleyes like hard bottomed areas and will feed on yellow perch, shiners and other minnows along with crayfish and insects, depending on where the best feeding opportunities are located at the time.

Walleyes living in the Great Lakes usually feed their way out of the rivers after they spawn and feed their way into the basin of the lake. They usually follow the schools of pelagic baitfish wherever they go during the summer.

The next best feeding opportunity after the baitfish are done spawning on shoreline structure are the insect hatches in the mud basin. This gives walleyes a dependable food source as they leave the shoreline structure and disperse into the lake.

After the insect hatches are done, summer pattern walleyes will be more spread out than any other time of the year, using both shoreline and mid-lake structures in the lakes.

The most abundant forage in the preferred size range for walleyes will attract the most fish. Walleyes are constantly searching for the best feeding opportunities, so the best area for eating size walleyes may be different than the best areas for larger walleyes.

Most of the forage in the Great Lakes is suspended over the basin during the summer. Anglers use planer boards because of the clear water and to spread out multiple lines. Most anglers troll either crankbaits or spinner rigs with nightcrawlers.

Using live bait for walleyes is a much bigger deal in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota & Canada. Most walleye anglers on the inland lakes use presentations like jigs and minnows, live bait rigs with large minnows or leeches or bottom bouncers and spinners with nightcrawlers for walleyes. Nightcrawlers are the most widely used live bait for walleyes in the country. They can legally be transported, they are easy to keep, inexpensive to buy and can be found almost anywhere walleyes are located. Other live baits for walleyes include leeches, shiners and premium minnows like redbelly chubs and creek chubs are only available in a few locations.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

I am a big fan of using jigs for walleyes whenever possible. I will use jigs and minnows, jigs and plastics, jigs and nightcrawlers or jigs and leeches in different situations. I will also jig with Northland Puppet Minnows when walleyes are located in deeper water.

Having the perfect rod for fishing jigs is absolutely critical to getting the right action on the jigs and having the proper power to set the hook. I love the St. Croix Legend Extreme medium action rod for jigs from to a ½ ounce and I use the exact same rod in the Legend Elite Series for Puppet Minnows.

Locating the weed beds and rock piles and seeing the schools of baitfish and walleyes has never been easier than it is now with Humminbird Helix G2 N with Mega Side Imaging. Anglers should strongly consider hiring a good guide to help them learn how to read their electronics and get dialed into what the walleyes are doing during their vacation. It is money well spent!

Good Luck Fishing Anglers,

Please follow my fishing adventures on instagram, Twitter, Facebook
www.brosguideservice.com, Brian "Bro" Brosdahl



The 14.10 Big Bass

By Professor Gary Lee

The park opened in late 1986 in the outskirts of Damon ,Texas about fifty miles south of Houston ,Texas. It was originally four Duck Ponds feeding from the Brazos River that turned out to be some good size little Texas lakes.

Mr. Hale who owned them sold the lakes and surrounding land to the state and the state sat on the property for twenty years developing the property to be the park it is today.

Horse Shoe Lake, Little Horse Shoe ,Elm Lake and Forty Acre Lake were their names and this story takes place in 1987 and at Forty Acre Lake.

First of all as a Bassaholic, totally addicted to chasing and finding big Bass Brazos Bend State was a honey hole, twenty years the fish have been growing and growing and there was manmade shelves and levees and cars sun , ditches dug out though channels , drop offs , deep holes in the middle of parts of the lakes. How did I learn all this?



The Game Warden son was taking Karate and we started talking and then he introduced me to the Park Manager, took him to dinner and the questions I asked told me that this was Heavens Hole and nobody had fished it hard yet .

It was full of brush, logs, sticks and Hydrilla that covered a lot of the area, however the most dangerous bass fishing was done in those lakes because they were full of alligators, big alligators! They were naturally Natures Beast, very scary and the first time I had to deal with a predator while fishing. Everything was bank fishing because the Gators were so big and the park had not learned to control them yet. They were everywhere.



One evening at dusk I was pitching my last jig of the day and I went to the pier at Forty Acre Lake where I had caught five and six pounders all day, dazed off and fell asleep. I was out for a while! It was dark and was suddenly woke up with a grunting and snarling sound coming from the front of pier.

I got my halogen super flashlight and looked down and there was a fifteen foot alligator trying to eat my Yellow Bait Can Bucket. I then shined the flashlight in front of me at the pier across the lake of Forty Acre and there were hundreds of red eyes in the water. It was a nightmare for I am sure they were eyeing dinner on the pier. I was lucky I woke up!

Well now you know the atmosphere at the Honey Hole, untouched by the weekend fisherman or beginner. However lots of visitors, lots of noise, campers, bicycles, dogs, lots of noise, not good for the type of stealth bass fishing that I wanted to do and the pitching & flipping in heavy brush techniques that I know would find the big bass; that no one realized were there.

I would fish early morning before all the campers would get up and visitors would invade the park. It was hog heaven pretty consistently and then a few weeks before the BIG ONE hit I found a interesting spot on the topographical maps of the lake I had got from the Park Manager , it was on the other side of Forty Acre called and named "Bass Alley", After witnesses saw me catch and release over fifty bass in a early morning visit, I to the other side of the lake to investigate. It was quite a hike though the woods, however you do what you do to search, find and catch those huge ones that know body ever sees but just talks about how it got away. Not this lunger destroyer, not this break your arm setting the hook animal, not this Bassaholic!

When I finally arrived, it was a stretch of water that had three separate land levees with a three foot

***CRAPPIE* NOW!** DIGITAL MAGAZINE

Free Digital Magazine



Award Winning Writers



Active Social Media

Read Free NOW!

www.crappienow.com

wide ditch leading to the main lake and brush was everywhere and I counted twelve gators within striking range.

I was mainly fishing three Kistler rods with Shimano Bait casting reels with fourteen and seventeen pound test line for flipping the purple glitter culprit worm and Louisianan white buzz bait made for me by a old coon ass friend of mine from the swamps in Morgon City, Louisiana, Finally, twenty pound for flipping the Stanley half ounce Black and Blue Jig with a No.11 Black /Blue Pork Frog as a trailer dipped in Sparkle Scales Fish Formula.

I realized looking at the secret weapon I had , the map, that the land levees were the dirt years ago they had dug out to make this part of the lake deep. Over forty feet in some places I found on the map , this is where they sunk some cars and laid structure. The state had a plan I guess after all. I knew and felt these bass have been growing and brewing spawning each year in this cove and this was right time of year I may have the opportunity to land Muay Grande. I'm thinking and dreaming.

It was incredible, big Fish after big fish ranging from five to eight pounds and nobody was around. It was a bass fishing dream come true.

These fish had never seen artificial baits and it was magic. I could not wait to just go after that one ,,,BIG ONE.

Then something happen that changed everything.



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

They would closed the park for a month for the Deer Hunters to hunt on the parks State property with permits, that was cool, however all I could think about for one solid month was, no activity, no campers, no noise and, back to being back in the woods of Texas.

I wanted to be the first at the park when they opened and I know where I am hiking to, that exact spot, exact bait and I could not wait.

The deer hunt is over and I booked a campsite the first day back, as I was going down the man made bike trail, I knew I had the edge of being the first person chasing bass after a month of pure quietness. Boy was I wrong, in the distance I saw him coming, he was riding a bike and he had a stringer of bass, big bass over his shoulder as he went by he smiled.

I counted five fish and they were five or six pounds each ,easily.

I had someone outsmart me, however I did not see that BIG ONE on his shoulder

Now first of all a bike could not go where I was going and I knew that the big was there. I could feel it hard core as I walked in the woods Texas bass fishing style.

When I arrived finally, the corner of my eye caught the swirl of her tail underneath the hanging tree



Fishing Boat



Fish Catching Boat

branch, dragon flies were falling from the trees, fish were feeding and then I saw her, a huge female Texas Bass.

She was BIG, real BIG. I picked up the flipping rig /Jig with the twenty pound test and flipped over the water on the other side of bank where I saw the swirl, first. Very slow and naturally I pulled it in the water off the bank and she engulfed the Jig. The first action of the day it was just barley daylight, thank goodness no gators, none I could see anyway.

She was the biggest bite I have ever felt, big and strong. I did not want to lose this fish, everything was against me the wood, logs, the gators, the brush, however if I set the hook solid she is not going anywhere.

It took about twenty minutes to land and I called the office, talked with the park Ranger and told him where I was at and he came, measured and weighed the fish at 14.10 pounds. A lunker for sure and a record that lasted about two weeks.

The funny ending to the story is a couple of weeks after I had the big fish adventure the ten and 14.10 bass I caught appeared in an article in the Houston Post. The article said 'Brazos Bend had been shocked to see the size and quality of fish in the different lakes and they were a variety of fish, bream, sunfish, catfish, Gar, Greenlin Florida Strain Black Bass and Texas Bass. However nothing was shocked up over six pounds. WHAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I went out and talked with some workers and showed them the Houston Post article. They said "It was the best decision Gary. This place is packed anyway, every day, every week, every weekend. If it got out about the big bass that are here, those huge catfish in Elm Lake and what about the 240 pound gar that was landed in Horseshoe Lake it would be a different story. People don't respect nature. Nature will kick your butt, heck we have reports of three missing dogs last month.

We have to go out in the pontoon boat at Forty Acre Lake and scare the gators with beating the water and loud noises so they will keep away from the tourists who just don't understand if a gator is mating, having babies or protecting her nest she is VERY AGGRESSIVE!

We don't want people to find out the hard way,,,Our secret "

It was easy letting her go back to the nature of life. Thanks to Blair the onsite Ranger who came out to measure and record the fish. When word got out this park was flooded with pros and amateurs all chasing the dream, my honey hole was gone and every now and then I drive out there. I go out and watch people fish and wonder if they see any alligators or catching fish

Professor Gary Lee, 1987 Texas B.A.S.S Federation Champion and the "The Dock Buster". Sponsored by Denver Marine, Ranger Boats, Rage Tail, Worden Lures, Kistler Rods, Vortex, Fish Formula and Yamagata Hooks from Japan.



WORKING THE RAP

By Dan Galusha,
DAN'S FISH 'N' TALES

Any time of the year can be a good time for fishing rip rap. These chunky rock areas can heat up quicker in cooler months, and provide some cool ambush areas during the warmer times. They are normally near deeper "sanctuary" water areas, which give fish quick in and out feeding access.

Anglers have a tendency to fish these areas too quickly. It is important to work "the rap" slowly, and with different techniques and lures. This is especially true if the day's pattern is uncertain, or changing because of water or weather conditions.

Most lures will work for

these areas, but generally my selection contains crankbaits, jig combinations, plastic worms (Natural Forage Baits Mad Craw and Ribbon Tail), tubes and grubs. The three favorites of these are Norman diving or Rat-L-Trap crankbaits, Mad Craw worms and 7" Ribbon Tail worms.

To help illustrate how rip rap may be fished, here is a general look at my approach.

First, try paralleling the shore with crankbaits. This is done by positioning the boat so that the shallower water is worked first, and then going on out to deeper water. Try different depths of crankbaits so that the bottom hugging fish can be reached at whatever level, while not forgetting those that could be



suspended. For the suspended fish, or when fish are seen feeding on schools of baitfish, try a Rat-L-Trap, which is an excellent “search bait” to find fish quickly.

Once the fish are located it is time to go to the slower presentations for soft plastics and jigs. Fish the slower lures from shallow to deep, and parallel, being sure to work any possible bottom structure a little longer. Pumping, bottom bumping retrieves, and crawling the bottom, by dragging the line a foot or two between slight pauses, work very well.

It is important to work any brush, stumps, humps, or other unusual feature to the rip rap shore, a little longer than other areas. This includes at the ends of the rip rap where the type of shore changes. All of these are generally the areas where fish hold best. The sides and front of a spillway on a rip rap covered dam is another potential fish holder. There are some spillway areas that are set out from the shore, and in this case fish will sometimes hold between the overflow feature, and shore.

Rip rap holds all types of prey, but the two main types are bait fish and crayfish. The later is the most popular, and because of this the lures used to simulate these baits are normally the best producers.

Here are some of my favorite colors for the different lures: diving crankbaits – firetiger, bone/orange and crawdad; lipless crankbaits – Sexy West, Diamond Shad and Apricot; jig combinations - black/blue and pumpkinseed; and all soft plastics - black, black neon, June Bug, pumpkin pepper, green pumpkin,





crawdad and watermelon pepper. There are occasions when a Casey's Road Runner Head with Natural Forage Baits Swim Bait, white/chartreuse Stanley spinnerbait or white Blitz Spyder jig with a Power Minnow or Natural Forage Baits Lil Killer trailer, will be used for swimming above the rocky area. This is usually when the bass are hitting baitfish.

If the wind is blowing into the rip rap, this is generally a very good time to fish from shallow to deep, as the wind is stirring up food to wash down to the waiting fish. If the wind is blowing parallel to the shore, position the boat facing the wind, and make casts at an angle - fishing the area as if it were water current with the fish having their noses pointed into the current, or in this case the wind current.

Other things to observe are if any pieces of crayfish are being washed up to the edge, or there is feeding action where baitfish are being chased. Birds feeding along shore will many times be the giveaway as to if there are pieces of crayfish, as well as if there are dead baitfish.

Whenever fishing a lake that has a rip rap shore, especially near deep water, as earlier mentioned, don't pass it up. Be sure to "work the rap".

If you have any questions about this subject, or other fishing matters, get in touch through the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® website at www.dansfishntales.com or the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dansfishntales.

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

HOW TO GET KIDS INTO FROGGIN'

By: Glenn Walker



Targeting bass that are buried underneath matted vegetation with a topwater frog could possibly be one of the most exciting and adrenaline filled ways to target and catch bass. So if we as adult anglers love it, why not get the young anglers involved on the action!

Some helpful tips to get young anglers into fishing topwater frogs, all revolve around keeping it fun, explaining to them what is happening and having the proper gear.

1. Use the Right Gear – You want to give the young angler every opportunity for success and not set them up failure. This means setting them up with the right gear from the beginning. This means using a high quality topwater frog, like the Snag Proof Bobby's Perfect or for anglers using lighter casting gear, a ¼ oz Tournament Frog. Spooling up the reel they are using with braided line is imperative as this will aid in increased hook up's and not losing bass once they are hooked. If the young angler can use baitcasting gear, great, but if they are using spinning gear that is fine. Just use at least a 6'10" spinning rod in a MH action that has some power to it still.
2. Setting the Hook – Even seasoned bass anglers have trouble setting the hook at the right time when fishing a hollow bodied topwater frog, so educating young anglers on this will take some time and PAITENCE...yes I put that in caps for a reason. This is the time when most frustrations will occur and if you get frustrated or upset that the bass didn't get hooked up, and then the young angler will as well. I still feel that the age old saying of counting to two or three before setting the hook is a good practice to begin with when going over this process. But if the young angler quickly grasps this and is more in

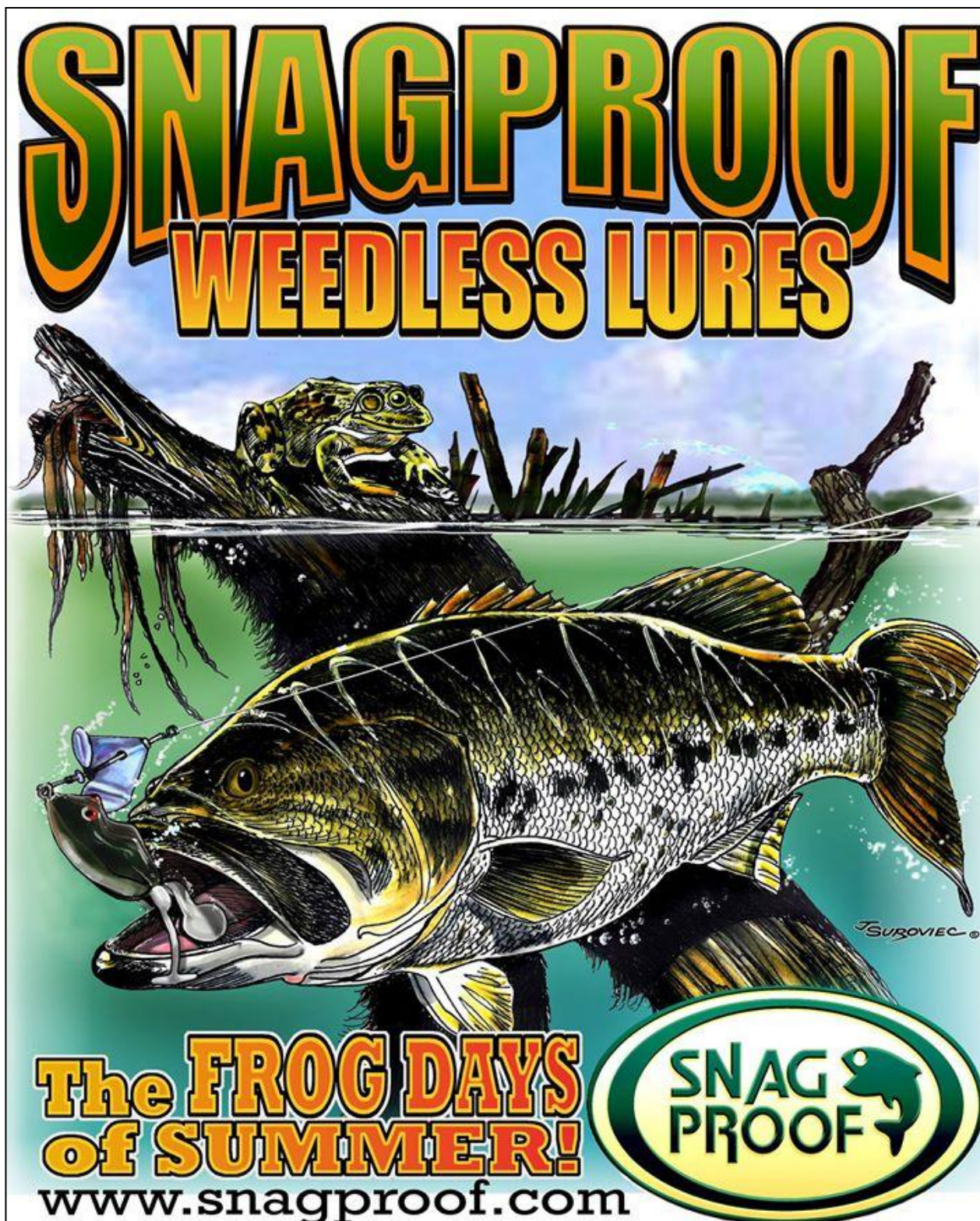
tuned to detecting when the bass actually has the frog in their mouth, then this is when you should be telling them to set the hook.

3. Fighting the Fish – By the time you get to this point, hopefully with the right gear and a solid hook set, the bass is hooked well and on its way to the boat. It is important to instruct the young angler to keep constant pressure on the rod by reeling up the slack in the line and keeping the rod tip up. This will keep the bass from burying in the vegetation and getting off. Again here, if the bass does come off, or buries itself in the vegetation, don't over emphasize the bass came off, but use it as a teaching moment with the angler on how they can prevent that lost fish from occurring again.

As you begin to teach the ways of froggin' to a young angler, remember to provide encouragement and well-timed advice. Also let them know and see when you make a mistake on the hookset or a bass comes off, as the technique of fishing topwater frogs for bass, is one commonly filled with errors and lost fish.

Good luck on the water and spread that frog fishin' knowledge around!

Glenn has been fishing tournaments for over ten years, spreading his passion and knowledge of the sport via articles and videos. For more information check out glennwalkerfishing.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/glennwalkerfishing.



SNAGPROOF WEEDLESS LURES

The FROG DAYS
of SUMMER!

www.snagproof.com

TSUROVIEC ©

SNAG PROOF

The Battle We Sometimes Have With Crank Baits



By Capt. Mike Gerry

The more you fish crank baits the more apt you are to get frustrated over the fact that many people believe they just loose to many fish. We have all experienced the downside of fishing crankbaits, the line breaks, or the fish comes unhooked by throwing the bait when a head shake occurs. The problem is you are probably making some mistakes with your crank bait.

There are ways to prevent many of the frustrating losses from crank baits it just takes a little planning and some good technique to make sure your fish are staying hooked up. One of the most important things is not to try and over power the fish; it's just not good technique to show your strength over the fish and power drive it back to the boat. Take your time let your drag do its thing and tire the fish down by working it back to the boat not powering it back. Drag settings however are a little controversial and not all of us believe the same thing when it comes to tightening down your drag; I believe you need the drag tight enough to get the bait tightly engaged in the fish's mouth. Meanings don't over tighten it yet make it tight enough to engage the hooks. Many crank bait fishermen tighten the drag as far as it will go and release the pressure with their thumb to me this gives you very little room for error so I prefer to use the drag on the reel as your friend.

It's also a common mistake to make a hook set like your fishing a worm; driving the bait upward is a big mistake. Crank baits are commonly smooth on top and there are no hooks on top of the bait so if you make a worm driving hook set up into the bass mouth when you get a bite you are pulling the smooth part of the bait against the upper part of the fishes mouth and forcing the bait to disengage from the fish. All you need is to pull the rod parallel to the water in a sweeping move engaging the hooks into the soft tissue of the bass's mouth allowing you to get enough power from the sweeping move of the rod and the bait will hook up just fine.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

Lastly keep your rod tip down while fighting the fish it keeps the bass from jumping in most cases and keeps you in contact with the fish.

Fish Lake Gunter'sville Guide Service
www.fishlakegunter'svilleguideservice.com
www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville
Email: bassguide@comcast.net
Call: 256 759 2270



GUIDE PERSPECTIVES ON NATURAL LAKE WALLEYES



By Jason
Mitchell Outdoors

Early season walleye patterns on many of northern Minnesota's most renown walleye fisheries often occur in less than twelve feet of water. While classic deep structure patterns will quickly emerge as the summer progresses, many anglers miss opportunities by looking too deep during early summer.

Crestliner Boats Pro and guide Scott Seibert has spent a lot of time on these fisheries, particularly Lake Winnibigoshish and Leech Lake. These destination fisheries hold tremendous walleye populations and attract legions of anglers from across the Midwest each season. Besides sharing a common popularity, what these fisheries also have in common are shallow weed line bites that often occur in less than ten feet of water.

The shiner spawn is a major trigger that creates shallow walleye bites on many natural lakes in northern Minnesota. Compared to many other fish species, shiners spawn well into the season and the shiner spawn often coincides with blooming lilacs. Shallow sand or fine gravel is often preferred but where there is sand on many natural lakes, there is also weed growth. On some bodies of water, pencil reeds, cabbage or some other weed can be found in close proximity to where shiners spawn. When shiners move in to spawn, the walleyes are right behind. Besides shiners, small yellow perch are also common and available in these shallow locations that have some weed growth.

Many of these fisheries offer extremely good water visibility. This relatively clear water can create challenges for anglers. Wind can trigger aggressive fish to move up into shallow water and feed aggressively where a lack of wind can shut down some of these shallow bites. "Fishing the wind is crucial on most of these northern Minnesota Lakes like Winnie and Leech," explains Seibert. "Be flexible and follow the wind. If the wind lays down, be prepared to slide out over the next break. Typically, when fish slide out past twelve feet, you will be able to pick them up on your electronics. Besides slick flat conditions, cold fronts and major weather systems can also push fish slightly deeper, but as a rule of thumb, you can expect some very aggressive fish up in less than ten feet of water during stable weather when there is wind."

When the wind blows and the stars align for aggressive and shallow activity, one of Seibert's favorite tactics is to long line a jig and red tail chub behind the boat. "Many anglers try to fish right below the boat with jigs but what I find in less than twelve feet of water is that even though there is wind, the fish are still often spooking from the boat," explains Seibert. Cast the jig thirty to forty





yards behind the boat and simply drag the jig like you would a live bait rig. The jig and chub can simply drag and swim behind the boat. If you make weed contact, snap the jig forward to clean off the jig.”

This long line jig approach is deadly for covering water and breaking down shallow wind-blown flats that often hold walleye. This run and gun method allows Seibert to contact roaming pods of fish that are typically on the move. “When the wind blows and these fish move up to eat, they are typically roaming so you have to roam as well to stay on fish. Add to the fact that wind changes in direction and velocity each day, you often must fish through locations each day until you find the right group of fish, stresses Seibert.

Early last summer, we filmed an episode for Jason Mitchell Outdoors Television on Lake Winnibigoshish with guide Charlie Worrath (Minnesota Fishing Pros) out of . Worrath often relies on a spinner harness for quickly covering weed edges. For depths that range between eight and twelve feet of water, use a small 1/8th ounce bullet sinker ahead of the swivel that is attached to a six-foot spinner harness. Rig the spinner harness with a single number four long shank Aberdeen hook and double hook a three-inch shiner. Come down through the mouth and then rehook the minnow through the hide so that the minnow hangs straight on the hook. This rig is fished a good cast behind the boat at 1.2 to 1.6 miles per hour. Gold and perch pattern blades work well on both Winnie and Leech Lake. When you need to slide out deeper, simply crimp a split shot behind the bullet weight to add more weight. This bullet sinker/ spinner rig fishes well through weeds and low lying Chara. Again because of the clear water, these rigs work well because they are out behind the boat.

Because of the water visibility, clear monofilament shines for these long lining jig and spinner presentations. Eight-pound mono on a spinning rod like the Jason Mitchell Elite Series 6’6” Medium Light Fast Action is perfect for the spinner application. For the long line jig dragging presentation, use the Jason Mitchell Elite Series 6’6” Medium Fast Action. For a dependable spinning reel... look at Quantum’s Throttle Th20 as a moderately priced reel that performs solidly for walleye fishing





Welcome to the National Professional Anglers Association!
If you make an income in the fishing business or want to, we are here to help you succeed.
Click to Learn More!

applications.

Flat conditions can make fishing much more difficult in these locations and anglers are often forced to slide out over the first major break by mid-day. Sharp breaks adjacent to shallow flats and weed lines will often concentrate fish. When fish do slide out into twelve to twenty feet of water along sharp break lines, use your electronics to look for fish and anticipate shadows by where the angle of the sun is. Sharp break lines that cast deep dark shadows will often hold fish when the wind lays down and the sun gets higher.

Because of the wind driven nature of these northern Minnesota fisheries, anglers must be flexible. Anticipate the fact that you are probably going to have to look for and find fish in different locations each day as weather changes and wind directions switch. By being opportunistic and capitalizing on these shallow water weed bites with these long lining techniques that get your presentation away from the boat, you can consistently catch more walleye this season on these popular fisheries.

Tungsten Fishing Weights

Superior Quality ~ LEAD FREE ~ 97% Pure Tungsten

Dropshot, Worm & Flipping weights

All in stock and ready to ship!



Highly competitive prices so the average angler can afford to fish!

Order online at:

www.tungstenfishingweights.com



ROD TRICKS EVERY ANGLER SHOULD KNOW TIPS FOR TIGHT SITUATIONS

Written by Joe Overlock
www.Fix.com

While out on the water, you're going to encounter many different scenarios. Sooner or later you're going to have to get your lure/fly/bait into a tight spot or change up your retrieve to help entice a strike. In this article, we will go over two casts that can help you reach those tight areas (one for conventional tackle, one for the fly rod) and teach you one of the most exciting retrieves for topwater conventional lures: "walking the dog."

If you have ever watched professional tournament anglers on TV you've noticed them spending a lot of time making short casts around docks, trees, weeds, etc. That's because fish love places that give them cover from other predators and shade from direct sunlight, depending on the season.

Sometimes you can make a short normal cast to deliver your lure to these areas; other times, you'll find that you want to get that lure into a very tight area such as under a dock, a submerged log, etc. This is when

PITCHING A LURE

STEP 1

Pull about an arm's length of line from your reel.



STEP 2

Swing your rod tip/lure forward.



STEP 3

Release the line in your hand. Practice makes perfect!



WALK THE DOG WITH TOPWATER PLUGS & FROGS

STEP 1

Cast out the lure, lock your reel, and let it sit for a second.

STEP 2

Gently pull the line tight then leave a few inches of slack in the water.

STEP 3

Jerk your rod tip in one sharp motion.

STEP 4

Reel in a small amount of the line while leaving the same slack you had to start.

STEP 5

Repeat, be sure you're jerking the rod in the same direction on each retrieve.

knowing how to pitch your lures becomes a useful skill.

The cast is a fairly simple one. Start by pulling an arm's length of line off your reel and keep it pinched in your fingers; either lock the reel or keep your thumb on the reel to stop more line from spooling off. Swing your jog forward and let the line slide out of your non-casting hand. This is a cast that you'll want to practice either on the water or at home.

Here's a fun game to play to practice at home on the lawn. Use a heavy jig (1/2 oz to 3/4 oz, preferably weedless to help prevent snags). Place a hula hoop about 10 to 15 feet in front of you. In the middle of the hoop place a full pitcher of water. Once you get to the point of landing it in that pitcher cast after cast, start changing up your distance to the pitcher by taking a few steps back or forward. You can also switch to lighter or heavier jigs if you really want to have fun with it.

Another trick you'll see a lot of the pros do is called "walking the dog." This is a retrieve method that gives your topwater lures a very dramatic side-to-side swimming presentation. This only works on topwater lures that are one piece and have a smooth nose, so topwater Zara Spook-style lures and frog patterns.

The best time to target bass with this retrieve is just after the springtime spawn and into the summer months when they are most active in shallow areas. Keep a close eye on your lure, too; this method of fishing usually leads to some of the most dramatic bites you'll ever see. Often you'll even see the fish jump out of the water to attack your lure.

To start, make a normal cast and leave a small bit of slack in your line. Give your rod a short quick jerk and then reel up some of the line on the spool, making sure to leave some slack in the water, then jerk the rod again in the same direction. The key is to be fast and make sure you leave a small amount of slack in the water after each retrieve. You know you're doing it right when you see the head of your lure dart dramatically from side to side.

A normal fly cast relies on the weight of the fly line to load the rod with enough spring tension on the back cast to propel the fly forward during the forward cast. While this is easy to do when you don't have trees or anything else behind you, it's almost impossible on small streams in the woods.

The bow cast is great to use in areas with heavy cover for distances up to 20 to 30 feet. To do the bow cast, strip a small amount of line off your reel (roughly the amount for the short distance you want to cast to). Carefully spool it up in the palm of your hand – we don't want to turn it into a rat's nest. Then pinch the extra line with your thumb and pointer finger, making sure your fly is hanging down from the wad and not part of it. While keeping your rod semi-parallel to the stream, use the line in your hand to pull back to put tension on the rod like it's a bow. Release the line in your hand and see where your fly lands.

Practice this cast at home on your lawn to get a good feel for the right amount of rod tension and distance that you can hit accurately.

Here's a fun casting game you can do at home to help you practice this cast. Take a hula hoop and hang it from a tree. Hang it just high enough so the bottom of the hoop is either touching the ground or just above it. Now step back and practice trying to flick your fly into that hoop using the bow cast.

In conclusion, fishing is a very dynamic sport. Practicing these three skills will help you become a better angler and catch more fish. You can even expand the two casting games laid out here into one large one on your lawn to play with either your kids or your fishing buddies the next time they come over.



Fall Hunting Is Around The Corner





HUNTING AND FISHING: MORE THAN TAKING GAME

By Dana Benner

When it comes to the outdoor pursuits, a great deal is written about learning from the past and about passing on the traditions. As I prepare for the opening of fishing season, I think back to the lessons I have learned over the years, about hunting and fishing, from a variety of people, including traditional Native people. While I have studied the history and culture of my Native American ancestors for most of my life, for the past thirty years or so I have been traveling and learning more from Native nations throughout North America. My travels have taken me to Alaska, Hawaii, Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota and North Carolina to name a few. On these trips I spent a great deal of time with spiritual leaders and Elders, learning the ways of Native people. What I learned I feel has made me a better steward of the outdoors, and thus, a better hunter and fisherman.

My mother, an exceptional woman of Micmac descent, gave me my first lessons about hunting and fishing. She taught me animal identification and the proper and ethical way to take game. My mother

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK

(www.odumagazine.com)

encouraged me to spend as much time in the woods as I could. Hence forth, much of my childhood was spent tracking and observing wildlife in the forests and fields near my home. She also introduced me to the spiritual beliefs of our people. She taught me that hunting and fishing were a means of putting food on the table. It wasn't about trophies. I learned that if you aren't going to eat what you take, then don't kill it.

As I grew older, and my experiences in the outdoors grew, I realized that something was missing. I regularly gave much of my game and fish to people who had nothing, but I had a feeling that there was something more. It was then that I started traveling, trying to learn as much as I could from different people.

While in Alaska I had the opportunity to learn how the importance of hunting and fishing is to the people there. There, hunting and fishing can mean the matter of making it through the long, cold winter or not. While in Fairbanks I travelled aboard Riverboat Discovery which took me to an Athabascan fishing camp. Here I learned a great deal about the Athabascan spiritual connection with the wildlife that sustained them. During my stay at the fish camp I met an amazing lady named Dixie Alexander who taught me how to fillet a salmon in lightning speed. It was the most amazing thing I have ever seen. While that may not seem like much, it was a gift that showed me just how much I didn't know.

In Anchorage, I visited the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Here I learned about how many Native people

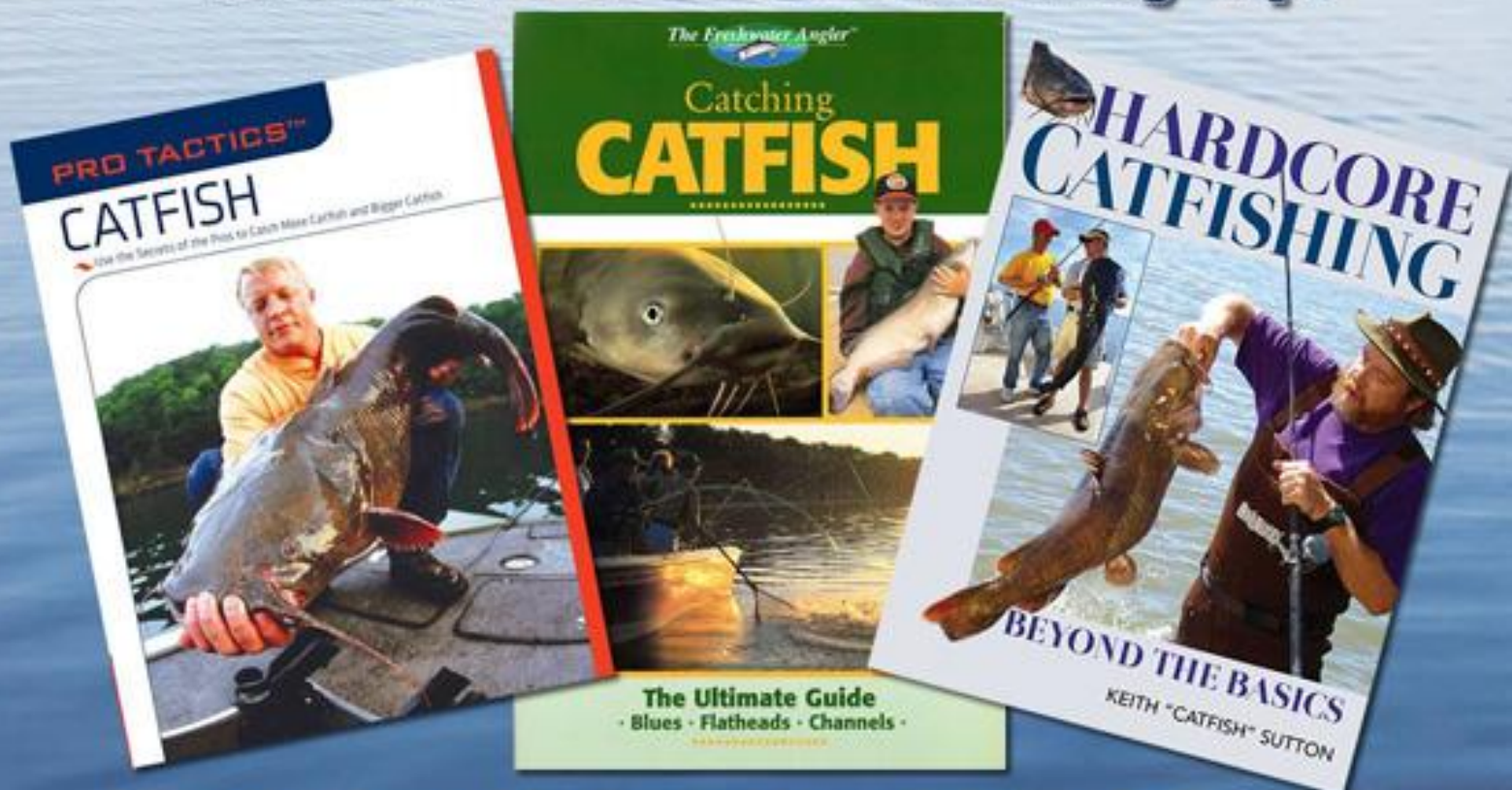
of Alaska still rely upon sustenance hunting and fishing to survive. This is tough concept for some to grasp here in the Lower 48. One group I interacted with were the Yup'ik, a people who live in the Arctic area located between Alaska and Russia. They hunt seals, walruses and whales. These animals are the givers of life for the Yup'ik and without them their way of life would vanish. Spiritual reverence is given to the animals that are hunted. I was deeply honored to be allowed to dance the Walrus Dance with the Yup'ik people. The dance is a spiritual thanks to the walrus for giving its life so the people can live.

I believe, as many Native people do, that humans are part of a circle where all life is connected. It is believed that all things have a spirit, with no one spirit being greater than the other. Humans are not superior to other creatures. We are all equal, thus special spiritual offerings need to be given when one life is given to the benefit to another.

This was made very clear to me in South Dakota. Here the bison is the major game animal, with hunts being offered in Custer State Park and on the Native American reservations. As we all know, the bison population in this country was nearly exterminated by market hunters and "sportsmen" who shot these animals from trains. Thankfully, there were people who saw the need to save them. The bison, Tatanka in Lakota, historically provided food, shelter and the materials for weapons and tools to the people who lived on the plains. On the reservations, Native people are allowed to take a certain number of bison, a reflection of their past. It is a spiritual connection for the Lakota people, as prayers are offered to the spirit of the bison, both before and after the hunt. I found the same basic traditions among the

Three Great Books

Thousands of Great Catfishing Tips

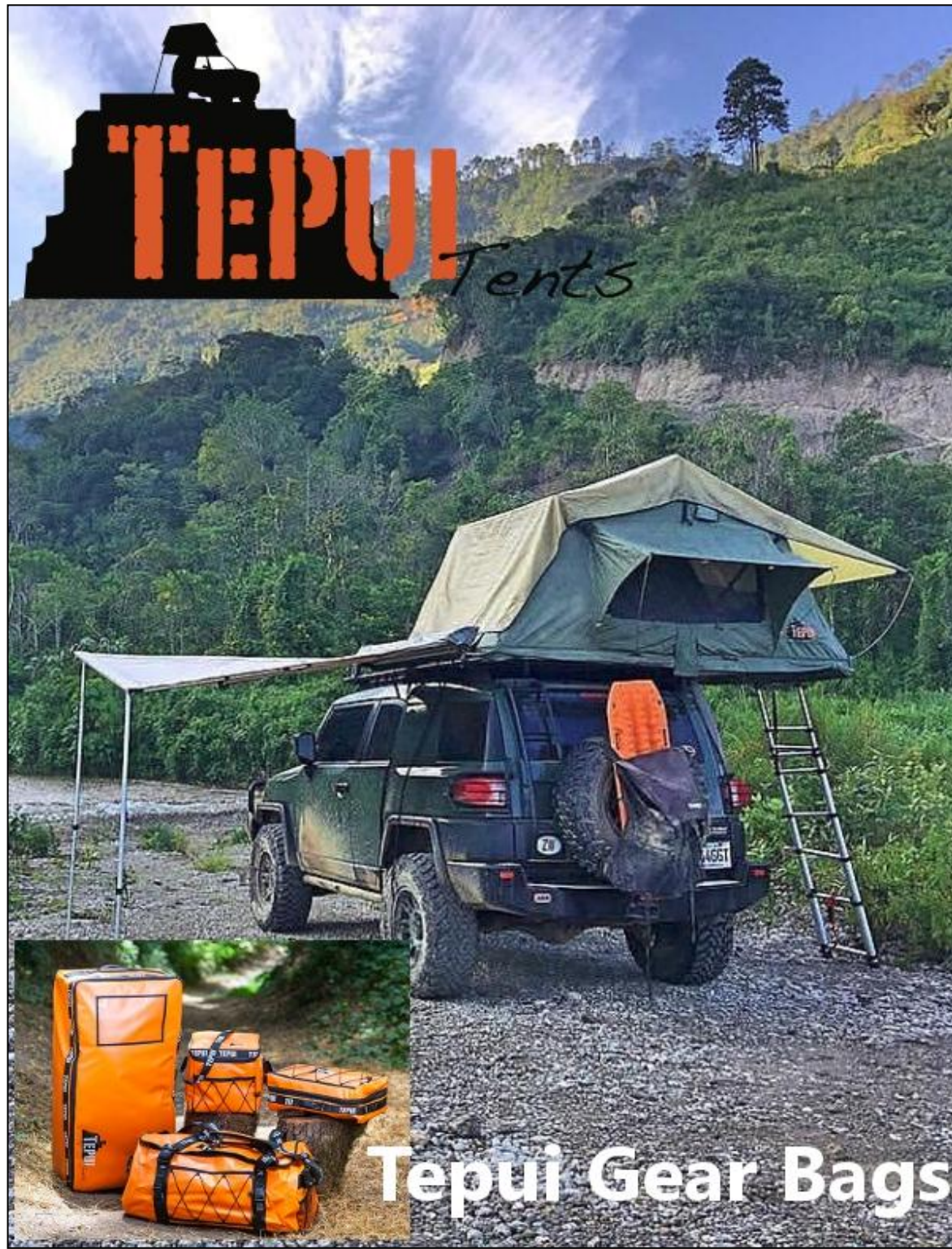


All by the "Dean of Catfishing" himself, Keith "Catfish" Sutton
To buy your personally autographed copies,
visit www.catfishsutton.com today.

Shoshone and Arapaho people living in Wyoming.

Here in New England my ancestors, just like hunters and anglers today, pursued bear, moose, deer, salmon, trout, shad and eel. With every harvest prayers were offered to the spirit of the game taken. This is something I do to this day. At first my hunting buddies thought it was a little odd, but now they ask me serious questions. What it all boils down to is respect. Respect for the other people who we are hunting with, for the property owners on whose land we are hunting on and above all, respect to the animals we are pursuing. As hunters and fishermen, we are obligated to make clean kills, to retrieve our game and not to shoot animals just for the sake of shooting them. We owe it to the animals to utilize their meat, hide, feathers, etc. If you can't use them, find someone who can. Donate unneeded meat to your local soup kitchen or to other people who have nothing. There are plenty of fly tiers out there who will take the hides and feathers off your hands. It is all part of honoring the animals taken.

I hunt and fish every chance I get. There is nothing better than spending a day on the lake or in the woods with my daughter, and now my granddaughter. Though my daughter is now grown and on her own, she carries on the tradition of honoring the outdoors by canoeing, kayaking and rafting the waterways that our ancestors once traveled many, many years ago. As Native people believe, our lives are part of a great circle. My experiences have made me more of an active part of that circle. A fancy shotgun or the "best" rod and reel on the market will not make you a better hunter or angler. Understanding how the world around us works and showing proper respect for those we share it with will.



THE AMERICAN BOAR HUNTERS

By John Simeone

"There are old hog dogs and bold hog dogs, but there ain't no Old Bold Hog Dogs.".....Bruce Hall.. Legendary Louisiana Boar Hunter.

The old man's advise to the young hunter on his first solo hunt was simple. If a buck or a small hog comes by you can shoot them. But if a big Wild Boar comes by you leave him the hell alone. That 30-30 will kill him, but if you don't hit him just right he will be on you and eat you up alive. Do you understand what I just said young man? Yes sir.

You don't really hunt Wild Boar you pick a fight with them, and they fight back no matter how big they are. Sometimes you can kill them flat out with a 22



long rifle other times they will run a mile with a clean shot from a 300 magnum, you just never know. One thing for sure they are dangerous game and they will charge you just because they don't like your looks. A Boar hog as it grows develops a gristle shield around his neck and shoulders to protect it from tusk fights with other boars. This shield, much like Kevlar, can in fact turn arrows and high powered rifle bullets. They are smarter than your pet Labrador and they have been known to be vindictive. They are destructive to the environment and the will eat anything, including you. With all that said they are great game to hunt and they are the guest of honor at a many Bar-B-Q.

It was recently reported that a sounder of Wild Boar ran through an ISIS encampment and actually killed several terrorist. Now that seems like divine intervention, I won't deny that, but the fact remains if you

hunt the European or American Wild Boar you better be ready.

About six thousand years ago the Chinese domesticated the Euro-Asian Wild Pig into what we buy in the grocery store today. Strange as it may seem all swine that we consider domestic pigs are genus and species the same (*Sus Scrofa*) so a pig is a pig. That means a wild one can and will breed with a tame pig or if you turn tame pigs loose in the wild, they will within a few generations, revert back to a near duplicate of the original Wild Boar. If the domestic goes wild they actually get larger than the original wild versions. In simple terms there is very little difference between a pure Euro-Asian Wild Boar and an American Feral Hog, this includes the danger factor.

Today the South and especially Texas is literally over run with wild hogs. This is due to several factors but under hunting is a major one, due to over regulation and lack of interest. Of course everyone wants a big boar trophy, knowing this a lucrative business was developed with private land owners to do just that. This, however, brought on interstate transport where no hogs were present to give paying hunters a chance at a game animal other than deer. Hogs escape readily, even a fenced in area and soon they were everywhere. National Forests and Wildlife Management areas such as those in Louisiana over regulated feral hogs until they were a serious problem. Viable solutions were available but fell on deaf ears, as such means would put deer in jeopardy of poaching according to officials that haven't the slightest idea the actual use of Dogs in Hog Hunting.

Private landowners will charge you a premium price to go hog shooting from Helicopters, Airboats and Dune buggies. You have to ask yourself, would the manager of such a business actually want to eradicate a money crop? The word is control as eradication wouldn't happen with a B-52 Strike and carpet bombing. Hogs are so prolific they produce 3 litters a year and have few natural predators short of a Tiger that can handle one.

The highly controversial "Kaput," the weaponized blood thinner Warfarin, was initiated but found to have too much collateral damage to other wildlife and possibly humans, and is more or less a stillborn

idea. What works are Round Ups, Corral Trapping, Dog Hunting and Guns and Ammo. As far as hunter ethics concerning Wild Hogs the "The Gloves are Off." At this point you have to kill everyone you see to have effective control, and many hunters just can't accept this fact.

Deer hunters will pass up a shot at a hog in an attempt to wait on a deer. Its hard to convince hunters and landowners that the hogs are the biggest threat to deer management. Many



won't shoot a hog as they don't want to dress it. Not a worry leave it if you don't want it, the other hogs will eat it before morning. This leaves a chilling thought of don't be unconscious (or passed out drunk in hog country).

After serving in the Army and spending a total of eight years in Germany I learned the ways of the Yaegermiesters, concerning hog control. Simple, they hunt them all year all the time. When they think they are getting out of hand, they have organized drive hunts and thin them out. You can see this on You-Tube any time you want.



Taking a Wild Boar in the Sport World of Hunting is an exciting adventure. You can hunt them with Archery Equipment, Rifles and Hand Guns, a Boar Spear, a Bowie Knife or Catch them Alive! This author has done all of the above except a Boar Spear and I want to try that soon before I get too old.

Of all the methods, I like the Dog Hunt. It requires two kinds of hunting dogs. The legendary Catahoula Cur Dog (The State Dog of Louisiana) is used to track and "Bay" the Hog. You never really know what will happen once the bay is initiated. That means the hog is tired of running and has turned to fight the dogs and men. Now for the Archer or Gun Hunter this is the point where you take the shot. That means a perfect shot. I was standing behind Robin Fletcher when he made that perfect shot with a recurve bow he made himself and a homemade arrow with a two blade broad head. The Boar when hit, actually dropped in his tracks, a perfect heart shot. During the hunt, the dogs ran that boar past me in high

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)

Then we have real hand to hand combat. You will need a little back up on this one, The Hunting Pit Bull Dog. When the bay happens you send in the Armored Catch Dog. It doesn't get more up close and personal than this. They only know to attack and grab and when they do they can hold a very large Wild Boar. This can be a Spear or Knife moment or to go the extra miles and Hog tie the animal alive. Any and all of this type of hunting can induce a break away and a charge and there are no guarantees you, the dogs, or the hog will come out alive. I have been lucky myself but I have seen men cut and two dogs killed in the field. One unlucky Pit caught a tusk in the neck and died while hanging on. His jaws had to be pried off after the hog was shot!

Outdoor Writer Lacy "Lady Hawk" Byles was introduced to this kind of hunting by her father and took her first Wild Boar with a Bow. I will let her tell you that story in another chapter. The late Dr. Woodson Harvey a great Louisiana hog hunter, showed me a video of a hunter who put 7 broad head arrows in the classic perfect lung shot as the Boar stood and continued to fight the Dogs. I once shot a 300 pound Boar with the powerful 300 Weatherby Magnum with a hit right behind the shoulder, only to watch it run 60 yards. I was 30 yards away so I'm glad it wasn't at me.

The late Bruce Hall, a true legendary Boar Hunter, was knocked down by a 400 pound Boar. He told me the boar looked him right in the face, a Catahoula Dog attacked the rear end of the boar and it changed ends in an instant. Bruce drew his Ruger Black Hawk 357 magnum and shot him behind the ear. Imagine if you will crawling out from under such a beast.

Doc Harvey and Bruce Hall are gone now but never forgotten as long as this Outdoor Writer is still in print. Most recently I met a new generation of Red Neck Louisiana Hog Hunters. That would be the Cotten Family and they do all those things with Dog Hunting the Wild Boar.

It is one thing to shoot a Wild Boar from the safety of a high seat, and get down and dirty face to face with the dogs and the hogs, but any way you hunt the American Wild Boar you can say...The Adventure Begins....Pass it on.





WOMEN HUNTING IN ESTONIA

T&T International, Moose Hunting In Estonia
By Harpa Hlín Þórðardóttir (pictured below)

A year ago, I started a group for women only that I call T&T international. I found there was a group missing for women only, interested in traveling for fishing and hunting.



I have planned fishing and hunting tours for the better part of my life and as you can imagine it has been mainly for men. I always wanted to get more

T&T is a group of women who travel together for hunting. The group was established during the autumn of 2015 and so far they have been on three hunting trips and several more are planned. Harpa Hlín Þórðardóttir(me), the owner of Iceland Outfitters represents the group and organizes the trips. I was asked to write a short article describing the recent trip to Estonia.



women involved as I found it a very big part of maturing as an angler/hunter was to stand on my own two feet and try things myself.

I find that women, (I included) do not want to pay a lot of money for their sport. So I decided to use the contacts I have met through the years and plan good, personal but also a low-budget fishing and hunting tours just get women involved.

The first tour we went on, was to Estonia last fall, this spring we were in Scotland. Then we went again to Estonia last month and have planned to go back to Scotland the first week of May '17.

I limit the number of women to each tour to a certain number, so I can travel and hunt/fish with the group, instead of being a host.

We just got back from Estonia. The plan was to hunt moose, but it was also possible to hunt red deer, roe deer and wild boar. It is incredibly educational to go on a





trip like this and we learnt an awful lot, it is especially interesting for us Icelanders as we are not used to large forests or hunting such large animals. The whole experience for us was indescribable. We had to walk quietly, be wary, listen and search for any signs of the animals and to be prepared at all times.

Hunting in the forest is about so many things, including spending time in great company and working together to get an animal. Shooting the animal is not all that matters

and that only happens when many things work out the way they are supposed to and often the key factor is co-work.

Usually when the locals go hunting, the game is divided up between all the hunters and then there is a great feast at the end of the day in honour of the hunt, the group and the forest. The hunters are not just the ones using the guns, but all who take part.

There were five of us that went to Estonia this fall, me, Elsa Blöndal, María Anna Clausen, Bára Einarsdóttir og Guðrún Hafberg. We arrived on the Tuesday evening and got settled in at the hunting lodge. On the Wednesday we went to a shooting practice area, where we got to

NEW
GROUND EFX X

**DISCOVER
LOST TREASURES.**

STORM
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

try out the rifles and practised on both shooting and moving targets. It was great to have a bit of a practice and to take a bit of the stress away, we then went for a bit of quality time and then off hunting.

The hunting consisted of...

- Stalking: Which is searching for game, both walking and by car. This usually requires a lot of walking and being as quiet as possible.
- Tower hunting: Which is sitting up in the tower with a view over the area where the game will appear during the twilight time.
- Calling: Calling the game, similar to what we do with geese here in Iceland. We place ourselves in a likely spot and call the game.



- Driven hunt: We spread out at the edge of the forest while others go in with dogs and flush out the game in our direction.

We had a great time and did really well. We saw lots of game, met a great group of people and ate good food, what more could you wish for? Our T&T group got 4 moose and 4 roe deers on our private tour, which consisted of Wednesday evening, all day Thursday and Friday morning. Unusually good hunting and we were so grateful as to how

everything went, it was just so smooth.

On the Friday evening we moved into a castle and stayed there for two nights. There, women came from 8 different countries, the majority from Estonia to take part in the Estonia Women's hunting Day, which was being held for the 7th time there. We got up early on Saturday morning and went on three driven hunts during the day. 50 women got ready at the edge of the forest while beaters went in with the dogs to beat the game out in our direction. There isn't much time to react in this type of hunting, but of course it's very important to follow all the safety measures which are in place.

A lot of game came out of the forest, two moose were shot that day and I was lucky to get one of them. I was therefore crowned Hunting Queen 2016 and received all sorts of prizes, one of them being an amazing handcrafted hunting knife crafted by an old Estonian man. In the evening there was a great celebration, traditional music played to traditional dances. What a night!

This trip to Estonia was a really successful trip for T&T International, and we are left with so many great memories of time spent with a fantastic group of people doing amazing things.

We leave Estonia with these words...Same time, next year.

If there are any women out there who are interested in this sort of trip then please get in touch with Harpa on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/icelandoutfitters/>) or through Iceland Outfitters (www.icelandoutfitters.com).



WHERE COULD HUNTING AND FISHING SPORTS LEAD



By John Simeone

I fear the day of the real American Outdoorsman has passed. When I first set foot in a small patch of woods in Arkansas with my father we were just there to be together and maybe, just maybe we got lucky hunting and fishing. It seemed as we progressed it didn't matter if we caught something, but as experience was attained we both got pretty good at it.

When I was 12 we took a trip to New York City the stomping grounds of my father who was now a born again Arkansas Italian Hillbilly. I remember the food was good but no better than back home. I went to the top of the Empire State Building looked out and saw the Statue of Liberty. I didn't fully understand what it meant then but I do now. We took a little trip to the Safari outfitters Abacromi and Fitch. They knew who my father was and treated us like royalty. They showed me a Browning Safari Grade in .308 it fit like a glove, now my Ruger Scout Rifle does the same, not as fancy but the same Mauser Action. The outfitter itself is now a ladies store.

I always had an interest in ballistics although I was not all that good in Math. Never the less I was able to stun a few individuals with some of my ammo inventions. I'm not a gun nut, nor a gun smith, the proper title is gun professional. That means I know how they work and how to use them. That may be an understatement.

Hunting to me is in the blood I can't remember when I didn't hunt something. I have a pretty good definition for the hunter no different really, than any other predatory animal in nature. All we have extra to put us at the top of the food chain is reasoning and technology. Sometimes that gets a little out of hand so we have developed ethics and rules of fair chase.

Fishing has developed into an abomination far and away from father and son sitting on the creek bank trying to catch something for dinner. Now I wonder how long it will take for one of these highly sponsored individuals to allow his ego to overcome his common sense and find it necessary to remain sitting for the National Anthem. As for me I'm all for introducing a Primitive fishing tournament, hook line and cane pole, let's see how they handle that.

Now while sitting on the creek bank with a kid I point out a fancy Pickup Truck pulling a fully tricked out Bass Boat. I say to the kid, "Look, there goes \$150,000 worth of I ain't caught nothin all day.

I suppose that is not as bad as the traditional in fighters that take on the practical advancements to promote the hunting heritage. The worst example was the war between Bow Hunters and Crossbowmen I even got death threats over that one.

Anti-Hunters are the enemy, make no bones about it. Far before the term Radical Islamic Terrorist was ever coined I received a military briefing on home grown Eco Terrorist in the United States. It was a real worry at the time as in one instance a radical organization of Waco Bunny huggers hired some local outlaws. They went out and shot Cows in a pasture with bows and arrows then attempted to blame it on bow hunters. Not exactly the epitome of ethical and lawful civilized behavior. But to them its a war with no bounds.

No doubt the truth offends some that are in denial or are at war with the inner self. If you want to go hunting and fishing just go for it, learn from a master and do it right. Does that sound like some sort of Zen Philosophy or some wisdom from a Cherokee Medicine Man actually it's both...Pass it on.

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

COMMAND PERFORMANCE



Nobody has more fun in the outdoors than Willie Robertson, Ryan Langerhans, Adam Laroche, Luke Bryan, Tombo Martin and Jason Aldean. For the group collectively known as the Buckmen, the quest to harvest the ever-elusive trophy whitetail is much more than a hobby; it's a lifestyle. Need proof? Tune into their hit show, *Buck Commander*, on Outdoor Channel or MyOutdoorTV.

The universal appeal of *Buck Commander* comes from the energy these guys produce through their endless antics, fierce competitiveness and unique abilities to entertain. The high-octane bunch keeps audiences rolling with laughter, as *Buck Commander* follows the Buckmen in all aspects of their lives – from their day jobs on stage or on the playing field, to their family life at home and, of course, into the woods. Because beneath all the drama and entertainment, these celebrities, athletes and performers are all driven by a common desire to bag the next braggin' buck.

In the face of such fierce, interpersonal competition, the Buckmen don't take any chances with their gear. They worked with Barnett – the pioneers of the modern hunting crossbow – to develop two new *Buck Commander*® Series crossbows that work and perform as hard as they do. The new *Buck Commander*® Droptine XT compound crossbow and *Buck Commander*® Revengeance reverse draw crossbow are the choice of the Buckmen. Read on, and learn why they'll be your choice, too.



Barnett Buck Commander® Droptine XT Compound Crossbow

Like the Buckmen that lend it their name, the Buck Commander® Droptine XT is the loyal and reliable companion you want at your side during that magical time. When a trophy steps into view, the go-to Droptine XT is the crossbow that can be relied upon to feel good, shoot straight and always deliver results.

The Buck Commander® Droptine XT generates speeds up to 360 feet per second with a relatively

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

modest 160-pound draw weight. Featuring easy one-bolt assembly, the Droptine XT is ready to hunt with an installed 4 x 32 scope, lightweight quiver and two Headhunter Arrows.

Shouldering, aiming and firing the Droptine XT feels as easy and satisfying as slapping a good buddy on the back. The pistol grip, thumbhole stock and pass-through foregrip make holding aim a comfortable proposition. And the trigger? It's from TriggerTech, and it's the finest available on any factory crossbow. Frictionless Release Technology employs a unique, free-floating roller between the trigger and sear, instilling confidence and boosting accuracy through an incredibly smooth and light three-pound pull with zero creep. Additionally, nock sensors and ADF (anti-dry fire) keep a spring-loaded safety bar in place until the arrow is properly seated, protecting the user and the bow from accidental dry fire.

The Buckmen know a thing or two about camouflage. That's why the Droptine XT comes finished in Realtree Hardwoods® – a loyal camo pattern that's as effective as it is versatile. It's the perfect finishing touch on a dependable, made-in-the-USA performance bow that feels and shoots better than many bows costing twice as much.



Barnett Buck Commander® Revengeance Reverse Draw Crossbow

Featuring a draw weight of just 145 pounds, everything about Barnett's sizzling new Buck Commander® Revengeance seems too good to be true... but it's not. It's an easy-cocking fast-shooting crossbow with crazy 400 feet-per-second speed in a compact and manageable reverse draw design that just feels natural in the hands. And the real treat comes when this incredibly well-balanced bow is shouldered. A fold-down vertical foregrip not only aids in safety by keeping the user's fingers off the rail, it also enhances Revengeance's performance by providing greatly increased control and stability.

The high-performance Buck Commander® Revengeance is equally impressive in just about every other category, too. It comes fully assembled and ready to hunt right out of the box, wearing a versatile 4 x 32 illuminated scope, side mount quiver with two Headhunter Arrows, and Realtree APG camo on its stock,

limbs and even the riser.

Other Barnett quality and performance touches include a CNC machined aluminum flight track, self-adjusting Soft-Lok floating bristle arrow retainer, string dampeners and the best trigger in the industry. The new stainless steel TriggerTech trigger assembly on the Buck Commander®

Revengeance and other Barnett models is a custom, three-pound trigger with zero creep for repeatable accuracy. Its Frictionless Release Technology places a free-floating roller between the sear and the trigger to create a smoother, lighter trigger unlike anything else on the market. Nock sensors and ADF (anti-dry fire) technology provide double the safety, virtually eliminating the possibility of injury or damage from accidental dry fire.

Anyone who's watched an episode of Buck Commander knows that the Buckmen like to have fun. And fighting one's equipment or worrying about whether it will perform at the moment of truth is anything but fun.

Thanks to Barnett, the Buckmen don't fret over either of these unfortunate possibilities – at least when it comes to their crossbows. They rely on the Buck Commander® Droptine XT compound crossbow and the new Buck Commander® Revengeance reverse draw crossbow. You can, too.



