

CRAPPIE NOW!

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

fishhound

Crappie.com

September 2018 - Issue #91



Fall Fishing & New Products



Features

Asian Carp Are Not Our Friends....4

by Tim Huffman

The Asian Carp problem has been escalating for a decade. One group is asking for federal money to attack the problem now.



Crappie Goodies for 2019....10

by Ron Wong

ICAST is the show where new products are introduced to wholesalers and the media. The following are some of the top picks by Ron Wong.



Advanced Seasonal Structure: Night Fishing....16

by Tim Huffman

Night fishing isn't for everyone, but it's a good way to catch a bunch of crappie while getting away from the hot, summer sun.



Monkey Milk & Other Tales of Fall Fishing....24

by Vic Attardo

Maybe you've never heard of George Toalson. That's all right; he is not exactly a household name. But I can assure you that millions of crappie have.



Departments

Crappie NOW How To Video....8

Crappie Gear....21

Crappie Basics....9

Vern's Cooking & Tidbits....22

Crappie Gear....14

Fishing Funny's....28

Crappie NOW How To Video....15

Tournament Results....30

Crappie Basics....20

Crappie Calendar....33

PUBLISHER

Dan Dannenmueller

EDITOR/ SR. WRITER

Tim Huffman

IN MEMORIAM

T.J. Stallings

WRITERS

Darl Black
Vic Attardo
Ron Presley
Vernon Summerlin
John Phillips
Greg McCain
John Felsher
Ron Wong

LAYOUT

Eric Lambert

VALUED READER

You

Contact us at:

info@crappienow.com

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Opening Cast

The greatest news is that the dog-days of summer are about gone. The heat came early and was terrible here in the heart-land through July and part of August. Fish were half-boiled when they got to the top of the water. The good news is that fishing, hunting and fall colors are headed our way.

CrappieNow has a variety of articles this month. One focuses upon George Toalson, a lure designer with Bobby Garland/Gene Larew. He discusses the monkey milk color and gives us tips for fall crappie fishing.

Ron Wong was at the industry ICAST show in Florida. He gives us the scoop on the newest items for the crappie fisherman.

The invasive Asian carp will not go away. The War On Carp Coalition is pushing for more money for the central region of the country and they have a plan. The carp have taken over and is ruining many of our great fishing waters, along with being dangerous to all boaters. Look for our article and how you can help.

Many tips and tournament results can be found this month, just like every month. You'll see a lot about tournament fishermen in our magazine because they are a great source for product information, lake strategies and fish-catching. There are many excellent fishermen who do not fish competitively, but tournament fishermen are usually more experienced at fishing different type waters, in various water and weather conditions, and different parts of the country.

I'm proud to be a part of a magazine that brings news to you, the crappie fishermen. We have articles each month geared for enjoyment and helping you catch more fish. We also cover conservation issue and encourage family fishing.

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



Cover Photo:
Bobby Garland bait designer,
George Toalson.
Photo by Vic Attardo

Asian Carp Are Not Our Friends

by Tim Huffman

Stories and blame varies with most fingers pointing to a few government agencies and fish farmers. Different species of Asian carp were imported to help control the over-abundance of aquatic vegetation in ponds and small lakes. The major problem developed when flooding allowed the fish to gain access to the Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. These waters gave carp plenty of avenues to spread.

The result is a critical situation in several states and it's a future threat to others, especially the Great Lakes region. Eight to ten years ago the warning came out about the impending, potential threat, and now the reality is here. It doesn't matter who caused the problem, the key is to take measures to reduce the damage before it's too late.

Carp Problems and Facts:

The silver carp are famous for their ability to jump. Vibrations in the water, like those from an outboard motor, causes them to jump. They are a danger to fishermen, water skiers and anyone navigating the water. They are said to jump up to ten feet high.

Their biggest problem is they disrupt the food cycle by eating the same things as our shad, minnows and young sportfish. But they don't eat just a little, they devastate an area due to their number and size. This has caused a decline in sportfish in areas with heavy concentrations of carp.

A result in reduced bass, catfish and crappie populations, along with

the danger of injury due to jumping, causes reduced tourism, tournaments, guide trips and recreational fishing. The economic impact to a lake like Kentucky Lake will be catastrophic. Some impact is already being felt in several lakes.

The two worst carp are the bighead and silver although others are included within the Asian Carp group.

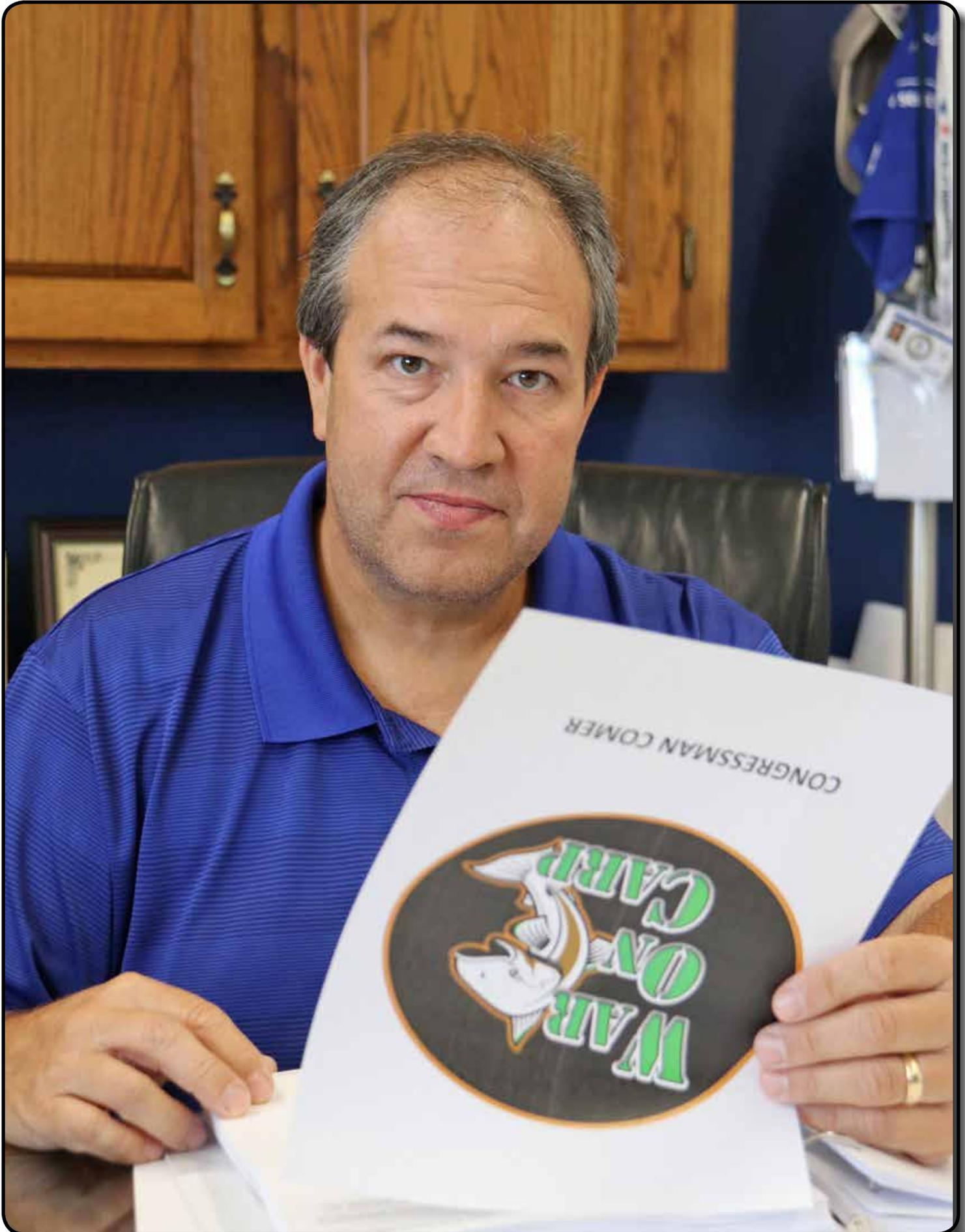
Due to what they eat, they are very difficult to target as a sportfish. Since they have not yet been accepted as a great table fish and are not subject to rod-and-reel fishing, there is little reason for them to be pursued the average fisherman. The carp have few predators.

To compound the problems, carp grow rapidly and reproduce up to four times a year. This allows their numbers to overwhelm other species.

Solutions include commercial harvest for food and fertilizer. Blocking their entry into other waters. And a variety of testing generic alteration or eradication, but nothing is ready at this time.

The carp have moved into most oxbow lakes during river flooding. Any creek, river or tributary, and most

Judge White: Judge Executive Wade White's efforts, including the War On Carp coalition, is to save fisheries from Asian carp. fishing, safe navigation, tourism and businesses in some waters are at critical levels of risk if measures aren't taken to remove the carp and stop their destruction.





adjoining lakes, that connects to a river with carp are exposed. The fish can also swim through locks and dams giving them access to other waters.

Solving the Problem

Crappie USA General Manager, Darrell VanVactor has been preaching the need for action for a decade. "I'm no biologist but I've personally watched the carp and have listened to experts. The thing about the carp is they are filtering the same waters where our gamefish are laying eggs. They eat Zooplankton and small organisms from the water. When they do, that leaves no food for our baitfish and without baitfish you don't have sportfish. That's where we are today."

He says the Kentucky and Barkley Lake area, at least on the northern end,

Ice house: A big problem for transporting thousands of pounds of fish each day is having enough ice to get the carp to market. A new ice house near a ramp in Lyon County KY, was built specifically for commercial fishermen to have access to more ice.

are ready to lose half their business if something isn't done immediately. One study predicted 2.4 billion dollars of lost revenue in one region alone due to the carp.

"Fishing here has gone from what I always considered one the best overall fisheries in the nation to what I would consider headed for rock bottom. It's for all species. The crappie population is really down and what we have are very thin. The carp eliminating shad means

no food for the gamefish.

“And when the populations of carp get so great that they dominate an area, it’s obvious they disturb or destroy spawning beds in the spring causing even more lost gamefish.

“We have four major rivers coming together up here, the Tennessee, Ohio, Cumberland and Mississippi. This is a hotspot for the carp and must be given attention. If not, eventually there will be no stopping them getting into all major waters.”

“The only solution now is commercial netting. Because the problem has become enormous, it is a federal problem.”

Lyon County Kentucky Judge Executive, Wade White agrees. He formed the War On Carp Coalition.

“War On Carp,” says White, “is simply pulling groups and agencies together who have been working hard individually. Working together we can get more accomplished.”

White says there are potential solutions in the works but we can’t wait years for them to be developed. The sound walls at locks can help the spread but it’s critical to start removing the carp now.

“We’ve got to have money in order to do what we need to do with the barriers and to pay the commercial fishermen what they need in order to pull out a lot of fish. We must improve our markets so they can take out more fish. These are things we need now. If we don’t, everything will be ruined. They’ve invaded our waters and everything they touch is being destroyed.”

White continues, “A congressional meeting here in Eddyville, Kentucky (July 27th), led by Congressman Cormer, allowed us to present many emails of support, hear facts and see the number of people concerned about this problem. He can take this back to Washington and ask for the amount of money we are requesting, 50-million dollars over a five year period.”

White says nobody will get rich from the carp fund. “Even the commercial fishermen who will be subsidized, is wanting the Asian carp gone so they can harvest the fish they need for their commercial fishing. The carp is 17 cents a pound and we want to increase this so it will be profitable for more fishermen to take big numbers of carp out of the water. It will include getting more markets and keeping fishermen on the water instead of transporting fish long distances.

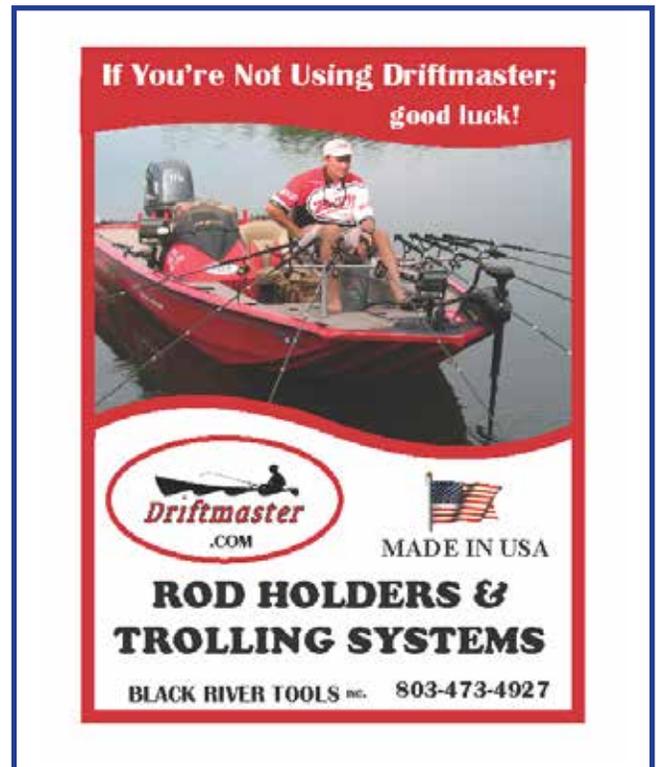
“I refuse to wait until it’s too late, until other solutions are found.”

How can you help? One is to send letters to your political leaders to ask them to help save the waters and make them safer.

The second is by donations. www.carpharvestfund.com money immediately goes to support the removal of carp without the government red tape.

To learn more, go to www.WarOnCarp.com

 - Tim Huffman



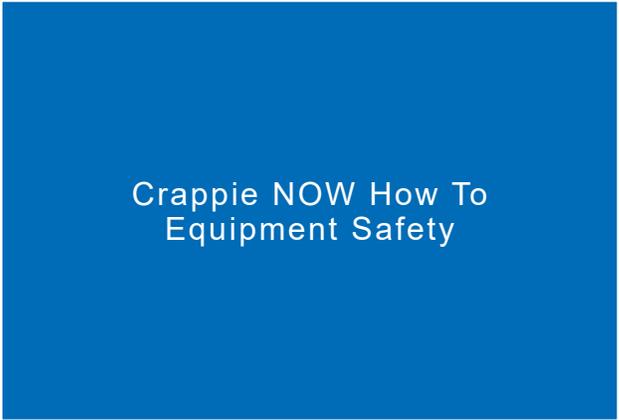
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Our mission is to increase the professionalism - and the earnings - of our members as we work with the industry to grow and protect sportfishing.

Crappie Basics #170

Soft or Stiff Pole Tip?

There are times, especially in the springtime, when fish are aggressive and smack a bait like they mean business. Late summer and early fall fish are usually much less aggressive. Sometimes bites are so light they are difficult to detect. There are a few things to do to improve your odds.

Except in the clearest of water, switch to a braided line. A 10/2 will give the strength of 10-pound test line with the diameter of 2-pound monofilament. The braid is no stretch so light bites are easier to feel.

The second thing is to use a stiffer rod or long pole. A limber pole shows light bites best and they are good for fighting a fish. A soft rod isn't as likely to tear a hook out of a fish's mouth. However, a stiffer pole, matched with braided line, greatly increases feel. Anything that happens with the bait is transferred directly through the line, up the pole to the fisherman's hand. A heavier jig helps, too. More sensitivity will allow more bites to be felt.

BABY SHAD
SPEAR TAIL
SPLIT TAIL

SWIM TAIL
JIGHEADS



ACCESSORIES

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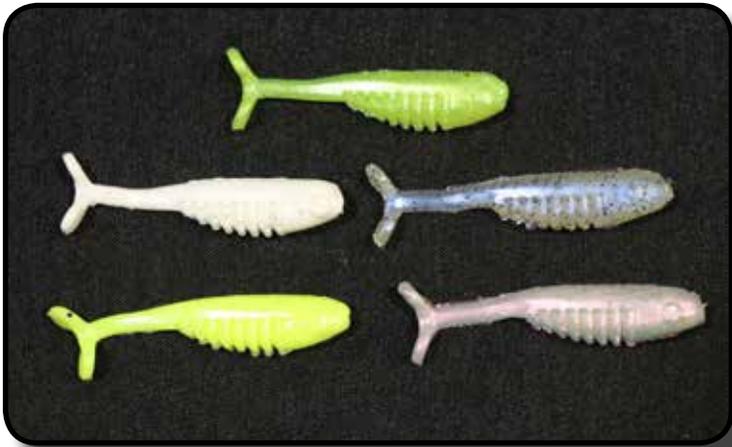
[VIEW CRAPPIE PRO JIGHEADS >](#)

CRAPPIE GOODIES FOR 2019

by Ron Wong

ICAST 2018 in Orlando, Florida was a sight to behold. 350,000 square feet of fishing and marine tackle displayed for around 15,000 buyers and media members. CrappieNOW had the privilege to cruise the massive amount of tackle. Having said that, about half of the tackle was geared towards the salt water fishing industry and the majority of the rest was focused on the bass fishing world. However, we found some really cool stuff for the crappie fishermen. Most all new fishing equipment and tackle will start coming out late summer and during the fall. Most certain all will be available by Christmas, so it is time to make your list.

Slab Hunt'R Bobby Garland



Bobby Garland will have available this coming fall the Slab Hunt'R crappie bait. It is a 2 ¼ inch prop tail soft plastic bait. It can be used for casting, jigging or spider rigging. It will be coming in all of Bobby Garland's popular colors. There will be several new colors for the Slab Slayer, Baby Shad and Stoll'R: Indigo Sky, Green Lantern, Monkey Milk Glo and The Shadow.

Cranks, Mermaid & One Eye Wiggle Head Jenko Fishing



Jenko Fishing will be adding the midnight color series to the crappie crank bait line. Black/orange, black/chartreuse and black/red are colors that should be really good for off-colored water. Jenko has just introduced the Mermaid bait that should be on the market now. This soft plastic bait has a ribbed body with a split tail to provide action. Tony Sheppard recommends using this bait on the new 2019 Big T One Eye Wiggle head. This jig head is made to wobble and make a lot of different soft plastic baits come alive.

Stand-Out Hook with Feathers TTI-Blakemore



TTI-Blakemore has new crappie bait for 2019 that was the talk of the show. It is the Live Shot'N which is a Stand Out hook tied with feathers. It can be used for drop shotting without the use of a soft plastic trailer or minnow. If preferred, it can be rigged with your choice of bait. There will be 21 colors to choose from so it can be used in all types of water.

Dixie Devil

Charlie Brewer's Slider Co.



Over at Charlie Brewer's, we found a new large sized crappie bait being introduced for 2019. It is the Dixie Devil, a 4-inch curl tail style soft plastic bait that can be used for trolling, casting or spider rigging. A couple of new colors will be added to all the Charlie Brewer soft plastics in 2019, Green Ghost and Pumpkin/Pink tail.

Rod Threading Device

Erupt

There was one item that drew much attention at the show. The Rod Threading Device (RTD) introduced by the Erupt company. All freshwater attendees were truly impressed with this new device that should become available around November this year. It is a fishing rod threading device that eliminates missing guides when threading and line fall out that you've incurred when manually threading a rod. With this tool, you can thread fishing line on a 14-foot rod in about 5 to 6 seconds.

Several crappie pros who were present tried this new device and were super impressed. Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price will be \$39.95. Just think of all the time you can save when rigging your rods with new line.

Rapid Line Guide

Rapid Industries



Rapid Industries presented the Rapid Line Guide device that will aid in threading rods where it helps getting the line through the guides and prevents your line falling back through guides you had already threaded. They have 2 sizes, one for normal rod guides and one for micro guides. This product is now on the market.



New Rods B'n'M Poles



There was a lot of buzz around the new Russ Bailey Signature rod being offered by B'n'M rods. This rod was designed by Russ Bailey, host of the popular Brushpile Fishing television show and avid tournament fisherman. It is a 10 ½ foot rod with Portuguese cork handles for max sensitivity and a light weight feel. It is a slightly stiffer action with a fast tip rod to bring in the biggest slabs. B'n'M also has a couple of new sizes in

the Buck's Graphite Crappie Combo, 6 and 6 ½ foot lengths. The new B'n'M Pow-R-Troller rods will handle up to 3 ounces of weight for the pushing baits whether it be jigs or crank baits.

Over at the Millennium Marine booth, they were showing the Side Kick Fishing Double Seat which converts boats with only one pedestal mount either on the front or back to where you now have the ability to place 2 seats. This anodized aluminum mount is fully adjustable in both height and width. Seat pedestals are also height adjustable. This product should now be on the market.

With many of the new products introduced for 2019 being available later this year, it is best to check the company's web site for availability. The common these to many of the companies visited this year were new sizes or colors. In terms of a new lure or bait there wasn't that many and that was not only in the crappie world but the bass side also. As a teaser, several of the companies we spoke with at the show said watch out for the next year.

 - Ron Wong



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CRAPPIE GEAR

Capital Sportsman Ultimate Hybrid Shirt

There is a business side to Capital Sportsman but there is a unique, admirable quality that is often forgotten in today's dog-eat-dog world. It's giving. A portion of all purchases go to preserving the outdoors. You get quality clothing and a part is given back to the outdoors we love.

Capital Sportsman believes in the conservation of wetlands and associated upland habitats for waterfowl, other wildlife and people. Ten percent of what they make goes to outdoor organizations. From a Winston Churchill quote, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Capital Sportsman has an assortment of fishing, hunting, exploring and casual shirts but one of their best anytime/anywhere shirt is the Ultimate Hybrid. It looks great on the water but is also at home anywhere outdoors or casual events indoors. It has a classy and casual look all in one.

The Hybrid is simple. The company says



the design came from listening to customers. It was built to be used without having too many extras to get in the way. It has soft mesh in the right places, under the arm and on the back vents for freedom of movement with great ventilation.

It has functional sleeve tabs for holding rolled-up sleeves, open front pockets for easy access, a secure pocket for keeping important items safe and is made of comfortable fabrics.

In summary, it's a comfortable shirt that is right for the outdoors but is also perfect as a casual sport shirt at any event. It's at home anywhere, looks great and is from a company who puts part of their profit into the outdoors... a great combination.

Take a look at Capital Sportsman, www.capitalsportman.com. They have a lineup of high-quality, standard to unique shirts for the outdoorsman.

Ultimate Hybrid Shirt MSRP: \$59.00.





Crappie NOW How To
Summertime Slow Crappie

Go Fishing With The B'n'M Pros.



Sam Heaton's 7-Foot Super-Sensitive

The SHSS72n is a spinning rod with the same sensitivity and feel of the jig pole series. Improvements include Dyna-Flo guides for smooth line retrieval, and a cork knob handle for outstanding balance and feel. Historically one of the most popular rods on the water, the SHSS72n is still supple, strong and sensitive.



Whitey Outlaw DOUBLE DUTY

Get back to "Fishing The Basics" with Whitey Outlaw. This Medium-Action rod is for big heavy hybrid bream, monster shellcrackers & any size crappie. It's perfectly balanced with a comfortable foam handle for all-day fishing - no reel needed! It features a tough & lightweight Graphite Blank, and one tip eyelet, with one reinforced Tie Down Guide.



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Seasonal Structure

by
Tim
Huffman



The year was 1981. My partners and I put a couple of lanterns out on pieces of conduit wedged in the boat. We were fishing a large river reservoir in Oklahoma. Our adventure started before dark to make our setup was safe and easy. We took our time rigging, setting poles and getting comfortable. The next few hours were filled with fun and laughter but only a few fish.

After the wait, it was like someone turned on a switch and crappie were coming into the boat non-stop. Action was fast-paced. We caught over three hundred

Deploying a long, green Hydro Glow light. The top is typically kept at the water surface with the bulb vertical down under the water.

crappie.

Like a Boy Scout...Be Prepared

Getting the boat ready, equipment rigged and a game plan needs to take place before the trip. Working on in the dark on the water isn't the best method, so have everything prepared.



Lights. A lantern still works but there are so many better options that make night fishing easier and safer. For example, 12-volt lights work great for hours when hooked to a spare battery or the trolling motor batteries. LED lights require little power.

Lights can be floating, fully submerged or above the water. All work to attract baitfish and crappie. Most fishermen prefer the green colored lights for maximum success. They work quickly to attract insects and baitfish, and are easy on the eyes.

A second light source should be a cap light and a small flashlight. These are good for all the little things you never think about during daylight hours. Tying knots, finding small items and numerous other jobs. A light on the cap keeps both

Electronics are a key element in finding the right spot. Ledges are always a good place to try.

hands free and puts the light where you need it.

Third, you need a large spotlight for running, signaling and emergency situations.

The fourth is boat running lights because it's the law and adds safety. Cell phone. You need it for emergencies and to monitor weather.

Other Accessories

Rod holders are a nice convenience and can save you money by preventing lost rods. You don't need fancy but the easy-to-use types are best.





A landing net is important at night. It's not only good for landing a big slab, but it helps when trying to quickly land a white bass or catfish.

Have tackle organized. You don't need a lot of tackle, but having the right hooks, sinkers and jigs near-by will save time at night.

Setup

The right spots are usually ones that are good during the day. Look for cover on a ledge. Baitfish and crappie follow the edge contours. A point or hump are similar, potential spots.

Find your spot before dark if possible. This will make for safe motoring and give

time to pinpoint a spot using the locator. Anchoring seems to be out of style today, but you'll want to anchor the boat for night fishing. Get it exactly right before going to the next step. Anchor where everyone in the boat will catch fish.

After getting positioned, pay close attention to landmarks. As it gets dark, notice the lights at ramps, houses or other places you can use as guides when headed back in the dark. New electronic mapping can reduce worry and get you back the way you came.

Place lights and turn them on. Get the tacklebox, minnow bucket, hat light and any other items ready to use. Get poles ready, baited and placed. A variety

of pole lengths is best but whatever you have will work. Poles 8- to 10-foot long are good to reach the outside edges of light, but if more than two people are in the boat you may want to stick with shorter ones. Use insect repellent if needed.

The next step is critical. Relax, talk and have fun. It may be a couple of hours before fishing gets hot.

Catching Fish

Tightlining is good because the bait stays near the light. Minnows are a great choice because they do the work while a fisherman watches the pole tips or slip-floats.

Night fishing is simple. No casting is required. The fish come to the light in search of food. All a fisherman has to do is watch for the bite, set the hook and bring the fish to the boat.

Fish may come to the brightest part of the light but most will hang around the edges. Baits placed in the dark/light transition areas are most likely to be successful.

Tip

Fluorescent or reflective tape and paint are handy for marking items you want to find quickly. For example, a little reflective tape on your pliers makes them easier to find in low light.

Not all lakes are equal. Some are good night lakes and others are not. A little research or a few phone calls should reveal if it's good or has potential. You may have to make a few trips to learn for sure, and to find the best locations. The best day areas can also be good at night. Private docks with exterior lights can be good, too.

Night fishing can be done in any season. Summer is one of the best because it allows a fisherman to get away from the intense heat of the day and away from pleasure boaters. Winter is the most underestimated season.

Note that everything is magnified in the dark. Sounds, bites and the fight

of a fish are all more intense and fun. Problems are magnified, too. When a motor doesn't start or a wheel bearing goes bad at 2:00 A.M., getting help may be a problem. However, the rewards can be amazing so give it a try.

 - Tim Huffman



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Crappie Basics #171

Rigging for Fewer Hang-Ups

Everyone knows that a weedless jighead is a good way to reduce hang-ups, but what about fishing a minnow?

One tactic is to place the sinker close to the hook. Giving a minnow four inches to swim, instead of 12 inches, reduces the number of limbs or weed stems it can hang the hook into.

Another tactic is to use a weedless jighead (no plastic) with a minnow. It gives good control of the bait and the weedguard protects it from most hang-ups. Crappie sometimes prefers the head and over a plain hook.

In extreme cases, the minnow hook can be bent slightly to move the hook point closer to the shank. There will be fewer hang-ups but more missed fish. However, if it will help you get to fish that wouldn't be fished otherwise, it's worth a try. -TH

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 |

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 www.crappieusa.com

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

CRAPPIE GEAR

Off Shore Tackle OR 38 Crappie Mini Planer



There is no denying that planer boards for crappie took a huge leap when a Crappie Masters National Championship was won on Grenada Lake, Mississippi by a northern walleye fisherman. Beating more than 100 of the best crappie fishermen in the country by a fisherman new to crappie fishing and the southern lake, took a great technique. Planer boards were the key to success.

Fast forward to 2018. Off Shore Tackle has made planer board fishing easier and more economical with the OR38 Crappie Mini Planer Board. The board runs directly off of your rod line and works for either right or left side. The company states: One Board...Dual Purpose... It's Reverseable.

The economics comes from its simple design with no flag. It comes with nine replaceable parts so you can keep your board working for many years to come.

Pro Staffer Dan Dannenmueller says, "Planer boards are longlining on steroids. The strategy of trolling baits is the same but the boards spread baits and gets them away from the boat to target spooky crappie. We can easily cover 300 feet of water on a pass.

"We hear the negatives of messing with more equipment and learning to troll and handle boards. There is a learning curve but if you learn how and spend several hours trolling, it really isn't that hard to do," says Dannenmueller.

"Off Shore is a leader and innovator in the industry for pulling planer boards. They are proven for walleye fishermen in the north and now they are becoming more popular in the south for crappie fishing. Catch rates go up dramatically with boards compared to no boards.

www.OffShoreTackle.com
MSRP: \$19.99



Sweet Southern Puddin'

When most of us think of chowder, New England comes to mind. The phonetic variant chowda, is believed to have originated in Newfoundland in the days when Breton fisherman would toss portions of the day's catch into a large pot, along with other available foods to make a seafood stew. Because this is CrappieNow, we're going to make crappie chowder.

Commonly, chowder is a seafood or vegetable stew (or thickened soup) often served with milk or cream served with crackers that are broken into the chowder as a thickener. Some varieties are traditionally thickened with crushed ship biscuit.

There numerous varieties of chowders ranging from New England clam, corn, potato, and fish chowder. Here's our recipe for Crappie Chowder.

Crappie Chowder

- 4 to 6 cup crappie fillets cut into strips
- 4 to 6 cup hash brown potatoes
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 cup onion, diced
- 2 cans mushroom soup
- 1 or 2 soup cans milk, depending on how thin you want your chowder
- 1/4 cup melted butter

Cook crappie, potatoes, and celery with onion in separate pans with enough water so they will come to boil. When tender, combine all into 1 big pan, and then add soup, milk and butter. Simmer together until hot, do not boil or milk will curdle.

That taste of Italy I promised is Crappie Linguine with White Wine Cream Sauce. In this recipe we shift from crackers being the agent to thicken our chowder to using pasta like linguine. Linguine is like thin flattened spaghetti. Our seafood, fish, in this case, is – you guessed it – crappie.

Crappie Linguine with White Wine Cream Sauce

- 1 lb. crappie fillets cut into 2-inch long strips
- 1/2 lb. linguine
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- Dash of hot sauce (optional)
- Parsley sprigs

Cook linguine according to directions and set aside. Heat olive canola oil on medium-high heat in a stove top pan and add crappie fillets. Cook until about 4 minutes, and then add garlic and pepper. Add wine. Reduce wine for 30 seconds. Toss cooked linguine into crappie. Remove to dish and sprinkle with cheese and a dash of hot sauce, if desired. Garnish with parsley.

After dining on one of the scrumptious crappie dishes, there's a need for a taste of something sweet. I can't think of a better dessert than my Mother-in-law's bread pudding. Give Bobbie's Bread Pudding a try.

- 10 slices bread
- 3 cup skim milk
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup egg substitute
- 4 tablespoons diet margarine
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup crushed pineapple

Break bread into pieces in a 9x13-inch baking dish. Blend in half the milk. Add sugar and egg substitute, mixing well after each. Dice margarine on top and stir in vanilla, remaining milk, and pineapple. Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes, until firm.

Call me crazy but I love this puddin' served chilled, however, I think you'll love it warm from the oven. It's a big yummy either way.

Onion Soup

- 1/2 pound sliced white onions
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 tablespoons corn oil
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 quart chicken broth
- 1 quart beef broth
- 8 slices French bread
- Shredded Swiss cheese
- Grated Parmesan

Sauté onions in butter and oil until onions are transparent, but not well browned.

When tender, turn heat to lowest point and sprinkle with flour, stirring vigorously. Pour into Dutch oven and stir in broths. Heat thoroughly and divide among 8 oven-proof bowls. Float a slice of bread atop each serving. Mix equal parts of cheese to smooth paste and spread over bread. Place all bowls on oven rack 4 inches from broiler: heat and broil until cheese melts. Serve at once. Makes 8 servings.

Scalloped Pineapple

This is good served warm with whipped cream. It taste is very much like a pineapple upside down cake.

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 sticks butter (1/2-pound)

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Monkey Milk & Other Tales of Fall Fishing

by Vic Attardo



Maybe you've never heard of George Toalson. That's all right; he is not exactly a household name. But I can assure you that millions of crappie -- those fish we're all crazy about catching -- have heard of George. Also, those fish enjoy taking a big bite out of him. That's because Mr. Toalson has created some of the most popular crappie baits on the market. You'd have to be the CEO of a rival crappie lure-making company not to have some of Toalson's creations in your tackle kit -- and maybe even then you'd sneak in a few because everyone knows his baits are that effective.

Toalson creates lure shapes and colors

George Toalson has created some of the most popular crappie baits on the market and his catches demonstrate their effectiveness.

for Bobby Garland -- so you've heard of him or his baits.

"First, I make everything for myself, then I get them out to the public," Toalson told me, as we fished the northern fishing factory of Pymatuning Reservoir in western Pennsylvania.

One of his "in progress" projects is to figure a way to manufacture weedguards into a tiny crappie jig. "There's not much lead on



a crappie jig, particularly a one-sixteenth ounce jig or smaller, so we're trying to come up with the manufacturing process."

His fall fishing tactics are great, but first here's the story about one of the favorite, hot colors called Monkey Milk. Toalson fashioned the color itself but had no clue for a name. One day while in the Oklahoma Bobby Garland factory, Toalson, along with PR/advertising whiz, Gary Dollahon, were walking around with an example of the new color asking employees what it reminded them of. They were at a loss for catchy nomenclature until they came upon Diane Thorton. Thorton, at that time, had worked in the factory for thirty years, so had seen a lot of rainbows bloom and fade. Without skipping a beat, she said, "You know that looks like monkey milk."

The advertising bells in Toalson's head must have peeled loud and clear at that

A nice, northern black crappie. "Where the crappie were holding at 12 feet," Toalson explains, "when the cormorants arrive they go deeper than twenty feet."

moment. Still, there was another question that had to be asked. "Well, Diane, have you seen monkey milk.?"

"No. But I think it would look like that." Monkey Milk is a creamish, opaque sort of thing laced with black dots, like dog ticks on a seeded dandelion head.

And so, one of the most famous color monikers, outside "firetiger" and "kudzu," was christened. Though it's just not an achievement you put on your tombstone.

The fact that Monkey Milk has become so popular, so darn effective, is a testament to Toalson's imagination and perhaps bizarre jungle dreams.



From 'Monkey Milk' we now move to a story on cormorants -- you know, every fisherman's favorite bird -- but this story is truly about fall crappie fishing.

It seems, according to Toalson, when the cormorants "come home to Oklahoma" after spending the summer up North where they're as welcome as mosquitoes, the OK crappie change their pattern. A kind of multi-phasic disruption as when the swallows return, en masse, to Capistrano.

"Where the crappie were holding at 12 feet," Toalson explains, "when the cormorants (who love to eat crappie) arrive they go deeper than twenty feet."

Perhaps you've seen an immense flock of cormorant suddenly jump off their perches (I have in South Carolina) and start flapping their wings across the water, like a mad herd of whirling dervishes.

Herd is the operative word here because that's exactly what the cormorant flock is doing -- herding the crappie school into a

Monkey Milk is a popular choice that works in most waters. The name makes us smile and the color triggers bites from crappie. Shown here is a Bobby Garland Baby Shad

limited space. They drive the crappie against a shallow shoreline, against rocks, even bridge abutments. Then they dive on the fish and the underwater flying cormorants have a feast. (Go find a U-tube video of a cormorant flying underwater, it will astound you.)

But as Nature giveth, she also take-it-away because cormorants are somewhat limited: they can't dive more than 20 feet. They're great at fly/swimming in the shallows, particularly in the three to 15 foot range, but they're not exactly deep-diving crankbait cormorants.

Now it's becoming clear, I hope, why

Toalson says immense schools of crappie move into deep water in the fall. They're trying to avoid the nasty fish-eating cormorants. Little doubt then that his number one fall pattern is to fish deep water.

"I am not a spider rigger and I don't use a color selector. I fish deep, the old fashion way, using a vertical jig. As for color, I use the one that I can see at the greatest depth."

"Use a loop knot when tying on the jig."

Guess what one of his favorite colors happens to be? It's initials are M and M and it don't melt in your mouth.

Toalson's fall pattern is that tried-and-true method of working deep ledges, channels, brush piles etc. where deep crappie hang out. And he's no wind sailor. "I want to stay on the same spot and shop till I drop," he says whimsically.

In the not too distant past, when he found the deep-holding crappie, he would anchor over and around them. Of course, anchoring takes a lot of work, a lot of pull as it were. So these days, he has gone high-tech. Instead of roping an iron, he relies on the newish electric motors that hold a boat in place.

"I used to always anchor, now I use a spot lock (Minnkota Spot Lock)." he acknowledges, a wiry smile denoting less work and more fun appears on his face.

In Toalson's manner of deep-water fall fishing excessive boat movement over a crappie school is a killer.

"For my kind of fishing, I don't want to drift around. I don't want to spook the school. I want to stay still and let my jig work for me."

Now it's important to understand that cormorants aren't the only things that have chased crappie underwater. As many great fishermen have done, they've seen their quarry from the quarry's viewpoint.

Like those other greats, Toalson has scuba dived on the crappie, and this hard work has paid dividends. "I know how they are positioned down there," he says.

When it comes to brush piles and sunken trees and the lot, crappie have a definite swimatude, Toalson explains. "They lay under the limbs. They don't lay on top of them." He says that though he is positioned over, or nearly over, his desired crappie hotspot, "I cast to them more than fish straight down. If you can feel that limb, then you let it fall back over, that's when you'll get your bite."

Now I bet you can understand why Toalson is so interested in manufacturing a crappie jig with a weed guard.

Nine of ten crappie anglers, when desiring to drop a jig so that it plumbs underneath limbs and such, will search through their tackle boxes for heavier jigs. But not Toalson. He'll use a jig as "itty bitty" as a 1/48 ounce with a size 8 hook. His rod is a 6 foot G. Loomis ultra light.

"Don't use a heavier jig; use a split shot," he cautions. "The split shot won't get hung up like a heavier jig."

He places the shot between 12 and 18 inches above the Itty Bit jig.

And there is one other thing that insists on for real crappie success. "Use a loop knot when tying on the jig. Don't ever tie a tight knot. A loop knot allows the jig to swing free."

So now it all comes together. What Toalson does in the fall is, one, watch for the cormorants to return; two, fish the deeper water where the birds can't go; three, cast tiny jigs and use split shot for a vertical presentation and, four, among a few others, use the color Diane Thorton named without even knowing what monkey mild was. Way to go Diane. You've helped Toalson and many others catch crappie.

 - Vic Attardo

Fishing Funny's



"I USED YOUR LUNCHMEAT FOR BAIT."



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AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL

JULY 27th - 28th

| | TRUMAN LAKE | NATIONAL QUALIFIER |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. Daniel Pemberton/Justin Neuman | | 20.76 |
| 2. Mike Gillotte/Jon Gillotte | | 20.75 |
| 3. Rich Campbell/Travis Stephens | | 20.55 |
| 4. Marty Snider/Jackie Albin | | 20.28 |
| 5. Mark Engelhart/Aaron Engelhart | | 19.71 |

BIG FISH

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 1. Matt Gregory/Rick Davis | 2.05 |
|----------------------------|------|

CRAPPIE MASTERS

MARK TWAIN LAKE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Paul Turner/Elizabeth Turner | 9.41 |
| 2. Marty Snider/Jackie Albin | 8.2 |
| 3. David Cox/Steve Hockett | 7.43 |
| 4. Mark Engelhart/Aaron Engelhart | 7.29 |
| 5. Charles Bunting/Travis Bunting | 7.01 |

BIG FISH

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Marty Snider/Jackie Albin | 1.54 |
|------------------------------|------|

MALE/FEMALE

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Eric Howard/Leann Howard | 6 |
|-----------------------------|---|

ADULT YOUTH

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. Darrin Tucker/Wyatt Tucker | 5.72 |
|-------------------------------|------|

KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB

ELDORADO

AUGUST 4th

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. German/Niemeyer | 11.75 |
| 2. Hobbs/Springer | 9.8 |
| 3. Bybee/Bybee | 9.08 |
| 4. Schrock/Schrock | 9.04 |
| 5. Thomas/Osborne | 8.9 |

BIG FISH

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. German/Niemeyer | 1.95 |
|--------------------|------|



WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

AUGUST 11th

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| 1. Butch/Butch | 7.39 |
| 2. Roper/Roper | 5.87 |
| 3. Fisher/Defien | 4.96 |
| 4. Channell/Channell | 4.68 |
| 5. Comfort/Comfort | 4 |

BIG FISH

| | |
|----------------|------|
| 1. Roper/Roper | 1.68 |
|----------------|------|

EASTERN MO CRAPPIE CLUB

TRUMAN LAKE

AUGUST 11th - 12th

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Shoemake/Reller | 16.87 |
| 2. Townsend/Friend | 13.95 |
| 3. Ott/Luetkenhause/Perotti | 13.85 |
| 4. Wehde/Molitor | 13.74 |
| 5. Johnson/Brown/Bessleman | 12.68 |

BIG FISH

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. Shoemake/Reller | 1.62 |
|--------------------|------|

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Beaver Lake Crappie ASSOC

BEAVER LAKE

AUGUST 18th

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1. Steven Berry/Hunter Bourke | 7.01 |
| 2. Seth Eden/Jeff Eden | 6.56 |
| 3. Chris Peterson/Eric Richards | 6.4 |
| 4. Matt Phillips | 5.88 |
| 5. Xieng Chanthawong/Juan | 5.86 |

BIG FISH

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. Steven Berry/Hunter Bourke | 1.39 |
|-------------------------------|------|

CRAPPIE MASTERS

TRUMAN LAKE

AUGUST 18th

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Barry Morrow/Chad Maupin | 10.54 |
| 2. Wade McDonald/Eric Cagle | 10.53 |
| 3. Charles Bunting/Travis Bunting | 9.87 |
| 4. Bo Shepherd/Chris Dudgeon | 9.82 |
| 5. Kevin Pitts/Travis Mace | 9.81 |

BIG FISH

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Mark Engelhart/Aaron Engelhart | 1.95 |
|-----------------------------------|------|

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB

WOODS RESERVOIR

AUGUST 18th

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. Larry Britton/Robert Baker | 7.26 |
| 2. Terry Spray/Trent Spray | 7.06 |
| 3. Toby Ivey/Matthew Nash | 6.33 |
| 4. Jamie Johnson/Roger | 6.19 |
| 5. Travis Gusman/Mandy | 4.35 |

BIG FISH

| | |
|------------------|------|
| 1. Kenneth Locke | 1.58 |
|------------------|------|



| | | | | |
|------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| SEPT | 1st | KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB | MELVERN LAKE | CLUB |
| SEPT | 1st | TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES | TRUMAN LAKE | SERIES |
| SEPT | 8th | FISH THE CAROLINAS | HIGH ROCL LAKE | CLUB |
| SEPT | 8th | FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB | LAKE MONROE | CLUB |
| SEPT | 8th | HOI CRAPPIE CLUB | ILLINOIS RIVER | OPEN |
| SEPT | 8th | INDIANA SLAB MASTERS | MISSISSINEWA/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 | EAST TN CRAPPIE CLUB | DOUGLAS | CLUB |
| SEPT | 15th | SHOALS CRAPPIE | PICKWICK | CLUB |
| SEPT | 22nd | CRAPPIE USA | CARLYLE LAKE | TRAIL |
| SEPT | 22nd | FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB | WEST LAKE | CLUB |
| SEPT | 22nd | HOI CRAPPIE CLUB | EVERGREEN | OPEN |
| SEPT | 22nd | INDIANA SLAB MASTERS | BROOKVILLE LAKE | CLUB |
| SEPT | 22nd | MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB | ARKABUTLA | CLUB |
| SEPT | 22nd | MIDDLE TENNESSEE | TIMS FORD | CLUB |
| SEPT | 22nd | SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE | LAKE SHELBYVILLE | CLUB |
| SEPT | 22nd | TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES | TRUMAN LAKE | SERIES |
| SEPT | 23rd | GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES | GRAND LAKES | CLUB |
| SEPT | 26th - 29th | CRAPPIE MASTERS | TRUMAN LAKE | NAT. CHAMP. |
| SEPT | 29th | CENTRAL ILLINOIS | LAKE SULLIVAN | YOUTH TOURNAMENT |
| SEPT | 29th | NORTHEAST OHIO | LAKE MILTON | CLUB |
| SEPT | 30th | GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES | GRAND LAKES | CLUB |
| OCT | 6th | LAKE OKEECHOBEE CRAPPIE SERIES | LAKE OKEECHOBEE | 1st QUALIFIER |
| OCT | 6th | NORTHEAST OHIO | BERLIN LAKE | CLUB |
| OCT | 6th | SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE | LAKE SPRINGFIELD | CLUB |
| OCT | 3rd - 6th | CRAPPIE USA | LAKE CUMBERLAND | CLASSIC |



A Big'un on the Line
Ken Smith enjoying a day
on the water
catching crappie
Darl Black photo

See you next month!!

