

CRAPPIE NOW!

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fishhound

Crappie.com

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Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year



Features

The Future of Crappie Tournaments...Part I Three Trails, Histories & Goals....4

by Tim Huffman

National tournament circuits have been critical to the growth of the sport. Part I covers the three big trails for 2017.



Crappie USA 2016 Championship... How They Fished....14

by Ron Presley

Kentucky and Barkley Lakes provided the challenge and the anglers responded with plenty of slab crappie.



Crappies in the Cumberland.....26

by Vernon Summerlin

This river chain offers many opportunities for catching crappie if you use the right strategies.



Fishing's Future . . . More than a Sport.....30

by Ron Presley

Fishing's Future provides opportunities for families to reconnect to nature and learn about angling through family-oriented fishing activities.



Departments

Vern's Cooking & Tidbits....22

Crappie Calendar....38

Tournament Results....34

Crappie Clubs....39

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Opening Cast

Christmas is almost upon us and I just can't believe that another year has just about passed. The holidays are a favorite part of my year! Thoughts included family, friends, food, fun and renewal.

Fishing and life as a whole are all part of a life circle. Although some excellent crappie fishing can be had during December, most of us will be looking to rejoice at the conclusion of another year and being reborn as with our savior at the celebration of new life and his birth and a fresh year.

We must keep faith in not only our guiding light but each other during this season. Each one of us is unique and so is every living thing. As Americans, we must keep faith in each other, no matter where we come from, our heritage, color, background demographic or political affiliation.

As fishermen and fisher women, spending part of our lives outdoors and seeing all the beautiful things God, or whatever name you call him, is so important to refresh our souls and keep our minds and souls focused on what is most important – life, family, love and truth. Let's pass this on to our children and grandchildren to preserve these values.

We at Crappie Now thank you for another wonderful year and wish each of you a Merry Christmas filled with laughter, fun and renewal.



Good fishin' & God Bless,
Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher

Cover Photo:
Chris Nischan at Cordell Hull
Dam. Vernon Summerlin
photo.

The Future of Crappie

Part I...

By Tim Huffman

Three Trials' Histories & Goals

You may have no interest in crappie tournaments, or maybe dislike tournaments, but without a doubt they have an impact on how you fish. The first is knowledge. We've learned from tournament fishermen how to better fish different waters, seasons, weather conditions and water conditions. We've learned the importance of adjusting and adapting. Seasoned tournament fishermen have the knowledge and experience so listening to their stories, tips and tactics help us catch more fish.

Tournaments have influenced our equipment. Many boats have special features just for crappie fishermen. When tournament fishermen needed longer poles for spider rigging clear reservoirs and for

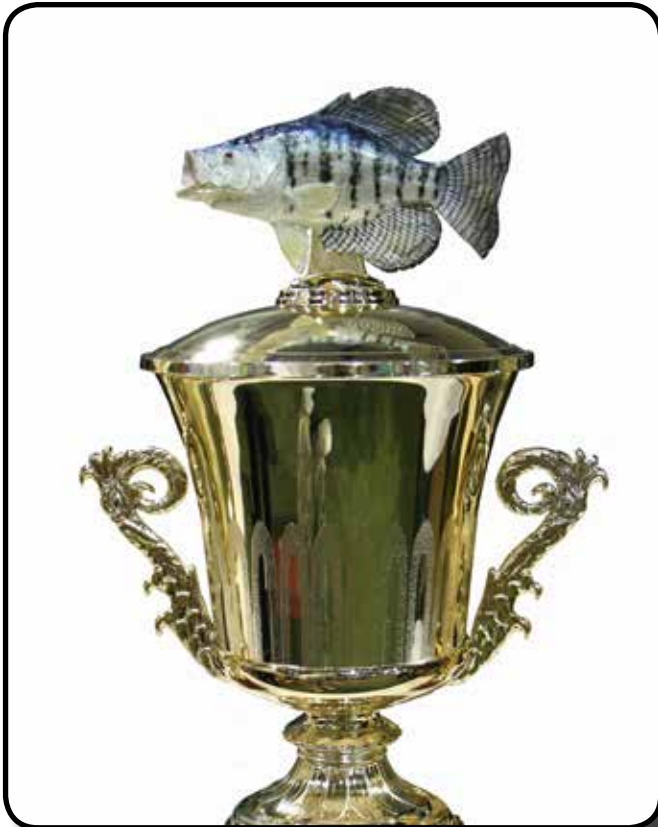
super-shallow water, sensitive, strong 14- and 16-foot poles were designed. Special nets are available to net crappie caught on long poles. Jigs and terminal tackle are better. Tournament fishing helped gain the attention of manufacturers for the need of quality crappie-specific equipment.

This series features three national tournament trails: Crappie USA; Crappie Masters; and The American Crappie Trail. Part I is an introduction to the trails, their history and their goals. The series will continue each month with discussions about today's tournaments, wrapped boats, media, one-pole tournaments, male/female and adult/youth divisions, one-man tournaments, the future of national crappie tournament fishing and more.

Crappie USA

Crappie USA is the oldest, active national crappie tournament trail. It was formed in after Crappiethon USA, who had held tournaments since 1983, decided to drop the trail. Crappie USA tournaments started in 1996.

Crappie USA General Manager,



Crappie Tournaments




Seeing fish come across the scales is part of the tournament fun. Brian Sowers announces a good weight.

CRAPPIE MASTERS



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Darrell Van Vactor says, "Johnson owned Crappiethon and was using the tournaments for selling their products like Johnson reels and Mitchell reels. The tournaments gave them a marketing driver for those products. They were getting rid of product lines so chose to discontinue the tournaments. We knew this was coming and many of us wanted the tournaments to continue. A group of us got together after the last Crappiethon tournament, burned the midnight oil, and decided to form Crappie USA."

Van Vactor says the format of one- and two-day tournaments, along with the goals, set up in the meeting two decades ago worked then and still does today. The purpose was to establish a family-oriented, cost effective and competitive arena for amateur and semi-pro anglers. Also, to promote and market products

and services for sponsors.

Accomplishments include: first and largest crappie tournament organization; founder of the American Crappie Association; publication "The Outdoor Journal Magazine"; crappie club affiliations; and the Crappie Kid's Fishing Rodeos.

"We are very proud," says Van Vactor, "that we've donated \$334,000 in college scholarships. I have met so many wonderful friends in the press, sponsors and fishermen so for me personally it has been a great ride. We have national sponsors who once did not know how to spell crappie now making wonderful products just for crappie fishermen. Kids scholarships, great crappie products and promoting the sport are a few of things we are very proud of."

There are typically 16 to 17

tournaments annually. Tournament costs are \$100 amateur and \$200 semi-pro. There are Super Events with \$10,000 guaranteed paybacks. Their 2016 Classic recently at Kentucky/Barkley Lakes paid back over \$100,000 in cash and prizes.

The American Crappie Association is for all crappie anglers. Membership is \$25, or \$99 premium membership. ACA was created to influence manufacturers to produce more and better crappie products, establish a voice and lobby for crappie anglers, and elevate the sport of crappie fishing through media.

Crappie USA business address is 220 Mohawk Ave, Louisville, KY 40209. 502-384-5924. office@crappieusa.com. Operations Manager Darrell Van Vactor 270-748-5703; dvanvactor@crappieusa.com. President is Vince Camisano.

Crappie Masters

Crappie Masters has been a premier crappie fishing tournament trail for over a decade. It's known for good payouts and highly competitive fishing. The level of competition increased with this circuit format.

"Crappie Masters started as a dream of Joe Miller and myself," says Paul Alpers. "We started the tournament trail with good guaranteed paybacks. We helped support it by putting bubble gum machines out to earn money, giving out free tee-shirts, and handing out fliers. Our first tournament was on Truman Lake with 132 boats."



Catching seven good fish is the goal on tournament day. Here's one just caught and headed for the livewell.



Alpers, who, along with being the past President of Crappie Masters, is a past Classic Champ, Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame Member, and was a member of the group who formed Crappie USA in its beginning.

Today's Crappie Master President, Mike Vallentine, says, "We bought from Paul Alpers in 2013 and he stayed on for a year during the transition. Our tournaments are for the fishermen, sponsors and for promoting crappie fishing. In 2016 we saw everything on the rise."

Crappie Masters goal is to provide competitive crappie fishing tournaments for everyone, where grass root, weekend, family and competitive anglers can enjoy fishing and compete for prizes. Crappie Masters strives to promote, enhance and preserve our outdoor heritage, specifically crappie fishing. Local and national sponsors are promoted. Crappie Masters supports Kids Fishing and Education with free Kids Fishing Rodeos and High School Scholarship tournaments.

Tournaments are held in a professional manner including an excellent emcee, Brian Sowers. All fishermen compete in one division but there are special categories for adult/youth and male/female. Membership fee is \$25, or \$100 for Gold Membership. Tournament fees are \$225 for one-day and \$325 for two-day events. There are 19 tournaments on their 2017 schedule.

Crappie Masters has both a print magazine, active social media and television. Vallentine says an accomplishment has been the television program that airs with a new season beginning the first quarter of 2017. "Our program has evolved and improved. We listened and made big changes based upon what viewers want. We are now geared toward teaching with a lot of tips and how-to information. Also very important is for viewers to see that crappie fishing is fun. It's good to see the character of crappie fishermen, the fun they have, while learning more about

lakes, products and catching fish.

"I'm proud of our organization having a vision, putting things into place and seeing them be successful. We have given more back to the anglers. If we continue to have a steady upward trend there will be more money. Our ultimate goal is to grow so anglers can offset more of their expenses and make money while taking the sport to greater heights. Our stability as an organization is our strong point."

Crappie Masters, PO Box 121, Clinton, MO 64735. Mike Vallentine, President 660-351-6960; Michael.vallentine@yahoo.com. Suzette Vallentine, office, 660-351-4187; crappiemasters.office@gmail.com. Brian Sowers briansowers@gmail.com.

The American Crappie Trail

The American Crappie Trail is the new kid on the block with tournaments beginning in 2017. Organizer Matt Morgan is a businessman and two-time National Classic Champ with the latest win in the fall of 2016 taking the Crappie Masters Championship at Grenada, Mississippi.



"I believe there is a need to take crappie fishing to the next level. Not necessarily a different set of anglers but looking for anglers who have the ability to competitively fish and make money doing it. We are going to change the format a little and have five tournaments next year

in 2017. We're excited to bring change and a new level to the sport."

The American Crappie Trail's mission includes promotions of companies and anglers through competitive crappie tournaments. ACT plans to bring innovative television, full live production internet weigh-ins, web, print and social media. They guarantee the highest payout in the industry. They plan to provide a platform of events for anglers and also create enhanced avenues for sponsors. They boast a fresh approach to tournaments for the elite and weekend anglers raising the bar for competitive crappie fishing.

There will be five tournaments next year including the classic. Membership is \$40, family \$75. Tournament fees are \$425. Tournament payout based upon a 100-boat field is a new Ranger Boat for first place and \$8000 for second. Angler Team of the Year will receive a new Ranger Boat.

Americancrappietrail.com; Matt Morgan matt@americancrappietrail.com; Office- Angie Morgan, angie@americancrappietrail.com. 317-714-0945.

2016 Review

Crappie USA's Darrell Van Vactor, says, "Tournaments have been good this year (2016) but not huge catches or big fish that breaks records. Our standout lake in the spring was Lake Cumberland. It surprised a lot of fishermen with quality fish they weren't expecting. Because of a drawdown for repairs, it has a new lake syndrome that was created making it one of the better lakes in the country and will continue for four or five years."

"The biggest news in 2016 was our Classic at Kentucky Lake in October. There were 209 teams from 18 different states. That's a tremendous number of teams. The winners of the Pro Division took a package worth \$44,000 that included a Ranger Boat. Also, the Amateur Division winners won a Ranger Boat. It was a huge event."

Crappie Master's Mike Vallentine



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says, "Everything in 2016 was on the rise including overall turnout for the tournaments. Our boat average was about 70 per tournament while last year it was at 60. I believe the economy, especially gas prices, has a lot to do with the rise. Catches were about average this year. I want to thank the network of crappie fishermen, who are great ambassadors for the sport, who have been critical in helping us grow."

The Crappie Masters National Championship (Classic) had 187 teams from 21 states. By fishermen requests, the circuit has a cash payout for winners verses giving boats. This year's winners took home \$33,000 cash with second place \$10,000.

Look for Part II next month in the series on The Future of National Tournaments.

 - Tim Huffman

Crappie Q&A

Email Us. 

Q: A good December fishing tip?

By Tim Huffman

ROD WALL, - says, "Bait color is important. Look at the pegs at the baitshop to see which colors are sold out. If you have three pegs with chartreuse-type colors sold out there is a good chance that is a hot color on the lake."

JASON SANDAGE, - guide, says, "We'll be spider rigging with 16-foot BnM poles and double hook minnow rigs. Our rig includes a sinker on bottom with two leaders above it. Fish at Reelfoot Lake will be 12 to 14 feet in the Lower Blue Basin. Pushing minnows is a good way to catch them."

DANNY KIRKENDALL, OK, - says, "We will be using a 1/16-ounce jig, The fish can be as shallow as three feet until a layer of ice forms in the creeks. In open water I'll look at 14 feet. Brush in 10 to 25 feet can be good. A single minnow allows working in the deeper brush. My wife will often use minnows and the fish will come out of the brush to get them."

DAN JOHNSTON, IL, - says, "On my home waters in southern Illinois, we are looking for concentrations of shad. Drop to the bottom and pick it up a foot off bottom. Anything chartreuse works. The fish are on the ledges at Rend Lake. Typical depth is 11 feet with shad being a key element. When the sun comes out crappie will move deeper with the shad."



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Charlie Brewer, Jr.



Charlie Brewer, Jr.
- Vietnam Navy Veteran -

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River Fishing 1,2,3

River fishing isn't the easiest waters for most fishermen. Rising and falling water, along with changing currents, can cause each day to be different. There are three things critical for success on the river.

First, use your electronics. These are your eyes to knowing depths, contours, covers and to see fish. Electronics help a fishermen put baits in productive areas and strike zones.

Two, think eddies. An eddy is a good place to try because currents are more calm. Baitfish often gather at an eddy.

Three, adjust to conditions. Spots where you caught fish a few days ago may be out of the water. Or, they might be 8 feet deeper and below the strike zone. When currents change so do the crappie so be ready to adjust to those changes.

River fishing can be fantastic but remember the three rules for better fishing.
-TH

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Crappie USA 2016 Championship

...How They Fished

By Ron Presley

Crappie tournaments always offer a challenge of one kind or another. This year's Crappie USA (CUSA) Classic on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes was no different. The lake was pulled down to "rock bottom" according to a local marina operator. He advised anglers to observe and respect the channel markers to stay out of trouble. "I saw birds standing in the middle of the lake," said Matt Morgan, a Classic competitor. "I can't remember when I saw it like that."

The 2016 Cabela's Crappie USA Classic marked a milestone for the popular crappie trail as anglers, sponsors and officials celebrated 20 years of CUSA Classics. There were a record 209 teams from 18 states competing. In this landmark year, as in years past, the anglers stepped up to the challenge and delivered plenty of crappies to the scales. Ninety percent of the Semi Pro Division came to the scales with fish on day one. In the Amateur Division 82 percent of the field weighed in fish. The same percentage of boats weighed in on day two.

Three-time National Champions

Not many anglers can claim the title, "Three-time National Champions." That is exactly what B'n'M prostaff anglers Kyle Schoenherr and Rodney Neuhaus earned at the recent Crappie USA Classic when they weighed a two-day total of 21.58 pounds. After sweeping the Crappie Masters and Crappie USA titles in 2015 they came back to win CUSA again in 2016.

The First-Place Strategy

The extreme low water did not have a big impact on Schoenherr and Neuhaus.

"There were a few areas that were border line shallow for holding good fish," reported Schoenherr. "Other than knocking out a few spots where we would normally find good fish, the low water did not affect us."

"This is a basic river system that mirrors the landscape around it," explained Schoenherr. "There are lots of valleys and steep rises and steep drops - a lot of contour."

Their strategy was a result of years of fishing the Kentucky/Barkley Lakes area. "We have spent years scouting to find the areas that will produce the 1.50 to 1.80 size fish that you need to win," continued Schoenherr. "Our biggest challenge was finding a place where we could get out of a north/south wind. Over the years we have found good fish out in the main river only to get blown off by the wind. We wanted to avoid that."

Semi Pro Division - How First Place Fished

Once their areas were located the three-time national champs spider rigged with B'n'M poles. "We used straight double-hook minnow rigs with ½-ounce weights and Tru-Turn hooks," said Schoenherr. "Our target was natural wood structure and man-made structure. To be specific, we fished the thickest wood cover we could find."

"B'n'M poles are one of the best weapons in our arsenal," added Neuhaus. "We never leave home without them. We fished with 16-foot Bucks Graphite Jig Poles (BGJP 16-3). We were spooled with Gamma Braid before adding the double-hook rig tied with Tru-Turn hooks. We were fishing 6 to 12 foot water. The fish were right on the bottom."



“The bite changed throughout the day,” continued Neuhaus. “We would fish one bed and they were hitting the rigs hard, like they should. Then, on the next bite you wouldn’t know they were on. They just slowly grabbed the minnow and held it. It would look like you were snagged on a limb or stake. When I lifted the pole, I felt the bagginess of it and set the hook. The reaction in the BGJP’s were the key to getting those fish in the boat.”

“The bite was pretty grueling,” confided Schoenherr. “We just kept hopping from structure to structure until we scraped out close to ten pounds on day one. We went back on day two and found a more aggressive big fish bite. We were kicking out good fish with the same style and in the same areas we fished on day one.”

Semi-Pro Champs. Kyle Schoenherr and Rodney Neuhaus showing off some of their winning crappie at the Crappie USA Classic.

“In tournament fishing anglers are always thinking they need just one more good fish,” concluded Neuhaus. “It doesn’t usually happen to us, but it did this time. We rolled up to a spot and caught a 2.03 about five or ten minutes before we left. It was a spot we did not get a good fish from on day one. It was a great way to finish.”

Amateur Division

The Amateur Division was won with a different fishing method. Local anglers





Taylor and Keel congratulate each other on the CUSA Amateur Division win.

Ronald Taylor and Ronald Keel weighed in a two-day total of 17.00 pounds to claim the win. "We just fished

hard," said Taylor. "The bite was ok. We caught a lot of fish, probably 40 each day. It was the big ones that were hard to get."

They caught their fish over structure in 5 to 15 feet of water, tipping with Crappie Shad Scales. "We were one-pole jig fishing," reported Taylor. "I have been doing this about 30 years now and that's the way I like to fish."

The Tennessee team was fishing crappie mats they made and deployed themselves. "This area is full of shallow bays, a lot of drops and creeks running into the bays," explained Keel. "We get along the drops and put frame beds on them. We like to fish the stake beds we make ourselves."

"We jigged one pole each and had one more laying down in the boat," revealed Keel. "I was using black and chartreuse and Taylor was using red and chartreuse. I lay that one pole down beside me and we both watched it."

"Our biggest challenge was keeping the fish alive," said Taylor. "The hot weather required us to keep cool water on them and run the aerator. We also put some bait saver in the livewell."

The low water had minor affects on the team. "We had to be careful at the boat ramp



Wayne Goodall won the CUSA Kayak Division with a total length of 81.00 inches.



B'n'M prostaff anglers Jim and Barbara Reedy won Big Fish at the CUSA Classic with a 2.37-pound crappie.

because of the low water,” said Taylor. “We also hit a stump we didn’t know was there. We hit it today because that water was real low. We didn’t tear anything up.”

“This feels really good,” said Keel. “That boat is nice (referring to the Ranger boat they won), but that trophy is really nice!”

Final Comments

After early worries about the low water conditions, CUSA Anglers were not severely challenged by the extreme low water conditions. Anglers in the Kayak Division (won by Wayne Goodall, from Mt. Juliet, TN) were most affected. They were forced to fish more open water than in the past. Some of the creeks that they would fish during normal water levels were dry this time around.

Congratulations to the top finishers Kyle Schoenherr and Rodney Neuhaus for their third national championship. Congrats also to Ronald Taylor and Ronald Keel in the Amateur Division and Wayne Goodall in the Kayak Division. Their performances proved just how good a crappie destination Kentucky and Barkley Lakes are.

Congratulations also to the Crappie USA organization as they complete 20

Championship Top 10 Semi Pro Division

- 21.58 K Schoenherr – R Neuhaus
- 19.85 J Freeman – G Bridges
- 19.17 J Trimble – C Edwards
- 18.49 T Elliott – J Elliott
- 18.43 R Capps – S Coleman
- 17.73 P Turner – L Turner
- 17.63 W Hendren – R Logan
- 17.12 TJ Todd – B Hatch
- 17.02 RJ Pope – S Deitz
- 16.82 T Hankins – R Bilbrey

Championship Top 10 Amateur Division

- 17.00 R Taylor – R Keel
- 16.72 M Arnold – B Arnold
- 16.31 T Barker – J Barker
- 16.26 R Milby – R Brown
- 16.13 H Martin – B Gentry
- 15.75 K Mann – T Mann
- 15.65 R Turner – C Turner
- 15.51 C England – B Williams
- 15.02 J Clary – D Craig
- 14.86 J Yeakle – J Brumley

Championship Top 5 Kayak Division CPR Method (inches)

- 81.00 Inches – W Goodall
- 71.25 Inches – T Bedell
- 68.00 Inches – D Sweet
- 64.75 Inches – D Giovenco
- 30.25 Inches – J Ruwoldt

years of successful tournament trail fishing. “We are very pleased with our history of tournament fishing,” said Darrell Van Vactor, CUSA Operations Manager. “Anglers are going to be pleased and surprised with what we have in store for them in the future.”



CUSA History

Crappie USA was formed in October 1996 when the last Crappiethon Classic in east Tennessee left a void in tournament crappie fishing. Darrell Van Vactor organized a group of crappie anglers to form a new crappie trail. The result was Crappie USA, with a purpose "To establish and expand a family-oriented, cost effective and competitive arena for amateur and semi-pro crappie anglers as the foundation to promote and market products and services."

The new trail was up and running by January of 1997 with a series of events that ended with the first CUSA Classic on Truman Lake, MO. The trail has grown from that humble beginning to a successful national tournament trail that averages 17 events per year in plus or minus 15 states. The trail accommodates about 5,000 anglers each year.

Now, some 20 years later, Van Vactor gives credit to its member anglers and their loyalty to the national and local sponsors that support the trail. "Our Crappie USA anglers realize that without national and local sponsorships the trail could not exist," said Van Vactor. "For 20 years they have remained the most sponsor loyal group of people I know."

Van Vactor is proud of the association's conservation efforts over the years. "During the past 20 years our association has been proactive in policy changes pertaining to our favorite fish," declared Van Vactor. "We helped get Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency to stop allowing crappie to be taken and sold commercially around Reelfoot Lake in TN and also on Lake Champlain NY. We supported law changes pertaining to limit and creel limits to insure the quality of some of our nations fisheries. We also started the live release program in crappie tournaments when few thought it would ever work."

Van Vactor is also proud of the impact CUSA tournament crappie fishing has had on product development. "Due to the interest in competitive crappie fishing we have seen many outdoor merchandise companies develop new and better products geared specifically for the crappie angler," he said.

Beyond reaching anglers and product sponsors, CUSA also reaches youth. "One of our biggest highlights is donating over \$334,000.00 in college scholarships," reported Van Vactor. "The monies were raised through donations from our anglers and our companies. Our education program has been managed through our non-profit corporation, Kids Outdoors Inc. Every dollar donated to this program goes to fund scholarships."

The total purse available to CUSA Classic anglers has grown from \$65,000 in the 1996 Classic to over \$100,000 in cash and prizes that were distributed at the 2016 Classic.

Why Shoot Docks During A Drought?

with Darrell Baker by John Phillips

Editor's note: Darrell Baker of Centre, Alabama, has been fishing and guiding on Weiss Lake for 40 years. The state of Alabama had one of the worst droughts that we've ever seen this past year. When we went fishing in the middle of November with the lake 6 feet below normal pool, I was surprised when Baker said, "The first thing we're going to do is shoot docks."

As Darrel Baker's boat went down almost to the end of the boat ramp, all I could see, except for the small stream of water near the boat ramp, were docks out of water. Shooting docks is a technique that crappie fishermen use to force their jigs to travel from 10 yards to often 30 yards underneath the dock. To give the jig energy to travel that far low to the water, a right-handed angler will hold his rod in his right hand, and let out about two to three feet of line with a jig attached to the end of the line. Then hold the jig between his thumb and his index finger on this left hand, and pull the rod tip down as he pulls the jig back. When the rod is almost at its breaking point, he releases the jig at almost the same time he straightens his index finger on his right hand, which is holding the line. This action causes the jig to fly from the angler's fingertips far back under the dock where crappie are often hiding. Using a slow, steady retrieve, he catches the crappie under the dock where many other anglers don't fish.

I asked Baker, "Are there any docks that are not going to be out of the water?" He said, "John, I've got one dock that sits right on the edge of a deep water drop-off. There's about two or three feet of water

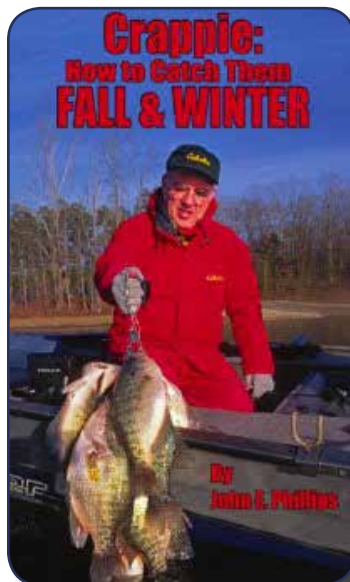


under this dock, and the crappie will come out of the deep water, move under the dock and wait for bait fish to come by. Then they feed on them. The real secret to shooting docks, when you have a winter draw down or a drought, is to find the docks that are sitting right on the edge of deep water. Some of the docks that I shoot, at this time of the year, will have three to eight feet of water in front of the dock and partially back under the dock. The water temperature is in the mid-60s. So, the crappie know they have to feed-up for the cold weather that is fast approaching. If you can locate docks like this, you'll often find good numbers of crappie holding under them.

Baker's equipment includes: 1.5-inch Crème Lit'l Fishie; Southern Pro Stinger Shad; 6-pound Gamma Hi-Vis line; BnM 5.5-foot BnM Sharp Shooter rod. To contact Baker: weisslakecrappieguides.com; 256-557-0129; Darrell@weisslakeguides.com.

To learn more about how to fish for crappie:

<http://johninthewild.com/books/#crappie>.





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Crappie Basics #128

Shallow in Winter

Every body of water can be different but one way to catch winter crappie is to get close to the bank in 3 to 5 feet of water. Fish are slow and a little difficult to catch. They are sluggish so use something small with color in it. Maybe a 1/16-ounce jig tipped with Power Bait, go slow and give them a chance to bite.

To control our speed we use windsocks 90-percent of the time. Up to four socks when needed. Sometimes we also drag a chain. We can change the position of the boat by the way we use them. This pattern can last up into February on my home lake, Reelfoot. -Josh Chipman



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



Crappies for Christmas

Vernon Summerlin

In keeping with the season, I've chosen a few special recipes. Dumpling is our English word for an ancient delicacy called wonton. In American Chinese cuisine, wontons are served in two ways: in a soup (wontons in a clear broth) and as an appetizer called fried wontons. The American fried wontons are typically eaten dry but don't hesitate to serve them with a dipping sauce that compliments the contents, such as ketchup on crappie wontons.

We buy wonton wrappers but you can make them with flour, egg, water and salt. Cut a square of dough, spread the wrapper flat in the palm of your hand or on a flat surface, place a small amount of filling in the center and seal the wonton into the desired shape by compressing the wrapper's edges together with your fingers. Adhesion may be improved by moistening the wrapper's inner edges by dipping a fingertip into water and running it across the dough. As part of the sealing process, press air out of the inside to avoid having it rupture from internal pressure when cooked.

You can use your imagination to create numerous variations for frying wontons by thinking of foods you like, make a mixture, spoon some onto a wrapper, make a purse and fry'em up.

We're making fried crappie wontons and, my very favorite, jalapeño wontons to serve as appetizers. We also have three fish entrées and a beans-n-rice dish that can be served as a side or an entrée.

'Tis the season to celebrate and eat well.

Fried Crappie Wontons (Crappie Dumplings)

- 1 cup finely chopped cooked crappie fillet (I nuke the fish, easy-peezy)
- 4 8-ounce packages softened cream cheese
- 3 chopped green onions
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3 cloves crushed garlic
- 2 (12-ounce) packages wonton wrappers
- Canola oil, enough to deep fry

Mix cream cheese, chopped crappie, green onions, sugar and garlic thoroughly. Spoon one tablespoon of mixture onto a wrapper. Bring all corners up at top of mixture to form a square packet and pinch to secure. Deep fry in hot oil one minute or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Makes 50-60 but recipe can be halved.

Jalapeño Wontons

- 1 8-ounce package softened cream cheese
- 1 8-ounce package of Pepper Jack cheese cut in 1/4- x 3/4-inch chunks
- Jalapeños cut into 1/4- to 1/2-inch slices (depending on how hot you like'em)
- 12 wonton wrappers

Put a piece of cheese and pepper slice in each wonton, fold and pinch to seal. Fry until golden brown. Drain. Makes 12 wontons. Double or triple the recipe to suit your needs.

TIP: Wonton wrappers will last in your refrigerator for the short term or freeze them for longer storage.

Sautéed Crappie

- 8 crappie fillets (4-6 ounces each)
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1/4 cup lime juice

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add fillets to the skillet and sprinkle with garlic powder. Pour lime juice over fish (use more or less to suit your taste). Sauté the fish until fillets are opaque and easily flake with a fork. Turn once during cooking.

Cajun-Pancake Battered Crappie

- 2 to 3 crappie fillets per person
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup pancake mix
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning (more to suit your taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper (more to suit your taste)
- Canola oil
- Hot Pepper sauce, vinegar based (optional)

Stir pancake mix, milk and egg in a small bowl. In another bowl, mix cornmeal, Cajun



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seasoning, salt and pepper. Dip fillets in wet mixture completely wetting the surfaces and roll in dry mixture to cover fish. Fry fillets in oil in a medium-sized skillet until both sides are golden brown. Serve with vinegar based hot pepper sauce.

Potato Flake Fillets

- 2 to 3 crappie fillets per person
- 1 cup instant potato flakes
- 1/3 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Other seasonings to taste
- Canola oil

Combine flour and any other seasoning you wish to include in a medium sized bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. In another, smaller bowl, beat eggs until smooth. Pour a generous amount of potato flakes onto a plate or other flat surface. Roll fillets in seasoning mixture, dip in eggs to wet surfaces, and then roll in potato flakes, completely covering fillets. Fry in oil until golden brown, turning once.

TIP: Have a large "garbage" bowl handy to put your egg shells, leftover flour and other trash created while cooking.

Southwestern Black Beans & Rice

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 3 minced garlic cloves
- 2 cups cooked black beans
- 1 cup black bean broth (or water)
- 2 tablespoons brewed coffee
- 2 cups cooled cooked rice
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Heat olive oil in large, heavy skillet. Add onion, bell pepper and garlic. Cook until onion is translucent, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes. Add beans, broth and coffee. Simmer until slightly thickened, about 15 minutes. Add rice, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper. Simmer five minutes to blend flavors. Garnish with cilantro and serve.
cooking. Drain and serve.

Italian-Style Green Beans with Tomatoes

- 3/4 pound green beans
- 1/2 cup red onion rings
- 1/4 cup Italian dressing
- 2 tomatoes cut into thin wedges
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

Place green beans, onion and dressing in microwavable bowl and cover. Microwave on high (8 to 10 minutes) until beans are tender-crisp. Stir after 2 minutes and stir in tomatoes and basil.

Clam Inducted to Hall of Fame



Ice fishermen are no strangers to the Clam name. The Fishing Hall of Fame of Minnesota announced Clam to its list for induction. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals and organizations that have made a major impact on Minnesota's sport fishing industry. The Hall recognizes education, legislation, guiding, manufacturing, media promotions or other means. Criteria for both nomination and induction vary greatly: number of years in the industry, proven accomplishments, and dedication to the promotion of the sport of fishing.

"We at Clam are beyond humbled to receive this esteemed honor," explains Dave Osborne, Clam Outdoors Owner. "I feel incredibly blessed to be included with others in the sport of fishing."

The company took an ice-fishing specific focus when ice fishing professional Dave Genz introduced his "fish trap" creation. Genz's concept was to put a shelter around an ice fisherman so they could stay out longer and be more comfortable, thus making it possible to catch more fish. "As a Hall of Famer, I understand the magnitude of this accomplishment," says Genz. "I'm as proud as I've ever been to be part of the Clam family



and am happy for them to receive this honor."

Other inductees include Terry Tuma, Doug Stange, Perry Good, The Burgers Brothers Sporting Goods.

Official enshrinement will be at the Northwest Sport Show in Minneapolis 2017.

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Barkley, Cheatham, Old Hickory ***... Crappies***

By Vernon Summerlin

Two of the four lakes along the Cumberland River chain in Tennessee are known for crappie – Old Hickory Lake and Lake Barkley. Cordell Hull and Cheatham Lakes also have strong crappie populations but they don't get the fishing pressure nor has the word gotten out – just the way local anglers like it.

Let's start where the fishing is known to be the best among the four reservoirs and head upstream.

Lake Barkley

Lake Barkley has a crappie fishery that rivals Barkley's big sister, Kentucky Lake. TWRA creel and netting reports show a very strong crappie population with a about a 50-50 mix of black and white crappies. The best crappie fishing is between Cumberland City and the Kentucky state line. This 35-mile mid section of the lake has many stumps providing abundant crappie habitat. Pay special attention to Guices, North and South Cross, Lick, Hickman, Dyers and Saline Creeks. The bays and around the islands at Dover offer the best crappie fishing, especially when the water warms and the fish move shallow.

In winter, tight-lined minnows along the banks and channel ledges produce good eating slab crappies. Anglers say the smallest minnows are best – unlike in Kentucky Lake where they devour shiners (maybe it isn't the crappie but the anglers' choice that makes the difference). Check with a local bait shop to see which minnow the fish prefer.

David Woodward of Nashville and I fish the headwaters of Lake Barkley, below Cheatham Dam. We began fishing there together in the 1970s. We did well



Dave Woodward picks crappies off the wood along banks of Lake Barkley's upper reaches by casting small jigs, but his best catches come from the lock walls below and above Cheatham Dam

working the vertical concrete walls of the lock and drifting minnows below the spill gates. In winter they stack up along these walls on both sides of the dam.

As the water warms, in February

Old Hickory, Cordell Hull in the Cumberland



and March, crappie start moving up the creeks, and by the time they move into the bushes in spring they seem to hit the jigs better than minnows.

Cheatham Lake

Next upstream reservoir is Cheatham Lake. David Woodward knows the lake better than I do and the best techniques. He uses the Kentucky double-hook, bottom-bouncing rig – a one-ounce bell sinker at the bottom with two drop lines 16 and 18 inches from the weight, respectively, and hooks range from number one to 2/0. He

Doug Markham from Nashville poses with a new friend he hauled out of Old Hickory Lake near the 109 bridge.

also casts jigs for wintertime crappie. Johnson and Sycamore Creeks are hot areas in the winter into spring. Crappies also follow the same pattern as they do on Barkley – holding on banks and main channel ledges.

Crappie fishing below Old Hickory Dam, Cheatham's headwaters, can be



...Crappies in the Cumberland

very good. Crappies move up to hold along the quiet side of the seam when there is a discharge. Place your minnow or jig in the vortexes, or eddies, along the seam and keep your boat moving along with the vortex. These eddies hold food and provide slack current for crappie. The fish concentrate in the mouth of the lock too.

Old Hickory Lake

Fishing pressure is light in the upper reaches of Old Hickory and heaviest near and below the 109 Bridge where they have better habitat. This time of year locating deep pools along bluffs pays off. I suggest you drift a double-minnow rig (described above) or a double-jig rig along the bottom of the pools. Keep in mind that crappie won't stay in much current so probe eddies, tops of deadfalls along the shore and around the islands. And don't

overlook docks and boathouses. The owners of these structures usually create crappie cover within casting distance. Using your sonar, make several passes looking for brush. Mark the cover with a buoy or GPS and start fishing.

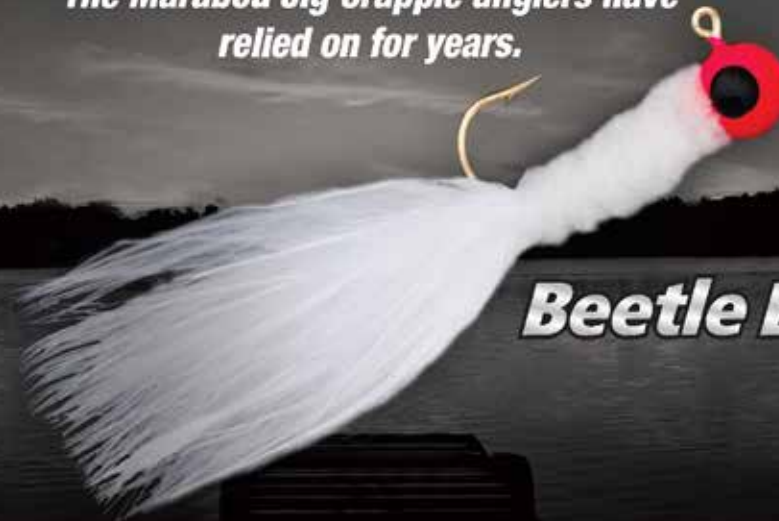
Station Camp, East Station Camp, Spencer, Cedar and Drakes Creeks are the largest in the lower section of the lake but many of the small bays off the main channel can be more productive. If I had to choose one best spot on lower Old Hickory, I would have to say Spencer Creek takes top crappie honors.

David Woodward, with his decades of experience fishing the Cumberland River, says Old Hickory and Cheatham are his favorite lakes. "Crappie will take your small jigs and minnows as they do in other waters," says David. "Your opportunities are numerous along the banks of the creeks in the lower end of

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Old Hickory where you find downed trees and stumps. High water frequently re-supplies the banks with crappie cover.

“Crappies roam the deep channel banks in Old Hickory and Cheatham. I locate submerged trees on the channel with my sonar and you are likely to find crappie there. Crappies also hold in the bends a lot in winter. I fish brush and submerged trees along the outside bend of the channel with a minnow-tipped jig. I move it slowly among the branches. If I don't get a hit within a few minutes, I move on to another likely spot. The channel has so many places for crappie you need not spend much time in one area. When you find crappie you will usually find many in one school.”

Cordell Hull Lake

Cordell Hull Lake, the farthestmost reservoir upstream on Tennessee's portion of the Cumberland River, offers excellent crappie angling for those willing to look for them. Darryl York from Carthage says, “My favorite species to fish for is crappie. I fish Defeated Creek near Cordell Hull Dam, and Martin and Indian Creeks at Granville. I also fish some sloughs but mostly I fish the three creeks.

“I fish trees that stick above the water, and limbs and bushes. I think that the milfoil is good in the spring, but in the winter I fish mostly trees in about 30 feet of water. I cast 1/32-ounce jigs on 2- or 4-pound-test line on a 6½ -foot ultralight spinning rod. I use chartreuse jigs for crappie year-round.”

He says there's no hurry to get on the lake in the winter. “I get started around nine o'clock and I'll fish about 30 trees a day. I'll catch two or three fish from a tree and that's about it. They seem to spook real easy in winter. I may come back to a tree later if I catch some off it.

“I back off from the tree about 30 feet and cast into it, letting the jig settle to the bottom with the bail open, and then reel it back real slowly. Sometimes they hit it on the fall, but nine times out of 10 they hit when I come up through them.



The author prefers fishing tailwaters year-round to hook up with slabs. The areas below dams have many fish-holding features like rip-rap, creek mouths, vertical walls and locks.

They won't chase it.” Darryl sometimes uses minnows on a hook with a little splitshot for weight and fishes it the same way as his jig technique. Sometimes he adds a slip-float and fishes down to 20 feet. He claims he has his best luck using the smallest minnows he can find.

There you have Crappies in the Cumberland – just pick a place and drop a line.

 - *Vernon Summerlin*

Crappie N'



By Ron Presley

Shane Wilson signs his correspondence with the phrase, "Fishing's Future.....more than a sport." Give that statement just a little thought and you will understand the mission of this highly successful organization that is dedicated to changing lives through fishing.

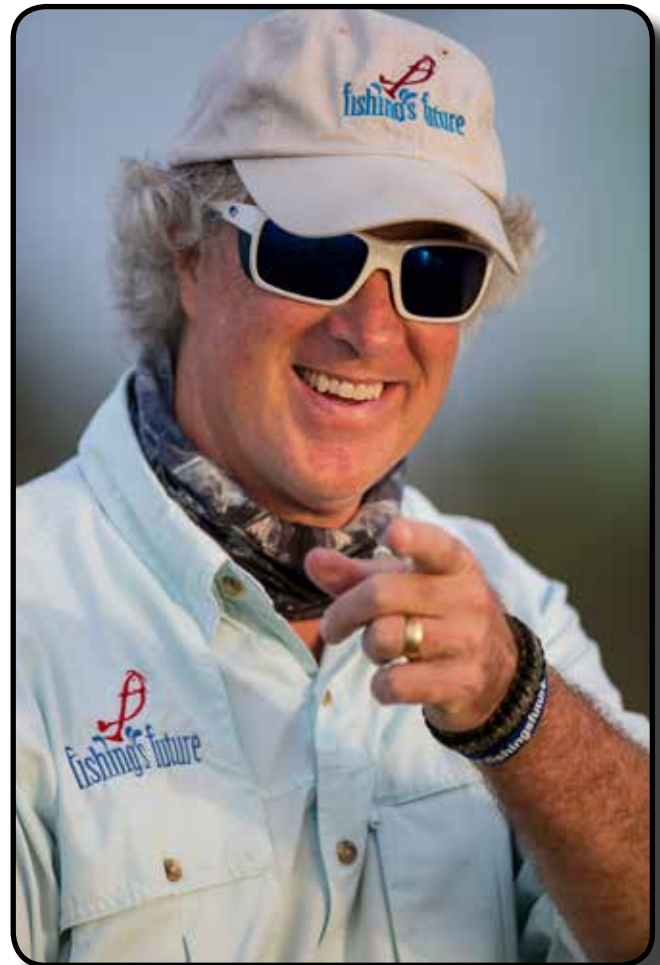
A popular statement among outdoor enthusiasts that recognizes a void in today's society goes like this, "Give them a tackle box, not an Xbox." The statement obviously refers to our youth's tendency towards cyberspace instead of outdoors space. This thinking is right down Shane Wilson's alley, but he takes it further, because of his background. Wilson is the founder of an organization known as Fishing's Future (FF).

Fishing's Future started on South Padre Island, TX in 2007. Wilson was administrator of a local School District's Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP). In that role, Wilson was charged

"Fishing's Future provides opportunities for families to reconnect to nature and learn about angling through family-oriented fishing activities."

with educating kids that had misbehaved in some manner.

"These kids were good kids who made bad decisions," recalls Wilson. "When two



Shane Wilson is founder of Fishing's Future.

or three of them got together, their decision-making abilities plummeted."

During the 12 years that Wilson was with the DAEP he came to the conclusion that those bad decisions came because of a lack of active, positive, parental engagement



in their lives. His personal interests and background led him to start an angling education program aimed at re-hooking parents to children.

The basis of his program links back to his own childhood where fishing was instrumental in strengthening his family's connections to each other. Reconnecting the family unit became his mission and angling education was the vehicle he used to accomplish that goal.

In a message on their website FF explains that families are important and that kids need to play outside. It further communicates FF's belief that learning about conservation and keeping our earth green and clean is the responsibility of everyone.

The FF website states, "Fishing's Future provides opportunities for families to reconnect to nature and learn about angling through family-oriented fishing activities designed to strengthen family bonds and teach responsible, ethical, environmentally-

Fishing's Future conducts fishing related activities aimed a strengthening family connections between parents and children.

conscious lessons. . ."

The organization accomplishes its mission through chapters across the U.S. This year alone, more than 115,000 individuals have received some level of fishing knowledge from FF. Some 15,000 volunteer hours have been logged in





Fishing's Future is the proud recipient of the 2016 Roland Sigurdson Outstanding Aquatic Education Program Award.

accomplishing this feat. Over the last several years, FF has introduced more than 600,000 individuals to the joys of fishing and that number continues to grow.

For Wilson, the rewards are many. "The reward comes in many forms," states Wilson. "But above all, I receive the most satisfaction in knowing that Fishing's Future is directly responsible for enriching the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals by giving them the gift of fishing."

Based on their outstanding performance in providing angling related activities for families all over the country, FF was recently presented the 2016 Roland Sigurdson Outstanding Aquatic Education Program Award. The award was presented by the Aquatic Resources Education Association

How you can support Fishing's Future

Fishing's Future does not charge for their services. As a volunteer, non-profit organization, FF receives inquiries daily to form new partnerships, open new chapters and schedule more events. Those enquires place additional pressures on their budget. This is where they can use your help.

The success of Fishing's Future is completely dependent upon volunteers and donations. All over America there are families who want to fish but don't know how and Fishing's Future is the only organizations completely dedicated to teaching families how to fish independently. Their programs hinge on funding, volunteers and individuals who are willing to make a difference within their community by joining the Fishing's Future family.

You can be a part of the everlasting and life changing affects this program has on youth and their families by visiting their website (<http://www.fishingsfuture.org>) and learning about starting a new chapter, being a sponsor or making a donation to support this very worthwhile cause.

(AREA). The award is given for providing an outstanding aquatic education program that increases public awareness of the resource and/or provides/promotes angler





education and fishing opportunities.


Fishing's Future Founder and President, Shane Wilson, accepted the award on behalf of the organization. "This award goes out to all volunteers and supporters who have taken part in making Fishing's Future what it is today," said Wilson. "There are hundreds of Fishing's Future volunteers who give freely of their time to share the joys and knowledge of fishing within their communities."

Fishing's Future currently has more than 50 chapters scattered across America and over the next 5 years they expect to more than double that number. FF hopes to have multiple chapters in every state and at the rate they are growing and the national recognition they are receiving, Fishing's Future is on the way to becoming a household name.

For more information on Fishing's Future, visit their website (www.fishingsfuture.org) or follow them on Facebook and Twitter.



CrappieNow commends the organization for their efforts and joins others in congratulating Fishing's Future on the prestigious AREA award.

 - Ron Presley

EAST TENNESSEE

WATTS BAR LAKE

OCTOBER 15th	
1. Neal Alvis/Scott Bunch	11.79
2. Hayden Barnett/Kelly Barnett	9.86
3. Cory Gerlach/Scott Baines	7.99
4. Darren Caughron/Wally Porter	7.94
5. David Loupe/Matt Xenos	7.82

BIG FISH

1. Neal Alvis/Scott Bunch	1.98
---------------------------	------

WAPPAPELLO

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

OCTOBER 16th	
1. Botch/Ware	5.75
2. Fowler/Channell	5.34
3. Hindman/Chism	5.29
4. Danny Walker/Jody Walker	4.44
5. Younger/Tropf	4.08

BIG FISH

1. Hindman/Chism	1.53
------------------	------

CENTRAL ILLINOIS

LAKE DECATUR

OCTOBER 18th	
1. Humphrey/Humphrey	7.58
2. Lawson/Brozio	7.51
3. Foley/Mooney	6.77
4. Radeck/Boston	6.47

BIG FISH

1. Lawson/Brazio	1.64
------------------	------

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

OCTOBER 22nd

1. Larry Britton/Robert Baker	7.9
2. JW Jackson/Kane Jackson	7.57
3. Coby Edwards/Rodney Edwards	6.47
4. Terry Spray/Tyler spray	5.69
5. Joey Davis	4.79

BIG FISH

1. Larry Britton/Robert Baker	1.68
-------------------------------	------

CENTRAL ALABAMA

LAY LAKE

OCTOBER 22nd	
1. Jamie Heflin/James Heflin	
2. Eric/lared	7.52

ANGLER OF THE YEAR

1. Wade/Alec

OCTOBER 22nd

1. Seth Easterling/Christopher Wade
2. James Walters/Jessica Walters
3. Tommy Channel/Amanda Channel
4. James Walter Sr/Billy Ray
5. Major Smith/Todd Beasley

RIPPIN'LIPZ

PERCY QUINN STATE PARK

9.65
9.31
7.43
7.21
5.36

OCTOBER 27th -29th**AMATUER DIVISION**

1. Ronald Keel/Ronald Taylor
2. Mark Arnold/Billy Arnold
3. Terry Barker/Jerry Barker
4. Roger Milby/Rodger Brown
5. Heath Martin/Barry Gentry

17
16.72
16.31
16.26
16.13

BIG FISH

1. Clarence Harris/Jeff Harris
2. Johnny Clary/Dwayne Craig

2.15
2.15

PRO DIVISION

1. Kyle Schoenherr/Rodney Neuhaus
2. Jim Freeman/Garrett Bridges
3. Jerry Trimble/Cliff Edwards
4. Terry Elliott/Jeff Elliott
5. Ronnie Capps/Steve Coleman

21.58
19.85
19.17
18.49
18.43

BIG FISH

1. James Reedy

2.37

CENTRAL ILLINOIS

LAKE SHELBYVILLE

OCTOBER 29th

1. Frank Revell/Dabbie Revell
2. Bob Sarko/Rick Clifton
3. Fred Brozio/Jimmie Lawson
4. Frank Revell Jr/Jeff Revell
5. Josh Nast/Dustin Reynolds

5.9
5.86
4.95
4.23
3.53

BIG FISH

1. Frank Revell/Dabbie Revell

1.07

NORTHEAST OHIO

SANDUSKY BAY

OCTOBER 29th

1. Luke/John
2. Jeff/Sean
3. Brad/Mark

8.58
8.06
6.15



4. Dave	6.13
5. Jerry/Eric	6.16
BIG FISH	
1. Luke/Jahn	1.1

SHOALS CRAPPIE

LITTLE BEAR

OCTOBER 30th	
1. David McCarley/Jimmy McCarley	5.98
2. Darrell Keil/Keith Dodd	5.88
3. Joe Lambert	4.37
4. Kevin McCarley/Rick Robertson	4.13

CRAPPIE NUTZ

LAKE EUFAULA

NOVEMBER 5th	
1. Clancy/Bell	
2. Calvin/Robert	
3. Nipper/Brad	
4. Biddle/Underwood	

CAROLINA

LAKE JORDAN

NOVEMBER 5th	
1. Quan/Grimm	12.56
2. Sprouse/Wilson	12.16
3. Hawkins/McGurt	11.53
4. McGhee/Williams	11.34
5. Fudy/Kaantz	10.82
BIG FISH	
1. McGhee/Williams	2.52

BAYOU STATE

BLACK LAKE

NOVEMBER 5th	
1. Greg Davis/Leo Friday	8.27
2. Stuart Baum/James Stewart	6.9
3. Brandon Jennings/Amy Jennings	5.48
4. Jeremy McKinney/Timothy Ferguson	3.67
5. Kevin Berry/Ed Welling	2.42
BIG FISH	
1. James Stewart	2.12

KANSAS CRAPPIE

CLINTON LAKE

NOVEMBER 5th - 6th	
1. Greg Sleeper/Daniel Leonard	9.44
2. Will Bevan/Dustin Hobbs	9.28
3. Donna Madyson/Frank Haidusek	7.67

BIG FISH

1. Brandon Manis	1.84
------------------	------

CHATTANOOGA**NOVEMBER 6th**

1. Bobby Ramsey/Tabitha Ramsey	8.26
2. Mike Johnston/Seth Coleman	7.33
3. Tommy Whitt Sr/Tommy Whitt Jr	7.1

BIG FISH

1. Bobby Ramsey/Tabitha Ramsey	1.56
--------------------------------	------

CENTRAL ILLINOIS

CLINTON LAKE

NOVEMBER 12th

1. Zehr/Nugent	5.97
2. Humphrey/Humphrey	5.34
3. Smith/Gillespie	5.18
4. Mullins/Reynolds	5.09
5. Peck/Price	4.81

BIG FISH

1. Beck/Price	0.99
---------------	------

PEACH STATE

LAKE EUFAULA

NOVEMBER 12th

1. Rick Cone/david Allen	6.68
2. Scott Williams/Jacob Sapp	6.14
3. Craig Chapman/Jason Little	5.44
4. Matthew Burroughs/Wes Robinson	5.23
5. Frank Jackson	5.2

BIG FISH

1. Scott Williams/Jacob Sapp	1.96
------------------------------	------

EAST TENNESSEE

CHEROKEE LAKE

NOVEMBER 12th

1. Neil Alvis/Scott Bunch	9.32
2. Wayne Darnell/Rickey Keener	7.84
3. Darren Caughron	7.36
4. Dave Jones/Bobby Joyce	7.28
5. T Doggy/Eddie Justice	6.13

CRAPPIE CALENDAR

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

December	3rd	Peach State	Lake Blackshear	Club
December	3rd	Carolina-Cca	Lake Wateree	Club
December	3rd	Rippin' Lipz	Eagle Lake	Club
December	10th	Bayou State	Black Lake	Club
December	10th	Chattanooga	Chester Frost Park	Open
December	10th	Magnolia	Eagle Lake/Chotard	Club
December	17th	East Tennesse	Ft. Loudon	Club
December	17th	Middle Tennessee	Woods Reservoir	Club
December	17th-18th	Kansas	Hillsdale Reservoir	Classic
December	18th	Wappapello	Wappapello Lake	Club
January	7th	Bayou State	Caney Lake	Club
January	7th	Peach State	Lake Sinclair	Club
January	7th	Carolina-Cca	Wateree Lake	Club
January	8th	Chattanooga	Chester Frost Park	Club
January	14th	Magnolia	Okatibbee Lake	Club
January	14th	Slabmasters	Lake Sinclair	Qualifier
January	14th	Crappienutz	Lake Blackshear	Club
January	21st	East Tennessee	Chickamauga Lake	Club
January	21st	Cat Texas	Bob Sandlin/Cypres Springs	Qualifier
January	21st	Middle Tennessee	Tim's Ford	Club
January	21st	Wappapello	Wappapello Lake	Club
January	27th -28th	Crappie Masters	St Johns River	Club
February	3rd - 4th	Crappie Masters	Lake Talquin	Club
February	4th	Bayou State	Caney Lake	Major Event
February	4th	Carolina-Cca	Norman Lake	Club
February	18th	Cat Texas	Ray Roberts	Qualifier
February	18th	East Tennessee	Tellico Lake	Club
February	11th	Crappienutz	Lake Blackshear	Club
February	11th	Rippin' Lipz	Calling Panther	Club
February	12th	Chattanooga	Chester Frost Park	Open
February	18th	Crappie Usa	Logan Martin	Club
February	18th	Middle Tennessee	Normandy	Club
February	18th	Magnolia	Wolf Lake	Club
February	19th	Wappapello	Wappapello Lake	Club
February	24th - 25th	Crappie Masters	Lake D'arbonne	State Champoinship
February	25th	Crappie Usa	Lake Eufaula	Club
February	25th	Peach State	West Point Lake	Club
February	25th	Carolina-Cca	Harris Lake	Club

CLUB	WEB SITE	CONTACT
Bayou State Crappie Association	www.bsca.crappieclub@aol.com	Brandon Jennings
Capitol Crappie Club		Austin Kneeskern
Carolina Crappie Association	www.carolinacrappieassociation.webnode.com	
Central Alabama Crappie Club		Dan Dannanmueller/Jonathan Phillips
Central Arkansas Crappie Club	http://www.centralarkansascrappieassociation.com/	Jason Westerberg
Central Illinois Crappie Club	http://www.centralillinoiscrappieclub.com/	Joe Schrader/Greg Foley
Chattanooga Crappie Club	https://sites.google.com/site/chattanoogacrappieclub/	Mike Johnston/Jim Edmister
Crappie Anglers Of Texas	www.crappieanglersoftexas.com	Jay Reeve
Crappie Masters	www.crappiemasters.net	Mike Valentine
Crappie Usa	www.crappieusa.com	Darrell Van Vactor
Crappienutz Ms	www.crappieguys.com	Robert Smith/Joe Faircloth
East Tennessee Crappie Club	www.easttncrappieclub.com	
East Texas Crappie Club		Creekside Sports-903-849-2634
Eastern Missouri Crappie Club	www.easternmocrappie.com	Steve Perotto
Grand Lake Crappie Series Oh	www.grandlakecrappieseries.com	Jeff
Indiana Slab Masters	www.indianaslabmastes.com	Joe Long/Damon Phillips
Kansas City Crappie Club	http://www.kansascrappieclub.com/	Hoe Bragg/Frank Haidusek
Magnolia Crappie Club	www.magnoliacrappieclub.com	Michael Nowell/Roger Womack
Middle Tennessee Crappie Club	www.middletennesseecrappieclub.com	Toby Ivey
Northeast Ohio Crappie Club	www.northeastohiocrappieclub.com	Dan Elko/Robert Elko
Peach State Crappie Club		Robert Smith
Ripppn' Lipz		Jimmy/Jessica Walters
Shoals Area Crappie Associaton	shoalscrappie@gmail.com	Keith Dodd
Slabmasters Tournament Trail	www.slabmasterstournamenttrail.net	Jamie Moore/Dan Sidle
Springfield Crappie Club Il	www.springfieldcrappieclub.com	Jerry Jallas/Rick Montooth
Wappapello Crappie Club Mo		
West Tennessee Crappie Club		
Williams Creek Crappie Club	www.williamscreekcrappieclub.com	Danny Kemp/Bob Parkinson



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2017 Crappie USA Trail

Schedule of Events

Logan Martin, AL	02/18/17
Eufaula, AL	02/25/17
Neely-Henry, AL	03/03-04/17
Lake of Egypt, IL	03/10-11/17
Weiss Lake, AL	03/18/17
Ky & Barkley Lakes, TN	03/24-25/17
Cave Run Lake, KY	04/01/17
Lake Wylie, NC	04/01/17
Lake Cumberland, KY	04/07-08/17
Old Hickory Lake, TN	04/15/17
Green River Lake, KY	04/21-22/17
Grand Lk St. Marys, OH	04/28-29/17
Mississinewa/Salamonie, IN	05/06/17
Lake Shelbyville, IL	05/13/17
Patoka Lake, IN	05/20/17



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Fishing Funny's

by Jonny Hawkins

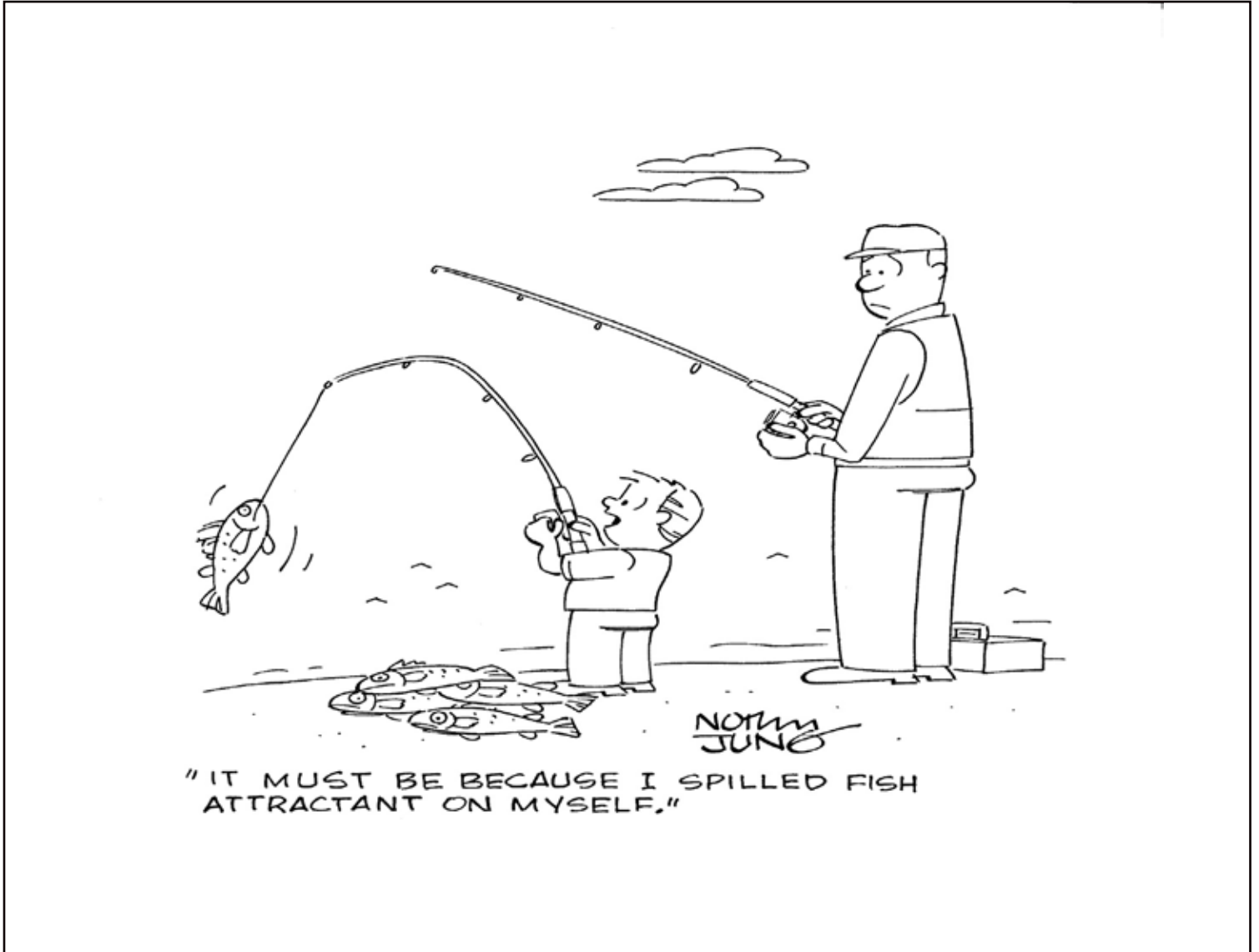


Photo Contest

1st Place This Month!

Mark Harper
Lake Fork, Alba Texas
Weight 2.84 Certified



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.

Early morning launch
Tim Huffman photo



Goodbye until next issue!