

Louisiana

APRIL 2018

SPORTSMAN[®]

LouisianaSPORTSMAN.com



SPECK-TACULAR

SPRING TROUT

- > LDWF'S SPECK FORECAST
- > TROUT MISTAKES TO AVOID
- > AMAZING SPECK RECIPES
- > FISHING HOTSPOTS ACROSS THE COAST

PLUS:
TOP 3 TROUT HONEY HOLES

OUACHITA RIVER CRAPPIE

KAYAKING FOR LAKE MARTIN LUNKERS

APRIL TACTICS FOR TOLEDO BEND

TURKEY CALLING TIPS

LAKE DES ALLEMANDS PRE-SPAWN CATS

POST-SPAWN BASIN BASS

\$3.99 APRIL 2018 0.4

0 74470 19241 1



FAMILY. FISHING. FUN.

THE ALL NEW 2302 LDC

The 2302 LDC – Legacy Dual Console is the newest addition to NauticStar Boats Legacy line of family friendly deep-V boats. This specially designed boat is feature filled and combines the best of both worlds — deck boat pleasure boating combined with an offshore fishing boat.



BUILD YOURS
ON OUR WEBSITE



NauticStar[®]
BOATS

Call (662) 200-4664 or visit our website or call:
NauticStarBoats.com



LIFETIME
Limited Hull Warranty

Factory installed with
YAMAHA



Some photos shown with optional equipment

IT FEELS SO GOOD TO
TOW IT HOME BRAND NEW



WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

WITH THE LARGEST DEALER NETWORK IN LOUISIANA OUT OF
ANY SURFACE DRIVE COMPANY ON THE MARKET.

VISIT GATOR-TAIL.COM/DEALERS
TO FIND ONE NEAR YOU



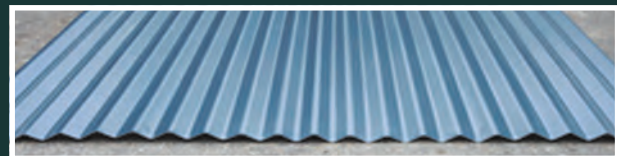
REED'S METALS, INC.

**FINANCING
AVAILABLE**

Metal Roofing & Metal Building Manufacturer

- **Metal Roofing**
- **Metal Buildings**
- **Pole Barns**

800-581-4645



www.reedsmetals.com



Excel BOATS



Excel 220, 203 & 183 Bay Pro

- Up to 200 Horsepower Rating
- Exceleration Pad Hull Performance up to 55 + MPH
- Twin Folding Rear Jump Seats
- Dry Box Storage Compartments 30 Cubic Feet
- Twin Locking Rod Boxes
- .125 Tough Aluminum Alloy
- 24 Gallon Rear Aerated Livewell
- 30 Gallon Fuel Tank
- Lean Post w/Footrest
- Deluxe Console w/6 Rod Holders and 16 Gallon Aerated Livewell and Side Door Access/Storage
- Full Gauges - Front Bow 48 qt. Cooler w/220 Model

Features vary depending on boat model and size.



www.ExcelBoats.net



You're up for most anything. So is the F150.

The unprecedented displacement and massive power and thrust of a Yamaha teamed with the Excel's Exceleration™ pad hull enable the Bay Pro 203 and 220 to be the fastest in its class. On step lightning fast with neck-breaking hole shots.

Experience the smooth operation, handling and legendary trustworthiness of Yamaha and an Excel Bay Pro.





Kubota

COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE.

\$0 DOWN, 0% A.P.R. FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS*



Z100 KOMMANDER



ASCENSION EQUIPMENT & RENT ALL A Cut Above The Rest!

13173 Airline Hwy
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 647-5881

www.ascensionequipment.com



*\$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 48 months on purchases of select new Kubota Z100 Kommander Series equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Example: 48 monthly payments of \$20.83 per \$1,000 financed. Offer expires 6/30/18. See us or go to KubotaUSA.com for more information. Optional equipment may be shown.

KubotaUSA.com



© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2018



RE-GRAND OPENING



#1 Bass Cat

Dealer in Louisiana*

*As per BassCat dealer meeting 2017

TOWN & COUNTRY

12893 Highway 84 West
Trout, LA 71371
(318) 992-4774
www.tandmarine.com

STORE HOURS
Mon-Fri **8:00am-5:30pm**
Sat **8:00am-2:00pm**
Sun **Closed**



LOUISIANA'S #1 ALUMA*Craft* DEALER.

THE 2018 MODELS ARE HERE!!!

YOUR FISHING AND HUNTING HEADQUARTERS



1756 CC

F50 Yamaha, battery, running lights, bilge pump, livewell pump, gauges, built in fuel tank, windshield, seats and pedestals, galv. trailer, tie downs & transom saver and non-skid liner.

GREAT SELECTION ALL AT GREAT PRICES!



2072 CC BAY

F115 Yamaha w/ SS prop, leaning post, (2) rod boxes full instrumentation, (2) fishing seats, plus passenger seats, non-skid liner, DLX aluminum trailer w/spare tire

SAND
Also available in gray or khaki

PROWLER SERIES



KHAKI

PROWLER 175

F70 Yamaha, ss prop, 2 batteries, troll motor, depth finder, non-skid liner, galv. trailer w/spare tire and much more. Ready to fish!!

BOW TO STERN FISHABILITY...



GRAY

PROWLER 165

F50 Yamaha, ss prop, 2 batteries, troll motor, depth finder, non-skid liner, galv. trailer w/ spare tire, and much more. Ready to fish!!

ALL POWERED BY



CALL US TODAY FOR OUR BEST PRICES!!

*According to AlumaCraft business summary 1/1/15 to 12/31/15

Breaux & Daigle Marine, Inc.
985-252-6411 | Hwy. 70, Pierre Part, LA

ALUMA *Craft*

FAMILIES. FISHING. FOREVER.

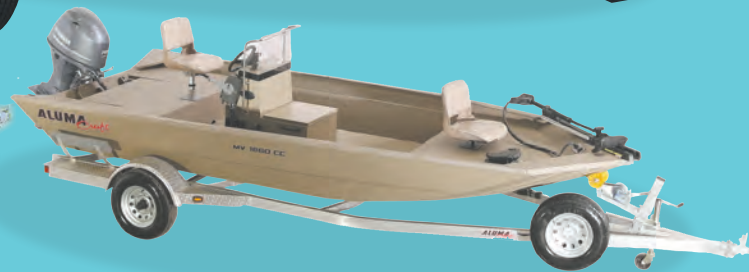
2072CC BAY

F150 Yamaha 4 stroke, w/ SS prop, hyd. steering, leaning post, (2) rod boxes, full instrumentation, (2) fishing seats, plus passenger seats, non-skid liner, DLX aluminum trailer, w/spare tire



1650 SPECIAL CC

F40 Yamaha, galv. trailer, fuel tank, battery



1860 CC

F70 Yamaha w/SS prop, battery, running lights, bilge pump, livewell pump, gauges, fuel tank, windshield, seats and pedestals, aluminum trailer, tie downs & transom saver and non-ski liner

Better Built... Better Ride... Better Value.



BIG SELECTION OF...

BOAT TRAILERS

SIZES 16' - 20'
GALVANIZED & ALUMINUM

CALL US FOR OUR BEST PRICE!!



KHAKI

1860 CC BAY

F90 Yamaha w/ SS prop, leaning post, full instrumentation, (2) fishing seats, plus passenger seats, non-skid liner, aluminum trailer w/spare tire. Available in gray or sand



Reliability Starts Here.™

REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal flotation device and protective gear. ©2008 Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA. All rights reserved.

ALL POWERED BY



YAMAHA



POLOS NOW IN SEASON.

FOR PERFORMANCE THAT'S PERFECT.

The Sportsman Performance Pique Shirt is made from our premium blend of Peruvian Pima Cotton and micro denier polyester. This blend offers ultimate moisture wicking properties for comfort and year-round durability for the active outdoor life.

CHEVROLET 

LOUISIANA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF

CHEVROLET SILVERADOS

**THE MOST DEPENDABLE, LONGEST-LASTING
FULL-SIZE PICKUPS ON THE ROAD**



AVAILABLE NOW AT

 **SERVICE**
CHEVROLET | CADILLAC

337-234-9411
ServiceGM.com

FIND NEW ROADS[®]



Louisiana CONTENTS

Volume 38 | Number 4 | April 2018

36
.....
Top 3 trout hotspots

FEATURES:

ON THE COVER:
Trout Preview

36 Top 3 trout hotspots
If your freezer is lacking speck fillets, these are the three places you need to visit this spring — with local guides sharing tactics on how to put meat in the box.
>>>By Andy Crawford

44 Common trout mistakes to avoid
Even if you're a dedicated weekend warrior, there's always more to learn about catching specks. So be sure you aren't making these mistakes that can impact the number of fish you put on ice.
>>>By Andy Crawford

50 Toledo Bend spawn: Phase 3
After a freezing winter and a wet spring, the spawn marches on at the Bend. Here's the pros' plan of attack in April.
>>>By David A. Brown

59 Turkey talk
Sure, there are plenty of ways to call in a gobbler — but these proven tactics to kill will help you seal the deal.
>>>By Jonathan Olivier

68 Last call for crappie
When the crappie spawn is wrapping up on D'Arbonne and Caney, action is usually just about to crank up on a section of the Ouachita River. Here's how one guide still catches slabs in April.
>>>By Chris Ginn

76 Gators, birds and bass
Scenic Lake Martin might be famous as a bird-watching bucket list destination that's home to more than 1,000 alligators, but the 800-acre water body also holds some big bass. And a kayak is the perfect platform to load up on largemouths.
>>>By Jerald Horst

84 Post-spawn particulars
If you head to the Atchafalaya Basin dead-ends this month, you'll likely struggle to put bass in the boat. But Louisiana's newest Bassmaster Elite Series pro knows just where those fish have gone — and shares his approach to catching them.
>>>By Andy Crawford



76
.....
Gators, birds and bass

93 Des Allemands fat cats
Pre-spawn catfish are feeding voraciously now in warming springtime waters. Here's how they fill a box near the "Catfish Capitol of the Universe."
>>>By Jerald Horst

101 Marsh Madness
'Green trout' are on fire in the ponds and marshes off the East Pearl River this month. Here's one local angler's plan of attack.
>>>By Joel Masson

182 Calling old calls
Don't throw out those old wingbones, boxes and slates. With a little TLC, you might have something in your turkey vest that will goad a gobbler into making a fatal mistake.
>>>By Andy Douglas

FISHING HOTSPOTS

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 161 Delacroix | 170 Lake Pontchartrain |
| 162 Caney Lake | 172 Lake D'Arbonne |
| 164 Toledo Bend | 172 Lafitte |
| 166 Bayou Teche | 174 Grand Isle |
| 168 Big Lake | 179 Buras |

POWER 5's

\$5 LOUISIANA LOTTERY

POWER 5's

WIN UP TO \$100,000!

Reveal a "5" symbol to automatically win that prize. Reveal a "5x" symbol to automatically win 5 times that prize. Reveal a "10x" symbol to automatically win 10 times that prize.

POWER \$25 SPOT

Reveal a "5x" in any "POWER \$25 SPOT," win \$25 instantly!

WIN UP TO 20 TIMES!

PRIZE

\$5 LOUISIANA LOTTERY

POWER 5's

WIN UP TO \$100,000!

Reveal a "5" symbol to automatically win that prize. Reveal a "5x" symbol to automatically win 5 times that prize. Reveal a "10x" symbol to automatically win 10 times that prize.

POWER \$25 SPOT

Reveal a "5x" in any "POWER \$25 SPOT," win \$25 instantly!

WIN UP TO 20 TIMES!

PRIZE

\$5 LOUISIANA LOTTERY

POWER 5's

WIN UP TO \$100,000!

Reveal a "5" symbol to automatically win that prize. Reveal a "5x" symbol to automatically win 5 times that prize. Reveal a "10x" symbol to automatically win 10 times that prize.

POWER \$25 SPOT

Reveal a "5x" in any "POWER \$25 SPOT," win \$25 instantly!

WIN UP TO 20 TIMES!

PRIZE

WIN UP TO \$100,000!



louisianalottery.com



Ticket purchasers must be at least 21 years of age. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call: 1-877-770-7867.



Louisiana
SPORTSMAN
www.LouisianaSPORTSMAN.com

PUBLISHER: Tony Taylor
EDITOR: Patrick Bonin
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Alicia LaFont
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Jeff Caldwell
ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER: Desiree P. Lewis
ART DIRECTOR: Rodney Anouilh
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS: Jeff Cashio, Kevin Orgeron, Alissa Zeringue
SALES DIRECTOR: Tony Taylor 504.416.7621/tonyt@lasmag.com
ADVERTISING SALES: Mark Hilzim (National Sales), Jay Forrest, Asa Faulkner, Brent Comardelle, Mark Boyd, Greg Webb, Peter Church, Ron Dorsey, Bret Holten
CONTROLLER: Juanita Guidry
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR: Ricky Naquin 985.859.7744/rickyn@lasmag.com
CIRCULATION FIELD MANAGER: Tim Stiglets 601.434.1526/timstiglets@comcast.net
CREDIT MANAGER: Rachel Champagne
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: Bruce Mehrtens
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Catch Cormier, Bill Garbo, Chris Ginn, Glynn Harris, Chris Holmes, Jerald Horst, Keith LaCaze, David Moreland, Don Shoopman, Rusty Tardo, Joel Masson, Capt. Paul Titus, Sammy Romano, Andy Crawford, Kinny Haddox, David Brown, Andy Douglas and Jonathan Olivier.

OUTDOOR UPDATE:

- 16** Caney Lake gives up 36-pound stringer
- 22** LDWF seeks license fee increases

PLUS

- 20** Fewer specks after winter's freezes?

ON THE COVER:



After a brutal winter, trout anglers across the coast are looking forward to the start of the speck spawn this spring — and the hard-hitting action yellow mouths are famous for. Check out our extensive trout coverage starting on page 20. Cover photo by Patrick Bonin.

COLUMNS:

- 106 Creature Feature** By Jerald Horst
- 108 Ask Capt. Paul** By Captain Paul Titus
- 110 Fly Lines** By Catch Cormier
- 114 Grunts & Gobbles** By David Moreland
- 116 Lure Review** By Don Shoopman
- 118 Game Warden** By Keith LaCaze
- 120 Sticks and Strings** By Sammy Romano
- 122 Happy Trails** By Bill Garbo
- 124 Paddles 'N Puddles** By Chris Holmes
- 134 Seafood Bible** By Jerald & Glenda Horst

DEPARTMENTS:

- 138** Field Notes
- 148** New Products
- 150** Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook
- 152** Fishing Regulations
- 154** Sunrise/Sunset Chart
- 156** Sportsman Astro Tables
- 158** Sportsman Tide Guide
- 160** Fishing Hotspots
- 189** Louisiana Guides
- 190** Sportsman Classifieds
- 192** Advertiser Index

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:

Contact Tony Taylor
email: tonyt@lasmag.com/504.416.7621

SUBSCRIPTIONS OR SUBSCRIPTION ISSUES, CALL 1-855-223-3599
Monday thru Friday, 6 am to 11 pm
Saturday & Sunday, 8 am - 5 pm CST

LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN (USPS665390) is published monthly by Louisiana Publishing, Inc., Allen J. Lottinger, President, 14236 Highway 90, P.O. Box 1199, Boutte, LA 70039. Mailed at periodicals postage rates and paid at Baton Rouge, La., and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Louisiana Sportsman, P.O. Box 433294, Palm Coast, FL 32143. All rights reserved. Reproduction of contents is strictly prohibited without permission of Louisiana Sportsman. **EDITORIAL:** Louisiana Sportsman uses free-lance writers throughout the state. Call (985) 758-7217 for information on submitting articles and photos. Louisiana Sportsman is not responsible for the loss of queries, manuscripts or other materials.

P.O. Box 1199, Boutte, LA 70039-1199
800.538.4355

Volume 38 | No 4



**ONE POWERFUL DESIGN.
TWO RELIABLE NEW OUTBOARDS.**

**90
& 75 hp
FOUR STROKES**

**THE COMPLETELY REDESIGNED F90 AND F75
MIDRANGE FOUR STROKES.**

Yamaha's all-new 90-hp and 75-hp four strokes feature SOHC designs with four valves per cylinder. This increases volumetric efficiency, and at the same time, saves weight. In fact, they're each 13 pounds lighter and have increased to 1.8L displacement. Their lighter, more powerful design creates an outstanding new F75, and makes the F90 a top performer in torque and acceleration. That's one rock-star design and two thrilling new outboards.

Learn more about the all-new Yamaha F90 and F75 four strokes at YamahaOutboards.com/F90-75.



REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal flotation device and protective gear. © 2018 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. 1-800-88-YAMAHA

Reliability Starts Here.®





CANEY LAKE GIVES UP 36-POUND STRINGER

By Patrick Bonin

Hunter Freeman, left, and Corey Harris show off their five best fish landed during an epic morning on Caney Lake. Their stringer tipped the scales at 36.3 pounds, including the heaviest bass, which weighed 9.68 pounds.

FREEMAN, HARRIS HAD 30 POUNDS IN THEIR LIVEWELL — BY 7 A.M.

In the span of about 30 minutes on a dreary, drizzly morning on Caney Lake, Hunter Freeman and Corey Harris experienced a bite so epic most bass anglers' wildest dreams probably wouldn't even come close to what actually happened out on the water.

Try to wrap your head around just a few of the mind-blowing stats from their trip on Feb. 26: Freeman's second cast netted a 7-pounder. The biggest fish of the day weighed 9.68 pounds, and they had about 30 pounds in their livewell by 7:05 a.m. — after less than 30 minutes of fishing. Of the more than 25 total bass caught, every last one weighed more than 5 pounds, with the exception of just three or four fish.

When the dust settled by about 9:20,

they headed to Hook's Marina and weighed in a five-fish bag that tipped the certified scales there at 36.3 pounds.

"By 7:15, we probably had all the fish we weighed," said Freeman, 21, of West Monroe, a junior at ULM and a member of the Warhawks' bass team. "We actually had a couple more break us off on the spot, so you never know what could have been.

"It was crazy. It was one of those things you probably never experience again in your life. That was a big ball of pre-spawners, and I think we just pulled up on the right day at the right time."

In the frenzied bite, Freeman said most of the damage came on a barfish Strike King 8XD crankbait and an okie-colored Bryant's Custom football jig. The men

were fishing in 16 to 18 feet of water.

"It was right off the bat," he said. "I caught one close to 7 on my second cast, and every cast after that one of us caught one — and we doubled up on 5-pounders on several occasions."

All of the fish were released back into the lake — after the duo took their pictures with the lunkers to commemorate a day on the water they'll likely never forget.

"Whenever I caught the 9.68, we pretty much knew we were over 35, maybe getting close to 40," Freeman said. "So we went up to the marina to get an official weight on it

"This was the best day I've ever had." ■

MADE IN THE USA!

METAL BUILDING & ROOFING SPECIALS!

HIGHEST QUALITY MATERIALS FOR THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES

Our in-house team can custom design, engineer & fabricate any size building to meet your needs.



IT'S TIME FOR A METAL ROOF UPGRADE

Metal Roof Advantages:

- Possible insurance discounts
- More strength and durability than shingles
- Estimated 60% heat reflectance rating
- Estimated 40% savings on energy costs
- 40 year warranty on most roofing metal
- Better resistance to high winds, hail, snow, and burning embers



24 X 24 X 10



40 X 60 X 14



50 X 50 X 15 includes 1-3070 Door, 2-10X10 & 1-12X14 openings



20x50x14 Boat/RV Storage



30X60X12 w/front porch, includes 1-3070 door & 12X12 opening

All Buildings Include...

- Heavy I Beam Pre-Engineered Bolt Together Construction
- 26 Ga 40 Year Warranty Color Walls & Trim
- Lifetime Fasteners
- Includes Erection Drawings & Anchor Bolt Plans...

Locally Owned & Locally Manufactured...



2727 West Park Ave., Gray, LA 70359 985.876.2555

www.customcorrugated.net



Serving Southern Louisiana & Mississippi For Over 10 Years

38-POUND BOBCAT BUSTED IN ACADIA PARISH

By Patrick Bonin

Troy Borill has been a man on a mission for about the last five years or so, actively hunting predators in Acadia Parish that impact deer and their habitat like wild hogs, coyotes and bobcats.

On Feb. 5, the 48-year-old pharmaceutical salesman dropped a giant trophy — but it didn't have a gnarly rack or a huge inside spread.

It did, however, have a wicked set of teeth — it was a massive male bobcat that tipped the scales at a whopping 38 pounds, and no one he's talked to — including a couple of biologists with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries — has seen one that big in a long time.

"I never even noticed the cat out there. A lot of times what they'll do is come out the woods a few feet and just sit. They don't start their stalking process right away — they'll sit tight and look to see what's causing the noise or the distress," said the hunter, who was trying out his new Primos



Troy Borill shot this big 38-pound male bobcat in Acadia Parish.



J-BRAID[®] x4

BRAIDED FISHING LINE

J-BRAID x4 WITH 4 INTER-WOVEN STRANDS

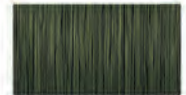
Strong and tough abrasion-resistant technology. Ideal for structure fishing. Thin design for offshore applications.



x4 J-BRAID ISLAND BLUE



x4 J-BRAID YELLOW



x4 J-BRAID GREEN

TRADITIONAL x8 BRAID

x8 WITH 8 INTER-WOVEN STRANDS

Exceptional casting performance. Smooth and soft braid runs silent through the guides—ideal for spinning reels.



x8 J-BRAID WHITE



x8 J-BRAID GREEN



x8 J-BRAID MULTI-COLOR



x8 J-BRAID CHARTREUSE



DON'T MISS OUT ... SUBSCRIBE TO LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN

Boss Dogg remote electronic predator caller that evening. “So the sun had just about set and I looked out about 80 yards and said, “I don’t remember that stump being there.’ They’re so camouflaged you can’t see them with the naked eye. So I got my binoculars and looked at him and still couldn’t tell it was a cat — until he moved his head.”

He was positioned in a box stand about 85 yards away, and was alternating playing a young cottontail in distress call with a baby cottontail and an adult cottontail call.

“He was facing me, and I didn’t want to give him a chance to figure out what was going on. I had a good rest in the box stand, so I aimed for his chest and he fell right there,” he said. “I didn’t realize how big he was until I walked up on him.”

About five years ago, he shot a 30-pounder, which was dwarfed by

this cat.

“When I walked up on this one, I said, ‘Man, this cat is humongous,’” he said. “A Houston friend sent me a website about a big bobcat contest in Texas this year, and the winner was 38 pounds and it paid \$47,000. And the second place winner wasn’t even 30 pounds.

“I was like, ‘Man, I’d have taken second place for sure — and it paid \$27,000.’

The big cat is still in the freezer, awaiting a trip to the taxidermist for what will likely be a very impressive full-body mount.

“I haven’t had a person yet say, ‘I killed one that big,’ or ‘I’ve seen one that big around here.’ You just don’t see a bobcat that weighs 38 to 40 pounds in Louisiana,” he said. “I almost have to mount him now to do him some justice.” ■



GET THE LATEST NEWS, TIPS, TACTICS,
AND MORE DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR.

WWW.LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM/SUBSCRIBE

DAIWA



TATULA



TATULA SV TW
FINESSE CASTING
REELS

TATULA ELITE
SIGNATURE SERIES BASS RODS

NEW TATULA 150
BAITCASTING
REELS

TATULA LT
SPINNING REELS

DESIGNED BY OUR DAIWA PROS

Daiwa's elite team of tournament pros have designed a complete line of signature series rods that will help you take the guess work out of which rod is right for a specific technique. Match with Tatula LT Spinning or Tatula SV baitcasting reels for the best matched combination for any technique.



www.daiwa.com/us

SPECK FORECAST: FEWER TROUT THIS SPRING?

HARD FREEZES IN JANUARY
COULD MEAN LESS FISH,
LDWF BIOLOGIST SAYS

By Patrick Bonin



Patrick Bonin

If this spring and summer don't meet your lofty expectations of boxes filled with hard-hitting yellowmouths, don't blame yourself, your rod, your lures or even that bunch of bananas smuggled onboard your boat without your knowledge.

Just blame Mother Nature.

The winter of 2018 roared in like a lion, with six January days officially below freezing in New Orleans over about the first two weeks of the month — including a bone-chilling low of 19 degrees on Jan. 17.

And if you were cold during that stretch while wrapped up in blankets on the sofa across from a nice roaring fire, imagine being a speckled trout.

North winds blew in, sucked some marshes dry and lowered water levels across the coast. Trout seeking deeper water to find the warmest conditions available were left high and dry, with lots of their traditional wintertime haunts unavailable.

And although no major fish kills were reported to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries this winter, a biologist there says the potential of a lean trout year is definitely a possibility.

REDUCED AVAILABILITY?

"With the freezes, likely you're going to see some reduced availability this year," said Jason Adriance, finfish program

manager for the LDWF. "We had two pretty big waves of cold weather. So you've got the cold water temperatures and the stress associated with that — and likely some mortality as well — along with low water that occurred.

"So overcrowding happens when all those fish hunkered down in one spot looking for warmer water."

Adriance said when water temperatures reach about 40 degrees, trout can be impacted. And with the duration of the two cold snaps, water temps likely got lower than that for an extended period — even in many places where they typically can find refuge.

"If there's time, they start moving to deeper water, which tends to be a little better-regulated thermally," he said. "But with the freezes we had, there was probably a lot of cold water everywhere."

TOUGH CONDITIONS FOR JUVENILE FISH

Smaller fish caught in the cold — say a 6-incher spawned last June that was destined to be a legal fish later this summer — might have felt more of an impact during the freezes, he said.

"I would expect juveniles to be a little

Trout anglers might not be all smiles if the hard freezes the Louisiana coast experienced in January adversely affect specks this spring.

more susceptible, but once you start getting into cold temperatures for that long, I suspect size doesn't matter that much," Adriance said.

And the lack of any reported fish kills doesn't necessarily mean the population escaped unscathed, he said.

"We likely had some number (of deaths) go unnoticed, and then you can get secondary infections that pop up, so that could add to those impacts," Adriance said.

The good news is Mother Nature is pretty cyclical — what she takes away, she usually gives back.

"Typically, in the second year after a freeze, we've seen rebounds," he said. "That's not for certain, but that's what we've seen. After the '89 freeze, it was a little barren in '90, but I think things picked up in '91 again.

"The bottom line is anglers likely are going to see some reduced availability — that's just typically what happens the year after a significant freeze."

Well, you can't catch 'em from the living room sofa — so go out and give it a try. But this spring especially, you might want to leave the bananas at home. ■



SPORTSMAN®

Exceptional Boats—Surprisingly Affordable



Tournament 214

- Yamaha VF150LA
- Tandem Axle Trailer
- Leaning Post



Tournament 234

- Yamaha VF200LA
- Leaning Post
- Tandem Axle Trailer



Masters267

- Yamaha F300XCA
- T-Top
- Tandem axle trailer



Island Reef 19

- Yamaha F90XA
- Leaning post
- Single axle trailer



Island Bay 18

- Yamaha F90XA
- Flip/Flop Ice Chest Seat
- Single Axle Trailer



252 Open

- Yamaha F150XB
- T-Top
- Tandem Axle Trailer



YAMAHA

5657 E. St. Bernard Hwy • Violet, LA 70092

504-682-5252

www.tims-marine.com

*includes trailer; pricing after all dealer and mfg. rebates applied, prices do not reflect costs related to dealer prep, freight, tax, title, license, reg. fees.

LDWF SEEKING LICENSE FEE INCREASES

By Patrick Bonin

For the first time in 18 years, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is proposing restructuring hunting and fishing license fees — a move that could generate \$10.4 million in annual revenue for the agency if the state Legislature approves the plan during the regular session.

The Department, which does not receive any state general fund money but is heavily dependent on oil and gas mineral revenues and user fees to operate, has seen its expenses exceed revenues for about the last three years — and that pattern is projected to continue through at least 2020.

“Since 2015-16, expenditures have evened up with revenues, and since then you’re looking at deficit spending, which is not a sustainable way for you to operate your checkbook — or for us to operate this

agency,” said Cole Garrett, LDWF’s executive counsel. “We don’t want to be in the position our Legislature finds itself in — which is trying to plug a hole — and we definitely don’t want to be reliant as a state general fund agency.”

The three-pronged approach would streamline the number of hunting and fishing licenses offered from 117 to 30 and bring the department’s fee structure in line with other Gulf states, focus on

internal steps to save money and also capitalize on available federal dollars Louisiana is currently missing out on based on the number of certified hunters and anglers living here.

Under the new plan, basic hunting and fishing licenses would increase by about 30 percent from their current prices. A new standalone crab license would be required for \$5 and would cover those using traps or fishing on the side of the road. One

major change would be a \$5 youth hunting license, which has no minimum age and would be required only for deer and turkey.

Another aspect of the new plan is that it would raise the senior discount age from 60 to 65. Currently, senior residents age 60 and up get a combo fish/hunt license for just \$5.

Under the new proposal, seniors 65 and up would get a 50 percent discount and pay \$6.75 for a basic fishing license, \$6.50 for a saltwater license and \$2.50 for a crabbing license. Additionally, 65-plus seniors would pay half price for hunting privileges, meaning \$10 for basic hunting, \$10 for deer, \$5 for waterfowl and \$10 for turkey.

If the plan is ultimately approved, fee increases for recreational hunters and anglers wouldn’t go into effect until July 1, 2019.

For more details on the new plan, go to www.wlf.louisiana.gov/priceofparadise. ■

	Resident Active Military Student	Resident Senior 65+	Non Resident Fee	5-Day Non Resident
Fishing				
Hook and Line	\$5.00			
Basic Fishing (includes freshwater gear)	\$13.50	\$6.75	\$54.00	\$18.00
Saltwater Fishing (includes shrimp trawl and oyster tong)	\$13.00	\$6.50	\$52.00	\$17.00
Crab Fishing (stand alone, any crab gear)	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$20.00	\$7.00
Charter 3-day (Resident and Non-Resident)	\$22.50			
Hunting				
Basic Hunting (required for all hunters)	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$200.00	\$67.00
Deer Hunting (includes archery and primitive)	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$100.00	\$33.00
Waterfowl	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$100.00	\$33.00
Turkey	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$100.00	\$33.00
Youth Hunting License	\$5.00			
Recreation				
WMA Permit (Resident and Non-Resident)	\$15.00	\$7.50		
Combination Licenses (all privileges above)				
Sportsman's Paradise	\$90.00			
Resident / Native Born / Retired Military / Resident Seniors	\$45.00			
Disabled, Special Needs	\$5.00			
Lifetime Licenses				
	Youth/Senior	Resident	Non-Resident	
Lifetime Sportsman's Paradise	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	

Resident hunting and fishing license fees will increase by about 30 percent if the Louisiana Legislature passes a proposal put forth by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

LARGE SELECTION OF STAINLESS STEEL & GALVANIZED HARDWARE

TH MARINE JACK PLATES

STEERING KITS & WHEELS

BOSS MARINE ELECTRONICS

WASH DOWN PUMPS

HIGH QUALITY BOAT CLEANERS

ONE OF THE LARGEST SELECTIONS OF MARINE SUPPLIES & ACCESSORIES IN THE ACADIANA AREA!!

www.touchardmarine.com
337-685-2715
403 E. Hwy 14
Delcambre, LA 70528

NEW



Abu Garcia® is a registered trademark of Abu AB. Abu AB is a subsidiary of Pure Fishing, Inc. ©2018

24lbs.

OF STOPPING POWER

**Revo® SX
Low Profile**

The Revo SX features the power stack carbon matrix drag system, delivering 24lbs of fish stopping power.

Abu Garcia
FOR LIFE™



Revo Premier

Revo STX

Revo SX

Revo S

Revo X

Revo Inshore

Revo Winch

The Revo Low Profile Family

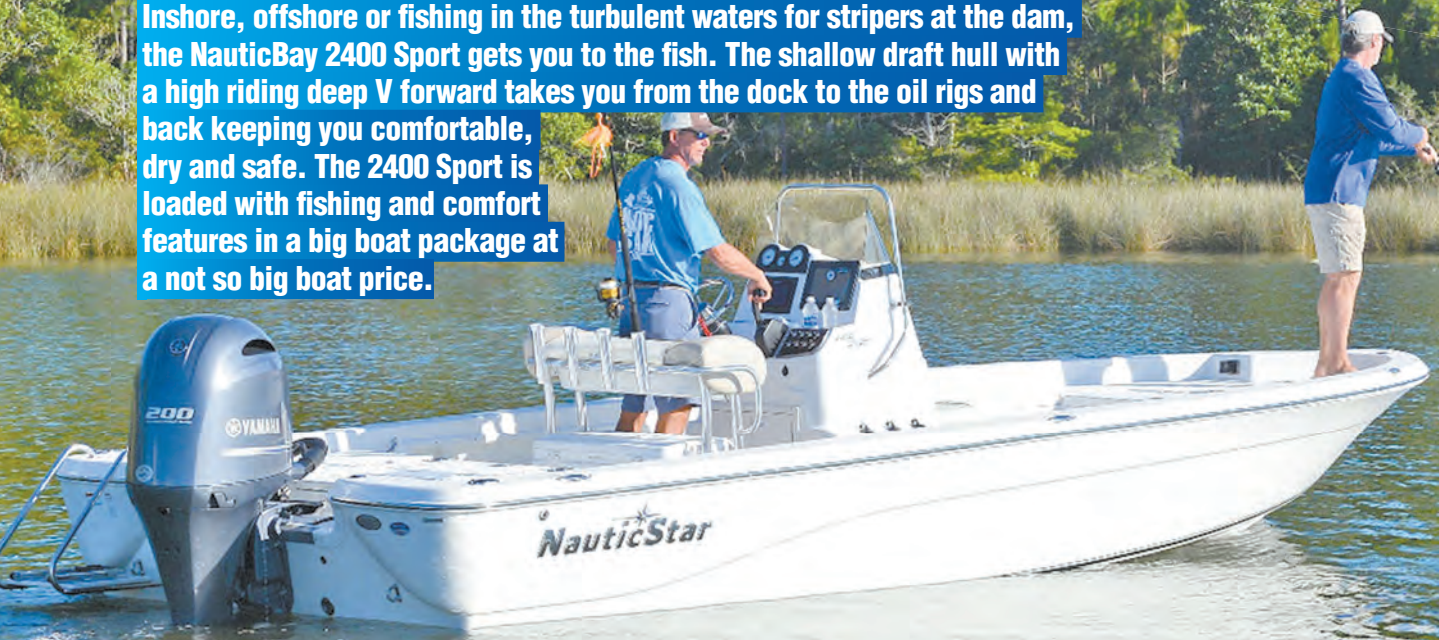
LOUISIANA'S NEWEST NauticStar DEALER!!!

STOP BY AND SEE OUR
SELECTION AND GET GREAT
BOAT SHOW
PRICING!!!

2018 Nauticstar 2400 Sport

UNRIVALED IN QUALITY. PERFORMANCE. FISHABILITY.

Inshore, offshore or fishing in the turbulent waters for stripers at the dam, the NauticBay 2400 Sport gets you to the fish. The shallow draft hull with a high riding deep V forward takes you from the dock to the oil rigs and back keeping you comfortable, dry and safe. The 2400 Sport is loaded with fishing and comfort features in a big boat package at a not so big boat price.



2018 Nauticstar 215 XTS

Freshwater or saltwater, the 215 XTS NauticBay is the perfect crossover. The wider 98" beam makes a stable fishing platform, easy to garage, and gets you in-and-out of those tight fishing spots. And with the STAR Performance System—it'll get you there fast!

WE BUY USED BOATS AND MOTORS!!
TRADE-INS ACCEPTED!!



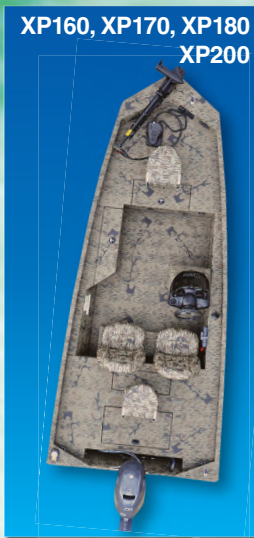


#1 XPRESS DEALER in the nation

XPRESS[®] BOATS



Panfish 16



XP160, XP170, XP180
XP200



H17PFC, H18PFC



H-17, H-18, H-20
H-22



X-19
X-21



H18



H20B



H22B



H24B



XP16CC
XP18CC



165 Bay Skiff
185 Bay Skiff



Tunnel
Boat
SW 18B
SW 20B
SW 22B



XP20CC

Boats Unlimited

7035 AIRLINE HWY.
BATON ROUGE



225.357.3118 Certified Master Yamaha
Technician On Site
www.BoatsUnlimitedLA.com

LAKE CLAIBORNE GIVES UP 12-POUND-PLUS HAWG

By Glynn Harris

LUNKER SMASHES SPINNERBAIT

Fishing a Louisiana Media Bass singles tournament on Lake Claiborne, things didn't exactly start out well for Chris Clement.

On his very first trip to Lake Claiborne near Homer, the 44-year-old mechanic shop owner from Bastrop endured enough headaches to make him want to give up.

"(That) Saturday, I was trying to learn the lake because I'd never been to Claiborne before," Clement said. "I high-centered my boat in a few inches of water and it took more than an hour to get it off the hump. Also, I never got the first bite that day."

But there's more. On tournament day, Feb. 18, Clement decided to fish Horse Creek near the dam and encountered another problem that could have resulted in serious consequences.

"I turned off the main lake into the creek and was headed toward the back of the creek going wide open when the throttle



Bastrop's Chris Clement caught this giant largemouth bass during a Media Bass tournament on Lake Claiborne. After weighing-in the 12.79-pound lunker, Clement released the fish back into the lake.

**The Right Lines...
Great Service...
At the
Best Prices!!**



Metro Boating

www.metroboating.com

3028 4th St. • Harvey, LA • 504-341-4852



**FEEL THE POWER,
NOT THE VIBRATION. VERADO**
THE SMOOTHEST, QUIETEST, MOST POWERFUL FOURSTROKE OUTBOARD.

MERCURY

TAKE CHARGE.

mercuryoutboards.com

stuck and I couldn't slow the boat down," he said. "To keep from running into a stump or out the end of the creek, I slammed it into reverse with the consequence being I spun a hub on my motor.

"After finally getting it stopped, I lowered my trolling motor and started fishing."

Apparently, the fishing gods decided at that point he'd endured enough heart-ache, and his luck started to change.

After about an hour of working a jig along a row of stumps in the back of the creek, Clement set the hook on a solid 5-pounder.

"Then around 9, I decided to switch baits, and picked up my rod with a 3/8-ounce War Eagle white hot chartreuse and white double-willow leaf spinnerbait, and cast it to a stump that had a limb hanging over it," he said. "I eased the bait over the limb, let it drop and a big fish nailed it."

Thinking he may have tied into a big choupique, he held on as the fish twisted and turned and stayed beneath the surface until it finally came to the top near the boat, clearing the water by 18 inches.

"When I saw what I had, my heart got to racing and I held on. I don't use a dip net so I knew I had to get the fish close enough to lip it," he said. "On the first try, I missed, and she dove under the boat but I was finally able to work her out and grabbed her and put her in the boat."

The big bass tipped the scales at 12.79 pounds — potentially Claiborne's record — and after the weigh-in for the tournament, which he won with four fish weighing 23.69 pounds, Clement released the big bass and watched it swim away none the worse for wear. ■

GATORTAIL
GTR37XD-EFI

GAME, MEET CHANGE

Our constant drive to improve the GatorTail product line has produced yet another leap in combining the traditional operation of an outboard motor into an all-around surface drive for all of your outdoor activities. No GatorTail mud motor has received the engineering, design detail, and extensive testing that the GTR XD has.

\$8395

LIFETIME MOTOR CASE WARRANTY | 3 YEAR COMMERCIAL MOTOR PERFORMANCE WARRANTY | LOUISIANA

The next generation of Gator Tail surface drive motors is here. The GTRXD is a marvel of mechanical engineering. From it's handle on down to the lower unit, we thought of everything for this motor. Three years of research and development brought us here and the XD is ready to change the game.

Boats Unlimited

7035 AIRLINE HWY.
BATON ROUGE
225.357.3118

YAMAHA Certified Master Yamaha Technician On Site
www.BoatsUnlimitedLA.com

Did you know shooting ranges pose a hidden danger for lead exposure?

LIMIT YOUR EXPOSURE:

- ▶ Never place lead bullets in your mouth.
- ▶ Use jacketed ammunition with non-lead primers.
- ▶ Make sure the firing range has good ventilation.
- ▶ Never eat, drink or smoke inside a firing range.
- ▶ Wash hands immediately after shooting.

Visit www.lah.gov/GunRangeLead for other tips and information

No firm dates have been set, but officials expect the state and federal red snapper seasons to run concurrently for Louisiana anglers this summer, possibly beginning the Friday before Memorial Day, May. 25.

RED SNAPPER SEASONS EXPECTED TO OPEN IN LATE-MAY

By Patrick Bonin

After last summer's extended federal season, harvest numbers Gulf-wide indicate red snapper were overfished by 212 percent — even though Louisiana anglers actually brought less fish to the docks than the state's historical quota.

But Patrick Banks, the assistant secretary of fisheries for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, said that despite that over-harvest by other Gulf states, there likely will still be a concurrent state and federal red snapper season in the Gulf this summer because of an exempted fishing permit filed with NOAA Fisheries.

"The hope is they will approve that exempted fishing permit, which is basically a test of state management," Banks

said. "One of the big things about state management is you bring the state and federal season together in one season so you're not having one open at a different time than the other.

"Obviously, the (Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries) Commission has the power to set a state season if they want to. But we're hoping they'll hold off and wait for this EFP to get approved."

In late February, Banks told Louisiana Sportsman he requested the state's historical quota of 1.1 million pounds of snapper in the EFP. NOAA can ultimately approve or reject that number, but it will be up to the individual states to determine season dates.

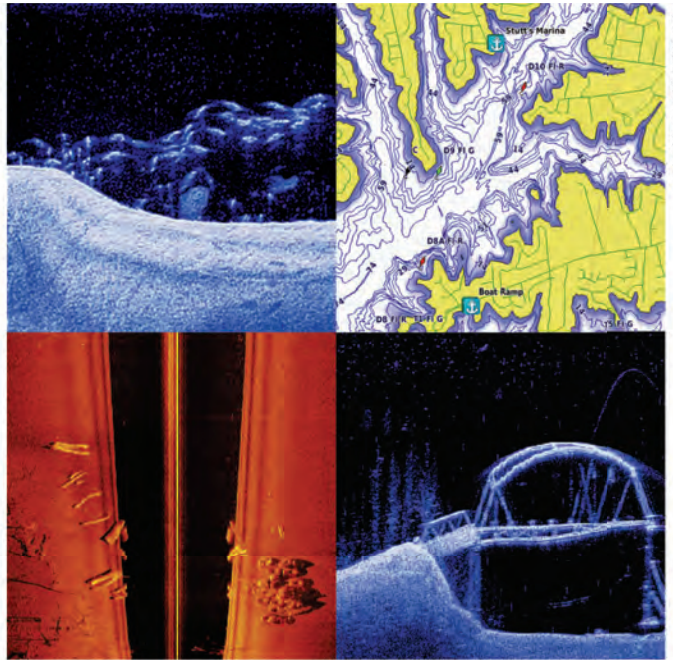
"We had 42 days last year and we didn't even make it to the historical quota, and

that historical quota is what we're asking for in this EFP," he said. "Now it will be up to NOAA whether they give us that historical quota, but I haven't had any indication from the private rec side that they won't.

"So my anticipation is the season would be somewhere north of the 40 days we had last year."

In the EFP application, Louisiana's season would open the Friday before Memorial Day, May 25, in both state and federal waters, with the actual season structure based on public input. It could range from three-day weekends to seven days a week, depending on what the Commission ultimately decides. ■

ECHOMAP[™] PLUS CV / SV SERIES



©2015 Garmin Ltd. or its subsidiaries

GARMIN

Preprogrammed data card
Carte mémoire préprogrammée



**BlueChart® g2
w/ High Resolution Satellite Imagery**

Includes tides, currents, marine POIs and IALA symbols.
Port plans and standardized depth contours
Basic chart navigation with 2-D or 3-D perspective view



**Coastal Louisiana Bayou satellite card works
with most all new Garmin products**



Easy to use, easy to install with the clearest scanning sonar.

Experience the Power of Simple... Fishing with the clearest scanning sonar on the water. The Echo MAP PLUS cv series combos with 7" or 9" displays offer traditional HD-ID™ sonar plus Garmin ClearVu™ scanning sonar the Echo MAP PLUS sv series with 6", 7" or 9" displays give you HD-ID sonar plus ClearVu and SideVu™ scanning sonar. All come as a Hybrid display (touch screen & key button assist) with either BlueChart g2 U.S. coastal charts or U.S. LakeVu HD maps and 5Hz GPS.



SEA-TRAC OFFSHORE SERVICES, INC

114 Hickory Avenue Harahan, LA 70123

(504) 737-0591

info@seatraccoffshore.com

www.seatraccoffshore.com



Marine Electronics

**SALES,
SERVICE,
CUSTOM INSTALLATION
& MORE**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries banned supplemental feeding last month in three Northeastern Louisiana parishes to curb the potential spread of CWD, which was discovered in a Mississippi buck earlier this year.

LDWF BANS SUPPLEMENTAL DEER FEEDING IN THREE PARISHES

EFFORT IS TO CURB POTENTIAL SPREAD OF CWD From News Reports

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries banned supplemental deer feeding in three Northeastern Louisiana parishes in March to curb the potential spread of chronic wasting disease, which was

discovered in a Mississippi buck earlier this year. The feeding ban in East Carroll, Madison and Tensas parishes came about after a buck in Issaquena County, Miss. tested positive on Jan. 25.

That deer was found only a few miles from the Louisiana border on the east side of the Mississippi River, according to a news release from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The declaration stated the purpose of

the feeding ban is to reduce the potential spread of CWD into the state by reducing the risk of exposure when deer are concentrated around feeding sites.

The use of bait not normally ingested by deer for feral hog trapping will still be allowed, but the bait must be placed and contained within the trap itself. Backyard bird feeders will still be allowed.

CWD is a neurodegenerative disease found in most deer species, including moose, elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer, and is always fatal. It causes irreversible damage to brain tissue that leads to salivation, neurological symptoms, emaciation and ultimately the death of the animal.

But deer infected with CWD can spread the disease even before symptoms develop, and it can take one to two years for infected animals to become symptomatic. ■

**JEFF REGISTER
BUILDING & TRUSS**



40' x 60' x 12' Installed
Roof Only, Closed Gables \$7,642*
Roof Only, Open Gables \$6,850*

30' x 40' x 10' Installed
Roof Only, Open Gables \$3,950*

registerbarns.com

228-678-0971-Office
228-234-9115-Cell
228-234-7241-Cell

2611 26th Ave. • Gulfport, MS
Second location in Highland Home, AL

*prices do not include taxes and delivery

**HUNT
ARGENTINA**



All inclusive packages for dove and duck hunting in Argentina. Limit of 50 ducks/person/day

Kids Dove Hunt FREE*

No Limit Doves

**DOWN EAST
GUIDE SERVICE**

1907 Paulette Rd.
Morehead City, NC 28557

info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com

252-671-3474

*With 4 adult full fare hunts

HUNTING LAND FOR SALE

LARRY STEWART
Agent, Land Specialist
Southern Louisiana
(985) 320-9112

BLAKE CHARLES
Agent, Land Specialist
Northern Louisiana
(337) 945-4061

BRAD FARRIS
Agent, Land Specialist
West Central Mississippi
(601) 506-1304

MICHAEL CLAYTON
Agent, Land Specialist
South Central Arkansas
(870) 818-5418

CADE TAYLOR
Agent, Land Specialist
Southeast Louisiana
(225) 719-0495

BART SHIRLEY
Agent, Land Specialist
Eastern Louisiana
(225) 324-5229

CHIPPER GIBBS
Agent, Land Specialist
West Central Mississippi
(601) 248-8984

**CONTACT AN AGENT TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT BUYING AND
SELLING HUNTING, RANCH,
FARMLAND AND TIMBERLAND**

**\$2.3
BILLION
& 615,000
ACRES**
sold company
wide in the last
5 years



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE
HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER

WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM

Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC | dba Whitetail Properties | Nebraska & North Dakota DBA Whitetail Trophy Properties Real Estate LLC. | Lic. in IL, MO, IA, KS, KY, NE & OK - Dan Perez, Broker | Lic. in AR, CO, GA, MN, ND, TN & WI - Jeff Evans, Broker | Lic. in OH & PA - Kirk Gilbert, Broker | Lic. in TX - Joey Bellington, Broker | Lic. in IN - John Boyken, Broker | Lic. in LA, MS & AL - Sybil Stewart, Broker | Lic. in TN - Chris Wakefield, Broker | Lic. in TN - Bobby Powers, Broker | Lic. in AR - Johnny Ball, Broker | Lic. in SC - Rick Elliot, Broker | Lic. in NC - Rich Baugh, Broker | Lic. in MI - Brandon Cropsey, Broker

M&H

Moseley & Hollard

MEN'S CLOTHING

In Style! In River Ranch! In Lafayette!

TAILORED CLOTHING
SPORTSWEAR
FOOTWEAR

FORMAL ATTIRE
PROFESSIONAL ALTERATIONS
FUN ATMOSPHERE!

OPEN 9-5:30 M-F, SAT 9-5
337.993.3077

LIKE US ON  

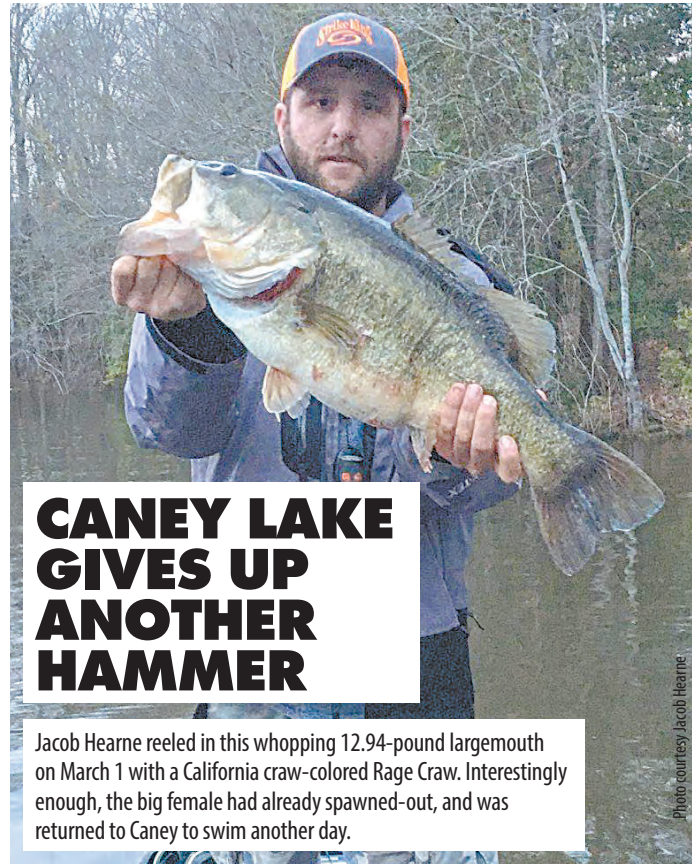
MOSELEYANDHOLLARD.COM

TEXAS ANGLER CATCHES TOLEDO BEND 12-POUNDER



Larry Mallet caught this 12.12-pound Toledo Bend hawg on March 4 fishing flats in Housen Bay. The giant bass, which hit a Senko-type plastic lure in 6 to 7 feet of water and was returned to the reservoir, is Mallet's second 12-pounder caught at the Bend.

Photo courtesy Fin and Feather Resort



CANEY LAKE GIVES UP ANOTHER HAMMER

Jacob Hearne reeled in this whopping 12.94-pound largemouth on March 1 with a California craw-colored Rage Craw. Interestingly enough, the big female had already spawned-out, and was returned to Caney to swim another day.

Photo courtesy Jacob Hearne

NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK RECORD BASS

Broc Corcoran caught this certified 9.3-pound lunker on a soft-plastic minnow on March 5, officially making it the biggest largemouth to come out of City Park by 2 ounces. Corcoran, who released the fish back near its bed, said he caught it near Scout's Island.



Photo courtesy Broc Corcoran



Photo courtesy of Louis Paretti

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN TROUT

Louis Paretti caught this giant speckled trout trolling canals on the northern end of Lake Pontchartrain on Thursday, March 8, using a 3/8-ounce GoldenEye jighead and a tiger bait Matrix Shad. The big speck tipped certified scales at 7.2 pounds.



BROUSSARD

SERVING ACADIANA AND THE SURROUNDING AREA
EQUIPPED TO HANDLE ALL YOUR TRAILER NEEDS

3605 US HWY 90 EAST • BROUSSARD, LA 70518

337-347-9995

**Bring this ad in for
10% OFF PARTS & ACCESSORIES
with purchase of trailer**





BOAT CITY

USA **Your Boat Pro**

TIDEWATER boats

MORE BOAT LESS BUCK

2110 Tidewater Bay Max
"Best Layout on the Market"



1910 Tidewater Bay Max
"Full 8' Beam, Double Locking Rod Lockers,
2 Baitwells & Rear Seating"



Tidewater 232 LXF



Tidewater 2200 Carolina Bay
"2000 & 2200 Bay models in Stock"

Exciting 2018 Tidewater Models Now in Stock.
Test Drive Before you Buy on the Boat City Lake in Hammond.

TRACKER boats

**NO HAGGLE
HASSLE**
Value Pricing
Coast to Coast



2018 Bass Pro Team 195 TE TXW

**PROVEN QUALITY
BEST FACTORY
WARRANTY
IN ALUMINUM BOATS**



Promotional Gift Card
Offers Honored



2018 Z17 **NITRO**
PERFORMANCE FISHING BOATS



2018 Inshore 18 LTS



2018 Pro Skif 19

BOAT CITY

1006 Cotton Gin - Henderson, LA
337-228-2577

14113 Club Deluxe - Hammond, LA
985-542-2028

"on the I-12 Boat City lake"

www.BoatCityUSA.com



"Selling & Servicing Tracker Boats
for 19 years"



USA

With our low sales tax, shopping at Boat City will save you Money!

SPORTSMAN TROUT PREVIEW



- **TOP 3 HOTSPOTS** opposite page
- **MISTAKES TO AVOID** pg 44
- **TOPWATER TACTICS** pg 140
- **STATEWIDE REPORTS** pg 160

This month marks the real start of the trout-fishing season, and Capt. Marty LaCoste knows there are plenty of specks to be had in the marshes surrounding Dularge.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As your April issue of Louisiana Sportsman was headed to press, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced plans to open the Bonnet Carré Spillway because of potential flooding concerns along the lower Mississippi River.

Of course, the opening will have a big impact on April and May speckled trout fishing in Lake Pontchartrain. Stay tuned to LouisianaSportsman.com for current Spillway updates.

TOP 3

TROUT HOTSPOTS

By Andy Crawford

IF YOUR FREEZER IS LACKING SPECK FILLETS, THESE ARE THE THREE PLACES YOU NEED TO VISIT THIS SPRING – WITH LOCAL GUIDES SHARING TACTICS ON HOW TO PUT MEAT IN THE BOX.

This winter has been miserable, with frigid temperatures putting speckled trout all along the coast into lethargic moods.

Sure, redfish took up the slack, but let's face it: Speckled trout eat far better than reds.

So the spring warmup is a welcome change, finally pulling specks out of their winter holes to start feasting on bait that begins pouring into the marshes this month.

Unlike other coastal states, Louisiana offers amazing options. From the Mississippi state line west to Texas, trout

simply swarm the fertile waters.

That means with the probable exception of Cypremort Point and possibly the mouth of the Mississippi, both of which are at the whim of the rivers that dominate those areas, anglers can find good options anywhere there's a bit of salt in the water.

But why settle for good when you can up your odds by targeting the very best of the state's trout fishing locales?

Lake Pontchartrain is known for its big springtime trout, and the Trestles is one of the perennial hotspots. The only fly in the ointment is the opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway in March.



Andy Crawford

To that end, we reached out to guides in the three fisheries that offer optimal opportunities to trout fishermen this spring.

Here's what they had to say about how you can load the boat early and often:

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN

If you haven't fished Lake Pontchartrain, it's likely to test your trout-catching skills. It can be difficult. Tough. Absolutely maddening.

But it's also packed with fish — and plenty of them top the school trout classification.

And now is when you need to launch your boat.

"April and May are two of the prime months," said Matrix Shad's Chas Champagne, who spends as much time as possible fishing the huge lake.

There are some shoreline areas that will hold fish, and artificial reefs are defi-



Anglers should be able to catch some logs off the Highway 11 bridge, but the trout can be tucked underneath the spans — so be sure you're working your lure beneath the pilings all the way back to the boat.

Courtesy Chas Champagne

nately places to be looked at.

However, the main attractions are the bridges: the Interstate 10 Twin Spans, the Highway 11 bridge, the Trestles train bridge and the Causeway.

If you want the best opportunity, Champagne said there is a clear winner. "The Trestles is, by far, the most consistent of the bridges," he said.

Each bridge, however, holds big fish.

Blow Out Sale!



178 DLV 90 HP Four Stroke
\$23,500

Boats Are All New 2016 Models And Engines
Are 2018 Models Includes Galvanized And
Aluminum Trailers.

**All New Warranties Apply.
Additional Models On Sale.**

3663 PONTCHARTRAIN DR. • SLIDELL, LA

985-643-6668

1306 S. HAUGH AVE, STE. A • PICAYUNE, MS

601-798-4700



YAMAHA

www.cypresscove.net



"Like" us on Facebook

And each fishes a little different, so you have to be ready to adjust.

For instance, the Causeway and Highway 11 offer anglers the ability to catch fish from beneath the spans.

Champagne said the key on these spans is to cast between the pilings and work back to the boat, ensuring your jig reaches the bottom and works right next to the bridge supports.

“On the Causeway and Highway 11, you are not going to catch a fish if you aren’t grazing those pilings,” he explained. “So casting accuracy is critical.”

The bottom beneath the Trestles, on the other hand, is not friendly to anglers.

“The Trestles is full of snags, so if you throw under it you’ll go through 2,000 jigheads in a day,” Champagne said. “So you want to back off with your trolling motor about a cast away (from the bridge) and throw at the pilings. You’ll notice the fish are going to be tight to the pilings or way off.”

If you’re after the huge trout for which the lake is known, pounding the Highway 11 span is your best bet.

“Every 7-pounder or better I’ve caught has come off the Highway 11 bridge,” Champagne said.

The biggest challenge Lake Pontchartrain newbies face is the difference between fishing other coastal waters and this huge body of water.

“You have to understand how to fish deep water,” Champagne said. “South Louisiana anglers are so used to fishing 2- to 6-foot water, where they can fish topwaters and stuff like that. That’s not going to cut it in (Lake Pontchartrain).

“You’re fishing water that is 10 to 20 feet (deep), depending on the bridge and location. You need to be good at deep-water fishing.”

Add to that impacts of wind and current, and the result is a steep learning curve.

But it’s worth putting in the

time to figuring it all out.

Champagne said he never turns away from plastics, but definitely leaves the popping corks at home.

“THE TRESTLES IS, BY FAR, THE MOST CONSISTENT OF THE BRIDGES.”

Instead, this is a tightline game, with heavy jigs ($\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) being the best bets because it allows anglers to overcome current and reach the bottom, where big trout live.

However, Champagne admitted live shrimp can be deadly. And now, thanks

to changes in Louisiana laws, marinas can legally sell live bait year round, so anglers can find live shrimp in April and May — even though the crustaceans don’t naturally enter the lake until at least May.

If you decide to go that route, Carolina rigs and drop shots work. But Champagne said another tactic can be even better.

“A sliding cork is really good,” he said. “You can just open the bail and let the current pull the (shrimp) along. It’s allowing you to cover more water. And it just looks natural in the water.”



HACK ATTACK
FLUORO FLIPPING JIG

AVAILABLE IN
3/8 OZ., 1/2 OZ. & 3/4 OZ.

Strike King

Greg Hackney

GREG HACKNEY
B.A.S.S. TOURNAMENT PROFESSIONAL
2014 TOYOTA TUNDRA BASSMASTER
ANGLER OF THE YEAR

Strike King

WWW.STRIKEKING.COM

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Instagram icons

DULARGE & COCODRIE

Perhaps the most-consistent trout fishery in the state right now is shared by anglers launching from Dularge and Cocodrie. There are innumerable specks swimming in the lakes, bayous and nearshore waters.



Courtesy Capt. Marty LaCoste

And the spring provides something for everyone — whether you want to stay close to the launch or head farther south to pick fish off the beaches and wellheads bordering the Gulf of Mexico.

“Usually shrimp are in the interior lakes,” Capt. Marty LaCoste of Absolute Fishing Charters said. “So there are trout in the lakes, but fish are actually starting to move offshore, too, to the beaches.”

LaCoste said speckled trout teem in the larger interior lakes like Lake Mechant, Sister Lake and Lost Lake.

“Those are the three main lakes,” he said. Plastics are his go-to for these areas.

“Inside, I would never, ever have any live bait,” LaCoste said. “You just don’t need it.”

A two-pronged attack provides plenty of opportunities for box-filling frenzies when staying close in.

Diving birds often signal schools of trout, which can quickly turn into limits of fish swinging onboard.

LaCoste said he carefully eases into attack position.

“I’ll come up upwind and stop a couple hundred yards away,” LaCoste said. “I’ll use the trolling motor, wind and current to pull in closer.”

But this veteran guide said he some-

times just uses Mother Nature to save time — particularly when he has trouble finding willing keepers under the birds.

“Sometimes you pull up to a flock of birds and catch one or two fish,” LaCoste said. “If I’ve pulled up to a couple of flocks and only caught five or six (trout), then I’ll get to where I don’t put my trolling motor down.

“I’ll just use the wind and current to drift in.”

As he pulls into the birds’ feeding frenzy, he makes several casts, but doesn’t waste a lot of time before moving to the next flock.

Reefs in these areas also can hold fish, and LaCoste said he approaches them the same as picking birds.

The beauty of this time of year is that interior speckled trout aren't the dinks often found in the summer.

"Some years we can catch good trout, too, up until mid-May," LaCoste said.

By the first of May, LaCoste said he'll be making forays south. While there will still be plenty of keepers in the interior lakes, this is when many anglers in the know head to the beaches of West Timbalier, Last Island and Coon Point to find swarms of yellowmouths.



You'll find solid keepers under feeding flocks of gulls this month in the Dularge and Cocodrie marshes.

Courtesy Capt. Marty LaCoste

Trout pull to nearshore platforms and reefs, but the beaches are better options when winds plague the coast — which is often the case in the spring.

"It's usually windy, and the beaches will give you some protection," LaCoste said. "If it's a 20 mph north wind, I'm not even going out there, but a 20 mph south wind we can find protection."

He said the beaches offer a lot of options.

"There's reefs on all of these beaches," LaCoste said. "There are wellheads, points. You just move until you find the fish."

This is when LaCoste stocks up on live shrimp before leaving the dock.

"The fish (on the beaches) just quit hitting plastics because the majority of boats going out there from Cocodrie are using live shrimp," he explained. "The plastic bite comes to a halt, and you have to fish live bait."

That's not to say live shrimp are his preferred means of catching these trout.

"I'm going to fish plastics first," LaCoste said. "There are days we catch them all on plastics and don't use live shrimp."

"But if we don't catch them on plastics, we'll turn to the live shrimp. For me, it's insurance."



SX240

SX210

RULE THE BAY!
SIZES 19' - 28'
2400 PURE BAY

BLUE WAVE

G3 Boats

G3 18CC

SPORTSMAN
NOW AVAILABLE IN
16-19 LENGTHS

SPORTSMAN
YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL!

SPORTSMAN 267
SIZES AVAILABLE
18' TO 26'

ISLAND BAY BOAT

NOW WITH 2 LOCATIONS TO BETTER SERVE YOU
1308 Canal Blvd., Thibodaux 985-447-4156
2268 Grand Caillou Rd., Houma 985-873-7731

southernoutdoor@bellsouth.net

#3

CALCASIEU LAKE



CALCASIEU LAKE

Any Top 3 list would be worthless if it didn't include Big Lake, which has a storied history of producing lunker trout.

And, even though the last few years have been a little off because of high rainfall, April is when things really begin heating up.

"In the winter and into the early part of the year, a lot of the fish are up the system," Calcasieu Charter Service's Erik Rue said. "As the temperatures start to come up and you get some shrimp coming into the lower end of the system, the big fish start moving down."

That's when the reefs and hard banks on the south end of the Calcasieu Lake traditionally load up with trout that give anglers weak knees.

Some of that habitat is gone now, thanks to erosion and oystering operations, but Rue said there are still plenty of fish to be caught.

Big Lake has changed a lot in the last decade, but it still holds some great trout. Just find the hard banks and reefs in areas like West Cove and make long casts to ensure you don't spook yellow mouths.

Courtesy Capt. Erik Rue

"West Cove is still a real hotspot," he said. "Most of that is still intact."

No matter where you look, the biggest key to success is finding the groceries on which trout feed.

"In general, you want to find the bait," Rue explained. "Find the shrimp and the largest concentrations of mullet, and then target those reefs and shorelines that are traditionally good spots — that's what you're going to find trout."

While some anglers love live bait, Rue said it's not really necessary. He sticks mainly with plastics and twitch baits.

"Those twitch baits like the MirrOdine — there are times when they are lights out," Rue said. "You're catching a fish here and there with plastics, and then you throw out a twitch bait and catch

them on every cast."

Rue said he's transitioned his operations away from trophy trout fishing, so his bread and butter business relies on soft-plastic lures.

But he's not one of those who swears by lightweight jigs, although there's a reason he has upsized from ¼- to ⅜-ounce jigheads.

"A couple of years back, I started using braid, and I'm sold on it," Rue said. "I don't use anything else."

He adds a 4- to 6-foot 25-pound mono leader, with Berkley Big Game being his go-to material.

And he tops off his rig with a Norton Bull Minnow.

This combination performs largely like other plastics fished on lighter weights.

"The Bull Minnows are kind of big, buoyant baits, and with that 25-pound Big Game, I don't think my ⅜-ounce jighead sinks any faster than those other guys fishing with light jigheads (and smaller plastics)," Rue explained.

No matter if you go with Rue's setup or stick with

lighter terminal tackle, it's critical to let the bait settle before beginning the retrieve.

"I like to be in constant contact with the bottom," Rue said. "I want to know when a fish hits it."

The exact retrieve changes from day to day, however.

"Some days you get there and the fish are up on the surface, and when the bait hits the water you get a bite," Rue said.

"On other days, you have to drag it along the bottom.

"You've just got to figure it out." ■

> COMMON TROUT
MISTAKES TO AVOID

up next



NauticStar

COME SEE THE
ALL NEW
265XTS

**244 XTS
BAY BOAT**

NauticStar

**215 XTS
NAUTICBAY**



YAMAHA

**2.5HP
to
350HP
Outboard
Engines**



**1756 VV Center Console Alweld
with F70LA Yamaha**



**1756 VV Marsh Series Pro Bass
Console with F70LA Yamaha**



**FACTORY
TRAINED
TECHNICIANS TO
SERVE YOU!**



1128 BARROW ST. • HOUMA, LA
MON. - FRI. 7:30am - 5pm
(985) 872-4181 • (985) 868-7534



YAMAHA



www.dagates.com

SPORTSMAN TROUT PREVIEW



- **MISTAKES TO AVOID** opposite page
- **TASTY TROUT RECIPES** pg 134
- **POPPING CORK TIPS** pg 146

TOP 3

COMMON TROUT MISTAKES TO AVOID By Andy Crawford

EVEN IF YOU'RE A DEDICATED WEEKEND WARRIOR, THERE'S ALWAYS MORE TO LEARN ABOUT CATCHING SPECKS. SO BE SURE YOU AREN'T MAKING THESE MISTAKES THAT CAN IMPACT THE NUMBER OF FISH YOU PUT ON ICE.

We all live for the days when you leave the launch and birds are diving everywhere — and trout seem to fly over the gunnel right into the ice chest.

But, unfortunately, those trips seem to be the exception instead of the rule. The fact is that most anglers go home without rounding out their limits.

Sure, they might have pretty decent days of fishing, but limits for everyone on the boat? Those are as rare as a Baptist in a bar — it happens, but not every day.

So what's the problem? Well, it's likely that we anglers have developed bad habits, and the guides we talked to shared three mistakes that can be the difference between going home with enough fish for a fish fry, or barely sliming the deck.

Here are their thoughts:

1 - QUIET IS ALWAYS BEST

Capt. Erik Rue spends his days on water in which 8 feet is deep — and most of his targets swim in less than 5 feet.

The Calcasieu Charter Service owner said spooking shallow-water trout is a real possibility, so he puts a premium on being as quiet as possible.

"The No. 1 mistake I see a lot of anglers make is they come in on a spot they want to fish, and put the trolling motor down and troll into where they want to be, instead of letting the wind push them into position," Rue said.

When working shallow reefs, coves and bays, even the sound of the trolling motor can give trout the heads-up to your presence — and send them scurrying for other locales.



Don't let bad habits keep you from putting fish in the boat. **INSET:** Stalking shallow-water trout can be rewarding, but you simply will not be successful if you make a lot of noise.



“You don’t want to be slamming lids and hitting the trolling motor in shallow water,” Rue said. “I still think being quiet is a big deal.”

Even the amount of line spooled onto your reel has a bearing on how quiet you can be, he said. This is especially important when hunting lunker trout.

“I think the average angler has too little line on his reel,” Rue said. “If the reel is three-quarters spooled, on their best cast they are averaging 10, 12, 15 yards closer to the boat than I am.

“That real estate is all the difference in the world. If you want to catch big trout, you’ve got to be able to cast a long way.”

He attributes silent approaches to the success of wade fishing, which is in vogue on Calcasieu Lake these days, but he said being able to cast farther negates the necessity of getting in the water.

“There’s a reason wade fishermen catch big trout: They can get a lot closer to the fish (without spooking them),” Rue said.

Deep-water trout are notoriously finicky, with arm-stretching strikes fairly uncommon. So watch your line for any subtle sign that a fish has picked up your lure.

“But if ... they could cast a long way they wouldn’t need to get out of the boat.”

So the next time you’re fishing Big Lake — or any shallow-water system, for that matter — fully spool your reel, stop slamming the lids of your compartments and let nature put you in the proper position to fish your favorite spots.

“You’ve got to be quiet and cast a long way,” Rue said.

#2 - WATCH THAT LINE

If you’ve fished Lake Pontchartrain because you heard all the hype, only to give up after a half day without a single bite, it’s likely you are making classic mistakes.

“You have to let the bait get all the way to the bottom,” Matrix Shad’s Chas Champagne said. “And you’ve got to watch your line.”

OK, so these are technically two mistakes, but they are related. And, while Champagne was speaking about Lake Pontchartrain, the concepts are equally important anywhere you fish deep trout



SAND DOLLAR
Marina & Deli & Motel

Fully Furnished Apartments & Bed Rooms
LAUNDROMAT • FISH CLEANING AREA

Full Service Deep Water Marina & Deli
FISHING SUPPLIES & TACKLE

Live, Fresh & Frozen Bait
ICE • FISHING LICENSE

Gas, Diesel & Propane
FULL RV HOOK-UP - 30A & 50A

**Lighted Pier For Guest Staying
In Motel & RV Park**

158 Sand Dollar Court Dr, Grand Isle, LA
Motel/Apts: **985-787-2893**
Marina/Deli: **985-787-2500**

Bridge Side
Cabins & Marina

Bridge Side Cabins and Marina is truly a full-service facility having everything the vacationer, camper, and fisherman would want!

Live Bait (shrimp, croakers, minnows) • **Boat Launch & Slips**
Ice • **Fishing Tackle** • **Fuel** (non-ethanol gas, diesel, propane)
Deli • **Fully Furnished Cabins** • **Waterfront Camps**
Campgrounds (water, electricity, sewage)
Lighted Fishing Piers • **Pavilion** • **Fishing Cleaning Pier**

1618 LA. Hwy 1 • Grand Isle, LA

Cabins: 985-787-2418 Marina: 985-787-2419
www.bridgesidecabinsandmarina.net

(think nearshore platforms).
 The key is to use a 3/8- or 1/2-ounce jig to get the bait all the way to the bottom — and do it often enough to know how long it takes to go all the way through the water column.

That allows you to pick up on the clues signaling the most subtle of bites.

“If it’s taking 3 seconds to get to the bottom and the lure looks like it reaches it in 2, it’s probably a fish that is either swimming to you or is sitting there with the lure in its mouth,” Champagne said. “You won’t feel it, but that could be a trout.”

So watch your line closely for any anomaly.

“You might see the line move to the side a little, or it just goes slack when it should be falling,” Champagne explained.

Being able to actually see these visual clues means line choice is critically important — and braids that are so popular nowadays really aren’t the best options.

“Most PowerPro is that forest green — and you’re not going to be able to see that line,” Champagne said. “So if you go with braid, use white or yellow. You can use a fluorocarbon leader if you feel like the fish are going to see the braid.”

However, he and most of the consistent Pontchartrain anglers go old school, preferring a line that is easier to see than hair-thin braid.

“We all use monofilament that we can see,” Champagne said.

His favorite for years was Stren clear/blue, and now he sells Matrix Line made to his specs.

“We just carry 14- and 17-pound test, which is perfect for the lake,” Champagne said. “It’s all about being able to see the line.”



ALWELD
COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC.

Lake Area Marine
Hwy 90 E
433-7019

337-433-7019
3909 HWY 90 EAST
LAKE CHARLES, LA
lamarine@suddenlinkmail.com

Alweld Boats offers a wide variety of makes and models for 12' to 28' of all welded aluminum boats.

TOHATSU
Outboards



Perfect on Front & Rear Decks

No more Slipping & Sliding Just Fishing

HYDRO-TURF

Marine Traction Mats **NON-SLIP SURFACE**

Many COLORS to choose from including Camo

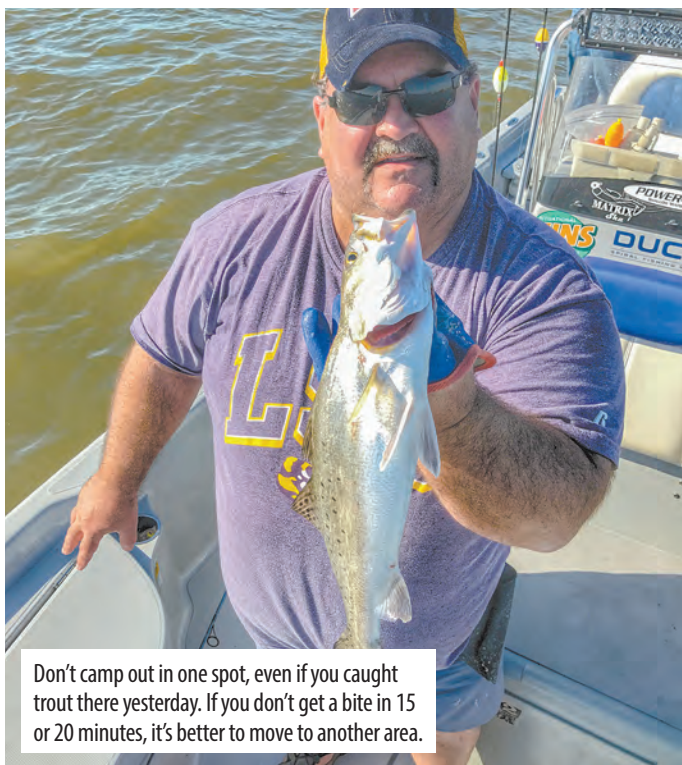
- Light Weight • Color Through and Through
- Waterproof • Ultra Durable • Noise Reduction

Most Sheets 40" x 62"
Also available with peel and stick backing
 Flat, Straight Groove, Diamond or Waffle Groove

Increases the Value of Your Boat

Order Today
 504-340-0344
 504-340-5221





Don't camp out in one spot, even if you caught trout there yesterday. If you don't get a bite in 15 or 20 minutes, it's better to move to another area.

#3 - DON'T SIT TOO LONG

We're all creatures of habit who, by nature, dislike change. So when we launch our boats, the odds are we head directly to the places we know — honey holes where success has been found during previous trips.

But living in the past can lead to frustration and empty ice chests.

That's why Absolute Fishing Charter's Capt. Marty LaCoste said it's imperative to be mobile.

"Staying in one place too long is the biggest mistake a lot of anglers make," LaCoste said. "They sit in one place for an hour and catch three or four fish."

Many believe they just have to wait out the bite, but LaCoste said the better — and faster — way to build limits is to leave your comfort zone and find fish in the feeding mood.

"Move, move, move until you find fish," LaCoste said. "You don't want to wait an hour to catch five or six fish."

Some anglers simply get lost in the seemingly innumerable options available in the marsh, but LaCoste said finding new hotspots is a just matter of finding the right conditions.

"Look for moving water. Look for current lines. Look for bait," the guide said. "Look for all those things to find fish."

But if you pull up to a nice current line sweeping around a point and don't get a bite in 15 or 20 minutes, it's probably time to find another spot.

"If you move to enough spots, you'll find fish," LaCoste said. "You could be done by 9:30 in the morning instead of having to fish all day." ■



Andy Crawford has spent nearly his entire career writing about and photographing Louisiana's hunting and fishing community. Learn more about his work at www.AndyCrawford.com. Photography.

The New

**Bantam
MGL**

Is Available at These
Local SHIMANO Retailers!

**Bacon's
Sporting Goods**
Shreveport, LA

**Bayou Outdoor
Super Center**
Bossier City, LA

Bowie Outfitters LLC
Baton Rouge, LA

Buckfins-N-Feathers, LLC
Broussard, LA

Cajun Guns & Tackle
New Iberia, LA

Cajun Tackle
Lake Charles, LA

**Chag's Sporting
Goods, Inc.**
Metairie, LA

**Chalmette
Sporting Goods**
Chalmette, LA

Country Station Tackle
Broussard, LA

Gus Tackle And Nets
Slidell, LA

Lake Charles Tackle
Lake Charles, LA

Marshland Tackle
Pontchartroula, LA

**Professional
Sport Shop, Inc.**
New Orleans, LA

**Puglia's
Sporting Goods**
Metairie, LA

**Railside
Feed & Supply**
Broussard, LA

**Songy Sporting
Goods, Inc**
Houma, LA

**Spotted Dog
Sporting Goods**
Columbia, LA

**Superior
Bait & Tackle**
Baton Rouge, LA

Toledo Tackle
Monroe, LA

**Toledo
Town & Tackle**
Many, LA

Tyd's LLC
Golden Meadow, LA

SHIMANO®

Bantam MGL

CoreSolid Body A one-piece, fully integrated frame, B-side plate and level wind guard, makes the new Bantam MGL the most solid connection ever between you and the fish.

SOLID CONNECTION



**CORESOLID
BODY**

- Solid, one-piece construction for unrivaled rigidity and sensitivity
- First design of this type in a low profile baitcast reel

SHIMANO


fish.shimano.com



By David A. Brown

After a freezing winter and a wet spring, the spawn marches on at the Bend. Here's the pros' plan of attack in April.

TOLEDO BEND SPAWN: *Phase 3*



*To everything (turn, turn, turn).
There is a season (turn, turn, turn),
And a time to every purpose, under heaven.*

It's unclear if The Byrds were bass anglers, but their 1965 hit fairly summarizes the general shape of things on Toledo Bend. The spawn has been underway for some time now and, while it's certainly not over, we're definitely moving toward that finality.

The thing about this massive Sabine River reservoir we share with our Texas neighbors is that its length and significantly differing habitats promote a

stratified spawning season. That means what has already happened in the shallow, darker upper end is probably trailing off in the mid region and likely upcoming in the deep, clear lower end.

"I'm going to be shifting my focus farther down the lake as time goes on, because the spawn happens north-to-south," said FLW Southwestern pro Nick Lebrun. "You will have fish spawning all over the lake at once, but when it's wrapping up toward the end (late April-May), I think that most of your fish that are still on beds are going to be on that lower-third of the lake."

Bassmaster Elite Series pro Russ Lane agrees: "If you envision that lake heating up; what would be the last place to make it to that 57- to 58-degree mark — that would be the south end. It wouldn't be in the pockets, it would be on the points in the mouths of the pockets.

"If it's getting late in the spring and the water's in the upper-60s and lower-70s everywhere, and you go to the riprap at the dam and that water is 57 degrees, there will be fish spawning on that riprap. That's the last place where the conditions are right. You just have to envision how this body of water heats up and you can pattern the fish by doing that."

LAST CALL UP NEXT ►



LAST CALL

Lebrun believes the key consideration for this final stage of the Toledo Bend spawn will be water level. After some soggy late-February rains, the lake was right at 172 feet.

"In years when the lake stays is low in April, sight fishing is going to be the main deal for those spawners," he said. "If I'm in an area with a lot of good-sized spawners, I may try to get there early, right at daylight and do some blind casting.

"But I love looking at them; and if they're big ones and they're locked on, a lot of times sight fishing is the deal on that lake."

While there's a lot to be said for your natural colors like green pumpkin, as well as the bream-imitating black and blue, sight fishermen often find white is hard to beat. And not so much for its fish-fooling prowess — truth be told, bed fish don't want any creature of any color anywhere near their bed. Rather, it's simply a matter of observation advantage.

When you're staying back from a nervous bed fish, light refraction, clouds, etc. can make it tough to see the pick up. But white baits stand out clearly in most any scenario, so if you pitch into the bed and your white bait disappears, set the hook.

"I like a V&M J Bug and a lot of times, I'll dye the legs chartreuse or red," Lebrun said. "Sometimes, I'll pinch off the bait's upper two legs so it only has the bottom two flappers. I want to keep that bait compact because that gives the fish less to nip at."

Another of Lebrun's bed fishing strategies is to occasionally sub in a V&M Wild Craw Jr., a bait he described as having a lazy, irregular action, as opposed to the tighter look of the J Bug. The latter, he said, is his go-to, but when the fish play hard-to-get, a little variety can close the deal.

"Every bed fish is different and the larger they are, the more contrary they can be," Lebrun said. "I don't stress out trying to overthink it, but some-

times that fish wants that segmented, natural looking craw and he wants that lazier, more subtle action. He doesn't want those legs moving all that much. Normally, I'd throw that Wild Craw Jr. when the fish won't eat the J Bug."

Now, when low light or vegetation conceals spawners, Lebrun often employs a tactic most experienced Toledo Bend anglers know as a fish locator. Run a soft body swimbait like the Reaction Innovations Skinny Dipper, YUM Pulse or Berkley Havoc Grass Pig, through likely areas and see who moves. If one bites, great, but even a swirl or follow tells you where to focus your efforts.

"A lot of that depends on the pressure the lake is getting," Lebrun said. "If it's on a Saturday and you're in a 200-boat tournament and there's a 300-boat high school tournament and it's bright sun with no wind, a lot of times chunking and winding, or blind casting is just not going to work.

"But, if there's not that much fishing pressure and you have some cloud cover and the wind's blowing, that swimbait can work. Or I like to use a 6th Sense Movement 80x crankbait, which is a really good bream imitator. A lot of times, I like to throw that while I'm looking for bed fish so I can have two types of presentations."

White plastics are a good bet for the Toledo Bend spawn, as you can easily see when a fish picks up the Texas-rigged offering.





MEAL DELIVERY

schedule

The good Lord knows that postspawn bass will be hungry, so He timed nature's progression to make sure those recuperating fish had plenty to eat. Bluegill sacrifice many of their numbers to feed the bass who were probably holding a grudge for all that nest raiding the bream attempted. However, the spring shad spawn often prompts bass to some mighty strategic movements.

"The last stage of the spawn coincides with the shad spawn, so some of the bass will leave their beds to snack on spawning shad and then return," said Bassmaster Elite pro John Crews. "Also, postspawners will feed on shad."

Where it happens: Hard edges like docks, seawalls and grass lines. Look for the flickering and flashing of thousands of baitfish doing the hippity-dippity.

When it happens: Shad spawn at night, with about an hour of activity after daybreak. Cloudy or overcast skies can extend the frenzy past this period.

What to throw: Moving baits are most common with spinnerbaits, swimbaits, swim jigs and shallow running crankbaits — all in chartreuse, whites, and grays to match the shad.

Jordan Lee, the 2017 Bassmaster Classic champ from Alabama, knows that docks near the entrance/exit to spawning pockets can be good bets for intercepting post-spawners and shad spawns. He likes to pitch jigs, but he'll also throw moving baits like a squarebill crankbait. To that list, Crews adds a white Spro Popping frog.

Whatever your preference, keep your distance, stay off the shad and work your baits aggressively. This is a time of great activity, and mimicking the mayhem gets you bit. ■

– David A. Brown

With shad spawns occurring close to the final stages of the Toledo Bend spawn, docks are a popular option.

LATE-SPAWN HABITATS

As for late-season spawning habitats, Lebrun points to sparse hay grass. You don't want it too thick, otherwise bass won't spawn there because the sunlight can't penetrate to warm their eggs. What you do want is a well-defined line, as the big fish seem to like this. Same goes for hydrilla — you want a clearly-defined inner line.

Lebrun's also conscious of what areas hold the warmest and clearest water. Geography matters here, as your northern banks typically are the most attractive because they're shielded from the chilly north winds of late-season cold snaps.

ON THE WAY OUT
UP NEXT ➤



Big, cantankerous bass are the highlight of the Toledo Bend spawn.



ON THE WAY OUT

After a wave of these late spawners does their thing, the exit march affords a whole new level of opportunity with post-spawners stopping at the same types of places they staked out during their prespawn staging. Here, you're looking for those points, creek channel ledges, stumps and laydowns between the spawning areas and the deep summer destinations.

Elite pro Jason Christie likens these postspawn areas of concentrated opportunity to convenience stores along the highways. If the spawning areas are local roads and the beds are individual driveways, you're going to find your greatest concentrations at those common stopping areas along the major travel routes.



For bedding fish and fry guarders, it's hard to beat a wacky-rigged stick worm.

"Usually it's all about the beam at that point and that makes you think of two things: a hollow-body frog in any kind of dark pattern and a wacky style worm like a V&M Chop Stick," Lebrun said. "I may fish mine with a small (nail) weight and an O-ring.

"Also, if you have a windy, cloudy day, those postspawners will eat a moving bait like a Chatterbait or a squarebill. A lot of people like to throw topwater walking baits like a 6th Sense Dogma."

Pointing to the golden hay grass as a popular postspawn hangout, Lebrun said he won't hesitate to get aggressive with heavy tactics. Bass are bass and even an exhausted mother will react to sudden intrusions.

"I look for that sparse hay grass; the fish will get on the inside and the outside," Lebrun said. "You may be looking at 4 feet on the outside and maybe 1-2 feet on the inside. I think the bass just use those lines of hay like a little highway and the fry will stay right on the edge."

Note that this deal is dependent on whether the state sprays the hay grass. If not, then Lebrun will target those fry guarders by sending a craw bait with a 1 ½-ounce Elite Tungsten punch weight into the cover.

WATCHING THE NURSERY
UP NEXT ➤

Honda ATV's are available at these LOCAL RETAILERS:

Bocos Engine Service

208 E. Magnolia St.
Ville Platte, LA 70586
337-363-1780

Honda of Lafayette

1708 N. University Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70507
337-234-6632

Friendly Honda

10939 Airline Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816
225-292-6242

Loewer Powersports

5909 Coliseum Blvd
Alexandria, LA 71303
318-487-9495

Friendly Powersports

888 Old Spanish Traile
Slidell, LA 70458
985-643-4556

McKinney Honda

715 N. Service Rd. E
Ruston, LA 71270
318-255-6777

G & C Honda

2415 E. 70th St.
Shreveport, LA 71105
318-797-1222

Motion Cyclesports of DeRidder

19189 Lake Charles Hwy.
DeRidder, LA 70634
337-463-8110

G & C Honda of Hammond

15449 W. Club Deluxe Rd.
Hammond, LA 70403
985-345-1577

Southside Cycle Shop, Inc.

6914 Johnston St.
Lafayette, LA 70503
337-984-0401

Honda of Covington Powersports

152 Holiday Square Blvd.
Covington, LA 70433
985-892-9730

Sportsman's Cycle & Marine

708 Brashear Ave.
Morgan City, LA 70380
985-385-4080



2017 FOURTRAX® FOREMAN® | Choose the right tool.



**In Stock at Your Local
Participating Louisiana Honda Dealer!**



BEST ON EARTH™

powersports.honda.com UTILITY ATVs ARE RECOMMENDED FOR RIDERS 16 YEARS AND OLDER. ATVs CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO OPERATE. FOR YOUR SAFETY, BE RESPONSIBLE. READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL. ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. BE CAREFUL ON DIFFICULT TERRAIN. ALL ATV RIDERS SHOULD TAKE A TRAINING COURSE (FREE FOR NEW BUYERS. ASK YOUR DEALER OR CALL ASI AT 800-887-2887). NEVER RIDE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, ON PAVED SURFACES, ON PUBLIC ROADS, WITH PASSENGERS, OR AT EXCESSIVE SPEEDS. NO STUNT RIDING. RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN RIDING. FourTrax®, Foreman® and Best On Earth™ are registered trademarks of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. ©2016 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (07/16)

2017 PIONEER® 500 | Five-speed automatic fun!



**Come See Today at a
Participating Louisiana Honda Dealer!**



powersports.honda.com PIONEER 500 IS ONLY FOR DRIVERS 16 YEARS AND OLDER. MULTI-PURPOSE UTILITY VEHICLES (SIDE-BY-SIDES) CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO OPERATE. FOR YOUR SAFETY, DRIVE RESPONSIBLY. ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT, AND KEEP THE SIDE NETS AND DOORS CLOSED. AVOID EXCESSIVE SPEEDS AND BE CAREFUL ON DIFFICULT TERRAIN. ALL MUV DRIVERS SHOULD WATCH THE SAFETY VIDEO "MULTIPURPOSE UTILITY VEHICLES: A GUIDE TO SAFE OPERATION" AND READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE OPERATING THE VEHICLE. NEVER DRIVE AFTER CONSUMING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, OR ON PUBLIC ROADS. DRIVER AND PASSENGERS MUST BE TALL ENOUGH FOR SEAT BELT TO FIT PROPERLY AND TO BRACE THEMSELVES WITH BOTH FEET FIRMLY ON THE FLOOR. PASSENGER MUST BE ABLE TO GRASP THE HAND HOLD WITH THE SEAT BELT ON AND BOTH FEET ON THE FLOOR. RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN DRIVING. Pioneer™ is a trademark of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. ©2016 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (9/16)

TOLEDO BEND SPAWN:
PHASE 3

Spinnerbaits, shallow-running crankbaits and topwater frogs make up Bassmaster Elite pro John Crews' Toledo Bend spawn preferences.

WATCHING THE NURSERY

The natural extension of the postspawn is the emergence of the next generation — those clouds of ¼- to ½-inch long fry that hover around protective cover under the watchful eye of their papa. While spawned-out females rest and regain their lost weight on those postspawn rest areas, the males herd the young'ns to safety and aggressively drive off any potential threats.

This is the time to throw a variety of intrusive baits from topwater poppers to frogs, to swim jigs and even spinnerbaits. Lebrun also likes the wacky rig here, but you'll also want to give a Texas-rigged stick bait a chance, as well. Great for casting, pitching, flipping and skipping, this versatile rig can do a lot this time of year.

With all of these strategies, think of the Toledo Bend spawn like a parade. If your seat's at the start of the parade, you'll see the floats and hear the marching bands first; but eventually, the fun moves past you. On the other hand, those at the end of the parade route have the action coming to them. But even here, the show only lasts so long.



That being said this is the time to take advantage of one of the best times of year to experience shallow water fireworks, so make it your purpose to bend a rod before this season turns, turns, turns ... ■



A full-time freelance writer specializing in sport fishing, David A. Brown splits his time between journalism and marketing communications (www.tightwords.com).

Non-Current Sales Event!!!

215 XTS

Huge Indoor Showroom!!!

Skeeter SX 210

NauticStar BOATS

Save BIG!!!

2140 Sport

SKEETER PERFORMANCE FISHING BOATS

SX 210

NEW Location

dockside marine

YAMAHA

63116 Hwy 10 Bogalusa, LA 70427
Phone: (985) 732-7600

dockside-marine.com



What the smell?

**No need to find out...
just get rid of it.**

Does your truck cab still smell like your last fishing trip? ...from last summer?? Ever spill a drink in your car? Track in some mud? Light a cigar? Sweat in the hot, humid summer before your AC kicks in?

Yeah, you guessed it, all of that bakes up in your car and causes some funky odors. As anything organic decays—think sweat, a spilled iced coffee, food wrappers, even grass—bacteria grows and causes stinky odors. To rid your car or truck of bad smells completely, first control the odor-causing bacteria with **NosGUARD^{SG} Auto Odor Eliminator**.

Find out more at www.AutoOdorEliminator.com

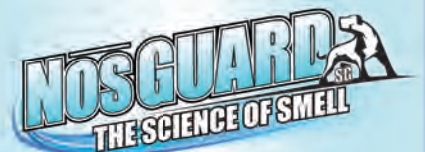
© 2018 Starbrite, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



**DEEP-PENETRATING
Cl₂ VAPOR
TECHNOLOGY
ELIMINATES TOUGH
MUSTY ODORS:**

- *Mold*
- *Mildew*
- *Cigarettes*
- *Cigars*
- *Smoke*
- *Pets*
- *Alcohol*
- *Urine*
- *Vomit*
- *Bodily fluids*
- *Bait*
- *Rotten food*

**The EPA-Registered DIY
odor treatment is fast,
easy, and effective.**



Xtreme Performance

Has Arrived.



Upgraded Features Include:

- Strengthened Cylinder Block
 - Head Design for Smoother Fuel Flow
 - Forged Aluminum Con Rods
 - Re-Designed Piston/Ring Pack
- Performance Cam Gear
- Performance Muffler
- ECU Calibration

CHECK US OUT!

Find A Dealer at
bossdrives.com

BFC Marine / GatorTrax

26844 Hwy. 1037, Springfield, LA
(225) 294-9991

Boat Doctor

825 S. Al Davis Rd., Harahan, LA
(504) 737-1203

BOSS Drives

4275 Hwy 275 Sulphur, LA
(336) 558-BOSS

Cottonmouth Boats

16553 Airline Hwy. Prairieview, LA
(225) 478-8709

Pete Jorgensen Marine

24 North 11 St., Beaumont, TX 77702
(409) 212-1005



1-800-MUD-BOSS



Take Charge™



By Jonathan Olivier

TURKEY TALK

SURE, THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS TO CALL IN A GOBBLER — BUT THESE PROVEN TACTICS TO KILL WILL HELP YOU SEAL THE DEAL.

It's no small feat to actually come home with a wily, old gobbler. The bird's eyesight alone makes it formidable quarry. Even when you're covered head to toe in camouflage, the slightest mishap can ruin an otherwise solid hunt.

Perhaps that's why there is such a dedicated group devoted to the sport, because to become a proficient turkey hunter you have to put in hard work and master the tools of the trade—the most important of which is the turkey call.

"It takes some time to learn how to call in a turkey," said Jesse Langlois, who hunts near Butte La Rose. "If you think you're not calling enough, you're probably calling too much."

"It's a delicate process."

The hens do most of the work in the turkey woods. Sure, the gobbler calls at them from time to time, but does so only to round up the ladies. With all of the hens surrounding it, you've got a satisfied — and stubborn — tom on your hands.

The job of the hunter is to get the tom to come to him. "You're trying to reverse Mother Nature," said seven-time Louisiana turkey calling champion Bruce Saale. "When he's got his hens around him, it can be pretty hard to do that."

>

TURKEY TALK

Jesse Langlois gauges a bird's receptiveness right as the hunt begins to determine if any calling will work. **INSET:** Turkey hunting is about defying nature, Bruce Saale said. When a tom gobbles, it's calling hens in. So if hens are already around, it can be a tough task.

Saale, who owns Talkin' the Talk Custom Calls, said that's why a realistic sounding call is paramount. He said that gives a turkey hunter an advantage, as the more you can sound like the real thing, the better your chances are of harvesting a bird. "A call that sounds like a turkey, that's better made and not out of plastic, is going to kill more birds," he said.

While any hunt is about as predictable as a poker game, there are a few typical situations you might find yourself in. Here are four scenarios you may encounter this turkey season, and the steps you should take to kill a gobbler:

HENNED UP

A gobbler with plenty of hens is a hard one to harvest. It's content and apt to tend to the flock it already has — meaning your calling may have less of an effect. You'll know a gobbler is henned up when it will respond to your calling, but stays put. Saale said it's saying, "Come to me."

In this case, it's best to get the attention of the dominant hen in the group. Start cutting aggressively, which might be enough to draw the hen away from the gobbler. If it approaches, so will the rest of the flock. In an effort to keep tabs on the hens, the gobbler might follow. "When that happens, it's best to have a mouth call so you can remain still," Saale said. "You don't want to move with all those eyes on you."

However, bringing in a hen doesn't always work. Another proven tactic is to hunt later in the day. Langlois said to wait until between 9 a.m. and noon. "When the hens go dust or lay on their eggs later in the day, they leave the gobbler," he said. "Then, you can putt and yelp and he'll likely answer you."

Other times, Langlois will wait two hours before dark until entering the woods again. If possible, he positions himself between the tom and its roost. "I'll yelp every 10 minutes or so," he said. "That makes him think one of his hens got separated from the rest and she's not going to roost with the flock. Then he'll come check out what's going on."



• **BOX CALLS** Box calls are the loudest of the bunch. On a windy day, it's best to use one so the sound carries farther. According to Saale, box calls are the most realistic sounding. "To me, a box call sounds like a turkey more than anything," he said. "It does all of the vocalizations. It's got a good high front end with a raspy sound to it."

• **POT CALLS** Good for most situations, a pot call emits just about any turkey vocalization except a gobble. A pot call sounds realistic and is easy to use, which is perfect for beginners. Typically, you can find pot calls in three designs: aluminum, slate and glass. When it's dry out, Saale said he prefers slate. However, on humid or wet days, opt for a glass call because it will produce the most realistic sound, and the slate will squeak. Aluminum can prove to be a bit harder to use for a beginner, but once mastered is just as good as the rest.

• **DIAPHRAGM CALLS** Also known as a mouth call, it takes some practice to be proficient with



one. This particular method is hands-free, which means it's a favorite of many hunters. "That's the biggest advantage of a mouth call," Saale said. "You can be looking down the gun barrel and keep calling to him, all without having to ever move. Moving when he's in close range is how he'll bust you."

• **LOCATOR CALLS** Locator calls serve only one purpose: Shocking the gobbler while its on the roost and getting it to respond right as the hunt begins so you can pinpoint its exact location. An owl hooter and crow call work best. Saale said he'll often make an owl sound with his mouth, but only if he knows that turkeys are close by. Otherwise, the calls carry farther in the woods. ■

Jesse Langlois

Loche Wheeler

GOBBLE GOBBLE BANG!



"I DIDN'T COME THIS FAR TO MISS!"[®]

www.hevishot.com

TURKEY TALK

>

PRESSED

Pressured turkeys can be found in just about any accessible parcel of public land in Louisiana. Langlois, who hunts pressured birds in the Atchafalaya Basin, said an over-hunted gobbler may sound off a time or two at first light. “With my mouth call, I’ll do a few yelps at him when I know he’s on the ground,” he said. “If he doesn’t respond, that means he’s been called in before and knows he’s being hunted. In that situation, I would go home and let him chill for a few days.”

When Langlois returns, he brings along a turkey wing. As the sun rises, he begins beating the wing on his leg, which mimics the sound of a hen flying down from its roost. “You want to hit it on the leaves, too, so it sounds realistic,” he said. “A lot of times he’ll gobble at that.”

While it may seem logical to call back then, Langlois said that’s where most hunters make a mistake. Instead, he scratches the leaves, which sounds like a hen dusting itself. That may be just enough to entice the gobbler off its roost.



“A lot of times, that’s enough to bring in a tom close enough for a shot,” he said. “I won’t even have to pick up a call.”

However, Langlois said calling lightly can also work in this scenario. “Don’t call at him until he flies down,” he said. “Once you know he is on the ground, take a slate call and make some soft purrs and clucks. If he cuts them off with a gobble,

he is interested.”

From there, Langlois said he stops calling — and plays the waiting game. Calling more can scare a wary gobbler away, while silence will actually bring it closer. “A turkey is hard-wired that when he gobbles, his hens are supposed to come to him,” he said. “When you get to calling and calling, he may be answering,

BOW FISHER
DURABILITY FOR THE CHARTER FISHERMAN & ULTIMATE BOW FISHERMAN.

SHALLOW WATER BAY
TACKLES INLAND MARSHES, LAKES, & BAYS MAINTAINING A LOW DRAFT

XLR8
HYBRID RAKE DESIG. UNMATCHED HANDLING CAPABILITIES, SPRAY REDUCTION

SPORTSMAN
LIGHTER, FASTER, PERFORMS WELL IN ANY ENVIRONMENT

FLATS EDITION
ACCESS SHALLOW WATER AREAS TO TARGET YOUR FAVORITE SPECIES.

Cottonmouth BOATS

16553 AIRLINE HWY, PRAIRIEVILLE, LA 70769 • (225) 478-8709

BOSS DRIVES Take Charge

McClain TRAILERS "BUILT FOR THE LONG HAUL"

SUZUKI MARINE

HONDA MARINE

WWW.COTTONMOUTHBOATS.COM

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

but he's saying, 'Come to me.'"

After the prolonged silence, a gobbler is prone to "panic gobble," which is when Langlois says the tom decides it should close the distance. As it approaches, you can gauge the location as it gobbles. Langlois said only then will he use a soft purr to coax it in. If the tom cuts its calling off, he stops again. "After that, you can put the calls in your bag and wait," he said. "He's on his way."

TEXTBOOK

Of course, what every turkey hunter wants to see is a gobbler that responds well to calling and comes right in. Saale said these are typically 2-year-old toms, and you'll find yourself in this situation at the beginning of the season, or on property where there isn't a whole lot of pressure. "You'll know you've got a responsive bird immediately," Saale said. "He'll gobble at everything and come right in."

Once you've located a tom on its roost with a locator call, set up within 150 to



Pot calls are great for beginners. With just a bit of practice, a novice can purr and cluck, which are turkey-calling basics.

Jonathan Olivier

200 yards — any closer and you risk scaring the bird. After it flies down, start calling with a box or pot call, emitting clucks and then some purrs. An interested gobbler will call back almost immediately.

Langlois said he'll sound off a series of

yelps with his mouth call. "If he answers that, it's time to stop calling," he said. "He's coming in and you can tell he's getting closer from his gobbles. The next step is killing him."

>

From camps to custom homes, build with

FRED
NETTERVILLE
LUMBER COMPANY



Netterville Lumber Company is your complete solution to professional moldings like Crown Molding, Wall Paneling, and Trim Moldings. Custom Trim & Solid Hardwood Floors. We look forward to working with homeowners, designers and builders.



www.nettervillelumber.com
800.343.4577

>

HOT

What sets a hot gobbler apart from a textbook one is how it reacts to being called. While a textbook bird will approach your direction even as you've stopped calling, a hot one is prone to lose interest.

The hunt starts off just like the textbook case. The gobbler will fly down off the roost and as you cluck and purr, it'll respond, often gobbling and cutting off your calling. But, after an absence in your calling, if it seems to be farther away when it gobbles, you'll have to continue calling. "It's almost like you're reeling him in," Langlois said. "This scenario doesn't happen often."

After the next series of calls, the



bird should have closed the distance. Continue the routine to coax it closer — call, listen to its response as it gets closer, then call again. Langlois said this is where he gets aggressive with his calling.

But when the gobbler is within 50 yards, that's when you can stop calling so much. If it needs to be enticed in closer, make some soft purrs with a mouth call. At this point, Saale said you should be looking down the barrel. "When I see him, I'm not calling anymore," he said. "I'm waiting for a shot to seal the deal." ■



Jonathan Olivier is a devoted journalist with a focus on the environment and outdoor recreation. His passion for hunting, backpacking and wilderness conservation has taken him from the swamps of Louisiana to the mountains of Colorado.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

- **GOBBLE** A tom produces this sound as a way to let the hens know where it is during the breeding season. While a gobbler can draw in a mature tom looking for a fight, it can also drive away birds that are less dominant.

- **CUTT** These sharp, fast cadences of clucks are a sign that turkeys are excited. Sometimes this vocalization appeals to a dominant hen and can draw it in, which means the tom may be close behind.

- **YELP** The plain yelp is a series of single sounds, and is one of the most basic vocalizations you can make. Essentially, it's a hen letting others know where it is. For the beginner, mastering this call is paramount, and can be enough to lure in a gobbler. The excited yelp is similar to the plain, but louder and faster in cadence, which often works on a hung-up gobbler.

- **CLUCK** Two or three single notes of the cluck is used to gain the attention of other turkeys in the group. A cluck is good to use to further entice a gobbler as it's approaching. It lets the tom know there's a hen nearby.

- **PURR** Turkeys make this sound when they're calm and relaxed, often when they're feeding. It's another call that can reassure a gobbler when it's approaching you. Use the cluck and purr together to switch up your notes.

- **KEE-KEE** This fast series of notes is the lost call of a young turkey. It's often used during the fall by a brooding hen to bring a flock back together. However, Saale said in the spring in heavily pressured areas where most hunters are yelping, this sound can make you sound unique.

- **FLY DOWN CACKLE** A hen will make this sound as it is leaving the roost. It's a good way to let a tom know a hen is on the ground, enticing it to fly down as well.

When hunting turkeys, concealment is paramount. A mouth call enables a hunter to call without moving — that's why most hunters carry one in their bag. **INSET:** If you want the sound of your calls to carry far in the woods, try a box call. They're raspy and are some of the most realistic-sounding calls available.

Photos by Jonathan Olivier

A silhouette of a person in a cap aiming a rifle in a forest. The sun is shining through the trees on the left, creating a lens flare. A target graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**IN THE WORLD OF SILENCERS,
THERE'S ONE COMPANY IN LOUISIANA
THAT'S MAKING AN AWFUL LOT OF NOISE.**

Meplat Group is one of the largest silencer dealers in the country. In fact, no local dealer makes owning the right suppressor this simple, or secure. In one visit, we can provide attorney drafted trusts, live scan digital fingerprinting / photography, and a massive inventory at affordable prices. **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

www.meplatgroup.com

504.556.2000

info@meplatgroup.com

MEPLAT
GROUP

GUIDE NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH

Chag's

VIP NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH

4740 VETERANS BLVD., METAIRIE • 504-455-8636

VIP/Guide Appreciation Night

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH • 6PM TIL 9PM ONLY

SHIMANO[®]

- ▶ **SPECIAL PRICING**
- ▶ Representatives on hand
- ▶ **FREE Hats & Shirt** (with purchase)

AYMA

- ▶ **SPECIAL PRICING**
- ▶ Representatives on hand
- ▶ **FREE Goods**



&



SPECIAL PRICING

NEW!



Fishing
Rods & Reels

- ▶ **NEW FOR THIS YEAR**
- ▶ Representatives on hand for Guide Night **FREE Goods**



- ▶ **SPECIAL BULK PRICING**
- ▶ Corks, Jig Heads, Spoons, Weights, Hooks, etc. **(ALL BULK PRICING)**

SPECIAL PRICING

▶ Guides/VIPs
ONE NIGHT ONLY!

GREAT FOOD
Sponsored by:

Louisiana
SPORTSMAN[®]



DON'T MISS THIS!

Chag's

4740 Veterans Blvd.
Metairie
504-455-8636

Tent Sale!

APRIL 5TH (THURSDAY), 6TH (FRIDAY), & 7TH (SATURDAY)

Once A Year Only!

SPECIAL PRICING

FACTORY DEALS



SHIMANO®



SALE PRICES ON ALL

Rods & Reels

NEW!

**13 Fishing
Rods & Reels**

"NEW FOR THIS YEAR"

13 Fishing

- ▶ **FREE GOODS**
- ▶ **SHOW SPECIALS**

- ▶ **Matrix Shad Specials**
- ▶ **Bubba Blade**
- ▶ **4 Horsemen Corks**
- ▶ **Z-Man**
- ▶ **Cajun Lures**
- ▶ **Voodoo**

And More!



Spider-rigging ledges in the backwaters is a great way to target spawning crappie in rivers.

By Chris Ginn

LAST CALL FOR CRAPPIE

When the crappie spawn is wrapping up on D'Arbonne and Caney, action is usually just about to crank up on a section of the Ouachita River. Here's how one guide still catches slabs in April.

STUART BAUM loves turning the last calendar page from March to April.

"I like February and March just as much," he said, "but being able to turn the page to April means I get at least another month of being able to catch spawning crappie."

By now Baum has already loaded his boat several times over with spawners he's caught at Lake D'Arbonne and Caney Lake. But when April rolls around, he sets his sights on the Ouachita River between Felsenthal and Columbia.

"The Ouachita River is the last place I catch spawning crappie," he said. "After they're done spawning at D'Arbonne and Caney, they're just getting started on the river."

Of course the caveat for crappie spawning on the Ouachita River in April is that all bets are off if the river is being unruly.

"Normally, the water is high, cold and swift during March," Baum said. "That prevents crappie from spawning as early as they do on the nearby lakes. By the time it starts to settle down in April — assuming it does — they finally get a chance to spawn without having so much going on."

In fact, since Baum started guiding for crappie a few years ago (318-614-6830), he's followed a three-month plan to put his customers on spawning fish from

February to April every year: D'Arbonne in February, Caney in March and the Ouachita River in spring.

FIND THE LEDGE TO GET THE EDGE

River crappie spawn differently than they do in D'Arbonne and Caney, and Baum knows the key to catching them is to pay attention to where the river used to be rather than where it is now.

"The pool level came up in the '60s when they put the locks in," he said. "The old river bank from back then is still there, but it's about 10 feet lower than what it is now. There are a lot of stumps, cypress knees and other submerged cover on that old bank where crappie stage to move up and spawn."

The general principal is that crappie set up on this old Ouachita River ledge as they move up to spawn, then move back after spawning. This means there is just about always a large school of fish somewhere to be found on this ledge during April.

"They may spawn right there on the ledge," Baum said, "but they may move up from that ledge to shallower water to spawn around the stumps, cypress knees, logs and grass beds on the bank at the new pool level."

>

While this old ledge exists in the main river, Baum says there is generally still too much current for them to be attractive to crappie during April. Instead, crappie favor the old ledge in the river lakes, pockets and bayous.

“White’s Lake is a good one as is Hamilton Lake,” Baum pointed out. “Hamilton fishes a lot like another lake down around the Ouachita and Caldwell Parish line called Lake Lafitta. All three have that good 10-foot ledge that loads up with staging crappie.”

GOOD ELECTRONICS ARE KEY

Finding these old ledges has been made really simple with the new electronics found on many modern boats. The clarity at which they show what’s down below the surface is far superior to older-model depth finders.

Baum spends a lot of time just idling around the river lakes watching his electronics.

“Nowadays you get a good depth finder



with a Navionics or Hot Maps card and take a ride,” he said. “I might ride around for hours before I ever put a pole in the water. These things are so good today that I found some catfish nets on D’Arbonne with mine a while back — and could even see the catfish in them.”

Once he finds the ledge, Baum looks for signs of bait and crappie. Although he could move up to shallow water and catch a few here and a few there, Baum

noted he would have to move around too much for his liking to find them.

So rather than look for isolated fish on the bank, Baum zig-zags over the ledge until he finds that magical spot where he knows he’s going to be able to hammer them in one location.

“Your biggest group of fish is going to be right there on that ledge,” he added. “I’d much rather fish for 16 in one spot than six scattered here and there.”



If the bite on the old river ledges isn’t on, move up to isolated cover along the bank to target individual fish. **ABOVE:** Staying on spawning crappie often means changing from lakes to river systems in April.

A man wearing a camouflage cap and a life vest is smiling while sitting in a yellow Hobie kayak. He is holding a large fish, likely a bass, which is splashing water. The kayak has the Hobie logo on its side. The background shows a body of water with lily pads and tall reeds.

Hobie®

A FORCE OF NATURE

Discover what makes Hobie the #1 selling fishing kayak. The revolutionary MirageDrive® is the original pedal kayak drive, 20 years of innovation perfected.

hobie.com

Stuart Baum's go-to crappie lure on the Ouachita is a salt-and-pepper jig from Midsouth Tackle.

ALONG CAME A SPIDER

Baum can typically be found spider-rigging the old river-bank ledge.

"That's my go-to No. 1 technique," he said. "If I'm tournament fishing, I fish with eight poles, but I normally like six if I'm just out fun fishing or have customers in the boat. For me that gives me three per hand, and for my customers they each get three poles if I have two people. I feel like I can catch more fish with six than eight because I can execute the bite better and miss fewer fish."

Depending on how tough the bite is, Baum sets out 14- or 16-foot poles. He prefers the 14-foot poles if conditions allow him to get closer to the fish, but the 16-foot poles come out if he needs more distance between his boat and his bait.

"The tougher the bite the more distance I like to get out there," he said. "Sometimes the fish are way up in the water column and sill spook away if the boat gets too close. Also, if it's clear, I'll put the longer poles out. Whichever I use, I like to put out all the same poles, the same line and the same reels to keep everything consistent."

Before modern electronics, Baum would set

out his baits at different depths then change them to the same depth once he figured out which one the fish were eating the most.

Now he starts off at the right depth based on what his electronics show him.

"Once I see how deep the crappie are, I try to set out all my baits about 6 inches to a foot over that," Baum said. "Crappie feed up, so you definitely don't want to be fishing under them."

Baum prefers to fish the heaviest weights and biggest jigs that he can get away with. He most often reaches for 3-inch tube jigs and threads them onto ¼-ounce jigheads.

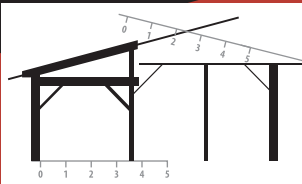
"Sometimes that big bait just stirs them up," he said, "and I'd rather fish for bigger fish. Little ones will eat that big bait, too, but I tend to catch bigger fish on that bigger tube most of the time."

Although he says it's hard to beat a salt-and-pepper Midsouth jig on the Ouachita River, Baum doesn't hesitate to switch if he needs to.

"I like the Midsouth jigs because they are so readily available at places like The Honey Hole in West Monroe," Baum said. "But I also fish a lot of big minnows. Sometimes I fish all



continues on page 74



SOUTHERN QUALITY POLE BARN

Quality Pole Barns & Red Iron Metal Buildings engineered to code for your area, professionally installed at your sight. Pole barns can be fully enclosed with walk-thru doors, roll-up doors & windows. All standard or custom sizes available. Pole Barns available any length and up to 80ft in width.

Pole Barns: Roof Kits Or Fully Enclosed.

- Treated 6x6 post (8x8 post for buildings over 14' tall at eave)
- Red Oxide Steel Trusses with 18" overhang at eaves
- Red Oxide Steel Purlins
- 26 Gauge Galvalume or metal panels available in a variety of colors
- "Zac Screws" - Long life screws

Turnkey buildings can be purchased & installed through us or our team of installers can construct a kit that you may already have.

Our goal is to give you a hassle free experience with a quality structure at an affordable price.

Most competitive prices around... Guaranteed!
Call or email us today to schedule your project!

985.272.3044 southernbarn@outlook.com

MIKE GERALD'S #15 TRAILER DEPOT

OVER 25 ACRES OF TRAILERS IN STOCK!



Entry - 5x10-15 Utility Trailer

TopHat TRAILERS



1516-13

McClain TRAILERS inc.
"BUILT FOR THE LONG HAUL"

- Boat • Cargo • Utility • GN • Custom Built Trailers •

OPEN!
FULLY OPERATIONAL
6800 Airline Hwy.
(Across from Don's Seafood)
Baton Rouge, LA

M-F 7:30 - 4:30
Sunday we go to church, we pray your boats float!

16815 Florida Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA
225-275-0000

Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30
Sat 8-2 • Sun-Closed

- Trailer Brake Experts • Galvanized Axles • Truck Hitches • Tool Boxes •

www.mikegeraldtrailerdepot.com

SUPERBRAID™

STRONGER - MORE ABRASION RESISTANT

NEW! Yo-Zuri SUPERBRAID™ is specially coated braid that features maximum abrasion resistance, extremely low stretch and exceptional durability. Available in Blue, Dark Green and White. 10# - 80#



STEPHEN FERRELL
Yo-Zuri Pro Staff

YO-ZURI
FISH THE BEST™
Yo-Zuri.com

LEGEND BOATS

THE LEGEND V-20
THIS IS THE LEGEND YOU'VE DREAMED OF.
The widest front deck in the industry,
the longest front deck in the industry,
and the most ultimate bass boat
on the water.

3202 Industrial St. • Alexandria, LA 71301
318-448-8300
email: seboat@hotmail.com



MERCURY
Outboards

minnows. I don't argue with the fish; I'm going to do whatever it takes to catch them. I keep a lot of different colors and sizes with me that I'll pour through if I need to, but I pretty much always have a minnow tied on somewhere."

THE "MAGIC SPEED"

Once he has his rods and baits all set out, Baum begins the process of learning which speed the fish want the baits presented.

"The key is finding that magic speed," he said. "Sometimes they want it faster. Sometimes it's a bump-and-go that works best. If you can find how fast they want your baits swimming in the water, you really get on them pretty good."

Baum can figure out quickly whether the fish are there and willing to bite. If he knows they're there, but not biting, he enjoys hanging around to figure out what he can do to make them eat.

"Sometimes I'll have to fish straight down the ledge," he said. "Other times I may have to crisscross the ledge back and forth. Then I may have to go straight across it in and out shallow to deep. It just depends on what they want. Every day can be different."

If he's got customers, though, he likes to move around to find another school that's more willing to bite. As many backwaters as the Ouachita River has, he knows there's likely another spot just around the corner that may pay off big time.

RIVER CONDITIONS

Since the river can be in such a state of flux this time of year, Baum pointed to a few variables that he likes to see to stack the odds in his favor.



Crappie frequently spawn on isolated pieces of cover like old logs or stumps.

"The best case for me is for the water to be at a standstill or on a fall," he said. "Although I caught them pretty well on a rise last year, that's not the norm. Rising water generally spreads them out in all the newly flooded cover and makes it harder to find them."

Baum catches some big crappie on the river during April. An average-sized good one would be about 1 3/4 pounds, but fish up to 2 pounds can be caught fairly regularly (although that definitely wouldn't be a typical-size fish.)

If you've been spending the last two months crushing crappie on D'Arbonne or Caney, don't worry about the end of the spawn leaving you high and dry. Just head to the Ouachita River and you can stay on spawning fish for at least another month. ■



Chris Ginn has been covering hunting and fishing in Louisiana since 1998. He lives with his wife Jennifer and children Matthew and Rebecca along the Bogue Chitto River in rural Washington Parish. His blog can be found at chrisginn.com.



ABSOLUTE. PREMIUM. PROTECTION.™

Authorized Dealers

Academy Sports + Outdoors

Alexandria, LA
Lake Charles, LA
Shreveport, LA
West Monroe, LA

Acadian Promotional Products

Lake Charles, LA

Barney's Inc.

Bossier City, LA
Lafayette, LA
Lake Charles, LA
Metairie, LA

Bass Pro Shops - Outdoor World

Bossier City, LA
Denham Springs, LA

Cabela's

Gonzales, LA

Guns N Ammo

Benton, LA

Henderson Implement & Marine

Lake Charles, LA

Slidell Army Surplus & Outdoor Store

Slidell, LA

For more stores, go to our dealer locator at wileyx.com or call 800-776-7842.



ABSOLUTE.
PREMIUM.
PROTECTION.™



JACOB WHEELER



EDWIN EVERS

SHADES OF THE PROS™

Wiley X high performance fit and features help pros like Edwin Evers and Jacob Wheeler stay at the top of their game. Filter 8™ polarized lenses and removable Facial Cavity™ Seals help them see the water better while ANZI rated impact protection let's them know their eyes are always well protected.



WX KOBE

POLARIZED VENICE GOLD MIRROR (AMBER) LENS/
GLOSS HICKORY FRAME



WX NASH

POLARIZED PLATINUM FLASH (GREEN) LENS/
KRYPTEK ALTITUDE™ FRAME



WX TITAN

POLARIZED SMOKE GREY LENS/
GLOSS BLACK FRAME

WILEYX.COM
1.800.776.7842





Butch Ridgedell has become so committed to kayak fishing that he no longer owns a powerboat.

GATORS, BIRDS AND BASS

By Jerald Horst

Scenic Lake Martin might be famous as a bird-watching bucket list destination that's home to more than 1,000 alligators, but the 800-acre water body also holds some big bass. And a kayak is the perfect platform to load up on largemouths.

LAKE MARTIN IS FOR THE BIRDS.

Or so some say — mostly folks with expensive binoculars and life lists of birds they have spotted.

But Butch Ridgedell was at the St. Martin Parish lake located just east of Lafayette for one reason: largemouth bass.

"Lake Martin has some big fish in it," he said. "Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, I hear, shocked up a 14-pounder a few years ago. I don't care how big they are, though — I just like catching them. (Officially, the largest bass on record is a 9.1-pound fish.)

"It's ideal for kayak fishing, too," he smirked.

"The heavy growths of water plants in the lake make it difficult for bass boats to fish."

The birds were singing like crazy at the small, rudimentary kayak launch off to the side of the lake's big boat launch. In dawn's light, the lake was beautiful — open water in the center, fringed by dense to open growths of cypress trees standing in the water around the lake's perimeter.

"Well, it looks like we will have it to ourselves," he observed gleefully. "We'll start right here by the launch and fish through the trees around the lake, starting on the guide trail."

>

Three swamp tour companies have taken advantage of the lake's fame as a bird rookery and for its scenery by offering boat tours to tourists and birders.

Their outboard motor-powered boats follow regular routes through the flooded cypress around the perimeter of the lake.

"A lot of fishermen gripe about the tour boats," he went on. "But they do two good things. They keep the trails through the water plants open, and their motors stir up a lot of things from the bottom that attract bait fish and the bass that follow them.

"During the summer," he explained, "the open water visible now won't be open. It's covered with big lily (lotus) pads. I fish it a lot in the spring and some in the fall. The lilies make it hard to fish in the summer, plus I am usually chasing speckled trout and redfish in the summer."

He started fishing by weaving counterclockwise through the cypress trees along the lakeshore. This was all paddle work. He was in a pedal-drive kayak, but had the unit pulled up because it would be quickly fouled by the dense vegetation.

"I like pedal drives for saltwater fishing," he said, "because you can cover a lot of water with them. Plus, they leave both hands free for fishing."

BASS BAITS

He began the day with two rods rigged with baits I hadn't seen before. One was a watermelon seed Senko-type worm called a Trick Worm, rigged wacky style. The other was a watermelon red Tiny Toad frog, fished weightless.

Both lures are made by Fin Collectors Soft Baits, a company owned by his brother Brett and nephew Ridge. The lures, along with flukes — Ridgedell's favorite spring bass bait — are sold through Facebook and at Pack & Paddle in Lafayette.

"Man, something ought to come up and eat that," he chortled as he popped his frog through floating duckweeds. But it's all quiet. By 9:15 a.m., he had produced



TOP: Butch Ridgedell loves to catch bass of any size. Lake Martin is full of what he called "Lake Martin knotheads," young aggressive bass. **ABOVE:** The most effective lure of the day was a worm rigged weedless on a 1/8-ounce weighted hook.

WHY BASS FISH FROM A KAYAK?

Picture a bass fisherman. Odds are, what comes to mind is a heavy fiberglass V-hull, powered by the largest horsepower engine allowed in its class.

Butch Ridgedell says there are a lot of good reasons to fish for largemouth bass from a kayak. Here are eight of them:

- "It's cheaper. If I fished as much out of a bass boat as I do a kayak, I'd be broke from the initial cost, the fuel, and the maintenance."
- "You fish harder in a kayak. In a bass boat, you are constantly running. You aren't fishing a lot of a little water; you're fishing a little of a lot of water."
- "You can get into shallow weedy areas like grass flats and narrow canals."
- "It's peaceful. You get solitude. You fish where you want. Even when I fish with someone who has a kayak, they go their way and do what they want. I do the same. We just keep in touch by cell phone."
- "You see more wildlife in a kayak. You are more in touch with your surroundings."
- "You can slide into a spot quietly. Bass are extremely spooky. There is no hum of a trolling motor. Anything unnatural spooks them."
- "You can launch anywhere. This is a huge advantage."
- "A kayak is easier to transport and store. No shed is needed."

Fin Collectors flukes, rigged weightless on offset hooks and fished slowly on grassy edges, are Ridgedell's favorite spring bass bait.



only three strikes — all misses.

The lake sat under a huge bass-bite-inhibiting dome of high pressure, following a cold front that blew through the day before.

The slow action didn't phase Ridgedell, though.

"The good thing about the trees in Lake Martin is that it would be way too windy to fish elsewhere today.

"The thing that I find about the lake is that the fish will bite here sometime during the day. The fish will blow up everywhere. You just have to fish until it happens.

"The best bite today is supposed to be at noon, according to the solunar tables," he predicted. "I'm a big believer in them in tidal waters.

"I'll find fish," he confidently predicted several times.

The bite might have been slow, but the scenery was spectacular. The Spanish moss-draped angular limbs of the cypresses lent a cathedral-like quality to the scene.

Even though most of the egrets were on nests in the sanctuary in the southern end of the lake, everything else with wings was out in force. So were the alligators. They were everywhere; some of them were big potatoes.

At 10:30, Ridgedell shifted gears, rigging a watermelon seed worm weedless on an 1/8-ounce weighted hook. At the same time, he shifted his fishing to the outer cypress trees bordering the open water of the lake's center.

Action picked up immediately and he fulfilled his prediction of catching fish.

But as good as Lake Martin is, it isn't Ridgedell's favorite place to kayak for bass. That honor belongs to Toledo Bend, an incongruous choice since tiny kayaks and the almost ocean-like reservoir are seldom thought of in the same breath.

"It's really good up in the skinny water way up in the protected creek arms of the lake," he nodded.

continues >

EST 15
15 YEARS... AND COUNTING

**YOUR LEADER IN
GULF SOUTH SPORTS**

www.CoxSportsTV.com

CoxSportsTV @CoxSportsTV CoxSportsTV

END OF MODEL YEAR BLOWOUT!

CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICING!

ALUMA Craft
ERIC
Sportsman

SUZUKI MARINE YAMAHA EVINRUDE

1915 S. STATE ST. • ABBEVILLE
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-5
& SATURDAY 8-NOON

337-893-0642

CUSTOM MAPS

Bob's Hunting Lease
CAMP

- Full-Color Aerial Photo or Topo Map
- Zoom To Any Location In The U.S.
- Personalized Fishing & Hunting Maps
- National & State Wildlife Refuges
- All Waterways & Roads Labelled

Beautiful wall maps or convenient roll-up size...
We can print any size... Laminating is available

www.custom-mapping.com

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE PREVIEW MAP
Custom Mapping Services (225) 677-7207

Bayou Outboards Inc.
3710 Robertson St. • Metairie, LA
504-836-6885
www.bayououtboards.com

We offer complete service and parts to your...

- Evinrude
- Johnson
- Yamaha
- Suzuki
- Tohatsu
- Nissan
- Mercury

THE EVINRUDE E-TEC PERFECT 10 SALES EVENT
NOV. 1, 2017 - APR. 30, 2018

10-YEAR WARRANTY!

EVINRUDE E-TEC

BITTEN BY THE KAYAK BUG

The 60-year-old former athlete calls himself “fairly involved” in kayak fishing.

“OK,” I asked, “how many days a year do you kayak fish?”

“Probably 100,” he replied, matter-of-factly.

Butch Ridgedell is also vice-president of the Lafayette Kayak Fishing Club and a member of the Pack & Paddle Fishing Team. Pack & Paddle is the retailer where he buys all of his kayaking equipment, and serves as a sort of social center for lots of Cajun Country ‘yakers. The retailer is also the largest sponsor for the Lafayette Kayak Fishing Club’s Salty Boot Kayak Fishing Series, a six-event saltwater tournament.

“I go in there three days a week for my lunch hour,” he admitted. “Other kayak fishermen come in there, too, and we lie to each other.”

He was working in China as vice-president of the Water Curtain Division of Burner Fire Control, a company that provides fire safety and construction for the oil and gas industry, when he first heard about fishing from a kayak.



Ridgedell caught most of his bass on the outer edges of the tree line, near open water.

“Some guys from Australia were on the rig I was working on and they were watching kayak fishing videos. That’s pretty cool; I thought to myself. I asked them if they kayak fished.”

“Yeah, we do it all the time,” they said.

“When I got back, I told my wife I wanted to buy a new boat. She expected me to spend \$40,000 on a bay boat. But, I spent \$1,000 on a kayak and never looked back. I don’t own a motorboat anymore.”

Ridgedell is able to fish so much because he has a tolerant wife and an agreeable job. “Weekends are mine, plus my office work ends at 4 p.m. That leaves me four hours in the evening.”

Lake Martin is only 20 minutes from his office in Lafayette.

HOW TO PICK A BASS ‘YAK

For input on how to pick a kayak suitable for largemouth bass fishing, I turned to the Lafayette kayak guru John Williams, who with his wife Becky, owns Pack & Paddle in Lafayette.

He had some interesting insights.

No kayak maker specializes in making bass kayaks, but what makes a kayak effective for sight-fishing redfish also makes a kayak effective for bass fishing. For both species, stealth is a big deal, especially in the spring when bass are spawning in shallow water.

Kayaks allow bass fishermen to get behind pull-overs to fish waters that others can't access. They also allow fishing in waters too shallow or too weedy for electric trolling motors to operate in.

Many kayaks make it easy for the angler to stand up. This allows better vision in some circumstances and also reduces fatigue. It is harder to get standing in a kayak than it is to stand up once erect, so older anglers may want to consider a stand-up bar that can be universally mounted on any kayak.

Think about the merits of a non-self-bailing kayak. They are lighter, but more importantly when fishing in lakes or reservoirs with stickups, such as a stub lurking just below the water line can easily be run up into a self-bailing scupper hole, leaving the angler stranded.

"How do you get your kayak off the stickup in 15 feet of water," he posed.

Good question.

Williams suggested considering the possibility of purchasing a hybrid kayak — not a "sit inside" and not a "sit on top." Discussing one's options with a knowledgeable sales person at a specialty store is a better choice than speaking to a generalist at a big box store when considering what kayak to buy.



Birds, like these tree swallows milling in front of Ridgedell, are an ever present sight on Lake Martin.

Also, a lot of bass people prefer foot-pedal kayaks, he noted. Pedaling increases a kayak's range, which is important in places like Toledo Bend Reservoir. Pedaling rather than paddling also leaves both hands free to fish.

And in deep water where anchoring is difficult, a fisherman can use the pedals to keep his kayak in position, much like using a trolling motor.

Another useful option for bass fishing is an electronic fish finder that lets an angler see structure. There are ways, such as using a YakAttack CellBlok, to make them easy to mount in kayaks and also remove.

continues >

GUARANTEED TO ATTRACT FISH OR YOUR MONEY BACK! THIS APRIL, WATCH YOUR WATERWAY SPRING TO LIFE!



USE ONLINE CODE
LS18 FOR A
SPECIAL DISCOUNT!

855-347-4544
855-FISH-LIGHT
FISHLIGHT.COM

ANNIVERSARY
TOHATSU OUTBOARDS
1956-2016

TOHATSU
Technology
for the
Next Generation



DUVIC'S BOATS
3650 Westbank Expwy. Harvey, LA
504-341-1654
Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm

Oldest Marine Dealer in the USA – 127 Years Strong

>



The beauty of Lake Martin is why three swamp tour/ bird watching companies have located there. **INSET:** Lake Martin is noted for bluegills, like these bulls taken from beneath a duck blind by Robert Dupuis.

LAKE MARTIN REALLY IS FOR THE BIRDS

Even a die-hard fisherman like Butch Ridedell quickly admits that Lake Martin is about more than fishing.

"It's more famous for its birds than its fish," he confessed. "People come from all over the world to go birding here."

In the short few hours we fished, a parade of avian life passed by — an army of red-winged blackbirds with their unmistakable trills, wood ducks, ospreys, tree swallows, collared doves (of all things), great blue herons squawking like pterodactyls, ungainly whistling ducks, pileated woodpeckers, kingfishers, gros becs, cormorants, snowy egrets, and hordes of LBJs (little brown jobs) unidentifiable except to expert birders.

A protected rookery makes up the southernmost third of Lake Martin. It attracts more than 20,000 nesting pairs of herons, egrets, ibises, spoonbills and anhingas annually.

The lake is the heart of the 9,500-acre Cypress Island Preserve, which is protected by The Nature Conservancy. Besides using boat tours, visitors may use the Nature Conservancy maintained 2 ½-mile "walking levee trail," which offers spectacular views of the nesting bird colony.

According to the Audubon Society, the lake is home to more than 200 species of resident, wintering, and migratory birds, 60 percent of all the bird species found in Louisiana, as well as 1,200 alligators.

The preserve is open during daylight hours. The walking trail starting along the levee is closed during alligator nesting season, June through October. The rookery area in the southern end of Lake Martin is closed to all boat entry from February 1 through July 31 for breeding bird season. Driving along Rookery Road is allowed year round.

The Preserve's visitor center, located at 1264 Prairie Highway in St. Martinville, is open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on weekends year-round, and Wednesday through Sunday during the busy springtime. Call 337-342-2475 to confirm hours.

Best months for visiting are February through May, which also happens to be the best time for bass fishing in the lake.

LAKE MARTIN IN A NUTSHELL

As lakes go, Lake Martin isn't a big one, covering only 800 acres. What is called the lake today was formed in 1952 by the building of a ring levee around a low cypress swamp. The entire margin of the lake, 580 acres, is flooded timber.

The 200 acres of water in the lake's center is 5 feet deep at the tree line. The area of flooded cypresses is shallower except for a borrow canal around the edge of the lake, which can be as deep as 12 feet in spots and very shallow in others.

Dense growths of submerged water plants occur in Lake Martin, dominated by hydrilla and coontail. Interestingly, biologists have determined that the feces of the huge bird population of the lake, one of its claims to fame, has in the past been responsible for providing the fertilizer that triggered plant growths and actually caused some fish kills.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has battled the submerged vegetation using chemicals, sterile grass carp stocking and modest water level drawdowns.

Since the 1990s, LDWF has sporadically stocked the lake with Florida largemouth bass and some channel catfish. An analysis done in 2009 showed 16 percent of the



lake's bass were pure Florida bass or their hybrids,

Lake Martin is an excellent bream lake. An LDWF creel survey showed 85 percent of the fish taken by fisherman from the lake were bream species, primarily bluegill.

Road access to the lake and its boat launch is by Lake Martin Road from Highway 31 from the east, and Highway 353 (Cypress Island Road) from the west. ■



Jerald Horst is a retired Louisiana State University professor of fisheries. He is an active writer, book author and outdoorsman. Jerald may be reached at gerald@rockinghorst.com.

NEW

PowerBait® MaxScent



CATCH 45% More Fish!*



Catch More Fish™



Look for the PowerBait MaxScent at your local retailer

berkley-fishing.com

* On average based on controlled field testing across multiple species as compared to original PowerBait®. Results may vary.

Text and photos
By Andy Crawford

POST-SPAWN PARTICULARS

If you head to Atchafalaya Basin dead-ends this month, you'll likely struggle to put bass in the boat. But Louisiana's newest Bassmaster Elite Series pro knows just where those fish have gone — and shares his approach to catching them.

Caleb Sumrall and Marcus Curry left the launch full of confidence. After a winter that saw horrifically cold temperatures, the water in the Atchafalaya Basin was hitting the 70s.

It took a while to figure out what was going on: Bass had already finished up their spawning business and had moved off the shallows.

The pair was working a stretch of bank, Sumrall pitching a soft-plastic creature bait and Curry working the waters with a spinnerbait.

Sumrall rocked the boat when he set the hook

on a 1 ½-pounder.

About 30 minutes later, another hookset yielded a better bite.

“That’s a good one,” the Bassmaster Elite Series rookie grunted, and Curry hurried to get into position to lip the thrashing bass.

A 4-pounder went in the livewell.

By the end of the trip, two bass pushing 4 pounds were landed, along with a handful of typical Basin footballs.

Anglers moved in an out, working the banks hard. We didn’t see another fish caught.

The likely reason was that these fishermen hadn’t picked up on the fact that the beds were largely empty. Their boats were where fish were hanging.

Sumrall was excited, because he knows post-spawn bass are a lot less finicky than those sitting beds.

“They’re feeding up after the spawn,” said the pro, who competed in his first Bassmaster Classic last month. “They are aggressive.”

The key to consistently catching Basin bass right now will be understanding where bass will position themselves, Sumrall said.

Yes, this means the bass will be off the banks. But Sumrall said they also will be leaving the back ends of spawning canals.

So to find success you can’t fish where you caught bass last month.



Focusing on cover around points breaking slow current can pay huge dividends in the Atchafalaya Basin, New Iberia Bassmaster Elite Series pro Caleb Sumrall said.

RIGHT: Bassmaster Elite Series pro Caleb Sumrall moves out of dead-end canals this month to catch post-spawn bass in the Basin.



“I start looking for muddy, moving water near dead-ends,” Sumrall explained. “You can catch fish moving from dead-ends to well-oxygenated water.”

Now, he said it's not quite time to get out into the main, rolling bayous, but anywhere you find a bit of current moving along the bank can produce.

Even that sluggish current helps position bass to make targets predictable.

“I look for anything irregular on a long, straight bank,” Sumrall explained. “Anything that's just a little bit different.”

The New Iberia pro loves to flip and punch Missile D-Bombs, but he's not opposed to more active baits.

Kajun Boss spinnerbaits and 6th Sense Crush 50x crankbaits are regular parts of his Basin arsenal. Both lures allow him to cover a lot of water and locate productive stretches where he can slow down and pick them apart with soft-plastics.

But there are times when you just can't go wrong with these moving lures.

The flash of a spinnerbait can put quick limits in the boat, particularly when bounced off wood.

Sumrall said he sticks with 3/8-ounce spinnerbaits, and he always adds a trailer.

“That's just something to add a little something extra to the bait,” he said.

His approach is to cast it out and reel at a speed that keeps the lure at a point in the water column in which the blade flash is just out of sight.

He loves to add some flutter to the lure, letting it fall around any cover on its way back to the boat. But he doesn't get stuck on one particular retrieve.

“I will try different casts every now and then, and let the fish tell me what they want,” Sumrall said.

A square-bill like the Crush 50X is just dynamite around open cover.

“It gets good reaction bites,” Sumrall said. “It's not traditionally a big bait, but it moves a lot of water. Sometimes the fish will react to that when they won't hit anything else.”

The following are more specifics on his approach to catching Atchafalaya Basin bass.

LAYING IT DOWN

Sumrall covers a lot of water while searching for stringer-stretching bass, but he slows down and concentrates whenever he comes across

SUMRALL'S GEAR

The specific gear used by Bassmaster Elite Series rookie Caleb Sumrall depends on the lure he's using.

When he's punching, his foundation is a 7-foot-11-inch extra-heavy, moderate-fast Kistler KLX rod. Here's the rest of his punching gear:

- high-speed reel (7.1:1 or higher)
- 65-pound or heavier braid
- Mustad Grip Pin flipping hook
- Pegged Kajun Boss tungsten weight (3/4 to 2 ounces)

The formula changes when he works open cover like stumps, laydowns and cypress trees:

- medium-heavy 7-3 Kistler KLX rod
- high-speed reel
- 15- to 20-pound fluorocarbon line
- unpegged Kajun Boss tungsten weight (1/4 to 1/2 ounce)
- wide-gap Owner hook

Picking up Kajun Boss spinnerbait calls for yet another change:

- 7-foot to 7-3 medium-heavy, moderate-tipped Kistler rod
- 6.4:1 reel
- 15- to 20-pound fluorocarbon

For square-bill crankbaits, he goes a little shorter with his rod and lightens up his line:

- 6-6 to 7-foot medium-action Kistler rod
- 6.4:1 reel
- 10- to 15-pound fluorocarbon

Sumrall beefs up his rod and pegs his tungsten weight when punching mats to catch post-spawn bass.



a laydown extending into the water.

"There's never a good time to pass up a laydown," he said.

But he doesn't just fire crankbaits or spinnerbaits into the tangle of branches.

"I'm going to fish the edge of the laydown and work my way inside," Sumrall explained.

"That way, if I catch fish on the outside I don't disturb those (bass) on the inside (of the laydown)."

And he always begins with a soft-plastic creature bait.

"I don't like to fish moving baits in there first," the Bassmaster Elite Series rookie explained. "I've seen times when, if they don't want a spinnerbait, they run from it."

So he carefully fishes a soft-plastic through the branches, working his way into the center of the laydown.

Only when he's satisfied he's covered the entire fallen tree will he pick up a spinnerbait or square-bill.

"I'll flip it real, real good (with a soft-plastic), and then come back and fish a moving bait through there," Sumrall said. "It's a way to maximize the laydown."

DRAINING BASS

Drains pulling water out of the flooded swamps of the Basin always attract bass, but Sumrall said this month they are especially productive.

"Any time you find a drain you want to fish it," he said.

He said the reason is simple: The water seeping out of the swamps carries groceries into the main waterway.

"They're there to eat," Sumrall said.

He said any active drain should be probed, but there's a clear signal of particularly productive run-outs.

"Birds at the mouth of a drain is always a tell-tale sign," Sumrall said.



Working a laydown from the outside in with a soft-plastic creature bait before pounding the wood with moving baits ensures you don't spook fish.

NEW!
PROWLER™
EV
TEXTRON
OFF ROAD



EZ-GO S4
EZGO
A Textron Company



FINANCING AVAILABLE

DEEP SOUTH GOLF CARS
— PARTS • SALES • SERVICE —

Ask about our Free Customer Appreciation Lifetime Service Plan

504-737-0646
2508 Hickory Ave., Metairie, LA
www.deepsouthgolfcars.com

LIKE US


While he approaches laydowns cautiously, using slow-moving soft-plastics first, drains call for an aggressive approach.

“I start with moving baits,” Sumrall said.

These include Kajun Bass spinnerbaits and a 6th Sense Crush 50x, a small square-bill crankbait.

The reason he isn’t scared to throw these moving lures is that bass hanging around drains are ready to crunch anything swept out of the swamp.

“You can’t spook drain fish,” Sumrall said. “They’re there for a reason; they’re there to feed.”

Once he’s worked over a drain with moving baits, he switches to a soft-plastic (usually a Missile D-Bomb) and makes another pass.

“You can catch a vast number of fish in a drain,” he explained.

He said he ensures he fishes every part of the drain before moving on.

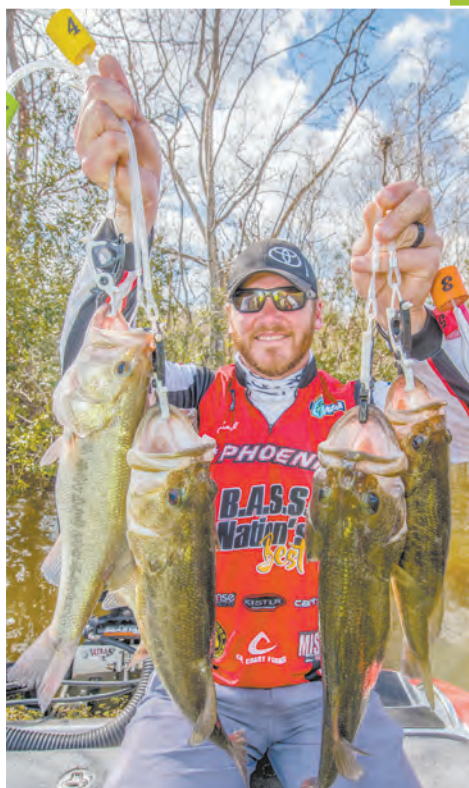
“You want to fish the two points of the drain, the drain itself and the down current side of the drain,” Sumrall explained.

SPINNERBAIT 101

Spinnerbaits can be deadly tools for post-spawn bass, and there are tons of options on the market.

But Marcus Curry of Kajun Boss Outdoor said there are some keys to ensuring you get the most out of the lures — and it all starts with quality components.

continues on page 90



The Cal Coast Cull-N-Clip 2.0 securely holds fish without punching holes in the bass’ mouths. **BELOW:** When Caleb Sumrall fishes runouts, he starts with moving baits like a Kajun Boss spinnerbait to take advantage of the aggressive fish that pile up to feed on bait being swept from the swamps.

NEW CULL SYSTEM PROTECTS BASS

There was a day when cull floats were attached to large clips that were stuck through bass’ jaws, but more and more tournament circuits are moving to non-penetrating floats.

The problem is that some clips, which just clamp down on a fish’s mouth, can slip — and then you quickly lose track of a fish in your livewell.

Louisiana’s newest Bassmaster Elite Series pro, Caleb Sumrall of New Iberia, said that’s not a problem with the Cal Coast Cull-N-Clip 2.0 system.

“It holds them with no problem whatsoever,” Sumrall said.

He proved that during a recent trip to the Atchafalaya Basin.

“We have two fish pushing 4 pounds here, and it holds them tight,” Sumrall said as he hefted the fish out of the livewell by the floats. “It slips down over the lip, and clips down tight. “It’ll hold the fish all day long — no problem.”

Releasing the grip is as simple as pulling the black ring in the clip.

The Cal Coast Cull-N-Clip 2.0 retails for \$49.99.

Learn more at calcoastfishing.com.



BOAT SHOW SEASON IS HERE!!!!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HUGE DISCOUNTS & SHOW PRICES!!!

**Huge Factory Incentives!!!
If you have been thinking about buying a boat NOW IS THE TIME!!!!**

BENT MARINE.com



BX 25



**Everglades™
273CG**



**CHAPARRAL
210 Sun Coast**



**CONTENDER
25 Bay**



**ROBALO
226 Cayman**



**South Bay
Pontoon**

Everglades™ ROBALO

XCURSION

SEA HUNT
SH

South Bay
Memories for a Lifetime.

CHAPARRAL

Nor-Tech

CONTENDER

GatorTail
OUTRIGERS

XPRESS
BOATS

**Come See
The Large
Selection In
Bent Marine's
Indoor
Showroom**

BENT MARINE

8001 AIRLINE DR. • METAIRIE, LA • 1-888-319-1756

www.bentmarine.com

FINANCING AVAILABLE



YAMAHA

GARMIN
AUTHORIZED
INSTALLER

GARMIN

**OUTBOARD
RE-POWER
SPECIALS!**

We Accept All
Trades, Boats,
RV's & Bikes

POST-SPAWN PARTICULARS

“I like a small, thinner wire because you get more vibration,” Curry said.

Of course, wire can be too thin, offering a ton of vibration but lasting just a few bites.

“If it’s too flimsy, it bends and breaks,” New Iberia pro angler Caleb Sumrall said.

Kajun Boss’ Gorilla Blades are built around a .032-gauge wire. “It’s kind of a happy medium between being too flimsy and being too stiff,” Curry explained.

He also said his company uses stainless steel ball bearing swivels to ensure the back blades spin freely.

“When you stop it, the blade turns on the fall,” Curry said. “It basically never stops spinning.”

Kajun Boss features 24-karat gold-plated main blades to increase corrosion resistance, with just a ton of color options for the front blades.

The lure line also includes premium silicon skirts, which offer almost unlimited options.

“Basically, you can customize it to any color you want,” Curry said.

Of course, even the most-beautiful spinnerbait is worthless if the hook isn’t razor sharp. So Curry said his company uses black nickel hooks to ensure penetration.

Learn more about Kajun Boss lures at kajunboss.com. ■



Andy Crawford has spent nearly his entire career writing about and photographing Louisiana’s hunting and fishing community. Learn more about his work at www.AndyCrawfordPhotography.com.

PHOENIX
2018 PHOENIX 721 PRO XP

X18PRO XP180 H20 BAY XP20CC

YAMAHA

PHOENIX WIND-CUTTER VERANDA

Bryan's MARINE JOIN US ON

4899 HWY 84 WEST VIDALIA, LA 71373
318-336-9009
www.BryansMarine.com
Mon - Fri 8 am - 5 pm • Sat 8 am - 12 noon
Family Owned & Operated Mississippi-Louisiana's Boating Headquarters Since 1986

PARTICIPATING PARKS & LAKES:

- Jimmie Davis State Park**
1209 State Park Road,
Chatham, LA 71226
- Lake Bistineau State Park**
103 State Park Rd,
Doyline, LA 71023
- Lake Bruin State Park**
201 State Park Road,
St. Joseph, LA 71366
- Lake Claiborne State Park**
225 State Park Road,
Homer, LA 71040
- Lake D'Arbonne State Park**
3628 Evergreen Road,
Farmerville, LA 71241
- Poverty Point Reservoir State Park**
1500 Poverty Point Parkway,
Delhi, LA 71232
- North Toledo Bend State Park**
2907 North Toledo Park Road,
Zwolle, LA 71486
- South Toledo Bend State Park**
120 Bald Eagle Road,
Anacoco, LA 71403

LOUISIANA BASS TRAIL | LouisianaBassTrail.com
#LABassTrail #OnlyLouisiana



LOUISIANA BASS TRAIL

Order your Bassport online or
pick up at participating State Parks



GO
FISH.



GET
STAMPED.



GET
SWAG.



North Louisiana is home to seven world-class bass fishing lakes in eight State Parks, including the No. 1 bass fishing lake in the country for the past two years.

Get your FREE Bassport and start reeling in the big ones.

Fish four lakes to earn a t-shirt or fish all eight parks to unlock awesome Louisiana swag. Tag your big bass photos with #LABassTrail and #OnlyLouisiana on social media for a chance to win bonus prizes.

LouisianaBassTrail.com
#LABassTrail #OnlyLouisiana



LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.



LAKE CHARLES
**BOAT
 SHOW**
 SPECIALS

In Stock!



JERRY'S MARINE

YOUR FISHING BOAT HEADQUARTERS

HWY. 27, SULPHUR, LA
 1/4 MILE OFF I-10
 M-F 8-5:30; SAT 8-12

Let Our
 Over 40 Years In Business
 Help Find The Right Boat
 For You

337-583-4088
www.jerrys-marine.com

Ready for a new boat? Special pricing and rebates going on now!

It was a massacre.

By Jerald Horst

Fish blood, poop and slime covered the deck of the boat and the interior of the ice chest.

But wait; I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's start at the beginning.

The water in the canal smelled fishy when we got to the landing.

But was it lying to me?

A late northerly had blown through the day before. Would it work on the catfish's heads like it does on bass and crappie — give 'em lockjaw? Actually, I was worried.

The cool thing (especially that day, when it was nippy early, right after the front) about catfishing in Lake Des Allemands is that you don't have to start early.

Rudy Roussel and his father Larry planned to reach our spot at 9 a.m. "Why get up early when I never do well early," shrugged Rudy. "I think it's best in the middle of the day," added Larry.

Although the lake can be accessed from numerous launches, the Roussels always launch into Moll Canal off Louisiana Highway 3127. After launching and heading south - the only way you can go from the launch - the canal dead-ended in Bayou Pain.

Rudy hung a right in the bayou, which segued into Bayou Fortier. "Stay on plane here," cautioned Rudy. "It's shallow." Bayou Fortier opened into Baie d'en Haut, which is part of the lake.

Conveniently, their fishing spot was in the shallow water near the shoreline of Pointe Cypres Fausse, a big nipple-shaped point that juts far out into the open lake from its northern shore.

At a seemingly random spot, Rudy cut his big engine and unlimbered his trolling motor to move the boat into the shallows. He didn't use the little motor for stealth, but rather because the shallow waters of the lake are littered with submerged cypress stumps and snags.

He spudded down his Power-Poles in 3 feet of water. "I have my favorite spots," he admitted, "but you can catch catfish almost anywhere. This isn't the only good spot in the lake. Last year, they did even better on the eastern shore.

"A lot of people like to troll and cast. I like to stay in one spot. When they stop hitting, or if I'm not catching, I'll move 30 to 100 yards up or down the shore and stop again."

Pre-spawn catfish are feeding voraciously now in warming springtime waters. Here's how they fill a box near the "Catfish Capitol of the Universe."

TWO RODS TWICE AS NICE
UP NEXT ►

Des Allemands FATCATS



TWO RODS ARE TWICE AS NICE

Each man quickly rigged two rods with hooks set 2 to 2 ½ feet deep beneath colorful corks. Each held one rod in his hands and laid the other on the boat’s deck beneath watchful eyes.

“You catch more fish with two rods than one, but if a fish bites the rod on the deck, you can lose it before you lay the other one down and pick that one up,” explained the elder Roussel.

“Another disadvantage, if you can call it that, is that when the bite gets hot, you can get lines between rods tangled.”

They cast in all directions from the boat. If a cast didn’t yield a quick bite, they retrieved it and tried another spot, then kept casting back to the same spot until the fish stopped biting there.

It didn’t take long. Sometimes the cork eased off sideways, but more often it did the catfish thing. The cork went “bloop” and instantly disappeared. “If you just get a nibble,” coached Rudy, “let it set and they usually take it hard.”

Spring was a good time to be on the water in the lake. It wasn’t blistering hot yet. The new foliage of the cypress trees was still vibrantly green, rather than the sunburned dark green of mid-summer.

Song birds were singing and crows were cawing, but most importantly the fish were biting. Someone always had a catfish bouncing on the water’s surface or the boat’s deck.

Rudy pulled ahead early, which really got his pop’s attention. “Ohhh, he’s ahead of me already. Now I’m really getting mad,” feigned Larry in mock anger.

But by 10 a.m. the old man was really heating up. He was handicapped earlier by his self-assumed role as the designated ice chest opener. But he gave that up quickly, leaving the lid open for both men to toss their fish into the box.



Rudy Roussel considers himself a bass fisherman, but likes the fast action that catfish provide.

After throwing in three in a row, he was beaming. But before noon, they had to quit. Not ‘wanted to quit’ — had to quit. The big box was so full of fat-bellied female and bullheaded male catfish from 8 inches long up to 2 pounds that the lid would barely close.

Yeah, it was a good day to be on the water. ■

What’s for dinner, MR. WHISKERS?

The preferred bait for all of Rudy and Larry Roussel’s catfishing were Canadian nightcrawlers, often called “cold worms” in bait shop lingo.

These are big fat worms, so they most often put only a quarter to a half of a worm on the hook. “Use smaller pieces when they are biting good,” tutored Rudy. “When they aren’t biting good, you have to give them something to eat.”

They have tried other baits. Catalpa worms performed poorly for them. Crawfish and shrimp tails were only marginally better. “Don’t buy red wigglers,” commanded Larry.

“They are too hard to get on the hook,” explained Rudy.

“But when we catch a bream we cut it up for bait. Worms are better, but bream skin is so tough that you can use the same bait over and over again.”

Both men put their bait on the hook by threading it through the worm, rather than zig-zagging it on the hook. It wasn’t pretty and it sure wasn’t natural-looking.

“Catfish really can’t see real good,” chuckled Rudy, “so it doesn’t matter and threaded on, they stay on the hook so much better.”

“They really feed more by smell than sight,” agreed his father. ■

— Jerald Horst



The Roussels always thread their worms on their hooks.

When to go AND WHY



"I only fish for catfish in Lake Des Allemands at the end of March, all of April and the beginning of May," said Rudy Roussel firmly. "The fishing slows down after that and I change to bass fishing."

The biology of the beasts may be why. Channel catfish, the main species they catch in the lake, are prolific spawners. Like blue catfish and flathead catfish, they nest in cavities — under stumps, in hollow logs, in holes dug into lake and bayou banks and in any man-made debris that is convenient. Five gallon buckets and old automobile tires work just dandy for the protective fish.

In April, males' heads swell dramatically and their body color darkens. And they begin their search for cavities in which to spawn. Using their muscular jaws, they scour clean the interior surface of their cavity and sweep out all silt and debris with their fins.

In May, females swollen with eggs search for a mate in possession of a good nest. After brief courtship, mating occurs and the female leaves her eggs to the male to guard.

As soon as the young catfish leave the nest, the male prepares the cavity for the next mating. This goes on all summer, from May into early September. Males, half the population, seldom get to forage for food, so they lose weight and the texture of their flesh deteriorates noticeably. And they aren't available for hook-and-line fishermen to catch, either.

The pre-spawn period centered in April, when the fish feed voraciously in the warming waters of spring, is when Roussel focuses his effort on the fish. ■

— Jerald Horst

The head of the male channel catfish on the right grows much larger than that of the comparable-sized female on the left. After spawning season, the male's head will return to its normal size and it will become indistinguishable from a female.

THE SECRET WEAPON FOR CRAPPIE AND SPECKS!

From *The Crappie Psychic, LLC*



CRAPPIE TRAILERS

- Comes in 6 colors
 - Flavored with Psychic Sauce
 - Diamond shaped design creates more wiggle action
- Makes your favorite bait
IRRESISTIBLE!**

TROUT TRAILERS

- Comes in 6 colors
 - Flavored with Psychic Sauce
 - Unique diamond shaped design for more action
- Makes Your Lure a
TROUT MAGNET!**



Call **985-790-0862** or visit
www.thecrappiepsychic.com
to find a retailer near you!
thecrappiepsychic@yahoo.com



GEARING UP UP NEXT ➤



GEARING UP

Although they caught catfish in about equal numbers, the two men had different philosophies when it came to choice of rods and reels.

Rudy wouldn't be caught dead with anything but baitcasters, explaining that they better handle the braided line he likes.

He prefers braided line because it floats. "There's a lot of structure in the lake; fallen trees that lines can hang up on, especially on the rod that's laying on the deck. And if I do hang up, braided line is stronger — strong enough to just straighten the hook sometimes rather than lose a rig.

"I can just straighten the hook with pliers. It saves time. And there is no stretch. When you set the hook, it's set.

"Also, the line is stronger for the occasional 15- to 20-pound blue cat we hook."

He likes 25- to 45-pound PowerPro lines.

Dad Larry is more laid back. He fished with one baitcaster and one spinning rig. He admitted that baitcasters handle big fish better, but also likes how his spinning reel can cast light weights longer distances.

His choice of lines is 12- to 15-pound Trilene Big Game monofilament.

On the subject of hooks, Rudy is again more particular, only using 2/0 Mustad hooks — essentially trotline hooks with big eyes. Larry is not so discriminating, but does prefer long-shank hooks because he finds the fish easier to unhook.

The men agreed on choice of corks, though. Both want weighted, elongated, clip-on foam corks in bright colors. Bright colors make it easier to see the corks, and weighted corks sit upright in the water, giving better indicators of strikes.

"The weight also helps you cast further," said Larry. "Wind can be a big factor in the spring," agreed Rudy.

Know your LIMITS

Louisiana's limit for catfish is very liberal, 100 per person for channel, blue, and flathead catfish combined, and no limits for bullheads, locally called "pollywogs" or "mud cats."

But obeying size limits needs more attention. The minimum sizes are 14 inches for flathead catfish, 12 inches for blue catfish and 11 inches for channel catfish, the latter being the most commonly caught species in Lake Des Allemands.

The law does allow recreational fishermen to keep up to 25 undersized catfish per person for all species combined. But it is surprisingly easy to lose track of how many undersized catfish one has when the fish are really biting.

A handy tip for "bucket fishermen" is that the inside diameter of a plastic 5-gallon bucket is just a smidgen over 11 inches — the minimum size for channel catfish. ■

– Jerald Horst



Larry Roussel still fishes a lot, but can't keep up with his hard-charging son Rudy.

Neither placed any additional weights on their lines.

They like clip-ons because they are easy to adjust. Their goal is to set their corks to fish their baits 2 to 2 ½ feet deep, near the bottom — but not on the bottom. ■

– Jerald Horst

ONE FISHES, THE OTHER COOKS UP NEXT ➤



The weighted clip-on corks in Larry's hand are both men's choice for catfishing.

Hurricane Hole



PREMIER MARINA & RESORT IN GRAND ISLE, LA

Hurricane Hole Marina and Resort is the perfect getaway for the whole family. As one of the newest and most modern in Grand Isle, our marina is designed to provide you with a safe and state-of-the-art home for your boat. Our resort features on-site dining and shopping, and is equipped with a luxury pool and splash pad. From fun in the sun, to relaxing in the shade, your getaway to Hurricane Hole will surely be one to remember!



OWN YOUR OWN PIECE OF PARADISE CONDOS FOR SALE

Our brand new luxury condos are currently under construction and are now for sale! These fantastic units are going fast so don't miss out on your perfect vacation home!



MARINA SLIPS AVAILABLE

- / Fishing in Sportsman's Paradise
- / 24/7 Fuel Dock
- / 24-Hour Security and Video Monitoring
- / Fast In-and-Out Service
- / Water or Lifted Slips to Choose From

MARINA STORE

BAIT, TACKLE, SNACKS, CLEANING SUPPLIES, DRINKS, ICE, COLD BEER, AND MORE!

RESTAURANT & BLUE MARLIN BAR NOW OPEN!

Explore the Jewel of Louisiana's Coast

985-787-3014 / www.HurricaneHole.net / 1851 Highway 1, Grand Isle, LA / info@hurricanehole.net



One fishes, the other cooks
BOTH LIKE CATFISH

Catfish aficionados all agree that small fish taste better than big fish. Lake Des Allemands produces lots of perfect "eating-size" catfish.

Rudy and Larry Roussel live in St. James Parish, along the Great River Road that follows the east bank of the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Son Rudy at 30 is a fierce fisherman. His boat, a Ranger Intracoastal - essentially a high-performance bass boat - gives him away. It is equipped with soft-touch skid-resistant padding instead of carpeting, more stainless steel, and an aluminum trailer instead of a galvanized one.

"I love to bass fish, but I also love saltwater," he explained. "And I love catfish."

"I love fishing in general."

Father Larry at 62 still fishes, but has become more famous for cooking as "Uncle Larry." He picked up the moniker for his TV show *In the Kitchen with Uncle Larry* on WVLA in Baton Rouge and WGNO in New Orleans.

With multiple guest appearances on television stations and many articles in the state's newspapers, Larry has retired from his day job at a refinery and begun his own food business named, naturally enough, Uncle Larry's Food & Spice Company.

His first product on the market was his seasoning and flavor enhancer, available on-line and at stores in Ascension, St. John, St. James, East Baton Rouge, Livingston and St. Tammany parishes.

It's good stuff, but it pales beside what's coming: Stew in a Few, a liquid Cajun stew base; Ready, Set, Gumbo, a gumbo base in three versions, with okra, without okra, and with filé and no okra; Fabulous Fish Fry (corn meal based); Sensational Shrimp Fry (corn flour based) and a not-yet-named dry gumbo base and a dry rub for barbecuing.

Both guys like catfish. Rudy goes after big bruisers, 10- to 20-pound blue cats when flood stage Mississippi River waters invade the willow groves growing on the river batture (the land between the levee and the river bed).

For more "eating-size" catfish, he used to travel to Lake Verret and fish for channel catfish. "The first time we went to Verret, we caught 30 or 40. I was hooked right away," he grinned.

Then he heard about Lake Des Allemands, long famous for its big population

of channel catfish. In 1975, the town of Des Allemands was proclaimed the Catfish Capitol of the World, which was then upgraded by the Legislature in 1980 to the Catfish Capitol of the Universe.

"I went to a buddy's house and he had a big ice chest full. I went the next day and did the same. Then I started bringing my dad because the fish are more plentiful than in Lake Verret."

Both enjoy the fast-paced action of springtime Des Allemands catfishing. "I'm not a normal bass fisherman. I hate fishing plastic worms," confessed Rudy. "They are too slow. I like to catch fish."

As for Larry, he agreed that he likes the action, but for him, there's more. "It's a good-eating fish. It's just fun — catching lots of fish. I'm here fishing for the table." ■

— Jerald Horst



Jerald Horst is a retired Louisiana State University professor of fisheries. He is an active writer, book author and outdoorsman. Jerald may be reached at jerald@rockinghorst.com.



Big catch.
BIG SAVINGS.

You could get a discount when you combine your auto and boat policies.

GEICO  **BoatU.S.**
Making Boating Better, Together[®]

geico.com | 1-800-865-4846 | Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. Multi-Policy Discount available to auto insureds that have purchased a boat policy through the GEICO Marine Insurance Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2018 GEICO



Berryland

Campers

HOLDEN



4 GREAT BUNKHOUSE FLOORPLANS

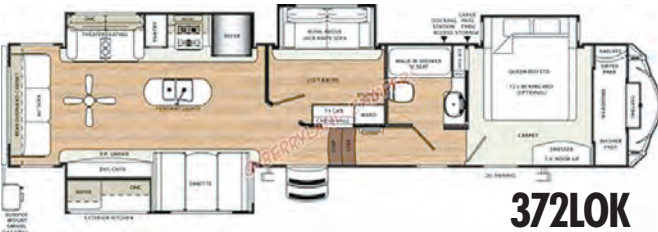
STARTING AT \$44,990



365SAQ



371REBH



372LOK



383RBLOK

MesaRidge SALEM

ROCKWOOD

SALEM HEMISPHERE LITE

WORK and PLAY

HOLDEN, LA • Exit 29

TOLL FREE 1-877-567-7079

www.berrylandcampers.com/holden

AS Jeff Bruhl left the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain and went down Interstate 12, the sky spit droplets on his truck's windshield. And as he pulled up to the East Pearl River launch, things even got a little gloomier: His trailer tires were the only ones touching the gravel parking lot.

There wasn't another boat to be found.

Perhaps that was because it was a Monday morning. Or maybe it was due to the Pearl River being at 15 feet, making the water look like melted chocolate.

Whatever the reason, Bruhl had the launch all to himself — and saw only three bass anglers all day long.

As Bruhl backed his Gator Trax off the trailer, the sun still hadn't made much of an appearance, which was beneficial.

He made his way to a pond off the Rigolets he heard about from a friend that allegedly had bass up to 4 pounds in it.

When he arrived, however, the water was muddy due to high winds. He tried to putt around the pond to search for clean water, but he was unsuccessful.

He quickly put his boat back on plane, and left with some casting practice, about 1,932 gnat bites and a wet buzzbait.

The tournament angler then scoured around and found a good-looking pond on the north side of Lake Catherine. It had all the right ingredients: Bait, crystal

clean water and tons of grass.

But, unfortunately, the pond didn't produce, leaving Bruhl's livewell dryer than August asphalt.

Even though two hours had burnt off the clock with nothing to show for it, Bruhl didn't fret in the least.

He headed for Geohagan's Canal, a popular destination for wintertime speckled trout — but one that also houses bass this month.

The avid angler began casting a Zara Super Spook Junior along a bait-loaded shoreline, and within his first few casts, Bruhl hooked a trout — and it wasn't a green trout.

A 15-inch speck came splashing over Bruhl's gunnel. Although it wasn't the right species, he was encouraged by what he saw. He continued chucking his topwater on the grass edge, and once he reached a point in the shoreline, Bruhl caught several bass up to 2 pounds — quite a sight on topwater.

After the bite played out, Bruhl ran to Sawmill Bayou, and he found a load of fish stacked on a point. The fish were gobbling up Flukes, lizards and worms, but, oddly enough, Bruhl couldn't get them to touch a topwater lure.

KEYS TO CATCHING
UP NEXT ➤

By Joel Masson

'Green trout' are on fire in the ponds and marshes off the East Pearl River this month.

Here's one local angler's plan of attack.

MARSH MADNESS





Jeff Bruhl finds marsh bass tend to pile up on points and drains. **ABOVE:** Bruhl makes a cast in a marsh pond just after sunrise.



KEYS TO CATCHING

This time of year, Bruhl fishes marsh bass a whole lot, and he said there are several keys to success.

One of the first is to identify which stage of the spawn the fish are in.

“(Last year) was kind of warm, so the spawn is over with, but if I think they’re spawning, I’m going to go in the back of the ponds,” he said. “If they’re done spawning, I’ll go hunt the baitfish, and they might be at the run-outs and mouths of the main bayous.”

But the main bayous can be tricky. Filthy freshwater from the Pearl can plague them, according to Bruhl.

“If the water gets high enough, they’ll all be muddy,” he said. “There are certain bayous that face against the river flow, and they’re clean (most of the time.) They’re pretty protected from the flooding river.”

When fishing the bayous, Bruhl positions his boat in the center, and casts toward the shoreline. Some shorelines have grass that meets right up to the bank. In that case, Bruhl casts on the edge of the grassline and works his bait toward the middle.

However, some bayous have grass toward the middle, leaving a donut of no grass on the edge. When this scenario is pre-

sented, Bruhl throws his bait between the bank and the inner edge of the grass line.

“A lot of times, I am just looking for grass mats, and I’m flipping and pitching around it to see if I can get something to come out and take the bait,” he said.

GAUGING THE GRASS UP NEXT ➤



A Pop-R is one of Jeff Bruhl's go-to lures this time of year.



BEST LURES for marsh bass

Jeff Bruhl uses a variety of lures to target Pearl River marsh bass this time of year.

When he's fishing the ponds, Bruhl adjusts his lure selection based on how much water is over the grass. If there's not much water between the top of the grass and the surface, he likes throwing a Sebile Pivot Frog.

That frog is unique because it utilizes a single, weighted swimbait hook, unlike most frogs which feature two hooks and no weight.

"If the grass is really thick and you can't get a Ribbit frog to make vibration, then I just throw a walking or popping frog," he said.

For low-water situations, Bruhl also fishes a soft plastic jerkbait. He prefers the Berkley Gulp Jerk Shad rigged on a weightless hook.

"That's good this time of year because it has a slow, subtle fall," he said.

Another lure Bruhl is a fan of is a weedless Berkley Powerbait Chigger Craw.

"You want to swim it over the top and edges of the grass," he said. "That imitates a crab, and you'll catch bass and reds on it."

If he's targeting the edge of grass lines either in bayous, ponds or Geohagan's Canal, Bruhl often reaches for either a Zara Super Spook Junior or a Pop-R. When he's fishing the former, he likes the bleeding-mullet color.

"It's got a little bit of gold and blue on it," he said. "It looks like a mullet."

No matter what topwater hardbait he throws, Bruhl implements a slow retrieve.

"You want something that kind of walks and stays in one spot and splashes a bit," he said. "They'll come a foot or two to hit something, but they're not going to chase a lot."

Lastly, Bruhl never leaves the dock without a

lightly-weighted Texas rig. It yields a lot of his fish in the springtime, especially when he's fishing slightly deeper bayous.

Bruhl uses a 1/8- to 1/4-ounce weight, as there's not much need for anything heavier. He Texas rigs a Berkley Bottom Hopper, which is a 6-inch straight-tail worm.

Gear for this lure is extremely critical. Use your \$15 Academy rod, and it'll be a lot like fishing with a 3M scrubbing sponge.

Stiff rods are vital for horsing the bass out of the submerged vegetation, so Bruhl uses a 7-foot, medium-heavy-power, fast-action rod to get the fish to the boat. He attaches an Abu Garcia STX 7.1.1

gear-ratio baitcaster to the rod's reel seat. "I can take up line a little faster (with the high gear ratio)," he said.

The Covington resident spools his reels with either 20-pound Trilene Berkley Big Game monofilament or Berkley 100-percent fluorocarbon.

In clearer water, he'll throw the fluorocarbon because it's practically invisible. ■

— Joel Masson



*A Little Drive,
A Lotta Lagniappe*

**LARGE INVENTORY OF TOP-NAMED BOATS IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA & SOUTHEAST TEXAS
OVER 100 BOATS IN STOCK & READY FOR DELIVERY**

 <p>NauticStar</p> <p>#1 Dealer in the Nation*</p> <p>Discounts up to \$8,000 Shallow Water Performance V-Hull</p>	 <p>NauticStar</p> <p>Starting at \$29,995*</p> <p>215 XTS Shallow Bay 4-stroke & trailer</p>	 <p>YAMAHA</p> <p>Starting at \$39,499</p> <p>210 FSH Jet Boat SUV of Center Consoles Serious Fishability and Comfort for the Whole Family</p>
<p>Visit us to see the ALL NEW 215 XTS Shallow V-Hull</p> <p><i>The most affordable way to spend time with family and friends</i></p>		
 <p>Shoalwater</p> <p>#1 Dealer in the Nation*</p> <p>Call for pricing</p> <p>Save Big on 16-23' Cat Hulls, One of the Most Popular Names in Ultra Shallow Water Fishing</p>	 <p>CHAPARRAL BOATS</p> <p>Starting at \$33,495*</p> <p>21' H20 OB w/ 115hp Yamaha Highest Quality I/O Fish & Ski Boats</p>	 <p>Avalon</p> <p>Starting at \$14,995*</p> <p>14-28' Luxury and Fishing Pontoons</p>
<p>* PLUS OPTIONS, TT&L, AND FREIGHT & MAKE READY</p> <p>I-10 On the Curve Beaumont TX 888.842.1601</p>		



* ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER





GAUGING THE GRASS

When he's targeting the ponds, Bruhl likes hunting down the vegetation.

"Most of the ponds aren't but about 2 or 3 feet," he said. "You want to fish around the patches of grass. Sometimes you'll throw frogs on top, and sometimes, if you've got a little depth, you can throw worms in the middle."

Many bass anglers always want to work the shoreline, but Bruhl said that's a big mistake.

"I've seen it where you go right in the middle of the pond with just a little popper, and if the water is high enough over the grass, you can catch a lot of fish doing that," he said.

What lures Bruhl fishes depends on the height of the water in the ponds. Some ponds are naturally deeper or shallower, but a large portion of the depth is affected by the tide.

"If you have grass that's pretty high, you're going to have to use a frog or a Fluke," he said.

Bruhl actually prefers the ponds when they're low.

"When you get a northerly flow to push the water out of the ponds, that's when you start looking at them," he said. "That north wind will drain



//////////
A bleeding mullet-colored Zara Super Spook Junior is one of Jeff Bruhl's favorite baits this time of year.

some of the ponds."

If the grass is short from the bottom, or if the tide is high, Bruhl likes working light Texas-rigs around the grass.

One thing that is of no shortage in the marsh this time of year is prey, according to Bruhl.

"In the springtime, you're going to have bait just about everywhere," he said. "Shad will migrate in and out of the Gulf this time of year, and mullet

will start spawning."

Topwater baits are exciting no matter the species you're fishing for, and surface lures are always tied on in Bruhl's boat.

"If you have a cloudy day, you can fish (topwater) all day long," he said. "Most of the time when the sun comes out, you're going to have to pitch something, or throw a Texas rig to get the bite."



//////////
Jeff Bruhl hunts around for the cleanest water he can find when targeting marsh bass.

If you're a bass purist, fishing the marsh probably isn't the best place. That's because it's virtually impossible to target bass without bumping into other species.

"You'll find (redfish) mixed in with the bass," Bruhl said. "Usually if you're catching reds that means the bass are right there with them because the food is there. They feed off the same stuff."

Marsh bass aren't known to be monsters, and that's particularly true after the spawn.

"Once the spawn is over, if you catch 1- or 2-pound fish, that's normal," Bruhl said. "You're not going to win many tournaments in these areas. It's more of a fun-fishing kind of place."

One of the biggest keys to catching bass this time of year is to move until you find the fish.

"The fish are going to be in tight, little groups," he said. "You might go along the bank and not get a bite, and then you might catch four or five fish off a point, a drain or just down the bank somewhere."

Fishing the bayous and ponds off the East Pearl is a great way to help youth get into bass fishing, according to Bruhl.

"If you've got kids you want to teach how to fish, give them a red-shad worm, turn them loose and they're going to catch fish," he said. ■



Joel Masson is an avid angler who has fished South Louisiana his whole life. He lives in Mandeville.

**Begin and End
Every Adventure with Ease.**

The South's Premier Storage for Boats and RVs

Covered and secure with on-site management. We offer amenities and services to prepare you for your next trip. Plus, 24/7 access to your boat or RV. Call **504-500-STOR** for pricing and leasing info.

COMING SOON TO ST. ROSE, LA

TheEliteStor.com // 161 I-310 Service Rd, St Rose, LA 70067

THE NATURE OF COMPETITION



LIVETARGET

Sunfish – aka "bream" and "bluegill" – represent one of North America's most prolific forage species, thriving in everything from lakes and rivers to ponds and reservoirs. Work the lifelike LIVETARGET Sunfish Swimbait around docks, through grass and weeds, over rock piles and amidst timber. The lure's Oscillator tail produces an authentic swimming action, while its protected hook makes the Sunfish Swimbait virtually snag-free. The medium-slow sinking Sunfish Swimbait is available in three sizes and four realistic colors.

LIVETARGETLURES.COM

CREATURE FEATURE

Jerald Horst

Bass fisherman Beak Jacob grins as if he won the booby prize with this gou that hit his jig in the Pearl River. **BELOW:** A hard-fighting Saline Lake gou brought a grin to Tyler Bordelon's face.

GASPERGOU ARE EVERYWHERE

As common as gaspergou are in Louisiana and the United States, few people realize how unique this freshwater species really is. Virtually any waters that connect with the Mississippi, Pearl and Mobile river systems and all the Great Lakes except Lake Superior are home to the species — 27 states. The species has also been introduced by man into states as far-flung as California and Massachusetts.

To the south, the fish is found through eastern Mexico into Rio Usumacinta in Guatemala.

In short, the fish is nearly everywhere in North America.

Louisiana seems to be the heart of the beast's range. It is the only state in the Union in which every square foot is listed as being home to gaspergou. It is common in lakes, reservoirs, bayous, and rivers. It reaches peak abundance in the large, turbid waters of the Mississippi, Red, and Atchafalaya rivers. Probably the only place it isn't common is in small,

clear, swiftly flowing, sandy-bottomed headwater streams.

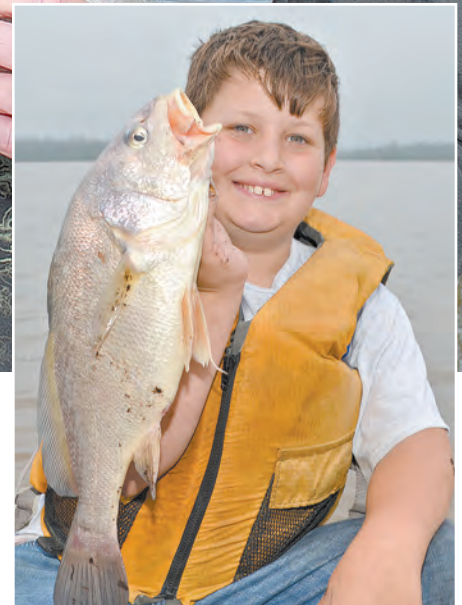
GOU ARE AN ODD FISH

Gaspergou, or "gou," as we more often call it, is a Louisiana name. More properly, the species is known as the freshwater drum.

It is a unique fish for a bunch of reasons. It is the only member of the drum family found totally in freshwater. Some, such as redfish, can penetrate deeply into freshwater and thrive there much of their lives, but they can't spawn there. They have to go back to their saltwater roots to do that.

Another interesting characteristic of the fish is that they possess a tapetum lucidum in each eye, a feature easy to see in the light of a camera's flash or a flashlight at night. A tapetum lucidum is a layer of cells behind the retina of the eye that gathers light and reflects it back through the retina.

Tapeta lucida provide superior night



and help it maintain its balance. Without them, a fish could not remain upright.

What is unique about them in gaspergou is their size. They are huge. A 12- to 14-inch fish will have otoliths nearly as large as a nickel. They are extremely hard and look almost polished and ivory-like. They are so hard that they don't even break down in the digestive system of another fish that eats a gou.

In the Great Lakes and other places with hard beaches, these durable otoliths often wash up on shore. They received their nickname of lucky bones because the otolith from the right side of the fish has a very noticeable L-shaped groove in it. (The one on the left side is more J-shaped.)

GROW SLOW: GROW BIG

Gaspergou are not a particularly fast-growing species, reaching 4.4 to 5.8 inches at the end of their first year. Gaspergou can reach 12 inches in length (the minimum legal commercial size in Louisiana) as early as 3 years in the South and as late as 5 years in the north-erly waters of the Great Lakes.

By 10 years old, gou may only be 17

inches long and weigh a little over 2 pounds in the Great Lakes, but 24 to 28 inches long in the South, where the growing season is longer. Females grow faster than males after age 4.

Gaspergou grow large. The world record is 54 pounds, 8 ounces, and was caught from Nickajack Lake in Tennessee in 1972. They can also live to be very old. A 72-year-old fish from Red Lake, Minnesota was aged. Thirty-two-year old fish have been aged from the Cahaba River in Alabama.

GOU ARE EASY TO CATCH BECAUSE THEY EAT EVERYTHING

Because gaspergou have large crushing teeth in their throats, it was long assumed that their primary diet was clams and mussels. Research now indicates that adults feed more heavily upon immature aquatic insects, crawfish and fish.

Some times of the year, fish, especially shad, can make up more than 90 percent of their diet. Also eaten are shiners, young bluegill and crappie, and bullhead catfish, as well as other species, includ-

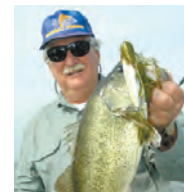
ing quite a few of their own kind. Some clams and other mollusks are also eaten.

A Lake Pontchartrain study done in 1961 showed gaspergou as major consumers of mud crabs, small blue crabs and rangia clams.

TAKE A GOU HOME FOR DINNER

Gaspergou are commonly caught by Louisiana fishermen and are excellent table fare if prepared right (Hint: Don't fry them.) They must however be handled properly. They die quickly out of water, even on a stringer or in a live basket.

Gou should be iced immediately after being caught. Their flesh has a high fat content and upon death, the fat oxidizes rapidly, especially in hot weather. Poorly handled gou quickly develop a "fishy" flavor. ■



Jerald Horst is a retired Louisiana State University professor of fisheries. He is an active writer, book author and outdoorsman. Jerald may be reached at jerald@rockinghorst.com.

"SUPER MirrOdine®...The XXL Suspending Twitchbait!"

Looking for BIG FISH?

The NEW SUPER MirrOdine® XXL fits the profile. Weighs 1 oz., features bright, reflective foil inserts, "fish-calling" rattles and natural 3-D eyes to enhance their realism, plus extra-strong hooks. This NEW heavy weight, darts from side-to-side, mimicking a wounded baitfish. BIG Trout, Redfish, Snook, Striped Bass and Tarpon find the MirrOdines® to be irresistible. Available in 16 colors.



MirrOdine® XXL
37MR-EC
3-7/8" Long, 1 Oz.

Turn On The Bite Anytime® ...
Tie On A MirrOlure®!



ORIGINAL
MirrOlure®

L&S Bait Company

1415 East Bay Drive • Largo, Florida 33771
Tel 727-584-7691 • www.mirrOlure.com

LOW-FREQUENCY

ASK CAPT. PAUL

Capt. Paul Titus

GOT A QUESTION FOR THE CAPTAIN?

EMAIL IT TO
CAPT@LASMAG.COM

CAPT. PAUL'S FISHING EDGE FOR PEARL RIVER WMA

TURKEY HUNTERS: WAYPOINTS AREN'T JUST FOR FISHING

The Pearl River Wildlife Management Area is located between the Pearl River at the Louisiana-Mississippi state boundary, and the West Pearl river from the east end of the Rigolets by the Mississippi Sound to a point where I-59 crosses its boundary.

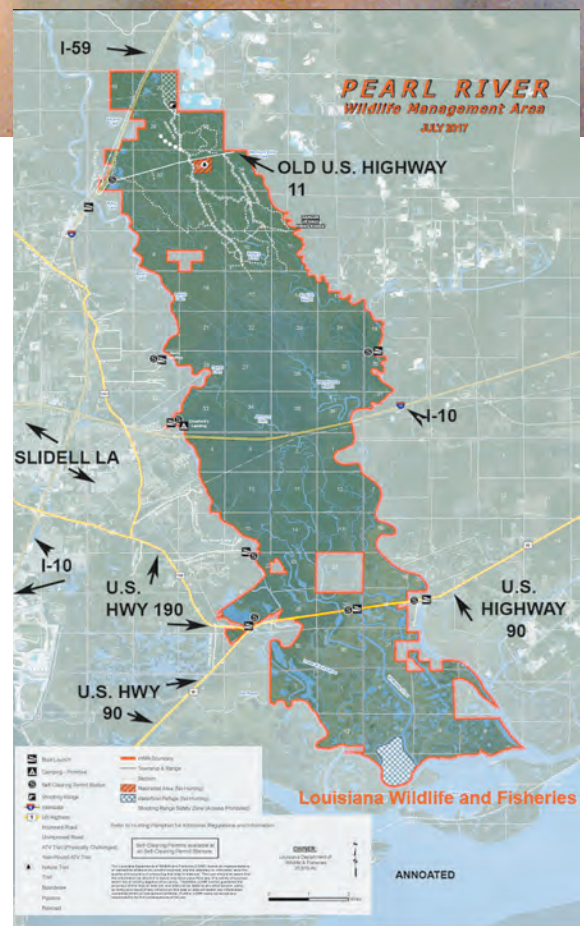
It offers a variety of outdoor sports activities, a nature trail and hunting for numerous game, and includes a shooting range and camping facilities by one of the many boat launch locations. Naturally, with all of the criss-crossed small rivers and bayous, it is a great location for freshwater fishing — and the southern part of the river estuary is a great location for salt and brackish water species of fish. I have hunted deer, turkey, squirrels, waterfowl and hogs as well as have fished the WMA. Wildlife and Fisheries has a rough map of the area, and a list all of the regulations as to when and

how to make use of the area which can be found on the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries website.

Note that there are procedures when the river level reaches 16.5, with all hunting except waterfowl closed.

The Capt. Paul's Fishing Edge is a natural for the WMA. The Edge has over 135 fishing and hunting locations in and around the area.

It has bass fishing spots, such as Peach Lake, WP# PR46 at the Middle Pearl River and Peach Lake at 30°18.9230'N.Lat. ~89°41.3546' W. Long., and WP # PR53 at Steamboat Bayou at Middle River at 30°15.9133'N. Lat. ~ 89°39.4273' W. Long. and Johnson Lake WP#PR50 at 30°18.1913' N. Lat. ~ 89°40.3780' W. Long. Naturally the deeper West Pearl and Pearl River are excellent catfish locations. The Rigolets at East Pass of the Little Lake at WP# PR68 at 30°09.7380' N. Lat. ~ 89°37.5347' W. Long. is great



saltwater fishing along the northwest side by the old pilings.

HUNTING SPOTS

Hunting locations such as Holden Pond at Gobbler Bayou at WP# PR15 at 30°21.8131' N. Lat. ~ 89°40.4987' W. Long. and Murdock Eddy Lake, shown as WP# PR38 at 30°23.6482' N. Lat. ~ 89°40.6723' W. Long. offer excellent turkey and deer hunting, as does many of the rolling slews. Squirrels also can be around throughout the hardwoods adjacent to these slews.

Naturally those Edge locations in the land areas are designed for hunting on foot, and those in or at water junctions are designed to be reached via boat.

I have hunted on foot via the Old Highway 11 access road, but I prefer to access the WMA via boat. It allows for a day that consists of a morning hunt and a fishing afternoon.

But I suggest that you actually check out the area before trying to make an actual hunt. Remember to bring a compass and a hard copy of a map of the area along, as

you will need it to navigate safely.

U.S.G.S. Topographical maps Nicholson, Miss-La. #30089-D6-FT-024 and Rigolets LA. #300089-B6-TF-024 should cover most of the WMA.

As always, please show respect to other anglers around you and obey all of the WMA regulations.

All positions are determined using WGS datum and are stated as Degrees, Minutes and ten thousandths of a minute (DDD, MM.mmmm).

Capt. Paul's Fishing Edge of GPS waypoints has this and many other locations statewide.

GET THE EDGE

All of the EDGE programs are sent as an e-mail attachment for your computer via your address. This data download enters all of Capt. Paul's waypoints into your unit in a matter of seconds.

To order an Edge file, you must have an e-mail address that accepts attachments. All available Fishing Edge files can be found in the Louisiana Sportsman's Outdoor Store (www.sportsmangear.com.)

ORDER YOURS TODAY 

www.SPORTSMANGear.com

In addition, there are several links throughout Louisiana Sportsman's website which will bring you to the Edge ordering page.

Remember that you must state your brand of GPS unit, your email address and your selected area. The Edge files are NOT interchangeable with different brand name units, so be sure to make the correct selection for your GPS.

Capt. Paul's Fishing Edge of GPS Waypoints will give you a big edge in navigating, hunting and fishing the area. ■

— Capt. Paul



Capt. Paul Titus has been responding to GPS questions on LouisianaSportsman.com since 2000. He has been fishing and hunting in Louisiana since 1957. Titus holds a USCG license and conducts instruction courses in the use of GPS for private individuals and government agencies.

BLACKJACK... INSPIRED PERFORMANCE!

The new **BlackJack 256!**

BlackJack
boats

For more information
or to find a dealer near you, visit
www.blackjackboats.com



FLY LINES

Catch Cormier

Just over two hours from Shreveport, the Little Missouri River is a trout angler's paradise.

TROUT FISHING 101

BASICS FOR PURSUING THE WORLD'S TOP GAMEFISH

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Apr. 6-7 (Fri-Sat) - Lake Athens Fly Fishing Fest and Big Bass Tournament**, Lake Athens Marina, Athens, TX. Free admission, tournament entry fee \$40. Seminars, casting, vendors, exhibits, food, raffles. Proceeds benefit Project Healing Waters. Website: www.johnnyonthefly.com.
- **Apr. 14 (Sat) - Fly Fishing 101, Booker-Fowler Hatchery**, 10 Joan Stokes Road, Forest Hill. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free workshop covering tackle, knots and leaders, flies and hands-on casting. Pre-registration required. Hosted by Kisatchie Fly Fishers. Website: www.kisatchiefly.org.
- **Apr. 21 (Sat) - 2018 Fly Fishing Film Tour**, Pack and Paddle, 601 East Pinhook, Lafayette. Tickets \$15. Happy Hour at 3:30 p.m., showing at 5:30 p.m. Tickets limited, so advance purchase recommended. Website: www.packpaddle.com.
- **Apr. 28-29 (Sat-Sun) - 2nd annual Fly Fishin For The Mission Tournament**, PAC Kayak Rentals, Pointe-aux-Chenes. Fish from boat or kayak. Two person teams (two kayakers per team). Entry fee: \$50 per team. Saturday activities include casting clinics, kayak demos, heroes fishing. Sunday tournament. Benefits Mission Six charity. Website: www.trollssquadfishing.com.
- **May 5 (Sat) - 7th annual Bass On The Fly tournament**, Lake Fork Marina, TX. Friday activities include casting clinics and kayak demos. Saturday fishing day. Entry fee \$60. CPR tournament, categories motorboat and non-boat (kayak, bank). Benefits Reel Recovery. Website: www.bassonthefly.org.

One common question I get from newbies is, "Where and how do I fly fish for rainbow trout?"

I understand the fascination with trout. They are colorful fish, live in scenic habitat, feed vigorously on surface bugs and when hooked, make spectacular leaps.

Entire books have been written on the subject, so condensing this into several hundred words won't be easy. Consider this just a starting point in a long journey.

TACKLE

The standard de facto rod is a 5-weight, paired with a matching weight-forward line. In most eastern waters, a 4-weight is suitable. But out west, windy conditions and big water may require a 6-weight or even 7-weight.

Trout insist that the fly drift naturally in the current. In moving water, with many subcurrents that tug on line, that's a tough task.

An 8 ½ or 9-foot rod is the solution. This length rod works best for "slack casts" such as reach-mend,

curve and parachute casts.

Once the line is on the water, the longer rod allows for a technique known as mending. Mending is basically flipping part of the line upstream. Combined with a slack cast, it allows for the fly to maintain a long drag-free float.

The reel doesn't need a strong drag, but it should have a smooth drag to protect light tippets.

For trout fishing, I typically use store-bought tapered leaders with 5x tippet. I then carry spools of 4X, 5X and 6X tippet to replace any lost.

ACCESSORIES

Most trout fishing is wading. For that reason, I suggest lightweight breathable stocking-foot waders matched with wading boots that have felt soles. The felt soles help prevent slipping on algae-covered rocks.

Underneath the waders you'll want to wear nylon or fleece pants, along with wool or synthetic socks. Even if the waders stay watertight, condensation can build up underneath. Quick-drying apparel helps



Clear mountain streams and colorful, hard-fighting specimens make trout fishing so appealing.

wick that moisture away. The vest is the iconic symbol of the trout angler. In recent years, sling packs have become the preferred alternative. Whichever you choose, make sure it has enough pockets for fly boxes, tip-

pet spools, dry fly floatant, reading glasses and your waterproof camera. Nippers help cut line when changing flies or replacing tippet. Forceps help to safely remove the hook from the fish's mouth and

continues on page 112

TIPPETS

April offers some of the best fishing of the year for both fresh and marsh species. Tough decisions ahead.

Bream will be on the beds. Early and late, popping bugs will be the ticket. During the day, cast Jitterbees, Cap Spiders, Slow Sinking Spiders, or Hares Ears suspended 3 to 4 feet under a strike indicator. Cast and twitch the float an inch or 2, then pause. Most strikes come on the pause.

Some bass will still be spawning. Work woolybuggers, leeches and streamers slowly over bedding areas. In areas where bass have spawned, popper action should be terrific.

Small crabs and shrimp will be moving into the interior marsh ponds. So now is a good time to break out a LaFleur's Charlie, Gulf Toad or Redfish Ritalin. If heavy grass is an issue, try a bendback-style fly.

Later this month, big speckled trout will be in the surf. Don your waders and toss out Crease Flies or Skipping Bugs. Big baitfish patterns like Whitlock's Baitfish and Deceivers are good also.

April is caddis time on the Little Missouri River in southwest Arkansas. An Elk Hair Caddis will have to compete against swarms of the natural, but there's plenty fish in the river to help your odds. ■

NEW MODEL 2018 BOATS & ACCESSORIES AT 2017 PRICES!



XPRESS BOATS

2018 XPRESS BOATS COMING IN WEEKLY

BASS BOATS

LIFETIME HULL WARRANTY ON ALL BOATS

BBB A+ ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Five Star Certified YAMAHA Service Dealer

YAMAHA TECHNICIANS



From left to right are Ronald Primeaux, Allen Hebert, Robbie Simon.



XPRESS BOATS

BAY BOATS



VERANDA PONTOONS

YAMAHA OUTBOARDS WINTER SUPER DEAL

H&M MARINE

1217 W. 2ND ST. • CROWLEY, LA
337-783-1194



FLY LINES

continued

crush barbs on flies.

A mesh net will help land trout safely while protecting their slime layer. To keep the net from tangling with your line, get a magnetic attachment that pins to the back of your vest. When needed, grab the net behind your back and simply pull it loose.

Finally, a brimmed hat and polarized glasses are necessary to cut glare and see the bottom when wading. They also help to spot fish.

WHERE THE TROUT ARE

While Louisiana is one of only three states that doesn't have year-round fishing for trout, there are several terrific waters within a day's drive.

Nearby locales include the Little Missouri River in Murfreesboro, Arkansas (2.5 hours from Shreveport), Lower Mountain Fork in Broken Bow, Oklahoma (2.5 hours from Shreveport), and Sipsey in Jasper, Alabama (5 hours from Slidell).

Just a few hours more takes you to blue-ribbon waters: the Red River, the White River and Norfolk (northern Arkansas), and the Caney Fork (central Tennessee).

Once you arrive at your destination, then comes the hard part: Finding the fish and determining what they're feeding on.

Every river has three areas where trout will concentrate. These are known as holding lies, feeding lies, and prime lies.

Holding lies are where the trout seek protection from predators. Feeding lies are where adequate food exists, e.g., where insect hatches are most prolific. Prime lies are areas which offer both protection and abundant food.

Your best fishing under any conditions will be in prime lies. This type of water will be deep runs, undercut banks, or plunge pools. Streamers and nymphs are good choices for flies, although dries work well at times.

During hatches, the feeding lies can produce lots of action. Examples of feeding lies include riffles, tailouts and shallow flats with large rocks.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

You can be at the right spot, have the right tackle and make great casts — and still get skunked if you can't "match the hatch" for the particular water you fish.

That's why it's critical to do some homework in advance of your trip. Go online or call the local fly shop to learn what the trout are feeding on. Chances are excellent the shop carries those flies.

Be aware that during a hatch, trout will switch from feeding surface (dries) to feeding just below the film (emergers). So prepare to have both dry and emerger forms of that insect in your box.

Part of the fun in trout fishing is discovering various lies in a river and determining the flies, time of day, and other factors for success at each lie.

If this very basic overview of trout fishing appeals to you, give it a try. But beware — it's addictive. ■



Glen 'Catch' Cormier
has pursued fish on the fly for 30 years. A certified casting instructor and renowned fly tier, he and his family live in Cotile.

PELEGRINMARINE.COM



PELEGRIN MARINE INC.

10215 E MAIN ST | HOUMA, LA - (985) 872 4841



POWERED BY
 MERCURY

 Sun
TRACKER

PELEGRINMARINE.COM

STAY COOL STAY PROTECTED

STAY OUT
THERE



Solar Shade™ ZERO Long Sleeve Shirt



Who needs shade when you have OMNI-SHADE™ SUN DEFLECTOR?

Little sun-deflecting dots are applied to the outside of an Omni-Shade™ garment to deflect sunlight away from the body, so you feel cooler and stay protected.



IT'S (FINALLY) TIME TO TALK TURKEY

The delay of the 2018 turkey season until April 7 has no doubt been an agonizing wait for members of the Tenth Legion, but now this elite group of hunters are in action. I suspect many got things started on March 30 with the opening of the youth weekend. My 7-year-old grandson worked the squirrels over in February, and is ready to be in the turkey blind on that day.

Hopefully it will be a successful season for Bayou State hunters. If not, the LDWF biologists are ready to take the blame for the late season opener. But hunters should be willing to let this experiment run its course and see if the late season does improve nesting success around the state.

There has been plenty of time for hunters to scout the woods and locate toms. Observing wild turkeys going about their daily routine is a great way to connect with a bird. Turkeys will generally follow the same pattern and route every day, so just watching their movements will give you an edge with filling a tag.

Of course, the later season should mean that most hens are sitting on eggs and are not visiting the toms anymore, which means the toms should be eager to come to your calling. Remember, aggressive calling that is often used by hunters during the peak of gobbling may not be what those gobblers want to hear. A few soft clucks mixed with a little purring may just be the ticket. And instead of using gobbler decoys mixed with hens, a single hen decoy may prove to be more effective.

Keep in mind that seasons are differ-

ent on our public lands than what they are on private land. And remember that areas where you may have been feeding turkeys is considered a baited area for 15 days following removal of the feed. If there are locations where feed is available, hunters cannot hunt within 200 yards of these feeding areas. Reporting harvested gobblers is a must so that our wildlife biologists can accurately determine how this new season structure is working. And if you happen to observe sick turkeys, please contact the biologists and let them know what you saw or found.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

In mid-February, the Mayhaw, plums, blueberries and pear trees were flowing, and yellow jessamine vine along with the field bluets, wild violets and several other early-spring wild flowers were blooming.

Elderberry shrubs were leafing out, along with arrowwood, black cherry and the mulberry trees.

The cold winter may have been what was needed for a good fruiting season for our soft mast trees and shrubs. Soft mast fruits provide quality nutrition for deer, turkeys and other wildlife. If your habitat is lacking in such trees

and shrubs, you would be wise to make plans to incorporate them into your management program.

A mid-February trip to Pearl River WMA found flooded conditions with the Mayhaw trees blooming away. The old swamp hunters would say that if the Mayhaws flower in water, the fruit will drop in water. I remember one year on the Pearl when the late Robert Helm and I would drive the bateau under the Mayhaw trees and shake the trees to let the fruit fall into the boat. It's a pretty easy way to get some berries for jelly making.

Quality nutrition is a must for deer in the spring as they begin to recover from the winter months, and begin increasing body size and growing new antlers. Clover, chickory and winter peas planted in the food plots last fall provide the quality nutrition that deer need. If you let the winter grasses seed out, both game and song birds will benefit from the seed.

With a mediocre mast crop in 2017, deer will be foraging heavily in an effort

It's critical that hunters report all harvested gobblers so the LDWF can determine the effectiveness of the late season.



PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY



www.SPORTSMANGear.com

to catch up and start growing for next season. Does have been bred and will need quality nutrition to keep not only themselves in good condition, but to maintain pregnancy. Research has shown that quality nutrition is a must for a deer herd to be productive, with most adult does giving birth to twins.

“THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN”

This song by the group Brooklyn Bridge in the late '60s is quite appropriate for the discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Mississippi. Our game agencies are on top of the situation, and will be testing additional deer over the next few months to determine just how prevalent it is in that region of the Magnolia State and potentially Louisiana. I am hoping that this is just a very isolated incident; perhaps some idiot took a sick deer out of a pen and turned it loose to avoid complications with their program. It just seems strange that a sick deer with symptoms was found, because usually the disease

is located by random testing of deer. In this case, the animal and carcass will be disposed of and removed from the environment. But there are many hunters in Mississippi and Louisiana who hunt out West, and it's also possible that infected cervids were brought into the state in past years and those carcasses were disposed of on the landscape where wild deer could be infected. If it is a wild free-ranging deer, then certainly increased testing will find more animals with the disease.

While this is bad, it's not the end of the world and of deer hunting as we know it. States that have had the disease for several years have learned to adapt and deal with it. Louisiana hunters who hunt in Mississippi will continue to follow the protocol regarding deer harvested out-of-state, and will not be able to bring in harvested deer unless they adhere to the transport and possession regulations that were put into place in 2017.



Quality spring forage is a must for young deer to grow to their potential.

Louisiana is now surrounded by states with CWD, so it could be just a matter of time before it does show up here. I would hope that this finding spurs our Agricultural Department into action to start keeping closer tabs on the cervid pens and facilities they manage, because such scrutiny has been lacking in the past. ■



Dave Moreland is the author of the new book Louisiana Whitetails, which explains how to grow big deer and where to hunt them. The book is available at www.SportsmanGear.com and at Amazon.com.

ZERO

IN ON SPRING SAVINGS.

MODEL 2565 CAB SHUTTLE



MODEL 3540 PST & CAB



5 YEAR WARRANTY

MODEL 5545 4WD



MODEL 2555 H CAB










GLENCOE EQUIPMENT

12416 LA Hwy. 44 | Gonzales, LA
225.644.3088
www.glencoeequipment.com

Mahindra

Rise.





DeerView manufactures the best windows in the industry!

Dealer(s)/Manufacturer Pricing Available

All of our windows and doors can be custom made or you can select from our standard sizes.

817-453-7421

www.DeerViewWindows.com

LURE REVIEW

Don Shoopman

Creme's new Speed Scremer is a versatile creature bait with lots of action, and comes in 10 colors. The lure is available now at Bass Pro Shops.

CREME SPEED SCREMERS

BASS LOVE THE NEW SOFT-PLASTIC CREATURE BAIT

Dusty Anders of Deville was excited when he called an outdoor writer in early February.

The 50-year-old Alexandria firefighter, an avid bass angler and part-time fishing guide, had just boated an 8-pound bass at Toledo Bend on one of his favorite new soft plastics.

He thought it was high time to get the word out about the Speed Scremer made by Tyler, Texas-based Creme Lure Co. and designed by his good friend Mike Clark of Rock Hill, which is north of Tioga.

Anders said he's used Speed Scremers to put bass in the boat at Toledo Bend, and on the Red, Cane and Sabine rivers.

"Mike gave them to me a few months ago," he said, noting the versatile 3 ½

inch-long soft plastic comes in 10 popular colors.

"The ones we got weren't packaged yet. They were in Ziploc bags. (But) the fish don't care," he said with a chuckle.

In his opinion, Creme Lure Co. has another winner on its hands. The artificial lure manufacturer, born in 1949 in Akron, Ohio, developed soft plastics that have been relied on over the past six decades, including the Creme Scoundrel, one of my favorites when I got into bass fishing seriously in 1976.

There have been many fish caught on their products leading up to the Speed Scremer and the new FlipFlop.

Brett Preuett of Monroe knows how effective Speed Scremers are after relying



on them to finish in the money earlier this year at the first stop on the FLW Tour for 2018.

Preuett, introduced to Creme's Speed Scremer last fall by Clark, used the new soft plastic to catch 12 of the 15 bass he weighed-in to finish 19th at Lake Okeechobee. The former Bassmaster Elite Series angler was swimming it Texas-rigged with a pegged worm weight, and also had it on the back of a swim jig.

Anders tipped his cap to Clark, who has been coming up with soft-plastic

lure designs for Creme since 1993. His first entry into the market was a Devil's Toe (he swears he didn't come up with the name), a 4-inch French fry-style soft plastic that floated and gained popularity when used on Carolina rigs.

He also designed the Fish Frog, which was renamed Dudad. And the hits kept coming.

"A few years ago I designed a bait called the Reel Scremer, a swim bait," he said.

BIRTH OF THE BAIT

After that soft plastic's success, Anders stayed in his fishin' buddy's ear about making another soft plastic, Clark said.

"The last two, three years, he's been on me. He said, 'Man, we've got to get Creme to make a small flippin' bait, based on trends' in the ever-changing world of bass fishing, he said.

"I drew it out at first. A buddy of mine drew it up on a computer," he said, noting a main feature was two "arms," one on each side, with a tiny paddle-like appendage similar to a popular Creme crappie soft plastic. There is a slot top and bottom of the soft plastic.

After a few prototypes were made and in the field testing, Clark was mowing grass

at his home near a pond when Preuett dropped by to visit Chance Downs, Clark's son-in-law who lives next door. Preuett and Downs are good friends, and all three share a passion for catching bass. Downs and his young son were fishing at the pond with a Speed Scremer.

It was there Preuett took an immediate liking to the lure.

"Brett said, 'I love the way it looks.' He couldn't believe the action of those legs in the water. They caught 12. That was last fall. He asked if Creme would take it on," Clark said.

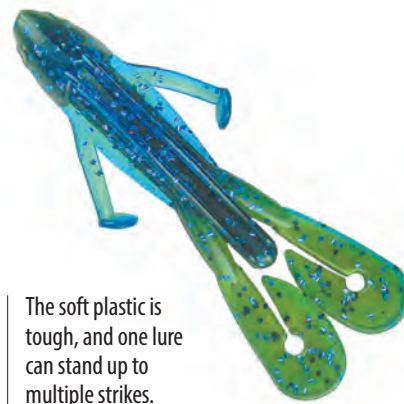
FINE-TUNING

The prototype was sent out west to mold-maker Kevin Jones, who sent a prototype to Creme owner Wayne Kent.

"We tweaked it. I thinned out the tails and changed the shape a tiny bit trying to get maximum action," he said. "I think it'll be a great success. It's so versatile."

The Speed Scremer got into some stores around the end of the year, Anders said, and made its big debut the week of March 16 at the Bassmaster Classic in South Carolina. It recently found its way to shelves at Bass Pro Shops, Clark said.

There's more to the Speed Scremer than



The soft plastic is tough, and one lure can stand up to multiple strikes.

its seductive action, Anders said, noting each soft plastic is tough.

"Creme baits hold up. I catch more fish on one. I caught seven or eight the other day on one bait," he said.

For more information on Creme Speed Screamers and other Creme Lure Co. products, go to www.cremelure.com or call (903) 561-0522. ■



Don Shoopman fishes for freshwater and saltwater species mostly in and around the Atchafalaya Basin and Vermilion Bay. He moved to the Sportsman's Paradise in 1976, and he and his wife June live in New Iberia. They have two grown sons.

SCULLY'S

CUSTOMIZED Aluminum Boats

ALL NEW 2072 DUAL CONSOLE

Fishing/Hunting boat

- Hydraulic Jack Plate
- Hydraulic Steering
- Dry Storage on both Forward and Stern decks
- Two Fold Down Seats
- Wrap around windshield
- 36 gallon fuel tank
- Yamaha F 225 Engine
- Tandem Aluminum Trailer with Brakes



24' CUSTOM ALUMINUM BAY BOAT

Scully 24' Bay Boat specs: Length - 24' • Beam - 9'

Features:

- Live Well
- Built in Ice Chest Seat
- Fuel Tank
- Anchor Locker
- Bow and Stern DRY Storage
- Rod Holders under gunnels
- Instruments-Gauges
- Navigation lights
- Hydraulic Jack Plate
- Hydraulic Steering
- Speed in the 60 MPH Range with Yamaha F 250



Scully's CUSTOMIZED Aluminum Boats

Louisiana's #1 Custom Boat Builder

985-385-1323
FAX 985-384-5146
TOLL FREE 1-866-238-8353

1015 Stephenville Rd., Morgan City, LA 70381

www.scullyboats.com
Email: info@scullysaluminumboats.com



YAMAHA

GAME WARDEN

Keith LaCaze

Remember where you saw turkeys while deer hunting: They're likely to be in the same general area when the spring gobbler season kicks off. **INSET:** Game cameras are great for locating big gobblers. Just remember to maintain a distance of 200 or more yards from any active deer feeders when hunting a long beard.

GOT A QUESTION FOR THE KEITH?
EMAIL IT TO
KLACAZE15@ATT.NET

HAVE A SAFE TURKEY SEASON

VALIDATE YOUR TAGS, AND TAKE PRECAUTIONS IN THE WOODS



Louisiana's 2018 spring gobbler season will begin on April 7 in all three turkey hunting areas.

Area A, which includes the majority of the state's turkey hunting habitat, will remain open for hunting through May 6.

Area B's closing date is April 29 and Area C's is April 22. Youth and physically challenged hunter special weekend dates are March 30 through April 1 in all three areas. But those dates are for private land only — check LDWF turkey hunting schedules for WMAs, national wildlife refuges and federal lands.

April 7 is a later opener than we have seen in previous years. I suspect it's due to low hunter harvest and low population estimates, and may not be all that popular in areas where gobblers are heard greeting the day starting in early to mid-March. But the good news is the later opening will allow for undisturbed breeding, resulting in better reproduc-

tion. It also means better hunting after hens have begun nesting and mature gobblers aren't easily finding receptive females.

TAG AND VALIDATE

All turkey hunters, regardless of age or license status, must obtain turkey tags and have them in their possession while hunting. Tag the gobbler before it is moved from the kill site and comply with all other tagging requirements. Validation is required within 72 hours and is the most important part of the process. Accurate harvest data is crucial to good management. I believe a significant number of harvested turkeys go unreported. This leaves managers with no choice other than to assume low hunter success and low turkey numbers. The results are later seasons (like this year) or shorter

seasons.

For the wildlife enforcement officer the most common violations associated with turkey hunting are license or tag violations and baiting.

Failure to tag is a very common violation for a couple of reasons. First, it took a while in Louisiana for hunters to become accustomed to tagging. But it has now been around long enough for everyone to be aware of the requirement. The other and more illicit reason for not tagging a gobbler is the one-per-day, two-per-season limit.

Back in the days before tags, the two (or years ago three) per-season limit was unenforceable and dependent on the hunter's honesty and willingness to honor the law. Unfortunately, not everyone was honorable, and wildlife agents routinely received reports of violators exceeding the season limits. When tags for deer and turkeys were implemented, it gave agents a leg up on enforcing limits. Yes, there are ways to beat tagging laws. But it's still better than nothing.

BAIT: WHO DOES IT AND WHY

Time and experience in the field taught me a lot about people, and most good wildlife officers I know have learned how to figure out who is likely to do what.

They do that by understanding how people with similar traits and similar circumstances will do similar things. People who illegally bait turkeys are a prime example.

If you are wondering who is most likely to hunt over bait, look for the guy who wants everyone to think he is a top-notch turkey hunter. He'll talk a lot about all the long beards he's killed, his skill with the call and his vast knowledge of turkeys. If he hunts on private land, he probably doesn't extend any invitations to other hunters. He may also be someone who does not seem willing to do the hard work required to take a gobbler fairly. Now mind you I am not saying everyone fitting this description is baiting turkeys: But I am saying some people caught hunting over bait do.

For our purposes, here are a few tips on avoiding bait. On public land, be sure to look closely for bait before setting up in a likely looking spot. When hunting on private land, maintain a distance of 200 yards or more from active feeders or locations where supplemental feed has been placed for deer or other wildlife. If you suspect bait on private land, ask the

landowner before hunting, the same as you would for doves or waterfowl. If bait is discovered, leave the area immediately and report it to LDWF Law Enforcement.

ALWAYS THINK SAFETY

We can't talk about turkey hunting without mentioning safety. Hunting methods including wearing camo, using concealment and making calls imitating turkeys ramp up the potential for hunting accidents. Even more so on public land, where folks may be unaware of the presence and location of other hunters. Precautions must include setting up in spots where no one can approach

unseen from behind, keeping an eye out for other hunters and a bag (preferably hunter orange or pink in color) for carrying decoys and harvested turkeys.

Have a great turkey season — and don't forget to validate. ■



Retired Wildlife Enforcement Lieutenant Colonel Keith LaCaze spent 34 years with the LDWF beginning in 1977. LaCaze is happily married to wife Mitzi and the father of two children.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE IN MS & LA

AMITE COUNTY		• 82 Acres.....\$3,950/AC	• 275 Acres.....\$2,350/AC
• 23 Acres.....\$3,476/AC	• 25.52 Acres.....\$2,500/AC	HINDS COUNTY	• 423 Acres.....\$3,850/AC
• 40 Acres & Home.....\$205,000	• 40 Acres & Home.....\$370,000	• 92 Acres.....\$3,700/AC	• 335 Acres.....\$2,950/AC
• 51.85 Acres.....\$5,303/AC	• 99 Acres.....\$3,787/AC	• 184 Acres.....\$2,700/AC	• 467 Acres.....\$2,795/AC
• 115 Acres.....\$3,750/AC	• 125 Acres.....\$4,300/AC	JASPER COUNTY	TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY
• 127.5 Acres.....\$4,200/AC	• 151 Acres.....\$4,200/AC	• 114 Acres.....\$1,400/AC	• 27 Acres.....\$2,962/AC
• 200 Acres & Camp.....\$1,120,000	• 209 Acres.....\$3,348/AC	• 69.5 Acres.....\$2,500/AC	WALTHALL COUNTY
• 278.5 Acres.....\$4,000/AC	• 360 Acres & Home.....\$3,500,000	• 58.5 Acres.....\$3,418/AC	• 15 Acres.....\$3,500/AC
• 1305 Acres & Home.....\$7,500,000		• 40 Acres.....\$2,500/AC	• 38.78 Acres.....\$2,307/AC
		• 38.5 Acres.....\$2,077/AC	• 50 Acres & Camp.....\$204,000
ATTALA COUNTY		JEFFERSON COUNTY	• 386 Acres & Home.....\$1,495,000
• 540.5 Acres.....\$950/AC		• 722 Acres w/2 houses.....\$2,100,000	• 34 Acres.....\$3,808/AC
CALHOUN COUNTY		• 2260 Acres & Lodge.....\$8,300,000	• 160 Acres.....\$2,181/AC
• 75 Acres.....\$1,599/AC		JONES COUNTY	• 80 Acres.....\$2,250/AC
CLARKE COUNTY		• 21 Acres.....\$2,000/AC	WAYNE COUNTY
• 800 Acres & Lodge.....\$3,375/AC		KEMPER COUNTY	• 120 Acres.....\$1,500/AC
• 185 Acres & Camp.....\$550,000		• 40 Acres.....\$6,000/AC	• 220 Acres.....\$2,050/AC
• 40 Acres.....\$2,025/AC		LAMAR COUNTY	• 39.5 Acres.....\$1,974/AC
• 132 Acres.....\$2,651/AC		• 20 Acres.....\$11,250/AC	WILKINSON COUNTY
• 135 Acres.....\$2,651/AC		• 35 Acres.....\$8,750/AC	• 153 Acres.....\$3,790/AC
CLAIBORNE COUNTY		LAWRENCE COUNTY	• 26 Acres & Lodge.....\$425,000
• 222 Acres.....\$3,148/AC		• 52 Acres.....\$2,115/AC	LOUISIANA
• 176 Acres.....\$3,181/AC		• 710 Acres & Camp.....\$1,225,000	<i>Bienville</i>
COPIAH COUNTY		LINCOLN COUNTY	• 89.78 Acres.....\$2,449/AC
• 166 Acres.....\$2,289/AC		• 87.49 Acres.....\$2,857/AC	<i>Bossier</i>
• 339 Acres.....\$2,651/AC		MADISON COUNTY	• 76 Acres.....\$4,500/AC
COVINGTON COUNTY		• Home & 116 Acres.....\$3,250,000	• 120 Acres.....\$3,958/AC
• 40 Acres.....\$2,950/AC		MARION COUNTY	• 272 Acres.....\$4,600/AC
• 162 Acres Cabin & River.....\$4,650/AC		• 84.56 Acres.....\$2,944/AC	<i>Caddo</i>
FORREST COUNTY		• 113 Acres.....\$2,876/AC	• 170 Acres.....\$4,600/AC
• 30 Acres.....\$5,833/AC		• 14.5 Acres.....\$3,813/AC	• 32 Acres.....\$3,437/AC
• 80 Acres river front.....\$2,850/AC		• 40 Acres.....\$2,800/AC	• 20 Acres.....\$4,000/AC
• 80 Acres.....\$3,125/AC		PEARL RIVER COUNTY	• 17 Acres.....\$4,000/AC
• 123 Acres.....\$2,500/AC		• 303 Acres.....\$3,500/AC	<i>Desoto</i>
FRANKLIN COUNTY		PIKE COUNTY	• 55 Acres.....\$2,600/AC
• 15 Acres.....\$3,200/AC		• 10 Acres & Home.....\$189,000	• 51 Acres.....\$3,200/AC
• 277 Acres.....\$2,775/AC		• 24.87 Acres.....\$3,397/AC	• 40 Acres.....\$2,800/AC
GRENEADA COUNTY		• 28 Acres.....\$4,625/AC	<i>East Baton Rouge</i>
• 160 Acres.....\$4,000/AC		• 31.57 Acres.....\$4,497/AC	• 239 Acres.....\$3,999,000
HARRISON COUNTY		• 40 Acres.....\$2,475/AC	<i>East Feliciana</i>
• 81.3 Acres.....\$4,500/AC		• 48 Acres.....\$3,227/AC	• 64 Acres & Camp.....\$349,000
• 243 Acres.....\$4,900/AC		• 48.13 Acres.....\$39,067/AC	• 479 Acres.....\$2,290,000
• 129 Acres.....\$3,900/AC		• 58 Acres.....\$2,637/AC	<i>West Feliciana</i>
• 47 Acres.....\$4,100/AC		• 77 Acres.....\$5,181/AC	• 113 Acres & Lodge.....\$1,125,000
		• 80 Acres & Home.....\$219,000	<i>Sabine</i>
		• 132 Acres.....\$2,401/AC	• 21 Acres.....\$3,500/AC
		• 135 Acres.....\$2,350/AC	• Home on Toledo Bend.....\$550,000
		• 140 Acres.....\$2,350/AC	<i>Webster</i>
			• 958 Acres.....\$1,252/AC
			• 55 Acres.....\$3,400/AC
			• 113 Acres.....\$3,200/AC
			<i>Washington</i>
			• 150 Acres.....\$3,993/AC



Gibson Realty & Land Company

(601) 250-0017

8 AGENT/OFFICE LOCATIONS IN LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI
WWW.GIBSONREALTYMS.COM
No One Knows The Country Like We Do

#1 United Country Office
Internationally 2008,
2009, 2010, 2011, 2013,
2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

STICKS AND STRINGS

Sammy Romano



TRADITIONAL ARCHERY

GET BACK TO THE BASICS THAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE SPORT

Modern technology has made it easier than ever to be a successful archer. Tools such as compound bows with high let-offs, electronic rangefinders, magnified fiber-optic bow sights, fall-away arrow rests and many other advances have changed our sport forever. But along the way, we have also lost something — the basic simplicity of archery that attracted many people to the sport in the first place.

Over the last decade or so, this has led to a resurgence in the popularity of traditional archery. It's archery in its simplest form: A stick and a string.

Using a recurve or long bow and shooting purely by instinct, without the aid of a sight or rangefinder, the traditional archer can become surprisingly accurate with both time and practice.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Although traditional archery is simple as far as less gear, it still requires being properly fitted and setup to perform at your best. Go to an archery pro shop, preferably one that is familiar with traditional archery, and get setup with the best bow and arrows for you. Draw weight is very important here; unlike

compound bows, traditional bows do not have any let-off, and the draw weight steadily increases as the bow is drawn back. For this reason, most archers typically shoot bows 15 to 20 pounds lighter in draw weight when switching from a compound bow. I have seen too many people mistakenly order too heavy a draw weight, and they struggle terribly and don't enjoy shooting as much.

Choosing the proper-length bow is also important. Longer bows tend to be easier to point and don't "stack" the weight at the back of the draw as much, but they are much less maneuverable if you will be hunting. They also have less finger pinch when drawn, making a clean release of the arrow easier. While shorter bows are easier to transport and more maneuverable in the field, they are more critical when it comes to the shot. In a recurve, I find a happy medium of 58 to 60 inches long to be the best for a majority of archers.

Recurves are also available in single-piece and takedown models, with each having its pros and cons. The single-piece wooden recurve is much more nostalgic and simple, but is usually much more expensive. It is also harder to transport, and if a limb is warped or cracked,



the whole bow is lost. Takedown bows offer the advantages of easier transport, the ability to replace damaged limbs at a lower cost and the ability to change draw weight by simply purchasing heavier limbs. The disadvantages are they're heavier and have more parts.

Arrows are important, too, and a good pro shop will help you select the best ones for your setup. These days, most manufacturers offer carbon arrows that

LEFT: A recurve bow displays the nostalgic appearance of a traditional bow. INSET: Modern carbon arrows that look like wooden ones and are fletched with feathers are a major improvement over wooden alternatives.

look like wooden arrows and are fletched with feathers. They are superior in straightness and strength to wooden ones, and are also safer and more reasonably priced. It is best to try a few arrows before investing in a full dozen if possible, as arrow selection is less of an exact science when it comes to traditional bows.

WILL YOUR BOW SING IN TUNE?

Tuning of traditional bows is an art as well. There are three primary considerations.

First is brace height — the distance from the string to the back of the grip. Most longbows should be braced at around 7 inches, while recurves typically require between 7 and 9 inches of brace height. You can adjust the brace height of your bow by adding or removing twists from the string. Add twists to increase the brace, and remove them to decrease. Nocking point is next, and one-half inch above the bows shelf is a good starting point. Lastly is arrow spine, which is something of a trial and error process. Trust your instincts.

This is archery in its simplest and purest form. Rather than using a rangefinder to range the target and then a bow sight to aim, a traditional archer uses instinct to point the bow.

The easiest and best explanation I can give for “instinctive shooting” is the analogy of learning to throw a ball. The first time you threw it, maybe it didn’t go where you intended. But your brain immediately began to subconsciously calculate the adjustments needed, and after a little practice, you were able to throw the ball with a fair degree of accuracy. There was no conscious thought of the distance to your target or aiming, you just naturally compensated by adjusting the angle and/or power with which you threw.


Since a bow launches each arrow at the same velocity when shot with proper form, the archer adjusts the angle to hit their target at varying distances. With the exception of a few “naturals,” this form and instinctive shooting require both practice and dedication to achieve any degree of accuracy.

There is nothing quite like the feeling of becoming proficient with a traditional bow. The simplicity of a stick and string without the heavy and cumbersome accessories is nostalgic and a joy to carry into the woods or onto a range.

While not for everyone, many people are rediscovering this neglected part of our sport and enjoying it more than ever. There is something about the flight of an arrow that you shot without sights that is hard to explain, but extremely rewarding. Pick up a traditional bow and discover it for yourself. ■



Sammy Romano is a lifelong hunter who has worked in the archery industry for more than 24 years. His expertise includes compounds and crossbows. He can be reached at samboka31@aol.com.




Double Side Pit Blind

We Also Offer Single Sided Pit Blinds


Pit Blinds


- Aluminum & Steel
- Available in 3, 4, 5, 7, & 8 man blinds




Crawfish Track Boat

Check Out our Video on Youtube "Quirk Track Boat"





3712 Hwy. 10 • Washington, LA 70589
337-826-WELD (9353) • 337-945-0226
www.quirkswelding.com



THE MOLPUS WOODLANDS GROUP, LLC

- **Cleveland County 1,272+/- acres** located just south of Rison, Arkansas on AR State Highway 79, just one hour from Little Rock. This tract is an ideal deer, turkey, squirrel and duck hunting tract with tremendous amounts of ecological diversity. This tract boasts approximately three miles of Saline River frontage, as well multiple interior ponds/lakes and sloughs. Well worth checking this out! **\$3,250 per acre.**
- **Hennessey Bayou 1,685+/- acres** located on the MS River in Warren County, MS with mature hardwood and cypress. Several man-made weirs are allowing for accretion to occur rapidly. Excellent hunting and fishing opportunities. Great views. **\$2,500 per acre.**
- **Calcasieu Parish 334 +/- acres** located south of Starks, LA adjacent to Highway 109. Large contiguous block perfect for recreation with options for development along the road frontage while providing a significant timber investment. A mix of 2014 pine plantation and adjacent hardwood streamers. **\$2,500 per acre.**
- **Beauregard Parish 145 +/- acres** with ¼ mile of Highway 26 frontage for easy access surrounded by undeveloped forestland with plenty of excellent wildlife habitat. A mix of 2013 well stocked pine plantation and hardwood streamers breaking up the landscape. **\$2,840 per acre.**

Timberland and Recreational Hunting land available across the country!!!

Toby Trowbridge, III
Value Added Specialist, South Central Region
Louisiana Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
(318) 324-9068 Ext. 103 office

Tina Meiners
Value Added Specialist, South Central Region
Louisiana Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
(337) 463-9700, ext. 113

www.molpus.com

HAPPY TRAILS

Bill Garbo



The author with a mature buck. Unfortunately, older-aged bucks seem to be the most CWD-susceptible members of whitetail deer society. Inset: MDWFP CWD Management Zone map. The three zonal radius circles show how the five counties are affected, where all forms of supplemental feeding and mineral attractants have been completely banned county-wide.

CWD IN MISSISSIPPI

MAGNOLIA STATE HUNTERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE DISEASE, HOW GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE RESPONDING AND WHY CERTAIN DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE

I had something else in mind originally for this column, but the recent happenings regarding the finding of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a Mississippi deer is more important than anything else.

As much as the topic has been covered in recent weeks by every form of media you can think of — since an infected deer was found back in late January — my guess is that most all deer hunters and other interested parties have heard at least something about the serious repercussions that this revelation is causing.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) has had CWD contingency plans in place for a while, and the agency jumped on this once it was confirmed that we had a case of CWD in Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Health has also gotten involved, and in conjunction with MDWFP, has issued its own guidelines and precautions.

WHAT IS IT?

In the case of CWD, the disease is a neurological (brain and nervous system) condition found in deer, elk, moose and other members of the Cervidae (deer) family. It has similarities to “mad cow” disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep, and it is always fatal to the infected animal.

Scientists believe that CWD is caused by a malformed or folded protein molecule — a “prion” — that can replicate and infect otherwise normal proteins found in the brains and nervous systems of members of the deer family. The actual scientific name for this neurological disease in deer is transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE).

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

CWD is thought to be spread from one deer to another through contaminated body fluids and tissue, or indirectly



through the shedding of prions by an infected deer into a source of drinking water or food, which are later ingested or touched by an uninfected deer.

This does not square well with certain hunting traditions and habits that are commonplace in Mississippi and surrounding states. One of the biggest problems is that infected prions are extremely stable and resistant to the environment. Prions shed by an infected deer do not easily break down when exposed to weather and environmental factors such as heat, cold, sun or rain. This is terrible news, since deer hunters have become addicted over the years to the use of feeders, mineral licks and stations, and other forms of deer attractants. Additionally, many of us feed our deer supplementally for months at a time or even year-round.

WHERE WAS IT?

The one CWD-infected deer that has been documented, so far, was an adult buck that was found dead in a food plot on private land in southern Issaquena County on Jan. 25. The hunter who found the buck had previously seen the same animal alive, but acting strangely, and it did not appear healthy. The hunter

reported the buck, and upon examination by officials of the MDWFP, the buck tested positive for CWD and was found to have died from pneumonia that resulted from the deer's weakened state. This is common with CWD infections. Radiating out from "ground zero," the MDWFP has formulated zone-specific regulations to assess and contain this CWD outbreak. The zones are as follows:

- **Containment Zone (CZ).** A circle with a 5-mile radius from the location of the CWD-positive deer. There are stringent regulations and recommendations for this "bull's eye" zone.
- **High Risk Zone (HRZ).** A circle with a 10-mile radius from the location of the CWD-positive deer. Restrictions are only slightly less in the HRZ when compared to the CZ.
- **Buffer Zone (BZ).** A circle with a 25-mile radius from the location of the CWD-positive deer.

The biggest takeaway here is that for any county that is contained in even a portion of the three zones, it is no longer legal to utilize any practices that cause

FEEDING BAN:

The MDWFP has formed a CWD Management Zone, centered on the location of the CWD-positive deer. As a result, all supplemental feeding of every kind and all mineral stations are prohibited in the counties of Issaquena, Warren, Yazoo, Sharkey, Claiborne and Hinds. This is a complicated situation, and deer hunters who hunt in or near the affected counties should visit the MDWFP website (www.mdwfp.com) and keep up with what's happening.

unnatural concentrations of animals. This prohibition affects all supplemental feeding, use of feeders and troughs of every kind, plus mineral blocks or licks and mineral troughs of every kind.

The individual zonal regulations, prohibitions and recommendations are too extensive to list here. Go to the MDWFP website and pay careful attention to what is being put out. ■



Bill Garbo is a petroleum engineer and avid whitetail hunter from Madison. He has lived and hunted out west and taken numerous big game species, but hunting big old mature southern whitetail bucks is his favorite pursuit by a country mile.



Ace's Retrievers

15+ Years Experience

Driven Naturally to Accomodate..... It's in their DNA.

- Located 1 hour from New Orleans
- The best in British/Irish Labradors available
- The best customer service
- Excellent pedigrees, Spectacular Health Clearances, Second-to-none Health Guarantees
- True full service kennel: Puppies, Started Puppies, Started Dogs, Imported Finished Dogs, Started Blood Trailing Labradors, Monthly Training, Boarding (large dogs)
- Well rounded, obedient dogs who make excellent companions and hunting partners
- Trained without the aid of e-collars
- Started dog payment program available

Shipping Available

WWW.ACESRETRIEVERS.COM
Call (228) 493-7474
email us @ acesretrievers@gmail.com
Facebook - Team Ace's Retrievers



Earthworx

BOBCAT SERVICES

- Bobcat and Excavation Services
- Land Clearing and Bushhogging
- Residential and Commercial Building Site Prep
- Debris Cleanup and Removal
- Demolition
- Driveway Maintenance and Construction

mike.earthworx@outlook.com / 985.222.1540

REAL DIRTY STIHL CLEAN



\$579.95

RB 400 Dirt Boss™ Pressure Washer

- 25' no-kink flex hose
- 2,700 psi of water pressure at 2.7 gallons per minute
- 196 cc engine displacement



\$299.95

MSA 120 C-BQ Battery-Powered Chain Saw

- Includes AK 20 Battery + AL 101 Charger
- STIHL Quickstop® chain brake system
- Quick Chain Adjuster

Clear a path, then clean off the truck.

All prices are SSW-SRP. Available at participating dealers while supplies last. †The actual listed guide bar length can vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. ©2017 STIHL SSW18-MAG142-139376-2

STIHLdealers.com

PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

Chris Holmes

TARGETING CANAL BASS

HOTSPOTS LIKELY LOCATED CLOSE TO HOME



Chris Holmes has kayak fished in the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and many places in between. He can be reached at cholmes@att.net.

Bass fishing as a professional sport conjures up images of sparkly boats with huge motors, and anglers standing on a stage showing off tournament fish that will soon be released. Often they have traveled to specific lakes and run many miles in their speedy boats to get to the fish.

However, for recreational anglers in Louisiana, bass are available in all areas except the extreme coastal reaches. They are easy to catch from paddle craft, and chances are they are closer to your home than you might think. Bass are delicious, and with a liberal limit of 10 and no size restrictions, kayakers targeting bass are sure to find lots of action — along with a great meal.

Famed bass lakes like Toledo Bend and Caney Lake are great bass fisheries, and if kayakers are looking for a trophy, fishing them is advised. However, if you're not looking for the bass of a lifetime, you likely drive past several good bass fishing areas on your way to work. Canals and larger drainage ditches — as long as they are fresh or brackish water — likely hold bass. One easy way to find a good (and often overlooked area) is to watch for bank fishermen. Those folks sitting on the side of the road will likely be fishing bream or catfish, but if those fish are there, so are bass.

FINDING LAUNCH LOCATIONS

Oftentimes those roadside hotspots are where folks have easy access to the water with less foliage and low banks. It just so happens that type of spot also provides a great kayak launch area. Once launched, you can easily travel further from the road and leave the bank fishermen to their spot. When you locate such an area, go on Google Earth to get a complete view of where it goes and possibly some intersecting waters that are not readily visible from the road. A lot of these areas may also be inaccessible by power boat, and in some instances, the local government may even prohibit the use of gas-powered motors. This is often the case in many drainage/flood control canals.

Once in the water, start fishing as soon as you can. Bass are generally structure oriented so make sure to cast at any stump, branch, lily pad or anything that provides a bass cover to ambush its prey. Shiners

CONTINUES >

Bass can be found in many local canals and are easy to catch from a kayak. They often jump when hooked, and provide exciting in-your-face action.



PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

continued

>

and large earth worms make great live bait for bass fishing, but really aren't necessary. Bass strike a large variety of artificial lures and the type and color is dictated by the time of year, water clarity, and how much aquatic vegetation is in the area.

Although these canals are usually not more than 10 feet deep, a small assortment of lures to cover the water column is always recommended. Topwater lures and chuggers are great for springtime bass. Don't get overzealous, as they'll often strike when the lure is resting after some short twitches. For subsurface presentations, crankbaits and spinnerbaits are hard to beat. They are easy

to fish, and no specific skills are needed to work the bait. Varying the retrieve speed changes the depth and rhythm, so experiment and see what's working on that particular day. Texas-rigged plastic worms are hard to beat anytime of the year, but learning to detect worm bites and set the hook takes some practice and learning. However, as the weather warms and the days get longer, the aquatic vegetation gets thicker and these weedless wonders may become a necessity.

POUND THE BANKS

If you're fishing a long, straight canal, it's best to concentrate on one bank at a time. If you prefer casting to your left

side, fish that bank first and you'll be able to do the same on the return (and vice versa.) If the banks are relatively free of overhanging tree branches, stay closer to the bank and cast forward to work the lure parallel to the bank, which keeps it in productive water longer. If parallel casting is prevented by tree cover, stay in the middle and cast to any pocket or opening where you won't get hung up. Leaning to side-arm cast lets you skip or skim your lure close to the water and land it under low cover —which is often shady and a prime bass area.

Canal bass generally won't be giants, and usually run 1 to 2 pounds. However, 3- and even 4-pound fish are caught every so often. Bass provide great sport on lighter tackle, and the leaps and jumps — sometimes inches from the kayak — are really exciting. As you drive around town, keep your thoughts on kayak fishing with an eye toward bass. You may discover a bass fishing honey hole that's really close to home.



Working the lure parallel to the bank, this chunky canal bass fell for a Rat-L-Trap lipless crankbait.

NEW GEAR UP NEXT>

**HERE'S TO OUR
CUSTOMERS...**

YOU ARE THE BEST!

**Thanks for 17 years of keeping us in business
and we look forward to many more years of serving YOU!**



WWW.GATORTRAXBOATS.COM

One. And. DONE.

NEW GEAR REVIEWS

POWER-POLE MICRO

The Power-Pole Micro anchor is specifically designed for small boats and works great on nearly any kayak. At the push of a button, your 'yak is securely anchored in up to 8 feet of water. The bracket is permanently mounted to the kayak, but the light-weight driver unit is easily removable and transferable to other vessels. There are aftermarket mounts available for a variety of kayak brands and models. With a 1,500 pound capacity, it can also be used on duck boats, jon boats and small skiffs. Anchoring is effortless and extremely quiet. The driver unit includes a 15-foot power cable to use with a 12-volt onboard battery. There is an optional snap-on Micro Battery Pak that is as easy to use as those on a cordless drill. The driver unit comes with a portable key fob remote and a permanent mount dash switch. The driver unit fits any 3/4-inch spike, and Power-Pole separately sells a variety of lightweight or heavy-duty spikes from 6 to 8.5 feet. MSRP: \$595 (Micro Driver unit). Spikes \$79.95-\$99.95. * Power-Pole is currently offering a \$100 rebate for the purchase of both a Micro Spike Driver and spike. See website for details. **More info:** www.power-pole.com/micro



NRS BOUNDARY SHOE

It's technically called a shoe, but the NRS Boundary is actually a knee-high, waterproof neoprene boot that's perfect for kayaking — whether you're paddling or pedaling. Launching and landing your 'yak often requires stepping into the water or soft mud. Each Boundary shoe is glued, blind-stitched, double-taped at the seams and factory-tested to ensure waterproof performance. The shoes are warm, lightweight and offer great traction. The sole wraps around all sides, including up the heel, to protect you from sharp rocks and oysters. A slick interior surface at the top makes them glide on with ease. The neoprene stretches for a comfortable fit and adjustable straps at both the top and across the instep keep them secure even in the muckiest of muck. MSRP: \$89.95 **More info:** www.nrs.com



BIOENNO POWER 12-VOLT 12AH LITHIUM BATTERY

Electronics on kayaks are becoming more common. GPS/fish finders, lights, USB phone chargers and Power-Pole anchor systems all require 12 volts. Large-screen color depth finders draw more amps, and when combined with other electronic devices, you need longer lasting batteries to get through a full day of fishing. Depending on the total amp draw of your equipment, these batteries can provide multiple days usage without recharging. Traditional sealed lead acid (SLA) batteries are heavy and provide lower amp hours in relation to their size. Bioenno Power lithium iron phosphate batteries are lightweight and fully sealed. Because they contain no liquids, the batteries can be mounted in any orientation — even upside down. This provides many options for installing the battery. Lithium batteries provide many more cycles over the life of the battery when compared to traditional SLA batteries. The Bioenno 12V 12AH weighs only 3.5 pounds and provides long-lasting power with no voltage drop over the course of use. The spade terminal connectors are bedded in epoxy and offer easy connections to your power cables. The battery comes with a two-year warranty. MSRP: \$139.99, including a special lithium iron phosphate charger.

More info: www.bioennopower.com



BEST BETS UP NEXT >

BLUE WAVE.

2800

PURE HYBRID

**THE PERFECT BLEND OF BOAT
BAY, OFFSHORE &
CRUISING IN COMFORT**



**THE BLUE WAVE PURE HYBRID IS AN EXCEPTIONAL MULTI USE BOAT
FOR BAY, OFFSHORE & CRUISING WITH YOUR FAVORITE CREW.**

NO SPECIES IS SAFE!



SEE WHY OURS EXCEEDS INDUSTRY STANDARDS

BLUEWAVEBOATS.COM



**SUZUKI
MARINE**

*Due the lag time from information to print, weather conditions can change the bite so check in regularly with LouisianaSportsman.com for the latest updates.

APRIL'S BEST BETS

FRESHWATER

WHERE: Interstate 55 corridor (St. John the Baptist/Tangipahoa parishes)

WHAT: Bass, bream, sac-a-lait

HOW: The waters under Interstate 55 in St. John the Baptist and Tangipahoa parishes offer great early-spring bass and pan-fish fishing. It's generally calm with minimal boat traffic.

LAUNCH: There are many kayak combat launch locations along Highway 51 that runs parallel to the elevated interstate. There is also a concrete backdown launch near the Ruddock Canal. Fish the tree-lined shoreline on the west side of I-55 and the many small cuts and canals. Bass are hitting small topwater lures in baby bass or chrome colors. Yellow and black spinnerbaits are also hard to beat. Sac-a-lait are being caught on live shiners and blue/white or black/chartreuse tube jigs under a small cork. Bream are looking for live worms and crickets, but also hit small Beetle Spins in yellow/black stripe and white.

INSIDER TIP: If you like fishing from a kayak, this area is great for bream and bass on a small fly rod. Small poppers and bug imitations in yellow, white or orange are favored colors.

SALTWATER

WHERE: Grand Isle

WHAT: Redfish and Speckled Trout

HOW: April is generally considered the start of trout season. By the time the full moon arrives at the end of the month, many big specks will be ready for the first spawn of the year. Trout have moved from the marshes and out toward the beaches and saltier waters. A short paddle from Bridge Side Marina gets you across the pass to Elmer's Island. Big specks prowl Elmer's surf, and recent changes that no longer allow driving to the beach keep it less crowded than in the past. You can choose to fish from the kayak, or stake it out and do some wade fishing. Topwater plugs and suspending lures are the ticket for springtime spawners. Natural colors and mullet imitations are always a good choice. Watch for schools of mullet and cast to the edge of the schools and work the lures in the same direction. If fishing with a partner, one working a topwater while the other throws a suspending lure is a great strategy. Fished missed on top can often be caught with a follow-up from a suspending bait.

LAUNCH: Launch at Bridge Side Marina. They have a backdown ramp or a small sandy area to the left of the backdown. They have full facilities including live bait, tackle, restaurant, camp ground, rooms and cabins. 1618 La. Highway 1 (on the right at the end of the Highway 1 bridge to Grand Isle.) Kayak launch fee \$3.00. (985) 787-2419

INSIDER TIP: If the beach fishing is slow, don't overlook fishing along the rock jetties across the pass. If the pass is too rough, drive down to Ludwig Lane and launch at the Kristen and Danny Wray public kayak launch. There is no launch fee, and you can fish protected waters around a large reef.



The author caught this nice sac-a-lait (black crappie) while fishing a small topwater plug for bass. Bream, sac-a-lait, catfish and garfish are often surprise catches when targeting bass in local canals.

'YAK TOURNAMENT TACTICS

The Louisiana kayak tournament season kicked off in March with four tournaments across the state. We'll have information and interviews with all the winners, including their winning strategies, in next month's Paddles 'N Puddles section.

CANAL KEEPERS UP NEXT >

PARISH TRACTOR

One of the
LARGEST
Kubota dealers in
NORTH AMERICA



Z122RKW-42

\$81 0% APR
for 48 months

POPLARVILLE
601-795-4521
1602 S. Main St

HATTIESBURG
601-264-5877
7061 Hwy 49



www.parishtractor.com



(1) \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 48 months on purchases of select new Kubota Z122RKW-42 equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Example: 48 monthly payments of \$20.83 per \$1,000 financed. Offer expires 6/30/18. See us or go to KubotaUSA.com for more information. (2) Payments of \$81 per month on new Z122RKW-42 based on sales price of \$3899 at \$0 down, 0% A.P.R. for 48 months. Financing available from Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Payments do not include implements, freight, delivery, or taxes where applicable. Some exceptions apply. Offer expires 06/30/2018. See dealership for details.

PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

continued

While they generally don't grow to trophy size, some really nice bass can be caught in drainage canals. This one inhaled a small Pop-R topwater plug.

CANAL KEEPERS



BOAT STUF

DISCOUNT MARINE SUPPLIES

COME SEE US FOR YOUR YAMAHA RE-POWERING NEEDS

YAMAHA



SEA FOX
249 Avenger



SEA FOX
266 Commander



Gator Tail
OUTBOARDS

Gator Tail boats and motors!!!



BLUE WAVE

New 2800
Yamaha F300



Ranger
BOATS
NEW

2350 Bay Boat



SILVER WAVE 230 RLP TriToon!!
Yamah F150

2017 Clearance Pricing

- Yamaha Sales and Service
- New and Used Boat Sales
- Trailer Sales and Repairs
- Mobile Service Available



Let Us Sell Your Boat For You!

WESTBANK
2499 Peters Rd
Harvey, LA
504) 340-4991

NORTHSHORE
662 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA
(985) 649-9044

sales@boatstuf.com Like us on

www.boatstuf.com



Regulator 25'
w/Twin Yamaha
F200

Available In
23', 28',
31', & 41'



ALWELD
COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC.

Unsurpassed Durability
Heavy-Duty Construction

12' to 28' Available

SEAFOOD BIBLE

Jerald & Glenda Horst

SPECKLED SPECIALTIES

TROUT ARE A BLAST TO CATCH
— AND EVEN BETTER TO EAT



Dr. Bob Weiss is still at it, speckled trout fishing four or five times a week and cooking most days. The 73-year-old retired physician is a living legend in Lake Pontchartrain trout-fishing circles, but few know of his prowess in the kitchen.

"I like to eat trout; I like all seafoods. There isn't anything I don't like," he smiled.

"My cooking started in 1986 with a divorce. I had five children and had them every Wednesday and every other weekend. I couldn't boil water."

What really started him cooking was the gift of *La Bouche Creole*, a cookbook by Leon Soniat.

"It was so satisfying to do a dish and have my kids say 'Wow, that's good.' I got started reading cookbooks. I read them like others read fishing stories. Then I got remarried to a girl from Georgia and took on most of the >

In spite of the simplicity of the dish, Treasure Island Trout has a polished and urbane taste.

INSET: Dr. Bob Weiss is as much a perfectionist in the kitchen as he is on the water.

cooking responsibilities.”

His biggest culinary influence was Chris Kerageorgiou, the then owner and chef of La Provence restaurant, who was a patient of his.

“Chris showed me how to do things — simple but important things; things like stocks and sauces. I participated in both years of his cooking classes and our

friendship lasted until he died. He was a wonderful character

“Fishing is a worse addiction than cooking, but cooking is so much fun.”

We paired Bob’s recipe with one of our oldest and best-loved fish dishes in our repertoire, Trout Amandine. We have used it for at least 40 years and love it as much today as ever. ■

TREASURE ISLAND TROUT

This dish is Bob’s own invention. Rather than white flour, he uses brown rice flour. “I like it better than white flour because it makes a crispier coating. The fish may be

sautéed in olive oil or butter.”

It is totally, decadently, awesome with the jumbo lump crabmeat on the fillet.

PREPARATION: Serves 4.

Wash the fillets and season them with Creole seasoning to taste. Pour olive oil in a frying pan and heat over a medium-high heat. Dredge both sides of the fillets through the brown rice flour. When the oil is hot, add the fillets to the pan. Fry until the fillets lightly brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Melt butter in a small pan. Add the green onions and sauté until soft. Add pepper, salt, and crabmeat and heat until warm, stirring very gently to avoid breaking up the crabmeat. Drizzle the lemon juice over the crabmeat. Plate the fillets and spoon the butter and crabmeat over them. ■



Lump crabmeat can be used instead of the jumbo lump pictured without affecting the taste, but the jumbo has a more elegant appearance and less shell fragments.

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 12-inch speckled trout fillets
- Creole seasoning
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 cup brown rice flour
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 6 tbsp. butter
- 1/4 tsp. white pepper
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 lb. jumbo lump crabmeat
- 1 tsp. lemon juice

TROUT AMANDINE UP NEXT >



Jerald and Glenda Horst are the authors of six excellent books on Louisiana seafood — *The Seafood Bible: Shrimp*, *The Seafood Bible: Crawfish*, *The Seafood Bible: Crabs*, *The Seafood Bible: Oysters*, *The Seafood Bible: Fish: Volume 1* and *The Seafood Bible: Fish: Volume 2*. Jerald and Glenda may be contacted at jerald@rockinghorst.com.



TROUT AMANDINE

This is our absolute favorite recipe for speckled or white trout. Glenda has cooked it for well over 30 years. When I bring a mess of trout home, we usually eat it fresh every other day for a week. This is always, without fail, the first dish we cook — then we do a variety of recipes with the fillets that are left. This is simple, it's good and it rates four stars.

Trout Amandine appears on a lot of restaurant menus, especially those specializing in Creole fine dining. Invariably, they seem to feel the need to "jazz up" the dish with exotic additions and/or too many spices.

This should be a simple dish that features the pure taste of fresh fish and almonds accented by butter. ■

TIP!

Use sliced almonds — never slivered almonds. The slivered kind don't have enough surface area to interact with the butter, so they stay hard rather than lightly toasted.

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 lbs. of trout fillets
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 cup flour
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 stick butter, divided
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice

PREPARATION:

Serves 6.

Dip fish in milk and dredge in flour that has been seasoned with salt and pepper. Melt half of the butter in a skillet and lightly brown the fish fillets over a medium heat. Place the cooked fillets in an oven set on warm. Wipe skillet and melt the remaining butter. Lightly brown the almonds. Stir in the lemon juice and pour the almond/butter/lemon juice mixture over the fish.



PUGLIA'S SPORTING GOODS

1925 VETERANS BLVD. METAIRIE, LA

504-837-0291

MON. - SAT. 9-6

We Ship Anywhere

Phone Orders Taken

www.puglias-sporting-goods.com

FISHING REEL SALE!

**CALL FOR SALE PRICE,
TOO LOW TO ADVERTISE!**

Buy a spinning or baitcast inshore reel and we will fill it FREE with 30# Daiwa J-Braid! WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

SHIMANO SPINNING REELS



SHIMANO BAITCAST REELS



SPINNING REELS



DAIWA SPINNING REELS



DAIWA BAITCAST REELS



SPINNING REELS



Lew's BAITCAST REELS



TIME TO GEAR UP FOR TURKEY SEASON!!!

BOX CALLS



SLATE CALLS



MOUTH CALLS



TURKEY CHOKE TUBES



TURKEY AMMO



TURKEY LOCATOR CALLS

- CROW CALLS
- OWL CALLS
- HOOT FLUTES
- PLEATED WOODPECKER

MUCH, MUCH MORE!

- Shooting Sticks
- Portable Ground Blinds
- Leaf Cover Suits
- Gun Rest
- Camo Gloves & Face Masks
- Turkey Vest
- Rocky Snake Boots

SMITH & WESSON
Model 642 .38 cal, stainless, #163810, Reg. \$399.99
SALE \$349.00 Smith & Wesson


LARGE SELECTION OF COSTAS IN STOCK!

NEW STYLES FOR 2018



TIPS TO DEAL WITH THE SPILLWAY OPENING

By Devin Denman



Capt. Devin Denman suggested using satellite imagery to locate clean pockets of water in Lake Pontchartrain, then heading for greener pastures if the Bonnet Carré Spillway remains open long enough to make the lake unfishable.

Photo courtesy Devin Denman

River water was pouring through the Bonnet Carré Spillway in March, and that rightly had inshore anglers concerned for the spring speckled trout run in Lake Pontchartrain.

It's no secret that speckled trout and river water don't get along, so this is how I plan on making the most of the situation without throwing in the towel to target just redfish or bass.

MODIS SATELLITE IMAGERY

The Spillway was last opened on Jan. 10th, 2016, and river water from the Mighty Mississippi poured into Lake Pontchartrain for 22 days before the structure was closed. That mucked up the lake pretty good, but not all redfish and speckled trout departed.

In fact, they stuck around, and we know this because some of those fish were implanted with acoustic tracking devices. Marine biologists with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries were surprised to see them ride out the storm, usually in pockets of clean water.

So it's no surprise that enterprising inshore anglers also found those pockets, usually with fish stacked up.

Maybe you're wondering how you can do this, and I'll tell you the short answer — time on the water.

But, with that said, it's possible to ascertain where river water will flow first, as well as the location of pockets of clean water.

I do this from the comfort of my home using daily satellite imagery available via MODIS, part of NASA's Earth Observatory System. Visit this link for tips on how to find clean water: <https://www.lafishblog.com/clean-water-is-easily-found-with-this-high-tech-tool/>.

com/clean-water-is-easily-found-with-this-high-tech-tool/.

DON'T FISH IN RIVER WATER

Once it's apparent that trout fishing in Lake P is no longer feasible, I'll just trailer my boat to some other location where they are easier to catch. After all, trout have tails and tend to swim to more comfortable locations when the going gets tough.

Breton Sound, Grand Isle or anyplace devoid of river water isn't a bad idea.

KEEP A GOOD ATTITUDE

My attitude is everything on a fishing trip. If I nay-say the conditions at hand and believe I won't catch anything, that's probably what's going to happen.

But I discovered that maintaining a positive attitude leads to an open mind, which delivers solutions to whatever challenges I might face.

You should understand the Spillway is an artificial construct of a natural process. It's nothing new and, historically, has actually led to record catches. Almost 300 bays were opened for 31 days in 1997 before two state-record speckled trout were caught in two bodies of water directly impacted by it just two years later: Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne. And we saw the best speckled trout fishing we had seen in years in Lake Pontchartrain during the fall and winter of 2016.

This came on the heels of the Spillway being open for 22 days, in addition to a 500- and 1,000-year floods impacting the Pearl, Tchefuncte, Tangipahoa and Amite rivers, dumping more fresh water into the lake than ever before. It's easy to see the long-term benefit makes up for the short-term loss.

CONCLUSION

Adapting to tough conditions imposed by river water is easier when you keep a good attitude, use 21st century technology and put in a little elbow grease.

Do this, and you won't have to throw in the towel this spring and settle for reds and bass. ■

Editor's Note: Devin Denman is an avid inshore fisherman who writes the Louisiana Fishing Blog. To read more of his articles, visit lafishblog.com.

B & B ENTERPRISES OF GONZALES, INC.
13485 AIRLINE HWY.

TRAILER RENTALS
TRAILER SALES
TRAILER SERVICE AND REPAIRS
1 HOUR MINIMUM

We also have utility trailers, flatbed trailers, enclosed trailers, atv trailers, and gooseneck trailers

Trailers for Bass, Flat, Bay, V-Bottom, & Pontoon Boats

B & B ENTERPRISES OF GONZALES, INC

Trailer Sales & Rentals
Repairs, Parts, & Accessories

13485 Airline Hwy. | Gonzales, LA 70737
225-647-2777
bbenterprisesofgonzalesinc.com

AmeraTrail

Aluminum Boats Trailers In Stock

- From 15' to 40'
- Single, Double, or Triple Axles
- Heavy I-Beam Construction
- Galvanized Axles and Hubs
- Torsion Axle W/ Surge Brakes

REVOLUTIONARY CRAWFISH BOILER IN CROWLEY, LA



BRAMMER
CAJUN PRODUCTS

337.783.0474

UNIQUE DESIGN WITH NO OPEN FLAME

QUIETER & PUTS OFF LESS HEAT THAN COMPETITORS'

CHOOSE PROPANE OR HP NATURAL GAS

BURNS 50% LESS FUEL

EXTRA STURDY WITH LOW PROFILE

TILT OUT BASKET TO DUMP CONTENTS WITHOUT STRAINING

WWW.BRAMMERCAJUNPRODUCTS.COM

[f](https://www.facebook.com/brammermachine) [i](https://www.instagram.com/brammermachine) @BRAMMERMACHINE

4 KEYS TO TOPWATER TROUT

By Andy Crawford

A bone-colored topwater is all that's needed to catch trout, as they mimic weak mullet, Capt. Theophile Bourgeois said.

Photo courtesy Capt. Theophile Bourgeois

Capt. Theophile Bourgeois has spent his career learning what makes trout tick, and he lives for that magical time of year when the big girls come out to play.

That's when he pulls out his topwater plugs and goes to work — but don't look for him to be obsessing over what color the fish want, because he's figured that out.

"I order (Bomber Badonk-a-donks) 300 at a time, and they're all bone," Bourgeois said.

The reason is simple, said the owner of Bourgeois Fishing Charters, which is based in Lafitte.

"Any time you see a raft of mullet, if you

notice the ones in the back, you always see they're discolored," Bourgeois said. "Maybe a jack crevalle has nipped at them or something, but they're the weakest ones in the raft."

Bone-colored Badonk-a-donks perfectly mimic the sickly mullet struggling to live a few more minutes.

"If you get in that crystal clear water, you can see the trout hanging around the back of the rafts," Bourgeois said. "They're watching those weaker mullet, and ever now and then you'll see them flash through the mullet."

That knowledge allows him to target his casts to areas he knows ups his odds of knee-quivering blow-ups.

"I'm going to throw my plug to the back of the raft," Bourgeois said. "I'm not going to cast it to the front of the raft, where the healthy mullet are: Why would I throw it up there, where they're on steroids and ready to shoot out the water at the first sign of a trout?"

"Ninety percent of my big trout come off the tail end of a raft."

He said he likes Badonk-a-donks because of the high-pitched sound the lures make during the retrieve.

"Every company makes two rattles: one high-pitched and one low-pitched," Bourgeois said. "For redfish, I like a low pitch, but for trout I always want the high-pitched sound."

"I think it's just the amount of noise in the water."

Another key to topwater success relates to the retrieve.

"Everybody works topwaters too fast," Bourgeois said. "Everybody is in a hurry; they want to catch one on every cast."

"Do you want quality or quantity?"

If you're hoping to catch lunker trout, easy does it.

"You want to make long casts, and it should take 1 to 1 1/2 minutes to retrieve the bait," Bourgeois said. "If you move (your lure) more than 16 inches on a big trout, it's done. It's over."

Knowing exactly how to work the lure is all about observing what's happening.

"I'll make my first cast, and I'll twitch it, walk the dog a couple of feet and pause," Bourgeois explained. "If I don't see anything happening — the water boil, a fish move under the bait — I'll lose interest and reel it and cast again."

But if a fish reacts without taking the lure, Bourgeois said it's imperative not to jerk the rod — a real test of nerves when a big trout boils the water.

Instead, just let it sit another moment, and then give the lure the slightest twitch.

If the fish refuses to make a move on the lure, there's one more tactic that could get that hesitant trout to change its mind.

"You've got to make (the lure) move a lot — but not move it a long way," Bourgeois said. "You want to make it erratic without covering a lot of water."

So he'll twitch his rod tip faster, which increases the lure's action, but he wants to move it inches instead of feet.

"Once a fish has shown interest, it's up to you to close the deal," Bourgeois said. ■

we've got a blind for YOU

**CALL US TODAY!
337-824-2176**

IN STOCK

Newly Innovated Design!

**5 Minute Boiler
MULTIPLE SIZES**

**Duck & Goose Blinds
AVAILABLE IN ALL SIZES**

**HUGHES
MANUFACTURING LLC**
1300 AIRPORT RD. • JENNINGS, LA 70546
337.824.2176

NEW!

Find us on **Facebook**

www.hugheswelding.com

The Fishing EDGE

by Captain Paul

MRGO - WAYPOINTS & ROUTES

Around the new Hopedale Dam

Only \$24.95

- Contains over 170 W/P locations
- Gives the fisherman an advantage in getting to & finding fishing spots, moving around, and getting back from some of the more favorite fishing areas in the state
- Downloads directly into various GPS units
- Saves countless hours of manually entering waypoint values into the GPS receiver
- Are files are transmitted as an attachment to an email
- Attachment is IMPORTED into your mapping program and electronically downloaded into your GPS unit via GPS/Computer connection
- You must have an email address that will accept attachments on your incoming email

Some of the "EDGE" positions are underwater reefs, shoals, structures, and honey holes

NEW LOCATIONS CONSTANTLY BEING ADDED

All of the CAPTAIN PAUL'S FISHING EDGE of GPS WAYPOINTS are NOW available at the LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN'S OUTDOOR STORE which is located on the Louisiana Sportsman website

Capt. Paul Titus is Louisiana Sportsman's GPS expert

- to ask him a question go to www.louisianasportsman.com

Click on the Louisiana Sportsman Outdoor Store on the Louisiana Sportsman home page at www.lasmag.com

Captain Paul's Fishing Edge Files

- Cocodrie-Dulac-Dularge
- Leeville East
- Leeville West - Terrebonne & Timbalier Bays
- Barataria Bay
- Lake Borgne
- Hopedale to the Mississippi Sound
- Hopedale MRGO to Bayou Terre aux Boeufs
- Delacroix to Point a la Hache
- Bayou Bienvenu
- Port Sulphur
- Lakes Ponchartrain & Maurepas
- Calcasieu Lake
- Myrtle Grove-Lake Hermitage
- Empire to Buras
- Pearl River WMA
- Lafitte
- The Rigolets
- Vermillion Bay
- Bayou Sauvage NWR
- Big Brans NWR
- MRGO WPS & Dam Routes

TINY TOOLS THAT JUST MIGHT SAVE YOUR FISHING TRIP

By Devin Denman

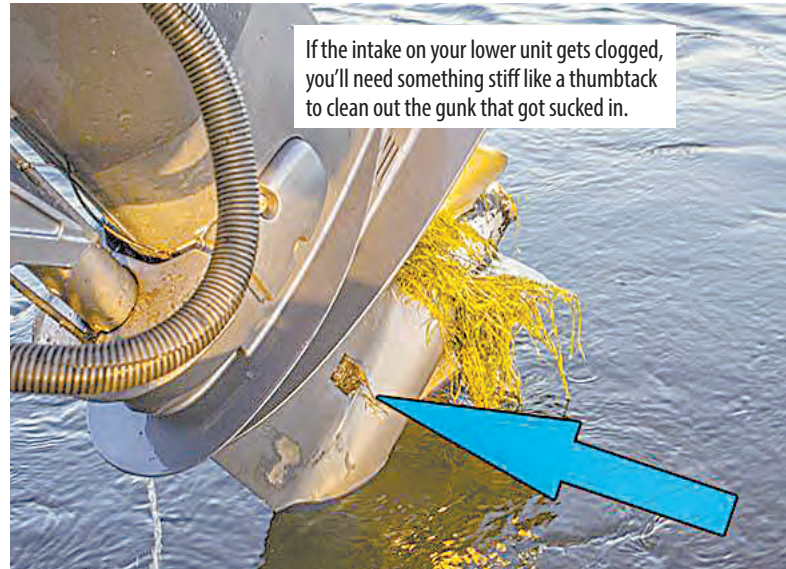
We all want to have fun when we go fishing — not play mechanic out on the water. So when your lower unit inevitably sucks up a fragment of marsh gunk, your motor will stop peeing. But what exactly is meant by “peeing?”

Outboard motors don't use a closed-loop system for cooling, like our pickup trucks do. Instead, they are designed to use the outside water in an open-loop cooling system.

As you motor hums down the bayou, it picks up water, circulates it through cooling passages and then squirts it out via a “pee hole.”

So what happens if something gets clogged in the line?

Your motor could go into a “limp mode,” or worse yet, leave you stranded. Imagine being stuck in the marsh as the sun is going



down and the mosquitoes are coming out. That ought to be enough motivation to keep reading.

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN THE MOTOR ISN'T PEEING:

1. Clear the water intake.

It's found at the “foot,” or lower unit of your outboard. That may be all your motor needs to start peeing again. But if not, move on to step No. 2 . . .



Custom Double Bimini Tops

ONLY AT



STERLING'S UPHOLSTERY & FABRICATION

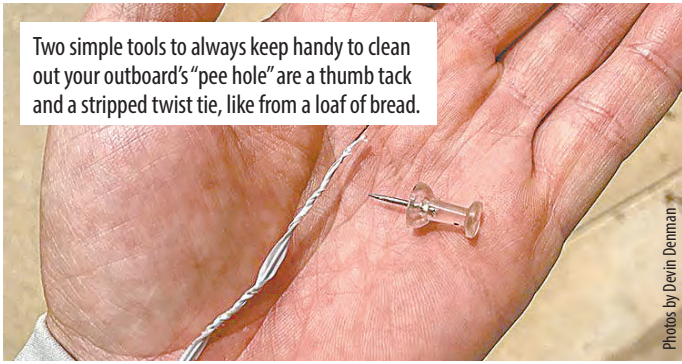
CUSTOM BUILT FOR YOUR NEEDS SINCE 1969

- T-Tops
- Boat Interiors
- Custom Enclosures
- Service of Bilge and Livewell Systems
- Towers
- Installation of Marine Electronics
- Leaning Post
- Bowfishing Platforms
- Bimini Tops
- Poling Platforms
- Offshore Bags
- Boat Covers



sterlingsllc.com • 1002 Hwy 90 East, New Iberia, LA • 337-364-0783 • lance@sterlingsllc.com

Two simple tools to always keep handy to clean out your outboard's "pee hole" are a thumb tack and a stripped twist tie, like from a loaf of bread.



Photos by Devin Denman

2. Clear the "pee hole."

Fingernails won't get the job done here. You have to use one (or both) of these tools: A thumb tack and/or a stripped twist tie (like from a loaf of bread.)

The thumb tack is stiffer, and does a great job of clearing clogs at the exit of the pee hole. The twist tie does a better job clearing clogs further upstream.

Incidents like a clogged pee hole are inevitable. It's not a matter of if — but when it will happen. When it does, now you'll be prepared. So keep a thumb tack and an extra twist tie in your tackle box — you never know when you might need them to get home. ■

Editor's Note: Devin Denman is an avid inshore fisherman who writes the Louisiana Fishing Blog. To read more of his articles, visit lafishblog.com.



Southern Exposure Fishing!

Destination of choice, offering excellence in all-inclusive coastal fishing excursions and southern hospitality.



If you are looking for the finest coastal fishing and the BEST in southern hospitality, then **BOOK NOW** with Southern Exposure Inland Fishing Charters!

Centrally located in the heart of the best fishing destinations in SE Louisiana, (Buras, Venice, and Empire), Southern Exposure will provide you with Top Rated guides that will expose you to the best coastal fishing this country has to offer.

Call today! (504) 250-9887
southernexposurefishing.com
fish@southernexposurefishing.com



EasyLIFT™ CARGO LIFTS
THREE MODELS ★ THREE CHOICES ★ SAME QUALITY

Cargo Lift Distributors, LLC located in Port Bolivar, Texas

DO-IT-YOURSELF KITS NOW AVAILABLE!



Equipped with "Cage-Arrest™" Brake System & Safety Screen to protect cargo from falling out.

This cage features balusters to better match deck hand railing.

This unit is for the small needs & take less space. Gates optional.

Marine Grade Aluminum . Stainless Hardware . Dual SS Cables . Remote Controls

Call today 888.684.6110 or visit www.beachouselifts.com

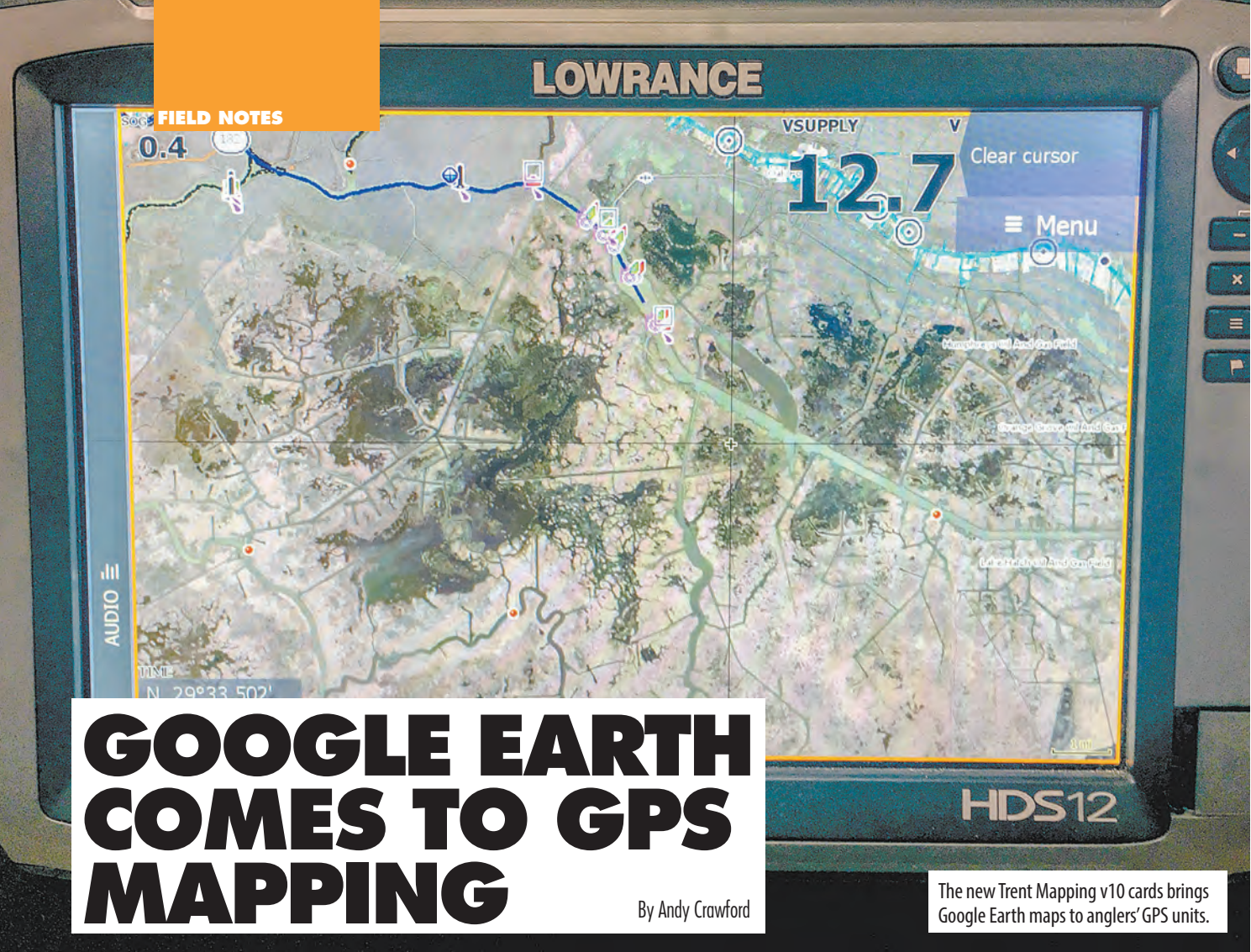


Photo courtesy Front to Back Boat Service

GOOGLE EARTH COMES TO GPS MAPPING

By Andy Crawford

The new Trent Mapping v10 cards brings Google Earth maps to anglers' GPS units.

GPS mapping has come a long way from the old line drawings of the older systems. But it seems every system has its weaknesses — one being the area covered by detailed maps.

Well, now you can move from your computer to your GPS seamlessly with a new mapping system based on Google Earth — Trent Mapping v10 cards.

“When you’re sitting in your office on a Friday afternoon fishing on the computer, when you get on the water on Saturday, you’ll be looking at the same thing,” said Trent Boudreaux, owner of Trent Mapping LLC out of Chackbay.

Boudreaux said he developed Trent Mapping v10 for two reasons.

“First, I saw a need for it in the areas I fish,” he explained.

For instance, he spends a lot of time at Toledo Bend, and he wanted GPS mapping to provide help in locating likely fishing holes.

“I can see the grass on Google Earth,” Boudreaux said. “I can zoom in and see

the grass on Toledo Bend. And then I added coastal Louisiana, so I could see the bayous and stuff to run around.”

Secondly, he perceived a financial reason.

“I figured there’s got to be a cheaper solution (than other available mapping systems),” Boudreaux said.

The wheels began turning, and he fell back on experience at a survey mapping firm for which he once worked.

“We used Google Earth maps all the time,” he said. “As long as you include an attribution that it’s Google Earth maps, you can use them.”

So he developed a system to place Google Earth maps on SD cards for use in GPS systems, and he’s been testing them for a while now.

Currently included on Trent Mapping v10 cards are high-resolution maps of the entire state of Louisiana, along with select lakes in other areas of the southern United States.

“It has Sam Rayburn, Toledo Bend, Lake Okhissa (in Mississippi), Gunterville and

Lake Okeechobee,” Boudreaux said. “You can see all of the United States, but it won’t be clear until you zoom into those locations.”

All for a retail price of \$199, Boudreaux said.

Maps include subtle Google Earth watermarking, but Boudreaux said that won’t interfere with navigation.

“Unless you’re looking for it, you won’t even notice it,” he explained.

The system works with all GPS units using the Navico operating system. These include Lowrance, Simrad and Raymarine.

It’s important to note Garmin units run on a different operating system, so Trent Mapping v10 cards will not work on those models.

A website for the cards is currently being developed. In the meantime, Front to Back Boat Service in Baton Rouge will be the primary Trent Mapping v10 dealer.

Call Front to Back Boat Service at (225) 928-9644 for more information. ■

The Perfect Truck For Hunting Season



Mike Dickinson
General Manager

FULLY LOADED EDITION **F-150s & F-250s**



- 20 Inch Rims
- 33"-35" Tires
- Road Force Mount and Balance and Tire Pressure System
 - Lift or Leveling Kit
 - "Fully Loaded" Branding

Supreme

Of Slidell

400 E. Howze Beach Road
985-643-8900

SupremeFordOfSlidell.com
EXPECT MORE!



USE CORKS TO FISH BENEATH RIVER'S FRESH WATER

By Andy Crawford

Popping corks allow trout anglers to keep their lures in the strike zone beneath layers of muddy fresh water this month.

Photo courtesy of Capt. Ryan Lambert

The Mississippi River swelled in March, causing the opening of the Bonnet Carre' Spillway and sending dirty water throughout the marshes surrounding Plaquemines Parish.

So can trout anglers still catch trout in areas like Buras? You bet you can.

Capt. Ryan Lambert said it's all about understanding that dirty, freshwater doesn't easily mix with clean, high-salinity water.

"You have to watch your prop wash," the owner of Cajun Fishing Adventures said. "You'll see that pretty water boil up from underneath the river water."

When you see that and spot bait, it's on — and Lambert said there's one tool that allows you to be certain you're fishing below the river water.

"I don't like to use a cork, but in April it's really important," he explained. "You can use a cork to keep your bait down in that clean water."

Sure, you can do the same by tight-lining a jig, but corks are better in this situation.

"You can make sure your bait stays in the strike zone all the way back to the boat," Lambert said.

His likes H&H corks featuring concave tops and premium titanium wires.

"It makes a good 'plunk' like a mullet,"

Lambert said. "And that titanium wire doesn't get tangled as much as the corks with the stiff wire."

He said he normally fishes with about a 24-inch leader because of the prevailing water depths in his area.

"We don't have that deep water," Lambert said.

The only exception is when the trout pull into deep water around structures out in Black Bay.

"At the rigs, you have to find out where that clean water is — how deep you need to go," Lambert said. "If you're out at Battledore, you might have to get 3, 3 ½ feet deep to find clean water." ■

EASY TIP TO PREVENT BACKLASH

By Devin Denman

SPOOLING THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF LINE IS KEY

Baitcasters are excellent tools for inshore anglers, offering capabilities not found in spinning reels.

These include faster, repeatable and accurate casts to pinpoint targets, like bridge pilings or tailing redfish. On top of that, casting tackle gives inshore anglers more power and control over their lure, enabling actions and presentations not possible (or at least very difficult to do) with spinning gear.

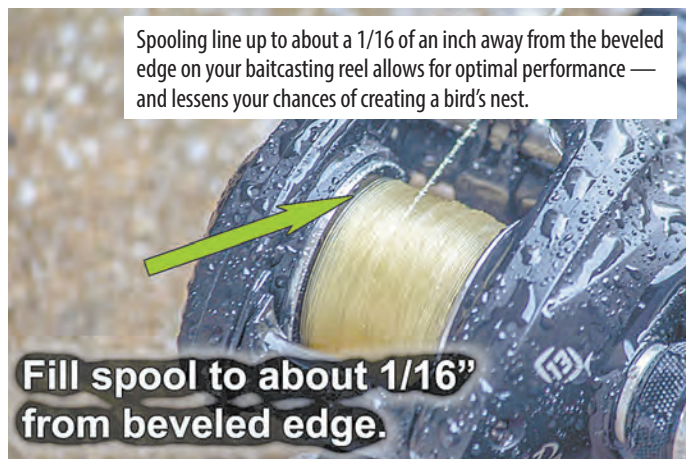
But the baitcaster comes along with every inshore angler's arch nemesis: the dreaded backlash. If you want to see \$12 of fishing line quickly turn into a bird's nest, backlashing a baitcaster is an easy way to do it.

But that really is no reason to reject casting tackle as an excellent tool for your tackle box.

There are many things you can do to prevent "professional over-run", including the adjusting the magnetic/centrifugal brakes, the spool tension knob and even applying silicon lubricants. But if I had to pick one thing that would really help baitcaster performance, it would be the amount of line spooled onto the reel.

SO WHAT IS THE CORRECT AMOUNT?

Inshore anglers need to strike a perfect balance between too



Devin Denman

little and too much line.

Too little, and there isn't enough mass to keep the spool turning. But too much will leave the spool faster than it can leave the rod tip, resulting in a backlash.

With the perfect amount of line, you can hit the "sweet spot" for awesome casting performance, minus the nasty bird's nest.

Whether I am using monofilament, fluorocarbon or braid, I like to put line up to 1/16 of an inch away from the spool's beveled edge. Every reel, rod and lure combo is different, but I have found this to be the right amount of line to start with across the board for more casting success — minus backlashes. ■

Editor's Note: Devin Denman is an avid inshore fisherman who writes the Louisiana Fishing Blog. To read more of his articles, visit lafishblog.com.



TOWN & COUNTRY

12893 Highway 84 West
Trout, LA 71371
(318) 992-4774
www.tandcmarine.com

STORE HOURS
Mon-Fri **8:00am-5:30pm**
Sat **8:00am-2:00pm**
Sun **Closed**



ELIMISHIELD SCENT-CONTROL PRODUCTS

Here's the equation deer hunters need to know: Any kind of physical exertion can lead to bacteria on the skin. Bacteria leads to body odor. Body odor leads to deer turning up their noses at areas where stinky hunters are set up in stands.

Plenty of companies make products intended to mask a deer hunter's scent, and a few have attacked the bacteria question, but perhaps none has a better background in killing bacteria than Bryson Industries.

The people at Bryson have entered the outdoor arena with four products that allow hunters to "scrub up" and eliminate the cause of human odor that wafts through the trees and throws deer into a tizzy. Their Elimishield line includes a laundry detergent, a hair and body wash, a scent-eliminating spray for clothing that lasts for two weeks and a foam product hunters can apply to their skin when they get out of their trucks to head into the woods.

More Info: www.elimishieldhunt.com



BIG LAKE'S BREAKER BOX

Hugh McLaurin of Big Lake Outdoor Products has been making game calls out of a variety of woods for years, and he knows that dymond wood, a laminate that isn't easy to come by, is one of the hardest, most-dense woods around, often used in the handles of custom knives.

He'd been making barrels for duck calls and strikers for turkey pot calls out of dymond wood, and one day about a year ago, he decided it would make an even better box call.

And that's how Big Lake's Breaker Box came into being. Big Lake is debuting the Breaker Box this spring on its website, with the price expected price to be in the neighborhood of \$60.

The Breaker Box can turn out some wonderful, raspy yelps and clucks, and depending on your mood and which side of the box you strike with the paddle, it can produce loud, aggressive calls or soft, plaintive yelps.

More Info: www.biglakeoutdoorproducts.com

N°12 EXPLORE SURVIVAL KNIFE

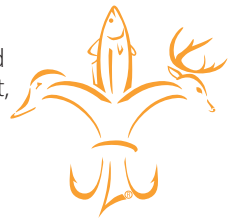
It's always a good idea to carry a knife when hunting or fishing. The potential uses are unlimited, and one thing's for sure — if you ever go on an outdoors adventure without one, you'll surely need it. And just in case the unthinkable happens, it's always good to have a knife with multiple uses.

The Opinel Survival Knife, which retails for \$49, is just that type of knife. With a sharp, locking, 4-inch blade and a sturdy handle, it cuts through any chore with ease. But it's more than just a knife. The survival orange handle will stand out to potential rescuers, and the built-in whistle can be used to alert others to your location with its 110-decibel rating.

That's all fine and dandy, but it doesn't help you make it through a night in the woods. But the onboard fire starter will. This flint starter and striker will help build a fire that will keep you warm through the night, signal your position and also allow you to cook a good meal.

The retractable gut hook works great for everything from cutting vines to gutting fish or game. You'll like this knife so much, you won't mind getting lost with it.

More Info: www.opinel-usa.com





Z-MAN SNAKELockZ

By Andy Crawford

The new Z-Man SnakeLockZ jighead perfectly marries the inshore and freshwater fishing worlds, offering what amounts to a freely swinging bullet weight on a heavy hook that increases lure action and hook-up ratio.

The SnakeLockZ is equally as effective when working cochoes through coastal grasses as when bouncing worms or swimbaits through hydrilla mats on reservoirs or working craws around heavy wooden cover in the swamps.

The key is the streamlined, bullet-shaped head and weedless design. The SnakeLockZ is armed with beefed-up components including heavy-duty Mustad UltraPoint hooks and stainless through-wires, so the lure has the strength to muscle even the toughest fish to the boat.

Each hook features a molded lure keeper that locks plastics securely in place. When paired with any of the Z-Man ElaZtech plastics, the result is a lure that catches numbers of fish without needed to be re-pegged or replaced.

The lead head is engraved with the weight to make choosing just the right size for the job quick and easy.

The SnakeLockZ is available in 1/8-, 1/4- and 3/8-ounce sizes with 3/0, 4/0 or 5/0 hooks. A 3-pack retails for \$7.99.

More Info: www.zmanfishing.com

DAIWA LT SPINNING REELS

By Andy Crawford

Daiwa has introduced a full line of spinning reels designed to meet every angler's needs and budget.

With five reels, the LT (Light Tough) series is designed to provide rugged performance in smaller packages. LT reels offer smaller frames, larger gears and lighter weight to make fishing all day easier.

The Legalis, Excelled and Fuego models are composed of carbon light bodies, and even the 4000 bodies weigh just 8.4 ounces.

The Tatula and Ballistic LTs step up to Zaion bodies that are stronger than ordinary carbon bodies without sacrificing weight. The 4000-series Tatula weighs just 7.4 ounces, while the Ballistic LT's largest body (a 6000) tips the scales at just 11.1 ounces.

And the larger DigiGear drives on every LT reel offers the perfect combination of lightness and toughness.

Two models — the Ballistic and the Fuego — feature magsealed main shafts to provide superior saltwater performance.

The most impressive part of the entire line of reels is the cost — an angler can buy a Legalis LT for just \$69.

There are four other price points, ranging from \$79.99 to \$229.99, offering anglers a wide range of choices.

More Info: www.daiwa.com



Hunting/Fishing
SCRAPBOOK



Duane Ramon

Duane Ramon with a 3.8-pound trout caught in Lake Pelto.



Jean Lasalle

Jean "Boudreaux" Lasalle was fishing with his dad, Dr. "T-Mike" Lasalle, when he caught this beautiful redfish.



Vickie Cloutre

BELOW: Vickie Cloutre scored her first red snapper on a trip out of Grand Isle.



Abbey Griffin

Abbey Griffin, 16, took her first buck — an 8-point that weighed 193 pounds — in Attala County, Miss., on Dec. 29, 2017, making her grandfather very proud.



Peyton Cody George

Peyton Cody George, 9, shot his first deer at 105 yards hunting with his grandfather, Michael George, on their property in Amite County, Miss. The doe weighed 120 pounds.



Jamie Shirley

Jamie Shirley was hunting in Natchitoches Parish when she scored this 220-pound 10-point buck with an 18 1/2-inch inside spread. The outfitter for the hunt was Scott Gahagan.



Olivia Waguespack

Olivia Waguespack of Gonzales proudly displays her bass caught on Nov. 27, 2016.

**GOT PHOTOS?
WE WANT 'EM**

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of the most widely read outdoor magazine in the Bayou State. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, etc. to alicial@lasmag.com
Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format.



Gavin Guidry

Gavin Guidry shot his first doe with a bow in Port Barre. The deer weighed 115 pounds.



Stoney Delcambre

Stoney Delcambre and his grandfather, Poppa El, both from Delcambre, had a great fishing trip out of Don's Landing on Boston Bayou.



Casey & Ellison Harris

Ellison Harris of Minden poses with her dad Casey and the 8-point he killed Nov. 24, 2016 in Doyline.



Brandt Bertrand

Brandt Bertrand killed his first deer in Clinton on Nov. 21, 2017. Here he is with his father, Andrew, and grandfather, Frank Bertrand.



Jack Morrison

Jack Morrison caught this speck by the Lake Charles Civic Center on Calcasieu Lake.



Aiden Boudreaux

Aiden Boudreaux's first speck was caught while fishing with his father, Zack, at St. Mary's Point in Barataria Bay out of Will Staiger's 1968 Boston Whaler.



Logan Haines

Logan Haines of Morgan City with a nice redfish.



Dylan Achord

Dylan Achord got this 280-pound mature 9-point with his .242 while hunting with his dad, Chad, on the closing evening of youth rifle season in Oklahoma.



Christopher & Kempton

Cousins Christopher Rodrigue and Kempton Hollingshead both killed 8-points on Jan. 16 while hunting on family land in Concordia Parish.

Marine Construction Supplies



Complete Line of
■ TIMBERS ■ LUMBER ■ HARDWARE
■ POLES ■ PILINGS

(All Materials for Raising Houses & Camps)

Vinyl Sheetpiling Manufactured by Tidewall

MCM Lumber Co.
 4546 Hwy. 357
 Opelousas, LA 70570
(800) 880-1448
 or
(337) 948-3601
 Charlie Hebert
 Jamey Kelly
 Mike Higginbotham

BOBBY LYNN'S Marina

NEW LOCATION

209 Moore Rd. 985-396-2678
 Leeville, LA 70357 985-398-0480

www.bobblylynns.com

Private and Affordable Waterfront Campsites

CALL NOW

Take Old LA 1 Exit across the toll bridge

- Waterfront Cabins
- Waterfront RV sites
- Dry boat Storage
- Dockside ethanol free fuel
- Boat Hoist
- Boat launch
- Wet slips for boats up to 60'
- Houseboat slips
- Guided inshore fishing trips



FISHING REGULATIONS

2018

These regulations are unofficial. For official regulations, always check the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries pamphlet and/or the federal pamphlet. www.wlf.louisiana.gov



SALTWATER

STATE REGULATIONS (0-10.357 miles^Δ)

FISH Species	Minimum Length	Bag Limit (per person)
Greater Amberjack*~	34" FL	1/day*
Lesser Amberjack, Banded Rudderfish*	14-22" FL	5/day (aggregate)
Yellowfin Tuna	27" CFL	3/day
Bluefin Tuna	73" CFL	1 per vessel per year*
Bigeye Tuna	27" CFL	None
Blue Marlin	99" LJFL	None
White Marlin	66" LJFL	None
Sailfish	63" LJFL	None
Swordfish*	29" CL or 33 lbs. DW	5 per vessel per trip
Cobia (ling or lemon fish)	33" FL	2/day
Drum, Black	16" TL	5/day#
Drum, Red (redfish)	16" TL	5/day#
Flounder, Southern	None	10/day
Groupers*		
Gag ^Δ & Black ^Δ	24" TL	4/day (aggregate)*
Nassau & Goliath	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
Red ^Δ & Yellowfin ^Δ	20" TL	
Scamp ^Δ	16" TL	
Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead shark@	None	1/day
Other sharks (except prohibited species)@	54" FL	1/day/vessel/aggregate
King Mackerel*	24" FL	2/day
Spanish Mackerel*	12" FL	15/day
Striped mullet	None	100 pounds/day
Black seabass	None	None
Hogfish	12" FL	5/day
Seatrout, Spotted (Speckled Trout)	12" TL*	25/day*
Red Snapper*	16" TL	2/day*
Other Snapper		
Mutton Snapper	16" TL	10 in aggregate*
Cubera, Yellowtail, Gray (mangrove)	12" TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Vermilion Snapper	10" TL	
Schoolmaster, Dog, Mahogany	None	None
Gray Triggerfish*	14" FL	2/day in aggregate
Lane Snapper	8" TL	
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, & Bluefin Tilefish	None	20/person/day in aggregate*
Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish	None	None
Tripletail	18" TL	5/day

CFL = curved fork length

LJFL = lower jaw fork length

CL = carcass length

DW = dressed weight

LJTF = lower jaw to tail fork

FL = fork length

FRESHWATER

FISH Species	Minimum Size Limit	Bag Limit (per person)
Crappie	None	50/day*
Buffalo Fish	16" TL	25/day
Freshwater Drum (Gaspergou)	12" TL	25/day
Channel Catfish	11" TL*	***
Blue Catfish	12" TL*	***
Bowfin	16" TL	None
Flathead Catfish	14" TL*	***
Crawfish	None	150 lbs./day
Paddlefish	30" max LJFL	2*
Shad	None	50 lbs./day
Black Bass (largemouth & spotted)	None*	10/day*
Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass	**	5/day*
Sturgeon	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
White Bass	None	50/day*
Yellow Bass	None	50/day*

* see exceptions in pamphlet.

** no more than two may exceed 30 inches.

*** catfish limit is 100 in aggregate; however, 25 fish in aggregate may be undersized.

only one fish may exceed 27 inches.

@ Shark season is closed between April 1 and June 30.

Δ Closed season for gag grouper Jan. 1 - May 31. Closed season for black, red, yellowfin, yellowmouth & scamp grouper from Feb. 1 - March 31.

~ Closed season for greater amberjack from Jan. 27 - June 30. * Closed season on gray triggerfish Jan. 16 - Feb. 28 and June 1-30.



DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

AT PARTICIPATING DEALERS ONLY.
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE ON CXX X-TRA STRONG,
THE STRONGEST, MOST SHOCK RESISTANT LINE
ON THE MARKET. STOCK UP FOR SUMMER!

Visit P-Line.com or Call 1 800.537.2394
For full details and to find a dealer in your area.

IN STORE PROMOTION • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

INSTANT DISCOUNT TAKEN AT THE REGISTER.
OFFER EXPIRES APRIL 30, 2018

* OFFER IS LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND.
FREE CXX X-TRA STRONG SPOOL MUST BE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE THAN THE PURCHASED SPOOL.
* P-LINE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SHIPPING SPOOLS TO THE CONSUMER.

P-LINE
www.P-Line.com



April 2018

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
1st	6:50 a.m.	7:19 p.m.
2nd	6:48 a.m.	7:20 p.m.
3rd	6:47 a.m.	7:20 p.m.
4th	6:46 a.m.	7:21 p.m.
5th	6:45 a.m.	7:21 p.m.
6th	6:44 a.m.	7:22 p.m.
7th	6:43 a.m.	7:23 p.m.
8th	6:41 a.m.	7:23 p.m.
9th	6:40 a.m.	7:24 p.m.
10th	6:39 a.m.	7:24 p.m.
11th	6:38 a.m.	7:25 p.m.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
12th	6:37 a.m.	7:26 p.m.
13th	6:36 a.m.	7:26 p.m.
14th	6:35 a.m.	7:27 p.m.
15th	6:33 a.m.	7:28 p.m.
16th	6:32 a.m.	7:28 p.m.
17th	6:31 a.m.	7:29 p.m.
18th	6:30 a.m.	7:29 p.m.
19th	6:29 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
20th	6:28 a.m.	7:31 p.m.
21st	6:27 a.m.	7:31 p.m.
22nd	6:26 a.m.	7:32 p.m.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
23rd	6:25 a.m.	7:33 p.m.
24th	6:24 a.m.	7:33 p.m.
25th	6:23 a.m.	7:34 p.m.
26th	6:22 a.m.	7:34 p.m.
27th	6:21 a.m.	7:35 p.m.
28th	6:20 a.m.	7:36 p.m.
29th	6:19 a.m.	7:36 p.m.
30th	6:18 a.m.	7:37 p.m.

*Time based on New Orleans, sunrise/sunset; source U.S. Naval Observatory. Corrections (in minutes)

Alexandria
Rise/Set
+12/+8

Baton Rouge
Rise/Set
+5/+4

Lafayette
Rise/Set
+8/+7

Lake Charles
Rise/Set
+13/+12

Monroe
Rise/Set
+10/+5

Shreveport
Rise/Set
+17/+13

The sun is always shining at:
www.LouisianaSportsman.com

EARLY SUMMER DEALS

LOUISIANA'S NEWEST EXCEL DEALER!



NEW Excel Bay Pro 203

Pontoon 22 Fish Tri-Toon
115 Yamaha w/ trailer
BOAT SHOW SPECIALS NOW



Pontoon 24SSLX
150 or 200 Yamaha w/trailer
BOAT SHOW SPECIALS NOW



Boat may be shown with options not included in price

WELDBILT BOATS IN STOCK!

REDMOND'S MARINE
www.redmondsmarine.com

Serving all of Acadiana, Iberia, Lafayette and Vermillion Parish

1724 GENERAL MOUTON, LAFAYETTE
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
337-234-2360

Bass Tracker

1978
2018
40TH ANNIVERSARY
Special Edition

A fishing boat FOR EVERYONE!



**ONLY
\$995 DOWN
\$99.95
PER MONTH***
FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS

\$9,995

w/Mercury® 40 ELPT FourStroke
& Custom Trailer (Plus freight & prep)

EVERY HERITAGE BOAT PURCHASE INCLUDES:



\$400 GIFT CARD + FREE BOAT COVER + VIP DISCOUNT CARD



*Financing starting at 5.99%. Offer available to well qualified buyers at participating U.S. dealers. Subject to credit approval; not all customers will qualify. 144 month financing term, \$10,000 minimum amount financed and up to \$995 down payment may be required. Monthly payment is calculated before tax, title and license. Photos may show optional or special edition equipment available at an additional cost. Local tax, license, registration and doc fees vary by state and are in addition to prices show. Prices are suggested and approved by the manufacturer. Details in pricing, savings, features and promotions may vary by location and are subject to change without notice. Void where prohibited by law. Best efforts are used to ensure the accuracy of our advertising, however, errors may sometimes occur. See your local dealer for complete information. Prices shown do not include dealer freight and prep charges, unless otherwise noted. F.O.B. Springfield, MO, USA. Prices shown are based on United States currency. © 2018 White River Group, LLC TR180117



337.436.4366
2351 E. McNeese St.
Interstate 210 Hwy 14 Exit
Lake Charles, LA 70607

337.893.1451
11238 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Abbeville, LA 70510

ASTRO TABLES

Astro Tables is far more effective than "moon tables," because it takes into account critical solar energies as well as lunar.

The "Best Days" column is based on the ever-changing positions of the sun and the moon, rating each day on a scale of 0 to 100. The higher the number, the more solar/lunar influence that day is experiencing (see "Value" column or corresponding black bars).

The two Primary periods (Moon Overhead and Moon Underfoot) vary in length from one hour to three-and-one-half hours, depending on a number of important lunar cycles, such as how close the moon is to the earth that day and how high its orbit is. The solar symbols alert you to when a Primary period overlaps a major solar period (eg: Dawn, High-Noon, and Dusk). The secondary periods of Moonrise and Moonset last about one hour each... 30 minutes before and after the listed time. (See key at bottom of each month for more detail.)

Astro Tables is a quick-reference version of its parent publication, the **PrimeTimes Wall Calendar**, which is recommended for those wishing more complete data on the best days and times to go fishing and hunting for the entire year (see "Available Products" below).

PrimeTimes forecasts are based on solar/lunar research at a leading college of astrophysics and our own research pond/wildlife area. Annual data is supplied by the U.S. Naval Observatory. All times are adjusted to the center of your time zone and for Daylight Saving Time.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS:

The 2018 PrimeTimes Wall Calendar. \$12.95 (plus \$4 s&h). Know the best days, best times, and their relative strengths for all of 2018 with this information-packed, full-color, 11-inch by 17-inch, graphic peaks

-and-valleys forecaster. Includes rise and set times for the sun and moon, space to log your catches, "Timely Tips," plus fish and game symbols showing you each month's don't-miss periods. Also includes exclusive summary charts revealing the best and worst days of 2018, the year's best periods, a look ahead at 2019, and more. Comes with FREE 2018 Astro Tables pocket calendar, which sells separately for \$7.95, plus \$3 s&h.

Book: "How to Know When to Go" by Rick Taylor. \$14.95 (plus \$4 s&h). 100 pages, 43 illustrations. A comprehensive look at the main factors influencing fish and game activity periods, plus how to devise an effective when-to-go game plan using any year's PrimeTimes calendars. Individual assessments of bass, panfish, deer, turkey, and more.

2018 Ultimate PrimeTimes software for PCs. \$29.95 (plus \$3 s&h, or no s&h if downloaded from web). The world's best forecaster allows you to fine-tune the peak times to your exact location, quarry, and even weather. Too many features to list here, including making your own App. For more details, please call us or visit our web site (see below).

SPECIAL PACKAGE OFFERS:

#1: **Wall Calendar, Astro Tables and "How to Know..." book...** \$19.95 (plus \$5 s&h).

#2: **Same as #1, plus Software...** \$46.95 (plus \$6 s&h).

#3: **Same as #2, minus book...** \$37.95 (plus \$5 s&h).

Send to: PrimeTimes 2018 - Dept. LS - 2487 NW 75th Ave., Ste. 100 - Ankeny, IA 50023

For credit/debit card orders, call toll-free **866-809-5063**.

2018 APR	BEST DAYS				VALUE
	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL	
Sun 1	██	██	██	██	61
Mon 2	██	██	██	██	48
Tue 3	██	██	██	██	35
Wed 4	██	██	██	██	27
Thu 5	██	██	██	██	25
Fri 6	██	██	██	██	23
Sat 7	██	██	██	██	28
Sun 8	██	██	██	██	38
Mon 9	██	██	██	██	30
Tue 10	██	██	██	██	27
Wed 11	██	██	██	██	30
Thu 12	██	██	██	██	42
Fri 13	██	██	██	██	56
Sat 14	██	██	██	██	69
Sun 15	██	██	██	██	78
Mon 16	██	██	██	██	72
Tue 17	██	██	██	██	65
Wed 18	██	██	██	██	58
Thu 19	██	██	██	██	56
Fri 20	██	██	██	██	57
Sat 21	██	██	██	██	61
Sun 22	██	██	██	██	69
Mon 23	██	██	██	██	58
Tue 24	██	██	██	██	49
Wed 25	██	██	██	██	46
Thu 26	██	██	██	██	53
Fri 27	██	██	██	██	59
Sat 28	██	██	██	██	67
Sun 29	██	██	██	██	70
Mon 30	██	██	██	██	57

25 50 75
AVERAGE

For more, visit
primetimes2.com

LUNAR PERIODS					
TIMES OCCURRING AT NIGHT ARE SHADED					
MOON RISE	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD	MOON SET	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT		
8:57 pm	1:00 am - 2:58 am	7:56 am	1:25 pm - 3:23 pm	☉	
9:57 pm	1:54 am - 3:40 am	8:31 am	2:19 pm - 4:05 pm	☉	
10:56 pm	2:48 am - 4:20 am	9:07 am	3:13 pm - 4:45 pm	☉	
11:52 pm	3:43 am - 5:01 am	9:45 am	4:08 pm - 5:26 pm	☉	
	4:34 am - 5:46 am	10:25 am	4:59 pm - 6:11 pm	☉	
12:46 am	5:25 am - 6:31 am	11:09 am	5:50 pm - 6:56 pm	☉	LOW
1:37 am	6:14 am - 7:20 am ☀	11:56 am	6:39 pm - 7:45 pm ☀	☉	Apogee
2:25 am	7:02 am - 8:08 am ☀	12:46 pm	7:27 pm - 8:33 pm ☀	☉	HALF
3:09 am	7:48 am - 8:56 am ☀	1:39 pm	8:13 pm - 9:21 pm	☉	
3:49 am	8:30 am - 9:48 am	2:33 pm	8:55 pm - 10:13 pm	☉	
4:27 am	9:12 am - 10:40 am	3:30 pm	9:37 pm - 11:05 pm	☉	
5:02 am	9:53 am - 11:31 am	4:27 pm	10:18 pm - 11:56 pm	☉	
5:36 am	10:30 am - 12:26 pm	5:27 pm	10:55 pm - 12:51 am	☉	
6:10 am	11:11 am - 1:19 pm	6:28 pm	11:36 pm - Midnight	☉	
6:44 am	11:50 am - 2:16 pm ☀	7:30 pm	Midnight - 1:44 am	☉	NEW
7:19 am	12:32 pm - 3:14 pm ☀	8:35 pm	12:15 am - 2:41 am	☉	
7:58 am	1:18 pm - 4:14 pm	9:40 pm	12:57 am - 3:39 am	☉	
8:40 am	2:06 pm - 5:16 pm	10:47 pm	1:43 am - 4:39 am	☉	
9:28 am	2:58 pm - 6:18 pm	11:52 pm	2:31 am - 5:41 am	☉	
10:21 am	3:56 pm - 7:18 pm		3:23 am - 6:43 am	☉	Perigee
11:19 am	4:55 pm - 8:17 pm	12:54 am	4:21 am - 7:43 am	☉	HIGH
12:22 pm	5:56 pm - 9:12 pm ☀	1:51 am	5:20 am - 8:42 am ☀	☉	HALF
1:27 pm	6:57 pm - 10:03 pm	2:42 am	6:21 am - 9:37 am ☀	☉	
2:32 pm	7:57 pm - 10:49 pm	3:27 am	7:22 am - 10:28 am	☉	
3:37 pm	8:55 pm - 11:35 pm	4:08 am	8:22 am - 11:14 am	☉	
4:40 pm	9:53 pm - 12:15 am	4:45 am	9:20 am - 12:00 pm	☉	
5:42 pm	10:49 pm - 12:55 am	5:20 am	10:18 am - 12:40 pm	☉	
6:44 pm	11:45 pm - Midnight	5:54 am	11:14 am - 1:20 pm	☉	
7:44 pm	Midnight - 1:33 am	6:28 am	12:10 pm - 1:58 pm ☀	☉	FULL
8:43 pm	12:38 am - 2:14 am	7:03 am	1:03 pm - 2:39 pm ☀	☉	

ANY LUNAR PERIOD IS ENHANCED WHEN IT OVERLAPS A KEY SOLAR PERIOD. THE BEST OF THESE OVERLAPS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE SUN SYMBOLS:
☀ = DAWN ☀ = HIGH NOON ☀ = DUSK
WHILE THE LESSER MOONRISE AND -SET OVERLAPS (ABOUT 30 MIN. BEFORE AND AFTER THE LISTED TIME) ARE DESIGNATED BY GOLD BLACK TYPE.

For more information and samples of PrimeTimes products, visit our web site: **www.primetimes2.com**

Work Boat Specialist



20' to 40'
Boats Available



YAMAHA



Scully's

**CUSTOMIZED
Aluminum Boats**

Louisiana's #1
Custom Boat Builder

1015 STEPHENSVILLE RD. • MORGAN CITY, LA 70381
985-385-1323 • TOLL FREE 1-866-238-8353
FAX 985-384-5146

www.scullyboats.com • info@scullysaluminumboats.com

SUGARLAND COUNTRY CLUB
RACELAND, LA



LEEVILLE FISHING PIER
LEEVILLE, LA

Pins

1ST ANNUAL

SOUTH
LOUISIANA



FRIDAY &
SATURDAY
APRIL 20-21

\$250

PER 2 PERSON TEAM
GOLF & FISHING COMBO

FINS

GOLF & FISHING CLASSIC

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

★ FISHING ONLY ★
\$25 PER PERSON
\$50 PER 2 PERSON TEAM

NO BOAT? NO PROBLEM! FISHING GUIDES AVAILABLE THROUGH
BOBBY LYNN'S MARINA

GOLF GREEN FEES, CARTS, FOOD & DRINK DURING PLAY, PLAYERS
PARTY, FISHING ENTRY, MUSIC & PRIZES AT THE WEIGH-IN!

CORPORATE SPONSORS: DIAWA RODS & REELS ★ SALTWATER ASSASIN LURES
PURE FISHING ★ 4 HORSEMAN LURES ★ TOP WATER LURE COMPANY

LOUISIANA'S
CAJUN BAYOU
LAFORCHE PARISH

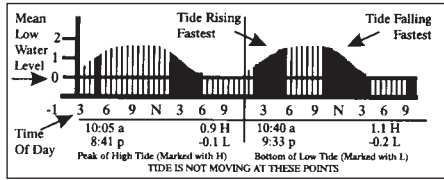
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT LACAUNBAYOU.COM OR CALL
JOHN 985.381.0733, ANTHONY 985.253.6701, BOBBY 985.637.0118



IT'S NOT THE ENGINE, IT'S THE FUEL!
WWW.STARTRON.COM



How to use the SPORTSMAN Tide Guide



Fish feed most actively when the tide is moving. Louisiana Sportsman has made it simple to spot the most-active feeding periods each day in the Tide Guide. Just fish those times indicated in black. To find the best time to fish your favorite honeyhole, find the spot under Tide Corrections that is closest to the area, and add or subtract the time from the corresponding daily prediction.

Tide Corrections

East Point, Grand Isle	HIGH	LOW
Barataria Pass	+1:00	-0:10
Bastian Island	+0:41	+0:12
Bay Gardene	+2:51	+2:44
Bayou BonFouca	+9:59	+10:11
Breton Islands	+0:54	+0:48
Caillou Boca	+0:40	+0:48
Caminada Pass	+0:20	+0:12
Chandeleur Light	+0:37	+0:34
Chef Pass	+5:17	+5:07
Cocodrie	+1:22	+1:33
Comfort Island	+1:34	+0:54
Delacroix Island	+3:42	+3:31
Empire Jetty	-1:03	-1:45
Four Bayou Pass	+2:18	+0:17
Gardner Island	+0:40	+0:47
Grand Pass	+1:48	+1:16
Head of Passes	-0:48	+0:00
Hopedale	+4:17	+4:56
Independence Island	+2:29	+1:59
Jack Bay	+1:59	+1:28
Joseph Bayou	-0:36	-1:37
Lafitte	+1:45	+2:51
Long Point, Lake Borgne	+2:28	+2:11
Manila Village	+2:32	+3:13
Michoud Substation	+5:24	+5:02
New Canal (Bucktown)	+10:34	+10:49
North Pass	-0:31	-0:37
Paris Road Bridge	+5:53	+5:58
Pelican Islands	+2:26	+2:26
Pointe a la Hache	+3:12	+3:01
Port Eads	-0:17	-1:37
Raccoon Point	-0:03	-0:20
Shell Beach	+4:32	+4:25
Ship Shoal Light	-1:54	-1:50
South Pass, Miss. R.	-1:13	-1:20
Southwest Pass, Miss. R.	-0:38	-1:33
Tchefuncte River	+10:23	+11:01
Timbalier Island	+0:19	+0:23
Wine Island	+1:08	+1:02
Calcasieu Pass, Lighthouse Wharf	HIGH	LOW
Cote Blanche Island	+4:33	+3:40
Eugene Island	+1:49	-0:39
Lighthouse Point	+0:58	-0:53
Mermentau River ent.	+0:20	+0:25
Point Au Fer	+1:53	-1:02
Point Chevreul	+3:16	+0:30
Rabbit Island	+2:01	-0:36
Shell Island	+3:08	+0:45
South Point	+1:55	-0:33
Southwest Pass, Vermillion Bay	+1:42	+0:51
Weeks Bay	+3:58	+3:56

East Point Grand Isle

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 11:00 am 0.7 H 8:21 pm 0.2 L	2 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 11:17 am 0.8 H 9:34 pm 0.1 L	3 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 11:47 am 0.9 H 10:41 pm 0.1 L	4 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:23 pm 1.0 H 11:46 pm 0.0 L	5 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 1:04 pm 1.0 H	6 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:51 am 0.0 L 1:49 pm 1.0 H	7 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 1:55 am 0.0 L 2:41 pm 1.0 H
8 LQ 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 2:53 am 0.1 L 3:40 pm 1.0 H	9 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 3:46 am 0.1 L 4:49 pm 0.9 H	10 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 4:30 am 0.1 L 6:10 pm 0.9 H	11 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:07 am 0.2 L 7:41 pm 0.8 H	12 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:34 am 0.3 L 9:19 pm 0.8 H	13 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:46 am 0.4 L 12:02 pm 0.5 H 4:03 pm 0.5 L 11:09 pm 0.7 H	14 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:31 am 0.5 L 10:40 am 0.6 H 5:47 pm 0.4 L
15 NM 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 1:56 am 0.6 H 4:02 am 0.6 L 10:16 am 0.8 H 7:01 pm 0.3 L	16 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 10:24 am 0.9 H 8:07 pm 0.1 L	17 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 10:49 am 1.1 H 9:14 pm 0.0 L	18 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 11:26 am 1.2 H 10:23 pm -0.1 L	19 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:10 pm 1.3 H 11:35 pm -0.1 L	20 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 1:00 pm 1.3 H	21 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:48 am -0.1 L 1:56 pm 1.3 H
22 FQ 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 1:57 am -0.1 L 2:57 pm 1.2 H	23 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 3:00 am 0.0 L 4:06 pm 1.1 H	24 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 3:55 am 0.1 L 5:39 pm 0.9 H	25 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 4:39 am 0.2 L 8:10 pm 0.8 H	26 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:06 am 0.4 L 12:09 pm 0.6 H 4:56 pm 0.6 L 11:09 pm 0.7 H	27 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 4:51 am 0.6 L 10:34 am 0.7 H 6:16 pm 0.4 L	28 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 9:53 am 0.8 H 7:14 pm 0.3 L
29 FM 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 9:52 am 1.0 H 8:04 pm 0.1 L	30 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 10:11 am 1.1 H 8:51 pm 0.1 L	Order the Tide Guides for over 40 locations throughout Louisiana. Call 1-800-538-4355 or go on line www.lasmag.com				

Calcasieu Pass Lighthouse Wharf

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 4:26 am 1.8 H 10:45 am 0.6 L 4:06 pm 1.6 H 10:42 pm 0.2 L	2 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:29 am 1.8 H 11:29 am 0.9 L 4:31 pm 1.6 H 11:21 pm 0.1 L	3 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 6:28 am 1.7 H 12:13 pm 1.1 L 4:57 pm 1.5 H	4 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:01 am 0.1 L 7:39 am 1.7 H 1:06 pm 1.3 L 5:25 pm 1.5 H	5 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:43 am 0.1 L 9:11 am 1.7 H 3:22 pm 1.4 L 5:52 pm 1.4 L	6 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 1:33 am 0.2 L 9:11 am 1.7 H 10:33 am 1.7 H	7 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 2:33 am 0.3 L 12:02 pm 1.7 H
8 LQ 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 3:35 am 0.3 L 1:01 pm 1.7 H 6:59 pm 1.4 L 9:06 pm 1.4 L	9 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 4:34 am 0.4 L 1:28 pm 1.7 H 7:16 pm 1.3 L 10:17 pm 1.4 H	10 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:31 am 0.4 L 1:47 pm 1.7 H 7:29 pm 1.2 L 11:27 pm 1.5 H	11 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 6:26 am 0.5 L 2:01 pm 1.7 H 7:41 pm 1.1 L	12 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:34 am 1.6 H 7:14 am 0.5 L 2:11 pm 1.7 H 7:58 pm 1.0 L	13 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 1:28 am 1.7 H 7:57 am 0.6 L 2:20 pm 1.7 H 8:25 pm 0.8 L	14 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 2:14 am 1.8 H 8:38 am 0.7 L 2:32 pm 1.7 H 8:57 pm 0.5 L
15 NM 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 3:02 am 1.9 H 9:19 am 0.8 L 2:48 pm 1.7 H 9:33 pm 0.3 L	16 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 3:55 am 1.9 H 10:02 am 0.9 L 3:06 pm 1.7 H 10:13 pm 0.1 L	17 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 4:53 am 2.0 H 10:46 am 1.1 L 3:27 pm 1.7 H 10:55 pm 0.0 L	18 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:53 am 2.0 H 11:31 am 1.3 L 3:50 pm 1.8 H 11:41 pm -0.1 L	19 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 7:01 am 2.0 H 12:18 pm 1.5 L 4:18 pm 1.8 H	20 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:31 am -0.1 L 8:34 am 2.0 H 1:17 pm 1.6 L 4:54 pm 1.8 H	21 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 1:30 am -0.1 L 10:00 am 2.0 H 3:10 pm 1.7 L 5:46 pm 1.7 L
22 FQ 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 2:39 am 0.0 L 11:13 am 2.0 H 4:40 pm 1.6 L 7:15 pm 1.7 H	23 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 3:51 am 0.1 L 12:15 pm 2.0 H 5:36 pm 1.5 L 9:13 pm 1.6 H	24 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:00 am 0.2 L 12:58 pm 1.9 H 6:23 pm 1.3 L 10:55 pm 1.7 H	25 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 6:09 am 0.4 L 1:28 pm 1.9 H 7:04 pm 1.0 L	26 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 12:47 am 1.8 H 7:13 am 0.5 L 1:48 pm 1.8 H 7:43 pm 0.8 L	27 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 2:04 am 1.9 H 8:08 am 0.7 L 2:02 pm 1.8 H 8:21 pm 0.5 L	28 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 3:07 am 2.0 H 9:00 am 0.9 L 2:16 pm 1.8 H 8:58 pm 0.3 L
29 FM 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 4:10 am 2.0 H 9:50 am 1.1 L 2:35 pm 1.8 H 9:35 pm 0.2 L	30 3 6 9 N 3 6 9 5:06 am 2.1 H 10:38 am 1.3 L 2:57 pm 1.8 H 10:11 pm 0.1 L	Order the Tide Guides for over 40 locations throughout Louisiana. Call 1-800-538-4355 or go on line www.lasmag.com				

AN ALABAMA GULF COAST VACATION REALIZATION

KNOWING WHAT YOU'VE REALLY CAUGHT
IS AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY.



GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH

It's a Whole Different State

You'll find year round fishing in some of the world's richest inshore and offshore fishing grounds along the Alabama Gulf Coast.

www.LouisianaSportsman.com

Orange Beach Billfish Classic
May 16-20

Blue Marlin Grand Championship
July 10-15

OrangeBeach.com / 877-475-1534

April 2018 | Louisiana Sportsman 159

Sportsman FISHING HOTSPOTS

Andre Thomas fishes outer bays on the east side of the Mississippi River this month, catching trout as they migrate outside.



TOPWATER TROUT TIPS

Following speckled trout to their annual summer haunts is vital if you want to have success this year, and studying maps to see where those places are is time well spent.

Avid angler Andre Thomas fishes the outer bays on the east side of the Mississippi River this time of year to intercept the trout moving outside.

Places like Lake of Two Trees and surrounding areas are great places to catch the trout as they migrate outside.

In those areas, Thomas concentrates his efforts in locations with oysters and grass.

Fishing for specks with soft plastics is an easy way to catch numbers of fish, but Thomas said he's targeting them with a lot more hard plastics this year.

"This year, I'm going to work on my hard bait technique," he said. "I'm going to be fishing a lot of grass flats this year, seeing how many fish I can get on topwater and twitch baits."

There are many oyster-lined areas in the outer bay region, and Thomas said to be prepared to hit a lot of them.

"It's not consistent, like in the fall, where

you can go to the same spot week after week," he said. "The fish are going to move a lot more."

One of the reasons the fish are so scattered is because the bait is so spread out, Thomas said.

"It's not going to be like the fall where (the shrimp) stack up, but the brown shrimp will start to move in," he said.

Thomas likes throwing the Ghost Walker topwater for calling fish up, and he always has it tied on to a long, 7 1/2-foot rod.

"If they hit as soon as the bait hits the water, it picks up more slack," he said.

"When I started topwater fishing, I used to topwater fish for stripers on the West Coast a lot, and I would throw an 8-foot rod because you would inevitably have fish hit the bait in the first couple seconds after it hit the water"

Thomas likes to throw topwaters in low-light conditions.

"When the sun's high, it definitely dwindles," he said. "The perfect day would be overcast day with a 5 mph wind. That would be ideal."

When either the sun gets high in the sky,



or the fish just are not committing to the topwaters, Thomas likes jerkbaits such as the RIP Stik by Egret Baits or the Rapala X-Rap.

He likes giving his jerkbaits a lot of action.

"The bait tends to react better than it does with a single twitch," he said. "I've been making myself go to more twitches instead of less." ■

- Joel Masson

INTERCEPT SPECKS AT DELACROIX

April action red hot

Capt. Nick Rando (504-281-8287) says the trout are still transitioning toward outside waters, so this month's tactic is to intercept them mid-way.

"They'll still be in the protected middle areas, especially in early April, as they are instinctively driven outside to spawn," he said. "I'll fish the middle areas on out to the big fringe bays, and I'll focus on tidelines, points and oyster reefs."

Rando especially likes to hunt specks in the bigger bays, like Bay Lafourche, Bakers Bay, Bay Gardene and Bay Crabbe, and even over toward American Bay.

For bait, he says live shrimp is always best, but he'll also toss his springtime favorite plastics: Matrix Shad in magneto, lemonhead, shrimp creole and holy joely, under a 4 Horseman popping cork. Rando uses mostly ¼-ounce jigs, but on days with low tidal movement he'll go down to an 1/8-ounce, finding lighter is better under those conditions.

Hard plastics are also great baits this month, whether slow sinking twitchbaits or topwaters, because hungry trout will pounce on anything that resembles a mullet, he said.

For reds, Rando says you can fish at almost any promising point, from Lake Lery to Grand Lake on out to the same big fringe bays and all areas between.

"If a point looks good, troll or park and fish it," he said.

Again, live bait is best, but market bait under a cork will produce as well, and gold spoons, spinnerbaits (preferably with a gold #4 Colorado blade) and a ¼-ounce jig with the same color baits or Rando's personal favorite: black and chartreuse cocahoe.

"The key this month is to find a point with clean water and bait activity," he said. "Keep looking until you find areas with both or you're just wasting your time." ■

- Rusty Tardo



Capt. Nick Rando with a 4-pound trout caught in Grand Lake tightlining a Matrix Shad holy joely.



Capt. Calvin Duvalle with a 7-pound red caught on a ShuShu craw in the Hopedale marsh.

ROCKIN' THE MRGO ROCKS FOR REDS, SPECKS

Capt. Calvin Duvalle (504-957-4549) said he'll focus his efforts this month in the Bay Eloi area, but mostly at the MRGO rocks.

"I'll fish the various wells and structures in Bay Eloi from mid-March until the end of April, and we usually catch big reds, big black drum and the occasional trout out there," he said. "If you want real rod-bending action and you have a calm enough day, head out there with live or market shrimp, and fish deep under a cork or on bottom, and you'll catch 15-pound fish on up, both reds and drum. It's a blast. Especially for those who have never caught such big fish on light tackle."

But Duvalle especially likes to fish for big speckled trout this month along the MRGO rocks.

"Every year in April the big sows start showing up along the Long Rocks," he said. "I fish from the cut in the Long Rocks all the way out to the end, and while I like the ends and at the gaps, I

continues >

GOT PICS? Send 'em in!

Email images to: images@LouisianaSportsman.com

All images will be considered, but those taken on the water or in the woods will have the best chance of being featured.

*Digital images must be sent in jpeg format. High-resolution images (taken on your camera's highest setting) will work the best. All images (physical and digital) become property of Louisiana Sportsman and cannot be returned.

MRGO continued

don't hesitate to fish anywhere that water washes over the rocks or through little gaps. Anywhere that looks good is worth trying.

"I always bring live shrimp if its available, and when its not I'll fish the soft plastic ShuShu Marsh Minnow lures in chartreuse or glow, either tight-lined or under a cork."

Duvalle said he also tosses H&H cocahoes in black/chartreuse and white/firetail, fished the same way.

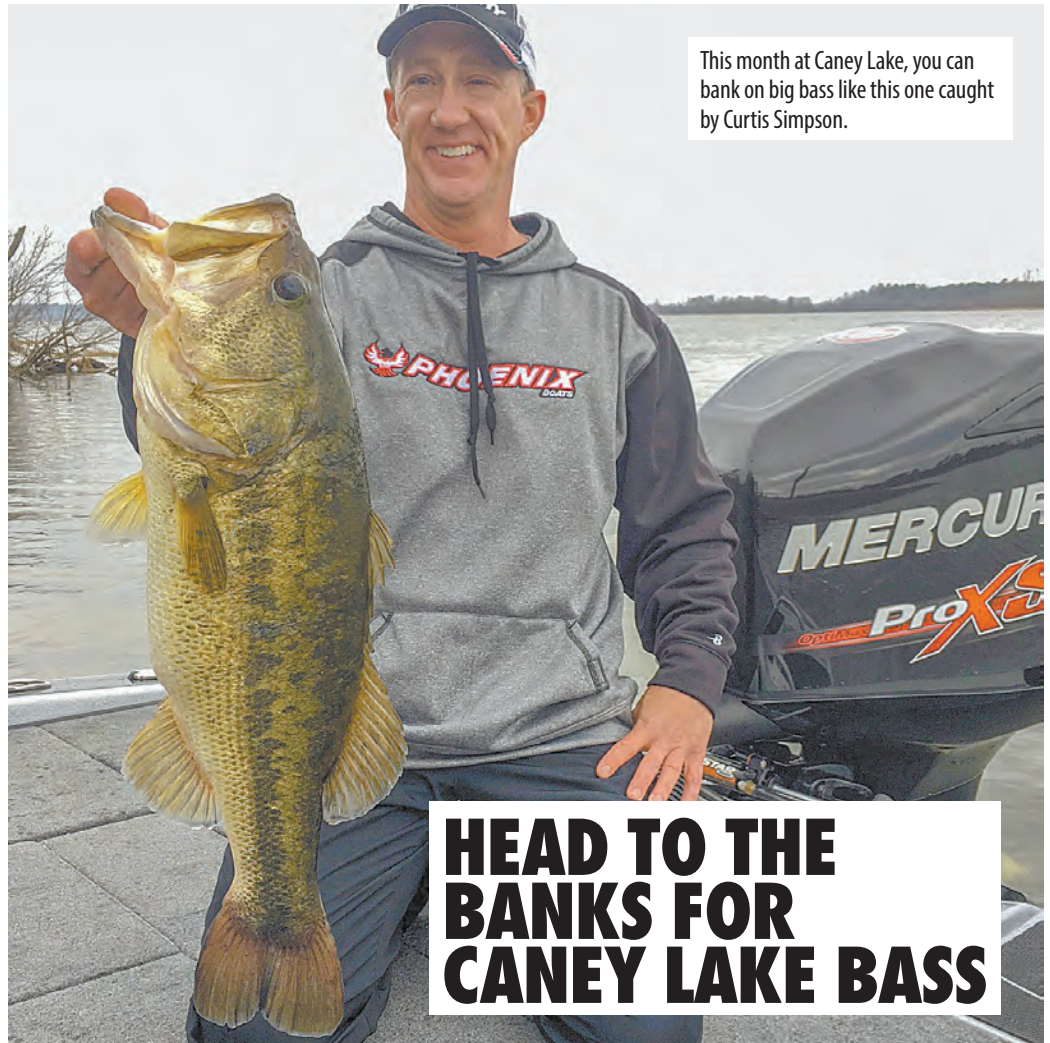
"The usual tactic is to fish the rocks under a cork, with live shrimp or plastics," he said. "It's the way most of us fish it because it's effective. I also like to tight-line a plastic lure up against the rocks, but you have to finesse it so it doesn't sink and snag a rock. It takes some practice, but it's worth the effort. I catch some big trout that way. I also like to throw topwater baits this month along the rocks. I like the bone color, or mullet or speckled trout colors, or chartreuse on brighter days. You don't usually catch as many fishing topwater, but the ones we do catch are often 2 pounds and up. Three- and 4- and even 5-pound trout do not surprise me when I throw topwaters in April."

Duvalle said don't hesitate to cross over and fish the west side of the rocks to escape the wind and seas, and says if the cork isn't producing, try backing off the rocks and fishing a drop-shot rig with live shrimp 10 to 15 yards off the rocks.

"We catch plenty like that when the cork isn't working," he said.

Besides picking up reds along the rocks, Duvalle said he targets them at points and coves in Lake Campo and Lake Robin, with the same baits or the ShuShu Craw in crab color. ■

- Rusty Tardo



This month at Caney Lake, you can bank on big bass like this one caught by Curtis Simpson.

HEAD TO THE BANKS FOR CANEY LAKE BASS

Curtis Simpson has one piece of advice for any bass angler wanting to catch a big large-mouth or a big stringer this month — head to the banks at Caney Lake in Jackson Parish.

"This is kind of a funny year because it's been cold so long, but it's going to be a bonus for bass fishermen this month," the West Monroe angler said. "Usually, fish kind of trickle up to the bank at this time of year looking to spawn in 2 to 4 feet of water. But this year, a lot of them are coming up to the bank at once."

What that means is that you can tie on a buzzbait, Whopper Flopper, Zara Spook or any of your favorite lures and probably get in on the action. And the good thing is, you don't have to spend a lot of time with your electronics or

scouting. He likes shad color or translucent lures with white or shad color on the top.

"Just fire up the trolling motor and cover some water. Stay in the shallow water," he said. "In fact, it's one of those deals that if you stick your rod down in the water and you don't hit bottom, you are probably too deep."

If a late cold front or other weather conditions knock off the topwater bite, Simpson said to change to a Senko or a Fluke plastic lure and fish the edges of the grass beds. Either way, fish boat docks, seawalls and piers to find the bass.

Simpson, who is a Phoenix/Mercury traveling tournament pro, says right now Caney is as good as any lake in the country for catching lunkers. It fishes a lot like more famous lakes such as Sam Rayburn or

Toledo Bend, just on a much smaller scale. Recently it took five fish weighing 36 pounds to win a tournament there. The recent Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries change in eliminating the 15- to 19-inch slot is letting fishermen bring more big fish to the scales.

Caney is a 5,000-acre man-made lake that is very clear and often tough to fish. But April gives anglers a chance to take advantage of fishing that is "as easy as it gets" for big ones, Simpson says. The lake has several full-service marinas, including Brown's landing on the north end and Hook's Marina at the spillway. And the Jimmie Davis State Park offers everything for fishermen and the whole family. ■

- Kinny Haddox

WHERE AMATEURS
WIN
LIKE THE PROS!!

**BIG-BASS
SPLASH**



\$497,000
GUARANTEED IN CASH & PRIZES

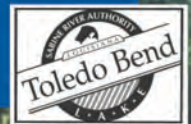


HOURLY CASH PAYOUTS,
TRITON BASS BOATS POWERED BY MERCURY,
RAM TRUCKS AND MORE!

Prizes awarded may not be identically to those pictured.

LAKE TOLEDO BEND, LA

CYPRESS BEND PARK; MANY, LA
MAY 18-19-20, 2018



WIN BIG . . . 2018 TOURNAMENTS

Benefitting St Jude Children's Research Hospital® & Ronald McDonald House Charities®

LAKE FORK; Alba, TX

September 21-22-23

LAKE SAM RAYBURN; Jasper, TX "Fall Event"

October 20 & 21



LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY: SEALYOUTDOORS.COM OR 888.698.2591 (CST 9-5)



TARGET SHALLOW WATER AT TOLEDO BEND

Well, just when you say one thing probably will happen, Mother Nature proves you wrong. I thought a month or two ago there would be no way there'd be water in the bushes for the spawn in March and April at Toledo Bend. Then the rains came.

On Feb. 19, Toledo Bend's pool level was 169.36. Three days later, it was 171.60.

In late February, it was at 172.65 and rising. Sabine River Authority officials have all 11 gates open a foot and generators running 24/7 trying to keep up.

That's 3 feet more water in the pond than three weeks ago. So my prediction flopped.

As for bass fishing prospects, it's Katy bar the door. The outlook's appealing because the bite will be crazy in April. Bass will scatter into the acres of flooded country around the bushes and cypress trees as they charge to the bank — but they're there for those who love to flip bushes and get skinny.

The drawback is the creeks are muddy. And eventually the stained water will move out to the main lake when the water recedes. When that happens, logs, plywood and other debris will flow with it, so boaters must take extra caution.

Before I talk about how to catch the bass, please heed this: I can't preach catch-and-release enough, and I emphasize it at this time of year — the spawn. You don't have to take a trophy-sized bass home, wrap it up and put it in the freezer to get a mount from a taxidermist.

For example, two years ago I was guiding a couple, and the man caught a 9.1-pounder — a beauty that looked every bit of 10 pounds — on a Carolina-rigged soft plastic in about 8 feet of water. We put it in the livewell for 10 or 15 minutes so it could calm down while the husband and wife decided what to do.

I told them it wouldn't be eligible for a free mount in the Toledo Bend Lunker Program, so I advised them to measure it, weigh it, get its girth, photograph it and get a replica mount made.

They decided to do that and that big ol' girl was released to live, make babies and fight again.

You can do that with any lunker you are proud of, maybe a 6-pounder or even a 3-pound-plus crappie.

Unlike last April (the toughest spring ever for me with the pool level in the 167-range), bass anglers will have the opportunity to fish flooded bushes to their heart's content.



In February, Mikey Garcia caught these 6-pound bass Toledo Bend bass on Louisiana-made products, including Pousson's punch skirt from Church Point and the Little Joe Craw from Natural Forage Baits in Many.

The April bass bite should be good. You can do a lot of pitching and flipping in and around those bushes and anything on the bottom. Bass will be on their beds in April, and it'll be prime time to catch them on Carolina-rigged soft plastics, Flukes, wacky worms, Senkos and other soft plastics.

Chatterbait-style artificial lures and swim jigs that can be bounced off the bottom and worked through and over the grass are sure to trigger strikes. And assuming the water temperature is in the 70s and fish will be shallow doing their thing, plastics frogs such as Top Toads — whatever your favorite might be — are going to be effective even if you can't see a lily pad or other vegetation. Don't hesitate to throw one — white, black or watermelon/red, depending on the water color — because bass on their beds will annihilate it.

While many, many bass anglers will be targeting bass in the brush and shallows inside grasslines, I'll spend much of my time on ridges, at least to start an outing. There will be fish on the ridges, too — some of them spawning before they ever get to the bushes.

If you want to catch bass in April, I've been guiding on this lake most of my life and you're more than welcome in my boat. Give me a call at (936) 404-2688. ■

- John Dean

Bayou Teche up next >



YOUR LEADER IN GULF SOUTH SPORTS

www.CoxSportsTV.com

CoxSportsTV
 @CoxSportsTV
 CoxSportsTV

Spring Cleaning = Fish Cleaning

Subscribe today for the best:

- **FISHING REPORTS**
- **TIDE TABLES**
- **HOTSPOTS**
- **HOW-TOS**
- **NEW GEAR**

\$24.99

12 issues



Call Toll-free

1-855-223-3599

or for faster service visit

LouisianaSPORTSMAN.com/subscribe

*Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue



Louisiana
SPORTSMAN

GET YOUR BASS FIX ON BAYOU TECHE

Finding a stable body of water — one that isn't on a hard rise or already unfishably high — can be a priority for bass anglers in one of the prime fishing months of the year.

That's Bill McCarty's objective in April. Usually, the Morgan City outdoorsman goes to the Bayou Teche at Patterson, a long, winding, deepwater portion of the bayou with locks on one end at the Atchafalaya River and on the other end at the Calumet Cut.

McCarty said the Bayou Teche will be a viable option this month. As of the end of February, the Atchafalaya Basin was taking its annual bath as the river jumped to 4.7 feet at Morgan City in early March, and was forecast to rise to 5.7 feet by March 6. Flood stage is 6 feet.

"The way the water situation is setting up to be, a stable place would be the Teche. I

think the Bayou Teche will be the best bet for April," he said.

Bass fishing should be in full swing. Anglers have a choice to fish the north shoreline, which is shallow leading to a dropoff and lined with cypress trees, or the deeper, populated side on the other shoreline.

And for those who don't target bass, bream and sac-a-lait can be plentiful.

When McCarty fishes for bass, he'll start on the "tree side" early and fish with either a 3/8- or 1/2-ounce chartreuse/white or black/white Delta Lures buzzbait, or a 3/8-ounce chartreuse/blue/white Humdinger double-bladed spinnerbait with either a willowleaf blade or an Indiana blade, depending on the water color.

Later, he'll switch to the other side and target docks.

"Typically, I like to go from Cameron



Louis Spitale holds a chunky bass caught around cypress trees in Bayou Teche at Patterson.

continues >



985-857-8000 CALL TODAY!

2845 Hwy 311, Schriever, LA 70395
www.mlengine.com • sales@mlengine.com

PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

We will match or beat any competitors price!



Gas Inboard / Mud boat Power train

Up to 44 Horsepower!
 Electronic Fuel Injection
 ZF Transmission
 Air Cooled



Marine Diesel Generators

6kW up to 200kW
 Keel Cooled
 Heat Exchanger Cooled



Gas and Diesel Pumps

2" - 48" Pumps
 Skid Mounted
 Trailer Mounted
 Dry Prime
 Wet Prime



Packaged Generators

6kW up to 800kW
 Sound Enclosures
 Fuel Tanks
 Trailer Mounted
 Panels and Accessories



Replacement Engines

Tier 2 Mechanical In Stock!
 Tier 3 & Tier 4 Available



Pressure Washers



Heavy Duty Diesel and Electric

Generator Alternator Ends



Custom Power Units

6hp up to 400hp
 Diesel
 Natural Gas
 Gasoline
 Propane
 Accessories



Avenger

AV-26



For more information, go to AvengerBayBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on **Facebook at Avenger Bay Boats**
for the latest available information.



222 Sportfish



For more information, go to PioneerBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on **Facebook at Pioneer Boats**
for the latest available information.

From The
Back Water
To The
Blue Water



230CC



For more information, go to BullsBayBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on **Facebook at Bulls Bay Boats**
for the latest available information.

Bayou Teche continued

(Cameron Ironworks) toward Berwick, or Cameron toward Patterson. Divide it. Early, it seems going toward Patterson is better. Later it seems better toward Berwick," McCarty said.

A blue shad or albino Fluke is his favorite lure to start probing the length and width of docks, he said, following up with a chartreuse/black or Tennessee shad or crawfish-colored mid-range Bandit crankbait. If he isn't getting any takers close-in, he'll back off and crankbait the structure because many people sink objects, such as Christmas trees, around docks to attract sac-a-lait and other gamefish.

If things are tough, he'll rely on a 6-inch straight-tail plastic worm under a 1/8-ounce worm weight. Green pumpkin or red shad is the preferred color, he said.

Sac-a-lait can be caught around those docks, too, on Beetle Spins, either white with a red dot or yellow. He'll cast and retrieve around the shady side, where most of the slabs congregate, he said.

Bream, which usually move into the cypress trees to spawn in late April, can be caught on crawfish-colored Basin Jigs with a chartreuse Crappie Nibble. Fish 1 1/2-foot deep and enjoy the action when they get on their beds. ■

- Don Shoopman

WEST COVE HOLDING BIG LAKE SPECKS, REDS

April is a prime time to catch speckled trout, redfish and flounder on Calcasieu Lake.

And veteran charter boat captain Jeff Poe didn't hesitate on where you should go to catch fish: West Cove.

At the time, though, Poe and others were frustrated by fresh and turbid water conditions, the result of heavy rainfall in February that raised the Calcasieu River.

"We'll be fighting that for a couple weeks," said the owner of Big Lake Guide Service (337-598-3268). "It was already fresh."

Barring monsoon-like weather in March, Poe expects much improved water conditions across the lake system in April.

"Yeah, for sure," he said. "As fresh as it is now, usually West Cove has the highest salinity we have. It'll be the first area to get salty



Mary Poe shows off a nice Big Lake redfish.

because it's down on the lower part of the lake, and West Pass brings saltwater in there.

"It's usually one of the best places to fish and April's one of the best months to fish West Cove."

Poe said any shoreline there could have speckled trout, redfish and/or flounder, he said.

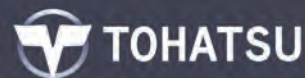
"Just beating the bank (can produce fish). You don't even have to be near a bayou," he said. "And there's reefs scattered around the bank. Any of those shorelines have oysters ... some good reefs there."

Look for the clearest water possible, green to the color of ice tea, even, he said.

"Fish the cleanest dirty water you can find if you have to," he said.

Fish can be found from the shoreline out to about 4-foot depths most of the time, he said, advising anglers to look for baitfish and slicks to find the best locations.

For speckled trout, soft plastics are hard to beat. Poe's favorites are Lil Johns in opening night, chartreuse/ice, watermelon/red and



Are available at these local dealers.

Black's Outdoor & Marine, LLC
1423 NW Evangeline Thruway
Lafayette, LA 70501

Duvic's Inc.
3650 Westbank Expressy
Harvey, LA 70058

Emmett's Marine
354 Dale Trail
NE Brookhaven, MS 39601

EK's Marine Service
120 Cryer St.
West Monroe, LA 71291

Lake Area Marine, Inc.
3909 Hwy. 90
East Lake Charles, LA 70615

Red River Marine
621 N. Third
Alexandria, LA 71301

Southern Outdoors & Marine of Houma
2268 Grand Caillou Rd.
Houma, LA 70363

Feel the Wind™

Spots & Specks
CHARTERS, LLC

Golden Meadow to Grand Isle
Inland and Coastal Fishing

USCG Licensed & Insured
(985)637-3177

Idwfis #057-087-5112
fishing2morrow@yahoo.com

See us on

www.spotsandspeckscharters.com

continues >

POWERS

TO REACH YOUR DESTINATION



MFS 50/40

At just 209 pounds, Tohatsu's MFS 50/40 is the lightest weight in its class. Equipped with an improved gear case with a lower gear ratio, the 50/40 four stroke's are powered to quickly reach your destination.

Powered by exceptional fuel economy and proven electronic fuel injection technology, your day on the water has never been quite like this.

*The 50/40 four stroke is now available in Beluga White
www.LouisianaSportsman.com

1st Choice REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**LOTS • LAND • HOMES
CAMPS • RENTALS**

YOUR TOLEDO BEND SPECIALIST!

1stChoiceToledoBend.com

318-645-6645

DAYNA YELDELL, BROKER/OWNER
Licensed by the Louisiana Real Estate Commission

West Cove continued

chicken-on-a-chain on 1/8- or, even, 1/16-ounce jigheads. While he doesn't rig with popping corks much, he does have them ready to go. "I'll have some in the boat and a lot of times it (working a popping cork) works good," he said. This is top topwater time, too. Poe has SheDogs in chrome/black and chrome/blue, as well as Spooks and Super Spooks in clown (red head/gold/white) and Rapala Skitterwalks in bone/silver and chartreuse silver at the ready. Pink is also a deadly color at times. Bigger speckled trout fall for the topwaters and SoftDines, Mirro-Dines and Fat Boys. "They all work real good," Poe said. "That's one of my favorite baits to catch bigger school trout, also." For redfish, Poe favors using Gulp curly tails. Ditto for flounder with a Gulp curly tail in pearl or chartreuse on a 1/8- or 1/4-ounce jighead. ■

- Don Shoopman

YOUR *PATHFINDER* AND *WAR EAGLE* BOAT DEALER FOR SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA!




WE HAVE GATORTAIL PARTS IN STOCK!

Your Full Service Marine Warranty Center For...

POWER-POLE MotorGuide NEVER STOP! MERCURY YAMAHA MINNOMOTA *PATHFINDER*

Renovations
Hardware • Marine • Home Decor

Holly St Pierre, Sales Manager/ Shop Manager
16815 East Main St., Cut Off
Phone: 985-632-8988 • Fax: 985-632-5538

POUND THE TRESTLES FOR PONTCHARTRAIN SPECKS

If you don't like fishing around crowds, you're probably not alone — but it can sometimes actually help anglers. The fish on the Lake Pontchartrain Trestles bridge receive a ton of boat pressure, but that can concentrate the fish, according to Capt. Justin Bowles. Weekends can get extremely hectic on the bridge this month, with many anglers partaking in the specks that carpet the bottom along the train bridge — and the majority of those anglers are glued to the bridge pilings, but that can be a big mistake, according to Bowles.



Capt. Justin Bowles favors magneto-colored Matrix Shad when targeting Trestles trout.

"If they're feeding right up on the bridge and that's where they're actually eating, I think they'll still get away from the boats and maybe run in to grab food, and go back out and stage where they're not pressured," he said.

Upon arrival, Bowles shuts his engine off a little ways from the bridge.

"I'll stop the boat far off the bridge and fish my way to the bridge," he said. "If I get to the bridge and I'm not doing anything, then I'll keep the boat near the bridge and cast out."

Bowles bounces 3/8-ounce jigheads off the bottom to elicit strikes from hungry specks.

The Lake Pontchartrain guide likes Matrix Shad in a variety of colors, but his favorite is magneto.

Although the fishing can be monotonous on the Trestles, Bowles said it's important to pay close attention to every cast you make.

"Always remember what angle you were at and what you were doing when you get a bite, because odds are that's how they're going to keep biting," he said.

The water in Lake Pontchartrain can get incredibly clear, but Bowles said finding slightly stained water can be advantageous.

"I don't like really clean water where you can see down 3-feet, but I also don't want to fish in chocolate milk," he said.

At press time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was opening the Bonnet Carré Spillway for an undetermined amount of time to reduce the flooding threat on the lower Mississippi River. The longer it stays open and pours freshwater into the lake, the bite at the Trestles could eventually evaporate as that river water heads east. ■

- Joel Masson

D'Arbonne up next >



SUZUKI MAKES IT EASY AS 1-2-3



1.

Six Years of Protection at no extra charge on all new outboards 25 to 350 HP.



2.

Instant Savings of up to \$800 on select models. See your dealer for details.



3.

Rates as low as 5.99% on new Suzuki outboards (DAC).*





3909 HWY 90 EAST • LAKE CHARLES, LA
337-433-7019




These are limited time offers. See your participating Suzuki Marine dealer or visit www.suzukimarine.com.

We Do More Than Just Repair and Sell Props

- Authorized Mercury Parts and Service Dealer
- Service on all brands of outboard engines
- Sales and installation of Marine and Boat accessories
- Boat and trailer parts and repair
- Dealer for Xtreme boats Powered by Mercury Outboards





1501 General Mouton • Lafayette, LA 70501
337-235-5761 • www.thepropshopincla.com



Area's exclusive GatorTail dealer



TERREBONNE MARINE 1201 St. Charles St, Houma • 872-3314






Revolutionary Shallow Water Motors



MOTORS • PROPS • FRAME KITS • PARTS

MOVE WITH THE FISH FOR D'ARBONNE CRAPPIE

Earlier in the year, crappie on Lake D'Arbonne moved from the 30-foot channels to the 12- to 15-foot flats, then into the shallows to spawn. To catch fish after the spawn, you just need to follow the fish right back out.

"It's just early-season fishing in reverse. They go back out to the same spots that they came in from," said Pro-Built Jigs and Jenko Rods pro staffer Ken Myers, an expert on D'Arbonne crappie. "April is a great month for crappie. The fish are not as aggressive right after the spawn, but to catch them now, you simply follow the fish back out.

"The big females have moved right back out on the flats and hang near creek channels or stump fields like they did two months ago before the spawn," Myers said. "The males are almost all moved off the shallow nests and they are headed back out on the flats as well.

"The biggest difference is the water is a bit warmer and has a little less oxygen, so they are hanging about 5 to 6 feet deep

instead of just a couple of feet off the bottom."

Find the fish by using your electronics, but also by experimenting with depths.

Myers and his fishing partner Mark Taylor fish mostly with shiners, but he likes to use them on colored jig heads, just like plastic-bodied lures. His favorite color jigheads on D'Arbonne are pink and orange.

Top plastic colors are blue thunder, blue chartreuse, bluegrass and Cajun cricket. He also likes to match poles to how fast he is fishing. For slower speeds, he recommends the Jenko Slab City rod. When he fishes above .5 mph spider rigging or holding two poles, his choice is the Spider Troll pole.

Flats are areas off the channel with consistent depths. They are easy to find all the



Ken Myers with two big spring-time Lake D'Arbonne crappie.

way from the spillway to Terrel Island to above the Highway 33 bridge.

Once the fish settle in on the flats, they usually stay there until the weather starts getting really hot. Many people think that once the spawn is over, fishing is over, but that isn't the case. After a couple of weeks to recover from the rigors of the spawn, fish are eager to find shad and feed to build back up for the long hot summer. ■

- Kinny Haddox

BIG TROUT MOVING INTO LAFITTE AGAIN THIS YEAR

Lafitte isn't generally known for lunker trout, but Capt. Theophile Bourgeois said last spring began with some 3- to 5-pounders making their way up the system.

And it looks to be happening again this year, the owner of Bourgeois Charters said in March.

"The trout that have come in so far have been bigger than normal," Bourgeois said. "This weekend we had boats out, and they didn't catch many, but they were all 20-inch trout."

That's great news, since it's inevitable that the normal schoolies with which many of us fill our boxes will show up this month as

salinities rise.

And that opens the possibility for catching a quick box of keepers, along with the opportunity to add some quality to the catch.

Of course, you have to tailor your approach to the size trout being targeted.

For instance, if you're looking for a lot of action, just head to the middle portion of the system — Barataria Bay, Turtle Bay, Little Lake — and look for that age-old telltale sign.

"If I have some kids and we want to catch a lot of fish, I'll just go out and look for birds," Bourgeois said.

continues >



Courtesy of Capt. Theophile Bourgeois

Early indications are that larger-than-normal trout will be available in Lafitte this spring, according to Capt. Theophile Bourgeois.

YOUR LAST BOAT PURCHASE!

HANK'S

Satisfaction Guaranteed
Since 1985

www.hankos.com



247LSWT



1858WT



247VWT

985-385-3310

HONDA
MARINE

MERCURY

SUZUKI
MARINE

LIKE
US ON 

**995 Utah Street
Berwick, LA 70342**

Monday - Thursday 8-5
Friday 8-3

PRO-DRIVE™

SHALLOW WATER OUTBOARDS



ProDriveOutboards.com 337-229-0034

 [/prodriveoutboards](https://www.facebook.com/prodriveoutboards)

 [/prodriveoutboards](https://www.instagram.com/prodriveoutboards)

 [/prodrivevids](https://www.youtube.com/prodrivevids)

LaFitte continued

Once located, you can't go wrong with a double rig.

"If I'm going to catch meat, I'm old fashioned — a double shad rig under a popping cork," Bourgeois said with a chuckle. "A popping cork is a great locator of fish: It's not a locator of big fish, but it's a great locator of little trout."

His preference for popping corks runs toward those with concave tops, such as Bomber Paradise Poppers.

"They have that rattle, and with that lip they make lots of noise," Bourgeois said.

He likes glow lures on his double rigs.

But he also keeps a second rod rigged with a ¼-ounce jighead and a silver mullet Bomber

soft-plastic.

"You can get down beneath those (school trout) and catch some bigger fish," Bourgeois said.

But if big fish truly are your target, then it's time to dig out the topwaters and head to areas like Manilla Village, Cabanash Cove or Redfish Bay.

Bourgeois said he'll head to the oyster reefs in no more than 4 feet of water — favoring those in 2 feet — and work the areas over as he drifts.

However, he said he's always looking for bait.

"If you don't see any bait, there probably aren't any (trout)," Bourgeois said. "I'll make four or five casts, and if I don't see anything happening, I'll move on to another area." ■

- Andy Crawford

GRAND ISLE TROUT IN PASSES, ON THE BEACH

The colder-than-usual weather this winter came in a short, concentrated burst of frigid, bone-chilling cold that shocked man and beast and fowl and fish — all of which are unaccustomed to such temperatures.

Capt. Jay Auseve (985-637-4964) said it delayed the usual start of the Grand Isle trout season, but not by too much.

"Nature is resilient," he said. "It rebounds.

"We were eager to see the trout show up again after they vanished with the cold, but they're showing up now and they're hungry."

Auseve said April is when the trout get real active in Four Bayou Pass, and all the passes.

"Coup Abel, Barataria Pass, Caminada Pass... they'll all produce fish this month and next," he said. "And the action should really turn up along the beaches when the winds give you a window to fish out there, and at the traditional spring hotspots like Queen Bess."

Auseve said live shrimp is the best bait, but if its unavailable, then plastics should do the trick.

continues >

Show Specials Continued...

Southbay Pontoon 200 Series



\$39,500

Skeeter ZX 200



\$46,495



7332 Hwy. 1 South Addis, LA
 225-749-5001 | 877-396-8365
 cajunoutboards.com



Fiberglass Repair
If you want the best!

CALL TODAY (504) 277-7777



2409 Parish Road • New Orleans, LA 70129





OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL!!
It's BOILED CRAWFISH TIME!
 COOKED JUST LIKE YOU LIKE IT.
 MAY BE THE BEST YOU EVER TASTED!

(337) 667-6148
www.crawfishtownusa.com

CRAWFISH TOWN USA
 Restaurant & Fresh Market
Real Cajun! Real Good!

AWARD WINNING CUISINE

FRESH MARKET
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
 LOUISIANA SEAFOOD • SPECIALTY MEATS • PRODUCE

OUR SEAFOOD AND MEAT IS SO FRESH IT WAS EITHER SWIMMING, WALKING OR CRAWLING JUST YESTERDAY!

Henderson-Cecilia, exit 115
 1/2 mile North of I-10
 on LA Hwy. 347



Captain Paul's G.P.S. Systems™
 For the Best Advice & Hands on Instruction in this New High Tech Navigation System

CAPTAIN PAUL'S FISHING EDGE of GPS WAYPOINTS are available on the Web at THE LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN'S "OUTDOOR STORE"
www.LouisianaSportsman.com
PRIVATE GROUP SEMINAR RATES
INDIVIDUAL TUTORING • SCHEDULED SEMINARS

For information
 Call Captain Paul@ (985) 847-0536
 e-mail: captainpaultgps@gmail.com

Grand Trout continued

FISHING HOTSPOTS



Capt. Jay Auseve double-rigs TKO shrimp for Grand Isle specks in April.

"Fish shrimp imitation baits such as the DOA or TKO or Vudu in natural or glow colors, tight-lined or fished under a cork, or

H&H cocahoes in chartreuse or opening night colors fished the same way, single- or tandem-rigged," he said.

"One of my favorite things to do in the spring is to throw topwater baits or the slow-sinking twitchbaits, and enjoy the thrill of a big trout or redfish exploding on those lures."

Auseve said redfish have stayed active and plentiful in the marsh throughout the winter, and now they're patrolling along the beach in big schools, devouring whatever is in front of them.

"Look for birds along the beach," he said. "If you see them hovering and diving, it's most likely a school of reds under them. Throw gold spoons or soft plastics and enjoy the fight." ■

- Rusty Tardo

Covers Unlimited

- Boat Covers • Bimini Tops • Full Enclosures
- Bow & Cockpit Covers • Marine Upholstery & Repair
- On Site Marine Work • Guaranteed Workmanship

Proud Distributor of Eagle Carports

Custom Pool Covers

LOUISIANA'S CUSTOM CANVAS LEADER






225-261-4057 13140 Hooper Rd • BR, LA 70818
www.coversunlimited.net

Buras up next >

We didn't Invent the Playground but We Sell the Toys!



THE EVINRUDE E-TEC
PERFECT
10
SALES EVENT
NOV. 1, 2017 APR. 30, 2018

**10-YEAR
COVERAGE**
UP TO A \$7,500 RETAIL
VALUE PER ENGINE
OFFER VALID IN USA ONLY

EVINRUDE



5196 Hwy. 311 • Houma, LA

985-876-7821

Mon - Fri 8am - 5:30pm • Sat 8am - Noon

HEAD EAST FOR BURAS TROUT

The high Mississippi River began sending tons of sediment out into the waters surrounding Buras in March — particularly on the west side, where trout will move to Grand Isle and Barataria Bay.

So Buras anglers have to look to the east to catch specks this month, according to Cajun Fishing Adventure's Capt. Ryan Lambert.

"April 1 marks the transition, and trout will come out of their winter holes, out of Delacroix," Lambert said.

But don't count on seeing a ton of pretty, clean water as you motor out. In fact, the closer you are to Buras, the muddier the water likely will be.

"It's going to take a boat ride to catch trout this month," Lambert said. "Most of the fish will be way out on rigs and islands, out of the river water."

Exactly how far the river water extends depends on how long the river remains high.

But even if you find muddy water at the islands and rigs, you could still find trout. That's because saltwater is heavier than fresh water, and specks can be ganged up in that salty layer beneath filthy Mississippi River water.

So Lambert spends a lot of time looking backward as he motors away from Buras on the way to areas like Lonesome Island, Stone Island, Battledore and the platforms

in Black Bay.

"You have to watch your prop wash," he said. "You'll see that pretty, clean water boil up."

Once he sees this happening, he begins looking for bait, and there should be plenty since the glass minnow spawn normally occurs this month.

And this veteran trout guide said the rising river can actually help anglers catch quick limits, once they find the right conditions.

"It's going to congregate fish," Lambert said. "So how will he fish such mud-covered waters?"

He said it's a time he uses a cork to dangle his soft-plastics below the river water. See the story on page 146 for details on how he maximizes this tactic.

But if he's fishing shallow water — or finds an area that hasn't been covered up by fresh water — he also tight-lines H&H grubs and Z-Man Trout Tricks.

And, of course, he'll be looking for flocks of feeding gulls, too.



With the Mississippi River high and muddy, Buras anglers should head east to catch speckled trout, veteran guide Capt. Ryan Lambert said.

Courtesy of Capt. Ryan Lambert

"The birds will start working especially by the latter part of the month," he said.

And, once the Mississippi River begins to fall, fishing will get progressively closer to the landing.

"It doesn't take long for trout to move back in," Lambert said. ■

- Andy Crawford

Marsh Ponds up next >

YAMAHA

Ranger BOATS

Black's Outdoor & Marine LLC

1423 NW Evangeline Thwy. • Lafayette, LA 70501 • (337) 233-4272 • (337) 233-6585

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE

1907 Paulette Rd.
Morehead City, NC 28557

E-Mail: info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com

Costa Rica

42' Maverick, the Dragon Fly
Not just fishing trips, also honeymoons, family and surf trips available. Packages include a variety of hotels and condo options, all ground transportation, guides, tours and fishing.

Also Costa Rica Tarpon
Argentina Duck and Dove Hunting
North Carolina Inshore/Offshore

Special discounts May-September

252-671-3474

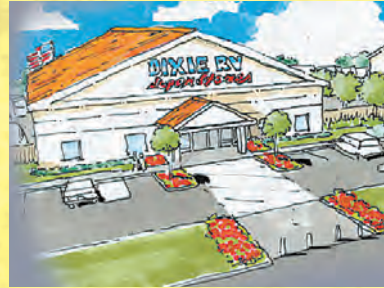


DIXIE RV

CAMPING & OUTDOOR STORE!!



HAMMOND
Sales & Service:
866-591-2024
Located off I-12 Exit 35
10241 Destination Dr.
Hammond, LA 70403
SALES: Mon - Sat 8 am - 7 pm
SERVICE: Mon - Sat 8 am - 5 pm



Breaux Bridge
Sales & Service:
337-889-0011
Located off I-10, Exit 109
657 Enterprise Pkwy.
Breax Bridge, LA 70517

www.dixierv.com

MOMENTUM



Over **400**
Trailers, Fifth
Wheels and
Toy Haulers
On Display!

LACROSSE
by PRIME TIME MFG.



Hammond
Only

Hideout
by Hornet



Hammond
Only

Laredo



Hammond
Only

TORQUE



SENECA



GREYHAWK



Bounder



Over **100**
Motorhomes
On Display

CLASS B
WINNEBAGO
Touring Coach



"Helping You Retire One Weekend At A Time"

STINGRAYS MEAN REDFISH IN MARSH PONDS

Capt. Lane Zimmer said understanding redfish patterns this time of year can help you pinpoint general location where you're likely to find fish.

"Redfish are going to be primarily in the smaller marsh ponds," he said. "It got real cold (this winter); they got real deep — in the deep holes trying to survive. After that, they kind of came out into the big open bodies of water, and (in March) we were starting to see them transition into the marsh where they should be."

When fishing those small marsh ponds, Zimmer likes sight-fishing the redfish. However, he said he absolutely never goes sight-fishing by the naked eye.

"What you really, really need to do the whole sight-fishing thing is a really good pair of sunglasses," he said.

Zimmer uses Costa 580G copper lenses, and he said they help his vision

tremendously in a bright, glaring sun.

"It gives you a lot of contrast in the water," he said. "It lets you see that redfish's fins and tail compared to the bottom."

Next to sunglasses, finding clean water while floating in super shallow ponds is extremely important, according to Zimmer — but he said it's not the end of the world if the water is dirty.

"You can make them out if it's a bright sunny day and you've got kind of stained water," he said. "You can still pick up on their pectoral fins and tell they're moving, but it does make it difficult when the water is pretty stained."

One of the most difficult things in fishing is locating productive areas. That's easier, though, when sight-fishing because Zimmer said there's usually a clear sign if there is redfish in a pond.

"You'll see a couple sheephead and drum, but you'll see a lot of stingrays," he



If you're in a pond with lots of stingrays, Capt. Lane Zimmer said that's usually a sure sign of redfish being there, as well.

said. "If you're in a pond with some stingrays in it, you're going to have redfish in there. They get in there together."

When Zimmer spots a fish, the aggressiveness of it determines what he casts.

"If they want to hit something flashy, I'll throw a spoon. If they want something a little more subtle, I'll throw a (Mad Mullet)," he said.

A Mad Mullet is a soft plastic swimbait made by Zimmer. ■

- Joel Masson

FISHING, FESTIVALS & BIRD WATCHING... GRAND ISLE...EVERY DAY IS AN ADVENTURE.



With more than 280 species of fish, Grand Isle beckons anglers of all ages. Come see for yourself why it's known as one of the world's greatest fishing destinations.

2018 SPRING EVENTS:

APRIL

1 – Easter Sunrise Service, Artie's Sports Bar at 7:30 a.m.

13-15 – Blessing of the Fleet Festival and Ceremony, Tarpon Rodeo Pavilion

20-22 – Art Exhibition, GI Library

20-22 – Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, GI Multiplex

22 – Historical Home Tours, Grand Isle Multiplex

27-28 – Grand Isle Alumni Softball Tournament, Grand Isle Ball Field

MAY

4-6 – Serenity by the Sea, Grand Isle School

5 – 7th Annual Cruising the Beach Car Show, Tarpon Rodeo Pavilion

MAY (CONT.)

12 – Grand Isle Alumni Washboard Tournament, Grand Isle Multiplex

17-19 – ABC Rodeo, Sand Dollar

18-19 – Stan Brock Black and Gold Classic, Bridge Side Marina

25-27 – Grand Isle Speckled Trout Rodeo, Bridge Side Marina

26 – Island Wide Garage Sale, Grand Isle Community Center

26 – E.D. White Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina

31-JUNE 1 & 2 – New Orleans Electric Association Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina

FOR EVENT DETAILS AND LODGING VISIT WWW.GRAND-ISLE.COM



REAL DIRTY STIHL CLEAN

STIHL®



Clear a path, then clean off the truck.



RB 400 Dirt Boss™
Pressure Washer **\$579⁹⁵**

- 25' no-kink flex hose
- 2,700 psi of water pressure at 2.7 gallons per minute
- 196 cc engine displacement
- Brass manifold pump design, stainless steel valves and ceramic coated pistons



MSA 120 C-BQ
Battery-Powered Chain Saw

- Includes AK 20 Battery + AL 101 Charger
- STIHL Quickstop® chain brake system
- Quick Chain Adjuster
- Ematic™ Lubrication System

All prices are SSW-SRP. Available at participating dealers while supplies last. †The actual listed guide bar length can vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. ©2017 STIHL SSW18-MAG212-139376-1

STIHLdealers.com

CALLING OLD CALLS

DON'T THROW OUT THOSE OLD WINGBONES, BOXES AND SLATES. WITH A LITTLE T.L.C., YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING IN YOUR TURKEY VEST THAT WILL GOAD A GOBBLER INTO MAKING A FATAL MISTAKE.

During a recent hunt in the hardwoods of Franklin County, Miss., my hunting partner Shane McCullough and I weren't having any luck luring in a tom. We heard several on the limb, but they were quickly joined by hens and went silent.

By mid-morning, I had given up and asked Shane if he was ready to go. He didn't say anything, but instead reached in his vest and pulled out an old wingbone call. He ran it once, and a tom hammered back with an earth-shattering exclamation from less than a hundred yards away. Shane hit it again, and the rest was history — the tom strutted straight in, Shane smacked it at 25 yards and I captured it all on video.

I have an old wingbone call, but it wasn't doing me any good tucked away in a box with my other old calls.

So when I got home, I dumped out that box. I've spent a fortune over the years and laid them all aside — and over time, forgotten them.

I bet you're the same way; you've probably accumulated a good stash of turkey calls — anyone that's hunted a few years will. How many have you laid to the side? You should consider doing what I decided to do — clean and recondition them — then practice and put them back to use.

Most old calls can't be bought off the shelf anymore, especially the classics. Paul Meek, a master call-maker, said, "When I think about old turkey calls, what that brings to mind is Raymond and Era Chisholm's trough call and Ben Lee's Super Hen. Then, you can't forget about the original Fool Proof by M.L. Lynch." >

PREMIERE LENDER FOR THE SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE

Sure there are other ways to relax

But yoga and meditation never provided anyone
with a meal and a trophy on the same day

Let Neighbors help you achieve your personal nirvana
with a great rate on your boat loan today! With these
terrific rates and terms, your stress will just melt away.



neighborsfcu.org/boat



YOUR LEADER IN GULF SOUTH SPORTS

www.CoxSportsTV.com

 CoxSportsTV
 @CoxSportsTV
 CoxSportsTV

CALLING OLD CALLS!

Here are a few old calls to consider that can give you the edge on educated toms that have “heard it all.”

OLD BOX CALLS

Most old box calls were made from tight-grain cedar or walnut, and were double-sided. The Lynch World Champion and Ben Lee Twin Hen are boxes many hunters may have laid aside.

Some even older box calls were homemade. If you’ve inherited one of these, consider yourself lucky. You have a real treasure. Old boxes won’t go bad if they’ve been kept from moisture, but they may need a little maintenance.

SLATE POT CALLS

There’s nothing like old slate sitting in a seasoned wood pot. Older slate pots weren’t

sits in a wooden trough. Many older ones came with a corn-cob striker.

Like the pot calls, you can swap out the strikers to get a lot of different tones and pitches. These calls are excellent for close-in hen talk, like cluck and purrs. They’re also good for yelping, cackling and can’t be beat for excited cuts.

TUBE CALLS

Some old tube calls were homemade from small, metal-cylinder snuff cans. A half-moon shaped opening is cut in the lid and a piece of latex is stretched across the opening, held in place by a rubber band. It’s a simple call with a great sound.

These calls are great for yelping and cutting. The volume produced from these little jewels is unbelievable. A tube can reproduce most of the



Box calls, slate pot calls, trough calls, wingbones, scratch boxes and old strikers are candidates for some repair and refitting if you’ve set them aside over the years.

mass-produced, but were made like today’s custom calls, featuring good wood and good slate.

Any striker that accompanied older slates should be of excellent quality, but if you want to get a different sound out of an older slate, mix it up with different strikers. Try it with strikers you already have stashed. You can buy other strikers: laminates, exotic woods or carbon. It may surprise you at the new sound you can get from old slate.

TROUGH CALLS

Trough calls are friction calls and have a strip — usually slate, aluminum or copper — that

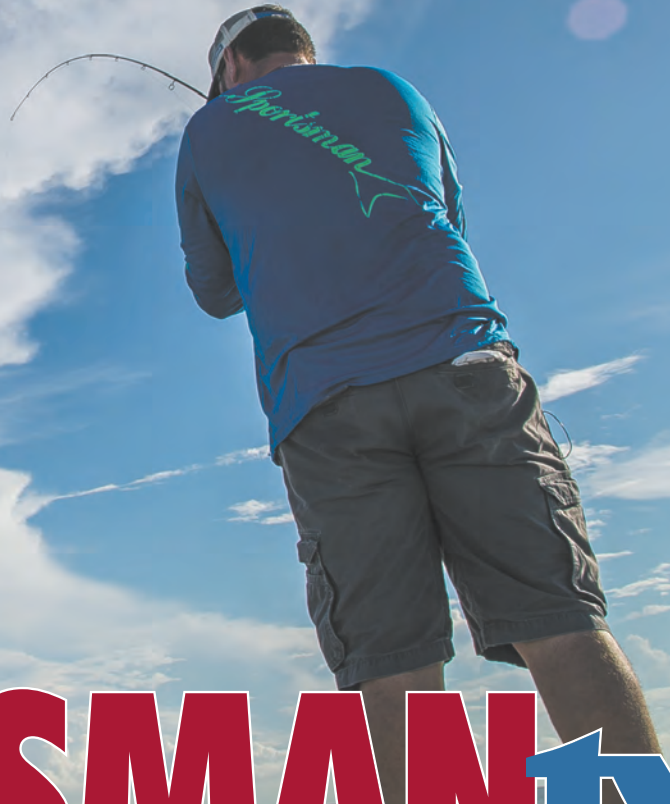
sounds that a turkey makes—even the gobble.

Call-makers like the late Kenny Morgan used this design and produced wood versions like The Morgan Call. Tube calls are still made today.

WINGBONES

The wingbone is the oldest turkey call man has used. The National Wild Turkey Federation said it’s the original turkey call used by Native Americans to put turkey dinners over the fire. NWTf’s Winchester Museum houses the oldest-known wingbone call, one dating back 4,000 years. The wingbone was the most-common turkey call used until the 1960s, when other calls became popular.

Brought to you by



SPORTSMAN tv

Nuthin's Safe

LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM/SPORTSMANTV

Don't miss SPORTSMAN TV!

Loaded with the most exciting action and "how-to" and "where-to" information, SPORTSMAN TV will help you make the most of your outdoor experience.

Our host, **Greg Hackney, 2014 Bass Angler Of The Year** and hunting enthusiast, continues to travel throughout Louisiana exploring all of the hunting and fishing opportunities the state has to offer. Catch all of the action on Cox Sports Television.

This Month On SPORTSMAN TV

This month features great footage of big bull redfish, where to target trout, and how to make finicky bass bite. Tune in.

Cox Sports Television Thursdays - 6:30 pm, Saturdays - 8:30 am, Sundays - 9:00 am

▶ You can catch any episode you missed on louisianasportsman.com/sportsmantv

SPORTSMAN TV SPONSORS



CALLING OLD CALLS!

One of your old turkey calls that's been collecting dust for years might just be the ticket for you to hook up with a gobbler this season.



The wingbone is great for yelping. Once mastered, hunters are able to cackle, cut, cluck, purr and kee-kee. It has a sound that's distinct, and its pitch is unique. It's a great locator call; most times a gobbler can't resist answering, especially the first time he hears it.

SCRATCH BOX

Small in size, simple in design, the scratch box, aka coffin box, delivers the best cluck out of any calls. It's hard to tell the difference between the cluck of a scratch box and the real thing. It also gives a solid yelp. The

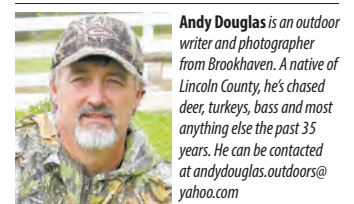
pitch depends on the type wood it's made from. Cedar, the most common, gives a high

pitch, while walnut will give a deeper yelp.

These two-piece calls are usually a rectangular shaped hollow wood chamber with striker lip and a solid wood striker piece. Every scratch box has its own unique sound. They can still be found, but your old-time ones will have the classic sounds from the good old-aged wood.

So break out all your old calls and scatter them across the floor and get down to business. Clean 'em up, chalk 'em up and practice, practice, practice. There's no need to leave those old calls in retirement. Bring them back to life for some hot turkey hunting action.

You may even find that you've developed better calling skills since some of these calls were set aside. You might discover that your best call has been sitting idle for too long. Just a heads-up, though: You may need a turkey hunting vest with more pockets. ■



Andy Douglas is an outdoor writer and photographer from Brookhaven. A native of Lincoln County, he's chased deer, turkeys, bass and most anything else the past 35 years. He can be contacted at andydouglas.outdoors@yahoo.com

INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE
Special Pricing on all **YAMAHA** Golf Carts in Stock!

SOUTHERN POWER & EQUIPMENT, LLC
802 HWY 182 • HOUMA, LA 70364
(985) 851-1242 • email: howard.leboeuf@spchouma.com

MUD BOAT POWER

- 50 Amp Alternator
- Stainless Steel Exhaust
- Digital Ignition Coil
- ZF Transmission with 1.5: 1 Ratio

Vanguard 37hp EFI MARINE Engine w/ZF 15 M Transmission
Vanguard 35HP MARINE Engine Also Available

Meet the Pack.
Authorized Kiotti dealer/
large selection from
22-110HP

GENERATORS FOR INDUSTRIAL & MARINE

**Industrial Generator:
6KW - 20KW - IN STOCK**

- Compact Units
- Light Weight
- Fuel Efficient
- Quiet

NORTHERN LIGHTS

**Marine Generator:
5KW - 20KW
IN STOCK**

Excel in your field™

LS Tractor

BECAUSE PEACE OF MIND
**SHOULDN'T
BE AN OPTION**

UP TO 6 YEAR WARRANTY

Authorized LS Tractor Dealer

Now Offering Marine And Industrial Engines By **SCANIA**



**MAY 26 -
SEPTEMBER 3, 2018**

**Sign Up Early for
Your Chance to Win
One of these Prizes
Drawings Held Every Friday**

**101 DAYS OF
FISHING
OVER
\$500,000 IN
PRIZES**


**REGISTER NOW
www.ccastar.com**

Follow Us on  


Week 12
Bucket of Booyah Cleaner




Week 11
CCA Louisiana Edition Duce Baitcaster Rod

Week 10
A pair of RINCON Costa Sunglasses 

Week 9
Whitney Bank logoed K2 Coolers

Week 8
Powertech Prop 


Week 7
Pair of MONTAUK Costa Sunglasses 


Week 6
CCA Louisiana Edition Duce Baitcaster Rod

Week 5
Bucket of Booyah Cleaner

Week 4
CCA Louisiana Edition Duce Baitcaster Rod

Week 3
Powertech Prop 

Week 2
A Pair of REMORA Costa Sunglasses 

Week 1
K2 Coolers Sherpa backpack 

PRESENTED BY





Brookhaven Honda

YOU'LL LIKE WHAT YOU SEE, YOU'LL LOVE WHAT YOU SAVE!

**2016 PIONEER
1000
SXS10M3**



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$13,999*
SALE.....\$10,697

**2017 PIONEER™
500
SXS500M2H**



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP \$8,999
MSRP\$8,999*
SALE.....\$7,597

**2017 PIONEER™
700
SXS700M2**



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$10,499*
SALE.....\$8,697

**2017 RANCHER®
DCT IRS TRX
420 FA5
4x4 Automatic
Shift**



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$7,399*
SALE.....\$5,997

**2017 RINCON®
TRX 680 FA
4x4 Automatic
Transmission**



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$9,399*
SALE.....\$7,797

**2018 RANCHER®
TRX 420 FM1
4x4 Manual Shift**



5 AVAILABLE

**FOR OUR BEST PRICE
TEXT 420FM1 TO 68398**

**2017
RANCHER®
TRX 420 TM1
2x4 Manual
Shift**



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$5,349*
SALE.....\$4,197

**2017 RANCHER® 420
TRX 420 FA 2**



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$7,599*
SALE.....\$6,197

**2017
FOREMAN®
500
TRX 500 FM1
4x4 Manual
Shift**



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$7,299*
SALE.....\$5,597

Brookhaven Honda

8-5 Mon.-Fri. • 8-2 Sat.

**1-866-546-6328 • 1-601-833-6041
www.brookhavenhonda.com**

**EXIT 40 OFF I-55 IN BROOKHAVEN, MS
NEXT TO HOME DEPOT**

honda.com RECOMMENDED ONLY FOR RIDERS 16 YEARS AND OLDER. BE A RESPONSIBLE RIDER. REMEMBER, ATVs CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO OPERATE. FOR YOUR SAFETY, ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, AND NEVER RIDE ON PAVED SURFACES OR PUBLIC ROADS. KEEP IN MIND THAT RIDING DOESN'T MIX WITH DRUGS OR ALCOHOL. Honda RECOMMENDS THAT ALL ATV RIDERS TAKE A TRAINING COURSE AND READ THEIR OWNER'S MANUAL THOROUGHLY. For rider training information or to sign up for a rider training course, call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887. FourTrax Foreman®, Rubicon™, Rincon™ and GPScape™ are trademarks of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. PIONEER IS ONLY FOR DRIVERS 16 YEARS AND OLDER. MULTI-PURPOSE UTILITY VEHICLES CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO OPERATE. FOR YOUR SAFETY, BE RESPONSIBLE. ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT, AND KEEP THE SIDE NETS AND DOORS CLOSED. AVOID EXCESSIVE SPEEDS AND BE CAREFUL ON DIFFICULT TERRAIN. ALL MUV DRIVERS SHOULD WATCH THE SAFETY VIDEO (MULTIPURPOSE UTILITY VEHICLES: A GUIDE TO SAFE OPERATION) AND READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE OPERATING THE VEHICLE. NEVER DRIVE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, ON PUBLIC ROADS OR WITH MORE THAN ONE PASSENGER. DRIVER AND PASSENGER MUST BE TALL ENOUGH FOR SEAT BELT TO FIT PROPERLY AND TO BRACE THEMSELVES WITH BOTH FEET FIRMLY ON THE FLOOR. PASSENGER MUST BE ABLE TO GRASP THE HAND HOLD WITH THE SEAT BELT ON AND BOTH FEET ON THE FLOOR. RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN DRIVING. Pioneer is a trademark of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. *Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price (or MMSRP) excludes destination charge. Visit www.powersports.honda.com to view applicable destination charge amount.

FISHING SUPPLIES

Guaranteed Fish!
 Experience Louisiana's Most Professional Guide Service
BAYOU CHARTERS
 Rated #1 in Louisiana
504-278 FISH
 www.CaptainCharlie.com

- Light Tackle
- Fly Fishing
- Redfish
- Speckled Trout

Since 1999

alltackle.com

- Over 40,000 Fishing and Boating Items
- Rods, Reels, Lures, & Tackle
- Outriggers and Fighting Chairs

www.alltackle.com • 888-810-7283


Guides & Classifieds

Display Ads

1/32 Page \$75/mn
 1/16 Page \$107/mn (vertical or horizontal)
 1/8 Page..... \$155/mn (vertical or horizontal)

To place a classified display ad
Call 1-800-538-4355
 Mon-Thurs 8-5 • Fri 8-3

Poisson Rouge Fishing Charters



Delacroix Inshore Specks & Reds
 NOLA accommodations available
504-782-4917

Hard Times FISHING CHARTERS



INLAND & COASTAL
 SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, BULL REDS & MORE FISH CLEANING AVAILABLE.
OFFSHORE RIG FISHING
 SNAPPER, COBIA, MANGROVE SNAPPER, & MORE
 FUEL, GEAR & BAIT PROVIDED
 USCG LICENSED.
 RV HOOKUPS AVAILABLE

GRAND ISLE, LA
CAPTAIN MARK SCARDINO HOME: 985-787-3529 • CELL: 504-382-5286
 www.grand-isle.com/hardtimes

BE A BETTER GUIDE...
 GET THE LATEST REPORTS ON WIND/MARINE & WEATHER FORECASTS, TIDES, ASTRO TABLES AND THE LATEST FISHING & HUNTING REPORTS on
 www.LouisianaSportsman.com

HUNTING

FISH-N-TELL CHARTERS
 CAPT. BARRY SCHEXNAYDRE
 (225) 938-2419 • FISHNTELLCHARTERS@YAHOO.COM
 24' BAY BOATS
SPECIALIZING IN SPECKLED TROUT & REDFISH
 FISHING FROM FOURCHON TO GRAND ISLAND AREA

LOUISIANA PURCHASE RANCH
 Private Land Ranch
 MEEKER, COLORADO

- Mule Deer
- Elk
- Lodge & Cabins

Call Rick 970-272-3006
 or visit shootelk.com



Bobby Lynns

- Waterfront Lodging & RV Sites
- Groups of 4 to 40
- Coastal/inshore charters for Speckled Trout & Redfish
- Leeville, Grand Isle, Golden Meadow, Fourchon

209 Moore Rd • Leeville, LA 70357
985-396-2678
985-637-0118



bobblyynns.com

TRAILERS

GOOD TIMES FISHING CHARTERS GRAND ISLE, LA

All rods, tackle, fuel, ice and live bait provided
 (4 boats available)
 New 26' Avenger Available Now



Some of the BEST Inland/Coastal Speckled Trout & Red Fishing

Capt. Jake Scardino, USCG Licensed

Large Selection of Trailers and Parts in Stock!

TRAILERS Of Louisiana
 5703 Frontage Rd E. Hwy 90 • New Iberia, LA 70560
337-369-1113



FISHING SUPPLIES

H&M Fishing Charters
 (985)258-3632 • handm@grand-isle.com
 5 Boats Available. Fishing inland and coastal waters only. Specializing in trout and redfish.

Fishing Charter Includes
 • Bait • Ice • Fuel • Tackle • Rods & Reels
 Y'all Come Pass A Good Time in Grand Isle, LA

Grand Isle's Finest Fishing!!



Top It Off!

SPORTSMANGear.com
 or 866-616-3315



TRAILERS

Claude's Trailers and Sales

Since 1963 Claude's has been taking care of the trailer needs of Acadiana. Whether you need a new Boat, Utility or Gooseneck trailer of just have a problem with your current trailer, Claude's can solve your problem.

No matter where you bought your trailer, no matter what brand, Claude's services them all. We are one of a few service facilities that can build custom axles



6400 Hwy 14
New Iberia, La. 70560

337-367-1141

TROLLING MOTORS

CUSTOM INSTALLATION AND RIGGING

- BATTERIES
- CHARGERS
- MINNKOTA
- TALON
- HUMMINBIRD
- YAMAHA
- FISHING TACKLE



- STEERING
- JACK PLATES
- MOTORGUIDE
- POWER-POLE
- LOWRANCE
- MERCURY
- MAPS & MAP CARDS

2221 N. Airway • Baton Rouge, LA 70815
NEW & USED SALES & REPAIRS

MARINAS

NOW LEASING

Rigolets Marina Luxury Condos

52250 Hwy 90 Slidell, La at a Full Service Marina w/live bait, tackle, fuel ice, dry storage, groceries and much more



Starting @ \$1350 a Mo.

Features:

- Attached Garage
- Boat Slip w/ Lift
- 2 Covered Balconies
- Furnished & Unfurnished
- 2 bedrooms - 2 1/2 bath (one full)
- Stainless Refrigerator, Washer & Dryer, Dishwasher and Microwave

I-10 Slidell Exit 263 South 6 Miles
lralph22@aol.com

985-640-1566

MISCELLANEOUS

Cajun Custom Fabrication & Marine LLC

- * Aluminum And Metal Welding
- * Boat Welding & Repair Is Our Specialty
- * Farm Repair On Equipment, Etc.
- * Skeg Welding Repairs & Trim Tabs Available

337-288-2609

337-288-2609 Cell
(TEXT ME!)

1818 Tornado Dr
Church Point, LA 70525



Call Lucas Comeaux today for free estimate and book appointment

HUNTING

S&D WHITETAILS HUNTING over 4500 acres in Central Texas. 99% Success. 20 years in business. No Fancy Gates or Lodge, Just Big Deer. Base price of \$2,950 buck up to 139, we have deer 200+. Bring a friend FREE for a hog hunt or whitetail doe includes lodging & meals. www.sdwhitetails.com 325-642-7596

BOATS FOR SALE

21 FOOT MR. B'S SKIFF 2014 Fantail Model. 2011-115 Yamaha Four Stroke Motor Less than 150 Hours Call (985)688-1567 985-688-1567 1BS-102/W

REAL ESTATE

30 ACRES & CAMP HOUSE Waterfront, borders NWR 1 hour to NOLA. Barn, tractor & all furnishings. \$325K FIRM! WON'T LAST! (504)214-6269 504-214-6269 3RE-103/W

COCODRIE WATERFRONT LOT in restricted subdivision. 60 ft water frontage x 250 ft depth. Inside new Hurricane levee/flood gate. \$65,000. Robert Hale Real Estate (985)804-7525 985-804-7525 6RE-101/W

MELERINES CAMP RENTAL 3 bedroom house on Delacroix Island (504)431-3061 or (504) 491-9488 504-431-3061 3RE-101/W

LAKEFRONT PROPERTY. 2 story, 2BR, 2 bath house with 1,500 sq. ft. living area and 85' x 12' deck overlooking White Oak Lake, 15 mi. from Camden, Arkansas. House is pre-furnished and surrounded by 23,000 ac. Poison Springs WMA. Hunt deer, turkey, hogs. \$75,000. Call Mike at 870-403-1104.

BOATS FOR SALE



2012 PARKER 2501 CENTER CONSOLE Twin 250 Yamaha's w/ low hours! \$75,000. Call (601)996-9496 601-996-9496 1BS-102/P

MISCELLANEOUS

Located in the of Texas Hill Country

CURRENTLY BOOKING

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

(830)868-7109 | Ryan@ShirleyRanch.com | Follow Us:

www.ShirleyRanch.com

Classifieds

Up to 25 words \$19.95/mn or \$45 for 3mns. Add a photo for \$10/mn

To place a classified ad
Call 1-800-538-4355
Mon-Thurs 8-5 • Fri 8-3

REAL ESTATE



1930'S FARMHOUSE to be moved by Buyer!! NE of Baton Rouge. New roof, orig pine floors, 2BR 1 BA, Great camp!!! \$14,750 OBO Call (225)324-7789 225-324-7789 1RE-105/P



WATERFRONT NEAR COCODRIE, CAMPERS-MOTORHOMES OK near Falgoust Canal Marina fronting on Lower Bayou Dularge, south of Houma Only 9 Lots left, 4ft plus elevation inside an existing hurricane floodgate levee system & flood gate) In the middle of the best saltwater fishing in Terrebonne Parish close to fresh water bash fishing, Driveways in place!!!! Call for details. Robert Hale Real Estate (985)804-7525 or go to Roberthalerealestate.com for photos, maps and restrictions. 985-804-7525 3RE-103/P

Peel & Stick



SPORTSMAN Gear.com
or 866-616-3315

SAVINGS ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON.

EQUINOX & DRI BALANCE SERIES STARTING AT \$19.99

ONLINE ONLY



ENGINEERED for MAXIMUM COMFORT

- Quick Dry Moisture Support
- UPF 25+ Sun Protection
- Odor Control
- Lightweight



SPORTSMANGEAR.COM

More colors & options available online

ACE'S RETRIEVERS.....	123	ENVIRON METAL, INC.....	61	PUGLIA'S SPORTING GOODS	137
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.	54, 55	EXCEL BOATS	5	PURE FISHING	23, 83
ASCENSION EQUIPMENT & RENT ALL	6	FIRST CHOICE REAL ESTATE SERVICES	170	QUIRK'S WELDING LLC	121
B & B ENTERPRISES INC	139	FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT	195	REDMOND MARINE	154
BAYOU OUTBOARDS, INC.	80	FRED NETTERVILLE LUMBER.....	63	REED'S METALS, INC.....	4
BENT MARINE.....	89	GATOR TAIL OUTBOARDS.....	3	RENOVATIONS	170
BERRYLAND CAMPERS.....	100	GATOR TRAX	127	SCULLY'S.....	117, 156
BIG TEX TRAILER-BROUSSARD.....	33	GEICO - SPECIAL MARKETING	99	SEA TRAC OFFSHORE SERVICES	29
BILL LEWIS OUTDOORS.....	95	GIBSON REALTY/UNITED COUNTRY	119	SEALY OUTDOORS	163
BLACK'S OUTDOOR AND MARINE	178	GLENCOE EQUIPMENT.....	115	SERVICE CHEVROLET.....	11
BLUE DOT MARINE	175	GRAND ISLE TOURIST COMMISSION	180	SHIMANO	48
BLUE WAVE BOATS	129	GULF SHORES AND ORANGE BEACH TOURISM ...	159	SOUTHERN EXPOSURE INLAND FISHING	
BOAT CITY USA	34, 35	H&H MARINE.....	177	CHARTERS	143
BOAT STUF.....	133	H&M MARINE.....	111	SOUTHERN OUTDOORS AND MARINE.....	41
BOATS UNLIMITED	24, 25, 27	HANKO'S.....	173	SOUTHERN POWER AND EQUIPMENT, LLC	186
BOBBY LYNN'S MARINA	152	HENDERSON	155	SOUTHERN QUALITY POLE BARN.....	72, 123
BOSS DRIVES	58	HOBIE CAT	71	SPORTSMAN TV.....	185
BREAUX AND DAIGLE MARINE.....	8, 9	HUGHES WELDING AND MFG.....	141	SPOTS AND SPECKS.....	168
BRIDGESIDE / SAND DOLLAR	46	HURRICANE HOLE	97	STAR BRITE, INC	57
BROOKHAVEN HONDA	188	HYDRO TURF.....	47	STERLING'S UPHOLSTERY	142
BRYAN'S MARINE	90	JEFF REGISTER BUILDING & TRUSS.....	30	STIHL SOUTHWEST	123, 181
CAJUN OUTBOARDS	174	JERRY'S MARINE	92	STRIKE KING LURE COMPANY	39
CAPTAIN PAUL TITUS.....	141, 176	K2 MARINE	109	SUPREME FORD.....	145
CAROLINA COMPOSITES, LLC.....	167	L & S BAIT COMPANY.....	107	TERREBONNE MARINE	171
CCA - LOUISIANA	187	LAFOURCHE PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION	157	TEXAS MARINE.....	103
CHAG'S HUNTING & FISHING	66, 67	LAKE AREA MARINE	47, 171	THE CRAPPIE PSYCHIC, LLC.....	95
CHEEKS MARINE.....	73	LIVE TARGET	105	THE PROP SHOP	171
CHRIS' CAJUN BOILER / STEAMER.....	139	LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH		THE SPORTSMAN.....	80
COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR CO.	113	AND HOSPITALS	27	TIM'S MARINE	21
COTTONMOUTH CUSTOM BOATS.....	62	LOUISIANA LOTTERY	13	TOHATSU AMERICAN CORPORATION	168, 169
COVER'S UNLIMITED	176	LOUISIANA STATE PARKS	90	TOUCHARD MARINE SUPPLY	22
COX SPORTS TELEVISION.....	79, 164, 183	M&L ENGINE.....	166	TOWN & COUNTRY MARINE.....	7, 147
CRAWFISH TOWN USA	176	MARINE LIFT AND DOCK SUPPLY COMPANY.....	143	UNDERWATER FISH LIGHT LLC.....	81
CUSTOM CORRUGATED AND SUPPLY	17	MCM LUMBER	152	WHITETAIL PROPERTIES	31
CUSTOM MAPPING SERVICE	80	MEPLAT GROUP C/O CERBERUS AGENCY.....	65	WILEY X.....	74, 75
CYPRESS COVE BOATING	38	METRO BOATING	26	XPRESS BY ALUMA-WELD, INC.	196
DAGATE'S MARINE	43	MIKE GERALD'S TRAILER.....	72	YAMAHA MOTOR COMPANY.....	15
DAIWA	18, 19	MOLPUS TIMBERLANDS MONROE OFFICE.....	121	YO-ZURI.....	73
DEEP SOUTH GOLF CARS.....	87	MOSELEY & HOLLARD MEN'S CLOTHING	31		
DEER VIEW WINDOWS CO.	115	NAUTIC STAR BOATS.....	2		
DIXIE RV	179	NEIGHBORS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION	183		
DOCKSIDE MARINE.....	56	PARISH TRACTOR.....	131		
DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE	30, 178	PELLEGRIN MARINE	112		
DUVIC'S BOATS.....	81, 194	P-LINE /G. PUCCI & SONS.....	153		
ELITE STOR	105	PRO DRIVE.....	173		

Get decked out in the latest
from the **SPORTSMAN** Store 10, 193

Subscribe Today and **SAVE** 165

THE COOLEST SHIRT YOU'LL EVER OWN.

SPORTSMAN COOL BREEZE

NEW COLORS AND STYLES NOW AVAILABLE



AMERICA'S #1 RATED PERFORMANCE FISHING SHIRT

- Quick-Dry Moisture Support
- 50+ Sun Protection
- Anti-Microbial/Odor Control
- Vented for Superior Breathability



SPORTSMANGEAR.COM

New colors & options available online

DUVIC'S! YOUR #1 Re-Power Center

128 Years
In Business!

Come
see us the
Boat Show
March 2nd
thru 4th



**THE POWER
OF CHOICE**

Select Suzuki Outboards
Are Now Available
In Your Choice of
Black or **GRIT**



**177SKV Red Fish
Edition w/90HP Suzuki
and poling platform**



**239FS w/300HP
Suzuki, hard T-Top**



**230BR w/250HP,
Suzuki, T-top, tandem axle
aluminum trailer**

KW KEY WEST

BLAZER BAY



**2200 Blazer Bay
w/200HP Suzuki and tandem
axle aluminum trailer**

**2400
w/300hp
Suzuki,
Tandem
Axle
Aluminum
Trailer**



SOUTHFORK Aluminum Boats

Southfork 2070V

**Southfork
1756CC
w/90HP Suzuki,
welded floors, 18 gal
uel tank, galv trailer**



**Southfork 1652
w/60HP Suzuki, 12 gal fuel tank, trailer**

MSRP IS A DIRTY 4 LETTER WORD... WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!



DUVIC'S, INC.

3650 Westbank Expwy. Harvey, LA Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

504-341-1654

SERVING
ALL YOUR
BOATING
NEEDS
SINCE 1890



Powered By
SUZUKI
MARINE



Let's share.



As a financial cooperative, First South Farm Credit shares profits among our borrowers. In fact, our borrowers will receive their share of \$17.1 million in refunds in 2018 alone.

So if you're a First South customer, thank you for your patronage and loyalty throughout the years. If you're not, simply call on us when you're ready to buy that special piece of land or farm—and you can start sharing in our success as well. We've written checks for \$355 million over the last 23 years!

Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you finance your land or farm in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.



Your Rural Lender | FIRSTSOUTHLAND.COM | 800-955-1722



First South
Farm Credit

20
18

next level: elite performance



xpress boats®

The original all-welded aluminum boat company
is proud to announce **Bill Lowen,**
Bassmaster Elite Angler to its
Next Level Elite Team.

www.xpressboats.com

"Xpress Boats® truly depicts who I am as a competitive angler and outdoorsman. I fish hard, I play hard, and with Xpress there is a solution for every one of my outdoor pursuit needs".

Xpress Boats prefers to LEAD, not follow, prefers to pioneer, not copy, prefers to be the choice for the finest performing, finest built, original all-welded, high performance aluminum boats on the market today.

For additional information visit our website at
www.xpressboats.com.



Bill Lowen
Bassmaster Elite Angler

