

CRAPPIE NOW!

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

fishhound

Crappie.com

July 2019 - Issue #101



Hot Summer Tactics



Features

Simple, Economical Tactics for Summer Crappie....4

by Tim Huffman

Keeping things simple can sometimes lead to the most fun. Try these summer tactics for fun and productivity.



Destination Crappie: Lake Jordan, AL.....12

by Ron Wong

A mixture of black and white crappie awaits anglers in this crappie factory known as Lake Jordan. Multiple crappie fishing techniques work well in this Alabama impoundment.



The Complete Story of Jig Colors....24

by Greg McCain

With so many colors to choose from, how do crappie anglers make the right choice? Three seasoned crappie anglers give their thoughts on color selection.



April American Crappie Trail at Ross Barnett....30

by Ron Wong

Dramatically changing weather conditions and high winds challenged anglers over the two-day event. But winning anglers still found 2-pound crappie to be the norm.



Departments

Vern's Cooking & Tidbits....36

Crappie Calendar....43

Tournament Results....38

Crappie Clubs....44

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I can't believe that it is July already!!! The days, months and years seem to fly by and there are so many changes happening all around us in society, life, and fishing.

CrappieNow is not immune to change as well. Starting with the August edition CrappieNow will have a new editor.

In May we learned that Mr. Tim Huffman, our editor since the inception of CrappieNow, was retiring. Tim will stay on as a monthly writer, for which we are grateful. He has been an awesome editor and writer for all those years.

Without reservation, Mr. Ron Presley, our current CatfishNow editor, stepped in to fill Tim's big shoes until a new editor could be hired. Thanks, Ron for helping us during the transition.

After contemplating candidates to fill the editor position several names were gathered, lists were reviewed, calls were made, and finally a selection made.

It is my pleasure to announce that Capt. Richard Simms, from Chattanooga, TN has accepted the position of editor for CrappieNow.

Richard enters the position fully qualified to help our magazine and social media platform grow to new heights. His resume is loaded with media development and fishing experience. He is knowledgeable in most media deployment platforms (audio, video, written, radio, social, etc.). His credentials include a position on the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA) Board of Directors.

And, yes, he is a crappie guide and fisherman. He owns his own guide service, Scenic City Fishing Charters [www.sceniccityfishing.com] in Chattanooga.

Richard, along with our publishing, web, and social media staff will be focused on how to best serve and reach you, the crappie fishermen, in the future. If you have any recommendations or suggestions on how we can better serve you please don't hesitate to email them to dan@kms-inc.net.

Welcome aboard Richard!!!

Good Luck Fishing and God Bless,
Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher



Cover Photo:

Jarad and Tommie Roper (Team Roper) caught these springtime crappies on the Alabama River while competing in a Crappie Masters tournament.

Simple, Economical Tactics for Summer Crappie

by Tim Huffman



Finding the right spots for summer crappie can be a challenge, but when found, they can create fun, exciting memories. A fisherman doesn't have to spend a fortune to get in on the action. A small aluminum boat and basic gear will work. The following are some tips and tactics to try this summer.

Jigging... "The Thump"

Vertical jigging is a one-pole tactic that's inexpensive, efficient and allows a fisherman to feel the bite and set the hook.

The biggest challenge for most fishermen is finding the right spot to catch crappie. It's important to check on-line fishing reports and to ask at bait shops to learn the depth where crappie are being caught and the general areas. Knowing these two factors allows a fisherman to find fish.

Patterns are important, too. When a fish is caught, remember the depth, bait,

A great jig for slow presentations is a Bobby Garland Baby Shad. Black-chartreuse, white-chartreuse and blue ice (shown here) are three great colors.

type action and anything else that allows you to duplicate what was successful. Catching numbers of fish is often a matter of repetition.

Equipment includes a good 10- to 12-foot graphite jigging pole, simple light-weight reel and baits. A 10-foot pole is best for areas with overhanging limbs and waters that are stained or dingy. A 12-foot pole is good in clearer and/or shallow water to get the bait further from the boat to avoid spooking crappie. An 11-footer is a good all-around choice. Rig with 8-pound test monofilament or 15-pound test braid.

The bait can be a minnow, jig or minnow-jig combo. Jigs are best when fish

are active and when thick cover is being probed. Minnows are good when fish are sluggish. Summer crappie are notorious for preferring minnows. However, it's not easy to keep minnows alive in a bucket in the heat of summer.

Presentations can vary but in general, the less action the better. Inexperienced fishermen often give a bait too much action and don't leave it in one spot long enough. A good tip for fishing a jig is to fish it the same as you would fish a minnow.

Fish prefer shady areas so be sure to fish the shady side of cover. Also, probe thick brush and other spots to get the bait to invade a crappie's home.

Summary: Jig fishermen say they enjoy the technique because of "The Thump". Feeling a fish hit, setting the hook and getting it in the boat is a one-on-one technique that allows most type covers to be thoroughly fished at any depth.

Casting a Slip-Float

You should be playing golf if you don't like seeing a float disappear. But that's just my opinion. Like many other things in today's world, fishing seems to be a sport where it's more important to go faster, spend more money and catch massive numbers of fish than it is to relax and enjoy. Casting a slip-float turns back the clock to more basic fishing.

Finding fish is very similar to fishing any other technique. It's critical to find the right depth and the type of cover crappie prefer. Summer crappie may be very deep holding on ledges or flats. Another summer factor for depth is a thermocline that can move fish up to shallower water or cause them to suspend in open water.

A graph, or locator, is important to show depths, contours and cover. Advanced

Casting, retrieving, setting the hook, fighting the fish and swinging it into the boat are all part of basic, fun crappie fishing. This Pennsylvania crappie came from a small drop-off.



units show more detail and include great mapping, but basic units will do the job. The key is to learn how to use your unit and let it lead you to crappie.

Basic slip-float equipment includes any type rod and reel combination rigged with six or eight pound test line. Include a #2 minnow hook, split-shot, bobber stop and slip-float.

“An advantage of holding poles is being able to feel bites and react quickly.”

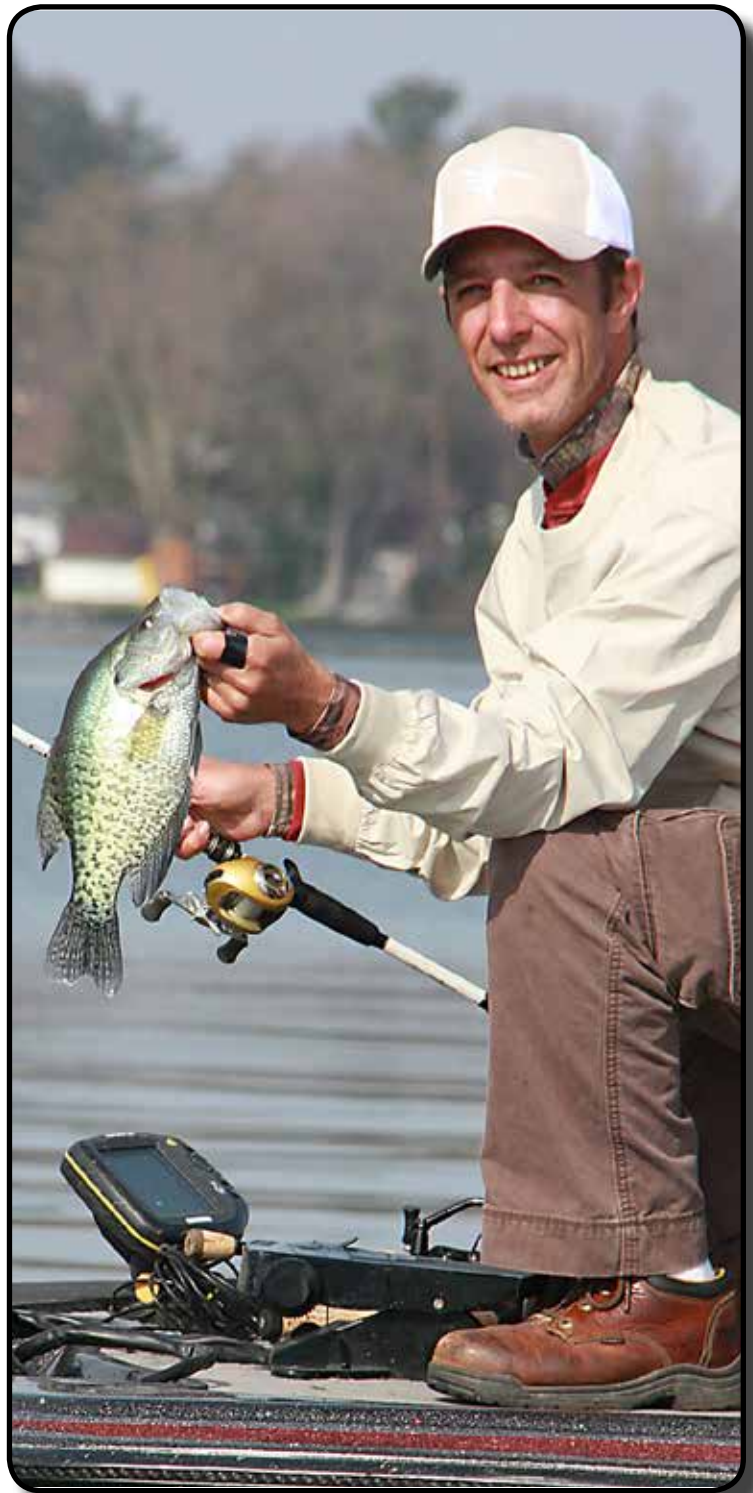
To keep it simple, drop an anchor to keep your boat away from the cover but within casting distance. If a brushpile is being fished, set the bobber stop to put the minnow at the right depth so the bait just above the cover. Cast to a spot where the wind and waves will drift the bait directly over the brushpile. If there is no wind, cast past the brush and slowly retrieve the bait until it is directly over the brush.

When the float disappears or moves across the top of the water, it's time to take up slack line and set the hook. This is easy if the float is set at six feet or less. However, when the bait is down to 15 feet, the line must be reeled until the line becomes straighter between the rod tip and bait before setting the hook.

Summary: A slip-float rig allows long casts, basic minnow fishing and can be used at any depth. It keeps a bait positioned in the strike zone. One or more poles can be used when slip-floating from an anchored boat.

Easy Fast Trolling

A small outboard or a good trolling motor can provide simple crankbait trolling. A pole is hand-held by each fisherman. Do not mistake this for serious trolling, but it is a great way for a quick change of pace and economical way to crankbait when the action is hot.



Whether jigging, casting or trolling, early morning fishing can be peaceful and productive.

Equipment includes a medium to heavy action rod with a moderately strong reel. Line should be about 10-pound test. Heavier line prevents baits from getting deep while lighter lines won't withstand the pressure



of a hit on a crankbait. Crankbaits can be a variety of brands with Bandit 300 being the long-term standard. Having a few different colors is important, too. Different lakes have different “hot” colors. Good starting colors include pink, orange, white and firetiger.

Quick and easy trolling requires being in an area with fish. A big flat is often good. Channel ledges are good because they have deeper water in the channel and mid-depths on the flat, giving crappie a choice of depths. Channels are difficult to follow but swinging back and forth over them is usually a good tactic. Electronics is very important to make sure water is deep enough and fish are present.

There are many variables when pulling crankbaits. Bait depth depends upon the type crankbait but also line length and line diameter. Lines are often set from 50 to 200 feet. You can make a long cast and guess the amount of line let out. Or, the crankbait can be fed out by hand counting the number of pulls from the reel. Repeating a successful line length is very important.

Speeds are 1.4 to 2.4 mph with 1.7 being a good start speed. If action is slow, try speeding up and slowing down until the right speed is found.

Summary: Holding poles while trolling

A laydown can have both visible and submerged cover offering a great place to cast floats and slip-floats.

An advertisement for Driftmaster trolling systems. It features a photograph of a person in a red boat on a river. The text reads: "If You're Not Using Driftmaster; good luck!". Below the photo is the Driftmaster logo, which includes a silhouette of a person in a boat and the text "Driftmaster .COM". To the right of the logo is an American flag and the text "MADE IN USA". Below the logo and flag is the text "ROD HOLDERS & TROLLING SYSTEMS". At the bottom, it says "BLACK RIVER TOOLS inc. 803-473-4927".



works. No special rigging is required. It can be a fun way to try another tactic, watch electronics to find brushpiles for the future and enjoy some easy fishing. There's a big adrenaline rush when a fish hits a hand-held pole while pulling a crankbait.

Slow Trolling & Jigging Combo

Slow trolling works any time of year. It's a method of using the boat to place baits into productive spots. An inexpensive, modified version is hand-holding two long poles.

Equipment includes two 12-foot poles rigged with 8- or 10-pound test line. Baits can vary with a small-medium jig tipped with a minnow being a good choice. A weight above the bait is important to keep the line vertical. Baits can be single or double-hook rigs.

This method will cause arm fatigue but is good when the boat isn't set up with racks for slow trolling. An advantage of holding poles is being able to feel bites and react quickly. Also, the boat can be stopped on cover and the poles will be like using two jigging poles.

 - Tim Huffman

Summer Tips

> Stay healthy. Drink plenty of fluids, keep a wet towel for cooling off and protect your skin from the sun.

> A thermocline is a layer of water that separates bad water from good. It can be seen on a graph with sensitivity turned high. There is a temperature change and pH difference above and below the thermocline. Fish will be in the "sweet water", the upper layer just above the thermocline.

> Minnows are a more consistent bait in the summertime when fishing slow presentations.

> Summer fish can be suspended and scattered. Fast methods using jigs, spinners or crankbaits can be a great way to find fish and draw reaction strikes.

> Fish early. Start at daylight and fish until mid-morning. It's safer because of cooler temperatures and most recreational boat and jet ski enthusiasts are still in bed.



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Ross Barnett, MS	April 26-27, 2019
Grenada, MS	May 17-18, 2019
Kentucky Lake, TN	June 21-22, 2019
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Ouachita River, LA	Sept 13-14, 2019
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Learn 2 Fish With Us, Inc. is a not-for-profit company (501C3 organization) that was started in 2006 by Greg Karch, founder and certified Angler Educator and Instructor.

The screenshot shows the NPAA website. The top navigation bar includes social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with links for 'Home' and 'Become a Member! JOIN NOW'. The main menu contains: 'Member Benefits', 'Members', 'About', 'News', 'NPAA Partners', 'Testimonials', 'NPAA Conference', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area features a large image of two anglers in red gear on a boat on a lake. Below the image, the text reads: 'Our mission is to increase the professionalism – and the earnings – of our members as we work with the industry to grow and protect sportfishing.' At the bottom, the text reads: 'NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION' and 'Our mission is to increase the professionalism of our members as we work to grow and protect sportfishing.'

Crappie Basics #191

**Speed it Up:
Jared Roper, Roper Outdoors**

As the water heats up in July the crappie will become more active and aggressive. To adapt to their behavior anglers should speed up their presentation.

Use the traditional color selection process to choose your baits. When fishing dark/muddy water I like fluorescent colors. If you have clear/green water use more natural colors. Bait size really doesn't matter. I suggest a 2- to 2-1/2-inch bait.

Just remember that crappies are very active chasing baitfish in the summer months. Add some flash with a bladed jighead to whatever plastic bait you are using.

The combination of speed, color, and flash should produce some good results in the warmer weather.



**2019
Crappie USA**

Tournament Trail Schedule

Crappie USA

220 Mohawk Ave
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502-384-5924



2019 Crappie USA Classic
Old Hickory Lake, Gallatin, TN 10/23 – 10/26/19

Barkley/Kentucky Lakes, Kuttawa, KY
2019 Super Event 11/02 – 11/03/18

www.crappieusa.com

Destination Crappie: Lake Jordan, AL

by Ron Wong

This central east Alabama lake is a virtual crappie factory.



Nestled in Elmore County, Alabama is bountiful Lake Jordan. The lake attracted the Bassmaster Classic in 2004 which showcased the great fishery in the annual championship. However, bass is not the only abundant species in this 6,800-acre lake. The 18-mile-long impoundment, located on the Coosa River, is also the home of some wonderful white and black crappie fishing.

The numerous cypress trees on Lake Jordan hold plenty of nice slabs like this.

Many of the local fishermen remain quiet about the quality of crappie fishing on this fairly clear lake with visibility around 3 feet. Lake Jordan's deepest water is 110 feet with



an average depth of 35 feet. Boat docks, cypress trees, and many shallow water coves adorn the shores of Lake Jordan thereby providing more than adequate spawning areas for crappie.

Throughout the lake there are many natural brush piles, sunken trees, and man-made stake beds providing shelter and feeding areas for the crappie. The lake stretches 18 miles between the Mitchell and Jordan dams. Jordan is located about 25 miles north of Montgomery and minutes from Wetumpka, AL where there are excellent accommodations for those traveling from other destinations.

Depending on the season, crappie on Lake Jordan can be caught in a myriad of ways, including spider rigging, vertical jigging, double-minnow rigs, and dock shooting.

During the winter months, slow drift spider-rigs and vertical jigging are best. The crappie will school around the many

Ann Parker and Steve Dana teamed up to land this nice Lake Jordan crappie.

brush piles and other sunken cover on ledges bordering deep water. Using your electronics to locate these crappie haunts will be key to your success. Spider-rigs with a Bobby Garland 1/8th ounce jig head rigged with a Bobby Garland Baby Shad moved slowly above the cover will produce some good size fish.

If a productive brush pile is located it is often best to vertical jig it to get a limit of fish. Using a 10- or 11- foot B'n'M Tree Thumper rod, design by crappie pro Steve Dana, with 6-pound test Gamma line dropping a Bobby Garland Slab Slay'R can get you a limit of fish out of one small area during the winter.

As the water warms in February, the





crappie will move towards the numerous spawning areas throughout the lake. The double minnow rig and vertical jigging become the most productive way to catch the crappie now. Fishing the transition areas such as secondary creek points and ledges will produce good size fish.

Typically, the crappie will spawn on Lake Jordan during the months of March and April. Targeting the many cypress trees that adorn the shores of the lake are excellent places to catch the spawning fish. Vertical jigging a Bobby Garland 2-inch Slab Slay'R tipped with a small minnow around the trees will catch some nice slabs, some exceeding 2 pounds.

“...local fishermen remain quiet about the quality of crappie ...”

Multiple crappie fishing techniques work on Jordan. Elmore County resident and tournament pro Dan Dannenmueller often spider-rigs for Lake Jordan crappie

Once the crappie has spawned, they will move to areas of the lake that are comfortable to them and have a good food source. Shooting docks become a very good way to catch the post spawn fish.

The best docks are those with deeper water in front of them. Pole docks are also good. Using a 1/24th or 1/32nd ounce Bobby Garland Head Docket'R Shooter jig head rigged 2.25 Minnow Mind'R or Baby Shad on 4-pound test Hi-vis Gamma line will be the most productive baits to use.

As the lake continues to warm and summertime is in the air, there are 3 effective methods to catch Lake Jordan crappie: Long-lining, trolling crankbaits and

using planer boards.

For long lining, it is recommended to use two 12-foot, two 14-foot, and two 16-foot B'n'M power trolling rods. Rig each with 1/8- or 1/4-ounce Roadrunner heads tipped with a Bobby Garland Stroll'R.

Those same rods used for long lining will work well pulling crankbaits. A stiffer rod like the B'n'M Silver Cat is a good choice. The Bandit 200 series, Strike King 3XD, and Jenko are good crankbait choices. Using planer boards gives you the advantage of covering a wide area of water. The smaller Off Shore planer boards are the best choice for crappie fishing.

Trolling speed is an important consideration for pulling cranks. The preferred speed can change from one day to the next. Most pros recommend a starting speed of about .8 mile per hour and move faster as needed. The fish will let you know the optimum speed.

As fall approaches and the water cools, vertical jigging and dock shooting become the best way to catch a good mess of fish. During this part of the season the crappie will be moving towards the backs of creeks and coves following baitfish.


Crappie fishing on Lake Jordan is very good year-round. The beautiful scenery and abundance of cover and structure will offer you different ways to catch fish throughout the year, so you can fish your strengths.

If you plan to spend a few days fishing Lake Jordan, Wetumpka is the closest city to the lake and a great place to stay. There are some excellent accommodations in the city with the new Hampton Inn being one of the best. There are parking spaces for your boat that allow you to remain connected to your vehicle. There are also plenty of power sources to charge your batteries.

Wetumpka is a beautiful and historic city. It is a family destination with activities for all to enjoy. Mark your calendar to visit this hidden gem soon for some excellent crappie fishing!



Dock shooting, demonstrated here by Steve Danna, will produce lots of Lake Jordan crappie during the summer and fall seasons.

 - Ron Wong

Planting the Passion Deep

by Ron Presley

High school fishing clubs give youth anglers a chance to compete and enjoy fishing.

For most anglers, the passion to fish begins at an early age with parents, grandparents, or friends. For some, it catches hold and becomes a lifetime hobby. In today's fast-paced world of keyboards and screens, fishing sometimes fades into the background for youth that would otherwise enjoy it.

The development of high school fishing clubs sheds a whole new light on the road ahead for creating new anglers and offers the potential of moving the passion for fishing forward into adulthood.

Up to this point in time the clubs have been related to bass, but the beginnings of clubs for other species is at hand. The Bass Pro Shops Cabela's Crappie USA Trail is in the beginning stages of high school crappie competitions. They are also pursuing the idea of high school catfish events.

Darrell Van Vactor, Operations Manager for Crappie USA, promotes the development of high school fishing programs as a means to create future anglers.

"As tournament organizers wanting to safeguard the life expectancy of our sport it is necessary to bring in new anglers on board," offered Van Vactor. "They will fill the gap created by those anglers who have gotten older and slowed down a little from the busy routine associated with fishing tournaments."

"For years we have benefited from the 'baby boomer' generation," explained Van Vactor. "Now as the boomers retire from

tournament fishing the logical move is to bring in the younger generation to take their place."

"For fishermen to decide to take up tournament fishing they first have to feel confident they can compete. That is where high school fishing programs come into play. By offering a playing field that they can use to learn the sport and gain that confidence, without having to spend a lot of money. We hope to see them migrate to the tournament trails later."

"Additionally, we are seeing more and more school systems recognize fishing as a valuable sport," concluded Van Vactor. "We have seen the bass market working with college and high school programs for several years now and we wanted to expand on their success by offering high school programs for those who would like to target crappie as their favorite species to catch. As our programs expand, we hope to add catfishing someday as well."

"...as the boomers retire from tournament fishing the logical move is to bring in the younger generation..."

It was a recent trip to Wetumpka, AL in Elmore County that opened my eyes to the magnitude of the high school fishing scene.



More than 200 boats were in town for the Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association (ASABFA) Championship.

The folks in Elmore County get it. They understand the importance of the fishing programs to the students and the county. They eagerly support two teams in Elmore County, one in Wetumpka and one in Holtville.

“We are proud to support our local teams and help sponsor this tournament,” said Cary Cox, Economic Development Director for Elmore County. “Getting those kids out on the water is very important to us. It’s a big deal! We are proud of our two local teams in Wetumpka and Holtville.”

“We have a great fishery and lake here,” continued Cox. “The high schools use the fishing program to motivate the students. They experience camaraderie, teamwork, competition, and continual learning. The program motivates them to keep their grades up because they have to meet established

Student anglers LJ Harkless and Jay Shipp from the Wetumpka, AL team weighed 33.22 pounds during the two-day event to take top boat honors at the 2019 ASABFA Classic on Lake Jordan.

requirements. Of course, the students learn fishing skills too, but the program is much more than the fishing activity.”

“From a tourism and economic development perspective the program and the championship tournament allow us to showcase Lake Jordan and Elmore County.”

“We support youth fishing and we love our kids and fishing. But the economic development that comes from this is a bonus. The participants are eating in our restaurants, buying fuel at our gas stations and sleeping in our hotels. It is a win-win for everybody,” concluded Cox.

First-year coach Lori McKenzie mentors





the Wetumpka High School program with dedication and enthusiasm.

“I am not a big fisherman, my husband is,” said Lori. “However, I love going out on the water and working with the students. My son is a senior and he has been on the team for 4 years. All the students love to be on the water and are on it every chance they get. We have six students competing in the state championship and at least one will be fishing on the collegiate level.”

“Some are always better than others,” added McKenzie. “It is determination and practice that make the good ones. We provide various educational opportunities to help the student anglers. We have different people come in and talk to them. For example, we have had collegiate coaches come in and make presentations. They share additional information that we may not have.”

The Wetumpka team consists of 22 student anglers. They compete against

More than 200 boats participated in the ASABFA Classic out of the outstanding facilities offered at Lake Jordan.

each other through a points system that determines who will go to ASABFA state qualifying tournaments. Twelve students will qualify based on six local tournaments. That is a big deal to the students and a strong motivation for keeping their grades up so they can compete.

Liz Johnson coaches the Holtville High School team. She believes that her own love for the sport puts her in a good position to pass on what she knows to the students.

“Given my experience on the water, I can give the students information and advice that will sync with real time experience.”

“I am very competitive,” offered Johnson. “That may be the right reason or the wrong reason, but I love fishing and love what I am



doing. We have student anglers that fishing is their thing. Of the 12 students I have on my team, only 4 compete in another sport. That means that two-thirds of my team compete only in fishing, no other sport.”

“I have been able to connect to some students that would otherwise be lost in the mix if it was not for fishing. We have rules that require the kids to keep their grades in good standing. Because they really like to fish, the team is a motivation for them to remain qualified by meeting the standards.”

“We have an awesome principle that supports the fishing program,” concluded Johnson. “He accommodates the need to miss a day of school. Elmore County and the school system also back the students. Actually, we have a school system that backs our students no matter what their passion is.”

It is true, fishing is something that can be done at any age. But the early start and support in programs like Wetumpka and

Lori McKenzie (L) and Liz Johnson are the fishing coaches at Wetumpka and Holtville High Schools. They enjoyed having the Classic in their home waters.

Holtville high schools will have a positive influence on developing a passion for fishing that will continue into the future.

The efforts of people like Van Vactor and the officials from Elmore County offer evidence of the growing support that will likely expand student participation in fishing for all species. As programs expand the benefits to students, localities, and tournaments will also grow.

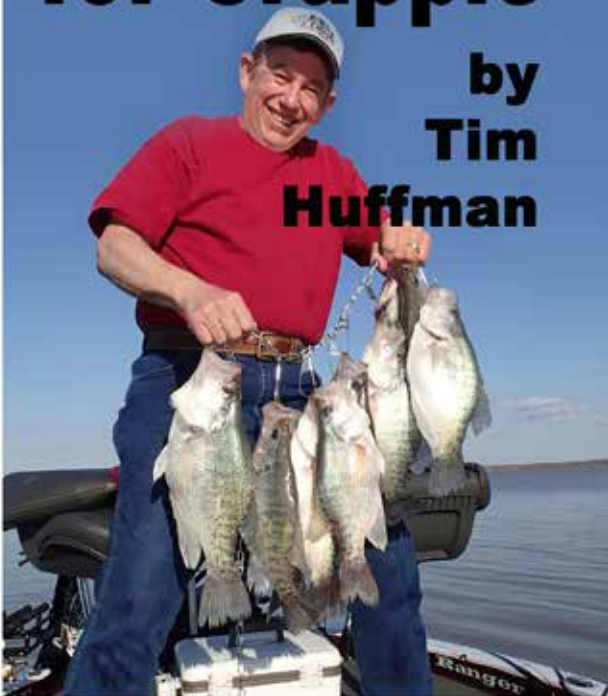
Youth fishing truly is, as Cary Cox suggested, “...a win-win situation.”

 - Ron Presley



Limiting Out for Crappie

by
**Tim
Huffman**



Spring Shallow Water
Power & Push Poles
10 Crankbait Techniques
Crankbait Tips & Tricks
Fall Visible Wood
Fishing the Turnover
Clear & Stained Waters
Fall Oxbows
Winter Slow Trolling
Shallow Casting
Lake Drawdown
People-Difference Makers
Q&A Sections with Pros
Limiting Out Tips
After the Catch: Livewells,
Cleaning, Cooking

Experts include:
Wally Marshall
Mike Walters
Rick Solomon
Steve Coleman
Ronnie Capps
Brad Whitehead
Dan Dannenmueller
Todd Huckabee
others

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Tip of the Month: Be prepared for Weather Fronts

by Kris Mann

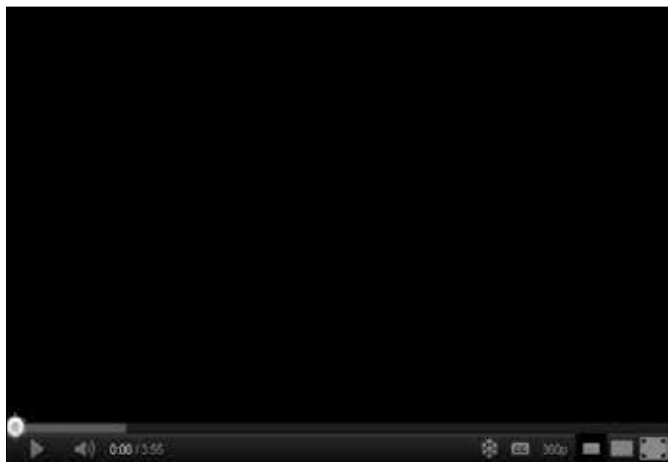
Anglers should always have a contingency plan for weather fronts. Especially if the wind blows out of the north, we want to find a place to hide while at the same time finding super thick cover where frontal fish like to hide.

The days preceding the approaching front can be great fishing days but the days following can cause fish to get lethargic and slow the bite tremendously. The corresponding change in barometric pressure seems to cause fish to want to get deeper in the water column and to tuck in tighter to cover. I don't think anyone knows precisely why but that is a trend that has played out many times for us over the years.

It's no secret that cold fronts cause fish to draw closer to channel edges and structure. And anglers will have to be prepared to follow if they want to catch them.

Kris Mann follows the Crappie USA trail with his dad, Terry. They are the 2017 and 2018 CUSA Angler Team of the Year where consistency wins out over total numbers. Over the last two years, they have followed their passion to fish crappie tournaments on 15 different lakes and rivers in six different states.





Crappie NOW How to Offshore Tackle
Planer Board Pulling Rigs

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The Complete Story of Jig Colors

by Greg McCain

Today's crappie anglers have an overabundance of colors to choose from.



For the modern crappie fisherman, color options run the full range of the spectrum. Once confined to just a few basic colors and combinations, fishermen had to make do with the choices at hand. In plastics, white, chartreuse, and smoke dominated in the not too distant past. Jig head options were often limited to white, chartreuse, or red. Unpainted heads were also more commonly used in the past as well.

Now the possibilities are endless with varied colors that artfully fill tackle

While colors were somewhat limited in the past, the possibilities are endless today.

boxes. With regularity, tackle companies introduce new offerings into the color scheme. Whether in hair or in plastic, diverse colors abound, making selecting the best option an overwhelming task at times.

Various factors contribute to choosing

the best colors. A main consideration is water clarity. Gerald Overstreet (Overstreet Guide Service, 251-589-3225) spends much of his time on Alabama River impoundments. These south-central Alabama fisheries generally feature at least some stain.

“When you have high, muddy water, say here on the Alabama River or wherever – it could be Grenada Lake over in Mississippi – you want to have a larger profile bait in bright colors so that the fish can find it easier, your bright orange, black/pink, black/chartreuse, orange/chartreuse, glow green from Midsouth Tackle,” Overstreet said. “The bright colors help fish find the bait easier, and naturally you’re going to get more bites.”

Of course, stain is relative. Overstreet is accustomed to fishing the dirty water on the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers. He considers water muddy “when you can see the silt moving in it. Otherwise, I feel water where you can see the bait a foot or so down is only slightly stained.”

On those occasions, Overstreet adds some lighter colors like white or lighter greens. Chartreuse is almost always a factor regardless of the water clarity.

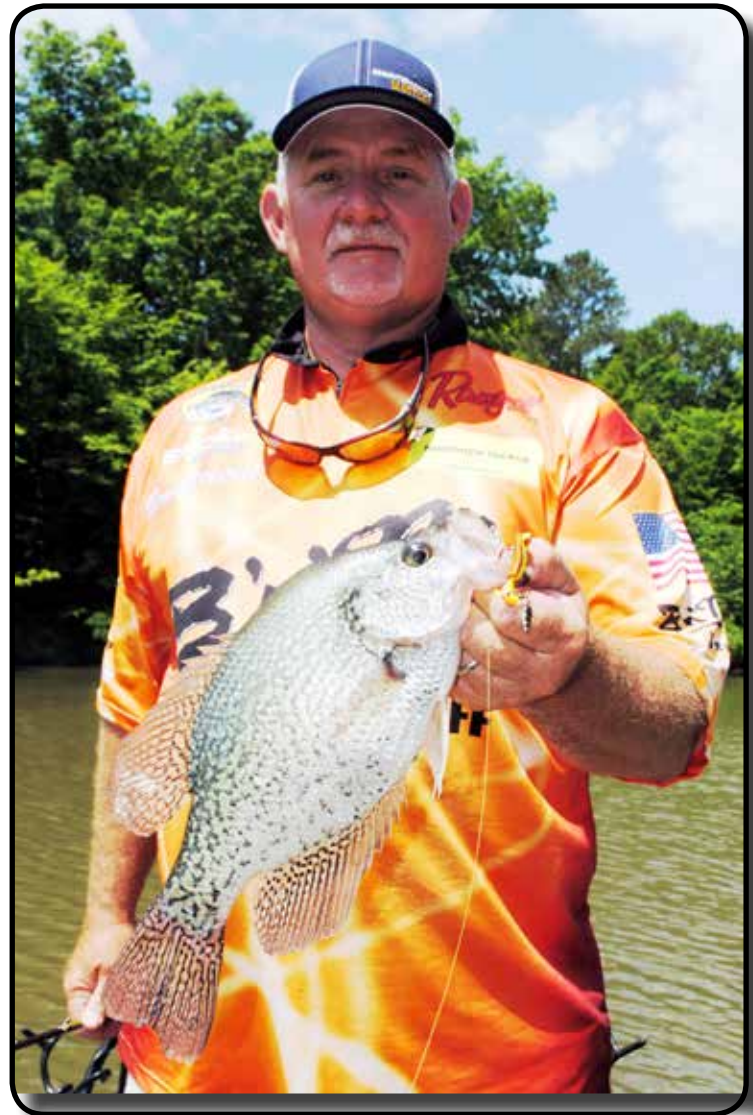
“You can’t go wrong with chartreuse,” Overstreet said. “You just don’t want those deep, deep colors once the water starts clearing up.”

Overstreet also ventures to the lower Coosa River for tournaments and guide trips. The water there is generally clearer than other fisheries in the region.

“When the water is lightly stained, I go with blues, light greens, and pale pink colors,” he said. “As the water lightens up, we just keep going lighter down to a light grey, off white, bone-looking color whites.”

The clearest water often requires pale shades of blues like the Bobby Garland Monkey Milk.

“In crystal clear water, you want something like Monkey Milk or any opaque, clear-looking color,” Overstreet said. “Of course, you can’t always count on the



Crappie pro Gerald Overstreet found the right color combination for a good Alabama River slab.

notions of crappie. Sometimes, they will hit those deep, dark colors in clear water when you least expect it.”

Like Overstreet, most other anglers rely on instinct and experience to dictate color choices. They also start out with various color combinations when deploying multiple rods. The “let the fish tell you what they want” theme runs true among most fishermen.

“I would suggest to anybody, whether you are tournament fishing or fun fishing, mix your colors up,” said B’n’M and Midsouth Tackle pro Steve Brown,





who often teams with Overstreet in tournaments. "Sometimes you will be surprised. You would think that in lightly stained water that certain colors work best, but you find that black/chartreuse is outperforming green/chartreuse on a given day."

Outliers always exist. For example, there's really no rhyme or reason why chartreuse is so appealing to crappie, yet "there are times when I go with solid

Steve Danna recognizes the need to change at times but also emphasized making purposeful color changes

chartreuse and catch fish all day long," said B'n'M and Bobby Garland tournament competitor Steve Danna.

Anglers also differ on the use of white, especially in stained water. Dan Dannenmueller notes that all fish, baitfish

included, often take on a pale appearance in water with little light penetration.

“I think that a brilliant white can be one of the most effective colors available for stained water,” Dannenmueller said.

Dannenmueller, CrappieNOW publisher and ACT competitor along with his wife, Sue, takes color selection beyond just the instinct and experience phases. He almost always relies on the Color-C-Lector technology from Spike-it as a starting point for color selection.

Many fishermen have an old, rarely used Color-C-Lector unit stored in the recesses of their boats. The technology has been around for years and in the simplest terms, measures light penetration and provides a chart of best color possibilities for the sampled water conditions.

“One of the worst things I can do is not listen to my Color-C-Lector,” Dannenmueller said.

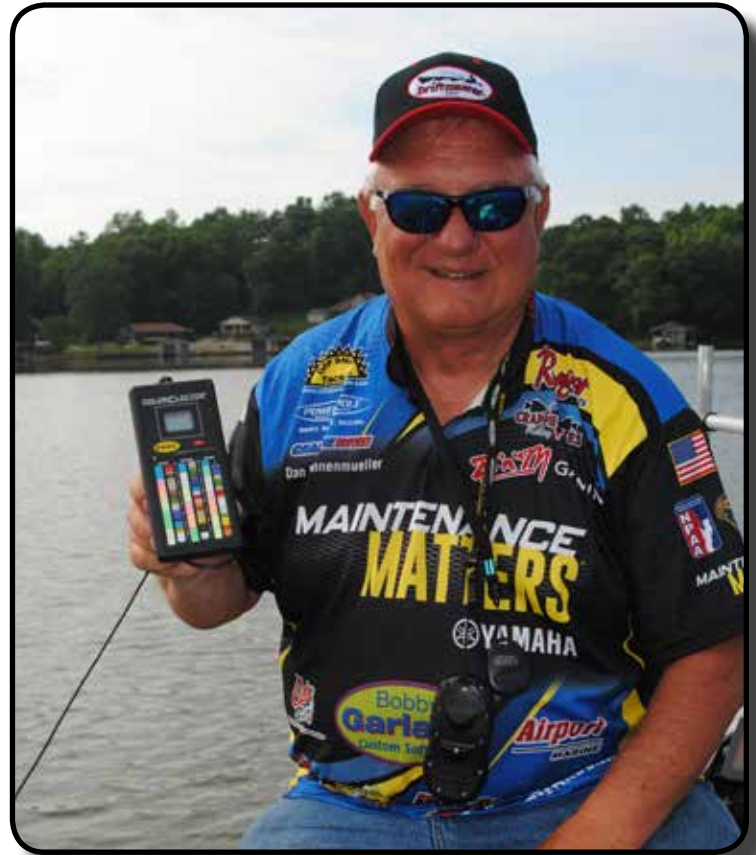
The color of the primary forage also comes into play at times. On the best days, fish will eat just about anything that passes within a comfortable feeding range. On most other occasions, crappie are far more finicky and dictate that fishermen “match the hatch.”

“If it’s a lake that I know well like D’Arbonne, I generally know what the crappie will be feeding on,” the Louisiana competitor said.

A primary forage on D’Arbonne is crayfish so Danna ties hair jigs that mimic the local crustacean population. He crafts jigs that frequently feature a khaki base with hints of red or blue added.

“When I’m fishing my home lake, I’m usually in tune with what color I need to throw,” Danna said. “If I’m on a lake fishing a tournament, especially if it’s one that I’m not that familiar with, I think it’s very important to choose a color that resembles the local forage base.”

In those situations, even subtle changes of shades can mean the difference between the best stringers and an average one. Even adding flake to a solid color can change crappie’s perception of



Dan Dannenmueller regularly uses the Color-C-Lector to help choose the best colors and combinations for crappie.

a presentation.

“Don’t get locked on a certain color,” Dannenmueller said. “Don’t just rely on what your buddy tells you. Do your homework, and fish the best color combinations possible based on the fishery and the water conditions.”

Many fishermen – Dannenmueller acknowledges that he is guilty as well – don’t always follow that advice. They too often stick to personal favorites when another color probably works better. Just about every crappie pro surveyed admitted to getting into a rut and failing to make critical changes at times.

The need to swap colors exists from day to day, during the course of a day’s fishing, or even from minute to minute. A north Alabama fisherman related a tournament experience that illustrates that idea. He



had located crappie scattered on a 100-yard line of stumps in about eight feet of water. The fish would only hit with the boat moving from north to south and with a significant color change on each pass. The constant adjustments were tedious but necessary.

“...anglers rely on instinct and experience...”

Most experienced crappie fishermen can relate. For tournament fishermen, making the right choice can often mean the difference between earning a check and going home empty handed.

“We are creatures of habit,” Dannenmueller said. “We become stubborn and want to stay with what we think will work. Don’t get locked in on a particular color. Don’t just do what your buddy says. Go out and do your homework. Look at how much light penetrates in the water. That’s usually going to tell you how to make the best color selections.”

Added Overstreet, “I tie on my favorite jigs that I want to fish with and then don’t understand why I’m not catching anything. I still stick with them, sometimes too long. Most of the time, I have a jig right there in my box that will catch fish but fail to use it.”

However, constant changes are not always positive, according to Danna. He said that it’s important to give crappie a chance at a color and that purposeful changes are much more effective than random ones.

“Yes, there have been many days when a color change was critical for me,” Danna said. “You have to determine if the fish want something else or if you have just spooked them. If they are just spooked, they will usually settle down and bite the same color if you give them a little rest.

“But one thing that some fishermen do

is change colors too quickly. There have been plenty of days when I have changed colors and triggered the bite, but there have been others when I probably should have stuck with the same color.”

And then there are those occasions when the fish want no color.

“Sometimes they just want a jig and a minnow,” Brown said. “We’ll get to a lake, practice all week, identify the color, and all of a sudden, they won’t hit it. They just want a jig and a minnow.

“We’re always going to have two rods rigged that way. If that’s what the fish want, then we will know about it immediately.”

Effective color transitions stick in the mind of crappie pros, perhaps reinforcing the need to change when the bite dies or to switch to a single color or combination when crappie pick out their favorite on tournament day.

“This year on Lake D’Arbonne in the ACT,” Overstreet said. “The water cleared up just a little bit, and the fish suddenly wanted nothing but black/chartreuse. We caught a lot of crappie after making that change.”

Danna recalls a similar experience on D’Arbonne although in an earlier tournament.

“We were fishing Crappie Masters a few years ago,” he said. “We had been catching fish on blue/chartreuse pitching to trees, and I noticed that the bite had started to slow. I went to a blue/pink and my partner changed to khaki with a little red in it. We probably caught 100 crappie after switching colors. That was a day when changing colors was important.”

 - Greg McCain

Crappie Basics #192

Post Spawn Crappie – Frank Finley

The spawn bite is over in July and the crappies are headed back out to deeper water. That doesn't mean you can't still catch them.

As a matter of fact, I think the bite gets better the hotter it gets. This is when I target suspended crappie on main lake flats where they are feeding on baitfish.

Use your electronics to find the schools of baitfish. The crappie won't be far behind. It's a lot of trial and error but it is so worth it.

I use Jenko crankbaits that will dive from 10 to 20 feet of water. Determine the depth the crappies are suspended at and refer to a depth chart to determine how much line to put out to target the fish. Start covering a lot of water and let the fish tell you what speed and color they prefer.

If you pay attention to what the fish are telling you and make the necessary adjustments, you will be successful at catching a lot of summertime crappie.

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April American Crappie Trail at Ross Barnett

by Ron Wong

High winds greeted anglers at this April event, but that didn't stop the winners from finding big fish



Changing weather was the talk as the April American Crappie Trail tournament, presented by B'n'M Fishing, rolled around in April on Ross Barnett Reservoir near Jackson, Mississippi. Fishermen were greeted by a cold front and high north winds on Day One. It all changed on Day Two as temperatures warmed and the wind swung from the South. The high winds made the 33,000-acre lake fish small.

Anglers all tried to fish out of the wind each day. Some said they tried to fish

Ronnie Capps and Steve Coleman claimed the top spot at the American Crappie Trail tournament on Ross Barnett and successfully defended their title from 2018.

their key spots in the wind but ended up taking waves over the bow of their boats. As expected, the weights were very close with only 1.5 pounds separating first place and fifth place.



The powerhouse team of Ronnie Capps and Steve Coleman won the event for the second time in two years. The pair brought 25.24 pounds of crappie (14 fish) to the scales over the two-day event. They won cash and prizes worth \$26,500 including a Ranger RT188C boat with 115 horsepower Evinrude motor. A total of 97 teams were entered in the tournament.

Capps said, "We are humbled to win against this high level of competition, and it is exciting to fish against almost 100 of the best crappie teams around."

Like other teams Capps and Coleman said they started fishing where they had some protection from the wind but they struggled to catch any decent size fish. Around 11 a.m. they went to the spot where they won the tournament in 2018 but there were boats there ahead of them, including one anchored on the best stumps. They fished the "outer edges" of the area which finally produced some

These nice Ross Barnett crappies helped Brad Calhoun and Tommy Moss take the third-place spot at Ross Barnett.

quality fishing, ending Day One with 14.3 pounds.

On Day Two they headed to their best spot first. Using B'n'M poles the pair fished 1/16th and 1/8th ounce Grizzly Pro-Built jigs rigged with either a Mid-South tube or Crappie Magnet. They were fishing two-to-five feet deep in water up to eight feet deep. When the wind got up, pushing the boat faster they switched over to a double-minnow rig, often tipping the jigs with a wax worm. The jigs were tipped with a wax worm unless they started catching too many small catfish or getting bream bites, then they switched to small minnows.

Finishing in second place with 24.32





pounds was the team of John Mack Williams and Ray Williams (not related). The pair earned an \$8,000 check.

On Day One they started on a flat near Highway 43 but could only catch a few small fish. They moved to a mid-lake area on the Natchez Trace side of the lake using a double minnow rig with one-quarter ounce jig heads and slowly fished stumps in 5-8 of water where they caught their best fish.

Because of the south wind on Day Two they started fishing an area on the south side of the lake where they caught most of their weight for the day. Again, using double minnow rigs on B'n'M 16-foot Pro Staff rods, they fished 5-8 feet deep around stumps but close to the bottom. As the wind increased, they pulled a chain to slow the boat while drifting in deeper water in the same area to find 2 more culls.

The local team of Tommy Moss and

The top 10 teams from Day One waited in the shade to be the last to weigh on Day Two.

Brad Calhoun finished in third place at the tournament with 24.04 pounds. They fished as much as they could out of the wind. On Day One, they fished the northwest side of the lake in a shallow stump field.

Like Coleman and Caps, they were fishing B'n'M BGJP rods and Grizzly Pro-built jigs with a variety of skirts tipped with minnows. The pair stayed shallow, fishing stumps 2-3 feet deep. They said they fished a 500- to 600-yard stretch that had only 12 to 15 stumps and just circled the area the whole day.

On day two, they fished the Fannon Landing area where there were some underwater points with 4 feet of water

over the top dropping off into 8 feet of water. Cover on the points were key areas holding the fish. In the last hour, they caught a 2.25-pound fish that help propel them to the third-place finish.

Note: *Due to extremely high-water conditions making the lake unsafe and difficult to launch, the ACT Grenada Lake tournament originally scheduled for May had to be rescheduled to October 25-26, 2019.*

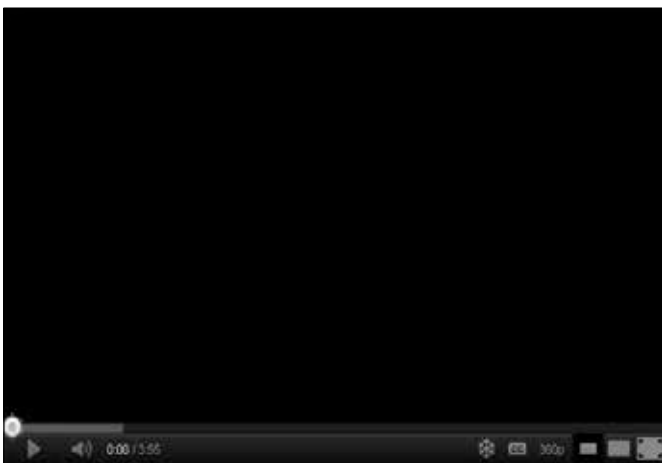
“...we were throwing back 1.5 to 1.6 [pound] fish all day.”

Moss said, “ACT has taken crappie fishing tournaments to a whole new level and it is the best thing to happen to crappie fishing tournaments since the introduction of the graphite crappie rods.”

 - Ron Wong

CRAPPIE NOW! DIGITAL MAGAZINE

HOW TO?



Crappie NOW How to
Storing Rod Sox

CRAPPIE GEAR

Aqua-Vu — The Original Underwater Camera - www.aquavu.com



If you like to avoid the crowds by finding new spots to fish, the Aqua-Vu camera technology can help you do it. Used in conjunction with other fish-finding technologies it can be an important tool in your arsenal whether you fish recreationally or follow the tournament trails.

Although tournaments do not allow its use in the tournament it can be used in practice to locate structure and fish. What you see on the Aqua-Vu can confirm what your other equipment is telling you. It adds that important feature of actually being able to identify both species and size of the fish.

Crappie pro Dan Dannenmueller uses

Aqua-View was the first unit to have on-screen displays of water temp, depth and camera direction, LCD monitor, IR and LED light systems, DVRs and Digital Zoom.

the high-quality submersible camera to help understand the underwater structure and the species of fish that it holds. The camera's portability makes it adaptable to most situations with the angler deciding when and where to lower it.



When the unit is deployed with the Trolling Fin attached anglers can add a lure and watch real time bites as they happen.

“The positioning of fish around and in the structure can be clearly seen,” added Dannenmueller. “Using the Aqua-Vu has taught me how the crappies relate to the structure and how they relate to baitfish under varying conditions.”

“I have put different baits in front of the crappies and watched their reactions on the camera,” explained Dannenmueller. “Careful study reveals which presentation the fish like best. Sometimes they want it faster, sometimes slower, sometimes jerky, sometimes smooth, but that is determinable by observing their real time behavior on the screen.”

“I particularly like the feature that allows moving it to any angle for different views,” continued Dannenmueller. “And the cord is long enough to see those fish in deep water. I also like the infra-red lense which helps view fish in less than clear water. Finally, if you have the need one model allows you to record for

study later.”

Deployment is easy too. There is a crank on the unit to lower the camera as the depth is displayed on the screen. When viewing is complete the special reel makes easy work of returning it to the surface.

“Using the Aqua-Vu in conjunction with Garmin Live Scope allows me to verify what I am seeing,” Dannenmueller said. “Understanding their observed habits and movements helps me catch more crappie.”

“There is just nothing better than having an underwater view of actual fish,” concluded Dannenmueller. “Observing and studying them in their natural environment has definitely improved my crappie fishing.”

The Aqua-Vu camera comes from Outdoors Insight, Inc. Based in Central Minnesota the company builds other popular outdoors products including the iBall Trailer Hitch Camera (iballhitchcam.com) and Odor Check Moisture and Odor Control System (odorcheck.com). For more information on Aqua-Vu, visit www.aquavu.com.



Seeing is believing. Being able to identify the species is a huge time saver for anglers. The feature is demonstrated here by “Crappie Dan” Dannenmueller.



Summertime Grilled Crappie

To keep your kitchen a little cooler this summer, put your outdoor grill to work. To save time you can buy salad dressings and salsas. But to enhance your food's taste make them with fresh ingredients.

- 4-6 fish fillets
- Italian dressing (homemade or store-bought)
- Fresh lemon
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- Mango salsa for topping

Marinate the fish fillets in the Italian dressing for 1-2 hours in the refrigerator. Drain marinade. Melt butter in a small bowl, add garlic powder and set aside. Place tin foil over grill grates and spray with vegetable oil. Carefully place fish on foil and brush with garlic butter blend. Cook until flakes with a fork. Squeeze lemon wedge over the fish and serve with a dollop or two of mango salsa.

- Easy Italian Dressing
- 3/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Italian Seasoning (dry ingredients in an envelope or bottle)
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

Add the olive oil, vinegar, Italian Seasoning and parmesan cheese in a glass quart container or jar with a tight-fitting lid. Shake well. If refrigerated ahead before grilling, allow dressing to reach room temperature to loosen olive oil and shake well again before serving. It will store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 week. If cheese is omitted, you may store in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

Fresh Italian Dressing
If you'd rather use fresh ingredients to use immediately, replace the dry Italian Seasoning in Easy Italian Dressing recipe with:

- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper.

- Grilled Crappie Fajitas
- 1 1/2 pounds crappie fillets cut into 1/2-inch strips
- 1 teaspoon lemon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 6 tablespoons fresh lime juice, divided
- 4 10-inch corn tortillas

Combine lemon pepper, salt, garlic powder, onion powder and 4 tablespoons of the fresh lime juice in a resealable plastic bag; add fish. Seal and shake; chill 30 minutes. Grill fish, covered with grill lid, on a grill rack coated with nonstick cooking spray or place aluminum foil over grates and sprayed with oil. Cook over medium heat 4 to 6 minutes on each side or until fish flakes with a fork. You may broil fillets instead of grilling.

- Load up each tortilla with grilled fish and then ad lib with toppings to suit your tastes:
- Chopped cilantro
- Fresh salsa
- Chunky guacamole or avocado
- Red onion slices
- Tomato slices
- Jalapeño slices
- Mayonnaise
- Mango salsa
- Kosher salt to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Mango Salsa

- 3 ripe mangos, diced
- 1 medium red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1/4 cup packed with fresh cilantro leaves, chopped
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and minced
- 1 large lime, juiced (about 1/4 cup lime juice)
- 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon salt, to taste

In a serving bowl, combine mango, bell pepper, onion, cilantro and jalapeño. Drizzle with the juice of one lime and mix well. Salt to taste and let salsa rest for 10 minutes or longer then add to your fajitas.

Mango Sauce

- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup mango, diced
- 1 cup orange juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 teaspoon hot pepper, chopped (jalapeño, scotch bonnet or habanero to suit your taste)
- 2-3 tablespoons honey (to taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Heat the oil in a pan and add the onion, cover and cook 5 minutes, add mango, orange juice, hot pepper and honey. Stir well. Simmer uncovered for about 7 minutes. Puree the mixture in a blender, season with salt, place in a bowl, cover and keep in a warm oven. Spoon mango sauce in the center of each plate. Set a fish fillet on top.

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FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE YALE

MAY 25th

1. John Peyton/Tommy Kinsler	8.08
2. Jack/John	7.01
3. Tim Eberly/George Parker	6.15
4. Nate Smith	6.06
5. Bobby Hill	5.15

BIG FISH

1. John Peyton/Tommy Kinsler	1.6
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WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

MAY 25th

1. Dougherty/Henderson	7.82
2. Sifford/Sifford	6.21
3. Hill/Green	6.11
4. Guiling/Guiling	6.02
5. Botsch/McGowan	5.91

BIG FISH

1. Dougherty/Henderson	1.63
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MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB

GRENADA LAKE

MAY 30th - 31st

1. Taylor Rivers/Dwayne Barner	27.86
2. David McWilliams/Robbie Niven	26.66
3. Bernard Williams/Don Terry	26.05
4. Bob Robinson/Elizabeth Robinson	25.5
5. Bill Thornburg/Bob Grantham	25.39

BIG FISH

1. Bob Robinson/Elizabeth Robinson	2.48
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CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE ASSOC.

PECKERWOOD LAKE

JUNE 1st

1. Andy Benet/Brandon Smith	13.3
2. Jason Westerberg/Jim Westerberg	11.79
3. Terry Scott/Nick Hudman	10.43
4. Daniel White/Gabe Sewell	9.95
5. Russ Clarke/Chuck Allen	9.8

BIG FISH

1. Jason Westerberg/Jim Westerberg	2.16
------------------------------------	------

INDIANA SLAB MASTERS

LAKE MONROE

JUNE 1st

1. Jason Shingler/Mike Arnold	9.83
2. Bill Egan/Joe McWhorter	9.71
3. Tom Hankins/Glenn Gill	9.64
4. Tim Dunigan/Joe Dunigan	9.06
5. Tom Williams	8.95

BIG FISH

1. Tim Dunigan/Joe Dunigan	2.14
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NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

PYMATUNING LAKE

JUNE 1st

1. Tom/Jeff	10.35
2. Andy/John	9.84
3. Bill/Jim	9.74
4. Jerry/Eric	9.47
5. Brandon/Tyler	8.99

BIG FISH

1. Brandon/Tyler	1.9
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CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE SHELBYVILLE

JUNE 2nd

1. Brian Cleland/Dave Birch	5.88
2. Shawn Shelby/Mike Hopkins	5.87
3. Jim Garrett/Greg Kaiser	5.75
4. Tony Camden/Jeff Sidewell	5.2
5. Brian Kelly/Jeff Kelly	4.84

BIG FISH

1. Tony Camden/Jeff Sidewell	1.11
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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE ASSOC.

CRAB ORCHARD LAKE

JUNE 2nd

1. Mavigliano/Recker	9.72
2. Johnston/Haines	8.4
3. Boucher/Snyder	8.39
4. Hamson/Mooney	8.24
5. Durham/Lindsey	8.08

BIG FISH

1. Boucher/Snyder	1.76
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CRAPPIE USA

CARLYLE LAKE

JUNE 8th

AMATEUR DIVISION

- 1. Ron Weaber/Mont Weaber 5.52
- 2. Joe Haake 4.9
- 3. Bob Denen/Tony Domitrovich 1.1
- 4. Jim Handlin/Mason Clarey 0.77
- 5. Scott Kendall/Amy Kendall 0.59

PRO DIVISION

- 1. Paul Turner/Elizabeth Turner 4.6
- 2. Tony Grooms/Ling Grooms 3.53
- 3. Patrick Stone/Steve Jeffers 1.87
- 4. Steve Ferguson/Frank Finley 1.47
- 5. Shawn Gore/Joey Peck 1.11

BIG FISH

- 1. Paul Turner/Elizabeth Turner 1.29

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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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EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB

MARK TWAIN

JUNE 8th

1. Ron Molitor/Mike Wehde	5.7
2. Scott Orf/Kevin Dockler	5.26
3. John Luetkenhaus/Ian Sanders/Brian Sanders	5.05
4. Darin Orf/Kenny Massman	4.8
5. Tim Gerner/Don McGuire	4.78

HOI CRAPPIE CLUB

DAWSON LAKE

JUNE 8th

1. Chad Anderson/Kristen Anderson	4.03
2. Danny Whitecotton/Granddaughters	3.56
3. Gregory Kaiser/Jim Garrett	3.42
4. Steve Conner/Tim Kerns	3.27
5. Johnathan/Katelynn	3.07

BIG FISH

1. Danny White/Granddaughters	1.08
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NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE ARTHUR

JUNE 8th

1. Andy/John	10.19
2. Steve/John	9.12
3. Bob/Bob	7.7
4. Wes/Kolby	7.59
5. Ben	7.04

BIG FISH

1. Andy/John	2.09
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TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB

ENERGY LAKE

JUNE 8th

1. James Thomason/Chris Collins	11.27
2. Tony Sheppard/Mike Sheppard	7.79
3. Logan Roberson/Terry Roberson	7.55
4. John Fegan/Angie Fegan	6.12
5. John Robertson/John Luke Robertson	5.61

BIG FISH

1. James Thomason/Chris Collins	2.35
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CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB

JUNE 9th

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Dickey Porter/Phil Golthrop | 8.51 |
| 2. Lebron Wingo/Garrett Wingo | 7.87 |

BIG FISH

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| 1. Brian Howard | 1.36 |
|-----------------|------|

INDIANA SLAB MASTERS

JUNE 15th

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Mike Russell/Tim Clepper | 8.47 |
| 2. Charlie Hildreth/Lora Hildreth | 7.12 |
| 3. Tim Guard/Robert Williams | 7.06 |
| 4. Tom Allen/Troy Chandler | 6.88 |
| 5. Rick Zschiedrich/Tyler Zschiedrich | 6.84 |

BIG FISH

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 1. Ryan Lusby/Brian Schmitt | 1.65 |
|-----------------------------|------|

WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

JUNE 15th

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| 1. Brown/Meritt | 6.52 |
|-----------------|------|

AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL

KENTUCKY LAKE

JUNE 21st - 22nd

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Ronnie Capps/Steve Coleman | 17.57 |
| 2. Brett Luther/Robert Luther | 17.2 |
| 3. Tony Sheppard/Mike Sheppard | 16.91 |
| 4. Tim Blackley/Phillip Haynes | 16.66 |
| 5. Paul Turner/Elizabeth Turner---Jason
Westerberg/Jim Westerberg | 16.31 |

BIG FISH

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Shane Walker/Daryl Williams | 1.87 |
|--------------------------------|------|

CRAPPIE USA

MISSISSNEWA/SALAMONIE

JUNE 22nd**AMATEUR DIVISION**

1. Marvin Yeakle/Jeff Duncan	5.51
2. Tom Dubensky/David Willoughby	5.08
3. Matt Mappes/John Mappes	4.87
4. Ricky Baker/David Gibson	4.79
5. Gary Reed/Blake Morris	4.72

PRO DIVISION

1. Patrick Stone/Dylan Stone	5.98
2. Myron Etchison/Walter Moore	5.83
3. Kirk Wyman/Robert Raymer	5.39
4. Noel Thompson/Chester Riley	5.38
5. Greg Rutschilling/Matt Wentz	5.15

CRAPPIE CALENDAR

JULY 7th	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	TORONTO LAKE	CLUB
JULY 13th	CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE ASSOC.	LAKE NIMROD	CLUB
JULY 13th	TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB	BIG BEAR	CLUB
JULY 13th	WAPPALLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	HIS & HERS
JULY 20th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
JULY 20th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	RICHLAND CHAMBERS	QUALIFIER
JULY 20th	EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	MARK TWAIN LAKE	JACK & JILL
JULY 20th	TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES	TRUMAN LAKE	SERIES
JULY 26th - 27th	AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	TRUMAN LAKE	TRAIL
AUG 3rd	CRAPPIE MASTERS	MARK TWAIN LAKE	2nd LEG OF MO STATE CHAMP
AUG 4th	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	MELVERN LAKE	CLUB
AUG 10th	EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	TRUMAN LAKE	CLUB
AUG 17th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
AUG 17th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	BRIDGEPORT	QUALIFIER
AUG 17th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	TRUMAN LAKE	FINAL LEG OF MO STATE CHAMP
AUG 18th	WAPPALLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLUB
AUG 23rd	CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB
AUG 23rd - 24th	MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB	BARNETT LAKE	RIGLAND TOURISM
AUG 24th	EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	MARK TWAIN LAKE	1 POLE/ARTIFICIAL 3 FISH
AUG 24th	INDIANA SLAB MASTER	RACCOON LAKE	CLUB
AUG 24th	TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES	TRUMAN LAKE	SERIES
AUG 25th	EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	MARK TWAIN LAKE	FISH OFF

CRAPPIE CLUBS

Club	Contact	Link
AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	Matt Morgan	FACEBOOK
BAYOU STATE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	Brandon Jennings	FACEBOOK
BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.	Peyton Usery	FACEBOOK
BOYDS CRAPPIE TRAIL	Blake Phillips	FACEBOOK
CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	Austin Kneeskern	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
COOSA RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	J CULBERSON	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		FACEBOOK
EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	Steve Perotto	FACEBOOK
FISH THE CAROLINAS	Nate Quan	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	Hoe Bragg/Frank Haidusek	FACEBOOK
LAKE OKEECHOBEE CRAPPIE SERIES	Derrick Moore 954-650-0456	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	WEBSITE
OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL	Darrell and Brian	FACEBOOK
PEACH STATE CRAPPIE CLUB	Robert Smith	FACEBOOK
SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	Keith Dodd	FACEBOOK
SOUTH CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOC	Jerry Bundrick	FACEBOOK
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE	Chad Hamson	FACEBOOK
SLABMASTERS TOURNAMENT TRAIL	Jamie Moore/Dan Sidle	FACEBOOK
S.N.A. CRAPPIE MASTERS	Tony Long/Todd Ulery	FACEBOOK
SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE CLUB IL	Jerry Jallas/Rick Montooth	FACEBOOK
TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES	Roger Mann 913-963-6350/ANGLERS PORT MARINE	FACEBOOK
TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB		FACEBOOK
ULTIMATE PANFISH LEAGUE/UPL		FACEBOOK
WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB MO		FACEBOOK
YADKIN RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	SHANE WALSER	FACEBOOK

The Great Outdoors

by Larry Whiteley

Never Forget Why We Celebrate Independence Day

Independence Day should be much more than fireworks, parades, picnics, baseball games, family cookouts, and maybe a fishing trip. Sadly, a lot of people have forgotten what Independence Day is all about.

Adults need to be reminded and kids need to learn why we should celebrate this special day. It represents an official severing of ties between the original 13 colonies and the rule of Great Britain. It also represents the core of our beliefs, the very makeup of our identity as citizens of the United States of America.

We should also pause to honor those who served and are serving so we might enjoy the freedoms we have today. The men and women who died on the beaches of Normandy, the fields of Viet Nam, the deserts of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan, the buildings in New York and Washington D.C., and so many other places around the world, these people fought for our freedoms and should never be forgotten.

It is because of their sacrifices that we can worship as we please, we have the freedom to say what we want and we can vote for whoever we choose. To all of you men and women who have served or are serving our country, we salute you and we thank you.

Enjoy Independence Day but don't forget why we celebrate it. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God Bless America!

Be a Hero to Your Kids

The key to making sure kids enjoy fishing is to keep them busy catching fish. Kids

don't care how big the fish are or even what kind they are. They are more focused on getting a fish to bite and winding it in. Be a hero and take your kids fishing.

Another Nature Fact

All ladybugs have two, nine, or fifteen spots. I want to meet the guy who checked all the ladybugs and counted their spots to find that fact out.

Fishing is Good for You

Most people fish to eat them and they are delicious and good for you but more importantly going fishing is good for your soul.

Trash Talk

If a soda or beer can blows out the back of your truck today it might possibly be degraded back into the soil in the year 2510. That plastic wrapper off your new fishing baits that went flying out of the boat might be obliterated by about late 2252.

If you find that amazing, would you believe that if you left some kind of glass bottle on the river bank this year it will still be around in the year 1,002,009. Think about all that the next time you leave loose trash in your boat or pickup to be blown out to litter the landscape. Also think about it when you put everything in the trash instead of recycling.

Something to Think About

"What we do to the earth we do also to ourselves. Take care of the earth."
Chief Seattle, Duwamish Tribe 1854

Photo Contest



1st Place This Month!

James Franks
Sardis Lake, MS
2.4 and 2.5 lb. – 16 inches long

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 details.

Photo Contest



Runner Up
Michael Collison
White Crappie 15-1/4" , 2.09lbs
Lake Erie, Leamington, Ontario
RoadRunner w/ pink/white tube

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**Enjoy nature,
see ya' next month**

