

CRAPPIE NOW!

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

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River Fishing



Features

Advanced Seasonal Structure: Life On the River...4

by Tim Huffman

River crappie can be fun to chase. A few tips can help target the right spots.



Solving “Current” Situations...8

by Greg McCain

High waters during 2018 have created plenty of current in most bodies of water. The following are great river current tactics for catching crappie.



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by Brent Frazee

It may not be a good year-round tactic, but fly fishing is a unique way to catch shallow water crappie.



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Opening Cast

While I travel across our beautiful country, and to our neighbors in Canada, the one common denominator among people is our love for the outdoors. No matter background, heritage, income status, trade, etc., the outdoors is something everyone experiences, along with the desire to do more. Fishing is a major part of this outdoors experience.



I travel with amateur-pros and pros. I meet people during shows, seminars, events, hotels and in parking lots. Without exception, they all want to learn more on how to be successful catching fish and helping their children and grandchildren catch fish. I love hearing about their experiences and getting to help them explore ways to help their youngsters catch fish.

Kayaks and small-water boats are available at a fraction of the cost without the major expense of a high-dollar boat and motor. Manufacturers are producing products relating to these smaller boats to open the experience up to everyone.

Having this option is necessary, as many lakes and rivers in our nation are not accessible from shore, especially the better spots to fish. I am asked where they can fish from shore on our Alabama and Coosa rivers, but there are very few options.

Many seasoned companies and new small businesses are now producing products tailored to families and children. Most of these products are very easy to use and they take the guesswork out of trying to decide on the right line, hooks, corks, etc.

Along with our continued tips for all expertise levels, CrappieNow will strive to put key information and how-to tips into the hands of parents and grandparents. Also, we will be a part of the movements for not-for-profits that are focused on children and families including those sponsored by the NPAA, Alabama Wildlife Foundation, Kids Fishing and Education and others.

If you are an experienced crappie angler, I challenge you to be part of this movement. You can reduce your stress by enjoying the beautiful outdoors and crappie fishing while providing a rewarding experience for a youngster.

God Bless,
Dan Dannenmueller Sr.

Cover Photo:
Charles Bunting with a March,
high-water Grenada Lake
crappie. Tim Huffman photo.

Seasonal Structure

by
Tim
Huffman



Crappie are no strangers to rivers and creek systems. Good numbers and sizes are both possible when conditions are right...and many rivers have the right conditions. Here a quick look at a few key elements.

Finding

Tournament angler, seminar speaker and publisher of CrappieNow Magazine, calls the Alabama River his home water. When traveling the country on the tournament trail, he often encounters many fishing situations where river knowledge is important for

Spring is a good time to get into the backs of creeks and rivers looking for warmer water and small drops.

success.

“It’s not too difficult to find crappie in the spring because they are creatures of habit and they go relatively shallow to super shallow. Good presentation and searching will get a fisherman into good action.

“Electronics becomes a key



Dannenmueller with a good crappie taken from submerged brush. Mixing the right area + contour change + cover = crappie.

component when the fish aren't spawning," says Dannenmueller. "Everything before the spawn and after switches to finding contours and cover. Every company has good electronics today but I prefer Garmin. They have clear, accurate readings whether it's down, to the sides, or PanOptics."

He seldom wastes time by fishing before closely searching with electronics believing time spent on the locator is more important than having poles in the water. By fishing high percentage spots less time will be wasted in unproductive locations.

Targeting & Catching

"Big cover right on a ledge can be fantastic on a river system," says Dannenmueller. "Some of these fish really don't move too far. They live their whole life in the creek or river. So following the spawn, they will transition gradually back

River Tips from Dannenmueller

Some of the best fish are found on intersections where crappie follow a channel out to where it intersects with another channel.

Finding a baitfish-channel combination creates an extremely high-potential spot for catching crappie. A ledge with food is ideal.

When current in a river is minimal, expect crappie to be suspended up over the cover. When current is moderate, they'll get down behind it.

Electronics will reduce search time. Spend as much time as needed to find the right spots.

Remember fish don't always bite. If you find a good spot with lots of fish but they don't bite, return later and the fish may be active. It's possible to be catching them two at a time using double-hook rigs when they turn on.

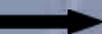
Fish use ledges like highways so don't neglect fishing them.

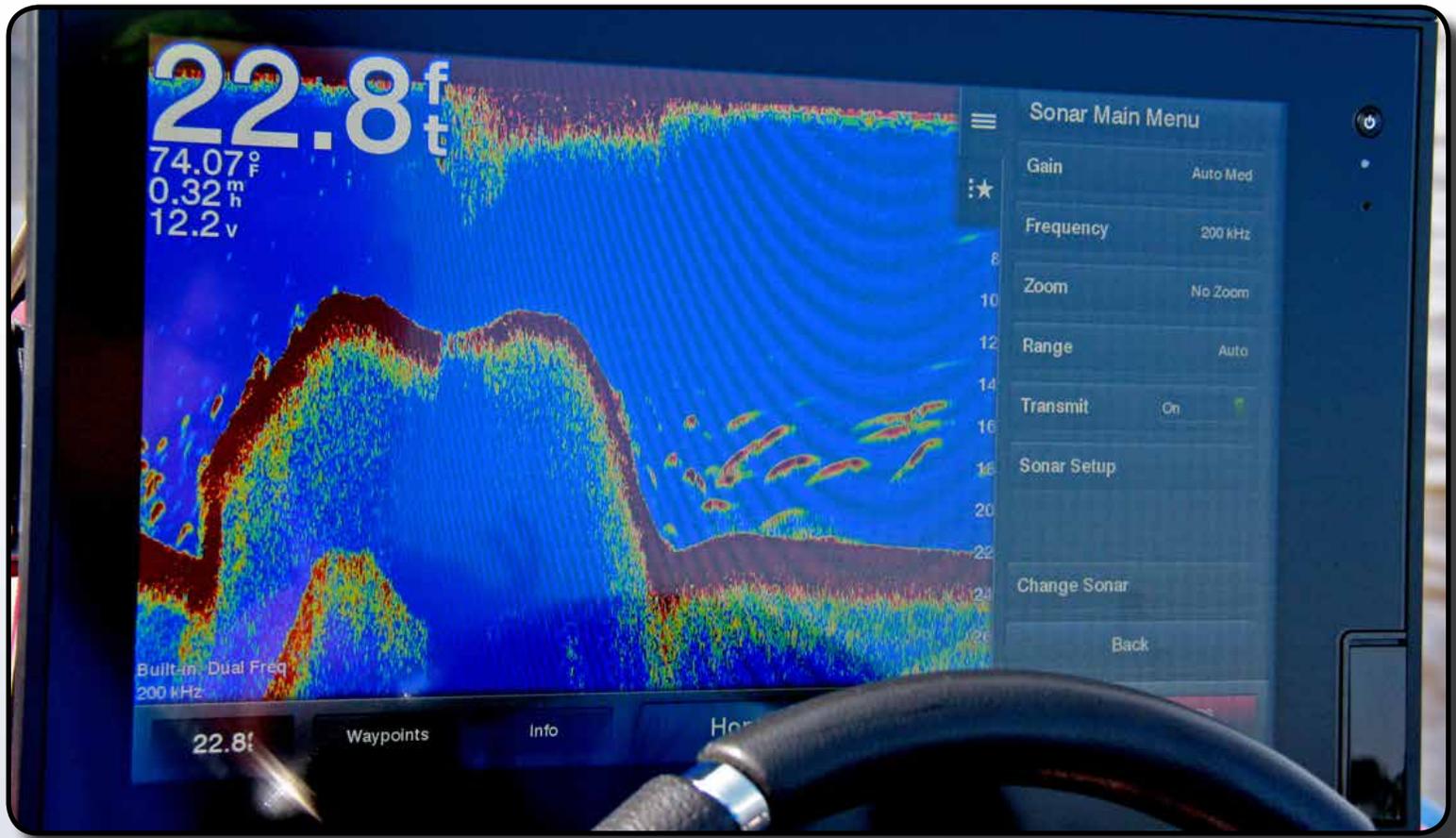
Whether river or lake fishing, try using a new color jig. A new color will often work just because the fish haven't seen it over and over.

to a summer pattern where stumps in deep water are important.

"So we are starting shallow during the spawn, back out to mid-depths during post-spawn and to deep water, maybe 25 feet deep, in the summer. Big brushpiles, trees and stumps provide the food, cover, everything they need. We target those fish in whatever depth of water they are holding."

Normal conditions means getting





baits to the fish. Spider rigging is a good technique for putting multiple offerings to the fish at once. Dannenmueller's boat allows two fishermen to set side-by-side on the front deck. A setup of eight 14- or 16-foot BnM BGJP poles, in single stem Driftmaster rod holders and double-hook rigs provide a 16-bait presentation. Each rig can vary but is often a straight minnow on top, down to a 1/2-ounce sinker, down to a Road Runner Jig with Bobby Garland Swim'R or Minnow Mind'R body. He pre-ties these rigs so if he breaks off thirty times in a day it allows for a quick re-rig and back into the water.

Pick the side of the channel with shade.

“When they are hungry they eat. River crappie can be aggressive. Cold fronts and water conditions can change that. As everyone knows, rivers have current from

Electronics is a key tool for finding the best spots. Time spent with electronics leads to more success.

gates being opened or heavy rains. The river is an ever-changing water forcing a fisherman to adjust when necessary. It could be heavier weight or finding areas with less current or clearer water.

“I like to push the baits into the cover and leave them there. They can be jigged, but having more baits is a big advantage even though it is more work. After catching fish at the spot, slowly backing out will often draw more action.

“One more trick is to pay attention to the sun when fishing drop-offs. Pick the side of the channel with shade. One side of a channel may be good in the morning and the other side in the afternoon.”

 - Tim Huffman

Crappie Basics #159

Get Shallow

“When you think you are fishing too shallow, shallow up some more. A lot of people try to stay out in 6 or 7 feet of water, but if you want to have some spider rigging fun, shallow up to about a foot and a half of water. Loosen the drags a lot. Let out 12 inches of line. When you get to a school of crappie it’s a lot of fun.

“I like 10-foot poles especially when guiding because most people just can’t handle the longer ones. Hook a decent fish on a foot of line, have the drag letting out line and then try to stop and land the fish. It’s tough. They hit hard and take off. But it’s fun.” ...Richard Williams

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Solving "Current" Situations

Story & photos by Greg McCain

Crappie hate current. Even knowledgeable anglers agree on this fact. Given a choice, crappie prefer water with little or no movement.

There are fishermen who have little choice but to deal with current most times they are on the water. They are forced to adapt to it just as the fish acclimate to the turbulent environment as well.

Alabama pro Gerald Overstreet is one such angler. The majority of his non-tournament fishing takes place on the Alabama River, mainly on Millers Ferry. The secluded impoundment, which runs from near Selma to just below Camden in south Alabama, is a moving river for most of its 100-mile length.

The entire fishery, from near Montgomery down to the Gulf coast region, is synonymous with current. The moving water is created at dams along the course of the river, and the current ranges from mild one day to raging the next. Rarely does lake-like fishing exist for extended periods during daylight hours.

The changing current conditions, however, rarely stop Overstreet from consistently boating tournament-caliber crappie throughout the year. Through his years of experience, Overstreet has learned that crappie indeed become conditioned to moving water and become fairly predictable in their behavior.

"Current is something that I deal with on an average day," he said. "It's not something to be afraid of because the fish are generally going to do things you can predict."

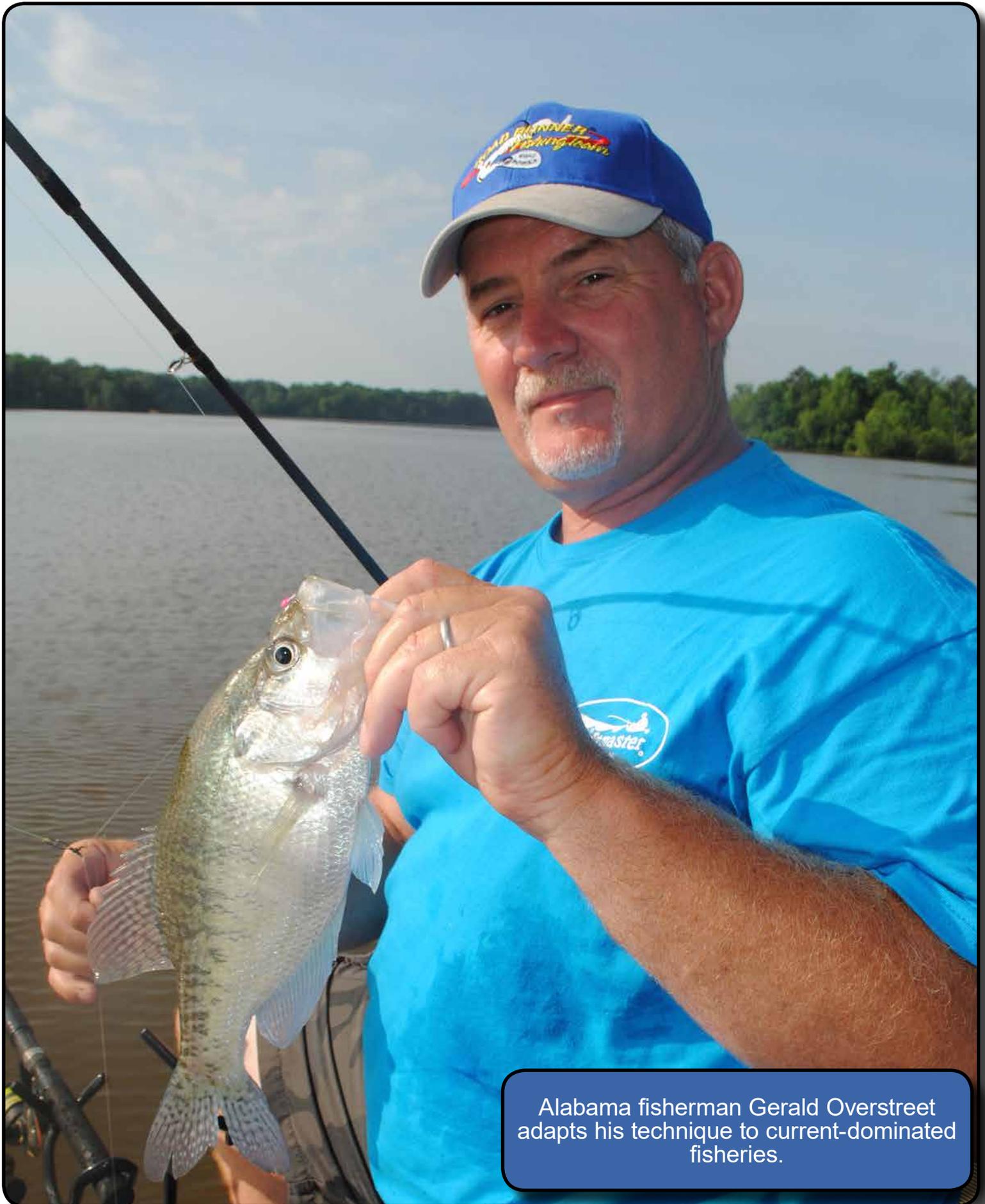
The crappie move with the waxing and waning of the current, and Overstreet changes tactics based on where the fish are positioned. Ultimately, the moving water is just another tool that helps Overstreet become a more efficient fisherman.

"The days when there's not at least a little current are few and far between," he said while fishing Swift Creek, an Alabama River tributary on Jones Bluff Reservoir. "Even on a big creek like Swift, you can expect the water to be moving some based on what the main river is doing."

If the current kicks back on to a higher volume, Overstreet reverts to fishing back down in the wood.

Overstreet's approach is methodical and systematic. Upon launching, most of his initial time is dedicated to using his electronics.

"The first thing I do is scan the river channel and the bank, usually looking for 15 to 20 feet of water over the old river channel bank before it was impounded," he said. "Scan and look for wood and mark waypoints on that wood. Once you have current, the fish will sometimes bury up in the brush, get behind logs or behind bigger limbs from an old rotten treetop, anything they can use to break that current. They will drop down and get behind that stuff to break the current and use it as an ambush point when the current



Alabama fisherman Gerald Overstreet adapts his technique to current-dominated fisheries.





pulls shad by.”

Overstreet, who operates Overstreet’s Guide Service (251.589.3225) and offers both fishing and electronics training trips, relies on the Humminbird Helix G2N technology for his electronics needs. The Side Imaging and Down Imaging features of his units, one forward and one on the console, allow him to pinpoint both wood and fish.

Various structures, not just wood, provide ideal locations for current breaks. Overstreet definitely seeks out tops, logs, stumps and any other wood on his electronics. Rock and dirt can serve the same purpose.

“A rocky point, a rock pile, a clay ledge that has cutouts in the face of the ledge, they all break the current and hold crappie,” Overstreet said.

Only when he determines where and how the fish are holding does Overstreet begin to formulate a more detailed game plan for a day’s fishing. The crappie may

Netting a nice crappie from a river requires using basic current techniques to increase your odds for a bite.

display on electronics scattered around the current breaks or buried in and behind wood structure, depending on the volume of the current.

When the water is moving at a moderate to high rate, crappie tend to “bury up” in tops to avoid the full force of the current. Overstreet uses techniques that will get down to the fish. His go-to approach is a one-pole method using a weedless jig adorned with either a Midsouth Tackle Company (www.midsouthtackle.com) tube or with hair. He has also been known to weave a minnow rig down into wood.

“When they bury up, my main thing is a B&B Weedless Crappie jig,” Overstreet said. “I usually use a 1/16th-oz. I will drop it

straight down into the thickest stuff I can find. It comes through the limbs good. That little weeder works perfect."

The B&B products (B&B Weedless Crappie Jigs on Facebook) are normally hair jigs tied one at a time. However, Overstreet gets some of the bare jigs and pairs them with Midsouth tubes in black/chartreuse, orange/chartreuse, and junebug/chartreuse for stained water and blue/chartreuse and green/chartreuse for clearer water.

He fishes the jigs on a B'n'M Bucks Graphite Jig Pole (www.bnmpoles.com) and a reel spooled with six-lb. test line. The small line is necessary to cut through the current. Bigger line creates a bow or pushes the jig back under the boat. A near-vertical presentation is necessary to prevent snags. The same is true of a minnow rig dropped into a top.

Adding a split shot above his jig is sometimes a necessity to maintain the drop angle. Overstreet adjusts the weight based on current volume and pinches on just enough split shot about a foot above the jig to keep his presentation vertical.

"Whether I am fishing a jig or a minnow rig, I want to use the lightest weight possible," he said. "Sometimes a bigger weight interferes with the bite. But I don't want that bait pushing back under the boat. That's why more weight is necessary at times."

Overstreet rarely anchors, instead attempting to gain some forward momentum in the current with his trolling motor. As he nears a waypoint, he backs off to a "slow and steady" pace and may eventually be motionless. A MinnKota Fortrex 80-lb. trolling motor allows him to maintain boat control and position in all but the most extreme current.

Overstreet finds crappie in the moving-water current conditions almost every month although he said May through December are the absolute best to pinpoint main-river fish.

"You can find fish out there on main river systems year-round," he said. "Some of those fish are dead set on staying on the main river channel. At least a few of the fish will stay out there or very close every day of the year. There are a few times that they begin to

scatter, especially in extremely heavy current in the winter."

Changes in current dictate a change in tactics, and Overstreet adjusts his approach accordingly.

The fish tend to re-position just after a reduction in current. Crappie will be found at the top or on the perimeter of a current break in no or very slow current. For Overstreet, his main considerations then are adjusting depth and presentations.

He will still use one-pole tactics, dropping a 1/8- or 1/4-oz. jig with a Midsouth tube just above the structure.

"You might have wood with the top at 14 feet. I drop that jig straight down to 12 or 13 feet just above the wood," he said.

"People say they can't catch them when the current slows down or is not running. They are still fishing down in the brush. If it's a slower current, the fish tend to suspend up. The people who are still fishing down in the brush are under the crappie. That's why they are still not catching them."

Overstreet also spider rigs in a light to moderate current when he has located fish on the perimeter of structure. He uses the same BGJP jig poles for his spider-rigging and tends to favor a B'n'M Capps and Coleman Minnow Rig in those situations, opting for the lightest weight and lightest line possible to complete his spider-rigging set-up. Overstreet adds a snap to the end of his main line so that he can change weights quickly if necessary. At times, he even carries two separate sets of trolling rods equipped with different weights, 14-footers with 1/2-oz weights and 12-footers with 1-oz. weights.



SOLVING "CURRENT" SITUATIONS

If the current kicks back on to a higher volume, Overstreet reverts to fishing back down in the wood. Only in extreme conditions – floods, for example – does he abandon his main-river approach and change locations.

When flooding occurs, Overstreet said the fish tend to move to the bank and seek shelter behind rocks and laydowns or move to the mouths of feeder creeks.

"I actually experienced that this past winter," he said. "The river was moving so fast that the fish toughed it out for a few days, and then they were gone. All of a sudden, they were hard to find.

"Either get in there beside the bank or move to the mouths of feeder creeks or big sloughs, especially those that have deep channels and are not silted in. A feeder creek with a 15-foot channel feeding into the main river is ideal."

Those fish can be caught using the same one-pole and spider-rigging techniques. The fish may also remain in those locations if spawning time is near. Some will eventually spawn around protected areas near the bank or move deeper into creeks to spawning areas.

Overstreet always attempts to determine current conditions. He said the same principles that guide his main-river fishing also dictate what he does in slower water on lakes. The ideas apply regardless of whether the water is moving out due to run-off or backing up due to rising water on the main river.

"It doesn't really matter," Overstreet said. "It can be good when the creeks rise due to high water on the main channel. It helps the fish know where to go. If they are close to the mouth, they will move back into the creek with the rising water, especially when they are coming up on spawning time.

"The same can be true when you are back in a creek that opens up into a lake and there is water coming in."

"Last year, we were on Neely Henry, fishing with minnow rigs with one ounce of weight in 20 feet of water," he said. "The water was clear, but they were really moving it that day."

Regardless of location, he views current as an asset and not a negative. Certain elements figure in to success – a strong trolling motor and dependable batteries, for example – are givens when fishing in current.

"It's something that I sort of take for granted," he said. "There are other times that you don't encounter it. It's not bad though. Crappie fishing in current can be great if you know how to fish it and get used to it."

 - Greg McCain



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Fly Fishing for Crappie

Story & photos by Brent Frazee



When Bill Hartman started fly fishing for crappie in the Kansas Flint Hills, he had a gallery.

Landowners were accustomed to seeing fishermen cast spinning gear for the big fish in their ponds and watershed lakes. But using a fly rod and small flies – well, this was something they had to see.

“Back in those days, you were looked at as an eccentric when you fished with a fly rod in the Flint Hills,” said Hartman, 68, who lives in Emporia, Kansas. “I was like the elephant that

When the crappies move shallow to spawn in farm ponds, Hartman uses his fly rod to catch them.

had come to town.

“The landowners would get their families together and they’d come out to see the nutty professor (Hartman is a former administrator at Emporia State University) out there in a belly boat, fly fishing on their ponds.

“They had never seen anything like that before.”

Neither had the crappie. When Hartman used his fly rod to drop small doll flies into tight spots, the fish immediately reacted. Hartman caught big stringers full of crappie, and the word spread.

Some 30 years later, Hartman still fishes the same way. But he is no longer a novelty. Hartman has proved time and time again just how effective a fly rod can be when trying to entice crappie to bite.

"When I had my guide service, people would call me and ask, 'Where do you fly fish for trout in Kansas?' " said Hartman, who once operated the Fly Fish Kansas Guide Service and taught fly fishing at Emporia State University. "I'd tell them, 'We don't. But we'll catch just about everything else that swims in Kansas."

"I don't even use a spinning rod anymore. It's a lot more fun to catch 'em on a fly rod."

Fly Fish Kansas

Hartman gets a twinkle in his eye and a smirk on his face when he talks about the "flies" he uses.

"I've been using small marabou jigs for years," he said. "Well, the purists think they have to be using a true fly and they've tied some patterns that really work.

"I taught a friend of mine to fly fish and he got so excited about it that he developed his own fly. He called it Sarge's Crappie Fly because he was a sergeant in the Marine Corps. It's deadly on crappie. But I still use a lot of cheap marabou jigs, too.

"I don't think the crappie care." Hartman uses a 6-weight fly rod, a 3X tippet, and a 1/32nd-ounce jig or fly suspended under a strike indicator.

The advantage of such a setup? It is more of a natural presentation, he can keep the lure in front of the fish longer, and he doesn't have to reel it in to make another cast. He can use a simple flick

On the Fly

* Kevin Kurz, longtime owner of K&K Fly Fishers in Overland Park, Kan., recommends using a 1/32nd or 1/48th-ounce marabou jig with a No. 8 hook under a light strike indicator. His favorite colors are chartreuse and black, white and blue or white and pink.

* Kurz also has found success on a bead-head Woolly Buggie weighted so it sinks slowly. "It's deadly when the crappie are in the shallows," he said.

* David Cook, president of the Missouri Trout Fishermen's Association, goes even smaller when he is targeting crappie in the shallows. He will use a 1/64th to 1/100th-ounce marabou jig, often olive in color, under a feather-light strike indicator and slowly retrieve it over the top of brush.

* When the crappie move away from the banks, they often suspend over deep water. That's when Kurz will go to a small minnow-imitation fly and find success.

of his wrist to reposition his fly.

When the crappie are in the shallows, I can catch a lot more fish on a fly rod than I could on a spinning rod," he said.

Hartman uses a well-equipped belly boat, waders and flippers to maneuver where he wants to be. He targets shallow water as the water warms and the crappie move in to spawn. He looks for gravel banks, cover such as brush or rocks, and weed edges.

Hartman often starts in mid-March when the crappies are in the pre-spawn





mode. He carries a water thermometer with him, and when he finds that the temperature has risen into the mid-50s, he knows the bite will really be on. As it reaches 60, there often will be large concentration of crappie in the shallows. But there are no absolutes in pond fishing, he said. Sometimes, he has to try different banks until he finds one where there are concentrations of fish. And just because the crappies aren't hitting at one pond doesn't mean they won't be at the next.

Hartman has permission to fish about 20 private ponds ranging in size from 8 to 50 acres in the Kansas Flint Hills. Some are known for producing good numbers of medium-sized black crappie. Others have a smaller population, but produce big fish, including some large white crappie.

"You would be surprised at the size

Bill Hartman displays two crappies he caught on back-to-back casts while fly fishing on a farm pond.

of crappie that some of these ponds can produce," Hartman said. How big?

When Hartman talks about the size of the crappie in Flint Hills ponds, he relates two stories.

One is about the 3 ½-pound crappie he caught on a fly rod several years ago, the other is a tale about the big one that got away.

"My son caught the biggest crappie I have ever seen," Hartman said. "To this day, I think it may have been a state record."

"He held it up to show me and it flopped and got loose. We still talk about

that fish and wish we had been able to at least get a picture.”

Crappie of that size, of course, are rare. Hartman has fished the Flint Hills ponds for 30 years, and he has seen only a few extraordinary fish.

Still, he said, it's common to catch crappie 10 inches and larger. And a stringer full of them at the right time of the year.

...the 3 ½-pound crappie he caught on a fly rod several years ago

I've had days when I'm absolutely worn out from catching fish," he said. "I know that sounds like a fish story, but it's true."

A Spring Thing

Spring is the time of the year when fly fishing for crappie stands out.

The water warms faster in small bodies of water than it does in large reservoirs, so the crappie spawn often is accelerated. Hartman can expect four to six weeks of good crappie fishing each spring before the water warms to the point where the fish move deeper and become less vulnerable to flies.

Even in the spring, weather



Jigs and flies used to catch crappies during the spring.

fluctuations can change where the fish will be. A cold front can back the crappie off the banks and send them out to slightly deeper water.

But again, ponds offer an advantage. Because of their small size, they have less water for the fisherman to search. Hartman often experiments until he finds the right depth, then sets his strike indicator accordingly.

Even in the summer, he will use a long leader and drift in 20 to 30 feet of water and catch crappie. But for the most part, it's a spring thing.

"I love getting out in the Flint Hills in the spring, when everything is greening up and the crappie are biting," he said. "There's nothing like it."



Hartman's license plate reflects his passion for fly fishing.

 - Brent Frazee

Tip of the Month: Shallow Fish

by Sam Heaton

An April tip in Florida is to find the fish moving back out. In Alabama, as long as the dogwoods are still blooming, you can catch fish on the bank. If they are still in shallow, you can catch the males. If you hand around the males long enough, you'll catch some of the females, too. I like to float and fly so I can keep a distance from the fish. You can stay there and cull thought the fish. The more fish you catch the bigger fish you'll end up with.

My outfit is two 1/16-ounce jigs with a balanced cork. It will show if they lift or take them down. I use a BnM 7-foot Super Sensitive. A good 7-foot rod can be used for casting, float and fly, pitching, jigging deep, pulling and other techniques. You don't want to cheat yourself on either a crash helmet or good fishing rod, they are both important.

Sam Heaton guided at Lake Weiss Alabama before working many years with Johnson Fishing. He is BnM Pro Staff, host with the American Crappie Trail and lives and fishes in sunny Florida.



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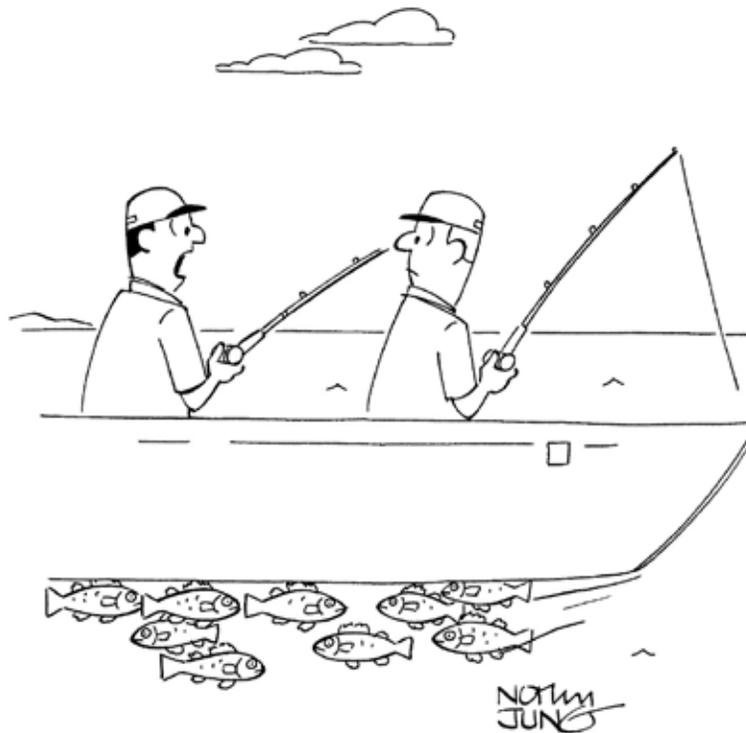
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Crappie Basics #160

Water Temperature

The best spring tip is water temperature. Make sure you are getting in the 59-60 degree water. To get an accurate reading, put your boat into reverse to stir the water up. That will give a more accurate reading. A few years ago we went into the back of a cove that had warm water. We caught 35 crappie in 45 minutes in the edge of the grass. That's the key to being successful in the spring...watching water temperatures.

...Wally Marshall





Crappie from the Oven

Scampi, or Langoustines or Norway lobsters are roughly the size of a large crayfish and fished from silty bottom regions of the open Atlantic Ocean and parts of the Mediterranean. The fleshy tail of the Norway lobster is closer in both taste and texture to lobster and crayfish than prawn or shrimp.

In English, scampi is used as singular, plural, or uncountable. Overfishing made scampi scarce and because of scarcity, some countries would often substitute shrimp in scampi.

In the United States, shrimp scampi is the menu name for shrimp in Italian-American cuisine. Scampi by itself is a dish of Norway lobsters served in garlic butter and dry white wine, served either with bread, bread crumbs or over pasta or rice, although sometimes served just shrimp alone.

Using garlic, butter and bread crumbs, and a little wine if you like, we're making crappie scampi; scampi as a style of preparation.

Crappie Scampi

Crappie fillets, enough to cover 2-quart casserole dish with no overlap

1/4 cup dry white wine (optional - sauvignon blanc goes well with garlic)

Juice of 1 or 2 crushed garlic cloves

1/2 stick melted butter

Bread crumbs

Salt and pepper to taste

Spray non-stick oil on dish. Spread fillets evenly on sheet, add wine, and drizzle crushed garlic juice

through a garlic press. Sprinkle bread crumbs on fish, season with salt and pepper. Broil until slightly browned.

Tip: If you soak any fish in vinegar and water for a few minutes before cooking, it will be flakier and have a better flavor.

Baked Cajun Crappie

8 crappie fillets

1 stick butter

Salt & pepper to taste

Cajun Spice to taste

4 sprigs fresh parsley, chopped

Juice of 1 lemon

Coat the bottom of an oven proof pan with butter. Place crappie fillets in pan, pour melted butter over the crappies and sprinkle each filet with Cajun Spice and the chopped parsley. Bake at 400 degrees F. until the fish are done, turning half way through the 20 minutes in the oven. When you remove the crappies from the oven, sprinkle them liberally with lemon juice. Serves 4.

Cajun Seasoning

3/4 cup of salt

1/4 cup cayenne pepper

2 tablespoons paprika

2 tablespoons garlic powder

2 tablespoons onion powder

2 tablespoons ground white pepper

2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper

Shake the ingredients together in a sealed bag. Taste-test your seasoning to tell whether you want to add more of an ingredient or add another. Save the plastic containers

the spices came in to store your Cajun seasoning. Re-label the containers.

Tip: Don't crowd your pans. Food that's crowded into a cast-iron skillet or cooking sheet gets steamed and soggy instead of crisp.

Crispy Crappie

2 pounds crappie fillets
 2 teaspoons of garlic salt
 1 1/2 teaspoons onion powder
 2 cup Ritz crackers, finely crushed
 1 egg
 1/2 cup beer
 Canola oil

Thoroughly mix garlic salt and onion powder. Sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon over crappie fillets. Mix remaining garlic-onion powder seasoning into crushed cracker crumbs. Make wash by beating egg into the beer. Dip fish fillets in wash and then into cracker crumbs to coat fillets. Heat 1/4- inch of oil to 375 degrees F. one side, turn and fry on other side until golden brown or flakes with a fork.

Apple Pie

1/2 cup white sugar
 1/2 cup milk
 1/2 cup heavy cream
 1/4 cup butter
 2 tablespoons cornstarch
 2 tablespoons milk
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 2 tart apples - peeled, cored and sliced
 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 (15 ounce) package pastry for double-crust pie
 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
 1 tablespoon milk
 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 tablespoon butter, softened

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar, 1/2 cup milk, cream and butter. Heat until butter is melted, stirring occasionally. In a small bowl, whisk together the cornstarch, 2 tablespoons milk, and vanilla; stir into saucepan. Cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, and set aside to cool slightly. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. In a medium bowl, combine the apples, flour and cinnamon. Mix well. Line a 9-inch pie pan with pie dough. Pour thickened filling mixture into pastry-lined pie pan. Arrange apple mixture evenly over filling. Top with second crust, seal and flute the edges. Cut slits in top crust. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until crust is golden brown and apples are tender. Cool for at least 30 minutes. In small bowl, combine confectioners' sugar, 1 tablespoon milk, vanilla and softened butter. Blend until smooth; pour evenly over warm pie. Refrigerate for 2 hours before serving.



CRAPPIE MASTERS

LAKE D'ARBONNE

FEBRUARY 24th - 25th

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Nichoals Young/Jock Young | 24.4 |
| 2. Dustin Harris/Kelley Graham | 24.18 |
| 3. Tommy Skarlis/Mike Baker | 23.86 |
| 4. Ronnie Turner/Jason Hinton | 22.88 |
| 5. Tony Sheppard/Mike Sheppard | 22.18 |

BIG FISH

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Michael Kimble/Jeremy Davis | 2.81 |
|--------------------------------|------|

MALE/FEMALE

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Dan dannenmueller/Sue Dannenmueller | 19.07 |
|--|-------|



The advertisement features a large, detailed image of a crappie fish being held by a person's hand. The fish is shown in profile, facing left, with its mouth slightly open. The background is a scenic view of a lake with trees and a cloudy sky. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'fishhound' featuring a stylized blue and orange fish head. The text is arranged in three lines on the left side, each underlined:

- the **Best Crappie Fishing Reports**
- the **Best Crappie Tackle**
- the **Best Discounts**

At the bottom, there is a call to action in white text on an orange background: **Join for FREE at www.fishhound.com**. Below this, in smaller white text, it says: Use Promo Code CNOW get a min of \$10 in gift cards emailed to you every month.

CRAPPIE NUTZ

WEST POINT LAKE

FEBRUARY 24th

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Matt Chambers/Billy Quick | 8.376 |
| 2. Mark Byrd/Paul Byrd | 7.706 |
| 3. Chad Brown/Scott Allen | 6.68 |

BIG FISH

- | | |
|--------------|-------|
| 1. Paul Byrd | 2.194 |
|--------------|-------|

TOP YOUTH

1. Zoey Friedler

CRAPPIE USA

LAKE OKEECHOBEE

FEBRUARY 24th

AMATEUR DIVISION

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Joe Hayes/Phil Trapp | 11 |
| 2. Max Wilson/Knox Wilson | 9.95 |
| 3. Robert Lemming/Chris Anderson | 9.67 |
| 4. John Hicks/Tim Harris | 9.64 |
| 5. James Heflin/Jamie Heflin | 9.63 |

PRO DIVISION

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. John Hendrix/Kevin Randall | 11.54 |
| 2. Blake Phillips/Stanley Phillips | 10.71 |
| 3. Donnie Burrus/Larry Buis | 10.18 |
| 4. Tony Thomas/Ronnie Bles | 10.16 |
| 5. James Lasswell/Shelia Lasswell | 9.62 |

BIG FISH

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1. John Hicks/Tim Harris | 2.43 |
|--------------------------|------|



MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB

EAGLE LAKE

FEBRUARY 24th

1. Adam Calcote/Joey Watkins	16.59
2. David & Trey McWilliams/Robbie Niven	16.24
3. Jennifer Crossett/Jason Cook	15.68
4. Donald Terry/Bernard Williams	15.63
5. Prentiss/Jason/Parker Eichwurzle	15.22

BIG FISH

1. Billy Baughman/Keith Moore	3.15
2. Bill & Drake Thornburg	3.02

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

TIMS FORD

FEBRUARY 24th

1. Joey Davis	7.93
2. Terry Spray/Tyler Spray	7.83
3. Jamie Johnson	6.96
4. Matthew Nash/Evan Nash	5.82
5. JW Jackson/Cane Jackson	5.62

BIG FISH

1. JW Jackson/Cane Jackson	1.83
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FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE OKEECHOBEE

FEBRUARY 24th

1. Capp Williams/John Dunlap	8.138
2. Jeff Simms/Wayne Quick	8.124
3. Max Lally/Doug Heaton	8.114

BIG FISH

1. Tommy Harper	1.102
2. Jeff Simms/Wayne Quick	1.095

CRAPPIE MASTERS

WEISS LAKE

MARCH 3rd

1. Kevin Randall/John Hendrix	10.47
2. Aaron Frederick/David Ash	10.39
3. Brandon Threadgill/Jason Threadgill	10.3
4. Jonathan Phillips/Alicia Phillips	9.87
5. Eric Cagle/Wade McDonald	9.82

BIG FISH

1. Eric Howard/Leann Howard	2.19
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MALE/FEMALE

1. Jonathan Phillips/Alicia Phillips	9.87
--------------------------------------	------

CRAPPIE USA

LAKE WYLIE

MARCH 3rd**AMATEUR DIVISION**

1. Shannon Suttle/Todd McGhee	11.32
2. Ervin Henderson Jr/Dennis Reynolds	9.95
3. Ricky Smith/George G Smith	8.94
4. David Prince/Bobby Bolton	8.87
5. Tracy Davis/Chuck Davis	8.78

PRO DIVISION

1. Ed Duke/Teddy Steen	11.03
2. Gary Ashe/Penn Motley	10.84
3. Ellis Cannon/Jon Cannon	10.82
4. Mike Huffstetler/Ray Koon	10.69
5. Mike Berry/Nick Babin	10.58

BIG FISH

1. Shannon Suttle/Todd McGhee	2.72
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HOI CRAPPIE CLUB

SANGCHRIS LAKE

MARCH 3rd

1. Brian Cuffle/Dale Smith	7.43
2. Brian Buchanan/Arick Clark	5.76
3. Lee Sharp/Aaron Tucker	5.68
4. Chad Anderson/Kristen Anderson	5.55
5. Terry Davis/Rick Montooth	4.42

BIG FISH

1. Lee Sharp/Aaron Tucker	1.92
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CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB

CHESTER FROST PARK

MARCH 4th

1. Allen Baugh/Jeff Silvers	10.87
2. David Cordell	9.95
3. Mike Johnston	9.3

ULTIMATE PANFISH LEAGUE

EAST RUSH LAKE

MARCH 4th

1. Zach Jans/John Kline	7.555
2. Josh Dehn/Randy Eder	7.45
3. Justin Hammer/Joe Crapster	7.445
4. Zach Herber/Pat Conroy	7.325
5. Parker Orhn/Steve McConville	7.285

BIG FISH

1. Stuart Manning/Michael Thompson	0.835
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CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE JORDAN

MARCH 10th

- 1. Eric Cagle/Lee Patterson 15.45
- 2. Brandon Threadgill/Jason Threadgill 12.89
- 3. Ken Fisher/Collier Hunt 12.79
- 4. Trey Wells/Zinda Wells 10.67

BIG FISH

- 1. Brandon Threadgill/Jason Threadgill 2.79

MALE/FEMALE

- 1. Trey Wells/Zinda Wells 10.67

COOSA RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB

LOGAN MARTIN

MARCH 10th

- 1. Jerry Culberson/Mike Ward 11.77
- 2. Donnie Clayton/Wayne Colvard 10.76
- 3. Terry Whaley/Gus Natalie 10.26
- 4. Joe Hayes/Phil Trapp 10.01
- 5. Roger Absher/Darla Absher 9.74

BIG FISH

- 1. Terry Whaley/Gus Natalie 2.07

2018 Crappie USA Trail

crappie USA

Schedule of Events

Logan Martin, AL	02/17/18
Weiss Lake, AL	02/24/18
Lake Wylie, NC	03/03/18
TennTom, MS	03/03/18
Lake Guntersville, AL	03/10/18
Lake of Egypt, IL	03/16-17/18
Old Hickory, TN	03/23-24/18
Pickwick Wilson, AL	03/31/18
Lk Cumberland, KY	04/07/18
Barkley-Ky Lakes, KY	04/13-14/18
Green River Lake, KY	04/20-21/18
Grnd Lk St Marys, OH	04/27-28/18
Cave Run, KY	05/04-05/18
Miss.-Sal., IN	05/12/18
Monroe, IN	05/19/18
Carlyle, IL	09/22/18
2019 Early Bird @ Barkley-KY Lakes, KY	11/02-03/18

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 www.crappieusa.com

2018 Crappie USA Classic
 Lake Cumberland-Somerset, KY 10/3-6/2018

CRAPPIE MASTERS

LAKE WASHINGTON

MARCH 10th

1. Charles Bunting/Travis Bunting	13.94
2. Barry Morrow/Chad Maupin	13.92
3. Tommy Skarlis/Mike Baker	13.25
4. Jerry Gross/Debbie Gross	13.21
5. James Calloway/Charles Stell	13.16

BIG FISH

1. Greg London/Lamar Bunting	2.55
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MALE/FEMALE

1. Jerry Gross/Debbie Gross	13.21
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ADULT/YOUTH

1. Jason Eichwurtzle/Parker Eichwurtzle	12.99
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CRAPPIE USA

LAKE GUNTERSVILLE

MARCH 10th**AMATEUR DIVISION**

1. Chad Brooks/John Childers	13.54
2. Gary Setphens	12.38
3. Justin Harris/Jeff Harris	12.26
4. Roger West/Brad West	12.1
5. Jack Hutcheson Jr/Becky Hutcheson	11.94

PRO DIVISION

1. Dale Thompson/Eddie Milby	12.57
2. Chad Hitchcock/Jason Tucker	12.5
3. Joe Carter/Janette Carter	12.16
4. Steve Ferguson/Frank Finley	12.1
5. Rod Wall/Kent Driskoll	11.68

BIG FISH

1. Roger D Claywell/Dean Rogers	2.49
---------------------------------	------

FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB

CRESCENT LAKE

MARCH 10th

1. Darryl Cole/Terri Cole	13.08
2. Larry Durden	12.06
3. Nate Smith	11.066
4. George Parker/Rosie	11.063
5. Wendell /Scott	11.05

BIG FISH

1. George Parker/Rosie	2.09
------------------------	------



OKLAHOMA CRPPIE TRAIL

KAW LAKE

MARCH 10th

1. Garrett/Walker	11.35
2. Team OZ	10.65
3. David/Ben/Jake	10.18
4. Beckwith/Lynn	9.46
5. Walkabout/Hamic	8.67

BIG FISH

1. David/Ben/Jake	1.99
2. Tyke/Steven/Crissy	1.99

AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL

NEELY HENRY

MARCH 16th - 17th

1. Ron Lunsy/Joey Hilton	23.2
2. Whitey Outlaw/Matthew Outlaw	22.3
3. Ronnie Capps/Steve Coleman	22.11
4. TC Lloyd/Justin Gainey	21.85
5. Terry Stewart/Cole Stewart	21.7

BIG FISH

1. TC Lloyd/Justin Gainey	2.47
---------------------------	------

CRAPPIE USA

LAKE OF EGYPY

MARCH 16th - 17th

AMATEUR DIVISION

1. Michael Arnold/Jason Shingler	16.69
2. Patrick Stone/Patrick Vowell	16.62
3. Roger D Claywell/Dean Rogers	16.17
4. Terry M Davis/Josh Nast	15.23
5. Douglas Hess/Ralph Hobbs	14.71

PRO DIVISION

1. Matthew Strobel/Tyson Shoot	19.59
2. Daniel Kash/Barry Kash	18.49
3. Jerry Onhiser/Sean Drury	17.59
4. Sean Hawkins/ Michael Renfro	17.5
5. Steve Hess/Dan Lutcha	17.14

BIG FISH

1. John Gray/Thomas Gray	2.46
--------------------------	------

BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.

BEAVER LAKE

MARCH 17th

1. Payton/Cody	7.4
2. Bill/Joey	7
3. Donald/Jimmy	6.38
4. Hunter/Blake	6.32
5. Matt Phillips	6.03

BIG FISH

1. Matt Phillips	1.66
------------------	------

EAST TN CRAPPIE CLUB

WATTS BAR LAKE

MARCH 17th

1. Eric Bacon/Will Bacon	10.11
2. Eric Fenstermaker	9.65
3. Jim Huber/Doug Freels	9.36
4. Darren Caughron/Matt Xenos	9.32
5. Josh Ingram/John Maxey	9.31

MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB

GRENADA LAKE

MARCH 17th

1. Steven Sullivan/Jamie Roberson	15.15
2. Ron Upchurch/Brandon Upchurch	15.13
3. Jimmy Smith/Ricky Smith	14.99
4. Ray Williams/Dawn Williams	14.56
5. Keith Moore/Billy Baughman	14.53

BIG FISH

1. Phil Brown/Nolan Beck	3.32
--------------------------	------

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

TIMS FORD

MARCH 17th

1. Joey Davis	9.45
2. Rodney/Coby	8.66
3. Kevin Crittenden/Kyle Ard	7.71
4. Roger Baker/Carey Britton	7.7
5. Matthew Nash	6.99

BIG FISH

1. Rodney/Coby	2.05
----------------	------



SHOALS CRAPPIE

WHEELER LAKE

MARCH 17th

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Jonathan Kirby | 15.53 |
| 2. Keith Dodd/Darrell Keil | 12.5 |
| 3. Jeff Harris/Justin Harris | 11.76 |

BIG FISH

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| 1. Justin Harris | 2.34 |
|------------------|------|

EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE OF THE OZARKS

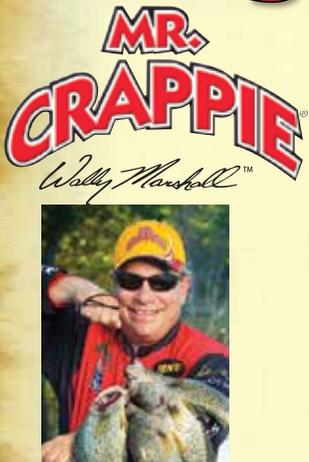
MARCH 17th - 18th

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Liple/Malloy | 18.41 |
| 2. Redemann/Stevens/Viet | 18.16 |
| 3. Vallentine/Shoemake | 17.66 |
| 4. Wehde/Besselman/Besselman | 17.49 |
| 5. Perotti/Martens/Maubach | 16.67 |

BIG FISH

- | | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. Mokitor/Sanders | 2.18 |
|--------------------|------|

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- Low memory; high abrasion resistance
- Special softeners for superb performance
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APR 7th	COOSA RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	NEELY HENRY	CLUB
APR 7th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	LAKE FORK/CRAPPIE MASTERS	CLUB
APR 7th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE FORK	ONE POLE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE
APR 7th	CRAPPIE USA	LAKE CUMBERLAND	CLUB
APR 7th	CRAPPIE NUTZ	BLACKSHEAR	CLASSIC
APR 7th	EASTERN MO CRAPPIE CLUB	MARK TWAIN LAKE	CLUB
APR 7th	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	NORMANDY	CLUB
APR 7th	SOUTHWEST MISSOURI	BULL SHOALS LAKE	CLUB
APR 7th	SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE	LAKE SPRINGFIELD	CLUB
APR 7th	TWIN LAKES	BIG SANDY	CLUB
APR 8th	CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLUB
APR 8th	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	LAKE OF EGYPT	CLUB
APR 13th - 14th	CRAPPIE USA	BARKLEY/KENTUCKY LAKES	SUPER EVENT
APR 14th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
APR 14th	CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE MITCHELL/HIGGENS FERRY	CLUB
APR 14th	CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE ASSOC	LAKE DEGRAY	CLUB
APR 14th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	1st Leg of MO ST Championship
APR 14th	NORTHEAST GEORGIA	MIDDLETON	CLUB
APR 14th	NORTHEAST OHIO	MISQUITO LAKE	CLUB
APR 14th	PEACH STATE	OCONEE	CLASSIC
APR 14th	SHOALS CRAPPIE	LITTLE BEAR	CLUB
APR 15th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS	CLINTON LAKE	Exelon Mega/OPEN
APR 15th	GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES	GRANDLAKES	CLUB
APR 20th - 21st	AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	ROSS BARNETT RESERVOIR	CLUB
APR 20th - 21st	CRAPPIE USA	GREEN RIVER LAKE	SUPER EVENT
APR 21st	COOSA RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE GUNTERSVILLE	WILDCAT
APR 21st	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	LAKE MILLWOOD	CLUB
APR 21st	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE EUFAULA	NATIONAL QUALIFIER
APR 21st	EAST TN CRAPPIE CLUB	CHEROKEE LAKE	CLASSIC
APR 21st	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE SHELBYVILLE	OPEN
APR 21st	INDIANA SLAB MASTERS	RACCOON LAKE	CLUB
APR 21st	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	NORMANDY	CLUB
APR 21st	NORTHEAST OHIO	PYMATUNING LAKE	CLUB
APR 21st - 22nd	SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE	LAKE SHELBYVILLE	CLUB
APR 22nd	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	KINKAID	CLUB
APR 27th - 28th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	KENTUCKY AND BARCLAY LAKES	TN State Championship
APR 27th - 28th	CRAPPIE USA	GRAND LAKES/ST MARYS	SUPER EVENT
APR 28th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS	DECATUR	CLUB
APR 28th	MAGNOLIA	BARNETT RESERVOIR	BIG MAMA OPEN
APR 28th	SHOALS CRAPPIE	PICKWICK LAKE	CLUB
APR 28th-29th	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	CLINTON LAKE	CLUB
APR 29th	GRAND LAKE S CRAPPIE SERIES	GRAND LAKES	CLUB

CRAPPIE CLUBS

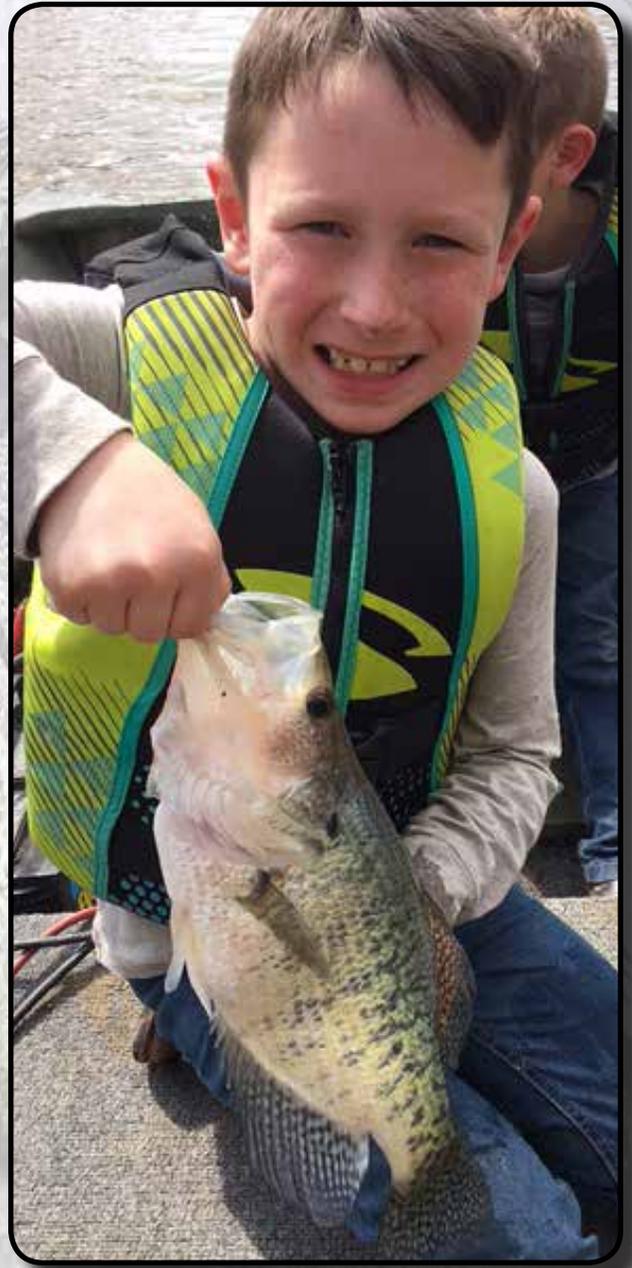
Club	Contact	Link
AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	MATT MORGAN	FACEBOOK
BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE CLUB	PAYTON USERY	FACEBOOK
CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	AUSTIN KNEESKERN	FACEBOOK
CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	RICK EUDY	FACEBOOK
CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAPPIE CLUB	DAN DANNANMUELLER/JONATHAN PHILLIPS	FACEBOOK
CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	JASON WESTERBERG	FACEBOOK
CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	JOE SCHRADER/GREG FOLEY	FACEBOOK
CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	MIKE JOHNSTON/JIM EDMISTER	FACEBOOK
CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	JAY REVE	FACEBOOK
CRAPPIE MASTERS	MIKE VALENTINE	FACEBOOK
CRAPPIE USA	DARRELL VAN VACTOR	FACEBOOK
CRAPPIENUTZ MS	ROBERT SMITH/JOE FAIRCLOTH	FACEBOOK
EAST TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB	MATT	FACEBOOK
EAST TEXAS CRAPPIE SERIES	CREEKSIDE SPORTS-903-849-2634	FACEBOOK
EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	STEVE PEROTTO	FACEBOOK
FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	DARRELL COLE	FACEBOOK
GRAND LAKE CRAPPIE SERIES OH	JEFF	WEBSITE
HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	CHAD ANDERSON	FACEBOOK
INDIANNA SLAB MASTERS	JOE LONG/DAMON PHILLIPS	FACEBOOK
KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	JOE BRAGG/FRANK HAIDUSEK	FACEBOOK
MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB	MICHAEL NOWELL/ROGER WOMACK	FACEBOOK
MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB	TOBY IVEY	FACEBOOK
NORTHEAST GEORGIA CRAPPIE	KEVIN STRONG	FACEBOOK
NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB	DAN ELKO/ROBERT ELKO	FACEBOOK
OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL	DARRELL AND BRIAN	FACEBOOK
PEACH STATE CRAPPIE CLUB	ROBERT SMITH	FACEBOOK
SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	KEITH DODD	FACEBOOK
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE	CHAD HAMSON	FACEBOOK
SOUTHWEST MISSOURI CRAPPIE	KERRY YATES	FACEBOOK
GA SLABMASTERS TOURNAMENT TRAIL	JAMIE MOORE/DAN SIDLE	FACEBOOK
SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE CLUB IL	JERRY JALLAS/RICK MONTTOOTH	FACEBOOK
TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB		FACEBOOK
WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB MO		FaceBook



Photo Contest

1st Place This Month!

8 year old Hunter Howk
Lynn Arkansas
16.5 in



Honorable Mention

Joey DeRamus,
Alabama River in Autaugaville AL
2lbs 13oz 16inches long

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.

**Good Fishing,
See you next month!**

**Fly fishing
crappie
Brent Frazee photo**

