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DIGITAL MAGAZINE

fishhound

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Crappie Masters Ultimate Challenge



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by Ron Wong

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Opening Cast

First boats are memorable. My first was a simple johnboat, 12-feet long with a 32-inch bottom and extremely low sides. My partner, James, and I went halves on everything. The boat was \$40 and had a few dings due to being carried 200 yards in a tornado. It had character.



We bought and rebuilt a used trailer. Added a 5 hp Eska motor. It had no reverse but it would swivel 360 degrees. The shear pins were a problem in the stumps. Later, a neighbor loaned us a 6 hp Johnson that we loved, but soon learned it was stolen since he wouldn't sell due to no paperwork. It didn't stop us from using it, but it was a worry until our next upgrade to a 7.5 Chrysler.

Our boat was severely overloaded, but that was no issue because we weren't experienced or smart enough to realize the danger. What bothered us was the boat's ultra-thin aluminum. We carried five-minute epoxy for repairs at the lake. Quality repairs were made at home, at night, with the boat flipped over and a light underneath it. Every place we could see light got a coating of epoxy, so a fourth of the bottom was coated by the time we sold it.

We splurged on a new Minn Kota, but only after I fell through the ceiling in my house while repairing a leak. A payoff from the insurance company, and a few shortcuts on house repairs, provided enough money to buy the trolling motor.

There were a few close calls. We were hung up on stumps in the middle of Lake Conway while fishing at night. We bounced, did circles, pushed and pulled to get off stump after stump. More than once we thought we were sinking. A bass tournament takeoff at Lake DeGray nearly put us under, too. The list goes on.

James liked to drive his truck 80-plus mph on interstate; still does. Not a big deal, except for the revolutions-per-minute of our little 8-inch trailer tires. We expected a "Call your buddy because he's never seen a wreck like this" moment, but there were no catastrophes.

I'm old now. I won't get into a boat that isn't safe. However, I'll always cherish the fun and memories with my fishing partner and our first boat.

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

Cover Photo:

Barry Morrow and Chad Maupin
won the Crappie Masters One-
Pole Ultimate Challenge at
Truman Lake, MO
Tim Huffman photo

Summer Time Shallow Water Spider-Rigging

Story & photos by Ron Wong



Summertime and the livin' is easy, fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high, means it is hot and humid throughout the southern part of the U.S. It also means that the crappie have gone to deep water to seek relief from the hot surface temps, right? Well, that is partially true.

The crappie are certainly seeking a comfort level where forage and water temps are more conducive to their liking. However, there are some professional crappie fishermen aware deep water is not the only place to find crappie.

An effective way to catch shallow summer crappie is spider rigging. We had the opportunity to spend some time with Matt

Shallow slow trolling includes picking up the outside pole and working it around cover. This cypress tree is a great example of a prime crappie spot.

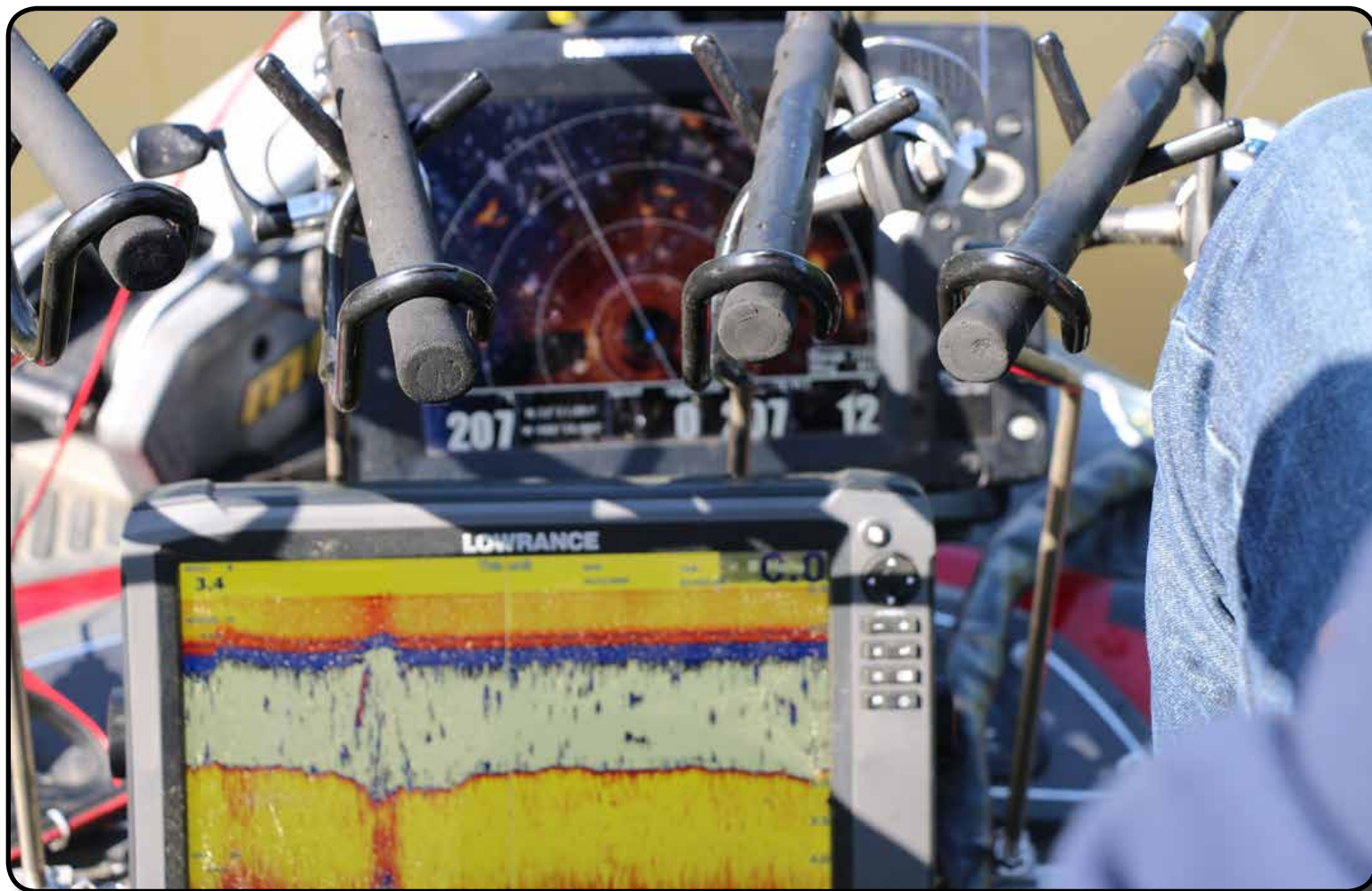
Outlaw, crappie fishing shallow water. The results were very impressive. We caught crappie as shallow as 3 feet deep with the surface temps approaching 90 degrees. Oh yeah, we had some fish that would weigh 1.75 pounds.

Before we pick Matt's brain about fishing in shallow water during the summer, let's learn a bit about him. He is the son of Whitey Outlaw, who has won multiple crappie tournaments



BnM Pole pro staffer, Matt Outlaw, with a nice Alabama crappie.





and championships. He is married to Nicole Humbertson with their first child due to arrive around July 4th. He was born and raised in South Carolina near Santee Cooper Lake where he learned how to fish, mostly in the upper end of the lake where it is shallow and full of vegetation and cover. Matt helps manage the family's Insulation business out of St. Matthews, South Carolina. As, he told me, "I was sitting in a boat with my Dad, I was still in diapers and couldn't walk." So Matt has been on the water for 29 years. He has been crappie tournament fishing since 2009. This year he has teamed with his Dad to fish the American Crappie Trail tournament series where they are currently tied for 3rd place for Angler of the Year. Due to Matt's success, he has acquired sponsorships from B'n'M Poles, General Tires, Heybo, Midsouth Tackle, Crappie Magnet, Pro Built Jigs, Rockport Rattler, and Driftmaster. Matt told us that he rarely fishes over 10 feet deep, so he really knows a lot about shallow

BnM 16-foot poles, Driftmaster rodholders, Lowrance (set on sonar) and Humminbird 360 are all part of Outlaw's shallow water spider rig setup.

water crappie fishing.

Matt Outlaw not only talked about how spider rigging in shallow water during the summer is effective, but he put a nice limit of 7 fish in the live well while we were visiting. He was fishing in a slough about ½ mile off of a river where the water averaged 4 feet deep and surface temps around 85 degrees. Eight, 14-foot B'n'M poles were used with double-minnow rigs tied on with some using a Rockport Rattler jig, others with a Pro Built jig both tipped with a medium sized minnow. A couple of the rods were rigged with Eagle Claw hooks and minnows. Matt said that crappie can be caught throughout the summer

in shallow water especially where there is vegetation such as duck weed, hyacinths, gator grass (also known as eel grass) or coon water moss. This vegetation provides shade, oxygen and places for forage to hide. The vegetation provides nutrients for the forage thereby holding the crappie. In many shallow water areas, there will also be cypress trees that are magnets for shallow water crappie. Where there is cover such as stumps, logs or bushes in the same area, those places will hold small schools of fish. Matt said it is important to use your electronics to find the cover in shallow water as these are the houses that the crappie will live in throughout the hot days of summer.

Some very good tips provided by Matt to catch crappie in shallow water during the summer are:

- Move slowly throughout the area and when around a piece of cover, stop and fish thoroughly
- Use electronics to find cover, especially when fishing duck weed and other floating vegetation
- Be quiet in the boat and keep trolling motor on low speeds
- Use 16-foot poles if the water is clear to prevent spooking the fish
- If the water is stained to muddy, add a Midsouth Tackle crappie tube to the jig head for more vibration and tip with small minnow
- Use 8-pound test line when possible, go to 10-pound test in heavy cover
- Reduce number of rods when fishing heavy cover laden areas; he has sometimes used just 4 poles successfully
- Use different colored jig heads until you can determine what color is most effective
- Many shallow areas will have small ditches, follow them as vegetation will be on the sides of the ditches
- When fishing very heavy cover, use a single jig head tipped with a minnow to reduce hanging up
- Be patient, as some time it will take a while to cover an area until the fish are found or a pattern is determined
- Remember to hydrate and use sunscreen in the summer

Most rivers and lakes have shallow back water areas, like old sloughs or oxbows that hold water throughout the year, and it is those places that will have the crappie. Look for those shallow areas that have some type of vegetation in the water. That is the major component for a successful fishing trip when fishing shallow. Spider rigging is the most effective way to dissect an area and catch fish.

 - Ron Wong



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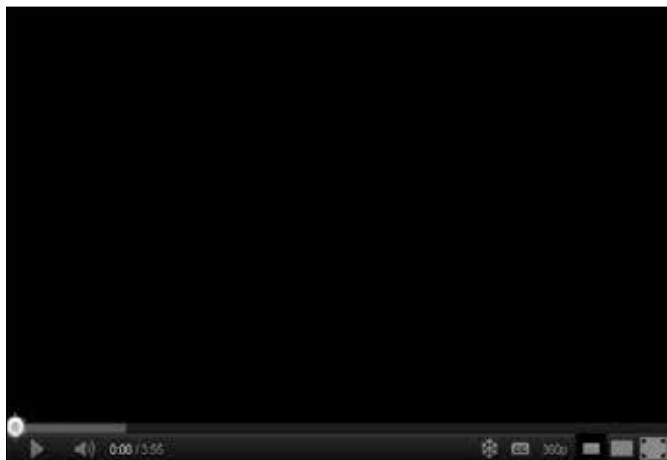
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NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

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

Crappie Basics #166


Move Fast

One tactic is to keep on the move when casting, pitching or jigging. To move fast, use a 1/8- or 1/4-ounce jig. Tip with a small minnow. The rig allows a fisherman to quickly get to the strike zone, feel everything the jig touches and get it back out to drop into another spot. The minnow draws more strikes.

Typical mid-states and southern crappie will likely be in six to 18 feet of water. It varies with each lake or river and also with water temperatures. Stay above the thermocline. If no thermocline, check all depths to find the most active crappie.

Last tip: change minnows often. A lively, small minnow will attract more fish. –TH

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Crappie Masters One-Pole Ultimate Challenge

Story & photos by Tim Huffman



June 15-16. Truman Lake, MO.

"This tournament," says Crappie Masters President, Mike Vallentine, "is special in many ways. First, it's a good jigging lake. It's full of visible and invisible cover. Crappie relate to it. It's also one of our two, one-pole tournaments, so it's important for anyone wanting to do well in the points race. The tournament itself is unique because it puts everyone on a level playing field. Jig fishermen are not competing against spider riggers. It's not jigs against minnows. It's everyone using one pole and artificial baits. Numbers don't lie and they show this tournament is very popular each year with our fishermen."

Truman Lake is best known for two things. First, it's among the top three vertical jigging lakes in the country. Two, it's one of the few lakes that gets better as the temperature gets hotter. Crappie Masters has combined the two elements for an annual one-pole, artificial bait only tournament.

There were 105 teams competing at Truman Lake. The pre-tournament meeting included registration, give-away drawings and review of the rules.

was the first thing I heard when arriving. "They shut down. The fishing should be great right now but it isn't." The truth was that even though the bite had slowed, some fishermen were still catching a few good crappie, but work, time, effort and a little luck was required to catch them.

Intro/Basics

A 105-boat tournament is big for today's national crappie tournaments. Crappie Masters holding a one-pole event at Truman has proven to be a favorite of many competitive fishermen. The top five places paid a total of over \$20,000 in cash, prizes and bonuses.

The tournament was not for the weak. Temperatures reached the low to mid-90s



with a heat index reaching three digits. Water temperature was 83 degrees with water moderate to murky, clearing slightly each day. Another major factor was fluctuating water levels.

The Event

Part of a photographer's job when covering a tournament is to get on the water to get action shots of teams catching fish. Our first team included twenty minutes of waiting but no fish was caught. We repeated that scenario, for less time, with several other teams. The bite was s-l-o-w. We got two good shots and seen a few other crappie caught, but to say the teams had to work for their fish was an understatement.

The team of Barry Morrow and Chad Maupin took the lead on day one and repeated on day two to win the prestigious tournament. They have been in the winner's circle before and continue to prove their abilities.

Day one, Morrow/Maupin weighed 10.13 pounds to take a narrow lead. They caught their fish late in the day. Day two

The father/son team of Charles and Kevin Rogers are known as jigging experts. The team helped popularize run-gun jigging with 1/4-ounce jigs, braided line, moving fast and swinging fish into the boat.

proved to be different but eased the pressure when the fish came early. They had a two-day total of 20.91 pounds.

Several things led to the win including downsizing baits and using their Humminbird Electronics and MinnKota trolling motor. The electronics allowed them to target fish while the trolling motor allowed them to stay in one spot, on one tree, as long as necessary. Underwater, non-visible structure was a key part of their cover they fished. Their crappie came from five to eight feet of water catching fish near the bottom. Baits included Beaver Bottom Truman Tornado, Bobby Garland Baby Shad and MidSouth Tackle's Wyatt's Blue Magic Tube.

The team took home \$8,400 for the win, plus numerous sponsor bonuses of around \$1500.



CRAPPIE MASTERS ONE-POLE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE



Matt Beckman and Jeff Lewis weighed 14 fish totaling 19.49 pounds for \$4,200 second place earnings. They targeted the same big fish areas where they fish in every tournament on Truman Lake. They said being in the right place at the right time was critical. They made several trips back to spots they believed held quality fish. Electronics was a major factor with the quality bite being at eight feet on a black-chartreuse Muddy Water Bait on a 1/8-ounce Pro Built Jighead.



Brian Thomas and Mike Zimmerman fish visible cover during the Crappie Masters Truman Lake Ultimate Challenge.

Third place was David Cox and Steve Hockett with 19.38 pounds winning \$2,800. They fished black-chartreuse jigs in eight to ten feet of water.

Big fish went to Ryan and Howard German who had a horrible day one on Friday so set their goal for big fish on Saturday. It paid off with a 2.51 giant, their only fish, paying \$1,470.

Final Cast

Winning weights were very good. However, to see what fishing was really like it's best to look at the middle of the tournament field. That middle-of-the-pack team had only 12.46 pounds. Also, 46 of the last 48 teams

could not catch 14 fish to weigh in during the two days. Fishing was tough.

A huge "Thank you" to Barry Morrow and Chad Nugent, who allowed me to share their boats while they were prefishing for the Truman tournament. You'll read more about them in CrappieNow Magazine and Crappie Masters Magazine in the future. And thanks to Crappie Masters President, Mike Vallentine, for running me around Truman, and other lakes on the trail, so I can shoot photos of the fishermen in action.

Visit Crappie Masters at www.crappiemasters.net

Truman One-Pole Ultimate Challenge

20.91 Barry Morrow/Chad Maupin

19.49 Matt Beckman/Jeff Lewis

19.38 David Cox/Steve Hockett

19.09 Rich Campbell/Travis Stevens

18.86 Tony Niemeyer/Levi Irwin

18.13 Rick Koll/Steve Ingram

18.13 George Ryberg/John Rice

17.70 Richard Bowling/Gary Lee

17.70 David Townsend/D Johnston

17.64 Tony Burnworth/R Searcy



- Tim Huffman



CRAPPIE GEAR

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The Oliso Pro VS97A Smart Vacuum Sealer is a great tool for an outdoorsman and/or cook. It's a storage system that removes air and creates an airtight, waterproof heat seal, keeping air out and freshness in.

Vacuum stored foods keep fresh five times longer. An Oliso bag can be sealed and reused ten times, stores wet foods or liquids, and has a dry mode to seal dry goods, and stop and seal for fragile foods. It has a flexi tube attachment to seal bottles and jars.

Editor's Special Likes: No cutting and making bags. Reusable, zip-lock bags makes the process much easier and less expensive. I suggest ordering a spare box of quart and gallon bags. We seal many different foods and often cook extra to freeze and have a meal ready in the freezer.

A big "A+" for it's small size taking up very little room on the counter or in a drawer. I've had good results freezing fish. The vacuum method takes about half the room in the freezer, is lighter and is quicker to thaw. I've had no problems with vacuum sealed fish but haven't tested against water-covered for long term comparison. The Oliso unit receives a high rating.

Information: The Pro VS97A comes with sealer, carrying case, flexi tube, zip disc, 12V DC adaptor, 5 large Vac-Snap 1-gallon bags. One year limited lifetime mfg. warranty. MSRP \$169.99. Extra reusable zip bags are available: 14 1-quart or 10 1-gallon, \$11.99.



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Truman Lake

Summertime Crappie

Story & photos by Brent Frazee



Most fishermen would rather sit in front of an air conditioner than in a fishing boat on days like this. Even in the early-morning hours, it was a scorcher at Truman Lake. Forecasts called for the temperatures to soar to near 100 degrees, and no relief was in sight.

So why was Jeff Faulkenberry, a longtime guide at the large reservoir in west-central Missouri, so confident that he and two friends could catch a limit of crappie

Flooded tree rows often lead to big crappie at Truman Lake in the heat of the summer.

without even breaking a sweat?

He knew the fishing, against all odds, had been just as hot as the weather during this stretch in late July.

"A lot of fishermen think the fish won't bite when it gets like this," said Faulkenberry,



who runs the Endless Season Guide Service on the 55,600-acre reservoir in west-central Missouri. "They think that either it's too hot for them to be active or that they go deep.

"But Truman is different than a lot of lakes. It has lots of cover and shade for the fish, an abundance of shad, and the crappie stay shallow.

"You might have to move around until you find them. But they'll bite if you drop it in front of them."

Faulkenberry paused and laughed.

"I think the fishermen are more uncomfortable than the fish," he said.

Faulkenberry proved his point just a few minutes after he left the boat ramp at 6:30 a.m. He headed for a spot in the Grand arm and stopped where a tree row extended from the bank onto a flat. So much for going deep. The water was 10 to 12 feet deep at

Bright-colored tube jigs is a good bet in the murky water of Truman Lake.

its max.

Then he used a long rod to dip minnows along the trunks of the flooded trees. Before long, he felt a slight tap and he pulled a 12-inch crappie out of the tangle of limbs.

Game on. For the next couple hours, Faulkenberry and two friends – Johnny Everhart and I – steadily caught keeper crappie in conditions that many fishermen would consider a nightmare.

Before the sun got high in a cloudless sky, we were back at the ramp with our limit of 15 crappies apiece.

A fluke? Hardly. Faulkenberry is a year-round crappie fisherman. That includes the





numbing cold of winter and the torrid heat of summer. If he's learned one thing over the years it's that crappie will bite even in the extremes.

"Truman is an unreal crappie lake," he said. "It has so many fish, and in a wide range of sizes.

"You can hit the trees in these flooded fencerows and catch two or three crappie out of one tree, then you have to move on to the next one. But you find enough places like that and it won't take you long to catch a limit"

Faulkenberry found one of those magic fencerows on this trip. And the place had plenty of sentimental value.

"I grew up with this lake," said Faulkenberry, 37, who lives in Clinton, Mo. "I was born about the time Truman opened (the dam was completed in 1979).

"My grandfather built a home up on that hill and I would spend my summers here, fishing. What we're fishing was probably a

Jeff Faulkenberry and his wife, Natasha, doubled-up on crappie while spider rigging.

tree row along a hay field.

"The crappie fishing was great then and it still is. For size of fish, it's better now than it was then."

Faulkenberry has caught crappie as big as 3.29 pounds, a fish he donated to Bass Pro Shops for display in its aquarium. He has caught one other crappie bigger than three pounds and he guided a customer to another.

Fish that size, of course, are rare. But Truman has plenty of thick-sided, healthy crappie.

No question, it has the look of a top crappie lake. It features a maze of flooded timber and brush, it has the dirty, fertile water that crappie prefer, and schools of shad dimple the surface about everywhere

you look.

About the only draw-back is that it is prone to flooding in the spring, making boat ramps and recreation areas virtually inaccessible. But those are the years when the crappie pull off a big spawn and the survival rate of fry is high because of the additional hiding places from predators.

...fish main-lake flooded hedge and cedar tree rows in the summer.

This year has already been a memorable one for crappie fishing. Fishermen are benefitting from an excellent year-class of fish from 2014, many of which are now in the 10-inch range, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Faulkenberry has guided many parties to limits of those fish, and he expects to catch many more in the summer.

Even with the expected heat, he is booked solid. In fact, he already has 268 guide trips booked for this year.

In the summer, Faulkenberry specializes in dipping minnows along trees or swinging one-eighth ounce jigs.

"A lot of times, they'll hit when you swing that jig and it starts to fall," he said.

He likes to fish main-lake flooded hedge and cedar tree rows in the summer. He keys on the dark stumps because they absorb the sun, grow algae and attract baitfish.

He often uses a 10-foot ultralight rod, custom-built by the Ozark Rod Co. He uses 15-pound braided line and likes to use bright-colored tube jigs made by MidSouth Tackle. His favorite color pattern: blue sparkle over a chartreuse core.

That isn't the only way he catches fish in the heat of summer, though. He also uses a small jigging spoon, lifting it three feet and letting it flutter down. He also will go to spider-rigging, putting out multiple rods and rigs baited with minnows, and slowly troll over the top of brush, stumps and timber.

Faulkenberry likes to fish dirty water, and Truman has plenty of that. It is known

for its colored, fertile expanses.

In the summer, a thermocline (the layer that separates oxygen-rich water from the zone where it is depleted) often sets up and that helps fishermen. They know that the crappie won't retreat into deep water because there is little oxygen there.

That's one of the reasons Faulkenberry stays relatively shallow, even in the summer.

After fishing the lake since his childhood, he knows plenty of places to go. When the fishing gets tough, he often falls back on the tricks his grandpa showed him.

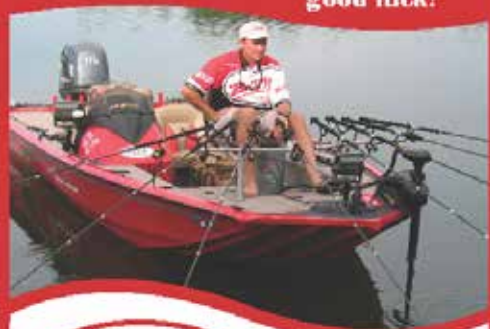
"I'd go out with him and he'd always be catching crappie while I was hardly catching anything," Faulkenberry said. "I asked him what he was doing. He told me, 'Drop to the bottom. Crank two times and stop. Crank two times and stop. Crank two times and stop.'"


"He would do that all the way until the bait was to the top. It worked. It still does today."




- Brent Frazee

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Crappie Basics #167

Summer Weeds

Middle to upper states may still have a few fish in the bushes, but with warm weather of May, most fish will likely be in hot summer patterns.

Weedbeds are a top pick. A good rig is a slip-float and minnow. Keep everything streamline for the fewest weed problems. Use a long, skinny float, streamline or barrel-type sinker, string bobber stop and Tru-Turn hook in #2 or #1.

Look on lake points with weeds. Punch through the floating vegetation. Underwater stuff growing from the bottom can be fished on the edges. For example, water 15 feet deep with weeds up to six feet forms an edge that can be fished. Early morning is usually the best time to catch them before they get tighter up in the weeds.



CRAPPIE GEAR

Charlie Brewer's Slider Grub

Products come and go...but not Slider Grubs. They were hot from the start and continue to catch fish today. The company was started in 1970 by Charlie Brewer, Sr. He developed Slider Fishing, a simple "Do-Nothing" method for imitating nature. The baits and technique have been effective for over 44 years. The company continues to be family-owned with helpful, down-home good people.

Slider Grubs are most popular when fished with exposed jigheads, especially for long lining. However, the Weedless Crappie Slider Head provides a unique setup for casting and retrieving a bait through thick, hook-grabbing cover.

Charlie Brewer, Jr. has some good tips for fishing the Slider. "I use the lightest line and head weight possible, preferring a 1/32-ounce. A body by itself will float so by sticking with a very light head, the jig sinks slowly. I let it drop down into the middle of the brush. On my retrieve, I climb over one limb at a time letting it fall each time. That's when a crappie hits it."

The head comes in six colors, 1/4-, 1/8-, 1/16-, 1/32-ounce, and has a 1/0 bronze hook. MSRP: 18-pack, \$12.87.

Crappie Grubs come in 1-inch, 1.5-inch and over 60 colors. Some of the new favorites include Green Ghost, Pink Ice, Chicken and Brown Pearl. Don't forget Clear Hologram for a natural look, or Glow for a bright presentation. MSRP: 18-pack, \$3.50.

Charlie Brewer Slider Company, 800-762-4701, www.sliderfishing.com.



www.sliderfishing.com

The American Crappie Trail Visits Ouachita River

Story & photos by Ron Wong



Despite rising water levels, the father/son team of Terry and Cole Stewart wins the American Crappie Trail tournament on the Ouachita River out of Monroe, Louisiana. They won the tournament wire to wire in some very hot weather and adverse fishing conditions. During their practice days (Monday through Wednesday), they found only a few fish but of decent size. They made the decision to fish Bayou D'Arbonne way north of Monroe because of the few good fish found in the area. Using 16-foot B'n'M trolling rods rigged with double minnow rigs, they had an excellent first day weighing in a little over 12 pounds. When they arrived in the area for the second day, they noticed the water had risen about a foot from the day before and the bite much slower with smaller fish. However, they decided to stay with the area and chose to fish a little slower to catch fish. All of the fish they caught were 3 to 5 feet deep using small minnows.

Terry said, "the crappie would only bump

The Lucas Oil team of Watson/Morgan slow troll the river.

larger minnows and the small ones caught the best fish". Terry also said, "Using three Minn-Kota trolling motors (one mounted in front and two on the transom) was key to the win". When fishing cover, if they got hung on cover, they could use the rear trolling motors to pull back to get unhung. Also, they used the rear trolling motors to push their spider rigs so as not to spook the shallow fish with the front motor. Terry and Cole have been fishing tournaments together since 2009 and are members of the Magnolia Crappie Club.

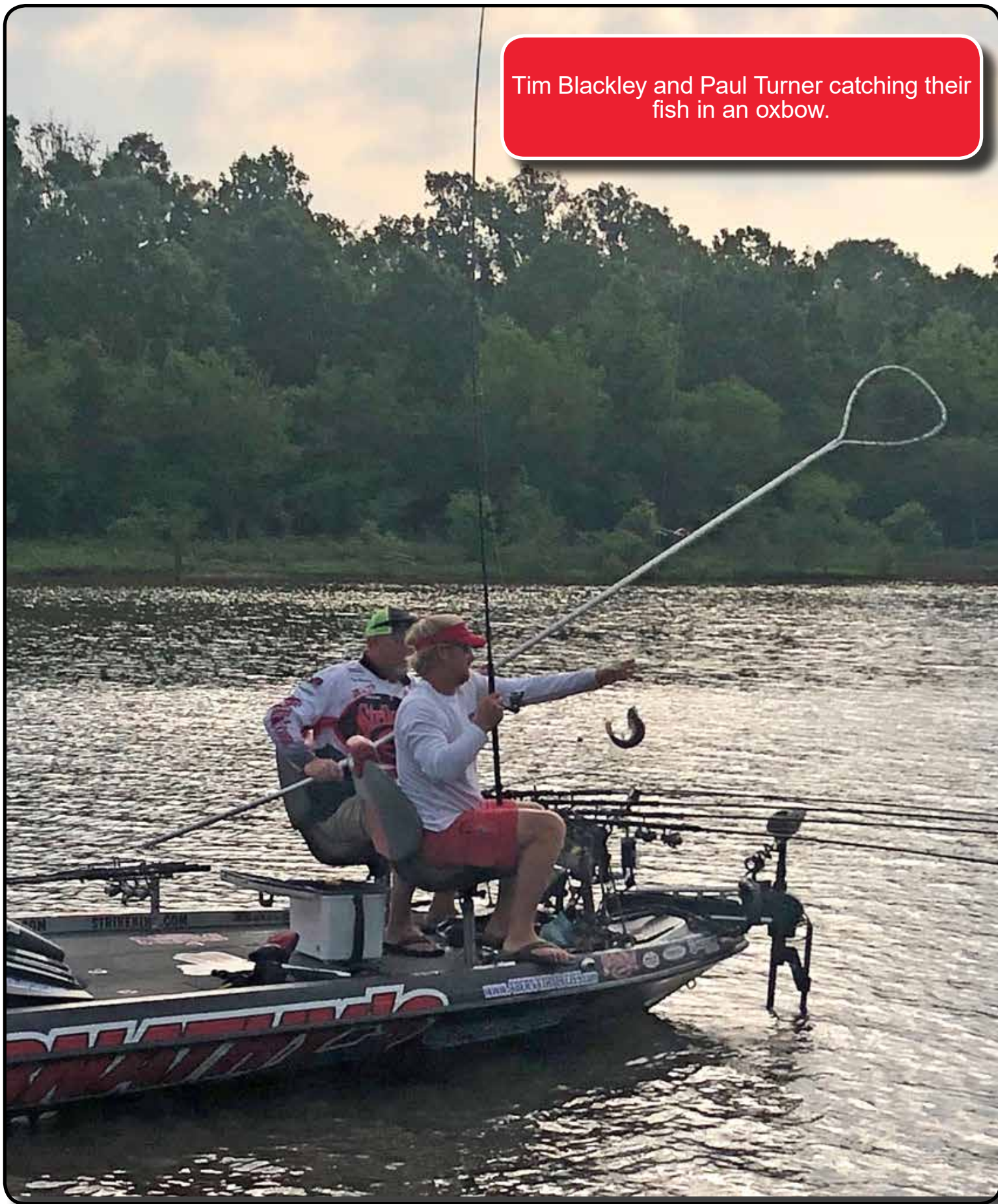
Second place went to the team of Tim Blackley and Paul Turner. They fished in an oxbow just off the Ouachita river using B'n'M BGJP 16 foot rods rigged with Strike King 1/8th ounce jigs using orange/chartreuse glow



Act champs: Terry & Cole Stewart



Tim Blackley and Paul Turner catching their fish in an oxbow.



colored Jokers tipped with a small minnow. They fished 4 feet deep over 7-8 feet of water. Some of their fish also came on a Capps & Coleman double minnow rigged fished at the same depth. Tim said, "Because of the water rising over 2 feet between Friday and Saturday in their area, the biting fish on Saturday were only the smaller fish".

Third place went to Kent Driscoll and John Harrison. They rose from a 27th place finish on day one to place 3rd. They fished 2 areas well north of Monroe, with one area in the river and the other in a shallow bay. When fishing in the river, they spider rigged 16 foot B'n'M BGJP rods using a Capps & Coleman double minnow rig 15 feet deep on a bend in the river. When fishing in a shallow bay, they used Mid-south black/chartreuse crappie

tubes tipped with small minnows fishing 4 feet deep. Kent said, "Fishing slower on the second day was the key to getting the better bites".

A couple of common elements were incurred by the top finishing teams. The top teams fished in areas that had no other competitors. They all said that was important to catch the larger fish. They all also said that it was important to stay focused and not get frustrated by the amount of gar that were caught causing havoc with gear and time.

 - Ron Wong





Grilled and BBQed Crappies

Let's take our cooking outside. We'll grill and barbeque some fillets. Grilling is generally done quickly over moderate-to-high direct heat that produces little smoke while barbecuing is done slowly over low, indirect heat and the food is flavored by the smoking process. Decide which method you want to use first and let's get cooking.

If you're cooking for a social occasion 4 fillets may not be enough. I suggest allowing at least 2 to 4 fillets per person (depending on the size of your fillets and the hunger of your guests) and multiply the recipe accordingly.

Grilled Fish with Butter Sauce

- 4 fish fillets
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon lemon pepper (or more to taste)
- Salt to taste
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh Italian parsley, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Combine onion powder, garlic powder, paprika, lemon pepper and salt in a small bowl. Sprinkle on both sides of fillets. Prepare butter sauce by combining butter, garlic and parsley in a small saucepan. Once butter has melted remove from heat. Preheat grill for medium-high heat. Place fish on lightly oiled grate, cook for about 5 minutes. Turn fish and coat with butter sauce. Cook for 5 more minutes. Once fish flakes easily, remove from heat, drizzle with olive oil and serve.

Barbecued Fish

- 4 fish fillets
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 cup salad oil
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup catsup
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Combine Worcestershire, paprika, salad oil, vinegar, catsup, sugar, salt and pepper. Place fish in sauce mixture for 30 minutes before grilling. Grill fillets 3 to 4 inches from hot coals on well greased grate until the fish begins to flake easily. Brush often with sauce while barbecuing.

Two More of Five Mother Sauces

Last month I wrote about the Five Mother Sauces and gave recipes for two, Béchamel and Espagnole, Basic Brown Sauce. This month I'll provide two more "mothers"; keep in mind that you may play with each mother to add or subtract ingredients to suite your taste buds and to make a large variety (many hundreds or thousands) of "daughter" sauces. The five modern "mother sauces" (set in early 1900s) or grandes sauces are espagnole, velouté, hollandaise, sauce tomate and béchamel – all good with fish. The last mother will run next month.

Hollandaise

- 4 egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice freshly squeezed
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted (1 stick)
- Pinch cayenne
- Pinch salt

Vigorously whisk the egg yolks and lemon juice together in a stainless steel bowl and until the mixture is thickened and doubled in volume. Place the bowl over a saucepan containing barely simmering water (or use a double boiler,) the water should not touch the bottom of the bowl. Continue to whisk rapidly. Be careful not to let the eggs get too hot or they will scramble. Slowly drizzle in the melted butter and continue to whisk until the sauce is thickened and doubled in volume. Remove from heat, whisk in cayenne and salt. Cover and place in a warm spot until ready to use. If the sauce gets too thick, whisk in a few drops of warm water before serving.

Sauce Tomato

1 ounce salt pork chopped
 1 white or yellow onion diced
 1 garlic clove chopped
 1/2 cup carrots diced
 1/2 cup celery diced
 1 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes
 1/2 quart chicken stock
 1 teaspoon dried thyme
 4 sprigs fresh parsley
 1 bay leaf
 5 crushed black peppercorns (see

note)

Salt

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. In a stock pot over medium heat cook the salt pork until the fat is rendered. Add the onion, garlic, carrots and celery to the pot and cook until the veggies start to soften, about 10 minutes. Add the crushed tomatoes (plus juices), chicken stock and herbs. Bring the sauce to a boil and then transfer the pot to the oven. Cover and let it simmer in the oven for at least two hours. After the two hours, remove the pot from the oven and fish out the herbs (see note). Puree the sauce using an immersion blender or in batches with a stand blender. This recipe makes about 4 cups of sauce.

Note: Wrap herbs and spices in

cheesecloth and tie the corners with a piece of kitchen twine. Leave the string long enough so that you can tie it to the handle of your pot to make it easier to retrieve it before pureeing the sauce. If you don't have cheesecloth you can just toss the herbs in the sauce but be sure to fish out the bay leaf before pureeing. Also remove whole peppercorns and season the sauce at the end with fresh ground pepper. You would not want to bite into a whole peppercorn. This sauce can be used as a base for many other recipes that call for tomato sauce. You can also make a big batch and freeze it for later use.

Lawry's Lemon Pepper Crappie

4-6 crappie fillets
 1 cup Lawry's Lemon Pepper With
 Lemon Juice Marinade (or comparable
 concoction)
 1 cup bread crumbs
 1/2 teaspoon Lawry's Seasoning Salt
 1/2 teaspoon Lawry's Lemon Pepper
 2 tablespoons of canola oil
 2 tablespoons butter
 1/3 cup of light cream or half and half
 1 tablespoon grated lemon peel
 1/3 cup toasted, sliced almonds

In a re-sealable plastic bag or non-reactive container, place crappie fillets in lemon pepper with lemon juice marinade. Marinade in refrigerator for 30 minutes. In a shallow pan combine bread crumbs, seasoned salt and lemon pepper, mixing well. Remove crappie fillets from marinade and roll in bread crumb mixture until completely covered. In a large skillet, heat oil and butter; add crappie fillets and cook for 3 to 4 minutes on each side, or until golden brown and crappie flakes easily. Remove to a serving platter and keep warm in 250 degree oven. Add cream and grated lemon peel to the skillet's drippings and bring to a boil; stirring constantly until slightly thickened. Spoon over fillets and sprinkle with almonds.

Tip of the Month: LOUISIANA FISHING

by Terry Richard

Fishing on Louisiana lakes for me means long lining. At Darbonne, for example, some of the fish are on the flats most of the year, but spring and fall are usually best. Everything depends upon the water temperatures. With long lining, we are looking for a reaction bite, not a feeding bite. If the fish are in a ball of shad and I bring a bait through at 1.2 mile-per-hour, they see the bait and react by hitting it. Other Louisiana lakes can be good, too.

On the rivers here, you can single-pole the tops and have good results. The fish will stack up in the tops when there is current in the river. A tree on a ledge can be good. When the water goes up I get into the backs of the creeks. The rest of the time I'll be closer to the mouths of the creeks. River fishing can be good or bad but it gives a lot of good fishing for those willing to put in some time.

Terry Richard is from Louisiana, is sponsored by RFA (Renewable Fuels Association/E-10 Ethanol), Jenko and others. He and his partner fishes ten-plus tournaments a year on the Crappie Masters Tournament Trail.



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Michigan- AARP Grand Adventures

According to The Fishing Wire (www.thefishingwire.com), Michigan Department of Natural Resources and AARP is offering a special event at Sleepy Hollow State Park. The grandkids and grandparents park program will offer hand-on instruction in archer, fishing, birdwatching and geocaching July 17 and 25, and August 1 and 8. The minimum age is 4 years old and there is a 20-person limit per class (registration required).

After the program, enjoy an afternoon exploring 16 miles of trails, pack a picnic or enjoy the swimming beach on Lake Ovid. Consider booking a spot in the modern campground if looking to extend your stay.

Arkansas- Ice Cream Treats for Arkansas Kids On the Water

Wildlife officers throughout Arkansas will be looking to hand out some of the sweetest citations an angler could want. Thanks to Sonic Drive-In, AGFC wildlife officers will be armed with 10,000 special "ice cream citations" for youths on Arkansas waters when they're caught wearing their life jackets.

According to AGFC Boating Law Administrator Stephanie Weatherington, "We've been able to offer this program for the last six years. Some officers have a few already, and we'll really ramp things up as we get closer to Independence Day weekend." Adults may get some citations if seen being a good example to the kids.

"It's important that everyone wears a life jacket," Weatherington says. "Even people who think they can swim well can fall victim to drowning if they are tossed overboard far from shore or fall into the water unconscious."

By law, anyone 12 or younger must wear a life jacket while in a boat. "We hope this will also encourage the parents to also wear their life jacket, so everyone can have great memories of a day on the water."



Photo Contest



1st Place This Month!

David Weil
Caught May 2th 2018
15 inch White crappie
Lake Erie Ontario May

Photo Contest



Honorable Mention
Brittany Briscoe
15 1/4" long
Joplin MO.



Honorable Mention
Doug Nelson
2.02 and 2.05lbs
Lincolnton Ga



Honorable Mention
Jessie Smith
Pickwick Lake
12 & 13 oz



Honorable Mention
Derrick Sullivan
12" - 15" long
Lucas, Tx

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.

CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAPPIE CLUB

ALABAMA RIVER/SWIFT CREEK

MAY 26th

1. Jamie Heflin/James Heflin	12.18
2. Jonathan Phillips/Alicia Phillips	12.05
3. Scott Williams/Billy Williams	11.76
4. Wade McDonald/Jackson McDonald	10.79
5. Collier Hunt/Ken Fisher	10.7

BIG FISH

1. Wade McDonald/Jackson McDonald	10.79
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MALE/FEMALE

1. Jonathan Phillips/Alicia Phillips	12.05
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CRAPPIE USA

GREEN RIVER LAKES

JUNE 1st - 3rd

AMATEUR DIVISION

1. Chris Gupton/Nathan Rhodes	11.22
2. Terry Webber/Don Beasley	10.72
3. Dwayne Craig/Kyle Levering	10.2
4. Eric Kersey/Will Rogers	10.09
5. Gregory Oaks/Shane Yocum	9.73

PRO DIVISION

1. David Jones/Corey Thomas	17.56
2. Dale Thompson/Eddie Milby	13
3. Lynn Cochran/Nathan cochran	10.88
4. Wm Paul Aaron/Joseph Aaron	10.51
5. Donnie Burris/Dennis Yates	10.18

BIG FISH

1. David Jones/Corey Thomas	3.36
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INDIANA SLAB MASTERS

MONROE LAKE

JUNE 2nd

1. Tom Hankins/Ron Bilbrey	11.79
2. Jason Shingler/Mike Arnold	8.38
3. Bret Cunningham/Keith Lucas	8.36
4. Larry Yates/Doug Allen	8.03
5. Nathan Noblitt/Shawn Bales	7.31

BIG FISH

1. Nathan Noblitt/Shawn Bales	2.22
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CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE ASSOC.

LAKE BREWER/DARDANELLE

JUNE 2nd - 3rd

1. Lamar Bunting/Greg London	18.24
2. Jeff Handly/Chris Williams	18.2
3. Michael Kimble/Taylor Havens	17
4. Jason Westerberg/Jim Westerberg	16.74
5. Dennis BaylesBrett Walker	15.31

BIG FISH

1. Michael Kimble/Taylor Havens	1.68
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NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

MISQUITO LAKE

JUNE 2nd - 3rd

1. Wes/Colby	14.74
2. Brad/Brandon	13.1
3. Chad/Bill	12.5
4. Luke/Matt	12.42
5. Brock/Brian	12.32

BIG FISH

1. Wes/Colby	1.68
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CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB

MILL CREEK

JUNE 3rd

1. Carr/Cox	7.29
2. Shelby/Hopkins	6.48
3. Foran/Chervinko	4.81
4. Bristle/Hari	4.24

BIG FISH

1. Carr/Cox	1.4
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GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES

GRAND LAKES

JUNE 3rd

1. Benji Mihm/Nick Page	6.33
2. Mark Puthoff/Mike Shroyer	6.27
3. Frank Richey/Gheen	6.23
4. Joe Vanover/Troy Zimmerman	6.18
5. Dustin Chrisman/Austin Chrisman	6.04

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE ASSOC.

SMITHLAND POOL

JUNE 3rd

1. Hess/Lutchka	8.2
2. Dial/Dixon	3.9
3. Boucher/Snider	3.58
4. Bryant/Bryant	3.51
5. Leonard/Koepke	3.49

BIG FISH

1. Hess/Lutchka	1.57
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MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB

ENID/GRANADA

JUNE 8th - 9th

1. Jeremy Aldridge/Clint Egbert	25.41
2. Terry Stewart/Cole Stewart	24.49
3. Vic Finkley/Kim Kennedy	24.05
4. Michael Nowell/Paula Nowell	23.92
5. Scott Ryals/Shane Johnson	23.42

BIG FISH

1. Jeremy Aldridge/Clint Egbert	2.89
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BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION

BEAVER LAKE

JUNE 9th

1. Blake/Crcede	7.45
2. Ross/Ross	6.77
3. Trolinger/White	6.5
4. Cameron/Ron	6.15
5. Sharpe/Bush	5.83

BIG FISH

1. Blake/Crcede	1.52
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EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB

MARK TWAIN

JUNE 9th

1. Bosley/Bosley/Gilchrist	3.07
2. Jackson/Jackson/Molitor	2.98
3. Vallentine/Reller	2.96
4. Bessleman/Brown/Johnson	2.9
5. Pedigo/Pedigo	2.8

BIG FISH

1. Jackson/Jackson/Molitor	1.4
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HOI CRAPPIE CLUB

ILLINOIS RIVER

JUNE 9th

1. Chad Anderson/Terry Davis	2.79
2. Brent Whitecotton/Danny Whitecotton	0.79

BIG FISH

1. Brent Whitecotton/Danny Whitecotton	0.79
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NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE ARTHUR

JUNE 9th

1. Andy/John	10.15
2. Dan/Bob	7.1
3. Bob/Jason	6.15
4. Gus/Brandon	6.1
5. Chad/Bill	6.7

BIG FISH

1. Dan/Bob	2
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CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB

CHESTER FROST PARK

JUNE 10th

1. Kevin McMillan/Hayden McMillan	6.19
2. David Elliott/Brian Elliott	5.69
3. Tommy Whitt/Tommy Whitt JR	5.62
4. Cfris James/Tim Smith	5.5

BIG FISH

David Cordell	1.55
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CRAPPIE MASTERS

TRUMAN LAKE

JUNE 15th - 16th

1. Barry Morrow/Chad Maupin	20.91
2. Matt Beckman/Jeff Lewis	19.49
3. David Cox/Steve Hockett	19.38
4. Rich Campbell/Travis Stevens	19.09
5. Tony Niemeyer/Levi Irwin	18.86

BIG FISH

1. Ryan German/Howard German	2.51
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2018 Crappie USA Trail

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-Sail, 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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JULY 7th	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	POMONA LAKE	CLUB
JULY 14th	TWIN LAKES	BIG BEAR	SHOOTOUT
JULY 21st	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE CLUB	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
JULY 21st	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	LAKE TAWAKONE	QUALIFIER
JULY 21st	EASTERN MO CRAPPIE CLUB	MARK TWAIN LAKE	JACK & JILL
JULY 21st	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	TBA-NEW LAKE	MEMBERS ONLY
JULY 21st	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	NORMANDY	CLUB/NIGHT
JULY 22nd	WAPPAPELLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLUB
JULY 27th - 28th	AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	TRUMAN LAKE	TRAIL
AUG 4th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	MARK TWAIN LAKE	2nd Leg of MO ST Championship
AUG 4th	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	EL DORADO	CLUB
AUG 5th	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	EL DORADO	SINGLE POLE SHOOTOUT
AUG 11th	NORTHEAST OHIO	MIDDLEFIELD OHIO/CLUB PICNIC	ALL FAMILY EVENT
AUG 11th	WAPPAPELLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	HIS/HERS
AUG 11th-12th	EASTERN MO CRAPPIE CLUB	TRUMAN LAKE	CLUB
AUG 18th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
AUG 18th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	LAKE TEXOMA	QUALIFIER
AUG 18th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	TRUMAN LAKE	Final Leg of MO ST Championship
AUG 18th	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	WOODS RESERVOIR	CLUB
AUG 18th	NORTHEAST OHIO	CLUB PICK LAKE	CLUB
AUG 25th	EASTERN MO CRAPPIE CLUB	MARK TWAIN LAKE	CLASSIC
AUG 26th	EASTERN MO CRAPPIE CLUB	MARK TWAIN LAKE	POINTS RACE FISH OFF

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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 ASSOCIATON	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



Fishing Funny's

by Jonny Hawkins



"WE'RE BOTH WAITING FOR THE HATCHERY TRUCK."



A photograph of a calm body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river. The water is still, reflecting the surrounding environment. Numerous wooden posts or pilings are scattered throughout the water, some standing upright and others partially submerged. The shoreline in the background is lined with trees and dense vegetation, including tall reeds or grasses. The overall scene is peaceful and somewhat desolate.

“They have to be in here!!”

**Until next time,
Good fishin’ to you**