

CRAPPIE NOW! DIGITAL MAGAZINE

fishhound

Crappie.com

August 2018 - Issue #90



Summer Trolling



Features

Planer Board Crappie....4

by Greg McCain

Planer boards are standard tools for many trollers. They get baits away from the boat to catch more fish.



Crank Up Summer Crappie....12

by Ron Wong

Mississippi lakes aren't just good for big spring slabs. The lakes are very productive during the summer, too. Trolling rules.



Advanced Seasonal Structure Stump Strategy....18

by Tim Huffman

Stumps are a consistent, important cover for crappie. A few proper strategies can improve odds for success.



Departments

Crappie NOW How To Video....10

Crappie Gear....23

Crappie Basics....11

Vern's Cooking & Tidbits....24

Crappie Gear....16

Tip of the Month....26

BnM Poles How To Video....17

Tournament Results....28

Crappie Basics....22

Crappie Calendar....33

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Opening Cast

I just returned from ICAST 2018 in Orlando Florida. It was a great show, lots of vendors and new products including items for crappie fishing.

The Live Shot'N, by TTI-Blakemore, is a standout jig. I've caught a lot of crappie on it during testing.

Bobby Garland has a new bait called the Slab Hunt'R. It's a 2.25-inch, minnow-shaped body with ribs and a newly designed tail.

Garmin won "Best in Show" for its new Live Scope System. It takes Panoptix to a new level. With five power beams from the transducer, it produces live movements plus fish identification and separation up to 200 feet ahead of the boat. You can tell panfish verses other species, see their positions on and near cover, and see distinct structure. It also covers 130 degrees of water side-to-side. Priced at \$1499 for the system, it will be the big seller for 2018 into 2019.

For safety, a new wireless engine shutdown device by AutoTether Marine is my new pick. This new device does not require ignition installation and does use the kill switch. The small unit can be attached near the existing kill switch using Velcro. The wireless FOBs can be placed in a pocket or clipped to clothing. Up to four FOBs can be wirelessly connected to the base unit. Passengers are protected if accidentally thrown out of the boat. The cost is about \$240.

The RTD line threader, which seamlessly threads your line through your rod guides, is a must for any crappie angler.

Cuda Brand tools has released several new tools including a boat caddy, braid cutter, Titanium pliers and a foldable fillet knife.

Engel Coolers has a great bait bucket with rod holders on both ends, good for shore or boat fishing.

BnM Poles' Steve Dana jigging pole has a new concept rod handle, sensitive rod blank and a stiff backbone for flipping crappie into the boat. Also, a new Russ Bailey rod is dual purpose for both casting and jigging.

It's important that fishermen be aware of new laws and regulations, and be environmentally aware, including our invasive species. Yamaha Social Media Summit included ways to disperse and inform these important issues. CrappieNow will be one of the sources.

God Bless and Take a Child Fishing
Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher



Cover Photo:
John Harrison trolls cranks in
MS for summer crappie. photo
by Ron Wong

Planer Board Crappie

Story & photos by Greg McCain



Crappie fishermen are a resourceful collection of individuals. They take time-honored traditions and make them better. They develop new techniques and make them their own. They've even been known to borrow tactics from other types of fishing. Their imaginations know few limits.

Such is the case with the continued rise in popularity of planer boards. Borrowing a trolling technique once reserved for the walleye world and one that originally evolved in saltwater, crappie fishermen far and wide have come to appreciate the fish-catching effectiveness of fishing under planer boards.

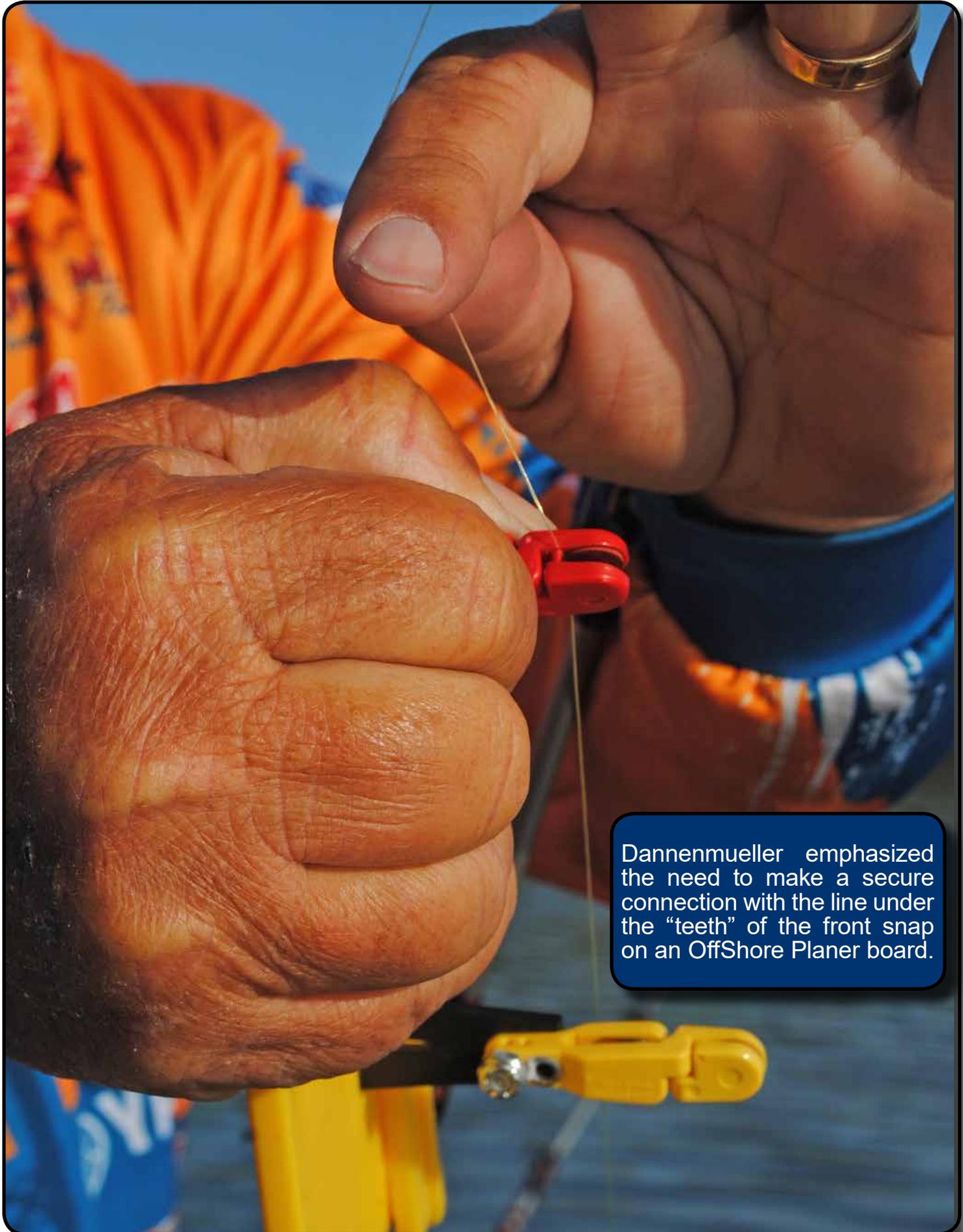
Count Yamaha pro, Dan Dannenmueller, among the believers. When he sought to

Dan Dannenmueller has found that the use of planer boards makes pulling lures more efficient for him than using more traditional methods.

improve his long-lining techniques, he never totally resolved all the issues because of the variables involved. He turned to Offshore Tackle planer boards as an alternative and used all the variables to his advantage.

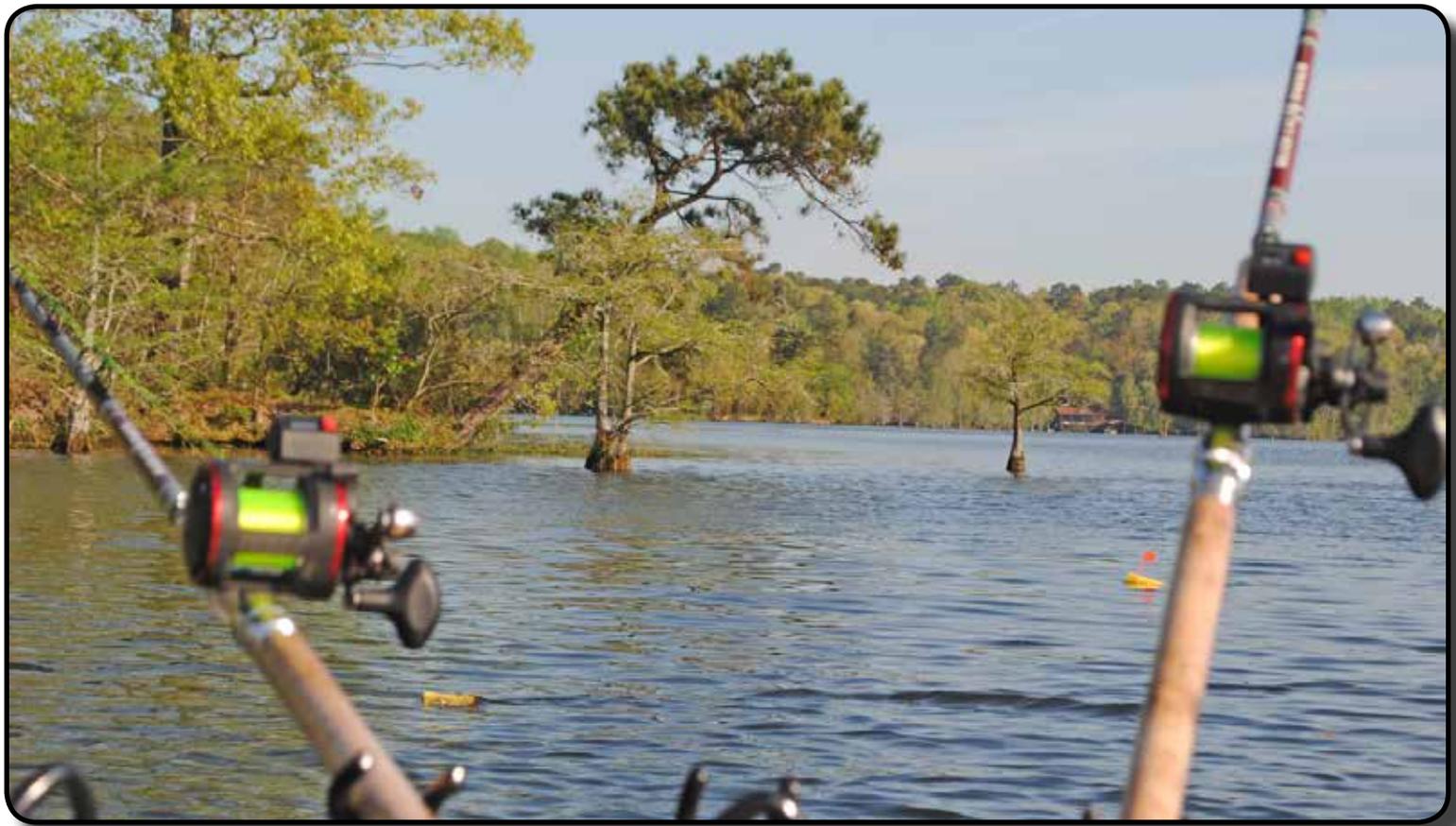
Effectiveness & Process

One event in particular illustrates just how effective planer boards can be. "Specifically it was the Crappie Masters



Dannenmueller emphasized the need to make a secure connection with the line under the "teeth" of the front snap on an OffShore Planer board.





Grenada championship in the fall of 2016, and we were still in summer-time patterns,” Dannenmueller said. “Summer-time fishing is a great time to use the planer boards. I was pulling crankbaits and Road Runners with Bobby Garland plastics.

“The fish set up perfectly for pulling planer boards. They were on ledges 12-14 feet deep, and they were just off of a 12-foot drop, hanging out there suspended off that edge. The bait was also out there.

“When I zeroed in on that depth, I put planer boards where I could pull them wide so that the trolling motor wouldn’t spook them. The planer boards allowed me to go 150 feet out from the boat on each side, 300 feet total. They also allowed me to get to the exact right depth to most efficiently catch all those big fish on Grenada.”

To the uninitiated, the use of planer boards to pull lures looks like a complicated maze. Dannenmueller acknowledges the complexity of the technique and the hesitancy of inexperienced fishermen to use planer boards. However, mastering

Dan’s setup includes a larger model planer board with a flag on the outside of the spread with smaller mini boards on the inside.

a few basic concepts allows just about anyone to effectively apply the technique.

“There is an intimidation factor, without a doubt, any time you have steps to something. People want it easy, just the way we started with cane poles and a cork.”

A situation with an eager-to-learn young angler, however, reveals how quickly planer boards can become a go-to approach to crappie fishing.

“It may seem like this is a very complex process, but we taught a 13-year-old how to do it in one hour,” Dannenmueller said, “and he won the Crappie Masters kid’s championship two years ago. It’s just a matter of being dedicated to learning how to rig and to learning something new.”

Rigging, Tools & Tips

Rigging is the initial obstacle to overcome. A standard approach carries the main line from the reel through two snaps on the planer boards, which are designed to run on either the left or right side of the boat. Dannenmueller emphasized the need to make a secure connection behind the “tooth” on the front snap so that the board runs straight.

From the board, the line continues at a varying length, to an Off Shore Tackle Tadpole, a gliding weight that provides stability and allows lures to run true. The length of the line from the board to the tadpole determines the depth of the lure.

“You can run them five feet deep or you could run them 40 if wanted to,” Dannenmueller said.

From the tadpole, which weighs about one ounce, Dannenmueller normally uses two leaders, one for a crankbait and one for a regular jig, usually a Road Runner head paired with Bobby Garland plastics. “That’s my normal setup although I do occasionally rig without a tadpole and use a Thundermist three-way swivel with the leaders extending off of it.”

The Road Runner is tied to the top leader, which is about two feet long, and generally runs about two feet above the other bait, which is attached to a three- to four-foot leader. That rigging targets crappie in both the top and bottom of a school.

“You can do this simple or complex,” Dannenmueller said. “Simple is one bait. Complex is the double rig on a three-way.”

To further facilitate the process, Dannenmueller uses a smartphone app from Precision Trolling Data to determine precise placement of the lure in the water column. Plugging in variables like line size and brand, trolling speed, and lure type provides an exact depth at which lures will be running.

“In the old days, everything was trial-and-error and you still didn’t know if you were exactly where you thought you were depth-wise,” Dannenmueller said. “Using the app takes all the guesswork out of the equation and provides you precise information.”

The Off Shore Tackle planer boards come in three sizes, and Dannenmueller employs a combination of “minis,” OR38 models specifically designed for crappie fishing, and the larger, original OR 12s. He runs an OR12 on the outside on each side of the boat for ease in visibility and then fills out the spread with three OR38s inside. The bigger planers come with a flag that pops up when a fish hits while the smaller ones sink or bob in a manner similar to a cork when a fish loads up.

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"With planer boards, you could run one 400 feet away from the boat if you could see it," Dannenmueller said. "Normally you run it 150 feet and can see the boards effectively." The boards are staggered at intervals starting at about 50 feet from the boat. The wide spread negates any spooking factor created by the trolling motor.

"That's one of the advantages of planer boards," Dannenmueller said. "The fish are likely to spook to a degree with traditional long-lining. They are largely unaffected by the boat and trolling motor when using planer boards."

He pulls the boards with tackle heavier than is normally associated with crappie fishing. He uses B'n'M Silver Cat Magnum rods and Abu Garcia Alphamar Line Counter reels. The heavier rods allow him to snap the line free from the front of the planer board when a fish hits.

He fills his reels with 10-lb. Gamma hi-vis mono and uses the same line, in clear, for his leaders.

"I could use fluorocarbon, but it sinks and adds another variable that has to be figured in," Dannenmueller said.

He mounts the rods in Driftmaster rod holders specifically designed to fit the contours of his Ranger boat. The Driftmasters are built with exact angles that allow for a perfect spread of boards and prevent lines from crossing.

"The Driftmaster rod holders make the perfect setup," Dannenmueller said. "I went to (Driftmaster owner and designer) David Baynard about three years ago and asked him to develop me a set of rod holders that fit my boat. He did a masterful job of creating rod holders that fit my boat exactly and allow ease of movement throughout the boat."

The jig/crankbait duel rig proves

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effective for Dannenmueller although he will occasionally use a double-jig rig. The tadpole and line length are the primary factors that control lure placement, so Dannenmueller can use jig sizes that best fit the fishing conditions. He normally starts with a 1/16th-oz. Road Runner head with a two- to three-inch Bobby Garland Stroll'R but might bump all the way to a one-ounce head on big-fish lakes like Grenada.

Dannenmueller normally uses standard-sized, 300-model crankbaits from Bandit and Pure Fishing but does vary sizes at times. He emphasized the need to make sure the crankbaits run true. Off Shore offers a tool, the EZ Crankbait Tuner, that helps the lures run to perfection.

Planer boards can be used effectively at just about any time of the year, but the post-spawn from late spring through the fall, proves ideal. August is a perfect month to try the technique.

Catching Fish

“Post-spawn, in late spring and summer time, is absolutely prime for planer board fishing,” Dannenmueller said. “Those fish will suspend out off of points and in deep water and this technique is perfect to target those fish.

“Sometimes in pre-spawn, when they are concentrated over deep water, is another time to use them. Usually during the spawn is not the time to use them.”

August fishing is strictly summertime patterns with deep flats and ledges being good places to start.

Generally, the problems of pulling the boards are minimized after just a few attempts. Dannenmueller emphasized the need to maintain exact speed, to make sure the screws are tight on the boards, and to keep the boards free from debris like grass. Otherwise, the boards run to perfection.

Regardless of the time and place, planer boards are effective tools in the crappie fishing arsenal. Despite their apparent complexity, boards can be employed quickly and easily.

“Planer boards will be my go-to presentation for pulling baits from now on,”

Dannenmueller said. “Off Shore Tackle makes great products that work well without much adjusting at all.

“For those fishermen out there who might be hesitant to try them, don’t be put off by any preconceived ideas. They work and help you catch crappie more efficiently.”

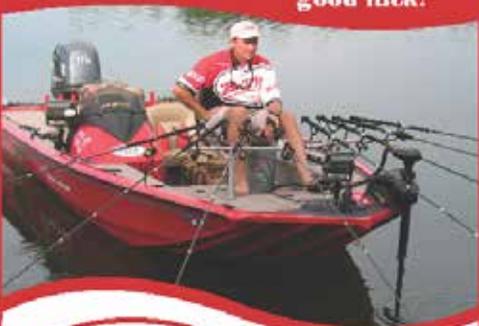
For those crappie fishermen who constantly develop, evolve, tweak, and borrow, more efficient and productive fishing is always the point, a means to bigger and better catches of crappie. Planer boards provide that advantage.

Manufacturers Mentioned

B’n’M Poles (www.bnmpoles.com)
 Bobby Garland (www.bobbygarlandcrappie.com)
 Driftmaster (www.driftmaster.com)
 Gamma (www.gammafishing.com)
 Road Runner (www.ttiblakemore.com)
 Precision Trolling Data
 (www.precisiontrollingdata.com)
 Off Shore Tackle (www.offshoretackle.com)

 - Greg McCain

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Crappie Basics #168

August Shallow Water

Robert Robinson, a.k.a. Wister Slab Daddy on crappie.com, says August in Oklahoma can be okay. "Most fishermen fish deep but I fish shallow. I catch two-pound fish in three feet of water. There is more oxygen in the shallow water.

"It can be hard to make yourself fish in shallow water, but once you catch a couple of good fish, you can do it and stay with it. So don't give up too soon. Do your homework, put in time and learn the shallow water areas that produce in your home lake. It will work."

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Crank Up Summer Crappie

by Ron Wong



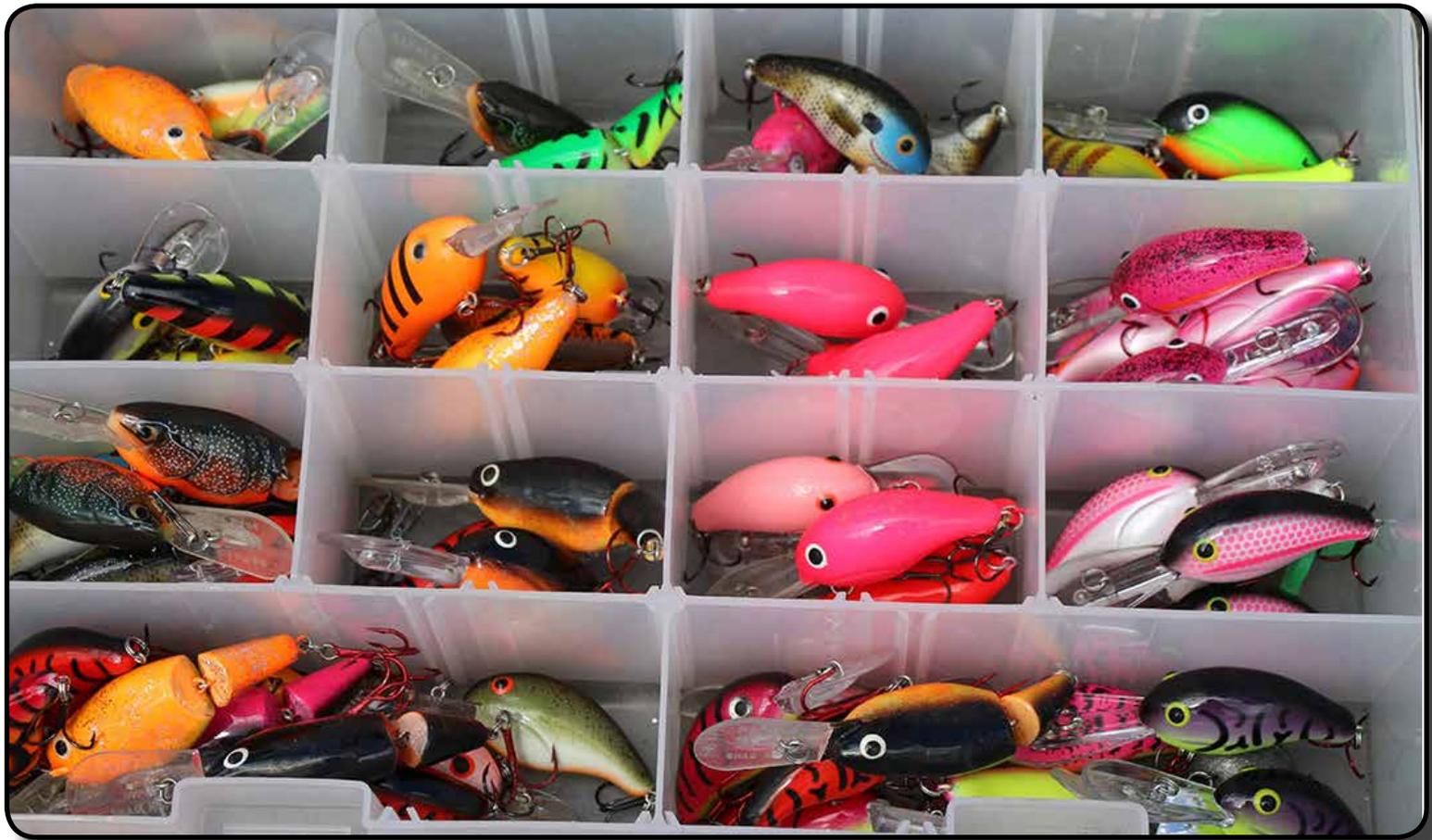
Surface temperatures in the south are really hot this year from all the 90-plus degree daytime temperatures. Many of the lakes surface temps are near or above 90 degrees; however there are crappie to catch. There are still several techniques that will put them in the boat and trolling crankbaits is one of the most of effective way to do it this time of the year.

We at CrappieNow had the opportunity to spend a day in the boat with John Harrison on Enid Lake where the daytime temps reached 95 degrees and the surface temp was 90. We trolled crankbaits and within a couple of hours had seven nice crappie weighing about 10 ½ pounds. We caught numerous 10- to 11-inch fish along with the seven keepers (a keeper is longer than 12 inches) and we continued to catch quite a few more before we decided to call it a day.

Here is the setup in John's 21-foot

John Harrison pulls cranks out of the back of his boat. A MinnKota Terrova keeps the boat on track and can be controlled by remotely.

War Eagle crappie boat. He has corner style Driftmaster rod holders set ups on the back of his boat and uses a MinnKota Terrova trolling motor so he can operate it remotely. He uses B'n'M Pro Staff rods with two rods each of 8, 12, 16 and 20 feet. The shortest rods are mounted at the middle of the boat with the other rods mounted around the aft section of the boat and the 20 foot rod closest to the bow. 10-pound test Gamma Optic Yellow line is spooled on each rod. This setup provides approximately 47 to 48 feet of coverage when trolling. Each time John gets on the water, he starts with 40 feet of line spooled out on the shortest rod, 50 feet on the next rod, 60 feet on the 16 foot rod and finally 70 on the longest rod.



This will be the set up on one side and on the other side almost the same except starting with 35 feet of line out from the middle of the boat and finally 65 feet on the longest rod. This is done to determine the most productive depth the crappies are biting and then all rods are adjusted accordingly. He will typically start trolling around 1.5 mile per hour and will go to 1.8 and it all depends what is best for the day.

So what are the best crankbaits to use? John uses several different brands of baits but on a normal day, he begins with a specific color that has worked over the last several trips. Today and over the past month, the best color combo is black and orange. On the eight rods being used today, there were some Strike King 3 and 3XD, Jenko Fishing, Bandit 200 and 300 and Arkie crank baits tied on. Again, the common denominator was all baits were some sort of black and orange coloration. As a pattern was established, the bait catching the most fish was tied

Crankbaits are the heart and sole of summertime trolling.

to other rods. John said the crappie can change their feeding mood from day to day so if they are not biting as well as the day before, switch colors. This will often trigger bites and catch more fish. One of the things that John has experienced is that colors will change from year to year. Example, last year pink was a hot color with the year before that, chartreuse was





very good and this year baits with orange work better.

With many years of trolling experience, John had some excellent tips to catch more fish while trolling in the hot weather conditions:

- Troll with the wind because it reduces boat slap noise and it's easier to control the boat
- Make wide turns to prevent line tangling
- Start at slower speeds, and increase if bite is slow, often times the faster speed will create the reaction bite better
- For stained water, use darker colored crank baits; for clearer water, use shad colored baits (black & orange along with black & pink have been excellent colors

A crappie comes to the boat. Trolling causes water pressure on a hooked fish so it comes to the top where it can be kept while reeling it to the boat.

on the I-55 lakes)

- If the crappie are biting but not getting hooked, change colors
- Use your graph to find schools of baitfish and to determine thermocline; most crappie will hover near or above the thermocline
- Once a specific depth is established for bites, typically along ledges, follow graph contour lines
- Adjust depth of crankbaits to the

same once a biting pattern is established

- As the sun gets up during mid-day to afternoon, go deeper for more bites
- Troll edges of old sloughs as they will have some flooded cover and will typically have a little deeper water
- Stay hydrated during the hot weather

John Harrison is the owner of JH Guide service based out of Calhoun City, Mississippi. He has 6 seasoned guides to help him with his services. They guide on Eagle Lake and Lake Washington during the early spring and spend the majority of their time on Grenada, Enid, Sardis and Arkabutla lakes other months. He can be reached at 662-983-5999 or email at: jhguideservice@yahoo.com



 - Ron Wong



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BugBand is trusted by the Boy Scouts of America. The "Be Prepared" brand products has combined the long lasting protection of BugBand Insect Repelling Bands with the potent strength of their Towelettes with insect repelling lotion. Each kit contains two bands and eight towelettes for two strengths of protection.

Both products are easy, safe and effective. The Band forms a protective vapor shield around the immediate area, keeping mosquitoes a safe distance away. It's waterproof and is packaged in a reusable plastic pod to preserve the band between uses. It features a break-away strap should it become entangled. The Band can be worn on the wrist, belt loop, hatband or fastened in tents.

The towelettes allow application of lotion to exposed skin like face and neck. They can be folded and stored in the original package for future use. Keeping one in your pocket while outdoors is a good idea.

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Seasonal Structure

by
Tim
Huffman



Stumps are friends of a crappie fisherman. However, learning which stumps are being used by the fish can be tricky.

What's a stump? In general, it's the remaining root system and short portion of a tree trunk. The tree may have been cut before the lake was built, rotted off or broken by ice or wind. A stump may be one foot tall or ten feet tall. To add a little confusion, a fisherman may mention stumps but be including laydown timber, snags or other wood. There is no reason to get picky about the definition of a stump. The key is to know they are great seasonal structures for crappie and may have associated wood mixed in.

Picking Stumps

Arriving at a new lake filled with stumps can be intimidating. Lake Conway, Truman Lake, Lake Fork and Reelfoot are a few examples. Thousands of visible

A stump flat can be an outstanding place to find crappie. Finding balls of shad within the stumps is a great one-two combination.

stumps, and more are invisible under the water, makes it difficult to choose and have confidence in a randomly chosen area. There are no absolutes, but the following are a few guidelines passed along to me from fishing experts.

(1) No matter where you fish, it's important to form a pattern. What depth was the bottom? What depth was the fish? Which type stump did the fish prefer? Was it on the sunny or shady side?

Each fish caught is an important link to other crappie. A fisherman should pay attention to all the details of the catch. Duplicating the presentation is critical for catching the most fish possible.

(2) Fish the right depth for the season and fish movement. That could be three,



eight or 25 feet. Crappie determine the depth, not the fisherman, so adjust to the fish.

Summer fishing variables in stumps depends upon the lake or river situation and water clarity.

(3) Look for stumps on a drop-off. Any quick contour change is a potential spot for crappie. A number of stumps verses a single stump is an advantage for numbers of fish, but the single stump may have a slab on it. A hard bottom on the drop can be an important factor, too, and can be seen on sonar.

(4) Determine the right type of stump. It may be something specific like cypress stumps. It could be the darker stumps. Maybe large stumps verses smaller? Everything can make a big difference.

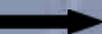
(5) Stumps with baitfish in the area

Finding, marking and studying stumps during low water is a great way to get better insight to what you're fishing when the water comes up over the stumps.

means it's likely crappie will be around feeding on them.

Techniques & Presentation

Jigging is always a fun way to catch crappie. Today's jigging is simply high-tech cane pole fishing. It's not a cane pole, heavy nylon line, sinker and minnow hook. Instead it's a sensitive graphite pole, quality monofilament or braided line, and the bait. Bait can be a minnow on a hook under a split-shot, and a float is optional. A jig is the preferred bait because it's easier to present in cover





and minnows don't have to be bought and cared for during the heat. The pole is very sensitive so the lightest bites can be felt and seen. Line is small diameter and strong. The braid is non-stretch so it adds sensitivity and allows fish to be swung into the boat without a net. It's still cane pole fishing but with lightweight, sensitive and effective tools.

Jigging actions will vary from no action at all to several tiny hops followed by a pause. The bait can draw a strike while falling, or, when slowly pulled up. The bait can be made to swim around. Whether fishing a jig or a minnow, less action is usually better than more.

Spider rigging can be fantastic in scattered stumps. However, thick stumps can be a challenge. Pole numbers can be adjusted based upon the type area being fished. Double-hook minnow rigs are always a good option, especially in hot water. Jig-minnow combinations are also good. When cover is thick, consider fishing one bait per pole to reduce hang-

Jigging is a fun way to catch fish from stumps, but some situations allow spider rigging increasing your odds by having more baits in the water.

ups.

Movements are slow and deliberate in the stumps. It's important to watch for light bites, line movement due to a stump and other telltale signs that something is happening with a bait.

Pitching is another technique that can be fun and productive. Shallow water is an ideal time to pitch. Deeper water with a slip-float and jig or minnow can be good, too, but is more work. Pitching is often a matter of a fisherman doing what he or she enjoys. Seeing a float disappear is fun no matter how old a fisherman gets.

Pitching a slip-float minnow rig should include a 7- to 10-foot pole, 8-pound test line, a jig, or a split-shot and minnow. The bait should be pitched just

past the cover and allowed to settle. If no bite, work it back slowly a couple of feet and stop. Repeat. When being brought past a stump, be sure to stop it at the stump and give fish time to see and bite.

Visible vs. Submerged Stumps

Visible cover is easy to fish and usually productive. Don't pass it up just because you think others may have fished it. You will likely have a different bait and presentation.

Submerged stumps are often the most productive. First, they are not fished as hard in late summer as visible stumps. Second, there will be more submerged stumps than visible in mid-depth and deeper water.

Spider rigging can be an excellent technique when submerged stumps are a result of logging so they are at a consistent height. Baits can be kept over the top of most stumps and worked around others.

Jigging is best tactic if the are has thick, visible stumps.

Factors

Experts say that late summer stumps means figuring out the pattern and repeat, repeat, repeat.

Late summer means "thermocline" on many lakes. You can see it on your sonar. It's easy where there is a thermocline because fish will typically be just above it in what many call the sweet water.

Sunshine: In the summer, it means the fish will be tight to cover. Crappie will get in the shade to protect their eyes, or hide in ambush. It's easier to pattern the fish.

Clouds/Rain: Fishing can be good in the summer when there is cloud cover, but fish may scatter a away from the stumps making them more difficult to target.

Fishing Pressure: The best spots on a lake will likely have some fishing pressure, especially as the weather starts to cool in late summer and early fall. There will be fewer places to fish as fishing pressure increases. I've seen over

15 boats on one row of hedge trees at Truman Lake. Each lake is different with some having ample stumps/cover while others have less, and varying degrees of fishing pressure.

Boating Pressure: Water skier and jet ski numbers decrease as the number of visible stumps increase. Stumps can cause navigation problems for a fisherman, but it reduces annoying pleasure boats. Pleasure boating decreases after Labor Day.

Cold Front: Not a major problem in late summer, but any strong front will change the fish mood.

Thermocline: A vertical layer where water temperatures make a marked change. Water pH and oxygen levels change, too. Active fish will always be above the thermocline.

Summer can be tough fishing, but finding the right seasonal structure makes a difference. A good group of stumps can be a great choice.

 - Tim Huffman



THE OR12 IS USED BY MORE CHAMPIONSHIP CRAPPIE ANGLERS THAN ANY OTHER BOARD!

Shown with optional ORTZEPER Tackle Flag Kit

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Crappie Basics #169

Slow Bites

Summer crappie are famous for being slow to bite when it's hot. They'll bump a bait, nip it in the rear or just look at it. Summer is probably the most important season for using minnows because of the finicky bite.

A float is a good option for slowing down. It forces a fisherman to leave the bait longer than without a float. Toss the bait to the target, stop and wait, wait some more and then move it if no bite.

Make sure the float is balanced so a light bite is easy to see and the crappie doesn't feel the resistance.

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-Sall, 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

Crappie USA
 220 Mohawk Ave.
 Louisville, KY 40209
 502-384-5924
www.facebook.com/crappieusa
www.crappieusa.com

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

CRAPPIE GEAR

Bobby Garland Slab Hunt'R

2.25" Slab Hunt'R Minnow



Gene Larew Lures, makers of Bobby Garland crappie baits and Gene Larew bass lures, announces the introduction of the Slab Hunt'R for crappie fishermen.

The Slab Hunt'R is the perfect size at 2.25 inches. Not too small, not too large. It has a bulkier profile than typical minnow-style baits. The easier a crappie can see a bait, the easier it is to trigger a bite. A bulkier body also slows the fall rate.

The tail is another unique feature. The company claims it is the easiest swimming tail in the Garland lineup. Action draws more attention.

So what does the profile and the tail's ease of movement mean? It makes a particularly enticing choice for spider rigging

and long-line trolling. It has "ribs" on its body for added vibration and to hold scent.

The deep body is also ideal for insertion of an optional crappie rattle when vertical jigging or with float/jig techniques.

Bobby Garland baits are known for plastic that is brilliant in color and soft, yet not so soft that it tears easily. This bait is available in solids, laminates and head/tail color choices.

The Slab Hunt'R provides a different profile and tail action. Sometimes the difference in getting bites is to give the crappie something with a different look. Fishermen now have a great option for that "something different" advantage.

MSRP is \$3.79 per 10-count bag.

www.BobbyGarlandcrappie.com



Fish Velouté Sauce and Grilled Crappie

Velouté is last one of the five mother sauces of classical cuisine we haven't covered. It can be made with any white stock, but this version, the fish velouté, is made with fish stock. There's also a veal velouté and a chicken velouté. Fish velouté is the basis for the traditional White Wine Sauce, as well as the classic Bercy sauce, the Normandy sauce and many others.

The Bercy sauce, named after a district in the east of Paris, is a finished sauce for fish and seafood dishes. It's made by reducing white wine and chopped shallots and then simmering in a basic fish velouté.

This velouté is not itself a finished sauce; it isn't typically served as is. You could, however, simply season it with salt and pepper and use it much as you would basic gravy.

6 cups fish stock
2 oz clarified butter
2 oz all-purpose flour

Heat the fish stock to a simmer in a medium saucepan, then lower the heat so that the stock just stays hot. Meanwhile, in a separate heavy-bottomed saucepan, melt the clarified butter over a medium heat until it becomes frothy. Don't let it turn brown; that will affect the flavor. With a wooden spoon, stir the flour into the melted butter a little bit at a time, until it is fully incorporated into the butter, giving you a pale-yellow colored paste. This paste is called a roux. Heat the roux for another minute or so to cook off the taste of raw flour. Using a wire whisk, slowly add the hot fish stock to the roux, whisking vigorously to make sure it's free of lumps. Simmer for about 30 minutes or until the total volume has reduced by

about one-third, stirring frequently to make sure the sauce doesn't scorch at the bottom of the pan. Use a ladle to skim off any impurities that rise to the surface. The resulting sauce should be smooth and velvety. If it's too thick, whisk in a bit more hot stock until it's just thick enough to coat the back of a spoon. Remove the sauce from the heat. For an extra smooth consistency, carefully pour the sauce through a wire mesh strainer lined with a piece of cheesecloth. Keep the velouté covered until you're ready to use it.

Grilled Fish-n-Foil Italian Style

It's so easy to zest up your fish for grilling by adding Italian dressing. If you cook on a grill, you may want to baste your fish every two minutes to prevent it from drying out. If you choose to cook fish and veggies in foil (think easy and clean) there is no need to baste your fish.

6 fish fillets
1 cup Italian dressing
2 teaspoons crushed red pepper
Salt to taste
2 each red and green bell peppers,
each cut into 6 pieces
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan
cheese (freshly grated is better)
2 tablespoons finely chopped
cilantro

Mix dressing and crushed red peppers in a bowl. In a shallow glass dish place fish and pour dressing over fish fillets and sliced peppers. Turn fish and peppers over to coat both sides of each with dressing mixture. Refrigerate 15 minutes to marinate. Heat grill to medium-high heat. Remove fish and peppers from marinade; discard

marinade. Grill fish and peppers on covered grill about 4 minutes and turn fish over. Grill covered for 2 minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork. Place fish and peppers on serving plate. Sprinkle with cheese and cilantro. Let stand 3 minutes.

(choose a spicier pepper if desired)

- Chunky salsa
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Butter

Sprinkle fillets with salt, pepper and Cajun seasonings. Lightly coat the fillets with melted butter or olive oil to prevent sticking to the grill. Prepare Spanish rice per package instructions and add whole kernel corn and jalapeno pepper. When fillets are nearly done, cover fish with a large dollop of chunky salsa and shredded cheese. Let the cheese melt completely. Place fillets on a bed of rice mixture.

Cajun Grilled Crappie

- 8 fish fillets (with or without skin)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Cajun seasonings
- Spanish rice, 1 package
- Corn, 1 can whole kernel
- 1 jalapeno pepper, finely chopped

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Tip of the Month: Summer Depth & Wind

by Barry Morrow

August is when fishermen often go deep because it's hot. I do the opposite. There are always some baitfish in shallow coves during August, so I prefer to target fish chasing those baitfish. Shallow crappie at Truman will still be on the wood and they can be caught.

Wind is a factor. It makes a difference and I like wind. A 5 to 10 miles-per-hour wind is perfect. I hear about the winds out of the East causing fish to quit biting but I catch plenty of fish with an East wind so don't let that bother you. Too much wind can be bad for controlling the boat so I recommend finding a protected area. No wind can hurt fishing, too, but there is nothing to do about that except keep fishing. So fishing in a light wind is good, has many advantages and will help you catch more fish.



Barry Morrow is a guide at Truman Lake (www.barrymro.com, on Facebook, or 660-438-9978 or 660-723-2667) and is sponsored by Bobby Garland Baits, Beaver Bottom Baits/Redneck Rubber, Electra Air Heating & Cooling, and others. He and partner Chad Maupin has Crappie Masters wins including Missouri State Championship, 2018 Mississippi State Championship and recent wins at Truman Lake and Lake of the Ozarks.

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Fishing Funny's



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SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION

LITTLE BEAR

JUNE 16th

1. Jimmy McCarley/David McCarley	6.46
2. Keith Jenkins/Josh Jenkins	5.97
3. Jonathan Kirby	5.92
4. Kevin McCarley/Rick Robinson	5.3
5. Joe Lambert	5.16

BIG FISH

1. Jimmy McCarley/David McCarley	1.61
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WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

JUNE 16th

1. Botch/Botch/Botch	7
2. Troph/Schrader	6.86
3. Gailins/Gailins	6.2
4. Norris/Norris	5.51
5. Lizenbee/Montgomery	5.46

BIG FISH

1. Gailins/Gailins	1.34
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AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL

OUACHITA RIVER

JUNE 22nd - 23rd

1. Terry Stewart/Cole Stewart	20.35
2. Tim Blackley/Paul Turner	19.53
3. Kent Driscoll/John Harrison	18.9
4. Kent Watson/Drew Morgan	18.26
5. Jay Reeve/Rhonda Reeve	17.95

BIG FISH

1. Terry Stewart/Cole Stewart	2.09
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INDIANA SLAB MASTERS

TANNERS CREEK

JUNE 23rd

1. Jason Shingler/Mike Arnold	5.9
2. Joe Rosinski/Luther McDonald	5.7
3. Bret Cunningham/Keith Lucas	5.55
4. Ron Bilbrey/Jason Snyder	5.51
5. Nathan Noblitt/Shawn Bales	5.34

BIG FISH

1. Nathan Noblitt/Shawn Bales	1.05
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB

TIMS FORD

JUNE 23rd

1. Coby/Rodney	8.08
2. JW Jackson/Kody Jackson	7.22
3. Terry Spray/Tyler Spray	6.88

BIG FISH

1. JW Jackson/Kody Jackson	1.93
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NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

PYMATUNING

JUNE 23rd

1. Andy/John	10.2
2. Jim/Bill	8.86
3. Bob/Bill	8.78
4. Dan/Bob	8.58
5. Chad/Bill	8.46

BIG FISH

1. Andy/John	1.15
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PEACH STATE CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE OCONEE

JUNE 23rd

1. JC/Lamar	6.23
2. Scott/Jacob/Kate	6.11
3. Terry/Julie	5.81
4. Derick/Russell	5.47
5. Dustin/Dusty	5.31

BIG FISH

1. Derick/Russell	1.36
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KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB

POMONA LAKE

JULY 7th

1. Haidusek/Canton	8.49
2. Morgan/Allen/Roberts	8.42
3. Schrock/Schrock	8.27
4. Lynn/Lynn	7.78
5. Falconer/Miller	7.53

BIG FISH

1. Morgan/Roberts/Allen	1.49
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BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION

BEAVER LAKE

JULY 21st

1. Payton Usreyy/Cody Usrey	6.56
2. Seth Eden/Jeff Eden	6.47
3. Colten Peterson/Chris Peterson	6.34
4. Matt Phillips	5.94
5. Brad Blew/Ronnie Davidson	5.71

BIG FISH

1. Payton Usreyy/Cody Usrey	1.48
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CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS

LAKE TAWAKONE

JULY 21st

DIVISION 1

1. Gann/Froebe	9.84
2. Ainsworth/Box	8.69
3. James/Ezell	8.33
4. E. Walker/K. Satterwhite	8.23
5. Standridge/Standridge	8.21

BIG FISH

1. Gann/Froebe	1.8
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DIVISION 2

1. Miles/Goncalves	10.07
2. Tidwell/Jeffery	7.67
3. Fuentes/Drake	7.64
4. Benson/Benson	7.36
5. Joseph/P. Giles	7.21

BIG FISH

1. Miles/Goncalves	1.59
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB

NORMANDY

JULY 21st

1. Jamey Johnson/Roger Johnson	7.03
2. Matthew Nash/Tobey Ivey	6.26
3. Kevin Crottenden/Howard Campbell	4.47
4. Terry Spray/Tyler Spray	4.27
5. JW Jackson/Kane Jackson	3.68

BIG FISH

1. Coby Edwards/Rodney Edwards	1.66
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WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

JULY 22nd

1. Botch/Botch	5.96
2. Shelton/Shelton	5.3
3. Roper.Stearns	4.18
4. Troph/Younger	4.16
5. Jines/Jines	4.06
BIG FISH	
1. Botch/Botch	1.32



CRAPPIE CALENDAR

AUG	4th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	MARK TWAIN LAKE	2nd Leg of MO ST Champ
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 Champ
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
SEPT	1st	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	MELVERN LAKE	CLUB
SEPT	8th	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	ILLINOIS RIVER	OPEN
SEPT	8th	INDIANA SLAB MASTERS	MISSISSINAWA/SALAMONIE/ROUSH	CHOICE
SEPT	8th	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	WOODS RESERVOIR	CHALLENGE
SEPT	8th	NORTHEAST OHIO	SHENANGO LAKE	OPEN
SEPT	8th	TWIN LAKES	FISH ANYWHERE	OPEN
SEPT	8th	WAPPAPELLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	18 FORE LIFE
SEPT	9th	CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLUB
SEPT	9th	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	KINKAID	CLASSIC
SEPT	14th - 15th	AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	GRENADA LAKE	TRAIL
SEPT	15th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
SEPT	15th	COOSA RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	LOGAN MARTIN	CLUB
SEPT	15th	SHOALS CRAPPIE	PICKWICK	CLUB
SEPT	22nd	CRAPPIE USA	CARLYLE LAKE	TRAIL
SEPT	22nd	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	EVERGREEN	OPEN
SEPT	22nd	INDIANA SLAB MASTERS	BROOKVILLE LAKE	CLUB
SEPT	22ND	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	TIMS FORD	CLUB
SEPT	23rd	GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES	GRAND LAKES	CLUB
SEPT	26th - 29th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	TRUMAN LAKE	NAT CHAMPIONSHIP
SEPT	29th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS	LAKE SULLIVAN	YOUTH TOURNAMENT
SEPT	29th	NORTHEAST OHIO	LAKE MILTON	CLUB
SEPT	30th	GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES	GRAND LAKES	CLUB



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



Memories on the lake...Priceless

**Good fishin',
See you next month**