

Mar/Apr 2017  
Spring Fishing

ODU MAGAZINE™

LADY  
HAWK

Slab Or  
A Slob

MOVE  
OUT TO  
JIG PIGS

A LAKER'S LIFE  
HUNGRY MEN  
DON'T USE A 410





## EDITOR'S LETTER

hunting predators, for those of you who have already tagged out on turkey.

**Tournament related fish (bass, crappie, walleye and more) conservation efforts...** What are your thoughts about how we should treat our live catches? First off, I want to direct you to an early story in this edition titled ***"Mishandling at the Highest Level."*** There is a video to watch. Though this is a very short video, it raises the question that we as anglers need to make sure we preserve and stay vigilant as we release our catches. We need to keep our fishery stable and thriving. Share the video all you can and get the word out about how we should not treat our catches.

March was one big month for [www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com)! ODU continue to grow and we want to thank

# FREE FISHING MAGAZINES

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



the over 40,000 visitors to our website this past month. Spring is going too big for us. Join use on our growing Facebook page at this address >>> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ODUMagazine/>

**Tolerance, is it worth it?** If one thing I have learned is tolerance of others this past voting cycle and at the same time tolerance to me is something we should all practice *as best we can*. Let me make an assumption about our readership, with a little help from our March readership survey. 100% of our readership are anglers. A large portion own guns and a large portion hunt as well. But, I assume that some of our fishermen are neither hunters or gun owners. A majority of our readership own either a canoe, kayak or a motor boat. I could go on..... What I am saying, or trying to say is we are all joined by angling and the outdoors. Be tolerant of someone who opposes your beliefs. You don't need to agree, but you can agree here at ODU that they are a fellow anglers. I am not preaching a fellowship ring to sing kum ba yah. Just agree to disagree and keep the fishing! The answer is Yes!

Front Cover is of Brian "Bro" Brosdahl  
Rear cover is of O'Neill Williams

Thank you to all our contributors in this edition of ODU Magazine: Bill Vanderford, Bob Jensen, Bob Moshiri, Danny Barker, O'Neill Williams, David A. Brown, Gary Parsons, Keith Kavajecz, Edward Chin, Jason Mitchell, Dan Johnson, Glenn Walker, Gary Lee, Carlee Magness, Capt. Mike Gerry, Chris Schieble, Len Lisenbee, Lacy Byles, Dan Galusha, Dana Benner, John Simeone and Josh Lantz



**Took a trip down to my local trout fishing hole and handed out 10 new rods/reel combos** and traded for a bunch of old rusted ones. Have you?

Do you have a little extra money? Do you have a rod & gun club in your town or do you have a tackle shop that you could work a deal with? Great, figure out which one of these will work with you or dig into your wallet and buy a bunch of entry level rod/reel combos. (I worked with a local tackle story that gets me two boxes every year for a total of 20 combos @ \$8 each)

Go have some fun and give them away to possible youth angle or trade a youth angler for that combo they are using that needs to be retired. Pass on our love of the outdoors.

Email us at [odu.media@odumagazine.com](mailto:odu.media@odumagazine.com) if you have a story we should share, a video that everyone needs to see or if you want to be a monthly contributor on the website. We were founded as a website and digital publication for fishermen/hunters/outdoorsmen by fishermen/hunters/outdoorsmen. We are the ones on the water and in the woods all the time, so let us share your stories.

....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***



# 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](http://WWW.WIRELESSBOATKILLSWITCH.COM)

**FELLO  
MARINE**  
[www.fellmarine.com](http://www.fellmarine.com)



# CANADIAN FISHING NETWORK .COM



Instagram

showcasing

THE COUNTRY



THE PEOPLE



THE FISHING



**SHOCK BLADE**



**SHOCK THERAPY!  
GETCHA SOME**







## ***FISHING ZONE***

- The Perfect Role Model, Pg 8**  
**Open Water 2017, Pg 12**  
**Smart Man Over, Pg 15**  
**Mishandling At The Highest, Pg 18**  
**Slab Or A Slob, Pg 22**  
**Running and Gunning, , Pg 24**  
**Move Out To Jig Pigs, Pg 29**  
**A Date With A Dinosaur, Pg 33**  
**Early Season Checklist for Walleyes, Pg 38**  
**From Spawn To Ice: A Laker's Life, Pg 42**  
**Going Overhead for Spawning Bass, Pg 45**  
**Fishing with St. Joe, Pg 46**  
**Girl's Night Out Bowfishing, Pg 50**  
**The Solar Lunar Table, Pg 52**  
**Fishing Tackle Tips for the Apocalypse, Pg 53**

## ***OUTDOOR ZONE***

- More Outdoor memories, Pg 58**  
**Lady Hawk, Pg 63**

## ***HUNTING ZONE***

- Sight Seeing, Pg 67**  
**Stoeger Coach Gun, Pg 70**  
**Hungry Men Don't Use A 410, Pg 72**  
**Predator Primer, Pg 76**  
**A "Come to Jesus" Moment, Pg 83**  
**The Dual, Pg 86**





# The Perfect Role Model For Fishing And Baseball

By Bill Vanderford

As we approach another baseball and fishing season, I can't help but have some warm thoughts of an old friend who has been a credit to both sports. Few people who ever played the game deserved being inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown more than Phil Niekro, and any fisherman who ever had the pleasure of his company in a bass boat would have nothing but good things to say about this fine man.

I've had the distinct honor to have known Phil Niekro as both a friend and fisherman for more than 30 years, and over that period, regardless of fame or accomplishments, he has never changed. He always takes time to give anyone a smile, sign an autograph or just pitch in to help any worthy cause.

I remember going to Fulton County Stadium when it was so empty that you could sit anywhere you wanted, but that never mattered to Phil. He pitched his heart out for the fans who were there, held his head up high and gave class to a team that otherwise would have been the laughing stock of the National League.

Even when he was released by the Braves, before he had the chance to win his 300th game, he handled that

insult with class. Instead of bad mouthing the organization, he left quietly, went to the New York Yankees and put together two great winning seasons.

My involvement in fishing and promotional efforts over the years has afforded me the opportunity to meet many of the "greats" and "so called-greats" of baseball and other sports. One soon finds that many are so into themselves and their accomplishments that they lose sight of where they came from and just how special it was to have played this "little boy's game" at the major league level. Phil Niekro,



however, does not fit into that category. In my opinion, he belongs in a special place with those who have given so much back to the fans and the game like Ted Williams, Roy Campenella, Mickey Mantle, Cal Ripkin, Jr., Dale Murphy and Stan Musial.

As a fisherman, Knucksie never forgot the lessons he learned from his Dad during his formative years in Ohio. He has always treated our sport and pastime with as much reverence and respect as he did the game of baseball. His natural drive to learn as much as possible and be the best has made him one of the better bass and striper fishermen on Lake Lanier. As with baseball, he has never been greedy or secretive with what he has learned. He is always ready to help any other angler to become better, and his sons have also become extremely good fishermen.

I could go on and on about this great guy and probably even tell a few stories that Phil wouldn't appreciate me sharing with the general public, but by now, Knucksie would be asking me to end the accolades and get on with the fishing!

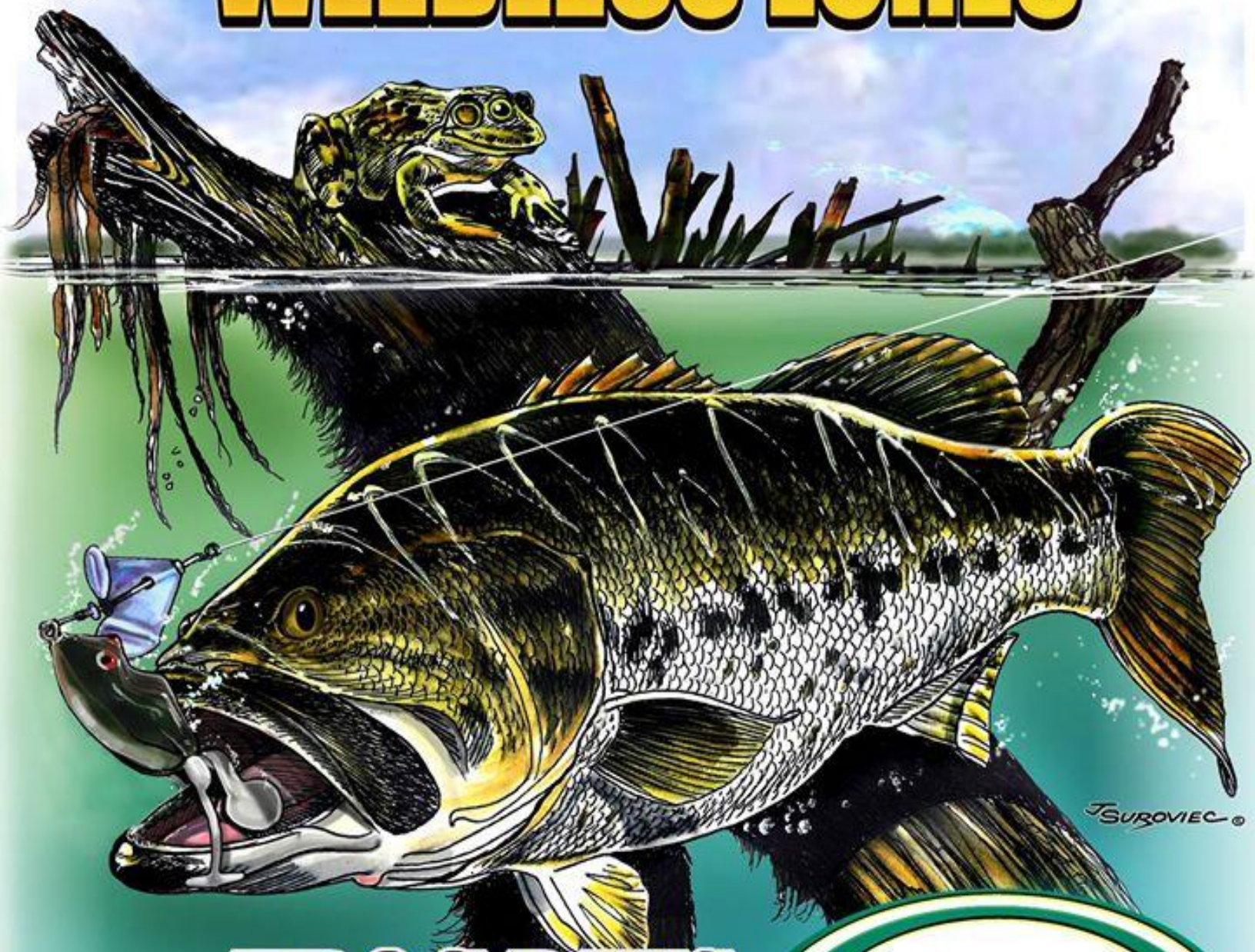
Bill Vanderford has won numerous awards for his writing and photography, and has been inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame as a Legendary Guide. He can be reached at [jfish51@aol.com](mailto:jfish51@aol.com) or at his web site: [www.georgiafishing.com](http://www.georgiafishing.com).

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK  
([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))



# SNAGPROOF

## WEEDLESS LURES



**The FROG DAYS  
of SUMMER!**

[www.snagproof.com](http://www.snagproof.com)

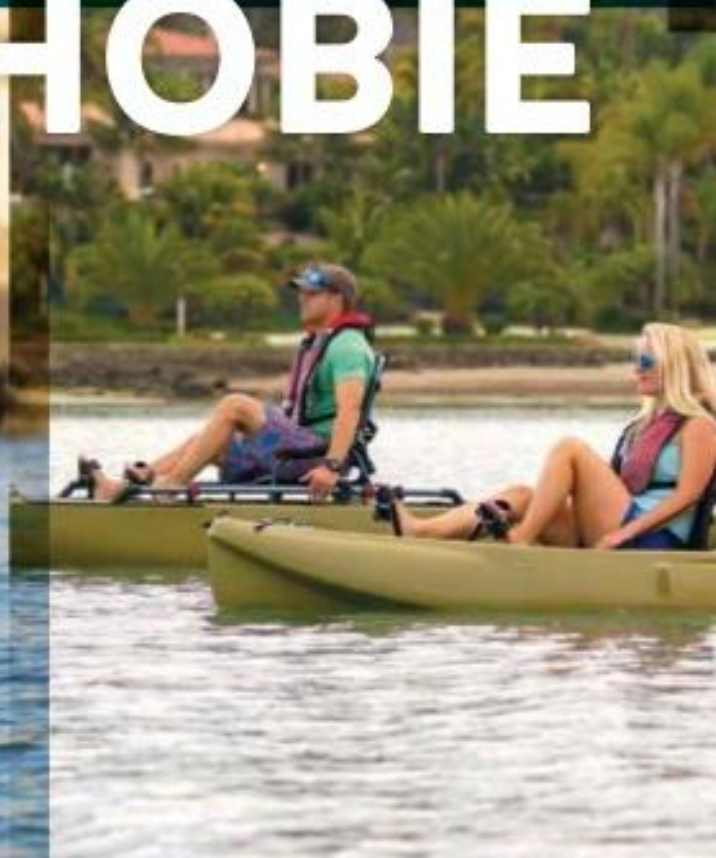




The Hobie logo is displayed in a stylized, cursive font within a blue diamond-shaped frame. The background of the top half of the advertisement is a man in a white shirt and tan cap fishing from a blue Hobie kayak on the ocean. A fishing rod is bent, indicating a catch. The Hobie brand name is also visible on the side of the kayak.

*Hobie*

YOU BELONG  
ON A **HOBIE**





# OPEN WATER 2017



By Bob Jensen

What a mild winter in the Midwest so far! Rain is falling, so today I'm thinking more about open water than I am ice-fishing. I'm sure there are a couple more ice-fishing trips in my near future, but as I go through some new open water stuff that I received recently, I'm looking forward to the following.

The rain is melting the snow and the rivers are already starting to produce fish. Northern pike can be the first to start eating, but walleyes are the target of many early season river anglers. Jigs are outstanding walleye-catchers in the spring. Something to keep in mind is that the most natural presentation is to cast quartering the current and allow your jig to move downstream. Yes, you'll get some snags, but you'll also almost always catch more fish if you practice this presentation trick.

Back in the day when I had more time to fish at this time of year, I used kind of a unique presentation for early season

***Early season  
largemouth bass  
from shallow water  
will provide action  
soon. Mike Frisch has  
caught thousands of  
these guys and still  
gets excited when one  
inhales his bait.***



walleyes. I suspended a sixteenth or eighth ounce jig tipped with a minnow below a slip-bobber. This was most effective in areas that were consistent, or at least fairly consistent, in water depth. I fished a lot of areas that were three to five feet deep, so I set the bobber stop so the jig was about a foot off the bottom. I still got some snags, but not as many, and I caught a lot of walleyes with this presentation. A sixteenth ounce Fire-Ball jig is very, very effective for this presentation.

Today I'm using a lot more plastic for walleyes year 'round. The plastic provides several advantages.

Plastic baits come in a variety of colors, and there are times when color is critical.

Plastic is durable: You can catch more fish on a piece of plastic than you can a single minnow.

Plastic is convenient: No minnow buckets to get tangled in your line.



**NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION**

**NPA**

**CLICK HERE TO JOIN**

**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!



John Peterson's

PRICE

"Lethal"  
**Fire-Ball**  
STING'R  
**Jig**

Designed &  
Endorsed by  
John Peterson



**"IT'S DEADLY WITH LIVE BAIT!"**

**LAZER SHARP**  
FISH HOOKS



**Deadly  
Short-  
Shank,  
Wide-Gap  
Hook!**

**For  
Walleye,  
Perch,  
Panfish  
& Bass!**

**Hottest  
Jig on  
Pro-Am  
Walleye  
Trail!**



**Tip with  
Minnow,  
Crawler  
Leech or  
Grub!**

**Northland**  
FISHING TACKLE

100 NAYLOR DR. S.E. / BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA 56601

Last of all, plastic allows us to fish downstream effectively. If you're in a situation where a quartering cast isn't practical or possible, you can cast downstream and slowly swim the bait back upstream, but you can hold it in place by slowly lifting and dropping your rod tip. This will give the walleye plenty of time to look at and eat your bait. Impulse Swim'N Grubs in the three inch size are the plastic of choice among many very successful early season walleye-chasers.

The next phase of the open water season takes place when the water is a little warmer. It involves going after largemouth bass in shallow water. Bass fishing in the Midwest isn't as popular as walleye fishing, but provides lots of action and excitement for those that get into it.

Harkening back to "The Day" again, we used to throw spinnerbaits in and around the reeds early in the season, and this technique still produces. We now also throw lots of swim-jigs for early season bass. They're just as weedless as spinnerbaits, and bass seem to like them better in many situations. A Jungle Jig tipped with a trailer is a good example of a swim-jig.

Ok, back to reality. There's still some ice-fishing to do, but open water is closer than we might think.

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 [www.fishingthemidwest.com](http://www.fishingthemidwest.com).



# SMART MAN OVER BOARD

## INNOVATIVE OPTIONS TO KEEP YOU SAFE THIS BOATING SEASON

By Bob Moshiri

“Thanks to leading edge technological advances over the last few years” said Robin Martel of Fugawi “boaters have many new choices for high quality safety products that are untethered and inexpensive”. According to the US Coast Guard, there were over 4000 boating accidents in the US with 600 untimely deaths in 2014, Fugawi hopes the following three products can help reduce these tragic statistics in 2017.

First up is the stylish, smart wristband designed by a French start-up called Sea-Tags for situations where a family is sailing or cruising, or a group of friends have gone fishing on a boat.

There are two components to the Sea-Tags MOB alarm system to ensure passenger safety. A free app downloaded to all smartphone on board to monitor everyone wearing the wristband, and a wristband worn by captain and crew. The moment someone goes overboard and the wristband is submerged, the







smartphones on board will sound an alarm while saving the time and GPS location of the incident. The app can even be enabled to send an automatic text message to someone who in turn could inform the emergency services while providing them with the time and last known GPS location.

The Sea-Tags smart wristbands cost US \$79 each. The free app is available on both iTunes and Google Play stores.

**Next product in the lineup is Fell Marine's unrivaled MOB+ (Man OverBoard Plus, pictured above) wireless kill switch, which was introduced by the Norwegian company in 2016.** The MOB+ is an electronically controlled, wireless kill switch that can be used on all boats, giving the user not only all the benefits of technology but untethered freedom of movement around the boat. The MOB+ wirelessly stops the boat engine if the wearer of the FOB falls overboard, making it an ideal accessory for solo sailors and fishermen, night time boaters and generally boats 40 feet or less.

Fell Marine employs the proprietary WiMEA Protocol with lightning-fast reaction time, 4D Antenna Diversity, AutoMOB, state-of-the-art electronics and UniqueID technology to stop the boat without interfering with existing systems onboard.

Fell Marine's ready-to-use MOB+ complete with the base unit and a FOB is retailed at an affordable price of US \$199.

**The final device in this impressive lineup of unsurpassed safety products is the McMurdo Smartfind S20 AIS MOB.** Designed for sailing teams, yachts, commercial boats and cruisers with AIS aboard, the S20 turns the MOB person into an AIS target transmitting the position and a serialized identity number back to the vessel's onboard plotter enabling the distressed individual to be quickly located and recovered.

The McMurdo S20 is designed to be fitted to a lifejacket and ready to activate and transmit continuously for at least 24 hours in the event of a man overboard situation. The S20 AIS MOB comes with a 7 year battery life and features a flashing LED indicator light for night time recovery. An optional deployment allows the S20 to be automatically activated when compatible life jackets are inflated.



The McMurdo S20 AIS MOB is listed at US \$299.

Both Sea-Tags and Fell Marine have crafted their products to ensure boaters enjoy wearing the hi-tech safety wristbands and FOBs without compromising their own lifestyle, look and comfort. All these companies have employed the highest quality materials that withstand salt, cold and the sun to make these devices durable in the harsh of marine environments.

All the safety products featured here as well many other hi-tech

charts, hardware and software products from the likes of Navionics, Actisense, Digital Yacht and LCJ Capteurs can be viewed and purchased from <https://www.fugawi.com/>.

### About Fugawi

Fugawi was founded in 1995 in Toronto and distributes software services, connectivity solutions and hi-tech marine products from leading manufacturers. The assets of Fugawi were purchased by Johnson Outdoors Canada Inc. in 2016.



# FUGAWI<sup>TM</sup>



# ATX

## 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



denali  
rods

#denalifishing denalirods.com







Danny Barker's Bass Facts..

## PART 2: MISHANDLING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL....

By Danny Barker  
Trophy Bass Hunter

The tip of the ice berg or a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. We hear all the time about this bass circuit or that organization is falling down on the job when it comes to how we handle and manage fish caught during tournaments around the country.

First let me say this article isn't intended to call out one group, organization or Wildlife Commission. It's intended to bring some awareness and hopefully to better treatment of the resources, Bass fishing especially. Along the same lines we need to look at the everyday bass fisherman's care and handling of their catches.

I cover a number of club and major tournaments throughout the year, seen lots of good efforts and bad. When I see something that's obviously out of the realm of proper care, I feel it's my duty to speak out and or write about it! That being said what I'm about to tell you is that it's happening all the way to top and final process of releasing tournament caught fish! While attending an out of state major event last year by the way this



Must See

Video

Next Page



organization has the one of the highest standards for caring for the fish prior to and during the weigh in process. The name of the Circuit and date isn't what's relevant. It was brought to my attention that employees of the Fish and Wildlife, during this event, poorly handled the releasing of the fish after transporting them to the final drop off location. Think about it.... We feel all warm and fuzzy knowing that after the weigh in the F&G will do the right thing concerning preserving the fish to live and fight again another day. This is what I found and saw in a video taken of the them netting fish from the tank and literally throwing them from the truck at a high distance back in the water not to mention a certain number of dead fish being moved to another tank. This was disturbing to say the least, if we can't count on the last chain of command in process it means all other efforts to be diligent are wasted! So what we have is a scenario where we've let the fox inside the chicken coup.... So you see it isn't always the small tournaments or circuits that need to do a better it goes to the highest level. Hopefully my story will bring some awareness to the issue of fish care and handling during tournaments....

**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION? Email ODU  
and we will share it on our Facebook  
Page... [odu.media@odumagazine.com](mailto:odu.media@odumagazine.com)**

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK  
([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))



## Danny's Sponsors Are..

Bassaholics Lifestyle Apparel.....

<http://www.bassaholics.com/>

Gillz Breathe Like A Fish....

<http://breathelikeafish.com/>

Snag Proof.... <http://goo.gl/KEEHba>

Glacier Gloves.... <http://glacierglove.com/>

Dobyns Rod.... <http://www.dobynsrods.com/>

CaliforniaReservoirLures....

<http://www.californiaresevoirlures.com/>

Miller Punchin Weights....

<http://www.millerpunchinweight.com/>

The Red One.....

<http://www.millerbuiltproducts.com/home.html>

Peppers Eyeware.....

<http://www.peppersusa.com/>





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 trusty steed. It's a key character in every fish tale. It's quick like a gnat and stealthy like a chameleon. It's won championships, beer and rounds of drinks. It's a lifeline 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.







# SLAB OR A SLOB

By O'Neill Williams

Yes, I know, it's almost over, the deep brush Crappie fishing that is, but December – February will come around again next year and you should have an idea about what to do and where to go to catch big slab Crappie in Southern Reservoirs. If a big crappie in Georgia is called a slab then is a big crappie in Alabama a slob? Wondering. We wrote a bit about using a Road Runner for various species last month. For March, we're being more selective and focused.

You're gonna think I'm a bit 'off', but if you'll just give it a try next season, you'll catch more than you've ever caught before and they'll be big and easy to reach; no

boat, no long ride, no minnows to look after.

Think 'Christmas Tree Rig'. I don't know how it got named that but that's what we call it. Three feet up on a soft rod with six-pound line, rig a 1/32 oz. Road Runner with a bit of plastic. It's a start, but there's more. Twelve inches down, attach a #4 stand out hook. Ever used one? Makes a huge difference. On that hook put a Fisher's Choice Super worm or Meal worm. What? Trust me now. I'll explain. On the tag end down another 12 inches, put another 1/32 oz. Road Runner with a little Fisher's Choice Shrimp.

No plastic, just the shrimp.

Good Grief, what have you done?

The top bait is an attractant and what the Crappie eat anyway. Good!

The middle bait on the 'Stand Out' is a scent spreader. Don't worry, it gets bites too but with the scent in the water, the Crappie will bite better and stick around longer to get caught.

The bottom bait is a scent spreader AND holds the rig vertical. You're all set; three baits in the water, scent all around.

Now where? Brush piles, of course. That was easy but didn't I say something about it being easy with





no boat, no fast ride, not getting wet? I did.

Large commercial marinas on the major reservoirs across the South will work just fine. It's easy. You have to get permission from the marina owner, but if you're nice and promise no drinking or shouting or partying, just a couple of worm out old fishermen trying to do their best, he'll probably let you roam the dock and catch a bucket full. You might offer to share a few. To make it even easier, borrow a portable fish finder with the transducer mounted on a pole. Ken Sturdivant showed me how to use a Lowrance. It worked beautifully. You can go dock to dock, slip to slip, and soon you'll find a gold mine of Crappie, thousands of them. Catch a mess, leave a few thousand for the next fisherman, or little kid, and you're done.

Might mention here that the commercial marina is not the key, it's the brush pile put there by the slip renters; no brush, no fish. The Crappie don't know there's a marina there but it does afford a giant shadow and makes them shy away from traveling out in the sunlight;

no eyelids or sunglasses and all that. The Crappie are in the deep brush all over the lake, but what the marina shade affords us is a great place to fish without the boat ride.

I've included a photo of the Christmas Tree Rig, and a package of 'Stand Out Hooks', and hope you can make out how to fashion it. This rig will get you more bites and, if you are any good at it, catch more fish. The 'Stand Out' makes the middle bait work. I've had two and sometimes three Crappie on at once. When you hook the first one, don't reel in so quickly and often another will bite another bait. The Fisher's Choice canned meal worms, super worms and shrimp are sold at Walmart and other bait places and even on-line. Again, it's Fisher's Choice Baits. In the cans, they will last 5 years, and after opening, they're good for two weeks. It saves a great deal of time and heartache not to have to scrounge up live baits and carry around a minnow bucket. These are truly shrimp, meal worms and super worms. They were once alive and have been preserved for the fisherman.

Anyway, there you are. December and 50 degree water temperatures in the reservoirs comes around next year, usually after November. Works that way every year. Has for a while anyway and likely will again. Give it a try. I'll probably see you on one of the lakes. Look for me sitting in an easy chair on a dock in the shade.





# RUNNING AND GUNNING FOR PRESPAWN FISH

By David A. Brown

Prespawn bass: they're plump with roe and eager to eat. One of the best times of the year to catch a limit of giants, the prespawn is all about the search; and as Bassmaster Elite Series pro Randall Tharp notes, you have to make quality the focus.

"Finding fish in the prespawn is not that difficult; it's about finding the right size fish," Tharp said. "Any place we go, the prespawn fish are going to weigh the heaviest. So, I'm trying to find the biggest fish in the lake — and a concentration of them.

In terms of search baits, Tharp utilizes lures he can fish quickly — crankbaits, lipless baits, spinnerbaits, etc. He knows his hook-up percentages are better with flipping/pitching baits, but in order to use these, he need to first dial in the target zone.





“Reaction baits are not always the best way to catch them; but it is the best way to find them,” Tharp said. “Once I find the school, then I’ll use slower presentations (jigs, Texas-rigged plastics) to capitalize on it.”

## **WHERE TO LOOK**

A noted shallow water fisherman, Tharp said he follows a particular game plan when first engaging his prespawn search. He’ll start in creeks or rivers because geography immediately constricts the playing field, while back waters tend to accelerate fish movement.

“From my experience, the farther up in the shallow portion of a lake, with a little more stained water, the fish are usually farther ahead in their seasonal pattern than the ones in the deeper portion,” Tharp explained. “The narrower part of a reservoir are just easier for me to break down than the vast lower end.”

## **ON THE MOVE**

Pointing out the importance of tactical propulsion, Tharp said: “Without a reliable trolling motor system, I’m dead in the water. A trolling motor is one of the most vital pieces of equipment in the boat.”







Covering water often means frequent hops from spot to spot and that's where the TH Marine G-Force Handle (<http://thmarine.com/g-force-trolling-replacement-handle>) plays an important role in Tharp's busy day. Replacing standard lift and release ropes, this accessory features a nylon-coated stainless steel cable with a padded oversized handle for a secure and comfortable grip.

"I'll pull my trolling motor up and down countless times in a tournament," Tharp said. "Especially in practice, I'm not going to get more than one or two bites on a spot and then I'm going to run somewhere else.

"The lack of stretch in the cable and the oversized handle make a huge difference in minimizing fatigue. It just takes a lot less effort than a standard stretchy rope."

## **EFFICIENT OPERATION**

Also facilitating trolling motor dynamics, the TH Marine Equalizer Lift Assist (<http://thmarine.com/g-force-equalizertm-trolling-motor-lift-assist> - pictured above) employs a pair of air pistons, which fit most Motorguide Gator Mounts to absorb half the lifting weight. A significant benefit for anyone with back issues, as well anyone spending long days on the water, Equalizer Lift Assist offsets the added weight of StructureScans and Hydrowaves mounted to trolling motors.

Complementing this smooth motion, TH Marine's G-Force Silencer (<http://thmarine.com/g-force-silencer-trolling-motor-vibration-pad> - pictured next page) eliminates abrasive metal-on-metal contact by providing a soft padded surface on the trolling motor mount. This, not only extends the mount's life, it dampens the noise of pulling your trolling motor out of the water.

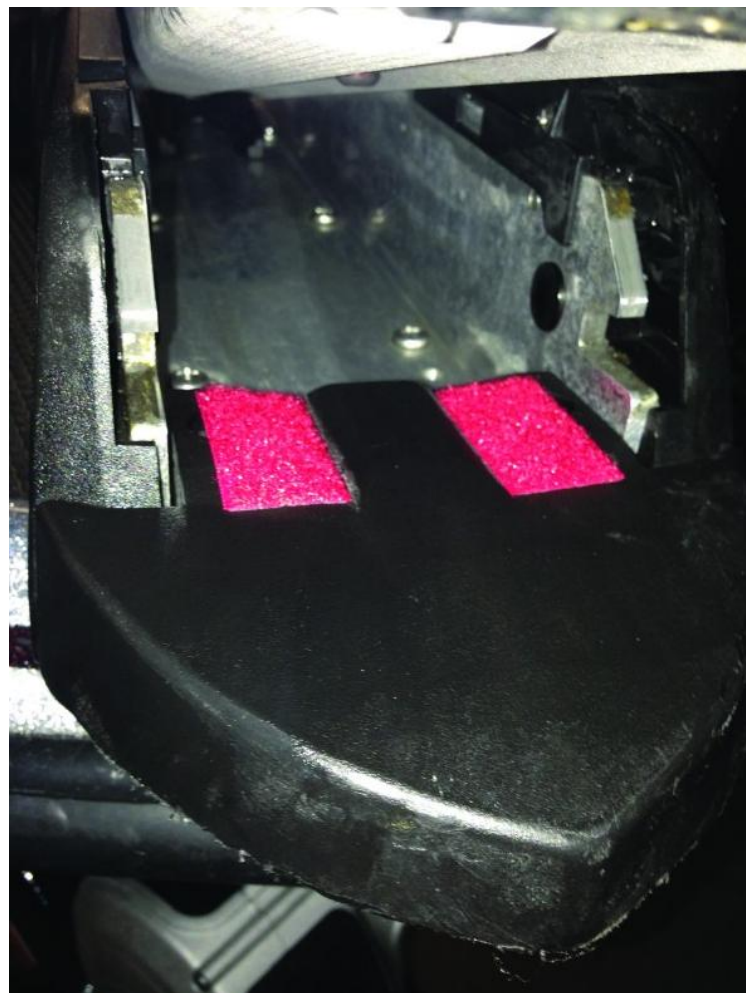


Now, the one downside of shallow water prespawn searching is the potential for trolling motor prop entanglements. Be it discarded fishing line or vegetation, a fouled prop slows you down and burns valuable search time. That's why Tharp has installed the TH Marine Eliminator Prop Nut (<http://thmarine.com/g-force-eliminatorm-trolling-motor-prop-nut> - pictured below).

"As a tournament angler, time management is everything," Tharp said. "This accessory dissipates heat and eliminates vibration — two things that are essential to efficiency in shallow water."

Additionally, Tharp notes his favorite feature that the Eliminator Prop Nut brings to the table: "A lot of the lakes we fish in are full of fishing line and, before using the Eliminator, anytime I got line or grass tangled around my trolling motor prop, it would take a lot of time to go back to my tool box, get a pair of pliers and remove the prop nut.

"Now, I can unscrew the Eliminator Prop Nut with my hands and pull my trolling motor prop off in about five seconds. It's so important to make sure your boat is quiet and in 20 seconds or less, I can remove that prop, clear any line or debris, replace the prop, screw the nut back on and get back to finding those prespawners."







# A New Reason to Celebrate!

## FREE WITH YOUR NEW BOAT!

Receive up to a 20% discount on  
Bass Pro Shops® merchandise and a 10% discount at  
Bass Pro Shops Signature Restaurants for up to 2 years!

Receive an additional year with valid Military ID.

**BUY ANY NEW BOAT BEFORE  
December 31, 2017 to receive this special offer.**

**This offer is valid on ALL NEW and PRIOR YEAR boats.**

**Some restrictions apply. See your dealer for complete details.**

**Offer expires December 31, 2017.**

 **CLICK FOR  
FREQUENTLY  
ASKED QUESTIONS**

**TRACKER**  
boats

**NITRO**  
PERFORMANCE FISHING BOATS

**MAKO**

**SUN TRACKER**

**TAHOE**

**REGENCY**

\*The Bass Pro Shops® Boat VIP Member Card offer is available at participating dealers. The offer is valid on all new and prior year TRACKER®, NITRO®, MAKO®, SUN TRACKER®, TAHOE® and REGENCY® boats. Bass Pro Shops Boat VIP Member Card is valid for 12 months from the date of boat delivery. Provide a valid email address and your card will be valid for 24 months from the date of boat delivery. Receive an additional year with valid Military ID. You must present photo ID when using this card. Bass Pro Shops reserves the right to change or modify VIP Member Card program terms at any time. This card is accepted at all Bass Pro Shops retail store locations and is the property of Bass Pro Outdoor World, LLC. By using this card the holder agrees to all terms under which it is issued. This card is non-transferable. Cardholder will receive a 10% discount at Bass Pro Shops Signature Restaurants on all food and all non-alcoholic beverages, 10% off their purchase of qualified items, and 20% off their purchase of Bass Pro Shops brand items. Bass Pro Shops Signature Restaurants include: Uncle Buck's Fishbowl and Grill, Uncle Buck's Brewery and Steakhouse, Uncle Buck's Grill, Hemingway's Blue Water Café, Islamorada Fish Company, White River Fish House and Blue Fin Lounge. Bass Pro Shops brands include: Johnny Morris®, Bob Timberlake®, Natural Reflections®, RedHead®, White River Fly Shop®, Walleye Angler®, XPS®, Bass Pro Shops®, Worldwide Sportsman®, Offshore Angler®, Prowler® trolling motors and Ascend®. Discount is not valid on the following product categories: non-Bass Pro Shops proprietary reels or trolling motors, electronics, firearms, black powder guns, ammunition, reloading equipment, scopes, bows, arrows, taxidermy, boats, gift cards, safes, fishing and hunting licenses, golf clubs, ATVs, and temporarily marked down items. Discount is not valid at Tracker Boat Center® or other vendor outlets within the store. Any other use constitutes fraud. Discount not valid with any other offers or promotions. Void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law. Applicable taxes must be paid by bearer. No duplications. Not valid on prior purchases. Redemption is solely the responsibility of Bass Pro Outdoor World, LLC. Not responsible for errors in printing.



# MOVE OUT TO JIG PIGS



**By Gary Parsons and Keith Kavajecz**

If you'd like to catch big walleyes, (and don't live near Lake Erie) and are bummed out because the walleyes just finished spawning and you think the bite is going to stink, you need to keep reading!

For years, a belief in the walleye world was that after fish spawned in the spring the larger fish wouldn't bite right away. Over time we have found out that that isn't necessarily the case. One of the things that seem to be common when looking for these early bites, is that walleyes tend to be feeding in areas near the areas where they just finished spawning. We are used to fishing shallow, and normally can catch the smaller males, but where are all of the bigger females? Well, you will need to look at spawning areas where rocks and gravel extend out into deeper water. The females seem to like these areas that are 15-35 feet deep...yes, that deep, even early in the year!

The fish can be pretty lethargic at this time, and they like to hide tight to bottom in the rocks. The water at this time is less than 50 degrees, so crawler harnesses won't be effective and even the slowest trolling of Crankbaits usually won't solicit a bite.

This is the time to bring out the jigs. We like to tie on a 1/4oz – 3/8oz long shank Bass Pro Shops XPS or a Mustad WL Elite Series jig. ***Pictured Next***. Strike King, Berkley, or Mustad Darter heads can also work. The key is the artificial bait you put on the jig. We like to use a 4-inch Berkley GULP! Minnows or



Powerbait minnows that are 4-5 inches long. While you might think that the best way to work the jig is to crawl it across bottom, you actually will not want to do this. Instead, jig it fairly aggressively. Either cast it out and work it back in or slowly rip jig it way behind the boat in a slow electric motor troll using 2-3 foot sweeps. It is insane how many fish will bite, and on a lake like Green Bay, the fish will be big too! This is a great time of year to catch giant fish.

As the water warms you'll want to switch to different types of tails. Many walleye fishermen have taken a lesson from the bass guys by using a smallmouth bedding bite technique with hair jigs. With a small black or purple 1/4oz hair jig, cast beyond where you think the fish might be and let the jig free fall to the bottom. Once the jig hits bottom, slowly crank it two times and then let it fall back to bottom. Once it hits bottom, crank it again two times. Point the rod to the jig or at a slight angle to do a semi-swim back to the boat. While hair jigs have been here forever, this technique is new and deadly effective down to 30 feet.

The last technique you want to try is working a 3/8oz or 1/2oz jig with a 3.5 to 5 inch Berkley Ripple Shad. When you take the Ripple Shad out of the package, stretch it out, like limbering a rubber band. By doing this, the bait will swim two to three times more effectively. This is important as the tail will swim much more natural and elicit more bites.

Just like the hair jig, you will want to cast it out, then give a couple of turns on the reel. Visualize the bait swimming along the bottom. Let it sit for a second and then reel again. It is amazing how hard the fish will hit! The cool thing about this technique is that it also becomes deadly in late fall. In many cases you will catch fish in the same types of places as the spring bite, in addition to the typical sunken island and steep breaking shoreline fall hotspots where live minnows are usually used. We have absolutely crushed big fish with this technique.





For gear, we like to use a conventional jigging rod like the 6' or 6'6" medium light Walleye Angler rod with a fast taper. For line we use 10lb Berkley NanoFil or FireLine and 10lb 100 percent Fluorocarbon leaders tied directly to jigs.



The neat thing about this type of fishing is that you can often see the fish on your electronics before you even put a line in the water. If you see one or two just off bottom, you can assume there are several more there, as they usually hang tight to bottom (hiding in between the rocks) this time of year. This is where the use of a Lowrance HDS is important. Using 2D sonar and side scanning modes will help you locate the deep rock and fishy looking spots. If you see an interesting area, switch to downscan, to see if some of those marks have separation from the bottom, assuring you that they are fish.

When fishing a good looking area you are searching for that first bite, and if you get it make sure that you put your trolling motor into anchor mode (we use a MotorGuide Xi5 trolling motor for this) and begin to work the area thoroughly. This is also when a HydroWave works well. Start with the "passive bait" mode sound and experiment from there to see if you get more bites. Some days it really makes a



difference! If you are in an area where you're catching fish, don't go far to find the next one. This isn't a fast and furious bite. On a good day you might only catch ten fish, but they will be quality fish. This is a very fun bite that we look forward to each year. Give it a shot and we think you too will be hooked on jigging up your Next Bite!





**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](http://www.oneilloutside.com)**



# A DATE WITH A DINOSAUR – PACIFIC NORTHWEST STURGEON FISHING

By Edward Chin

Did you know that you can still see and catch a dinosaur? Located in the Pacific Northwest between Oregon and Washington, the Columbia River and one of its major tributary, the Willamette River is home to the White Sturgeon - *Acipenser transmontanus*.

White Sturgeon is one of the oldest fish and closest descendant to the dinosaurs we have the opportunity to fish for. These prehistoric looking ancestors are found along the West Coast in many bays and estuaries from California to British



Columbia, Canada.

The White Sturgeon is a migratory species that spends time in both freshwater and saltwater. The sturgeon will migrate to freshwater during the months of May – July and will spawn in the freshwater. Once the spawning is complete, the adults will migrate back to the estuary saltwater to feed and grow. Juvenile sturgeon will live in the river system for most of their young lives and slowly make their way to the estuary as well to feed and grow. The juvenile sturgeon will carry both sexes with them and will not mature into the particular sex until they reach the age of 20-30 years old. We currently have 2 species of sturgeon in the Pacific Northwest, the Green and White Sturgeon.



White Sturgeon sizes can range from 1ft upward to lengths over 20ft. and weighing over 1,000 pounds. The oversized/giant sturgeons are sometimes referred to as a freshwater Marlin for their strength and acrobatic stunts they perform when hooked at times. The body of the sturgeon is covered with rows of scute, a boney scale plate with a tough horn creating a later line of armor. The scale plates are very sharp and can cause harm if the fish is not properly handled. Sturgeons use the scale plates as defense from predators. The life span on the sturgeon has been recorded to be over 100 years old. Most keeper sized sturgeon between 42" – 60" are in the age range of 15-30 years of age.

Green Sturgeons are a much smaller species in size and weight. Usually not over 5ft in length and no more than 200 pounds in weight, and have a distinctively smaller snout and body structure, olive green in coloration compared to their cousins, and have sharper scute (a boney scale plate with a horn) on its body and can cause harm if a person is not properly protected.

Currently there are special regulations are in place in Oregon and Washington to protect the species from over harvesting. A single barbless hook, limited fishing days during the spawning months along with catch and release fishery is the common practice for fishing for sturgeon.

Our sturgeon trip this month was targeting fish in the Willamette River near Portland, Oregon. The



Willamette River is home to many fish species such as largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegill, catfish, carp, Chinook salmon and steelhead to name a few. Angling pressure for sturgeon in the winter is light and picks up as weather and water temperatures improve. This fishery can be a weather and water level dependent. Too much rain can create heavy river flows and river hazards that make fishing opportunities limited. Opportunities for sturgeon fishing are available year round with good catches most of the year.

Our guide, Captain Edward Chin of All About Adventure Excursions – [www.aaaexcursions.com](http://www.aaaexcursions.com) is a well-known angler in the area and put the crew on fish most of the day. We launched out of the Portland Harbor near Swan Island and proceeded to head towards the main river channel where we went looking for some fish.

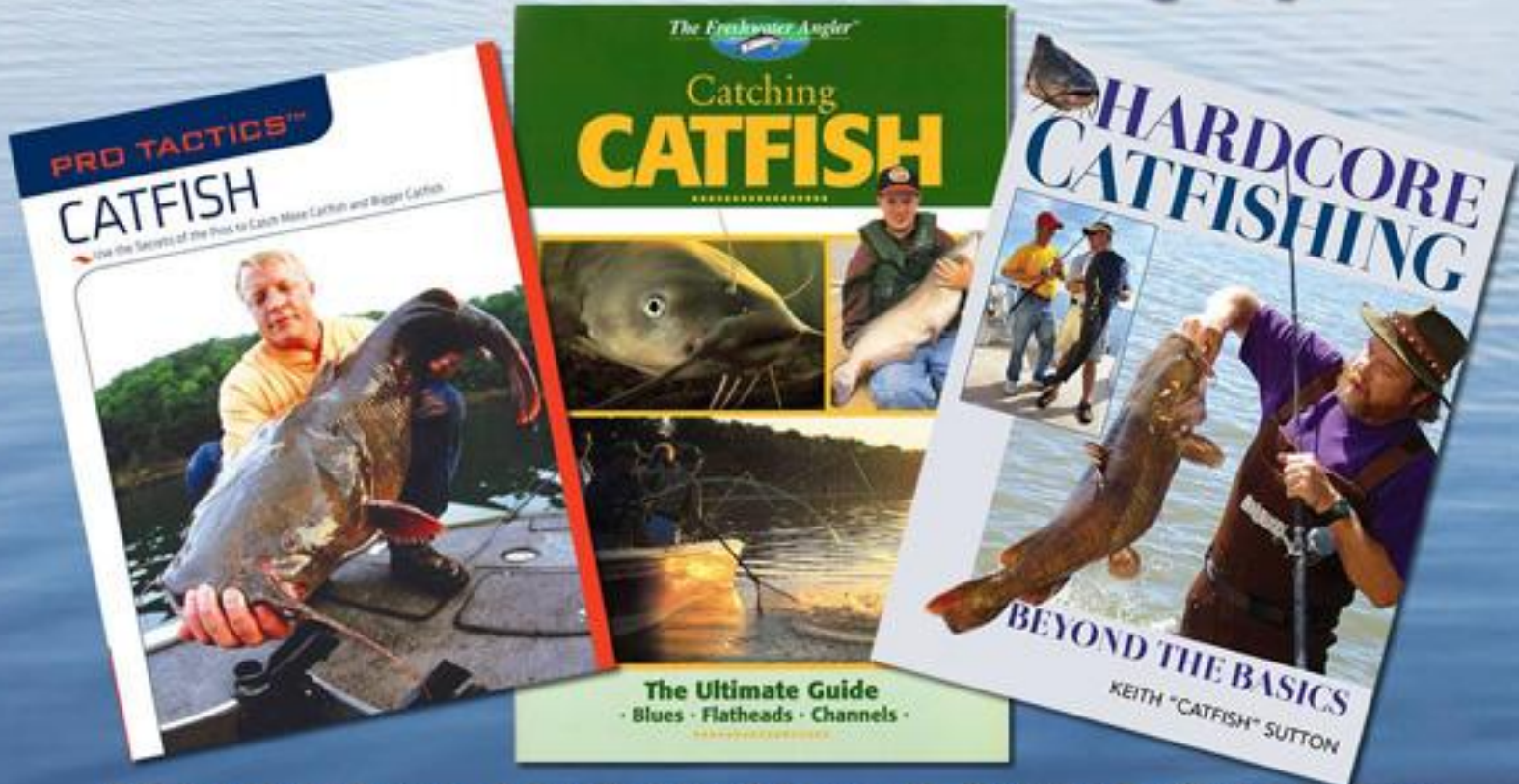
The gear for sturgeon can be from defined as light and heavy tackle. Most light tackle gear can consist of a 7-9ft rod, heavy action 10-30# line weight and lure weight of 1-6 ounces. Most salmon fishing gear will work for keeper sized sturgeon between 38" – 60" in length. Oversized sturgeon will require heavy gear suited for offshore billfish or tuna. Short powerful extra heavy action rods usually 5-7ft in length and line weights of 20-65# and lure weights of 2-10 ounces will work best for these larger fish. Reels can be either a low profile or round style reel spooled with FINS 30-65# braided/ Yo-Zuri Hybrid 40-80# fishing lines with about 250-300 yards of line on each reel. Hooks sizes can range from a 4/0 – 8/0 depending on the size of





# 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](http://www.catfishsutton.com) today.**

bait you are using and also must be barbless due to regulations, meaning there is no barb protruding from the hook.

The main diet of sturgeon consists of shrimp, anchovies, smelt and clams. Sturgeons are bottom feeders and feed on most bottom species. Their mouths are located on the underside of their snout. Small soft barbs are located near the tip of the snout used to detect their food while swimming on the bottom. The sturgeon eyesight is poor and they rely heavily on their keen sense of smell and touch to feed. They use a suction method to extract the shrimp and clams from the mud or sand bottoms and will ingest water to create a suction of water to consume the baitfish they are feeding on. They have large crusher jaw that helps break down the shells of the shrimp and clams.

Most anglers will use a combination of baits to fish for sturgeon. Pickled smelt, herring, squid, sand shrimp, mud shrimp are some of the more popular baits and also lamprey, herring and shad has been used to fish for sturgeon as well.

Sturgeon cocktails are the best combining a selection of one of the pickled baits with shrimp yields us the best catch success.

Fishing for sturgeon can be done from the bank or boat. Good river bank locations for fishing for sturgeon are located near deep water and currents that wash food into these spots. For bank anglers, the use of a long surf rod is preferred to be able to cast heavy fishing weights (2-6 ounces) and make

longer casts towards the river channel. Wrapping up your bait with some elastic thread can help keep your bait on the hook while casting. Elastic thread can be found at any fabric or craft store in either white or black.

Your fishing set up for sturgeon will be to attach a slider swivel by threading it onto your main line (30-65# line), next tie a barrel swivel to the main line. Create an 18" – 24" leader of 30-50# Dacron material and tie your 5/0-8/0 hook on to it and attach it to your swivel connecting it to the main line. Attach the proper weight you need based on currents and depths you will be fishing (2-16 ounces of weight) to the side swivel. Attach your bait and you are ready to fish.

Use care in casting your set up, as the weight is heavy and the bait can be thrown off the line. Use a lob technique to make your cast. If fishing from the boat, you can just release the bail and let the line out until the set up hits the bottom.

The sturgeon bite can be fairly light, so pay close attention to your rod tip. Other times, the bite can be very aggressive and can pull your rod into the water, so make sure your gear is secure while in the rod holder on the bank or boat. When you detect the bite, slowly pick up the rod, and collect up any slack on the line, then set the hook! Be aware that the size of fish can be a mystery and you never know what you can end up with at the end of your line.

If you are interested in learning more about fishing for sturgeon or booking a trip for some Pacific Northwest sturgeon fishing, contact All About Adventure Excursions located in Gresham, Oregon at [aaaexcursions@gmail.com](mailto:aaaexcursions@gmail.com) or on Facebook @ All About Adventure Excursions



# Does this lure make my Bass look fat?

## **RAPALA**

See the big, fat truth at [rapala.com/how2TV](http://rapala.com/how2TV)





# EARLY SEASON CHECKLIST FOR WALLEYES

By Jason Mitchell

For many walleye anglers across the upper Midwest, some of the first open water walleye fishing opportunities occur each year on river systems like the Wolf River, Missouri River, Mississippi River and Rainy River to name a few. While each system can have specific nuances that make that system somewhat unique, river walleyes also follow some of the same general rules regardless of where they swim. How fish relate to current and set up on current seams seems universal. This month, we offer some insights and guidelines for narrowing down the hunt for river walleyes this season.

1. **The Trump Card.** Look for the right color water. Incoming tributaries and culverts are prime locations for finding spring walleyes on river systems. This incoming current is often warmer and there are often washout holes, channels and current seams where fish can rest. Water color however is the trump card. High water can cause turbidity in the water and can also contain a lot of debris. Some incoming tributaries have more turbidity than others after a rapid snow melt or rain. In some cases, you might have to move upstream from the incoming tributary because the water is too dirty. Use your prop to gauge water clarity. If you can see your prop, the fish won't have any problem finding your presentation. If you can only see a few inches into the water, spend a good part of your day looking for cleaner water. Pockets of cleaner water will produce better fishing when rivers get muddy.
2. **Fake it till you Make it.** Soft Plastics and hair usually out fish bait. Not to deny the effectiveness of a jig and minnow. We all know a jig and minnow catches a lot of spring walleyes but we dare argue that soft plastics and hair can catch even more fish. Here's why... as your jig sweeps by fish in the current, these fish don't have as much time to react to or scrutinize your presentation. The added durability is part of what makes both classic bucktail hair jigs and soft plastics so effective. When you miss a fish with a jig and minnow and the fish steals the minnow, you're done. You must rehook the bait and there is dead time where you are not effectively presenting your presentation. Soft plastics and bucktail hair jigs or marabou jigs keep you in the water longer. For moderate current, Kalin's Sizmic Grubs work well while a slimmer and more streamlined profile like the Kalin's Jerk Minnow JR work better in stronger current.
3. **The Bait Debate.** There are situations however where you better have water in the baitwell. There are times when minnows are needed and it typically coincides with slower current, tougher bite conditions. I would dare say that much of the time, we find most fish close to the current seam where the aggressive fish are in the faster water and the rest of the fish are close to the seam. There are times however where fish will move away from the current entirely and set up in backwater areas during high water or warmer dead water pockets behind sandbars and other current obstructions. This is a situation where we often see a classic jig and minnow shine. No current on a tough bite can sometimes be a minnow bite.





4. Angle of the Dangle. When slipping the current, the old rule of thumb was to keep the boat the same speed as the jig getting swept down river. You wanted to keep your line vertical. This is one vital page from the playbook and we have seen where you wouldn't get bit if the line wasn't vertical to the jig. There are however other plays to have in your bag of tricks because it can be downright amazing how river fish can respond to different presentations. Dragging jigs upstream or downstream can be downright deadly and what is amazing is that dragging can often put a lot of fish in the boat when traditional slipping presentations that keep the jig right below the boat don't work. These dragging tactics shine in less than ten feet of water where there is moderate to slow current which is where you can find a lot of walleyes each spring. For dragging down stream, lighten up the jig and give your jig a good cast upstream. Let the current carry you downstream with the jig dragging upstream behind the boat. If you can't keep the jig upstream, you don't have enough weight. The other method is slowly dragging the jig upstream. Again, simply cast behind the boat and use your trolling motor to crawl upstream. You typically want the jig to tick bottom occasionally. These horizontal jig presentations can shine on river systems.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK  
([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK  
([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))

5. Cast More this Season. We all know how good river holes and deep channels can be. Here is the reality however with river walleyes. These deep holes are often where fish winter. As the water warms up raising the metabolism of fish so they start swimming against current and moving through the system, these fish will often use much shallower current seams and breaks. Some of the biggest fish each spring are routinely caught out of shallow water along rip rap, clam beds and sand bars where there is less than ten feet of water. In fact we catch many big walleyes on rivers each spring in less than three feet of water. You will not only catch these shallow fish by pitching or casting jigs, you will also just fish through so much more water with each cast.



Fishing Boat



Fish Catching Boat





# From Spawn To Ice: A Laker's Life

**By Dan Johnson**

Laketrout anglers are anxiously awaiting the start of the ice fishing season. But veteran guide Bernie Keefe says there's still time to enjoy one last blast of open-water action before winter closes in.

"Many anglers know lake trout spawn in the fall, and where legal, they take advantage of the fishing opportunities it provides," he begins. "And just as many folks know where to find the fish during that magical first-ice period.

"But there's a gap in between the spawn and early ice periods, where few fishermen crack the locational code," he continues. "As a result, they miss out on some fine late-fall lake trout fishing."

Keefe, of Granby, Colorado, keeps tabs on postspawn trout. Years of on-the-water research have shown him where lakers go and how they behave after bedtime.

"When water temperatures reach 56 to 58 degrees, lake trout start heading for spawning grounds such

as rocky reefs, rock ledges and other snaggy main-lake areas offering rocks soft-ball size or larger," he says. "The spawning ritual occurs as temps drop through the 50s down to the high 40s."

Keefe targets eater-size lakers throughout the spawn, leaving larger spawners to capitalize on their annual chance for romance. His tactics include jigging Fergie Spoons and small minnow- and twister-tail softbaits such as those in Berkley's PowerBait and Gulp! lineups.

"At peak spawning, your catch is dominated by lakers," he says. "But when you get a few rainbow trout down near bottom, you know it's winding down. And when suckers show up, it's over. These species love to eat lake trout eggs, but won't run the gauntlet of teeth when a reef is swarming with lakers. They wait for some of the lake trout to leave before moving in."

Keefe doesn't abandon the honeymoon suite immediately, however. "Some lake trout remain to feed on the incoming buffet line of rainbows and suckers," he says. "Switching to larger lures such as big tubes and hair jigs often prolongs the action in these areas."

When that bite fizzles, Keefe looks for lakers transitioning toward their wintering spots. "The first place I look is mud," he says. "Postspawn trout are tired and beat up. They want to lie someplace soft and relax. But they'll still feed."

In water temperatures below 50 degrees, lakers may be virtually anywhere from extremely shallow





water out to the abyss. "They could be in three feet, 100 feet or anywhere in between," says Keefe.

To speed his search process, he starts with muddy bottoms near the first major structural change adjacent to the spawning area. "It's not rocket science," he promises. "It could be a point, hump or shallow bench with mud next to it."

In depths less than 10 feet, Keefe casts hard-bodied swimbaits such as Sebile's 7-inch Magic Swimmer, in shades of rainbow, black, silver and bluegill. "Cast out, let the bait hit the mud, then make a varied retrieve," he says. "Not in terms of stops and starts, but in speed changes from slow to fast and back again. You can use the rodtip, but I prefer the precise speed control of the reel handle."

If the shallows are a bust, Keefe uses his Lowrance HDS sonar-chartplotter to scan deeper structure. "I drive around until fish are marked, then drop tubes up to 7 inches in length, or big hair jigs," he says. "Slower jig strokes are the rule, but you can also try reeling hair jigs to the surface. Sometimes lake trout will storm up and crush them on the rise."

Keefe notes that once you find trout in a particular area, other similar spots may produce fish as well. "Look at your lake map for areas offering the same features," he says. "Chances are good they'll hold transitional trout, too."

Eventually, most migratory lakery land on classic first-ice hotspots such as humps, ridges, saddles, flats and points. But that's a story for another day. For now, put Keefe's postspawn strategies into play to catch late-fall trout other anglers miss.

**ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK**  
**([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))**

# GOING OVERHEAD FOR SPAWNING BASS

By Glenn Walker

All bass fishermen rely on the technique of flipping or pitching a jig or Texas-rigged soft plastic to a bedded bass in the spring, but what happens when that bass is bedded underneath heavy cover, or is positioned underneath an overhanging or boat, or you've emptied the tackle box with every jig and soft plastic you have and that bedded bass still won't bite, what do you do!? You go overhead to catch that bedded bass!



Tying on a topwater frog, such as the Snag Proof Bobby's Perfect is a great lure choice to target this bass up shallow spawning, why you may ask, well in the spring time the vegetation is beginning to grow and there are frogs and other creatures on the shorelines, so a hollow bodied frog not only allows you to put it in places other baits can't go, but it also mimics real life creatures that pose a threat to a bass on a bed.

To begin you want to present your frog in a very subtle manner as bass on a bed can be very skittish, so a simple, steady retrieve is all it may take to get their attention and trigger a strike. By wearing a good pair of polarized sunglasses you'll be able to see the bed that the bass is guarding, this is important because you can pause your frog right on top of that bed and provoke that bass into biting.

Now if these tactics haven't gotten you bit and that big ol' mama bass is still locked on her bed, you may need to get a little more aggressive with her, such as making some commotion on the water's surface, such as with the Snag Proof Poppin' Phattie. Another tactic is to put some extra weight in one of your frogs so that it will slowly sink, this way when you pause it over the bass's bed, it will sink down.

For spring frogging like this, I use a Witch Doctor Tackle Shaman 6'10" extra heavy rod, as it gives me the power to get a solid hook set on a bass that is up shallow and get it into the boat. I'll spool my Wright & McGill Victory II high-speed reel up with 65 lb Seaguar Smackdown Braided line.

As for frog colors, a natural looking pattern is a good choice if there are creatures running along the shoreline and getting into the water. I'll go to a vibrant and loud color pattern if I really need to trigger a bedded bass into biting.

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 [www.glennwalkerfishing.com](http://www.glennwalkerfishing.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/glennwalkerfishing](http://www.facebook.com/glennwalkerfishing).



# Fishing With St. Joe



## THE BASS WHISPERER

**By Gary Lee**

Pre fishing the week before the B.A.S.S Federation State Championship and meeting some interesting people and St. Joe was one of them ,,he made me a better predator of the Black Bass.

It is pouring down rain and thunder storms are predicted though out the weekend,you are here with six other Top Ten qualifiers to pre - fish for the State Championship but mother nature has played a joke and has given you the worst conditions to find fish and give you some insight on why , when ,where and how you are going to plan to win and place in the top twenty , you only hope your partners that are picked by random order would be as hard core as you are.

My wish came true!

You know from past experience that the sponsors only pay attention to the top twenty and offers do not come as easy as people think .you have to work and learn the marketing game of the outdoors and be around the right people.

My partner was a born Louisiana Coon ass and could fish the socks off anybody I know, he was one of the Top Six from his club and this was his 7th State Championship to qualify.

His name was St.Joe and he was gruff, but a diehard tournament Bass Fisherman!, so St.Joe and I met at the ramp at 4:00 am and talked our smack ,put our rain gear on and Motorcycle helmet, back the Ranger into the water and headed out.

We could not fish for it was hard, hard rain coming down, but this was conditioning our mind in case the tournament has bad weather.

We slowly pulled out into the basin that led to the river that led to the lake we found flying over the area to find the holes when the weather was nice five days earlier.

It was still dark and we could not see very well, but St.Joe had a instinct like no other Bass fisherman I know, so we moved forward slowly, very slow my Ranger was tough, but a log from this storm or anything blown in would ruin a practice trip.

We finally made it to the river ,still pouring rain and windy, but now it was day light and we could see , so we hit the throttle and made that 200 Mercury work for us .

I know we missed a few stumps and floating logs but St Joe was a season boat man and I trusted him

**ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK**  
**([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))**



# TAILORED FOR THE OUTDOOR WOMAN!



# ADVENTURESS

HUNT. FISH. EXPLORE. LIVE.

~ FREE DIGITAL MAGAZINE ~  
[betheadventuress.com](http://betheadventuress.com)

completely!

After a five mile run up river we found the little lake we had saw on the plane trip but there was a problem, the rain had flooded the small creek that led us in and now was a raging river .

We had to find another way in, we back out and started looking for other ways .

I saw a tiny creek but there was a large gap that was water less to get back into the water that led to the secret lake. St.Joe said 'Let's Jump it "',

I said you're crazy!! . ,,,,not in my boat !!!

He jumped out of the boat and gathered some logs and made a sort of a ramp ,he came back to me and said "we will back up and hit the ramp, jump ten feet and land in the water that leads to the lake , we can do it , I betcha dinner "

I looked at him shook my head and put my helmet on and said' "Lets git it",,,,,Screaming ,we hit those logs

We backed up fifty or so yards and gunned it ,,hitting that homemade ramp hard ,It worked ,we went flying and landed in the water !

Lost a tackle box and the cooler !!

Only problem now , how are we going to get back ?,



It did not matter  
.....  
We were in Hog  
Heaven !!

The rain had  
cleared up a little  
and we saw clear  
water and Lilly  
pads and there  
was a added  
attraction ,  
We saw four five  
old duck blinds  
that we did not  
know was there  
and there was a  
dropped off about  
fifteen feet near  
the blinds, too  
cool!

We limited out  
quickly and stayed  
and fun fished for  
a short while, then  
went to study  
those Duck Blinds ,  
however that is  
another story in  
the tales of 'The  
Bass Whisperer".

THE FIRST CAST IS  
ALWAYS THE  
SWEETEST, BUT  
THAT IS ANOTHER  
STORY , OF  
ANOTHER LAKE  
AND ANOTHER  
SWEET MORNING  
OF TOURNAMENT  
BASS FISHING !

# **CRAPPIE NOW!** **DIGITAL MAGAZINE**

## **Free Digital Magazine**



## **Award Winning Writers**



## **Active Social Media**



## **Read Free NOW!** **www.crappienow.com**



# GIRLS NIGHT OUT BOWFISHING

By Carlee Magness

Have you ever gone bowfishing? Do you prefer fishing? Hunting? I recently went bowfishing for the first time and I totally feel like it is the best of both worlds.

I started planning this special "girls night" the way normal women usually do by messaging a couple friends of mine to see how they felt about going bowfishing.

Well...maybe most women don't typically want to

slam some arrows into a fish we do but I honestly think maybe they should give it a try. Anyway... My buddies were up for the adventure and we were off.

We pulled up to meet our guide Brian Magee of Fired Up Outdoors in Eufaula Oklahoma at the boat dock. I'd like to know what was going through his head when he saw a hair stylist, school teacher and a district attorney standing there, eager to hop in the boat and learn the tips of the trade.



The boat was super nice and had all kinds of fancy lights so we could see the fish swimming around under the water. Brian loaded the bows for us, did some explaining about how everything worked and we were ready to let the arrows fly! The first fish we saw was a carp and that poor fella had arrows coming at him from all directions but he was lucky that we weren't really familiar with refraction and the simple fact that you have to aim lower than the target.

Once we got a few shots fired and a few misses under our belts we finally hit the first fish. I honestly think we probably woke up most of the campers on Eufaula lake when we all screamed and jumped up and down with excitement. I still get a little giggly thinking about it. It seemed like every few minutes we were throwing in fish and aiming at another one from carp to gar. My hands were blistered for a while from just getting to shoot so much.

This was by far the best girls night ever. If you are an angler or hunter and haven't ever gone bowfishing, maybe you should think about it. Its definitely worth a shot whether male or female. Any excuse to be outdoors is a good excuse. Don't knock it til you try it!





# THE SOLAR LUNAR TABLE

By Capt. Mike Gerry

With so many weather changes and the up and down of fishing in the past few years many people are starting to use the Lunar Table to predict their fishing day. The table gives you some good information on feeding times, length of feeding time and the moon phase associated with it. The tables are formulated from the position of the earth in relation to the sun and moon. Hence these phases predict a minor and major feeding time where the major periods are forecasted to last 2 to 3.5 hours and a minor period lasts approximately .75 to 1.5 hours of-predictability.

The table is broad in spectrum and divides the country into the four time zones where you can easily interpolate your location by adding or subtracting your location in minutes depending on where you are in correspondence with the chart. The table gives a time of day associated with it for the morning and the afternoon that defines the best periods of that day for the fish to be feeding. After you adjust for daylight saving time by adding an hour to the best times you have your feeding times that give you according to the charts your best advantage to catch fish.

How accurate all this is really depends on your personal beliefs in the Solar Lunar Table practices; hence there are many sayings that become associated with the height of the moon whether it's over head or beneath foot all have relationships to the table. You can look these sayings up and put the table in front of you and see how they relate to the current table and understand these beliefs and their associated predictions. It's not a perfect science by any means however I believe the feeding times are very accurate and can give you a leg up on trying to be on your best spot for the most predicable feeding times.

The Solar Lunar Table comes out monthly and can be viewed on most fishing magazines or looked up on the internet easily. If you have kept information on your many years of fishing as I have you can go back and put up the table and see how efficient the table really is. With fishing so popular the table may bring you some confidence to get back out on the water during productive fishing times.



Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service

[www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com](http://www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com)

[www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville](https://www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville)

Email: [bassguide@comcast.net](mailto:bassguide@comcast.net)

Call: 256 759 2270



# Flooded: Fishing Tackle Tips for the Apocalypse

By Chris Schieble

August's epic flooding in Louisiana was our nation's worst natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy unleashed her devastation on the East Coast in 2012. It came just 11 short years after Hurricane Katrina took the lives of over 1,200 people and destroyed the property of thousands more Louisiana residents.

When these disasters strike, the negative impacts to fishing tackle don't register very high on the overall scale of importance – and rightly so – but as someone who has had the unfortunate task of dealing with a houseful of flooded fishing tackle twice now, I believe my extreme experiences can help other anglers become better prepared to deal with the common problem of wet fishing tackle.

Prior to Katrina, I regularly stored most of my tackle, lures, baits, etc. in Plano StowAway Utility Boxes, because they fit almost any soft- or hard-sided tackle storage system. I also used a lot of the gasketed, waterproof StowAways, but I eventually came to understand that I hadn't been using them correctly. As good as these boxes are at keeping water out, they're equally good at keeping moisture in. A lot of my lures were getting rusty or funky because I wasn't drying them out adequately after a fishing





trip. I still use some Waterproof StowAways, but am always careful to never close them up and store them with anything damp inside. They work great when such precautions are taken.

After Katrina, I started using Plano's Hydro-Flo StowAways. These boxes are completely covered in hundreds of small ventilation holes. After a few fishing trips, I quickly learned that these Hydro-Flo series boxes will completely

drain all water and dry out on their own – whether the moisture came from rain, spray, or simply putting lures away wet.

The real test came after the historic flooding last August. When I was able to return home and attend to the mess, the Hydro-Flo boxes had completely drained of all floodwater and the lures inside were already dry. I simply flushed the lures with fresh water right in the Hydro-Flo boxes to remove traces of salt and debris, and then set the boxes in front of blower fans overnight. I returned the next morning to perfectly dry, non-corroded tackle.

Dealing with flooded fishing reels is kind of like dealing with a





## It's the 2017 Audience Participation Event

- THREE CVA Wolf Model 50 Cal. Muzzleloaders
- THREE Konus Binoculars, one set of binoculars
- THREE Game Saver Food Saver Food Preservation Units
- THREE Household Supply (4) - Fireade 2000 Fire Suppressor Units
- THREE Rockwell Tools Sonicrafters (or Rockwell Tools equivalent)
- THREE Volume One of 'O'Neill Outside' Wild Game recipe books
- THREE Timbaktu Cloak Scent Free Detergent and PayDirt Attractant
- THREE Realtree Shirt and Pant Outfits
- THREE Arctic Ice Packs for long lasting cooler use
- THREE BoatUS PFD's
- THREE Worx Aerocarts or Worx Switchdrivers
- THREE Family Supplies of Bug Band Insect Repellents
- THREE BIG GREEN EGG cook books
- THREE Tru-Turn/RoadRunner Panfish Kits
- THREE Selections of Fisher's Choice Canned Panfish Baits
- THREE \$250 Gift Certificates from Bass Pro Shops
- THREE \$100 in Bojangles' Coupons
- THREE \$100 Coupons for Discount on the Purchase of a Firminator
- THREE \$100 Coupons for Whitetail Institute of North America food plot seeds
- THREE \$1,000 Coupons toward the purchase of a Tuff Shed
- ONE Autographed copy "The Tenth Legion" by Tom Kelly
- ONE Bergara custom hunting rifle provided by Southern Linc Wireless
- ONE 4-wheel set of Year One Custom Muscle car wheels
- ONE Custom set of XGO Base Layers and Performance T's
- ONE 4-piece set of O'Neill Outside Seasonings and Spices



**Each Winner will receive a complimentary 1-year membership in QDMA  
AND a complimentary 1-year membership in BoatUS.**

New and existing "O'Neill Outside with Travis Johnson"

Newsletter subscribers should



enter below or by 'liking' and sharing the "O'Neill Outside"  
and "Travis Johnson's" Facebook pages once.



flooded lawnmower; the quicker you get the water out the better chance you have to salvage it. A good quality bait and tackle store can help with this. I took more than a few reels to Gus' Bait and Tackle in Slidell for a full servicing, and they returned them running like new. If, however, you are short on time because you're dealing with things like, oh, gutting your house for example, there are some steps you can take to preserve your reels until they can have a full servicing.

Baitcasting reels are probably the most finicky, so I'll focus on them. Disassemble both sides of the reel by removing the plate on the brake side of the spool and taking the handle and star drag off to remove the cover plate on the gear drive side. Once you have the reel cover plates off, spray the bearings and gears out with a water-displacing product like Blakemore Real Magic. Let the reel sit for a few minutes to evaporate the cleaner, then spray all the internals, including the bearings, with a really good synthetic thin-film lubricant like Royal Purple's Maxfilm. Maxfilm is a synthetic penetrating lubricant able to penetrate the smallest tolerances and help prevent rust in all parts of the reel. After a good soaking with the Maxfilm, wipe off any excess and apply some fishing reel grease to the drive gears and level wind gear.

Reassemble the reel, making sure to clean off any excess oil or grease from the centrifugal braking surface on the plate that covers the



brake side of the spool. Any oil on that surface will impede the brakes from working properly, and you'll have a tangled mess on your next trip.

As I mentioned, the process for addressing soaked spinning reels is largely the same, even though the parts and pieces are a bit different.

The most important lessons learned from my own fishing tackle apocalypse? Keep your tackle in ventilated storage systems and store it on the highest shelves you can find. Rods and reels should go up high, too – on horizontal storage racks instead of vertical ones.

While most anglers will never have to deal with extreme flooding of their home, some will. And the rest will certainly be faced with the common, day-to-day causes of soaked tackle like rain and spray. In either case, using Plano's Hydro-Flo tackle storage systems is the best tip I can give.

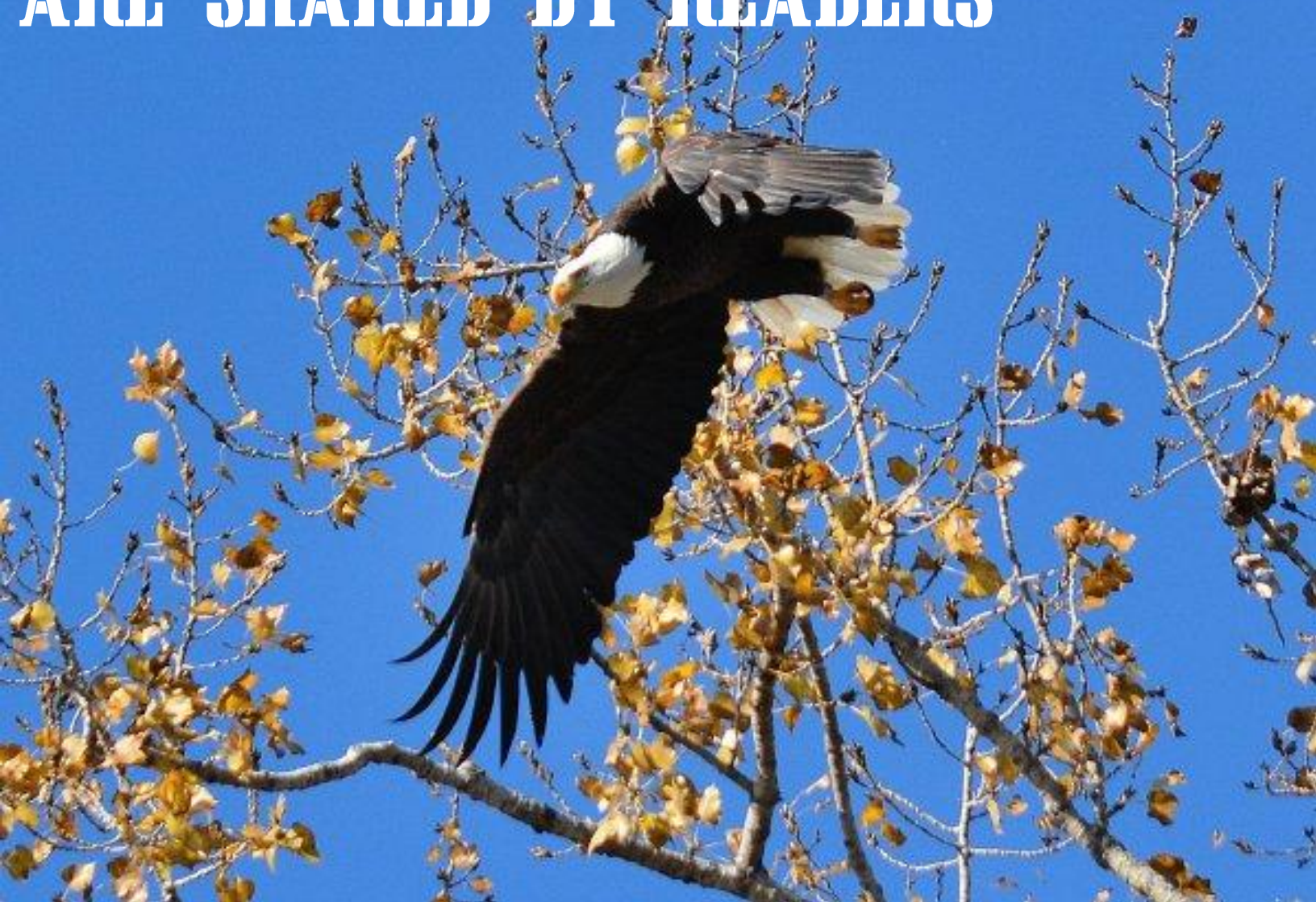




# OUTDOOR ZONE



# MORE OUTDOOR MEMORIES ARE SHARED BY READERS



**By Len Lisenbee**

I opened the New Year with a “special outdoor memories” column. The response was overwhelming, both by readers then and the many comments that came in afterwards. And I realized I shared many of those same memories, like the first deer, or an eagle in flight. So, hopefully on a monthly basis, I will continue with that topic. Here is the next installment.

Sherry Widmer of Canandaigua, a photographer and outdoor lover, sent along the following tale of one of her favorite outdoor memories:

“There are few events in Nature more breathtaking than a Bald Eagle in flight. The sheer power, majesty and strength of this bird of prey are awe-inspiring. One day I set out to take my dog for a walk in Seneca Lake State Park. As I neared the swimming beach an adult Bald Eagle flew in from the lake, and landed in a tree just as I was pulling into the parking lot.

I grabbed my camera and my dog and headed for the tree, trying to stay out of the eagle’s line of sight

by moving from tree to tree. I found a good vantage point within about 50' of the tree in which he was perched, and settled down to watch the eagle as he surveyed the lake. He was on a branch right at the top of the tree with a perfect blue sky behind him.

Eventually the eagle opened up his wings and gave a mighty flap as he pushed off from the branch. Then he spread his magnificent wings and soared right over my head. I was very fortunate to catch this take-off sequence with my camera, but even without any photos, this memory will be with me forever."

I clearly remember my first sighting of an adult bald eagle as it and an immature eagle flew over the Sassafras River near the Chesapeake Bay. Magnificent or Extraordinary hardly does that memory justice. Imagining Sherry's elation at her encounter is truly understandable.

Anyone reading the Sports section of the Daily Messenger is probably aware that Bob Chavez is the editor of that section. Here is his special outdoor memory:

"I'm a latecomer to the world of hunting and didn't start until I was 38 years old, but my first deer will always be the most special moment. I'd gone out quite a bit in my first season and learned a lot by blowing a lot of opportunities.

But late in shotgun season, I got my first. In a stand in Bloomfield. I got there late and it was COLD. But not long after I sat, I saw what turned out to be a button buck coming toward me. I remember my feet being blocks of ice and I wanted to sniff my runny nose in the worst way, but I held quiet and still until the shot presented itself.

I pulled the trigger and I knew right away I was on point. The chill in the air disappeared and my adrenaline was flowing like I've never felt it before. I was fortunate that the deer dropped within sight and after a minute, the woods were quiet again. I sat (had to, because my knees were knocking), and stared at the deer. I was thrilled, sad, overjoyed, humbled and bewildered all at the same time. I still get this way whenever I take a deer. Nothing else in my lifetime compares to the experience of taking a deer, then preparing it for dinner.

I've learned so much since then, like how to know if it's a button buck and that I should let it walk, but my friends forgave me for that since it was my first deer.





## ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK ([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))

And even though I still have 30 lost years of knowledge to make up for as a hunter, there are plenty of future memories to come. But that first deer will always be the best deer for me.”

There is a good chance that every deer hunter who has ever harvested a deer experienced those same or similar emotions. I certainly did, and still do.

Douglas Vittum of Middlesex, a retired NY State Trooper, sent along the next part from his long list of special outdoor memories:

“Years ago, when most of my hunting took place, I never had a camera with me. Too bad, because I had a few experiences that were "memorable" if not just plain interesting. Like the one time in the 60's when we were hunting pheasants in Bloomfield, in the fields where Crossman Arms is today. My buddy, Dan Szymusiak of Webster, and I decided to each walk the opposite sides of a small hill.

Dan was carrying a 3 shot Remington model 58 semi-auto shotgun, I had my trusty Ithaca Model 37 pump. We planned on each walking his side, and meeting at the other end, about a quarter of a mile away. We hadn't been walking 2 minutes, just barely out of sight of each other, when I heard, bang, bang.....bang. I knew just what had happened (from many past experiences), a bird (pheasant) had gotten up and he shot twice... and the bird kept flying, so he fired his last shot. I kept watching ahead, kind of expecting the bird to crest over the hill and come down on my side. But the bird never came.

Now I'm thinking he might have actually hit the bird (Dan wasn't the greatest shot), and was looking for it. You see, back in the early 60's, you didn't need a dog to hunt birds. There were enough birds you

# 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)



could kick them out yourselves, and usually being fairly close shots, one shot kills were the rule, thus an easy find.

Well being curious, I yell over, 'Hey Dan, did you get one?' All I get back is ..."Get over here quick", "I need help locating one".... What the heck, did he actually get a double (2 male birds at once)..so I back tracked, and caught up with him. Then he tells me, "I have two, YOU, have one"...Naw...couldn't be. A triple got up (3 male birds), and Dan actually hit all three? But sure enough, that's what happened. He had found the first two easily, but the third was out a ways. After maybe 10 minutes, we found MY bird...

We walked back to the truck a different way, and I kicked up a pair of birds, a hen and a cock. I shot the male. We were all limited out within 30 minutes of starting our hunt. Shortest hunt we ever did."

My thanks to Doug, Sherry and Bob for their contributions. All are great stories, and all will always be great memories that we can now share.

Len Lisenbee is the Daily Messenger's Outdoor Writer. Contact him at [lisenbee@frontiernet.net](mailto:lisenbee@frontiernet.net).

Monster Stalker  
Leo Borovic

**ATTENTION!**  
LIVE SKULINATED - NEVER FADES

Monster Stalker

ON SALE NOW!  
FROM THE CREATORS OF FISHPURM

[www.monsterstalkerclothing.com](http://www.monsterstalkerclothing.com)





# *Lady Hawk*

**By Lacy Byles**

Walking into the woods, there's a light breeze blowing through my hair. The sun is shining, casting shadows from the trees along the leaf littered ground. As I walk through keeping my eyes peeled for other predators, the predator I carry on my fist keeps his eyes open for his prey. His feathers pulled in tight, body tight and sleek. His head is up with alert eyes scanning through the treetops. I can tell from his body language, he is ready to be released.

He launches off of my glove. I hear the sound of the bells around his ankles fade as he flies off to a tree ahead of me. Gracefully, he alights high up on a branch. I catch up with him, watching for movement in the trees, watching his body language, walking in the direction of the tree he is focused on. As I move



further from him, he follows, landing above me at the tip top of a tree. From here, he sits in an optimal position to strike when ready. I keep moving towards the tree he is focused on, knowing he sees something that I have not.

I come to the big, old, leafless tree. It's full of vines and nooks and crannies. I approach the back side of the tree and finally see it! The big fox squirrel that my hawk had been watching. Watching and waiting for the perfect moment to make his attack. The squirrel spun around to the other side of the tree, thinking he's hiding from me, but forgetting about the real threat that sits vigilantly awaiting for this foolish move. The hawk spreads his wings and takes off from his perch. Pumping through the air after the squirrel, he makes his move. His sharp talons reach out to grab at the squirrel, but the squirrel pulls a fast move and the hawk misses, landing onto another branch.

I watch as the squirrel then makes the fatal mistake of climbing up the tree. Up to the thin, fragile branches. I holler, "Up! Up!" The hawk tilts his head upwards and catches the squirrel within his sights again. He pushes off, flapping hard to quickly pull himself into the air. The squirrel then sees him coming. In a panic, the squirrel tries to change his direction, but it's too late. Eight needle sharp talons sink into him. The hawk rips the squirrel from the tree and crashes to the ground with the squirrel still in his deadly grip. I rush in to help to avoid injury to my hawk. With my gloved hand, I grab the squirrel's head and quickly dispatch. I break into the squirrel's chest cavity and watch as my hawk begins to feed. Another successful hunt with my partner!

I am a falconer, licensed through the state of Louisiana to obtain birds of prey for the use of hunting. My hunting partner is Jester, a redtailed-hawk I trapped from the wild as a juvenile on October 4th, 2014. On that day, my journey as a falconer began.

Once home with my newly trapped and hooded hawk, my husband (also a licensed falconer) and I dressed Jester in his new gear; wide leather anklets with bells and leather strips called jesses,





attached to a swivel and a leash. As I hold onto to his jesses with his feet tight against my glove, the hood is removed. For the first time since he was trapped, he can see me. Unaware that I'm not going to hurt him, he leaps off of my glove in an attempt to get away. Failing, he dangles from my glove as I'm holding onto his jesses. Supporting him with my ungloved hand, I bounce him back up to a standing position. Again, he bates, in an attempt to get away. After a few more tries, he eventually stays standing. Wings spread and mouth open, he tries to look as intimidating as possible. But I am determined to man this bird and teach him that I am not a threat, that I will become his partner.

For hours on end throughout the day, I sit and hold Jester. Touching his wings, chest, and feet to get him comfortable with me. Once he's calmed down, I begin to offer him small pieces of food, which he refuses until the next day. As the days pass, Jester is now more trusting of me. He is willing to jump off of his perch and to my glove for a piece of food. Eventually, he is flying 100 yards to me. Then the day comes to truly test his trust for me. He will fly free. I know if I have trained correctly, he will follow me as I walk through the woods and will return to me at the end of a hunt.

As I held him high on my glove, knees shaking and nervous, I let go of his jesses and watched as he alighted into a tree. Time for the moment of truth. I began to walk along a fence line, kicking a brush, trying to stir up a rabbit. I began to get a bit away from him. Nervously, I turned around to see if he was watching me. I hollered, "Come on, Jess!" and turned to keep walking. I then heard that wonderful sound. The sound of his bells coming closer, and watched as he flew over me, landing in a tree right ahead. I smiled. I had done it. I had successfully taken a redtailed-hawk from the wild and trained him to become my partner.

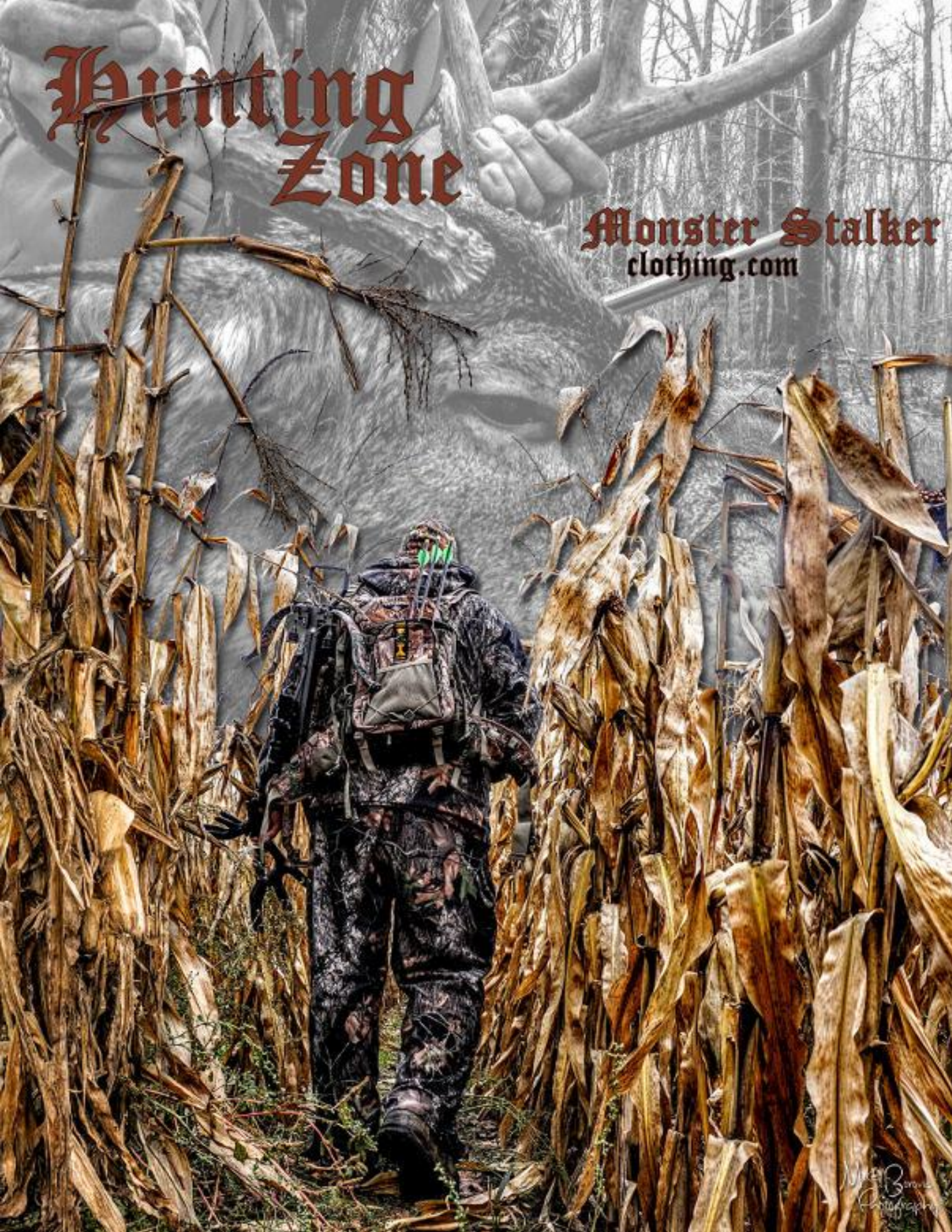
There's no greater feeling than going on a hunt with Jester, whether he catches game or not, and successfully having him come home with me at the end of the day. For he is not a pet, but a wild animal. Every hunt we make, every time I release him into the trees, I risk having him not come back. But we are a team, and I believe he knows this too. I help him find his prey. Help him quickly dispatch his prey. Help him to be able to start feeding quickly on what he's caught. Of course, he doesn't need me or love me, (although I'd like to think he does), but I am just an asset that he chooses to take advantage of. I am a falconer.





# Hunting Zone

Monster Stalker  
clothing.com







# SHOOT ‘N’ PLINK

## Sight Seeing

By Dan Galusha

Seeing the iron sights on a firearm is sometimes difficult. This is caused by many reasons, but for those of us that don't have 20/20 vision, or a few other vision related problems it can be a obstacle to being a top notch "bulls eye hitter".

Some firearms have fiber optic sights, which are a great improvement. Others are like the Henry semi buckhorn with white diamond rear sight and front brass bead. However there are those that are solid black. Because of this I started searching for ways to improve the visibility of sights that are all black without having to invest a lot of money, but just a little time. In my case my Browning pistols, Ruger revolver, and Henry Mare's Leg, which is classified as a pistol, all were black.



The Mare's Leg can have the front sight changed out with a Hi-Vis fiber optic made for the Henry H001 without the octagon barrel. However, we are talking about a simple way to cover all of the firearms with three products.

First, use rubbing alcohol to prepare the area to be painted. Wipe the surface of the sights to remove any oil and other protecting products, such as Gun Protect.

The main product used is Glow-On paint, which is applied using the stick provided with the paint, or a toothpick. Be careful not to paint the barrel. A little masking tape can help eliminate this problem, but with some practice you'll be able to be right on the mark with the application stick, end of a toothpick, or a fine artist's brush.

A first coat of paint is sometimes all that is needed, but if not, let it dry for about 30 minutes and apply another. I normally use two layers, and have gone with three since it is done little at a time. It should be noted that it takes a 24-hour drying period for the paint to have its full "glowing" capabilities.

There are several colors available. I use the original, florescent yellow and red. The green should also be good, since many of the fiber optics are green, but don't have any to try at this time. I may try the blue some day, but at present that is being saved for the fishing lures. Some will also paint their rear sights a different color; such as I have done with my Browning Black Label 1911-380, where I used red on the rear and yellow on the front.

Glow-On comes in a very small bottle, but don't worry, it doesn't take that much. It can be thinned with







water, but don't over thin it. It is non-radioactive and non-toxic. Be sure to shake the bottle before using.

The next step is to help the paint adhere, and make a shiny bead. Glow-On recommends a coat of clear fingernail polish, but I found a product called Bondic, that is a liquid plastic and can be hardened with an ultraviolet light. I wasn't sure about this stuff at first, with the weird way of using the light to solidify it, but it worked. After the paint is fully dried, and I have applied all the layers that are needed, I use just enough of the liquid plastic to cover the area (usually a small drop that will spread). Then applying the light for about 10 to 20 seconds (the directions say 4 seconds), it hardens. However, when doing the front sight of the Mare's Leg I felt a little tackiness to it, so placed it in front of a fan. I'm not sure if it needed that step, but the end result was a nicely sealed, glowing front sight, with a shiny bead appearance.

Further details on Glow-On can be found at [www.glow-on.com](http://www.glow-on.com), and for Bondic at [www.bondicusa.com](http://www.bondicusa.com).

So, I guess it is time to pull the trigger and launch the first edition of Shoot 'N' Plink.

If you have questions about this or another shooting subject, drop me a line through the Shoot 'N' Plink web page at [www.dansfishntales.com/shootnplink](http://www.dansfishntales.com/shootnplink) or Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/shootnplink](http://www.facebook.com/shootnplink).

Until next time, shoot safe, and have a great day of plinking.





# STOEGER COACH GUN

By Dana Benner

I spend a great amount of time in the woods, both during hunting and non-hunting seasons. Maybe I'm out for a hike or maybe blueberry picking. I could be fishing a remote beaver pond in Vermont or scouting for signs of deer and turkey. No matter what I am doing there is always that chance of running into something that can seriously hurt or even kill me. For that reason I started carrying a coach gun.

For those of you who don't know, a coach gun is nothing more than a very short double-barrel shotgun. They get their name from the old stagecoach days. Just watch any old western movie and you will see the guy sitting to the right of the stage driver is holding a small, probably sawed off, shotgun. That was the first of the coach guns and it is also where we get the term "riding shotgun".

I got the idea of carrying this firearm while visiting Alaska. Every guide up there is carrying both a sidearm and a shotgun to use as protection from bears and wolves. It is not good for business if your clients get eaten. While we don't have grizzly bears or wolves here in New England, we do have black bears and coyotes, both of which can be dangerous especially in the spring and if they have young.

Then there is moose which are always unpredictable.

## ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK

([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))

Some may ask, "Why don't you carry a sidearm?" Well, I do, a Springfield XD-S .45ACP, but that is a very close in firearm and is my firearm of last resort. I feel much more comfortable with a firearm that can reach out and do the job. The coach gun gives me that option.

There are a few companies out there that make coach guns; the one I bought is a Stoeger. I wanted a gun that could hold more than one round, so single shots were out. I also wanted to be able to load different types of rounds at the same time. That left out the pumps and the semi-autos. All that was left were doubles. After looking at many different double barrel shotguns I decided on the Stoeger Coach Gun. This shotgun gave me everything I was looking for in one neat package.

The Stoeger is a double barrel gun and is available in 12 and 20 gauges, as well as .410. Unlike a single shot gun, the double barrel gives me the ability of loading one barrel with buckshot and the other with a slug. I can also load bird shot in one barrel and buckshot or a slug in the other which give me the opportunity to secure food while in camp during legal hunting season and at the same time staying protected.

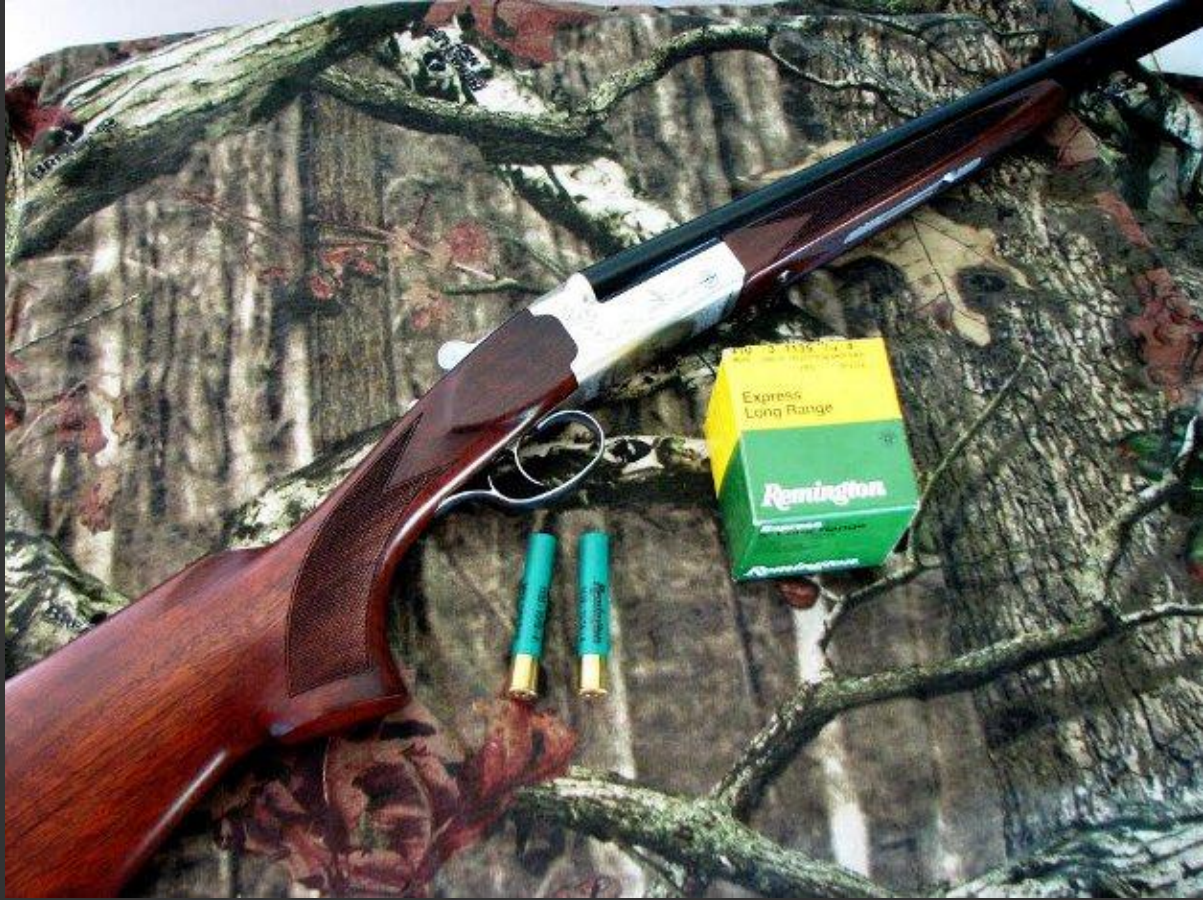
This firearm is a shortened version of Stoeger's successful Uplander model field gun and depending on the model you get can be fitted with removable chokes. Mine is the base model as I didn't need, or want, anything fancy. It has 20 inch barrels and measures an overall length of 36.5 inches. This gun is chambered for either 2 ¾ or 3 inch shells, though I stick to the 2 ¾ inch due to the kick. The true beauty of this gun, and one of the reasons it is a great pack gun, is that it breaks down into only three parts and weighs only seven pounds. Easily carried in a backpack and quickly put together when needed makes this the perfect firearm to carry fly fishing, berry picking or out collecting firewood for camp.



# HUNGRY MEN DON'T USE A 410

By John Simeone

Photo cutline - The Yildiz, Elegant A4 in .410 Bore double can only be had through Academy Sports. As for me it was a trip back in time to the very beginning of my hunting experience.



It was September 1961, I was a little over 7 years old, my father sat on the front porch and sent me a short distance out in a field by the house. He expected me to try to shoot a dove out of a tree with my 410, at least that was the plan. As I walked toward the tree, a dove flew by from right to left and if by automatic response I mounted the little Marlin bolt action 410, flipped off the safety and shot that bird as if I had been doing it for years. I remember that shot even today, it was a Green, 3 inch, Remington shell 7 1/2, I also remember Dad bragging about that shot for the next 2 weeks. Evidently I did something right.

Although I was trained at a very early age on a 22 rifle, the 410 shotgun was my favorite. The squirrels and rabbits were plentiful around the home place as well as a covey of bobwhite quail that I managed to decimate finding they were the best eating out of all my victims. As I grew it was then a Savage M94 20 guage single shot, later followed by a Remington Model 1100 12 gage. Now I have several shotguns of high grade but I missed the 410 over the years. I remember what a friend told me, "Hungry men do not use a 410."

They make a lot of 410 bore shotguns, but I wanted one a little different, it had to be a side by side double and it had to have interchangeable chokes. Over the years I never found one I really liked until recently. During a shopping trip to Academy Sports in Alexandria Louisiana I was discussing business with the gun representative when my roving eye spied exactly what I was looking for. It was a Yildiz, Elegant A-4 in 410 bore, with all the chokes and just plain gorgeous. I have a representative of most of the American made firearms, this one however, is made in Turkey. After 8 years in Germany in the Army I found the Turks good company, so a Yildiz in my collection is a reminder of old friends.

Sometimes you just have to do something for yourself. Of course I emailed the company as an outdoor writer but got no response, so within a month I bought the gun myself as the Turkey Season was on and the Spring Squirrel Season was next. If anything this would make the quint essential squirrel hunter and

I have no qualms about hunting turkey with a tight choked 410. Every turkey I ever shot or saw shot except one, was called within 20 yards, well within 410 and #4 shot range.

Everyone knows by now my standard squirrel hunting range for a 22 long rifle is 25 yards, I can do it further away but that's the average 9 times out of 10. This is nothing a full choke 410 can't handle. I like hunting with a rifle, but during early fall season and spring season the foliage disallows a clean sitting shot and you see a lot of bushy tails running along a limb that's a little to much for a 22 shot. One good answer is a 410 and those classic Green shells from Remington.

The other great use for the 410 is Dove hunting. Normally I use a 20 gauge, my vintage Browning A-5, switching to my Remington 1100 12 gauge when they get wise to me. Its all about a fast swing really, at least for me, and the Yiltiz is lighter and faster than anything. Shoot a limit of doves with a 410 and you get real cool points and bragging rights. But what else is there.

So far I have been referring to the 3 inch shell while personally I have little use for the 2.5 inch shells, but others do. I saw a great use for this in Alaska with Spruce hen grouse. You could walk right up to them and kick them in the butt and they still wouldn't fly. So at the end of a Duck Hunt on the way home, you found them everywhere and they are good eating. With light skeet loads you had to back up a distance not to ruin them. A 410 on fool hens would have been better than the 12 gauge. Raccoons, Possums, and the dreaded Armadillos may be encountered in places where you don't want to blast away with something bigger, and makes common sense. The Brits call this a garden gun, and this shotgun fills the bill nicely. I don't shoot much skeet any more as I find this in the same classification as

**ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK**  
**([www.odumagazine.com](http://www.odumagazine.com))**



**NEW**  
GROUND  
EFX

# 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

golf; I don't eat clay pigeons or golf balls, but the 2.5 inch shell is used in skeet shooting.

It should be noted you can turn the Yiltiz into a little double rifle if you want to. If you shoot slugs it is recommended you use the more open chokes, you get 5 of them to choose from. There are some pretty good looking 000 buckshot loads these days for the 410, you get 5 pellets in a 3 inch and that's a bad boy. I have taken 50 deer with buckshot at close range so 25 yards on deer or hogs is within grasp although there are better choices. The inevitable encounter with wild hogs in my state of Louisiana is a good reason to have one barrel loaded with Buckshot or a Brenneke slug, unless you're a real good tree climber.

Any shot gun can be used for home defense, the buckshot loads will work just fine on human narcotic incinerators and the occasional home invader. Looking down the

business end of a double barrel, even little holes, has a resounding effect on the psych of some bad guys, others require a couple of trigger pulls to get the idea.

The first test shot was at 20 yards on an 8 inch target by Birchwood Casey sight and glow , my favorite for any kind of testing as I can instantly see a hit and instant gratification follows. Always being a bit different, when testing a turkey gun I only count lethal hits on a life-sized target. It was easy enough to over lay a Squirrel and a Turkey target. I suspected the barrels merged at 25 yards with this gun and I was correct. At 20 yards the pattern was ever so slightly to the right from the right full choke barrel. I was learning the gun with the first shot.

The overlays indicated 11 lethal hits with #4 shot on the Squirrel and 13 on the Turkey at 20 yards. The next shot from the same barrel was centered and slightly high at 25 yards giving 5 lethal hits on both overlays. This confirmed my suspicions the two barrels are regulated to 25 yards. I give the gun



a maximum effective range with this 3 inch shot shell brand, 11/16th oz. of #4 shot, at 1135 fps, at 30 yards on rabbits and squirrels and 20 yards on turkey. Shall we say the closer the better.

Firing any gun from a bench rest will allow you to get the full benefit of how hard a gun kicks. I have a CZ-586 combination gun 12/30-06 over and under. This allowed me to discover that a 12 ga. skeet load recoils harder than a 30-06 165 grain bullet when fired from a bench rest. The little 410 was not uncomfortable even from the bench allowing me to make serious accuracy and pattern tests. I take the kick, as with any gun if you can't handle the recoil, shooting from a vise only gives false confidence.

Of all the affordable 410 doubles I have seen this one is in fact the most beautiful. It has duck hunting laser engraving in silver on the receiver. The Turkish walnut stock fits me perfect while the basic ergonomics lends to its indigenous "pointability." As pretty as it is, the gun reminds me of another weapon of fantasy. The sword of the Hobbit.. "The Sting." So I guess that will be its name, already worthy of such a title.

As I ejected the empty by hand from the chamber I met up with an old friend that I had neglected for years. When I first held a Green 410 shell in my hand at age 7 it was an awesome experience for a little boy. Now as a professional gun writer it dawns on me where the notion was inspired. I think I will hunt a bit with this fine little shotgun perhaps I'll get lucky, maybe not, but there is a challenge there that obviates that hungry men don't use a 410...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](http://www.mygunprotect.com)



# Predator Primer

*What the uninitiated need to know about predator hunting*

By Josh Lantz

Coyotes, foxes and bobcats are North America's most abundant terrestrial predators. These species play key roles in the ecosystem, helping to manage rodent populations, scavenging carrion and preying on larger animals that may be sick or weak. They are also cunning and adaptable.

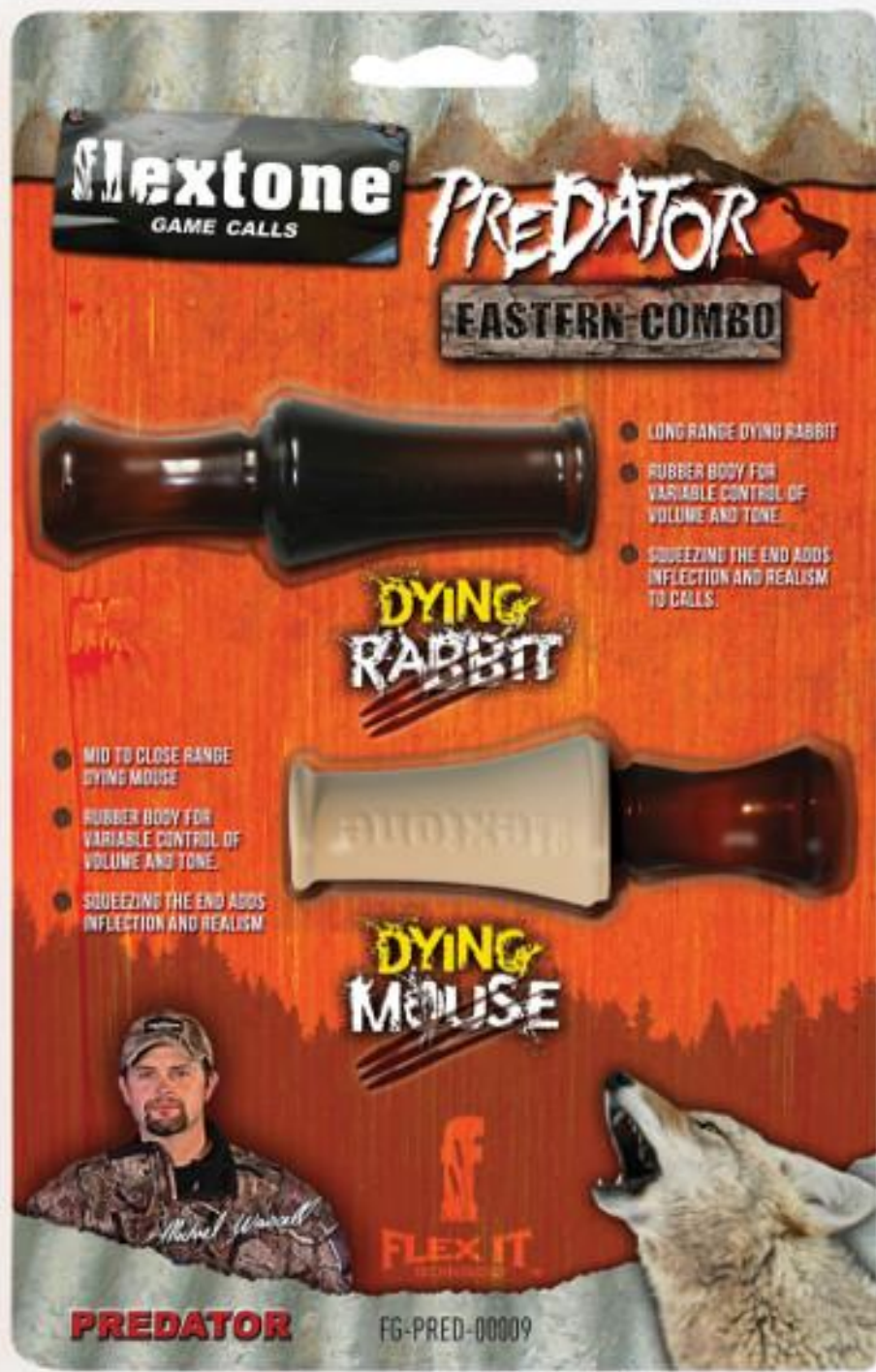
Coyotes, in particular, have undergone significant changes relative to range, behavior and physiology in just a short period of time. Once relegated to the American West, coyotes have expanded their range to include most of the North American continent over the past 100 years or so. Such expansion has been linked to human development and the resultant extirpation of larger predators like gray wolves, black bears and cougars.

Their ability to adapt to human land use development and a relative abundance of larger prey like white-tailed deer has also brought about changes to the coyote's social structure. Once largely solitary, coyotes now live in highly flexible social organizations ranging from family groups or loosely knit packs of unrelated individuals. Studies also suggest that their body size is increasing, perhaps due to hybridization with wolves and domestic dogs, which is well documented in certain areas throughout their expanded range. These adaptations have affected changes in the ways coyotes hunt, especially for larger prey like deer, which they typically pursue in pairs or small groups.

Why hunt predators?







Since predator species have few natural enemies throughout much of their range, hunting helps to keep populations in check. This is especially important in areas where predators are numerous and may be adversely impacting livestock, pets, game or other wildlife populations. In addition to preying on such animals, coyotes are also known to carry and transmit a variety of diseases and parasites. Predator pelts also have commercial value and may be legally sold in most states. Further, predator-hunting opportunities are widespread and typically extend into late winter when other hunting seasons are closed. Finally, almost anyone who enjoys hunting for deer, turkey, elk or other game species is likely to find predator hunting fun, challenging and rewarding due to the active calling it employs and the intellect of the animals pursued.

### Gearing up

With the popularity of predator hunting on the rise, a full compliment of predator-hunting gear and accessories is currently available over a variety of brands and price points.

When used within the limits of its particular range and in accordance with applicable state laws, almost any

firearm can be successfully used for predator hunting. Most serious predator hunters, however, prefer bolt-action or AR-style rifles chambered in the neighborhood of .223 Rem, .22-250 Rem, .220 Swift, .204 Ruger or .243 Win. Those shooting the smaller end of this range can expect better results using the heaviest premium ammunition they can obtain. Heavier-barreled varmint models also offer increased downrange accuracy. That said, deer hunters just getting into predator hunting are likely to find their existing deer rifles to be capable and acceptable predator guns. Be sure to check your state's hunting regulations for any restrictions.

As with most kinds of hunting, quality optics are critical to predator-hunting success. Binoculars help hunters spot predators early enough to prepare for a shot. Eight-to-ten-power binos with 40-50 mm objective lenses offer a user-friendly combination of magnification, image stability and brightness. Laser



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

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



### **Fishing Secrets from Florida's East Coast**

Ron Presley

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

**Click Here  
to  
Order  
Online**



### **Secrets from Florida's Master Anglers**

Ron Presley

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





compensate for slope and employ bright or adjustable displays make ranging easier in areas of varying terrain and during low-light periods. Finally, a quality, variable-power riflescope allows predator hunters to clearly identify their target and place an accurate killing shot. Since predators are often most active during low-light periods, look for a scope that will perform in such conditions. The light-gathering abilities of a riflescope increase as objective lens size increases. A larger tube diameter also helps, although to a lesser degree. Finally, lower magnification settings increase light-gathering capability in a variable-power scope. What all of this suggests is that a predator hunter will be well-served by choosing a scope with a large objective lens of at least 50 mm and a larger tube size of 30-33 mm. Make these light-gathering factors your primary considerations, then select a variable-power magnification that makes the scope useful for the other types of hunting you may do with your rifle.

Calling is an essential part of predator hunting. Bobcats, coyotes and foxes are highly opportunistic and will investigate any sounds made by their prey, especially distress cries. Additionally, coyotes, in particular, are highly vocal animals and communicate with a complex vocabulary. While volumes have been written on coyote communications and vocalizations, biologists still don't have a solid understanding of what it all means. As with any game-calling endeavor, firsthand observation is the best teacher, so beginning predator hunters are likely to experience the best outcomes by sticking to the proven rodent squeaks and distress cries that can be produced, with practice, by inexpensive mouth calls. Programmable electronic calls that can be placed and activated remotely are





great options for more advanced predator hunters.

Decoys are also effective predator-hunting tools. Anything small and furry that moves can be irresistible eye candy to predators. Naturally curious and bold at times, coyotes, foxes and bobcats are also cunning and wary, so an intriguing visual queue – presented in combination with effective calling – can complete the illusion that gives predators the confidence necessary to close the distance.

Mobility is key when hunting predators. Most experienced predator hunters suggest setting up in an area offering good concealment and extended visibility, then staying there for 15-30 minutes. Depending on how intrusive you are while getting to your spot, consider waiting 10-15 minutes for things to settle down before calling. Call intermittently for 15-30 seconds at a time and remain still after calling while scanning the area for signs of incoming predators. If nothing appears within 15 minutes or so, most experts advise moving on and repeating the process at another set-up.

A product like Tenzing's well thought out TZ PP15 Predator Pack makes transporting your firearm, ammunition, calls and other essential gear between set-ups quick and easy. Furthermore, this clever pack's unique, spring-loaded adjustable legs and padded seat allow predator hunters to quickly set up anywhere and remain comfortably seated while calling and shooting.

When the exciting time comes to make a shot, it's tempting to simply level the crosshairs on the center of the animal – regardless of the angle – and squeeze the trigger. But killing animals with fast, relatively lightweight projectiles can be tricky business. Know the particular ballistics of your rifle and ammunition, and don't risk shots that may wound an animal and prevent recovery. Make shot selection the same priority you make it while hunting deer or other game. When using smaller calibers, a broadside shot into center mass directly above the front leg is the highest percentage kill shot a predator hunter can make.

Predator hunting is rewarding for all the right reasons. It is challenging due to the quarry's intellect, available when other hunting seasons may be closed, and typically highly beneficial from a management standpoint. All it takes is a few key pieces of gear and a desire to participate.





# SEE YOURSELF AT THE SEASHORE

Surf Fishing Welcomes Beginners and Seasoned Anglers Alike.

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

- [www.floridasportsman.com](http://www.floridasportsman.com)



## SPORTSMAN'S BEST BOOK & DVD SERIES



# SURF FISHING



**TECHNIQUES & GEAR FOR SURF, PIERS AND JETTIES**  
Bait Rigs & Artificials ■ Find Good Waters ■ Catch More Fish  
By David A. Brown



# 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](http://yakimabait.com)

facebook





# A "COME TO JESUS" MOMENT

By Dana Benner

A "Come to Jesus" moment was a phrase I first heard in the army and it was usually used in unison when something drastic was going to happen, like jumping out of a helicopter. This piece isn't about anything like that. It is about finding out what truly is important.

When I take to the field it is usually with the intent of bringing home food for the table and freezer and such was the case on this Sunday morning at the end of November. Though there was still more than a week left of the deer season, due to other obligations, this was going to be my last chance to get out after deer. My friend Stan and I had planned our trip a few days before and though I had never hunted the area we were planning on hunting, Stan has and he assured me that there were deer in the area. Now whether we would get one is another story.

Saturday night found me readying my gear. Of course my Blackhawk pack loaded with all of the things I would need was going with me. I also carried my Mossberg 500 12 gauge pump with my ammo being Federal Barnes Expander sabot slugs. There was no sense in wearing camo as I would



be wearing a bright hunter orange coat that made me look like either a giant pumpkin or a basketball; you take your pick. The last thing I wanted to happen was to be shot so I made sure I could be seen.

Now I am not a religious man though I am very spiritual. Following the lessons passed down to me from my Native ancestors, I got up earlier than normal. I went outside and burned some sage and tobacco and said a prayer asking for a successful hunt. I then got myself together, grabbed my gear and made ready for Stan to pick me up at 6:30AM. As you will see there are many versions of the word “success”.

Though the sun had already risen by the time we made it out to the area, a dark overcast blocked out the rays of the sun. It was cold and the wind started to pick up. The ground was still frozen from the night before, but there was no snow on the ground. The area where we were had had some selective cutting, so there was plenty of slash on the ground making difficult walking all that more dangerous.

I picked a point of dry land that had a commanding view of a somewhat wet area. There was deer sign in the form of both tracks and droppings running on both sides of my ambush point. The place screamed deer and things looked promising. We all know looks can be deceiving and such was this case. After two hours with no action I moved. Following tracks and stalking, which is what I do best, I crossed a juniper clogged opening where the power lines ran. This is where the tracks led and the junipers are great places for the deer to lay down. I moved as slowly and as carefully as I could as you





never know when or where a deer may jump up. Nothing happened. I met up with Stan and we made our way up a ridgeline on the other side of the clearing.

Stan kept moving while I took a position in a stand of birches at the top of the ridge. I was surrounded by standing beech and had a game trail that ran left to right below me. Even further down that was an open area where a small stream crossed. I established my fields of fire, made myself comfortable and prepared to wait.

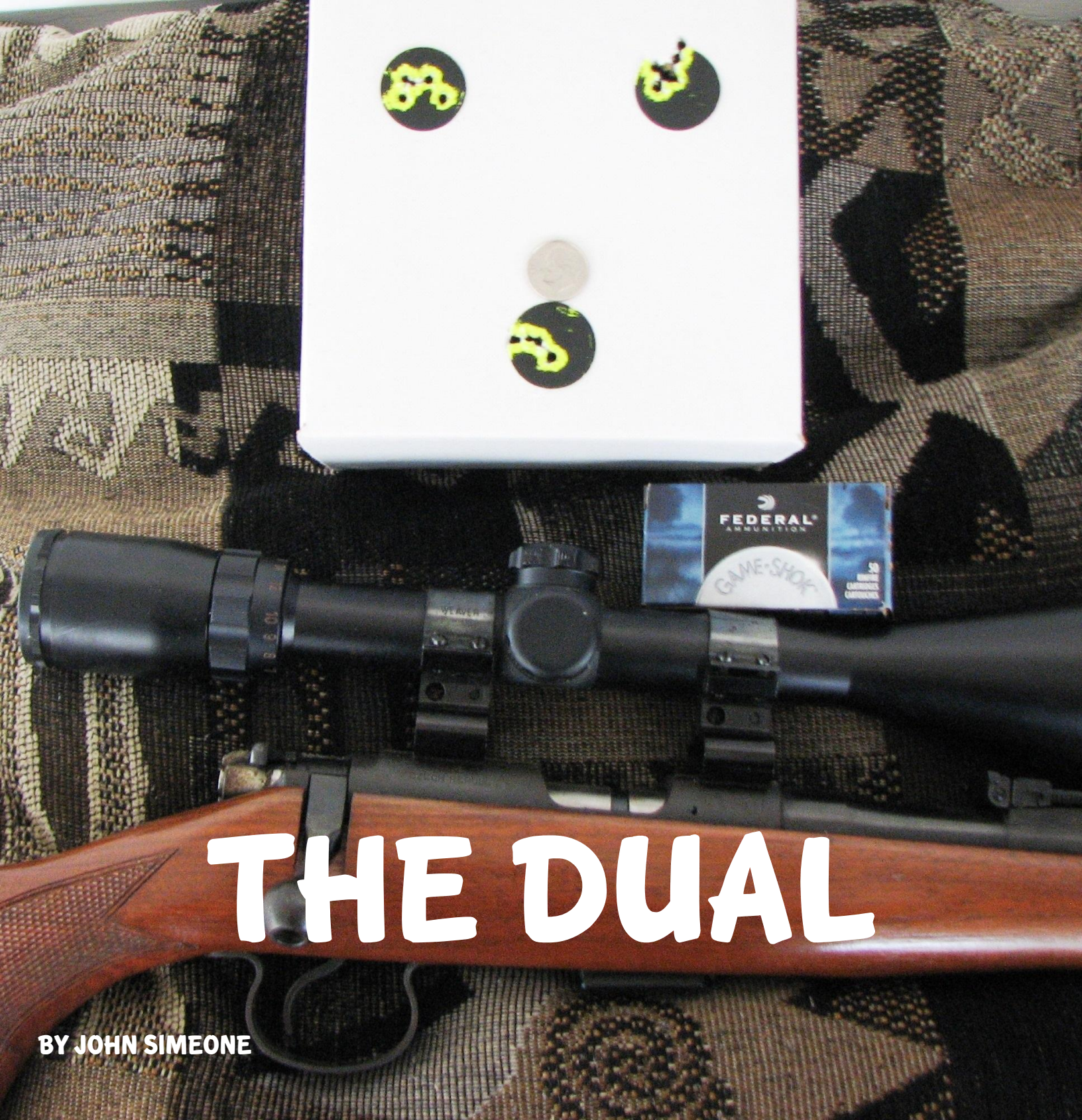


It was too cold to fall asleep, but I was comfortable. Even though my eyes continued to scan for movement, my mind began to wonder. I began reflecting on what I was doing and why. I thought about the things I had done and seen in the past and questioned if I could have done things differently. Once I had come to grips with all of that a sense of calmness came over me. It was then that the sun broke free from the grasp of a huge gray cloud and it shined down on me. This was my “Come to Jesus” moment. Were the spirits looking down upon me? If they were they weren’t going to give me a shot at a deer. Perhaps there was something more important. Perhaps their idea of “success” was for me to be out here in cold and crawl within myself. I don’t know, but to be honest, I was not too disappointed at not getting my deer.

I met Stan back at the vehicle. Of course we asked each other about any deer we may have seen. Neither of us saw one, not even a doe. We then started listing off all of the reasons (excuses) known to man; the deer move and just weren’t there; the deer were nocturnal (my favorite and one I use often); the wind was blowing, etc. You get the idea.

Upon arriving home my wife asked if I had gotten a deer. Sadly, I said no. As I put away my gear, my deer season over for another year, I thought back at the experience. Though I didn’t get a deer and the freezer is looking pretty empty, this hunt was a success. At that is what really matters.





# THE DUAL

BY JOHN SIMEONE

I don't know about you but I like a good fight, so I decided to start one that is totally unfair. It's a rough and cruel world we live in and a fair fight with fair rules doesn't exist much anymore. CZ-USA does not make a Western Style Lever action 22. Henry Repeating Arms does not make a full sized precision bolt action 22 rifle. What they both do make is an awesome 22 Rifle of the respective styles. Are we going to play Cowboys and Europeans? I think not, but it's going to look like that. The truth is simple, the two rifles are not in the same classification. Within their purpose and usage these two rifles may be the best in their respective class in the world.



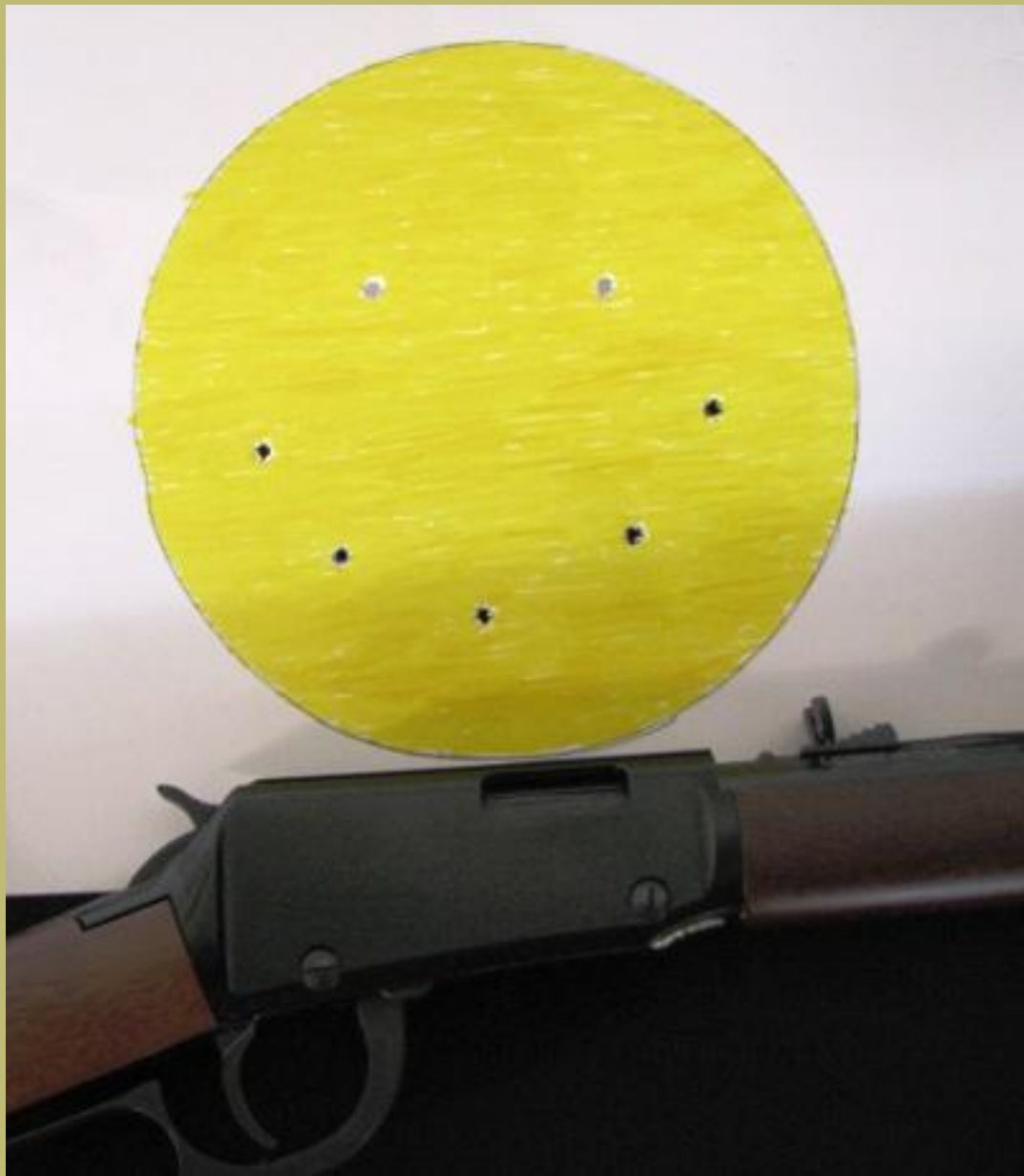
I don't care and neither do you because we are going to let them fight it out anyway just to see what happens. First a tale of the tape. The Recognized World Top Gun Champion Squirrel Rifle The CZ-452, Bushnell Banner 6x18 AO Scope. The Henry Lever Action 22 with Octagon barrel and a Bushnell Banner 3x9 Scope, a recognized Hunting and Plinking Champion. The Rules (There ain't none). This is totally unfair and we know it. The range 25 yards, the common small game (squirrels and rabbits) standard engagement range. The shooting platform was my home bench rest with a big pillow. I didn't feel like traveling 50 miles round trip to use a concrete solid bench, I never seem to have one in the field, and this seemed plenty steady.

The ammo test was vast, Aguila, CCI, Federal, Remington, Winchester, Wolf, and Yhad. Subsonic, Standard Velocity and High Speed hunting ammo was tested in both rifles. The main goal was to show small game hunting effectiveness as this is my ultimate personal goal, but extreme accuracy raised its head in many cases. The Top Gun hunting standard is the ammo must be able to hit a dime at 25 yards. All of the ammo tested, even the bulk ammo was able to do that, while some of it proved to be amazing in both rifles.

The first test was with the Henry with iron sights at 15 feet. I did some old time gun art and shot a "Smiley Face" just to have a nice day. Next was the 9 brand ammo test for the Henry. Two brands, Aguila Standard and Wolf Match extra shot a 1/4 inch 5 shot group, the rest either hit the dime sized dot or grouped so tight the whole group could be covered with a dime.

The CZ-452 was not tested with the high end target rounds because all I would get is one little hole so I went for the High Speed Hollow Points for hunting. Remington, Winchester and Federal were tested, all passed the dime test, with the Federal coming out a slight winner; I must have flinched just right. Practically it was a three way tie.

The worst group fired in the examination was 3/4 of an inch, with the Henry and the round that won the CZ hunting round test, the Federal Hollow points, oh well. The Remington and Winchester Hollow Points did very well passing the dime test. I







don't hunt with the CZ so my new choice for small game hunting became the Winchester Power Points at 1280 fps.

Card Splitting and Toothpick shooting was simple with either rifle. I will have to call that Super Plinking, so the soup can shooters don't burst into tears. If you own both these rifles and you will because they are both addictive, chances are you will be a Super Plinker. At this point we have the Henry Impossible Shot.

Circa 1962 in Magazine Arkansas, I was about 8 years old. Col Larsen the Marlin Man a Buffalo Bill look a like and at the time one of the greatest Fancy Shooters in the world, put on an exhibition at my school. Shooting from a rest with a Marlin Monty rifle at a distance of about ten feet, He shot a 22 bullet through a Life Saver candy without breaking it, and put out a candle flame. To recreate the shot I set up a 25 yard shot with scope, to shoot through the Life Saver and split the tooth pick, with the Henry only. That's a hard shot no matter who you are, I got so close I thought I did it, but the Life Saver broke and I got the tooth pick on two occasions. Maybe I could do it with the CZ but its the Henry I want to do it with.





There are no excuses. The things that separate the CZ and Henry are a Two Piece stock vs a One Piece stock. You cannot adjust the trigger on a Henry due to its classical Western design. The CZ has a custom light trigger for target shooting. It is a little more difficult to shoot the harder trigger pull but not much as you can see in the comparisons. A Squirrel in a tree munching on an acorn is dead meat with either rifle, and yes a head shot. I'm going to go with the Henry for hunting small game in Louisiana. I need rapid fire and accuracy due to the Wild Hog factor. That happens all the time to me and others. I also found that as I fired the Henry over and over I never

had one malfunction with any ammo, and I never cleaned it.

Price wise they are close to the same. If you own one you will want the other. Either one will make a fine small game rifle, which is what I'm supposed to write about. The fact I invented the Top Gun Challenge (world squirrel rifle match) makes no difference. If another good shooter ran the test the results would be near the same. The standard of 5 shots on a dime is only a beginning, you can go out a lot further in no time.

Now that you know there are two classifications of light 22 rifles you see they are in fact both the best in their field. If you own both of them you can't lose. If you have the right ammo for the situation and these two fine rifles,





