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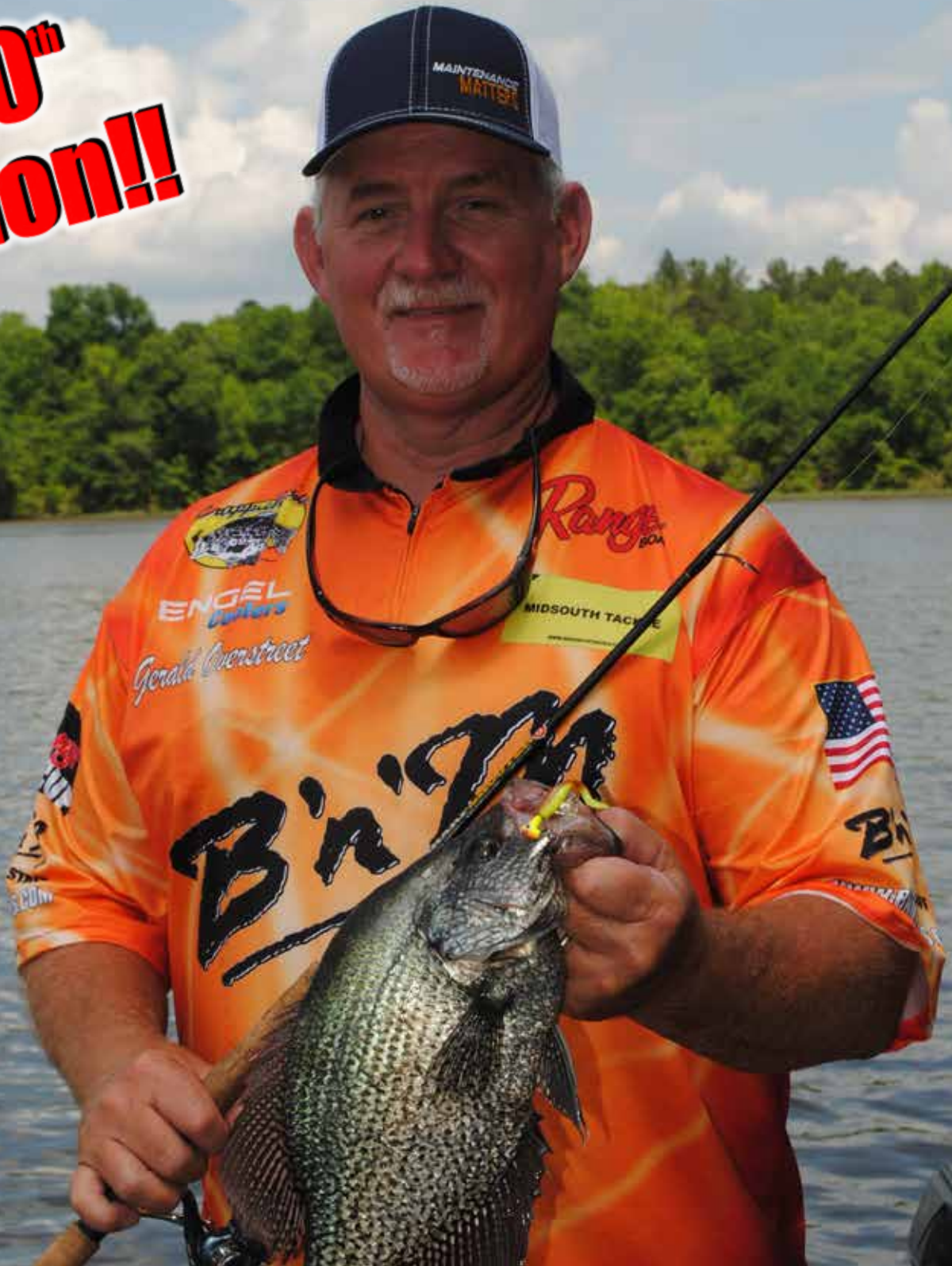
Crappie.com

June 2019 - Issue #100



Crappie Potpourri

100th
Edition!!



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No Boat No Problem....4

by Ron Stallings

Not having a boat is no reason not to catch some nice crappie. This story outlines many helpful ways to improve your success.



Slip Bobbers Around Stumps.....12

by Vic Attardo

Slip bobbers and exposed stumps are the perfect combination for some nice crappie in Lake Cowanesque. Pennsylvania angler and outdoorsman Vic Attardo tells us how to master the technique.



In the Spotlight Rhonda Reeve....18

by Tim Huffman

Rhonda is an inspiration, a one-day tournament weight record holder and overall good angler. Here's her story.



Single Pole Crappie Fishing in Weedy Cover....24

by Brian Cope

Catching crappie with any technique is good. However, using one pole and going one-on-one may be the most fun.



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Opening Cast

The 2019 winter, spring and now early summer period have been very interesting weather wise. One day it feels like winter, the next summer, and once in a while like spring. The crappie fishing has been interesting as well due to this volatility.



Most of the crappie below the Mason-Dixon Line have already spawned. There are a few stragglers, what I call the second wave. These are normally the smaller crappie which are mature enough to spawn. The crappie here are now in the immediate period following the spawn and really tough to catch.

In the period following the major spawn, the crappie become very lethargic and literally will sit on the lake/river bottom. During this period, the fishing becomes extremely slow. The crappie recovers from the energy spent during the spawn and won't eat. Within one to two weeks, however, they are ready to replenish their bodies and the bite becomes fantastic. This is true throughout the country.

For those of you in the Midwest, the crappies are trying to spawn and, in the north, it is just weeks away. The bite should be good now in these locations.

My recommendation is to never give up on catching a limit of crappie any time during the year. They are like us; they must eat to live. Use state-of-the-art electronics to locate their holding locations and tailor the technique to their positioning on those locations.

Good Luck Fishing and God Bless,
Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher

Cover Photo:
Gerald Overstreet pulled this late springtime crappie from the Alabama River on a brightly colored Road Runner.
Greg McCain photo

No Boat No Problem

by Ron Stallings

Fishing from the bank is very productive for most species of fish. If you want to target crappie from the bank, use these techniques for the best success.

1. Selecting a lake—The lake you choose will have several factors to consider.

a. Slope of bank— the slope of the bank will most likely show how the bottom of the lake will drop off from the shore to where you cast. A deeper slope will determine how you set up a float with a minnow or what weight lure you will use.

The best way to find out is to cast a ¼ ounce weight as far as you can. Once it hits the water, count the seconds it takes to hit the bottom. The rule of thumb is one second for each foot of depth. Example, 10 second drop approximately 10 feet deep. Once you have the depth, now you can set up your rig to accommodate the depth.

b. Structure— Look around the spot you choose. Are there trees in the water that are still on the bank? Fish tend to stay around this type of structure. The portion of the tree that is out of the water will heat up faster. This means the heat radiates down the tree into the water warming it faster. Fish will get closer to this structure especially during real cold weather. A great place to start early in the morning as the sun is coming up.

c. Grass and other vegetation— The same applies here as it does with trees. Anything that is exposed to the sun or warm air, will heat beneath the surface. This is another place to start early in the morning.

d. Wind— Which way is the wind blowing? If it blows in your face, you stand the chance of a float rig getting too shallow

as it approaches the bank you are standing on. It'll shorten your cast as well. If it blows into your back your float rig will stay in the same spot. Look for wind that flows across the lake left to right or right to left. This allows your float rig to drift and cover more water just like a trolling motor would in a boat. If the wind is blowing left to right, cast slightly to the left and let the wind drift the rig to the right. Do the same for right to left. If that tree is in the water, let the wind drift the rig towards the tree.

e. Sunlight and shade— Try to pick a spot that has both sun and shade on the water. This gives you the option to find fish in their desired habitat at the time. This will all be based on weather, water depth and water temperature.

f. Shadows and sounds— When you arrive at your lake, do not slam doors on your vehicle. That sound travels down the bank and into the water spooking fish that are within reach. As you walk towards the bank move around the bank, keep your shadow off of the water. Shadows spook fish because predators like birds and other wildlife that eat fish throw shadows before diving after them.

When choosing your lake and spot to fish, take these factors into consideration and you'll be successful.

2. Choosing techniques for crappie from the bank—with so many techniques available choose them to fit your circumstances and don't be afraid to change.

a. One of the most successful techniques is "floating and casting" This involves one rod set up with the traditional float, sinker and hook. Tip the hook with a minnow and



cast it out according to the factors of the lake as mentioned above. While keeping close watch on that float, you can fan cast a jig in another area away from the float.

Fan casting is a technique that allows you to cast numerous times in different directions covering more water. A simple method to remember is 10—2. Picture a clock on the water. 12 is dead ahead of you on the water. Make your first cast at 10. Then 10:30, 11, 11:30 and so on until you reach 2. Then take five or six steps to the left or right and repeat the process.

Once you catch the first fish, keep casting in the same general direction. Most fish will group together and you can catch a few in one spot. But, don't cast in the exact spot you caught the first fish. Go on either side of that spot. The disruption of the first fish

An umbrella and sun screen will help the comfort level on a hot day while fishing from the bank.

caught can scatter fish away from that area by a few feet. So, if you caught the first one at 10:30, cast to 10 and 11 and then move inward back to 10:30.

b. Where allowed, use multiple float, sinker and hook rod set—ups. Put them apart from each other at different depths. The deepest should be the furthest cast in the center of your clock. The next one should be shallower by six inches to a foot on the left or right of the center rod and the third one (if law permits) should be even more shallow and placed on the right or left of center. So, you have one at 12, one at 11 or 11:30 and one at 12:30 or 1. This will cover





the depths to find out which thermocline the fish are sitting in.

A thermocline is temperature level in the water column. Take, for instance, a tall glass of water. Looking at the side of the glass, imagine every half-inch from bottom to top has a different temperature. The bottom would be the coolest and the top the warmest. The levels in between vary. Without electronics, you can figure this out yourself.

c. Just cast a jig, don't use the float, sinker and hook method— If you can't find minnows or you don't have the time to mess with bait buckets, rigging and just want to cast a jig, use fan casting. When you approach the bank in the manner described above, go to the extreme right or left on the bank. Fan cast from 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock

Treat your line with a line conditioner, like Reel Magic, for longer line life, longer casts, and slabs like this.

at different lengths of cast. Then move five or six steps and repeat the process. Once you reach the opposite side from where you started, and you had no hits or caught any fish, it's time to change methods.

Remember the acronym CBR. Color—Bait—Retrieve. Change colors based on cloud cover and water clarity.

Change bait to change frequency levels that fish pick up from their lateral lines. If you used a curly tail with no luck, try a profile body with a straight tail or a tail with multiple appendages.

Change retrieve. If a steady retrieve didn't work, try bouncing the rod tip every 10 to 15 cranks of the reel. Some professional anglers like to hold their finger out and let the line tap their finger giving the bait a little more action in the water. This really only works well with spinning reels.

All of these techniques are quite successful. Experiment with them each time you go out.

3. Equipment— The ability to cast farther is critical when bank fishing. The rod, reel and line are the most critical, but terminal tackle is important too.

a. Rod— The best rod for this type of fishing and traveling in a vehicle is a six-foot six-inch light action rod. You get faster over the top tip speed resulting in further casts with a longer rod. It's highly recommended to use a spinning rod for further casts. Graphite is preferred due to its lightweight and sensitivity.

b. Reel— A spinning reel with a long-cast spool is best. Long cast spools allow line to flow off the reel faster with little resistance like short spools. Be sure the line roller on the bail is larger than traditional line rollers. Small rollers tend to wear out quicker and cause damage to the line. Larger line rollers don't heat up during the fight and allow for better flow in retrieve and a smoother drag. A 5.1:1 gear ratio is perfect for this type of fishing especially when casting a jig. A smooth drag is a must!

c. Line— The best size line is four to eight-pound test. Do not put line on yourself. It will come off the bulk line spool onto your reel in coils. This will prevent longer casts. Have your local tackle store put the line on with a machine. It will be on tighter and smoother.

Treat your line with a line conditioner for longer line life and longer casts. Once your

"A simple method to remember is 10—2."

line is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top of the spool, it's time to get new line. As you cut and retie lures and rigs, you lose line. As the line gets lower, more friction is applied to the spool by the line. This will shorten your casts.

d. Float— Floats are a thing of personal preference. The easiest float for bank fishing is the bright orange or yellow cigar float. Be sure to get the removable type with two pegs. This allows you to adjust or remove the float as needed. The bright colors make it easier to see.

e. Sinkers— Removable split shot is the preferred sinker. You can add or remove as needed for depth, wind or size of minnows you are using.

f. Hooks— Use a #4, #2, or #1 Aberdeen

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style hook. Red or gold hooks are preferred.

4. Other things to take to the lake— A few other things to take to the lake to enhance your outing for comfort and success.

a. A bait bucket that doubles as a seat. Yes, these do exist.

b. Gloves in case you catch something that could fin you like a catfish.

c. Rod spikes. These are rod holders that you poke into the bank to hold your outfit up when float fishing.

d. Clothing that adapts to the current weather.

e. Snacks and drinks.

f. Fishing license. (Where applicable. Some states do not require a license when fishing from the bank as long as you have a driver's license.)

g. First—aid kit

h. Umbrella to block the sun and sun screen

i. Folding chair

j. Tackle box

k. Trash bag so you can take your trash with you and leave the shoreline better than when you arrived.

l. Family. Take your family fishing especially the kids.

These are just some of the things you can take with you. This list can be adjusted as needed. Most of this can fit in a back pack or large tackle box.

Final Thoughts

Anglers should respect their fishing location. Don't leave trash on the banks of



Finding structure within casting distance from the bank can bring nice slabs like this into easy reach.

any body of water. Leave it better than you found it so the next anglers can have a clean place to fish. NEVER leave line in the water or on the shore. It can endanger fish, birds and other animals. Plus, it does not degrade so it's there forever.

The main objective of any trip should be to have fun, so get your family out on the water and enjoy the thrill of fishing. It has great benefits for all. Teach others to fish and show them how it can be a family-oriented occasion and beneficial for all to enjoy!

 - Ron Stallings

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TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

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Lake D'Arbonne, LA	March 28-30, 2019
Ross Barnett, MS	April 26-27, 2019
Grenada, MS	May 17-18, 2019
Kentucky Lake, TN	June 21-22, 2019
Truman, MO	July 27-28, 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 image is a screenshot of the NPAA website. The top navigation bar is blue and contains social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with a 'Home' button and a 'Become a Member! JOIN NOW' button. Below this is a dark blue menu bar with links for 'Member Benefits', 'Members', 'About', 'News', 'NPAA Partners', 'Testimonials', 'NPAA Conference', and 'Contact Us'. A search icon is on the right. The main content area features a large photograph of two anglers in red gear on a boat on a lake. Below the photo, 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 of the page, the text reads: 'NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION' followed by 'Our mission is to increase the professionalism of our members as we work to grow and protect sportfishing.'

Crappie Basics #189

Warming Weather - Tim Eberle

By the time June rolls around the weather is beginning to warm and the crappies are moving deeper and searching for a comfortable ambush spot for their next meal. Anglers who adjust their presentation to the crappie's behavior will have the most luck catching them.

"Concentrate on deeper water structure that time of year," advises Florida crappie angler, Tim Eberle. "As the fish transition to the summertime pattern, they will also be looking for shade. Make your presentations to ledges with wood, docks, and bridge pilings. In fact, look for any structure that will provide the fish with shade."

"This is also a good time to try some dock shooting," added Eberle. "The hotter the weather the better!"



2019
Crappie USA

Tournament Trail Schedule

Crappie USA

220 Mohawk Ave
Louisville KY 40209

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Carlyle Lake, Carlyle, IL 06/08/19
Mississinewa & Salamonie, Wabash, IN 06/22/19
Weiss Lake, Centre, AL 10/05/19

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

www.crappieusa.com

SLIP BOBBERS AROUND STUMPS

by Vic Attardo

A simple but effective method to pull crappie from stump beds.

If Lake Cowanesque in north-central Pennsylvania were a face and not a body of water, it would need a shave.

Sticking up like stiff stubble in portions of the 1,090-acre lake are asymmetrical rows of exposed stumps, like a five-day beard needing a barber. If you weren't a crappie fisherman you might want to use a single blade razor, sharpen it on a leather strop, and proceed to clean up the offending bristles. But since you are a crappie angler -- an assumption I'll make since you're reading a digital publication dedicated to crappie fishing -- you're more likely to make a beeline for the stump field and proceed to give it your best shot.

I know that's what I do every time I launch at this panfish factory, and other stump-filled lakes in the Northeast. (Cowanesque was expanded from a 400-plus acre lake in the 1990's and, like other stumpy lakes, its wood was left in place.)

If I came across such a stump field in the South, I'd take a crappie boat festooned with spider rig equipment and methodically work every stick -- front, back, sides, top to bottom. The boat and my trolling-motor foot would do most of the work as I kept 12-foot B'n'M poles dangling off the bow.

But this is Pennsylvania and despite the efforts of such notables as Crappie Now publisher Dan Dannenmueller who, every spring for the past bunch of years, has towed

his crappie battleship to Pymatuning and Shenango Lake in Keystone's northwest sector, spider rigging just hasn't taken off "up here."

We in Pennsylvania are a stubborn folk and though our stump fields can be extensive, both above and below the waterline, the descents of the First Continental Congress prefer to chase the localized crappie by casting single poles and working each water-buried tree with the rod as an extension of our arms and not the boat. Mention spider rigging to a crappie angler in the Northeast and he's likely to look for a broom and a can of Raid.

"...you're able to keep your offering in one spot..."

But that doesn't mean we're not good at stump field fishing, we are, we just have our ways.

Number one on the list is use of slip bobbers.

While those below the Mason Dixon Line treat the tips of their 10- to 14-foot poles as a direct-connection bobber, when you use a much shorter rod, anywhere from 5 1/2



to 7 feet, the first indication that a crappie is striking appears on the balsa or plastic float floating on the line.

Instead of dangling long rods from a half-circle of rod holders, we hold onto our one and only making delicate casts and working the bait through the wooden minefield. We know the baits are being hit because we see and feel the strike, really feel it through the thumping rod, the thin line and right down to the reel handle. And instead of having the crappie thrashing about at the arm's length off an oversize pole, our fighting fish are practically under our noses. Our short-length crappie fishing allows for pinpoint casts and the technique of actually turning the reel handle to bring fish closer -- none of which are paramount when spider rigging around a stump field.

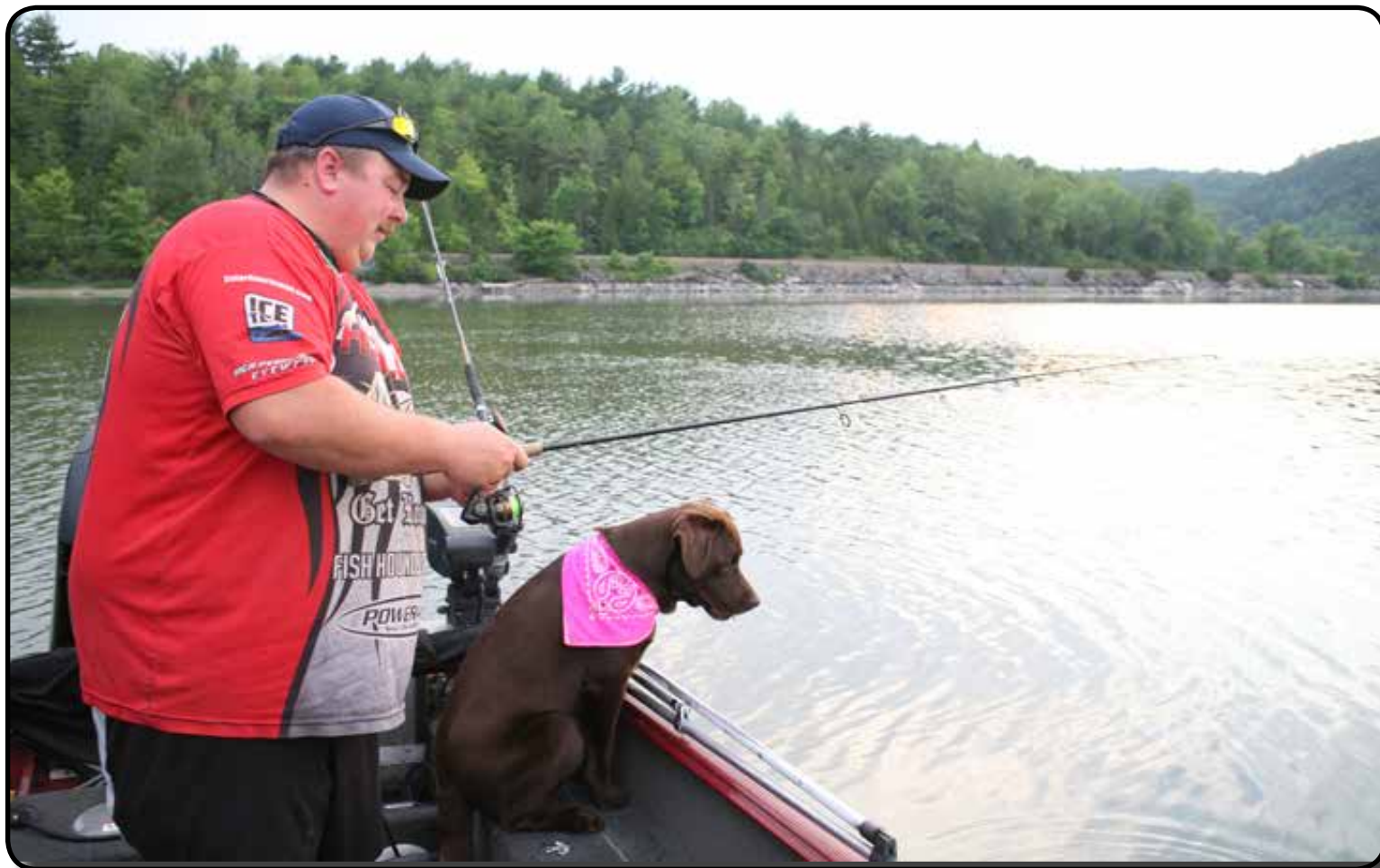
Starting with the equipment, a slip bobber or slip float is an interesting contraption with the conical bulb of the float and a tube at the top and bottom of

A slip bobber has a conical bulb and a tube at the top and bottom of the bulb in which the line is threaded and extruded.

the bulb in which the line is threaded and extruded. Above the float is hung a bobber stopper, or stopper knot, which can be hand tied but is best applied with a pre-tied knot on a piece of plastic straw. The line is run through the "straw" and the knot is slid off the plastic to grip the line; the straw is pulled off.

Those who've never fished a slip bobber wonder about its purpose. Number one, with the line free moving through the float you can adjust the rig from a near-surface position to many feet down. The bobber-stopper knot can be slid along the line above the float, if you don't create a strangulation knot. The top of the bobber, or cork, will ride up to the knot and no further,





thus allowing adjustments on the length of line below the float presenting the bait. Anglers should use a free-moving plastic bead at the top of the float to prevent the knot from entering the float's open tube.

When the rig is cast, the line is pulled through the bobber by the jig (or split shot with a live bait offering) and goes no farther than the stopper.

There are advantages to the rig that are, at first, not obvious. By controlling the line from the reel spool you can slow the fall of the jig -- a benefit crappie anglers will understand. Using a spinning reel with an open bail, you can feather the line from the spool to slow, or speed up, the line passing through the float. Just because the stopper is on the line doesn't mean the float has to ride up against the stopper at every moment. If you'd like to work your way down a tall stump, this is easily accomplished by pressing the line against the spool or holding it with a pinch. In this

A certain advantage of the slip bobber is that you're able to keep your offering in one spot for a long time, even with a friend looking on.

way you can stutter step the jig down the side of a stump. If a strike occurs during this decent you'd maintain the pinch until you can lift the rod and engage the bail in one swift, sure motion.

The best slip-bobber anglers are good at manipulating the rod, line and float throughout the presentation. Sometimes they'll tug on the rod with a tight line jolting the float across the surface; sometimes they'll repeatedly reel the float up to the bobber stopper and the jig close to the float then allow line to slide through the float so that the jig falls again and again; sometimes with a loose line they'll tweak the float over the water and then let the line slip through their fingers in increments,



pausing and then resuming the fall of the jig.

A certain advantage of the slip bobber is that you're able to keep your offering in one spot for a long time. Allowing the bobber to hover next to a stump is a plus, so too is the ability to slightly jiggle the float thus giving added life to the bait, particularly if the jig is adorned with flexible soft plastic.

To cover a stump on both sides and in the deep recesses of a stump with a heavy root system, it's best to completely lift the rod and rig then re-insert the offering by placing it down in another spot. This is better than dragging or reeling the bait around a stump as there would be more chance of a snag; this techniques lessons that possibility.

I particularly like the lift-and-replacement technique when a stump's root are complex, such as around old, flooded sycamore or buttonwood trees in the North or around cypress or tupelo

A slip bobber is such a simple device but there is a master class in its use, and masters catch more crappie.



SLIP BOBBERS AROUND STUMPS

roots in the South. Sycamores are a large and convoluted tree that often grows along stream banks. When an area is flooded in the construction of a man-made impoundment the submerged sycamore roots become a gnarly entanglement which holds fish.

Then again not all “stumps” are dead wood, and these are also excellent for a slip bobber.

During the spring, lakes and reservoirs may rise over their banks and crappie will readily move into these rooted zones. I’ve enjoyed some truly excellent fishing around live wood because insects are still moving up and down the dry portions of the trees and are caught by crappie at or just below the water line. Dragon fly and damsel fly nymphs will crawl among the wet, live roots and crappie don’t hesitate to pick them off.

As all successful fishing requires attention to detail, one facet that should be noted for a slip bobber and jig is the use of a loop knot to tie the jig to the line. The purpose of the loop knot is to keep the jig just loose enough so that it rides vertically at all times. Do not fashion a too open or wide loop but seat the jig so that it hangs vertically, not with the end drooping down.

A deterrent to the system is that a slip bobber rig is really only workable to depths down to 10 or 12 ten feet. Below that the cast becomes awkward and the amount of line below the float may be too much to immediately feel a strike. When you’re working in depths below five feet, it’s best to add a tiny split shot half way above the jig which in effect shortens the line and keeps the line to the float that much tighter.

A slip bobber is such a simple device and it’s not hard to make it work but there is a master class in its use, and masters catch more crappie.



Instead of avoiding a stump field make a beeline to the spot and you could have success like this.



 - Vic Attardo

Tip of the Month: Cypress Trees

Louie Mansfield

Cypress trees are a good bet at Reelfoot Lake, just like at oxbows with cypress, Conway, and similar type lakes. A tree's root system forms an umbrella and the fish will hang out under that umbrella. They like the shade. The only exception are the cypress trees near shore where the knees will hold the fish.

I'll be using a 9'6" Grizzly Elite pole because it's easier to handle with overhead limbs and setting the hook. A 12-foot pole is good in open areas but in the cypress go to a shorter pole. The biggest problem is wrapping the jig up in the limbs when you miss a fish on a hookset.

I like four- or six-pound test line. I use a 1/32 kelly green Grizzly jig in shallow water and a 1/16-ounce orange Rattle Eye head with a firecracker (clear with red-white-blue sparkle) Dead Ringer.

Hookset is very important and I like to hammer it. Experience will let you know how hard is enough without being too hard. You don't want a 10-pound hookset when using 4-pound test line.

Louie Mansfield is the owner of the Grizzly Jig Company, the "everything" store for crappie fishermen. He is an accomplished angler and former tournament fishermen from Caruthersville, Missouri.



In the Spotlight

Rhonda

by Tim Huffman

Reeve



Texas fisherman, more correctly fisherwoman, is a regular in national tournaments and the Crappie Anglers of Texas tournaments. She lives on Cedar Creek with husband Jay Don, but she considers home fishing waters to be Lake Fork.

"I started fishing when I met Jay," says Rhonda. "We jumped on a houseboat that was tied up and each used a hook on a string and fished for perch all day long. It was my first fishing trip."

What about tournaments? "We've had several first place finishes with Crappie Anglers of Texas. Our best finish in a Crappie Masters tournament was second place at Grenada in 2014. We had a one-day total of 20.54 pounds, a national tournament record that still holds. That year was a good year because we hit our stride as a team."

Favorite fishing memory? "Jay had a small two-seater Bass Buster and an S-10 pickup truck. He and I would throw the boat in the back of the pickup and go fishing at a private lake we had permission to fish. That was good times.

Fishing strength? "Single poling, but we have gotten much better at spider rigging."

Fishing weakness? "Being calm. I get a little excited and knock fish off with the net. I get in too big of a hurry when excited. Lately, I don't have the stamina because I've been sick so he has to do more of the work."

Favorite place to fish? "Lake Fork, Texas."

If only one bait in your boat, what would it be? "Black-chartreuse hair or plastic jig."

What motivates you? "I love competition. Also, fishing is my outlet."

Superstitions? "The year we had the big stringer, it happened, as it has several other times, we get a sign. If a butterfly or ladybug lands on a rod or in the boat, it's a very good sign. I like to see any positive sign that it will be a good day, like a heads-up penny in the parking lot. Those things encourage me.

Pet Peeves? "Wind. It makes things much harder. Also, I hate getting cut off when fishing, or, any lack of sportsmanship in any way."

How do you spend your time when not fishing? "With our grandkids. We have five grandkids we spend a lot of time with."

Hero? "Jay. He has been my friend and



2014 Crappie Masters tournament, Grenada Lake, Mississippi. One-day stringer, seven fish weighing 20.54 pounds, still a one-day record. Rhonda and Jay Don Reeve.

caretaker. A genuine hero."

Favorite food? "Filet mignon steak."

Favorite boat food? "We don't eat much in the boat, maybe almonds or cashews."

Sports teams? "Texas Rangers, Texas Tech Red Raiders."

Something most people don't know about you? "I grew up a cotton gin girl. My dad was a cotton ginner."

How would you like to be remembered? "Kind, a friend, honest, advocate for ovarian cancer."

Fighting Cancer

"I first got sick in 2015," says Rhonda. "We were at the championship on Kentucky Lake and wasn't feeling good. I was tired, my stomach hurt and I just knew something wasn't right. After seven trips to the doctor and ending up in the Emergency Room, they finally were able to diagnosis it. By then it was stage three cancer. Not unusual but frustrating. I had surgery in November and was in the hospital for two weeks, then had 15 rounds of chemo and several complications requiring more surgeries.

"I spent a total of 73 days in the hospital during the treatment period. I got well and it stayed away for two and a half years. It came



Rhonda Reeve

Born: 1964

Home Water: Lake Fork, TX

Occupation: CPA

Fishing Experience: 35 years

Fishing Partner: husband, Jay Don

Highlight: 2014 Crappie Masters seven-fish limit weighing 20.54 pounds

Favorite Jig Color: black-chartreuse

back last September. I went back on chemo for five rounds that equaled the 15 rounds. I'm in a critical trial to hopefully keep it away from now on.

"My take on this is simple. We must keep our heads up and keep living every day."

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition Boat

"We wanted to give back to the ovarian cancer community but was struggling how to raise money and awareness. We decided to wrap our boat with the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) logo and colors.

We started asking companies and individuals to give \$100 to put something on the boat. To date, we've raised over \$80,000 by doing it. The boat is covered in names and logos. We are about to run out of room but that's okay."



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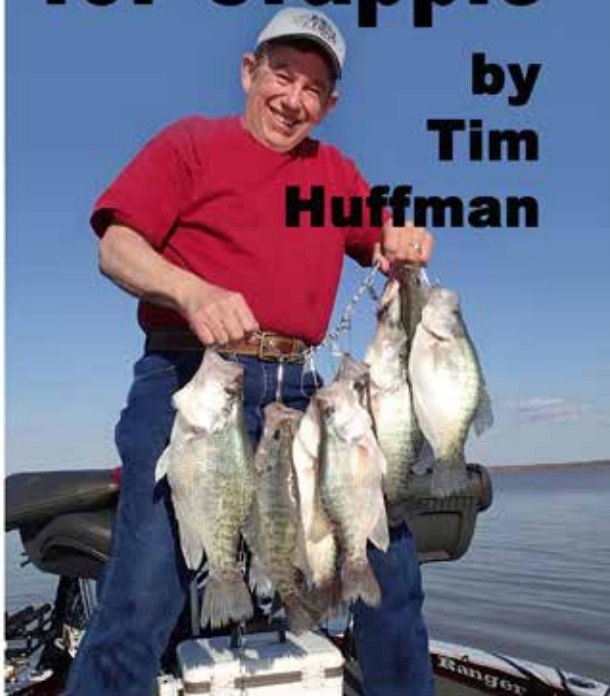
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Limiting Out for Crappie

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
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Fishing Funny's



Single Pole Crappie Fishing in Weedy Cover

by Brian Cope

Get right in the middle of the weeds, dig a hole, drop a jig, and see what comes out.



Spider-rigging and tight-lining are some of the most effective techniques for catching crappie, and are two of the most popular forms of fishing both in tournament and pleasure fishing. But they're not the only way to do it.

At one time, many years ago, single pole fishing was all many crappie anglers knew, and they caught their share of slabs. Some anglers still do, especially under the right circumstances.

B 'n' M pro angler Matt Outlaw has won

Weeds can be a key part of catching crappie when the water warms and fish hang out in the shade of the weeds.

his share of crappie tournaments over the years. And while he spider-rigs and tight-lines during many of his trips, he will switch to using only a single pole when he feels it's the best option. And when he observes weeds in the waters he's fishing, he doesn't

Popping a good crappie, like this one, on a single pole, is an adrenaline rush.





hesitate to put away the trolling gear and pick up one pole.

“When I see weeds on the surface, I’ll check the water depth. If it’s at least four feet deep, I know I can catch crappie there, but you have to be willing to get right in the middle of the weeds. Trolling along the outskirts of them isn’t going to cut it. You’ve got to dig out a hole on the surface and get a jig down into those weeds,” said Outlaw, who grew up fishing this technique on the Santee Cooper lakes near his hometown of St. Matthews, S.C.

Water hyacinth is Outlaw’s favorite weed to fish, but he said this method is also good in duckweed, lily pad fields, and gator grass.

Among the essential tools Outlaw carries aboard his boat is a long piece of conduit with a 90-degree bend on the very end. When he spots those surface weeds or grasses, he uses the end of the conduit to scratch out a hole near the center of the vegetation, then he lowers a Rockport Rattler jighead or a ProBuilt jighead with a

Black crappies are known for their fight. Catching big’uns is a bonus.

either a Midsouth or Crappie Magnet body.

“The Rockport Rattlers have rattles built into the jigheads, and sometimes that noise will draw strikes. The ProBuilt jigheads have holographic eyes that the crappies really seem drawn to,” he said.

One thing that surprises many people about this style of fishing is that Outlaw said there’s no need to be stealthy. Often, he doesn’t even turn off his outboard motor until he catches a couple of fish from one hole, and the only reason for easing up before making a hole in the weeds has nothing to do with scaring fish away.

“The main thing is you don’t want to shred the weeds, because you want them to stay intact for the fish. If the weeds break up, the fish will leave. I never worry about scaring the fish away. They don’t mind the

movement and I think the boat moving in probably knocks some insects off the weeds and into the water. If I don't catch a fish pretty quickly in the first hole I make, I'll ease up and dig out another hole and give that one a few minutes. When I've caught a few, then I'll shut down the outboard."

Sometimes, Outlaw will catch a handful of crappies in one hole, and when the bite shuts down, he'll move on to another. Other times, he'll catch a limit in that one spot.

"...there's no need to be stealthy."

When fishing this way, Outlaw uses a 10-foot long B 'n' M pole with an ultralight reel. He only lets enough line off the reel for the depth he's fishing. If he thinks the fish are two feet deep, he has two feet of line coming off the tip of the rod. He fishes with the rod tip directly at the surface. This is one of the big advantages to fishing with a reel as opposed to fishing a traditional reel-less bream pole, which typically has a length of line that is equal to the length of the pole.

Having that much line out gives the crappie that much play, and enables them to set the tone for at least the initial part of the fight. They can pull down that much line and wrap it around the roots of all those weeds, making it difficult for the angler to lift them out. But with only two feet of line out, once Outlaw detects a bite, the hookset is much quicker, and the rod is doing the heavy lifting right away.

"I'll adjust my depth until I find the fish just by letting out a little more line, and always holding my rod tip at the water's surface," he said.

This type of close quarters fishing means not skimping on line choice. Outlaw opts for 10-pound test Vicious monofilament, which he said gives him the strength he needs to heft crappie out of the weeds, even if some weeds come up with the fish.



The hole in thick surface vegetation like this will actually close up and have to be reopened to continue fishing.

One of Outlaw's favorite facts about this type of fishing is that it can work on all lakes across the country, and during any time of year.

"As long as a body of water has surface weeds with at least four feet of water under them, you can catch crappie this way. It works especially well in the summer and even better in the fall, but it is really good any time of year. Even in the dead of winter when the weeds are brown and shriveled up, you can find crappie there. It's a technique that you still don't see many people doing, but it is very effective."

 - Brian Cope



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Crappie Basics #190**June Crappie - Tony Sheppard**

Tony Sheppard has a couple of tips for June crappie fishing. They include Jenko crankbaits, jigs, and double minnow rigs.

“One effective way to catch crappie in June is pulling Jenko crankbaits,” offered Sheppard. “Pull various colored cranks at the mouths of creeks where they come into the main river.”

“My favorite tactic, however, is slow trolling single jigs or double minnow rigs into heavy cover,” he added. “Fish along the major secondary creeks (highways) on their way back out.”

“Creeks that run from the spawning flats to the deep main river summer haunts are best,” concluded Sheppard. “The crappies use these creeks like we use highways to get from point A to point B and that is where you can intercept them.”





CRAPPIE EXPO

2019

Crappie Expo & Mr. Crappie Invitational Tournament

October 4-6, 2019 are the dates for the first Crappie Expo and Fishing Classic at the Hot Springs Convention Center and Lake Hamilton, Arkansas. The event is set up to bring large numbers of spectators to enjoy vendor and manufacturer booths, boat giveaways, concert and free fish fry. There will be a weigh-in on Friday at the Fish Hatchery Launch area. Saturday and Sunday weigh-ins will be in the Hot Springs Convention Center in conjunction with the three-day Expo there.

The tournament is by invitation only in an effort to increase the prestige and importance of getting to fish the event. Payout will

\$100,000 with 100 fishing teams fighting for the first-place prize of \$40,000.

Local businessman, Reji Short, sales manager at Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports & Marine, says, "The Crappie Expo and tournament means a lot to Hot Springs and the surrounding area. It should bring a lot of people into town and that's always good for the community. We have a lot of bass events but this is the first really major crappie event I know of here."

Trader Bill's is a one-stop for hunters and fishermen. Boats, fishing gear and baits are available. Special interest to fishermen is three mechanics with full-service boat repair and a full line-up of parts, for quick back-on-the water service. Mercury, Evinrude and

Ranger are a few of the dealer brands. Phone 501-623-8403.

Short says, "Hamilton is known as a bass lake but there are plenty of crappie, too. My father-in-law does well there especially on brushpiles. During a bass tournament, one of our fishermen caught a crappie that went over three pounds. So I know some good crappie are in there. I'm not sure what the lake level will be in October, but the lake should be in good shape for fishermen to catch fish.

"We are excited about the tournament," says Short. "It's always difficult to predict exactly what the response will be for a first-time tournament, but we are expecting a very good event."





Baked Fillets with Potato Chip Crust

The earliest known recipe for something similar to today's potato chips is in William Kitchiner's cookbook *The Cook's Oracle*, published in 1817 in England. The 1822 edition offered a recipe called "Potatoes fried in Slices or Shavings" and reads "peel large potatoes, slice them about a quarter of an inch thick, or cut them in shavings round and round, as you would peel a lemon; dry them well in a clean cloth, and fry them in lard or dripping". Early recipes for potato chips in the United States cite Kitchiner.

By the late nineteenth century, a popular version of the potato chip story is attributed to George Crum, an American cook of African American and Native American heritage at Moon's Lake House in New York. He was trying to appease an unhappy customer August 1853. The customer kept sending his French-fried potatoes back, complaining that they were too thick, too "soggy," and/or not salted well enough. Frustrated, Crum personally sliced several potatoes extremely thin, fried the potato slices to a crisp, and seasoned them with extra salt. To Crum's surprise, the customer loved them. They soon came to be called "Saratoga Chips," a name that persisted into at least the mid-twentieth century. A version of this story popularized in a 1973 national advertising campaign by St. Regis Paper Company that manufactured packaging for chips, said that Crum's customer was Cornelius Vanderbilt. Crum was already renowned as a chef at the time, and by 1860, he owned his own lakeside restaurant, which he called Crum's House.

- 6-8 crappie fillets
- 1/2 cup Ranch Dressing or enough to

- coat the fillets
- 2 tablespoons garlic salt
- Salt & Vinegar potato chips*
- Shredded cheddar cheese to cover chips (sprinkle lightly or heavily to suit your taste)

Spray 9x12 baking dish with oil or coat with butter. Layer fillets in baking dish. Coat each fillet with the Ranch Dressing. Sprinkle the garlic salt over the fillets. Crush as many of the potato chips as needed to completely but lightly cover the fillets. Top with shredded cheddar cheese. To keep the cheese from getting overly cooked, bake the fish first then add cheese about 2-3 minutes before the end of baking time. Bake at 325 for approximately 15 min or until fish is tender.

* Choose the potato chip flavor that will tickle your taste buds: Jalapeño, Sour Cream, Lime & Cracked Pepper, BBQ, Original, etc.

Beer & Orange Juice Battered Fried Crappie

- 1 pound crappie fillets
 - 1 cup beer
 - 3 cups flour
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons oregano
 - 1-1/2 tablespoons garlic powder
 - 1-1/2 tablespoons onion powder
 - 1/2 teaspoons basil
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons cayenne pepper to taste
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
 - 1-1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
 - Orange juice
- Place the above ingredients in a bowl and mix. Whisk in enough orange juice or soda to make a batter. In a large heavy

skillet or deep-fat fryer, heat 2-3 inches of canola oil to 375 degrees. Dip fillets in beer and completely coat with the batter. Fry until golden brown and place on paper towels to drain.

Zesty Fish

- 4 6-ounce fillets with skin
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped parsley
- 2 tablespoons olive oil or butter
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped garlic
- 4 cups peeled and chopped fresh tomatoes
- Ground red pepper, to taste
- 2 cups burgundy wine
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste

Place onions and parsley in oil or butter and sauté 3 to 5 minutes. Add garlic, tomatoes, red pepper, salt, wine and soy sauce. Cook until the onions are translucent, about 10 minutes. Lightly season fillets with salt and pepper and place on medium-hot grill, skin side up for 3 minutes. Turn and cook 2 minutes more. Place in aluminum foil and place in a grill-safe pan on the grill grate and top with sauce. Close top on grill and cook 10 minutes.

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AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL

ROSS BARNETT

APRIL 26th-27th

1. Ronnie Capps/Steve Coleman	25.24
2. John Mark Williams/Ray Williams	24.32
3. Tony Sheppard/Mike Sheppard	24.04
4. Tommy Moss/Brad Calhoun	23.83
5. Tony Hughes/Jeff Riddle	23.55

BIG FISH

1. Tony Hughes/Jeff Riddle	2.34
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CRAPPIE USA

GRAND LAKE/ST. MARYS

APRIL 26th-27th

AMATEUR DIVISION

1. Marvin Yeakle/Jeff Duncan	8.64
2. Ryan Wendel/Randy D Wendel	8.31
3. Dominic Dugic/Jeffrey Lee	7.31
4. Carl E McAdams/Monte R Martin	5.59
5. Dustin Fast/Phil Stone	4.84

PRO DIVISION

1. Jason Koesters/Jake Hengstler	10.68
2. Kerry August/Mike Deiters	10.05
3. Sach Fishbaugh/Mike Fishbaugh	9.4
4. Robert Denen/Anthony Domitrovich	8.66
5. G Rutschilling/Evan Williams	7.67

BIG FISH

1. Jeremiah Moyer/Jack Ray	1.26
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CRAPPIE MASTERS

LAKE EUFAULA

APRIL 27th

1. Dillon Hackler/Beau Wilkins	11.65
2. Will Scott/David Earls	11.34
3. Charlie Bunting/Travis Bunting	11.09
4. Joey Johnson/Chris Coffman	10.86
5. Wally Marshall/Jeff Heuman	10.79

BIG FISH

1. Charlie Bunting/Travis Bunting	2.11
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MALE/FEMALE

1. James Conklin/Cheryl Stoner	10.04
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FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB

ORANGE LAKE

APRIL 27th

1. Tony/Don			7.11
2. Jack/John			7.09
3. Tommy/John			7.03
4. Brian/Perry			7.02
5. John Young	Scott/Randy	TIED	6.14.9

BIG FISH

1. Scott/Randy			2.01
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WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIECLUB

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

APRIL 27th

1. Dublin/Rowland			8.51
2. Miller/Roper			8
3. Sifford/Sifford			7.76
4. Brown/Emerson			7.5
5. Walker			7.31

BIG FISH

1. Dublin/Rowland			2.04
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BEAVER CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION

BEAVER LAKE

APRIL 28th

1. Hunter Bourke/Pat Bourke			8.77
2. Cameron White/Bethany White			8.27
3. Seth Eden/Randy Eden			8.18

BIG FISH

1. Clay Johnson			1.45
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NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

PYMATUNING LAKE

APRIL 28th

1. Ben/Harrison			8.65
2. Andy/John			7.51
3. Jamie/John			7.3
4. Chad/Bill			5.51
5. Wes/Kolby			4.25

BIG FISH

1. Ben/Harrison			1.66
2. Wes/Kolby			1.66



CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE ASSOC.

LAKE DARDANELLE

MAY 4th

1. Scott Black/John Williams	13.13
2. Terry Scott/Nick Hudman	12.97
3. Edward Shawn/Rueben Shawn	12.8
4. Andy Benet/Brandon Smith	12.15
5. Steve Denton/Tammy Denton	12.11

BIG FISH

1. Steve Denton/Tammy Denton	2.13
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CRAPPIE MASTERS

REND LAKE

MAY 4th

1. Tony Hughes/Bart Gillon	9.37
2. Matthew Rogers/Bruce Rogers	9.18
3. Frank Haidusek/Mark McClure	9.15
4. Paul Turner/Elizabeth Turner	9.03
5. Doug Wynn/Justin Elder	8.91

BIG FISH

1. Josh Dudley/Jason Dudley	1.65
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MALE/FEMALE

1. Jackie Linton/Holly Linton	8.41
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ADULT/YOUTH

TJ Palmer/Alex Palmer	8.23
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CRAPPIE USA

LAKE HARTWELL

MAY 4th

AMATEUR DIVISION

1. Rod Koch/Randy Koch	7.57
2. Stacy Rolin/David Smith	6.81
3. Chris Craft/Donald Whidby	6.81
4. Austin Higgins/Robert Bannister	6.55
5. Robert Massey/Todd Dalton	6.38

PRO DIVISION

1. Randy J Pope/Wayne Coffey	8.84
2. Pat J Welch/Jerry C Stanton	8.62
3. Shannon Suttle/Shawn McAbee	8.31
4. Steve Deason/Rick Howard	7.96
5. Robert Harris/Richard Greer	7.5

BIG FISH

1. Sammy Kay Jr/Sammy Kay III	1.64
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MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB

SARDIS LAKE

MAY 4th

1. Jeremy Aldridge/Clint Egbert	12.12
2. Nick Hudson/Ryan Legge	10.32
3. Paul Johnson/William Clark	10.15
4. Eric Neth/Whit Whittin Jimmy D Smith/Ricky Smith Tied	10.07
5. Eddie Truitt/Jesse Belk	10.03

BIG FISH

1. Jeremy Aldridge/Clint Egbert	2.07
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KENTUCKY CRAPPIE TRAIL

BARREN RIVER LAKE

MAY 4th

1. Bowles/McCoy	7.8
2. Long/Belcher	6.83
3. Furlong/Garrett	6.29
4. Johns/Johns	5.5
5. Bean/Bean	3.97

BIG FISH

1. Bowles/McCoy	1.42
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GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES

GRAND LAKES

APRIL 28th

1. Mike Deiters/Kerry August	5.95
2. Jeff Toben/Mike Bell	4.59
3. Joe Vanover/Troy Zimmerman	4.41
4. Curt Harlow/Albert Barge	4.01
5. Klint Harner/Cody Black	3.67

CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB

CHESTER FROST PARK

MAY 5th

1. Brian Howard/Tina Howard	8.77
2. Kevin McMillion/Dennis McMillion	8.39
3. Scott Bunch/Neal Alvis	8.33

BIG FISH

1. Kevin McMillion/Dannis McMillion	1.87
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NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

WEST BRANCH

MAY 10th - 11th

1. Jeffrey/Dom	12.25
2. Brad/Sean	12.07
3. Lukw/Matt	11.99
4. Brian/Eric	10.92
5. Steve/John	10.78

BIG FISH

1. Luke/Matt	1.61
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BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION

BEAVER LAKE

MAY 11th

1. Payton Usrey/Tiffany Usrey	8.43
2. Seth Eden/Katelyn Eden	8.26
3. Cody Usrey/Shirley Usrey	7.63

BIG FISH

1. Cody Usrey/Shirley Usrey	1.61
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CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB

MATTOON LAKE

MAY 11th

1. Jim Garrett/Greg Kaiser	6.49
2. John Carr/Roger Cox	6.25
3. Tom Fermanian/Rick Barnes	5.73
4. Bob Sarko/Rich Clifton	5.59
5. Shawn Shelby/Mike Hopkins	5.04

BIG FISH

1. Jim Garrett/Greg Kaiser	1.06
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HOI CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE EVERGREEN

MAY 11th

1. Jonathan Clement/Jim Salch	3.73
2. Brandon Clements/Keegan Wagoner	3.18
3. Whitecotton	2.93

BIG FISH

1. Jonathan Clement/Jim Salch	1.23
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EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE OF THE OZARKS

MAY 11th

1. Mike Wade	9
2. Brad Perotti	8.5
3. Tori Campbell	8.3
4. Jake Besselman	8.25
5. Keith Eilerts	7.95

BIG FISH

1. Mike Wade	1.4
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FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE LOCHLOOSA

MAY 11th

1. Harold/Joe	8.04
2. Jack/John	7.14
3. Tony/James	7.13
4. Randy Temples	7.11
5. Alan/Al Green	7.06

BIG FISH

1. Jack/John	1.11
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TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES

TRUMAN LAKE

MAY 11th

1. Friend/Shannon	5.88
2. Campbell/ProPst	5.19
3. Fernandez/Morgan	4.83
4. Palmer/Braun	4.64
5. Vallentine/Stocking	4.27

BIG FISH

1. Friend/Shannon	1.05
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TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB

LITTLE RIVER

MAY 11th

1. John Robertson/Luke Robertson	9.66
2. Max/Mike	9.19
3. John Fegan/Angie Fegan	8.51
4. Logan Robertson/Terry Robertson	8.19
5. Dale/Robert	5.74

BIG FISH

1. John Fegan/Angie Fegan	1.96
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CRAPPIE USA

MONROE LAKE

MAY 18th

AMATEUR DIVISION

1. Robert L Williams/Tim Guard	11.92
2. Tony P Williams/Theresa D Williams	8.72
3. Gretchen Sherrill/Tony Sherrill	8.17
4. Glen Gill/Scott Gill	7.32
5. Ricky Baker/David Gibson	6.49

PRO DIVISION

1. Bill Egan/Ron Ritter	11.91
2. Tom Hankins/Ron Bilbray	11.33
3. P Stone/Aaron West	10.54
4. Jason Shingler/Michael Arnold	9.91
5. Charlie Hildreth/Codie Deaton	9.72

BIG FISH

1. Ricky Baker/David Gibson	2.29
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GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES

GRAND LAKES

MAY 19th

1. Ryan Kennedy/Scott Sipe	7.53
2. Jeff Toben/Mike Bell	6.48
3. Mark Tilton/Kyle Tilton	6.11
4. Jason Koesters/Zach Fishbaugh	6.1
5. Mark Puthoff/Mike Shroyer	5.79

JUNE 1st	BOYD'S CRAPPIE TRAIL	LAKE SEMINOLE	TRAIL
JUNE 1st	CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB/CO-ED
JUNE 1st	CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE ASSOC.	PECKERWOOD OR DES ARC LAKES	CLUB
JUNE 1st	EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB/COED
JUNE 1st	INDIANA SLAB MASTER	LAKE MONROE	CLUB
JUNE 1st	NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB	PYMATUNING LAKE	CLUB
JUNE 2nd	CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE SHELBYVILLE	CLUB
JUNE 2nd	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	PERRY LAKE	CLUB
JUNE 2nd	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE ASSOC	CRAB ORCHARD LAKE	CLUB
JUNE 8th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
JUNE 8th	CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE MITCHELL	CLUB
JUNE 8th	CRAPPIE USA	CARLYLE LAKE	TRAIL
JUNE 8th	EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	MARK TWAIN LAKE	TROLLING ONLY
JUNE 8th	FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	NEWNANS LAKE	CLUB
JUNE 8th	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	DAWSON	CLUB
JUNE 8th	NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE ARTHUR	CLUB
JUNE 8th	TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES	TRUMAN LAKE	SERIES
JUNE 8th	TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB	ENERGY LAKE	CLUB
JUNE 10th	CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLUB
JUNE 14th - 15th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	TRUMAN LAKE	ONE POLE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE
JUNE 15th	INDIANA SLAB MASTER	TANNERS CREEK	CLUB
JUNE 15th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	RAY ROBERTS	QUALIFIER
JUNE 15th	WAPPALLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	KIDS DAY
JUNE 21st - 22nd	AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	KENTUCKY LAKE	TRAIL
JUNE 22nd	CRAPPIE USA	MISSISSNEWA/SALAMONIE	TRAIL
JUNE 22nd	FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE HENDERSON	CLUB
JUNE 29th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	LAKE LAVON	SUPER EVENT
JUNE 29th - 30th	NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB	MOSQUITO LAKE	ULTIMATE CHALLENGE



Photo Contest



1st Place This Month!

Jamie Evans

May 5th 2019 Gantt Lake,
Andalusia al 2lbs 15inches

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.

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The Great Outdoors

by Larry Whiteley

A Message to you Fathers

Someday I'm going to take my kids fishing you say to yourself as you hurry off to work.

Someday I'm going to teach my kids how to shoot a bow but right now I don't want to miss this baseball game.

Someday I'm going to go hiking with the kids and teach them to enjoy nature but right now I've got yard work to do.

Someday I'm going to take the kids on a canoe trip but I better go get the oil changed today.

Someday I'm going to take the kids camping. Maybe I'll do that next week if the weather is just right.

Someday I'll teach my kids how to skip a rock or catch a crawdad or build a camp fire but right now I have to go meet some friends.

Dads, someday your kids will be grown and gone and it will be too late!

A Quote to Remember

"It is my fixed conviction that if a parent can give his children a passionate and wholesome devotion to the outdoors, the fact that he cannot leave each of them a fortune does not really matter so much." — Archibald Rutledge

Beware the Horse Fly

The dreaded horse fly has a bite that is the insect world's answer to the great white shark. One does not get bitten by a horse fly as much as kicked. Just be thankful there are not as many of them as there are house flies or we would never go outside.

Rainbows

At the end of a storm you may see one

of nature's wonders—a rainbow. A rainbow is formed when light from the sun passes through individual raindrops, where it is refracted and reflected.

The process is sort of like light passing through a prism. Magnify this by millions of raindrops in a storm, and the result is the vibrant multihued rainbow. Think of it as a parting gift of the storm.

Now You Know What You Might Not Have Known

You are about nine times more likely to die from being struck by lightning than die from being bitten by a snake.

The Light Show

As a June night settles in grab a lawn chair and get outside. The light show is about to begin and it's a whole lot better than what is on TV. It starts with a flash here, a twinkle there. As you continue to watch, the tiny lights rise into the night sky. They blink and drift until the dark sparkles with little floating flashes made by the firefly.

Some come out at dusk; others wait until its dark. Some live near wetlands; others prefer open fields or edges of woods. Some float softly just above the ground, others fly at eye level or drift among the trees.

How do fireflies light up? I guess only God knows because scientist are still trying to figure it out. Just sit back and enjoy the light show while it lasts.

Nature Note

Fish have been on the earth for more than 450 million years and were well established long before dinosaurs roamed the earth.



**Spring lingers,
but summer's close at hand.**