



Welcome back to ODU Magazine. Starting with April (this is a March/April combined edition) ODU will be consistently releasing our magazines in the beginning of the month. Why? To keep us more timely with our articles. Make sense? Great! We thought so. So enjoy this edition and rest assured it will keep you entertained. This March/April edition has coverage for almost every angler and as always some hunting. We cover bass, crappie and walleye fishing tip articles, the Bassmaster Classic, frog fishing with Snag Proof, turkey hunting articles and a host of entertaining story's to catch your eye.

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Thank You All!



Spring is here (almost) and for some of us we still hear our weather forecasters warning us of snow. Crazy as it might be, we all are readying for spring fishing or we have already ventured out to make our friends a bit jealous. There is no denying our urge to launch our boats and walk a streams edge in April.

Spring also marks the countdown to school ending and as a dad, this past 8 months has been and educational. Everyone has different end times for a school, but I guess most are still in school in April. This year I have learned that some of us as parents lack balance in life as it comes to our



children's growth in school and being a part of it. It is easy to expect that a school will do what it is supposed to do when it comes to our little ones, but if you are like that I am guessing you are missing out on some details. Get involved, as questions and be available is one way to make sure attention is being given to you kids.

That has been my journey; missing out and not being involved can also be paralleled with our involvement with the outdoors. Help your local conservation club, town park, lake association or fishing club and see what they may be missing and help fill that need. Saving our and conserving our natural resources can be a priority yu make, even on a small scale.

Did I mention spring is here? Take a kid fishing and help them fulfill a need to connect with nature. Who will you bring out next?

....WS



Thank you to all who have contributed to make this and past editions a success! And please, enjoy the outdoors.

Larry Thornhill and William Schwarz Co-Founders of ODU Magazine

** As you flip through this edition you will find for the 3rd month in a row two pages of great bass catch pictures from our Facebook Fans. Call it our ODU Recognition page (link above). Check out the Outdoor Exchange section and see what our sponsors have this season for your next purchases.















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Spring Crappie Fishing, Natures Anti-Depressant



By Captain Brian Koshenina

It's been long winter. ice The fishing season coming to a close and I'm starting to get that old familiar feeling. The feeling of "Spring Crappie fever". Although the slowly days are getting longer, it's light out later and its beginning to smell like spring in the air I'm feeling down. You might know the symptoms, staring at your open water fishing gear, obsessively looking at last years fish photos, watching every fishing show known to man on Youtube, day dreaming about launching your boat for the first time after ice-out. Fortunately, there is a cure and it's on its way, Spring Crappies! Up here in the great Midwest we love our winters. We find ways to pass the cold



winter months that make people in the south shake their heads and wonder how we survive. I myself, love to Ice Fish all over Minnesota as it fuels my passion for fishing and literally keeps me from going insane but our winter months are long and harsh and even a seasoned ice angler like myself looks forward to warmer weather and open water. It is in this late stage of winter I start looking forward to spring crappie fishing.

It's late March and our temperatures here in Minnesota are approaching 50 degrees. Snow is melting fast, the ice is starting to recede from the shores of most lakes and it's becoming dangerous to venture out on the ice. This is when you want to start getting ready for that early Crappie bite. Now is a great time to re-spool line, take inventory of your tackle, fix your reels and start hitting up local bait shops and stores for pre-season deals on gear. Now is also a great time to make sure and charge your batteries for your boat, test your electronics and make sure your lower unit oil is changed. Although you are still down about not being able to get out and fish there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

It's now April, all the snow has melted and most of the lakes are free and clear of any ice. You have had your boat out for a test run or scouted new areas on shore that can be accessed by foot. All your rods are rigged and your tackle bag is full of the latest and greatest gear to help you catch the biggest Crappie in the lake. This is the best time of year for both boat and shore fisherman to catch "slab" Crappies and a lot of them.

As the water warms with longer, sunny days Crappie will move from their winter areas to shallow spring areas. You will find them in 3 key locations, shallow bays, mid-lake humps and sunken islands. It is in these key areas where Crappies congregate for the up and coming spawn. It is also this time of year where you will find most if not all Crappie "Schooled up" in less than 10 feet of water making them very





easy to target. Once you figured out these areas on your body of water, your "Spring Crappie Fever" will be almost cured!

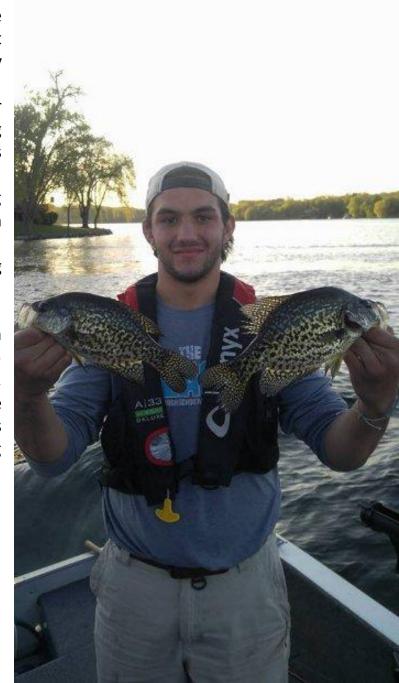
There are many techniques to catch Crappie this time of year, but I find the simplest method is often the most effective. I use 2 different techniques that I have perfected that are simple to use and they catch a lot of fish. The first one is as simple as it gets, a slip bobber and a small jig tipped with a 2" Strike King "Rage" tail or 3" Berkley "Gulp" Black Shad minnow. I use a 1/32 ounce or a 1/16th ounce jig as they are just small enough to inhale but still big enough for a good hookset. Slip bobbers make it easy to adjust for depth. I aggressively cast to locations often letting the jig sit in the target area for only a few seconds as Crappie are notorious "up bitters" and often eat on the fall of the jig. This also allows me to cover water to quickly locate where the schooling Crappies are. The great thing is about this method as its easy to use, it's effective and you can use it from shore or in a boat.

Trolling is another, very effective way to catch Crappie and it's as simple as it gets. There are many different jigs you can use but the most effective ones for me are the "Game Changer" or "Stripper" from

Snyders Lures or if the fish are less aggressive a simple gumball jig tipped with a Strike King "Rage tail" 2" grub. Cast these lures 20 feet behind the boat with your rod tip pointed towards the water slightly off center to the back of the boat. Keep your speed between .8 to 1 mile per hour and troll your lure over emerging weeds and weed lines as fish will be using it as cover. Here's a rule of thumb that I use for this time of year, "ninety percent of the fish in any given lake are in only ten percent of the water" meaning stay shallow and you will find that the majority of fish will be there. Once you have perfected this method I guarantee you will be cured of your spring "Spring Crappie Fever"!

Don't get down, you will be out on the water or on the shore soon enough and using these techniques to catch more Crappie is sure to get your spirits up. Trust me there is no better cure for "Spring Crappie Fever" than being prepared, identifying key areas and using tried and true methods for catching Crappie. It cures me every time!

Captain Brian Koshenina is a professional guide, fisherman, speaker, writer and mentor in the State of Minnesota. You can find him at http://muskiesandmore.com/
Sources, Strike King Lure Company http://www.strikeking.com/, Snyders Lures http://snyderslures.com/



Looking Forward (and Back) A sunset can be just By Bob Jensen

On a drive around a nearby lake recently it became apparent that another ice-fishing season is concluding. There were still lots of anglers on the ice where the ice was safe, but wind was making open water areas

as memorable as a fish catch.

larger by the minute. I caught myself looking forward to warmer temperatures and open water fishing. My thoughts turned to past fishing trips and memorable fish catches. I also caught my thoughts turning to past fishing trips where the catches weren't so memorable, but the trip still was. Those trips were memorable because of the people and events of the trip.

One memorable day-on-the-water was with the late Otis "Toad" Smith. Toad was a legendary outdoorsman. When Toad was outdoors, something unusual usually happened, and it was usually self-induced.

Toad liked to fish for anything, but he really liked to fish for catfish. I have a fond memory of a summer day that Toad and I spent floating the Little Sioux River in western Iowa in search of catfish. During the morning, we caught and kept a few cats. Toad always liked to pull up to shore during the day and prepare a shorelunch. During shorelunch on that day Toad shared one of his more interesting and unique life-stories with me. This tale of Toad has been told and re-told, but it's only an old story if you've already heard it: Many haven't.



Toad had had heart surgery at one point in his life. The doctor told Toad that he needed to have a piece of his heart removed. Toad asked the doctor to save that piece of his heart: He had plans for it. Toad recovered from the surgery and in a few months he was ready to get after catfish again. The night before his first catfish trip after the surgery, Toad soaked that piece of his heart in some fish-attractant. On his first cast, that piece of his heart was on his hook, and shortly after, a three pound channel cat ate it. Toad caught and released it and declared it a world record: It was the biggest catfish ever caught on a piece of Toad's heart. Toad promised that was a true story, and I believed him. That was the last time Toad and I fished together, and I cherish the memory more than any fish catch before or after.

Another fishing friend whose memory accompanies many of us on fishing trips is that of The Fishing Professor Jim McDonnell. We could never get Mac to hurry. I remember him telling me time and time again, "Bobby, you've got to stop and smell the roses". Although roses make me sneeze, I now find myself slowing down a bit to enjoy the entire experience. Mac was right: We need to absorb our time in the outdoors.

I recall a day on Kabetogama Lake when my fishing friends and I stopped fishing to watch a beaver doing what beavers do. As the beaver moved on, we noticed a family of otters on the shoreline, and we spent more time not fishing but watching the otters. Otters are more interesting than beavers. I find myself watching wildlife while fishing more nowadays, and I'm enjoying my fishing more nowadays because of that.

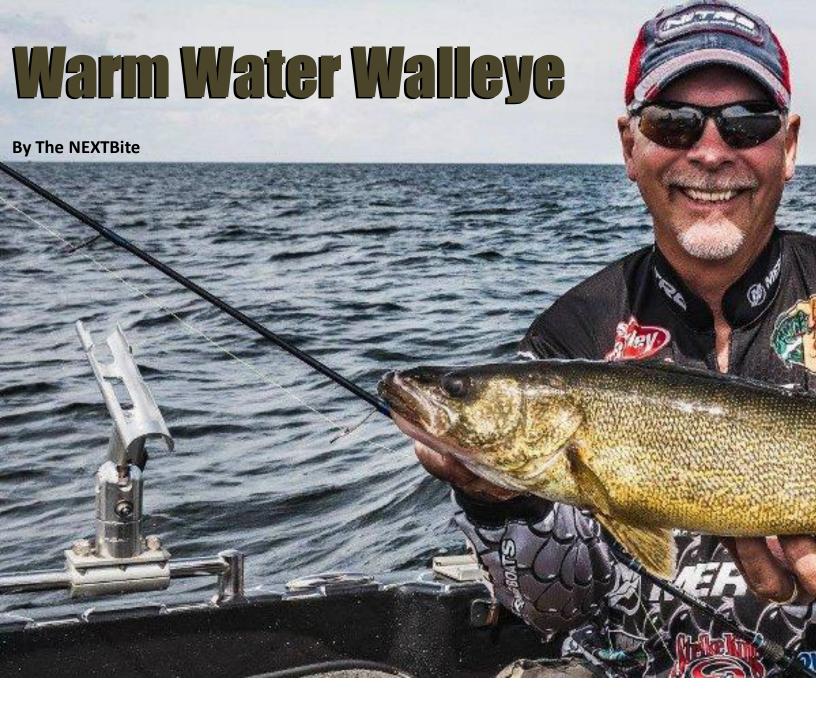


I find myself watching sunrises and sunsets with more interest. Sunrises are more inspiring, but I see more sunsets.

As another open water fishing season approaches, I'm going to get after the fish with as much effort as ever, but I'm

also going to make more of an effort to relish the entire experience. I've learned that going fishing is much more than just catching fish. But catching fish sure does add to the experience.

To see the most recent episodes of Fishing the Midwest television as well as older shows, fishing video tips, and new and archived fishing articles, visit www.fishingthemidwest.com.



Although walleyes are known as a "cold water" fish, in the spring it seems that they can't get warm enough! When the water temperature is less than 60 degrees, begin your search for walleyes in shallow areas of the lake. Typically anywhere that has less than five feet of water is the first place where vegetation begins to grow, which draws in baitfish, which will be followed by the walleyes.

Shallow water does make it hard to mark fish with electronics, but they still play a key role in finding fish locations. We like to use the Structure Scan feature on our Lowrance HDS in these situations to pinpoint shallow water transition areas, such as rock to sand transitions or emergent weeds. It is also important to pay close attention to the water temperatures as you drive around, even one or two-degree change could be all it takes to draw fish in!

Of course, you need to have fish in an area if you are going to catch them. While looking for fish can be tedious, if you hone in on a few general areas, you will increase your chances of success! The first place to look is areas that are wind-blown. These spots have two things going for them – warm surface water





that is being pushed into a shallow area and a lake bottom that is being stirred up. Once the small microorganisms on bottom begin to stir, the baitfish will follow and really get activity going!

Don't ignore the backs of bays either, when looking for fish. Really good spots may have slightly deeper water, about 8-10 feet deep, closer to the shallow water flats or shoreline taper. Finally, if you are fishing a body of water that has any kind of incoming warm water, such as a warm water discharge, creek, or a river that came out of a marsh, pay close attention to them, as these areas can also hold walleyes.

One of our favorite techniques to catch these shallow fish in the spring of the year is casting cranks. It is a great way to cover water in search of active walleyes. Start by turning on the "Heading Lock" feature on the MotorGuide Xi5 bow mount trolling motor, which will keep you on course in the direction your motor is pointed. This will allow you to work quickly along a shoreline or weed edge that appears to have potential for holding an active school of fish.



Stick with more subtle action cranks, such as #4 or #5 Flicker Shad or #5 Flicker Minnow. Cast them using 8lb. FireLine Carrier 8 line with a 2-foot 10lb. Berkley 100% Professional Grade Fluorocarbon leader. This nostretch main line will allow to feel the subtle vou vibration of these small baits. Even more important, you will be able to feel when a fish swipes at a bait. As the fish disrupts the water around the bait, there will be a short pause in the vibration of the lure. Often a good tactic at this point is to pause the bait and pop the rod tip to make the crank jump around in place. Then continue with your normal retrieve. This jumping around mimics wounded baitfish and often entices a bite.

If you get several swipes, as you are casting, or better yet a bite, it is time to hit Anchor on your trolling motor. This will hold you in place while you thoroughly work the area. After making a few more casts with the crank, don't hesitate to put on a light jig and really work the area over. A 1/8 ounce Bass Pro Shops Walleye Angler XPS jig tipped with a live minnow is an obvious choice, but don't be afraid to mix things up a little. Even though it may be a little too early in the year to find crawlers at a bait shop,





walleyes always have an appetite for them. You can pull out a Berkley PowerBait Jig Worm, a 3" Gulp! Fry, or a 4" Gulp! Crawler, as a great alternative to the real deal. One of the most deadly tails is the 2.5 inch, or 3 inch Gulp! Minnow, in the watermelon pearl color.

Start out with a subtle jigging action — a simple lift, pause, drop action often works best. By pausing on the top of the rod sweep, the jig will swim just above the bottom, right in the strike-zone. The use of a no-stretch line like Berkley NanoFil, allows you to detect the subtle bite of a walleye sucking in the jig. As soon as you feel something, set the hook!

If the fish are biting the jig and bait combo, it is a great time to push the envelope by getting more aggressive with a jig and action tail. By action we mean something like a PowerBait Ripple Shad, a PowerBait Pro Shad or a PowerBait Ribworm.





Move up to a ¼ ounce jig for these tails and begin by popping the jig off bottom, followed by a pause to let the jig glide back down to bottom, then repeat. By popping the jig, it will make it blast off from bottom and get the tail moving. Then on the glide, the action tail, whether it is a tail with a paddle or a twist, will give the bait a life-like action as it swims along until it hits bottom again. Just be ready for a much more aggressive bite, as this presentation often provokes a strike instead of enticing a bite.

You might be wondering why you would use a different no-stretch line for casting a crank than you would for jigging. NanoFil is a uni-filiment line that is super

slick and allows you to cast a light 1/8 ounce jig a long distance. The Carrier 8 FireLine is smoother than

normal FireLine and casts well, but the big advantage is that it is super tough, making it less likely to lose an expensive crank bait!

There are also different rod actions that should be used as you switch from casting cranks to pitching jigs. A fast action 6' medium-light fast taper rod, like the Walleye Angler ML 6' 0" jigging rod is our top choice when pitching. For casting cranks, you will need to go to a longer rod to assist in gaining distance on your casts. The Walleye Angler 7'0" Rigging Rod works well for this.

Early spring walleye are typically hungry but you have to be where they are eating. The best walleye restaurant in town this time of year will have the furnace on and the water warmed up and hopefully you'll be serving up a main course that will get you – The Next Bite.





ONE DAY, TWO MEN, FOUR PERSONNEL BESTS

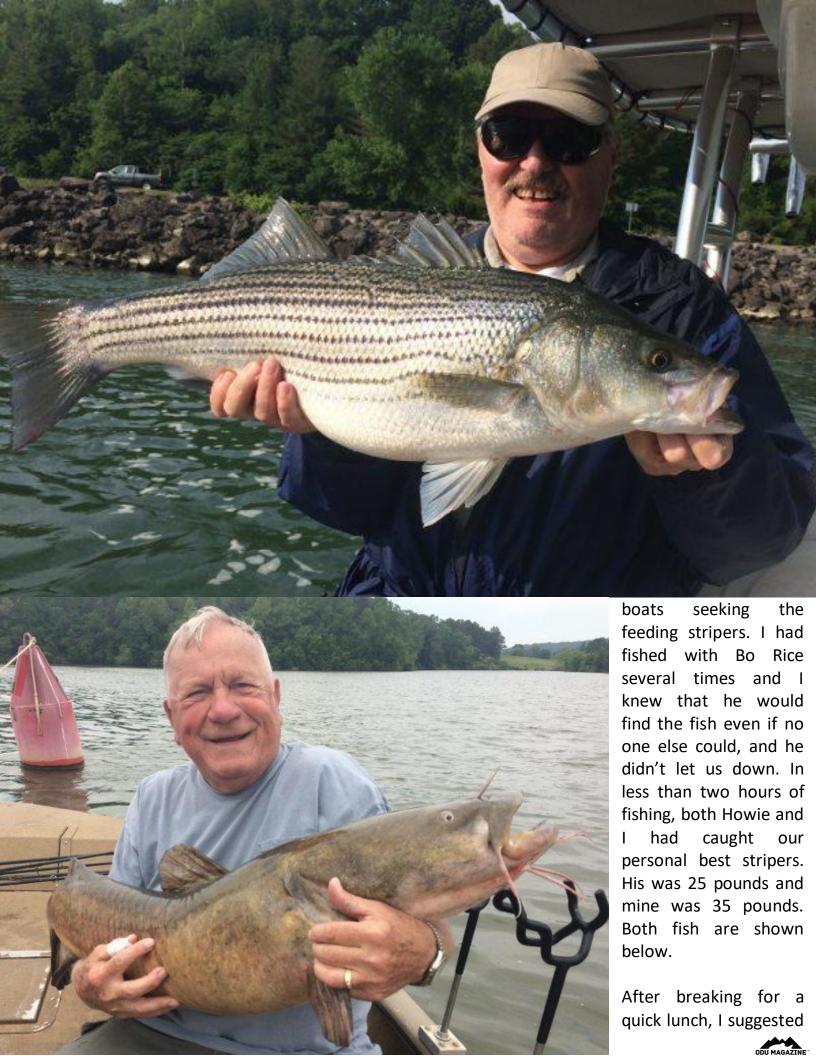
By Jake Bussolini

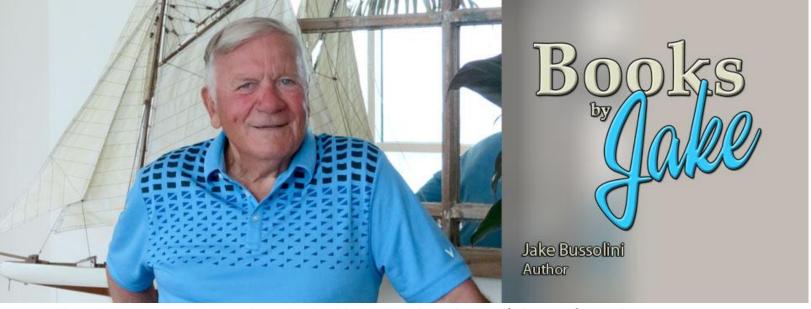
Every time I go fishing I shoot for success that represents my personal best catch. Of course achieving that goal doesn't happen very often. I invited my old friend Howie Anger from Nashville to join me for a day of striper fishing on the Tennessee River. With Howie driving from Nashville and my trip over the mountains from North Carolina, we arrived at Lenoir City Tennessee late in the afternoon and settled into the fine facility supplied by Bo Rice, our guide for the next day's fishing trip.

We were awakened from our sleep that night by roaring thunder and a torrential rain storm that continued through the night. At 5 am we got up, made coffee and debated the future of this trip. The rain was continuing but we noticed that several other boats were leaving the facility, apparently headed for the Tennessee River to fish. Although it was getting late, we checked our rain gear and decided to Join Bo Rice for a delayed start of the fishing day. By the time we reached the launch area, the weather had moved on and the skies cleared.

The area had recently received a great deal of rain and the water levels in the river were high. That marked a great situation for backwater dam fishing for stripers because a great deal of water was being released from the dams every day. The highly oxygenated water beneath the dams was attracting massive schools of threadfin shad to these backwater areas. The shad of course also attracted the stripers. The high speed current and rough water called for a skilled boat Captain, but the reward for this rough water was a lot of big fish. Also because of these same conditions, there were only a few







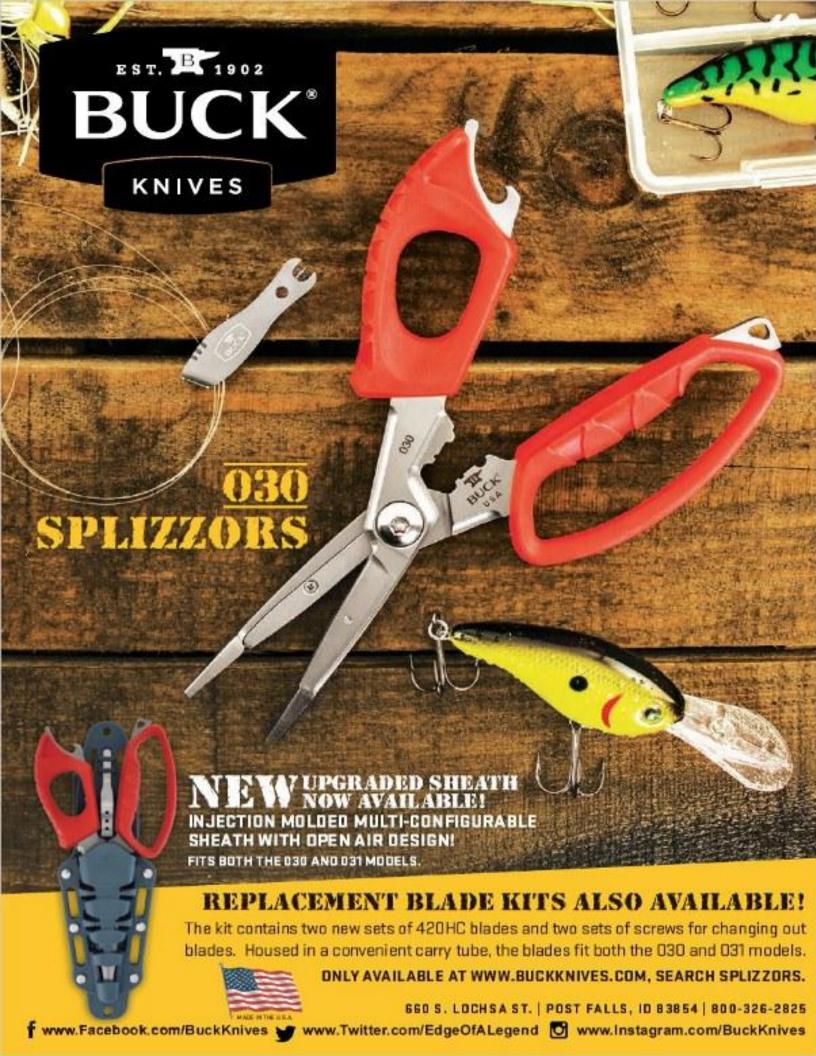
to Bo that we move to a spot where he had been catching big catfish, just for a change.

After re-launching the boat, Bo quickly found his favorite spot and we dropped anchors. We had three lines out and had just relaxed, expecting a long wait but that wait was cut short by all three rods dipping heavily toward the water. There were three large fish on the lines. We made the scientific decision to grab the rods closest to each of us and as luck would have it we both landed our personal best catfish. Mine was a 51 pound flathead and Howie's was a 32 pound blue cat. Both are shown below. After we landed the two fish we realized that there was still another fish on the line and Howie brought in a 20 pound flathead as a bonus.

With still plenty of time left in the day, Bo took us back below the dam and we fished for stripers, catching at least a dozen more until us two old timers decided that our arms needed a rest and we called it a very successful day on the Tennessee River.

Jake Bussolini is a freelance writer who has published nine books about freshwater fishing. His books can be seen on www.booksbyjake .com. Bo Rice's information can be obtained through Google.







How To Bait Your Hook

Carp Angling
With The
American
Carp Society

By Wayne Boon

Hello again and welcome to the 2nd of 12 monthly articles by the American Carp Society designed to introduce and instruct anglers on the new age of Carp Angling...

We'll start this month with what is without a doubt, one of the biggest advancements in carp fishing in the last 40 years!

As you may already know, with a few amendments to our approach and existing tackle, carp can be caught by placing bait directly onto the hook and striking on the 1st signs of a line twitch. This is good for catching young carp who are inexperienced and well, shall we say, "carelessly hungry..." but as carp grow up into the 20 and 30 lb plus bracket, they become very much more learned and picky about both what they eat and how they approach finding and eating their food.

So... What is the biggest advancement in carp fishing in the last 40 years that will help us actually hook and land more carp?

It's simply a method of baiting your hook that takes full advantage of how a Carp feeds.....it's called a 'Hair-rig' and we gave a few sneak peeks at in the some of the rig photos last month.



The hair-rig specifically targets and takes advantage of the way a Carp feeds. When the hair-rig is tied correctly (as described below) so that the hook turns during pick-up, it safely hooks 99.9% of the fish in the bottom lip. At first (in the mid-70s in the UK) it was literally a human hair tied to the bend of the hook that had the bait mounted onto it; later, a very thin filament link was used.

When the super easy to tie, knot-less knot was invented to make a hair rig, it again revolutionized Carp angling because it offered a way of both producing a hair and securely tying the hook to the

hook length line with one very strong "knot" without any strangle points on the line being used to tie the hair.

The hair rig is the foundation of most carp rigs these days and use various hook length materials, rig rings, shrink and silicone tubing to make them even more effective in many varying fishing conditions. Even in its simplest "naked" form shown below, it is a game changer for the angler who learns the mechanics and how to tie it effectively.



 Take a 10 to 12" length of your chosen Hook length line and tie a simple loop at one end.
 Pull tight and trim the tag end.







Thread the other end of the hook length through the back of the hook eye as shown. Ideally, make the hair long enough so the bait dangles approximately 0.25" below the curve of the hook when the rig is dangled vertically.



3. Holding the hair against the back of the hook, wrap the line around the hook 6 or 7 times as shown making sure that the direction of the first wrap starts on the opposite side of the hook to where the eye closes to prevent possible damage to the line ...



4. Holding the wraps nice and tight, thread the end of the hook length through the back of the eye again and pull tight... Now you've tied a typical hair rig using the Knotloss knot.





Now, lets put some bait on the hair...
 Thread your chosen bait
 (soaked and boiled Maize in this case)
 onto the baiting needle.



6. Snag the loop at the end of the hair onto the barb at the end of your baiting needle and slide the bait off the needle onto the hair....



7. After all your bait is on the hair, put the baiting needle away and place a plastic bait stop through the loop at the end of the hair. Pull the bait down to the bait stop and trim with a pair of siccors...



The Hair Rig

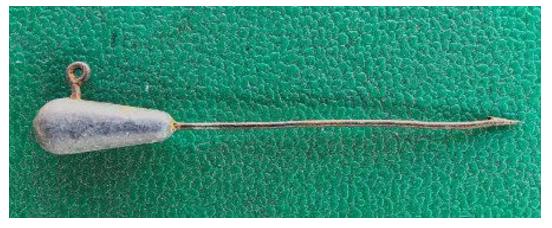


This is the baited hair rig ready to be tied to your main line via a swivel to complete a fish safe rig.

Note: You can make your own baiting needle by carefully heating and straightening out the hook section of an old Crappie jig head (see photo below) and you can use a short section of grass stalk or a thin twig to replace the plastic bait stops.

The mechanics of the hair rig are as follows: Carp feed by sucking any potential food item along with much of the sand, sticks, mud etc. that's laying or floating around the immediate area into its mouth to inspect, before blowing it all out. Then often recapturing the food item quickly if it is a desired or needed by the Carp's metabolism. Carp rarely swallow the food item on first inspection, this is particularly so if it's not a recognized, naturally occurring and familiar food source in their lake/river, so this can happen several times before a decision is made to eat your bait. Carp are so efficient and stealthy at this process, that it very often happens without so much as a single bounce on your rod tip

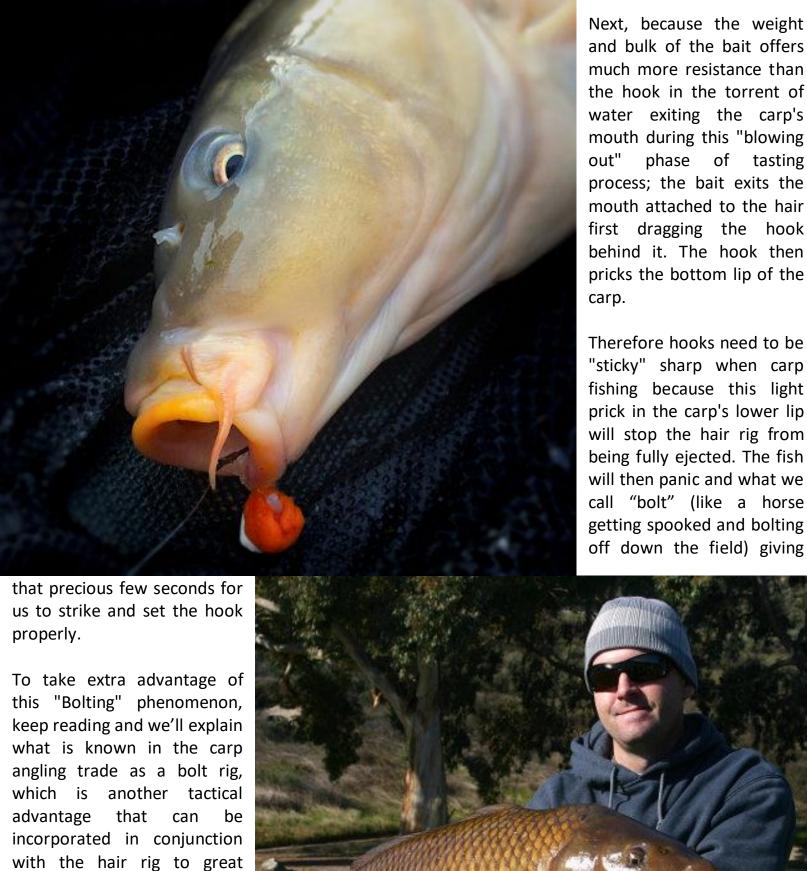
or movement of your line. Many blank or Skunk sessions have been declared by anglers who have had their hook-baits stolen or just simply picked up and spat out several times. This is even more prevalent when bait is placed directly onto the hook...



Not having hands and fingers to inspect the potential food item, this is how Carp learn. They have many taste sensing cells/sensors are in and around the mouth area and these sensors are how a carp learns about the food item, even sensing its calorific make-up (Carbs verses Proteins and minerals etc.) They are also instinctively inquisitive creatures and we can often use this to our advantage too. So, knowing these facts, helps us visualize how a Carp feeds and how better to tie an effective hair rig.

Let's now look at the actual mechanics of the hair rig. As can be seen from the above photos, the bait hangs below the bare hook. When the carp sucks in the bait, it will suck in the hook also, quickly followed by the carp blowing out the bait.





The Bolt rig is designed to take full advantage of the Hair Rig's self-hooking properties and vastly amplify it. It does this by effectively adding a

effect.

pricks the bottom lip of the Therefore hooks need to be "sticky" sharp when carp fishing because this light prick in the carp's lower lip will stop the hair rig from being fully ejected. The fish will then panic and what we call "bolt" (like a horse

tasting

"dead weight" to the point of the hook, thus sinking the hook deeper in to the bottom lip, achieving a good hook hold when the fish bolts upon initial contact with the point of the hook.

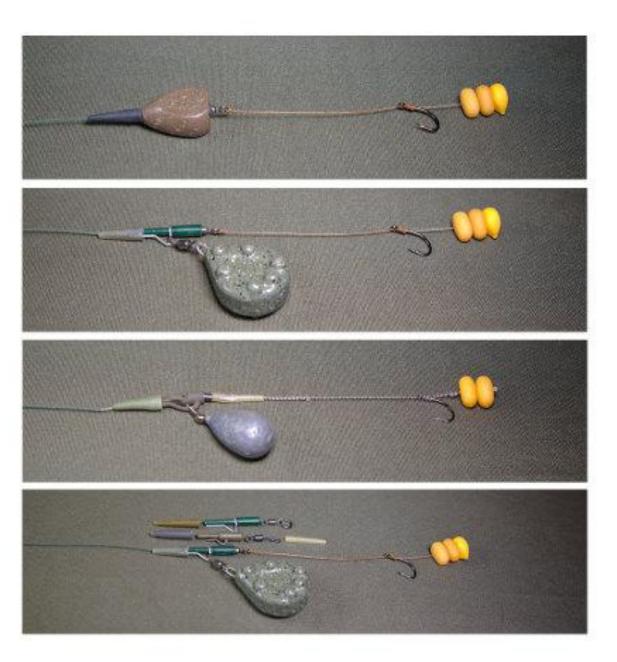
This "dead weight" is achieved by the attachment of a semi-fixed lead weight of anywhere between 2 and 5 ounces fixed via a specifically designed clip and swivel system threaded onto the line just above the hook-length as opposed to the sliding or running rig lead weight system we looked at last month.

Note: NEVER tie the sinker/weight directly to the mainline to create a bolt rig. This would almost certainly sign the death penalty for the fish in case of a line breakage. Use either the in-line weight or attach the weight via one of the safety clips shown below as these are specifically designed to jettison the lead weight in case of line breakage during the fight.

As the images below shows, the bolt rig can be tied and presented 2 two ways:

- As an 'in-line' lead weight but still carefully designed and constructed so that the lead weight can pull away in case of a break, so ensuring the safety of the fish. (See the 1st photo shown below).
- A lead weight with swivel connected to the line via a safety clip as shown in the 2nd, 3rd photos; the 4th photo shows some alternative, component parts.

By combining the mechanics of the hair rig above with that of the Bolt rig: The fish sucks in the bait, and attempts to spit it. The bare hook pricks its bottom lip and the "bolts" off. carp Now with a heavy semi-fixed lead in place, as the fish bolts the weight of the lead pulls the hook more firmly into its mouth and the fish is well and truly hooked before



you have even seen the bite.

So instead of having to practically sit on our rods to hit runs that typically stop quickly when you're using the sliding/running rig, we can now take our time and gently lift the rod up to feel the strength of the carp that is already well connected to the other end of the line. The next phase of the capture begins; the skill needed to land and overcome the carp's infamous, encyclopedic knowledge of its underwater surroundings, including all the local snags along with its shear, unadulterated pound for pound fighting power...Good luck!

To complement the hair-rig, and to get you out and catching some carp lets finish off this month's segment a brief talk about a couple of the baits; both hook baits and a good pack bait that are typically used.

Hook baits:

To some of you reading this it may seem like we're stating the obvious here but never the less, the following bares mentioning for those that are completely new to carp angling.

Probably the best universal hook bait out there for carp is canned Sweetcorn bought right off of the shelves of your local grocery store. The only negative is the fact that sweetcorn is soft and so can sometimes come off the hook or hair when casting or other smaller species of fish can nibble the sweetcorn, eventually leaving your hook with no bait.



Maize when prepared correctly can solve these problems...

Field Corn/Maize bought in 25 or 50 lb bags from a feed store can also be extremely successfully when used on the hair as long as a few extremely important rules are strictly followed:

- 1. The dry Maize MUST be soaked in a bucket of water for at least 36 hours to fully hydrate.
- 2. Then it MUST be vigorously boiled for 35-45 mins to soften them up and to release all the natural sugars/amino acids contained within the Maize kernel. This soaking and boiling process makes the Maize not only safe for the fish to eat but also turns it into a nutritionally useful food that contains some pretty serious feeding triggers and stimulators.



^{*}Please DO NOT skimp on the preparation processes mentioned here in this section.

Next we'll talk a little about boiled hook-baits, commonly referred to as boilies.

Boilies are hard-boiled baits that were originally introduced to carp angling in the UK during the late Seventies with the sole purpose of keeping 'nuisance' fish from eating away the bait being presented to the Carp...There have been many theories over the



years regarding boilies, their use, nutritional value and importance to the carp angler's toolbox. There's no doubt about it though.... the right boilies do seem to separate the bigger fish and have accounted for many PB (Personal best) Carp for anglers.

Very simple boilies can be made at home from eggs and whole-wheat flour, semolina and corn meal with some flavoring thrown in for good measure. These baits are rolled into various size balls and then boiled for 2 to 3 minutes dependent on size to form a tough skin on the outside of the bait. A quick google search will offer up plenty of both home made recipes and commercially available mixes and finished products.

Boilies come in a whole myriad of flavors, buoyancies, shapes, colors and sizes with nutritional values ranging from 'Candy Bar' to 'Power Protein Shake.' We mention this because over the years there has been great debate as to the importance of the 'nutritional value' of the boilie and the correlation between 'how good' the bait is for the fish and the 'success' of its catching abilities.





Pictured below are some home made and commercially produced Boilies ranging in size from 26 mm down to 8 mm that we're currently fishing with...

Boilies are commercially manufactured by companies the world over such as Solar, Dynamite, Nash, Mainline, Richworth, Nutrabaits, Rod Hutchinson and many, many more... There are some good bait and boilie making companies springing up here at home in the U.S.A. too such as K-1 baits, World Classic Bait and Carp Maxx baits to name a few...

Note: Boilies are also mounted onto the hair-rig with the help of the baiting needle we mentioned earlier.

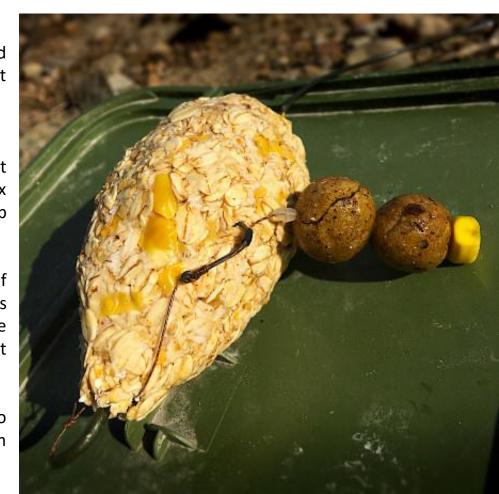
The subject of boilies is very deep and this is as far as we will delve into it today...

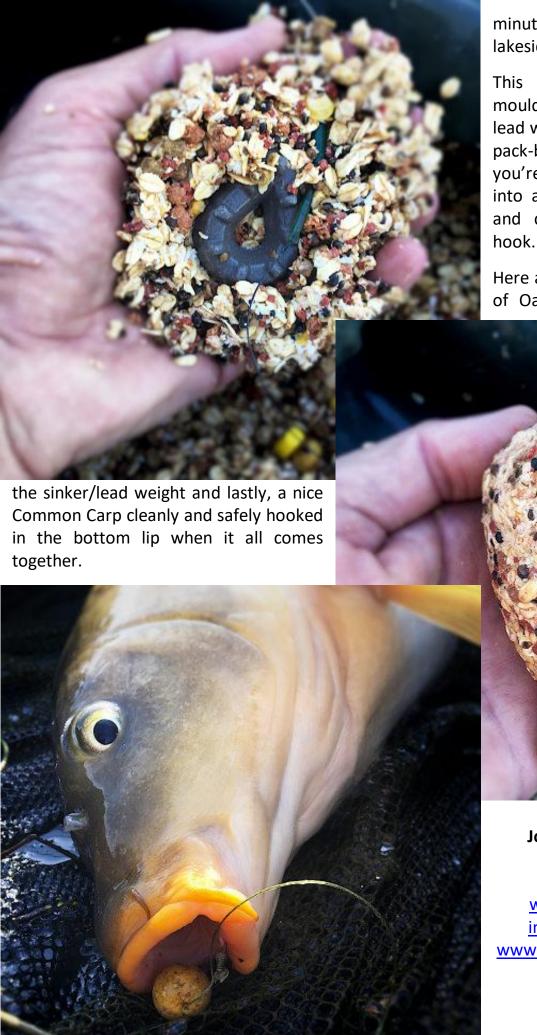
Pack-Bait:

There are many recipes out there but one that stands out as both easy to mix and very productive in attracting Carp year round, is Cream Corn Oats:

Poor the contents of a large tub of Quakers Old Fashioned breakfast oats (approx 2 lb 10oz) purchased from the grocery store into your bucket (don't used the 1 minute quick mix version).

Then mix 1 can of Cream Style Corn into the oats and thoroughly stir, place lid on the bucket and let it set for 10 to 15





minutes while you tackle up at the lakeside.

This Cream Corn Oats pack-bait is moulded tightly around your sinker or lead weight before casting out. Once the pack-bait has hit the bottom of the lake you're fishing, it starts to break down into a very nice attractive pile of oats and cream corn around your baited hook.

Here are a few photos showing a couple of Oat pack-bait mixes moulded around



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One last tip for this month:

All the baits mentioned above can be made even more effective by introducing them as chum before your planned fishing session - (pre-baiting). This can be done the night before or the morning of...but you'll notice an even bigger difference in your catch rate, the longer you have previously and regularly pre-baited that same spot...

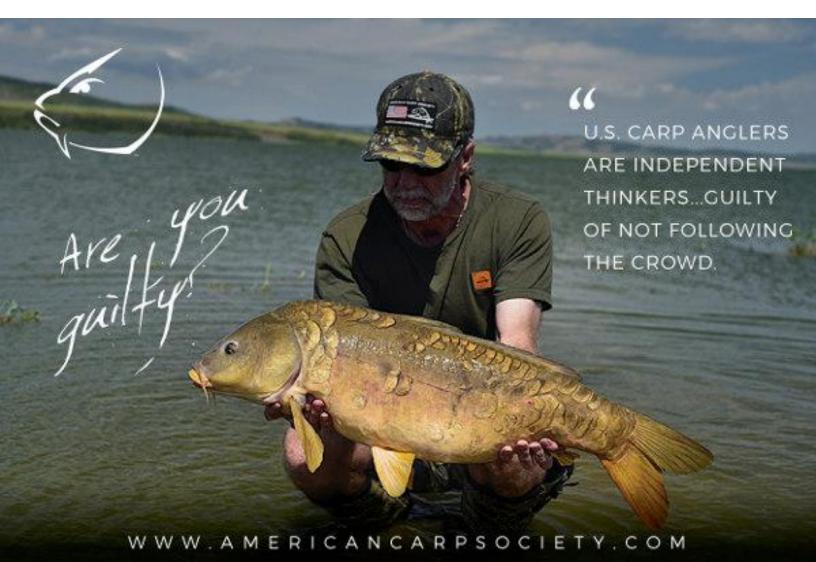
Check with your State's Fish & Game Department' rules governing whether chumming is legal in your area. A few States or certain waters within specific States do ban the use of Corn/Maize completely, even as a hook bait. So please check your local regulations very carefully.

That's it for this month, we hope you've picked up some useful information here. We're looking forward to peeling back even more carp angling "mysteries" next month for you...

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.

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.



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15 Ltires That Proved Themselves At This Year's Classic

By ODU Staff

It's all about your sources and who was really watching on the water. Every year ODU has independently tried to get lures confirmed and actually we have had some success in past years. But as anglers, we would like to know as much as we can. So, with the help of interviews with on-the-water observers, writers, anglers, boat technicians and other outdoor media ODU got the list. It took sometime and

without going into a long song and dance of which is best, we will just list them as they came into ODU. Keep in mind these lures DID catch bass. Thank you to Randy Hillyer and Sheron Brown for their help in compiling some of the list.

- 1. **Bruiser Baits Crazy Craw** With its thumping action, the Bruiser Baits Crazy Craw looks great on the fall and slowly swimming along the bottom. Drag it, flip it, pitch it, or punch it into the pastiest mats you can find its streamlined.
 - the nastiest mats you can find, its streamlined body provides easy rigging, and its claws flap like no other craw on the market. Available in a variety of colors to match your conditions, the Bruiser Baits Crazy Craw is best Texas-rigged but can even be Carolina-rigged.
- 2. Bagley Balsa BangOLure Topwater Jerkbait Balsa wood baits have long been known for their lively, natural action in the water and their extreme buoyancy. Other woods and plastic materials have since come on the scene, but many pro's still turn to





them and keep old proven ones around for year because of their innate fish catching ability. Bagley has been making some of the best balsa wood baits for over 50 years, and Bagley baits have probably more wins in big tournaments that almost any other crankbait made - including four Bassmaster Classics.

4. Missile Baits Baby D Bomb Creature Bait -Following in the highly-successful footsteps of the Missile Baits D-Bomb, the Missile Baits Baby D-Bomb maintains all of the same fishcatching characteristics - now in a smaller, versatile package. The petite stature of the



Missile Baits Baby D-Bomb opens the door for a wide range of applications that will put its lively, thin claws to work, like a shakey head or football jig. Although the Missile Baits Baby D-Bomb is scaled down, it can still accommodate a 3/0 flipping hook, and it soft ribbed body adds to its lifelike action and still allows it to displace a significant amount water on the drop. Blow the competition out of the water with the Missile Baits Baby D-Bomb.

- 5. Rapala Shadow Rap Deep Jerkbaits Built to perfectly "shadow" the natural movements of a dying baitfish, the Rapala Shadow Rap Deep allows anglers to utilize the erratic attraction
 - of the Shadow Rap in a slightly deeper arena. Designed with flat sides and a larger bill, the Rapala Shadow Rap Deep shimmies and flickers on a horizontal plane with very little forward movement,
- 6. The Evolution Baits GrassBurner Buzzbait is like no other buzzbait on the market. Its unique inline design with dual treble hooks draws monster strikes and greatly increases your fish-

prolonging the time spent in a fish's strike zone.

landing ratio. Featuring a compact, realistic baitfish profile, the GrassBurner's streamlined, injection-molded body allows you to cast it much easier than standard buzzbaits, making it perfect for precision casts and getting into tight pockets in cover. Designed to ride high on the surface, the GrassBurner excels at fishing around tules, weedlines, docks, overhangs, and open water.

7. Rapala DT 6 Series Crankbaits - The Rapala DT Series lures, designed by crankbait authority David Fritts, dive fast and stay in the strike zone longer than any other crankbait on the market. The DT Series crankbaits have accounted for numerous tournament wins



and record catches in the DT's first year, attesting to its design and fish-catching function. The Rapala DT Series lures are made from the top seven percent of select balsa wood. Perfectly consistent wood combined with carefully placed internal weights, a tapered fuselage and a thin tail creates an incredible crankbait action found only in the DT Series.



8. Z-Man/Evergreen Chatterbait Jack Hammer -Designed by Elite Series pro's, Brett Hite and Morizo Shimizu, the Z Man Chatterbait Jack Hammer is one of the most refined and highly anticipated vibrating jigs to ever hit the U.S. market. Featuring an exclusive, low center of gravity head with a flat bottom and a super thin yet super strong stainless steel blade, this



combination ensures the Jack Hammer starts vibrating quickly and also allows it to hunt side-to-side like a real baitfish. Its signature head and blade combo allow it to deflect off cover very easily as well, and also make it a great choice for skipping under docks.

9. The Picasso Aaron Martens Tungsten Football Jig is constructed around a compact 97% one piece tungsten head that is virtually indestructible. This compact design escpecially appealing to spotted and smallmouth bass. The flexible triple nickel titanium weedguard let's you work through cover with less hang ups and without hindering the hook set. Available in a variety of hook sizes to perfectly pair your plastic trailers from smaller finesse sizes to larger plastics. Picasso's exclusive ultra soft thin sheet silicone skirting material creates fish enticing undulation that is comparable to that of rubber skirt material. The super sharp black nickel Gamakatsu 2X strong hook will penetrate instantly even with light line but is strong enough to handle the giants.



10. The John Crews Little John MD Crankbait is designed to run deeper than the original Little John at approximately 7-9ft. The body is the same as the original Little John, but the dive bill is plastic, longer and at a different,

downward angle. The longer lip helps the bait dive quickly, as well as, reduce hang-ups by helping flip the bait up and over branches. The Little John MD also features a tungsten weight transfer system that provides excellent casting and helps the lure swim true through open water without rolling over or tracking to the side. Equipped with sticky sharp Gamakatsu hooks and available in a variety of proven colors, the Little John MD now gives anglers another quality crankbait to add to their arsenal.







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11. Accent Jacob Wheeler Original Buzzbait Built to specifications of professional angler, Jacob Wheeler, the Accent Jacob Wheeler "Game Changer" Buzzbait Large Blade topwater delivers serious performance that holds true to its name. Designed with an buzz oversized blade. Accent Jacob Wheeler "Game Changer" Buzzbait Large Blade



provides a sputtering, splashing, and flashing surface commotion that was perfected by Jacob during the 2014 FLW season. The larger blade also helps the buzzbait get to the surface quickly, so there is less time spent getting on plane.

March Control of the Control of the

12. Yamamoto Senko - If there's been one lure that has changed the face of fishing

over the years, it's the Yamamoto Senko. With its wide range of uses and subtle natural action, the Yamamoto Senko has quickly become a favorite with anglers all over the world. The beauty of the Senko is in it's simplicity. The Yamamoto Senko may just look like a thick round plastic worm but the fall rate created from the large amount of salt impregnated in the body drives fish mad. When rigged weightless the Yamamoto Senko falls horizontally with a seductive side to side tail action. Try wacky rigging or texas rigging the Yamamoto Senko and experience the versatility and effectiveness it provides.

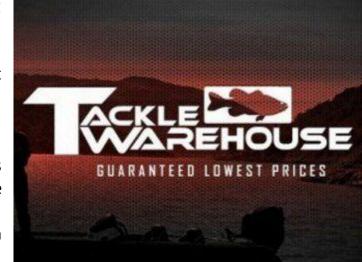
13. Yamamoto 3" Fat Senko - Rounding out Yamamoto's extensive line-up of soft plastics,

the Yamamoto 3" Fat Senko provides an incredibly versatile, slightly chunkier profile that will have your livewell overflowing. Similar to the traditional Senko, the Yamamoto 3" Fat Senko features a plumped-up stickbait construction that imparts time-tested, subtle Senko action. Incredibly effective weightless, on a shakey head, neko rig, and much more, the Yamamoto 3" Fat Senko delivers a

slightly different look that can be the key to unlocking

the bite.

14. Yamamoto Swim Senko - If there's been one lure that has changed the face of fishing over the years, it's the Senko. With its wide range of uses and subtle natural action, the Senko has quickly become a favorite with anglers all over the world. The beauty of the Senko is in its simplicity. The Swimming Senko brings a whole new dimension to Senko fishing. When rigged weightless, the Swimming Senko falls horizontally with



a seductive side to side tail action, the tail action of the swimming senko has more vibration and movement than its brother, which can be extremely productive in stained water situations. The subtleness of the



original Senko is still prevalent, but the Swimming Senko has more kick in the tail section. The Swimming Senko also works great when pitched or flipped when rigged Texas-rigged. The Yamamoto Swimming Senko is another deadly version of a proven winner.

- 15.Jordan Lee's Trailer The Strike King Rage Space Monkey (on a ½ brown football head jig) adds a new dimension to creature baits. The body profile is very unique in shape. The Rage Space Monkey has a frog like look to it, and an incredible action that mimics many different prey. The outrageous action of this bait as it falls through the water column is unique thanks to the Rage arms and legs. Designed to displace massive amounts of water, this is one bait you have to have in your arsenal. The Rage Space Monkey can be Texas rigged, Carolina rigged or even used as a jig trailer. Tie one on and see what the Rage is all about! Now fortified with coffee scent.
- 16.Jordan Lee's Trailer Strike King Pro Model 5XD Crankbaits. Designed to dive 4-5ft deeper than the standard Series 5, the Strike King Pro Model 5XD Crankbait features a newly designed bill that allows it to get down to depths of 15ft. BASS Elite Series pro, Kevin Van Dam, helped significantly with testing and refining the 5XD, and it also ended up being one of the main baits he used to come from

behind in the final Post Season events at Lake Jordan and the Alabama River - and claim the 2010 Bassmaster Angler of Year title. Available in multiple colors, the Strike King Pro Model 5XD Crankbait delivers another proven way to target those deep fish







I'm Back

By Dana Benner

In the last piece of mine that appeared in ODU I said I was taking a break. I needed to decompress and get my head together. That is exactly what I did. I packed up and headed south to the south coastal region of Georgia where I spent 10 days hiking, exploring and fishing.

My plane landed in Jacksonville, Florida and from there I headed about an hour north to the town of Brunswick, Georgia; a place that was to be my home for the next 10 days. This area of Georgia was like nothing I had ever experienced before. There are pine trees here that produce cones the size of small pineapples and Live oaks draped with Spanish moss. The squirrels, though gray like the ones back in New Hampshire, are smaller and

they have a brown tint to their fur. Deer are all over the place and I saw many that had young. Then there was the fishing.

The freshwater ponds of the area hold catfish, Largemouth bass, crappie and bluegills, while the ocean holds species unlimited and it all depends on if you are fishing inshore or offshore. Unlike in New Hampshire, the freshwater shore angler needs to be alert for Water moccasins, rattlesnakes and alligators. Then there are the mosquitoes and "No Seeums" (Sand gnats) that hit you in swarms and they take no prisoners. Ticks are also a big problem here just like back home. Here in



Georgia, the Lone Star tick is the most numerous followed by the Black-legged tick (Deer tick). Before heading out spray yourself with a good insect repellent. On this trip I was carrying both Green Mountain Tick Repellent and Just Naturals Natural Bug Spray. Both products are DEET free and I'm happy to report that I wasn't bothered by ticks the entire time. This is not a place for shorts and sneakers. Long pants and a good pair of boots are in order here. While in the woods I wore 5.11

possible snakes.

I decided to take a day ad head out on the do ocean to some fishing. I teamed up with Captains Dave and Adam Hust to try my hand at fishing the South Georgia waters with Mad Shark Charters. Along with me on this trip were two other anglers; Rob and Jake. It just so happened that Rob was from Maine and Jake fellow was New Hampshire guy. The trip was scheduled to last four hours and we were leave at to 3:00pm. Hust Capt. Dave explained that besides shark, we would also try our hand at some of the local redfish (Red Drum) which population, sounded good to me. Mad Shark Charters provides all of the gear so all I needed to do was get down there.

I soon found out that this was the first time that Jake had ocean fished. In fact, it was the first time he had ever fished. I was hoping it





would be a memorable trip for him. Unfortunately, it wasn't looking good. Two days prior air temperatures were in the high 70s. Suddenly the temperatures dropped 20 degrees in a matter of 24 hours. Add to this there had to be some effect from the storm that was hitting the Northeast at the time. As it was to turn out, I was right.

Due to seven to eight foot seas the captain decided to keep us in the relative safety of the bay, fishing in among the numerous islands. It reminded me a great deal of fishing in Louisiana. When we arrived at

our first stop we all set our lines, which were medium action spinning outfits. Onto the 20 pound braided line was tied a 3/0 circle hook. As we were fishing for redfish and Black drum, our bait consisted of shrimp and under normal conditions this would have brought in redfish, Black drum and Whiting. But this definitely was not normal conditions.

Within the first 10 minutes I had a hit. I set the hook and the fun began. It wasn't big, but it did put up a little fight. It turned out to be a Sting ray that weighed somewhere between two and three pounds. As it was to turn out, that ray was the only fish we would catch that day.

Though the fishing wasn't the best, numerous types of wildlife were spotted to include dolphins, Great Blue heron, egrets, White pelicans, sandpipers ad terns. We also paid a visit to Sapelo Island lighthouse. I don't know about Jake and Rob, but I had a good time. Yes it would have been wonderful if really had caught some fish, but this is fishing. You can control many aspects of any fishing trip, but the one thing you can't control is Nature. It will do whatever it wants and you just have to live with it.

My time in Georgia was coming to an end. Though an article did come out of this trip, it was not my main goal. It just happened. The purpose of this trip was to allow me to re-focus and remember what I do and why I do it. I think I'm ready to push on. In other words, "I'm back".



RIO PARISMINA IS STILL A FISHING PARADISE

By Bill Vanderford

It is often said that you can never go back in time and find the same magic that had peaked all of your senses when you wore a younger man's shoes. In some respects because of the natural aging process and the ever-changing world...that is true, but time makes some things even better!

More than a quarter of a century ago, Judy Heidt, a beautiful lady from Texas, came to the mouth of the Parismina River on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica to do battle with the huge schools of 100 pound tarpon that live there. She loved it so much that she purchased 50 acres of land with the idea of building a retirement home. She had so many requests from friends to visit that her retirement home idea

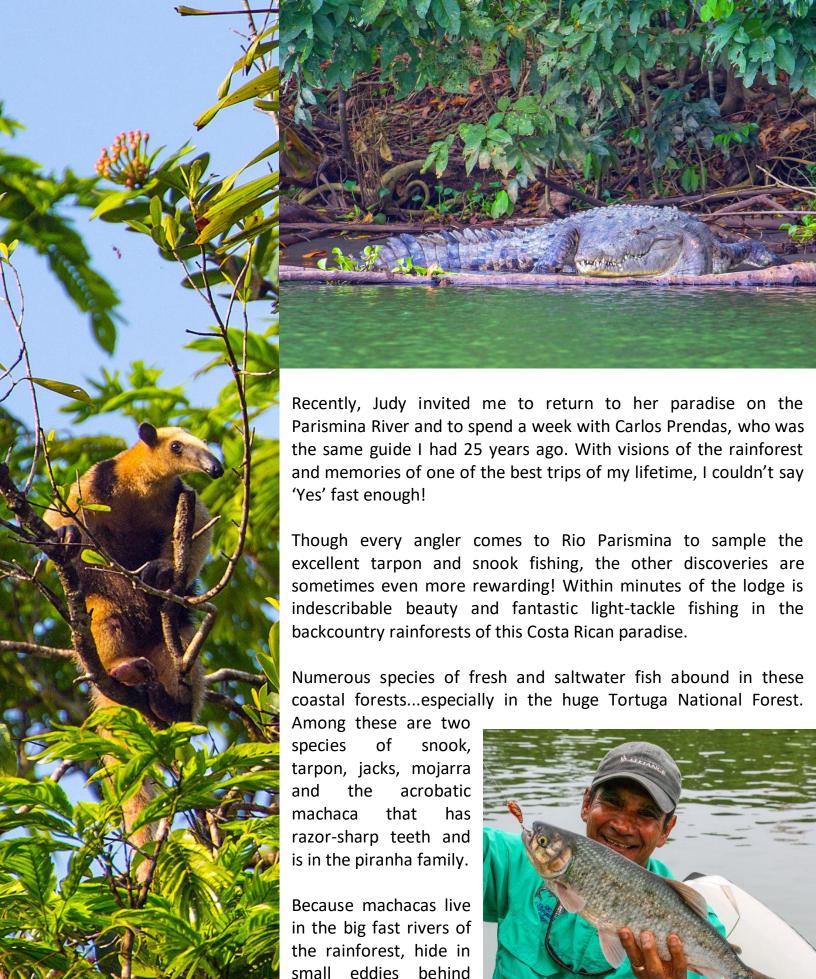


expanded into carving out space for a first class fishing lodge in the middle of the rainforest.

To further expand the visitation among anglers to the new Rio Parismina Lodge, Judy invited me and numerous other outdoor writers to experience and photograph the fabulous fishing, the breathtaking beauty of the rainforest and the unforgettable culinary opportunities.

All of us spent at least 10 days partaking of the world class fishing and other unique experiences. We returned home with a diverse collection of photos and stories that we have used in numerous articles since that time.





debris and viciously attack small topwater



offerings, they are the favorite of fly fishermen. These streamlined, silver fish are extremely fast and when hooked, immediately take to the air like a mad tarpon.

The other choice of the fly fishing crowd is the mojarra, which is very similar in shape to our American sunfishes. It has a very small mouth that is perfect for the tiny offerings from a fly rod. I found that popping bugs worked great at times, but I caught a lot more of these 1 to 4 pound fish on one of my own fly rod-sized Swirleybird spinners.

Though the pleasure and constant surprise of the phenomenal fishing in the rainforest is difficult to describe, the ever-present beauty is even harder. However, an old friend of mine, Lynn Hannon, made a good attempt at it. She wrote, "The immensity and energy of the jungle might overwhelm the spirit if it were not so surely a part of it. Monkeys and sloths move against a tall forest that presses so hard

against the river's edge that it seems ready to stride across. There cannot be a more fertile place on earth!"

I could go on forever trying to convey the overflowing cornucopia of the beauty and great fishing in the Costa Rican rainforest, but I must save space for the photo journalism that says so much more! So, feast on the pictures and if you want to live the experience, contact the Rio Parismina Lodge at: www.riop.com.

Bill Vanderford has won numerous awards for his writing and photography, and has been inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame as a Legendary Guide. He can be reached at ifish51@aol.com or at his web site:

<u>www.georgiafishing.com</u>.





UNDERSTANDING THE CRAPPIE SPAWN

By Bernard Williams

I've often been asked where do crappie go to spawn? That's a good question, it's no one good answer to this question. Some fishermen say they find shallow flats, weeds, grass, rocks, stumps, etc. All are good answers. I like to catch big females, the males are ok, they're easy to catch because they're guarding the beds and they'll hit almost anything that's in the vicinity. If you like trophy crappie, then targeting the females is a different matter entirely.

The female crappie spends a few minutes doing her business, laying eggs and they're back to deeper areas. They run in and back out quickly. Targeting the females means you need to fish between the beds and the staging area. The staging area most likely will be an area along a flat, creek or ditch that leads to a shallow area.



White and black crappie spawn in a different way, white crappie are inclined to spawn in deeper areas, while black crappie will select very shallow areas. I've seen black crappie spawn in the upper ends of creeks in water two-feet or less. I've been told white crappie will spawn on top of stumps in as deep as 15 feet of water.

Some of my best catches have come in areas 3 to 6 feet of water. The big females will use these stretches to stage up before they run in and lay their eggs. Any area that includes ditches, trenches or any type contour changes is a good place to start your search.

Water temperature in the south is the triggering factor that initiates the spawn. When the water

temperature in our southern lakes reaches 50+ degrees nature starts to take its course on both male and female, black and white crappie. The males are the first to show signs, they turn black and they start to move to the shallows to prepare the beds. The females start their journey from deep wintering spots to their pre-spawn staging areas.

My technique of choice during the spawn is spider-rigging single jigs with multiple poles. I prefer this technique over all others because you can cover lots of water. I prefer B'n'M BGJP 14' to 16' poles. These poles allow me to push 1/8th oz. up to 3/8th oz jigs and I can see the bite vividly. The single jig provides great action with this super sensitive rod and high-vis line. This rod also has the backbone to control a large fish once it's hooked and the sensitivity to not miss a bite. Sometimes crappie will grab and run with the jig, other times they will come up in the water column with the jig. This will cause the pole to become straight, set the hook.

I like the Millennium Spyderlok rod holders for their adjustment capabilities. I can adjust these holders in a limitless number of ways. I've never lost a pole out of these holders. I can turn a few hand nuts and remove the entire holder from the base.

I will use several style soft plastics; Bobby Garland 3" Slab Slay'R (pictured at right), Slab Dockt'R, Lake Fork Boot Tail Baby Shad, and Sickle Tail Baby Shad. I also use the Southern Pro



2" Crappie Magnum Tube (pictured below) and the 2" Umbrella Tube. I don't have a suggested color, I use bright colors on bright days, dark colors on overcast, gloomy and cloudy days.

I like to fish shallower than fish are showing on my depth-finder. Since it's a known fact that crappie feed up in the water column, it's always best to not fish too deep during this period. Crappie are very active and spooky during the spawn, I recommend turning off the sonar and using the trolling motor sparingly. If you hit a spot that produces a bite, turn off the trolling motor and float for a few minutes. The females tend to be school focused. A school can range from 3, 4 or 5+ fish. I've fished for





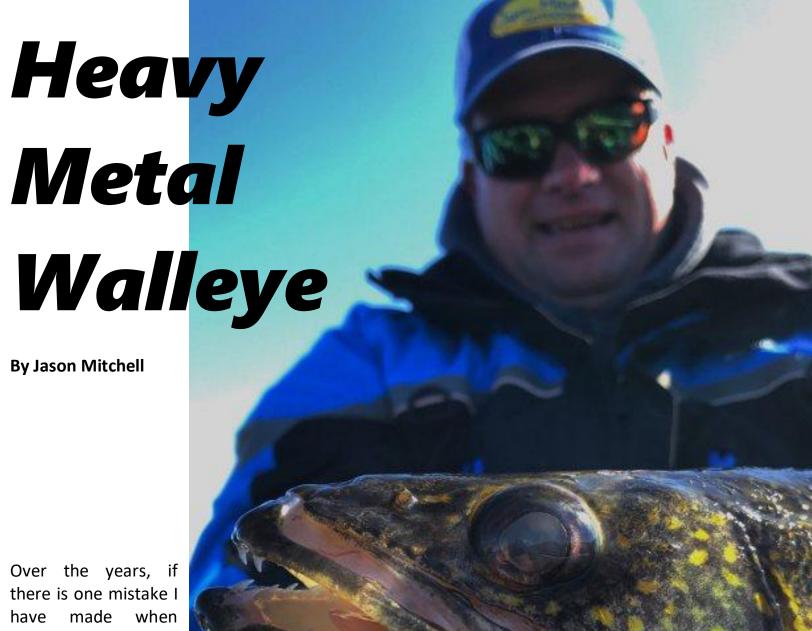
hours without a bite and hit a spot and 2 or more poles go down at the same time. I've stopped there for 10 to 20 minutes and picked up as many as 8 to 10 fish.

Fishing with a 16' pole with 3' to 4' of line necessitates some finesse to land a fish. A

good long handle net is necessary, I've found the Jenko 12' Crappie Net to be the best on the market. Weighing on 16 oz. and a choice between mesh or rubber. This net is adjustable from 4' to 12'. I don't recommend lifting large fish due to it being a carbon fiber handle net.

Be sure to mark your bites on your GPS and return for a repeat. Recall the fable, 80% of the fish are in 20% of the water. That's absolutely true during the spawn. Since the bait fish are approaching their spawn, you can most likely find both in the same area. Finding the right staging area is not as daunting as you may think, it takes repetition (time on the water), find the shallow flats next to deep water.





fishing rivers particularly early in the season... that mistake would trying to use too light of tackle. The mistake of getting too caught up in finesse. Not using enough jig to maintain bottom contact. Getting swept off the bottom. Having the jig drift faster than the boat and having to try and catch up with the jig as it gets pulled down stream.



New Blackfish® UPF Performance Apparel Line Introduced

People that spend all day in the sun have two common priorities — staying cool and staying protected from sun exposure. All new Blackfish UPF and Performance wear does both. Using chemical-free cooling technology, these premium garments help outdoorsmen, especially anglers and boaters, regulate their core body temperature, as well as provide unmatched protection from the suns harmful rays.

The new Shade Series of performance hoodies, shirts and gaiters utilize unique fabric design combined with Coolcore technology to keep you cool, comfortable and protected. Unlike many cooling garments, Blackfish with Coolcore is free from cooling-chemical additives, so our shirts and hoodies still retain their cooling properties, even after washing and extensive use. This cutting-edge fabric offers the maximum sun protection and cooling comfort in an outdoor garment.

With one of the highest UPF ratings in a garment, the Eclipse Series offers protection from the sun and cooling comfort for those that spend all day on the water.

With one of the highest UPF ratings in a garment, the Eclipse Series offers protection from the sun and cooling comfort for those that spend all day on the water.

You can't choose the weather. But you can choose clothing that keeps you cool, comfortable and protected. See the entire line and the technology behind it at www.BlackfishGear.com.







our luck with jig weight, we are essentially narrowing down our ability to get lucky. Let me explain further.

There is always variables and exceptions to every general rule of thumb. Often, we had the mindset that we caught more walleye if we used the lightest line possible and the lightest jig possible. diameter line cuts through the current better and has less bow or drag which can enhance fishing in current especially when slipping down steam or casting at angles into current seams. Use too small of a jig size however and you might be optimum for some specific current flows and boat speeds as we slip downstream, but I argue that there is often a really fine line between using not enough jig and not getting lucky.

When we slip downstream or cast, we might be in the zone half the time if we error on the side of using as light of a jig as possible. Every time we come out of the seam and get in faster water, the jig gets blown up off the bottom. Every time we power upstream to slow down our slip, the jig gets blown up off the bottom. Certain angles and parts of the cast get swept up off the bottom or the increased bow in the line drops our effectiveness and efficiency. When we push



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When we dial in the presentation too much for a specific slip speed and current flow combined with depth, whenever we get out of that precise combination of variables, we are essentially out of the zone and out of the game. Get to the end of the slip where the current kicks up and you are about ready to motor back upstream and that few minutes is wasted. Every time your boat gets sucked into deeper or faster water, your time is wasted and what I find amazing is just how often I caught fish in faster water off the seam. Over the years, my mentality started to change to where I now no longer worry about using the lightest jig possible... I now try to use the heaviest jig possible and I catch a lot more fish. When I err on the side of heavy, I get luckier. I can speed the boat up or slow down much easier without having to exactly match the current speed. I no longer have to chase the jig. I can even slowly pull upstream. I can pull out into faster water. Of course, there are exceptions where river fish will sometimes hold off the bottom and sliding upstream or downstream higher in the water column will catch fish. Some river systems will have a lot of suspended walleye patterns after big shad die offs for example. By and large however, these fish are pinned to the bottom and they are often close to the seam. The majority of fish will often nose right to the edge of the faster water while the most aggressive fish will often move right into the harder current. This is why erring on the side of heavy can make us so much more effective when catching river walleye.

Now what is heavy? If a ¼ ounce is out of the zone during thirty percent of your drift or cast while performing perfectly during the other thirty percent, upsize to a 3/8 ounce. Increase one jig size to increase your overall efficiency and flexibility.



Tungsten is a metal that has become extremely popular in ice fishing and bass fishing applications because tungsten is so much heavier than lead. Of course, a ¼ ounce tungsten jig weighs the same amount as a ¼ ounce lead jig but the difference is the size. Tungsten fishes current extremely well because the reduced size catches less current and is much more sensitive and easier to fish. This heavier metal is also louder when contacting rocks.

With good water visibility, I often try to slip as the same speed as the current where the line hangs below the boat and the jigs tumble downstream the same speed as the boat/ current. Pretty straightforward. From this basic way to present jigs are a lot of variables however where you slowly drag upstream, move slower than the current or change the angle of the line where I can not only slide into faster current seams, I have the flexibility to slow down or speed up regardless of what the boat or current does. This is why I absolutely love tungsten jigs for fishing current or rivers. There is nothing better.

This past season, we began experimenting with the CPT 365 Drop Tg tungsten jigs and this lineup of tungsten walleye jigs will be available at tackle stores this spring. Tungsten is expensive, but the advantages are worth the cost in my opinion. **Besides** using tungsten, we had picked the long shank nickel-plated wide gap hook for using soft plastics and double hooking minnows. In our opinion, this is a perfect jig for fishing rivers or current. This season, side on the heavy side. Take advantage of the flexibility tungsten give you in can regard to exact boat control and current that you



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simply more efficient. You will catch more walleyes this spring if you can keep your presentation in front of the fish and tungsten does exactly that.

Another variable to consider. Compare the virtues of both monofilament and braid. Clear water like what we find below tailraces for example often demand monofilament. There are other situations where mono really shines. I often prefer mono early in the year because I believe the stretch and subtleness of mono gives the presentation a more natural subtle glide through the water. Another consideration is that the stretch in mono hides or masks the unnatural presence in that the fish doesn't feel the rod or angler on the other end nearly as quickly. On the flip side, braid is more durable and extremely sensitive. Deep water and extremely light pickups can sometimes call for the no stretch of braid.

What I often find however is that if I am missing fish particularly when river fishing, make a switch. If I am missing fish with mono, switch to braid. If I am missing fish with braid or not getting bit... switch to mono. Some of the variables include the amount of sag or bow in the line from the current but what so often happens is just how the fish respond to the presence. Do the fish spit out the jig when they feel resistance or choke up on the bait further? Every day can be different but the bottom line is that if something isn't working with bite detection and batting average (hooking up), switch over.

This flexibility can help you catch a tremendous amount of fish. Note that zebra mussels and clams can sometimes dictate the need for a heavier fluorocarbon leader just to keep the line from getting cut or nicked but the braid/ mono switcharoo is important to the jig routine. Keep jigging rods in the boat



rigged with both and don't be afraid to switch back and forth until you find what the fish want.

One last tip, when you anticipate slipping with the current where you are fishing below the boat or slowly dragging even upstream and you are adjust needing to depths changing or current speeds constantly, don't be afraid to use bait casting rods and reels when you can use two rods. Bait casting

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reels with a flipping switch allows you to let out line with one hand and the same hand can turn the handle to pick up line. The higher gear ratio of a bait casting reel makes picking up a few feet at a time as easy as half a turn of the reel handle. Much easier to maintain the right bottom contact while holding a rod in each hand.





approach some post spawn fishing there probably bait no more fun to fish than a crank bait; key though is making the bait attractable to the fish and that may take some thought. I know many of us throw the crank bait out and reel it back: there's more to it than that and putting your mind to work on how to make this bait life-like is a major part of getting a bite on crank baits. One key is understanding

the dynamics of the crank bait your fishing as there are many different styles and sizes of crank baits.

In general, it's all about just a few presentations that control what a crank bait looks like in the water; retrieve speed, depth and erratic movement. During the many months of fishing every year we have several seasonal changes that affect the fish and how fast or slow you move the crank bait tells the story. When we have cold fronts come through slowing the retrieve is a major factor in getting a bite. Sometimes just a very slow wobble is the presentation when the cold zaps the life out of the fish; slow it down crawl it and many times it offers what bass want during these cold fronts. Speed it up, when the water is clear, and the fish are active giving them just a fast look at the bait, counting on the bass to react to you bait moving quickly bye them.

Depth control comes under that old saying "fish where the fish are," although it is a known fact that bass feed upward depth is an important factor because many times the bottom becomes your friend when fishing crank baits. If you're bouncing off the bottom you're getting the fish to react to your bait and the result is many times catching fish. If you are fishing suspending fish having a crank bait in the depth range where the fish are suspending is key.

Lastly erratic movement, if you're not twitching and changing speeds with a crank bait then its not working for you. These crank baits all have different wobbles some tight, some wide but change in erratic movement gets you bit, use your wrists, arms and rod tips to change direction speed and movement and you will be a better crank bait fisherman.

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







FISH 'N' TAILS Of **Dan Galusha**

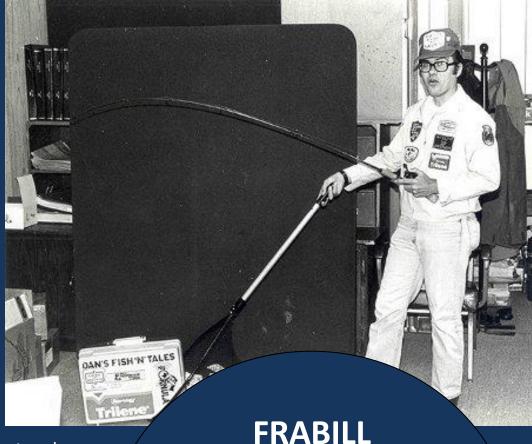
By Jay Anglin

Veteran outdoor communicator Dan Galusha of Milan, Illinois has stacked resume so credentials and accolades that it takes four pages to fit them all in. That's what happens when an outdoorsman dedicates himself to becoming a fixture in outdoor media for over four decades. The list of awards he has received include well over 200 fishing honors, of which sixteen are world

records. Suffice it to say, he's not only an accomplished outdoor communicator, he's also

one heck of an outdoorsman.

Galusha's impact as an outdoor communicator is especially notable in the Midwest. Possessing a comforting yet commanding voice that is



CELEBRATES DAN GALUSHA'S 45TH YEAR IN THE **OUTDOOR MEDIA**



immediately recognizable to anyone who has heard it before, his knowledge of the outdoors is boundless.

"I started in 1973 as a sales rep for Mr. Bass Lures out of Bull Shoals, Arkansas. In 1978, I jumped into the media world with the Milan Mirror newspaper and





Midwest Outdoors magazine. Later, I got involved with TV, radio, seminars and then videos. I've been published in countless other newspapers and magazines over the years," Galusha explains.

"A while back, I noticed Ranger Boats was going to celebrate 50th a Anniversary, so I started figuring out how many years ľve been immersed the in outdoor/fishing industry and media. I assumed it fell somewhere around

40 or 43. Well, in 2018 I will be celebrating my 45th year in the fishing world and my 40th with Dan's Fish 'N' Tales."

Galusha's ultimate-goal was to make it to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, but he always considered it more a dream than something that would really happen. However, thanks to the nomination from Ron Stallings of TTI-Blakemore, and the support from many others, the dream came true in 2012 when he received the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame Legendary Communicator Award.

Galusha has collaborated with Plano and Frabill – two other legends from the fishing world – on many levels for several decades. During the 90's, Frabill sponsored his TV and radio shows, and to this day Galusha maintains a coveted position on the Plano and Frabill pro staffs.

"My history with both companies goes back to when they were separate. I first worked with Glen Simms and Bill Cork at Plano. With Frabill, I started with the owner, Jeff Marble, and promotions manager, Mark Gostisha, at the time. When I first started with Frabill, the company was still handling terminal tackle and had just started to manufacture ice shelters. So, my association with both companies has lasted through close to 30 years of my media work," Galusha says.

"I can remember when Glen sent me a Plano 777 tackle box to use when I was going to film some shows with Virgil Ward in 1984. He always wanted me to have the most current gear. I still have that box in the storage shed," Galusha recalls.

"Dan Galusha has been a long-time supporter of Plano and Frabill across all of our product categories including ice, fishing and shooting, as well as a well-known figure in the outdoors industry. He also devotes many hours each year to youth education and growing our sport. We are proud to have

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him as a member of our pro-staff," says Plano Synergy Fish Brands Marketing Manager, Chris Russell.

If you've been paying attention to Dan Galusha, it's obvious he knows a little something about working as an outdoor communicator. He has some sage advice for anyone interested in pursuing a career in outdoor media: "Stay in school and learn as much about writing and speaking as possible, yet develop

your own style by being yourself. Know your choice of outdoor subjects firsthand by gaining as much experience as possible," he advises.

"Don't start every paragraph with "I", be professional, but have fun with it. And always pass along good information to the audience. Be ready to sacrifice a lot, maybe even write for free to get started, and don't plan on making a fortune — perhaps not even a living or actual career in outdoor media. If you love your outdoor subject — whether it by fishing or shooting as with myself — or anything else, your audience will pick up on that fact, and stay with you throughout your career."

In 2018, Galusha will be celebrating the first anniversary with the sister of Fish 'N' Tales®, Shoot 'N' Plink™. Both series of videos can be viewed on the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® YouTube channel.





TAKE A JERK FISHING THIS SPRING

By Shane Beilue

As a fellow bass addict, you're no doubt anticipating winter slowly evolving to early spring in the coming weeks. Do yourself a favor on your next trip to the lake and take a jerk with you - in fact, don't leave the dock without one. No, this isn't a charity benefit and I'm not talking about cousin Eddie, rather, a hard plastic jerkbait must be tied on at least one of your rods as winter turns to spring and it should stay readily accessible the rest of the year.

It's well established that the jerkbait is one of the most versatile fish catching inventions ever conceived because it allows an angler to cover sizable amounts of water quickly, draws bass out of cover to eat and excels in even the most frigid water temps. There is one qualifier for jerkbait success and that is adequate water clarity. Cold muddy water rarely leads to loads of bass picture postings on social media; and, since the jerkbait attracts fish visually, you need visibility of at least two feet. In fact, the clearer



the water, the better visual cues the jerkbait can transmit to draw the bass to the lure.

Entire seminars are available online regarding the various types of jerkbaits on the market: fast rise, slow sink, countdown, neutral buoyant, long bills and shallow bills — it can get overwhelming. To simplify, consider that colder water generally translates to deeper, less aggressive bass and that lends itself well to a bait that suspends in front of them on the pause or even slowly sinks. As the water warms and the bass move shallower, baits that rise faster on the pause can be very effective when fished at a faster pace. All variations of the lure will catch fish on any given day, but it helps to have some general idea for matching the lure to the conditions when gazing into your tacklebox.

Cadence is Everything

The appeal of a jerkbait is in the ability to vary the retrieve speed and cadence to keep the lure in the strike zone and draw the fish to the lure. The sudden start and stop of imitating an injured baitfish is irresistible to a bass. The classic cadence of "jerk-jerk, pause" is the basis for any retrieve; however, the cadence is primarily dictated by water temperature. Water that is still in the 40's or low 50's generally requires a much slower presentation and longer pauses than water in the 60's. This cold-water approach often dictates pauses lasting 15 to 30 agonizing seconds as the bait simply hangs in the water column, yet these long pauses can be absolutely deadly when enticing lethargic late winter females into attacking an easy meal.

Regardless of retrieve tempo, the trick in working the lure to full effectiveness is the ability to allow the bait to turn on slack line. As the rod is twitched to impart action to the bait, immediately allow the rod

tip to recoil and point the rod tip back at the lure. This is a sudden, reflexive type motion that throws just a few inches of slack in the line and allows that bait to dart and drift without interference from the line. Accordingly, the reel handles turn only to take up slack – not to retrieve the lure.

Equipment

Discussing cadence and retrieve naturally leads into equipment choices, as the right rod, line and even gear ratio for the reel can be critical when getting the most out of the lure. Opinions vary on rod length and action and it ultimately comes down to personal preference and even body height. I've found that a rod length of 6'6" to 6'10" with a





firm tip still allows a long cast while also maintaining a quick response from the lure at the end of the cast. Rods longer than 7' tend to bang the boat, electronics or trolling motor during the retrieve. Another suggestion when refining your rod choice: seek a rod with a shorter handle, as longer handle rods often don't play well with bulky winter clothing.

Line choice is almost universally accepted as fluorocarbon due to its density (i.e. allowing the bait to reach max depth) and low stretch. 8-12# test fits the bill for most every open water scenario.

Another factor to consider in equipment selection is gear ratio of the reel. The trend for reels the last few years has been to move toward faster gear ratios of 7:1 or higher; however, since the jerkbait is worked exclusively with the rod tip, there can be a tendency to take up too much line between rod twitches, which impedes the action of the bait. A ratio of 6:1 is ideal and some anglers go even lower.

If you're open to suggestions on jerkbait equipment, try the medium/heavy Quantum Tour KVD graphite rod in 6'10" length. It has a shorter handle especially designed by Van Dam for his famously aggressive style of power fishing. This rod paired with a Quantum Smoke S3 in 6.1:1 ratio makes for a comfortable day of ripping jerkbaits – even if you're stuck with cousin Eddie for the day.



THE SNAG PROOF INSIDER Fishing Tips From The Pros

It's March When Will the Frog Bite Get Going?? Hello. My name

We are fortunate down here in South Carolina and the surrounding states to have weather accommodating enough to

allow a frog bite
12 months out
of the year.
Now,
understand, I
didn't say a

Hello. My name is Rob Thames, and I am addicted to frog fishing.



"good" frog bite all year, but if you're stubborn like I am and want to see if you can actually catch a largemouth bass on a Snag Proof frog in every month of the year it can be done. But, let's face it, I have a sickness. I am a Frogaholic.

So, just how early in the year can an angler feel confident about getting bass to react on a frog?

I'll answer this way. Yesterday was March 7, 2018, and South Carolina has experienced some very cold temperatures in recent weeks. The surface temperature on Lake Murray has been in the low to mid 40's, but some recent sun has warmed things up a little and yesterday a low pressure moved through and it



rained most of the day. So, last night I was walking to the mailbox after the rains ended and heard something I had not heard in months ... a symphony of frogs croaking their little throats out. I stood there and soaked in the rhythmic tones and smiled as I knew this signaled the time to break out my box of Snag Proof frogs.

Let's detail what is actually happening. Yes, the water temperature and air temperature is still cold but warming. The days are getting longer, and the bass, in my opinion are triggered more by length of day than anything else early in the year. Daylight provides radiant heat, and nature feels this and responds to this more than people do. Just watch the cows in the field. They're out in the elements 24/7, but as daylight breaks and the sun begins to work cattle will

gather in certain areas of a pasture that provide the most comfortable conditions due to the angle of

the sun and even the angle of the land to maximize the effects of daylight's radiant heat. Bass operate the same way which is why those western and northern most banks or flats warm quicker and bass move in. As I mentioned earlier, we just had a rain that triggered the frogs into full croak mode, and that specifically told me that the rain we just had was a warm rain, so now I know my lake just got covered with rain warmer that the current surface temperature. Now, add some wood, rock, or grass to that equation and you have an early season target to find bass that may react on a frog.

Generally, I like for the surface temperatures to be at 52-degrees or higher. Then I'll explore those northern and western flats and banks that get the most sun. Now, let's talk about that for a second. When I say western and northern flats and banks, I'm not necessarily talking about the western end or northern side of the lake. A western flat could be in a creek arm on the southern side of the lake,



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but as that creek arm lays on the map you may have a nice shallow flat on the western side of that creek arm. So, the terms "western and northern" are relative to the area of the lake map you're looking at. Okay, back to my original thought. Once I have the water temp of 52-degrees or higher and I've identified some potentially good shallow water on the map I'll go to those

areas and see what types of cover are available. Stained or clear water, wood, rock, grass, bushes, ditches are all in play. Let's say I have identified a western shallow flat with stained water in a creek arm on the southern side of the lake and this flat has a ditch or depression that runs outside of an area with some eel grass peppered with a few stumps. I'm going to tie on three frogs ... a Bobby's Perfect Buzz (BPB), a Wobbletron, and a Phat Frog. I like the BPB to start with here because the water is stained, the eel grass is subsurface, and I car reel that bait very slow and cover still cover water quickly. If I get to an area where the grass tops out on and lays over on the surface I'll throw the Wobbletron. I am simply choosing a frog that best fits the cover I'm probing. Sometimes as you cover water in a situation like this you'll get one to just eat the BPB or Wobbletron and that's great. But, if you get a bass to wake up behind the frog or roll on it without eating it that is when I'll fire the Phat frog on that spot and walk that frog as sexy as I can to coax that fish into biting.

Hey, early season frogging is fun and I love it. I hope you'll give it a try too. Just keep in mind this is usually not going to be a 15 or 20 bite type of approach. However, this may be the time when you'll sack the biggest bass of the year.

May the Frog be with you!!!

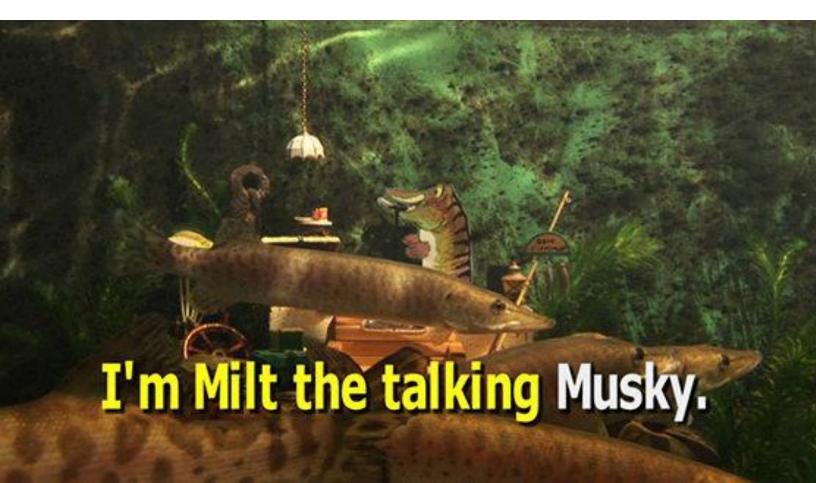




Milt the Talking Musky - Helping Youngsters Read

By Wil Wegman

For several decades I've loved musky fishing but it's only been the last ten years that the mighty muskellunge has become such an integral part of my career as a resource management technician in Ontario. Every spring for 2-5 weeks I'm trapnetting up on Gloucester Pool near Lake Huron's Georgian Bay to capture enough ripe female and male musky for an egg collection. We fertilize the eggs on the boat and they are then delivered to the musky hatchery at Fleming College in Lindsay Ontario. Here the eggs hatch, and fry, then fingerlings are cared for under the watchful eye of the hatchery manager and musky whisperer-Mark Newell. When late fall comes, I stock all those 8-12 inch muskie into Lake Simcoe, an hour north of Toronto Ontario with help from good friends at Muskies Canada. This is all part



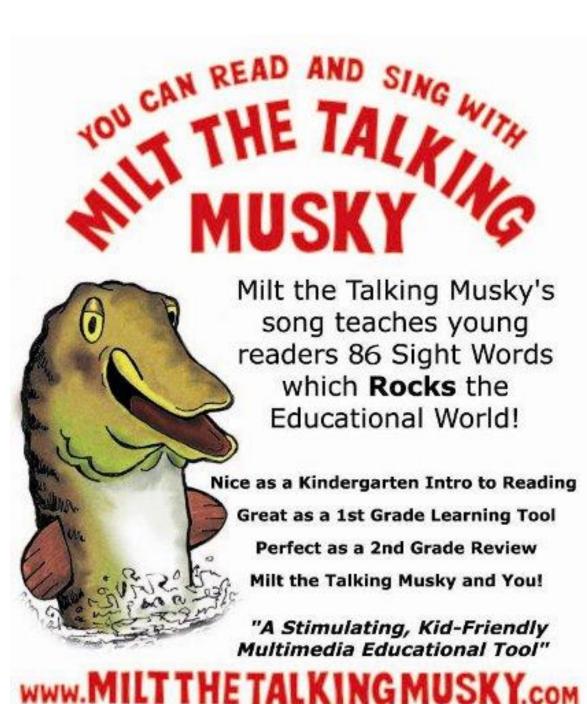
of the Lake Simcoe Muskie Restoration Program.

On To New York ... For several years now I have had the great pleasure of staying at We Wan Chu Cottages on beautiful Lake Chautauqua in NY for a few days of springtime fishing. One year, I combined business with pleasure and took a tour of the famed Chautauqua Fish Hatchery where they rear thousands of musky for their home lake and others in NY and beyond. It was simply an awe inspiring facility and the staff there were top notch and I was able to acquire valuable tips about muskie culture and learn firsthand how this large muskie rearing facility operates.

Anyway ... the prologue above is merely the segue leading into the heart of this article ...namely a remarkable initiative many of my fellow anglers and colleagues will hopefully rally behind called "MILT THE TALKING MUSKY'! I first heard about Milt from Peter Wiemer – the owner of WeWan Chu Cottages whose passion to make a difference in the lives of kids with reading challenges in general and with Autism in particular, is infectious. I asked Peter to explain what Milt ... his brainchild was all about.

"Milt The Talking Musky is a preschool through second grade Sight Word learning tool utilizing video and music to teach 86 Sight Words in a sing along and read along format," Peter explained. Sight Words are commonly used words in the English language that readers need to memorize because they do not follow the phonetic pattern for pronunciation when broken down by their letter sounds. Beginning readers who memorize these words by sight will increase their reading comprehension and fluency.

Music and Video is proven learning increase to retention in young children. Four Minutes singing along with Milt on a daily or every other day basis will significantly improve а reading child's and recognition of these 86



Sight Words. Add in over 50 pages to print and color again and again and Milt the Talking Musky will make a new learning friend with your young readers.

Milt Surprises and Provides Added Bonus: "In 2008, one of our office assistants working here at We Wan Chu Cottages was tutoring some young children outside of work including two twin six year old Autistic boys. After watching Milt the Talking Musky, one of the these boys attempted speech for the first time ever! It was such a gratifying moment and even though it came three years after I first created Milt ... it was such a great surprise and well worth the wait," Peter said.

Milt The Talking Musky was created by Peter in 2005 when his six year old daughter, Jenna, was having difficulty learning Sight Words at school. Roger Hooven, a musician from the Buffalo area and patron at We Wan Chu Cottages lent his artistic expertise to the project by co-writing the song and singing, Milt The Talking Musky. Roger Westley from Clymer, NY, contributed original drawings and co-wrote the

content for the 51 page coloring book, which is a pdf file available as a free download and can be printed from the web site. Within the coloring book's pages are 228 Sight Words woven through the storyline (that begins with a brother and sister fishing from their dock) so children can color and read and color and learn all those Sight Words while having fun coloring.

Using Milt engages several of the senses in teaching these all important Sight Words. Children visually see the words on the screen and printed in the coloring book and hear those same Sight Words spoken and sung, and then finally touch and bring them to life by coloring. Combined, is showing to be an extremely effective learning tool and method.

So Why Musky?

Peter Wiemer believes musky hit a chord with youngsters. They are a top predatory fish and force to be reckoned with in any waterbody they reside in. They breed confidence! Additionally the live specimens displayed in the video within the underwater aquarium at the local hatchery were simply mesmerizing for young children. Of course you combine that



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reality with the animated character of Milt the Talking Musky along with his song, coloring book and fun story, and you have a winner.

It wasn't until 2017 however that Peter realized that there is an important correlation between Autism and the benefit an Aquarium has on these young children. Simply put aquariums with fish have a very soothing nature for many of us but watching fish swim around the aquarium has an especially calming effect on children with autism

Milt the Talking Musky listed on "Autism Speaks" web site under Video Tools & DVDs.

Milt The Talking Musky has earned several accolades over the years including one of the Top 101 Educational Websites Guide released October 11th, 2011 by bestselling author and CEO of www.HowToLearn.com Pat Wyman.

Milt the Talking Musky can be purchased on iTunes & Amazon for \$2.99 USD or on a DVD for \$ 15 + \$ 5 USPS First Class Mail or Blu Ray for \$20 + \$5 USPS First Class Mail (USA only) (+ \$20 mail for Canada). To order yours for a young child that may benefit or an educator who could use Milt to help reach children under their care, please visit: www.miltthetalkingmusky.com

Wil Wegman is an award winning outdoor writer and fishing seminar host from Ontario, Canada. In 2017 he was inducted into the Canadian Angler Hall of Fame as well as recipient of the **National Recreational** Fisheries Award and the Rick Morgan Professional Conservation Award. Wil's articles have been published in many American publications (including ODU Magazine) as well as most Canadian outdoor magazines.





Crappie fishing is a right of passage signaling spring for many anglers. Pre Spawn fishing opportunities are often consistant and coveted. Might not be a better time during the entire calendar year to target panfish. Locations and presentations are fairly straight forward and in many cases, spring crappie locations are no secret. The staff at Jason Mitchell Outdoors offers a few insights on how to capitalize on this tremendous fishing opportunity, offering eight tips to help you find and catch more crappies this spring.

Location, Location, Location

Spring crappies often move back into shallow protected coves and bays that offer a dark bottom and either submerged vegetation or submerged brush piles. Shallow backwater marshes, coves, marinas, harbors and flowages can all attract spawning crappie but on some reservoirs, look for crappies to hold on chunk rock, rip rap and other hard bottom locations in four to ten feet of water.

Timing is Everything

Crappies will move up into these spawning locations and when black crappie make this push, the males will get distinctly dark or black, sometimes getting a blue tint. Some anglers will look at surface water



temperatures warming up into the low fifty degree mark as the signal but there is even a better indicator. When lilacs bloom, get ready.

Sunshine Factor

Sunshine and water temperatures are important to fish location. Not only regarding the spot but also location in the water column. Calm sunny days often find fish up high in the water column soaking in the heat. Fish often move shallower during the afternoon and sun/ warming surface temps often pull fish higher in the water.



Forwards/ Backwards

Spring weather can be volatile with warming weather interrupted by fronts, rain and wind. Cooling spring temperatures can push fish to the edges and break lines adjacent to shallow water. When water temps warm and spring seems to be progressing, look to move forward into the traditional spring spawning locations.

The Virtues of Plastic

Wont dare say that soft plastic options for tipping jigs always work better than traditional live bait like crickets, night crawlers or minnows but we find that we typically catch way more fish with soft plastics. Spring crappie fishing in shallow water typically consists of casting a jig and float combination and then slowly reeling/ twitching the jig back to the boat. Soft plastics are more durable and the added bulk and



bright color options make these presentations easy for fish to find. Top options include the classic Kalins Crappie Scrub. Marabou and Hair Jigs also catch a lot of fish. When fishing dirty, turbid water, don't hesitate to experiment with bright colors and larger profiles.

High and Low

Part of the presentation recipe is figuring out how high to fish. Crappie can be right under the surface or holding along the bottom. Finding fish is often a matter of experimenting with how deep you set your float to find fish. Anticipate fish to ride higher when the sun comes out and lower when there is clouds or strong winds. Here is a little way to cheat. Use your side imaging and look for fish. Next, judge how high fish are by the distance from the fish and the shadow created by the fish. The higher the fish are in the water column, the further the shadow will be from the fish.

Tungsten Advantage

Tungsten has become extremely popular in both bass and ice fishing circles because of the increased density making the heavy metal heavier than traditional lead. More crappie anglers are discovering the advantage of tungsten. When you find the zone... say for example the fish are holding where you need to set your float three feet down over seven feet of water, a tungsten jig will get to the zone much more quickly. The added weight of tungsten also pulls line through slip bobbers much faster. Even in shallow water, tungsten just gets you in front of the fish faster and keeps you in the zone. Some of the top options on today's crappie scene include the CPT Drop Kick and Drop XL Series that are also hugely successful in the ice fishing arena.

Fighting Ultra Clear Water

On some bodies of water, water visibility is often ultra-clear early in the spring when the water temperatures are still cold. One of the greatest challenges of fishing is extremely clear water where you can see the fish and the fish can see you. When targeting crappie in shallow harbors and bays that offer really clear water, fish will often hold around docks or lay downs and can be difficult to approach. These fish seem to spook by simply casting towards them. What can sometimes work really well is to simply drive the boat through these locations with your big motor running, trimmed down as low as possible. Stir up the bottom with your prop and move stuff around. You will spook and move the fish. Twenty minutes later, fish where you saw fish before the water clears back up.

Jason Mitchell Outdoors airs on Fox Sports North on Sundays at 9:00 am and Fox Sports Midwest on Saturdays at 9:30 am. Highlighting proven fishing strategies and locations from across the Midwest.





Making a Good Product Better

The Minn Kota Terrova with i-Pilot Link GPS

By Bernard Williams

I'm like a lot of fishermen, I'm slow to change. If it's working why change it, it's the philosophy I use in selecting my boating and fishing accessories. I purchased an electric-steer trolling motor back in 2006, a Minn Kota Power Drive. My primary techniques for crappie fishing are Longline Trolling and Pulling Crankbaits.

I will Spider-Rig when it becomes necessary (Grenada Lake in the Spring), it's too slow for me, I like to cover lots of water. I feel the more fish I present my bait to, the more chances I have of catching fish.

An electric-steer trolling motor with Auto-Pilot is a necessary requirement. Longline Trolling and Pulling Crankbaits can be done with a foot control cable steer trolling motor but you are stuck with guiding the boat.

I upgraded to a Minn Kota Terrova when I purchased my BassCat in 2008. It was a bigger boat and it required more trolling motor horsepower. The Terrova was my only choice at that time. I loved the Power Drive with Auto-Pilot but it only came in a 70lb thrust version. I needed the power that 101lb Terrova provided.

Fast-forward to today, my 101 Terrova finally died so to speak. It had been through the ringer, it was so noisy you could hear it underneath the water. I bit the bullet and ordered the 112 Terrova with i-Pilot Link GPS. I had heard some complaints about the remote going dead after about 5 or 6 hours; I still decided to give the i-Pilot Link GPS a try.

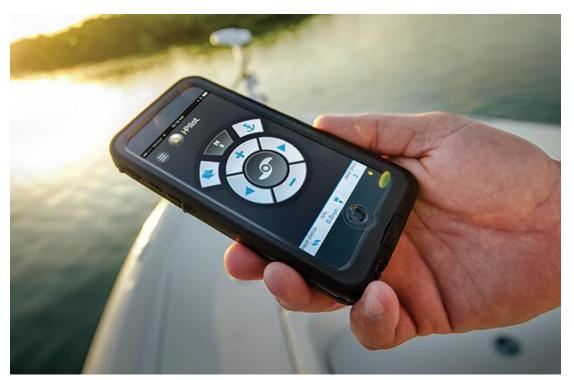
I'm glad I did; this trolling motor is the bomb. First of all, it's so quiet at its top speed you



can't hear it running in or out of the water. 112 Terrova with i-Pilot Link has a ton of new features that are almost too numerous to mention.

I'll go through a few new and improved features that I've discovered:

- "New" Bluetooth Connectivity: Bluetooth® connectivity gives you a fast, secure connection and allows for easy software updates via your Apple® or Andoird™ device to add new features to your system.
- "New" Humminbird Virtual Remote: With i-Pilot Link, you can control your motor from a virtual remote on your Humminbird screen. Take command of speed, steering, Spot-Lock and Advanced AutoPilot, directly from your fish finder.
- "New" Spot-Lock: The game-changing GPS anchor holds you on your fishing spot like never before with state-of-the-art algorithms for the most accurate hold on the water, plus, Spot-Lock Jog which lets you move your Spot-Lock five feet in any direction.
- "New" Circle Mode: Cast to a spot while orbiting in a circle around it with Circle Mode. Just choose the spot and how far from it you want to be, and your boat will circle the spot while you while you fish. Ideal for fishing a brush-top or stake bed.



- "New" Follow Mode: i-Pilot Link navigates you automatically on any depth contour, bottom hardness or vegetation line you choose. Use Follow Offset to choose how far away you want to be from a depth contour, shoreline, bottom hardness or vegetation line. Follow Offset will automatically keep you that distance away while you troll.
- "New" BackTrack Mode: Turn your Humminbird current track into an iTrack. i-Pilot Link will automatically retrace it up to 2 miles. You can dial-in your BackTrack travel distance in 0.1-mile increments.
- "New" iTracks & iTracks Offset: Create, store, retrace and return to your most productive trolling paths. Adjust the location and position of saved iTracks to fit the way you fish. Create a new iTrack that mirrors one of your existing iTracks from a set distance away, so you can troll it.
- "New" Lift-Assist: A spring-loaded assembly on the Terrova mount makes stowing the trolling motor effortless, every time. This attachment scared me when I first saw it, I had no idea what the



TAILORED FOR THE OUTDOOR WOMAN!



ADVENTURESS HUNT. FISH. EXPLORE. LIVE.

~ FREE DIGITAL MAGAZINE ~ betheadventuress.com purpose was. Guess if I had read the manual before installing it would have help.

• "New" i-Pilot Mobile App: Control Terrova directly from your Apple or Android device with Minn

Kota i-Pilot Mobile App. Everything you can do with the remote, you can do with the mobile app — plus the ability to update i-Pilot software. If your remote battery dies, use the mobile app.

The quietness and the extended battery life will help you stay on the water longer and catch more fish. The Auto-Pilot is much more precise on the new Terrova. My old Terrova would run my batteries completely down during a full day of fishing. Not so with the new models, they're equipped with a Digital Maximizer; it Provides up to 5 times longer run time on a single battery charge.

I could go on and on with all the new features offered on the new Terrova, these are just a few I found new or improved. I must mention that most of these features are offered in the Ulterra and Ultrex Trolling Motors.

It's your choice, Minn Kota has a motor that fits all your needs. If you're running one of the older model Terrova's, it's time to upgrade. Bless someone with your older Terrova and upgrade to the latest and greatest model. I promise you'll be glad you made the leap.



Protect our lakes and rivers by recycling your worn-out soft-plastic baits at every FLW tournament. Just look for the FLW Foundation, Keep America Fishing Pitch It recycling container. It's a simple action with a big impact.

Visit pledgetopitchit.org & FLWFishing.com/foundation



Dlympics Arkansas





Connecting youth to their natural resources and promoting education, conservation and an active lifestyle.





FISH WHERE THE ARE FOR MORE FISHING SUCCESS

By Bob Jensen

In many parts of the Midwest, we're in that "in-between" time of the year. This "in-between" time happens twice a year: As the ice is melting in the spring, and as it's forming in the fall. During both times, it's hard to go fishing. There isn't enough ice to support our weight to walk on it, and there's too much ice to put a boat in the water. At these times, I think either about the upcoming ice-fishing season, or, right now, I'm thinking about the upcoming

open-water fishing season. I think about different bodies of water to try, different tactics, new lures, whatever: I'm thinking about how I can catch more fish this year, and one constant always remains: To catch fish, you've got to be fishing where the fish are. Following are some ideas about fishing where the fish are for the duration of the open-water fishing season

Fish are interesting creatures. They do two things their entire life: They eat and they reproduce. Depending on whether they're in the eating mode or the reproducing mode determine where they will be in a body of water.

Right now in the Midwest, most fish are in some phase of the reproduction period, or spawning period. In other parts of the world they could be done spawning, or they might still have a layer of ice over them and haven't even thought about spawning. For now though, in the Midwest, most fish are either getting ready to spawn, they are actually spawning, or they've recently finished with this ritual.

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



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

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

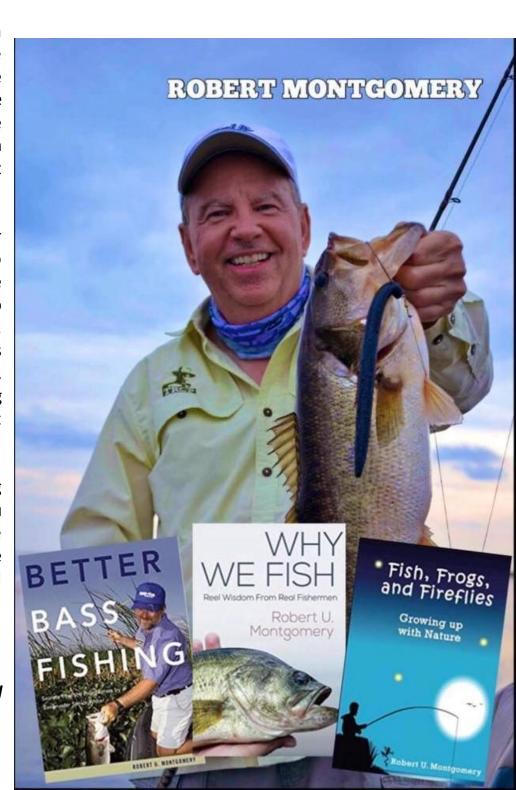
But in a good number of waters, more than you might think, walleyes eat baitfish that suspend. These baitfish might be fifteen feet above the bottom. When the walleyes want to eat, they have to move to where the baitfish are.

Some lakes have bug hatches, and a variety of fish eat these bugs. The bugs hatch on the bottom of the lake and drift toward the surface. As the bugs move up, so do the fish that are eating them. If you want to catch these fish, you need to keep your bait at the depth where the fish are.

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

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

To see new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, to read new and old fishing articles, and to watch fishing videos, visit www.fishingthemidwest.com.





YOUR TACKLE STORAGE WARS

Anyone who's been dragged around a pond by a mule of a largemouth or drenched by the explosive topwater take of a bull redfish, 'yak-side in just a couple feet of water, understands the appeal of kayak fishing. Simply put, there is no better way to get closer to the action in spots that are essentially inaccessible by any other means, and still remain dry.

Well, fairly dry anyway. When you're sitting right in the fish's kitchen, things can get damp on occasion.

With the exception specialized fishing kayaks and a of accessories, smattering relatively few products are custom tailored for this unique style of fishing. Like most outdoorspeople, however, kayak anglers have proven to be a crafty lot. **Necessity-driven** adaptations have been researched and developed by none other than John Q Public.



Unfortunately, JQP gets a solid unsatisfactory rating for kayak tackle storage, which sadly, never really got past the milk crate phase.

Not to worry; Plano's mavens of molding have been bothered by this sophomoric attempt at ingenuity as well. Determined to develop a better tackle storage option for kayaks, these obsessed professional angling engineers locked themselves in a well-lit room with a big white board and didn't leave until they had multiple solutions to the kayak fishermen's tackle storage woes. No really, they actually did – defining kayak zones, constructing qualitative and quantitative research models, debating ideal dimensions and angles and whole lot of other geeky stuff. And then they had real live pro kayak anglers test and refine their prototypes on the water.

New for 2018, the Plano Kayak V-Crate takes 'yak-friendly waterproof tackle storage to the ultimate level. The highly ergonomic design easily fits in the rear cargo compartment of almost any fishing kayak and the clever, unobtrusive two-piece design securely stores and protects fishing tackle in a unique V-shape that makes accessing essential tackle items from the cockpit an easy proposition. Each angled tackle storage bay holds two large 3700-size StowAway utility boxes, secured by a quick release rubber strap, while the tops of storage bays are recessed with a drainage slot for securing wet lures and flies or other essentials.

The V-Crate provides ample space for an assortment of larger items in the center module's open bulk

storage. Load it up with gear, and you'll still find room to store your lunch. No worries, the interior of the angled tackle storage bays as well as the center module also feature drain holes to eliminate pooling water.

Finished in a subtle twotone gray with red
accents, the compact VCrate is built on an
elevated base that is —
you guessed it — the size
of a milk crate. The main
unit can be quickly
detached from the base
for ease of transport
with the built-in, folding
handle. It's also hinged.
Tilt the main module
back to access your



phone, wallet or other valuables inside the base's waterproof compartment, or adjust the V-Crate's overall profile by hinging it backward for low clearance situations. The super versatile V-Crate also features a side rail system that allows for easy attachment of accessories, including rod holders.

Plano Kayak V-Crate

- Model No. PLAM80700
- Unique V-shape provides easy side access especially for those with limited mobility
- Each side holds two StowAway® utility boxes
- Angled fit and rubber straps keep sides secure but open for easy viewing
- Large, open bulk storage in center module
- Drain holes in open storage compartments
- Waterproof compartment in base secures valuables
- Unit hinges backward to accommodate low clearance
- Side rail system easily attaches rod holders and other accessories
- Compact, elevated base (milk crate size) fits most kayak models
- Detach main unit from base for easy transport or stowing
- Four #23750 3700 Series StowAways included
- Product size: 26"L x 16.2"W x 18.1"H

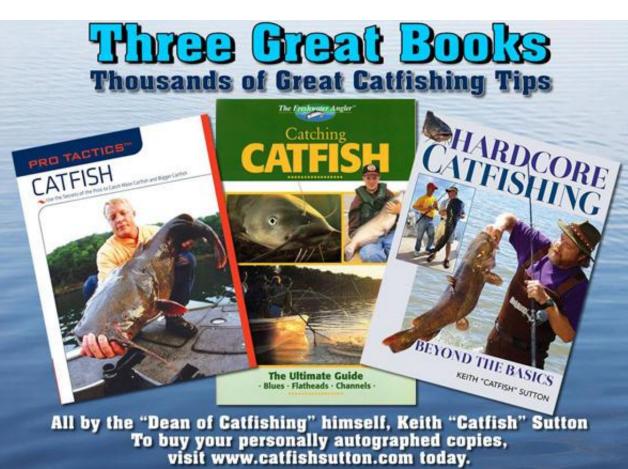
Convenient, weatherproof tackle storage should be the least of your worries when dealing with wind, current and waves while sitting in a kayak. Thankfully, Plano's all-new Kayak V-Crate has your back. Get



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

to those hot baits when the fish are blitzing - even if your mobility is less than athlete-level. Forget

about twisting precariously reach a crate full of miscellaneous gear. No more throbbing shoulders and tweaked backs; no more hooks stuck in fingers or other soft objects. The versatile V-Crate helps kayak anglers fish how they really want to fish clean... and where boaters and even other kayakers have yet dared to go.





SERSONED PERSPECTIVES ON TURKEYS

By Passion for the Hunt

Hunters love turkey hunting in large part because of the interaction between hunter and bird. A neverending challenge where birds respond to calling and decoys with a range of emotions that span from

aggressiveness to nonchalant. Getting a turkey to posture and respond in your face is all about getting a bird fired up and there are few hunters who have fired up as many turkeys as Bruce "Wickerbill" Crist.

Wickerbill, as his friends call him, is a hillbilly with an easy smile who has spent an entire life devoted to dog training, taxidermy and guiding. Growing up hunting turkeys in the Ozarks and never having a traditional nine to five job, the man is a throwback of sorts. The man has also killed a lot of turkeys over forty years of guiding.

"As I have gotten older, I am using a blind much more and kill a lot of turkeys using blinds," explains Crist. Blinds just hide so much movement and are exceptional for introducing kids and beginning hunters to turkey hunting.

"I typically leave blinds out for the season, so I can get into the location as quietly as possible in the morning, but you can set up a blind the morning of your hunt and kill a turkey," states Crist.



Any blind that allows for shooting while concealing your movement will work and blinds work great in conjunction with decoys.

Decoys work best in locations with good visibility. Classic locations include clear cuts, meadows, field edges and ridges. Seemingly designed for turkey hunting, many hunters are excited to test the new Primos Double Bull SurroundView 360 Blind this spring because you can see through the blind fabric 360 degrees around the blind with no blind spots.

Admittedly, decoys work best on private ground where there is not as much pressure. High pressure public land can create decoy shy birds. "If you are hunting public land where the birds see a lot of hunters, stay away from decoys and just use calling but also remember that less is more with pressured birds," stresses Crist.

When you have situations where birds will or do respond to decoys, realistic is almost always better. "Decoys seem to work best in high visibility areas and turkeys have excellent vision. I used to use stuffers, but they were difficult to transport and hard to take care of. With some of the new decoys like the Dakota Decoy and Avian X, the realism is pretty close to what we had with the stuffers.

Crist offers some additional tips and insights. Early in the season, focus on using hen decoys. Satellite gobblers are much easier to kill when the birds are still bunched up but remember to call to the boss hen.

As the season progresses, jake and gobbler decoys begin to work more effectively. Late season long beards often get aggressive and decoys can fire up a response from dominate bird. Hens typically begin to lay around the middle of April in the upper Midwest this process and takes about 15-18 days to lay the entire clutch. As the season progresses, hens will leave for their nest around mid-morning and the middle of the



day can be a prime time for killing a long beard gobbler. "When the hens are on the nest, there isn't as much competition and you aren't fighting the allure of real birds, so these gobblers can be much easier to kill," stresses Crist.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

Regardless of whether you are hunting early season or late with the combination of blinds and decoys, remember to use patience. Get comfortable and set up for the duration of the day. If you put in your time in a good location, you will get some interaction in due time. Be patient and don't over call. "In South Dakota where I do a lot of hunting, we don't have a lot of roosting areas so you really have to be careful with the roost. If you burn a roost, you are done. Typically, I like to hang back at least 500 yards from a roost and wait the birds out. This insures that I continue to have good hunting year after year," explains Crist.

As turkey populations continue to expand across the Midwest and new opportunities emerge where there were none just a generation before, more hunters are discovering the magic of love-stricken gobblers and the spring woods. For introducing new and young hunters especially, todays blind and decoy tactics provide both entertainment and success.

Passion for the Hunt Television airs July through October on Fox Sports North at 9:00 am Sundays. More information can be found at www.passionforthehunt.com.

Vision of an African Safari

By Jofie Lamprecht

An email notification dings in my inbox - a safari enquiry. I answer, and the correspondence starts. An email unanswered for more than 18 hours equals a lost safari. That's my thought.

Patrick had a lot of questions, so I sent him our "Safari Preparation Guideline" – 20 pages of answers to questions most people ask, whether it's their first or twentieth safari.

Personal information needed: Dietary safari requirements, and medical information. Travel advice: insurance, documents, travel traveling with firearms photographic and equipment, and immigration forms.



Particulars on daily routine: recommended reading, safari payments, gratuities, donations, shopping, climate gear guide, what to pack, and taxidermy information.

Patrick was full of questions. Back and forth, dates, deposit, contract – finally all done. All we had to look forward to was safari.

Having received passports from newly married Patrick and Darby before their arrival, I knew what they looked like – the brunette versions of Barbie and Ken... Both handsome and extraordinarily beautiful is an understatement!





Patrick had seen a National Geographic documentary about kudu a couple of years before. This was his first hunt as well as first safari, but our nemesis was a giant 200-pound black wildebeest. We could simply not get one in the salt — no matter distance or situation. The first three days were almost Patrick's last. The usual upbeat safari-talk was low and muted. There was little talk around the dining tables — it felt like day 13 of a 14-day elephant or leopard hunt with no success...

Then Day 4 saw us beat our antagonist, and the joys of safari started in earnest. Everything was new; no trophy was uninteresting. Now excited, we started enjoying the wondrous magic of Africa.

At the top of Patrick's trophy list was the object of his desire —the "grey ghost". We hunted hard, Patrick and Darby up for any physical exertion I proposed. We drove, parked and walked until we were successful. Our trophy tally climbed, and Africa's magic infected the couple - a honeymoon on safari.

The purple-pink dusk of evening was setting in as we were rounding the edge of a granite kopje in an area often called 'The land God made in anger' — western Namibia's Khomas Hochland. A tap on the roof of the truck from Daniel, the resident tracker brought us to a halt. I stepped out, and saw a finger pointing at our 11 o'clock. I started scanning, understanding from the angle and direction that we were looking for the "grey ghost". The kopje had a small plateau, falling to vertical cliffs below, which is where the vegetation started. Camphor bush was mixed with a variety of other edible bushes, and this is what the "ghost" fed on. The sun had set behind the kopje, casting a shadow on our side, cutting the light now by several stops. Then a jerk of turning horns caught my attention. An old kudu bull straightened his head to start walking, relying on his cryptic colors. Shooting sticks, rifle, and no time to lose. We set off through the formidable theater strewn with ankle-twisting rocks.

I set our course to intercept the kudu's descent, hoping to get to the ledge that overlooked the next valley and hoping to get a chance. With the light waning, we were holding our breaths the whole way. We crested the valley — nothing. We stood for the last minutes of light for the bull to emerge out of nowhere, but to no avail.





A sable was on also our trophy list, so we moved to an area where they were more prevalent. The Land Cruiser churned up a steep mountain, careful not to spin the tires, or wear them out faster than need be. Another tap on the roof stopped us on the ascent. Daniel pointed across a vast valley. "I think there is something under that tree." Irritated, I got out. The opposite mountain was more than two miles distant. There is absolutely no way anyone could see anything while bouncing around in the back of the Cruiser. Raising my optics I scanned the opposite ridge with squinted eyes.

"Where?" I asked, still irritated.

"There is a large Camel thorn tree just under the ridge. In its shade I think something is lying there."

Scanning, I found the tree, and looked. "There is something, but I don't know." I took the shooting sticks to stabilize my binoculars, and focused on the spot. The sweep of a horn caught my eye, in the black-on-black shadow of the hot, late morning.

"Sable!" I said to Patrick. "My goodness, that is a long way off." I congratulated Daniel on seeing so far – irritation gone. Patrick had a look. Big tree, shadow. Yes. There.

"I can't see what it is, but how the hell are we going to get there?" he asked.

We studied the terrain and we worked out that there was a road to our left of the bull. We could drive around till we were able to get closer. Swinging the Cruiser around, our tires ate rocks until we were near enough. We needed to hurry. In the next hour or so our quarry was going to get up from his siesta and start feeding. We knew exactly where he was - "Let's move." We got out of the Cruiser and dropped down our first ravine. With rocks underfoot we had to be careful not to fall, or make too much noise. Our wind was decent, but not great. We were approaching from the downhill side — not good, but better than nothing.

We got to the bottom of the ravine. Which of the valleys was going to take us up to this animal and





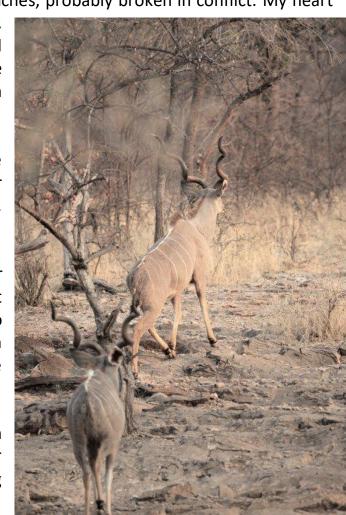
which would bust us? I chose, and we started climbing. Slow, sure, with secure footing, we crept up. After almost an hour of down-and-up we got to the rim of the ridge. My first clue was the giant acacia we had previously seen across the valley. I found a camphor bush that we could crawl up behind to avoid detection. Peeking around the bush I saw what we were looking for - at 80 yards, in the shade where we had first spotted him. My breath caught – WOW! What a magnificent, old and long trophy, at least 44 inches. We had found a beauty. I paused. The sable turned his head slightly. NO. Can't be... His left horn, magnificent. His right - a stump of 12 to 13 inches, probably broken in conflict. My heart

sank. I slid down to Patrick. "Look," I said, "I made a mistake. He only has one horn, the other is broken. Let's go and find you another." Patrick looked at me. "Can I see him?" We crept up to behind our vantage point and sat there in silence.

"We hunted him," Patrick said. "He is ours, and I would like to take him as my trophy." I was stunned for a second. For most European hunters, a broken trophy shows character. For Americans, symmetry or close to, it was preferred.

I unscrewed my African Sporting Creations carbon-fiber shooting sticks and we prepared. "You are going to shoot sitting flat on your butt. I will crawl over into that bush — no thorns — and set up the sticks. Get to me and then get on the sticks. Get comfortable, and shoot when you ready. He does not know we are here."

Silently we made our moves, and were ready. "Shoot right in the middle of his shoulder." As the shot broke, so did our objective, jumping straight up with a clatter and crashing



down the valley and out of sight. We all burst through the bush to see where he had gone, and found him standing motionless across the valley. Patrick raised his rifle, but I held up my hand. "Wait!" And as

we watched, with a gentle sway, over he went.

What a stalk! Sweat fell from our brows, all forgotten in the elation of the successful hunt, a feeling that is incomprehensible, impossible to describe to non-hunters.

One of the challenges in the land God made in anger is getting a vehicle in to load your trophy. With bushes scratching down the side of the Cruiser, low gears engaged, we inched down the mountain to collect our prize.

After lunch we went in search of Namibia's endemic Hartmann's zebra. In most places in this area this is not a problem at all - the retrieval is the only issue, and by late afternoon we had collected a splendid, large Hartmann's zebra stallion.

Rushing to get back to where we had hunted the evening before, and passing on a old, but not huge kudu bull along the way — we approached the kopje where the grey ghost had evaded us just 23 hours earlier. Reaching the foot of the kopje we got out and started scanning. Within 30 feet of where we saw the bull the previous evening was not just one, but three kudu bulls, two of them shooters. The one that had caught my attention the previous day with the bold, out-swept horn-tips was the chosen one.

The sticks went up and Patrick got set. A 150-yard shot. Having attended the SAAM (Sportsman's Allweather All-terrain Marksmanship) shooting school in Texas, this was a simple chip shot for Patrick. As he settled on the sticks I could feel the tension, hunched shoulders and rapid breathing. I put my hand on his shoulder.

"Lift your head, take a deep breath, aim and shoot when you are ready". He did just that. I crawled in under his elbow to give him extra support.



The shot broke, and so did the three kudu bulls, taking the same direction as the previous evening. Light was not in our favor, so we scooted double time up the rubble to the same point. I got to the edge of the next valley first — huffing and puffing from excitement.

To my right he lay, though not as majestic as when he was standing. I turned and looked Patrick, smiled and pointed, and slapped him on the back. Emotion showed on his face as his vision of an African safari was realized at last light, on the last night.

We left Patrick there. We left him on bent knee in appreciation of the life that he took, the animal that drew him to Africa, hand outstretched on the cooling neck.

Patrick has the bug. We hunted buffalo the following year, and the next will take us to South Africa for spiral horns. He is already planning years in advance.

BIO:

Namibian-born Jofie is a

licensed PH in both plains-game and dangerous-game hunting in Namibia, proud to uphold the traditions of ethical and fair-chase hunting, loving to walk Namibia's varied terrain, from desert to high mountains to sub-tropical environments. He works hard to get his hunters close to the game, enjoys sharing his country's wildlife and unique environment with visitors, and has a special place in his heart for the children who come on safari.





TWENTY PRE SEASON TURKEY TIPS

By Jay Anglin

Wild turkeys are almost as fickle as the springtime weather we experience while hunting them. These and other factors often combine to limit opportunities for turkey-hunting success to just a few hours of hunting per season. Solid preparation is imperative. Serious turkey hunters are prepared to deal with any situation and leave nothing to chance.

Turkey hunting is a fairly simple affair from a gear standpoint, but there are still plenty of things to consider prior to the season. Don't wait until the day before the season begins to get organized. Here are 20 tips to help ensure you're prepared for opening day.

1. Inspect and try on clothing and footwear. It may be time to replace a faded pair of hunting pants or leaky boots. While turkeys aren't known for their sense of smell, deer are. Nervous whitetails have ruined countless turkey hunts when they blew and ran right as Ol' Tom was strutting into the decoys. If you are shopping for new turkey duds, consider buying lightweight scent-control apparel like any one of ScentLok's many Early Season designs.

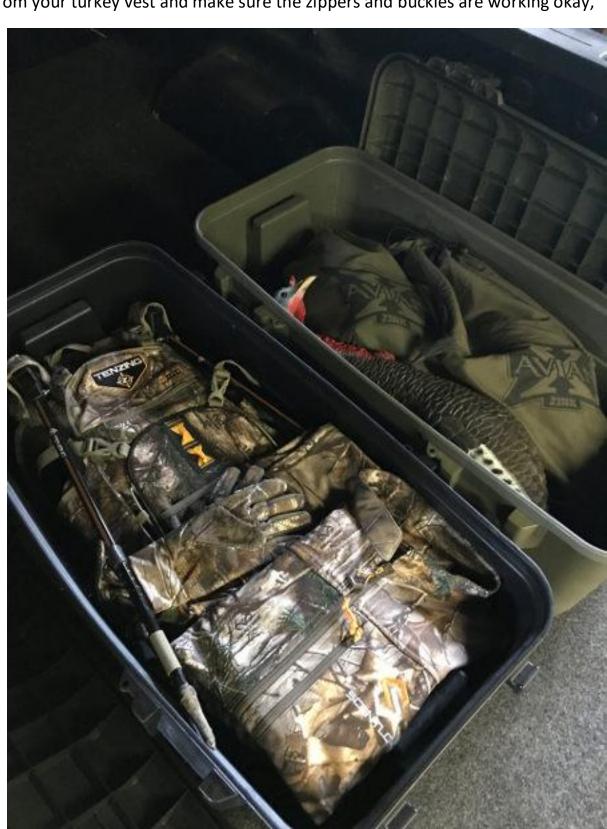


- 2. Packable rain suits are game changers when faced with crummy weather. Check for rips and tears that need mending. This vital piece of gear is often put away wet and ends up having that smell. This is a great time to wash them. Run and gun hunters who don't have a rain suit should seriously consider the investment.
- 3. Use a large tote such as a Plano Sportsman's Trunk to store clothing critical gear so you're always organized and ready to go. If you want to keep your clothing as scent-free as possible, keep it in the ozone and activated carbon-powered OZ Chamber 8k Storage Bag by ScentLok.

4. Remove everything from your turkey vest and make sure the zippers and buckles are working okay,

and repair as needed. Again, they don't last forever and it may be time for a new one.

- 5. Wash or replace that stinky facemask and make sure you have a backup or two available.
- Go through calls and make sure all of them are in working order - prep them for active duty. Diaphragm calls are often in poor condition and need to be replaced. Take inventory of what you need and stock up. Keep mouth worn-in calls you've practiced with in your vest ready to hunt and have extras available.
- 7. Be sure your vest has other essentials such as biodegradable wipes, insect repellent, lens wipes and an energy bar or two.
- 8. It's always good to have backup items such



as camo gloves and facemasks, especially if you plan on taking others hunting.

9. Pattern your shotgun(s). Try to replicate actual hunting conditions when possible by wearing full head camo, vest and boots. Shoot while leaning against a backrest like you would during an actual hunt.



10. Pattern guns with different loads and

choke combos. Inexperienced hunters and youths who may have difficulty holding the gun steady should consider using a slightly more open choke that offers a bigger pattern inside of 30 yards. Practice in the comfort zone, not ridiculously long ranges that increase the odds of missing or wounding birds.

- 11. Practice with lighter loads that don't promote a flinch. Use the big stuff during the actual hunt. Smaller statured hunters should consider using a lighter 20 gauge that offers less weight and reduced recoil.
- 12. Clean and adjust your binoculars so they work perfectly for you. If they aren't working properly or have terrible optics, consider buying some good ones. Also, reputable manufacturers back their glass with great warranties. If your good ones aren't functioning properly contact the company to learn about your options.



- 13. Devices that protect your binoculars and keep them close to your chest are great for turkey hunting. Specialized products like the Tenzing TZ OSS15 are invaluable for protecting quality glass during the hunt.
- 14. Trim your decoys down to what you really use and keep them in the big tote or available in your vehicle. Today's decoys work better because they are incredibly realistic. Some are also durable, collapsible and fit neatly into a provided carry bag, such as the broad range of poses and sub-species available in Avian-X's LCD series. Turkeys aren't getting any dumber, so it's time to get serious about your decoys.
- 15. Even if you don't hunt from a ground blind often, have one ready for inclement weather or when you have a fidgety hunting partner. They're also great for early season hunts when there isn't a lot of vegetation for cover. Select one that has enough room for two or three hunters like the innovative new Ameristep Distorter. Run and gun turkey hunters can also benefit from the fast and highly portable concealment afforded by a smaller three panel blind like the Ameristep Throwdown Blind. This ultra portable model weighs less than two pounds fits easily into a turkey vest.
- 16. If you hunt public land, make sure no rules have changed since last season.
- 17. If you hunt private land, be sure and check-in with landowners. Ask if anybody else is hunting, where you can and cannot park, etc.
- 18. If you plan on traveling, be sure you can get permits. Some states offer leftovers; if you missed the draw or didn't get in, there still may be hope.
- 19. Consistently successful turkey hunters never leave well enough alone when it comes to hunting spots. Do your homework and scout the countryside. Always shoot for a net gain of hunting property with each new season.
- 20. Last but not least, start scouting religiously. Be there early to listen to birds before fly down and then take a ride and see where they are spending time. Do the same in the afternoon. Right before the season, roost a few gobblers to make sure you have options on opening morning.

Turkey hunting may seem like a simple affair, but most hunters should expect to get out what they put in. With a little bit of preparation and planning, the success factor increases tremendously. Good luck on opening morning.



STREAMLIGHT DUALIE, RECHARGEABLE MAGNETIC FLASHLIGHT

www.streamlight.com

By Gary Elliott

Had the pleasure of hooking up with Streamlight again to review one of their unique, functional and well-constructed flashlights. The Dualie was no exception and really impressed me with not only its 2 bright LED lights but the functionality of the flashlight with magnets.

The Dualie easily lights up the path ahead of you while out at night and recharging is as easy as setting the flashlight into the charger dock and waiting about around 8 hours for a full charge. With a 5hr run time on high beam and just over 13 hrs on low beam, giving more than enough time to find your game, finish up that job or way home.

Now to congratulate Streamlight on putting two strong magnets in the perfect spots to utilize the flashlight hands free and strong enough to actually hold the flashlight in place. With two available lights, one straight on like a traditional flashlight and the side light make it a great light to use when working around the shop, outside or on your vehicle.

I tested its ruggedness by tossing the flashlight several times while turned on at a height of 8 feet and at impact the light never went out or flickered thanks to the high impact plastic





that surrounds the internal parts and light housing in the front. Having had some very frigid temps down to zero and slightly below I left the flashlight out long enough to bring the flashlight temp to the outside temp and it did not disappoint and turned on and worked.

Listed below are features that accompany the Dualie:

- Features two LEDs and three lighting modes: spot, flood, spot/flood combo
 - o Spot: 180 lumens, 171m beam, runs 7.25 hours
 - o Flood: 105 lumens; 18m beam; runs 13.5 hours
 - o Spot/Flood combo: 275 lumens; runs 5.5 hours
- IP67- dust tight; waterproof to 1m for 30 minutes; 2m impact resistance tested
- Beams intersect for optimum path illumination and no blind spots
- Dual head switches on either side of the body for easy beam selection and onehanded operation
- Durable, non-conductive, corrosionproof polymer resin; rocky stipple texture for a sure grip
- Unbreakable polycarbonate face cap and side lens with scratch-resistant coating
- Rugged, integrated, snag-free clip conforms to body of light; grabs onto shirts, pockets and gear for hands-free us
- Lithium ion battery recharges within 8 hours; can be recharged 300-400 times, then down to 80% of the battery capacity
- Operating temperature: -20°F to 130°F. (To maintain hazardous locations rating: -20°C to 40°C)
- 7.5" (19.05 cm); 7.09 oz. (201g)

Overall, the flashlight is everything you need in a flashlight, 2 convenient lights, 2 well placed and strong magnets, lightweight, durable and a high and low beam. Pricing on the web is around \$70.00.

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RENOWNED COYOTE HUNTER

Sheri Baity is no stranger to predator Born raised hunting. and in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Sheri grew up in the great outdoors. Whether it was trout fishing or hunting groundhog, whitetail, turkey or black bear, Sheri's first love was being outside. She married a dairy farmer in 1992 and not only found herself on a working dairy farm established in 1848, but facing a devastating problem: coyotes. She set her mind to learn about coyote hunting and learn she did. One year in the month of October, Sheri took 17 coyotes on her property. Word spread in her small community and the next thing she knew, she was helping other farms out with their coyote problems.

Not one to let a good story go to waste, Sheri took up the pen and wrote about her hunting adventures for outdoor magazines.

Meet Sheri Baity Pennsylvania
native actively
seeking to change
laws affecting
hunting in her
state.



Her book, "Coyote Hunting Farm Style," was released in 2001. While working with a game call company, she traveled to Bass Pro Shops®, Cabela's® and Gander Mtn® stores giving coyote hunting seminars and demonstrating game calls. She is now the owner and president of her own game call company, Crow's Nest Calls.

As a predator hunter in Pennsylvania, Sheri was limited in what she could use for night time hunting. In her home state, red and green lights and spotlights are standard, but as a solo hunter, she wanted to travel light. Using only a 50mm scope and binoculars for light gathering, she was able to hunt from the half-moon to full moon or when complete snow cover was available. This severely limited her hunting options.

Sheri first ran across NiteSite™ at a SHOT Show in Las Vegas. The NiteSite team took time to explain the NiteSite set up to her. "These guys from England just pulled me right into their world of the coolest equipment I have ever seen. They took the time and thoroughly showed me the equipment and explained things," Sheri recalled. "Then they took me into the blackout room and demonstrated the infrared system. All the possibilities in my mind just opened up to what doors this equipment would open up!"

Within the year, Sheri became a NiteSite system owner. And not just any ordinary owner. As passionate as she is about coyote hunting and teaching the skills to new hunters, she is passionate about her NiteSite system. She explained, "One of the first things I learned before I got my (hunting) license is to 100 percent identify your target before you pull that trigger! NiteSite is the only equipment that I have found in over 25-years of coyote hunting that can do that and so much more! Without a doubt, you can clearly identify, see the back stop and precisely know what is coming to your call with crisp clear detail."

Living on a farm and in a rural community, the ability to clearly identify your target and clearly differentiate between a farmer's dog and a coyote is extremely beneficial. "You can definitely tell what livestock is, horses and what are predators with the NiteSite system," she added. "I have put ranchers and farmers at ease, once they look at the equipment. Places that wouldn't allow predator control on their property at night for fear that their livestock would be shot by mistake, have changed their minds once they saw what I would be using. Other types of equipment out there in the market is just substandard, in my opinion. NiteSite in my books is the only way to 100 percent identify your target properly. NiteSite takes the guessing out of predator hunting."

But, unfortunately for Sheri and other predator hunters in Pennsylvania, the NiteSite system is not legal. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) has deemed the use of infrared or laser beam for night time hunting illegal. States on Pennsylvania's border, such as New York and Ohio, have opened up night time use of infrared for hunting predators. She feels it is time her home state does the same. Sheri has been a voice of change for the past several years from letter writing to actively engaging in conversations with state legislatures, Game Commission and the Tioga County Farm Bureau on behalf of the State Farm Bureau. Now, as working on behalf of the Pennsylvania Predator Hunter Association, she is continuing her pursuit of changing the current law.

"Right now, I have to go out of state to hunt to use infrared in our predator hunting. It is a shame that after all my traveling and returning back home I then have to go back to the old ways.

Protection on my farm and the surrounding farms are still in need," Sheri explained. "We are part time hunters, hunting the full-time hunter (referring the coyote population)."

Part of the problem is a lack of education on the benefits of the NiteSite infrared system. Game commissioners fear this type of night vision system would provide poachers with an advantage. Sheri refutes these claims, "All the surrounding states that have already allowed this equipment have done it with no impact on the species, according to biologists in Ohio and New York that I have spoken with. At no time has any of this type of equipment been confiscated during a poacher's arrest. According to law enforcement, the poachers are still using the traditional spotlights. We predator hunters should not be put in the same class as poachers!"

"Another argument that was brought to the Game Commission was that it is not 'fair game.' They also said you can't see the backstop behind the animal," continued passionately. "The use of a NiteSite system is fair game. It doesn't make you better shooter, you do that. It does make you a better predator hunter, offer better choices, less guessing and helps you make more ethical shots by using their equipment. The NiteSite system allows the hunter to see everything in front of, beside and behind the coyote with a clear precise picture, even in the darkest of night. It's like watching a black and white movie!"

The NiteSite system converts a day scope into a powerful night vision device with a quick and simple set up. Three different models





allow hunters to hunt successfully, whether it is short, medium or long range. The NiteSite comes with adaptable fittings that allow it to easily mount on virtually any make or size of scope without rezeroing. Switch it on and go. Sheri summed up her experience with the NiteSite systems, "After using NiteSite equipment all over the country and talking about it, I can say, number one, it has instilled a certain confidence within me. I know what I have is top notch equipment in my bag of tricks. I know that I will not be pulling the trigger on something that I shouldn't. I know that I can go out there and help farmers

and ranchers with minimum gear to carry, which leads to a freedom of movement to get the job done. I know the company has my back if there is ever an issue with their product. And all of the above spells confidence to me. The NiteSite night vision system has totally taken my predator hunting to a whole new level."

Meanwhile, Sheri is still pursuing her passion of coyote hunting and pursuing a change of laws for predator hunters in her home state of Pennsylvania.

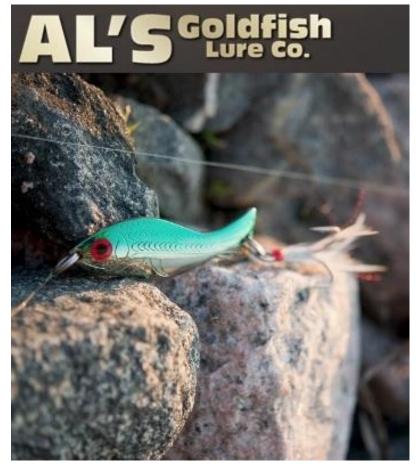


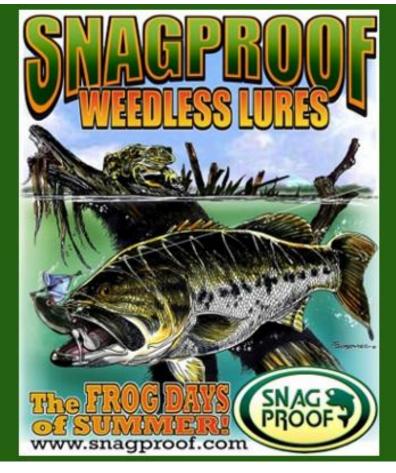




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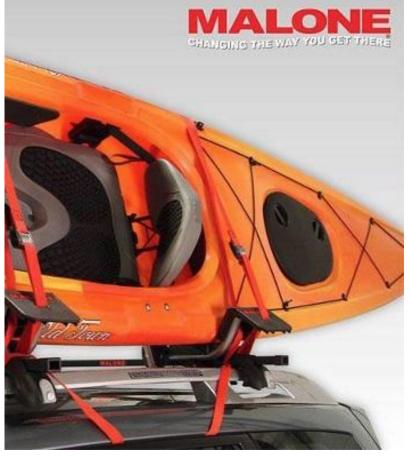








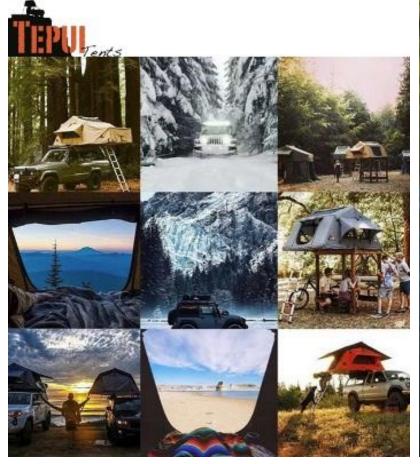


















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