

CRAPPIE NOW!

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

fishhound
and more fishing news

Crappie.com

October 2019 - Issue #104



Small Water = Big Crappie (including a world record)
In the Spotlight: Crappie Pro and TV Host Russ Bailey
Destination: Otter Tail County, Minnesota

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TV host Russ Bailey loves crappie fishing and the people he meets through fishing. Learn more about him and his fishing.



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Opening Cast

Is anybody out there?

We know there are. According to the most recent national survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service there are about 7.8 million anglers who fish for crappie a combined total of 107 million days each year. That is nearly 14 days per person. Statistically speaking it is huge.



But sometimes when we are staring at our computer monitors at CrappieNOW it is easy to forget there are real people out there in the world... many of which are hanging on our every word. But most are a silent majority.

Every now and then e-mails pop up that remind us you are out there. Recently one reader was fascinated by Crappie Dan's "How to" video in the September Edition about how to rig the "[Dinner Getter](#)" jig. He needed to know more about where to find the jigs Dan described. Chances are more of you are wondering as well. Crappie Dan suggests you check out [Pro Built Jigs](#).

Inspired by a story from Brent Frazee in the [August Edition](#), another reader wrote, "I wanted to thank you for inspiring me to go night fishing. I got one light you wrote about. It was an amazingly quiet and peaceful night, resulting in a basket full of fish."

That is the kind of stuff we live for. We just wish we heard more of it.

Not that we are fishing for compliments. On the contrary – we want to hear the good, the bad and the ugly - not just about the content we are sharing, but the way we are sharing it. We are working on a new website and magazine delivery design.

So whether it is what we are writing about (or NOT writing about), or about the technical side of the CrappieNOW format, drop us an e-mail at info@crappienow.com.

Or at the very least just say, "Hi," so we do know you're out there.

Richard Simms, Editor

"The outdoors is not a place, it's a state of mind."

Cover Photo:
Even in the South temperatures begin to cool down in October. It may not be quite as good as the Spring bite, but with the right techniques stringers full of slabs can come your way.
(Photo: Richard Simms)

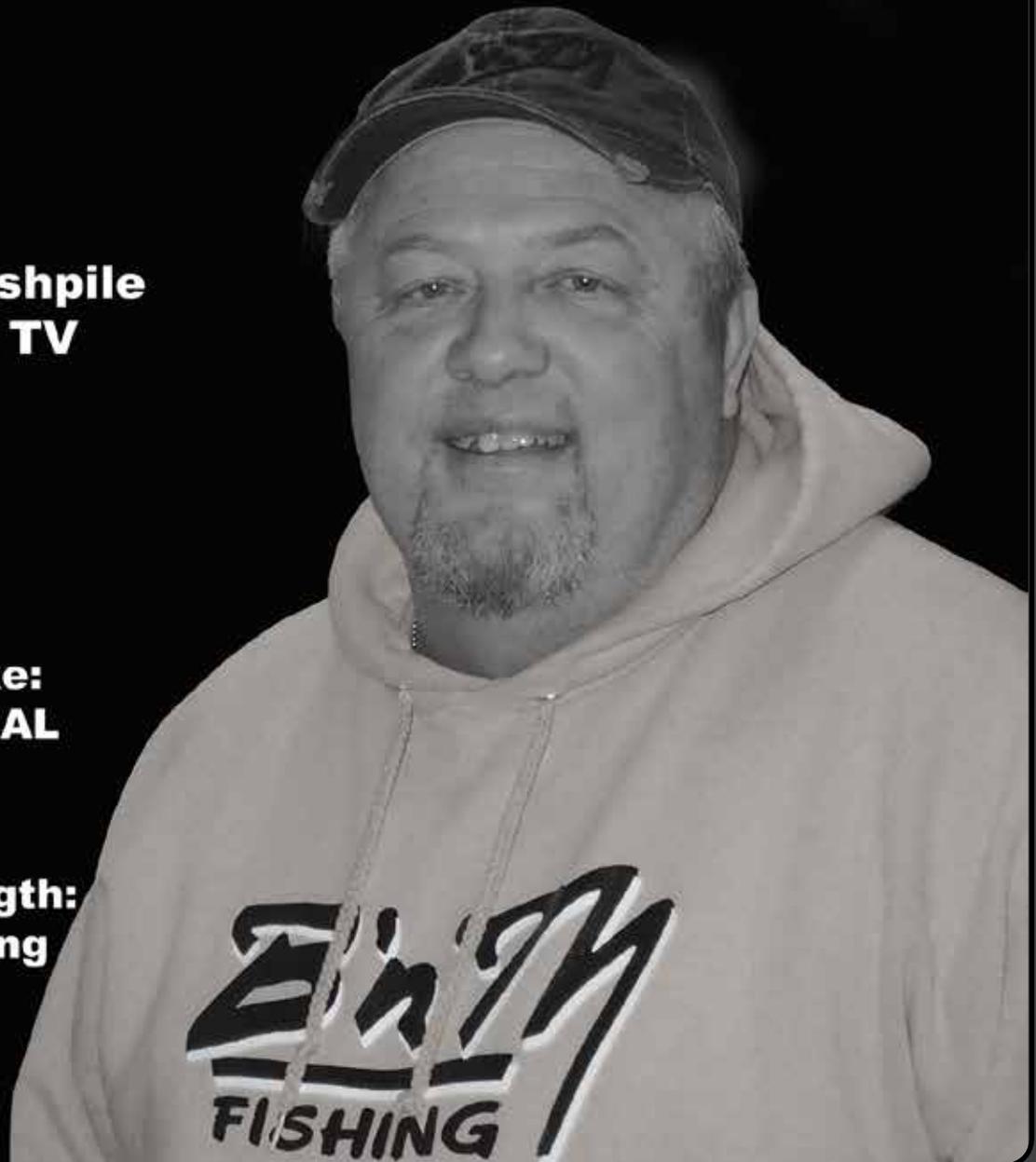
In the Spotlight

Russ
Bailey

**Host...Brushpile
Fishing TV**

**Favorite lake:
Weiss Lake, AL**

**Fishing strength:
Dock shooting**



by Tim Huffman

This retired police officer now goes out of his way to promote crappie fishing



Russ Bailey has hosted crappie fishing TV shows for 14 years. His current show, in its sixth year, is [Brushpile Fishing TV](#). He has a new podcast available at iHeartRadio, 1150 WIMA. He fished national tournaments for 12 years racking up 14 wins and qualifying for 11 classics. He is a fishing guide. Primary sponsors include: BnM Poles; Bone Head Tackle; Slime Line; and Crappie Magnet. Along with the credentials, he is a great ambassador for the sport of crappie fishing.

Bailey was born in 1962 and is a retired police officer. He lives in Ohio with his

Russ Bailey travels the county fishing different lakes with various pros. He displays a nice crappie taken on a jig. (Contributed Photo)

wife of 30 years, Pattie. They have two grown children.

How did you get started crappie fishing? "I use to be a serious walleye fishermen on Lake Eric," says Bailey. "Some of the guys at work asked me to go crappie fishing with them and to tell the truth, I wasn't that excited about it. However, as soon as I started catching crappie on light



tackle, I was hooked from that moment on.”

Highlight?

“It is still happening, my Brushpile Fishing TV Show. The guys do an outstanding job of producing a high-quality show that we are all very proud of. Each show we have an expert guide or tournament fishermen and the show is theirs. They share tactics, tips and lake information with the viewers. I get to share a fishing spot in the boat, talk a little and catch fish.”

Fishing strength and weakness?

“Shooting docks is my strength. My weakness is clear water. I always struggle in clear lakes.”

You fish all over the country. What’s your favorite lake?

“Everybody says Grenada but mine is Weiss Lake, Alabama. I love dock shooting and there are so many docks down there. I also love the area. My second lake would be Lake Fork, Texas, because it’s a great lake for vertical jigging timber.”

You have your own rod?

“It’s the BnM Russ Bailey Signature Series 10.5-foot. It is a good vertical jigging rod and I also use it around docks to flip and pitch. We also have an 8-foot model.”

What about line?

“That’s my number one seminar question. I use four-pound-test high-vis line for most of my fishing. I use to use six-pound for years but the four just gets more bites and bites are easier to see.”

What if you could only have one jig in the boat?

“That’s tough. It would be a Brush Glider, 1/16-ounce in purple shad. I’m old school. I do like a handful of colors but I know what works so I’ll often have yellow/white in stained water and blue/white or purple/white in clear.”

You’ve been in the fishing business many years. What keeps you motivated?

“It’s the interaction with crappie fans and fishermen. I get to visit with so many people each year and I love it. I even got

busier yesterday when we started a new podcast on iHeartRadio.”

Pet peeves?

“When I’ve found a spot and start catching fish, then someone moves in close enough we can touch each other. That’s ridiculous but it happens and shows major disrespect.”

“I never fill up with gas in the morning. Getting that smell on your hands or clothes can hurt your fishing the rest of the day.” ~ Russ Bailey

How you spend time when not fishing?

“Baseball. My son played serious travel ball for years and now he’s playing college ball. When not fishing, we are doing baseball activities.”

American heroes?

“Our military.”

Fishing heroes?

“Ronnie Capps and Steve Coleman. I’ve had the opportunity to fish with them a few times and film them in tournaments. I’ve never seen a more fine-tuned fishing machine than those two. They will bend over backwards to talk with fishermen who want to ask questions and learn.”

Boat food?

“Peanut butter and crackers.”

Sports teams?

“Reds and Indians baseball. Football is Steelers and Ohio State.”

Favorite movie?

“Lonesome Dove.”

How about a couple of tips guaranteed to help readers catch more fish?

“I never fill up with gas in the morning. Getting that smell on your hands or clothes can hurt your fishing the rest of the day. The other would be to use Crappie Nibbles when the bite is slow. They work wonders.”

Something most people don’t know about you?

“I’m not a fan of politics or politicians. I

won't read or listen to them, reporters or people in general. I see good and bad in all of them, but I see politics dividing a lot of people who would otherwise be friends. It tears me up to watch what politicians are doing to this country."

How would you like to be remembered?

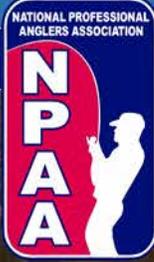
"As someone who really tried to help promote the crappie fishing industry."

You can learn more about Bailey by going to his [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

(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.)

 - Tim Huffman





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



Whitey Outlaw DOUBLE DUTY

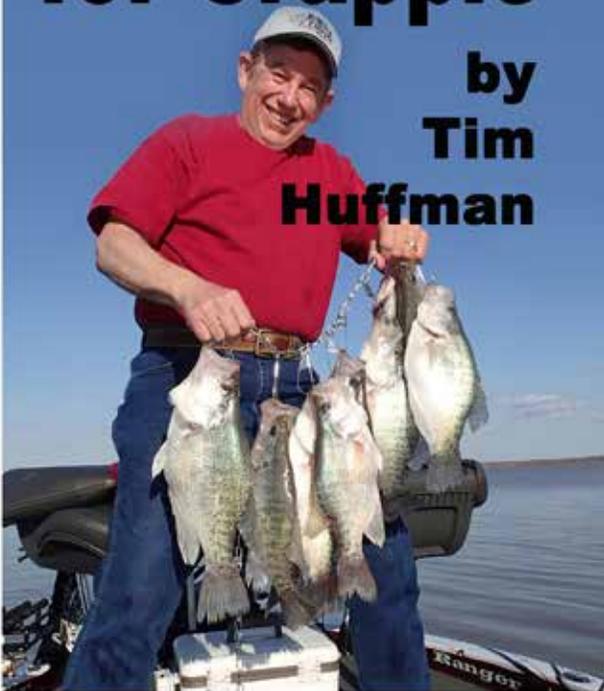
Get back to "Fishing The Basics" with Whitey Outlaw. This Medium-Action rod is for big heavy hybrid bream, monster shellcrackers & any size crappie. It's perfectly balanced with a comfortable foam handle for all-day fishing - no reel needed! It features a tough & lightweight Graphite Blank, and one tip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





Limiting Out for Crappie

by
**Tim
Huffman**



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

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

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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.



Learn 2 Fish With Us

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



Crappie Basics #197

Use the Right Fishing Knot – Many people believe that loop knots are best when casting crappie jigs. Sometimes they're called "Kreh Loops" as they were popularized by fishing legend Lefty Kreh. This type of fishing knot will allow the jig to move more freely on retrieve. It provides subtle movement of jig that won't occur if the jig is cinched tight to the line. Sometimes those subtle movements can make a difference to more finicky crappie, especially when vertical jigging. Check out [this video from Lindner's Angling Edge](#) to learn how to tie this effective knot.



2019
Crappie USA

Tournament Trail Schedule

Crappie USA

220 Mohawk Ave
Louisville KY 40209
502-384-5924



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

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

www.crappieusa.com

Small Water for BIG Crappie

by Ed Mashburn

Small waters offer some of the best crappie fishing to be found anywhere.



Although most crappie anglers love to visit on big lakes, rivers, and reservoirs to find and catch crappie, they might just be missing out on some seriously good crappie catching in small water.

Case in point - Lionel "Jam" Ferguson caught the world record black crappie (5.7 lbs.) in May of 2018 on a small private lake in East Tennessee. This absolute monster crappie replaced the former world record

A typical spring crappie caught from a small lake. (Photo: Ed Mashburn)

black crappie, a five-pounder, which came from a private lake in Georgia in 2006.

Although not all small waters can produce a world's record crappie, many smaller ponds and lakes provide an almost untapped bounty of great crappie fishing.



And according to the world-record evidence, the biggest crappie do come from smaller waters.

Small Private Ponds

If an angler can arrange permission to fish private lakes which hold crappie, then things are just about perfect for some real fun. Most private lakes and ponds receive very light fishing pressure, and the crappie may be totally unaware of any dangers from anglers and easy to fool.

There are thousands of smaller lakes and ponds scattered across the country which hold crappie, and the best thing about these small waters is that usually at least a few of them are very close to wherever a crappie angler lives.

Whether fishing on foot from the shore

Here's the start of something good- small lakes and ponds hold lots of good crappie.
(Photo: Ed Mashburn)

or from a small boat, crappie anglers who spend some time fishing and learning particular small lakes and ponds can become very well acquainted with the fish, with the water, and with the structure of a small lake much easier than trying to learn the ins and outs of a major reservoir with often variable water levels. In small waters, anglers can learn when and where in the course of a year the crappie will be catchable.

I have permission to fish a small private lake - perhaps twenty-acres in size - very close to my house. I have learned where





the crappie hold in deeper water in hot and cold weather, and where the crappie go to spawn in spring. I know this small lake well, and I can usually bring enough crappie back home from a fishing trip for a good fish fry, regardless of the time of year.

According to world-record evidence, the biggest crappie do come from smaller waters.

And to be honest, walking slowly along the bank of a small lake or pond allows a crappie angler to thoroughly work potentially good water. It's much easier to maintain position when you're standing on the bank as opposed to being in a boat.

This is the place - a small, mostly neglected private lake with lots of crappie waiting to be caught. (Photo: Ed Mashburn)

Backwaters of Larger Lakes

Many major lakes and rivers have lots of small, hard to access backwaters and sloughs that can hold tremendous numbers of crappie, especially in springtime when the slabs seek quiet shallows for spawning. There are several reasons for crappie anglers to concentrate on smaller backwaters which connect to bigger lakes or rivers.

First, big boat anglers can't reach these waters, so there is less competition. Whether a crappie chaser is on foot or in a small boat, these secluded backwaters are the private property of anglers who are willing to do a little footwork to reach the fish.

Just by walking the bank and casting, a



crappie angler can locate the most reliable spawning shoreline, and the crappie will return to the best spots year after year.

Near one of my favorite crappie lakes, Lake Conway in central Arkansas, I have found a small pond which in high spring water is connected to the main lake by a single two-foot deep channel. I learned that when the willows growing along the banks of this pond start to show green in their branches, the slabs will be bedding below the willows. The crappie make the trip through the shallow channel and pile up in the protected waters of the small pond, and they will be eating up every kind of bait I want to throw to them.

Crappie anglers who want to find some very good crappie and lots of them often need to think SMALL!

Lionel "Jam" Ferguson caught the world record black crappie (5.7 lbs.) in a small, private lake in East Tennessee.
(Contributed Photo)

(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.)

 - Ed Mashburn

Catching Western Crappie on the Fly

by Gary Lewis

Wind-drifting for papermouths with fur and feather



“Lay the fly on the water. Strip line out. That’s right. Now shake the rod tip.” That’s fly-fishing. These kids – the 4-year-old grandson and the 6-year-old granddaughter – can cast a fly as well as any kid, but they don’t need to. Not in a canoe, not in a boat. When our craft catches a bit of wind and we began to drift, they can work out the line, get the fly to where the fish are and keep it there.

And when they’re not casting, they’re not

hooking their grandpa. Even youngsters like Little Smokey can master fly fishing for crappie with the right technique. (Photo: Gary Lewis)

hooking their grandpa.

In our quest to turn two small children into ardent anglers, our tenth trip of the year was to [Prineville Reservoir](#), a reservoir where a person can catch rainbows, bass and catfish,



but the crappie stack like cordwood across the flats.

Crappie are not easy to find in our high desert home. Only a few reservoirs hold these fish and most anglers chase the trout or bass, but one of my favorite targets are black crappie, and it was time to expose the kids to this most sporting of the spiny-rays.

One thing we figured out pretty early is, if we were going to turn these kids into lifelong fishermen, we need to make sure they succeed almost every time we fish.

When we put the boat in the water, there was a chop at the surface and fish on the depthfinder at 40 feet. But when fish are schooled like that, the feeders are higher in the water column.

A red and white jig tied of marabou and chenille produced several crappie for Little Smokey. (Photo: Gary Lewis)

We set our strike indicators at eight feet. The local intel said the fish wanted red and white or pink and white. We found the patterns in our boxes and knotted them on. With the wind out of the northwest we would drift at a pretty good clip until the breeze died at sunset.

One thing we figured out pretty early - if we were going to turn these kids into lifelong fishermen, we need to make sure they succeed almost every time we fish. And we tell them we don't get fish every trip. But we make sure they catch fish at least 19 times out of 20 tries. Crappie are good for our numbers.

My wife, Merrilee was in charge of Little Smokey armed with her 2-weight custom rod and the boy, Johnny, elected to stay at the back of the boat where he could help run the outboard with my dad.





Over the years, I've noticed [Prineville Reservoir](#) fish are less oriented to structure than crappie in other lakes. Where we find them in summer, they are spread across a large flat, bounded by cliffs on the south shore.

We let the breeze blow us past a rocky point and as soon as we were in open water, Johnny's indicator jabbed underwater.

When the crappie began to put its saucer-sized flanks into the battle, the boy arched the rod and grabbed the reel handle. His grandma netted the fish for him and the first crappie went into the box.

Anytime crappie are on the menu, look for flies that are heavy and imitate small baitfish. Crappie eat all sorts of things from copepods to chironimidae, but they are programmed to chase small fish.

Small silvery minnow imitations, chartreuse Woolly Buggers, little gold chubs with thin

Don Lewis and little Johnny watch the floats, wind-drifting jig-type flies and leadhead Woolly Buggers. (Photo: Gary Lewis)

black fins and white leeches and red and white and pink and white. But most important, crappie flies should be heavy, with tungsten bead heads. If they are tied in the balance style or on jig hooks, so much the better. Because we are targeting crappie at a specific depth, a heavy fly gets down where the feeders are, as fast as it can get there.

For a strike indicator, I opt for a plastic [Thingamabobber](#) which loops on the line and can slide up and down. A nine-foot leader (when paired with a nine-foot rod) is a good choice because the float can be set at the top of the leader's butt section.

10 Great Crappie Patterns

- *Blood-Spot Bugger – Black*
- *Rainy's Deep South Popper*
- *Rainy's Carp-Tease – Brown*
- *Carter's RL Dragon - Olive*
- *J's Frogman – Pumpkin*
- *J's Little Devil – Chartreuse*
- *Mihulka's Crappie Special - Yellow*
- *Mihulka's Bluegill Bee*
- *Riendeau's Wee Willy Wiggler – Blue*
- *Hutchins' Flashabou Damsel - Green*

Casting is a consideration, but in a wind-drift situation, the float can be put out upwind and the line stays taut.

When anchored up, flip the float downwind and let the rig drift on the riffled water. With the up and down motion of the wavelets - that little bounce - the marabou tail on the fly dances, giving life to the fly.

Intergenerational Rivalry

My dad and granddaughter battled to see who could land the most fish. When the float twitched, the six-year-old learned to set the hook fast.

Of course, I had my own numbers to put up. When the indicator went under, I set the hook and pulled the fly away.

A gust of wind caught the line and I snagged my granddaughter in the arm of her new sweater. She didn't tell me I needed to be more careful until the second time I hooked her.

 - Gary Lewis

Gary Lewis is an outdoor writer and Hunting and Fishing show host, speaker and photographer who makes his home in Central Oregon. Throughout the year, he can be found hunting and fishing around the world and across the American West. Learn more at <http://www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com>

Riendeau's Wee Willy Wiggler



Mihulka's Crappie Special - Yellow



Blood-Spot Bugger – Black



Good scales insure accurate weights of those slab crappie. That's fun for any crappie angler but absolutely essential for tournament anglers. Crappie Dan recommends RigRap Scales coupled

with RigRap Fish Grippers. A simple tare button allows adjustment for spot-on accurate weights of crappie or even larger fish, including catfish.



CRAPPIE NOW!

DIGITAL MAGAZINE



Fishing Funny's



"The next time we go out for a bite, it's going to be in a restaurant!!"



Destination: Otter Tail County, Minnesota

by Scott Mackenthun

This Minnesota crappie gem offers public water, or ice, year-round.

The numbers are in your favor when chasing crappies in [Otter Tail County, Minnesota](#). In the Land of 10,000 lakes, Otter Tail County stands out for having over 1,000 lakes, tops in Minnesota and the most lakes in any single county in the United States. There's no shortage of water here and enterprising crappie anglers can fish a handful of lakes in a day, satisfying anglers looking for trophies or numbers.

Expert Advice

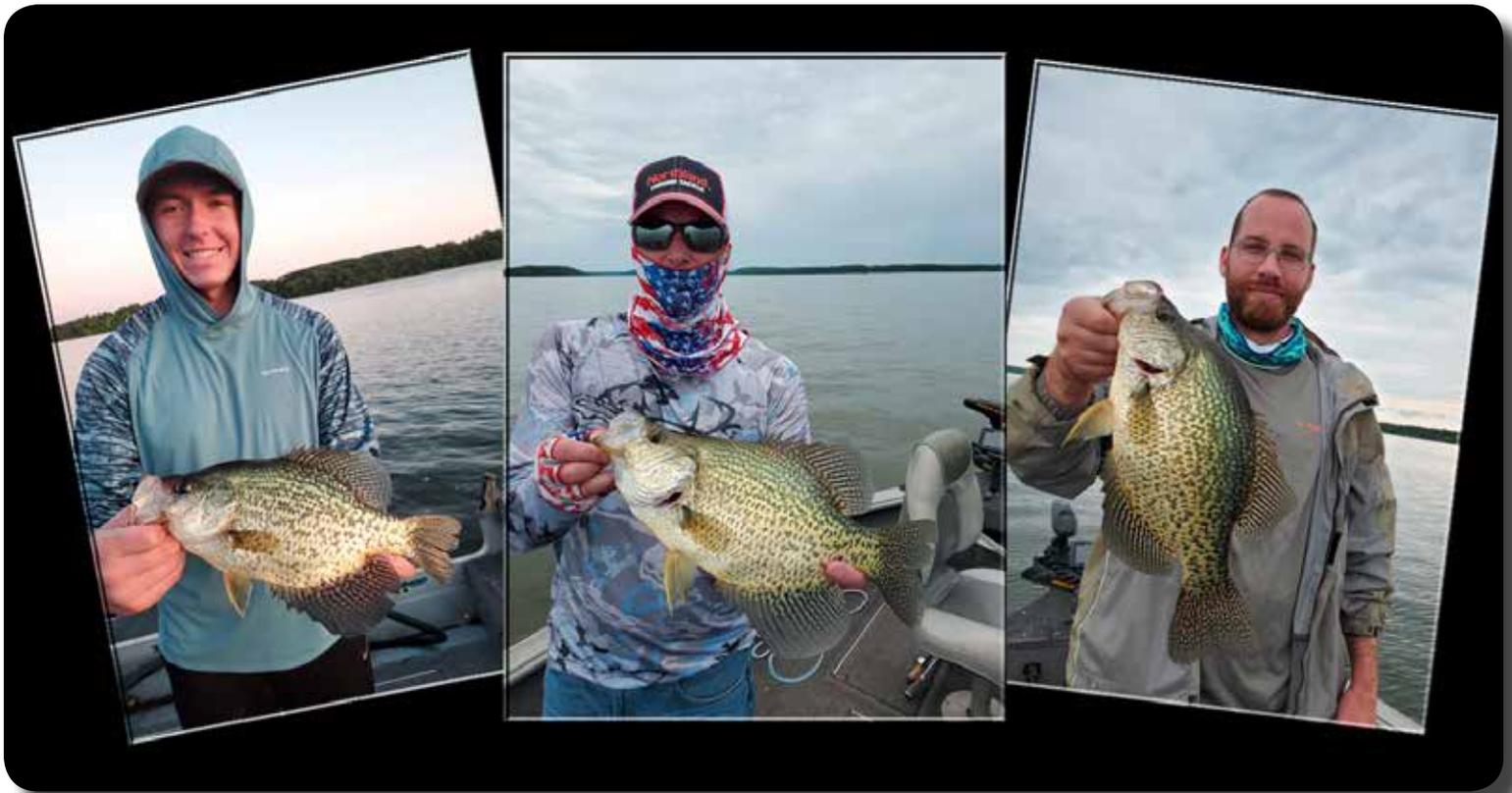
Local fishing guide Jesse Thalmann (320-290-2035, [Thalmann's Guide Service](#)) calls Otter Tail County home, residing in Henning and fishing the multitude of waters within a short drive of his front door. Thalmann suggests starting on some known crappie producers in the area including West Battle, Big Pine, Rush, or Clitherall Lakes. These four lakes, each of which is larger than 2,000 acres, offer enough diversity of habitat to accommodate a variety of crappie angling preferences. To prepare for a trip to Otter Tail County, check out the plethora of lakes and their structure and habitat by scanning around on the [Navionics WebApp](#).

You can also see the most recent crappie

catches, as well as historical survey catch data, at the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources LakeFinder Page](#). Note that nearly all the fishing lakes in the county offer city, township, county, or state accesses that are free for public use.

Not all cabbage patches are created equal, so when you find a good one, take note as you may have a location that will be productive year-round.

"I'm very much a shallow, weed-focused kind of guy, and it's a pattern you can lean on all year long," Thalmann said. "I'll start off the spring in bays, fishing minnows or plastics under a float, then moving out to pencil reeds and main lake structure ahead of the spawn. I'll follow the crappies around, through the wave of spawners, and eventually they will push out to weed edges and the other ones will follow. It's a pretty reliable summer pattern – I like to slow troll tube jigs 0.8-1.0 mile per hour, 6 to 9 feet of water on cabbage edges. That



pattern will stay good from the moment they hit those post-spawn weeds until the fall.”

Not all cabbage patches are created equal, so when you find a good one, take note as you may have a location that will be productive year-round.

When Fall Falls

When the fall hits, Thalmann says that the crappies seem to split out one of two ways. Some head for deeper water, spreading out and suspending over holes. For others, Thalmann says the fish revert to spring maneuvers and head even more shallow.

“You can catch them either way,” Thalmann says, “but I like to focus on those fish that stay shallow or move up even more as you can catch some really big fish putting on that feedbag ahead of winter.”

Fishing the Ice

As fall lakes turn over and ice covers Otter Tail County, you can find Thalmann still searching for the shallow bite.

Otter Tail County guide Jesse Thalmann takes clients to a number of the hundreds of public lakes within a short drive of his front door. (Contributed Photo)

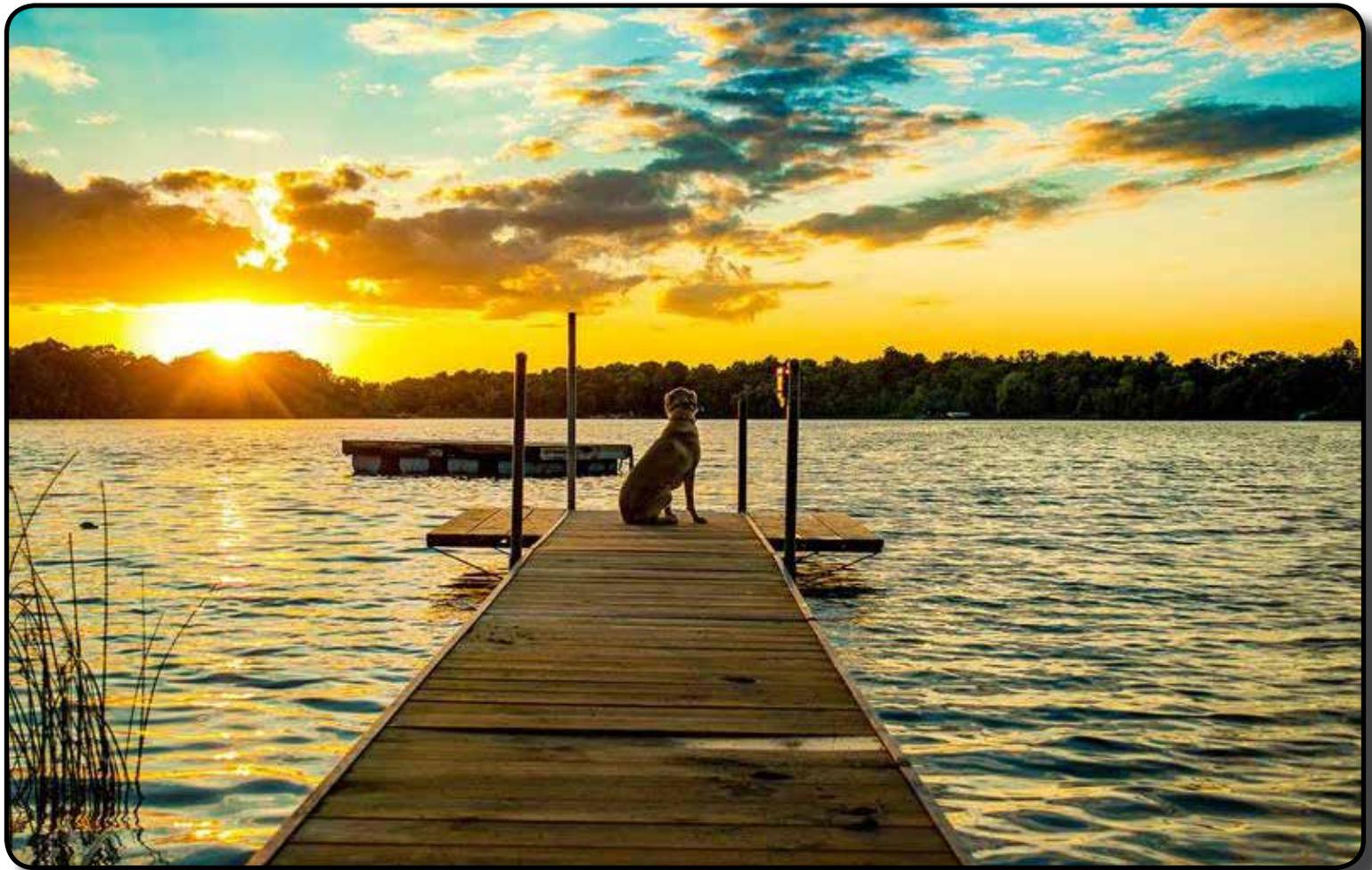
“If there is a good cabbage edge that stays green the entire year, those fish have no reason to move,” he says.” On ice, it’s a solid pattern here and across Minnesota. Find and fish shallow green weeds. There are big fish up shallow all the time, you just have to find them.”

Much More Than Crappie

If fishing brings you to Otter Tail County, you’re going to want to stay for the fun and bring along your family and friends to see the local attractions. Maplewood State Park has over 9,000 acres to roam including 25 miles of hiking trails, 20 miles of horse trails, and 8 lakes. Glendalough State Park touches seven lakes and 1,900 acres.

Golfers can enjoy over a dozen different courses within the county, most of which





are public. Bikers and hikers can jump on the Central Lakes Trail, a former railroad line that follows Interstate 94 through the beautiful prairie to hardwood forest transition. Numerous campgrounds and resorts provide lodging accommodations to anyone's preference.

The Otter Tail County Historical Society has an exhibit in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, telling the story of the region's history of settlement, county organization, and farm economy history. Shoppers will enjoy browsing stores in New York Mills, Perham, Fergus Falls, and Battle Lake. Check out artist galleries in Vergas, Fergus Falls, and Battle Lake or the sculpture park in Vining. See the Cultural Center in New York Mills.

If you are a foodie, check out the local restaurant and supper club scene. Taste craft beers at Disgruntled Brewing in Perham or Outstate Brewing in Fergus Falls.

Tenter Lake in Perham, Minnesota is just one of a thousand lakes in the area. (Photo courtesy of Discover Perham)

Like to hunt?

Otter Tail County has lots of wildlife management areas and public lands for chasing ring-necked pheasants or white-tailed deer. Otter Tail County is in the top 15% of counties for Boone and Crockett white-tailed deer entries.

Learn more about Otter Tail County on ExploreMinnesota.com.

Scott Mackenthun is a fisheries biologist and freelance outdoor writer from New Prague, Minnesota. He can be reached at scott.mackenthun@gmail.com

 - Scott Mackenthun



Ride the 11-mile lakeside trail at Glendalough State Park for a wheel-y good time. (Photo courtesy of Discover Perham)



2019 AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL



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TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Lake Guntersville, AL	Feb 15-16, 2019
<i>2018 Championship</i>	
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
Ouachita River, LA	Sept 13-14, 2019
2019 National Championship	TBA

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Making it Easy to Bow-and-Arrow Style

NEW! Dock Shoot'R Pull Tabs



[VIEW DOCK SHOOT'R PULL TABS >](#)

We Produce Crappie Fishing's Finest Jigheads

NEW! Crappie Pro Series



[VIEW CRAPPIE PRO JIGHEADS >](#)

Crappie Basics #198

Don't Get in a Rut – Dickey Porter is a well-known and very successful crappie angler in Southeast Tennessee. While he admittedly does it sometimes, Porter has good advice for anglers that sometimes get caught in a rut – doing the same thing over and over again because it worked well once. “I fish with jig weights from 1/48 ounce to 3/32 ounce. I have some larger jigs but I just don't use them much. I know some fishermen who fish vertical trees that prefer ¼ ounce jigs because they want a fast fall, but for my style of fishing, a much slower fall is better. That is just my style of fishing. But, that said, I tell other fishermen all the time, ‘Don't fall in love with a favorite lure. It will break your heart like your first girlfriend did.’”

MR.
CRAPPIE®
Wally Marshall

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G

LEW'S®

PRADCO Buys Gene Larew Lures and Bobby Garland Crappie Baits

PRADCO increases its already impressive portfolio of products



[PRADCO Outdoor Brands](#), a well-known provider of top-name fishing and hunting products, announced recently that it has acquired Gene Larew Lures, a Tulsa, Okla., company that manufactures and sells fishing lures under its Gene Larew, Bobby Garland and Crappie Pro brands.

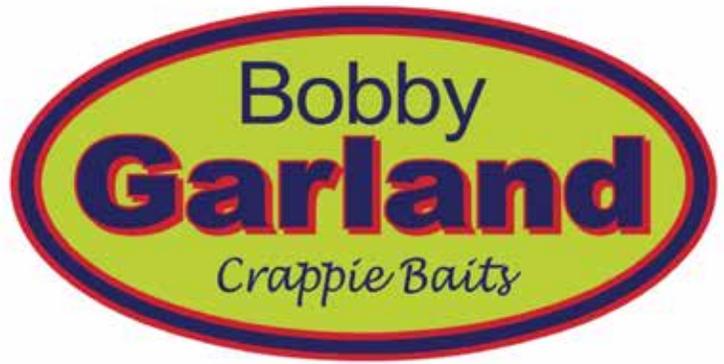
"We've added two more legendary names - Larew and Garland - to our already historic lineup of fishing brands," said PRADCO's

Bruce Stanton (left), Vice President and General Manager of PRADCO's fishing division, and Chris Lindenberg, owner of Gene Larew Lures, celebrate with a handshake PRADCO Outdoor Brands acquisition of Lindenberg's Oklahoma lure company that includes Gene Larew, Bobby Garland Crappie Baits and Crappie Pro.

GENE
Larew®



Bobby
Garland
Crappie Baits



Crappie



Bruce Stanton, Vice President and General Manager of the fishing division. “In addition to growing our bass offerings with Larew and jumping right to the top of the crappie bait category with Garland, we’re also getting a wealth of manufacturing experience, industry knowledge and fishing expertise that fully complement the things we do that put us at the top in this industry. We’re excited!”

“Only a couple hours up the road from Ft. Smith (Arkansas), we know PRADCO, Bruce and many of his team, so I’m elated to be passing along my company to them because I know it’ll be in great hands,” said Gene Larew Lures owner, Chris Lindenberg. “They have proven themselves to be a great caretaker of the brands that I grew up fishing with, and I wanted Larew and Garland to have a permanent next home in such a prominent place. I couldn’t be any happier than having PRADCO be the ones to take our efforts to the next level and beyond.”

Gene Larew and Bobby Garland were two early day pioneers of the soft plastic lure industry. Mr. Larew became famous for adding salt into baits with his Salt Craw. Mr. Garland was first known for his bass lure creations, one being the Gitzit, and then later for his

crappie designs, including today’s top selling soft-plastic crappie bait, the Baby Shad.

Lindenberg brought the two names together under one roof soon after he bought the Gene Larew brand and formed Gene Larew Lures in 2006. Later he added the Crappie Pro brand, a product line of premium jigheads, in 2015.

“The last 13 years have been an amazing ride, and I can’t thank our Larew family enough for their hard work and many contributions in helping grow the business to where it is today. Employees, pro staff, customers and consumers have been great partners throughout this period of accomplishments, and my sincere ‘thank you’ goes to all,” Lindenberg said.

Lindenberg will remain involved with the Gene Larew Lures operation throughout the transition, and thereafter, for as long as he wishes. He will also continue to run his other businesses in Tulsa, with Western Filter Co. requiring much of his attention in serving the active midstream sector of the oil and gas industry.

Other Larew personnel, including Eli Smith, George Toalson and Gary Dollahon, will continue their roles with the Larew, Garland and Crappie Pro brands under the guidance



of PRADCO.

“We’re a stalwart in the bass market, and we’re going to be that way in crappie now, too,” Stanton said. “We do have experience with that category since a lot of our Thill bobbers and Bandit crankbaits go in to crappie anglers’ tackle boxes, but obviously Garland’s presence puts a whole new emphasis on the species for us. But that’s good.”

“The Gene Larew acquisition is further proof of our corporate commitment and vision to be the leader in quality fishing products represented by the finest names in fishing,” said Robert Schoenvogel, PRADCO Outdoor Brands President. “Customer convenience is a high priority in our mindset, and I’m fully confident Larew and Garland’s customers will benefit from PRADCO’s efficiencies, including the consolidation of brands on to a single purchase order and shipping from our modern distribution center in Calera, Ala.”

PRADCO Fishing’s product development, marketing, accounting, manufacturing and purchasing functions are managed at the fishing division headquarters in Fort Smith. For

“We’ve added two more legendary names - Larew and Garland - to our already historic lineup of fishing brands.” ~ Bruce Stanton, Vice President and General Manager of the PRADCO fishing division

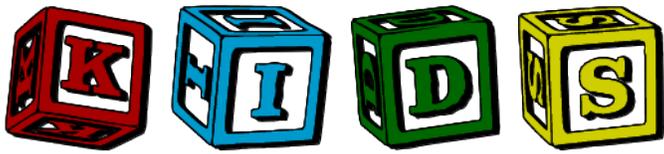
now, the manufacturing of Larew and Garland products will remain in Tulsa.

PRADCO Outdoor Brands is headquartered in Birmingham, Ala. It operates fishing brands such as Booyah, Yum, Rebel, Lindy, Norman, Bandit, Arbogast, Cotton Cordell, Heddon, Thill, War Eagle and Bomber, and hunting brands such as Moultrie, Summit, Whitetail Institute, Texas Hunter and Code Blue.

Editors Note: Article courtesy of Dollohan PR, a marketing communications company for PRADCO.



CRAPPIE



Make Your Own Bait

For kids, many times collecting bait is half the fun of fishing... especially digging worms. But there are lots of ways to get bait, depending on what kind of fishing you want to do. Lots of folks love to use dough balls. They are especially good for carp and catfish. Learning how to make fish bait for your fishing adventures can be easy and fun for kids and grown-ups. In the TakeMeFishing.org video below you can learn a great way to create homemade doughballs. They'll also work well to chum up baitfish in saltwater. Kids need some grown up help in the kitchen, but making bait can be a fun family activity. Read more details on making bait on the TakeMeFishing.org website.

How to Make Fish Bait



TAKEMEFISHING™.org





Ver(n)onique Fillets

I thought I would personalize this French fish dish by adding the letter (“n”) into the term Véronique, which means to “prepare with or to garnish a dish with grapes”, usually a white seedless variety. Grapes don’t show up until late in the preparation but let’s look at grapes and wines that will pair deliciously with Veronique fillets. Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling are the three most popular white wines in the world and get the most attention, but there are 20 different white varieties that are very popular. Here’s a closer look at the top three wines plus my favorite, Pinot Grigio, with a focus on which wine regions produce the best wines with these grapes.

Chardonnay is one of the world’s most popular white grape varieties and wines made with Chardonnay grapes can be found on just about any wine list. The legendary Burgundy wine region of France is traditionally acknowledged as the home of Chardonnay grapes, although Chardonnay wines from California and Australia are also popular. Californian winemakers began experimenting with a Chardonnay to rival those from Burgundy in the 1960s and by the mid-1970s had created wines that were the equal of any from Burgundy.

Sauvignon Blanc is a white grape variety best known for its crisp, dry and refreshing white wines. The traditional home of Sauvignon is in France, especially within the wine-growing regions of Bordeaux and the Loire Valley. Sauvignon Blanc grapes are very expressive of its local natural environment including factors such as the soil, topography and climate, and can range in flavor from grassy to sweet and in aroma from floral to fruity, depending on whether the grape is being grown in a cooler or more tropical climate.

The traditional home of Riesling grapes is the Rhine region of Germany, especially the wine-growing sub-regions of Mosel and

Rheingau. Riesling wines are noteworthy for being highly aromatic and high in acidity, usually with floral or tropical fruit notes. Unlike other grape varieties, Riesling is almost never blended with other grapes.

My favorite wine, Pinot Gris (also popularly known as “Pinot Grigio”) is the product of a white grape variety belonging to the Pinot family that includes Pinot Blanc and Pinot Noir. The berry skins of Pinot Gris tend to be rose-colored and the resulting wines are often deep golden yellow in appearance. There are two main types of Pinot Gris wines. Within France (and especially Alsace) the wines are spicy and full-bodied. Within Italy, however, the Pinot Grigio wines are lighter-bodied and more acidic. All these wines go well with Veronique Fillets so pop a cork while you prepare this delicate fish dish.

Ver(n)onique Fillets

- 1 ½ pounds crappie fillets
- 3 tablespoons butter
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ cup flour
- ½ cup milk
- 1 cup seedless green grapes
- 1/3 cup whipping cream

Combine salt, pepper, nutmeg and flour on a plate. Dip fish in milk and press fillets into flour mixture until thoroughly coated. Shake off excess. Melt butter in medium hot frying pan. Add fish to butter and cook 3 to 4 minutes on each side, until fillets flake under the fork test. Keep fillets warm in a serving dish. Turn frying pan to high heat and add grapes. Stir quickly until grapes are warm and then spoon over fish. Add cream to hot skillet, bring to a boil, stirring constantly until cream turns a golden color. Pour over fish and grapes. Garnish with orange slices

and parsley sprigs. Serve at once. Wild rice goes well with this recipe.

Hot Hush Puppies

- 1 ½ cups cornmeal
- ½ cup flour
- 2 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1/3 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/3 cup finely chopped jalapeno chilies
- 1 cup milk
- 1 beaten egg
- 3 tablespoons canola oil

Combine dry ingredients and then blend in remaining ingredients. Form balls with a spoon and drop into hot oil. Dip your spoon in hot oil before forming each ball so the batter drops off easily. Fry the puppies until they float, cut into one to test for doneness; drain and serve.

Light Beer Batter for Crappie

- 1 cup flat beer
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon canola oil
- ½ cup cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Open beer and set out to “go flat”. Separate egg yolks and beat them while adding canola oil. Add beer cornmeal, flour, salt and pepper. Beat egg whites and fold them into beer batter mixing well. Dip fish in flour, then in the batter and fry until done, fillets flake under the fork test.

Tangy Fish Sauce

- ¾ cup sour cream
- 3 tablespoons of Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon basil
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

Mix well and serve over fried or baked

crappie fillets.

Oven Poached Crappie Fillets

- 2 pounds of thick crappie fillets
- 1 ½ cups water
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon thyme

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Place fish in a baking dish large enough to hold fillets snugly. Combine water, lemon juice, bay leaf and thyme. Pour over fish and bake for 20 minutes. Serve with Tangy Fish Sauce (above).

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good luck!

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MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB

ROSS BARNETT

AUGUST 23rd - 24th

1. Roger Rabbit/Pat Jeffcoats	27.62
2. David McWilliams/Robbie Niven	23.59
3. Kyle Thompson/William Nichols	22.16
4. Terry Srewart/Cole Stewart	21.84
5. Jason Clements/Seth Clements	20.92

BIG FISH

1. Roger Rabbit/Pat Jeffcoats	2.41
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EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB

BARNETT LAKE

AUGUST 24th

1. Ken Wilkenson/Mark Drazba Jr	3.64
2. John Luetkenhaus/Brian Sanders	3.59
3. Darrell Johnson/Jake Besselman/Bruce Brown	3.53

BIG FISH

1. Ken Wilkenson/Mark Drazba Jr	1.28
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INDIANA SLAB MASTERS

RACCOON LAKE

AUGUST 24th

1. Jim Raymer/Rob Raymer	5.39
2. Charlie Hildreth/Will Newlan	5.32
3. Matt Mappes/John Mappes	5.14
4. Doug Allen/Larry Yates	5.12
5. Joe Rosonski/Luther McDonald	5

BIG FISH

1. Charlie Hildreth/Will Newlan	1.18
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TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES

TRUMAN LAKE

AUGUST 24th

1. Wareham/Shanks	9.09
2. Thomas/Thomas	8.08
3. Vallentine/Rogers	8.05
4. Baker/Bunting	6.87
5. Dant/Zufall	6.73

BIG FISH

1. Beckman/Lewis	4.53
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HOI CRAPPIE CLUB**SEPTEMBER 7th**

1. Dan/Brent	3.86
2. Tim/Steve	3.76
3. Matt/Mike	3.75

BIG FISH

1. Dan/Brent	0.96
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WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

SEPTEMBER 7th

1. Daniel Porter/Damon Thompson	7.92
2. Brad Botsch/Danny Walker	7.79
3. Melvin Staggs/Carol Staggs	6.73
4. Robert Sanders/David McMullin	6.64
5. Kenny Wilkinson/David Ladyman	6.62

INDIANA SLAB MASTERS

MISSISSNE/SALAMONE

SEPTEMBER 7th - 8th

1. Joe Rosinski/Luther McDonald	12.59
2. Patrick Stone/Tony Knoblock	12.32
3. Ty Smith/Chuck Richart	11.87
4. Eric Milsaps/Rick Hancock	11.46
5. Jason Shingles/Mike Arnold	11.41

BIG FISH

1. Dave Bowser/Mike Morrison	1.54
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CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB

CHESTER FROST PARK

SEPTEMBER 8th

1. David Elliott/David Stephens	7.6
2. Mike Johnston/Ricky Watts	7.06

BIG FISH

1. David Elliott/David Stephens	1.33
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AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL

OUACHITA RIVER

SEPTEMBER 13th - 14th

1. Thatcher Wehmeyer/Buster Braun	25.08
2. Tim Blackley/Phillip Haynes	24.3
3. Kent Driscoll/John Harrison	22.94
4. Dustin Taylor/Josh Colvin	22.17
5. Kent Watson/Drew Morgan	22.03

BIG FISH

1. Thatcher Wehmeyer/Buster Braun	2.31
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BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.

BEAVER LAKE

SEPTEMBER 14th

1. Payton/Tiffany	7.75
2. Seth/Randy	6.92
3. Brian/John	6.7
4. Cody	6.59
5. Colten/Chris	6.42

BIG FISH

1. Payton/Tiffany	1.45
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NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB

SHENANGO

SEPTEMBER 14th

1. Brad/Sean	7.86
2. Andy/John	6.68
3. Brandon/Tyler	6.2
4. Wes/Kolby	5.98
5. Tony/Robert	5.94

BIG FISH

1. Brad/Sean	1.36
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TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES

TRUMAN LAKE

SEPTEMBER 14th

1. Vallentine/Stockins	10.07
2. Wareham/Shanks	9.77
3. Fernandez/Morgan	9.65
4. Altis/Filbeck	8.42
5. Lewis/Pipes	8.34

BIG FISH

1. Wareham/Shanks	1.77
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GRANDLAKES CRAPPIE SERIES

GRAND LAKES

SEPTEMBER 15th

1. Mark Tilton/Kyle Tilton	6.9
2. Dustin Christman/Austin Christman	6.67
3. Jeff Toben/Mike Bell	6.21
4. Phil Stone/Dustin Fast	6.07
5. Jason Koesters/Zach Fishbaugh	5.75

CRAPPIE CALENDAR

OCT 5th	CRAPPIE USA	WEISS LAKE	TRAIL
OCT 5th	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	CLINTON LAKE	CLUB
OCT 5th	SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE	GUNTERSVILLE	CLASSIC
OCT 5th - 6th	KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	EL DORADO LAKE	CLASSIC
OCT 11th - 12th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	LAKE FORK	TSCC
OCT 12th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
OCT 12th	CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB
OCT 12th	EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	CLUB
OCT 12th	FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE LOCHLOOSA	CLUB
OCT 12th	TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB	BTWN KY DAM-68/80 BRIDGE	CLUB
OCT 12th - 13th	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE ASSOC.	REND LAKE - KINCADE LAKE	CLASSIC
OCT 12th - 13th	TRUMAN LAKE TOURNAMENT SERIES	TRUMAN LAKE	SERIES
OCT 13th	CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	CHESTER FROST PARK	FORGOTTEN CHILD FUND
OCT 13th	GRAND LAKE CRAPPIE SERIES	GRAND LAKE	CLASSIC
OCT 19th	CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAPPIE CLUB	TBD	CHAMPIONSHIP
OCT 19th	MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB	ARKABUTLA LAKE	DESOTO TOURISM
OCT 19th	NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB	SANDUSKY BAY	CLUB
OCT 19th	WAPPALLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLUB
OCT 19th - 20th	HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	TBD	CLASSIC
OCT 20th	CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	DECATUR	OPEN
OCT 23th - 26th	CRAPPIE USA	OLD HICORY LAKE	CLASSIC
OCT 26th	FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	LAKE TARPON	CLUB
OCT 26th	YADKIN RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB	BADIN LAKE	TRAIL
OCT 26th - 27th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.	BEAVER LAKE	2 DAY CHAMP.

CRAPPIE CLUBS

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

In the South it can stay hot well into the fall, or even into wintertime. Hardcore crappie anglers need protection from the sun and heat. UV-protective sunglasses are important to cut down on glare and protect your eyes. And while baseball-style caps provide some protection for your face, a wide-brimmed hat provides

significantly enhanced protection for your ears and neck, as well as a little shade reducing heat on your upper body. Crappie Dan says, "Wear those ball caps to and from the lake so you "look like a regular fisherman," but consider a wide-brimmed hat when you are actually on the water.



The Great Outdoors

by Larry Whiteley

WONDERFUL OCTOBER

If you love the great outdoors you probably wish every month was October. The beauty of the fall colors across this great land will stir your soul. Cooler temperatures give new energy for all the outdoor things there are to do in October.

October may find you sitting in a boat jigging for crappie or casting for bass as the beautiful fall colors reflect in the water around you. Fish will be feeding heavily storing up for the winter months. Some believe there is no better time to catch fish.

Canoeing or kayaking down an autumn river through a tunnel of colorful trees is a wonderful thing to do. The only sound you hear is rippling water. The cooler weather also makes for great hiking. When you reach that special place overlooking the valley below it will be worth the effort. It's a perfect time for camping and campfires too.

October may find you sitting in a treestand waiting for a deer to come by your hiding place or in a blind waiting for a fall turkey to come walking by. If they do that's a bonus. Just being out there is what's really important.

The wonderful days of October won't last long so get out there and savor every moment!

FALL FISHING TIP

As the fall fishing season begins it's a great idea to re-spool your reel with "fresh" fishing line. Sometimes we forget to do this, but after a spring and summer of fishing, many times new line is needed.

NOW YOU KNOW

In Fairbanks, Alaska moose are banned from mating within the city limits. I wouldn't want to be the one trying to enforce that law but now you know what you might not have known.

DEER FACT

The oldest buck on record was a tame deer named Henry the 2nd who lived almost 21 years. In the wild, a buck can reach 12 years but very few do because of disease or predators including us hunters.

FANTASTIC FALL CAMPING

One of the best reasons to go camping is the absolute majesty of God's grand design of nature and all its awesome beauty. During fall, it's even more fantastic.

Campsites at various places around the country reduce their rates when the weather gets cooler. Fall camping is the quietest, most beautiful time to be in our national parks and state forests.

THE V FORMATION

Have you ever wondered why geese fly in a V formation?

When each goose flaps its wings it causes an up draft for the bird behind helping it to fly with less effort. So each goose helps the other and the flock is able to fly much farther than one goose could alone.

When the lead goose in the V gets tired they take turns. All that honking noise you hear is their way of encouraging each other. If a goose gets sick or injured and flies to the ground two geese will join it to watch over it until it is able to fly again or it dies. Then they take off again to join up with their own flock.

It's too bad more of us humans can't be like geese flying in a V formation.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"I wish that every day was Saturday and every month was October."
— Charmaine J. Forde

Photo Contest



1st Place This Month!

John Sheehan
Shepherds Lake Ringwood NJ
Length- 14.5" Weight- 1.8lbs

Crappie NOW e-magazine accepts color digital images for publication. A single photo will be selected after the 10th of each month for the next month's edition. The winner will be contacted via email with prize information.

Check out www.crappienow.com for details.

Major lakes and rivers get most of the country's crappie fishing pressure. But seeking out some hidden small water can yield big benefits. (Photo: Richard Simms)

