

Late July 2018
Fishing Edition

ODU MAGAZINE

**Carp Fishing:
The Method!**

**Mikey's
ICAST
Top 5**

**Plenty Of
Bass &
Walleye
Coverage**

**Hunting
Woodcock**

**Frog Fishing
On
Clear Water**





EDITOR'S LETTER

Happy summer to all our readers and social media followers. The summer is well into the deep heat and to help us here at ODU we received the some great news. Its posted on our website right now, but if you missed it..... Feedspot (<https://blog.feedspot.com>), one of the webs largest news aggragators and sourcing sites, released their ranking of over 1000 digital fishing magazines and ezines on the web. **ODU Magazine was ranked sixth!**

The magazines/ezines were ranked on these criteria:

- *Google reputation and Google search ranking*



Editorial Team Leader: Bill Schwarz, Bill@odumagazine.com
Publishing Team: Bill Schwarz, Jennifer Gonyea, Maggie Ouellette & Richard Barker.
Advertising inquirers for our fishing or hunting magazines, ODU Fishing and Hunting News should be e-mailed to:
odu.media@odumagazine.com

Contributing Writers: Bob Jensen, The American Carp Society, Chip Leer, Mike Borovic, Gary Parsons, Keith Kavajecz, Trawick Ellis, Jason Houser, Capt. Mike Gerry, Jason Mitchell, Scott Croft, Joel Nelson, Dan Johnson, Mike Frisch, Gary Elliott, Jim Ahonen, Jason Halfen, Jim Edlund, Dana Benner, Deborah Kornblut, Josh Lantz & Dustin Catrett.

Interest in more about ODU Magazine and OutDoors Unlimited Media visit this [LINK](#).



- *Influence and popularity on Facebook & other social media sites*
- *Quality and consistency of posts.*
- *Feedspot's editorial team and expert review*

We work hard to make our website and our free fishing magazines as good as we can. Thank you for visiting. Here is a link to Feedspot's official announcement: https://blog.feedspot.com/fishing_magazines/

This Edition Of ODU Magazine. Bass, Walleye, Carp, Pike, Lake Trout and more are ahead in this late July edition of ODU Magazine. A very nice article about rhino preservation and another on woodcock hunting minus a dog companion are towards the end.

ICAST kicked off earlier this month and we had a few ODU team members chasing down lures and tackle that will make your day on the water more successful. In this edition our friend and ODU contributor Mike Borovic shares with us his top five picks from the event. In late August we will have the publisher's TOP 25 of ICAST to share with you. Not a single lure, rod, reel or piece of equipment will be useless to you. We have only picked products that will make a difference.



CATCHING FISH REDEFINED

By William Schwarz

ICAST has passed and while working the show's isles upon isles of lures and outdoor fishing accessories, it is obvious that some companies who don't attend are left out of this media



PK LURES™



buzz. PK Lures is one such lure company that did not attend this year's event and they are true innovators.

Two months month I received their newest creation the PK Spin A Jig and I have been chasing smallmouth bass, largemouth, white and yellow perch in New England and gills,



walleye and more smallmouth in New York. What a lure and what a great product for both serious anglers and the family to both tie on and have a good day targeting many types of game fish.

We fished the lure in two ways depending on the depth. **Continued on page XXX.**

WEATHER PROTECTED.



BLACKFISH

EXPERIENCE IT AT BLACKFISHGEAR.COM

smallmouth and perch. When we knew we were on top of walleye we switched up with shiners, and also got a fair share of large perch this way.

In medium and less depths we changed to casting at structure and schools of perch, walleye and smallmouth. We used different trailers, 3" Kalin Grubs, 2.5" Keitech Swing Impact swimbaits and 5" Zipper Original Worms. Zipper worms work great on the walleye for sure! All our color choices were natural for bass and perch, but the walleye preferred pumpkin chartreuse tail Zippers.

ITS ALL ABOUT THE BLADE IN MY OPINION AND IT WORKS!

The vibration from the blade is easily detected and makes for a great attractor at a distance. The beveling in the blades really lights up on shinny days. The jig portion of the jig has a keeper so your baits stay on and this is very important to me as an angler. Especially when you rig a live minnow!

We have been fishing the PK Spin A Jigs for two month now and we have caught over 100 mixed species on the handful we received. When it is hot out and water temps start climbing, you need more than a little action. You need the vibration! The PK Spin Jigs combined with a quality trailer or minnow will make your out successful.

Visit PK Lures for your
NEW Spin A Jigs and all
their other quality lures

<https://www.pklures.com/>

PK LURES
Versatile all season lures.

PK Spin-A-Jig NEW PRODUCT

Can be jigged, casted and trolled. Use with live bait, crawler or plastics. Uniquely designed blades turning on brass beads creates noise, flash and vibration.

Sizes
1/8 OZ
1/4 OZ

Colors:
Yellow Purple Glow
Yellow Glow Orange Dot
Glow Red Dot
Lime Green Glow
Pearl Chartreuse Glow
Red Glow
Green Glow
Pink Pearl Glow

Find us on Facebook
[facebook/pklures](https://www.facebook.com/pklures)
www.pklures.com

FREE

FISHING MAGAZINES

**Bass, Walleye, Crappie,
Bluegill, Catfish,
Redfish, Musky,
Stripers, Trout, Salmon.**

Fresh-Ice-Salt



Reel In And Recycle!



**Monofilament
Recycling Bin**



*Keep our waterways
tangle-free*

**Please recycle your used
monofilament fishing line here!**

For more information on monofilament
recycling visit www.boatus.com/foundation

NO CANS • NO BOTTLES • NO TRASH

This site sponsored locally by:



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla 71 - Port Chester, New York

www.flotilla71.org



*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

The Outdoor Exchange
CLICK HERE





**DOWNLOAD
FILE**

PDF



MAGAZINE INDEX

- Catching Fish Redefined, Pg 3
Short Fishing Trips For More Fish, Pg 10
The Method, Pg 12
Five Steps To More Summer Walleyes, Pg 24
Mikey's Top 5 ... From ICAST 2018, Pg 29
Structured Success! , Pg 33
Frog Fishing on Clear Water Herring Lakes, Pg 38
Panama City Offshore Fishing, Pg 41
Summer time Bridge Fishing, Pg 45
Catch Fish On The Weedline, Pg 46
Late Summer Trolling for Walleye, Pg 49
Gamefish On The Edge, Pg 55
5 Mistakes That Can Cost Boaters, Pg 58
How Connectivity is Improving Fishing, Pg 61
Fish For The Biters, Pg 65
Lake Trout On The First Step Down, Pg 67
Try Something New: Ribbit! , Pg 69
Making Sense of the Dog Days, Pg 72
ActionHat, Pg 73
Summertime Speed For Walleye, Pg 76
Walleyes & Pike with Swimbaits, Pg 78

HUNTING ZONE

- Hunting Woodcock Without a Dog, Pg 85
Preventing Rhino Poaching, Pg 90
Deer Hunters: Don't Give Away Your Power, Pg 93
Cast & Blast Texas Style, Pg 97

SHORT FISHING TRIPS FOR MORE FISH

By Bob Jensen

Up to this point in the open water fishing season, lots of anglers have been fishing. May and June are outstanding months for fishing, and those months are when a lot of anglers go fishing. Maybe it's because they've been inside much of the winter and just want to get out, but also, May and June are just nice months to be on the water. The next couple of months can be kind of hot, but the fish still bite in July and August. In fact, with the warmer water temperatures they eat even more. There are a lot of things that can occupy our time in the summer, but if you can get away for a couple of hours to go fishing, you should do so.

Across much of North America, there are a lot of places to go fishing. Many of those places get overlooked, but now is a good time to look into them. I'm sure that there are overlooked fishing opportunities close to where you live.

Small rivers can be particularly good this time of year, and they can be really fun to fish. Smallmouth bass and northern pike are the primary targets in many of these rivers, but walleyes can also be taken. These rivers don't require much equipment. A pair of waders is nice, but I've had outstanding fishing in



A younger Makenna Amsbaugh with a nice pond-bluegill. Ponds can provide outstanding fishing and there's probably one close-by.

cut-offs and old tennis shoes: You just hop in the water and go where you want. Many wading river anglers prefer to start downstream and fish upstream. That way, any sediment that they dislodge moves downstream away from the fish being cast to. This is a good plan, but it's not always practical. Fortunately, much of the time these river fish aren't too skittish.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

If you move slowly and quietly, you can still catch them while casting downstream.

If you know someone who owns a pond close to your home, ask for permission to fish there. These ponds can hold big bass and nice panfish as well as catfish. Promise the pond-owner that you'll be respectful toward the pond. Treat that pond as if it were your own. Permission to fish private ponds is a privilege that needs to be cherished and appreciated. Show the pond-owner your appreciation.

In the summer I travel with a small tacklebox and a rod and reel in my truck. When I have a couple of hours or maybe just fifteen or twenty minutes, I'll stop by a local river or pond and makes a few casts. The contents of that tacklebox are very simple. I have a few Lucky Shad crankbaits in natural colors and bright colors. The bright colors are usually better in the rivers, the natural colors are good in the ponds. The Strike King Slab Hammer Crappie crankbaits in the Mini 3 size are good in rivers as well. Sometimes river fish like smaller baits.

I also have some eighth ounce Slurp! Jigs rigged with Impulse three inch Swim'N Grubs. River fish like these, but so do the pond fish. Jigs tipped with plastic and some crankbaits are all you need to catch these small water fish this time of year.

The key now is to get out. These short fishing trips require no planning: You go when you get the time. However, instead of waiting to get the time, I suggest you make the time. Set aside a couple of hours at least once a week to get in on this opportunity. You'll have a good time, and you'll add to your annual fish catch. In fact, I'm guessing you'll add to your annual fish catch more than you might think. Starting now, find that out for yourself.

To see the newest and older episodes of Fishing the Midwest Television, new and old fishing articles, and a variety of fishing videos, visit www.fishingthemidwest.com.

THE METHOD

By The American Carp Society

Hello again, we hope your summer is going well and that the fish are cooperating for you so far this year! Welcome to the 5th article by the American Carp Society designed to introduce and instruct anglers on the new age of Carp Angling...

Having covered the virtues of PVA or Poly Vinyl Alcohol last month which is a bait carrying product that totally dissolves when it comes into contact with water, leaving no traces and is totally environmentally friendly! It is commonly used to cast out pellets and other dry baits to accompany the baited hook.



This month we're going to cover another very useful baiting technique called "the Method" which is similar in concept (except for the ingredients) to the Oat and Grits pack baits you maybe already familiar with using, (see article #2 a few months back).

Ok, lets look into exactly what 'the method' is and how to use it to catch more Carp (cyprinus carpio).

How To Fish The Method



Basically, what we're trying to do when "fishing the Method" is to create a very competitive feeding situation for the Carp in the area we're fishing. You'll often hear the term "pre-occupation," this is just one in the same thing really. The Carp are so busy competing with each other for the morsels of food you're presenting that they tend to make mistakes and get themselves hooked... if that is, your baited hook rig is doing its job.

Note: Please check with your local Fisheries Department to make sure Pre-baiting or chumming is legal in your area before employing this tactic.

So, that begs the question, how do we get them into this frenzied state and force them to make an error?

Obviously first you must be fishing in a swim/peg that is likely to contain underwater features that Carp favor frequenting and feeding on. There is no use in fishing even the best techniques in an area where the Carp don't feed. How we find where the Carp like to feed is a whole other 'complex issue' that we briefly touched upon a few months back and will discuss further in another future article.

Next, we need a food item that will keep them busy for a while but not fill them up, this is where the method mix comes in...

"The Method" involves molding a paste or pack bait around a purpose-built cage on your hook length. You could alternatively just mold the mix around your sinker/lead weight before casting. Then you cast the molded mix along with your baited hook into the area you're fishing. Once the mix hits the bottom of the lake, it starts to slowly break down into a nice pile of attractive food items for the carp all around your hook bait. More hand made balls of 'method' mix are then slowly but consistently thrown in around where you're fishing to 'build' the area into a very attractive place to hangout for the hungry carp.

Note: A sturdy rod is needed to cast a fully loaded Method Cage out, it could weigh around 5 or 6 oz.! A 2.75lb test curve rod is recommended as a minimum.

Let's talk about a typical basic mix that has worked well for us over the years:

To start with, soak a wild birdseed food in Salty water for at least 24 hours, 36 hours is preferred so plan ahead. You can find the birdseed in most large grocery stores in the pet-food section.



Dry, Wild Birdseed

Use two tablespoons of salt (non-iodine salt! Don't use table salt. Human food grade sea salt or rock salt is good) per 5 gallon bucket of water, some folks use even more but we encourage you to experiment yourself to find a level you're comfortable with.

Note: Try not to use water from your Kitchen faucet, as it's more than likely going to be chlorinated and/or have fluoride in it. Use rain or lake water. Try taking a few buckets of lake water home to use if you know another session is on the cards soon. Or, if you do use Tap water, let it sit outside in a bucket under the full sun for a few days to remove the Chlorine.

If you also use hemp or any of the larger particles in your mix such as Maize, Garbanzo or any other kind of Beans, please make sure they have also been boiled at a vigorous boil for at least 30 minutes in addition to their 24-36-hour soak.

Note: This boiling process has the added benefit of releasing all the natural sugars and amino acids that are present in the seed, which is great news because they are the major attractors and feeding triggers for the Carp.



Birdseed after a 36 Hour Soak

If in any doubt do both the soak and boil to make sure of the fish's safety!

Note: Please don't skimp on the time here because you need the seed to be thoroughly soaked and expanded before presenting it to the fish, otherwise you are feeding the fish with seeds that may seriously harm them!!! When dry seeds of any kind are soaked (re-hydrated) they expand in size by somewhere around 20+% of their original dry size.

You don't want any fish with a gut full of semi soaked seeds for obvious reasons.



It's a great idea to add flavor to the water that you soak the seeds in, three of our "off the store shelf" favorites are liquid Molasses, Vanilla extract and Superior's Vanilla & Butter Nut flavor but use whatever you're already comfortable with...

Here are some examples of flavor and attractants that are typically present in many Carp angler's bait fridge.

Bread Crumbs are often used to bind the mix and hold it onto the cage, this ingredient is again

obtainable from the grocery store or you can make your own by drying out sliced bread in the sun or in the oven on a low heat and then crunching into crumbs.

Other binders commonly used in place of or in combination with Bread Crumbs are Layers Chicken Mash, Soy Meal, and Panko among many others.

Place the amount of soaked seed you need into a bowl with a little of the water they were soaking in and then slowly add the bread crumb and mix thoroughly...



At this stage, you can add any other ingredients you want to try such as sweetcorn, fishmeal, CSL/pakka/hemp pellets, betaine, cold pressed hemp oil etc. and it's a big "etc." But we advise to keep it simple at first.

Keep adding the bread crumb slowly while you're mixing, if you need more water add very carefully a few drops at a time while mixing.

You want to end up with a consistency that will mold well around the cage and stay together during your cast but not take any more than about 5 to 10 minutes to totally breakdown and fall off your cage once its hit the bottom of the lake





Go to oneilloutside.com

Ask a question or leave a
comment in the
Guestbook.

If your post is used on the television show,
you will win a

ZAC BROWN'S
Southern
GRIND

Jackal Black and Tan Knife



Enter as often as you want until 12/31/2018

front of your rods to see how long it takes to completely break down.

Note: Keep some of the soaked seed back for use later in the session...

Now we've got the mix together let's look at the business end of the rig and how to present your hook bait. The section below shows the typical component parts of the Method rig.



Method Rig Components

Method cages come in various designs and sizes from 1oz up to 3oz in weight are common, the one shown above is typical in design. We like the heaviest version available (2 to 3 oz.) so that the feeder cage acts as a bolt rig. This is where the weight and bulk of the feeder cage sets the hook as the Carp "bolts off" after picking up the bait, feeling the point of the hook and paniking.

Choose your hook (size 6's & 4's work well) and tie the hook length material you've chosen using the knotless knot with a hair. Alternatively, if you're not a "hair fan," no problem, just tie the hook with your usual knot and side hook the bait making sure the point of the hook is showing.

Tie the other end of the hook length to a size 8 swivel.

The hook length



As shown below, thread an 18 to 24" length of Rig Tubing (discussed in an earlier article) onto the end of your mainline to stop the line getting behind the Carp's scales and pulling them off during the fight. This also gives the line a lot of added abrasion resistance when fishing rocky or snaggy areas.



Next, take the method cage and thread it onto your mainline as shown pushing the rig tubing into the rubber tail at the top of the Method cage, dab with a spot of super glue at the joint where the rig tubing pushes

into the tail rubber at the top of the method cage to secure and then tie the mainline to your hook length via the swivel.

Threading the Rig Tubing and Method Cage onto the Mainline.

Tie the Mainline onto the swivel at the end of the Hook length.



Push the Swivel up into the Method Cage.

Now gently push the swivel home into the soft rubber grommet at the base of the cage. Almost all method cages have the soft rubber grommets in their base for this purpose. Same thing for the newer method weights that are



on the market now.

Note: Regardless of how you rig up the method cage make sure that it is semi-fixed to your mainline.

That is: If you break off after hooking-up and the fish is swimming around, hook in its mouth with the method cage trailing behind it, make sure that the method cage is rigged as above so it can easily pull free of the broken line when it gets caught up or snagged on under water structure.



This will ensure that the fish doesn't get tethered to the snag and die a slow, hungry death.

Next, as the following 3 photos show, pack the mix quite tightly around your Method cage and bait the hair with the bait of your choice and cast out to your chosen feature.

Load one side of the cage slightly heavier than the other and pin the hook in the mix on the lighter side, this ensures two things: Firstly, that your rig doesn't tangle during the cast and secondly that the hook bait always ends up on top of the cage facing the surface of the water and the fish when it lands on the bottom of the lake.



It's also a great idea to attach a PVA nugget onto the baited hook as we detailed in last month's article and then cast out to your chosen spot. After a couple of minutes, the PVA nugget will rise to the surface to give you the exact location of your bait.

When this happens, if it's legal in your state to chum, be ready to catapult or spoon up to 10 balls of the method mix out to the spot where the PVA

nugget hit the surface to get things started.

Then recast your hook bait with a reloaded method cage to the same spot every 10/20 minutes for the first hour or until you have the fish in front of you feeding.

After you start getting bites with a few fish in the net already and feel the Carp are feeding while "elbowing" each other out of the way to get at your bait, reduce the method mix going in and occasionally spod/spoon/catapult some of the soaked birdseed you kept back earlier out into the swim to keep the





Carp busy routing around in your swim for the small particles and seed.

The trick at this stage is to just put enough food in to keep them competitively looking for food and in front of you but not to fill them up.

Until you get used to fishing this way we suggest literally sitting on your hands while waiting for a “screaming run” because you tend to get a lot of knocks, nudges and beeps on the alarms when the fish are bumping the method mix off the cage to eat it.

Wait for the one tone scream of the alarm denoting a “full-on” run pulling yards of line from your reel before you are tempted to lift your rod in to the fish, although technically, the weight of the method cage acts as a bolt rig and hooks the fish for you as the fish “bolts” in a panic.

We wish you much luck, have fun!

All the best and many tight lines...



Are you
guilty?

“

U.S. CARP ANGLERS
ARE INDEPENDENT
THINKERS...GUILTY
OF NOT FOLLOWING
THE CROWD.



WWW.AMERICANCARPSOCIETY.COM

About Our Organization:

The American Carp Society was formed in 2002, with the goal of promoting and educating the public on the sport of specimen Carp Fishing in the USA.

PAST ARTICLES FROM THE AMERICAN CARP SOCIETY

February Edition - Being A US Carp Angler -

<https://www.odumagazine.com/Magazines/ODUFeb2018/#p=13>

March/April Edition - How To Bait Your Hook -

<https://www.odumagazine.com/Magazines/ODUMarApr2018/#p=21>

May Edition - Carp Care -

<https://www.odumagazine.com/Magazines/ODUMay2018/#p=33>

June Edition - The PVA Carp Secret -

<https://www.odumagazine.com/Magazines/ODUJune2018/#p=19>

The Common Carp (*cyprinus carpio*) is one of the hardest fighting freshwater fish in the world and is now being pursued by anglers of all persuasions, from fly fisherman to dedicated Specialist Carp anglers as a sport fish. The American Carp Society is a membership based organization and is responsible for promoting the sport and ensuring careful stewardship of both the specimen fish and its environment for the future generation of American Carp Anglers.

www.americancarpsociety.com

info@americancarpsociety.com

www.instagram.com/american_carp_society

Five Steps To More Summer Walleyes

By Chip Leer





Early summer walleye fishing is a time of change, adjustment and opportunity. As water temperatures rise into the 60s and 70s, many walleyes in northern natural lakes and reservoirs abandon shallow shoreline areas in favor of offshore structure.

No longer content to congregate in small areas, the fish scatter and roam. Instead of finding the mother lode of 'eyes ganged in a single sweet spot, you often end up tracking down individual fish spread out over sprawling structure.

On the positive side, the fish are aggressive and hungry. Walleyes are far more apt to chase and hit faster-moving presentations now than they were earlier in the season, so you can cover water quickly in search of the next strike.



To find and catch summer walleyes fast, I follow a simple five-step strategy.

Step one entails pinpointing prime structure that's either connected to or near a shoreline area that held walleyes in spring. Depths vary by lake, but often range from 10 to 25 feet.

Next, I scan potential fish-holding areas with sonar. Don't expect to mark massive schools of walleyes. Groups of baitfish and the telltale arcs of solitary predators are enough to justify further investigation.

Step three, start fishing. My favorite presentation in this scenario is a spinner rig. The combination of flash and thump

IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME...

MOB+™

WIRELESS MAN OVERBOARD SYSTEM



ALWAYS ON - NEVER INTRUSIVE

The MOB+™ is a life-saving device for your boat. It provides greater freedom of movement than a traditional kill switch, and stops the engine should you fall overboard. Connect up to 4 people at the same time. The xFOB™ can be worn on your wrist, around your neck, or clipped to your life jacket using either the xBAND™ or xTAG™ accessories.

NOW AVAILABLE AT:

West Marine®

Or find your local retailer at
www.fellmarine.com/retailers

FELL
MARINE

WORLD-LEADING DEVELOPER
OF WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

COMPLIES WITH
ABYC A-33 & E-11
ABYC
Raising Safety... Built In



POWERED BY:
WIMA



xTAG



xBAND

OPERATOR AND PASSENGER
SAFETY



FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT



EASY TO INSTALL, FITS STANDARD 2
1/16" DIAMETER HOLE



COMPATIBLE WITH ALL OUTBOARDS



are hard for hungry 'eyes to pass up.

Step four involves tweaking the rig to catch the most fish possible. Experiment with spinner shape, rotation speed, size and color from a selection of willow-leaf, Colorado, Indiana and Butterfly designs. Likewise, dial in the right style and weight of bottom bouncer for the depth and conditions. I keep an assortment of Northland's Rock-Runner, Rock-Runner Slip Bouncer and Slick-Stick Bouncer bouncers on hand to cover all the bases.

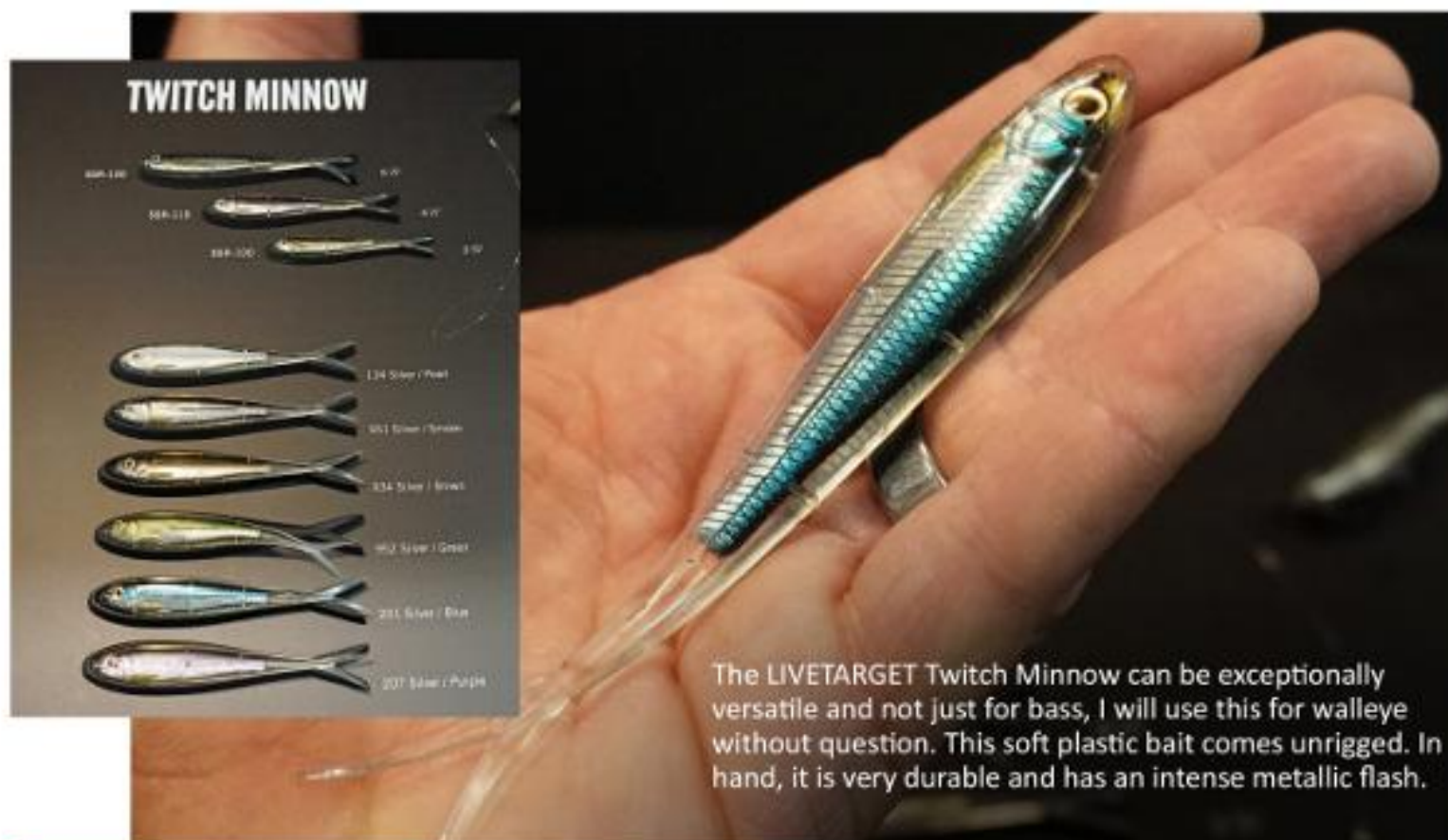
ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

After you put the first four steps together, step five—reeling in the fish—comes naturally. You might want to add an optional sixth step, pose for a photo, after which I highly recommend repeating steps five and six until it's time to head back to the dock.



A graphic for 'Mikey's Top 5 Podcast 2018'. It features a man with a beard and a grey cap giving a thumbs up. He is wearing a white t-shirt and a lanyard with a badge. The text 'MIKEY'S' is in green, 'TOP 5' is in large blue letters, and 'PODCAST 2018' is in yellow and blue.

We caught up with our very own, ODU's Mike Borovic who was present at this year's iCAST 2018 and asked him of all the great products presented, which 5 he would personally use. And here is what he had to say, in no particular order.



The LIVETARGET Twitch Minnow can be exceptionally versatile and not just for bass, I will use this for walleye without question. This soft plastic bait comes unrigged. In hand, it is very durable and has an intense metallic flash.

LIVE TARGET

livetargetlures.com



www.stcroixrods.com



www.baitcloud.com



BaitCloud
BRING THE FISH TO YOU

LUNKERHUNT

CATCH BIG FISH



LUNKERHUNT



Even though I may not target bass, I did spend some time fishing big-mouths with the BaitCloud Team a few days during the week of Icast. They hooked me up with a LUNKERHUNT LUNKERFROG and I was very impressed. And when I saw the new YAPPA series hollow body topwater lures with the soft transparent cupped bill, I was taken. These lures really disturb and displace large amounts of surface water attracting any hog nearby. Available in 3 styles, Yappa Bug, Yappa Frog and Yappa Rat. You bass bums really need to check these out.

www.lunkerhunt.com

LUNKERHUNT

PREMIUM FISHING PRODUCTS

www.gerbergear.com



LINEDRIVER™

LINE MANAGEMENT
MULTI-TOOL

5 FUNCTIONS



For the longest time, I've had my eyes open for a good quality, compact line cutter. With the new Gerber Linedriver Multi-tool, I think my lifetime search has come to a halt.



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)



STRUCTURED SUCCESS!

By Gary Parsons and Keith Kavajecz

Do you believe everything your buddies tell you? Talk about a loaded question! The answer is probably, “It depends!” As summer starts to wind down, they might tell you that you can’t catch any fish this time of year. While the bite may be tough, it doesn’t mean that the fish won’t bite. Just bring out the trolling rods and prove them wrong!

One of the most overlooked areas for trolling this time of year is the 50-100 yard basin next to offshore structure. In these areas we tend to look for sunken humps that top out from 10 to 25 feet. While the fish are occasionally on top of these humps, they are normally found off the structure in the extended sand and mud bottom areas.

Before wetting a line, cruise around the area you are targeting with your Mercury Verado while watching your Lowrance HDS for spots that could be holding fish. Using the StructureScan feature with side view, look for transition areas with scattered rock turning to mud. The fish you mark will either be suspended or relating to bottom.

The depth at which you will find fish will vary. While some days they are shallow, on other days they can be up to forty feet deep. Don’t just look for “walleye arcs” on your Lowrance HDS. If you see a cloud of

bait fish on your screen, this can be a giveaway that walleyes are in the area!

If it gets rough and windy, try fishing the shallow structure itself. Since most structures are smaller, the trolling passes won't be as long as the passes you would make when trolling pure basin fish.



Once you are ready to start fishing, spread out your lines to cover water. Begin by trolling in the shallowest area that you are marking fish, and then move out. We will often run two of the new Bass Pro Shops 9'6" telescopic Walleye Angler Trolling rods with planer boards off each side of the boat. We also run lead core off the back to keep the baits at or close to bottom. If we are following a contour that has a lot of sharp turns we won't use any planer boards at all and just fish the lead core.



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

When trolling with lead core, you will want to use an 8' 6" to 10' rod that is strong enough to handle the weight of the lead, but with a forgiving tip to help fight the fish. Adjust your speed to adjust the depth of the lures. Speed up to raise the lures and slow down to drop them deeper. We like to use 18# lead core with a 10# FireLine leader. You should be able to feel the lure vibrating and ticking bottom. If it stops vibrating, check the lure as it may have picked up debris.

If the structure is small, you can use a snap weight somewhere between 2 and 3 ounces to get to the desired depth instead of lead core. Precision Trolling Data has just put out new data on their app, which is available on the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store, to help you get your bait in the strike zone. The data was collected for 16 of the most popular walleye crankbaits using the Off Shore Snap Weight, specifically the 2oz.Guppy Weight.

The initial data was gathered with a 50-foot leader of 10# Berkley Trilene XT (which is considered the most popular trolling line on the market, especially for open water) with a 2 oz. Snap Weight attached. This method has been dubbed the "50 Plus 2" method. Tests were done at two speeds – 1.5mph and 2.5mph and tested with varying droppers out to 100 feet.

To use this data, open the Precision Trolling App and select the type of line of "10# Berkley XT / 50ft Leader 2oz Snap Weight". Then select the speed you are trolling and the depth you would like the bait to run. The app will then tell you the total amount of line to let out (leader + dropper).

You can run the lure right behind the boat (make sure the rod tip is close to the water surface) or attach



it to an Off Shore inline planer board to send the setup out to the side of the boat. It is important to remember that the board will not affect the depth the lure is diving, no matter how far out from the side of the boat you run the board.

When it comes to lures, this bite is best with crankbaits, such as Berkley Flicker Minnows which mimic a natural presentation. This is also a great opportunity to use the new Berkley Jointed Flicker Shads, which give off a high degree of action! They come in 28 colors, including patterns with bright "fire" tails and glitter tails. This new bait and the traditional Flicker Shad now come with Fusion 19 hooks. These hooks are thin to keep the great action of the bait, but have a strong tensile strength and are super sharp!

After you connect with fish, repeat the plot trail of your trolling path until the fish move. By using the combination of your kicker motor to propel the boat and the Xi5 bow mount trolling motor to steer the boat, you will stay on a very precise trail. If it appears that the fish are in a transition area and tightly packed, don't be afraid to stop and fish them with a Moonshine Shiver Minnow or Johnson Thin Fisher.

The coolest thing about this pattern is you never know what will be on the other end of the line. Don't be surprised if your Next Bite is a northern or musky, in addition to the walleyes you will catch!



THE SNAG PROOF INSIDER



Fishing Tips From The Pros

Frog Fishing on Clear Water Herring Lakes

By Trawick Ellis

Think frog fishing and you are probably thinking about pulling big bass out of grass and lily pads and violent top-water explosions that get your blood pumping! It's the best! However, if you happen to find yourself on a highland type reservoir you may have a tough time finding any kind of shallow water vegetation. Don't worry, you don't have to put your frog rod down and you can still get your fix of top-water action! You just need to adjust more to the conditions. In this article I will explain what to look for when trying to catch big bass on a Snag Proof Frog in clear water highland reservoirs.

My home lake is Lewis Smith Lake in Alabama and happens to be this type of reservoir. Smith Lake, like many other highland reservoirs has a draw down period. In the



case of Smith Lake, it is drawn down 11 feet during the winter months. It has the most miles of shoreline in the state of Alabama, many of those miles consist of bluff walls, sharp points, and deep pockets with thousands of streams and waterfalls flowing into the lake. There are 3 main creeks that make up the entire lake, the Sipsey, Ryan Creek and Rock Creek. Each creek has its own personality and can fish slightly different than the other on any given day.

My favorite time of the year to throw a Snag Proof frog on Smith Lake is right after the lake hits full pool again. This happens right around the first day of spring, until post-spawn in May. You will want to find a pocket with a good concentration of bait and wood cover. Buck brush and lay downs are great cover to throw a Snag Proof around. These areas are very effective throughout the spring, summer, and fall as well.

Depending on the weather conditions and the time of day, I like to change up the presentations of my frogs. As always, the go to colors for frogging are white and black, however, Snag Proof has many other colors that really “Match the Hatch” so be sure to check them all out. For the early morning or late afternoon and low-light situations, I like to throw a Snag Proof Phat Frog (Pictured Above). The larger profile of the Phat Frog is very effective early in the morning when the bass are a little more aggressive. I cast everywhere in and around the cover, slowly walking the bait back to the boat stopping and starting the retrieve periodically to make it seem erratic, like fleeing or injured baitfish. When the sun begins to come up and the water clears, I target shaded banks and pockets with buck brush, lay downs, or docks. When fishing during the day with the sun up, I like to fish a black frog, or a frog that matches the hatch, and will go to the slightly smaller profile Bobby's Perfect Frog. Black casts a great shadow and has a silhouette in the clear water giving the bass a good target to hone in on. I will vary my retrieve between a slow walk, when skipping under docks, to a fast chugging retrieve, always stopping the frog periodically. At times however, the old cliché is fitting as well--sometimes you just have to let the fish tell you how they want it.

To dive deeper into color selection and matching the hatch, when I am around blueback herring or shad, I'll tie on the Phat Frog in Sexy Frog, Smoke, and Cristyl, or



KC Dragonfly and Sexy Shad in Bobby's Perfect Frog. When it starts to get later into the spawn as well as post-spawn, when the bluegill begin to spawn, I'll throw Bucknasty, and Chronic, in the Phat Frog and one of my all-time favorites, Sparrow in Bobby's Perfect Frog. If you don't have these colors, you won't go wrong with the classic white or black.

For my tackle, I like to use a 7'6" heavy rod with a moderate action, the moderate action gives you the power that you need to pull the fish in and the parabolic bend in the blank keeps the fish from being able to throw the hook as easily. I use a 7:1 gear ratio reel spooled with 20 pound Seaguar Florocarbon.

I hope that this helps you the next time you are trying to get your frogging fix in, on a grass barren, deep, clear lake. When tournament fishing, or just fun fishing, and you're looking to catch some of the biggest bass in the lake, a Snag Proof Frog is time proven to do just that!

Have fun and good luck!





PANAMA CITY BEACH OFFERS EXCEPTIONAL OFFSHORE FISHING

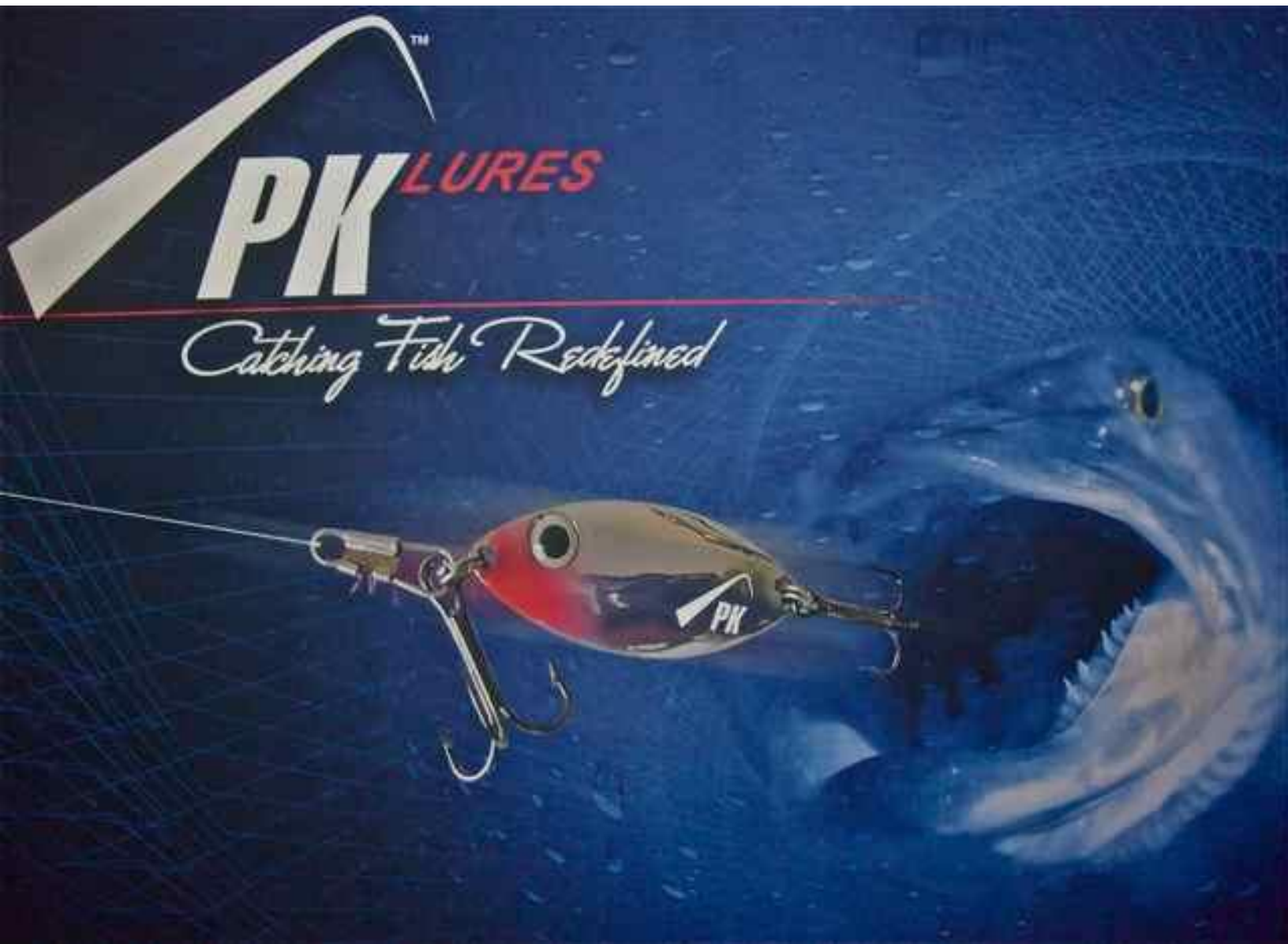
By Jason Houser

Being from Illinois most of our fishing is reserved for farm ponds, small rivers and the occasional lake. Bass, bluegill and catfish are the main targets so when I was invited to head down to Panama City Beach to experience offshore fishing, I jumped at it. It was possible that we would catch just about anything, but Red Snapper were our targets.

Arriving in Panama City Beach, my family along with a couple friends checked in to our resort, The Sheraton Bay Point Resort, then took in some of the sights and great food before calling it an early night in preparation for what we hoped would be an amazing time on the water bright and early the next morning.

Six o'clock the following day found us on the piers of Sun Harbor Marina meeting our captain Justin Leake of Panama City Inshore. Justin is known as one of the top fishing guides in the area and he is also the host of Chasin the Sun TV on the Discovery Channel.

After quick introductions we were loaded in the boat and headed to catch some small fish called Pogies that we would later use for chumming and bait. A couple throws of the throw net had more bait than we would need and we began the 7-mile ride to one of Justin's Red Snapper grounds. This experience in itself was something new to us Midwesterners.



After a quick lesson on how we should hook the bait and hearing the simple technique we would use to catch fish of allowing the bait to drop to the to the bottom and waiting for a bite we ready to begin catching fish. And, it didn't take long.

Within seconds the first fish was hooked, a Trigger fish. Unfortunately, these fish were not in season and it was quickly released. In the next few minutes we caught several Trigger fish and Gag Grouper.

It didn't take long though before the first snapper was in the boat and measured 18-inches. The minimum length is 16-inches, but only a handful of the fish we caught were smaller than that. Over the course of the next 90 minutes we caught several fish, releasing the ones that didn't meet the minimum requirements and fish not yet in season.

I would like to say that we fished all morning catching fish after fish, but I can't. The reason I can't say that is that within those 90 minutes we had our limit of Red Snappers. We accomplished what we set out to do so we pulled anchor and went to a shipwreck. The "Liberty" had purposely been sunk decades before and was home now to all sorts of fish species.

Justin was hoping that we could hook into one of the giant Amberjacks that calls the wreck home. But, it was not meant to be. We did catch a few more red snappers that we had to release though because our limit was already met. Running short on time we decided to call it a day, satisfied with what we had



done.

Returning to the piers we cleaned our fish and headed back to the resort to meet up with the ladies who chose not to fish with us that morning. I hated to tell them the action they missed out on, but enthusiasm would not allow me to be quiet.

What we experienced offshore fishing was something we will never forget. I envy those that have the opportunity to do it on a regular basis. I had always thought of Panama City Beach as a spring break destination but it is so much more. Exceptional fishing, great food, world class golf courses and so much more await you in Panama City Beach.

Editor's Note

For more information about fishing with Justin Leake visit his website, www.panamacityinshore.com. To book your stay at the Sheraton Bay Point Resort visit www.sheratonbaypoint.com/

Jason Houser is an award-winning author and TV host. You can see more of his work at www.jasonhouseroutdoors.com.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK

(www.odumagazine.com)

Join the Over 1200 NPAA
Guides, Captains, Tournament Anglers, Clubs
Angler Educators, Industry Companies, and Non-Profits
All Working Together to Grow and Protect Sportfishing Nationwide



www.npaa.net

NPAA Members Are:

- Fishing Guides
- Charter Captains
- Tournament Anglers
- Industry Professionals
- Promotional Experts
- Youth Event Organizers

Member Benefits:

- Frequent E-Blast Updates
- Members Only Discounts
- Boat Insurance Program
- Member's Profile on Web
- NPAA Facebook Exposure
- Member Media Releases
- Member Number Branding

Contact the NPAA:

Web: www.npaa.net
E-mail: npaa@npaa.net
Phone: (937)696-4185

With a Common Goal:

To grow the sport we love and increase the professionalism of our members!

- NPAA Annual Conference
- Access to Industry Contacts
- Member/Partner Networking
- Member Education on Web
- Youth Event Support
- Give Back to the Sport!



[Click To Join](#)

Pro Members: \$100
Students (HS/Col.): \$50

Business & Industry
Partnership information:
e-mail: director@npaa.net



SUMMER TIME BRIDGE FISHING

By Capt. Mike Gerry

As we approach the summer time bite bridges become an excellent target for the summertime bass; bridges can be as rewarding as any location on any large river impoundment. There are many reasons that this is the case and we will explore some of those reasons.

First; as the summertime weather forces us to look for water current bridges become a location that one can easily view some water movement; the reason is the narrowing down of the area around the bridge. Current moves around the corners of

every bridge moving bass and bait to these areas. Bass don't have a lot of choices to find oxygen in the summertime but areas that have some current is one place they can easily move too and feed as well. With a solid presence of food and oxygen to give them some energy, bridges become good locations to catch big summertime bass on more aggressive baits and get away from the summertime finesse fishing. Late day summertime rains also add to the oxygen source for bass around bridges; most bridge areas have drains that dump runoff water from the road into the water around the bridge. This flow allows for the creation of water movement and pushes bass to be active during any late day rain which are typical in the summertime. One thing I have found around bridges late in the day is that they are excellent top water locations right after a summertime shower.

The pilings around any bridge create sharp drops for the bass to suspend on; if you combine the sharp drops with the easily detectable current you have a great location for bass to hang on until the water flow gives them energy. Once this occurs the bass can easily move up to feed without the use of a lot of their energy during the current movement. Concentrating on sharp drops of pilings and corners of any river bridge can really be a game changer when you struggling to get a bite in the heat of the summer. Vertical baits dropping off the corners and around the pilings are easy prey for bass and can produce summertime bites; keep in contact with the corners as your bait drops and cross the corners of the pilings and you will have a successful summertime location.

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

Catch Fish On The Weedline

By Bob Jensen



Summer has arrived pretty much everywhere in fishing country. The spawn is over, so the fish, regardless of specie, are doing one thing: They're either eating, or they're looking for something to eat. If you can put a bait in front of a fish in a way that looks appealing to the fish, they'll probably eat it. An outstanding way to present a bait to a fish right now is a plastic bait of some sort. Plastics come in all shapes, sizes, and colors, and they will all catch fish. Here are some ideas for catching fish on plastic baits now and for the next couple of months.

A plastic bait rigged on a jig-head will be very productive much of the time. Some jigs are made for plastic baits. The best jigs for plastic have long-shanked hooks and keepers that prevent the plastic from sliding down the hook. The Rock-It Jig is an outstanding example of a jig made for plastic baits.

Most of the time it works best to just thread the plastic on the jig. Put the point of the hook into the nose of the plastic and thread it onto the jig.

Some anglers are rigging plastics like the Impulse Dip-Stick through the middle, it's called Wacky Rigging, and I've seen that work very well also.

Fish can be color selective at times, so try a jig-head of one color with a plastic of another color. Experiment with different color combinations until you hit on the right one. Watermelon is a good color in many situations.

In many bodies of water the weedline is the center of activity for fish, so that's a good place to throw your bait. All sorts of fish species travel along the weedline, and a jig and plastic will appeal to them all. Go smaller if panfish are the quarry, larger for walleyes and bass and pike.

An eighth ounce jig will be good most of the time. Fish it on eight or ten pound test line. P-Line CXX is really tough stuff, and that's important when fishing the weedline. Vegetation can be hard on line, so

use line that is abrasion-resistant.

All we're doing is finding the deep weedline. On clear lakes it will be deeper than in lakes with stained water. The deep weedline often sets up in seven to fifteen feet of water depending on the lake. Position your boat a short cast from the weedline and start throwing. You'll usually find the fish in pockets and points in the weedline. Watch your line closely as the bait sinks. Fish will often hit on the fall. If the line does anything out of the ordinary, set the hook. We use the side-imaging feature on our Raymarine sonar to locate the weedline without actually having to go over it.



BaitCloud InSerts

Made in the USA

ODU MAGAZINE



Guided fishing in the "Heart"
of Minnesota, the Twin Cities

www.muskiesandmore.com

651-210-0128



These units make it so much easier to stay at the proper casting distance from the weedline.

Try a variety of bait shapes. A classic go-to plastic is something like an Impulse Ringworm, but Paddle Minnows and Smelt Minnows will also be good, especially if walleyes are the quarry.

Plastic baits stay on the hook well: They're not always ripping off as you pull them through the weeds like live bait does. Live bait is a great option when the bite gets really tough, but plastic is a very good place to start this time of the year when you're just looking for some fish to catch, and I guess when I go fishing, that's what I'm doing: Just looking for some fish to catch.

To see new and old episodes of the Fishing the Midwest Television series, new fishing related videos, and articles from the pas, visit www.fishingthemidwest.com.



We are more than ice anglers.

We hear a lot about "limit your catch, don't catch your limit" when it comes to open-water fishing. How you shouldn't dump your bait. Why you should let the big ones live to fight another day. But when the snow falls and the lakes freeze over, we don't forget those valuable lessons. We still handle fish with care. We still leave the ice cleaner than we found it. We still make conscious decisions at home to help improve habitat downstream. Because we are more than ice fishing fanatics.

We Are Stewards.

<http://www.recycledfish.org>

Live a lifestyle of stewardship both on and off the water—because our lifestyle runs downstream.
RecycledFish.org



LATE SUMMER TROLLING FOR WALLEYE

By Jason Mitchell

Have often heard not to fish memories. When I look back however over my own fishing career, some of my greatest fishing memories involved trolling deep diving crankbaits over deep water. So many situations from mid-summer on where traditional live bait locations and tactics just got tougher. Situations where big fish were difficult to find until we put deep diving crank baits behind the boat and focused on deep contours or in some cases, suspended fish.

Of course, deep is relative but typically, we were often trolling over twenty to forty-five feet of water. The popularity of snap weights, lead core and sometimes wire has changed the trolling game dramatically over the past twenty years. As the summer wears on however, I still find myself going back to the big billed, deep diving lures that you can flat line down to deeper depths by just using thin diameter braided line.

Bigger fish especially, often prefer the larger profile and water displacement of a deep diving crankbait that has the mass and bill to dive to twenty feet or more. A lure that can touch down in thirty feet of

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

water simply moves much more water than a much smaller lure behind lead core or snap weights.

As summer progresses, we often catch many of our biggest fish trolling deep diving lures over deep water. The types of locations we target can vary amongst different fisheries but typically we find ourselves contour trolling along some type of edge. The edges of the old river channel are often the focus on the Missouri River reservoirs of Fort Peck, Sakakawea and Oahe. Deep troughs like the Paris Trench are often great deep trolling locations on natural lakes like Leech Lake. Pulling in and off the deep mud flats is a classic pattern on Mille Lacs. Shipping channel edges are a classic location on Great Lakes fisheries.

On many of these locations, we might be targeting locations in between twenty and forty feet but we might often be right next to deeper water. More often than not, the allure of these locations is not only proximity to deeper water but colder water as well that holds schools of pelagic baitfish that often need well oxygenated and cooler water.

Interpreting your electronics is crucial but there are some myths to what to look for. The key is to find schools of baitfish on the location along with schools of larger predator fish that look like walleyes. Catching these fish however is so often related to timing. There are so many baitfish on some locations and what is surprising is that some of our best fishing often happens when we quit marking baitfish. Imagine massive schools of smelt stacking up along a deep ledge for example. Doesn't take long for walleyes to show up. What happens so often however is that the fish eat for a very intense window and become more difficult to catch. Typically, bait fish that are getting pushed by predators will

ODU MAGAZINE LIBRARY

CLICK TO CONNECT



school vertically into balls. If baitfish are spread out across the bottom, there are typically no predators pushing those baitfish. Some of the best feeding windows however often happen shortly after the baitfish move or shift. There is always a lag between predator and prey as the walleyes are often one step behind. Whenever you can find fish still on a location as the prey starts to dissipate, you typically have a great opportunity, but that opportunity is good a short time and then it is gone. The spot is dead the next day. The moral of the story is don't fret if you aren't marking baitfish on a location as long as the baitfish were stacked in the location the day before. When you are marking baitfish and predators, don't give up on them and understand that the feeding windows are often short and intense.

These locations often ebb and flow and are often very effected by wind. A lack of wind will set up a thermocline at a certain point and walleyes will often hang just above that. Strong winds however can pull colder water up shallow on the leeward side of the lake and push warmer water deeper on the windblown side of the lake. Some baitfish like ciscoes are notorious for stacking up along the leeward side of points of islands to avoid any turbulence. Extremely strong winds can actually pull baitfish up into shallower water on the leeward side.

The deep baitfish patterns often see a bulk of the baitfish suspend over open water that has the favored water temperature. As these baitfish collide with deep structure, walleyes often use these edges to pin down baitfish. Walleyes will often roam over open water as well, but these fish can be harder to find consistently on some fisheries. Over basins and bowls, focus on suspended fish but along channels and breaks, focus on the contour. When fish do suspend off old river channels for example, they are often in close proximity to the edge.

In most cases, we are trolling multiple rods and often use planer boards to spread out lines and to cut a larger swath as we cover water. I have always been a fan of the Off Shore Boards as they are simple,

functional, handle a pretty good payload and I prefer their clips.



The classic lures include the Reef Runner 800 Series, Rapala Tail Dancer and the Bomber Long A. All these lures catch fish but if you are looking for an absolute perfect deep diving crankbait that catches fish and runs perfectly true, the Salmo Free

Diver is a lure you will simply fall in love with. I am to the point where I always start out with Free Divers in the trolling spread and almost always have at least one behind the boat. I personally had a hand in picking out many of the colors.



Besides simply triggering big fish, the advantage of deep trolling is that you can move with the fish and simply cover water. You can quickly eliminate the dead water. Tuning in the key locations is the most important element of this type of fishing tactic. Once you find the location and fish, you can fine tune running depth, lure and color along with speed.

One of the most important aspects of fine tuning the trolling spread besides how to follow the contour and when and where to start and stop your trolling pass is simply figuring out how high fish will move on a crank bait. On tough days, you will have to put the lure right in front of the fish but there are also many days where it seems like you catch more fish by fishing five to ten feet above the fish and making the fish move up for the bait. I like to run the lures high whenever possible as it gives me flexibility with crashing into the contour and also keeps lures out of snags and debris that can foul the action of the lure. These types of locations typically have good water visibility so if you are in doubt, run the lures above the fish.

Keep your trolling system consistent by calibrating your line counter reels with the same exact ten pound braid so that everything is identical. I like to keep my planer board rods high to keep the line from the rod tip to the board out of the water but angle my rod tips very low to the water on rods running behind the boat to keep my line counters more consistent with my planer board measurements. If you run your rod tips high behind the boat, you will have a ten to twenty-foot discrepancy between the boards and the rods without boards.

Deep trolling crankbaits simply catches a lot of big fish come mid-summer and these patterns often last all the way into the fall. Many tournaments have been won with these tactics and are a consistent way to find and catch big fish.

Editors Note: The author Jason Mitchell earned a reputation as a legendary walleye fishing guide before expanding into outdoor television. Today, Mitchell hosts the popular outdoor program Jason Mitchell Outdoors which airs on Fox Sports North and Fox Sports Midwest. Information can be found at www.jasonmitchelloutdoors.com



GAMEFISH ON THE EDGE

By Chip Leer



As summer progresses, gamefish of all stripes gather along edges, including walleyes, bass, panfish, pike, muskies and more.

On northern natural lakes, my favorite summertime edges include changes in depth and bottom content, along with quick transitions from weeds to open water. On some larger lakes, like Minnesota's famed Mille Lacs, more subtle edges are key, such as hard mud to soft mud.

In general, the sharper or more dramatic the change, the more fish you'll find confined to a narrower area. That's why steep breaks, well-defined content transitions and weed walls are easier to fish than gradual tapers and scraggly, drawn-out weed edges.

Lake maps are a great tool for finding such strike zones, particularly depth changes. Remember, the closer the contour lines, the more distinct the drop. Side-scanning sonar and polarized glasses help pinpoint prime weedlines, while downscanning sonar and sensitive sinkers highlight variations in bottom composition.

For example, Northland Fishing Tackle's ultra-sensitive, sliding Slick-Stick Bottom Bouncer transmits bottom information better than other designs, revealing whether I'm over rock, sand or mud. Another plus—by paying attention to sonar returns as I tap different bottom types, I can better interpret what my electronics are trying to tell me.

When you find a promising edge, choose a presentation that matches the conditions at hand and mood of the species you're after. When fish cruise up and down along an edge, mobile tactics like trolling and casting



often out-produce more sedentary strategies such as vertical jigging or slip-bobbering.

One of my favorite all-around techniques for finding and catching late-summer walleyes scattered along a productive edge is pulling Northland's Float'n Crawler Hauler. Rigged with half a nightcrawler, it produces a Slow Death-style spinning motion that mimics dying baitfish.

While the snag-resistant Slick-Stick excels on a variety of bottoms, I switch to fixed, L-arm bottom bouncers like Northland's Rock-Runner when fishing weed edges, because they push light vegetation out of the way, creating a trail for the rig to follow.

Based in Walker, Minnesota, noted fishing authority and outdoor communicator Chip Leer operates Fishing the WildSide, which offers a full suite of promotional, product development and consultation services. For more information, call (218) 547-4714 or email Chip@fishingthewildside.net.





5 MISTAKES THAT CAN COST BOATERS

By Scott Croft

For the past 28 years, the Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) Consumer Protection Dispute Resolution Program has gone to bat thousands of times for BoatUS members seeking help after disputes arise with boat purchases, repairs, or other service issues. This free service offered to BoatUS members often gets successful resolutions for these types of consumer issues. Here are some mistakes BoatUS has identified that can help any boat owner avoid a dispute with a service provider or with a boat purchase this summer.

Not using a purchase contract. When a BoatUS member found out that a battery and other equipment had been removed from the sailboat he had purchased, he called BoatUS Consumer Protection. Unfortunately the member did not have a purchase contract that spelled out the price, listed included equipment, and was signed by both parties. This was an expensive lesson because the battery and other equipment accounted for about half of the purchase price of the boat.

Not sea-trialing the boat after repairs are made. A BoatUS member purchased a used powerboat that was found to have a cracked engine head. The sales contract said the engine had to be working, so repairs were made and the dealer verified with a compression test to ensure everything was fine. It wasn't. After paying for the boat, the engine promptly blew a hole in the side of the block. The dealer balked at offering a used engine replacement because the contract stated "as-is" condition. Lesson: Don't accept the boat until all repairs have been made and verified with a sea-trial, and be sure to spell out contingencies in the contract

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

Not allowing a shop to attempt to honor its warranty. After a BoatUS member's inboard engine quit on a Memorial Day trip, he decided to seek out a repair shop on Craigslist in order to get back on the water as quickly as possible. After he got the boat back from a shop he'd found, the engine was still not working, so the member lost confidence and took it to another shop to fix it, which it did satisfactorily. But when the member went back to the first shop to seek warranty reimbursement, it refused. Lesson: Warranty law allows a shop to be given the opportunity to correct the problem. Don't expect a shop to give up this right, even if you are in a hurry.

Not verifying the paperwork was sent. A BoatUS member bought a ski boat with several years remaining on a 5-year manufacturer warranty that the seller said transferred with the boat. Shortly thereafter, the boat had a catastrophic engine failure due to a failed pump. Unfortunately, the seller neglected to transfer the warranty to the member, and the \$10,000 engine replacement was not covered. Lesson: Some warranties have specific transfer procedures that must be followed, including paying a fee,

paperwork that must be signed and delivered, and sometimes even a maintenance check by a qualified shop. Add a sales contingency to the sales contract that addresses the successful transfer of the original warranty

Not letting the shop be involved in the diagnosis. When a small diesel engine was having starting issues, a repair shop told a BoatUS member that water was found in the cylinders. Instead of allowing the shop to investigate further and fix the engine, the member bought a new engine to have the shop install. However, the new engine was just the block, so the shop had to install the old starter, alternator and intake and exhaust manifolds to complete the job. After installation, water was soon found in the new engine's cylinders. The shop advised the member the warranty was only on the new base engine, and not the old manifolds that leaked in the engine. Lesson: By telling a shop that the engine simply has starting issues, for example, a successful fix by the shop will come with a warranty on the work. However, telling the shop what parts to replace implies no warranty to the initial problem – the shop is just following your orders. For major work especially, let the shop do their job and recommend the repair.

BoatUS has some help with tips on choosing a repair facility at www.BoatUS.com/Repair-Facility.com. To join BoatUS for \$24 annually, go to www.BoatUS.com.

TAILORED FOR THE OUTDOOR WOMAN!



ADVENTURE

HUNT. FISH. EXPLORE. LIVE.

~ FREE DIGITAL MAGAZINE ~
betheadventure.com



Wi-Fi ONBOARD - How Connectivity is Improving Fishing Success

By Joel Nelson

Increasingly, our entire world is becoming wireless, from speakers that can order a pizza by simply asking for one, to Smart Home thermostat devices that can detect your presence to crank up the A/C a bit. While some may argue to leave these modern amenities onshore, there's no doubt that increasingly, such technologies are following us onto the lake. If information is ammunition, we're better supplied these days than ever before. While most of the focus is on GPS/Sonar units at the dash of the boat, increasingly we're tying more and more options into them. Here's just a few ways that digital connectivity is providing more successful outings.

Updating

Software updates are a part of life these days, even with our smart-phones. The same is true for bug-fixes and fish-finder updates that can be done through your phone. These updates can fix glitches or improve functionality of your graph, so it's best to be running with the latest and greatest. The last update I did on my boat electronics was actually through Wi-Fi, where I used my phone as a



mobile hotspot, connected to that hotspot via my on-dash graph, and then downloaded the file directly into the boat. From there, a simple “open” box allowed me to run the update, and after a quick re-start I was running the freshest version of software available. Previously, we would have to take the graph to your desktop and connect via cables, or transfer via an SD card. Now, I’m able to do the same thing from the lake provided I have a good cell signal.

Information Sharing

Most of the major GPS/Sonar manufacturers are offering “networked” options between your on-dash graph and other digital options in the boat, but why would you want it? Networking your fish-finders together does cost more money, as these are typically upgrades from a standard setup, but they can result in an overall cost savings and ultimately prevent you from running back and forth from the cockpit to the bow to see what’s on each screen. Ethernet cables and routing boxes help both the bow and dash fish-finders to communicate with one another, and that’s valuable in many other ways as well. Some units can share cartography, negating the need to purchase a map chip for each unit, while others will share screen-shots, or even side-imaging views from the main dash unit thus allowing you to purchase a more economy model without side-imaging for the bow of the boat. Fishing information, as well as other files and even music can be shared wirelessly or via auxiliary/USB cables to your on-board command center, making today’s electronics far more than just a fish-finder.

Cartography

Digital contour maps are increasingly a major part of our fishing, as we strive to interpret underwater structure that may hold more fish. You can rely on map-chips for that information, or you can purchase the Navionics App to view contours and your location on top of them directly from your phone. This can be handy in a friend’s boat or when the App contours are more updated than the source you’re using. Of course, you can also create your own high-resolution contours with the aid of specialized software that pairs with your GPS sonar to record locations, depths, and even bottom hardness. That information is interpolated and processed onto a map card for your later use, and can always be updated with more passes across the same location and better information.

Boat Control

Technologically-improved boat control is probably the #1 way that new gadgets can up your catch-rate, and that happens through a number of ways. Information sharing continues to trolling motor

options, allowing on-screen control of everything from speed and direction, to navigation from anywhere in the boat to shared waypoints. Networking your trolling motor then to the rest of your electronics allows for a simple, one-stop location from which to control multiple functions. These can include anything from digitally anchoring (via "Spot-Lock" on the trolling motor) on a GPS location, to automatically deploying a telescoping rod into the lake bottom that pegs you in place, all from your command center at the driver's seat of your boat.

We have had wireless trolling motor controls for some time, but they are becoming less linked to your input via button pressing, and more directly tied to mapping, cardinal directions you pre-determine, or existing waypoints and routes. More hands-free operation allows us to re-create a successful trolling run, continue down a specific contour at a certain heading, and casually spot-lock along the way should something be working well at a specific location.

At the end of the day, wireless connectivity means doing more things that used to take two-arms and a leg in an automated, no-hands fashion. This frees us up to do more fishing, all while keeping our boat over fish and heading in a productive direction. While I'll always have respect for, and enjoy an old-school back-troller locking the corner of the boat against a stiff wind along a fish-holding weed line, I'll also look for ways to enjoy fishing more. If this floats your boat, then more power to you, but remember to be kind to the resource along the way.

About Joel (<http://www.joelnelsonoutdoors.com>) Thirty-some years ago, I was lucky to be born into a farm family with a strong work ethic and love for the land. My folks were too busy farming and raising

REDESIGNED.

AND READY TO MINGLE WITH THE FISHES.

The Meat Stick rods and combos are balanced to load perfectly with heavier search lures yet enables anglers to watch for the lightest pickups. They feature a sanded glass blank that features a feather light tip for bite detection, and an extremely heavy backbone that loads up for the fight!

The Mackinaw "MACK" rods were designed extensively for the sole purpose of taming big fish. The graphite blank on the bait-cast rods feature spiraled guides for better shock absorption and sensitivity. The handle is designed extra long past the reel seat for better balance and leverage to reduce fatigue. This rod is extremely effective for chasing giant Pike, Lake Trout, Walleye and Salmon.

Jason Mitchell
Elite series
JASONMITCHELLRODS.COM

three boys to spend much time hunting and fishing, but they were encouraging towards my passion for the woods and water that took root in me from a young age. Some of my first memories of the outdoors include chasing squirrels and rabbits up the hill, and fishing for chubs in the "crick" below our house. From there, Grandpa Stanley honed some skills and taught patience while I'm sure exercising plenty of his own. Those first memories were fuel for a fire that burned from the hills of northern Wisconsin to the mountains of Yellowstone. From the small waters of Southern Minnesota, to the big windswept waters of the north, I fished wherever I could.

I learned then more than I thought there was to know, and have come to understand that the only true way to preserve knowledge is to share



PIKE POLE FISHING

MULTI SPECIES GUIDE SERVICE

Find us on: **facebook.**

Covering The Lake Koshkonong System & Other Area Lakes

HUMMINBIRD.
Sonar Training Also Available

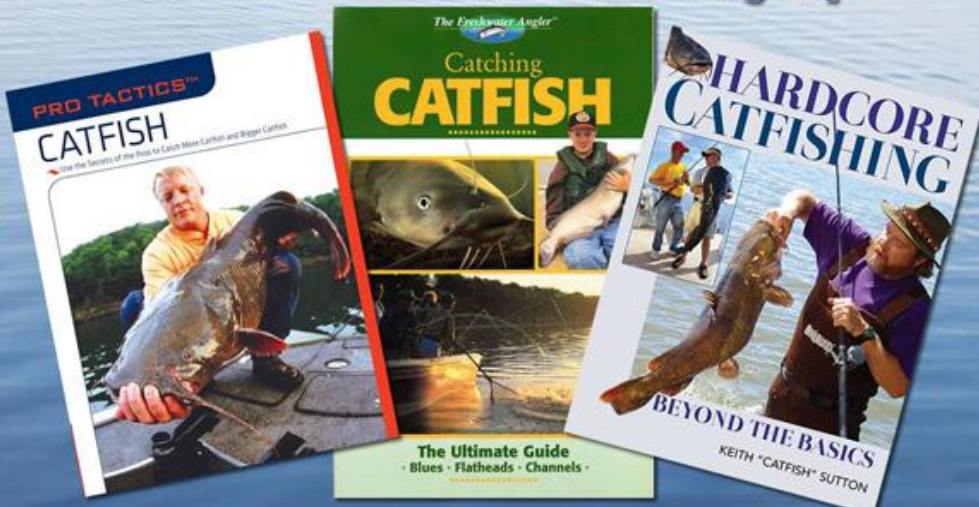
www.pikepolefishing.com

Captain Adam Walton
608-290-3929



Three Great Books

Thousands of Great Catfishing Tips



PRO TACTICS™ CATFISH
The Secrets of the Pros to Catch More Catfish and Bigger Catfish

Catching CATFISH
The Freshwater Angler™
The Ultimate Guide
• Blues • Flatheads • Channels •

HARDCORE CATFISH
BEYOND THE BASICS
KEITH "CATFISH" SUTTON

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

it. Now, I find myself trying to follow in their footsteps, as I teach my own children the lessons that have been so graciously handed down to me. In the process, I've found joy and satisfaction in not only the pursuit, but the partnerships. In not just the acts, but the experience. I feel a strong sense of purpose in sharing those adventures with fellow sportsmen and outdoors-women. Without the people that did so for me, I am confident that my life would somehow be less whole for it.

Fish For The Biters



By Bob Jensen

When anglers go fishing, they want to catch some fish. In fact, they want to catch lots of fish. While you're probably not going to always catch lots of fish, there are some things that anglers can do to increase their odds of getting bit. Finding the biters is a big part of catching fish.

Trusted for generations.

Daisy®—the official BB gun of the Boy Scouts of America®



We're often reminded that to catch fish, first you've got to find the fish. However, at times just finding the fish isn't enough. You've got to find the fish that are willing to eat your bait. You might have a bunch of walleyes hovering off the edge of a deep water structure, and just a few walleyes on the top of that same structure. While it's tempting to work the big school of fish that are on the edge, it might be more productive to work the smaller group that's on top of the structure. Here's why.

You can sometimes determine the activity level of a fish by where it is. Walleyes that are shallow or on top of a structure are often looking for something to eat.

Walleyes that are relating to structure but that have pulled off the structure are fish that have probably eaten recently and are now just hanging around. They probably aren't interested in eating, at least not right now. When they do get ready to eat, they'll swim back to the structure and find a meal.

There are always exceptions. In some bodies of water the walleyes spend much of their summer suspending near baitfish. When they get hungry, they move into that school of baitfish, grab a couple, and move back away from them until they're ready to eat again.

I recall a trip to Lake Oahe in South Dakota a while back. We found a prime example of why you should fish where the biters are.

We were working the water in the twenty five to twenty eight foot range. We could see lots of fish that we suspected were walleyes on our sonar, and there were lots of baitfish around. We were getting bit every now and then.

The wind came up and was blowing into the shoreline close to where we were fishing. We had fished that shoreline earlier, and had seen a few fish on the sonar, but they wouldn't eat. We decided to try the area again to see if the wind made the fish want to eat. Boy did it! We still didn't see a lot of fish on the sonar, but almost every fish that we did see we caught. We were fishing fewer fish, but we were having better action.

When you go fishing, keep in mind that sometimes you're better off fishing areas that hold fewer fish if those fish are willing to bite. If you can find an area that's holding a few biters, you're going to have a good time. And, if you can find an area that's holding lots of fish that are willing to bite, you can plan on having a great time.

Watch new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television series, see and read fishing related videos and articles at www.fishingthemidwest.com.

GAMO
ADULT PRECISION AIRGUNS



INTRODUCING
THE SWARM MAGNUM.

10-SHOT | .22 CAL | 1300 FPS



Lake Trout On The First Step Down

By Dan Johnson

As lake water temperatures warm during late spring and summer, lake trout make a predictable migration from shallow shoreline areas deep into the offshore abyss. Right now, the fish are on the first leg of their seasonal exodus, offering anglers the opportunity for fast fishing a short cast from shore.

"I call it the first step down," says veteran lake trout guide Bernie Keefe, of Granby, Colorado. "When the water temperature reaches about 52 degrees, which typically happens three to four weeks after ice-out, the trout move onto humps, ridges and flats in 10 to 40 feet of water, near the shallow water where they've been feeding since open water arrived."

"The fish are active and highly catchable," he reports. "So finding them is more than half the battle."

Keeping a close eye on his Lowrance Carbon 12 electronics, Keefe idles over likely areas, watching the screen for signs of life below. "In depths of 10 to 20 feet, you might not mark an entire school of fish

since the sonar cone is still pretty narrow," he says. "So it pays to spend a little time over every fish you mark because there may be more trout in the area."

When Keefe spots a promising return on sonar, he marks the spot with GPS, turns his Crestliner around and prepares for battle. "I don't look for the fish on sonar," he notes. "The fish is most likely on the move, cruising the structure in search of a meal. My job is to lure him back to me."

Keefe's "first step down" tackle setup includes a 6- to 6½-foot Scheel's Guide Series spinning rod, paired with an Abu Garcia Revo reel spooled with 14-pound Berkley FireLine. He finishes off the mainline with a 10-pound leader of Berkley 100% Fluorocarbon.

Jigs are his lures of choice. All feature razor-sharp TroKar hooks and range in weight from ¼ to 1½ ounces, depending on the depth and conditions. Plain heads are tipped with 4- to 6-inch Berkley artificial softbaits including Havoc tubes, PowerBait Power Tubes, Gulp! Minnows and Jerk Shads. Shades of white or natural grays, greens and browns are perennial producers. "An assortment of hair jigs in the same colors rounds out my jig box," he adds."

Keefe's presentation includes a variety of moves. "Drop the jig to bottom and start with a nice constant jigging rhythm," he advises. "Then experiment with snaps and deadsticking. Don't be afraid to raise the jig for suspended fish or even reel it all the way to the surface, inviting hungry trout to give chase. Pay attention to what works, because consistent success is all about repeatability."



The diehard guide also encourages trout fans not to wait too long to give the first step down pattern a try. "It typically lasts four to five weeks," he says. "Some of the areas will produce fish all summer, but others become barren as trout continue their journey into deeper water offshore."

CONTACT INFORMATIONFor more information or to book a trip with Keefe, visit:

www.fishingwithbernie.com or call (970) 531-2318.



Try Something New: Ribbit!

By Mike Frisch

Sometimes an angler can get into a sort of fishing rut! He or she goes to the same spots, fishes the same methods, and hopes to catch the same fish species. It's fun sometimes, however, to change up, do something different, and chase another fish species.

Lots of anglers in the Midwest get walleyes on the brain and, for good reason, as we have some great fishing available in lots of lakes and rivers in this part of the world for those who like the marble-eyed

fish. Bass, however, can be a great mid-summer action alternative if the walleyes are a bit finicky, or if an angler wants a new challenge.

Anglers who fish lakes with lots of shallow cover like lily pads, wild rice, and pencil reeds might want to consider adding a soft-bodied, floating frog to their fishing arsenal. Lakes with this type of cover often have good populations of largies that call the shallows home and “froggin”

is a great way to fish over this cover and extract some of the big fish that live below. These fish are also often nearly inaccessible to anglers using other lures. Plus, topwater frog bites offer some of the most explosive fishing action available!

This fishing requires stout baitcasting gear and braided line in the 50-pound test size range. If you are new to baitcasting, you don’t have to break the bank when acquiring a rod and reel, though some casting practice might be needed! Lew’s has several rod and reel combinations in their Mach series that are affordable, good quality, and will do a nice job for frog fishing. Plus, these models will double for good bottom bouncer rods when walleyes are targeted.

I spool my froggin’ rod with 50-pound P-Line XTCB-8 braid and tie on a Strike King KVD Sexy Frog. Long casts and a straight, steady retrieve will often lead to explosive bites from shallow largemouth bass. One key, however, is to pause a bit before the hookset to be sure the fish has the bait before the hookset. Many novice froggers have a tendency to set too soon and pull the frog from the fish when the fish “blows up” on the lure but doesn’t actually have it yet.

One trick I learned from Fishing Hall of Famer and veteran frog fisherman Duane Peterson is to keep the rod tip high during the retrieve. This forces the angler to lower the rod before setting the hook which often gives the fish the time needed to fully engulf the frog.



Another tip I learned from Duane involves cover selection. Duane finds that while one form of cover, say a reed bank, may have a fish or two in it, the best spots are often areas where multiple forms of cover intersect. For example, while fishing and filming a TV show with Duane last summer, we had some of our best action come from reeds where other weeds were mixed on the edges.

Frog selection is another important consideration for fishing success. Various frog

CRAPPIE*NOW!* **DIGITAL MAGAZINE**

Free Digital Magazine



Award Winning Writers



Active Social Media

Read Free NOW!

www.crappienow.com

colors will work and it pays to experiment to let the fish show you the "color of the day" that they prefer. The Sexy Frog comes in a bunch of fishy colors and has two other important components that froggers appreciate.

First, it has a big, strong double hook and, second, it collapses easily on the bite which leads to more hook ups!

If more hook-ups and fishing excitement are your goal, consider frog fishing for largemouth bass. Using some of the tips provided here can, in

fact, probably lead to some explosive topwater fishing action on your next outing! As always, good luck on the water and remember to include a youngster in your next outdoors adventure.

Mike Frisch is a western Minnesota fishing guide and co-host of the popular Fishing the Midwest TV series. Visit www.fishingthemidwest.com or follow Fishing the Midwest on Facebook for more "fishy" stuff.

Making Sense of the Dog Days

By Capt. Mike Gerry

As we hit the 90-degree water temperature it becomes the norm that fishing gets tough and looking forward to some cooling water temperatures will really help the fishing. The key is understanding what your facing when you get on the water, as knowledge is key to overcoming the obstacles of the dog days.



One of the most important things to understand is that the oxygen levels in the water really gets depleted when we move into this period on the water. Finding areas that have some higher oxygen levels can make all the difference to catching fish. The first thing to remember is that there could be areas of the lake that produce more oxygen than others; what causes this is key to finding fish.

One thing to always take notice of is your graph, observing where the fish are in the depth range can really help you understand what and where to fish. If you notice that fish are mainly congregating at a certain depth off the bottom your lake, your lake could be suffering from the thermocline setting in removing the oxygen from the depth below where you see fish at on your graph. When this occurs, bass will sit above the thermocline giving you a depth range to examine to find active fish. Bass on grassy lakes generally move into the grass when oxygen depletes as the grass generally holds more oxygen and forces them into the grass to find it. The thing many people don't understand is the nastier the grass the more likely it is that the oxygen levels are higher as dying nasty foamy grass puts off CO2 and puts oxygen into the water.

Current becomes key during the dog days as moving water always brings oxygen to the hot water. Look for current edges, wind driven change and that will produce more active fish and help during the dog days. May times docks become great targets as docks produce cover from the sun; help hold oxygen and cool the water underneath the dock. Shadows, nasty grass, docks, suspending fish and obscure structure sitting alone are ideal targets to find increased oxygen levels that can produce some activity and help you overcome those dog days!

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



ActionHat

www.ActionHat.com

By Gary Elliott

Having tried headbands in the past and giving up because they were difficult to manage and uncomfortable to wear while out hunting or on the water fishing, I began a search on the web for a

replacement to the headband. I came across a startup for the ActionHat. I began to read more on it and the more I read the more interested I became. Then at the 2017 iCast I met Robert Fields who is an Ambassador for Yakgear/Railblaza and Robert seems to never be without his ActionHat when out on the water. He had his ActionHat there and I got a first-hand look at



it and was very interested and was advised they would be available by end of summer.

After some time, I contacted Rex Deguzman for an opportunity to review the hat. Rex, who is also known for his www.LiveLiveGear.com site as well. After several days I received an ActionHat, cell phone adapter and DIY kit and began trying and using them. I was still waiting for my GoPro Hero 6 so I tried out my Samsung S8+ and although kind of top heavy which I kinda suspected it would be, it wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be. I can understand that with a large heavy cell phone the chances of it moving or flying off would be much greater than with a small sports camera such as a Hero. Then my Hero 6 showed up a few days later and I quickly mounted this to the ActionHat and for a bit you know it is there but quickly became comfortable with it and almost forget it was there. Both the cell phone and Hero feel balanced on top compared to a head band setup or another cap I tried a few years ago. I then installed the DIY kit on my Yakgear hat and found it to be very simple to do except for one part, putting the short bolt through the cap to mount the GoPro mount. Now on this hat which had a patch/logo on it I went right at the top of the logo and it works just fine but if there isn't



anything on the front of the hat you would go about 2 inches above the brim and install it. Little wrestling with pushing the bolt through and screwing to the mount but nothing major. After a couple minutes I was done and had a mount for one of my favorite hats to wear while out fishing. There are a couple color choices and styles to choose from for an ActionHat. You can choose from a black or gray mesh cap with a curve or no curve bill or a black visor. The cap is very light and seems as though it will be comfortable to wear when the weather warms up soon.

Price for the ActionHat with the cell phone adapter is \$49.99 and the GoPro/Sports Cam mount is \$39.99, and pricing is the same for the visors. The ActionHat DIY kit is \$29.99 and finally the aluminum mount for the ActionHat is \$17.99. Now, you say that is a lot to pay for a cap with a camera or cell phone mount on it. I would have to agree except for one big thing, it floats! Yes, even with your GoPro on it if it falls in the water your \$400.00 camera stays on top of the water and does not film its way to the bottom for someone in the future to find and watch your footage. The floatation is in the ActionHat FlexFrame which gives the hat its buoyance. The website www.ActionHat.com has videos on how to install the DIY Kit and so much more. Pricing and descriptions are available as well. One note about the ActionHat floating your device, there is a weight limit on the device and you need to check the website for that information before "assuming" and then you find out the hard way. Also, test your hat with your camera choice and make sure by using a bucket or near a shallow shoreline.

So, in closing when purchasing the ActionHat look at it two ways, one it is a perfect way to quickly and easily film your hunt or catching your personal best out on the water and at \$40.00 an insurance policy for that \$400.00 camera when out on the water. Also, to accommodate the lack of color or camo choices, they have the DIY kit to let you make an ActionHat out of your favorite color or style hat.

Review written by Gary Elliott

[www.Facebook.com/GarysOutdoorNewsandReviews](https://www.facebook.com/GarysOutdoorNewsandReviews)

[www.Instagram.com/Garys Outdoor News and Reviews](https://www.instagram.com/Garys_Outdoor_News_and_Reviews)



Summertime Speed For Walleye

By Jim Ahonen



As we have entered now into what I like to call “the dog days of Summer” the weather usually is hot. And I mean steady temperatures of 80s, even 90s and high humidity. In long hard days of sun. This creates a lot of movement in these walleye, as they seem to be at the peak of activity. As Migration to deeper water most of the time. But to some exceptions to the rule apply as always. But I will talk about a few types baits for this time of year and how I tend to make them work for me.

Now is the time of year where Walleye have tend to love to chase. And by that I mean fast moving baits work well. But people tend to use

spoons with Jet divers and crankbaits. But a fast moving harness blades should not be overlooked. Also scent should not ever be overlooked I gotta have my Lure Lipstick with me on the boat. For all applications. It puts more confidents in what I out out there on the water.

For Jets and spoons I like the True Trips Jet diver feature. As they release when a fish is on the line. This creates less drag on the line when reeling in fish. And when using the True Trip Jets, you gotta give the “Jammer Spoons” a shot, run them 4’-6’ off your True Trips. All available at Frank's Great Outdoors. (They showed this on the past episode of MUCC’s Michigan's Out Of Doors) For all of your fishing needs, as well as a good selection of harnesses, blades and crankbaits.

When running spoons speed is where it's at. Anywhere from 2.3-3.0 Get these fish excited and get the most aggressive strikes to go. And you can make limits happen fast.

Now when it comes to crankbaits, I like action. Something jointed or small with a fast waggle to em. Like a Reef Runner "Little Ripper" . Again speed up and let your baits cruze through the water. I would tend to try 2.0-2.8 MPH for this. To cover water and get that reaction strike.

For harnesses more thump type blades like the hatchet styles or Eye Flies from Ito-flies work well. Sometimes using double blades. Now Walleye still tend to get reaction bites, even though it's a more slow moving action at 1.3-2.0. For me it seems like it's more of a tease. As it seems as though these fish will tend to follow and even hold the worm in there mouth a while before totally commuting to there meal. Making it important to wait at times to setting the hook. But you can use more faster spinning blades and thumper actions to go after these fish. There are so many option and styles to choose from.

For areas of interest for walleye, I tend to find them on the edge of weeds in the deeper part of a drop off. Where they can ambush baitfish that funnel in between. Also something I have learned the other day an exception to the rule, i found them shallow, off the first big drop from shallow water. On the inside of an inner bay area. These places should not be overlooked. As a quick look at your gragh will tell you what's in the area. But not all spots like this will hold fish. But I would say if the are Walleye in this area then they tend to be very skittish.

So when trying to put together a game plan for this summer's trip, try some of these techniques.

**Franks Great Outdoors
Reef Runner Tackle
Company Joe Raymer
#itoflies Lure Lipstick**





Walleyes & Pike with Swimbaits

**By Jason Halfen
& Jim Edlund**

For years, it was a secret shared only by select guides and pros, largely borrowed from the wheelhouse of European pike and zander anglers. Domestically, In-Fisherman Editor In Chief, Doug Stange, was one of the first to demonstrate how lethal soft plastic swimbaits could be on walleye and pike in all kinds of habitat.

News spread quickly, and anglers began experimenting with swimbaits, typically minnow-shaped hunks of plastic with a vibrating paddle tail. Swimbaits soon flooded bait shop pegboards, including LIVETARGET's anatomically-exact and seductive Sunfish, Common Shiner, Hitch, Sucker, Adult Trout, Trout Parr, Yellow Perch, Blueback Herring, Threadfin Shad, Gizzard Shad, and Golden Shiner.

Two anglers familiar with these baits are Kyle Agre and Scott Brewer, hosts of "Gone Outdoors Radio" and partners in Brewer-Agre Outdoors, an outreach group that promotes fishing and the outdoors lifestyle.

"Where we fish on Devils Lake, North Dakota, pitching crankbaits and plastics is pretty common place

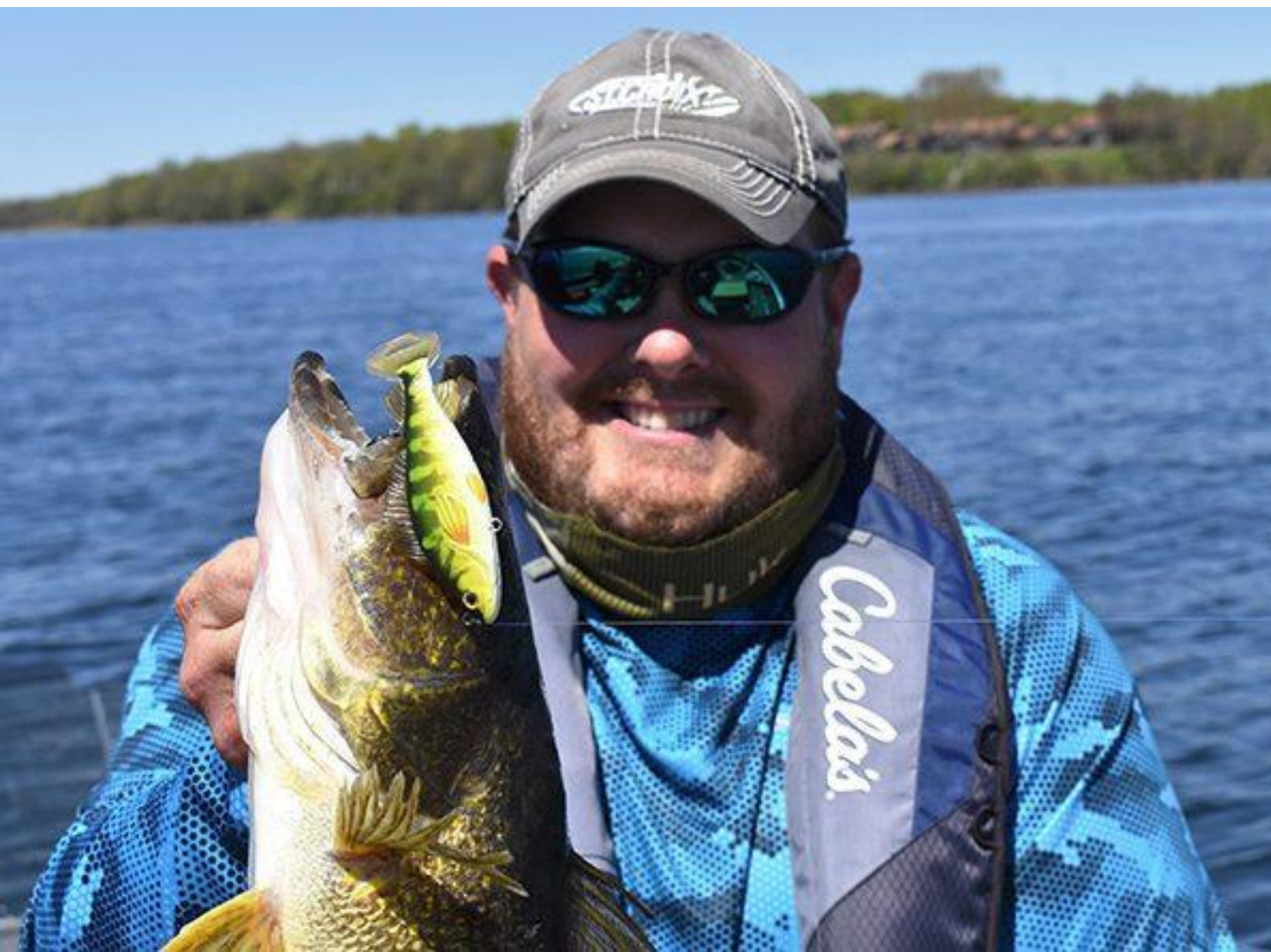
for both walleye and pike. Along those lines, we're big fans of LIVETARGET swimbaits, which are really the best of both worlds," says pro walleye angler, Kyle Agre.

"You've got the near photo-realism of the LIVETARGET product—the anatomical features, colors, scales, etc.—but also the benefit of superb weedless-ness, which is made possible by a dorsal fin that rides right in front of the hook point. This plastic dorsal fin keeps the large hook weedless when casting up into the wood, weed, or rocks, and the tail puts out a massive amount of vibration. It's absolutely amazing the kind of cover you can cast these baits into without getting snagged."

Agre's tournament and promotions partner, Scott Brewer, adds: "The advantage of LIVETARGET swimbaits is they're extremely realistic, and what we preach everywhere we go is our first bait choice needs to be whatever replicates the natural forage in the lake. You want to match the hatch. So, it all depends on what kind of food is present in the lake, reservoir, or river you're fishing, and then choosing the appropriate LIVETARGET swimbait or swimbaits."

Along those lines, Agre and Brewer spend a great deal of time on North Dakota's 200,000-acres-plus Devils Lake, a body of water known for its world-class perch, walleye, pike, and white bass fishing.

"LIVETARGET'S Yellow Perch is a great option on Devils Lake because the lake is loaded with small perch.



We choose the yellow-green pattern because it most closely resembles the appearance of our perch up here. The other advantage is the yellow-green stands out a little brighter in the stained water and is just more visible to the walleyes and pike,” says Agre.

The duo also likes how easily the LIVETARGET Yellow Perch fishes at a variety of depths, speeds, and retrieves. They say it’s the kind of bait that even beginners can fish.

“You cast the LIVETARGET Yellow Perch out, count it down to your desired depth—which is about a foot per second for the ¾-ounce model—and then simply retrieve it back to the boat. Sometimes a straight retrieve is best, sometimes a start-stop-start retrieve is best. It’s pretty easy,” says Brewer.

What they both really like is how fast LIVETARGET swimbaits fish. “When you’re fishing shallow, your 2D Sonar and Down Imaging are pretty limited. You really need to use Side Imaging to help find the weed edges and other cover/structure close to shore. The nice thing about these baits is you can cover and eliminate a lot of water quickly and use them as a search tool to find where the active fish are. This is especially great news for anglers without Side Imaging. And even for us, with Side Imaging, we’d prefer to use LIVETARGET swimbaits as a search tool rather than staring at a screen all the time.”

Agre and Brewer also cover water economically by directing each angler in the boat cover a specific portion of water. “When you’re on waters with a pronounced weed edge—like a lot of Minnesota lakes or Devils Lake—we take the approach that muskie or big pike guys take. The guy in the bow pitches parallel to the weed edge and the guy in the back casts up shallow and probes through the shallow weeds. It’s just a good combination. Then you find where the fish are and go from there.”

RECOMMENDED GEAR

Like any specific walleye or pike tactic, some rod, reel, and line configurations work better than others. When fishing LIVETARGET swimbaits, Brewer relies on a 6’6” or 7’ medium-light to medium power spinning rod with extra-fast action tip and Shimano, Abu, or Quantum spinning reel to throw the baits up shallow. “We’re pitching LIVETARGET swimbaits



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

into relatively shallow water, like 10 feet or less. I'm a fan of 8-pound monofilament while Kyle's a FireLine guy," says Brewer.

Agre interjects: "I typically reach for a medium-light to medium-power 7' spinning rod, Shimano spinning reel, 10- to 14-pound FireLine, and an 18"-24" 10-pound Seaguar InvizX fluorocarbon leader. I'm a big fan of the 4.5-inch, ¾-ounce smaller Yellow Perch, especially during the early season. I lean toward the smaller sizes because I think they have more appeal earlier in the year while the majority of the forage is still small."

Both Agre and Brewer like how well LIVETARGET swimbaits patrol shallow waters, areas often littered with walleye during the early season. Add increased water clarity due to Zebra mussel infestation, and the anatomically-correct LIVETARGET baits really shine.

"It's worth mentioning that on a lot of waters Zebra mussels are increasing water clarity and making it possible for fish to really key in on baits. That's where LIVETARGET baits really shine. Whether you're fishing these baits slow or fast – on a steady retrieve or with twitches or pauses – fish have a chance to really study the baits and they still get eaten," says Brewer.

WHERE TO FISH 'EM: WEEDS & WOOD

Agre and Brewer credit LIVETARGET swimbaits for opening up more cover and structure to them. Whereas typical crankbaits and jigs often get snagged, LIVETARGET swimbaits are nearly snag-proof.

“Devils Lake is littered with wood, weeds, rock, you-name-it, and there are often walleyes and pike in these areas. So, as far as cover and structure, we’re pitching these baits in and around fallen logs, trees, fences, weeds, etc. During the early season on Devils Lake, one of the biggest things is making sure your bait spends time along the weed edges. That’s where a lot of walleyes and pike hang out, waiting to ambush prey.

As the weed growth continues to sprout up throughout mid- to late-June, the fish are going to be right in the weeds or weed pockets. Getting to these fish with cranks or jigs can be tough, but these swimbaits really give you a lot of flexibility to reach these fish,” says Agre.

So, what’s the best swimbait retrieve around weeds? Generally, it’s a straight retrieve along the weed edge, punctuated with little hops into the weed pockets. “A lot of anglers overthink swimbaits and jig them way too much. They’re really one of the most simple baits you can fish—a lot of times, all you have to do is cast it out and reel it in on a slow roll. Let the bait do the work. You don’t typically have to jig much,” says Brewer.

While weed growth is typically the biggest fish-attracting factor, don’t overlook wood in the form of brush, laydowns, deadheads, fence rows, etc. “A lot of times you’re going to find wood near weeds and it’s going to hold fish. The nice thing about LIVETARGET swimbaits is you can retrieve them right from the weeds into wood without worrying about getting snagged. They give you freedom to fish areas where you might normally get baits hung up,” says Agre.

Other Top Swimbaits

Besides LIVETARGET’S Yellow Perch, Agre and Brewer utilize additional LIVETARGET swimbaits for early-season walleye and pike fishing. Again, it all comes down to matching natural forage found in the lake, reservoir, or river being fished.

One of the top menu items for walleyes and pike in Minnesota and the Dakotas is the spottail shiner. As such, Agre reaches for the 4.5-inch Herring in blue/black color. “Especially in the early season, a spottail shiner is the premiere forage for a lot of Midwest walleyes. LIVETARGET’s Herring emulates that really well, perhaps even better than their Common Shiner. It’s really become one of my favorites.”

Another one of Brewer’s favorite LIVETARGET swimbaits is the 3.5-inch Goby in Smoke color, in both Goby Curly Tail and Goby Paddle Tail. “We catch a lot of walleyes with these baits on lakes where you’ve got a good



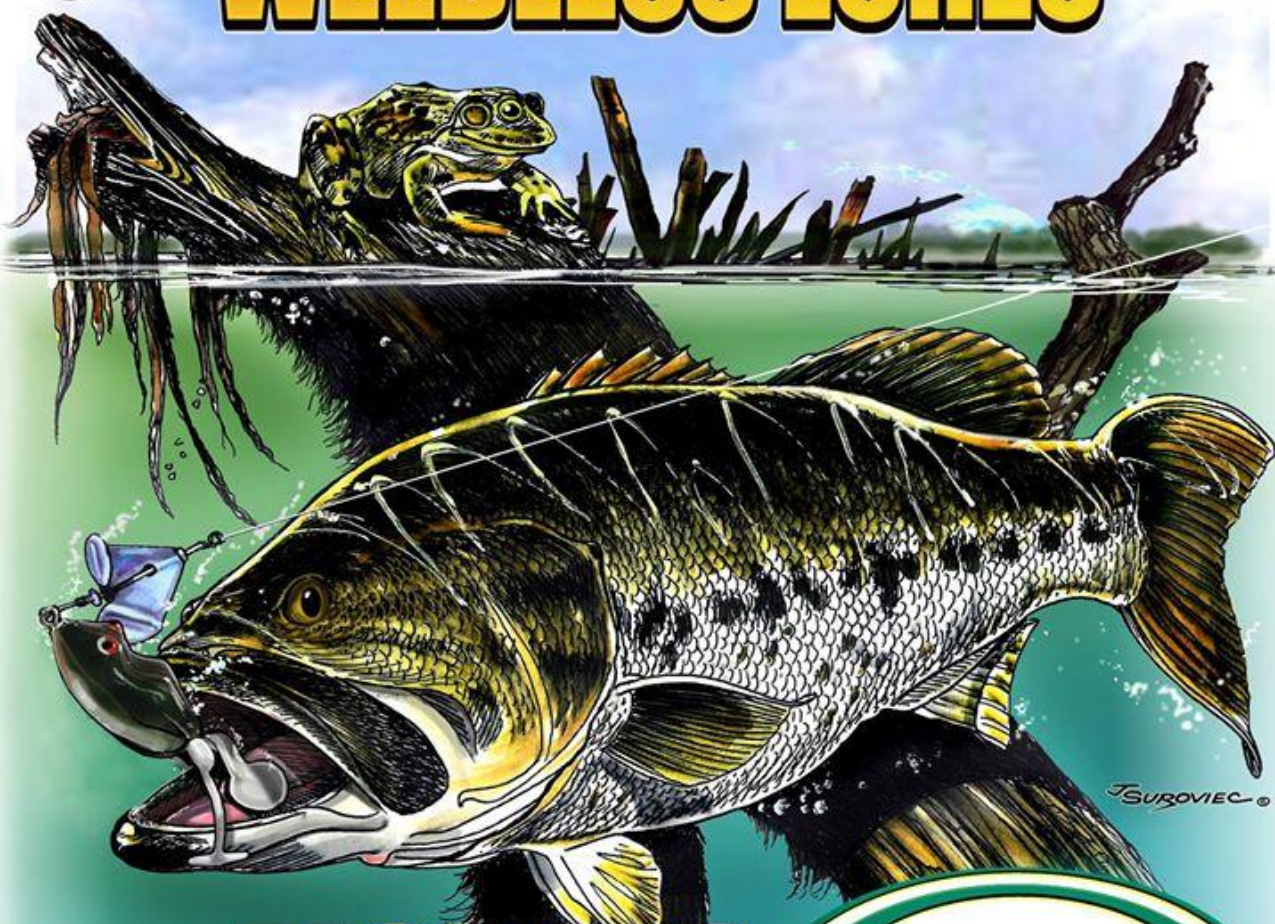
hatch of bullheads. It doesn't always work, but I always try it. Again, it's a match the hatch thing. The smoke-colored Goby really looks like a bullhead."

And then there's the swimbait play that has zilch to play with matching the hatch, but still works on some waters for big fish. "I've had some really good luck catching big walleyes on the LIVETARGET silver/violet trout swimbait—which kind of flies in the face of common sense because we don't have trout in our lakes—but it seems like there are times when the silver, blue and pink will attract big walleye and pike reaction strikes on Minnesota and North Dakota lakes."

But day-in, day-out, Agre and Brewer are using two specific swimbaits when they're hunting big pike.

"The LIVETARGET 4.5-inch Sucker in white/natural is just a killer pike bait. Same with the 3.5-inch Sunfish Swimbait in Bronze Bluegill or Natural/Blue Pumpkinseed. These are our top three big pike producers. Again, it's that match the hatch program. The lake should have some population of suckers or stunted bluegills. In those cases, you can catch walleyes on them, too, but generally these are pike candy. Pitch 'em in shallow around weeds or any kind of cover and hang on! Just make sure to add a wire leader or heavy section of fluorocarbon!"

SNAGPROOF WEEDLESS LURES



**The FROG DAYS
of SUMMER!**

www.snagproof.com





HUNTING ZONE



HUNTING WOODCOCK WITHOUT A DOG: IT CAN BE DONE

By Dana Benner

I remember when I started hunting Roughed grouse (or partridge as we call it around here) and woodcock. It was about 46 years ago, when I was about 12 years old. October often found me coming home from school, grabbing my shotgun and heading out into the woods around my home. That was a time when it was not uncommon for teens, and in my case, pre-teens, to have a firearm, all in an effort to help put food on the table.

I used a Stevens bolt-action .410 shotgun, a handful of shells and I didn't have a dog (not one that hunted anyway). I learned to make the first count shot. It was either a hit or a miss. A bolt-action shotgun is like using a single shot. With a bolt-action there is no follow up.

I learned how to read the woods; where woodcock would be found and how resident birds differ from migrant birds. I also noted how they acted when they flushed and more importantly when they flushed and when they didn't. Woodcock don't always flush, not when you think they should anyway. There are many times when they will hold tight, whether you are using a dog or not. These are some of the things I learned as a kid. Taking these lessons I was successful at putting woodcock in the pot.

As I grew older I fell into the trap of believing that you "must" have a dog and you "need" a better shotgun to be successful. I must admit that the number of birds I took increased with these

“improvements”. Another thing that happened was that I got lazy. I ended up relying strictly upon the dog instead of my own instincts and the lessons I had learned over the years. I noticed that sometimes I relied too much on having that follow-up shot, whether I was using a pump or a double, instead of making that first shot count. While the thrill was still there, there was something missing; the challenge. Don’t get me wrong, woodcock hunting is always challenging. I have hunted over many fine dogs and enjoy watching them work, but for me there was a disconnect.

One of my best friends was a man named Jack Hanley. Jack had some of the best English setters around and we spent many hours chasing woodcock around in woods of New Hampshire. Jack loved nothing better than hunting over a good dog. When Jack passed away hunting over a dog just wasn’t the same for me. I decided to step back, get back to the basics and hunt like I did as a kid; without a dog. I proved to myself once again that not only can it be done, but also you can be successful doing it.

Understand the bird:

Knowledge is power and the more that you know the better you will be. This is true whether you are woodcock hunting or playing football. It is not enough to just understand the basics, though that is a great place to start. You have to have a full understanding of what you are going after, in this case woodcock. Like with deer hunting, time in the woods is the best teacher. Walk the fields and forest edges in the spring, just around first snow melt. Depending on where you are March and April are the times when the woodcock start breeding. Find the breeding areas now and store that info away for the fall. Breeding birds

EST. 1902
BUCK
KNIVES

**030
SPLIZZORS**

**NEW UPGRADED SHEATH
NOW AVAILABLE!**
INJECTION MOLDED MULTI-CONFIGURABLE
SHEATH WITH OPEN AIR DESIGN!
FITS BOTH THE 030 AND 031 MODELS.

REPLACEMENT BLADE KITS ALSO AVAILABLE!
The kit contains two new sets of 420HC blades and two sets of screws for changing out blades. Housed in a convenient carry tube, the blades fit both the 030 and 031 models.
ONLY AVAILABLE AT WWW.BUCKKNIVES.COM, SEARCH SPLIZZORS.

660 S. LOCHSA ST. | POST FALLS, ID 83854 | 800-326-2825

www.facebook.com/BuckKnives www.twitter.com/EdgeOfALegend www.instagram.com/BuckKnives

are resident birds and they will not move too far away until they start getting pressure or the urge to migrate hits them.

Talk to farmers and other landowners to get their ideas and also ask for permission to hunt on their land. Talk to other hunters to see what they are finding. Talk to local fish and game officers and biologists to get their take on things. In other words, don't go it alone and draw upon all of your resources.

Read about woodcock. There are many fine articles written about hunting these birds. I tend to stay away from the articles where the story is "all about me and how great a hunter I am". Most of the articles are not like this and hold valuable lessons that you may be able to apply to your hunting.

So what is a woodcock?

The woodcock is a small bird that is closely related to snipe and other members of the sandpiper family. According to biologists at Vermont Fish and Wildlife, male woodcock generally weigh in the five ounce range while females weigh about seven ounces. Woodcock are migratory birds meaning that they will fly south when the weather turns cold. There are two separate groups of woodcock, resident birds that breed right here in the northern part of the country, and migratory birds that breed in Canada and move through on their way south in the fall.

One Shot; One Kill:

As a kid I learned very quickly to make my first shot count and it was a valuable lesson to learn. I don't care if your shotgun can hold five rounds or not because when you are hunting woodcock without a dog you'll probably only get one shot. Make sure you make that shot count. This takes plenty of practice and you will probably miss a great deal, but keep at it. During the off season I spend a lot of time at the sporting clays range. I try to simulate the hunting situation as much as possible. I use the same gun, with the same choke, and the same ammunition that I will be using in the field. Though I mainly hunt with a



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

pump shotgun that is capable of holding five rounds, I always keep the waterfowl plug in it, thus limiting me to a maximum for three rounds. I keep three rounds in the gun at all times as I have learned over the years that where there is one woodcock there are probably more close-by. The extra rounds make it possible to take two birds from the same cover if the opportunity presents itself.

Guns and Ammo:

When it comes to shotguns and ammunition every hunter will have their favorite and I am no different. Some like an over and under 20 gauge, with one barrel fitted with a skeet choke and the other with improved cylinder. I use a 12 gauge pump action with either an improved or modified choke. The best advice that I can give any woodcock hunter is to use the gun and chokes that you feel the most comfortable and confident with. When it comes to ammo, remember that woodcock are small birds. Shot size is very important. If you are shooting lead shot then I would recommend nothing larger the #8 shot though #9 is better if you can find it. If you shoot non-toxic shot do not go any larger than #7.

On the Hunt:

So you've done your homework and you have spent time on the clays course. You have found what you expect is a great woodcock spot. It is an open field surrounded by mixed groves of aspen and birch. It just looks "birdie". Now what?

Remember, you don't have a dog. This means all of your senses need to be in tune. Obviously your nose is not as sensitive as a dogs', so you need to rely upon your sight and hearing. My wife always says, "Two sets of eyes are better than one", and when it comes to hunting woodcock, she is right. I always try to go out with one other hunter just in case I miss something, which I do often.

When we approach a cover we tend to go single file, with one hunter taking the lead, basically acting as the dog. The next hunter should stay about 20 feet behind the first. There are four possible outcomes to this move: 1) the lead hunter could flush a bird and get a shot; 2) the lead hunter could walk right past a bird that is holding tight, waiting for the hunter to pass before flushing thus giving the second hunter a possible shot; 3) the lead hunter could flush a bird and then a second bird could flush behind him or her and 4) nothing could happen and you just had a nice walk in the woods.

One such thing happened to me while hunting in northern New Hampshire with my friend Mark. I was on point as we entered a thicket of alders. A big woodcock flushed right in front of me and I was able to bring it down. Right after I shot another bird flushed behind and to the right of me. As it turned out Mark couldn't get off a safe shot due to the thick alder growth.

Stick to working along the edges where open field meets clumps of alder, birch and other hardwoods.

Woodcock instinctively freeze at the first sign of danger, allowing their camouflage to protect them. Walk slowly as you may or may not be able to see the bird and prepare for a quick shot when it does flush.

Woodcock are not strong fliers, but you must be prepared for erratic behavior. The bird may flush straight up or straight away; low and fast. In flight, woodcock will often fly in a zig-zag manner, darting like a fighter plane. If you miss don't despair as the bird will not fly far and there will be other chances. Mark the spot where the bird went down. Allow it to rest and become content and then work through the area again. I like to go back to those birds on my way back to my truck if I haven't gotten my limit in the meantime.

Hunting woodcock without the aid of a good dog can be both rewarding and frustrating. While a dog can help you put more birds in the bag, hunting without one forces you to rely entirely upon your own abilities. You are forced to slow down and take in everything around you. It forces you to think. It challenges you. It makes you a better hunter, shooter and outdoorsperson. Don't let anyone tell you that it can't be done, because it can.

Support Our Environmental Officers



NAWEOA



NASBLA



INTERNATIONAL Game Warden

THE WORLD'S LEADING MAGAZINE FOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



TIGER STAMP SPOTLIGHT: PREVENTING RHINO POACHING

By Deborah Kornblut

Projects such as this one would not be possible without the funding generated from proceeds of sales of the “Save Vanishing Species Stamp,” also known as the “Tiger Stamp.” Through programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tiger Stamps have helped fund projects that benefit tigers, sea turtles, great apes, rhinos and elephants in 35 countries. Since 2011, purchases of stamps have generated



more than \$4.7 million in funding for international conservation projects. Learn more and purchase Tiger Stamps from the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you for your support!

Outside, the rain is starting to fall, but the small house does not provide shelter for the on-duty ranger. Rain leaks through the 40 year-old, asbestos-ridden hatch roof. There is no electricity or hot water. Rusty pipes carry water to the facility and safe drinking water is not guaranteed. While the living conditions are typical, the ranger enforces more than regular park regulations. Part of a Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) in South Africa's Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP), the ranger is one of an incredible team of people protecting the park's endangered rhino populations from poachers.

Hluhluwe-iMfolosi, in the province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), is synonymous with rhino conservation – it was here that South Africans found the last surviving population of southern white rhinos. Whereas international tourists come to KZN to see rhinos, poachers come in search of rhino horn. Although rhino horn is made of keratin, the same substance as human fingernails, poachers will kill rhinos for their horns because people mistakenly believe the horns have medicinal powers. By the early 1960s and 1970s, both black and white rhinos were hunted to dangerously low numbers throughout Africa. Threats to rhinos are so great that to minimize the information available to poachers, specific data on HiP's rhino population is confidential.

However, through ambitious anti-poaching campaigns and reintroduction programs, the rhino population increased and was reintroduced to sites where rhinos had gone locally extinct. Thanks to good custodianship, dedicated individuals and strong political will, South Africa was able to increase its rhino population from fewer than 100 to more than 20,000 individuals. White rhino populations grew to the point that they became the founder population for all other southern white rhino populations in existence today. Field rangers patrol the park to provide on-the-ground protection for the rhinos. The rangers are committed to defending the park's habitat and species, and enforcing regulations within the park. They are also able to arrest violators.

During the rhino's recovery, rhino poaching was low; however in 2007, poaching began to rise again and is still an issue.

Unfortunately, the overwhelming price tag for greater enforcement on an already strained budget left many facilities understaffed or in disrepair. Little funding exists for facility repairs, let alone funding for equipment upkeep or for the rangers' salaries. Instead, many rangers work long hours in difficult conditions for minimal pay. To defend the park, rangers have to forfeit time with their families in order to commit additional hours to patrol, often at night. A restful night's sleep has become a luxury for the



rangers. These conditions lower not only the rangers' morale and comfort, but also their ability to effectively combat rhino poachers.

The rangers are effective, they just need more resources!

Working with Save the Rhino International and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided funds from Tiger Stamps for crucial repairs for the rangers' equipment and facilities. The funds helped to renovate existing buildings and water supply facilities, and to pay for the installation of solar panels. Now, rangers are able to live in dry buildings equipped to provide them with safe drinking water, hot water and electricity so that they are able to use small electric appliances. Additionally, the funds helped upgrade the rangers' tracker dog kennels to improve living conditions and safety for the dogs. Tracker dogs Gunner and Phoenix can continue their deployment without fear of predation.

While these changes improved the level of comfort and ranger morale, the funding also enhanced the rangers' ability to protect rhinos. Funds from the Tiger Stamp helped purchase vehicles and equipment, such as a Toyota Hilux 4X4, new tires and a new spotter plane. Rangers are now better able to monitor existing rhino populations by tracking the black rhinos, conducting number counts for white rhinos, and widening the scope of their land coverage for carcass detection. Better transportation has also increased the efficiency of ranger response teams and improved the ability of rangers to track poacher movements. The spotter plane especially has been effective in guiding ground teams towards rhinos in need, such as toward orphaned or poached rhinos. Reinvigorated, the rangers can deploy for longer, working to preserve the park's rhino population and biodiversity as a whole.

Yet, the rangers continue to face challenges. Poaching in HiP has increased tenfold. Within the broader context of South Africa, poachers have shifted their focus toward KZN. Even with the improvements from the project, the rangers face safety concerns. The worsening situation will continue to strain the rangers and their resources, necessitating further assistance. The rangers have committed to helping keep rhinos safe. Our funds can help keep rangers safe.

This story was written by Deborah Kornblut, an intern with the DFW Service's International Affairs Program.





Deer Hunters: *Don't Give Away Your Power*

By Josh Lantz

Elite deer hunters employ a carefully planned scent-control regimen to maintain an advantage over a whitetail's incredible nose. When properly executed, the rewards include closer shots and more opportunities.

Today's scent-controlling carbon hunting apparel really is a technological marvel, and forms the foundation for almost every successful overall scent-control strategy. But carbon clothing is only as effective as the hunter who wears it. A variety of considerations must be made to maximize its performance and results. Leave out a single step, and you are giving away your power and, ultimately, opportunities.

If you've experienced inconsistent results with scent-control clothing, you're doing something wrong. So

stop blaming your carbon apparel and start giving it the chance to accomplish what it was designed to do. Follow these ten steps for maximum success.

1. Clean your body

An effective scent-control regimen starts at home before the hunt ever begins. Wash your hair and skin thoroughly with fragrance-free hygiene products. This is the first step in combatting the odor-causing bacteria your body produces on a daily basis. These alarming body odors are easily detectable by whitetail deer and other big game, so start each hunt with a “clean slate”.

2. Store carbon clothing properly

Carbon clothing is constantly adsorbing odors from its surroundings. To prevent contamination and reserve capacity between hunts, carbon clothing should be stored and transported in an airtight container or ozone storage bag.

3. Wash and spray your hunting packs regularly and store them properly

Hunting packs quickly turn into human scent bombs, and are a common culprit in blown hunts. Wash packs frequently in odorless detergent, and store and transport them inside an airtight container. Better yet, destroy odors on your hunting packs by keeping them in an ozone-generating container. Touch-up your hunting pack with Field Spray every time it comes into contact with bare skin or is exposed to ambient odors.

4. Care for your carbon clothing properly

Common mistakes relative to the care of carbon hunting apparel include over washing, which can weaken seams and reduce capacity over time, as well as not reactivating garments properly or with enough frequency. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions carefully for best results. ScentLok recommends washing their apparel only to remove “mud or blood”. While occasional time in the washing machine on a gentle cycle is okay, it’s best to spot wash carbon apparel by hand. This preserves the life of the fabric, the seams that hold the carbon material in place, and the carbon itself. Reactivating carbon clothing involves the use of





heat and agitation to remove trapped odor molecules from the pores of the carbon material, and is critical for maximum odor adsorption.

ScentLok recommends reactivating their garments in a household dryer at least once for every 40 hours of field use. For example, if you hunt for four hours a day and return your clothing to airtight storage after each hunt, you won't need to reactivate for 10 days of hunting. Reactivation is accomplished by cycling carbon clothing in a household dryer on high heat for 40 minutes. Reactivation can also be achieved through the use of an ozone storage bag or tote. However you reactivate, be sure to shake out your clothing after it comes out of the dryer or ozone storage.

5. Dress for your hunt in the field, away from your vehicle

As stated earlier, carbon clothing is constantly adsorbing odors from its surroundings. To reduce the possibility of contamination by ambient odors, and to reserve the scent-adsorbing capacity of your garments for the hunt, dress in the field and away from your vehicle.

6. Wear tall, rubber or neoprene boots

Everyone knows that feet produce a lot of odor, so make sure your boots aren't letting you down by giving you up. Boots made from leather, Cordura, nylon and other porous materials breathe, meaning they let air and moisture in and out. If air or moisture are escaping, so are odors. Rubber or neoprene boots are non-porous and do a better job of keeping odors contained inside. Hunting socks that help prevent foot odor are another form of "cheap insurance."

7. Wear your carbon pants over your boots

Hunters who tuck their pant legs into their boots—even rubber boots—allow air and odors to escape through the top with every step. Pants should be worn over the boots. This provides 6-10-inches of activated carbon material to adsorb odors that escape from the tops of the boots.

8. Spray the exterior of your boots and hunting accessories with Field Spray before entering the field.

Hunting boots can pick up and retain ambient odors that are foreign and potentially alarming to deer. The same goes for release aids, rangefinder, binoculars, packs, calls and other hunting accessories. Spray these items down before the hunt and touch them up in the field with Field Spray or Field Wipes.

9. Wear carbon gloves

Think about everything you touch from the time you leave your vehicle to hunt to the time you return. Wearing scent-adsorbing carbon gloves is a no-brainer.

10. Wear a carbon head cover with an attached facemask that covers your hair, mouth and nose.

Your head is a literal scent bomb of human odor, primarily due to normal respiration and the concentration of oils produced by your hair and skin. You breathe from your mouth or nose, so it's important to cover those areas with scent-adsorbing material. Full-coverage models that cover the mouth, nose and hair are the best option. If your carbon facemask or head cover does not completely cover your hair, also wear a scent-adsorbing cap.



Cast & Blast Texas Style

By Dustin Catrett

Spring Gobblers and Largemouth Bass in the Heart of Texas

Under the cover of darkness, my guide Keith and I slowly crept along a moonlit path under the silhouette of a large oak tree. “Hold up,” he whispered, reaching into his vest for a call. Hoo-hoo-hooooo boomed the kazoo-like owl hoot chopping the morning calm. Seconds pass as we strain our ears for anything audible, but only the faint twittering of a few waking songbirds reply. “Let’s keep going,” he said, as we continued on the trail of what I hoped would become my first Rio Grande gobbler.



Eventually we arrive at a clearing surrounded by prickly pear cactus where Keith placed our chairs against a mesquite bush. A light bead of sweat formed under my hat as I rested my shotgun at my side to don my face netting. Yeeep yeeep yeeep he began again, this time with a soft yelp from his mouth call that transitioned into a fly-down cackle. Again we wait with high expectation but after several minutes there was only silence. Then suddenly a raucous gobble exploded from the brush behind us causing the hair on my neck to stand up. “Get ready,” said Keith, as the boisterous Tom’s gobbles grew louder. But for whatever reason it suddenly turned and eventually faded in the distance, and after several pleas from Keith’s calling, the wily Rio never appeared.

Cast

Centered smack dab in the heart of Texas is the Champion Ranch. Located just north of the Town of Brady, this 8,000 acre 5 star hunting resort is like no other, offering everything from big game hunting for North American whitetail to African wildebeest, wing shooting, jeep safaris, long range shooting school, and what may be their best package – the Spring

Cast & Blast for Rio Grande turkey and unlimited bass fishing. “So what do you think?” asked owner Joel Swan later that morning as I scoffed down a big Texas style breakfast consisting of eggs ranchero and biscuits and gravy in the main dining room of the lodge. “Pretty amazing!” I answered, taking in its opulent castle like décor and myriad of full-sized taxidermy pieces from at least a half-dozen continents. “Just another deer camp,” joked Papa Joe, Joel’s father who also doubles as the main chef. “Well good luck out there guys, and Dustin if you need anything just let us know.”

Most of the day was filled with bass fishing on the Ranch’s 18 acre lake that was filled with aggressive pure Florida strain largemouth bass. Ranch guides Keith Sallin, Geoff Walker, and I wore our forearms out setting the hook into what must have been fifty fish using wacky rigged 5” watermelon-red senkos, 5” blue fleck Stanley Mudpuppies, and DOA PT-7 topwater lures. By noon the bite was still going strong when a herd of elk appeared out of nowhere along the water’s edge. “Don’t see that every day,” I said, as a swirl exploded under my lure. “Nope, can’t say I have,” grunted Geoff, setting the hook again.

Blast

After a quick nap in my private casita that was furnished with two flat screen TVs, leather furniture, and fully stocked refrigerator, Keith and I were back out that afternoon quietly sitting near the large roosting oak. A welcomed breeze swirled through the mesquite flat that cooled my sweaty shirt as he struck the first note on his slate call. With several faint gobbles replying off in the distance, the calm of midday slowly lulled me into a daydream while watching a young whitetail buck feed along the edge of the pear flat. I had just started to doze off when Keith hissed: “Gobbler!” And without a sound, an old tom had made its way into the clearing. Its long beard swayed with each movement, as it occasionally craned its neck to investigate our camouflaged shapes tucked behind the mesquite branches. “Slowly raise your gun up to your shoulder when it walks behind the next branch,” whispered Keith. Carefully I lifted my shotgun and clicked the safety off, when suddenly the giant bird galloped out of sight causing my heart to sink. “Just wait,” Keith encouraged, as I sat trembling with excitement, shoulders burning under the strain to keep my gun up. Finally after what seemed like an eternity, the curious bird returned. Boom! My twelve gauge roared, and it dropped in place. “Congratulations on your first Rio!” said Keith after we ran over to retrieve it. “And it’s got inch and-a-quarter spurs!”

After pictures and a celebratory shot of Fireball, the festivities continued that evening over beers and a delicious beef tenderloin entrée served on a bed of Au gratin potatoes with roasted asparagus. Afterward walking along the lit gravel path lined with manicured shrubbery from the main lodge back to my casita, I took note of my thumb that was completely chafed of skin from lipping bass all day. And lying in bed staring at cellphone photos of the bass we’d caught and my trophy gobbler, I was already thinking about next season when I drifted off to sleep.

Champion Ranch is currently accepting early bookings for the upcoming spring 2019 Cast and Blast package. Contact: Champion Ranch, Joel Swan, Joel@championRanch.com, <http://www.championranch.com> & 1-806-787-9950.

Generations of shooters
have grown up with **Daisy**



LUNKERHUNT[®]

PROP SERIES GIVEAWAY



AL'S Goldfish Lure Co.



SNAGPROOF

WEEDLESS LURES



The FROG DAYS
of SUMMER!

www.snagproof.com



NEW!

BUTTERFLY RIGS

3 RIG TYPES TO CHOOSE FROM!



Butterfly
Harness

Visit us at NorthlandTackle.com

Northland
FISHING TACKLE

SWIRLEYBIRD

www.georgiafishing.com



FISHING NETS

- Aluminum structure
- Telescoping Shaft
- Removable net
- Hook resistant
- Cordage Grip

CUDABRAND.COM



MALONE
CHANGING THE WAY YOU GET THERE



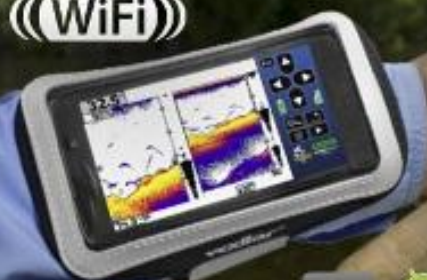
SONAR Phone™

vexilar MARINE ELECTRONICS

Real sonar for your smartphone or tablet.



((WiFi))



Click and demo the

FREE App

Smartphone / tablet not included

iOS



sonarphone.mobi

TEPUL Tents



SNAG PROOF
Since 1961

**Simply.
IRRESISTABLE!**

WWW.SNAGPROOF.COM

Made in the USA!

BAIT

WIRE WRAPPING

OFFSHORE

GEAR UP WITH CUDABRAND GLOVES

CUDABRAND.COM

**YOUR
AD
HERE**

Click On This Ad To Email ODU For Details

FISHING AND
SMILES IS
WHAT IT'S
ALL ABOUT.




ODU MAGAZINE™