

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

**fishhound**  
Magazine

**Crappie.com**

March 2017 - Issue #73



## ***Dock Shootin' Time***

## Features

### **Dock Fishing – The Myth and the Magic.....4**

by Ron Presley

There is something magic about dock shooting for crappie. B'n'M Poles prostaff angler, Scott Williams, reveals that it is not just for summer.



### **The Future of Crappie Tournaments: Part 4...Clubs, Fair Play & Sportsmanship....12**

by Tim Huffman

Club and regional tournaments are important for fun, a learning tool and a stepping stone for those wanting to fish bigger events. Sportsmanship and honesty is also a part of the game.



### **Sparkleberry Swamp and Jam.....20**

by Vic Attardo

A story of fishing a remote swamp. Snakes, longpoles and crappie.



### **Deland Florida 'Old Florida, New Vibe,.....26**

by Tim Huffman

The St. John's River and connected lakes are great places for crappie fishing and family fun. A good starting point is Deland, FL.



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# Opening Cast

I'm writing this with many mixed feelings. I've lost two friends recently, both huge hitters in the outdoor world. Wade Borne was a master writer/photographer maybe best known as a regular in BASS Magazine, Ducks Unlimited, along with much work in radio and television. He loved and wrote about crappie fishing, too. He was a giant in the industry yet very humble. He never hesitated helping communicators who were starting out. I admired him as a professional, gentleman, Christian and family man.



One of our CrappieNow own, and Roadrunner marketing guru, T.J. Stallings, passed away in late January. He was another long-time friend. T.J. had a huge impact on the crappie fishing world but his work was always behind the scene as he preferred others get the recognition. There is a dedication to him in this issue.

The positives have been many since the first of the year. For those living in the southern half of the U.S., we've had a remarkably warm winter. The warm weather beats the freezing cold by a long shot.

A visit to Talquin Lake, Florida, in February to cover the Crappie Masters tournament included nice weather, a relaxing (but small) cabin and a lot of action photos on the water. There were a many two-plus pound fish caught. This is an easy-to-fish lake with good numbers of crappie. If you need an early, warm destination lake you might want to plan a trip for next year in late winter or early spring.

This issue is crammed full of tips, articles and photos for your enjoyment. Hope you find something to help you catch a few more slabs this spring.

Good fishin' & God Bless,  
Tim Huffman, Editor/Sr Writer

Cover Photo:  
Alabama guide and Bobby  
Garland Pro-staffer, Lee Pitts,  
shooting docks in Oklahoma.  
Tim Huffman photo.

# ***Dock Shooting: The Myth and the Magic***

**Year-Round Dock Shooting for Crappie** Story & photos by Ron Presley

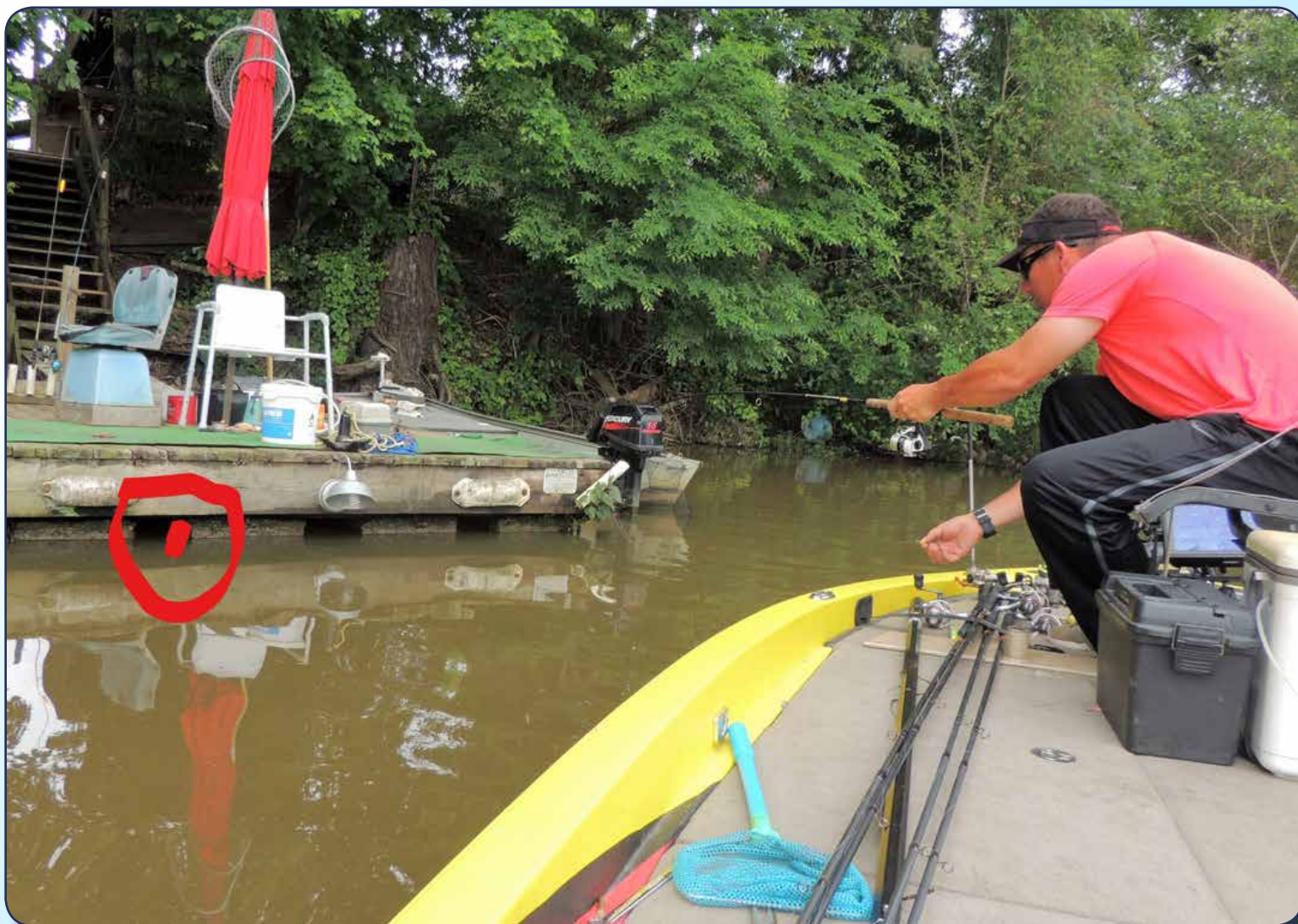
**S**cott Williams does not agree with the myth that dock shooting is only successful in the summer. He is a virtual databank of crappie fishing knowledge, developed as a serious crappie angler. His long history of success on the tournament trail relates

to his willingness to think outside the box.

“I shoot docks year-round,” reported Scott. “Now I’m not saying that there are not times of the year when it’s better than others, but you don’t have to limit it by season. I am attracted to it because I expect to be able to pull



Scott Williams found this dock loaded with crappie.



up to a dock and fill my livewell very quickly, any season of the year.”

Scott and his father, Billy Williams, are frequent competitors on the Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters All American Tournament Trail (CM). They have had plenty of success in competitive fishing, but none pleased them more than winning the Crappie Masters 2015 Angler Team of the Year (ATOY).

“I am very proud of the ATOY honor because it measures consistency,” offered the B’n’M Poles pro staff angler. “To be consistent and stay up in the top five, on a lot of different lakes, is what it takes. We didn’t win a single tournament all year, but we consistently finished high. To me that’s where it’s at. You have to go out there and beat a

Williams likes to set his rod parallel to the water to consistently hit tiny targets on a dock he expects to hold crappie. Note the red circle and the size of the target he is shooting for.

lot of excellent anglers, day in and day out. Daddy and I are very proud of the ATOY honor.”

### **Year-Round Dock Shooting**

Many crappie anglers turn to dock shooting when the weather warms. The prevailing theory is that the crappies are looking for shade and the docks provide it.

That is a huge myth,” declares Scott. “Sure, they like the shade in the summer, but they like the docks other



# 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

## 2017 Crappie USA Classic

Ky & Barkley Lakes , Paris, TN - 10/26-28/17



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times of the year too.”

“Dock shooting is especially good in the spring during the spawn,” reported Scott. “In fact, Spring is one of my favorite times because crappie will spawn under docks. You can catch some huge crappie in the spring, shooting docks. It’s just like any other time of the year in terms of locating them. If the dock is located in the water depth that the crappie want to be in, they’re gonna’ hold on it.”

Most all crappie anglers agree that crappies are structure oriented fish. “Are there times that they will go and suspend in open water,” asked Scott. “Sure, but at those same time those crappies are suspended, you can also find them under a dock. The catch is, that a productive dock will meet the

requirements of what the crappie are relating to in terms of water temp and water depth.”

“The dock that the fish are spawning under in the spring may not produce in the winter,” continued Scott. “Those docks that produce in the winter may not produce in the spring. You’ve got to be knowledgeable of the crappies’ habits and adjust for the season you’re fishing.”

Temperature plays a huge role in finding dock crappie. “As a general rule, the colder the water the deeper the fish on southern lakes,” reported Scott. “I’ve caught em’ under the docks when the water was 85 degrees and I’ve caught em’ when it was 40.”

Time on the water and studious use of sonar will indicate which docks

might be productive at any given time of the year. “I’ve caught spawning females under docks that were in 2 feet of water,” offered Scott. “In the winter, I’ve caught crappies under docks that stood in 30 feet of water.”

“It’s hard to look at a dock and tell much,” offered Scott. “They can all look pretty good. You can have two docks, side by side and identical to each other. One will hold fish and the other one won’t. That’s why I rely so heavily on my Lakemaster Charts and Humminbird electronics. I can scan the docks first and then use my 360 sonar to really pin point exactly where the fish are on the dock. Pretty awesome stuff!”

Electronics can be particularly useful on new lakes. Scott explained that with Humminbird Side Imaging you can cruise by a series of docks and mark the ones you want to return to and fish.

“Just move the cursor over to dock you are viewing on your screen and drop a waypoint,” advised Scott. “You can then go back to it anytime and check it out thoroughly for the possibility of

**“ . . . be knowledgeable of the crappie’s habits and adjust for the season . . . ”**

fishing it. Side imaging is a tool that I employ on almost every trip. I believe that part of an angler’s time on the water should be spent looking for new locations to fish.”

Scott advises anglers to learn the proper operation of their sonar. “It takes some time and dedication to learn to use electronics properly,” confides Scott. “But, it is worth it and it’s not that hard. It is especially useful to use the electronics on new lakes where you are not familiar with the layout.”

“Once the electronics are set up to proper sensitivity, chart speed and scanning range you can actually see fish under the dock,” instructed Scott. “For dock shooting I usually set my side scan to 3 times the depth. If the water is 10 feet deep, I will set my unit to shoot out 30 feet. I constantly use electronics to find the docks I want to shoot.”





## How to Dock Shoot

An important element of dock shooting is choosing the right pole. “I like the B’n’M sharpshooter,” offered Scott. “It’s got the perfect spine for bringing the big fish out from under a dock and a soft enough tip to detect the slightest of bites. More importantly it gives you the control you need to fire precise shots with a very small jig.”

A good rule of thumb is to fit the rod to your height. Taller folks probably want a little longer rod. The Sharpshooter comes in 5 lengths, ranging from 4.5 to 5.5 feet.

Just like using your electronics properly, dock shooting takes a little practice. It could be compared to

Sometimes being a contortionist helps. Johnathan Phillips knows the importance of shooting docks from every angle before moving on.

archery in the sense that you are developing a method of shooting that can be repeated over and over again. Practice makes perfect and time on the water will teach you the proper load on your rod to achieve the shot you want.

Scott says it is mostly about getting the feel for it. “I like to have the rod parallel to the water and load it just enough to get the jig to where I want it. A little practice will help you decide just how much load to put on the rod.”



Jig selection is simple. It should almost always be small, and if you are not getting bites, offer another color. “I use a 1/32-ounce chenille jig from Bass Pro Shops,” said Scott. “I like reds and yellows.”

“Most of the time, to be a successful dock shooter, you’ve got to become an expert at precision shooting,” advised Scott. “You’ve got to be able to shoot the jig under the dock, sometimes through small openings, to the darkest, deepest spot. Missing it 10 to 12 inches can mean the difference in a bite or not.”

The speed of the retrieve and the time the jig is allowed to drop should be varied through the day to determine how the crappie want it. “Sometimes

I let it fall like a pendulum, and other times I bring it out fast,” advised Scott. “Variable presentations are the key. You will know when you get it right.”

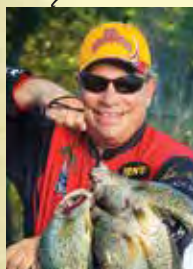
“I love the thump!” concluded Scott. “Figuring out the right jiggling cadence for shooting docks is half the fun and part of the magic of catching them.”

Dock shooting is an excellent way to catch Crappie...Now. Find a dock that meets the requirements of what the crappie are relating to and you are likely to feel the thump, anytime of the year.

 - Ron Presley

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Crappie Basics #133

Get Out of the Wind

“The month of March is all about weather change. Wind is the primary thing for the weekend fisherman. The primary thing is to get out of the wind even if you don’t catch as many fish. It needs to be about fun and safety.

“On the St. Johns River last year we had been catching 1.5 pound fish during practice. The wind got bad so I targeted areas out of the wind that looks similar to Reelfoot. The first spot I pulled into we caught two fish over 2.5 pounds. We had fish on that would have won the tournament and lost several but we still finished fifth. The point is that getting out of the wind is the thing to do even if you don’t catch more fish but you might find a really good spot to fish you wouldn’t have found otherwise.”  
 --Steve Coleman, Reelfoot guide and tournament pro, 731-442-9152

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# Crappie MADNESS

by Tim Huffman

**B**ass Pro Shops Crappie Madness took place all over the country with many different pros presenting seminars about catching crappie. My visit was to the BPS in Little Rock, Arkansas, where they were featuring tournament fishermen and Crappie Masters Sportsmen of the Year recipients, Jim and Jason Westerberg. The following tips are from their seminar.

## Slow Trolling

- Designed to cover a lot of water.
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- It's not too difficult but takes a lot of practice to learn.
- Pre-fish a lake by studying maps so you will have a plan when you get on the water.
- Target mouths of creeks, channels and bays in prespawn.
- Target shallows and the rear of creeks during the spawn.
- Check the middle of creeks in post spawn.
- Look for brushpiles and ledges in summer and winter.
- 0.2 to 0.3 mph is our key speed. Speed is critical.
- Go against the wind. When you get to brush or stumps you can let off of the trolling motor and drift back.
- Go with the wind when it's strong. Use Drift Paddles or drift socks to slow the boat.
- 1/8 and 1/4-ounce jigs are good for slow trolling. Bigger fish like the big bait.
- Use a scent with jigs. We like garlic.

Bart Turbyfill, Bass Pro Shops GSM of fishing, says, "Crappie Madness is a popular event here at our Little Rock store. It's great having Jim and Jason with us because they can talk about local lakes and tips because they fish here. Our fishermen want to hear about how they can catch crappie locally. These are the best seminars we have here."





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# *The Future of Crappie*

## *Part 4...Clubs, Fair Play & Sportsmanship*

By Tim Huffman

**P**art 4 continues with national circuits. This issue looks effects of local and regional clubs, cheating and fair play, and sportsmanship. Our series experts include Darrell Van Vactor, General Manager of Crappie USA; Mike Vallentine, President and Owner of Crappie Masters; Matt Morgan, Co-Owner of the American Crappie Trail; and fishermen.

*The purpose of this series is to discuss the national trails, inside information and the future of the sport. Whether you fish tournaments or not, these national trails and the fishermen who fish them have an impact on the boats, gear and baits that are available. Tournament fishermen have added volumes of fish-catching information that is used in everyday fishing.*

### **Local & Regional Clubs**

Local and regional clubs have boomed in the last decade. The Magnolia Crappie Club in Mississippi is one example. It's based in the big crappie corridor, has dedicated fishermen, and a good backing of sponsors. It also has a quality newsletter. The club has a few ups and downs like any organization, but their regular tournaments have big draws with their Big Momma tournament being open to non-club members making it a good, big event.

Most states have fishing clubs. In the past few years clubs in Arkansas and Alabama have formed and are doing well. Jonathan Phillips and Dan Dannenmueller from central Alabama says, "Many of our fishermen have never competed. It gives them a low-cost format with little travel so beginning fishermen can get in and learn. It gets them prepared to move up and fish national circuits and several of our teams are doing that already this year. The bottom line is they can compete without facing all the national sponsored teams, they can learn and they get a

foundation for fishing bigger tournaments if they choose. The final end result for a club fisherman is learning how to catch crappie and the friendships made in the club.

Charlie Hildredth, Indiana, has been fishing tournaments for many years and approves highly of them. "I've watched teams join smaller clubs and improve by being exposed to a lot of fishing knowledge and learning from the experienced members. A fisherman can learn new ways to fish and learn tips for catching more crappie for serious competition or just for fun."

But do these tournament hurt the national trials?

Van Vactor believes clubs help the sport of crappie fishing. They definitely hurt the national tournament numbers because members can fish close to home. Crappie USA works with some of the clubs by allowing them to send a few of their top teams from their classic to the national classic.

Vallentine says, "Local and regional clubs are growing. A fisherman can

# ***Topie Tournaments***



Whether fishing a local club event or a national tournament, getting a good one in the boat is always a fun time.





compete local, have a lot of fun and it doesn't cost a lot of money. There have been a lot of people saying the clubs are killing us but I don't agree. Any attention to the sport is good for crappie fishing, allows people the opportunity to fish and compete, and it brings new fishermen into the sport. We see some of the people who start with the clubs come and fish our tournaments. We really appreciate their participation."

According to Morgan, local and regional clubs are stepping stones to work up to the national trails. "I've seen teams get better through local clubs and move up. Our overall goal will be to work with some of the crappie clubs to find a way to include them in our trail. Bass does this and it works well to introduce more fishermen to bigger competition.

A fisherman can learn new ways to fish and tips for catching more crappie even when pleasure fishing."

## **Fair Play**

Years ago during a classic in Tennessee, I was told about a phone call that came into the office about a team who would be cheating during the classic. The cheating team would be bringing fish with them in a tank in the back of the truck. We will call them Cheating Team #1.

The next step came on practice day when a team came in describing a jug in

a cove with a big crappie tied to it. Plans were put into place to catch the cheating team. At three o'clock in the morning on the next day, an observer hid on a nearby bank and waited to observe the jug.

Opening morning began with a boat (we'll call them Cheating Team #2) came flying into the cove and went straight to the jug and picked it up. The fish had died so they did not take it. The police couldn't arrest them because they did not bring the fish in to illegally gain money, but Team #2 was thrown out of the tournament and prohibited from fishing any more tournaments. The interesting and funny thing is that Team #2 is the same team who had called to report that Team #1 would be cheating.

So Team #2 is disqualified. Team #1 was being watched by binoculars throughout the tournament from a boat on the water. With only minutes left in the tournament they had not caught a limit of keeper fish and had spent most of the day relaxed and smoking cigarettes. They headed for weigh-in, ducked out of sight into a little cove by a tree for a couple of minutes, then pulled out and headed to weigh-in.

Other fishermen had come through the weigh-in with average size white crappie. Then Team #1 came to the scales. Unlike all the other stringers, this team came in with beautiful, black crappie that





beat all other weights by several pounds. The difference in weight seemed almost too good to be true...and it was.

After the fish were weighed and winners announced it was time for the polygraph. The warning came that it would show on the polygraph if they had cheated, one team member immediately stated he had heart trouble, was taking medicine and couldn't take the polygraph. Once told that they had been observed, someone had called stating they would be cheating and that a federal officer was there to arrest them should they fail the polygraph, the second fisherman chose not to take the test."

In more recent years, the 2015 Crappie USA Classic had a winning team fail the polygraph. Crappie USA states that a "polygraph test and/or any other test deemed necessary to determine compliance with tournament rules. ...If that member fails the test the team will be disqualified and neither member of the team will be awarded the prize."

Crappie Masters and the American Crappie Trail have similar rules. The basic purpose is to ensure honesty and integrity. Alcohol and non-prescription drugs are not permitted during tournament hours. Trails often require that teams allow a spotter/observer in the boat. These are usually for a top few teams in a tournament on day two of a two-day tournament.

Conditions can get crowded in open water or as in this photo, along a fence row at Truman Lake. Sportsmanship and following rules are required to avoid problems.

Having an observer witness a team's catch is an excellent method to ensure honesty.

The bottom line is that some people are dishonest and will attempt to cheat whether playing marbles or competing in a tournament. Every trail makes a strong effort through polygraphs, observations boats and observers to prevent and catch those who do not play by the rules.

## Sportsmanship

Van Vactor: "We've had very few instances of poor sportsmanship. We get a few complaints and it's usually on the same fishermen for getting too close. But complaints are rare and I'm proud of the group of fishermen we have."

Crappie Masters rules state: "...unsportsmanlike conduct may be disqualified and/or have their membership revoked."

Sportsmanship is often subjective and has been a small problem in tournaments. Some people are rude and others are not. Some tend to exaggerate situations so determining the truth, who



## Profile: Matt Morgan



**Title:** Co-Owner of the American Crappie Trail

**Age:** 39

**Home lake:** Kentucky Lake

**Other occupations:** Morgan Striping

**Fishing background:** Grew up fishing the Tennessee River. Has fishing competitively for 12 years.

**Fishing highlights:** Florida and Alabama State Championships; 2008 Adult-Youth Championship with son Drew; Grenada 2009 Crappie Masters National Championship; 2016 Crappie Masters National Championship.

**Tournament partner:** Kent Watson

**Biggest crappie:** 3.12

**Favorite lake to crappie fish?** Any place in Mississippi: Grenada; Sardis; and Ross Barnett

**Any fishing superstitions?** None

**How spend time when not fishing or working?** I like spending time with my family.

**Favorite boat food?** Use to be all the snacks and stuff that's bad. Now it's fruit.

**Favorite sports teams?** St. Louis Cardinals

**How would you like to be remembered?** As someone who gave it all, competed and let the cards fall where they fell, and left it as that.

was right and who was wrong, and what should be done is often difficult.

The American Crappie Trails states: "Contestants in ACT tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservations. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification." They go further about public conduct. "Contestants will not do anything which shall be detrimental to ACT, its sponsors or competitive fishing in general." Also, "Contestants agree not to engage in any conduct that will reasonably tend to degrade him/her or bring ACT into public hatred, contempt or ridicule or tend to offend the fishing community or integrity of competitive angling."

Morgan says, "Sportsmanship often depends upon the lake and how visible you are. In the fall we had two boats around us on the first day of the Crappie Masters Championship. After being successful on day one, we had 35 boats around us on

day two. That's not sportsmanship and it's difficult to control. The teams are not doing anything illegal by the rules but it isn't sporting when they are moving from their area to an area where the leader is fishing. I actually had to cut crankbaits out of our lines from a fishermen who cut across too close."

A positive note is that most trails acknowledge good sportsmanship through awards. The awards are prestigious because it has little to do with fishing but more about the person or team being helpful to others and being good representatives of the sport of crappie fishing.

*Next issue will be Part 5 in the series. It will feature care and release of fish, effect of media, and what it means to win the Classic Championship verses Angler Team of the Year.*

 - Tim Huffman

# Philosophy

# Finesse

FISHING BEGAN HERE



Charlie Brewer, Sr. - 1990's  
- WWII Navy Veteran -

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*Charles S. Brewer Jr.*



Charlie Brewer, Jr.  
- Vietnam Navy Veteran -

- DO-NOTHING - FINESSE - POLISHING THE ROCKS - DON'T OVER PLAY NATURE -



CAROLINA'S  
CRAPPIE  
CLASSIC

Winners for 2016

*Stokes McClellan  
and  
Jordan Newsome*

Used 2-1/8" Slider Minnow  
and 3" Slider Grub

# Sparkleberry Swamp & Jam

Story & photos by Vic Attardo

Okay, so Whitey says to me, “When a storm starts rolling in, snakes get off the water and climb higher in the trees.”

Well now, snakes don’t bother me much. I even had a timber rattler slither across the surface of a river right between a friend and me while we trout fished. The snake didn’t pester me; I didn’t pester it.

So a storm starts coming on while Whitey Outlaw and I are crappie fishing Sparkleberry Swamp in South Carolina. It was good fishing too, which I’ll tell you about. Well, the skies are getting darker and darker, we’re hearing distant thunder, even the swamp’s Barred owls are kicking up a fuss, and we’re in a dense canopy working very close to cypress and tupelo.

To get my jig as tight to some knees as a horny boy at a high school dance, I lean over, stretch out and put my hand on this solid trunk. My face gets kissing close too.

Well, you might guess it.

Right there staring back at me with the narrowest eyes since Eve tossed the apple to Adam is a curled up, wrapped around snake the size of a super stretched bungee cord.

As I said I don’t mind snakes but I don’t want to French one either so I stepped -- no jumped -- back in the boat and said, “Whitey, there’s a snake on this tree.” And he says, “Which way is it going?” And I say, “Looks like up.” And he says, “I told you when a storm starts rolling in, snakes climb higher.”

Scan a S.C. map and you’ll see a big patch of blue east of Columbia. A big patch. There are no roads going through the blue, no little villages set down in the center or on the sides, some



Crappie next to the tree roots, crappie under floating mats of grass, crappie in the shade, crappie in the sun, crappie in patches of open and closeted waters, crappie, crappie and big crappie in lots of places.



maps don't even give the blue a name but the space will have those little bushy printed symbols which look as much like a campfire as a bunch of wet reeds. Still the meaning is sort of clear -- this is a swamp. A big swamp. And it's called Sparkleberry Swamp which might as well be the name for a popular jam or jelly as a dense wet-bottomed semi-liquid land which, by the way, has some terrific crappie fishing. Terrific.

As Outlaw described it, Sparkleberry Swamp is 65 miles of "just blue on the map."

"I doubt anyone has mapped all of it," says Whitey who grew up fishing these outback waters.

Certainly few people know its crappie secrets, but Whitey does. Crappie next to the tree roots, crappie under floating mats of grass, crappie in the shade, crappie in the sun, crappie in patches of open and

The crappie contingent worked out to more than half-a-dozen brawny crappie per hour. And every fish was a wonder of place and opportunity.

closeted waters, crappie, crappie and big crappie in lots of places.

The basic tenant of good swamp fishing techniques arises from the fact that one simply cannot cast in a swamp.

While I would have loved to catch a few swamp crappie with my fly rods, it was 'tirely out of the question. Indeed, a wise angler doesn't even attempt to cast a spinning rod a few feet. There's just no room — and a full swing might hook one of those snakes.

Instead fishing in a swamp employs a technique variously called "dabbing" or "dapping," though the locals who practice





it don't call it anything at all, they just do it.

Using long poles from nine to twelve feet and a small reel that is never really "reeled," only a few inches of line is extended from the rod tip. The offering is a one-sixteenth ounce jig with a soft-plastic trailer, but it's possible to use a lighter weight jig if conditions permit.

As the rod is long, the technique requires a pole with a strong backbone and I found one in the BnM Double Duty.

Motoring next to potential crappie-holding structure, such as cypress knees or an opening in a pad field, the boat is stopped and the angler stands and positions the rod so that the tip sits directly over the place he hopes will hold fish. Some eight-inches of line are carefully dipped into the structure hole with a tight line maintained throughout the drop.

"I like to move the jig six inches to one side and then six inches to the other," Whitey said.

Fishing in a swamp employs a technique variously called "dabbing" or "dapping," though the locals who practice it don't call it anything at all, they just do it.

This means that after the jig is inserted vertically into the opening, it receives a little horizontal movement as well.

If no strike is forthcoming, he lifts the jig and finds other potential holes all within the radius of the boat. When I fished with Whitey, we probed some dozen or so spots either from the bow and along both sides of the boat before moving on. Each potential opening saw us extending the rod, placing the tip over the slot, slowly but deliberately lowering the jig nearly the entire short length of line. The motion stopped when there was only a smidgeon of line between the water surface and the rod tip, or if fortune smiled, when the tip was jerked down by an attacking crappie.

As Whitey explained swamp fishing is actually fast fishing.

"I'm going quickly from tree to tree," he said. "If you put the jig down there, they're going to take it right away or they're not."

There's no need to linger and wait for a strike. Either the fish bites or it doesn't.

While we stopped and probed a number of spots at each stop, I was surprised at the quickness we cruised the swamp. The boat didn't collect any barnacles.

"I leave the motor on idle when we fish," Whitey said. "It doesn't disturb them and you don't have to restart the engine time and time again."

We tooted around Sparkleberry in his 17-foot War Eagle johnboat with its 54-inch beam and a 40 hp tiller. The johnboat's wide beam was perfect for the location as sometimes an unseen and submerged tree part would lift the hull, knocking us off plumb, but then we settled back with just a small splash and

an "Ah!"

I had just asked Outlaw what kind of prop he used, when we ran over a thick log that lifted the boat in force.

"Stainless steel," he replied as the blades dug back into the dark water, "and I've bent some of those."

The swamp is certainly contentious water.

One day I fished with Whitey, the hot structural spot was a layer of robust, rumpled leaves located next to a flooded tree. The crappie weren't really in the labyrinth of tree roots and bent cypress knees but under the thick greenery often in less than three feet of water.

However, this greenery wasn't anchored to the bottom. The plants were of a hyacinth variety which doesn't have ground-embedded roots. Instead the flora is at the mercy of the winds and are pushed around by the southern tempests. Hyacinths tend to coagulate in dense stands and while a more permanent collection of trees and tree roots ensnares the moving mats at the same place, time and time again, the transience of the plants means they can be a hot spot for crappie one day and be empty of fish the next.


Nevertheless Whitey continually greets various hyacinth locations noting that he had taken a number of crappie from particular sites all season. Frankly I can't see how he can tell one mat from the other, or even maneuver around the unsigned swamp, but that's the advantage of being homegrown.

Later, making an unofficial calculation, I averaged out the number of snake-in-the-tree sightings we experience to one every two hours. The count was impressive.


The crappie contingent worked out to more than half-a-dozen brawny crappie per hour. And every fish was a wonder of place and opportunity.

Now if I can only find some of that Sparkleberry Jam. Sure would go good with scrapple and toast.

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 - By Vic Attardo

# FISHING LOSES A HEAVY HITTER...

By Tim Huffman

## TJ STALLINGS

On January 31, 2017 the fishing industry lost a friend. If you are a fisherman, whether you met him or not, TJ Stallings was your friend and influenced your fishing in some way. It may have been a special color he helped design or his input to an article you've read that helped you catch more fish.

TJ was introduced to the tackle business at an early age in Florida working in his dad's tackle retail store. He was always sharing tips from his experience spooling line, cleaning reels, tying jigs, selling tackle or something else he learned from hands-on experience; and from experience on the water. Whether a business associate, fisherman or stranger in need of help, he was quick to lend a helping hand just because that's who he was. He had a big heart.

He will always be remembered as the Road Runner guy because of his presence at tournaments, professional events, writer camps, the ICAST show, and more. And unlike many others, TJ preferred to work behind the scenes. He enjoyed helping others catch more fish or assist them in their fishing career. He was comfortable in front of a group or camera but always wanted other people to get credit and exposure.

TJ was best known for his ideas and uniqueness. His business card proudly read, "Marketing and Crazy Ideas." He was a genius at marketing. Products, product tweaks and awesome names often came from him. He was a great fit for his job as Director of Marketing for TTI-Blakemore Fishing Group, where primary crappie products include Road Runner Baits, Daiichi Bleeding Bait Hooks, and Tru-Turn Hooks. He loved both his job and the Campbell family at TTI-Blakemore.

For me personally, TJ and I shared rooms, had many great meals together (a few not so great) and spent time at writer events. He made sure expert fishermen, outdoor media and marketing people were properly matched for fishing, interviews and do photo shoots. He taught me a lot about the business and introduced me to people who I needed to



know to help my writing career. He and Dan Dannenmueller were instrumental in starting CrappieNow Magazine. TJ pushed Dan and me, knowing five years ago was the right time to jump in and be the first online crappie magazine. We shared things both personal and business, laughed a lot, knocking around many ideas and problems usually ending with a better plan or maybe just encouraging words.

His brother and co-worker, Ron Stallings, wrote this: "His life was full of conservation efforts, articles about fishing and being with his friends and family. He would like all of us to praise God more, listen to His words and get out there and enjoy what God gave us to enjoy...make a cast, draw back the arrow and put the cross hairs on a big buck while thinking of him."

TJ Stallings, 59 years old, Wetumpka, Alabama. You are missed by wife Kathy, brother Ron, family and many, many friends.







Crappie NOW How To Early Spawning

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## Crappie Basics #134

## Fish Staging Areas

“My tip would be not to go in too shallow too quickly. The crappie will be mainly in pre-spawn with a few going in shallow. I’ll see fishermen going in to really shallow stakebeds for example but it’s too early. We’ll stay out in a little deeper water where the fish are holding waiting to go in. It’s a good place to catch the big females. At Grenada the water will usually be close to 70 degrees when the main action starts in the shallows.” --Jason Sandage, Grenada/Reelfoot guide, 573-624-0250; 573-421-2629.



## 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

# Deland Florida

By Tim Huffman

## Old Florida, New Vibe'

**D**eland Florida is a good vacation area for crappie fishermen and their families. Volusia County is huge and includes Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach and Deland Florida. The St. John River and its chain of lakes provides great fishing for many species including crappie.

Parks, year round swimming, downtown with shopping, and we are a short trip to the beaches and Orlando attractions.

"We are big here on bass and crappie fishing and cater to those fishermen," says Turner. "Our closest lake is Monroe so we can certainly brag about our fishing. Our exposure to that has increased since



"Deland is the more natural, old Florida," says Georgia Turner, Executive Director of West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority. "We have 14 communities. Our theme is "Old Florida, New Vibe" because we have our really nice old downtown with murals but we've had good growth since the recession giving us our new feel and new vibe. For recreation we have our State

Deland Florida offers a clean, older atmosphere of nice shops and places to eat.

Crappie Masters has been coming here." Hontoon Island State Park-Accessible by private boat or the electric ferry, offers a quiet retreat on the St. John's River.



Manatees at Blue Spring State Park.

Hike or bicycle the 3-mile round trip self-guided trail that includes the Dead River and large Indian mound. Canoe and kayak rentals available, too, along with a store for essentials and souvenirs.

Blue Spring State Park- A National Gold Metal Award Winner, the park is the winter home to more than 200 manatees. Stroll along the one-third mile boardwalk and watch the manatees swim, rest and play in the warm waters. Cabins, canoe and kayak rentals and river cruises are

available.

DeLeon Springs State Park- A place to swim, canoe, kayak and paddleboat. A boat ramp and dock are available. Also, go for a hike or picnic. A great and different treat is the Old Spanish Sugar Mill Restaurant featuring breads and cook-your-own pancakes made from stone ground flours.



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Deland, Florida is a great crappie fishing destination. It's easy access to the St. John's River and the associated lakes, especially Monroe. Mix the fishing with family fun of nearby beaches, Orlando about 45 minutes away, state parks and the town, it's no wonder it's a great place to go. Recommended peak crappie fishing months: January thru March.

Garrett Steele displays a nice crappie taken from the St. John's in January. (Photo by Dan Dannenmueller)

Contacts:  
[www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org);  
Tourism at: [www.visitwestvolusia.com](http://www.visitwestvolusia.com),  
800-749-4850.

 - Tim Huffman

## Set the Hook Hard with Darrell Baker

“When we’re fishing river ledges in the fall and winter, I tell my anglers to set the hook hard,” Baker emphasizes. “If you set the hook hard, many crappie fishermen believe that you’ll tear that small membrane on the edge of the crappie’s lip and lose the fish. The reason I tell my anglers to set the hook hard when they see their rod tips or lines twitch is because when we’re fishing in heavy brush, as soon as that crappie takes the minnow, I want to turn his head up to get him out of the brush. Also when you set the hook hard and fast, the crappie won’t swallow the bait as deep in its mouth. This makes removing the hook easier and prevents killing young crappie that have had time to swallow the bait and let the

hook get into their gills or their stomach.

“Another advantage that we have with the B’n’M poles is because these poles are so sensitive that when you set the hook hard, much of the force delivered to the point of the hook is absorbed by the bend of the rod. When you have a light rod that is very sensitive and flexible back to the midpoint of the rod, a good portion of the hook-setting energy goes into bending the rod instead of jerking the crappie’s lips off.”

To contact Baker:

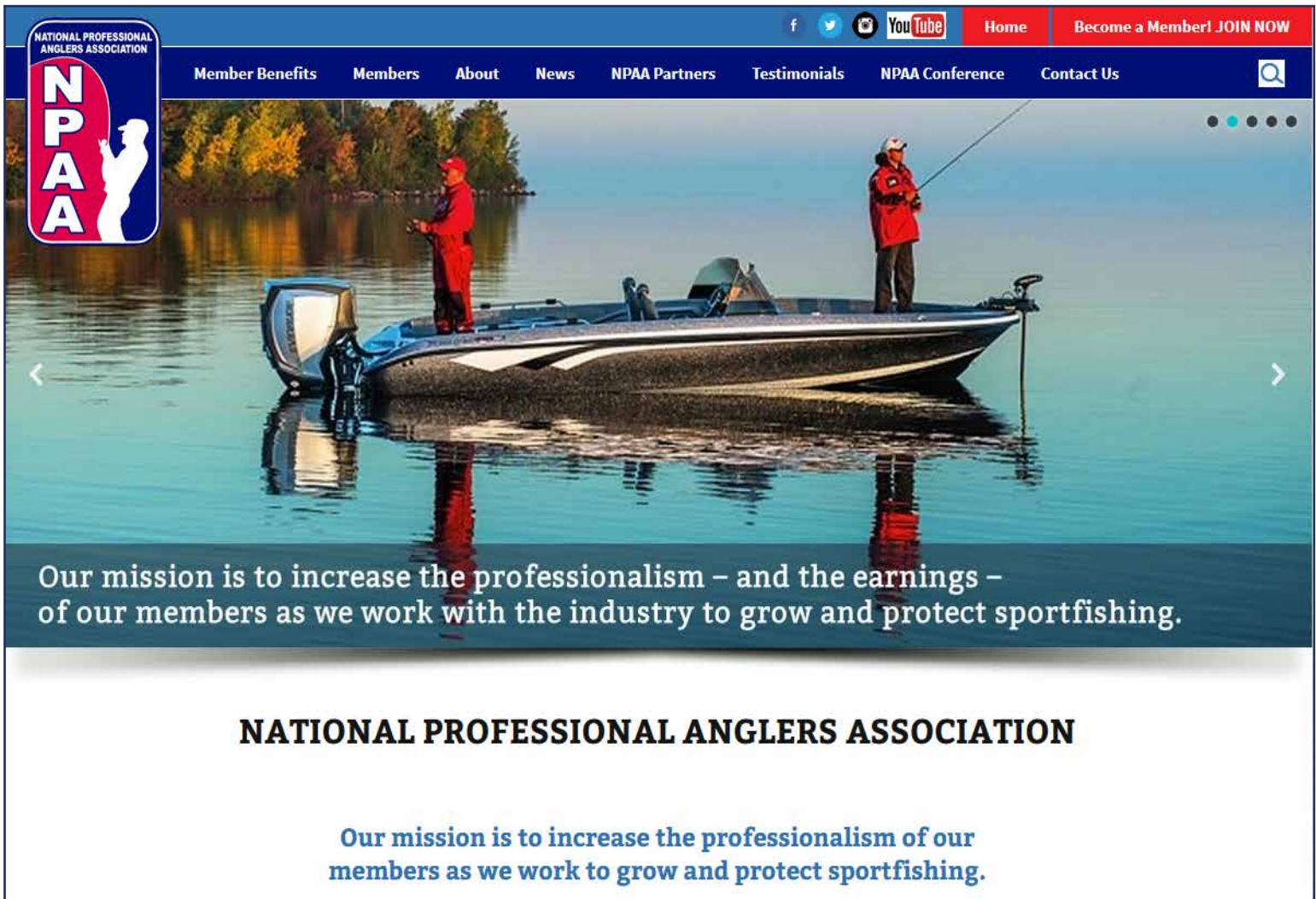
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email [Darrell@weisslakeguides.com](mailto:Darrell@weisslakeguides.com)

To learn more about how to fish for crappie click here:

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



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Our mission is to increase the professionalism – and the earnings – of our members as we work with the industry to grow and protect sportfishing.

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## Parmesaned and Thymed Crappie Fillets

**C**an you speak Italian? Sure you can. Say Parmigiano-Reggiano.

You've just named the "King of Cheeses". Parmesan, as we call it in the USA, is a prohibited name in trading in the European Economic Area under European law. Outside the EU, the name "Parmesan" can legally be used for cheeses similar to Parmigiano-Reggiano.

Parmigiano-Reggiano is a hard, granular cheese made from unpasteurized cow's milk. The whole milk of the morning milking is mixed with the naturally skimmed milk (that's made by keeping milk in large shallow tanks to allow the cream to separate) of the previous evening's milking, resulting in a part skim mixture. Traditionally, cows have to be fed only on grass or hay.

When the curds are pressed into wheels put into a brine bath to absorb Mediterranean Sea salt for 20–25 days. After brining, the wheels are then transferred to shelves in an aging room where each wheel is cleaned every week and flipped to the other side. The Italian product is aged from one to three years. A true Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese is hard with a sharp, complex fruity/nutty taste with a strong savory flavor.

Parmigiano-Reggiano is commonly grated over pasta dishes, stirred into soups and even eaten alone or roasted as a snack. Slivers and chunks of the hardest parts of the crust are sometimes simmered in soup. It is often shaved or grated over other dishes like salads. Cheeses imitating Parmigiano Reggiano, those not made in approved Italian provinces are called Parmesan or Italian hard cheese by producers to avoid legal issues.

Four of our recipes this month contain Parmesan cheese to be fried or baked with crappie fillets.

### **Parmesan Crappie**

- 4 crappie fillets
- 1 ounce Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- Dash onion powder
- Dash garlic powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2/3 cup cornmeal
- Canola oil

Combine the buttermilk and Parmesan cheese in a small bowl. In another bowl mix flour, onion powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Spread the dry cornmeal onto a plate. Preheat skillet with a tablespoon of canola oil. Coat each fillet with the flour mixture, dip into the buttermilk mixture and then coat with the cornmeal. Cook until both sides are golden brown.

### **Oven Baked Parmesan Fillets**

- 10-12 slab fillets
- Butter (or oil spray)
- 1 cup milk
- 3/4 cup Garlic and Herb Panko Bread Crumbs
- 1/4 cup Grated Parmesan Cheese

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Cover cookie sheet with aluminum foil, shiny side up, coat



with butter or cooking spray. Dip fillets in milk, dredge fillets in breading mixture coating both sides of fillets. Place on foil and bake for 18-20 minutes, until the fish is flaky.

## **Thyme Grilled Crappie (no Parmesan;>)**

- 4 crappie fillets
- 2 minced garlic clove
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
- 2 teaspoon chopped thyme
- Dash crushed red pepper flakes to taste
- Salt to taste
- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

In a small bowl, mix together olive oil, the garlic, lemon zest, thyme, red pepper flakes and salt. Rub both sides of the fillets with mixture and set to marinate in the refrigerator for 10 minutes. Place double thickness pieces of aluminum foil just larger than fillets. Place the foil on a medium hot charcoal or gas grill. Drizzle about a tablespoon of olive oil on the foil and lay fillets on top of foil. Cover the grill and cook about 8 minutes or until flaky.

To pave the way to your tummy – since you have the parmesan cheese handy – try one of these salads.

## **Rocket Salad or Arugula**

*Eruca sativa*, is a widely popular salad vegetable native to the Mediterranean Sea area and my garden. It's got a "whang" of a taste and spikes a salad's potency. Depending on the country, it's called "garden rocket" or simply "rocket", the diminutive of the Latin word *eruca* is derived from the French *roquette*.

Arugula, the common name now widespread in the United States and Canada, entered American English from the standard Italian word *rucola*, a diminutive of the Latin "*eruca*". The first appearance of "arugula" in American English appeared in a 1960 New York Times article by food editor and cookbook writer Craig Claiborne.

## **Arugula Salad with Parmesan Cheese**

- 2 bunches arugula
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 lemon, juiced
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Chunk of Parmigiano-Reggiano

Wash, dry and tear arugula into a serving bowl. Drizzle the arugula with the oil, squeeze in lemon juice and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Toss until well mixed and taste for seasoning. Use a vegetable peeler to shave thin pieces of Parmigiano over the top.

## **Parmesan Vinaigrette over Romaine Lettuce**

- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 hearts romaine lettuce, chopped

Mix ingredients to pour over the lettuce.

# Crappie Q&A

Email Us. 

## Q: What questions are often asked during seminars?

**Russ Bailey, OH**, host of Brushpile Crappie TV. “Every seminar I’m asked about line size. I believe 6-pound test high-vis monofilament is a good all-around line. There are times in heavy cover when a braided line is an advantage.”

“Another question is scent. Honestly, I don’t bother with it unless the bite is bad. Brushpile is a good scent, and my least favorite to use but maybe the best is Berkley Crappie Nibbles. The Nibbles are stinky, messy and get into the boat carpet but they catch fish.”



Russ Bailey presented a fun and informative seminar to a packed house at the Grizzly Jig Company Show & Sale in late January.

**Charles Bunting, MO**, two-time classic champ. “Everyone wants to know my favorite lake. It would have to be Grenada Lake, Mississippi for big fish, But, my overall favorite lake is Truman. Fish are usually cooperative there and there are numbers of crappie from three-quarters of a pound to a pound and a half.”

“Electronics. That’s a big question with no simple answer. I always tell a fisherman it will quickly jump your skill level but only if you learn to use it. A high-tech unit is only as good as the fisherman using it. So if you take time to learn it, advanced electronics is a game changer.”



**Todd Huckabee, OK**, fishing guide. “Favorite jig color is always asked. I say it’s the color I have on at the time. My theory is that the wrong color of jig put in the right spot will catch fish. The best jig in the world can’t catch a fish if there are not crappie where you’re fishing it. I have 15 favorite colors. I’ve learned that colors we use to think were good for just clear water are good for muddy too. For example, Redneck Rubber has a frosted flake with sparkles that has been catching fish in muddy water.”

“The second question is favorite lake. I like Eufaula Oklahoma but I like other lakes too. And they change from season to season. For example, Grenada is not my favorite lake in the winter during drawdown because it’s difficult or impossible to launch, but in the spring it can be my favorite. So each lake is different with advantages and disadvantages.”

**Tony Sheppard, KY Lake**, classic champ. “Most of my questions are about trolling. One bait or two? Jigs or minnows? Do you tip jigs with minnows? Favorite colors? I keep my fishing simple by using either minnows or jigs, not both. I believe it’s more natural and productive if you fish a minnow without all the other colors. That may be a mental thing to me but I have good luck doing it that way. My colors in clear water are clear translucent light blues. In dark water black-chartreuse and pink whites. I use Jenko baits.”

**Charlie Hildreth, IN**, CAST points champ. “What do I recommend for kids? I like a 6-foot light-action rod with an ultralight spincast or underspin. Go to a place with not too much cover. Let them throw it out and reel it in. When it gets to some cover have them stop it. Reeling too fast won’t catch anything. A good rig is 10-pound test, slip-float and barrel swivel. From that use a 6-pound leader with a split-shot and jig. A hangup means only changing the leader.”

“What about line size? It depends on technique and cover. My line tip is to change line especially when buying a new reel. Line on a new reel will probably have more line memory than you will get out. Avoid frustration and ensure you have a good line.”



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PEACH STATE CRAPPIE CLUB	Robert Smith	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/1566139730354449/">www.facebook.com/groups/1566139730354449/</a>
RIPPIN' LIPZ	Jimmy/Jessica Walters	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/1574816149512879/">www.facebook.com/groups/1574816149512879/</a>
SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	Keith Dodd	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/people/Shoals-Crappie/100007249248536">www.facebook.com/people/Shoals-Crappie/100007249248536</a>
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE	Chad Hamson	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/Southern-Illinois-Crappie-Association-120228588062204/">www.facebook.com/Southern-Illinois-Crappie-Association-120228588062204/</a>
SLABMASTERS TOURNAMENT TRAIL	Jamie Moore/Dan Sidle	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/Slab-Masters-Tournaments-117100748314879/">www.facebook.com/Slab-Masters-Tournaments-117100748314879/</a>
SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE CLUB IL	Jerry Jallas/Rick Montooth	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/springfieldcrappieclub/?fref=ts">www.facebook.com/springfieldcrappieclub/?fref=ts</a>
WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB MO		<a href="http://www.facebook.com/wappapello.crappieclub.9/?fref=ts">www.facebook.com/wappapello.crappieclub.9/?fref=ts</a>
WILLIAMS CREEK CRAPPIE CLUB	Danny Kemp/Bob Parkinson	<a href="http://www.williamscreekcrappieclub.com/">www.williamscreekcrappieclub.com/</a>



**MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE**

OKATIBEE LAKE

**JANUARY 14th**

1. Tommy Moss/Brad Calhoun	8.39
2. Robbie Niven/David McWilliams	8.33
3. Jason Cook/Juan Adame	7.86
4. Joe Lowrey/Joey Lowrey	7.46
5. Paul Johnson	7.41

**BIG FISH**

1. Jason Cook/Juan Adame	2.27
--------------------------	------

**SLABMASTERS**

LAKE SINCLAIR

**JANUARY 14th**

1. Jason Little/Brody Little/Craig Chapman	8.01
2. Ricky Willis/Troy Thiel	7.73
3. Richard Malcom/Riley Malcom/Joe Partenza	7.3
4. Tony Johnson/Scott Glenn	6.78
5. Robert Sellers/Robert Sellers	6.58

**BIG FISH**

1. Jason Little/Brody Little/Craig Chapman	1.73
--	------

**EAST TN CRAPPIE**

CHICKAMAUGA LAKE

**JANUARY 21st**

1. Mike Johnson/Brian Howard	9.64
2. Cory Gerlach/Scott Baines	9.62
3. Smith/Ferguson	9.12
4. Scott Bunch/Neil Alvis	9.09
5. Mike Willard	8.08

**BIG FISH**

1. Cory Gerlach/Scott Baines	1.89
------------------------------	------

**CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS**

BOB SANDLIN/CYPRESS SPRINGS

**JANUARY 21st****DIVISION 1**

1. Clay Gan/Todd Froebe/Langdon Froebe	12.24
2. John Hernandez/Jimmy Mathis	11.48
3. Paul Obier/George Nelon	11.2
4. Freddie Dooly/Chuck Martin	10.78
5. Chris Waters/Larry Middleton	10.68

**BIG FISH**

1. Clay Gan/Todd Froebe/Langdon Froebe	2.53
--	------

**DIVISION 2**

# Tournament Results

1. Terry Pitman/Jeff Rogers	11.34
2. Eric Walker/Kelly Satterwhite	8.56
3. Steven Shields/James Davis	7.63
4. Buck Housewright/Dan Martin	6.25
5. Kevin Black	6.17

## **BIG FISH**

1. Terry Pitman/Jeff Rogers	1.69
2. Eric Walker/Kelly Satterwhite	1.69

## **MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

TIMS FORD

### **JANUARY 21st**

1. Joey Davis	11.36
2. Larry Britton/Robert Baker	9.66
3. Rodney Edwards/Coby Edwards	8.76
4. Dewayne Hill/John Henley	7.04
5. Steve/Terri	6.78

## **BIG FISH**

1. Larry Briton/Robert Baker	2.12
------------------------------	------

## **OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL**

OOLOGAH LAKE

### **JANUARY 21st**

1. Joe/Hunter	7.94
2. Mike/Roy	7.91
3. Ken/George	7.68
4. Jeff/David	7.64
5. Russ/Brian	6.96

## **BIG FISH**

1. Jeff/David	2.2
---------------	-----

## **PEACH STATE**

LAKE SINCLAIR

### **JANUARY 21st**

1. Richard Malcom/Brice Roberts	6.8
2. Randy Temples	6.79
3. Forrest Walker/Jacob Walker	6.78
4. Troy Thiel/Ricky Willis	6.77
5. Joey Clark/Chance Kelly	6.36

## **BIG FISH**

1. Randy Temples	1.41
------------------	------

**WAPPAPELLO**

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

**JANUARY 21st**

- |                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. David Maddux/Bruce Hindman | 6.35 |
| 2. Ben Campbell/Danny Walker  | 4.15 |

**BIG FISH**

- |                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. David Maddux/Bruce Hindman | 1.65 |
|-------------------------------|------|

**CRAPPIE MASTERS**

ST JOHNS RIVER

**JANUARY 27th - 28th**

- |                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Troy Thiel/Ricky Willis    | 23.98 |
| 2. Larry Durden/Steve Durden  | 21.42 |
| 3. Don Collins/Rusty Booth    | 21.18 |
| 4. Damon Riggins/Allen Bates  | 20.89 |
| 5. Damon Davis/Brian Davis jr | 20.77 |

**BIG FISH**

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Larry Durden/Steve Durden | 2.41 |
|------------------------------|------|

**MALE/FEMALE**

- |                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Vic Finkley/Kim Gray | 18.69 |
|-------------------------|-------|

**ADULT/YOUTH**

- |                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Scott Broxton/Scott Broxton Jr | 13.02 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|

**CRAPPIE MASTERS**

LAKE TALQUIN

**FEBRUARY 3rd - 4th**

- |                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Richard Hughes/George Hughes  | 25.18 |
| 2. Gerald Manning/Danny Cannon   | 24.71 |
| 3. Billy Williams/Scott Williams | 24.71 |
| 4. Danny Williams/Gilford Sipes  | 24.7  |
| 5. Ricj Howard/Steve Deason      | 23.61 |

**BIG FISH**

- |                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| 1. T.C. Lloyd/Tyler Walker | 2.56 |
|----------------------------|------|

**MALE/FEMALE**

- |                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Jonathan Phillips/Alicia Phillips | 23.48 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|

**ADULT/YOUTH**

- |                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Scott Broxton/Scott Broxton Jr | 3.59 |
|-----------------------------------|------|



## CAROLINA CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE NORMAN

### FEBRUARY 4th

1. Hawkins/McGuirt	11.19
2. Potts/Shore	11.18
3. Sprouse/Wilson	10.85
4. Styles/McGhee	9.49
5. Eudy/Koontz	9.28

### BIG FISH

1. Sprouse/Wilson	2.02
-------------------	------

## KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB

MELVERN LAKE

### FEBRUARY 4th - 5th

1. Hobbs/Sadler	20.07
2. Harmon/Moresdorf	19.77
3. Eustice/Beckstrom	17.05
4. Kruse/Dowell	15.19
5. Morgan/Roberts	14.91

### BIG FISH

1. Hobbs/Sadler	1.98
-----------------	------

## CENTRAL ALABAMA

LAKE Martin/Wind Creek

### FEBRUARY 11th

1. Eric Cagle/Jared Gilbert	8.15
2. Brandon Threadgill/Jason Threadgill	7.9
3. Roger Milby	7.48

### BIG FISH

1. Travis Black/Nic Brooks	1.91
----------------------------	------

### YOUTH

Jackson McDonald/Wade McDonald/Mary S McDonald	7.46
--	------

## OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL

SKIATOOK

### FEBRUARY 11th

1. Ken/Steve	10.87
2. Chris/Brian	10.04
3. Eric/Russel	9.6
4. Kevin/Leon	9.56
5. Glen Craig	9.12

### BIG FISH

1. Ken/Steve	2.35
--------------	------



**WILLIAMS CREEK**

LAKE FORK

**FEBRUARY 11th**

1. Danny Kemp
2. David Sales
3. Mike Haynes
4. Robert Patterson
5. Joe Bob Margraves

**CHATTANOOGA**

CHESTER FROST PARK

**FEBRUARY 12th**

- |                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Bobby Ramsey/Tabitha Ramsey | 9.79 |
| 2. Jim Minor/David East        | 9.26 |
| 3. Brian Howard/Mike Johnston  | 9.26 |

**BIG FISH**

- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Jeff Silvers/Allen Baugh | 2.1 |
|-----------------------------|-----|

**CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEX-  
AS**

RAY ROBERTS

**FEBRUARY 18th****DIVISION 1**

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Jeff Schwieterman/James Rains        | 8.39 |
| 2. Jay Reeve/Rhonda Reeve               | 7.8  |
| 3. Todd Box/Kenneth Gaby                | 7.78 |
| 4. Cody Tucker/Kyle Carigan             | 7.25 |
| 5. Clay Gann/Todd Froebe/Langdon Froebe | 6.94 |

**BIG FISH**

- |                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| 1. Jay Reeve/Rhonda Reeve | 1.91 |
|---------------------------|------|

**DIVISION 2**

- |                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Chris Emery/Clinton Nunley        | 8.68 |
| 2. John Zoski/Truston Hibdon         | 8.54 |
| 3. Clinton Joseph/Clinton Joseph III | 7.89 |
| 4. Alec Dyer/Bill Mouw               | 7.62 |
| 5. Robert Russell/Brian Bohannan     | 7.01 |

**BIG FISH**

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. John Zoski/Truston Hibdon | 2.35 |
|------------------------------|------|

**EAST TN CRAPPIE**

TELLICO LAKE

**FEBRUARY 18th**

- |                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Tom Paine/James Paine       | 7.09 |
| 2. Tim Irwin/Jim Huber         | 6.63 |
| 3. Eddie Justice               | 6.54 |
| 4. Johnny Smith/Billy Ferguson | 6.52 |



5. Darren Caughron/Tracy Caughron 6.43

## **BIG FISH**

1. Tom Paine/James Paine 1.37

## **CRAPPIE USA**

LOGAN MARTIN

### **FEBRUARY 18th**

#### **AMATEUR DIVISION**

1. Forrest Walker/Jacob Walker 11.97

2. Steve Buckley/Allen Payne 11.29

3. Joe Hayes/Phil Trapp 10.94

4. Rodger A. Brown/Roger Milby 10.59

5. Rodney Talley/John Baker 10.49

#### **PRO DIVISION**

1. Harold Rich/Ferrill Mitchell 11.93

2. Adam Mobbs/Carlton Teague 11.58

3. Maurice Gregory/Aaron Night 11.43

4. Richard Malcom/Joe Partenza 11.3

5. Dale Thompson/Eddie Milby 11.05

## **BIG FISH**

1. Jonathan Phillips/Alicia Phillips 2.43

## **MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

NORMANDY

### **FEBRUARY 18th**

1. Toby Ivey/Tracy Farmer 6.24

2. Joey Davis 2.14

3. Matthew Nash 1.95

## **BIG FISH**

1. Toby Ivey/Tracy Farmer 1.92

## **WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB**

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

### **FEBRUARY 19th**

1. Botch/Ware 9.9

2. Chism/Chism 9.6

3. Trophf/Younger 7.86

4. Harty/Owens 7.46

5. Roper/McGowen 7.31

## **BIG FISH**

1. Chism/Chism 1.86

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# CRAPPIE CALENDAR

MARCH 3rd - 4th	CRAPPIE USA	NEELY-HENRY	SUPER EVENT
MARCH 3rd - 4th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE GREENWOOD	SC STATE CHAMPOINSHIP
MARCH 4th	CENTRAL ALABAMA	ALABAMA RIVER	CLUB
MARCH 4th	BAYOU STATE	D'ARBONNE/ELWOOD SHSPHERD	MEMORIAL EVENT
MARCH 4th	CRAPPIENUTZ	LAKE EUFAULA	CLUB
MARCH 4th	OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL	KAW	CLUB
MARCH 4th	RIPPIN' LIPZ	ROSS BARNETT RESERVOIR	CLUB
MARCH 4th	SLABMASTERS	LKAE OCONEE	CLU B
MARCH 4th - 5th	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	CLINTON LAKE	QUALIFIER
MARCH 5th	CHATTANOOGA	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLASSIC
MARCH 10th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE WASHINGTON	BIG CRAPPIE CHALLENGE
MARCH 10th - 11th	AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	GRENADA LAKE	CLUB
MARCH 10th- 11th	CRAPPIE USA	LAKE OF EGYPT	SUPER EVENT
MARCH 11th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	WASH.LEE,PARADISE,FERGUSON,CHICOT	NATIONAL QUALIFIER
MARCH 11th	NORTHEAST GEORGIA	GILLS POINT	CLUB
MARCH 11th	SHOALS CRAPPIE	PICKWICK	OPEN
MARCH 11th	SLABMASTERS	CLARKS HILL LAKE	TBA
MARCH 18th	EASTERN MISSOURI	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB
MARCH 18th	CRAPPIE USA	WEISS LAKE	CLUB
MARCH 18th	PEACH STATE	CLARKS HILL LAKE	CLUB
MARCH 18th	CAT TEXAS	BELTON	QUALIFIER
MARCH 18th	MAGNOLIA	GRENADA LAKE	CLUB
MARCH 18th	WAPPAPELLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLASSIC
MARCH 19th	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	CRAB ORCHARD	CLUB
MARCH 25th	BAYOU STATE	D'ARBONNE	FISHIN WITH VETS
MARCH 24th -25th	CAROLINA-CCA	BADIN/TILLERY LAKES	CLUB
MARCH 24th - 25th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	GRENADA LAKE	MS STATE CHAMPOINSHIP
MARCH 24th - 25th	CRAPPIE USA	KY AND BARCLAY LAKES	SUPER EVENT
MARCH 25th	CRAPPIENUTZ	LAKE HARDING/RIVERBENS	CLUB
MARCH 25th	EAST TENNESSEE	WATTS BAR LAKE	CLUB
MARCH 25th	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	CLINTON LAKE	OPEN
MARCH 25th	OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL	WISTER	CLUB
MARCH 25th	RIPPIN' LIPZ	EAGLE LAKE	CLUB
MARCH 25th	SHOALS CRAPPIE	GUNTERSVILLE	CLUB
MARCH 25th	SPRINGFIELD	LAKE SANGCHRIS	OPEN BUDDY
MARCH 26th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS	CLINTON LAKE	CLUB
MARCH 26th	EAST TEXAS CRAPPIE SERIES	LAKE PALESTINE	CLUB
MARCH 31st-Apr. 1st	AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	LAKE D'ARBONNE	CLUB
APRIL 1st	INDIANA SLAB MASTERS	PATOKA LAKE	CLUB
APRIL 1st	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	POMONA LAKE	CLUB
APRIL 1st	CAT TEXAS	LAKE FORK	4th ANNUAL CRAPPIEFEST
APRIL 1st	NORTHEAST GEORGIA	MIDDLETON BOAT RAMP	CLUB
APRIL 2nd	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	LAKE EGYPT	CLUB

APRIL	7th - 8th	CRAPPIE USA	LAKE CUMBERLAND	SUPER EVENT
APRIL	8th	CAT TEXAS	LAKE FORK	Crappie masters national qualifier
APRIL	8th	CENTRAL ALABAMA	LAKE MITCHELL	CLUB
APRIL	8th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE FORK	ONE POLE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE
APRIL	8th	CRAPPIENUTZ	LAKE BLACKSHEAR	CLUB
APRIL	8th	EASTERN MISSOURI	MARK TWAIN LAKE	CLUB
APRIL	8th	SPRINGFIELD	LAKE SPRINGFIELD/LINDSAY BRIDGE	CLUB
APRIL	8th	MAGNOLIA	BARNETT RESERVOIR	BIG MAMA OPEN
APRIL	8th	NORTEAEST OHIO CRAPPIE	BERLIN LAKE	ICE BREAKER
APRIL	9th	GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES	GRAND LAKES	CLUB
APRIL	9th	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	KINCAID	CLUB
APRIL	15th	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	LAKE OVERCUP OR BREWER	CLUB
APRIL	15th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	1st Leg of MO State Champoinship
APRIL	15th	CRAPPIE USA	OLD HICKORY LAKE	CLUB
APRIL	15th	EAST TENNESSEE	DOUGLAS LAKE	CLASSIC
APRIL	15th	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	BANNER MARSH	POINTS/CLUB
APRIL	15th	INDIANA SLAB MASTERS	CATARACT LAKE	CLUB
APRIL	15th	OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL	EUFULA	CLUB
APRIL	16th	EAST TEXAS CRAPPIE SERIES	LAKE PALESTINE	CLUB
APRIL	21st - 22nd	CRAPPIE USA	GREEN RIVER LAKE	SUPER EVENT
APRIL	22nd	CENTRAL ILLINOIS	LAKE DECATUR	CLUB
APRIL	22nd	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE EUFAULA	NATIONAL QUALIFIER
APRIL	22nd	NORTHEAST GEORGIA	RUSSELL PARK	CLUB
APRIL	22nd	NORTEAEST OHIO CRAPPIE	MOSQUITO LAKE	CLUB
APRIL	22nd	RIPPIN' LIPZ	ROSS BARNETT RESERVOIR	CLUB
APRIL	23rd	GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES	GRAND LAKES	CLUB
APRIL	23rd	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	CARLYLE LAKE	CLUB
APRIL	28th - 29th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	KENTUCKY LAKE	KY/TN STATE CHAMPOINSHIP
APRIL	28th - 29th	CRAPPIE USA	GRAND LAKES/ST. MARYS	SUPER EVENT
APRIL	29th	BAYOU STATE	D'ARBONNE/C.A.S.T. FOR KIDS	SPECIAL NEEDS
APRIL	29th	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	LAKE DARDANELLE	CLUB
APRIL	29th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS	LAKE SHELBYVILLE	CLUB
APRIL	29th	NORTEAEST OHIO CRAPPIE	WEST BRANCH	CLASSIC
APRIL	29th	MAGNOLIA	ENID LAKE	CLUB
APRIL	29th	SHOALS CRAPPIE	PICKWICK	CLUB
APRIL	29th - 30th	SPRINGFIELD	MARK TWAIN LAKE	CLUB

# Photo Contest



## 1st Place

Dan Molstad: 15" (Right) and 17" (Left) Black Crappies

Twin Cities Metro Area (MN)

Shout Out to Team Jaworski and David Kesler

# Photo Contest



## Runner Up

Gus and Dylan Glasgow.  
Lake Arthur in Butler,  
PA.

All fish were caught  
using a 5mm tungsten  
fiska's tipped with  
plastic. The biggest fish  
weighed 2lbs even.

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

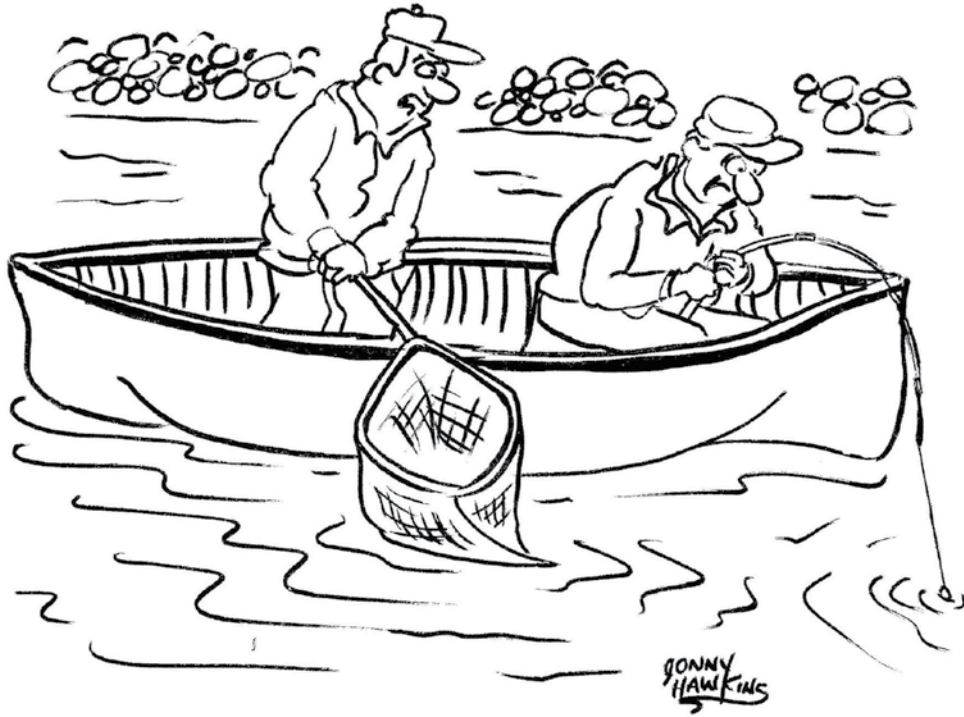
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publication. A single photo will  
be selected after the 10th of  
each month for the next month's  
edition. The winner will be  
contacted via email with prize  
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# Fishing Funny's

by Jonny Hawkins



"If it's an illegal, I'll have to turn it over to the DNR."







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# Talquin Lake FL on a foggy, early morning.

Taken Feb. 2017 by Karen Foster

