

CRAPPIE NOW!

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

fishhound Crappie.com
real-time fishing reports

August 2016 - Issue #66



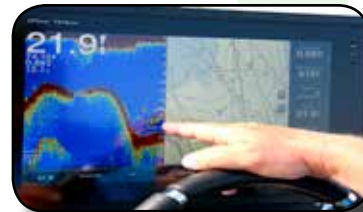
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by Tim Huffman

Working a ledge is nothing new, but here are some advanced tricks for picking the right one.



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Catching river crappie can be a challenge. Here are strategies you need for facing current and different situations.



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Crappie change habits in the summer but they don't disappear. Pros tell how to catch them.



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Billy Don Surface pulls a good stringer of Truman Lake crappie into the boat.
Tim Huffman photo.

Opening Cast

Many fishermen believe fishing for crappie in the summertime is extremely difficult and after the spawn, they disappear and become very hard to catch. As with bass or any other fresh water species, their habits change to adjust to the conditions in which they live. The tactics to catch them must change, too.



Recently, I was fortunate to spend some time with George Toalson, Lure Designer and Manager for Gene Lerew and Bobby Garland Crappie Baits. George is a diver and has spent significant time studying fish habits, underwater bait presentations, and other observations. He reminded me that a crappie has a very small brain and lives by adjusting to its surroundings and food.

The crappie's watery world changes temperatures quickly when it warms, less oxygen may be present. More direct sunlight with longer days and clear skies create more light penetration into the water warming the water deeper than other times of the year. Less oxygen slows the fish down so they can become more territorial setting up residence in brush piles, stumps, etc. They will seek out areas with more oxygen as well. This can mean deeper water to escape the light and heat.

We tend to over think these attributes as the fish must eat more because the warmer the water the faster they're bodies burn energy and require food. When they are active, they will feast on schools of minnows or shad. The fish will feed more often; travel if necessary to seek out the food. But, due to the oxygen levels may do so efficiently and effectively.

During my visit with George, he stated that while observing crappie relating to brush piles, he saw two different habits or personalities. Some were home bodies and stayed, fed near to their homes and rarely ever left it as long as it had all the elements it needed: protection; oxygen; and food. While observing them, out of the darkness would come a school of crappie. He said there would be thousands of all sizes to include some trophy fish. As quickly as they would come, they were gone. He said none of the individuals would stay and hang out on the brush. These are rovers.

Keep these habits in mind. Use the proper tactics to catch both the home bodies and the rovers, even in the heat of the summer. Night fishing can be fantastic in the summer.

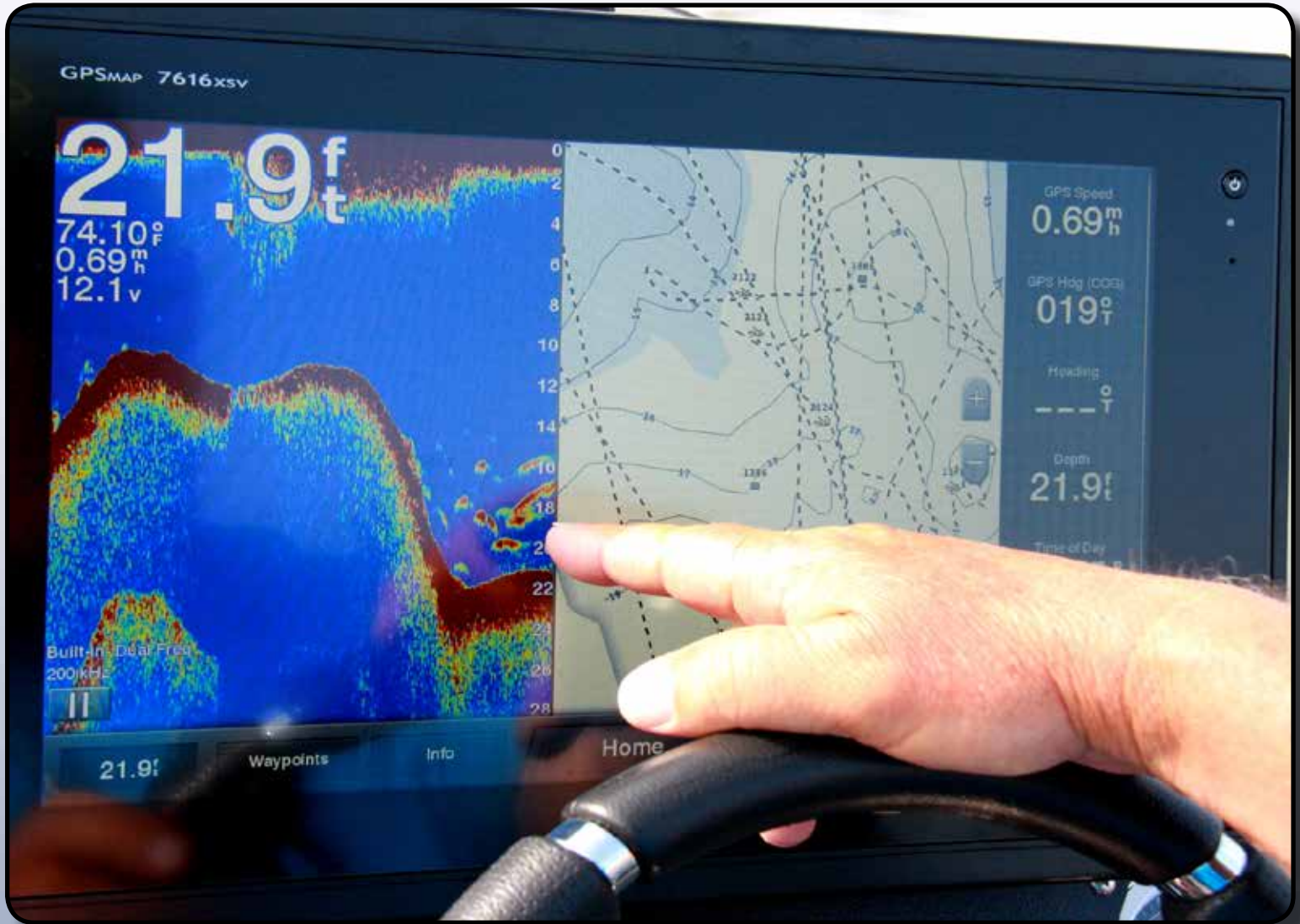
God Bless and Good Fishing,
Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher

Seasonal Structure

by
**Tim
Huffman**

It's hot. Crappie have had a few months of hot weather and hot water especially in the southern half of the country. The northern

says Dan Dannenmueller. He is CrappieNow Publisher and is a regular on the Crappie Master Tournament Trail with partner Garrett



half gets warm but has better conditions for both the fish and fisherman. No matter what part of the country a crappie lives, there are tactics and spots where they can be caught. Electronics is the key to all of these spots.

Shaded Channel Ledges

“This morning we are targeting ledges,”

Electronics are primary tools when searching underwater structure. Dannenmueller uses his Garmin unit to look for just the right spot along a ledge.

Steele. "It's important to pay attention to the sun especially in the summer."

Dannenmueller explained that it took him many trips over the years to figure out the pattern the crappie were using in the

"I use Garmin for several reasons but primarily because they are on the cutting edge of technology..."

summer on his home waters, the Alabama River. Fishing is a matter of experienced mixed with paying attention to details. He says the pattern is really simple once a fisherman understands what the fish are doing.

"We would fish these channels, like we are doing today, and would catch fish in the morning but they would quit in the middle of the day and we had trouble getting back on them. What we figured out was that shade is a key factor. The good channel ledge in the morning was shaded on the drop-off. Crappie would get there and actively feed. But by 10:00 in mid-morning they would quit. We fished deeper and shallower but could not find active fish.

"A couple of trips we started moving across the channel when the fish quit biting. Provided the opposite side drop was shaded, the crappie would be there and be active. So we learned it by accident but once it happened we studied to learn what was happening. Of course once we figured it out it seemed very simple. And, it's something that should apply to any body of water you fish.

Three Steps to Ledge Success

The first step is to use your mapping to find channels and ledges. Hard copy maps work fine. Electronic mapping is easier if you have it. Once a channel is found it's time to fine-tune the search.

"Electronics is a key to almost any kind of fishing," says Dannenmueller, "especially when fishing underwater drops and ledges.

The first thing is to find the channels using mapping and then use sonar to pinpoint them. Once found, zooming and down viewing screens can help detail a spot to know if fish are there and how they are relating to the structure.

Step two is looking for specific depths. In our example, also, we were targeting shaded drops. The shaded side will be obvious because of the position of the sun. Finding the right depths might require some searching and looking. Once the right depths are found it's time for step number three.

Step three is looking for specific cover. "An ideal cover along a ledge is a big stump with roots on it. The large, dominate fish



The results of finding the right structure, cover and fish.





often claim that prime spot. If you can get a bait to the fish without getting hung up there is an excellent chance you'll catch it. I love bumping the baits against the cover and leave them setting there."

More Ledge Stuff

Dannenmueller says a creek channel with turns and bends are ideal. "The fish just love these changes in a channel. When you have the changes you will also shade and probably plenty of cover. Everything you need."

He says it's important for a weekend fisherman to know that this is a tactic that anyone can do. Basic equipment and a basic sonar unit will do the job. The key is to follow the proper steps and take time to know exactly where you need to fish before wetting a hook. It's easier to search when hooks are out of the water.

Serious fishermen, guides and tournament fishermen are going to have

After finding the spot, spider rigging allows numbers of baits to be pushing into the ledge or cover. Dannenmueller and partner Garrett Steele concentration on the locator and pole tips.

more advanced electronics. The primary purpose of the higher priced units is to find fish quickly. There is less time wasted searching so more time is spent fishing.

"I use Garmin for several reasons but primarily because they are on the cutting edge of technology so I have the opportunity to have the best tools available for my fishing. The detail and resolution are second to none. It's a professional tool for serious fishermen.

"In our fishing along the ledge, Down Vu adds great detail where we can see everything down there including the fish. We can actually count the fish and get a good feel of their size. A newer option called PanOptix gives us a real-time look at movement and

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activity. It can be a game-changer especially for spider rig fishermen.

Another key element in late summer can be schools of shad. When all the elements of a good ledge are in place, the addition of ample baitfish can turn a good spot into a great spot.

“The schools of shad are important because crappie will be around them. They go after the bait. Some fish will follow the schools while others will stay in place, like on the ledge, and then ramp up their feeding when the bait comes in.”

Dannemueller says he is spider rigging this time of year because of bait control and multiple baits in the water. 8 to 15 feet is normal on the ledges to find the crappie, but they may move deeper or shallower depending upon conditions.

His rigs consist of minnows, jigs and combinations. Often, it’s a straight minnow

hook on top, a sinker in between and a Road Runner head with a Bobby Garland Swim’R body on bottom, tipped with a minnow. The bottom bait adds flash, color and natural action. Once a trend is found, baits will be geared to the best color and size bait.

“One last thing is the thermocline. It trumps all other conditions because fish will be above the thermocline no matter what. So if the thermocline is at 12 feet all the fish will be above that depth. Also note that some moving waters won’t have a thermocline to worry about.”

Mentioned in Article:

- Road Runner www.ttiblakemore.com
- Swim’R www.bobbygarlandcrappie.com
- Garmin www.garmin.com
- Dannemueller/Steele [facebook Crappie Country](https://www.facebook.com/CrappieCountry)

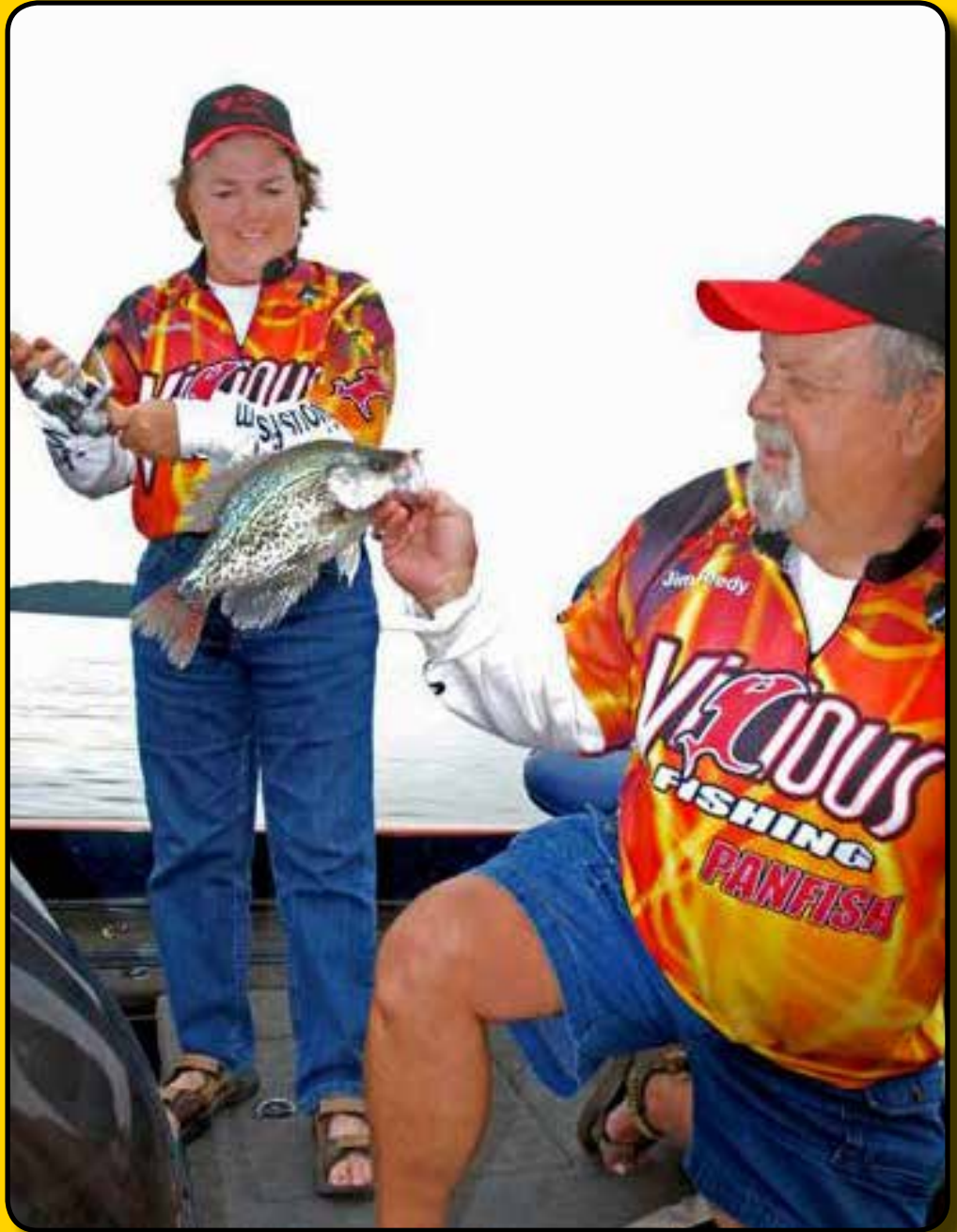
 - Tim Huffman

Where to Find Shallow Crappie in August

By John Phillips

Jim and Barbara Reedy, a husband-and-wife team from Charleston, Missouri, have tournament crappie fished for two decades. These two crappie fishermen also travel to about 20 tournaments each year all over the nation from Florida to Minnesota. "We like to travel the country, meet new people and learn a lot of new crappie techniques," Jim Reedy explains.

At this time of the year, the water across U. S. lakes is from warm to hot, and most fishermen think the crappie will be deep. We have found that the opposite is true. We'll often locate our crappie in 5 to 10 feet of water, or less. We're looking for big balls of schooling shad. Any place we can find the shad surfacing or running the banks, we'll generally pinpoint some crappie fairly close to those schools of shad. We may be fishing over 18 feet of



water, but perhaps we'll be catching crappie at 7- or 8-foot deep. Sometimes we'll find the shad close to shore, and we may catch crappie in 5 to 6 feet of water. We'll slow-troll with 12-foot rods. We prefer the Capps & Coleman Double Minnow Rigs and usually fish with live minnows, although from time to time we will fish with jigs tipped with minnows. Our favorite color jig is blue and chartreuse.

To learn more tips and tactics for catching crappie in the spring and summer check out *Crappie: How to Catch Them Spring and Summer* - <http://amzn.to/WGaJLT> available in either eBook or print book formats.

Crappie Basics #118

PanOptix & Bait Movements

There are many advancements in boat electronics. Wide scanning, down imaging, enhanced sonar and much more. Garrett Steele, half of the Crappie Country, Bobby Garland fishing team on the Crappie Masters National Tournament Trail, talks about using one of Garmin's advanced options.

"With PanOptix we get to see movement. We can have our baits out spider rigging and we can see fish moving around. We can move a bait a little and watch the fish converge on it. We can see a hit before we feel it. So the PanOptix, at times, can be a huge advantage.

"The point is, even though we don't watch for it all the time or see it with basic electronics, it's important to know that a fish can see and feel when a bait moves and that can draw a response from them. It doesn't mean they will all hit the bait but some will. So it's important for fishermen to know that a fish can be out of range yet can be drawn in with movement and vibration."



2017 Tentative Schedule

January 27, 28 St. John's River, Deland, FL

February 3, 4 Lake Talquin, Gadsden County, FL

February 24, 25 Lake D'Arbonne, Farmerville, LA

March 3, 4 Lake Greenwood, Greenwood, SC

March 11 Lakes Washington, Whittington, Lee, Ferguson, Paradise, Greenville, MS

March 24, 25 Grenada Lake, Grenada, MS

April 8 Lake Fork, Emory, TX

April 15 Lake of the Ozarks, Sunrise Beach, MO

April 22 Lake Eufaula, Eufaula, OK

River Reading'

By Ron Presley

The challenge of crappies in current. Catching crappie in the nation's rivers can be a challenge removed with the right information. The strategic difference between crappie fishing in lakes and rivers is current and ever changing conditions it causes in the rivers.

Pro crappie anglers Jonathan and Alicia Phillips describe river waters as a unique fishing experience. "A lot of people are not good at fishing the river because it is ever changing," explained Jonathan. "The brush pile you find one day may not be there the next. The big tree you found on Friday may not be there on Saturday. Similarly, the brush pile bite that was active at 8:00 am may dry up at 9:00 am because power generation stopped at the dam."

"You can be fishing 10 feet deep on one side and 4 feet deep on the other."

Jonathan and Alicia call the Alabama River their home waters, so they have a lot of experience fishing changing river conditions. "Weather and power generation are important factors in river fishing," continued Jonathan. "The current changes throughout the day depending on how much rain or how much power is being generated and moving water through the river. The change in the river can also depend on how many feeder creeks and branches there are. Here on the Alabama River there is always some natural current from the numerous creeks and branches."

"Brush piles and lay downs in backwaters are usually a good bet to stick around for a while," offered Jonathan. "The main river, however, can definitely switch gears on you after a period of heavy rain. Lodged trees will stick for a while and get silted in, but a flooding rain can change everything. Even those big trees will move down river."

"Crappies do not particularly like current, so we look for a hard bend in the river where an eddy backs up naturally off of the current. The swirl of water pulls bait fish in and that pulls the crappie in there with them."

Hard structure will cause crappie to accumulate too. "Sometimes you can find some good hard structure to fish the backside where it breaks that current," advised Jonathan. "The crappie will set there behind it, or they will go hide on the bottom to get out of the current. It might be a little hole, a rock or anything on the bottom that will break the river's flow."

Jonathan and Alicia are spider riggers at heart and love to push in the river. "I expect fish to be on the down current side of heavy brush, stumps or standing timber," predicted





Jonathan. "The structure breaks the current giving the crappie a slot to sit in for ambushing prey. They tend to point their nose into the current waiting on an easy meal."

If the current is strong Jonathan and Alicia agree with most other savvy river anglers. "Approaching a brush pile in heavy current should be done against the current," said Jonathan. "Other wise you will be hung

Alicia and Jonathan Phillips pull a crappie from the Alabama River. Knowing and reading current is an important part of river fishing.

up all day long. I like to tie on a Road Runner lure with a Ziptailz Skirt. Tip it with a minnow, use enough weight to keep the presentation vertical, and push right up to the structure."



River Readin'

On a sunny day with lighter current that same brush pile can possibly be fished from the topside. "Crappie on the Alabama river are more resistant to the current because they deal with it all the time," speculated Jonathan. "They will get out in it, but it must be a respectable amount, not anything moving too fast."

"On sunny days I look at the angle of the sun and draw an imaginary line into the water," instructed Jonathan. "The angle of the sun gives me an idea of the direction and length that a shadow on a stick-up or stump would run. I like to fish the shady side of structure. You don't have to be right next to the stump or standing timber, its just as much about the shade from the structure as the structure its self."

"The hardest part in the current is keeping your bait where the fish are. Especially if you're fishing structure, the current will take that bait into the brush and you are hung up all day long. You can't fish vertically when that current is so strong that it takes your line down stream rapidly."

"You can add more weight to fish in the current," continued Jonathan. "Upgrade to a quarter ounce jighead or change weights from a half-ounce to three-quarter ounce. Personally I like single bait rigs, one Road Runner head and a Ziptailz Skirt. The river has tons of structure, but a lot of people will still fish double rigs. Keeping bait in the water is more important to me. I would rather not be hung up as much."

In another piece of advice Jonathan suggests that anglers may give up too soon. "Sometimes people don't catch a fish and they move. A lot of times just keeping that Road Runner in the water and keeping it moving will surprise you."

Crappies congregate for a reason. "Crappie fishing is not about fishing a hole one time and forgetting it for the rest of the



Successful results like this include paying attention to depth. One side of the boat might be deeper than the other.

day," said Jonathan. "They may scatter as you fish through them, but new fish move in all day and you don't want to forget that."

Jonathan always looks at a river as having a low side and a high side that actually swaps sides of the boat. "The channel could run along the bank, as evidenced by a high bank, and that deep side is on your right. The shallow side is on your left."

"In the next bend the deep side may be on your left and the shallow side is on your right," continued Jonathan. "That plays into how you present the baits. You can be fishing 10 feet deep on one side and 4 feet deep on the other, but it all has to change in the next bend. Depth is one thing that I am constantly adjusting to keep the bait in the strike zone."

"I like to fish from deep water into shallow as opposed to starting shallow and going out deep," instructed Jonathan. "You want to pick your fish off going in instead

of going in on them first and spooking them. If I see a laydown or a fallen tree I will fish it from the outside before moving into the base near the bank. If you don't you're only going to get to fish one part of that tree."

The next time you crappie fish in a river heed Jonathan's advice. Crappies are going to be where it is easiest to feed and that's normally in a current break. Every river takes its own path and develops its own contours, so learn to read the river, understand structure, and find the calmer water. Not only will you have more fun, you'll take more crappie home for the dinner table.



Proper setup is important. Phillips spider rigging system includes Driftmaster Rodholders.

 - Ron Presley

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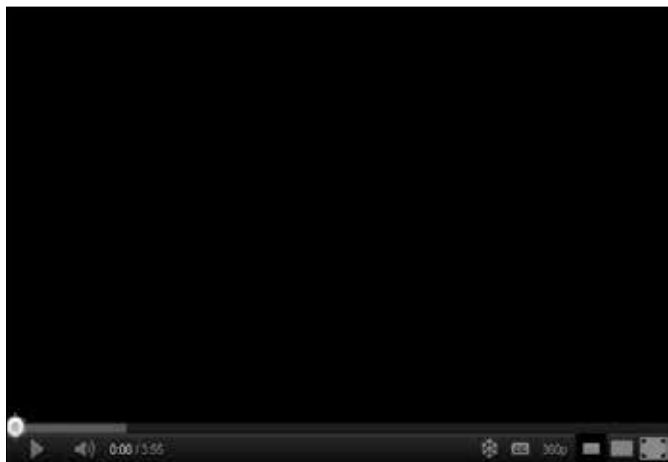


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Crappie Basics #119

Holders & Poles

“Sometimes it can be hard to see a bite on a pole. Maybe the sun is blinding, you’re busy doing something else or things might be going crazy in the boat. Our rods holders are numbered 1 through 8 by slot instead of by poles. If we call out “Number Five”, we know where to immediately grab. So if a pole or two is missing due to changing baits or removing a fish, it makes it easier to find and call out a bite by holder instead of pole. We immediately know where to grab whether eight or five poles are in the holders.”
 -Garrett Steele

The banner features a large image of a crappie fish on the left. At the top, a yellow navigation bar contains the following categories: BABY SHAD, SPEAR TAIL, SPLIT TAIL, Bobby Garland Crappie Baits (logo), SWIM TAIL, and JIGHEADS. Below the navigation bar, the word 'ACCESSORIES' is centered. To the right of the fish, the text reads: 'Bobby Garland Crappie Baits THE LEADER IN CRAPPIE PRODUCTS INNOVATION'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'We manufacture our baits with made-in-America pride using the finest soft-plastic injection molding equipment in the industry. With Bobby Garland a good day of fishing is in the bag.'

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 (Image shows two bait types, one with a purple head and one with a yellow head, both with a 'NEW' badge.)
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 (Image shows four different colored jigheads: red, green, blue, and pink, all with a 'NEW' badge.)
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Fishing #1 New Product Showcase

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Team Lew's Custom Pro SLP

Lew's Fishing Tackle

Freshwater Rod

Legend Glass Rod

St. Croix Rods

Footwear

Flats Wading Boots

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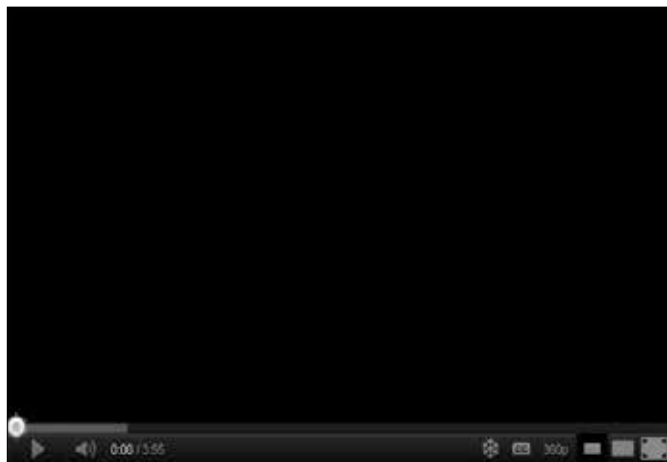
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FINDING SLABS IN THE SUMMER

By John N. Felsher

Many people consider crappie “cold weather species” and only target them during late winter or the spring spawning season, but fish must eat all year long. If they eat, anglers can catch them.

“A lot of people think crappie fishing is seasonal, but I fish 52 weeks of the year and catch fish each time,” said Mike Baker, a professional crappie angler and guide.

When weather turns warm, anglers just need to look for crappie in different areas.

When the sun climbs high, crappie often go low. In summer heat, crappie frequently move from the backwater creeks to deeper water in the main lake. They generally like to stay about 15 to 30 feet deep. Not as subject to weather changes, deep water remains relatively stable all year and can provide cooling comfort on blistering days. In addition, wakes or other turbulences produced by sun-loving recreational boaters do not affect deep water as much.

When targeting summer crappie, Baker likes to use a spider rig to fish vertically multiple baits at various depths simultaneously. Also called “tight-lining,”



Mike Baker is a professional crappie angler from Silver Springs, Florida. Here he has a couple of crappie caught from Halfmoon Lake near Lynne, Florida.

spider rigging involves dangling several rods off the bow to form a fan-shaped

Baker looks on and admires a crappie caught by Kim Newton while fishing Orange Lake near Ocala, Florida.



pattern that resembles a spider web.

On each line, hang a 1/2- to 1-ounce sinker about 10 to 18 inches beneath a three-way swivel. On the swivel, tie two 6- to 12-inch leaders. On each leader, attach a tube jig or other bait. Below the sinker, drop another 10- to 18-inch leader with a third bait. Push baits forward gently with just enough electric power to give the lures a bit of action.

With a spider rig, anglers generally target suspended fish in 12 to 16 feet of water. For fish hanging closer to the bottom in deeper water, try what some pros call “bottom bouncing.”

“For bottom bouncing, we use a 1-ounce sinker at the bottom of the line and come up 18 inches with a Number 2 Aberdeen hook or jig on a loop coming about two inches off the main line,” advised Joe Carter, a crappie pro. “We add a second hook or jig 18 inches above that. We drop the line all the way to the bottom and reel it up two turns to keep it just barely off the bottom. When we have some wave action, the sinker hits bottom, stirs up the mud a bit and creates noise. That gets their attention.”

Anglers use the bottom bouncing method with multiple rods off rod holders attached to the bow like a spider rig. These rigs work well around deep brush piles, rocks, stump fields or humps. Bottom bouncing also works around deep standing timber or bridge pilings. Even in deep water, summer crappie typically prefer the shady side of cover, but fish all around any brush piles, rocks or bottom contours to find where they want to go that day.

For really deep fish, few methods work better than vertically jigging 1/8- to 1/2-ounce

chrome spoons. Small, heavy and compact, a jigging spoon quickly sinks to the bottom. As it flutters down, it resembles a dying shad. Let a spoon flutter all the way to the bottom. Frequently, fish hit on the fall. After the spoon hits bottom, bounce it up and down a foot or two to keep it in the strike zone.

“I like to pull double rigs with two jigheads tipped with paddletail, tassel-tail or curly-tailed jigs.”

“Vertical jigging with a small spoon is a great way to catch deep crappie,” said Jerry Blake, a crappie guide. “I’ve caught fish down to 40 feet. It takes a little bit of time to get bait down to that level and live bait becomes more difficult to use in really deep water.”

When not prowling next to deep structure, crappie frequently follow baitfish schools. In the summer, slabs often suspend beneath shad schools to pick off stragglers. Crappie almost always look up to feed. They can better spot prey silhouetted against surface glare and might rise several feet





Summer crappie can be caught by using the right techniques and presentations. Plan to get in on the action whether you live in the far south, north, or somewhere in between.

to hit a temptation, but not even see a jig wiggling just below them.

To locate roving fish, slow troll parallel to drop-offs, weed lines, banks or around humps with small crankbaits, spinners or jigs. Place several rods in holders on the boat stern. Tip each line with different colored jigs to determine the best combination that day. Move the boat slowly forward with the electric motor. After tallying a couple strikes in one area, mark the spot and return to that hole with a spider rig to work over the hot spot slowly and thoroughly.

"I like to pull double rigs with two jigheads tipped with paddletail, tassel-tail or curly-tailed jigs per pole," Baker explained. "One weighs 1/48-ounce and the other weighs 1/32-ounce. The heavier jig runs a little deeper than the lighter one. As the boat turns, baits on the outside rise slightly while ones on the inside turn dive a bit deeper."

In some lakes, especially shallow ones or oxbows with little bottom variation, crappie look for shady cover to escape the broiling sun. Docks often offer the best shade. While docks provide crappie with incredible shade, many fish lurk way back in the darkest shadows. Many anglers troll or cast baits around the outside pilings, but can't imagine penetrating far under the docks where fish seldom see lures. To catch slabs that few others dare to tempt, try "shoot the docks." Shooting docks means using a bending spinning rod to fling small baits far under cover like shooting a bow. Pick an opening between the dock and the water or a crack between pilings, open the reel bail and grab the jig by the leadhead. Bend the rod back and let the lure fly. When done correctly, a skill dock shooter can hurl a small bait way under overhanging cover with remarkable accuracy.

"It's a pretty simple concept, but harder to master," advised Randy Pope, a

two-time national champion crappie angler. "Sometimes, the jig skips. Sometimes it just goes straight in. I use a 5-foot, 4-inch or 5.5-foot medium-light rod with 2- or 4-pound test line tipped with a 1/32-ounce jig."

After putting the jig in the desired spot, anglers can work it several ways. Sometimes, fish hit the jig on the fall. Sometimes, crappie lurk deep and prefer to hit baits hopped along the bottom. Sometimes, the biggest slabs hover at the surface just under dock canopies. Shoot assorted baits from different angles and experiment with various retrieves to determine the best patterns for that day.

Docks can hold crappie all year long, but generally offer the best action from late spring through early fall. Docks close to deep water, like those near a creek channel or tributary ditch, normally offer the best summer action. Fish can easily drop into the depths or hunt in the shallows.

Also, look for secondary cover, such as brush piles. Many dock owners build brush piles within casting range. Docks with rod holders attached to the rails and lights positioned to shine over the water almost always face a good brush pile or two.

Fishing under dock lights can provide outstanding action on sweltering summer nights, especially in heavily pressured lakes or reservoirs with exceptionally clear water. Lights attract plankton and other small creatures. Minnows, shad and other baitfish gather to feast upon the plankton. Crappie and other predators arrive to devour baitfish. Although many anglers fish around dock lights, others equip pontoon boats with generator-powered floodlights to target nocturnal slabs. Anglers can also hang battery-powered floating lights off their boats. Anchor over a good honey hole, flick the switches and wait for crappie to find the lights. Temp them with live bait or glow-colored jigs.

Sometimes, chasing crappie in the summer more resembles hunting than fishing. However, once anglers locate a good school, they can usually fill a boat quickly, often with little competition from anglers who rather wait for cold weather to return.



Summer Crappie Revival

For the last several months I've been sending you recipes that I consider bordering on elaborate to down-right complicated. To wind down summer I'm reviving a few less fancy but invigorating recipes for frying and baking - plus some side dishes.

Peppery Crappie

- 6-8 crappie fillets
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup cayenne hot sauce (use more or less to suit your taste)
- 1/2 stick of butter
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup yellow corn meal
- Fresh ground black pepper corns to taste
- Canola oil

Combine the eggs, whipping cream, milk and hot sauce in a large bowl. Add melted butter and mix well. Submerge the crappie fillets in the mixture and set in the refrigerator for 2 to 4 hours. Pour flour and corn meal into a large bowl or clean plastic bag. Mix dry ingredients thoroughly and set aside. After marinating, coat crappie fillets with fresh ground black pepper and place in the dry mixture to coat fillets. Next stop is your skillet.

Baked Crappie

Using the same ingredients as the recipe above or your preferred frying recipe but make these changes: When filleting your fish leave the skin on 2 pounds of crappie. Preheat your oven to 400 degrees F. When you come to the frying part, place the skin-side down in 13 x 9-inch baking dish with 2 tablespoons of butter. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

A Different Spicy Taste (Maybe a little elaborate)

- 2 pounds crappie fillets
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup yellow corn meal
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 teaspoons paprika
- 3/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons of beer (or water)
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 tablespoons red pepper (more or less to suit your taste)
- 2 cups bread crumbs, plain
- Oil for frying



Salt & pepper fillets, set aside. Mix corn meal, flour, paprika, garlic powder and turmeric thoroughly in a bowl. Mix beer and egg in bowl. Mix mustard, red pepper and bread crumbs in pie tin or baking dish. Coat fish in corn meal/flour mixture, then in egg/beer and finally in seasoned bread crumbs. Fry until flakey.

TIP: Is your oil hot enough? Drop a 1-inch cube of white bread into you hot oil. The bread should brown by the time you count to 40.

Jambalaya Grits

- 2 tablespoons bacon grease
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 chopped green pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup quick grits crumbled
- 1 cup peeled and chopped fresh tomatoes
- 1 cup ground ham
- Cooked bacon



In a heavy skillet, heat bacon grease and gradually add flour, stirring constantly until roux becomes light brown. Add onion, green pepper and celery and cook 5 minutes. Cook grits according to package directions and add to roux. Add tomatoes and ham. Sprinkle with bacon and serve immediately.

Vichyssoise is a thick soup made of puréed leeks, onions, potatoes, cream and chicken stock. It is traditionally served cold but can be eaten hot.

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 leeks, bulb only, sliced into rings
- 1 onion, sliced
- 5 potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried marjoram
- 1 bay leaf
- 5 cups chicken broth
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream



In a large stock pot melt butter over low heat. Add leeks and onion, cover and cook for 10 minutes. Add potatoes and season with salt and pepper. Add thyme, marjoram, bay leaf and stir well. Cover pot and continue to cook for 12 minutes. Add chicken stock and bring to a boil, reduce heat and cook partially covered for 30 minutes. Puree soup in blender or food processor and chill. Before serving, add the cream. If you are serving this soup warm you need to reheat the soup slowly so that the cream does not change consistency.

Fish and Vegetable Gazpacho

- 12 ounces crappie fillets, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 3 cups water
- 1 14 1/2-ounce can vegetable or reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin



Soups or Stews?

- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- Several dashes of hot pepper sauce
- 1 10-ounce can tomatoes with jalapeno peppers
- 1 cup small cucumber, chopped
- 1 cup small yellow summer squash or zucchini, chopped
- 1 cup tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 cup green onions, sliced

Cut fillets into 1/2-inch pieces. In a medium saucepan bring water to boiling; add fish. Cover and simmer for 3 to 4 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Drain fish, cover and chill.

In a medium saucepan combine broth, cumin, garlic powder and hot pepper sauce. Bring mixture to boiling. Remove from heat. Transfer to a large bowl. Stir in tomatoes with jalapeno peppers, cucumber, yellow summer squash or zucchini, plum tomatoes and green onions. Cover and chill for 4 to 12 hours. Before serving, stir chilled fish into vegetable mixture. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

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TANNER'S CREEK/OHIO RIVER

JUNE 25th

1. Larry Yates/Doug Allen	6.7
2. Tom Allen/Troy Chandler	6.34
3. Mike Russell/Tim Clepper	6.01
4. Eric Milsaps/Rick Hancock	5.6
5. Kris Mann/Terry Mann	5.3

BIG FISH

1. Larry Yates/Doug Allen	1.44
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE

NORMANDY

JULY 8th

1. Brad Beard/Will Trice	2.88
2. Tracy Farmer/Toby Ivey	2.26

BIG FISH

1. Tom Rein	1.26
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CENTRAL OHIO

CAESAR CREEK

JULY 16th

1. Rick Spence/Austin Spence	5.31
2. S. Jones/Pat Jones	3.8
3. Jerry Williams/Lynn Williams	3.79
4. Colin Cline/Allen Hale	3.44
5. Randy Woodgeard/Dan Collier	3.42

BIG FISH

1. Rick Spence/Austin Spence	0.82
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CENTRAL ARKANSAS

BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE

JULY 16th

1. Jason Westerberg/Jim Westerberg	7.68
2. Greg London/Russ Clarke	6.7
3. Dustin Harris/Michael Kimble	6.56
4. Kyle Dines/Chris Chandler	6.32
5. Scotty Shawn/Edward Shawn	6.27

Jeff Davis/Lamar Bunting

CAT TEXAS

LAKE TEXOMA

JULY 16th**DIVISION 1**

1. Anh Nguyen	10.84
2. AJ Matura/Carolyn Matura	9.46



3. Larry Middleton/Chris Waters 8.59

BIG FISH

1. Anh Nguyen 2.34

DIVISION 2

1. Clay Gann/Todd Froebe/Langdon 10.86

2. Stuart Angelle/Max Dukes 7.94

3. James Davis/Carl Ellis 7.39

BIG FISH

1. Clay Gann/Todd Froebe/Langdon 2.02

WAPPAPELLO

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

JULY 17th

1. Anthony Sifford/Isabella Sifford 7.11

2. Joe Guilling/Brett Carrier 6.82

BIG FISH

1. Anthony Sifford/Isabella Sifford 1.4

2. Brad Botch/Natosha Ware 1.4

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(Fishermen, check with club/association for exact dates, changes, cancellations and rules.)

AUGUST	13th	EASTERN MISSOURI	TRUMAN LAKE	3 MANM BUDDY
AUGUST	13th	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	LAME NIMROD	CLUB
AUGUST	19th	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	NORMANDY	CLUB
AUGUST	20th	CENTRAL OHIO	INDIAN LAKE	CLUB
AUGUST	20th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	TRUMAN LAKE	MO ST Championship
AUGUST	20th	WAPPAPELLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLUB
AUGUST	20th	CAT TEXAS	TAWAKONI	QUALIFIER
AUGUST	27th	SHOALS AREA	CEDAR CREEK LAKE	OPEN
SEPTEMBER	10th	CRAPPIENUTZ	LAKE BLACKSHEAR	CLUB
SEPTEMBER	10th	INDIANNA	RACoon	CLUB
SEPTEMBER	10th	WAPPAPELLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	BEN KRUSE TOURNA- MENT
SEPTEMBER	11th - 12th	EASTERN MISSOURI	MARK TWAIN LAKE	FISH OFF
SEPTEMBER	17th	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	WOODS RESERVOIR	CLUB
SEPTEMBER	17th	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	TBD	CHAMPIONSHIP
SEPTEMBER	17th	CAT TEXAS	GRAPEVINE	OTW SEMINAR
SEPTEMBER	18th	CENTRAL OHIO	PAINT CREEK LAKE	CLUB
SEPTEMBER	18th	GRAND LAKES	GRAND LAKE	CLUB
SEPTEMBER	24th	CRAPPIE USA	KENTUCKY/BARCLEY LAKES	CLUB
SEPTEMBER	24th	NORTHEAST OHIO	SHENANGO LAKE	3 MAN OPEN
SEPTEMBER	24th	SHOALS AREA	PICKWICK	CLUB
SEPTEMBER	28th-Oct.1	CRAPPIE MASTERS	GRENADA LAKE	National Champion- ship



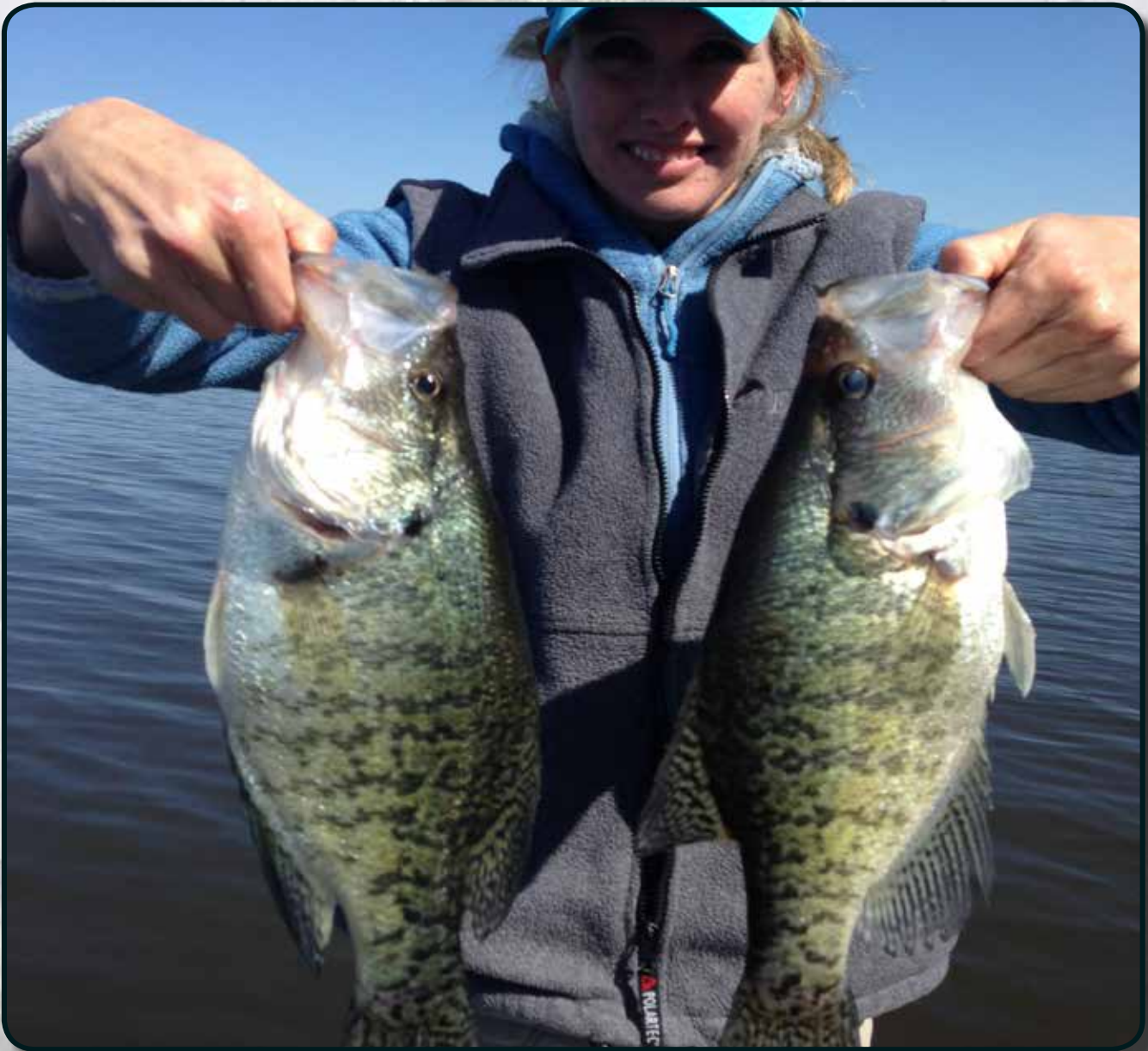
Photo Contest



1st Place This Month!

Kyle Quine: Candlewood lake, Danbury, CT
-Measured in at 19" with a 15" girth

Photo Contest



Honorable Mention
Rhonda Tucker
Lake Overcup near Morrilton, AR

Don't forget to send in your recent photo by the 15th.

Crappie NOW e-magazine accepts color digital images for publication. A single photo will be selected after the 10th of each month for the next month's edition. The winner will be contacted via email with prize information.

Check out www.crappienow.com for more details.



Photo Contest



Honorable Mention

Arvil Dueitt

13 1/2 inch. Lake off Tombigbee River



Honorable Mention

Wyatt Murphey

Wellman Iowa pond



Honorable Mention

Larry Jones

Kentucky lake, 15 1/2 " 1.85 pounds

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(Note that club news, results and schedules are taken from websites around the 10th of each month. Only those who provide information through their website or by email will have updated information and results included.) Fishermen, check with club/association for exact dates, changes, cancellations and rules.

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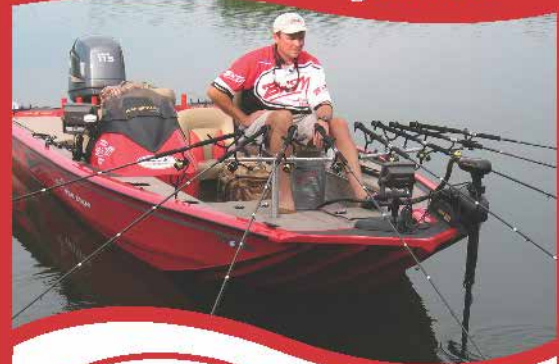
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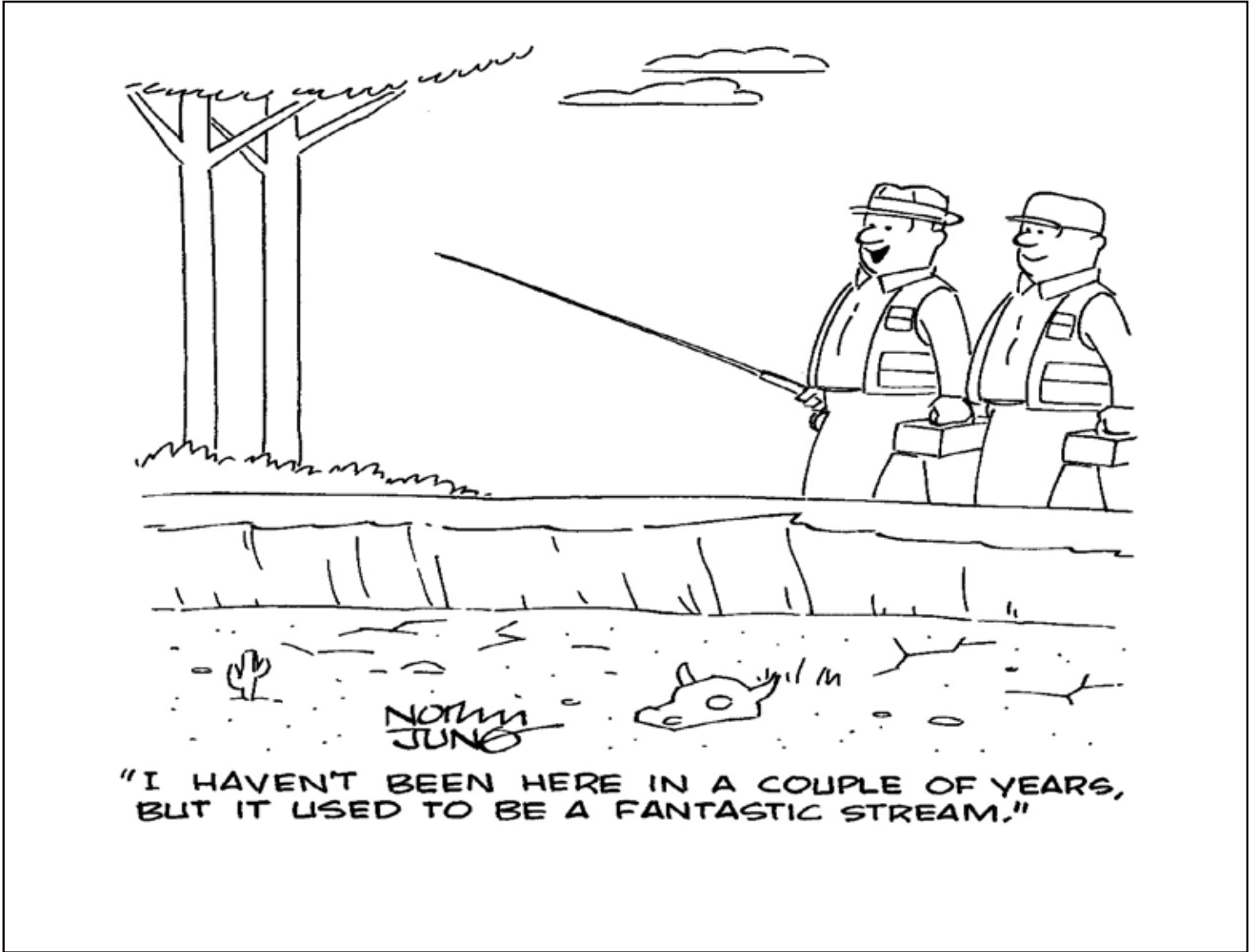


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**Writer Ron Presley says good river
cover can have obstacles
of another kind,
like snakes and wasps nests.**

Goodbye until next issue