

# CRAPPIE NOW!

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

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November 2019 - Issue #105



**Using Kayaks to Seek Out Slabs  
How the Pros Won on Lake Grenada  
Destination: Northeast Mississippi**

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**PUBLISHER**

Dan Dannenmueller

**EDITOR**

Richard Simms

**SENIOR WRITER**

Tim Huffman

**WRITERS**

Tim Whiteley

Vic Attardo

Darl Black

John Felsher

Brent Frazee

Greg McCain

John Phillips

Vernon Summerlin

Larry Whiteley

Ron Wong

Gary Lewis

Ed Mashburn

Scott Mackenthun

**LAYOUT**

Eric Lambert

Contact us at:

[info@crappienow.com](mailto:info@crappienow.com)

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## **Opening Cast - Riding the Confidence Wave**

Happy November everyone. I can't believe it is already Fall. It sure hasn't felt like it in the south. I am confident that this heat will relinquish soon.

Speaking of confidence, having confidence in all we do can improve any outcomes, especially fishing. I believe confidence comes from some key elements before, during and after a fishing trip. They include knowledge, preparation, flexibility, and perseverance.

The first key element is knowledge. We gain this from references, videos, articles, on-the-water experiences, mentors, etc. Applying what we think we know and changing the knowledge set under varying conditions while having successful outcomes, like a big catch, is key. Keep good notes and records of trips and save key content pieces for future reference.

The second is preparation for a fishing trip or tournament. Hard work will pay big dividends and build the confidence "that you can do it"! Check the weather conditions, fishing reports, water levels, guide reports as a first step. Ensure your equipment is ready. Keep your outboard motor and boat well maintained.

Once on the water, if your game-plan does not work, be flexible in technique, depth, and approach and stay confident as you do it. I believe the fish can feel your vibes and body language. Just keep having "You can do it!" thoughts.

Lastly, learn from the experience and be positive. Even a bad day on the water fishing is still a good day.

God Bless,

Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher



**Cover Photo:**

The Crappie Masters Team of Frank Haidusek and Mark McClure put a Lake Grenada slab in the boat during the Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters' 2019 National Championship.

# Crappie Masters Championship: Rockin' at Grenada Lake



The National Big Fish was McCready and Hood, a 2.86 (Photo: Tim H

Craig Nichols and Robert Carlile, from Oklahoma, win the Crappie Masters Championship at Grenada Lake. (Photo: Tim Huffman)

by Tim Huffman

## It took crappie that **AVERAGED 2.2** pounds to win the Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters' 2019 National Championship

**W**eigh-ins are more exciting when weights are close. Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters' 2019 National Championship, held September 26-27 on Mississippi's Lake Grenada, was full of excitement with first and second place being only 13-hundredths of a pound difference. The field included 145 teams who had qualified during the year.

Robert Carlile and Craig Nichols took top honors. The team had a hot streak this year winning three regular season tournaments, a huge and rare accomplishment. They weighed 14 fish in the two-day event for 31.97 pounds. They had a 2.85 kicker that was second big fish of the tournament. The team won \$25,000 plus incentives worth over \$2000, and big fish at \$1000.

The team started in second place on day two but the bite on day two was much slower. The team single-pole fished, like they had all year long, even though Grenada is known as a spider rigging lake.

"We were fishing flats and depressions," says Nichols. "I was using a minnow rig and my partner was using a jig, opposite of what we normally do. Due to the high water, the fish were above the Graysport Bridge."

"We use Todd Huckabee Power Crappie Poles with a stiff backbone so we can swing crappie into the boat. We hate trying to use a net. We lost the biggest fish of the week on the last day of the tournament because we tried to net it. We knew it was at least three pounds. We use 12-pound test line, Bonehead and Big Bite Baits, and Robert had found a curlytail jig that worked great down here. The fish were hammering the curlytail.

The team found the bite to be aggressive early each day but slowed down during the day. They use Garmin Live Scope to find and follow fish. At times, they would follow a fish over 200 yards before getting it into position to pitch to the fish.

"We usually catch over 80 percent of the fish we find," says Nichols, "but the fish were so



The eighth-place team of Frank Haidusek and Mark McClure land a nice crappie. (Photo: Tim Huffman)

spooky here at Grenada due to the pressure. Probably 60 percent of our fish ran away from us this tournament. We stayed in nine to 13 feet of water, sometimes a little deeper. Fish were up at two to four feet in the morning but down to six to nine later in the day. Again, the fishing pressure really had them skittish. The second day we probably had 20 boats within a quarter mile."

Carlile says, "I can't put into words what this means to us. We've spent so much time fishing and a lot of time away from home. We put in 60-



plus hours in when we pre-fish the tournaments. We've had a lot of success this year and enjoyed fishing, but we never dreamed we would have a National Championship. Feelings just can't be put into words."

Three regular season wins, second place in Angler Team of the Year race and first place in the National Championship was truly a record year.

Second place were Matthew and Bruce Rogers, a father-son team. Matthew was half of last year's Championship team. Also, the father-son duo won the 2019 Angler Team of the Year Award. They had 31.84 pounds to earn them \$10,000. Similar to the first-place team, they fished above the bridge and chased crappie with their electronics.

Bruce Rogers says, "We were on good fish both days, but we did lose one the first day that looked like it was three pounds. It came off a few inches before we got the net under it. That made the difference in not winning.

"Matthew is really good with Live Scope, using his trolling motor and getting a bait in front of them. He chases them down. Finding a fish on a tree is easy, but finding one in open water and chasing is totally different. We were lucky to get two upgrade fish the final fifteen minutes of the final day that gave us a shot."

The team was fishing depressions on the flats, not paying attention to wood. They were happy with their decisions that are so important in winning, but they just needed to net the big one that got away.

Male-female champs were David and Kim Cox, who slow trolled. Adult-youth winners were Gerald and Beth Ann Overstreet. Big fish went to Jerry McCready and eight-year-old, Jake Hood, with a 2.86-pound slab.

 - Tim Huffman

*Tim Huffman has specialized in crappie fishing writing and photography since 1988. He is currently the Editor/Senior Writer for Crappie Masters Magazine, freelance contributor to four magazines, book author and Senior Writer for CrappieNOW Digital Magazine.*



The eighth-place team of Frank Haidusek and Mark McClure land a nice crappie. (Photo: Tim Huffman)

## Classic Top 10

- 31.97 Roger Carlile-Craig Nichols
- 31.84 Matthew & Bruce Rogers
- 31.21 Richard Bowling-Garry Lee
- 30.42 Joey Johnson-Chris Coffman
- 29.50 Eric Cagle-Wade McDonald
- 29.08 Baylor & Trevor Mead
- 28.93 Marty Snider-Jackie Albin
- 28.37 F. Haidusek-Mark McClure
- 27.77 Robert Ward-Ken Kemp
- 27.18 Jason & Sam Sandage
- 27.18 T Underwood-S Porter



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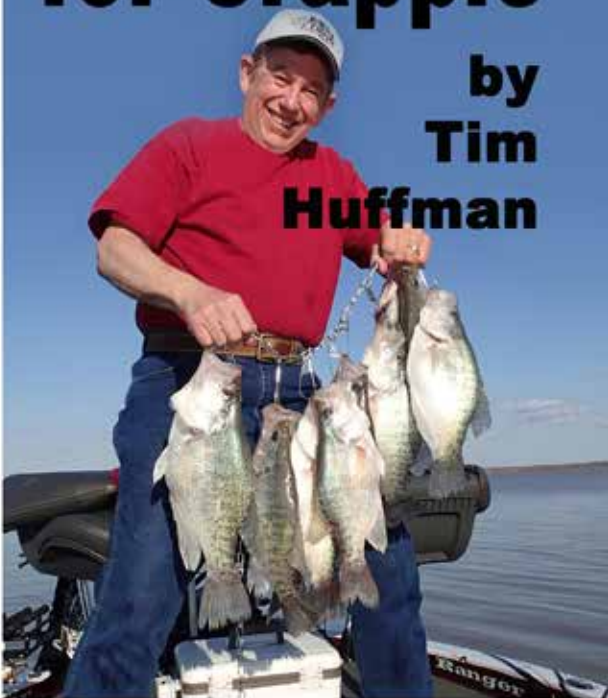






# Limiting Out for Crappie

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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Growing the sport of fishing by educating and inspiring beginner and experienced anglers.



## Crappie Basics #199

Crappie are generally very predictable and aggressive in November – at least in the South. Docks are a prime location for fall crappie, where they can be caught in the upper 10 feet of the water column.

Cast into the back of a boat slip or along the edges, letting the jig sink for two or three seconds, and then retrieve slowly. Crappie will also move into shallow water on warm days in the fall, where you can catch them in the same brush piles they inhabit during the spawn.

Learn more from the [Missouri Dept. of Conservation](#)



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# Destination: Northwest Mississippi

by Richard Simms

**Northwest Mississippi is the gateway to the blues, but it's also the gateway to the best crappie fishing in the nation.**

**A**sk 100 crappie fishermen across the country to name the Top 5 best crappie lakes in the nation (as has often been done in many surveys) and I will bet large amounts of money that either Sardis or Grenada, or both, will be included in those Top 5. And it is likely they would end up as Number One and Number Two.

But in Northwest Mississippi, besides Sardis and Grenada you'll find Arkabutla, Enid and Lake Washington. Move a little south and you'll find the famous Ross Barnett Reservoir. Odds are avid crappie anglers have heard of them all, or at least some. On most lakes in the country a 2-pound-plus crappie is something to write home about. In Northwest Mississippi they can sometimes be routine.

## **WHY IS IT SO GOOD?**

So, what makes Northwest Mississippi water such an amazing crappie producer?

Larry Pugh, the Fisheries Bureau Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) said, "It is all about good dirt [fertile soil]. These lakes are very productive. Also, those lakes were built for flood control, which means water levels fluctuate annually. A fall/winter drawdown concentrates forage and increases predation,

***"If the angler has the proper equipment, depth finders and lake map chips, it's possible to catch fish without a guide."***  
***~ Bernard Williams, Magnolia Crappie Club***

which results in increased growth."

Mina Thorgeson with the Ridgeland, Miss. Tourism Commission lives almost on the shore Ross Barnett. Thorgeson said, "The growing season is all year long. It stays warm enough to allow the baitfish to survive the winter. And the big fish are protected with 12-inch size limits and 15-crappie-per-day creel limit. There's good spawning areas and lots of grassy areas to protect the fry after they hatch."

It is all a recipe for incredible crappie fishing.

Of course, there are numerous crappie guides in the region, not too difficult to find via Google. But what about the DIY (Do It Yourself) crappie fishermen - what are your chances of visiting these lakes and tracking down 2-pound-plus slabs?

Bernard Williams with the Magnolia Crappie



Club, said, “Excellent question. If the angler has the proper equipment, depth finders and lake map chips, it’s possible to catch fish without a guide. However, if time is a factor, I would employ a guide for the first day. A good pair of binoculars helps [for finding other crappie boats].

Pugh agreed saying, “Navigating the big reservoirs is usually not a problem. Finding fish typically means looking to see where the other crappie boats are fishing. And there are ALWAYS other crappie boats fishing. Booking a guide certainly offers advantages; most visitors now book a trip with a guide the first day or two of their trips to learn areas and techniques.”

**WHEN SHOULD YOU GO?**

Pugh says the lakes provide excellent fishing year around.

“Winter can be very good as lower water levels tend to concentrate fish on the main lake, usually relating to the main river channel,”

The Northwest Mississippi reservoirs produce black and white crappie, Two-pound-plus crappie are not terribly unusual. (Photo: Richard Simms)

he said.

But he added that HIS favorite time is spring.

“There is nothing like wading in the spring on Grenada Lake when the crappie are shallow. Fishing with one pole in the flooded backwaters reminds me of how we fished as kids.”

**THINGS TO DO (BESIDES FISH)**

It is very easy to spend several days in Northwest Mississippi and never touch on all the fun stuff, in addition to fishing. But here are some highlights.

Pugh says the North Mississippi Fish





Hatchery and Visitor Education Center, located below Enid Dam, is a great family destination. The Center features a native habitat area, a 10,000-gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, gift shop and gallery, and the World Record White Crappie.

Just a stone's throw away from Arkabutla Lake you will find Tunica, Mississippi. Of course, there are plenty of thriving casinos if you want to gamble on something other than crappie fishing. But don't go to Tunica without visiting the Gateway to the Blues Visitors Center and Museum. This rustic train depot, circa 1895, is a must-see attraction for all music lovers, telling the remarkable story of how The Blues was born and the role Tunica played in building the genre's legacy.

Ridgeland, Miss., on the shores of Ross Barnett, boasts more than 150 restaurants, three major shopping areas and a Retail Trail of local retailers. Cyclers can enjoy more than 15 miles of multi-use trail along the Natchez

Ross Barnett near Ridgeland, MS is one in a chain of reservoirs that produce great crappie fishing in Northwest Mississippi. (Contributed Photo)

Trace Parkway, a BMX track and mountain bike trails all within the city. The Bill Waller Craft Center is home to the Craftsman's Guild and displays original pieces from artisans around the state along with demonstrations from featured artists. A visit to the two new museums, Mississippi Museum of History and Civil Rights Museum, would provide an educational experience for the family.

For more information, visit <http://www.visitridgeland.com>.

 - Richard Simms



The Gateway to the Blues Museum in Tunica, MS provides a great interactive glance back at the music that made the region famous. (Photo: Richard Simms)

Kayak rentals are just one of many options for visitors to Ridgeland, MS. Learn more at [www.visitridgeland.com](http://www.visitridgeland.com) (Contributed Photo)



# A Fish Tale

by Gil 'Roadkill' Lackey

**Gil Lackey never sees things the same way as most anglers.**

**(Editor's Note:** *Whenever we are fishing, we all wonder what the fish are thinking. Gil Lackey knows.*)

**G**rowing up was no splash in the lake. In fact, Mom and Dad were taken away from my siblings and me not long after I was born. We were placed in a small, stark orphanage with countless other newborns, but I learned to be confident and aggressive in order to stand out. Sheltered from the realities of the outside world, we were safe there. There were lots of other young'uns to play with, and with very little supervision, we were free to pretty much do as we pleased.

When we could finally fin for ourselves, a huge school bus transferred us to a much larger facility out in the country. Our arrival was packed with plenty of fanfare as we got to ride a huge waterslide that dropped us off at our new digs. We met new friends there and were given lots of space to learn and grow.

But it was a little unsettling being thrust into such a vast and diverse environment at a young age. I was now just a small fish in a big pond. I transferred from school to school but never graduated. I felt like a fish out of water. Maybe I would have been more successful if I had applied myself, but I got hooked on fishing and often skipped school to feed my passion.

On one hand, I lived in a multicultural community where black and white lived in perfect harmony. On the other, the schools weren't always safe. Neighborhood bullies would eat us alive if we showed any weakness. On those occasions, I'd break ranks and seek shelter from the bigger kids.

When I got a little older, my siblings and I felt we were swimming in troubled waters, and it was time to fish or cut bait. We moved

out of the sticks and into a more solid structure. Still, the fishing bug fed my soul. It was around the family pond that I learned the ways of the world. As a frivolous adolescent, I was a sucker for every new bait I saw. If it chugged, wiggled, or flashed, I ate it up. I settled on the easiest morsels for a kid my age to handle, mostly tiny worms and any bugs I could find.

***"It was around the family pond that I learned the ways of the world."***

Such was the norm until some of my buddies educated me on all the drop-offs, log jams, rock piles, and other aquatic caches. My favorite baits graduated to minnows and any other tiny fish, whatever I could easily catch. My friends and I sometimes trolled from brush pile to brush pile until we found one where the bite was on. Other times, getting deep up under boat docks was the ticket to success. The weather and time of year dictated the pattern, and although success was hit or miss, I usually caught enough to fill my belly.

Sometimes, people took their boats out and dumped Christmas trees and other brush into piles, giving my friends and me new honey-holes to fish. These spots got too crowded on weekends, so I often laid low until everyone left.

When adolescence hit its stride, the fairer sex started monopolizing more of my time. I've always believed there are plenty of fish





in the sea, so monogamy has never been my strong suit. The ladies always seem to pay more attention to me during the spring spawn, one of the best times of year to go fishing. Women definitely can put a damper on your fishing time, but I guess they're worth it in the end.

As a young adult, I have just gotten fatter and more sedentary. That's what happens when you drink like a fish and eat too much seafood. These days, my fishing forays around the family pond occur mostly early and late. The kids aren't frolicking haphazardly when the sun's tickling the horizon, and I can fish in solitude. Lately, I've gotten into the bigger baits, too. Baby bluegills and small shad are my current fancies. I've learned the hard way, however, that frogs are not all they're croaked up to be.

Just last week, I was cruising by my favorite honey-hole looking for dinner. As I hovered above a stack of Christmas trees, I couldn't resist giving a lively minnow a shot. As it hopped among the branches, I exploded on it, inhaling it with a massive flare of my gills. The next thing I knew, I got yanked

Gil Lackey knows how to catch a crappie, even with a fly rod. He should since he apparently also knows EXACTLY what crappie are thinking.

skyward into some unknown universe. An enormous creature with a fish-eating grin kissed me square on my papermouth. As I dropped back toward the water, I thought I heard, "Just a speck too small. Bring your daddy with ya next time."

Too small? Gimme a break! And I haven't seen my daddy since I was a young fry!

*(Gil Lackey is an outdoor writer, editor and photographer who specializes in fictional humor, bowhunting and fly fishing, but his greatest expertise lies in trail cameras. He is the former president of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association and the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association. Contact him at [gilbertlackey@gmail.com](mailto:gilbertlackey@gmail.com))*

 - Gil Lackey

# ***CrappieNow Senior Writer Wins Lifetime Achievement Award***

**Huffman has dedicated his life to helping crappie fishing grow, and to helping crappie anglers catch more fish.**

**T**im Huffman was recently honored by the Bass Pro Crappie Masters organization by being presented the Lifetime Achievement Award.

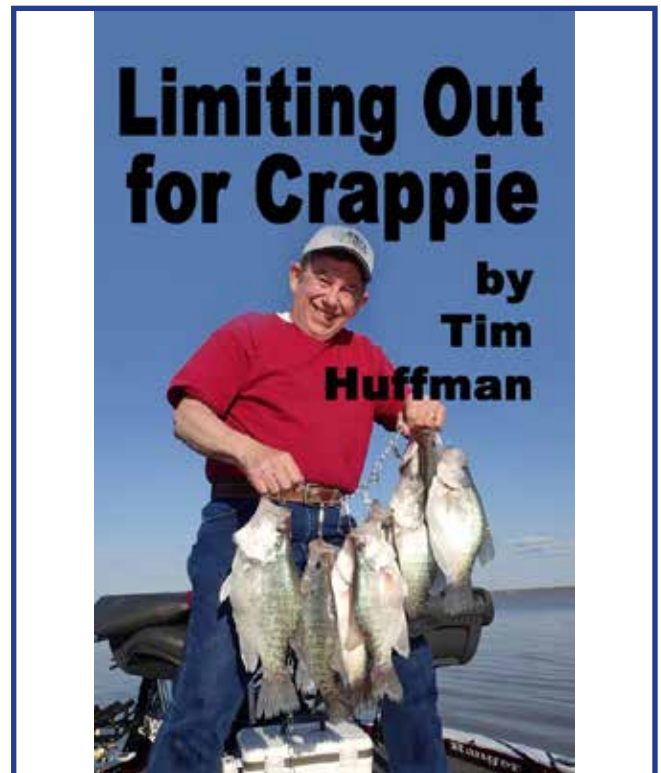
Huffman has specialized in crappie fishing for 31 years. He has written newspaper columns, magazine articles, shot over 100 magazine cover photos, published eight books, been involved in four crappie newsletter/magazine start-ups, was editor of CrappieNow for eight years and is currently the magazine's Senior Writer. He is also editor of Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters Magazine.

Crappie Masters' Brian Sowers says, "It was truly an honor to present Tim Huffman with the Lifetime Achievement Award. He has done so many things over the years for Crappie Masters and for all of crappie fishing. His writing reflects 'Let's teach people how to do this,' as he strives to help fishermen catch more fish.

"Tim has helped people get involved in the sport of crappie fishing and taught them to be better fishermen. We thank him for everything he has done and there is no one more deserving of this award."

Huffman says, "It's a surprise and honor to receive this award. My writing is simple, not fancy. I try to present tips, tactics and other fish-catching ideas in a way that is easy to understand. I'm proud to be writing for crappie fishermen who, as a group, has the same characteristics and personalities as me. God has blessed me in many ways, including opening doors so I could write about the great outdoors that He created."

***Crappie Masters' Brian Sowers says, "His writing reflects 'Let's teach people how to do this,' as he strives to help fishermen catch more fish."***



Tim Huffman, Senior Writer and former Editor of CrappieNOW magazine.

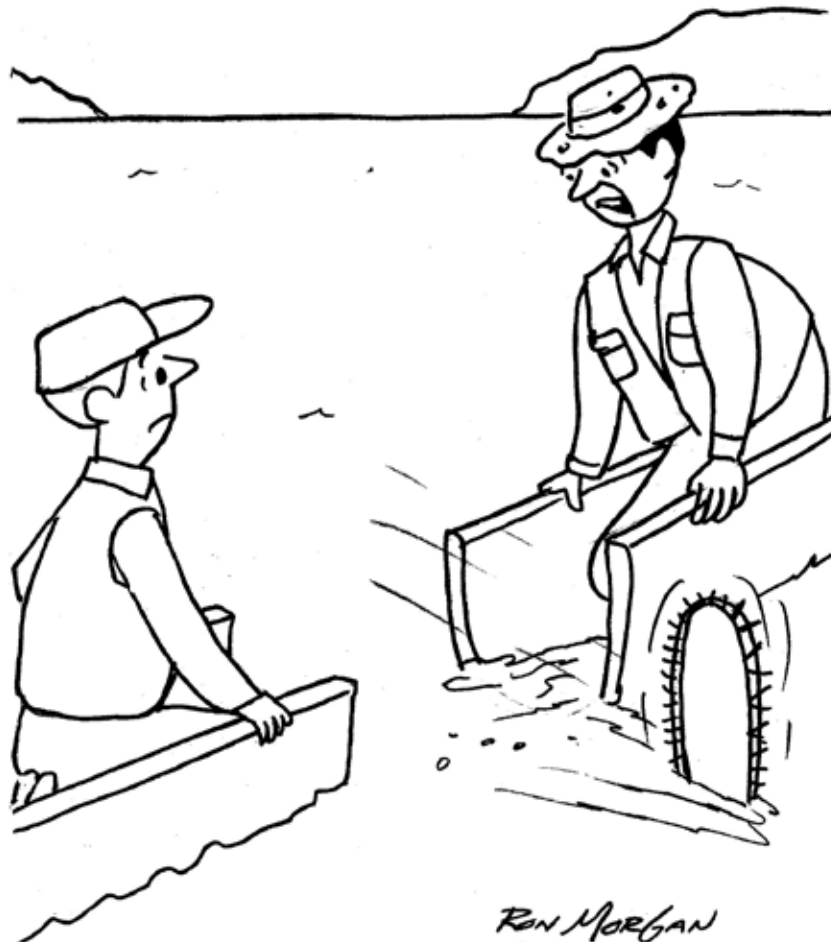


First announced at the 2017 ICAST trade show, the Strike King Mr. Crappie Scizzor Shad Jig was designed by pro angler, Wally Marshall, aka: Mr. Crappie. This larger size, pro performance shad-style jig, complete with a unique profile, produces an irresistible quivering

action designed to keep your rod and reel busy all day long. The Strike King Mr. Crappie Scizzor Shad Jig packaging includes a pre-rigged head and provides the perfect pole-bending solution to fishing in heavy cover.



# Fishing Funny's



"Where would a fish get a chainsaw?"



# ***Rig That “Yak” for Crappie***

by Ed Mashburn

Properly equipped kayaks can be very effective crappie fishing boats.



It turns out that converting a stock fishing kayak into a crappie-catching machine is really not that hard or expensive. When rigging a kayak for dedicated crappie fishing, the main thing to keep in mind is that you need to be able to present a number of rods with different lures or baits at different depths. Determining the depth crappie are holding and what they are eating is crucial, and it varies greatly from day to day.

Rod holders are the key. Most stock

Kayaks allow anglers to slowly and quietly work shorelines for the hottest beds of spawning crappie.

kayaks have “rod holders” built in, but these are nothing more than rod transporters, and they don’t have much use for crappie anglers. Kayak anglers will want to install some kind of mounting system on the kayak. There are many brands and kinds of these mounting tracks, and they all work



well. These tracks allow crappie anglers to mount different numbers, sizes, and positions of rods to allow maximum bait presentation.

Some kayak anglers can manage a bewildering array of rods. Their kayaks look like giant bugs with antennae sticking out in all directions. I admire these folks, but I can't keep up with that many rods at one time.

My old blue Hobie kayak is equipped with rod tracks on both sides of the foredeck, so I can switch a holder from side to side as my needs change. I can keep up with a single long "rod holder rod" and a short ultra-light spinning rig which I use to toss jigs.

Small jigs fished from a kayak are a great way to fill an ice chest.

### **Give Them a Choice**

By presenting baits and lures at different depths, kayak anglers can usually find the best presentation fairly quickly. Crappie are very sensitive when it comes to their depth preferences, and by using long rods, short rods, rods horizontal to the water and rods more vertical, anglers can give the crappie the choices they sometimes want.

I have found that by using a long





crappie pole – 8 feet long or more -which presents my bait a good distance from the boat and holds the bait at a selected depth, and at the same time casting my ultra-light spinning rig, I can cover a wide range of depths to help locate the schools of feeding crappie.

And since the long pole holds the bait stationary and the spinning rig presents an actively moving bait or lure, I can find out whether the crappie want movement or non-moving bait.

Another good thing about setting up a kayak for crappie fishing is that none of the necessary equipment is terribly expensive. The crappie rod and reel rigs run less than \$50 each, and the tracks and rod holders are not terribly expensive either. Once installed, the track and holders last a long time.

Kayaks put crappie anglers in position to fish effectively.

### **Use the Wind in Open Water**

Once the spring spawn is over, crappie will leave the shallow, brushy shallows and head out into deep, open water where they spend the rest of the year working bait schools. These schools of feeding crappie can travel far and wide, and a kayak helps anglers cover the open water to find the feeding fish.

The wind can be used to move a kayak slowly over open water flats where anglers can find the best concentration of slabs. I've seen kayak anglers who used their paddle boats in some of the very big Tennessee River lakes to drift fish



**Kayaks can snake their way through the thickest cover and put anglers in contact with the biggest crappie.**

the deep flats once the crappie had left the spawning shallows in late spring, and these folks were extremely successful with post-spawn crappie.

If the kayak is equipped with a sonar fish finder, kayak anglers can move upwind of the main feeding schools and let the wind move the kayak over the feeding fish.

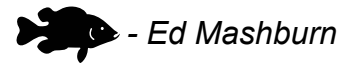
**Spring fishing- Shallow Structure**

Probably the classic crappie fishing situation occurs in spring when the big slabs go in the shallows - often wooded and hard to reach shallows- where they spawn in massive numbers. That means

in some locales kayaks can be the very best fishing craft for putting anglers in the right places to mop up the spawning crappie.

Some truly big bedding crappie - and lots of them - can be located and caught by using the kayak to find the most protected spawning shallows.

*(Ed Mashburn is a retired public school teacher, outdoor writer and photographer. He lives in southern Alabama, but he fishes for anything - carp and trout in Arizona, smallmouth bass and crappie in Wisconsin to snook and snapper in the Florida Keys.)*



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# 2019 AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL



**PROVIDER OF PREMIER CRAPPIE  
TOURNAMENTS WITH THE HIGHEST  
GUARANTEED PAYOUT IN THE INDUSTRY.**

## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

2019 Championship Sardis, MS - March 26-28, 2020

Lake Guntersville, AL	April 24-25, 2020
Grenada, MS	May 15-16, 2020
KY Lake, TN	June 19-20, 2020
Ouachita River, LA	August 28-29, 2020
Ross Barnett, MS	October 23-24, 2020
2020 Championship	TBD Spring 2021

[americancrappietrail.com](http://americancrappietrail.com)

BABY SHAD

SPEAR TAIL

SPLIT TAIL



SWIM TAIL

JIGHEADS

ACCESSORIES



Bobby Garland Crappie Baits

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**NEW!** Itty Bit Slab Slay'R & Swim'R



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**Making it Easy  
to Bow-and-Arrow Style**

**NEW!** Dock Shoot'R Pull Tabs



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**We Produce Crappie  
Fishing's Finest Jigheads**

**NEW!** Crappie Pro Series



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## Crappie Basics #200

Unfortunately, many anglers stow away the boat and fishing tackle before the first snow flies. Those who don't can experience some of the best fishing of the year and have their favorite lake all to themselves.

You can find crappie in deep water (20 to 40 feet) in the winter, but they will move into shallower water during a string of warm days. The key to catching crappie in the winter is to use a very slow retrieve. In cold water, crappie will not chase a fast-moving lure like they will during the warmer months.

In addition, winter crappie tend to congregate in large, dense schools near structure instead of scattering in loose schools over a large area. Casts to one side of a brush pile may yield nothing while the other side may produce a fish on nearly every cast.

Learn more from the [Missouri Dept. of Conservation](#)



# CrappieNow Columnist Larry Whiteley Receives Awards

Larry Whiteley's "Great Outdoors" columns are a favorite for CrappieNOW readers. His work has been recognized by one of the most prestigious outdoor writing organizations in the country.

Larry Whiteley, CrappieNow "Great Outdoors" columnist, was presented several awards at the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writer (AGLOW) conference held in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Two impressive awards included the AGLOW Best of Show award and induction into Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is one of the most prestigious awards a fisherman, communicator, industry specialist or other fishing-related expert can receive. The recipient must be known in the freshwater fishing world, involved in the education of the outdoors and many other qualities expected of a sportsman and professional.

Whiteley says, "Being inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is a very humbling experience. It's certainly a gift from God because He gave me the desire to do what I do and to tell others about the great outdoors He created. It's our responsibility to take care of it and tell others about it. We need the outdoors. Many legends have won the award, so it's an honor. I certainly don't feel like a legend, just an instrument that God uses.

Also, Whiteley received AGLOW's Best of Show Award, meaning his work was the best overall outdoor communications of the year, compared to all other hunting, fishing and against all categories of writing, radio, TV and other media communications. His writing touches the hearts of readers, a skill we seldom see in today's fast-paced world of how-to communication. He has been the voice

of Bass Pro Shops for decades, is host of their radio programs, is a writer and has a long list of other works.

*Induction into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is one of the most prestigious awards a fisherman, communicator, industry specialist or other fishing-related expert can receive.*

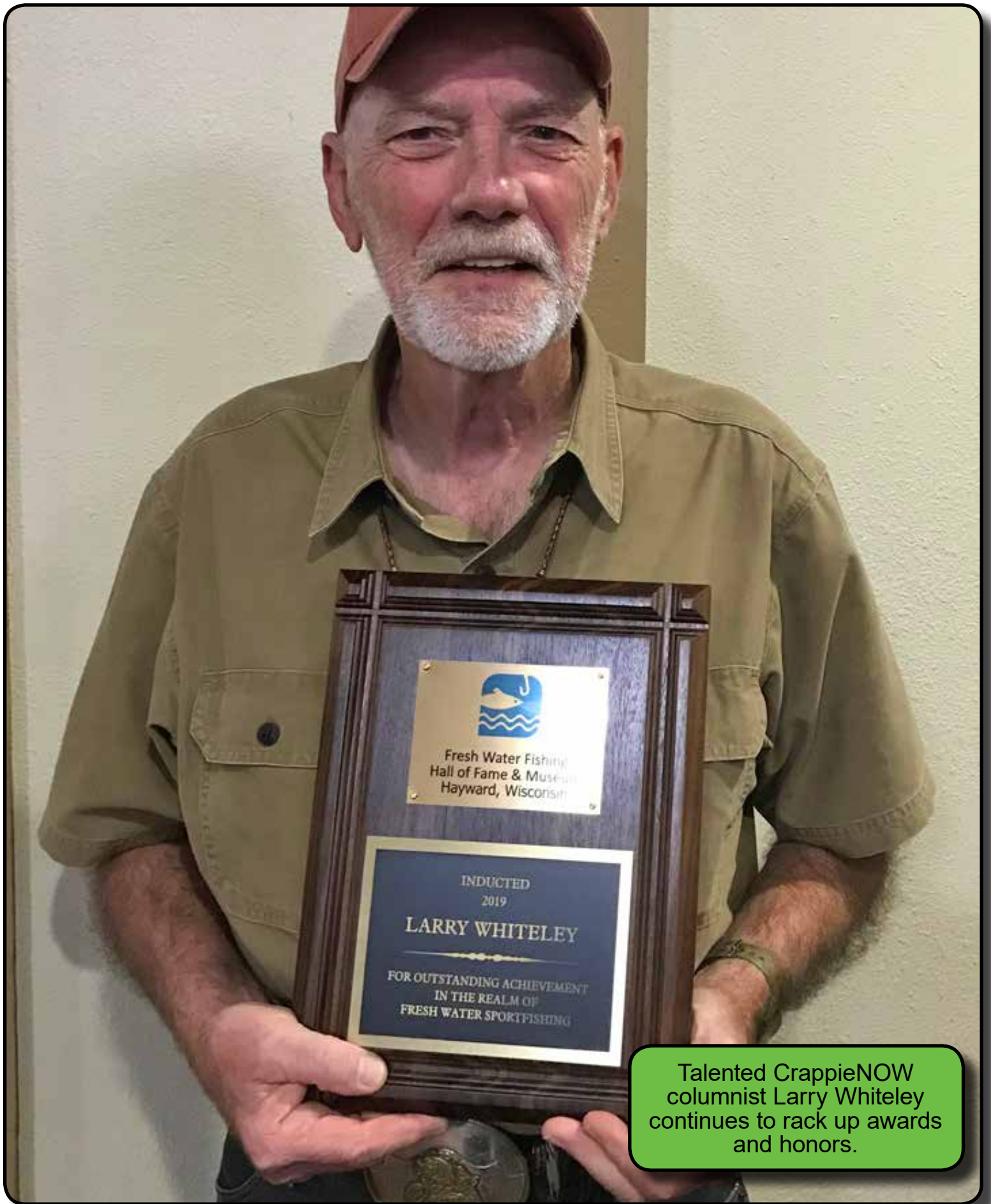
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Talented CrappieNOW columnist Larry Whiteley continues to rack up awards and honors.

# CRAPPIE GEAR

*Eye Hole Jig by Gill Reaper Lures*



There is a new jig head making waves in the crappie fishing world. It is called the Eye Hole Jig by Gill Reaper Lures.

Gill Reaper Lures co-owner Blake Philips said, "We sold our first ones in August (2019) and it's insane what they're doing. We can hardly keep up with the orders."

The most unique feature about the Eye Hole Jig is the hollow eye space which is the perfect size to hold a crappie niblet scent attractant.



The new catch on the Eye Hole Jig is just that – the eye hole. They’ve created a patent-pending mold that produces a hollow eye hole which is the perfect size to insert a Berkley Gulp niblet or Crappie Bites or most of the other crappie attractants on the market.

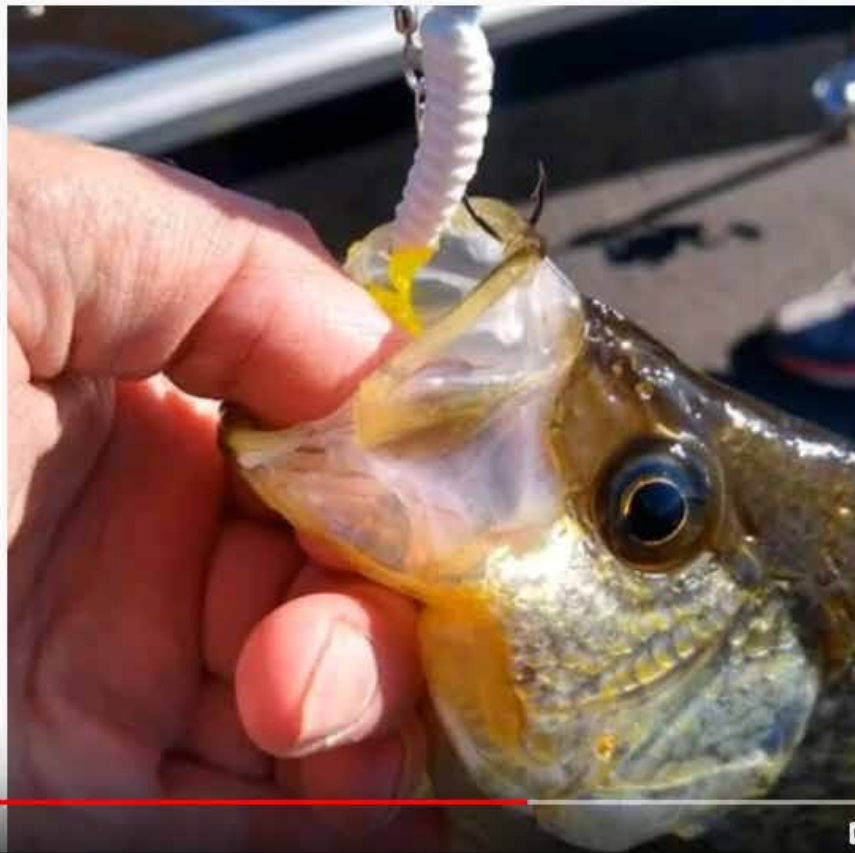
“You can push a Gulp niblet in the eye hole and it will stay there forever,” said Philips. “When you put niblets on the hook they’ll usually wash off in just a few casts but they’ll stay in our eye hole jig a long time, keeping that scent in the water. Some of the pros using the Eye Hole Jigs say they could watch on Live Scope and

Anglers can change the color profile of each Eye Hole Jig by selecting different colors of attractants placed in the eye hole. You can push a Gulp niblet in there and it will stay there forever,” said Gill Reaper co-owner Blake Philips.

actually see crappie bypass other jigs to hand pick our jigs.”

The Eye Hole Jig comes with or without underspin, depending upon the size. They retail for \$4.50 for a 3-pack of 1/16th ounce heads.





“We use up to five coats of paint with black nickel sickle hooks,” said Philips. “I like the black nickel because they won’t rust.”

Learn more at

<https://www.gillreaperlures.com>

***Some of the pros using the Eye Hole Jigs say they could watch on Live Scope and actually see crappie bypass other jigs and hand pick our jigs.” - Gill Reaper co-owner Blake Philips***



Crappie Dan discusses the correct process for breaking in your new Yamaha Outboard. He recommends following your manufacturers guidelines.

For Yamahas, the process is presented on the [maintenance.yamahaoutboards.com](http://maintenance.yamahaoutboards.com) website. Following this process will prove invaluable to the life of your outboard.





## Crappie BBQ

The English word "barbecue" comes from the Spanish word barbacoa. After Columbus landed in the Americas in 1492, the Spaniards apparently found indigenous Haitians roasting meat over a grill consisting of a wooden framework resting on sticks above a fire. The flames and smoke rose and enveloped the meat, giving it a certain flavor.

Traditional barbacoa involves digging a hole in the ground and placing some meat, usually a whole lamb, above a pot so the juices can be used to make a broth. It is then covered with de-thorned maguey leaves (a member of the agave family of plants) and coal and set on fire. This technique migrated from the Caribbean to other cultures; Spain Portugal, France and Britain.

A few hundred years later in the U.S. we think of barbecue as classic Americana. In the United States, grilling refers to a fast process over high heat while barbecuing refers to a slow process using indirect heat or hot smoke, similar to some forms of roasting. Typically grilled food is cooked on a grate directly over hot charcoal, while during barbecuing, the coals are raked to the sides or at a significant distance from the grate.

Each state features its own variety of barbecue, including type of meat and special sauces. North Carolina sauces vary by locale: eastern North Carolina uses a vinegar-based sauce, the center of the state uses Lexington-style barbecue, with a combination of ketchup and vinegar as their base, and western North Carolina uses a heavier ketchup base. Lexington calls itself

"The Barbecue Capital of the World" claiming it has more than one BBQ restaurant per 1,000 residents.

South Carolina is the only state that traditionally includes mustard-based, vinegar-based, and light and heavy tomato-based sauces.

Memphis barbecue is best known for tomato- and vinegar-based sauces. In some Tennessee establishments and in Kentucky, meat is rubbed with dry seasoning (dry rubs) and smoked over hickory wood without sauce. The finished barbecue is then served with a barbecue sauce on the side.

The barbecue of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee is almost always pork, often served with a sweet tomato-based sauce. Several regional variations exist. Alabama is known for its distinctive white sauce, a mayonnaise- and vinegar-based sauce originating in northern Alabama, used predominantly on chicken and pork. A popular item in North Carolina and Memphis is the pulled pork sandwich served on a bun and often topped with coleslaw. Pulled pork is prepared by shredding the pork after it has been barbecued as opposed to chopping.

Kansas City-style barbecue is characterized by its use of different types of meat, including pulled pork, pork ribs, burnt ends, smoked sausage, beef brisket, beef ribs, smoked/grilled chicken, smoked turkey, and fish. Hickory is the primary wood used for smoking in Kansas City, while the sauces are typically tomato based with sweet, spicy and tangy flavors. Texas, of course, is known for its beef.

## Fish BBQ

12 whole hand-sized crappie  
Vegetable cooking spray  
Vegetable oil  
Salt to taste

Generously spray grill grate with cooking spray. Dip fish in vegetable oil. Sprinkle cavities with salt and place crappie on grill. Cook over medium coals (300°F to 325°F on a gas grill) until flaky and golden brown. Baste often with Basting Sauce.

### Basting Sauce

1 pound butter  
3 ounces Durkee Famous  
Sandwich & Salad Sauce  
1 cup lemon juice  
1 tablespoon salt  
2 teaspoons Worcestershire  
sauce  
2 teaspoons horseradish  
Hot sauce to taste

Mix ingredients together in saucepan and simmer until butter is melted. Baste fish while grilling.

## Spicy Crappie Chunks and Peanut Dipping Sauce

2-4 crappie fillets cut into  
1-inch strips  
3 tablespoons chili sauce, such  
as Sriracha sauce  
1/2 cup breading such as seasoned

or Panko bread crumbs  
1 tablespoon Chinese 5 Spice  
2 cups vegetable oil

In a small bowl, mix breading and Chinese 5 Spice. Add fish strips a few at a time, tossing gently to coat with breading; shake off any excess. In a large skillet, heat oil to 350-360° F. Add fish chunks strips slowly and cook until golden brown, turning once (about 4 minutes). Remove strips from oil and drain on paper towels. Place on a serving dish with Thai Peanut Dipping Sauce.

### Thai Peanut Dipping Sauce

1/2 cup reduced-fat coconut milk  
3 tablespoons peanut butter  
1 tablespoon reduced-sodium soy  
sauce  
1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes  
1/4 teaspoon sesame oil  
1 garlic clove, minced

In a small saucepan, whisk together all ingredients over medium heat; bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to low; cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool to room temperature before serving with crappie chunks.



## HOI CRAPPIE CLUB

ILLINOIS RIVER

### SEPTEMBER 21st

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Chad Anderson/Terry Davis | 5.99 |
| 2. Nick Frost/Quentin Frost  | 5.15 |

### BIG FISH

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Chad Anderson/Terry Davis | 1.1 |
|------------------------------|-----|

## MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB

ENID LAKE

### SEPTEMBER 21st

- |                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Lance Evans/John Harrison    | 13.61 |
| 2. Bill Thornburg/Bob Grantham  | 12.83 |
| 3. Scott Ryals/Shane Johnson    | 12.49 |
| 4. A.E. Smith/Dan Presley       | 12.29 |
| 5. Jeremy Aldridge/Clint Egbert | 11.98 |

### BIG FISH

- |                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| 1. Nick Hudson/Ryan Legge | 2.48 |
|---------------------------|------|

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB

WOODS RESERVOIR

### SEPTEMBER 21st

- |                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Roger Johnson/Jamie Johnson | 7.74 |
| 2. Terry Spray/Tyler Spray     | 7.04 |
| 3. John/Dave                   | 5.59 |
| 4. Robert/Larry                | 5.49 |
| 5. Toby Ivey/Matthew Nash      | 5.4  |

### BIG FISH

- |                |      |
|----------------|------|
| 1. Randy Clark | 1.75 |
|----------------|------|

## TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB

TWIN LAKES

### SEPTEMBER 21st

- |                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1. James Thompson/Chris Collins | 8.91 |
| 2. Lee Anderson/Rick Johnson    | 7.56 |
| 3. Austin Brown/Buddy Coy       | 6.53 |
| 4. Frank Finley/Doug Bell       | 4.92 |
| 5. John Feagin/Angie Feagin     | 2.15 |

### BIG FISH

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Lee Anderson/Rick Johnson | 1.72 |
|------------------------------|------|

**YADKIN RIVER CRAPPIE TRAIL**

HIGH ROCK LAKE

**SEPTEMBER 21st**

1. L. Eudy/Cuzzins	9.115
2. Goforth	8.845
3. Hawkins/Hawkins	8.765
4. Eudy/Koontz	8.495
5. Lundy	8.315

**BIG FISH**

1. Ferguson/Michaels	1.695
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**GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES**

GRAND LAKES

**SEPTEMBER 22nd**

1. Joe Vanover/Troy Zimmerman	8.45
2. Jeff Toben/Mike Bell	7.26
3. Tony Sielschott/Jacob Sielschott	7.05
4. Mark Puthoff/Mike Shroyer	6.97
5. Ryan Kennedy/Scott Sipe	6.65

**CRAPPIE MASTERS**

GRENADA LAKE

**SEPTEMBER 25th - 28th**

1. Robert Carlile/Craig Nichols	31.97
2. Matthew Rogers/Bruce Rogers	31.84
3. Richard Bowling/Gary Lee	31.21
4. Joey Johnson/Chris Coffman	30.42
5. Eric Cagle/Wade McDonald	29.5

**BIG FISH**

1. Jerry McCready/Jake Hood	2.86
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**MALE/FEMALE**

1. David Cook/Kim Cook	26.83
------------------------	-------

**ADULT/YOUTH**

1. Gerald Overstreet/Beth Ann Overstreet	24.01
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**FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB**

LAKE GRIFFIN

**SEPTEMBER 28th**

1. Sam Cooper/Tony Office	6.08
2. Anthony Strollo/Don Vanderpool	6.03.8
3. Randy Nugent/Chuck Rayburn	6.03
4. Scott Lawson/Randy Sizemore	5.11.8
5. Tim Stephens	5.11

**BIG FISH**

1. Randy Nugent/Chuck Rayburn	1.02.7
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## NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE MILTON

### SEPTEMBER 28th

1. Jerry/Eric	9.6
2. Wes/Kolby	8.26
3. Brad/Sean	7.88
4. Brandon/Tyler	7.25
5. Jeff/Dom	6.14

### BIG FISH

1. Jerry/Eric	1.8
---------------	-----

## INDIANA SLAB MASTER

LAKE MONROE

### SEPTEMBER 28th - 29th

1. Tim Guard/Robert Williams	16.18
2. Bret Cunningham/Keith Lucas	15.28
3. Brad Fleetwood/Adam Fleetwood	15.08
4. Kirk Wymen/Bob Raymer	14.73
5. Ty Smith/Chuck Richart	14.46

### BIG FISH

1. Matt Mappes/John Mappes	2.07
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## GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES

GRAND LAKES

### SEPTEMBER 29th

1. Joe Vanover/Troy Zimmerman	8.44
2. Jeff Toben/Mike Bell	7.67
3. Jason Koesters/Zach Fishbaugh	7.5
4. Dustin Chrisman/Austin Chrisman	7.07
5. Phil Stone/Dustin Fast	6.37

**CRAPPIE USA**

WEISS LAKE

**OCTOBER 5th****AMATEUR DIVISION**

1. Avery Pruitt/Tim Pentecost	7.52
2. Jason Lawless/Jeff Baker	7.27
3. Phillip Sinyard/Randy Jenkins	7.22
4. James Causey/Tom Gant	7.12
5. Heath Martin/Matt Eskridge	6.31

**PRO DIVISION**

1. Kris Mann/Terry Mann	7.45
2. Tony Thomas/Jamie Heflin	7.35
3. Adam Mobbs/Carlton Teague	7.14
4. Stanley Steed/Leonard Steed	6.83
5. Shawn Gore/Joey Peck	5.23

**BIG FISH**

1. Avery Pruitt/Tim Pentecost	1.92
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**HOI CRAPPIE CLUB**

CLINTON LAKE

**OCTOBER 5th**

1. Steve/Dave	5.85
2. Terry/Coach	5.35
3. Thrasher/Milanec	5.35
4. Jeremy/Izzy	5.27
5. Jeff/Joe	4.96

**BIG FISH**

1. Jeff/Joe	1.33
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**BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION**

BEAVER LAKE

**OCTOBER 11th -12th**

1. Seth Eden/Randy Eden	8.36
2. Ronnie Davidson/Brad Blue	7.48
3. Matt Phillips/Rance Carter	7.28

**BIG FISH**

1. Ronnie Davidson/Brad Blue	1.39
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**FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB**

LAKE LOCHLOOSA

**OCTOBER 12th**

1. Don Collins/Rusty	8.13
2. Harold/Joe	8.08
3. Barry/Jessica	8.07
4. Darryl Cole/Teresa Cole	8.01
5. Danny Williamson/Beth Williamson	7.12

**BIG FISH**

1. Barry/Jessica	1.14
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## TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB

KY DAM/60 80 BRIDGE

### OCTOBER 12th

1. Chris Collins/James Thomason	9.19
2. Max Gore/Mike Smith	8.55
3. Frank Finley/Doug Bell	6.88
4. Logan Roberson/David Butler	6.85
5. Lee Anderson/Rick Johnston	6.78

### BIG FISH

1. Chris Collins/James Thomason	1.75
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## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE ASSOC.

REND LAKE/KINCADE LAKE

### OCTOBER 12th - 13th

1. Durham/Lindsey	16.79
2. Johnston/Haines	16.32
3. Snyder/Boucher	15.79
4. Kendall/Kendall	15.37
5. Shoppell/Hancock	15.23

### BIG FISH

1. Durham/Lindsey	2.3
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## TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES

TRUMAN LAKE

### OCTOBER 12th - 13th

1. Vallentine/Stocking	21.12
2. Rogers/Rogers	20.18
3. Bowling/Shackleford	18.86
4. Thomas/Zimmerman	18.73
5. Fernandez/Morgan	18.46

### BIG FISH

1. Fernandez/Morgan	2.18
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## GRAND LAKES CRAPPIE SERIES

GRAND LAKES

### OCTOBER 13th

1. Jeff Toben/Mike Bell	7.68
2. Dustin Chrisman/Austin Chrisman	7.44
3. Jason Koesters/Zach Fishbaugh	7.17
4. Tony Sielschott/Jacob Sielschott	7.07
5. Mark Puthoff/Mike Shroyer	7.06



**CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB**

CHESTER FROST PARK

**OCTOBER 19th**

1. Jim Edmister/Jason Morrison	6.94
2. Michael Ray/Brian Parker	6.87
3. Ernie Biddy/Stan Dickert	6.8

**BIG FISH**

1. Fred Schoenfeld	1.37
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**MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB**

ARKABUTLA LAKE

**OCTOBER 19th**

1. Brad Chappell/Hunter Chappell	16.8
2. Chaney Starnes/Chris Savage	16.51
3. Scott Ryals/Shane Johnson	16.17
4. David McWilliams/Robbie Niven	16.11
5. Mike Parks/Phyllis Parks	15.87

**BIG FISH**

1. Scott Ryals/Shane Johnson	3.18
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**MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB**

TIMS FORD

**OCTOBER 19th**

1. John Wells/Tracy Farmer	9.02
2. Larry Britton/Robert Baker	8.85
3. Joey Davis	8.49
4. Myron Croft/Randy Taylor	8.29
5. Jamie Johnson/Roger Johnson	8.04

**BIG FISH**

1. Randy Clark/Del Hayes	1.95
--------------------------	------

**NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB**

SANDUSKY BAY

**OCTOBER 19th**

1. Luke/Matt	12.27
2. Jerry/Eric	11.31
3. Brad/Sean	10.28
4. Wes/Kolby	10.17
5. Brandon/Tyler	9.86

**BIG FISH**

1. Dan/Bob	2.38
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# CRAPPIE CLUBS

<b>Club</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Link</b>
AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	Matt Morgan	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
BAYOU STATE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	Brandon Jennings	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.	Peyton Usery	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
BOYDS CRAPPIE TRAIL	Blake Phillips	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	Austin Kneeskern	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAPPIE CLUB	Dan Dannanmueller/Jonathan Phillips	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	Jason Westerberg	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	Joe Schrader/Greg Foley	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	Mike Johnston/Jim Edmister	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
COOSA RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	J CULBERSON	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	JAY Reve	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CRAPPIE MASTERS	Mike Valentine	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CRAPPIE USA	Darrell Van Vactor	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CRAPPIENUTZ MS	Robert Smith/Joe Faircloth	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
EAST TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB		<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	Steve Perotto	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
FISH THE CAROLINAS	Nate Quan	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	Darrell Cole	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
GRAND LAKE CRAPPIE SERIES OH	Jeff	<a href="#">WEBSITE</a>
HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	Chad Anderson	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
INDIANNA SLAB MASTERS	Joe Long/Damon Phillips	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	Hoe Bragg/Frank Haidusek	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
LAKE OKEECHOBEE CRAPPIE SERIES	Derrick Moore 954-650-0456	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB	Michael Nowell/Roger Womack	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB	Toby Ivey	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
NORTHEAST GEORGIA CRAPPIE	Kevin Strong	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB	Dan Elko/Robert Elko	<a href="#">WEBSITE</a>
OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL	Darrell and Brian	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
PEACH STATE CRAPPIE CLUB	Robert Smith	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	Keith Dodd	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SOUTH CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOC	Jerry Bundrick	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE	Chad Hamson	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SLABMASTERS TOURNAMENT TRAIL	Jamie Moore/Dan Sidle	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
S.N.A. CRAPPIE MASTERS	Tony Long/Todd Ulery	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE CLUB IL	Jerry Jallas/Rick Montooth	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES	Roger Mann 913-963-6350/ANGLERS PORT MARINE	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB		<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
ULTIMATE PANFISH LEAGUE/UPL		<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB MO		<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
YADKIN RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	SHANE WALSER	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>

NOV	2nd	EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB
NOV	2nd	CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB
NOV	2nd	CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	DECATUR	CLUB
NOV	2nd- 3rd	CRAPPIE MASTERS	BARCLEY/KY LAKES	SUPER EVENT
NOV	3rd	CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLUB
NOV	9th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE SHELBYVILLE	OPEN
NOV	9th	FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	SANTE-FE LAKE	CLUB
NOV	9th	TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB	FISH ANYWHERE	OPEN
NOV	16th	MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE WASH/BMO-WASH CVB	CLUB
NOV	16th	YADKIN RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE TILLERY	TRAIL
NOV	17th	CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLUB
NOV	23rd	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
NOV	23rd	FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	FLORAL CITY	CLUB
NOV	23rd	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	NORMANDY	CLUB
NOV	24th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE SHELBYVILLE	CLUB
NOV	29th	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	NORMANDY	CLUB
NOV	30th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	CLINTON LAKE	CLUB
NOV	30th	CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB
NOV	30th	WAPPALLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLUB
DEC	7th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC	BEAVER LAKE	BIG CRAPPIE CHALLENGE
DEC	7th	CRAPPIE USA	ST. JOHNS RIVER	TRAIL
DEC	7th	MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB	OKATIBBEE LAKE	CLUB
DEC	7th	TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB	FISH ANYWHERE	CLASSIC
DEC	7th	CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLUB
DEC	14th	FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	CRESENT LAKE	CLASSIC
DEC	14th	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	WOODS RESERVOIR	CLUB
DEC	14th	YADKIN RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	TUCKERTOWN RESERVOIR	TRAIL
DEC	15th	WAPPALLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLUB

# The Great Outdoors

by Larry Whiteley

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## A TIME TO BE THANKFUL

Thanksgiving Day most of us will gather in family groups to celebrate a truly American holiday. In most cases headlining the feast will be turkey roasted a golden brown. Today's Thanksgiving turkey is a pen raised variety but the turkeys who helped the pilgrims through the winter of the first Thanksgiving were wild birds that fell to the hunter's gun and were part of the bounty of the new world wilderness.

If you sit down to a wild turkey feast, duck breast, wild pheasant or roast venison this Thanksgiving; be proud of your resourcefulness and skill. Also, take time to thank America's great conservationists who have helped make such a feast possible and our God who created the great outdoors for us to enjoy and take care of.

## CRAPPIE FOR THANKSGIVING

If you're lucky enough where you live to have 3 or 4 straight days in November of above 60 degrees you need to take some time off from hunting and go crappie fishing. Fried crappie with the Thanksgiving turkey would be a really special treat this year or just sitting around watching football games and eating fried crappie sounds pretty good too.

## WATERFOWL AND WEATHER

With the low visibility of heavy fog ducks and geese don't like to fly much. But when they do, they become very vulnerable to calling. Cold fronts do push ducks and geese south but not all the time. Sometimes, when they can find suitable areas to roost and feed, they will stick around.

## DEER CAMP PRANKS

I love playing pranks on hunting buddies at deer camp. One year I took a very real looking

fake rattlesnake and put it in the floor of the outdoor john. I watched as several hunting buddies went in to do their duty only to come stumbling out with their pants down around their ankles. They did pull them up before they started chasing me.

We also had a guy who is deathly afraid of mice. He has found fake mice in his sleeping bag, in the camp box, dangled on a line above his face while sleeping and in the toilet role container in the outdoor john. He promises me he will get even.

When we have a new guy at deer camp, I take tootsie roll midges, tear off pieces and roll them up until they look like deer droppings. I then take the guy out, act like I find them and show him how to tell what deer are feeding on by popping them in my mouth and chewing them. The look on their face is priceless.

## WE ALL NEED THIS

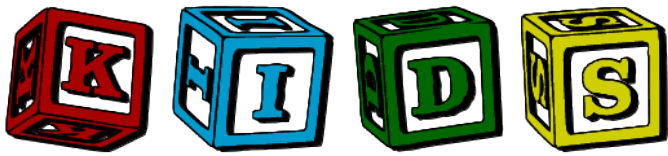
Sunrises and sunsets in the outdoors are better than any TV show. Lying in a tent listening to crickets, whippoorwills and peeper frogs is better than the finest hotel room. Being with your son, grandson or granddaughter when they harvest their first turkey or deer or catch their first fish is a memory you will never forget.

The outdoors is a stress reliever and a worry reducer that slows down the hectic pace of life and brings the world back into perspective and we all need that nowadays.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"In God's wildness lies the hope of the world." – John Muir

# CRAPPIE



*Crappie USA*  
*Free Rodeos for Kids*

Did you know Crappie USA hosts free kid's crappie fishing rodeos at almost all of its tournaments throughout the year?

The events are free for kids up to 12 years old and everyone who

enters gets some sort of prize with top prizes in different divisions for the winners.

Make plans now to attend at least one of the [26 events Crappie USA](#) has on the schedule in 2020.



Kids

Fishing

Rodeos



# Photo Contest



## 1st Place This Month!

Lane & Lakelyn Peterson  
Marion Reservoir, Marion, Kansas  
Only 11 inch crappie, and a smaller  
one we didn't measure, but the  
best night on lake with family!

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](http://www.crappienow.com) for details.

# Photo Contest



## Runner Up:

K J Smith

Caught this 14 3/4" crappie that weighed 1.87 pounds at Shenango lake in northwest Pennsylvania.

## Runner Up:

Craig Hensley

Orange B&S Jigs Hair Jig

The future looks good in IL.

Only 6 inch maybe 1/4 lb

But healthy black nose.



**Tennessee Wildlife Commissioner and radio host Tony Sanders can catch crappie with the best of them.**



**(Photo: Richard Simms)**