

Louisiana

CCA'S STAR  
KICKS OFF

# SPORTSMAN

**CHOOSING THE  
RIGHT GEAR-RATIO  
REEL FOR THE JOB**

**REDFISHING:  
TOP TIPS  
FROM TOURNEY  
ANGLERS**



## BUZZIN' FOR BASS

— BEST BUZZ-FROG TACTICS

**FINESSE JIGS FOR  
FINICKY BASS**

**TOLEDO BEND  
LUNKER UPDATE**

**TROUT SECRETS OF  
SEABROOK  
REVEALED**

**COASTAL HOTSPOTS  
FOR SPECKS**

**SPECK POPPING  
CORK POINTERS**

**RED SNAPPER  
SEASON KICKS OFF**

\$3.99 MAY 2018



**+ BUILD A BUDGET  
FOOD PLOT**

LouisianaSPORTSMAN.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<sup>®</sup>

[geico.com](http://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

# MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER



## **GatorTail** GT40 HO

- NEW CAMSHAFT, PISTON AND CONNECTING ROD DESIGN FOR MORE POWER AND DURABILITY
- NEW PERFORMANCE MUFFLER FOR INCREASED AIRFLOW
- NEW CYLINDER HEAD PROFILE FOR IMPROVED COOLING
- NEW EFI CALIBRATION FOR INCREASED POWER

**GATOR-TAIL.COM**  
**337-229-4864**

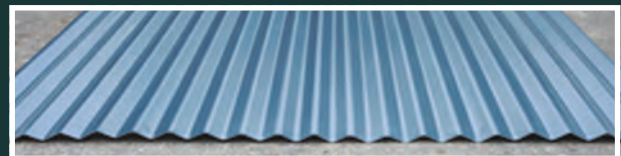
# REED'S METALS, INC.

**FINANCING AVAILABLE**

**Metal Roofing & Metal Building Manufacturer**

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

**800-581-4645**



**[www.reedsmetals.com](http://www.reedsmetals.com)**



A person in silhouette is aiming a rifle in a forest. The sun is shining through the trees, creating a bright flare on the left side. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and dense foliage. An orange banner is overlaid on the top right 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](http://www.meplatgroup.com)

504.556.2000

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

**MEPLAT**  
GROUP



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](http://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](http://KubotaUSA.com) for more information. Optional equipment may be shown.

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



© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2018

# 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](http://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.

**YAMAHA**





# RE-GRAND OPENING



# #1 BassCat

## 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**



DON'T MISS IT!

JULY 20-22

MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME

*Louisiana*

SPORTSMAN<sup>®</sup>

SHOW NEW ORLEANS



**DEER, DUCK & FISHING EXPO**

**Need Exhibitor Information? Visit: [louisianasportsmanshow.com](http://louisianasportsmanshow.com)**

or contact Jack Fisher - 866-238-5639 or [jackf@lasmag.com](mailto:jackf@lasmag.com) / Yvette Dunn - [ydunn@lasmag.com](mailto:ydunn@lasmag.com)

# 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](http://SPORTSMANGEAR.COM)

New colors & options available online

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<sup>®</sup>**



**60**

Small bait ...  
**big results**



# Louisiana **CONTENTS**

Volume 38 | Number 5 | May 2018

**46** Redfishing tips  
from tourney vets



## FEATURES:

### **31** The Secrets of Seabrook

Much of the fishing in this legendary Lake Pontchartrain hotspot is concentrated in about a 1-square-mile area, so you might think location isn't important. But you'd be wrong. Two certified trout masters share their plan of attack.

>>>By Capt. Steve Himel

### **38** Feelin' the buzz ... Froggy style cover story

Lose the skirt — and thread a frog onto your buzzbait to catch some big-time bass.

>>>By Chris Ginn

### **46** Redfishing tips from tourney vets

Even if you're just competing for weekend bragging rights, these insights from a couple of successful tournament anglers will help you put more reds in the boat.

>>>By John Manion

### **52** No rigs - Just red snappers

Without oil platforms or reefs, wrecks and rock piles on the bottom, see how this Venice guide locates red snappers in open water using nothing but his electronics.

>>>By Jerald Horst

### **60** Small bait ... big results

Bigger isn't always better — a down-sized finesse jig might be just the ticket for days when bass are playing hard to get. Here's how the pros rig up to take them down.

>>>By David A. Brown

### **71** Grow a poor man's food plot

Forget the expensive marketing gimmicks, and get back to the basics: Here are some simple methods you can implement right now to provide supplemental feed for your deer herd.

>>>By Jonathan Olivier

### **80** South shore smackdown

Putting in some time on the computer before you hit the water could pay off big — if you can locate underwater reefs, shell pads and pilings in Lake Pontchartrain. One guide shares some tips to help you catch more trout.

>>>By Joel Masson

### **88** Winning the (gator) lottery

Each year, the general public has the opportunity to participate in Louisiana's annual alligator harvest. Here's what you need to know if your name gets pulled.

>>>By John Flores

### **97** Hope floats

Get the most pop out of your corks by employing these guides' tactics when targeting specks and reds.

>>>By David A. Brown

### **102** Lake monsters

While many anglers release sharks and gar, this Lake Pontchartrain guide actually targets the teeth. The fight is a blast — and the meat haul is even better.

>>>By Jerald Horst

## FISHING HOTSPOTS

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>172</b> Venice         | <b>182</b> Raccoon Island     |
| <b>173</b> Lake D'Arbonne | <b>184</b> Bayou Black        |
| <b>174</b> Cocodrie       | <b>186</b> Grand Isle         |
| <b>176</b> Cane River     | <b>188</b> Big Lake           |
| <b>178</b> Toledo Bend    | <b>190</b> Lafitte            |
| <b>180</b> Shell Beach    | <b>190</b> Lake Pontchartrain |



# 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



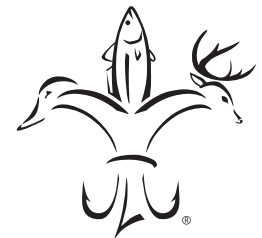
# YAMAHA

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

**504-682-5252**

[www.tims-marine.com](http://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.



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, John Flores, Bill Garbo, Chris Ginn, Chris Holmes, Jerald Horst, Capt. Steve Himel, Keith LaCaze, John Manion, David Moreland, Don Shoopman, Rusty Tardo, Joel Masson, Capt. Paul Titus, Sammy Romano, Andy Crawford, Kinny Haddox, David A. Brown and Jonathan Olivier.

## OUTDOOR UPDATE:

**16** CCA's STAR tourney kicks off May 26

**18** No CWD in Louisiana deer — so far

## PLUS

**150** Topwater frog advice from an Elite Series pro

## ON THE COVER:



Bassmaster Elite Series pro Bernie Schultz landed this hawg on a recent trip to Grosse Savanne Lodge in Cameron Parish. Find out how you can land some big bass of your own with a buzz-frog, starting on page 38. Cover photo by Patrick Bonin.

## COLUMNS:

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

## DEPARTMENTS:

- 150** Field Notes
- 160** New Products
- 162** Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook
- 164** Fishing Regulations
- 166** Sunrise/Sunset Chart
- 168** Sportsman Astro Tables
- 170** Sportsman Tide Guide
- 172** Fishing Hotspots
- 196** Louisiana Guides
- 198** Sportsman Classifieds
- 200** Advertiser Index

## ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:

Contact Tony Taylor  
email: [tonyt@lasmag.com](mailto: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 5**

# Cast Your Net Wide...

## Hook Yourself One of These

**\$2** LOUISIANA LOTTERY

### MONEY BAG MULTIPLIER

Match any of YOUR NUMBERS to either WINNING NUMBER, win prize shown for that number. If you win, multiply your prize by the MULTIPLIER number for that game.

**WIN UP TO \$10,000!**

WINNING NUMBERS	YOUR NUMBERS	PRIZE
1	2	PRIZE
1	3	PRIZE
1	4	PRIZE
1	5	PRIZE
1	6	PRIZE
1	7	PRIZE
1	8	PRIZE
1	9	PRIZE
1	10	PRIZE
1	11	PRIZE
1	12	PRIZE
1	13	PRIZE
1	14	PRIZE
1	15	PRIZE
1	16	PRIZE
1	17	PRIZE
1	18	PRIZE
1	19	PRIZE
1	20	PRIZE
1	21	PRIZE
1	22	PRIZE
1	23	PRIZE
1	24	PRIZE
1	25	PRIZE
1	26	PRIZE
1	27	PRIZE
1	28	PRIZE
1	29	PRIZE
1	30	PRIZE
1	31	PRIZE
1	32	PRIZE
1	33	PRIZE
1	34	PRIZE
1	35	PRIZE
1	36	PRIZE
1	37	PRIZE
1	38	PRIZE
1	39	PRIZE
1	40	PRIZE
1	41	PRIZE
1	42	PRIZE
1	43	PRIZE
1	44	PRIZE
1	45	PRIZE
1	46	PRIZE
1	47	PRIZE
1	48	PRIZE
1	49	PRIZE
1	50	PRIZE
1	51	PRIZE
1	52	PRIZE
1	53	PRIZE
1	54	PRIZE
1	55	PRIZE
1	56	PRIZE
1	57	PRIZE
1	58	PRIZE
1	59	PRIZE
1	60	PRIZE
1	61	PRIZE
1	62	PRIZE
1	63	PRIZE
1	64	PRIZE
1	65	PRIZE
1	66	PRIZE
1	67	PRIZE
1	68	PRIZE
1	69	PRIZE
1	70	PRIZE
1	71	PRIZE
1	72	PRIZE
1	73	PRIZE
1	74	PRIZE
1	75	PRIZE
1	76	PRIZE
1	77	PRIZE
1	78	PRIZE
1	79	PRIZE
1	80	PRIZE
1	81	PRIZE
1	82	PRIZE
1	83	PRIZE
1	84	PRIZE
1	85	PRIZE
1	86	PRIZE
1	87	PRIZE
1	88	PRIZE
1	89	PRIZE
1	90	PRIZE
1	91	PRIZE
1	92	PRIZE
1	93	PRIZE
1	94	PRIZE
1	95	PRIZE
1	96	PRIZE
1	97	PRIZE
1	98	PRIZE
1	99	PRIZE
1	100	PRIZE

**\$1** LOUISIANA LOTTERY

### HIT \$1,000!

WIN UP TO \$1,000!

Match any of YOUR NUMBERS to the WINNING NUMBER, win PRIZE shown for that number. Get a "5" symbol, win \$10 automatically! Get a "8" symbol, win all 4 PRIZES shown!

**WIN UP TO 4 TIMES!**

**\$5** LOUISIANA LOTTERY

### POWER 5's

**WIN UP TO \$100,000!**

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

POWER \$25 SPOT

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

**WIN UP TO 20 TIMES!**

**\$5** LOUISIANA LOTTERY

### POWER 5's

**WIN UP TO \$100,000!**

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

POWER \$25 SPOT

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

**WIN UP TO 20 TIMES!**

**\$5** LOUISIANA LOTTERY

### POWER 5's

**WIN UP TO \$100,000!**

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

POWER \$25 SPOT

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

**WIN UP TO 20 TIMES!**



[louisianalottery.com](http://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

The first STAR-registered angler to catch a tagged redfish will win a 2018 Chevy Silverado pickup truck, and the first STAR-registered angler to catch a tagged red who is also a Louisiana Sportsman magazine subscriber will win a \$10,000 bonus prize.

# 2018 CCA STAR SET TO CRANK UP MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



Photo courtesy CCA Louisiana

## \$10,000 LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN BONUS PRIZE IS BACK!

By Patrick Bonin

**T**he 2018 Coastal Conservation Association’s Louisiana STAR Tournament — which once again features 100 tagged redfish and more than \$500,000 in prizes — is slated to begin on Saturday, May 26.

The first 10 STAR-registered anglers who catch one of those tagged reds will have some great prize options, including a 2018 Chevy Silverado pickup, NauticStar boats with Mercury outboards and new this year, Gator-Tail boat, motor and trailer packages.

“We had five winners and 11 fish caught last year that we know about, so our board was very happy with those results and we’re going to do it again,” said tournament director Rad Trascher. “We’re doubling down once more and putting 100 tagged fish out there, instead of the 50 that we did for the first 22 years of the tournament.

“We want more people to go home with some great prizes.”

### LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN’S \$10,000 BONUS

And once again this year, Louisiana Sportsman is sweetening the pot in the Tagged Redfish Division, offering a \$10,000 bonus prize to the first STAR-registered angler who catches a tagged red and is also a current subscriber to the magazine. (Anglers must have subscribed to Louisiana Sportsman at least one day prior to catching any eligible tagged redfish to claim the bonus, so don’t put off subscribing.)

New for 2018’s tournament is the elimination of the tagged speckled trout division, Trascher said.

“For the past three years, we didn’t have a single winner catch a tagged trout, so we have shifted that prize money to the Captain’s Division,” he said.

That means licensed Louisiana charter fishermen now will be able to sign up for the tournament at no cost — and if one of their clients wins, they do, too.

“If one of their clients ends up as a winner on the final leaderboard, that captain will get a \$1,500 tackle package, plus be featured in a full-page ad in Tide magazine,” he said.

Interested captains should contact Trascher via email at [rad@ccalouisiana.com](mailto:rad@ccalouisiana.com).

### CHARTER GUIDES’ FAMILIES ELIGIBLE

Another change this year: The immediate families of licensed charter fishing guides are now eligible to participate in the tournament.

“They have to pay and register like everybody else, but they’re eligible to win,” Trascher said.

Entering the tournament costs \$35, and you must be a current member of CCA to enter, which also costs \$35. Spouses can also enter the STAR for \$35, but their CCA membership only costs \$15. Youth memberships for those 17 and under cost \$10, but their tournament entry is free.

The 101-day event concludes on Labor Day, Sept. 3.

For details and a complete look at 2018’s updated rules, visit the STAR website at [www.ccastar.com](http://www.ccastar.com). ■

# 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**





The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' goal is to sample 300 deer in Northeast Louisiana for CWD. So far, with 114 results back as of early April, all tests have been negative.

# INITIAL CWD TESTING NEGATIVE IN NORTH LOUISIANA, LDWF SAYS

188 DEER TESTED AS OF EARLY APRIL, WITH NO POSITIVE RESULTS SO FAR

From News Reports

Initial sampling efforts for chronic wasting disease in Northeast Louisiana's deer herd have not turned up any positive results for the disease, according to a news release from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

LDWF has sampled 188 deer from East Carroll, Madison and Tensas parishes, and have received results back on 114 specimens, with no positives detected, the release states. Additional sampling will continue within a 25-mile buffer zone from Issaquena County, Miss., where a deer tested positive for CWD in January. (Issaquena County borders Northeast Louisiana, and the CWD-

positive deer was found only a few miles from the Louisiana border on the east side of the Mississippi River.)

The department's target sample size is 300 deer from the buffer zone, which will provide a 95 percent confidence interval that sampling would detect CWD at a prevalence rate of 1 percent, the release states.

## NO MORE POSITIVES IN MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi has also sampled the area inside its borders with 158 results back, and has not detected the disease outside of the one case already reported.

In addition to the LDWF sampling, supplemental deer feeding in East Carroll,

Madison and Tensas parishes has been suspended as part of the response plan.

CWD is a neurodegenerative disease found in most deer species, including moose, elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer. It is infectious and always fatal. It is part of a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) and is similar to BSE (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy or mad cow disease) of cattle and scrapie in sheep. These diseases cause irreversible damage to brain tissue that leads to salivation, neurological symptoms, emaciation and the eventual death of the animal.

For more information, go to <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/CWD>. ■

# 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.



**ALL PRIME  
#1 MATERIAL  
Not Blemished or  
Secondary!**

### 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](http://www.customcorrugated.net)



Serving Southern Louisiana & Mississippi For Over 10 Years

The 2019 Bassmaster Classic will be contested on the Tennessee River out of Knoxville March 15-17.



# 2019 BASSMASTER CLASSIC SET FOR KNOXVILLE

## TENNESSEE RIVER TO BE FEATURED IN 'SUPER BOWL OF BASS FISHING'

From Bassmaster.com

**F**or the first time in its 49-year history, the 2019 Bassmaster Classic will be held on the Tennessee River out of Knoxville.

The prestigious championship bass tournament — widely known as the “Super Bowl of Bass Fishing” — will be held March 15-17 in downtown Knoxville and on the University of Tennessee at Knoxville campus.

“Knoxville meets and exceeds all the requirements we have for the Bassmaster Classic — great fishing on the Tennessee River, first-class facilities to accommodate crowds of fishing fans, a vibrant city with plenty to see and do, and a corps of state and local tourism professionals who will ensure its success,” B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin said.

“Bass fishing is hugely popular in this part of the country,” he added. “In fact, 10 of our 109 Bassmaster Elite Series pros

are from the Volunteer State, and most live in East Tennessee.

“This is going to be a very exciting Classic.” The Classic pits 50 of the world’s best bass anglers against one another for shares of the \$1 million purse, including \$300,000 for the winner.

### WILL JORDAN LEE DEFEND AGAIN?

Jordan Lee of Grant, Ala., a 26-year-old former college fishing champion, is the current defending Classic Champion after becoming the youngest ever — and one of only three in history — to win back-to-back titles.

Lee is guaranteed the right to defend his title. Other anglers will spend the rest of this season trying to qualify from several B.A.S.S. circuits, including the Bassmaster Elite Series.

Tournament waters include

Fort Loudoun and Tellico lakes, twin reservoirs connected by a canal and comprising about 30,000 acres.

“Anglers can expect to catch good numbers of bass in Fort Loudoun and have the potential of catching some above-average smallmouth,” said Bart Carter, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Region 4 fisheries manager. “Largemouth will be the go-to fish for both reservoirs.”

Daily takeoffs will be from Volunteer Landing in downtown Knoxville each competition day, and weigh-ins will take place in the Thompson-Boling Arena on the University of Tennessee campus — a 20,000-seat facility that is fifth largest in the country.

All activities and venues are free and open to the public. ■

DON'T MISS OUT ...

## SUBSCRIBE TO LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN

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

[WWW.LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM/SUBSCRIBE)





**Fiberglass Repair**  
If you want the best!

**CALL TODAY (504) 277-7777**



2409 Parish Road • New Orleans, LA 70129



# TOLEDO BEND WHOPPERS

## LANAN LUNKER



Andy Deroche, of Gramercy, caught this 10.59-pounder on March 29 in Hurricane Creek at Toledo Bend. The big bass, which had previously been caught and released in February of 2017, hit a watermelon red Senko in about 3 to 4 feet of water for Deroche's biggest bass ever.

Photo courtesy Toledo Town and Tackle

## DOUBLE-DIGIT BASS NO. 5



Jason Courville caught this 10.02-pounder on March 15 — the guide's fifth double-digit bass caught at the Bend. This one came in Mill Creek on a football-head jig.

Photo courtesy Fairmont General Store

## B.A.S.S. NATION ANGLER LANDS 11-POUNDER



Indiana angler Chris Myers was fishing a B.A.S.S. Nation Central Regional on Toledo Bend when he reeled in this giant 11.6-pound largemouth on March 8, a key part of his 23 ½ pound stringer that day. The big fish bit a Strike King Ocho soft plastic stick bait.

Photo courtesy Toledo Bend Lake Association

## SAN MIGUEL HAWG



Travis Allen Jr. of French Settlement reeled in this 10.82-pound whopper on April 2 near San Miguel. Allen was fishing a topwater Chug Bug when the hawg exploded at 7:30 a.m. for his very first bite of the day, and his personal best.

Photo courtesy Toledo Town and Tackle

**NEW**

# PowerBait<sup>®</sup> MaxScent



## CATCH 45% More Fish!\*



### Catch More Fish.™



Look for the PowerBait MaxScent at your local retailer

[berkley-fishing.com](http://berkley-fishing.com)

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

A bill that would have allowed public access to the state's tidal waters failed in the Louisiana House of Representatives on April 17 by a 59-37 vote, but members of the Louisiana Sportsmen's Coalition say the experience at the State Capitol strengthened their resolve to keep pressing for change.

# WATER-ACCESS BILL DIES IN HOUSE

## COALITION MEMBER VOWS TO KEEP PRESSING FORWARD

By Patrick Bonin

**A**fter a lengthy debate on April 17, the Louisiana House of Representatives ultimately killed a bill that would have granted public access to the state's tidal waters.

With only 37 members voting in favor and 59 against (with nine absent), House Bill 391 sponsored by Rep. Kevin Pearson (R-Slidell) failed after a series of amendments were added to the legislation dur-

ing more than two hours of debate in the State Capitol.

Daryl Carpenter, a board member with the Louisiana Sportsmen's Coalition that supported the measure and watched

Patrick Bonin



### SMALLER FRAME. LARGER DIGIGEAR. LIGHTER WEIGHT.

**LT** LIGHT  
TOUGH



FEATURED IN 5 NEW LT SPINNING REEL SERIES  
From left to right Ballistic® LT, Tatula® LT, Fuego® LT, Exceler® LT and Legalis® LT



[www.daiwa.com/us](http://www.daiwa.com/us)

the proceedings from the House gallery with more than 100 other anglers, said he actually thought the vote would have been a little closer.

“Watching this ‘quote-unquote democratic process’ today was totally mind-numbing ... We were surprised by the vote. We were expecting it to be closer to 50-50,” he said. “But in the last 48 hours, the land owners and oil companies did exactly what they said they were going to do: They brought in their battleships. It was probably close to 30 lobbyists for them — against two for us.”

That helped created obvious doubt and confusion amongst the legislators, he said.

“That was evidenced by some of the amendments that were offered,” Carpenter said. “Because this bill came in so fast and started making its way through the system so fast, we didn’t have an opportunity to educate a lot of these lawmakers on a lot of stuff they were led to believe .... But we learned a lot.

“While we suffered a defeat today, I

think we made it obvious to everyone in that building that we are now organized and are organizing. This issue is not going to go away. Continually trying to sweep it under the rug isn’t going to happen, and that’s the reason we’re already starting to get invitations that say, ‘Alright, you’ve made your point. Come on and let’s talk.’”

## MOVING FORWARD

But for this session at least, Carpenter said the legislation is dead and won’t be returned to the House’s calendar. However, work has already begun on keeping coalition members focused on moving forward.

“I think this is just going to strengthen the resolve of all these guys. Our job as the Louisiana Sportsmen’s Coalition is to keep them engaged, keep our membership educated as to what took place today and who was behind it, and educate the legislators going forward,” he said. “I think we’ve shown we can

at least shake mountains — we didn’t move mountains, but we sure shook it up pretty good.”

Carpenter said the coalition has already been invited to help create a task force that will work to potentially hammer out a compromise for all the stakeholders.

“We made it further than anybody’s ever made it before,” Carpenter said. “We’ve woken a lot of people up and we’ve proven that we’re a voice that’s not going to go away. So there will be communication and negotiation going forward ....

“My message right now would be go home, and spend some time with your family,” he said. “Relax. We’re going to regroup, and next year starts right now. Don’t let up.” ■

**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

**J-BRAID x8**  
DARK GREEN

# BILL THAT WOULD INCREASE LDWF'S HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES PENDING IN HOUSE

HB 687 WOULD GENERATE \$10 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR DEPARTMENT

By Patrick Bonin

**A**nother bill currently working its way through the legislative process at the State Capitol is HB 687 sponsored by Rep. Jerome Zeringue (R-Houma), which would increase most recreational hunting and fishing licenses by about 30 percent and generate roughly \$10 million annually for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The bill passed out of the Committee on Natural Resources and Environment in late March, and was scheduled to be heard on the House floor on both April 5 and April 12, but was pulled and rescheduled for later in the month..

“Right now, obviously, any fiscal issue is going to cause some concern, and I’m sensitive to that and I realize the state’s in a deficit,” Zeringue told Louisiana Sportsman. “And when you talk about state funding, that’s an issue.”

But he stressed the LDWF receives no state general funds — only what it can collect through licenses and fees. And although the department’s Conservation Fund has about a \$60 million balance right now, Zeringue said deficit spending — combined with the reduction in mineral revenues from the low price of oil and gas — means that money won’t last long.

“Based upon the current expenditure rate, within four years they will have exhausted what’s in the Conservation Fund to where they’re going to have to come to the state for state general funds just to sustain themselves, which is what we’re trying to avoid,” Zeringue said.

Because the legislation involves a fee increase, it will require 70 votes in the House to move on to the Senate.

“We are blessed with so many great and abundant resources



House Bill 687 sponsored by Rep. Jerome Zeringue would increase most hunting and fishing licenses by about 30 percent, and raise roughly \$10 million annually for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The bill was scheduled for debate on the House floor in mid-April.

in this state, and this fee is basically (paid for) by those who use it to help sustain those resources,” he said. “And I hope my fellow (House) members will recognize that.”

At press time, no action had been taken on the bill. For the latest news on HB 687, visit LouisianaSportsman.com. ■

# Get Back On The Water

# SUMMER SALE!



5196 Hwy. 311 • Houma, LA  
**985-876-7821**

Mon - Fri 8am - 5:30pm • Sat 8am - Noon



# 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!**



**SAND**  
Also available in gray or khaki

**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

**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.

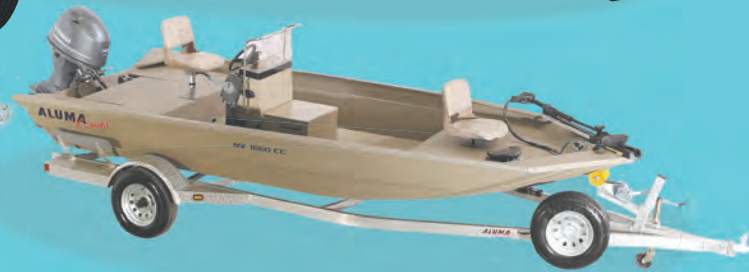
## 2072CC BAY

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**



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](http://www.jerrys-marine.com)

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

**T**he New Orleans metropolitan area is ranked in the Top 50 cities in the country, with a population of about 1.3 million people. And situated in the middle of Orleans Parish, the waters surrounding the Seabrook Bridge (recently named the Senator Ted Hickey Bridge) make it one of the top inshore saltwater fishing areas located within the city limits of any major city in the United States.

Referred to by locals simply as “Seabrook,” this iconic fishing hole is sure to bring back nostalgic memories for those who grew up in New Orleans loving to fish. Even today, old fish stories around docks and tackle shops can be invoked simply by uttering the word Seabrook — and it seems nearly everyone has a story to tell.

But perhaps no one in this generation has spent more time, or knows more about fishing Seabrook, than Alan “Chink” Sumas. He grew up in Gentilly, and started fishing when he was just 5. As a youngster, he loved to fish so much that he even rode the bus to go fishing at Seabrook. Now 80, he still fishes every day he can, and many of those days are spent there.

I was fortunate enough to tag along on a recent trip to

Seabrook with Sumas and his longtime fishing buddy, Dr. Bob Weiss. Both men are legendary trout fishermen in Lake Pontchartrain fishing circles, and during the trip, they revealed many of the secrets of this iconic hotspot.

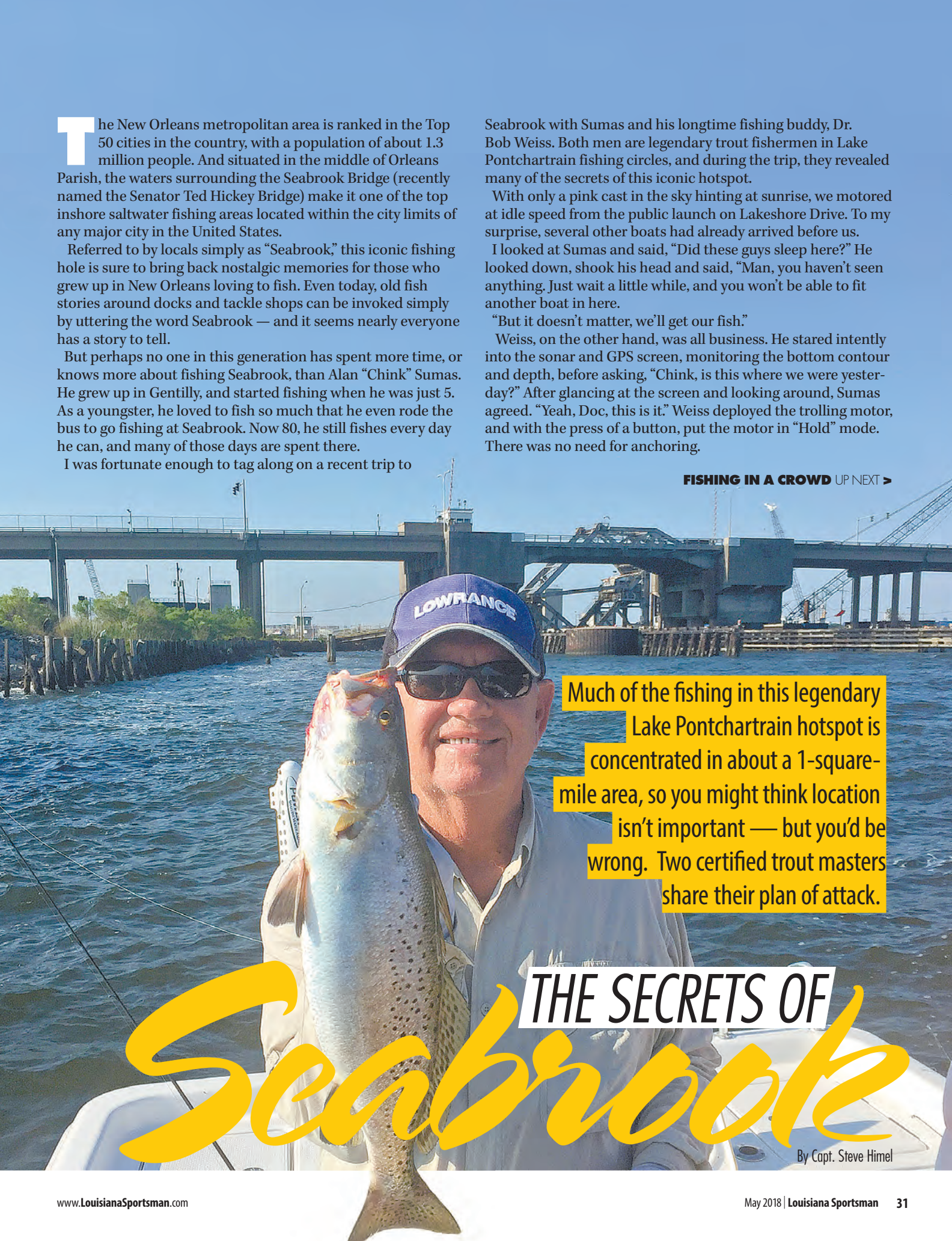
With only a pink cast in the sky hinting at sunrise, we motored at idle speed from the public launch on Lakeshore Drive. To my surprise, several other boats had already arrived before us.

I looked at Sumas and said, “Did these guys sleep here?” He looked down, shook his head and said, “Man, you haven’t seen anything. Just wait a little while, and you won’t be able to fit another boat in here.

“But it doesn’t matter, we’ll get our fish.”

Weiss, on the other hand, was all business. He stared intently into the sonar and GPS screen, monitoring the bottom contour and depth, before asking, “Chink, is this where we were yesterday?” After glancing at the screen and looking around, Sumas agreed. “Yeah, Doc, this is it.” Weiss deployed the trolling motor, and with the press of a button, put the motor in “Hold” mode. There was no need for anchoring.

**FISHING IN A CROWD** UP NEXT >



Much of the fishing in this legendary Lake Pontchartrain hotspot is concentrated in about a 1-square-mile area, so you might think location isn’t important — but you’d be wrong. Two certified trout masters share their plan of attack.

# THE SECRETS OF Seabrook

By Capt. Steve Himel



## FISHING IN A CROWD

If you like Mardi Gras, then you'll probably love Seabrook —because you'll be fishing in a crowd. Seabrook's great action, ease of access and small footprint make it perhaps the most crowded fishing hole in Southeast Louisiana — so bring a boatload of patience along for your trip. The good news is the crowds don't bother the fish swimming 30 to 90 feet below the flotilla. Sumas' advice is to be polite, because everyone is out there to have a good time and relax.

## LOCATION

The entire fishing area at Seabrook is less than 1 square mile, so you would think your exact location might not matter. But you'd be wrong.

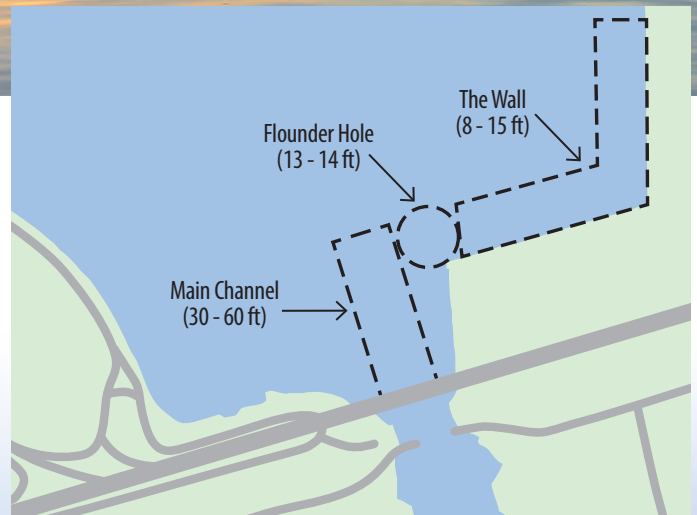
I asked Sumas about how he selects the best spot. "There are several areas you can fish," he said. "The main channel which runs in the center of the canal is 30 feet to 90 feet deep. Most fish on the main channel are caught between 30 feet and 60 feet.

"Another good area to fish is the rocks along the airport wall. The water in this area is 8 to 15 feet deep. One of the most well-known areas is the Flounder Hole. It is close to the airport wall, and it is the shallowest area we fish, with water around 13- to 14 feet deep."

Weiss joined in saying, "When fishing Seabrook, it is very important to use your depth finder to see the drop-offs. Sonar also lets you see the depth at which the fish are holding, and the schools of baitfish."

Once a fishing spot is selected, proper anchoring is critical (see sidebar). A trolling motor with an anchoring mode really comes in handy for this purpose.

## RIGGING UP NEXT >



**TOP:** The airport wall is a great location to fish during the early morning. **ABOVE:** One of the most well-known areas near the airport wall is the Flounder Hole, where the water is only 13 to 14 feet deep. **BELOW:** The Seabrook Bridge is an iconic Lake Pontchartrain trout hotspot, but local knowledge is a big key in catching fish in the area.





Photo courtesy of Viking



## Introducing the new TracVision® TV-series

**The best just got *even better.***

### Sophisticated technology for hundreds of channels of crystal-clear HDTV

- ▶ Ultra-fast satellite acquisition
- ▶ High performance tracking even in heavy seas

### Simple to install and easy to use

- ▶ Sleek IP-enabled TV-Hub delivers easy setup and operation
- ▶ Friendly user interface from any mobile device or laptop



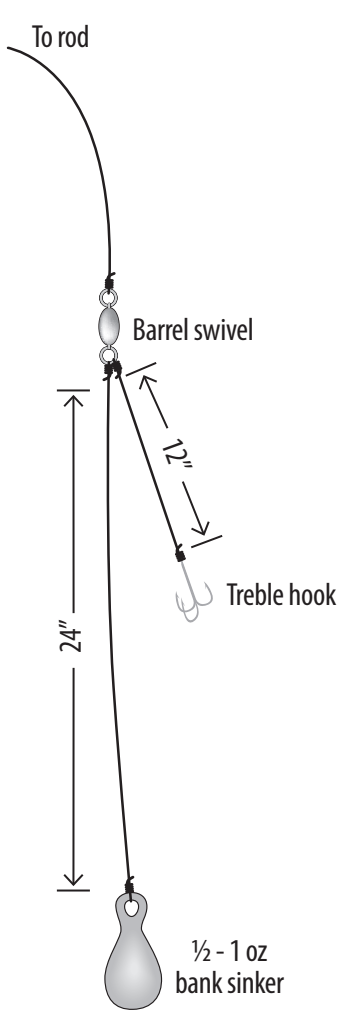
**Marine Electronics**

Call Sea-Trac at 504-737-0591 to speak with the experts  
**SALES, SERVICE, CUSTOM INSTALLATIONS, AND MORE**

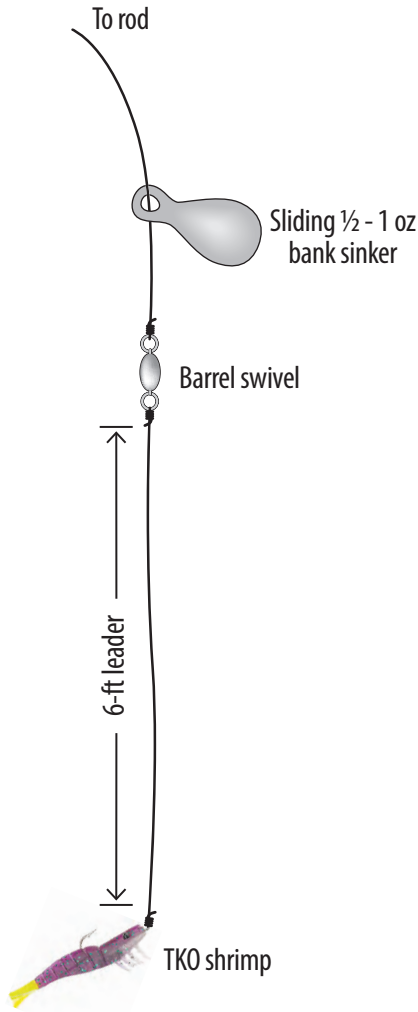
Sea-Trac Offshore Services  
 114 Hickory Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70123  
 (504) 737-0591  
[www.seatracoffshore.com](http://www.seatracoffshore.com)



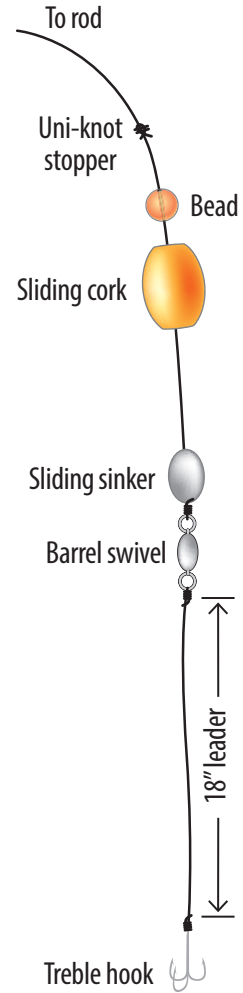
©2014 KVH Industries, Inc. KVH, TracVision, and the unique light-colored dome with dark contrasting baseplate are registered trademarks of KVH Industries, Inc.



**DROP-SHOT RIG**



**RUCKER RIG**



**SLIDING CORK RIG**

**RIGGING**

Seabrook is a deep-water fishing area, with water depths ranging from 15 to 90 feet. Most of the fish are staged near the bottom, so it's necessary to get the bait down to where the fish are.

"A drop-shot rig is one of the most popular rigs at Seabrook, and I use this in the main channel, especially when the tide is running hard," Sumas said. "A Carolina rig also works. Depending on the tide, I use anywhere between a half-ounce to 1-ounce sinker to make sure I reach the bottom. I also use a sliding cork rig along the wall and in the Flounder Hole where the water is not as deep, and where the tide does not run as hard. I normally set

our sliding corks between 7 feet and 13 feet, depending on the water's depth."

**BAITS**

Both men are fanatical about using live bait, and believe it is one of the most important factors for success at Seabrook.

"Live bait is a must if you want to catch fish here. Just watch the boats that are catching fish," Sumas said. "They are all using live bait."

Live shrimp are the easiest to obtain, but croakers are also an excellent choice, especially for big speckled trout.

If you want to try your luck using artificials, Sumas said there is a special rig that has been used for years at Seabrook.

"We call it a Rucker Rig because it

was used very successfully by John Rucker, who fished Seabrook mostly from the pier. He needed to cast very long distances to reach the channel," he explained. "It's really just a Carolina rig with a big (1-ounce) bank sinker that slides along the line coming from the reel. You then tie on a barrel swivel and a 6-foot leader with a TKO or DOA shrimp at the end.

"You just cast the rig out and let it sink to the bottom. Then jerk hard upwards in a single motion and pause while the artificial bait slowly settles back to the bottom. Most hits will come when the bait is falling back to the bottom."

Weiss caught several trout using this very technique during our trip.

**CONDITIONS UP NEXT** ➤

# DAILY GIVEAWAY



**SPRO**<sup>®</sup>  
SPORTS PROFESSIONALS

[www.facebook.com/spro.fishing.7](http://www.facebook.com/spro.fishing.7)

**GUARANTEED TO ATTRACT FISH OR YOUR MONEY BACK!**

# THE BEST & BRIGHTEST UNDERWATER LIGHTS



USE ONLINE CODE  
**LS18** FOR A  
SPECIAL DISCOUNT!



**UNDERWATER FISHLIGHT**  
.COM

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

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



**Metro Boating**

[www.metroboating.com](http://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**

**VERADO**

TAKE CHARGE.  
[mercurymarine.com](http://mercurymarine.com)



# The ol' croaker **HOLE**

These croakers were caught in deep water using drop-shot rigs and small pieces of market shrimp.

Catching a bunch of croakers and frying them up whole is a childhood memory many locals still cherish. Today, it's pretty much gone because trout and redfish get all the attention. Croakers large enough to eat are sometimes difficult to find, and few anglers even try. But recently, some nice-sized croakers have begun to appear at Seabrook and other areas around South Louisiana — offering a chance to renew this old tradition.

On the trip with Sumas and Weiss, we were able to target and catch enough croakers to have a fish fry. The best time to catch croakers is mid- to late summer and early fall, with deep-water areas being the best places to try.

We were fishing in 30 to 60 feet of water, and we used drop-shot rigs and small pieces of market shrimp straight down on the bottom. You may have to cycle through a few hard heads, but if bull croakers are there, you'll catch enough of them for a meal. Remember, all you have to do is scale them, cut off the head, gut them and fry the whole fish (rolled in corn meal) in hot grease, just like you used to do. And yes, they still taste just as good as they did when you were a kid. ■

## Proper deep-water anchoring **TECHNIQUES**

Not getting a proper anchor set is one of the most frustrating parts of fishing in deep water, both for those attempting to anchor, as well as others in the surrounding boats who are disturbed by it.

The first requirement is having the proper-weighted anchor for the boat (too heavy is better than too light).

The second requirement, and by far the most common mistake, is having enough anchor chain.

In order for an anchor to catch, it must have a chain that makes the anchor lay flat on the bottom. At least 8 to 10 feet of heavy chain is necessary.

The last requirement is having enough anchor line (at least 100 feet is the way to go).

The proper anchoring procedure is to first determine the direction of the current. If other boats are already anchored, just look at the direction of their anchor lines to determine the flow.

Motor up-current from where you want to fish (in deep water areas this could be up to 50 yards), then come to a complete stop and ease the anchor down, letting it free fall until you are sure it has reached the bottom.

At this point, you can either ease the boat into reverse, or just let the current back you off the anchor. Feed the anchor line out while keeping slight tension until you're in the position that you want to fish.

Then cleat off the anchor line and check to make sure the anchor is set.

If you follow these steps, the anchor should be set — and you and those around you can enjoy fishing. ■

**END OF MODEL YEAR BLOWOUT!**

**ALUMA** *Craft*

**CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICING!**

**EPIC**

**Sportsman**

**SUZUKI MARINE** **YAMAHA** **EVINRUDE**

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

**337-893-0642**

Alan "Chink" Sumas shows off a nice croaker he caught on a drop-shot rig.



## CONDITIONS

I asked Sumas about what months are best to fish at Seabrook.

"It usually starts around March 15, or about two weeks after the trout start showing up at the train trestles in Lake Pontchartrain," he said. "The trout usually stay until around Christmas. As long as there are shrimp around, the fish will be there."

As always, tides and winds are always a factor, too.

"You want some tidal movement in either direction, but not more than 1 foot of tidal range," Sumas said. "As far as the wind, if it is more than 10 miles per hour out of the north or west, I don't even go. You can fish a fairly strong south or east wind, but not one from the north or west."

## SPECIES TARGETED

Sumas is a trout man through and through.

"I love to catch specks. So that is what gets me excited," he said.

Specks are what draw most anglers to Seabrook, but it's also a great place to catch many other species to fill up an ice chest, including redfish, flounder, croaker and white trout. All of these species are caught using the same drop shot rig and either live or market shrimp.

On our trip, we caught nearly a three-person limit of specks before we ran out of live bait. We were also able to catch croakers, white trout, redfish and channel mullet — all within the city limits. ■



**Capt. Steve Himel** has hunted and fished in Southeast Louisiana for over 45 years. He operates Marshland Adventures, LLC and has been a freelance outdoor writer for the past 16 years.

# LET'S GO BOAT RIDING IN STYLE



**COME BY  
AND SEE OUR  
SELECTION OF  
SOUTH BAY AND  
BENNINGTON  
PONTOON  
BOATS**



## CAJUN OUTBOARDS



7332 Hwy. 1 South Addis, LA  
225-749-5001 | 877-396-8365

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



By Chris Ginn

# FEELIN' THE BUZZ ... FROGGY STYLE

Lose the skirt — and thread a frog onto your buzzbait to catch some big-time bass.



**K**enny Covington was watching a bass tournament on television a while back when he noticed something he just knew he had to incorporate into his own fishing.

“One of those guys was throwing a buzzbait,” the West Monroe tournament angler said, “but instead of a skirt, he had a frog on the back of it. That wouldn’t have gotten my attention other than to think it was a little bit odd, but the bass that were smashing it made me sit up and take notice.”

Being one who likes to be at the forefront of new bait trends, the next time he was on the water he slid off his buzzbait skirt and threaded on a Zoom Horny Toad.

“That was two Novembers ago,” he said. “A buddy and I were just out playing around on Lake D’Arbonne when I decided to give it a try. I caught the biggest bass of the day on that buzz-frog, so I put it in the back of my head that they would hit it in November.”

## **A BIG HONKIN’ BAIT**

One year later, this past November, Covington was fishing a local tournament on D’Arbonne when he pulled his buzz-frog out again. The end result was he weighed in more than 20 pounds of fish — 8 pounds ahead of second place.

Covington says that while he was covering lots of water just to try to get bit, he stumbled across a seawall with scattered milfoil on it and almost instinctively picked up his buzz-frog.

“Man, a big bass just hammered it,” said. “After I got that fish in, a light bulb went off in my head because I knew where there were more seawalls with scattered grass on them. I started running those spots and mashed them. I must have caught 25 fish on that thing.”

Looking back afterward, Covington said he realized he caught very few small fish on it. At one time he had a 14-pound stringer in his boat that if he had thrown out, he still would have wound up with 17 pounds at weigh-in.

“I think what it does for you better than any other bait is cull fish on the water rather than out of your livewell,” he said. “It’s a big honkin’ bait that gets big honkin’ strikes.”

buzzbait bass

**A**lthough Strike King has recently come out with the Hack Attack Select ToadBuzz, Covington says he first started playing around with the buzz-frog technique by buying a ½-ounce War Eagle buzzbait to get a big bait with a big blade. “I just took the skirt off and threaded on the Horny Toad,” he said. “What I wound up with was a bait that I could fish really slowly that put out a lot of commotion.”

Covington theorized the big, slow-moving bait was just the ticket for a big lazy bass that didn't want to exert much energy chasing down its next meal.

“The slower you can crawl a bait, the easier a target it becomes,” he added.

### BUZZ-FROG TACKLE

Through lots of trial and error, Covington finally settled on fishing his buzz-frog on an old 7-foot, medium-heavy Quantum Dean Rojas frog rod that he already had in his rod locker.

“This is a pretty stiff rod with a fast tip,” Covington said. “Of course they don't make this rod anymore — Dean Rojas now has a frog rod he designed for Duckett — so just about any 7-foot medium-heavy action rod with a fast tip will work well.”

Covington pairs his rod with a 6.3:1 Abu Garcia Revo reel spooled with 50-pound braided line.

“Combined, this set-up allows me to fish the buzz-frog all day long without wearing me out,” Covington said. “And that's



A big, slow-moving bait like a buzz-frog is perfect for big lazy bass that don't want to exert much energy chasing down their next meal.

definitely the key to catch a lot of quality fish on it — throw it all day long.”

But the same bulk that makes a buzz frog somewhat of a chore to fish is the same bulk that Covington believes makes it

**XTS 227**

**Skeeter SX 22**

**Save BIG!!!**

**Huge Indoor Showroom!!!**

**NauticStar BOATS**

**2140 Sport**

**SX 240**

**NEW Location**

**dockside marine**

**YAMAHA**

**dockside-marine.com**

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

**To make a buzz-frog**, just take the skirt off of the back of your buzzbait and replace it with the frog of your choice. Pictured on the lower left is a green pumpkin/chartreuse belly Strike King Super Toad, and on the right is a green pumpkin/pearl Rage Tail Rage Toad.



Patrick Bonin

better than a skirted buzzbait.

When a bass grabs a regular buzzbait, there isn't much substance to it that would make a bass want to hold on. That's why missed fish are so common and trailer hooks are popular for skirted buzzbaits.

"That big old chunk of frog, though..." Covington said. "When a fish bites, it wants something to grab hold of, and a frog gives him that substance it's looking for. A skirt is just a skirt. There's hardly anything there that feels realistic to a fish."

## TARGET GRASSY FLATS IN MAY

Although Covington's first experience with the buzz-frog was during November, he says it is a technique that works all year as long as the water is warm and the bass are shallow.

During May that means he's looking for grass flats.

"Not grass mats as much as I am flats with scattered patches of grass," he said. "You can't really throw this thing on top of grass mats. That's why I want scattered grass; it gives me lots of edges where the buzz-frog really shines."

Covington says the ideal grass flat for him on a lake like

D'Arbonne would be about 3 feet deep where bass move up for the sole purpose of eating. Similar grass flats can be found at neighboring North Louisiana lakes like Claiborne and Caney.

## BET ON BLACK

With so many different colors of topwater frogs on the market today, Covington keeps it simple by restricting his choices to black or white.

"And to make it even easier, I throw black about 99 percent of the time," he added. "I keep white just in case they won't eat the black... show them something a little different."

continued on page 42

**BRING YOUR INSHORE GAME UP TO SPECK!**

**NEW 3" SLIM SWIMTZ™**

SHOWN IN SPACE GUPPY

- Durable slim-bodied swimbait, now available in larger 3" size
- Versatile minnow shape is ideal for a variety of fresh- and saltwater applications.

**TROUT EYE™ FINESSE JIGHEADS**

- Oversized 3D-eye design, built on 1/0 Mustad® UltraPoint® hook
- Sharp, molded keeper barbs hold ElaZtech® and conventional soft plastics securely

AVAILABLE IN 1/8oz & 3/16oz

**ELAZTECH**  
10x tough SPACE-AGE SOFT PLASTICS

**ZMAN**  
zmanfishing.com

buzzbait bass

>

While fan-casting his buzz-frog across his target grass flats, Covington pays close attention to areas on the flat that are a little bit deeper than the surrounding area, and to smaller, more isolated clumps of grass.

### GET THE EDGE

Anything he can find that presents an edge for him to fish — whether it's the edge of a depression or the edge of the grass — increases his opportunity to catch a big bass.

continued on page 44



Working the buzz-frog on the edges of depressions or grass lines is a great way to hook up with a big bass.



# EARLY SUMMER DEALS

LOUISIANA'S NEWEST EXCEL DEALER!

**Excel**  
BOATS



**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](http://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**



# BEST Boat & RV PARK

985 209-9495 • [BBandRVPARK.com](http://BBandRVPARK.com)

## AMENITIES

- ▶ Private Bulk headed Boat Launch 20' wide
- ▶ Gated with keypad access
- ▶ Large covered Boat/RV concrete pads
- ▶ Large Turning radius
- ▶ Includes water/ sewage
- ▶ Includes 30, 50 and 110 electrical service
- ▶ Tiki bar, grilling, fire pit areas

26'x40' RV & Boat side by side - \$535/m

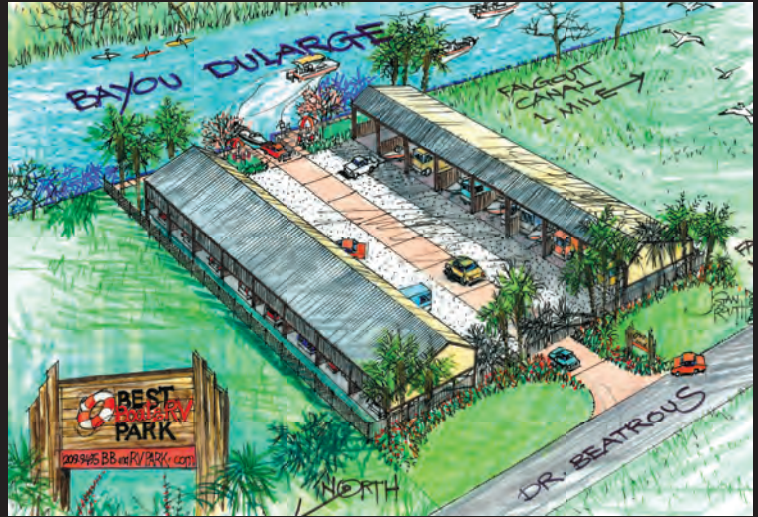
13'x40' Single Boat Parking - \$275/m

One Year Rentals Only

## EXPERIENCE DULARGE

Freshwater, Saltwater and Offshore fishing at its finest. Only minutes away from Cocodrie and Dulac, LA. Other recreational activities include crabbing, kayaking, boating, swimming and water sports. Then enjoy lunch at nearby Falgout Canal Marina. Our location is 1 mile by boat or vehicle to Falgout Canal Marina.

## COMING SOON! NOW PRE-LEASING UPSCALE, SECURE, GATED BOAT AND RV PARK



## Great Deals On CAROLINA SKIFF®

GO ANYWHERE. DO ANYTHING.™



## SLIDELL MARINE

36440 Old Bayou Liberty Rd • Slidell, LA • 985-649-4412  
[www.slidellmarine.com](http://www.slidellmarine.com)

## HONDA MARINE

Always wear a personal flotation device while boating and read your owner's manual.

>

**"B**ig bass love edges," he said. "And the obvious edges are great places to fish, but there is a hidden edge — what I call a wind edge — that can really pay off big time."

This hidden wind edge is an edge of a grass patch that has wind blowing directly into it. Bass are already patrolling the edges of the grass, and the wind pushes bait directly to where they want to be anyway.

Now they've got every reason in the world to eat.

"Would you rather get up and go to the kitchen to get something to eat or have somebody bring some food to you?" Covington asked. "Bass are no different. Why work for it when you can just sit there and eat?"

Covington believes that — contrary to the theory of wind pushing plankton and the shad following the plankton — shad just move into spots like these grass edges simply to get out of the wind.s

## PICK A FROG

As for the frogs themselves, Covington says he knows some anglers that prefer the paddle-style frogs like the Ribbit, while others prefer more of the swimming action of the Horny Toad.

"It's probably more of a confidence thing than anything else but I prefer the Horny Toad," he said. "But there is a place for both styles when you put them on a buzzbait.

"One style frog might work better in one lake than another while a lake just down the road might be better for the other style. Just keep playing around with both until you find what works for you."

While many anglers would consider a buzzbait to be a low-light-early-and-late kind of technique, Covington says that throwing a buzz-frog all day long is a great way to stack up a heavy bag of bass.

"Heck, you can do the same thing with a regular buzzbait... throw it all day... but the buzz-frog is going to get you bigger bites. You may not get a bunch of them, but you can just about bet that the bites you do get are going to be good ones. About the only time I wouldn't throw a buzz-frog would be right after a cold front, but how many of those do we get during May?"

Covington concluded by saying that bass just don't seem to hit a regular buzzbait like they used to. Maybe it's because they see so many of them skimming across the surface.

If that's the case on your home water, and you can't get them to blow up on a buzzbait, take the skirt off and thread on a frog. You'll be on the cutting edge of bass-fishing techniques — and the bites you get will probably be more than enough to keep you there. ■



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](http://chrisginn.com).

**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](http://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.



# RED FISH TIPS

FROM  
TOURNEY  
VETS



## EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST COMPETING FOR WEEKEND BRAGGING RIGHTS,

THESE INSIGHTS FROM A  
COUPLE OF SUCCESSFUL  
TOURNAMENT ANGLERS  
WILL HELP YOU PUT MORE  
REDS IN THE BOAT.

By John Manion

**F**or even the most casual inshore angler, it's hard to miss the redfish tournament craze that happens every spring and summer.

The popularity of the sport is most certainly due to the quality reds caught along the Louisiana coast. But equally instrumental in the growth of these tournaments is the reality that all anglers — from amateurs to professionals — have an opportunity to battle for a top spot.

"This is a sport that allows us to go out and compete with some of the best guides and anglers in the business, fisherman of all ages and any location," said Jake Leininger.

He and Jeff Rogers are avid anglers who have been on the redfishing tournament circuit for more than eight years. They teamed up to win the Louisiana IFA Redfish Tour in 2015, and then again in 2017. They've also had numerous Top 10 finishes in the Tito's Vodka Redfish Series (previously the Louisiana Saltwater Series). In a testament to their success, they've been rewarded with several sponsorships, including their primary sponsor, St. Roch Vodka.

"The high school glory days have come and gone and the tournament trail has provided us the opportunity to compete and learn a lot about fishing," Leininger said.

Courtesy Kevin Barraco

**H**ooking up a redfish in South Louisiana is about as easy as catching long beads at Mardi Gras, but finding the “right” redfish is truly what separates the winners from the losers on the tournament trail.

## ‘GOLDILOCKS’ REDS

It was the Friday before an upcoming tournament, and I had the opportunity to tag along with the duo while they stalked some of their favorite hunting grounds in the Delacroix area. Patterning a bite wasn’t on the menu; these guys were looking for a specific-sized fish. Within moments of putting the trolling motor down, they spotted a group of reds.

“Right there, right there, right there,” Leininger whispered hurriedly. “No, no. Never mind,” he said, the excitement leaving his voice. As the boat floated closer, three reds gently headed away in the opposite direction. He could tell the fish didn’t have the “shoulders” they were looking for and wouldn’t make the weight — so there was no point in casting.

There can be a tremendous weight difference between a fish that is 26 inches long and a fish that is 26 7/8 inches long. Three-quarters of an inch doesn’t sound like much, but it can equate to more than a pound at the scales.

But there’s a fine line between an “under” fish and an “over” fish: 1/64-of-an-inch over is still too big.

A redfish tournament is a game of fractions of an inch. A “perfect pincher” slid over a redfish tail can make the difference in ensuring a big red doesn’t break the slot. **INSET:** Tower boats don’t just provide an elevation advantage while fishing. Because the boat’s controls are also located on the tower, Jeff and Jake are able to scout for fish while running between spots.

“We’ve run up on schools of fish. But numbers don’t win tournaments,” Rogers said. “We need to find just the right pedigree of fish; not to big, not too small.”

## THE AIR UP THERE

The two men typically work out of a tower boat. Viewing the water from 8 to 10 feet in the air is truly a paradigm shift in fishing. The evolution from traditional blind casting to sight-fishing at that altitude is the equivalent of evolving from black- and-white to HD TV in one jump.

“Any elevation makes a difference. Even if you’re just standing on a Yeti ice chest,” Rogers advised. “And you have to have a good set of polarized sunglasses to go with it, too.”

From that lofty vantage point, blindly casting to the shoreline is a waste; you simply can’t

catch fish that aren’t there.

Rogers and Leininger didn’t cast very much, but their eyes remained glued to the water. They didn’t even look up to answer questions. They just kept dissecting the water; and not only the area immediately adjacent to the boat. Surprisingly, they scan the water at the edge of casting range, too.

continues on page 50



Photos courtesy Kevin Barraco



## PLAY THE ‘SLOTS’

For the uninitiated, redfish tournaments might seem the same as any other rodeo, where the heaviest fish wins. The difference is the introduction of the slot-sized fish; meaning only a certain length fish will do.

Most redfish tournaments weigh-in the two heaviest live redfish under 27 inches. Tito’s Vodka Redfish Series anglers weigh-in three live fish; two under 28 inches and one under 27 inches.



# PRE-MEMORIAL DAY SALE-A-BRATION!

Come Take Advantage Of Boat Show Prices & Free Coast Guard Kit With Boat Cover On All In Stock Boats!

May 17th - 19th!

BENT MARINE.com



Everglades™ ROBALO XCURSION SEA HUNT South Bay  
CHAPARRAL Nav-Tech CONTENDER GatorTail 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

**A**fter almost a decade of time on the water, they only need to capture a glimpse of a red to make a pitch. And sight-fishing gives them the opportunity to truly observe a redfish's reaction to a particular bait. These guys aren't shy about employing a myriad of lures and in a variety of colors. They let the conditions and fish's response dictate the bait du jour.

## DINNER IS SERVED

But tailing reds on a distant flat may not stick around long enough to make a close pitch.

"A 3/4-ounce gold spoon will allow you to cast a country mile," Leininger said. "And a flashy spoon can also work in rough or dingy water."

In clear water conditions, the pair typically pitch swimbaits like Berkley Gulp Shrimp on 3/8-ounce jigheads. When fishing thick aquatic vegetation, they'll use any variation of plastics like grubs, crawfish or even Ribbit frogs, usually with a 1/4-ounce bullet weight Texas-rigged to remain weedless.

Regardless of the conditions, presentation remains key to soliciting a strike.

Consider a wonderful Ruth's Chris New York Strip, for example. Swimming in sizzling melted butter, it's a meal fit for a king. But served on a trash can lid — well, not that appetizing, right?

So if a fish bolts on the cast or turns tail when a grub's dropped on its nose, your lure is probably on that trash can lid.

"Knowing how to use the right bait in the right condition is essential," Leininger said.

Tournament anglers need to have a stealthy

presentation to fish that are right on the boat. Other times, working a swimbait is what's needed to entice a fish out of a grass mat.

The bottom line is redfish can be finicky, so the trick is presenting your favorite plastic like it's as tasty as that New York Strip.

## PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE WATERS

The marsh you fish is a big deal, and not just because some spots hold fish and others don't. Tournament anglers are not allowed to fish private waters that are not openly available to the public at large. Navigating the "private but open" versus "private and closed" water issue has become a tricky obstacle for tournament fisherman.

Places like Delacroix are predominantly private, but generally open to public fishing. In contrast, private waters in areas like Lafitte and Cocodrie are more often closed to public access. This is the reason tournament anglers have begun shifting away from these locations.

"I've taken several lie detector tests over the years to confirm we are fishing within the tournament rules," Rogers noted.

It may sound like simple advice: Don't fish where land owners have posted their property. But there isn't a single map resource that precisely defines what is "out of bounds." The continually dissolving Louisiana marsh doesn't provide clear geographic boundaries, either. So it's up to the anglers to know where they're fishing.

And it takes good old-fashioned experience to know where you can — and can't — fish.

## STAYIN' ALIVE

Weight deductions of half, to as much as a full pound, are assessed if tournament anglers bring in a dead fish. But it's a delicate process to keep redfish alive in 90-plus degree temperatures in the blistering heat of Louisiana summers.

Best practices for keeping them swimming include:

- **Using additives** - Rejuvenade is a product added to the water in your livewell. Use it when initially filling the livewell, and then again halfway through the day.

- **Clean water** - Don't fill the livewell with water from the pond you're fishing. Larger water bodies adjacent to the interior marsh tend to be cooler and better oxygenated.

- **Oxygen** - Use a supplemental supply of oxygen in lieu of a standard aerator. More oxygen in the water makes it easier for the fish to breathe; which puts less stress on them so they'll be in good shape at the weigh-in.

- **Keep the temperature down** - Use frozen water bottles as opposed to dumping raw ice into the livewell, which can ultimately affect the salinity.

The marshes in the Delacroix area are always popular with tournament anglers. The thick submerged aquatic vegetation provides water visibility anglers need in order to spot tournament-pedigree redfish. **INSET:** A tournament fish finally makes the livewell. A freshly landed redfish appreciates some oxygen after the fight of its life; but a dead red will keep an angler off the leaderboard.



Photos courtesy Kevin Barraco

## IT TAKES TWO

"There he is," Rogers grunted under his breath, as the drag on his reel came tight.

But tying into a red that's better than 8 pounds, buried in widgeon grass and pulling like a truck is a recipe for a break-off. The objective is to put the fish in the boat as quickly as possible. These guys aren't at it to enjoy the fight, so heavy drag, a stiff rod spine and braided line are a must. If necessary, they will literally drag a fish into the boat.

"Get the net. Get the net," Rogers almost pleaded, as Leininger secured the red.

Being 10 feet up in the air on a 3- by 4-foot platform makes it pretty tough to land winning fish solo. That's where you need to have a partner to boat heavy fish, and it was clear the dance between Rogers and Leininger had obviously been well-rehearsed.

Stopping the trolling motor and putting the Power-Pole down are a must. They didn't want the boat drifting into other fish and blowing out the entire pond.

Leininger was down the tower and on the deck almost immediately, grabbing the net and scooping the fish in one fluid motion. A mass of redfish and aquatic vegetation hit the floor of the tower boat with a thud. After separating the surf from the turf and a quick measurement, Jake gives a nod confirming the fish was short of the slot.

"Now that's a tournament fish," Rogers said, without even weighing it. "It's a 'heavy.' We'll hit this tomorrow."

Pros like Leininger and Rogers make it look easy, but being a novice doesn't disqualify you, either. The redfish tournament circuit is already heating up and carries throughout the summer into early fall. Just remember, it's all about the right fish. So if you can consistently find a 'heavy,' you can compete on the redfish circuit. ■



**John Manion** is an LSU graduate and has been writing about the Louisiana outdoors since 2009. He grew-up hunting and fishing the marshes of South Louisiana and lives in Slidell with his wife Betsy and their two girls. He can be reached at [jemanion4@gmail.com](mailto:jemanion4@gmail.com).

Jake Leininger scoops up a redfish — and lots of seaweed, too. It's not hard to break off a big red in thick SAV, so quick reaction by the net man will put more tournament fish in the livewell.



Courtesy Kevin Barraco

## EZ-GO S4



A Textron Company



**FINANCING  
AVAILABLE**

## DEEP SOUTH GOLF CARS<sup>LLC</sup>

— PARTS • SALES • SERVICE —

Ask about our  
Free Customer  
Appreciation  
Lifetime  
Service Plan


**504-737-0646**

**2508 Hickory Ave., Metairie, LA**

**[www.deepsouthgolfcars.com](http://www.deepsouthgolfcars.com)**

LIKE US





**E**verything about this screamed “wrong” to a Louisiana red snapper fisherman.

Nothing was in near sight — no oil platform; just open water. And a look at the depth sounder’s screen showed nothing but a seemingly barren mud bottom — no wreck, no reef, no rock pile.

Nothing.

On top of that, the water was the color of liquid dust. And in the distance, I could still see land.

I thought that red snapper fishing was supposed to be offshore fishing — you know, long boat rides and blue water.

But not to Scott Pelas.

Working out of Venice, the charter fishing guide (Louisiana Lagniappe Charters, 504-460-1687) has made a specialty of doing combo trips

targeting speckled trout and redfish inshore, and red snappers offshore in the same day.

After a snug night at Port Eads, the modern version of the famous and historic New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club’s home, Pelas headed down South Pass of the Mississippi River toward the open Gulf of Mexico.

Pelas has served as an on-again, off-again right hand man at the marina, mixing some responsibilities there with his full-time charter fishing business.

With him was the general manager of the marina, Travis Yates, originally from North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Yates had fallen in love with South Louisiana’s deep marshes.

“Just the experience of being down here is special. It’s

Big red snappers gang up where natural bottom contours make funnels concentrating bait species.

like being at the edge of the Earth. At night, you see stars and rig lights instead of street lights and headlights.”

The evening before the trip was utterly peaceful. The river slipped silently past the spacious dock, carrying pieces of North Dakota, Ohio, and 29 other states through a vast meadow of 8-foot tall roseau canes.

## A STATE EXPEDITION

Before the trip, Pelas had explained to me he originally learned the art of finding and catching red snapper within state

waters off the mouth of the Mississippi River to take advantage of much more liberal season dates — and the unique geographical features that make Venice one of the few places on the coast where you can really target snapper effectively out to the state boundary — 10.356 miles.

That’s because the mouth of the river juts far out into deep water. Going from 2 to 5 miles offshore of the river delta, water depths drop from 55 to 200 feet deep, Pelas explained. By 7 miles out, it is 400 feet deep and at 12 miles it’s 1,000 feet.

Red snappers are seldom found in depths shallower than 50 feet deep, or deeper than 300 feet. Because bottoms drop so sharply off the mouth of the river, the “magic zone” for snappers is very narrow, and accordingly few oil and gas platforms are there for fishermen to target.

Without the help of oil platforms or reefs on the bottom, see how this Venice guide locates red snappers in open water — using nothing but his electronics.

By Jerald Horst

# NO RIGS — JUST RED SNAPPERS



**T**hose that exist are hammered by anglers. Being able to locate the fish on natural bottoms gives a huge leg-up to those able to do so.

Red snapper-depth waters are closer to land out of Venice than anywhere else in the state. So having the skills to find and catch them within sight of land puts the fishery within easy reach of bay boat owners.

“As for the surface water color, don’t let that fool you,” comforted Pelas. “Lighter, muddy water from the (Mississippi) river layers over heavier, clear, salty Gulf water underneath. That’s where the snappers are.”

## READING THE BOTTOM

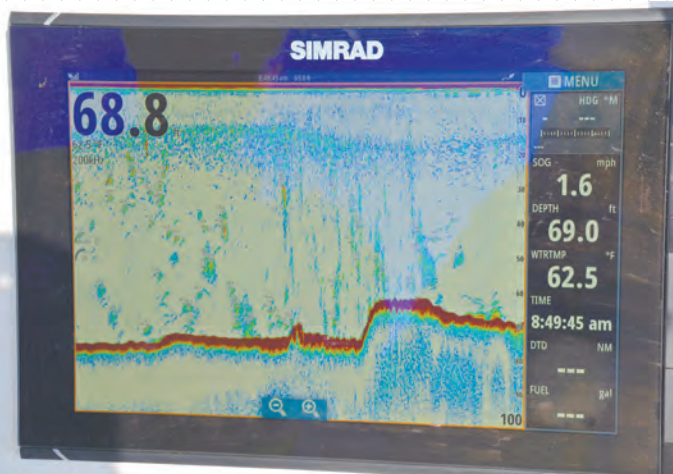
Red snappers are invariably thought of as fish that prefers rocky or reef-like bottoms. But very little such bottom exists offshore of the mouth of the Mississippi River. Almost everything is smothered in a thick blanket of mud — the result of the sediments carried to the Gulf by the Mississippi River.

But the lack of hard bottom does not deter Pelas. He is more concerned with bottom contours and ledges than bottom type. The ledges may not be classic rocky ledges, but they exist nonetheless.

First time offshore anglers should be aware that they are required to hold a free Recreational Offshore Landing Permit before red snapper fishing.



Pelas’ depth sounder tells the tale of waters offshore of Venice. In this one screen view, depths plummet from 65 to 110 feet.



Ledges are quite noticeable on Pelas’ depth sounder: The ledge shown is nearly 20 feet high.



What Scott Pelas calls a nipple — an indentation of deeper water into shoreward shallower water — is clearly shown ahead of the boat’s track in this screen shot. Another nipple is evident earlier in the boat’s track, and both locations held red snappers. Note: North, toward shallower water, is to the bottom right of the screen in this image.

## A FISHERIES FOOTBALL

Red snapper management has been a fisheries football kicked back and forth between federal and state managers, snapper fishermen and environmental groups since 1990, when the first serious regulations were imposed on recreational fishermen.

Then, a seven-fish bag limited was added to the already existing 13-inch minimum size. Still, fishing was allowed for 365 days a year. Management steadily slid into a more restrictive mode until the minimum legal size was 16 inches, the bag limit was two, and only three days were allocated to Louisiana fishermen by the Feds.

The follow-up to the state attempting to assert control of waters out to 10 miles offshore was the creation of a state-regulated season that dramatically increased the number of open days for recreational snapper fishing — but only in water that the state claimed.

The Feds responded by deducting the red snapper caught during the state season from the allocation made in federal waters, ultimately producing the original diminutive three-day season last June.

National politics intervened with the introduction of legislation into the U.S. House of Representatives that would

transfer management authority for the recreational red snapper fishery from the National Marine Fisheries Service to the five Gulf states.

Complicating the issue of who manages the resource is the fact that a 39-day extension to the recreational fishing season was granted in the summer of 2017.

As of this printing, the season opening for 2018 in Louisiana was tentatively scheduled for the Friday before Memorial Day (May 25) in both state and federal waters. The official season length had not been determined, but was expected to be at least 40 days long. — Jerald Horst

These ledges are formed by bottom water currents, but at the same time and even more importantly, they channel water currents.

Pelas watched his depth sounder closely when he got to 65-foot depths. What he was looking for were the keys to his success, what he called “nipples” — contour indentations from deeper water into shallower water.

“These work as natural funnels for water currents to drive bait species into concentrations,” he explained. “Where the food is, is where the snappers are.”

The rest was ridiculously easy. They sent their baited hooks to the bottom and reeled up four or five cranks. It seemed the bait hardly settled into place before a fish took it.

Because of the shallow water, none of the fish had stomachs shoved out of their mouths by air bladders, an effect of decompression that occurs in deep-water fish. This allowed Pelas and Yates to cull their fish, only keeping the largest. Even with heavy culling, it was all over in 20 minutes.

**RIGGING UP** UP NEXT >



**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



**Bill Lewis**

ECHO 1.75

Rat-L-Trap  
WWW.RAT-L-TRAP.COM

STUTTER STEP



## RIGGING UP

Pelas' reels were spooled with 80-pound-test braided line and 18- to 24-inch, 200-pound-test monofilament leaders, fairly typical for red snapper fishing. Everything was secured with Palomar knots.

His terminal rigs showed a wrinkle that he called, "right out of Ed Sexton's playbook." Sexton is best-known for being one of the featured trophy speckled trout anglers in the book *Trout Masters: How Louisiana's Best Anglers Catch the Lunkers*.

The braided main line was tied directly to the eye of the snap swivel's snap, rather than to the eye of the swivel. The hook-bearing mono leader was then tied to the swivel and the weight was snapped into the snap.

"This rig allows you to remove the weight for the run out so the weight doesn't bang against the rod in a bouncing, running boat," he explained.

He baited each big 6/0 Eagle Claw circle hook with squid. "Cut bait works well, too — anything: trout bellies, herring, mullet. But I like squid. You get less sharks, and it stays on the hook better than cut bait."

Hook, line, and sinker aside, Pelas considers his most important open water red snapper tool after his depth sounder to be his Minn Kota I-Pilot trolling motor. Simply by hitting the "anchor" button on his control, he is assured the boat will stay on position without further tending.

"Having one is extremely important to stay on the fish once you have found them," he stressed. "If you don't, you will drift aimlessly. You catch one and then drift off the spot.

"Be sure to keep the latitude and longitude readings when you find fish. They tend to concentrate in the same spots. Sometimes red snappers will suspend up in the water column, but they will still be in the same place. ■

THE NEW PORT EADS UP NEXT >



Scott Pelas calls his Minn Kota I-Pilot trolling motor critical to successfully fishing for red snapper in open waters.

## KEEP IT LEGAL

Inshore fishermen making their first foray offshore for shallow water red snappers should be aware that simple Basic and Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses are not enough to bring red snapper back to the dock.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) requires a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP) for anyone 16 years old or older to land snappers (except mangrove snappers), groupers, tuna, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, cobia, wahoo or dolphin.

The only exception to the requirement is for anglers who are fishing with a licensed charter captain who has a ROLP to cover his customers.

The permits are free and can be obtained online at [www.wlf.la.gov/rolp](http://www.wlf.la.gov/rolp) or through the LDWF smartphone apps: iPhone—search the App Store for "Louisiana Recreational Offshore Landing Permit;" Android—search the Google Play Store for "LDWF Rec. Offshore Landing App." ■

— Jerald Horst

TOP LEFT: Pelas' terminal rig allows for the weights to be quickly unsnapped for the boat ride in and out. BOTTOM LEFT: Although squid are more expensive than some other baits, Pelas prefers them because they are less attractive to sharks.

# 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](http://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™



The modern Port Eads Marina, on the banks of South Pass, allows anglers to “sleep where the fish live.”

## THE NEW PORT EADS

For one thing, the modern and comfortable facility set in the middle of the world’s most fertile fishing grounds is not simply Port Eads. It’s now called the Port Eads Marina.

It was born in \$12 million construction dollars the Feds shelled out to the Plaquemines Parish government to make the parish whole again after Hurricane Katrina erased the historical structure that stood on the current location’s footprint.

With a brand spanking new facility in hand, the parish sagely sought out professional management, settling on John Burrell’s High Adventure Company, LLC out of Woodstock, Georgia.

The firm, said brother Drew Burrell, is involved in a host of lodges, outposts, ranches and safari operations specializing in world class fishing, wing shooting, deer hunting and big game hunting.

“Some, such as Port Eads,” he explained, “are managed and operated on a day-to-day basis by

High Adventure. For others, we hold exclusive booking rights. As an outfitter, our connections reach around the globe: South America, Europe, Africa, Russia and the Yukon.

“People don’t really know that we are open yet, but it is open to the public for anyone. We call ourselves a hotel and a restaurant, as well as a marina, 23 miles from civilization.”

He ticked off the amenities: Eight rooms with three bunks (six beds) and a private bath per room, a dining room and bar, two living rooms, Direct TV, WiFi, 18,000 square feet of dock space, 60 boat slips with electrical and water service with daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual rates, annual slips for houseboats, live and frozen bait, non-ethanol gas and diesel, a fish cleaning station, ice and a 2,000-foot airstrip.

“You don’t have to rent a room to enjoy Port Eads,” added Burrell. “You can come in the middle



of the day to take a break in the air conditioning, get something to eat or get a drink.

"Port Eads is more than just for people with yachts. It's for everyday people, as well as members of the New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club, which still holds tournaments here."

Information about reservations and the marina's services is available by phone at 504-308-1602, or by e-mail at [porteads@highadventurecompany.com](mailto:porteads@highadventurecompany.com). ■

— 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](mailto:jerald@rockinghorst.com).



# SOUTHERN OUTDOORS

& MARINE LLC

**SKELTER**  
Eat. Sleep. Fish.  
**BAY BOATS**  
SIZES FROM 20' TO 24'



**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**



When clear conditions make the fish spooky, a finesse jig will still produce bites.

# SMALL BAIT ... BIG RESULTS

By David A. Brown

Bigger isn't always better — a down-sized finesse jig might be just the ticket for days when bass are playing hard to get. Here's how the pros rig up to take them down.

**W**hen you ask a specialist to design a tool, they'll likely give you a prototype with the details that matter most. That's what Bassmaster Elite Series pro David Walker did for Z-Man when he designed the Cross EyeZ Power Finesse Jig.

Now, the funky eyeball pattern is a straight-up old school throwback, but Walker's structural design addressed a more tangible benefit. For him, finesse isn't all that effective if it can't stand up to the daunting locales in which big bass often reside.

Woody cover, docks, heavy vegetation — southern anglers often have to contend with rough and tumble neighborhoods, and when conditions require a less intrusive appearance than a full-size jig, a finesse jig has to be able to hold its own against imposing habitats.



# “WHAT MAKES THIS A FINESSE JIG IS THAT EVERYTHING IS DOWNSIZED,” WALKER SAID.

“Instead of a 4/0 flipping hook, it has a 2/0; but it’s a heavier wire.

“A lot of the finesse jigs I’ve messed with in the past had a really light wire in them and they were better for casting scenarios; but I wanted something I could still pitch into that cover and not feel like I’m taking a risk by throwing it in there.”

## WHEN IT’S RIGHT

“Water clarity is one of the biggest (factors) for finesse jigs,” Walker said. “When it’s clear, those fish can tend to be pretty spooky, especially if they’ve been around the bank for a while.

“When the fish first move shallow, they tend to be a little dumber, especially if the water’s dirty. But if the water’s a little

cleaner, those fish get a little harder to catch. Here, or if you’re fishing pressured waters, that’s when I’m going to go with that finesse style.”

The ideal setup for a finesse jig, Walker said, is a cloudless day with light to no wind. If it’s blowing 10-15, you rarely need finesse baits, he said. But when the fish are hyper-aware — particularly if the lake’s getting loads of pressure — send in the small stuff.

“There are times when we’re all fishing the same canals and a less bulky bait will get more bites than, say, a normal 3/8- or ½-ounce jig,” said Bassmaster Elite Series pro and New Iberia resident Caleb Sumrall. “I like a Missile Baits Ike’s Mini Flip finesse jig, which is a smaller

profile jig with thinner skirt strands and a compact profile that comes through cover amazingly.”

While some anglers prefer spinning gear for lighter jigs, Walker likes the fact that he can fish finesse jigs on his bait-caster. Benefits include casting accuracy and a more fluid pitching motion.

“I’ll fish a finesse jig about the same way as a full-size flipping jig,” Walker said. “The only difference would be if I’m going to fish clear water where there’s not a lot of cover. In that case, I’m going to do a little more casting.

“I’ll throw it farther and fish it along the bottom, back toward the boat; instead of just pitching it into cover, lifting it a few times and making another cast. That scenario is not one of my favorites, because I really like to be able to cover water and pitch to specific spots and keep moving.”

Just like the full-size deal, Walker would much rather power fish with his finesse jig. Instead of painstakingly grinding through one pocket, he can keep moving and cover several.



If the bite's tough, don't hesitate to downsize your jig presentations.

# TOPKNOT™ LEADER

**STRONGER · MORE ABRASION RESISTANT**



**NEW!** TopKnot™ 100% Fluorocarbon Leader maintains its clarity even after extended use. Outstanding diameter to strength ratio offers the strongest possible breaking strength, even with a smaller diameter. This is a must have for any angler! Available in Natural Clear and Disappearing Pink. 8# - 300#



**William Burbach**  
Yo-Zuri Pro Staff

**YO-ZURI**  
FISH THE BEST™  
Yo-Zuri.com

## Cypress Cove is Now Selling



**Key West Boats:  
The best value  
on the water today.**

- 1) More standard features than anything else in their class.
- 2) Uncompromised attention to safety, including positive flotation, in every model.
- 3) Unsurpassed resale value.

- 4) No wood construction, combined with light-weight coring materials and directional high strength glass, to give you many years of low upkeep and fuel efficient performance.
- 5) USCG standards used meeting some of the most stringent standards for safety, structural integrity, and stability in the world today.
- 6) Privately owned, built, and backed for over two decades by fishermen, for fisherman with one of the most liberal, least needed warranties in the industry.



3663 PONTCHARTRAIN DR. • SLIDELL, LA 70458

**985-643-6668**

1306 S. HAUGH AVE, STE. A • PICAYUNE, MS 39466

**601-798-4700**



**YAMAHA**

[www.cypresscove.net](http://www.cypresscove.net)

"Like" us on Facebook

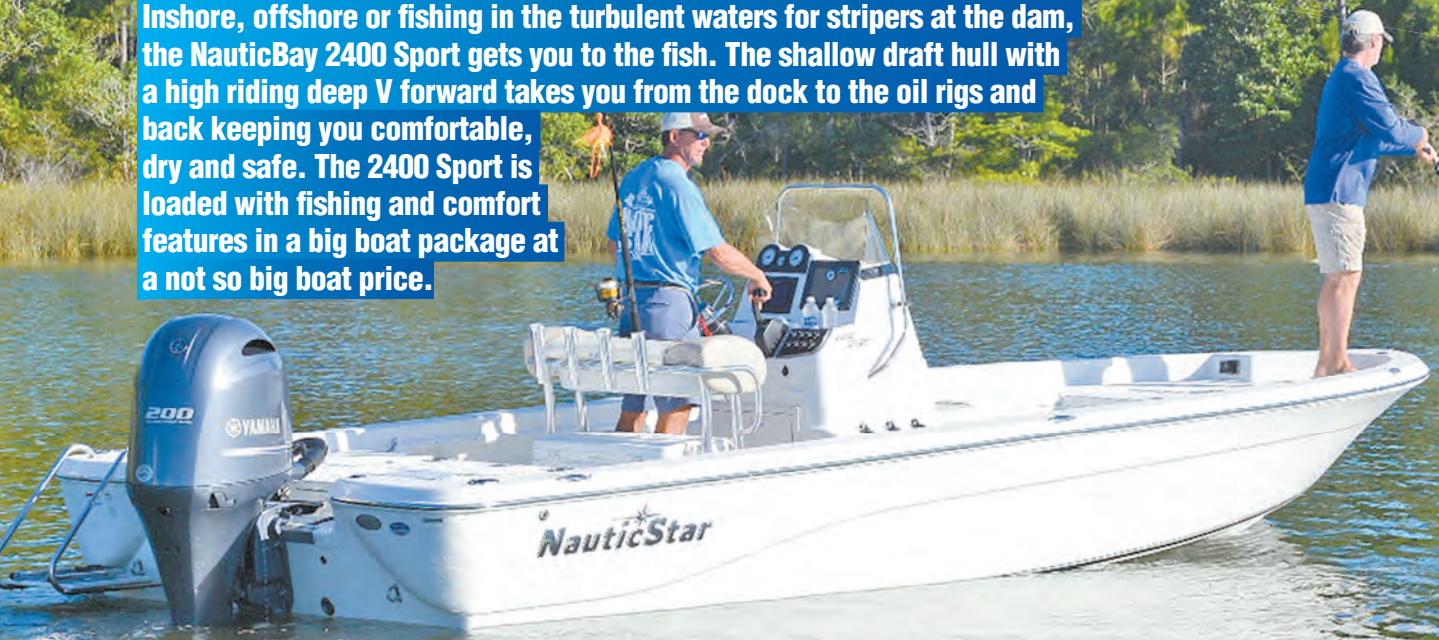
# LOUISIANA'S NEWEST NauticStar DEALER!!!

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!!



# YAMAHA

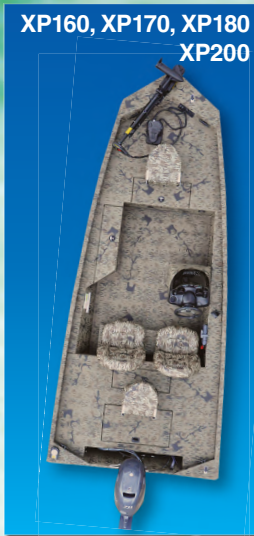


#1 **XPRESS**  
**DEALER**  
in the nation

**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



**YAMAHA**

225.357.3118

Certified Master Yamaha  
Technician On Site

[www.BoatsUnlimitedLA.com](http://www.BoatsUnlimitedLA.com)

**SMALL BAIT ... BIG RESULTS**

Finesse jig trailers don't have to be fancy, as this Z-Man Finesse TRD demonstrates.

**TOP TARGETS**

Nothing revolutionary here; you can fish that finesse jig just about anywhere you'd fish a full-size flipping jig. The only difference is a more diminutive figure sneaking into the target zone. That being said, Sumrall describes one of his favorite finesse jig presentations.

"Flipping a black/blue jig with a matching Missile Baits D-Bomb into cypress trees is my favorite," he said. "I like to target the shaded sides and I tend to go for the protected side of the cypress tree. I feel like if the fish are that shallow, they don't want to be on the (windward) side of the tree getting beaten up."

Mimicking forage is always a good bet, but Sumrall warns against deal-breaking encroachment. In other words, no dropping the bait right on their heads.

"If I can flip past the cypress tree, bring my jig up to the tree and then kill it, that's my favorite way to fish the finesse jig," Sumrall said. "I feel like sometimes,

if you flip to the tree, there's a lot of room for error. You can hit the tree too hard and potentially spook the fish."

His best move: Flip a foot or two past the target and then use his rod tip to sneak it toward the fish. Resembling a crawfish scampering along the side of a cypress tree, this move usually finds a willing taker.

**GEAR FOR THE REAR**

Addressing a key dynamic for all jigs — fall rate — Walker said his trailer selection also follows a generally downsized strategy, but specific choices depend on what he's trying to accomplish. For slower falls, he likes the Z-Man Punch CrawZ trailer, but to keep that overall package compact, he'll bite off the back half of the body and hang the remaining section claws-down.



Bassmaster Elite pro Caleb Sumrall often bounces finesse jigs off cypress trees to trigger reaction bites.

continues on page 68

**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



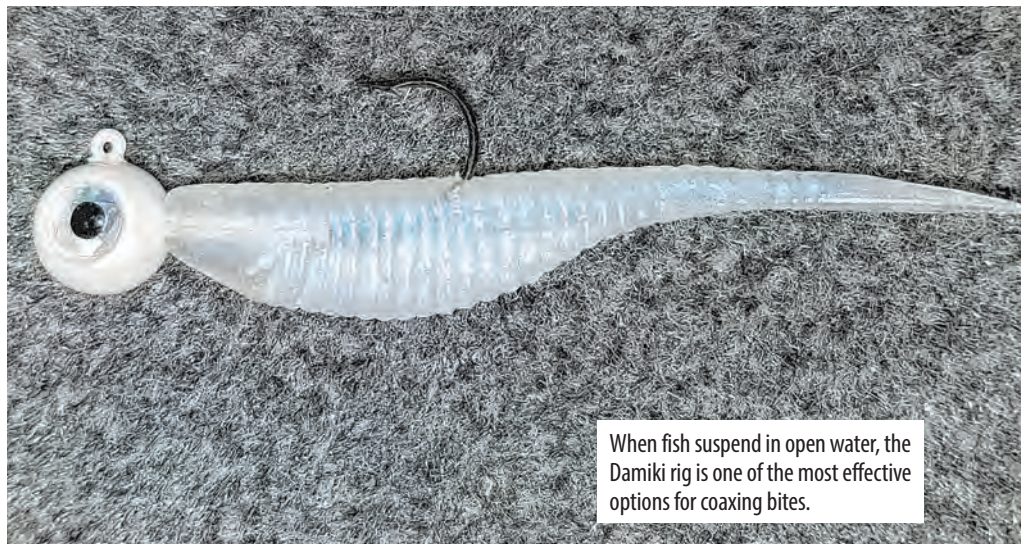
**YAMAHA**

# DAZZLE 'EM WITH THE DAMIKI RIG

Bass anglers know that few scenarios rival the hair-pulling frustration of suspended fish. Maybe it's largemouth fleeing heavy fishing pressure on their offshore humps and contour breaks; or perhaps we're talking about Toledo Bend's spotted bass suspending in open water because they enjoy being difficult.

The reason this is so tough is because it's often hard to keep a bait in the strike zone long enough to tempt these fish. Well, one of the hottest deals on the national bass tournament scene is the Damiki Rig; essentially a light jighead like the VMC Moon Eye and a tiny baitfish-imitating tail like the Damiki Armor Shad, from which the rig draws its name.

The Damiki rig is basically the same as the "moping" technique used by northern wall-eye anglers. However, southern folks might



When fish suspend in open water, the Damiki rig is one of the most effective options for coaxing bites.

better connect with this concept: Think float-and-fly, only your boat is the float.

Truth is, all you have to do with the Damiki rig is vertically drop it to fish you've spotted on your electronics, hold it front of their noses — maybe slip in a little wiggle now and then — and make them look at the easy meal until their stomachs blink.

Jig sizes vary with depth and fish mood,

so consider how aggressive the fish are and how fast you need your bait to reach them. Weights of 1/4- to 3/8-ounce are common, but most anglers in the know keep a 1/8-ounce handy for particularly tough fish. Whatever you chose, you'll want a 90-degree line tie to keep the bait perfectly horizontal. ■

- David A. Brown

## DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE

1907 Paulette Rd.  
Morehead City, NC 28557

E-Mail: [info@downeastguideservice.com](mailto:info@downeastguideservice.com)  
[www.downeastguideservice.com](http://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**

## 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.



GTRXD 37 EFI  
**\$8395**

SIXTY-ONE MONTH WARRANTY

3 YEAR CORROSION RESISTANT WARRANTY



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](http://www.BoatsUnlimitedLA.com)

## SMALL BAIT ... BIG RESULTS

**E**lsewhere, when wants a faster fall, Walker uses the straight simplicity of the Z-Man Finesse T.R.D. as his trailer. Less plastic equals less drag, and therefore a faster fall.

“You can get creative with a lot of different trailer styles, but when I’m using a finesse jig, I’m going to try to make that trailer look pretty natural,” he said. “I’m going to stick with more natural colors: green pumpkin, brown, green — not the really bold colors we might use on the flipping jigs.”

### PLASTIC TACTICS

FLW Tour pro Andrew Upshaw’s a big fan of finesse jigs with skirts trimmed in bristly form. He’ll also alter his Gene Larew Biffle Bug Junior by removing the trailer’s center tail flapper to create a smaller profile with only the legs flapping freely.

“This slims up the profile and makes it more compact; and that’s exactly what you want for a finesse jig,” Upshaw said.

Scent can play a big role in closing the deal with downsized presentations, so Upshaw also adds a generous dose of Gene Larew Biffle Juice to the trailer’s center cavity. And to play up the visual ruse, he’ll use an orange or chartreuse dye pen to touch up the Biffle Bug’s legs to mimic the pincers of indigenous crawfish.

“I’ll put a little bit on each pincer; not a lot — just enough to give the jig a little flash under the water,” Upshaw said.

One more rigging tip: If you’re dock-skipping finesse jigs and prefer to hang your trailer, rather than thread it onto the hook, adding a piece of worm onto your jig’s hook shank will stop the trailer from sliding up and potentially marring hook sets.

Many of the preparation and presentation points really aren’t that different from full-size jigs, so it’s not like learning a new technique. Bottom line: Finesse jigs simply offer an option for lighter-detail work when situations call for subtlety.

“I rely on a finesse jig a lot in the wintertime, but they are also very effective throughout the year,” Upshaw said. “You can throw it around grass, wood, rock; you can throw it in 2 feet of water or 30 feet of water — it doesn’t matter.

“Finesse jigs are a great way to get bit.” ■



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



TOP: The Gene Larew Biffle Bug makes a great finesse jig trailer, but try removing the center tail to present a smaller profile. MIDDLE: Touching up the tips of a finesse jig trailer can increase the attraction. BOTTOM: Sweetening a finesse jig with scent attractants never hurts, either.

Extraordinary

# PERFORMANCE & ANGLING VERSATILITY.



With extraordinary performance, handling, and angling versatility the RB190 is built to capitalize on the rich rewards of intracoastal saltwater fisheries as well as the excitement of freshwater reservoirs. Inside, storage abounds and the interior is wide open. Elsewhere, the full-featured layout includes a recirculating aerated livewell, stainless steel hardware, console rod racks, all-aluminum floors and decks, our super-tough, skid-resistant Rawhide™ coating on the interior and gunnel and a wide choice of factory-rigged outboards. From shallow water stealth to wide open bays, this ultra-quiet, crossover design is taking total performance to a whole new level.

“From big bass to redfish and speckled trout, the RB190 is packed with the performance and versatility to take on whatever I’m fishing for.”

Clark Wendlandt  
Champion Tournament Angler



For The Name Of Your Nearest Ranger® Dealer, Call:

**1-800-373-BOAT** (2628)

TM/® are trademarks/registered trademarks of Ranger Boats, LLC, its affiliates or suppliers. © Copyright MMXVIII White River Marine Group R-8110

# Ranger

BOATS

rangerboats.com





# Berryland

Campers

**HOLDEN**

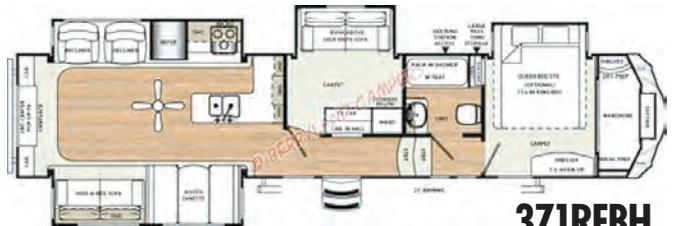


**4 GREAT BUNKHOUSE FLOORPLANS**

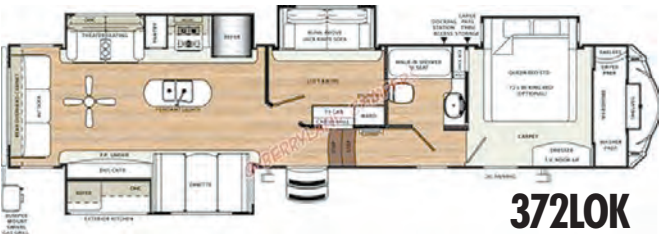
**STARTING AT \$44,990**



**365SAQ**



**371REBH**



**372LOK**



**383RBLOK**

MesaRidge SALEM

ROCKWOOD

**HOLDEN, LA • Exit 29**

**TOLL FREE 1-877-567-7079**

SALEM HEMISPHERE LITE

**WORK and PLAY**

[www.berrylandcampers.com/holden](http://www.berrylandcampers.com/holden)

A man wearing a dark hoodie, a blue and grey baseball cap, and work gloves is using a long-handled tool to clear brush in a wooded area. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs. The background shows a dense forest of trees.

By Jonathan Olivier

# GROWING A POOR MAN'S FOOD PLOT

Forget the expensive marketing gimmicks, and get back to the basics: Here are some simple methods you can implement right now to provide supplemental feed for your deer herd this fall.

**T**hese days, a deer hunter wears many hats — mechanic, butcher, biologist and farmer.

The latter can take up just as much time as hunting does, and some folks dedicate thousands of dollars to growing food for their deer herd.

The results are, by any measure, often fruitful. Big, beautiful food plots work to attract deer throughout the summer, providing plenty of browse. And, come fall, some quality deer are sure to be harvested there.

But between the mega-tractors, acres upon acres of fields and expensive seed blends, the costs and time invested can quickly add up.

For many hunters, smaller parcels of property or hard-to-reach places mean those methods aren't really practical. Plus, between hunting gear and many other everyday expenses, large plots often just aren't affordable.

After all, Mother Nature already provides a lot in the way of deer food. Just look around: honey-suckle and blackberry abound in the spring and summer. And in the fall, acorns are more than enough to keep a deer satisfied. So, there's a lot of value in letting nature do some work so you can keep things simple.

"All food plots do is provide a supplemental feeding source," said Don Reed, a retired LSU Ag Center associate professor, who spent years studying whitetails at the Idlewild Research Station in Clinton. "They're not meant to increase deer capacity or change genetics of a herd. Even the best food plot will supplement the native vegetation already around."

Jonathan Olivier



**W**ith that in mind, a food plot becomes not an expensive necessity, but a practical tool that works in concert with your natural browse. If you have smaller-acreage property, a poor man's plot can work wonders in supplementing your herd's diet — without breaking the bank. So during the summer you can rest easy knowing the deer are getting nutrients they need — and in the fall, you'll have a solid stand location.

And you likely won't need a tractor or other high-dollar gear, either. With just a four-wheeler, some hand tools and a few weekends this spring and summer, you can build a productive plot that'll serve you for years to come.

## WORK WITH NATURE

Find a natural opening in the tree canopy, and you're more than likely going to find some quality forage already there. If your break in the canopy needs to be freshened up a bit to encourage growth, take a chain saw to a few trees in the area to allow more sunlight to hit the forest floor. And don't worry about seeds, because nature has already

laid the groundwork for you.

Reed said the seed bank is present in the soil and, with a little encouragement from the sun, it will sprout in no time — with some of the first being Rubus, in the blackberry and dewberry family.

"It's easiest to use what is natural," Reed said. "A lot of times you can utilize what is already out there. All you need to do is fertilize a briar patch or some honey suckle."

Now is still a good time to implement this method. If you clear a spot this month, by July or August you should see native browse sprouting.

"Once those honey suckles and blackberries establish themselves, you can fertilize it and it'll grow quicker," Reed said. "These are perennial plants, so they'll be there for years."

Reed advised using a bag of commercial fertilizer like triple 13 (13-13-13), which contains the primary nutrients nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. These three are critical in plant growth and help to stimulate everything from root growth to aiding in drought resistance. About 250 pounds per acre should do the trick.

continues on page 74

## BEST PLANTS for the plot

### WARM SEASON:

**Iron clay peas:** These are packed with as much as 30 percent protein, and they're also drought tolerant. You can plant this variety from now throughout the summer, which will provide food until the beginning of bow season, depending on the size of your herd and plot.

**Soybeans:** Soybeans can also contain around 30 percent protein, and the plant thrives in well-drained soil. But it's an annual, so you'll have to replant it every spring or summer. Sow from now until June to get a crop by July or August. The drawback to soybeans is how much deer love them. Small plots can be overgrazed before you know it, so it's best to save this crop for larger fields — and don't expect to hunt over it during the winter.

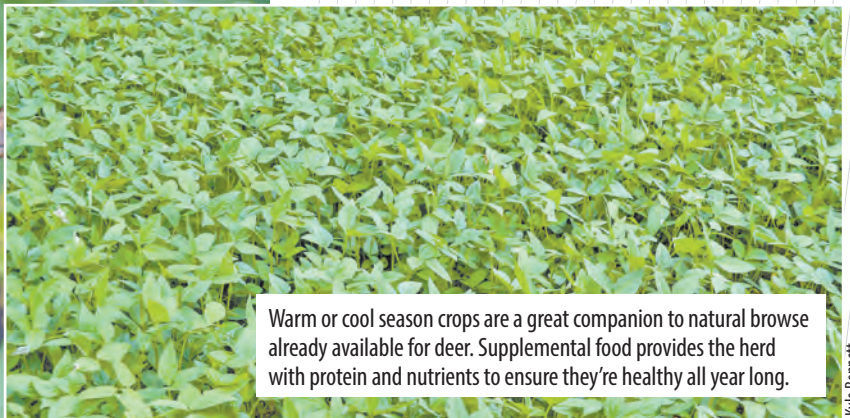
### COOL SEASON:

**Clover:** One of the most affordable crops available, clover grows quickly and is adaptive to many soils. There are plenty of varieties to choose from, including red, arrowleaf, crimson, berseem and ladino. Crimsons and arrowleafs are both annuals that do well in the South's variable soils. Red clover can last three or four years with just one planting if you maintain it properly.

Clover works well when mixed with other crops, such as wheat or cereal rye. It's best planted in August or September.

**Winter wheat:** This variety does best when planted in the fall, which means it'll be available for your deer in the early spring. It doesn't take much soil preparation to get winter wheat established, so light disking will work.

**Ryegrass:** While this plant has gotten a bad reputation, it's cheap and easy to grow, and deer readily browse on it. It's best planted in September, and you'll have germination within a few weeks — just in time for bow season. The drawback is the plant is a heavy re-seeder, meaning it'll take over a field once it's established. ■



Warm or cool season crops are a great companion to natural browse already available for deer. Supplemental food provides the herd with protein and nutrients to ensure they're healthy all year long.

Kyle Bennett

### 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



WWW.COTTONMOUTHBOATS.COM

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



WILD WING OUTFITTERS

Stop Dreaming. Start Hunting.

Contact Us:

504-616-4454

info@wildwingoutfitters.com

wildwingoutfitters.com

Hunt Argentina

DUCKS. DOVES. PERDIZ.

Next Trip: July 19-25, 2018



Pictured: Argentinian White-Cheeked Pintail

There is no better place in the world for duck hunting than Argentina. You're invited to join our crew and experience hunting like you always dreamed it could be. We'll be staying at the first class Estancia El Rincon, the most sought after duck destination in all of Argentina. Hosted by a WWO expert, this 4-night 8-hunt mixed-bag adventure delivers the ultimate wing shooting experience. Visit [www.wildwingoutfitters.com](http://www.wildwingoutfitters.com) for more information.

**F**or a long-term plan, Reed said to plant native soft mast trees nearby, like a persimmon or mayhaw. Both need full sun, so planting them in your cleared section of woods is an investment that will pay off down the road. Most forestry offices or nurseries will have plants available. (It's too late to transplant any trees now — the best time to do that is in the winter when they're dormant.)

If you're lucky enough to already have a few of these trees on your property, think about clearing some of the canopy nearby to encourage growth of the native browse. And, those felled trees will serve as excellent cover on the perimeter of your plot.

**GET A SOIL TEST**

When you're planting non-natives, it's best to get a soil test before you do any sowing. Having the right amount of nutrients and pH in your soil is crucial to plant growth. When the ground you're



It all starts with dirt. By getting your soil's pH tested, you'll know if it's ripe for planting, or if you need to make any adjustments before sowing.

Kyle Bennett

planting is out of whack, growth will be stunted and won't offer much for your deer. All your hard work — and money — could be wasted by planting without knowing the contents of your soil.

Many folks send samples off to the LSU Ag Center Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Lab for a nominal price. Do-it-yourself kits are widely available these days, so it's easy to pick up one at the hardware

store. It will provide information on, first and foremost, pH. Typically, most plants grow well with a more neutral to slightly acidic reading of between 6.8 and 7 (0 is the most acidic on the scale, and 14 is alkaline).

"The results from the Ag Center will tell you what you'll need to amend your soil," Reed said. "If your soil is low in pH, as is common in the South, you have to add

**Double Side Pit Blind**

**Pit Blinds**

- Aluminum & Steel
- Available in 3, 4, 5, 7, & 8 man blinds

**Dugout Pit Blind**

**Crawfish Track Boat**

Check Out our Video on Youtube "Quirk Track Boat"

**Track Boat**

**Quirk's Welding**

3712 Hwy. 10 • Washington, LA 70589  
 337-826-WELD (9353) • 337-945-0226  
[www.quirkswelding.com](http://www.quirkswelding.com)

**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

lime. The results will tell you how many tons per acre you need. That can be bought at a local co-op.”

The test results will also tell you if the soil needs nutrients like nitrogen or phosphorus, which can be amended by fertilizers.

“If you tell the Ag Center ahead of time what crops you’re planting, they give you site-specific fertilizer recommendations for that food plot,” said Kyle Bennet, a Lake Charles hunter who tends to 16 acres of food plots on his family’s land near Natchez, Mississippi. “They give you three options: clover, oats, and soybeans. We may be planting other varieties, but a lot of what hunters use fall into that category.”

Some people have gotten into the habit of adding fertilizers to their soil every year, despite not having their soil tested. Bennet said that can be a waste of time and money because some plants, like legumes, add nutrients like nitrogen to the soil — rendering nitrogen fertilizers useless, and potentially harming future plants.

“A soil test is a great cost-saving technique because you’re not wasting money on fertilizer you don’t need,” he said.

## NO TRACTOR? NO PROBLEM

If you lack the heavy equipment to turn some dirt, don’t despair. You can still have a fresh plot — all you need is Roundup and seeds. Look for an opening in the tree canopy or an old, overgrown field without much in the way of deer food. Just be sure there are at least six to eight hours of sunlight in the area each day. Cast seeds by hand in the desired area, then come back and spray the existing vegetation with Roundup.

“In no time the vegetation dies on top of the seed and creates ground cover,” Bennet said. “It’s like putting it in the dirt. That vegetation decomposes and acts like fertilizer, and it’s perfect for seed germination.”



A good chainsaw is a must, as it’s handy to remove blow downs and open up the canopy, which allows for more sunlight on your food plot.

Jonathan Olivier



### 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 Kioti dealer/  
large selection from  
22-110HP




### GENERATORS FOR INDUSTRIAL & MARINE

#### Industrial Generator: 6KW - 12KW - IN STOCK



- Compact Units
- Light Weight
- Fuel Efficient
- Quiet



#### Marine Generator: 5KW - 20KW IN STOCK



Excel in your field™

Authorized  
LS Tractor  
Dealer




### BECAUSE PEACE OF MIND SHOULDN'T BE AN OPTION



Now Offering Marine And Industrial Engines By










continues on page 76

**A** similar method involves burning existing vegetation, then sowing the seeds in the ash. But if you decide to go that route, use caution. Have a biologist come out and supervise, if necessary, or use the help of a few friends.

If breaking ground is necessary, though, you can use a garden tiller. Most hardware stores rent equipment with a daily rate, and a day or two should be enough time to till up some stubborn ground on a plot only an acre or two in size.

If time is short, several companies sell discs that are designed specifically for a four-wheeler. While most aren't built to break heavy soil, it'll get the job done. "There are also seeders for ATVs," Reed said. "That's a great option if you don't have access to a tractor or larger equipment." ■



*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.*

## TOOLS FOR THE JOB

- **HAND RAKE:** Often one of the first tools you'll use when building a food plot. Use a hand rake to remove leaves or other debris from your plot before disking. This tool also comes in handy if you decide to conduct a controlled burn.
- **BACKPACK SPRAYER:** From Roundup to fertilizers, a backpack sprayer is a must. It'll allow you to stay mobile and comfortable as you spray any part of your plot. Most hold a few gallons.
- **CHAINSAW:** Sometimes a break in the canopy is necessary, which makes a chainsaw invaluable. Allowing more sunlight into the understory will encourage plant growth.
- **FOUR-WHEELER:** Tractors can't get to those hard-to-reach places in the woods, but your trusty four-wheeler can. It also will help you haul all of your tools needed for a day's work. Also, accessories like a seed caster and disc can be attached to speed up the planting process.
- **SEED DISPENSER:** Whether you're using a larger model on an ATV or a hand-held one, a dispenser helps to evenly distribute seeds. Simply load it with seed and churn away, which is much more effective and uniform than casting by hand.
- **UTILIZATION CAGE:** While not a necessity, a utilization cage can provide insight into how heavily deer are using your plot. Create a small, square cage out of chicken wire and erect it in the food plot. Make sure it's high enough so deer can't reach inside. In a few weeks, after the herd has had a chance to browse, you can gauge just how much they've been eating — and how well your plants are growing. ■

# Honda ATV's are available at these LOCAL RETAILERS:

### ATV Zone

62366 Commercial St.  
Roseland, LA 70456  
985-747-1550

### Honda of Lafayette

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

### Bocos Engine Service

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

### Loewer Powersports

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

### Friendly Honda

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

### McKinney Honda

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

### Friendly Powersports

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

### Motion Cyclesports of DeRidder

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

### G & C Honda

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

### 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



2018

**PIONEER 1000-5**



Pioneer 1000-5 LE and accessorized Deluxe models shown.



ONLY SETTLE FOR  
THE BEST



**Support those that support you!**



**powersports.honda.com** PIONEER 1000-5 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 registered trademark of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. ©2017 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (09/17)

2018

**FOURTRAX RANCHER®**



UP FOR  
IT ALL



**Your Local Participating Honda dealers!**



**powersports.honda.com** UTILITY ATVs ARE RECOMMENDED ONLY FOR RIDERS 16 YEARS OF AGE 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 AFTER CONSUMING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, ON PAVED SURFACES, ON PUBLIC ROADS, WITH PASSENGERS, OR AT EXCESSIVE SPEEDS. NO STUNT RIDING. RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN RIDING. FourTrax® and Rancher® are registered trademarks of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. ©2017 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (11/17)



**BOAT CITY**



# TIDEWATER *boats*



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



**2110 Tidewater Bay Max**  
*"Best Layout on the Market"*



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



**Tidewater 232 LXF**

**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 Tracker Deep V Targa V-19 Combo

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



Z18  
150 hp, 175 hp & 150 Pro XS in stock

**NITRO**  
PERFORMANCE FISHING BOATS



Promotional Gift Card  
Offers Honored



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](http://www.BoatCityUSA.com)



"Selling & Servicing Tracker Boats  
for 19 years"



**USA**

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

**H**omework and studying are some of the biggest complaints from high school and college students. They go to class all day, then come home and have to hit the books again.

Being a part-time student at the University of New Orleans, Capt. Ty Hibbs is certainly no stranger to homework.

But some studying Hibbs doesn't dread is researching the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain. This time of year, he usually finds piles of speckled trout on reefs there.

"What I do is find all the old shell pads and pilings in the lake," he said. "You've got to do a little bit of research and work."

Hibbs does his research on a website called Sonris, using his computer at home before a trip. But the website isn't exactly a cakewalk to use.

"Look up a tutorial on YouTube, and it'll show you more on how to use it," he said. "It'll tell you where the old shell pads were.

"It'll tell you anything that was one time a danger to maritime traffic — wellheads, pilings, everything."

The homework Hibbs does is ultra-beneficial when it comes to trying to locate the reefs, which is oftentimes the most difficult part. But research alone isn't enough to locate and fish the reefs effectively.

"You have to learn how to read your sonar," Hibbs said. "If you're just using your sonar and you have no idea what's what on there, it's no help."

## IT'S ALL ABOUT QUALITY — NOT QUANTITY

The great thing about fishing these reefs is there's little boat pressure simply because anglers have to put in so much time to find them, and most people want to be given an "X marks the spot" location.

Another good aspect about putting in time to find the reefs — other than serenity on the water — is the size of the fish. Hibbs hasn't caught any 9-pounders yet, but he has noticed better-than-average fish.

"I've seen some really nice fish come off the reefs," he said. "I've caught some good 3- and 4-pound fish off them.

"I've heard of people catching 5- and 6-pounders off them still to this day."

He advised quality-minded anglers not to pass up the south shore reefs.

"Usually, they're some nicer fish," he said. "We don't catch a lot of those smaller fish for some odd reason. You're not fishing around the south shore for numbers; you're fishing for size."

If anglers don't want to go through the rigorous process of finding reefs no longer than one boat length in a wide open Lake Pontchartrain, Hibbs said locating reef balls is a great alternative.

"They're pretty obvious (to find)," he said. "They're all marked. You can just type in 'Lake Pontchartrain reef balls' and you can find the coordinates of them."



# SOUTH SHORE SMACKDOWN

Putting in some time on the computer before you hit the water could pay off big — if you can locate underwater reefs, shell pads and pilings in Lake Pontchartrain. One guide shares some tips to help you catch more trout. *By Joel Masson*

Capt. Ty Hibbs flips in a nice speckled trout just after sunrise near the catwalk on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain.





**B**ut before he even thinks about going to fish the reefs in the spring, Hibbs looks for a specific weather condition that tells him the fish are out there.

“The springtime is really dependent on southeast winds,” he said, noting it also brings salty water into the lake. “The southeast wind keeps it from getting too rough on the south shore.”

Once he pulls up to the reef, the young captain puts his trolling motor to work, rather than dropping down a big hunk of steel.

“I hardly ever anchor,” he said. “I have an iPilot, so if I ever anchor, I’ll just press anchor mode on it.”

Minn Kota’s iPilot has what the company calls a Spotlock feature that keeps you in the same location, no matter the wind or tide. It’s an invaluable tool for keeping you on top of a small reef.

## DEEPWATER JIGGING IS KEY

Although Hibbs does about 50 trips a year where he takes clients shallow-water redfishing, his true passion is jigging Lake Pontchartrain with plastic. But Hibbs said live shrimp is definitely a viable option on the reefs.

“If you’re going to fish live bait on those reefs, anchor upcurrent from it, and let your bait drift over the reef,” he advised.

Hibbs would rather get a root canal than fish the live stuff, so he’s always got a jigging rod in his hand, and he casts at a different angle than the guys fishing live bait.

Jerkbaits can be ultra-effective this time of year around the south shore, according to Capt. Ty Hibbs.

“If you’re going to jig it, anchor downcurrent and cast into it,” he said.

Fishing around the reefs means jigging a lot of deep water, according to Hibbs.

“Most of the time around the reefs, it’s 15 to 17 feet of water,” he said. “As you get toward those reef balls and some of the shell pads, they’re a little bit shallower — 10, 11, 12 feet deep.”

To get the jig down to the bottom, Hibbs almost always throws a 3/8-ounce GoldenEye jighead, but he said he’ll go heavier if he needs to.

“If it’s really rocking current somewhere, I’ll throw a ½-ounce, but the lighter the better,” he said. “The fish won’t feel it as much.”

“If it’s slick calm and there’s no tide, you can get away with a 5/16-ounce, but that’s really tough to feel — more advanced stuff.”

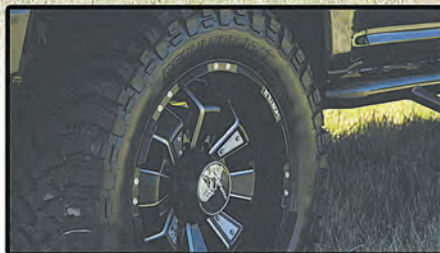
# Fishing Season's Biggest Catch!

*The Perfect Truck for Sportsman's Paradise*



**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



400 E. Howze Beach Road  
**985-643-8900**

[SupremeFordOfSlidell.com](http://SupremeFordOfSlidell.com)  
**EXPECT MORE!**



Hibbs said no matter the size of the jighead you're using, it's important to bring an ample supply of them. "You're going to snag up a lot," he said. "It's all part of the game. If you're getting snagged, you're in the right area."

"It's not a bad thing." When the inevitable does happen, Hibbs doesn't just leave his 50-cent jighead down at the bottom without it benefiting him. "When you snag onto the reef, don't just pop it off," he said. "Cut it right at the surface, and tie a cork to it. That's going to be a perfect marker buoy."

Like most things in life, fishing the Lake Pontchartrain reefs is much easier to do without wind because the actual reef and the bait around it is easier to spot.

"If it's calm, you'll actually see the tide ripping across the top of the (reef)," he said. "You'll see a little wind ripple, and there will be a slick right over the reef, and you'll see some glass minnows over the top."

Although lack of tidal movement isn't a deal-breaker for Hibbs, he said it's always advantageous to have some moving water.

"We don't see a drastic tide out here, but tide always helps in the lake," he said. "We're not as tide-dependent as we used to be, though. I feel like years ago when we caught some bigger fish, it was a lot more tide dependent."

"Now, if it's doing anything, I like it. If it's not, I'm still going fishing."

Generally, if it either has been calm or blowing southeast for a few days, the water clarity will be superb. In this situation, Hibbs likes natural-colored lures: His favorites are holy joely and shrimp creole-colored Matrix Shad.

However, when he's faced with dirtier water, Hibbs likes Spartacus and purple-haze-colored Vortex Shad. ■

**CORRECT GEAR ESSENTIAL**  
UP NEXT



Joel Masson is an avid angler who has fished South Louisiana his whole life. He lives in Mandeville.



Getting snagged is part of the game when fishing around the reefs, so Capt. Ty Hibbs suggests bringing a lot of jigheads.



# SEABROOK, BONNABEL

## WORTH A LOOK, GUIDE SAYS

To fish the reefs in Lake Pontchartrain, Capt. Ty Hibbs generally launches out of Seabrook, which gives him several good areas to hit before he tries the reefs.

"Anytime I find a snag anywhere around Seabrook, Bonnabel or just the south shore in general, there's usually fish on it," he said. "It could be rocks, trash, a sunken boat. If there's something down there that disturbs the tide and gives bait a place to hide, I feel like there will be fish on it."

Some spots Hibbs likes around Seabrook are the airport wall and the catwalk.

"I've spent thousands of hours out there, and I've learned from a lot of different people," he said. "You find areas that produce fish every time."

Another area Hibbs likes is the wall just outside of South Shore Harbor. However, he employs a different method of fishing there. "Anytime I find rocks or structure in less than 10 feet of water, I like jerkbaits," he said.

Working the jerkbait is important, according to Hibbs. "I'll usually throw it out there, and twitch the rod tip really hard toward the water about three times and let it sit there," he said.

Hibbs repeats this retrieve all the way back to the boat. ■

— Joel Masson

The catwalk is one of Capt. Ty Hibbs' favorite places to target speckled trout on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain.



# Bayou Outboards Inc.

3710 Robertson St. • Metairie, LA  
**504-836-6885**  
[www.bayououtboards.com](http://www.bayououtboards.com)

*We offer complete service and parts to your...*



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



THE EVINRUDE E-TEC<sup>®</sup> PERFECT 10 SALES EVENT

NOV. 1, 2017 APR. 30, 2018

**10-YEAR WARRANTY!**

EVINRUDE E-TEC

## 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



Capt. Ty Hibbs likes Duce's Delta series of rods for deepwater jigging, and keeps a close eye on his line to hook up with more fish.



# CORRECT GEAR ESSENTIAL FOR DEEP-WATER JIGGING

It's no secret deep-water jigging is one of the most complicated ways to catch an already challenging speckled trout. But when fishing the reefs around Lake Pontchartrain, it's definitely the most rewarding way to catch them.

Additionally, jigging plastic as opposed to live bait will often-times put bigger fish in the boat.

Capt. Ty Hibbs has spent his whole life jigging the deep water of Lake Pontchartrain, and it's become an obsession for the young guide.

Hibbs believes in using top-notch equipment to feel subtle bites from big specks. He uses Duce's Delta series of rods, specifically a 6-foot, 6-inch model.

"It's the shortest one they make," he said. "It's got a good, hard backbone so I can really hit them hard, but it's got a light tip."

Many anglers make the mistake of not paying close enough attention to their line, according to Hibbs.

"I watch the line so when the line jumps, I'm not giving the fish any time to react," he said. "I want to hit them as hard as I can as soon as I can."

"Most of the time, you're going to see your line jump before you feel it on the rod. There are a lot of people who miss fish because

they're not watching their line; they're just waiting to feel it."

Speaking of line, Hibbs goes back and forth between fluorocarbon and monofilament.

"If you're new to jigging, start with fluorocarbon because it's got a lot more feel to it," he said. "You'll feel everything a lot better."

Monofilament and braided line both float, while fluorocarbon sinks, giving the fluoro an extra advantage when deep-water jigging.

"The fluorocarbon is a little cheating way to get it down and feel a lot better," Hibbs said.

However, monofilament still has a place in Hibbs' boat.

"I like mono a lot because I feel it bounces that jighead better than any other line," he said.

As far as reels, Hibbs uses a variety of Shimano baitcasters, but he makes sure they all have one common attribute.

"I like high gear ratios," he said. "You want to stick them, and get them to the boat as fast as possible. The more time that fish is in the water, the more chance he has to get off." ■

— Joel Masson



## 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!

ONE TRIP WITH US  
AND YOU'RE HOOKED

**Call today! (504) 250-9887**  
southernexposurefishing.com  
fish@southernexposurefishing.com






MIKE GERALD'S #15

## TRAILER DEPOT

OVER 25 ACRES OF TRAILERS IN STOCK!

\$899



Heavy Duty Truck Accessories

Entry - 5x10-15 Utility Trailer

WE RENT TRAILERS!



\$1,399

w/spare

1516-13




• 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

# BOAT STUF

DISCOUNT MARINE SUPPLIES

COME SEE US  
FOR YOUR YAMAHA  
RE-POWERING NEEDS



# YAMAHA



- 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**





## HOW TO APPLY

Louisiana has a systematic lottery application process. Typically around June or July, the Louisiana Wildlife Commission sets dates for the upcoming alligator season. Afterwards, the LDWF will make alligator lottery announcements and those interested in participating can go to [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov) to download an application.



# WINNING THE (GATOR) LOTTERY

By John Flores

Each year, the general public has the opportunity to participate in Louisiana's annual alligator harvest. Here's what you need to know if your name gets pulled.

**I**t's a long boat ride down the Calumet Spillway to the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area's Wax Lake Unit. It's also a straight run, which makes it a perfect time for reflecting. In other words, once you push your throttle forward and get your boat heading south, for the next 30 minutes or so you have time to go over mental checklists or anything else that comes to mind.

With my wife Christine sitting next to me, my thoughts drifted to how excited she was following the mandatory training session at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries office in New Iberia, when she received her three alligator tags. I had put both of us in for the Lottery Alligator Harvest Program, hoping at least one of us would draw out for the Atchafalaya Delta WMA, which is close to our home in St. Mary Parish.

But she was the lucky one who got pulled for the gator tags that are made available annually to the general public. In fact, out of the 10 lucky winners at the Delta, four happened to be ladies.

>

**T**he commercial harvest of alligators is at the core of Louisiana's philosophy when it comes to managing this highly sought-after and very visible resource. Nonetheless, the LDWF continues to look for more and more opportunities for the general public.

In 2015, the department made 897 tags available on 45 public lakes and WMAs for 349 hunters. It was pretty much the same in 2016. Then in 2017, that number grew to 937 tags made available to 363 recreational gator hunters.

"There was a misconception that the general public didn't really have the opportunity to hunt alligators," said Ed Mouton, LDWF's alligator program manager. "However, I think the lottery program continues to be really successful and has expanded, particularly since 2008 when nine WMAs were added to our public lakes program. There are still some people that don't realize alligator hunting is available to them.

"But, between our coastal WMAs, upland WMAs and public lakes, it provides quite a bit of opportunity for people to have the experience of harvesting an alligator."

## RULES AND REGS

Louisiana alligator hunting regulations limit lottery hunters to just six lines for the three tags they are issued. And lines on the WMAs have to be marked with the hunter's name, so in the event hunters are struggling or doing something incorrectly, technicians and biologists out on the refuge can assist by contacting them directly.

Since I had previously been a licensed commercial alligator hunter for 25 years, it was easy for me to purchase the required helper's license and give aid to my bride anyway I could. However, she insisted on doing as much as her 5-foot, 2-inch, 125-pound frame would allow. Lots of that included driving stobs in the marsh to secure lines, setting poles to suspend the hooks, stringing lines from stob to pole and finally baiting them.

All that happened before running the lines the following morning — and she would have to retrieve and dispatch the animals herself.

"Some people think that it's very easy.

They watch shows on TV like Swamp People and others and think, 'It's a piece of cake. I can do that,'" Mouton said. "Then they go out and experience trying to set lines, and deal with knocked-down or pulled lines. Just the habitat itself and navigating the waterways is difficult. "They soon realize it's no easy task to harvest an alligator."

Terrain varies throughout the state, and what lottery hunters will notice right away on the Atchafalaya Delta WMA is it's a vast open marsh, with a hard sand bottom and a noticeable lack of trees available to attach a line.

In short, you're not shoving a stob down into the sand by hand to secure a line. Therefore, it's imperative you bring a sledgehammer to drive a 5 ½- to 6-foot-long stob deep enough to hold a big gator. (That was about the only task I performed for Christine.)

The LDWF requires first-time alligator hunters to go through mandatory training, and obviously, using the correct line and hook is vitally important.

Jeb Linscombe, a biologist manager for the alligator program, told me how technicians were able to save two first-time lottery hunters' seasons: One was trying to catch gators on a 4/0 bass hook, and

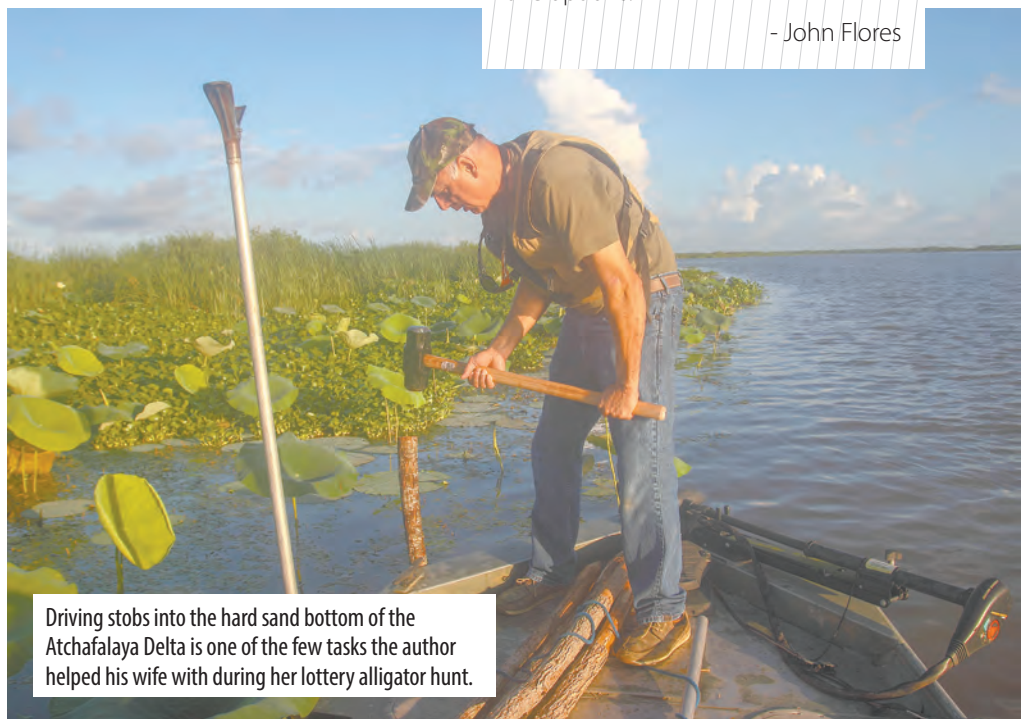
continued on page 92

## ALLIGATOR SAFETY TIPS

Alligators are strong animals, so it's important to use caution when harvesting them. Here are several safety tips to avoid injury.

1. When pulling in your gator, keep the line off the deck of the boat to avoid getting entangled.
2. It's a good idea to wear safety goggles when dispatching your gator. The hard, bony plate on top of an alligator's head has been known to fragment soft lead bullets.
3. Use caution when pulling an alligator into your boat. Large specimens are heavy animals, and with people and the gator all on one side, it's easy to swamp smaller watercraft.
4. The weather is hot during alligator season, and although it's lots of fun, the work is hard. Be sure to bring plenty of water to keep hydrated, and apply sunscreen to protect your skin.
5. Flesh-eating bacteria, vibrio vulnificus, has been known to occur in Louisiana salt and brackish water estuaries. If you have an open wound, it's best to avoid marine environment activities. However, given the short length of the season, you may want to consult your physician for protective options.

- John Flores



Driving stobs into the hard sand bottom of the Atchafalaya Delta is one of the few tasks the author helped his wife with during her lottery alligator hunt.



# 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](http://www.puglias-sporting-goods.com)

## FISHING CLOTHES NOW IN STOCK

**Huk** PERFORMANCE FISHING

**Attack Fishing Shoe**  
 #H8011000  
**\$84.99**

**Next Level**

Long Sleeve #H1500029 **\$64.99**

Short Sleeve #H1500030 **\$59.99**

**KC Scott Performance Tailer**

Long Sleeve #H1200123 **\$39.99**

Short Sleeve #H1000099 **\$24.99**

**Eat Tuna Trucker**  
 #50091 **\$22.99**

**GRUNDENS**

**Logo Tank Top**  
 #10112-030-0014 **\$39.99**

**Hooksetter**  
 Short Sleeve #HSSDSM **\$69.99**

**Deck Hand Hoodie**  
 #40013-030-0014 **\$59.99**

**Tide Chaser** UNDER ARMOUR

Long Sleeve #1290744 **\$59.99**

Short Sleeve #1290743 **\$49.99**

**NEW Custom Castnets By David Flood NOW IN STOCK!**

- 16 Feet... **\$389.00**
- 14 Feet... **\$369.00**
- 12 Feet... **\$329.00**
- 10 Feet... **\$289.00**

**It's Time for the INSHORE FISHING TOURNAMENT**

**Rick's CABARET**

- Cash Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place
- Complimentary beer and spirits
- Goodie Bags, T-shirts, Kayaks welcome!

20% of all proceeds donated to WISH TO FISH FOUNDATION

Awards ceremony will be held at Rick's Cabaret

**LIVE MUSIC**

REGISTER your team at any of the following locations:  
 RICK'S CABARET, SWEETWATER MARINA AND PUGLIA'S SPORTING GOODS

**XTRATUF® Fishing Deck Boots**  
**\$69.99-\$74.99**

Navy Gray Kryptek Yeti Kryptek Pontus Womens Seafoam

**KeepAlive® OXYGEN INFUSOR**  
 THE PROFESSIONALS CHOICE  
 PRODUCER MILLIONS OF MICRO-FINE BUBBLES

**\$239.99**

Great for keeping shrimp and croakers alive

**Marine Metal Products**

**Marine Metal**

- PBC-5 Gallon... **\$59.99**
- PBC-10 Gallon... **\$69.99**
- PBC-20 Gallon... **\$79.99**
- CB-3 Gallon... **\$49.99**
- CB-3.5 Gallon... **\$54.99**
- PB-5... **\$49.99**
- PB-10... **\$49.99**
- PB-20... **\$49.99**
- A-2... **\$22.99**
- A-1... **\$14.99**

**ALL FISHING RODS - NOW ON SALE!**  
 Call For **SPECIAL PRICING** On These Great Brands!

SHIMANO **Abu Garcia** FALCON G-Loomis

**Lew's** **DUCE** TFO **fenwick** **PENN**

**BUCKETT** **13** **Shakespeare** **okuma** **H&H**

SINCE 1897 HIGH PERFORMANCE

This 12/0 gator hook is shown in comparison to a 4/0 bass hook. The author also recommends No. 96 tarred nylon seine twine rated at 158 ft./lbs.

the other was using insufficient line that kept breaking.

“We have a video that shows the whole process,” Linscombe said. “Before we allow people to go out there, we want to make sure they know what they’re doing.”

## GEARING UP

Alligator hunters should use at least 12/0 hooks, and no less than No. 6, 3/16-inch diameter 900-pound tarred nylon seine twine. Length of line varies by a hunter’s personal preference, but no less than 35 feet should be used in most applications. Personally, I use 50 feet.

There are baits galore that have been tried by both commercial and sport hunters over the years. But, perhaps nothing works better than chicken thighs with the drumstick still attached. Alligators patrol their territory at night, and not only does the whitish/yellow skin of chicken flesh stand out, but the oily meat’s odor gets stronger as it spoils

— a combination that makes for deadly bait.

For the record, alligator hunters also have used nutria quarters, but they tend to dry out like jerky. Beef melt has been used, along with pogies and mullet. But, it’s rotten chicken that has landed more alligators than any other bait.

Having the right tools for the job also is important, and G&B Gator Gear is in the business of equipping alligator hunters.

Over the internet, G&B sells everything associated with gator catching. As the apex predator of fresh and brackish water marshes and swamps in the Deep South, nine states will hold some sort of commercial or recreational season in 2018.

“Our sales have really taken off the past few years as the popularity of hunting alligators is on the increase — mainly because of television,” said Bill George,



G&B’s owner. “We sell a lot of gear in both Louisiana and Mississippi.”

## DETAILS OF THE HUNT

Eventually, we arrived at Christine’s first set. Approaching it slowly, we could see the bait was taken. I shut off the engine and raised it out of the water so the line wouldn’t become entangled in the prop or even worse, cut.

The line stretched from the stob on the

**YOUR LAST BOAT PURCHASE!**

# HANKO'S

Satisfaction Guaranteed  
Since 1985

[www.hankos.com](http://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

bank out 50 feet into the deeper waters of Greg Pass, where we had placed the sets on the refuge. My wife lifted the line ever so gently, and feeling a couple of small jerks and a gentle tug, her eyes got big. "Bring it up really slow and keep the excess line off the bow of the boat," I said, coaching her through the process. At 58, this Cajun girl was about to harvest her first-ever alligator.

The water was stained — a perfect scenario because a played-out gator more often than not will come up from the depths with ease. But when the water is clear and they see you, the whole process can become chaotic if they're spooked.

When she saw the gator's shadow approximately 2 feet below the surface, I readied the .22 rifle and handed it over to her. Gingerly lifting the alligator to the point where its head just broke the surface of the water, she humanely dispatched the animal with a well-placed shot. That gator measured 7 feet, 9 inches — a good one.

Her next two lines held two more 7-footers. At that point her tags were filled, and whatever was on her last three lines would have to be released. As it turned out, she had two more gators hooked up, both in the 6-foot range.

## WHERE TO GO

When it comes to success, all of Louisiana's coastal WMAs are good, and most successful lottery applicants tag out. For sheer size, though, head to the back-water swamps and sloughs of some of North Louisiana's public lakes.

In 2015, Christina Rivers drew out for two of 16 lottery tags available on Toledo Bend. She and her father Roger tagged a pair of 14-foot, 1-inch matching alligators on the north end of the lake.

Besides the non-refundable \$5 application fee to participate in the lottery, there is also a \$40 non-refundable tag fee and a \$25 resident alligator hunting license to obtain.

## POST-HARVEST OPTIONS

Licensed hunters should decide what they plan to do with their alligators after harvest. The meat is delicious when properly cleaned and

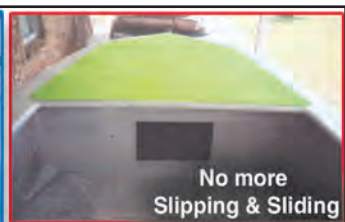
continued on page 94



Lottery alligator hunters are allotted three tags which must be attached to the gator immediately upon capture.



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



The author's wife with a skinned and salted alligator hide ready to sell or process.

processed. But, if you opt to skin your alligators, keep the meat and ultimately sell the hides, all skins are required to be inspected by the LDWF prior to sale.

Though there has been some improvement the past few years, alligator prices haven't fully recovered from what they were prior to the economic downturn of 2008. Hunters may also opt to have their hides tanned to utilize the leather for personal items.

The LDWF provides all necessary contact details for hunters following the training session. Two tanneries available are American Tannery & Leather, which purchases alligators in Breaux Bridge during the season, or Reptile Tannery in Lafayette.

Concerning the wild alligator harvest, Linscombe said, "The harvest may be down this year due to prices, but we really don't know until the season gets underway because things can change. We'll just have to wait and see."

We skinned Christine's alligators and kept some of the meat, then took the hides in for processing. With five available coastal WMAs, 15 upland WMAs and 25 public lakes, never has there been more opportunity for the public to obtain alligator harvest tags. All you have to do is apply — and then cross your fingers. ■



*John Flores was enticed in 1984 to leave his western digs in New Mexico for the Sportsman's Paradise by his wife Christine. Never looking back, the author spends much of his free time writing about and photographing the state's natural resources.*



The Atchafalaya Delta WMA is tidal, therefore, setting the bait accordingly can be the difference between fishing for crabs, or actually catching alligators.



**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**



# Brookhaven Honda

## YOU'LL LIKE WHAT YOU SEE, YOU'LL LOVE WHAT YOU SAVE!

**2016 PIONEER  
1000**  
SXS10M3



**5 AVAILABLE**

MSRP .....\$13,999\*  
**SALE.....\$10,497**

**2017 PIONEER™  
500**  
SXS500M2H



**5 AVAILABLE**

MSRP .....\$8,999\*  
**SALE.....\$7,297**

**2017 PIONEER™  
700**  
SXS700M2



**5 AVAILABLE**

MSRP .....\$10,499\*  
**SALE.....\$8,497**

**2017 RANCHER®  
DCT IRS TRX  
420 FA5**  
4x4 Automatic  
Shift



**5 AVAILABLE**

MSRP .....\$7,399\*  
**SALE.....\$5,897**

**2017 RINCON®  
TRX 680 FA**  
4x4 Automatic  
Transmission



**5 AVAILABLE**

MSRP .....\$9,399\*  
**SALE.....\$7,197**

**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.....\$5,897**

**2017  
FOREMAN®  
500**  
TRX 500 FM1  
4x4 Manual  
Shift



**5 AVAILABLE**

MSRP .....\$7,299\*  
**SALE.....\$5,697**

# Brookhaven Honda

8-5 Mon.-Fri. • 8-2 Sat.

1-866-546-6328 • 1-601-833-6041  
[www.brookhavenhonda.com](http://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 GPS2app™ 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](http://www.powersports.honda.com) to view applicable destination charge amount.



By David A. Brown

# HOPE FLOATS

Get the most pop out of your corks by employing these guides' tactics when targeting specks and reds.

**S**ometimes it's the noise, other times it's the approach. Either way, popping cork rigs are a must-have tool for your inshore arsenal. "It's the top way to catch fish because it's universal," said Capt. Cody Obiol, who guides out of Cajun Fishing Adventures in Buras. "There's a certain time to catch redfish on spinnerbaits, and a certain time to catch redfish on the bottom. Other than the really cold months, corks are pretty much year-round."

The traditional popping cork comprises a cone-shaped float with a broader, concave top and a removable plastic pin to cinch your line against the inner core. Place the cork 2 to 3 feet above your bait, chug the float with sharp rod snaps and creates a gurgling commotion that predators assume is another fish feeding, or perhaps a prey item splashing at the surface.

>

**W**hen that trout or redbfish comes to investigate the activity, they find a vulnerable offering suspended below. Each time you chug that cork, the bait rises and falls in a tantalizing display.

Traditional popping corks still retain their relevance, but the contemporary scene belongs to the clacking cork rig, which comprises a wire stem with a sliding float flanked by noisy beads and swivels at each end. Tie your main line to the top swivel and a leader to the lower position, and you have one of the most user-friendly rigs in saltwater fishing.

Also user-friendly is the assortment of color options, like neon green, orange, yellow and pink. Fish don't seem to show any preference, as their attention usually goes to the bait or lure dangling below. But for anglers — charter boats, or a handful or fishing buds — varying cork colors help everyone keep track of their position. Not only does this hasten strike response, but aids in minimizing inadvertent line crossing.

## BAIT OPTIONS

When it comes to bait, cork rigs don't discriminate — everybody's welcome at this fish-finding fais do-do. If you like natural bait, that means anything from live shrimp, croakers, finger mullet or cocahoe minnows; to cut mullet or poggy. The real stuff is an easy way to keep kids or novices in the game, as you just tug every now and then, watch the cork and when it disappears, start reelin'.

Experienced anglers tend to favor artificials for several reasons:

**LOW MAINTENANCE** — Natural baits are subject to the appetites of trash fish like jacks and catfish; while overzealous casts can simply rip your hook from the bait.

**LONGEVITY** — Even if you keep that bait on the hook, if predators are slow to respond, that natural deal will eventually become limp and washed out. Not so with plastic and metal.

**EFFICIENCY** — The softer nature of natural bait requires a slower, even stationary presentation, while artificials allow you to step on the gas and cover water.

Anglers typically find artificial shrimp like the original DOA, LIVE TARGET's Rigged Shrimp, Egret Baits' Vudu Shrimp and Z-Man EZ ShrimpZ are a popular choice for trout and redbfish. Obiol agrees, but he prefers a ¼-ounce jighead with a variety of baits selected to match the scenario.

"I like putting the baits that I choose on the hook because it makes it easier to change baits when you have to," he said. "If you put a (pre-rigged) shrimp on there and you cut it off twice, you have to tie a whole new leader.

But if you put a jighead on there, you can change baits all day and not have to worry about it."

## RIG IT RIGHT

Braided main line is the way to go for longer casts, optimal popping response and immediate strike response. However, braid has its downside — and Obiol adds an extra rigging step to prevent headaches.

"I like to put a 6-inch piece of monofilament tied straight to the braid and the other end tied to the cork rig," he said. "That keeps the bottom of the cork from wrapping in the braid. That braid's really flimsy, it doesn't have much stability, so you need that (stiffer) monofilament to keep from wrapping up your corks."

Below the cork, Obiol likes a standard 18-inch leader of 30-pound fluorocarbon. Those jigs and synthetic shrimp are usually heavy enough to straighten out the leader on your cast and pull it straight after the pop. For natural baits, especially lighter shrimp, a split shot about 6 inches above the hook will help.

continues on page 100



**BELOW:** Speckled trout are suckers for a popping cork rig. **LEFT:** Live bait requires more maintenance than artificials, but it's a great way to keep kids and novice anglers engaged.

# IT ALL ADDS UP TO MORE FISH IN THE BOAT.



COURTESY OF FLW / PHOTO BY SEAN OSTRUSZKA

**P-LINE TACTICAL FLUOROCARBON**  
Delivers longer casts, extreme invisibility where it counts, plus a fast sink rate and unequalled knot strength.

**P-LINE X-BRAID**  
Delivers superior abrasion resistance, longer casts, vibration reduction and a near zero stretch factor for unparalleled power.



[www.P-Line.com](http://www.P-Line.com)



>

For deep spots a traditional popping cork below a bead and a bobber stop allows you to target deeper spots. Here the surface commotion become less important, but that hopping motion can still generate interest.

“If you’re in 18 feet of water, you set your bobber stop at 16,” Obiol said. “That way, you’re hanging off the bottom and you’re not snagging anything.”

## WHEN AND WHERE

Aside from sight-fishing reds in clear marsh pockets or targeting tailers, there aren’t many wrong times to fish a popping cork in coastal waters. However, there are times when this tool proves especially helpful.

The last two hours of an incoming tide provide a good mix of trout along the marsh perimeters along with redfish, which patrol the grass edges for crabs and other crustaceans. When the tide turns, the first two hours of the outgoing tide is when you want to target the mouths of marsh drains where redfish capitalize on easy meals.

Elsewhere, Obiol appreciates how the cork rig allows him to fish over

oyster reefs and isolated patches of shell bottom extending from marsh shorelines. He’ll also work cuts between grass points and gaps in roseau cane lines, where flowing water creates feeding opportunities. In these current scenarios, the popping cork rig serves as much a positioning aid as a fish attractor.

“The fish may not want something landing right on top of them, so you want to throw the cork to keep your bait off the bottom while it drifts to the fish,” he said. “When you’re fishing a cut that’s draining water or water’s going in, you want the cork to cover as much ground as possible. You let the cork drift along the shoreline or go in the cut and come out, so it looks natural.

“If you throw a cork, your bait’s always going to go with the current, whereas, if you’re pulling a jighead and you have to move it a certain direction, you might be pulling it against the current. Fish see that this



Passes and small gaps in vegetation present great opportunities for fishing popping corks during falling tides. **INSET:** The ability to suspend a bait above a target zone and attract fish with noise and commotion defines the popping cork’s appeal.

## POPPING PARTICULARS

A good topwater bite can offer an entertaining display of ferocity, but at some point the fish shy away from this game. Maybe it’s the intensifying sunlight/heat, fishing pressure or a combination of such factors; but whatever the case, Capt. Ross Montet knows that the fish haven’t necessarily stopped feeding. In his view, you simply need to descend into the water column — and popping corks offer the perfect transitional tool.

Elsewhere, Venice guide Capt. David Iverson likes tempting reds with shallow running crankbaits and spoons. These are typically locator-type baits, that lead him to the clean-up potential of a popping cork.

“If I get a bite or two on a crankbait or spoon, I might go back through with a grub or a Bomber Paradise Popper Xtreme cork rig,” Iverson said. “With the Bomber Saltwater Grade Paradise Popper, I fish the 5-inch YUM Houdini Shad or the 4-inch Mud Minnow on a 1/4-ounce Bomber char- treuse head and an 18-inch leader.”

On the flip side, one frustrating element of popping cork fishing is the propensity for redfish to actually attack the noisemaker. Sometimes it’s a solo assault, other times the bubbling display of a float zipping through the water behind a hooked fish is just too much to resist. The ensuing collision generally wrecks your rig and frees the hooked fish.

Having personally experienced this frustration, I can tell you it’s not cool. But redfish will be redfish and when this happens, try downsizing your cork or switching from a clacking cork rig to a standard popping cork. You might also try switching colors, or masking a vivid color with black electrical tape.

If the problem persists, consider rigging a homemade or packaged stinger hook atop the cork rig to hopefully nab any future interlopers. It can’t hurt, but Capt. Cody Obiol said the minimal payoff is not worth the time spent rigging.

If reds consistently attack your corks, take it as a sign that they’re in the mood for topside meals. Switch to topwaters, maybe a LIVETARGET mullet, a Rapala Skitterwalk or a MirrOlure Top Dog — and just play their game. ■

- David A. Brown

bait is going the opposite way than all the rest of them.”

## CAST AND CADENCE

Popping cork anglers do best with a 7- to 7 ½-foot medium-heavy spinning outfit. Benefits include greater casting distance, and greater back-cast clearance with the cumbersome rig. (Essentially, long rods help prevent accidental snagging and entanglements.)

It's important to properly equip yourself, as the popping cork presents a challenge uncommon to baits tied directly to your line. It's all about the physical dynamics of a two-sectioned rig — the first where the main line meets the cork; the second where the baited leader attaches underneath.

While we typically whip a lure or baited hook backward to load the rod — and then snap the rod forward to direct that kinetic energy — popping cork rigs require a more measured action. Your best bet is to bring the rod tip backward in a slower version of the traditional back cast and pause. Look behind you to confirm clearance and then launch the rig forward in a controlled lob.

It might feel awkward and mechanical at first, but with practice, the operation becomes fluid and effective. Master this move, and the cool part — the popping and fish-fighting — will be a breeze. ■



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

**Ranger**  
BOATS

**YAMAHA**

*Black's Outdoor & Marine LLC*

1423 NW Evangeline Thwy. • Lafayette, LA 70501 • (337) 233-4272 • (337) 233-6585

**EST 15**

**15 YEARS... AND COUNTING**

**YOUR LEADER IN  
GULF SOUTH SPORTS**

**www.CoxSportsTV.com**

**f** CoxSportsTV    **t** @CoxSportsTV    **YouTube** CoxSportsTV



Alligator gar are fascinating to those tired of the same old trout and redfish scene.



# LAKE MONSTERS

While many anglers release sharks and gar, this Lake Pontchartrain guide actually targets the teeth. The fight is a blast — and the meat haul is even better.

By Jerald Horst

**T**he kraken (pronounced KROK-in) is a legendary giant sea monster said to dwell off the coasts of Norway and Greenland.

The business card on the counter of Bayou Adventure in Lacombe couldn't help but catch my eye. An orange-skeletoned alligator gar with a gaping mouth full of fangs slithered sinuously down the black card's face.

It read, "Wicked Fishing Charters. Huntin' the Kraken, 985-750-0670."

OK; I bit.

The friendly voice on the other end of the phone belonged to Andy Jones, a retired U.S. Coast Guardsman and now full-time charter guide specializing in Lake Pontchartrain fishing.

"Yeah, we catch a lot of alligator gar. In fact, May is the start of the best time for gar and shark fishing."

"Sharks? Sharks?" I questioned.

"Oh yeah," he replied matter-of-factly. "Pretty good ones too; right here next to New Orleans."

**J**ones, it turned out, spends much of the year like other Lake Pontchartrain fishermen — hammering speckled trout in early spring and all fall at the lake’s bridges and chasing redfish much of the rest of the time.

But from May through September, he spends an increasing amount of his effort chartering for gar and sharks. The idea for fishing for toothy fish came during a father-son charter trip.

“They had a limit of slot reds and a couple of big bull redfish too. They also caught a shark and a gar. All they talked about at the dock were the gar and the shark.

“Many fishermen release their catch of gar and sharks, because they fish for the thrill of catching them. But a surprising number of them keep their gar.”

Ducking between days of squalls and blow-ups, I finally met the man at the Mandeville Boat Launch, at the mouth of Bayou Castine. He looked like a sailor, stocky and heavily suntanned, with a mariner’s short-cropped beard.

With him were his two sons and sometimes deckhands, 16-year-old Hunter, a high school student, and 21-year-old Tyler, a warehouse associate for a wholesale pool supply company and a fishing addict.

Once out of the launch harbor and into Lake Pontchartrain proper, Capt. Andy

turned his boat east for the run to his favorite fishing grounds for this kind of fishing: The numerous bayous that empty into the lake on its northern shore.

## PREDATORS OF OPPORTUNITY

His choice of anchoring spots in bayous was always where they could cast to a spot where the bayou makes a sharp bend. Garfish, he said, set up off points in bends as ambush spots.

“Most of the time, garfish are not active ambush predators,” said Tyler. “They are predators of opportunity.

“Sometimes they will actively run down bait-fish, but often they just take whatever comes.”

They set two lines out of one end of the boat, and one line out of the other. Two were Texas rigs, and one was free-lined. The free-line rig always had a live mullet on it.

The trio fished three different spots in the bayou, with the same results — no bites. Jones picked up his Power-Poles and moved the boat down the bayou into 4 ½ feet of water, and anchored where the bottom dropped off from the lake’s shoreline flats.

## WHAT’S FOR BAIT?

Striped mullet, that’s what.

This isn’t a finesse, artificial lure fishery. Gar and sharks are big, pug-ugly brutes that are looking for mouthfuls of meat.

Fortunately, mullet are not hard to come by; that is if you learn to throw a cast net. The Joneses catch their bait in the very same bayous that they fish in, or on the flats at the mouths of the bayous into the big lake.

While their Pop idled the boat up the bayou, Tyler and Hunter took turns tossing their cast net in perfect donuts. The net

wasn’t cast blindly.

“Look for any surface disturbance,” coached Tyler. “You will quickly learn what to look for.”

Easiest to spot in the still waters of the small bayou were multiple dimples set together on the surface. These were

the heads of small schools of mullets slurping at surface scum, a form of feeding for the vegetarian fish.

All sizes of mullets were kept for bait. Hand-sized 5- to 6-inch specimens were kept in the live well to be used as live bait. Larger mullets were used as cut bait.

“Some days they prefer live bait,” shrugged Tyler. “Other days, you can’t get a bite on it.”

- Jerald Horst



Hunter Jones demonstrates the art of throwing a cast net for bait. Note the curve in the bayou beyond him, creating a point on the inside of the bend. Such points are preferred spots to set-up to fish for gar. INSET: Hand-sized mullets were hooked through the back, below the second dorsal (back) fin and fished alive.

# Avenger

AV-26



For more information, go to [AvengerBayBoats.com](http://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](http://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](http://BullsBayBoats.com)  
or call **843-538-6604**  
or like us on **Facebook** at **Bulls Bay Boats**  
for the latest available information.

## LAKE MONSTERS

“There is no dependable pattern on whether to fish the bayous or the lake for gar,” he noted. “They do seem to swim more actively in the lake though. Some people think gar are lazy fish, but I just think they are opportunistic.”

The gentle but steady breeze in the open lake was welcome after the smothering heat of the marsh. Again, out went three rods — but it didn’t take long this time.

Inside of five minutes, they boated an impressive — but not quite 54-inch — bull shark. Then bedlam broke loose. The lines on all three reels began to sizzle in three different directions.

One fish dropped the bait, but they wrestled the other two in, both bull sharks, one of which was more than 5 feet long.

One more shark came in over the rail and after that it was all garfish; seemingly one after the other. Some were bigger than others, but they

When the loop on the landing stick is cinched tightly around the gar immediately behind the head and gill covers, the powerful fish can be handled safely.

were all over 4 feet long.

Then a moment of quiet.

Dark blue squall clouds were threatening from the south and the men were debating pulling up, when another line zinged.

This one was the lone bull red of the day, a catch that delighted Jones. “Now we have our Wicked Fishing Charter Grand Slam,” he beamed broadly.

## LANDING THE BEASTS

Most fishermen want to land their catch, whether for a photo opportunity or — especially in the case of alligator gar — to keep for the dinner table.

Gaffing a shark, which will likely be released, is not a good option. It’s impossible for alligator gar, whose entire body is encased in overlapping scales constructed of thick bone. Landing gar by hand is out of the question, as well. Their



*Scout*  
**BOATS**  
Discover More...



3663 PONTCHARTRAIN DR. • SLIDELL, LA 70458

985-643-6668

1306 S. HAUGH AVE, STE. A • PICAYUNE, MS 39466

601-798-4700



**YAMAHA**

www.cypresscove.net



bodies are covered in ultra-slime and their near-razor sharp gill covers will inflict a severe cut to the hand every time.

A BogaGrip or similar device will work for redfish, but not for the toothy mouths of sharks and gar. Sharks can be dangerous to land, when one can quickly twist out of a grip and inflict a mean bite on its tormenter.

Andy Jones relies on a turbo-sized landing net to land redfish and trout — simple enough.

But gar, with their extremely long and rigid bodies, are a different story. He solved the dilemma by inventing what can only be called a noose on a stick, similar to the animal-control tool commonly used by dog catchers.

He threads a poly rope through a 6-foot length of PVC pipe and ties it to a hole he has pre-drilled near its end. (The rope should be a little longer than twice the length of pipe.)

The device is used by pulling enough rope out of its business end to make a sizeable loop. After the fish is subdued, the loop is slipped over the rod and reel beginning at the butt of the rod.

It's worked down the length of the rod and the line and ultimately over the fish's head. When the loop is positioned behind the head and pectoral (side) fins, it is tightened securely by pulling rope back through the pipe.

The entire fish may then be swung into the boat.

## DRAGON SLAYERS' SWORDS

The Joneses used surprisingly unsophisticated tools to bring the lake's toothy dragons to heel, starting with their reels.

They were Penn Battle 2000 spinning reels, priced at about \$100. "They hold up to these big fish pretty good," explained the charter captain. The rods were a mixture of brands in medium to medium-heavy weights.

The reels were spooled with 30-pound PowerPro braid tipped with 3- to 4-foot, 50-pound Malon-7 nylon-coated braided wire leaders. A 5/0 to 8/0 Mustad or Gamakatsu hook is crimped to one end of the leader.

A swivel is crimped on the other end. Before the braid is tied to the swivel, a 3/4- to

continues >

Braided steel leaders are required for this kind of fishing.



- 19-22 ft in length
- 72" bottom
- .190 Thickness, 5086 Marine Grade Alloy
- Lifetime warranty
- 50 gallon fuel cell
- 38 gallon divided live well
- Runs 70MPH plus with Merc 250 Pro XS!



**Call and have your dream bass boat designed today!**

**225-294-9991**

1-ounce barrel sinker is threaded on the line for those to be fished as Texas rigs.

The heavy weights and large hooks seem to be overkill for the medium-weight rods, but Jones growled that he would rather use this equipment than heavy stuff (“broomsticks,” he called them) to get the maximum action from each fish.

## CAN YOU KEEP ‘EM?

While many people, in Andy Jones’ experience, fish for alligator gar and bull sharks for the excitement that comes with catching hard-fighting fish with mouths full of big teeth, both species are indeed edible and in fact, delicious.

Alligator gar have a firm, almost meaty texture and are mild-tasting. In Evangeline and Avoyelles parishes, gar would likely be considered almost an official table fish, if such a title was created.

They are also relished in the rest of Cajun country, although not with the reverence reserved for them in the two south-central Louisiana parishes. They are often fried, but most commonly their flesh is flaked and mixed with seasonings to make patties or balls, which are in turn cooked in a gravy or fried.

Cross-section chunks of several pounds may also be cooked as roasts, producing a final product with a texture very similar to pork loin.

There are no closed seasons, minimum sizes or daily limits on alligator gar.

Bull sharks are, if anything, even more delicious than gar. The flesh is firm, moist, snow white in color and extremely mild. An added benefit is that they are cartilaginous fish, meaning they have no

bones to deal with.

Although fishermen may catch and release as many bull sharks as they wish, several regulations must be obeyed if a fish is kept. First, the minimum size length is 54 inches fork length — measured from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail.

All bull sharks during the closed season of April 1 through June 30 must be released. During open season, the limit on bull sharks is one fish per boat, no matter how many anglers are onboard.

The limit is not as severe as it sounds, as these are meaty fish and one longer than 54 inches will provide a generous amount of succulent filets.

## FEELING THE BITE — AND GETTING THE FIGHT

Bites from two of the three big fish they target are relatively straightforward.

Redfish and bull sharks bite hard and fight doggedly. Sharks can be likened to swimming sledgehammers.

But alligator gar do different things. Sometimes a gar just mouths the bait;

sometimes it slowly swims off — feeling to the angler like being hooked to the rear of a slow-moving Volkswagen. And sometimes, they tear off in a screaming run, resembling that of a big bull red.

“A dead give-away,” said Tyler Jones, “is that once they are hooked, they usually either run straight away from you or straight toward you. They seldom run sideways. And you will feel a lot of head shakes.” “During the fight,” added brother Hunter, “you can feel the weight of their whole body move.”

A lot of how they behave depends on where they are hooked, added Tyler.

“If they swallowed the bait, they rely more on their weight during the fight,” he said. “If they are hooked in the mouth, they are much more active. Sometimes they actually tail-walk.”

“Alligator gar over 4 feet long will jump cleanly out of the water,” said Andy in affirmation to his son’s statement.

When a garfish mouths the bait, they coached, it is important to let the fish eat it. The bail of the reel should be opened, and the fisherman should hold the line between his forefinger and thumb as the fish takes line.

“When to close the bait and set the hook is a judgement call,” chuckled Andy.

“Setting the hook too early rips the hook right out of their mouths. It seems to be worse with live bait.”

“I think that they hold the live bait crossways in their mouths and cruise around with it before swallowing it,” added Taylor.

“They seem to swallow cut bait quicker.” ■



**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](mailto:gerald@rockinghorst.com).

How to clean an alligator gar up next >

Bull sharks must be 54 inches long from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail to be kept by anglers.

# GRAND ISLE, LOUISIANA

With more than 280 species of fish, Grand Isle beckons anglers of all ages and skill levels. Come see for yourself why it's known as one of the world's greatest fishing destinations.



## 2018 SUMMER EVENTS:

### MAY

- 4, 5 & 6** – Serenity by the Sea, Grand Isle School
- 5** – 7th Annual Cruising the Beach Car Show, Tarpon Rodeo Pavilion
- 12** – Grand Isle Alumni Washboard Tournament, Grand Isle Multiplex
- 17-19** – ABC Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina
- 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 MORE EVENTS,  
VISIT [WWW.GRAND-ISLE.COM](http://WWW.GRAND-ISLE.COM)**

### JUNE

- 2** – Casa of LaFourche, Bridge Side Marina
- 3** – OMSA Rodeo, Bridge Side Marina
- 7-9** – Swollfest Fishing Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina, [swollfest.com](http://swollfest.com)
- 22 & 23** – LA Pipeliners Association Fishing Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina
- 22 & 23** – Creole Classic Fishing Tournament, Bridge Side Marina
- 29-30** – Wounded War Heroes Rodeo, Bridge Side Marina

### JULY

- 7** – Annual Fireworks and Band @ 10:00 p.m., Bridge Side Marina
- 13-14** – Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) Fishing Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina
- 21** – SLHS Cheerleader, Bridge Side Marina
- 26-28** – Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, Tarpon Rodeo Pavilion Sand Dollar Marina, [tarponrodeo.org](http://tarponrodeo.org)

**VISIT [WWW.GRAND-ISLE.COM](http://WWW.GRAND-ISLE.COM)**

# STEP-BY-STEP: HOW TO CLEAN AN ALLIGATOR GAR

First, forget everything you have learned about how to clean any other fish. And I mean everything.

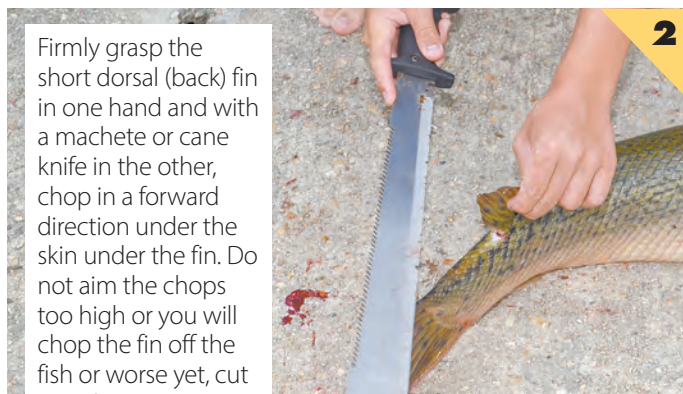
Alligator gar are encased with an almost impervious layer of scales made of true bone. And they are incredibly slimy and difficult to handle. To top it off, their gill covers are extremely sharp, likely sharper than the knife in your hand.

Second, ditch the flexible-bladed fillet knife. It's a poor choice for this fish.

Better is a stout, relatively short-bladed knife. Most important of all, you must have either a machete or cane knife, although a hatchet will work, too. (For the final two cuts, a hatchet is actually best.) - Jerald Horst



If your gar hasn't died from the ride in, it must be killed by blows to the head. A hatchet works best for this task.



Firmly grasp the short dorsal (back) fin in one hand and with a machete or cane knife in the other, chop in a forward direction under the skin under the fin. Do not aim the chops too high or you will chop the fin off the fish or worse yet, cut your fingers. This is the most sensitive step in the entire cleaning process.



With short chops, cut a strip of skin up the back, while pulling it with the other hand, all the way to the fish's head.



Cut the flesh loose from the stiff skin off both sides and down the length of the fish. Cut through the bases of all fin attachments.



Cut through the backbone of the fish immediately behind the head. A hatchet is best for this, but with a little more effort, a machete or cane knife also can be used.



Make a similar cut through the backbone above the tail of the fish.



Roll the carcass over and remove and discard the viscera.



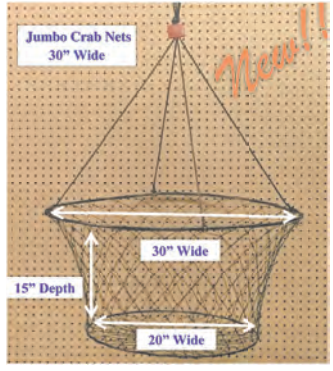
This is what your gar should look like immediately after cleaning and before washing.

# Alario Bros

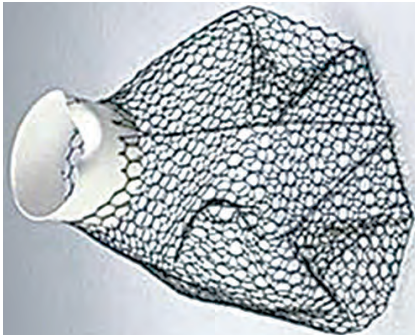


Visit our website [www.AlarioBros.com](http://www.AlarioBros.com)

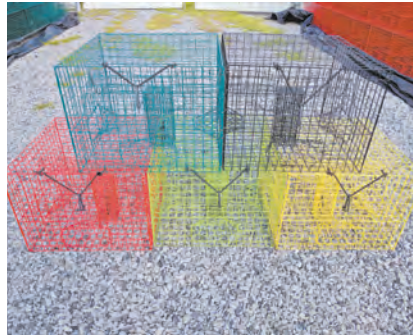
## NEW Crab Nets!



### Crawfish Pyramid Trap



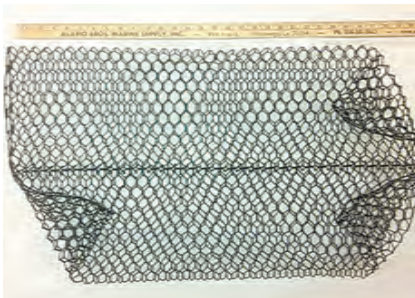
### Crab Traps



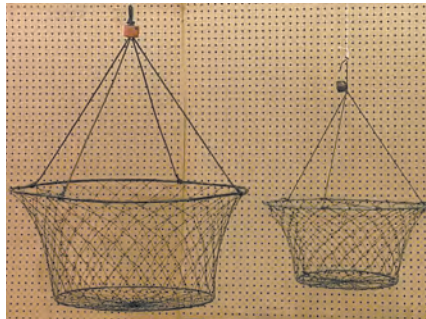
### Trawls



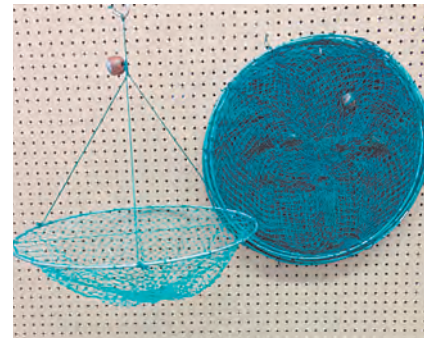
### Crawfish Pillow Traps



### Large & Small Crab Nets



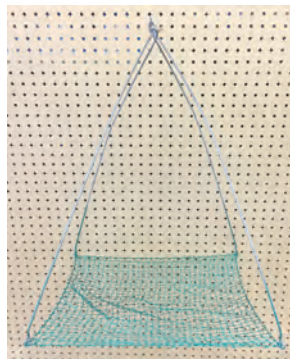
### Crawfish Nets



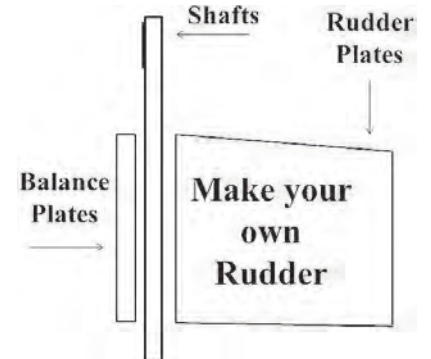
### Shafts



### Crawfish Set Nets



### Rudders



**Alario Bros**  
Marine Hardware & Fisherman Supplies

**504.341.1843**

894 Avenue A. Westwego, LA 70094 [www.alariobros.com](http://www.alariobros.com)



ONLY  
\$35



**MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY**  
**MAY 26 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2018**

**SIGN UP TODAY**

**CCASTAR.COM**

Presented by





# The first entrant to catch a **TAGGED REDFISH** wins a new Chevy Silverado!



2140 Sport NauticStar



1754 GatorTail Extreme

## TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION

**First tagged redfish caught wins:**

Chevy Silverado

**2nd-5th tagged redfish caught win:**

2140 Sport NauticStar with 150 hp Mercury four-stroke

**6th-10th tagged redfish caught win:**

1754 GatorTail Extreme Series with 40hp EFI motor

**Sponsored by:** Super Chevy Dealers of Baton Rouge, Acadiana and New Orleans



## HEAVIEST FISH DIVISION



### SPECKLED TROUT

Three winners in each division

**Heaviest overall speckled trout wins:**

2140 Sport NauticStar with 150 hp Mercury four-stroke

**Next three heaviest fish, one per division, win:**

1810 RG NauticStar with 90 hp Mercury four-stroke

**Each division second place wins:** \$2,500

**Each division third place wins:** \$1,000

**Sponsored by:** NauticStar Boats



### MANGROVE SNAPPER

**Heaviest mangrove snapper wins:**

\$5,000 Offshore Tackle Package

**Sponsored by:** Otto Candies, LLC



### COBIA

**Heaviest cobia wins:**

\$5,000 Offshore Tackle Package

**Sponsored by:** K2 Coolers



### DORADO

**Heaviest dorado wins:**

\$5,000 Offshore Tackle Package

**Sponsored by:** Whitney Bank



### RED SNAPPER

**Heaviest red snapper wins:**

\$5,000 Offshore Tackle Package

**Sponsored by:** Whitney Bank



### FLY FISHING

**Heaviest speckled trout in**

**Eastern Region wins:** \$1,500

Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card

**Heaviest speckled trout in Western Region wins:**

\$1,500 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card

**Sponsored by:** Costa Del Mar



### FLOUNDER

**Heaviest flounder wins:** 16' Weldbilt

with 40 hp Mercury four-stroke

**Sponsored by:** Bomber Saltwater Grade



### KAYAK DIVISION

**Heaviest Speckled Trout**

**in each division wins:**

Hobie Mirage Compass

**Sponsored by:** Hobie Fishing



### LADIES ONLY

**Heaviest speckled trout in Eastern**

**Region wins:** \$2,500 Travel Voucher

**Heaviest speckled trout in Western**

**Region wins:** \$2,500 Travel Voucher

**Sponsored by:** Atchafalaya Crawfish Processing



### CALCASIEU CALCUTTA

*Fish must be caught, weighed at official weigh station #3, and released alive*

**Heaviest speckled trout wins:**

\$500 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card



### SHEEPSHEAD

**Heaviest sheepshead in Eastern Region wins:**

\$1,500 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card

**Heaviest sheepshead in Western Region wins:**

\$1,500 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card



### BANK FISHING

**Heaviest speckled trout wins:**

16' Weldbilt with 40 hp Mercury

four-stroke

**Sponsored by:** Flambeau Outdoors



## LOUISIANA YOUTH DIVISION 17 years of age and under



### SPECKLED TROUT OR FLOUNDER

**Entries to be included in a random drawing to win:**

One of four (4) 14' aluminum boats with a 15 hp Mercury and McClain Trailers



**KIDS FISH FREE** courtesy of

Academy Sports + Outdoors

*You must register to be eligible*



Atlantic stingrays commonly penetrate far into freshwater — this one was seen miles from marine waters.



# VENOM PUTS THE STING IN STINGRAYS

IMMERSE WOUND IN HOT WATER IF YOU GET STUNG

If there is a fish that saltwater anglers dislike hooking more than a hardhead catfish, it's got to be a stingray. The presence of the truly venomous sting on their tail means there really is no good way to unhook them.

Plus, fishermen waste a lot of good fishing time trying to get the stubborn fighters to the surface. They are so difficult to retrieve that many anglers maintain (incorrectly) that the rays create “a suction” on the bottom with their pancake-shaped bodies.

Four species of stingrays occur in Louisiana. The most common one encountered by far is the Atlantic stingray. Compared to its cousin, the southern stingray, which grows to 6 feet wing (fin) tip to wing tip, it is a small ray topping

out at 24 inches wide.

The Atlantic stingray is relatively easy to separate from the other three Louisiana stingrays, the southern, bluntnose and the yellow. It is the only one in which the nose comes to a sharp point. Color is typically brown to yellowish-brown, fading to a lighter color near the edges of their bodies.

## DEFINING HOME FOR THE ATLANTIC STINGRAY

Louisiana is in the heart of the species' range, which is from Chesapeake Bay southward through most of Mexico. Prime Atlantic stingray habitat is saline and brackish coastal water 6 to 20 feet

deep. This species is cold sensitive, and water temperatures below 59°F will trigger migration to deeper, warmer waters.

Atlantic stingrays will also penetrate miles into freshwater rivers such as the Atchafalaya and Mississippi, although they travel back and forth to saltwater. One population, though, has adapted to live permanently in the St. John's River in Florida 210 miles from the coast.

But permanent freshwater residency comes at a cost. All sharks and rays retain urea in their flesh to balance water pressure in their bodies. (Urea is what gives spoiled shark or ray flesh a wet diaper smell.) Because of the presence of urea, fresh water (but not saltwater) constantly enters the flesh of the rays in the river. To counter bloating, St. John's River

Atlantic stingrays have very pointed noses and rounded "wing" tips. Its spine is clearly visible on top of the tail.

stingrays produce 10 times more urine than do those that live in marine waters.

Atlantic stingrays prefer soft mud or sandy bottoms, into which they will settle to avoid predators. Several species of sharks prey heavily on them. They breathe by drawing water in through spiracles, large holes located on top of their heads behind each eye. The water flows over their gills and out through five pairs of gill slits located on their underside.

## THE LUNCH PAIL

They feed by swimming slowly facing into the current a few inches above the bottom, frequently stopping to rest on the bottom and inspect an area. When prey is detected, the ray uses the undulating movements of its wings (which are really highly modified pectoral fins) to wash away sediments and expose the creature. They will also use their mouths to suck-deep dwelling worms from the bottom.

Foods include amphipods, mole crabs,



pistol shrimp, clams, segmented worms and some kinds of starfish. As fishermen well know, they will also jump on any live or dead shrimp attached to a hook.

They can detect prey movement with their lateral line and have a good sense of smell. More importantly, they use electroreceptors called Ampullae of Lorenzini to pick up the weak electrical

fields that living animals of any kind give off. Feeding is done almost continuously throughout daylight and evening hours.

## MATING TEETH?

Atlantic stingrays have a peculiarity. The males change their choppers in

continues on page 116

# BLACKJACK... INSPIRED PERFORMANCE!

The new *BlackJack 256!*

**BlackJack**  
boats

For more information  
or to find a dealer near you, visit  
[www.blackjackboats.com](http://www.blackjackboats.com)



## CREATURE FEATURE

continued

pursuit of love. Females year round and males outside of spawning season have heavy molar-like teeth that are useful for crushing food items.

But for the October to April spawning season, males shed these teeth and grow sharp pointed teeth that are used for mating. When breeding, the male closely follows a female, nipping at her body and fins. Finally, he grabs a wing of the female with his teeth and holds her firmly while he uses his claspers (finger-like fin extensions at the base of the tail) to transfer sperm.

The female produces one to four young per litter in eggs which she retains in her body until they hatch. Each embryo lives off its large yolk sac for 60 days, after which the female nourishes them with a nutritious secretion called uterine milk.

### ARMED AND DANGEROUS

The most notorious feature of the

Atlantic stingray is the spine located on top of its tail. It isn't unusual to find a stingray with two spines, since they replace their spines once a year between June and October, and the old spine stays intact while the new one erupts from the skin.

Females have longer spines than males. The spines are truly venomous, with the venom being produced within the spine's sheath along two narrow grooves.

The spines are used purely for defensive purposes. An alarmed or trapped stingray, such as one being pinned on the water bottom by a human foot, lashes wildly with its tail. Waders and surf fishermen face the most risk in August, when females move into very shallow water to bear their young.

The slightest cut on a human can cause the affected area and lymph nodes to swell, and the extreme pain alone can send a victim into shock.

First aid measures include letting the

wound bleed for a few minutes to flush out some of the poison. The wound should then be thoroughly cleaned and immersed in water as hot as the person can stand for 30 minutes.

Research has shown that stingray venom is very sensitive to heat and breaks down after 15 minutes of soaking. Antiseptic should then be applied, and the victim should see a doctor. ■



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](mailto:jerald@rockinghorst.com).

Get Your Custom Color  
Matched T-Top Just In  
Time For Summer!



**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
- Bimini Tops
- Poling Platforms
- Bowfishing Platforms
- Offshore Bags
- Boat Covers



[sterlingsllc.com](http://sterlingsllc.com) • 1002 Hwy 90 East, New Iberia, LA • 337-364-0783 • [lance@sterlingsllc.com](mailto:lance@sterlingsllc.com)



# Hobie

## A FORCE OF NATURE

Discover what makes Hobie the #1 selling fishing kayak.  
The revolutionary MirageDrive® – 20 years of innovation perfected.

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

## ASK CAPT. PAUL

Capt. Paul Titus

**GOT A QUESTION FOR THE CAPTAIN?**

EMAIL IT TO  
[CAPT@LASMAG.COM](mailto:CAPT@LASMAG.COM)

# WAYPOINTS FOR COCODRIE & DULAC

KNOWING WHERE ISLANDS WERE LOCATED IS CRITICAL FOR ANGLING SUCCESS NOW

**A**s a help in fishing the area, I have compiled fishing waypoint positions throughout the area. Captain Paul's Fishing Edge of GPS waypoints for Cocodrie ~ Dulac has over 165 GPS waypoints in and around the area. It is one of 21 different Edge Fishing Areas offered. The Edge offers anglers a way to quickly locate some of these fishing locations in and around the area.

This Captain Paul's Fishing Edge of GPS Waypoints of the Cocodrie ~ Dulac area is located from Point au Fer Island, Four League Bay to the east side of Cocodrie from the Gulf of Mexico by Isles Dernieres to Lake De Cade by Bayou DuLarge. It is located in the southern part of Terrebonne Parish.

This area is known for the producing a variety of fish including trophy sized speckled trout and redfish, white trout, flounders, croakers, sheepshead, black drum, and of course catfish.

The southern area by Last Islands (Isles Dernieres) and the Gulf of Mexico is a favorite fishing area. These barrier islands once consisted of Wine Island, East Island, Trinity Island, Whiskey Island and Raccoon Island. Most have eroded away, but it is an invaluable tool for the avid angler to know where they were.

Capt. Paul's Fishing Edge for Cocodrie/Dulac provides more than 160 GPS waypoints in the area.



Waypoint CODRE 298 in Coupe Juan Pass at 29°03.7278' North Latitude ~ 90°41.5423' West Longitude between Trinity and East Island had deeper water than other locations in the area.

To the west, Waypoint CODRE60 indicates a shoal at 29° 02.9948' N. Lat ~ 90°52.7825' W. Long. It's between Whiskey and Raccoon islands, and is a great area to fish (or avoid when cruising that area.)

In addition, this area also shows the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Benchmark for "Coon Point," which was at one time the western part of Raccoon (Isles Dernieres), which is shown as CODRE117 at 29°03.5490' N. Lat ~ 90°57.6655 at the west end of the island where sandbars are constantly moving.

Also featured is the "Sunken Barge" on Grand Bayou Dularge that is located near a Red Light (plotted at 29°12.986' N. Latitude ~ 090° 56.9630' W. Long.) on the east side of the bayou almost in Caillou Lake.

The barge, shown as Edge Waypoint CODRE 34, is very near the Red 4 marker. The sunken barge is plotted as being at or about 29°12.9860' N. Latitude ~ 090° 56.9690' W. Longitude. The structure had been holding a decent catch for the first few boats that reach it after daylight.

But use caution in the area. This is a motor buster. Fish around the structure, and between it and the Red 4 marker. Again, I must say, use caution around this site as this barge has been the premature demise of many of an outboard's lower unit.

To the north you will find many, many other Edge locations.

CODRE105, shown as a position in Lake Raccourci at 29°21.2201' N Lat ~ 90°56.7125' W Long., is where an island was once located. Find the current reef and shallows and fish the area.

Another favorite is CODRE99 at 29°17.4706' N. Lat ~ 90°57.9570' W. Long. It is the location of the reef which

was once Hog Point in Lake Mechant. Knowing where this point was can give you a real EDGE when in the area/

## CAPTAIN PAUL'S FISHING EDGE

As you know, GPS data such as waypoints can now be electronically installed in most GPS units in just a matter of minutes. Each Edge file has an electronic data file that can be downloaded into a variety of GPS brand units. All of the EDGE programs are sent as an **email attachment**. To help those of us who are not computer savvy, each download has a general map of the area in 1:100,000 scale, and individual information on each waypoint. These map



www.SPORTSMANGear.com

images cannot be installed in the GPS unit, but offer a location of the waypoints and their descriptions, as well as READ ME and INSTRUCTIONS files. They show the latitude~longitude value of the waypoints, and in some instances a "How to Fish" tutorial for the location. I keep a hard copy of this PDF file aboard my boat as a backup.

continues on page 120

**PRO-MODEL<sup>®</sup> CRANKBAIT 8XD**

**DIVES TO 19 FEET & BEYOND!**

**FOR WHEN YOU NEED TO GO VERY DEEP VERY QUICKLY!**

**Strike King**

**Greg Hackney**  
B.A.S.S. TOURNAMENT PROFESSIONAL  
2014 TOYOTA TUNDRA BASSMASTER ANGLER OF THE YEAR

WWW.STRIKEKING.COM

## ASK CAPT. PAUL

continued

Presently, Captain Paul's Fishing Edge is available for 21 different areas, including Barataria Bay, Lake Borgne, Hopedale to Bayou Terre Boeufs, Delacroix to Point a la Hache, Bayou Bienvenue, Port Sulphur, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne, Calcasieu Lake, Pearl River WMA, Lafitte, Leeville East and Leeville West, Vermilion Bay, Empire-Buras, the Rigolets and the MRGO.

I always suggest that you have a reliable compass and a map of the area whenever you venture outdoors. Please show respect to other anglers around you, and do not trespass. All positions are determined using WGS datum and are stated as degrees, minutes and ten-thousandths of a minute (DDD, MM.mmmm)

To order an Edge file, you must have an email address that accepts attachments. All of Captain Paul's Fishing Edge files can be found in Louisiana Sportsman's Outdoor Store ([www.sportsmangear.com](http://www.sportsmangear.com)). Remember that you must state your brand of GPS unit, your email address and the selected area. The Edge files are NOT brand name interchangeable, so be sure to make the correct GPS unit selection. ■



**Capt. Paul Titus** has been responding to GPS questions on [LouisianaSportsman.com](http://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.

### 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](http://www.LouisianaSportsman.com) PRIVATE GROUP SEMINAR RATES INDIVIDUAL TUTORING • SCHEDULED SEMINARS**

For information  
Call Captain Paul@ (985) 847-0536  
e-mail: [captainpaultgps@gmail.com](mailto:captainpaultgps@gmail.com)



### CANADIAN WATERFOWL HUNTS

EXPERIENCED AND PROVEN LOCAL OUTFITTERS

Hunt the Saskatchewan River Valley  
Meals, Lodging, & Guides Provided  
Trophy Pike and Lake Trout Fishing  
Limited Openings Available

281-455-3341 • [ranchman655@gmail.com](mailto:ranchman655@gmail.com)

Special Discounts On Bear & Deer Hunts Happening Now!



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](http://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/  
KRYPTTEK ALTITUDE™ FRAME



### WX TITAN

POLARIZED SMOKE GREY LENS/  
GLOSS BLACK FRAME



WILEYX.COM  
1.800.776.7842

## FLY LINES

Catch Cormier



# A CAST BY ANY OTHER NAME

WHY TOP FLY ANGLERS USE 'THE BELGIAN'

Action sequence shots of Jeff Ferguson doing a Belgian cast.

I never do a presentation on fly fishing for speckled trout without including the Vertically Oriented Strike Indicator (VOSI). My creation has helped me to catch thousands of specks on the long rod.

For those readers who aren't familiar with the VOSI, it's basically a small styrofoam perch float cut in half, with a concave face carved out on the "fat end" using a Dremel cone.

On your leader, slip the VOSI up with the concave face towards the fly line, and push the pin into the slot on the fly end. The suspending fly is usually a shrimp pattern or Clouser Minnow.

What you have is the flyrodders' popping cork. Stripping the line makes the VOSI pop which gets attention. It also creates a vertical movement of the fly underneath.

## A TANGLED WEB WE CAST

One of the biggest challenges in fishing a VOSI-fly combination is avoiding tangles when casting. That's true of all complex rigs - whether it's multiple flies tied together by sections of tippet, or flies under a strike indicator.

With simple rigs (one fly by itself), the ideal casting style is a tight loop overhead cast. This is the classic stroke where the caster raises the rod tip slowly, accelerates starting at the 10 o'clock

position, and then does a hard stop at the 1 o'clock position.

After a brief pause, the caster accelerates the rod tip forward to the 10 o'clock position for a hard stop. If it's the delivery stroke, then the caster slowly drifts the rod tip down to the water as the line unfolds to its target.

A properly done overhead cast, with its narrow arc and hard stops, loads more potential energy into the rod. The result is a tight loop cast yielding maximum distance with low wind impact and good accuracy.

However, with complex rigs, such casts can result in tailing loops and subsequently, messy tangles.

One solution is to open up the casting arc to make a more open loop. This works great for short casts, but not for longer casts or casts in windy conditions.

Another solution is the Belgian cast.

## A PLANETARY CONCEPT

Shortly after World War II, Hans Gebetsroither, a shoemaker and river keeper in Austria, began experimenting

with a new casting style that was effective in just about any fishing situation.

The Gebetsroither style starts off with a side backcast, but rather than stopping at any point, the arm continues in a continuous elliptical motion before swinging overhead and forward to the target.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 4-5 (Fri-Sat) - Bass On The Fly tournament & fishtival**, Lake Fork Marina, TX. Friday activities include casting clinics, kayak demos, guide reports, Sunfish tournament (\$10 entry). Saturday bass tournament (\$60 entry) time 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. CPR format. Categories: boat, kayak, bank. For details, go to [www.basson-the-fly.org](http://www.basson-the-fly.org).
- **May 12 (Sat) - Fly Fishing 101**, hosted by Orvis, 7601 Bluebonnet, Baton Rouge. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. No cost. One-day, 2 hour clinic covering basics of fly fishing and fly casting. Registration required, call 225-757-7286.
- **May 22 (Tue) - Fly Tying Clinic**, hosted by Bass Pro Shops, Denham Springs. 6 p.m. No cost. Bring your tools, if none, a few sets available for use during session. Materials provided. Beginners welcome. For more info, call Ron at 225-271-3100.
- **May 26 (Sat) - CCA STAR Tournament kick-off**. Runs through Labor Day. Divisions include Fly Fishing East and West for heaviest speckled trout. For details, go to [www.ccastar.com](http://www.ccastar.com).



In effect, the rod tip is making an oval motion in the air, with no stopping until the delivery. Think of the flies under this style similar to planets orbiting

continues on page 124

## TIPPETS

It's been a rough spring so far, but if May is normal, it'll be a popping-bug lover's paradise. Bluegills will be blowing up bugs in blue, green, or yellow. Cast under trees, near docks and along grass lines.

When topwater activity slows, try a Jitterbee, BHER, Tussel Bug, Cap Spider or Slow Sinking Spider a couple feet under a tiny strike indicator. Twitch the indicator and pause. A lot of strikes come on the pause.

Topwater is the name of the game for bass. Work hair bugs, Flip Flop Poppers and Boogie Bugs along structure. For schooling fish, cast Crease Flies and shad patterns.

It's been a tough year for speckled trout so far, but with warmer, calmer weather they should be gangbusters in the lower bays and lakes. A good approach is to start with topwater early on calm days. Bubblehead Poppers, Perch Float Poppers, Bobs Bangers and Skipping Bugs will draw strikes.

Later in the day, move to weighted flies suspended 2 to 3 feet under a VOSI. While the chartreuse/white Clouser Minnow is my favorite fly for this setup, late spring and summer are best times for the EP Spawning Shrimp.

Reds will be active in the interior ponds. With small shrimp and crabs inundating the marsh, now is the best time to have imitations of those in your fly box. Grass is still thick in most ponds, so have a few bendback patterns as well.

**NEW**  
KVD  
-GEAR-

**GET ON THE FAST TRACK**

**KVD SERIES**

**Push your performance.**  
The all-new KVD Signature series by Plano® gives quick access to your gear so you can fish fast and fish first.

- Designed by 8-Time Angler of the Year Kevin VanDam
- Two sizes of tackle bags and two wormfile speedbags available
- Customizable storage with unmatched access

**PLANO**  
PROTECT YOUR PASSION

PLANOMOLDING.COM [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

## FLY LINES

continued

the sun. The rotational tension keeps them separated, so there's no crossing each other like in an overhead cast.

The fly line is also loading the rod during the entire backcast. So this style allows for longer casts than with an open loop.

### BELGIAN, AUSTRIAN ... WHATEVER

The Belgian Cast is also known as the Austrian cast, elliptical cast, oval cast, rotational cast and Gebetsroither style.

How did this cast get so many different names?

In 1958, the first world casting championships were held in Brussels. Albert Goddart, a fishing companion of Gebetsroither, was representing Austria. He used his friend's cast to win the silver medal.

Several Americans at the event took notice of his unique cast and started calling it the Belgian cast after the country the championships were held in.

Over the decades, casting instructors have referred to it with names that best

describe the cast itself - oval, elliptical, etc.

In recent years, political correctness has established that the cast be referred to as the Austrian cast or Gebetsroither style.

### MANY NAMES, MANY USES

Whatever you wish to call the Belgian cast, know that it works for more than just complex rigs. In fact, I use this cast much of the time.

Jeff Ferguson is a Fly Fishers International (FFI) Master Certified Casting Instructor from Lake Charles. Jeff points out that the elliptical cast is more efficient because circular movements are a better fit for the arm's biorhythm than hard stops. Once you master the Belgian cast, you can make more casts with less fatigue.

He also notes this cast comes in handy

when dealing with bulky or heavy flies, or casting on windy days. The round-about motion keeps the fly away from the angler on the backcast where most "angler collisions" occur.

For those wishing to learn more about the Belgian cast, Jeff will be demonstrating it at the Contraband Fly Fishing Expo to be held July 13-14 in Lake Charles.

Details can be found at [www.contrabandflycastersinc.net](http://www.contrabandflycastersinc.net). ■



The Bubblehead Popper is effective for both bass and specks.



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.

## 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



# ULTIMATE SUNBLOCK FOR YOUR BOAT

*Star brite chemists designed Ultimate Xtreme Protectant utilizing the most advanced polymers available to create the strongest UV-blocking product in company history for your boat and all your other prized possessions*

**PROTECT**  
**FIBERGLASS**  
**PAINTED SURFACES**  
**BOOTSTRIPES**  
**VINYL SEATS**  
**PLASTICS**  
**RUBBERS**  
**METALS**  
**& MORE**



**Star brite**

ASK OUR EXPERTS



[www.starbrite.com](http://www.starbrite.com) (800) 327-8583

# HOW TO AGE WHITE-TAILED DEER: PART I

THE BREEDING CHRONOLOGY OF LOUISIANA DEER CAN MAKE AGING CHALLENGING — BUT IT CAN BE DONE



**Adult Deer Jawbone**



**Fawn Jawbone**

The actual size of the jawbone makes for easy identification of fawns and 6-month old deer.

**M**ost of the aging work by deer biologists is done by utilizing the tooth replacement and wear techniques that were developed years ago by C.W. Severinghaus in 1949.

While this technique is not real accurate for older deer, it is less time consuming and for the most part is adequate for management work. Exact determination of age class based upon counting cementum annuli of incisor teeth is possible, but this is just not practical when one has hundreds of jaw-

bones to sort through.

This early work by Severinghaus was based upon deer from the north, where the peak breeding month is November. This is the reason that ages are given in half-year increments: Deer bred in November will fawn in June, and fawns will be six months old in December during the hunting season. As deer move up into the older age classes, the adults also will be aged as 1 ½, 2 ½ and so on. The problem with Louisiana deer is that breeding in some parts of the state begins in September and continues

into April. Consequently, with an eight-month breeding range, we also have an eight-month fawning range — so some fawns in December may be only a couple of months old. So as these deer grow older, the tooth replacement and wear will not follow the trends established by the aging studies, and can create problems for biologists.

However, it is certain that deer can be placed into specific categories, such as fawns, yearlings, young adults (2- to 3-year-olds), mature adults (4- to 6-year-olds) and old adults (7-year plus). This

## DON'T FORGET TURKEYS:

The 2018 turkey season opened on April 7, a very late season and one that no doubt will be much talked about by turkey hunters. Hopefully it will be a good season and by all means, tag those toms and report your harvest.

generalization is more than sufficient to calculate the necessary age and growth parameters for management purposes.

The following chart illustrates the breeding range in Louisiana, and shows how jawbones can vary in tooth replacement and wear during the hunting season.

## BREEDING AND FAWNING RANGE IN LOUISIANA

The gestation period for deer is about 200 days, or seven months. A doe in Area 6 that is bred on Feb. 15 will give birth to a fawn on Sept. 15, and that fawn will be 2 weeks old when bow season opens on Oct. 1.

Consequently, the archery doe season is delayed a couple of weeks in Area 6 for this reason. But the fawn is still only 2 weeks old, and if the doe was to be killed the fawn would not likely survive. So many clubs and landowners delay the doe harvest even later.

September-born fawns in Area 6 will not be 6 months old until March. An Area 2 doe bred on Nov. 1 will drop the fawn on June 1, and that fawn will be 4 months old on Oct. 1. It will have lost its spots and be weaned and eating on its own, and would survive should a bowhunter harvest the doe. If both of these fawns were killed in January, the Area 2 fawn would be 6 months old and the Area 6 fawn would be a little older than 3 months, and the two jawbones would look different.

But both of these harvested deer would be classified as fawns and be grouped into that category, so it is really not a problem. The problem comes as these deer grow older and the eruption and wear patterns do not follow the typical pattern for that age class. Instead of looking at a jawbone for a 3 ½-year-

old (42-month) deer, the jawbone will be several months younger, showing some characteristics for the 2 ½-year age class.

## AGING FAWNS

As one would guess, fawns are easy to age — their smaller body size equates to a smaller jawbone, which should be a dead give-away even to a novice hunter.

The typical fawn jawbone will have three temporary premolars, and one permanent molar. The third temporary premolar is the key for separating fawns and yearlings (1 year olds) from adults. This third temporary premolar has three distinct cusps, and will remain in place until it is finally replaced

at around 18 months. The new permanent premolar will have only two distinct cusps. One should keep in mind that these temporary premolars will wear, and I have witnessed hunters opening the mouths of yearling deer, seeing these temporary

**PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY**



www.SPORTSMANGear.com

worn out premolars and calling it an old deer.

As a fawn grows older, the second and third molars will begin to erupt and the deer moves into the yearling age class. The typical Area 2 fawn killed in November will have a jawbone with three temporary premolars and one fully erupted molar. An Area 6 fawn killed in December will have three temporary premolars and one molar that is not fully erupted. In some cases the molar may show the first two crests of the first cusp erupting, or the first cusp and the tops of the second cusps erupting.

continues on page 128



**Ace's Retrievers**

15+ Years Experience

Driven Naturally to Accommodate.....  
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](mailto:acesretrievers@gmail.com)  
Facebook - Team Ace's Retrievers



**BLANCHARD'S**

Our Customers Are The Coolest®

**NO HUNTIN' OR FISHIN' CAMP SHOULD BE WITHOUT ONE OF THESE!!**



**KOOLAIRE** 300 LB ICE MAKERS  
**Manitowoc** STARTING AS LOW AS  
**HOSHIZAKI** **\$2,057**

**BLANCHARD'S REFRIGERATION**

314 S. Hollywood Rd., Houma, LA • 888-656-2823 • 985-868-8945  
[www.coolestcustomers.com](http://www.coolestcustomers.com)

**HUNT ARGENTINA**

**Kids Dove Hunt FREE**

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

No Limit Doves

**DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE**

1907 Paulette Rd.  
Morehead City, NC 28557

info@downeastguideservice.com  
www.downeastguideservice.com

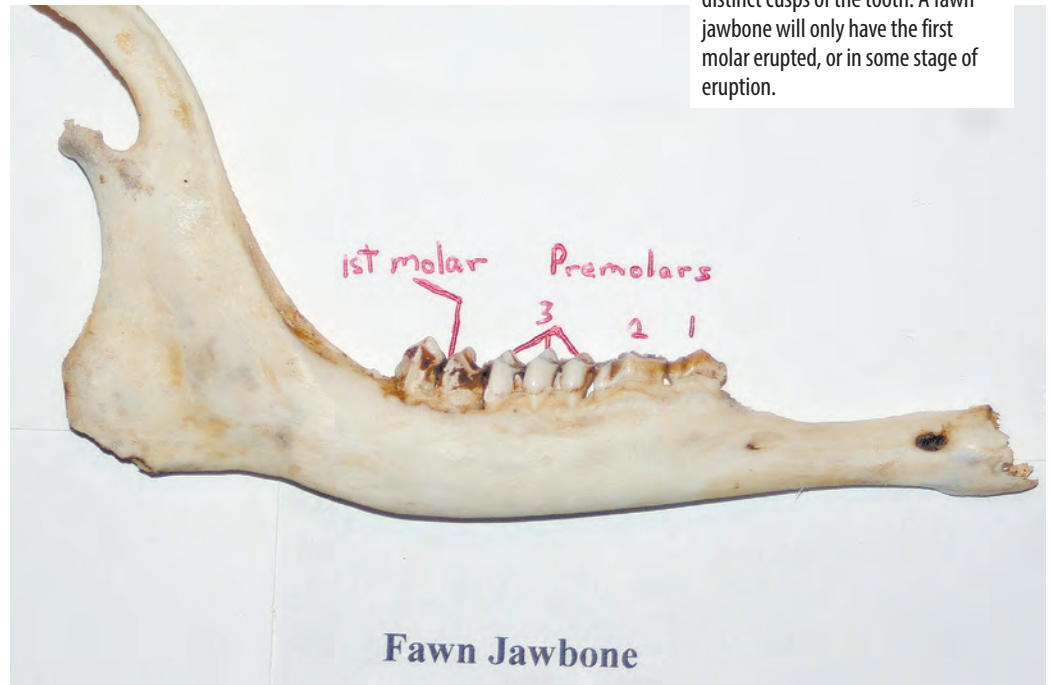
**252-671-3474**

*\*With 4 adult full fare hunts*

## GRUNTS & GOBBLES

continued

This fawn jawbone shows the three temporary premolars, with the third premolar showing three distinct cusps of the tooth. A fawn jawbone will only have the first molar erupted, or in some stage of eruption.



**OVERSTOCK SAVINGS!**

UP TO **\$3,350!**

INSTANT REBATES ON ALL NEW VERANDA & BENNINGTON PONTOONS!

V22RC VERANDA

BENNINGTON

223 SSRX

**HUGE SELECTION!**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY. CALL OR COME BY NOW.**

**YAMAHA**

PHOENIX WIND-CAT XPRESS BOATS

**Bryan's MARINE** JOIN US ON f

4899 HWY 84 WEST VIDALIA, LA 71373

**318-336-9009**  
www.BryansMarine.com

Mon - Fri 8 am - 5 pm • Sat 8 am - 12 noon  
Mississippi-Louisiana's Boating Headquarters Since 1986

Family Owned & Operated

	Late Breeding Deer	Early Breeding Deer
<b>Breeding Month</b>	Jan. Feb. March April	Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.
<b>Fawning Month</b>	Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov.	April May June July

**M**any clubs and landowners often avoid shooting fawns since they do not want to shoot nubby bucks, but a doe fawn is a good animal to harvest and it does not hurt the program to harvest a few nubby bucks and see what their growth rate is.

The average live weight for both the buck and doe fawn classes should be 60 pounds or better. Male fawns will weigh more than female fawns, and on good habitat and when herd conditions are right, some doe fawns may breed and give birth to a single fawn as a 1 year old. However, most of the Louisiana data will show that for the most part very few of our doe fawns breed. Most male fawns only produce a visible nub, the pedicel bone on which antler will grow, but in the early-breeding and fawning areas, some male fawns may develop a small bony antler peg.

Next month we'll look at the yearling age class. ■



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.



*No Fancy Gates, No Fancy Lodge*

# JUST BIG DEER!

**Trophy Whitetail  
& Exotics  
Dove Hunts**

**325-642-7596**  
**sdwhitetails.com**



## TEXTRON OFF ROAD

SINGLE-RIDER  
**ALTERRA MUDPRO  
700 LTD**



STARTING AT **\$9,999** USD MSRP

- 695CC SINGLE-CYLINDER CLOSED-LOOP EFI ENGINE
- 14-INCH GROUND CLEARANCE
- STANDARD ELECTRONIC POWER STEERING
- 14-INCH ALUMINUM BEADLOCK WHEELS
- 28-INCH MAXXIS® ZILLA TIRES
- SNORKEL AIR INTAKE



4-PASSENGER  
**WILDCAT 4X LTD**  
STARTING AT

**\$18,999** USD MSRP

- DOUBLE A-ARM FRONT SUSPENSION WITH ELKA® STAGE 5 SHOCKS
- 5-LINK REAR SUSPENSION
- 951CC DUAL-CYLINDER, CLOSED-LOOP EFI ENGINE
- TEAM® RAPID RESPONSE CLUTCH
- ELECTRONIC 2/4WD WITH FRONT DIFFERENTIAL LOCK
- ITP® BLACKWATER EVOLUTION® TIRES
- ALUMINUM BEADLOCK WHEELS
- STANDARD FULL DOORS



13637 AIRLINE HWY  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
**225-408-3331**

**ASCENSION<sup>LLC</sup>  
GOLF CARTS  
& POWERSPORTS**

13439 HWY 44  
GONZALES, LA  
**225-644-3371**

**AscensionGolfCarts.com**

## LURE REVIEW

Don Shoopman

The 'potato chip lip' on Rapala's Scatter Rap Glass Shad creates erratic movement gamefish just can't resist.

# RAPALA'S SCATTER RAP GLASS SHAD

'POTATO CHIP LIP' IS THE SECRET TO LURE'S WOBBLE

**S**ome anglers refer to the plastic lip recently added to the Rapala Glass Shad crankbait as a "potato chip lip," which is what it closely resembles.

Whatever they call the distinctively curved and angled plastic lip, it works. As the newest member of the Scatter Rap Series of artificial lures, the Glass Shad is triggering gamefish to bite from one end of the country to another. Bass, walleye, pike and other species fall for the new crankbait.

Mark Fisher of Molthen, Minnesota, the man behind its design, said he is proud of the unpredictable action in the Scatter Rap Glass Shad.

Rapala's chief lure designer, a 17-year veteran with the artificial lure manufacturer known worldwide for decades, talked about it a few days before the start of the 2018 Bassmaster Classic.

### PLASTIC LIP IS KEY

The Scatter Rap Glass Shad gives anglers a rattling and suspending crankbait with a durable, see-through body featuring a special plastic lip that gives it evasive, erratic action with a distinct wobble — like a spooked baitfish fleeing attack.

"It was a two-year project in all. We're very thorough, let me put it that way. We ran it through a lot of key guys (pro staffers and others) off and on through

the development. They were impressed," he said.

When designing innovative artificial lures, Fisher said, he and others continually "push the envelope."

The "potato chip lip" is all about influencing the crank bait's "tracking" path on the retrieve.

"What it does is throw the tracking off. When you actually use it, it's hard to believe how it works because it's so simple," he said, adding it dives to 10- to 14-foot deep.

"When we started working on the project, we said, 'Let's make a Glass Shad Rap that would have a built-in concept to lose tracking to attract neutral fish,'" he said.



The Scatter Rap Glass Shad is 2 3/4 inches long, and is armed with VMC black nickel round-bend treble hooks.

That makes them effective for anglers who troll them, and also perfect for bass fishermen who cast and retrieve.

The crankbaits with the bold new look and action have been on the market about a year and have been well-received, he said.

Back to front, they are extremely durable. A plastic lip attached to a plastic body makes the lure stronger, he said. "Here's the concept. I think it's one of the most fascinating things. The Glass Shad Rap has been around a number of years. When you talk about putting a scatter lip on a plastic lure, you gain durability with a plastic lip adhering to a plastic body. You put the two materials hand-in-hand," he said.

"We wanted to make a more durable bait for anglers who long-line troll, or for

bass anglers deflecting them off of cover. Plus, a lot of anglers still wanted a plastic bait that rattled. It was a perfect morph ... increasing durability issues and putting rattles inside the bait."

Scatter Rap Glass Shad crankbaits, which are 2 3/4 inches long, are armed with VMC black nickel round-bend treble hooks and are available in 14 colors.

For more information about the Scatter

Rap Glass Shad crank bait and other Rapala artificial lures, go to [www.rapala.com](http://www.rapala.com). ■



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.

# THE NATURE OF COMPETITION

## LIVE TARGET®

Mullet are the fish food of the seas; the commonest saltwater prey worldwide. Available in three patterns, LIVETARGET's award-winning **Hollow Body Mullet** perfectly replicates a live mullet's profile and looks. The lure's versatile swimming action makes it simple to fish, too. Walk-the-dog or simply twitch it across the surface to create an irresistible bubble trail. The **Hollow Body Mullet's** snag-proof design lets it slide through mangroves, skip safely under docks, and ease through floating grass.

[LIVETARGETLURES.COM](http://LIVETARGETLURES.COM)

## GAME WARDEN

Keith LaCaze

**GOT A QUESTION FOR THE KEITH?**  
EMAIL IT TO  
KLACAZE15@ATT.NET



A reputable outfitter like Roy Hutt (left) of Norwood, Colorado can provide off-highway vehicle (OHV) transportation and access to remote areas for hunters like Louisiana's wildlife enforcement Major (Retired) Ronald Morris (right). INSET: Morris took this nice late-season bull elk near Norwood last November.

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT HUNTING OUTFITTER

DIY MIGHT BE A CHEAPER ALTERNATIVE, BUT SOMETIMES GOING WITH A LOCAL GUIDE MAKES THE MOST SENSE



**T**he anticipation and planning for a fall hunting trip can be as much fun as the actual adventure. But sometimes that eager anticipation is the only good thing about the whole experience — especially when the hunt goes bad. Do-it-yourself hunts in places you've never been can be long on disappointment and short on success. In fact, odds are good you'll get an exercise in frustration if you go off on your own without careful planning and a measure of good luck.

That's not to say DIY hunts are not enjoyable and successful. Plenty of them are. I started hunting out west in the 1980s. Most of those DIY hunts were successful and fun — but I also recall a bad one, too.

## A DIY DISASTER

We were hunting a wilderness area, horseback or walk-in only. We did not have horses, and the terrain was thick timber and steep, deep ravines. The only

way to hunt was sitting on a rock looking down into the ravines. Getting a deer or elk out of one of those holes would have been a nightmare. But it wasn't really a problem since we didn't see anything. The area did have some great elk and deer habitat. But it was a four-hour horseback ride to those beautiful meadows. At least that's what two hunters with horses told us.

Added to that was a tent and heater provided by one member of our party. The tent might have been okay for camping in Louisiana, but it couldn't handle the foot of snow we received on opening day of the hunting season. The heater was a kerosene device which produced enough toxic fumes to blanket the entire mountainside — but no heat.

We cut the trip short and I learned some valuable lessons.

Looking back on it, that hunt could have been one of the best if we had hired a local outfitter. A package deal with horses to get us into good hunting country, along with a proper tent and supplies for a wilderness pack-in camp, would have put us in a perfect situation. We probably would not have needed guides and costs of a drop camp would have been affordable, even on game warden pay.

## DIY OR OUTFITTER HUNT?

When planning a hunt (and we will confine our discussion to western deer, elk and pronghorn) considering three things will help in deciding whether to DIY or hire an outfitter: 1) Do you know the area? If this is a return trip or a hunt with friends familiar with the spot, then DIY might work. 2) Do you want to camp, cook and handle chores yourself? If not, then talk to some outfitters. 3) Is this a once-in-a-lifetime hunt? If you waited 20 years to draw that trophy elk or mule deer tag, a local outfitter could improve your odds.

What species is being hunted and whether it will be a private or public land hunt also goes into my outfitter vs. DIY decision. Although my best pronghorn was taken on private land, I have no qualms about hunting them DIY on public ground. Wyoming has an abundance of public land loaded with good pronghorn bucks.

Elk are a different matter. On public

land, a herd of elk is usually being chased by a herd of hunters. A lot of elk are taken on public areas, but crowds can take away from the quality of the experience and can push elk into the next county.

Elk know where the private land lies and head for it when the guns start shooting. It is safe and quiet, and will hold smart old bulls. So I go with an outfitter with access to private land for elk.

Going with an outfitter has other benefits, too. A good one will know the regulations on things like transporting rifles in vehicles, hunter orange requirements and portable blinds and tree stands — and will make sure his clients comply. He will know the best places in town for processing harvested game and taxidermy services. He can also offer hunting or fishing options should you tag out early in the hunt and have time to kill.

## CHOOSE WISELY

Obviously choosing the best outfitter to meet your needs is most important. Check references thoroughly. If clients have returned to an outfitter on multiple trips or

say they look forward to booking the next hunt, chances are services are satisfactory. Consider contacting a local wildlife officer and inquire about outfitters in his area. He likely knows the good and bad.

Don't be afraid to ask questions when talking to an outfitter before putting down your deposit. What percentage of clients are successful? What are the accommodations and meals? If guides are provided, is it one guide to one hunter or one guide to two or more hunters? If it is private land hunting, is this the same spot he has taken prior successful clients?

Hunting with a good outfitter is like hunting with a good friend. If you choose well, your outfitter will likely be both by the end of the trip. ■



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.

# 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**

**WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE**  
HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER

[WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM](http://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



# A LIFE WELL-LIVED: MAKING MEMORIES IN THE WOODS

HUNTING MENTOR'S LETTER REMINDS US OF WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT IN THE FIELD

**T**his month, I am stepping a bit outside of this column's normal subject matter, but I feel strongly about the message.

They say youth is wasted on the young, and also that with age often comes wisdom. So this is an opportunity to share with you the wisdom gained from a lifetime of experience in the woods, as well as life in general.

Take a moment to reflect on the true reasons why we hunt and shoot, and consider the difference you can make by mentoring someone.

I'm sharing a short reflection written last August by my mentor and friend, Gene Sutherland. He introduced me to archery as well as deer hunting, and were it not for him taking the time to mentor me, I might not be involved in these passions today.

Archery season was fast approaching, and we were extremely busy at the shop. Gene called to tell me he was emailing me something he had just written.

He said, "I know how busy you are, and I

wrote this so you could use it in your column." I didn't use it at the time, because the timing didn't seem right, but I saved it. Now it does.

Here is what Gene wrote:

## END OF THE ROAD

"My, my, how time goes by. How I cherished the opportunity to hear leaves crush under my boots. All I could think about was spending the weekend in the deer woods. All week long, I would put myself to sleep strategizing which stand would be best for me to sit, playing it out in my mind, to get a glimpse of "Big Boy." I would go over and over the many setups, trying to figure out the best one. This circular repetitive pattern was strangely exciting. It all added to the excitement of the hunt.

Then, it's go time. That first light of a cool, crisp autumn morning is something reserved for the hunters. The heart racing while walking to the stand, needing you to pay attention to calm it down. Once settled in, the simple sound of a

limb cracking will make the hair stand up on the back of your neck. You have plenty of time to appreciate how beautiful the woods are, studying everything the woods have to offer, searching for the slightest movement. Then, after a few hours, nature's thermostat begins to act. Suddenly the chill of the woods turns to a cozy, comfortable place to be.

The camaraderie — these are the bonds with friends and family that will never go away. Each and every person you share this bond with will be with you the rest of your life. All of the good times, laughs, sharing of viewpoints and stories and the relaxing times at the camp will be forever in your mind. I find it strange how I haven't had the urge to mention any of the bucks I have harvested over the years. As serious as I was about killing deer, I feel no urge to mention this. Strange, just so strange. All that is important to me are the memories. The rides up to the camp, being with my buds, the beauty of the deer woods, and of course, the sight of a whitetail deer.

Due to a number of physical problems, I have been unable to hunt for about 10 years. I can no longer walk. This and the sudden death of a hunting buddy kind of took the wind out of my sails. I lost interest and the desire to hunt. I was recently talking to one of my old hunting buddies, though, and I shared with him how I have been missing the beauty of the woods. He told me to get in touch with another old deer bud who is a landowner and ask for permission to make a hunt. He said he would gladly assist me, and would sit me in a chair at the end of the road...."

## PAY IT FORWARD

As mentioned, Gene had been in poor health, which had prevented him from hunting in recent years. I was the landowner mentioned at

the end of his email. I tried to get him to come up and hunt, but he wasn't up to it. Little did either of us know that he was coming to the end of his own road here on earth. Sadly, on Feb. 18, Gene lost his fight with heart failure.

He was larger than life, and had an impact on anyone who was lucky enough to spend time with him.

I think he would want anyone reading this to pay it forward and introduce a kid — or someone who hasn't had the opportunity — to this sport we all love so much.

*Dedicated to Eugene Jefferson Sutherland Jr., July 28, 1948 - Feb. 18, 2018. ■*



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.



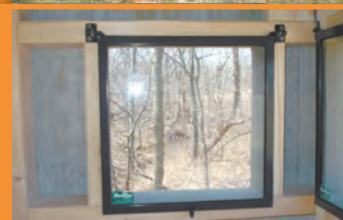
**DeerView manufactures the best windows in the industry!**

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**



## 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

# ZERO IN ON SPRING SAVINGS.

MODEL 2565 CAB SHUTTLE



MODEL 3540 PST & CAB



**5 YEAR WARRANTY**

MODEL 5545 4WD



MODEL 2555 H CAB



12416 LA Hwy. 44 | Gonzales, LA  
225.644.3088  
www.glencoeequipment.com

**Mahindra**  
Rise.

## HAPPY TRAILS

Bill Garbo

# ANOTHER LOOK AT CWD FEEDING BAN

COULD MISSISSIPPI OFFICIALS HAVE USED BETTER BOUNDARIES THAN COUNTY LINES?

**U**nless you have been holed up in a cave with no way of communicating for the past three or four months, you are well aware that a buck discovered on Jan. 25 in Issaquena County, Miss. tested positive for chronic wasting disease.

Mississippi wildlife officials immediately implemented a CWD response plan, and a containment zone was established, centered on the location of the infected buck. A zonal-response operation was initiated that included CWD testing of deer within the containment zone. Mississippi is the 25th state to confirm the presence of the disease.

Wildlife officials from Louisiana were notified, and after consultation with neighboring states, biologists and veterinarians, Louisiana initiated its own CWD response plan. A Declaration of Emergency was approved, effective March 5, that all supplemental deer feeding was to immediately cease in East Carroll, Madison, and Tensas parishes, which abut the Mississippi River across from Issaquena County. About 600 square miles, or around 30 percent of Mississippi's 1,964-square mile "Containment Zone" circle laps across the river and includes parts of all three parishes.

One major ramification of the two states establishing containment zones involves the banning of all supplemental feeding and mineral-station activities, not only within the "buffer zone" — a circle with a 25-mile radius — but across six entire Mississippi counties and three

Louisiana parishes that have any overlap with the circle, no matter how small.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks released a sample collection report on March 22. Of the almost 400 samples that have been collected in the six affected Mississippi counties between Oct. 1, 2017 and March 22, no additional CWD infection has been found. This is great news, but of course, testing will be continuing.

## IS ANYBODY HAPPY?

I had a recent conversation with someone from Mississippi involved in the discussion about establishing the CWD response measures. He minced no words explaining to me that, in his opinion, supplemental feeding should have never been allowed in Mississippi in the first place. No sympathy whatsoever was expressed for hunters and landowners in the six counties that are being affected by the supplemental feeding ban.

Fortunate or not, supplemental feeding became legal a few years ago. The hunting public wanted it and called for it, and the Legislature passed it into law. When politics and science collide, as it did in this case, for every interested party that was pleased, there always seems to be

Supplemental feeding of deer has been banned in six Mississippi counties and three Louisiana parishes after an Issaquena County deer was discovered to have CWD in January.

Bill Garbo

another party that was displeased.

I recently had another very different conversation with a hunter/landowner whose hunting property in one of the six counties where supplemental feeding has been banned — but outside the buffer zone.

After the ban was instituted, the landowner called the MDWFP to ask why supplemental feeding was banned in his entire county when only a small sliver of the county was inside the 25-mile circle. The response he received was — and I'm paraphrasing here — the entire county was subject to the supplemental feeding ban because MDWFP couldn't have "a containment boundary line running out through the middle of the woods."

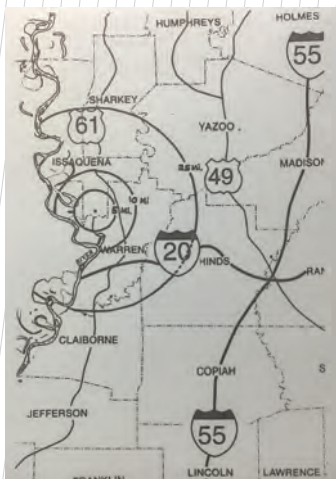
Exasperated, my friend hung up and rechecked the MDWFP Containment Zone map. What he found, to him, defied logic, as there were several highways and waterways that could have easily been used as boundary lines in his county. Hearing this, I set out to see what was going on. What I found also had me shaking my head in disbelief.

## DEVIL IN THE DETAILS

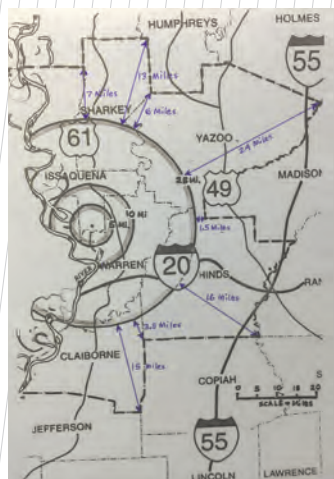
I drew my own map showing the containment-zone circles in conjunction

**A BETTER CHOICE?**

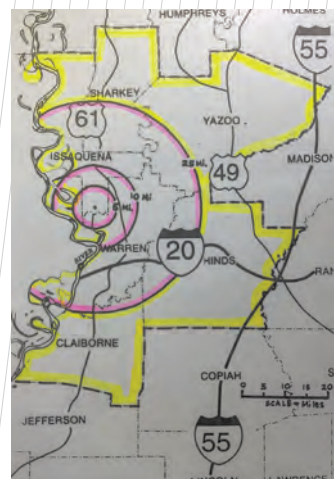
In Claiborne, Hinds and Yazoo counties, plenty of county and state roads — and several prominent rivers and streams — lie just outside the 25-mile buffer zone circle and could be used as easily describable boundary lines to tighten and shrink the footprint of the containment zone. Ease of enforcement, boundary-wise, could be balanced a little better with logic.



Containment zone: 25-mile circle



Supplemental feeding zone ban



Author's feeding ban zone

with the six affected counties.

Only 7 percent of Claiborne County falls inside the 25-mile circle, but the entire county is part of the supplemental-feeding ban. But the northwest corner of Copeiah County is just 3 or 4 miles from the circle, but supplemental feeding isn't banned there. Huh?

Only 22 percent of Hinds County falls inside the circle, but the entire county is included in the supplemental feeding ban. The head scratcher here is that

the western end of Madison County is 2 miles or less from the circle, and none of the county is affected by the ban. Say what?

Last of all, only 15 percent of Yazoo County is inside the circle, but the entire county, extending 24 miles from the circle to the east side of I-55, is under the ban. Again, the southern edge of Madison County where it borders Yazoo County is within 2 miles of the circle, and Humphreys County to the north comes

within about 6 miles of the circle, but neither county is part of the ban.

As the famous lawyer once said, "I rest my case." ■



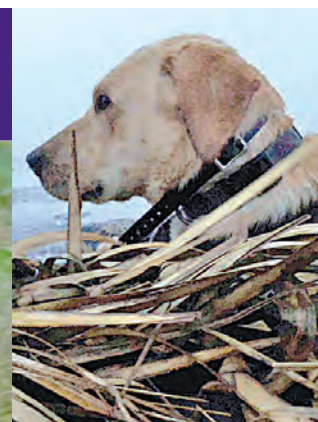
Bill Garbo is a petroleum engineer and avid whitetail hunter from Madison. He has lived and hunted out west and taken numerous big-game species, but hunting big old mature southern whitetail bucks is his favorite pursuit by a country mile.

# Training Spots Available!

**SERVICES:**

- Boarding
- Whelping
- All breed obedience training
- Puppy development training
- Basic hunting retriever training
- Advanced hunting retriever training
- Hunt test & field trail training

We also sell puppies, started dogs & finished dogs. We specialize in developing young dogs, by building an excellent foundation for both hunting, competition & home life. Veterans receive a 10% discount on all services with us.



## IRON SKY RETRIEVERS

Louis West • 318-588-0650  
 ironskyretrievers@gmail.com • IronSkyRetrievers.com



## PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

Chris Holmes

# IT'S TOPWATER TROUT TIME

AND A 'YAK IS THE PERFECT PLATFORM FOR  
A STEALTHY APPROACH



**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](mailto:cholmes@att.net).



If you're looking to catch the biggest trout of your life, now is the time.

The spawn kicked off with the full moon in April and continues for the next several months. While the few days before and after the full moon are considered prime time, don't overlook throwing a big topwater lure anytime you are on the water. The April full moon is on the 30th, and May's full moon is on the 29th. Therefore, the beginning and ending days of the month should provide great action and the chance to catch a speckled beast.

The good news is kayaks are great platforms to pursue trout with topwater lures. The low profile makes it easy to get close to and move with

the schools of bait where the trout are hanging out. Rafts of mullet and pogies are usually a sure bet that trout are shadowing them along the edges of the bait school. Working the lure from the low profile, seated position of the kayak aids in not spooking the bait — or the trout.

There are literally hundreds and hundreds of topwater lures available, but choosing one is not that difficult. If you are new to topwaters, buy a name brand, quality lure with hooks made for strong saltwater fish. Reds hit top water plugs too, so you want something that can hold up to an unexpected redfish strike.

Colors are often more attractive to fishermen than fish, but you can't go wrong

with the more subtle, natural baitfish colors. Topwater baits come in either silent, or a variety of rattling pitches. Arm yourself with a small variety of colors, sizes and sounds and you are set for some true heart-stopping action.

## WALK THE DOG

Presentation is important, and you can't go wrong with the universally popular 'walk-the-dog' retrieve. The action is imparted by the rod rather than the reel. Rhythmic twitching while simultaneously taking up line takes a little time to master, but once you do, it becomes second nature. Once perfected, the lure swims in a side-to-side cadence that trout just cannot resist. Working the lure from

**CONTINUES >**



Topwater lures provide explosive, heart-stopping action and nearly always produce larger fish. The best times are generally early morning or late evening, but don't rule out throwing one in the middle of the day.



the seated position in the kayak is easy, but rods with short handles work best.

Anywhere you find them, trout hit topwater lures. However, your best bet for the big spawners are the larger lakes and areas closer to the coast. The beaches and jetties on Grand Isle are prime spots, as are the oyster reefs in Big Lake. The shorelines and grass beds of Lake Pontchartrain are usually great, but this year's early opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway has the water dirty and fresh, and any trout action will likely only be in the eastern-most reaches.

If you're fishing near the beaches or other hard bottom, don't be afraid to get out and wade. You'll eliminate extra noises like hull slap that can easily spook big trout. Stake out or beach the 'yak and slowly walk along, pay particular attention to current lines, sandbars and the movement of any baitfish.

## WAIT ON THE HOOKSET

As amazing as it is, working your lure along the outer edges of the bait schools produces results. Why they pick a hard plastic plug over the hundreds of live baits is a mystery, but a welcome one. Don't cast in the middle of the bait school or you'll spook them and turn off the bite. When the trout hits, your natural reflex is to set the hook. However, this often ends with a missed fish. Wait until you feel the weight of the fish before setting the hook. If a fish misses the strike, there are two methods to draw a subsequent hit. One is to leave the lure still as if it is injured, and often the trout returns for a kill shot. The other is to speed up the retrieve as if the lure is trying to flee. This often-times triggers a reaction strike. It's hard to tell which works best on any given day, so you'll just have to try both.

If you have never fished a topwater lure, tie one on and use it until your arm falls off. One explosive strike is all it takes to turn you into a believer. Most fishermen would rather catch two fish on topwater than 10 fish using any other method. Yes, it's that much fun. ■

# LOUISIANA TO FIELD THREE PARTICIPANTS IN HOBIE FISHING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Louisiana is known for world-class fishing, so it's only natural that it also produces world-class kayak anglers. Preparations are under way for the Hobie Fishing World Championship 7, to be held in Amal, Sweden this May. The field has been set for the combination invitational/qualifying event consisting of 45-plus kayak anglers from 20 countries. Of the 10 U.S. competitors traveling to Sweden, three are from South Louisiana. How's that for bragging rights?

## STEVE LESSARD

Perennial kayak tournament winner Steve Lessard from Prairieville is making his fourth trip to the HFWC. Unlike any other participant, he has the distinction of being the only two-time Hobie Fishing World Champion, having won the title in the Netherlands in 2014 and in Leeville in 2016. He also fished the 2015 event in Changshu, China. Lessard is excited to again be representing the United States as the returning Hobie Worlds Champion, and is looking forward to seeing

old friends and meeting new ones from around the world. "As a Louisiana native, I've learned hunting, fishing and cooking from friends and family, but also complete strangers," he said. "This culture of sharing information and passing down skills is what makes us unique. I've been blessed to compete and win this world-class event and know the pressures of tournament fishing, but when the heat is on, I always remember who I am representing. I always hope to do well, but never take for granted the opportunity to fish in another Hobie Fishing World Championship."

Lessard also has another unique distinction. He is the only Hobie Worlds participant to claim a championship as a visiting angler, which he did in the Netherlands in 2014. All other previous and subsequent Hobie champions have come from the host country, a tradition Lessard continued in Leeville. As the returning champion, Lessard is an odds-on favorite, particularly since he has some previous experience fishing for European perch and pike, as he did when he won the event in Amsterdam.



Now is the time for big trout. Topwater lures worked off the beaches in the few days prior, during and after the full moon increase your chances of hooking up with the trout of a lifetime.

## CAPT. TY HIBBS

Capt. Ty Hibbs is a full-time fly fishing guide in South Louisiana, but is no stranger to the kayak. He qualified for the HFWC 7 by winning the 2017 IFA Kayak Fishing Tour Championship held in Venice. Hibbs is looking forward to fishing for the targeted species of European perch and pike— both species he has never caught.

"It's pretty darn cool that we have three guys from Louisiana going, especially considering there are only a few from the entire United States," he said.

Hibbs has competed in some big tournaments over the years, but knows that this stage is his biggest ever.

"Nothing will compare to the scale that this one is on. Just to get the chance to compete against some of the best anglers from all different countries will be truly incredible," he said.

Hibbs has been doing diligent research on tackle and techniques, and plans to be prepared when the competition begins. "It definitely won't be an easy task considering how good some of these guys are,

and it's a completely different area and a fish that I've never seen before. However, I will do my best with the knowledge that Louisiana has taught me to bring the trophy home to the Bayou State for the world to see," he said.

## BRENDAN BAYARD

It's hard to mention a kayak tournament without the name Brendan Bayard coming to mind. Be it Louisiana or regionally-based, Bayard has made more trips to the winner's podium than he can count. As one of the early pioneers of kayak fishing in Louisiana, he's also one of the original founding members of the nationally recognized Bayou Coast Kayak Fishing Club. This will be Bayard's third trip to the HFWC, having participated in the 2012 event in Texas and the 2016 event in Louisiana. Being a local angler for the Leesville event, Bayard was looked to by American and foreign anglers alike for guidance and tips on fishing Louisiana's waters. His assistance was much appreciated by his fellow anglers: so much so, they voted him

the recipient of the Rhino-Rack Anglers' Choice Award, which qualified him to fish the Swedish event — his first fishing trip abroad.

"I'm just honored to be there with the rest of the guys and was totally beyond shocked to get the Anglers' Choice Award. I think it helped that I brought eight cases of Bayou Teche beer to share with the anglers," he said with a chuckle.

Free beer aside, there is no doubting Bayard's kayak angling skills, which certainly qualify him to compete with the best of the best. While the event provides fierce competition, Bayard knows it is much more than just a fishing tournament.

"It's all about the adventure of doing it together with people from all over the world. Making friends from all over, seeing old friends, catching a new species," he said. "Experiencing a new culture and getting out of our local bubble. I'm excited to be a part of team USA." ■

**BEST BETS UP NEXT >**

**Discover the BEST  
Inland Fishing in the South**



**Close to New Orleans**  
**Great Fishing**  
**Duck Hunting**  
**Gated**  
**Pool**  
**Private Launches**  
**Protective Covenants**  
**Close to Marina (Bait/Fuel)**  
**Best Time to Buy**  
**Lawn Maintenance Included**

**Call Hunter Cazes at 985-226-3106**  
**www.FortBMarina.com**

**BOBBY LYNN'S**  
*Marina*

**NEW LOCATION** 209 Moore Rd. 985-396-2678  
Leesville, LA 70357 985-398-0480

[www.bobbylynn.com](http://www.bobbylynn.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



## PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

continued

\*Due the lag time in printing, weather conditions can change the bite so check in regularly with [LouisianaSportsman.com](http://LouisianaSportsman.com) for the latest updates.

# MAY 2018 'YAKIN' BEST BETS

## FRESHWATER

**WHERE:** Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Monroe

**WHAT:** Bream

**HOW:** Black Bayou Lake is a premier fishery for bream, and it's relatively under-fished. Power boats are limited to a 50-hp maximum engine size, and that prohibits the majority of bass boats. Personal watercraft (jet skis) are also prohibited. The lake is well protected by heavy tree cover, and provides perfect paddle craft fishing in a variety of weather conditions.

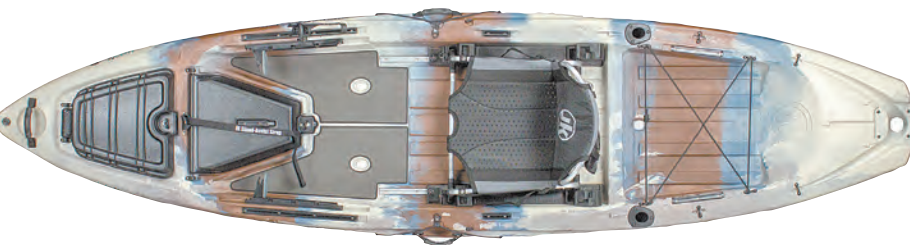
**LAUNCH:** There is a public launch near the refuge visitor center on Richland Place, just off of Highway 165 near. Bream are hungry for live worms, crickets and grass shrimp, but also hit small Beetle Spins in black, yellow/black stripe and white. The fish will generally be concentrated near groups of cypress and gum trees, but also can be found congregated under lily pads or grass patches. Fish each area hard, as multiple fish usually come from the same spot.

**VISITOR CENTER:** 480 Richland Place, Monroe, LA. Call 318-387-1114 or visit Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge on Facebook.

## NEW GEAR REVIEW

### JACKSON KAYAK LISKA

While a lot of the current splash surrounds pedal-drive kayaks, Jackson's new Liska model is making waves for those that prefer traditional paddle 'yaks. Born from the wildly popular Cuda series, the Liska offers many features and upgrades that make it perfect for kayak anglers looking to ply inshore waterways and even nearshore saltwater adventures. It has many unique angler-friendly features that impress newbie kayak anglers and seasoned veterans, alike. The stable platform is wide and allows for easy standing. The adjustable, comfortable, Hi-Lo seating is track mounted for getting the perfect position for any size angler. And the seat is easily removable for use as a place to



loungue at the beach or camp. Loaded with built-in features like track systems, a transducer scupper, rod holders, tackle storage and a rear handle, the Liska is well equipped, but also allows for a multitude of customization opportunities to suit any angler's imagination. The padded deck and large rear well make the Liska a true workhorse. The large front hatch allows for internal storage and has a molded-in paddle keeper. The narrow center console leaves plenty of room on the front deck and makes mounting a fish finder a breeze. The console includes compartments for tackle storage and a fish finder battery. The Liska is

great for a wide variety of water types and fishing styles. Angler-ready, the Liska is functional, versatile and portable. MSRP: \$1,349.

Specs:

Length: 12 feet, 1 inch

Width: 34 inches

Weight: 84 pounds

Capacity: 400 pounds

Colors: Five multi-color options

**More information:**

[www.jacksonkayak.com](http://www.jacksonkayak.com)

**YAK TOURNEY TACTICS** UP NEXT >

# 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](http://www.HurricaneHole.net) / 1851 Highway 1, Grand Isle, LA / [info@hurricanehole.net](mailto:info@hurricanehole.net)

# 'YAK TOURNAMENT TACTICS

**K**ayak tournament season is in high gear, with tournaments being held across the state that cover a wide variety of formats and species. We caught up with some winners to get a few tips on their strategies for success.

## **PADDLE PALOOZA XV - GRAND ISLE**

Louisiana's oldest kayak fishing tournament is hosted by the Bayou Coast Kayak Fishing Club and features a Cajun Slam format, awarding top prizes to those that manage to catch a trout, redfish and flounder. Flounder once again proved elusive, with only seven caught by more than 225 participants. Of those, only three anglers managed to combine their flounder with a trout and a red to weigh in a full Cajun Slam.

Coming out on top was Mark Eubanks with a total slam weight of 8.24 pounds. Obviously born with good fishing genes,

Eubanks' father Tommy is a two-time Paddle Palooza winner, taking home top honors in 2011 and 2013. Mark has placed in several previous kayak tournaments, but this is his first major win.

Eubanks didn't get to pre-fish, but did have a plan.

"I launched early to go hit some favorite spots in Golden Meadow. I was ready at the 5 a.m. lines in time, and immediately began throwing topwater plugs. I also tossed out a cork and Vudu shrimp combo," he said. As the sun came up, Eubanks started getting bites. He missed a big trout that threw the hook, but landed an 18-inch red and 13-inch trout. "I then caught a couple of over-slot reds and then a couple of 22s. I made a few passes over the area and then landed a solid 26-inch red. It was time to flounder search," he said.

Eubanks made several moves by kayak and by vehicle, but his preferred flounder spots were all occupied, including one by

his dad.

As a final plan, he headed to Grand Isle to try his luck at the rocks and camp structures.

"After about 20 minutes, I had a 13 ½-inch flounder take a live minnow fished on a ¼-ounce Carolina rig with a circle hook. I tried for a while to upgrade my flounder, but headed in to the weigh-in since early weigh-in time breaks a tie," he said.

It was a long wait for the final results.

"Knowing that my dad had won Paddle Palooza twice, the pressure was really on now. If I was to win, we would be the first ever father-son combo to win," he said.

When the results were in, Eubanks came out on top and was given the traditional ride in his new Hobie Pro Angler kayak.

"I now have the pressure to repeat, or follow in dad's footsteps and win both Paddle Palooza and Fall N Tide in the same year. If so, we can be the first father and son combo to win both major tournaments in the same year, and I'll be the second person to ever do it," he said.

## **BOATS ON THE BAYOU - NEW ORLEANS**

Started several years ago in conjunction with the City Park Big Bass Rodeo which is shore-based, this fun tournament allows kayak

anglers to participate in a separate division since kayaks are not allowed in the park's lagoons. The event takes place in Bayou St. John and offers trophies in bass, speckled trout, redfish and trash (any other species caught)



Jon Carter



Paddle Palooza XV Champion Mark Eubanks shows of his new Hobie Pro Angler 14 he won by catching the heaviest Cajun Slam. Of more than 225 participants, only three managed to catch a true slam consisting of a trout, a slot redfish and a flounder. Flounder proved ever-elusive, with a total of only seven caught during the whole tournament.

categories. This primarily freshwater bayou was reconnected with Lake Pontchartrain, and is home to a variety of fresh and salt-water species, but the fishing is generally considered pretty tough.

Jon Carter decided to target speckled trout first, betting on better chances before the sun and wind got too high. It worked. "I fished the north end of the bayou (more salty) and caught the trout on my second or third cast to a dock with a hard suspending jerkbait," Carter said. He took the fish to the nearby live weigh-in station. "I then trolled a swim bait around for a while with no luck. It was now mid-morning and the wind was really kicking up, about 20 mph, so I decided to fish some windy points with the trusty jerkbait," he added. He caught a few small bass fishing near the island, but finally landed a much bigger bass. When the results were tallied, Carter took first place in two divisions with his 1.6-pound speck and a 3.89-pound bass.

## MARSH MADNESS TOP BAG - COCODRIE

This unique tournament is hosted by the Lafayette Kayak Fishing Club and features a grab-bag draw of lures on the morning of the tournament.

Each angler submits eight plastic tails and one wildcat lure of their choice. Anglers blindly draw a bag and have the chance of choosing their own submission, so everyone is encouraged to submit quality, confidence lures. Each angler may additionally bring eight jigheads and their own choice of one wildcat lure. That's all they can use to fish in the tournament. As an incentive to submit quality lures, part of the prize money goes to the person who's bag was used by the winning angler. The top prize is for the heaviest combination of two slot-sized redfish.

To virtually no one's surprise, first place was taken by Kalon Johnson, who bested the 66 other anglers to weigh-in two reds totaling just under 12 ½ pounds.

Johnson is a regular to the stage in both kayak and powerboat tournaments.

Possessing redfish whispering skills like no other, he shared some tips that helped him win this tournament.

"The high winds and dirty water made the fishing tough. In these tournament conditions, you have to be mentally tough to get through that long two, three-, four-hour drought without a bite," Johnson said.

While he caught his first slot red before the sun started shining, the other did not come until about noon. His fish were caught on a Matrix purple haze/Chatterbait combination. Due to the high winds, he opted to fish the calm side of the ponds where the water was still dirty, but good enough for him to still see the reds as they floated high in the water column. "Perseverance and patience are always ingredients toward success, and today was a good reminder for me," he said.

## MARSH BASS MADNESS - LACASSINE POOL

The Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club hosted an open bass tournament on the Lacassine Pool featuring a catch-photo-release five-fish stringer of largemouth bass.

Utilizing the TourneyX real-time tournament management system, participating anglers uploaded photos of their qualifying catches and participants (and spectators) could get live standings by checking the app.

Vincent Soliz of Iowa logged in a full five-fish stringer with a total combined length of 67.25 inches. "First thing that



Kalon Johnson

morning, they wanted something flashy. I found fish throwing a spinnerbait where it was deep enough and not too grassy. That bite ended around 8:30 a.m., but I already had three fish logged in," Soliz said. Around 10 a.m., Soliz changed tactics and started fishing areas with lily pads. "I started throwing topwater frogs and speed craws over the pads and dropping them into the holes where the pads were thick," he said.

Soliz ultimately filled out his stringer, and took home first place honors. ■



Vincent Soliz, center

# EASY (AND DELICIOUS) SHRIMP RECIPES



Fishing with a chef is always fun: When you get back to the camp, it's not bologna sandwiches.

Randy Montegut owns, with his wife Julie, Bon Creole Seafood, a New Iberia restaurant with a powerful fol-

lowing amongst locals. Out-of-towners travel specifically to eat there.

But the building has no windows and until recently being repainted, was entirely covered in a faded, bleached, almost imperceptible swamp scene

mural. It is amazing — a true cult food spot.

Randy has moved around in the seafood business. The university-educated biologist started as a crawfish processor in Loreauville in 1982. After four years, he added crab processing.

Then he got into a partnership to create Louisiana Crawfish Wholesalers in St. Martinville and ran the plant, which evolved into packaging whole cooked crawfish for the Swedish market.

But when that market collapsed because of Chinese mudbugs, Randy went back to Bon Creole and peeled crawfish and crabs a few years before access to labor became difficult. He bought the building where the restaurant currently sits to process choupique, a primitive freshwater fish, for their caviar.

"I had always wanted to do an overstuffed po-boy shop. When I supplied crawfish to restaurants, the people who owed me the least money were po-boy and boiled seafood shops. The ones that stuck me with losses were fine dining restaurants.

"Now we are most famous for our shrimp po-boys, but we are selling the heck out of gumbo.

"My next business will be a gumbo business." ■

Shrimp and garlic-olive pasta is a simple dish, but unbelievably savory. **INSET:** When Randy Montegut cooks on the front porch of his camp, he attracts company ready to help — and eat.

# SHRIMP AND GARLIC-OLIVE PASTA

Randy explained the origins of this savory dish. "When I was doing Swedish crawfish, I worked with a German girl married to a Swede," he said. "She ran a restaurant and cooked this dish at my house — but just olives and garlic — no shrimp. I've adapted it to use shrimp."

As for the large amount of garlic in the recipe, Randy responded, "Yes, 25 cloves of garlic — I want to taste the garlic." ■

## PREPARATION: Serves 4-6.

Peel shrimp and set aside. Add enough salt to a medium-sized sauce pan to make the water as salty as seawater. Bring the water to a boil and add the pasta. Cook the pasta until it is al dente, drain, cover and set aside. While the pasta water is heating, drain the olives and slice them into rings. Cut garlic cloves into thin slices. Add olive oil and garlic into a second pot and cook over medium-high heat, constantly stirring, until the garlic begins to slightly brown. Do not overcook. Add the olives and cook, stirring often, until the olives soften, 5 to 7 minutes. Add the shrimp and cook until the shrimp are firm and pink. Do not overcook. Add the drained pasta and stir in enough olive oil to keep the pasta from sticking. Salt and pepper to taste. ■

### TIP!

Randy very often cooks this dish as a side rather than an entrée. When he does, he simply replaces the shrimp with capers to his taste — but obviously not 2 ½ pounds of them. The shrimp dish becomes a pasta dish, and the capers are used to flavor the pasta.

## INGREDIENTS:

- 2 1/2 lbs. medium headless shrimp
- 1/2 lb. angel hair pasta
- 1 6-oz. can black olives
- 1 4-oz. jar green olives
- 25 large cloves of garlic
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- Salt and black pepper to taste



Lots of garlic and olives are the backbone of shrimp and garlic-olive pasta.



After peeling, shrimp should always be thoroughly washed for best taste.



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](mailto:jerald@rockinghorst.com).



**BROWN SHRIMP CREOLE** UP NEXT >

## **BROWN SHRIMP CREOLE**

We have paired Randy's dish with one of our own. This recipe is unusual for a Shrimp Creole because we used roux to tone down the bite of the usual acidic red gravy, and also included less bell pepper than in most recipes.

Other than the presumption that Shrimp Creole originated in New Orleans, it is difficult to untangle the origins and history of this dish. Shrimp Creole is typically red, or as they say in New Orleans, "it has a red gravy." All manner of processed tomato products can be used: paste, sauce, canned, stewed and so forth, depending upon the preference of the cook. ■

### **INGREDIENTS:**

1 lb. peeled shrimp  
1/4 cup flour  
1/3 cup cooking oil  
1 cup hot water  
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce  
1/2 cup chopped green onion  
1/2 cup chopped parsley  
1/4 cup chopped bell pepper  
3 small cloves garlic, chopped  
1 1/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. thyme  
1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper  
1 bay leaf  
1 lemon slice  
2 cups cooked rice

### **PREPARATION:** Serves 4.

Wash the shrimp, and if they're large, cut them in half. Make a roux by cooking flour and oil in a heavy pot. Stir constantly to keep from burning. When the roux turns dark brown, gradually add water and cook until thick and smooth, stirring constantly. Add remaining ingredients except rice. Cover and simmer 20 minutes, then serve over rice.

A dark brown roux gives brown Shrimp Creole its attractive color.



# 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**



# GET THE JUMP ON TOPWATER FROGS

By Patrick Bonin

## ELITE SERIES PRO SHARES HIS TOP 3 TIPS FOR FROG FISHING

**N**ot much can match the pulse-pounding thrill of a giant bass breaking the surface and engulfing a topwater frog.

Hooking up is definitely a thrill, but it takes time, patience and the right equipment to make it happen.

If you're looking to step up your frog game this summer, try these tips from Bassmaster Elite Series

pro Keith Combs to get fish to really commit to your lure:

### 1. CHOOSE THE RIGHT COLOR

This part of the equation isn't all that complicated, Combs said.

"I wouldn't get carried away with buying every color on the market, but I would look at something dark and something light. If I'm going to go out and fish a frog



Bassmaster Elite Series pro Keith Combs landed this big 6-pounder with a topwater frog on a recent trip to Grosse Savanne Lodge in Cameron Parish during Shimano's "Cast Smarter" Media Conference.

Patrick Bonin

## 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](http://www.nettervillelumber.com)  
**800.343.4577**

tournament — even if I've been catching them on black all week — I'm going to have a white one tied on," he said. "If I start missing fish on the black one, I'll switch to the white one and usually that will correct it.

"I don't care who tells you this: You can't go out on a cloudy day and say they're going to bite this color or that color. You can't look at the water color and say they're going to bite this or that. Just let them tell you. If they're eating your bait good, you know you've got it right. But it's a day-to-day, hour-to-hour thing, so give yourself options on color."

## 2. PROPER ACTION IS CRUCIAL

Just twitching the rod might get you some blow-ups, but really getting the frog to "walk" is a big key in connecting with more fish. Working the lure with a slack line is vital, Combs said.

"Somebody who's just learning how to frog — they know you need to twitch the rod. But what you really want to do is twitch it on a slack line to get that frog to walk back and forth," he said. "If it's just

surging through the water, kind of humping through the water, then a lot of fish are going to blow up behind it.

"You want your frog to make three or four short choppy steps side-to-side, then pause ... Three or four short choppy steps, then pause. You want to have your rod tip down, and pump it on a slack line."

## 3. BEEF UP YOUR TACKLE

"I believe you need a 7-foot to a 7-5 heavy action rod with a lot of backbone and a little bit of tip," Combs said. "A fast tip is good, but you need a lot of backbone — so maybe the last foot of the rod has some action to it, but other than that, you're fishing with a pool cue."

A frog is almost like the 4-wheel drive of topwaters, and that's how Combs fishes it.

"A frog is a perfect lure to throw anywhere, where you cannot reach with any other lure — that's the perfect situation to throw a frog. It will come through the cover. If a fish eats your bait on the back side of a laydown, you can bring him over it. So use it like that — but you're going to need a stiff rod.

"And even though you're working the bait fairly slow, it is nice to have a high-gear-ratio reel because a lot of time if you're in open water and you set the hook, that fish may come right at you. You need a fast reel, like a 7.4 to pick up the slack — and I wouldn't recommend fishing less than 50- to 60-pound braided line."

## BONUS TIP: DON'T WAIT TO "FEEL" THE BITE

Combs said you're better off trusting your eyes and your experience when deciding on whether or not to set the hook on a blowup.

"You're walking it on a fairly slack line, so I wouldn't recommend you try to 'feel' the bite," he said. "Just pay very close attention — the more you frog, the more you'll know. When a fish blows up, 95 percent of the time you'll be able to tell if he took it or not just based on the way he hit it.

"Watch your bait. You may have one blow up behind it. Well, you don't want to swing (set the hook) because you might wait and twitch it two more times and he may eat it."



**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**



# HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT REEL GEAR RATIO

IT DEPENDS ON THE TECHNIQUE YOU'RE FISHING By Devin Denman



Matching your reel gear ratio to the technique you're fishing will enable you to not only cover water more efficiently, but capitalize on the strikes you do get — and ultimately put more fish in the box.

Devin Denman

In this day and age we have plenty of fishing reels to choose from. They come in all sizes, shapes and types, with multiple gear ratio options.

This is how I use each gear ratio range to best suit different techniques proven to catch speckled trout and redfish.

## 8:1 GEAR RATIOS

I use a high-speed reel for any technique that involves lots of slack line. These include, but are not limited to, topwater lures, jerkbaits and jigs.

To be clear, by “jigs” I mean a jighead,

usually 1/8- to 1/2-ounce, with a 3-inch soft plastic on it, typically a paddle-tail like a Deadly Dudley or Matrix Shad.

Having the fast gear ratio is important because it will achieve more inches-per-turn on each wind of the reel.

**PRO-DRIVE**  
SHALLOW WATER OUTBOARDS™

**ProDriveOutboards.com 337-229-0034**

/prodriveoutboards
 /prodriveoutboards
 /prodrivevids

This will quickly take up slack between twitches, jerks and jigs of the rod tip, improving my odds of landing fish when they do strike.

## 7:1 GEAR RATIOS

This is my favorite for swim-baits, ranging from 4 to 7 inches in length. I love using this reel for sight-fishing redbait, because it strikes that perfect balance I need.

A 7:1 is not so fast that it will hamper the action of the swim-bait, maybe causing it to rise to the surface or swim at an odd angle. But it is fast enough to quickly burn in a bait and recast to a sighted red.

## 6:1 GEAR RATIOS

This slower gear ratio is the workhorse for my lipless crankbaits (like a Rat-L-Trap), spoons and especially spinnerbaits.

Again, it's not so fast that it interferes with a bait's action, but has the extra cranking power for slower lures like a spinnerbait with big Colorado blades.

## WHAT IF I COULD ONLY PICK ONE?

If I could only have one reel, then it would make sense to spend my hard-earned dollars on a 6:1, with the rest for gas to run the boat.

A 6:1 can do it all, including jigging and sight-fishing redbait. And an 8:1 would be aggravating to work with when throwing slower lures. ■

*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](http://lafishblog.com).*

# 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](http://WWW.BRAMMERCAJUNPRODUCTS.COM)

f @BRAMMERMACHINE



## 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](http://www.louisianasportsman.com)



Click on the Louisiana Sportsman Outdoor Store on the Louisiana Sportsman home page at [www.lasmag.com](http://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

# KNOWING WHERE WATER MOVES FIRST

SPECKS LIKE MOVING WATER — SO YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO FIND IT

Understanding flow velocity, and where water will start moving first, is a big key to locating feeding specks — especially when the tide goes slack.

By Devin Denman

It's common knowledge that specks use moving water to their advantage: They'll lay in ambush just out of the current, and wait for bait to pass before lunging out and striking.

So it makes sense that if you want to catch speckled trout, you've got to know what the tide is doing.

But what happens when the tide doesn't do what is predicted? Imagine it being slack when it's supposed to be falling hard.

After all, there are natural forces like the wind in play, and at that point in time your fishing trip is dead — at least until the water starts moving again.

But where will that be?

Here is key knowledge to keep in your back pocket for when that situation inevitably arises.

## UNDERSTANDING HOW WATER MOVES

Water is a fluid that hardly compresses and, because of this, will change how it

moves through different spaces.

When pushed through a smaller space it will speed up, but when flowing through a larger one, it will slow down.

This concept is called “flow velocity,” and is nothing more than a fancy \$10 word used to describe how fast water moves through a space.

You can experiment with flow velocity by putting your thumb over a running garden hose.

What happens to the water? It shoots out like a firehose, right? Remove your thumb and it will slow down to a steady flow.

You can apply this same concept to discover where water will move first when the tide turns around.

## WHERE WATER MOVES FIRST

When the tide is slack you should start looking for bottlenecks between two larger bodies of water.

This includes passes and even bayous,

though there are other spots you should try as well.

The tips of large islands, big points and the ends of rock jetties are great places to look, too.

Speckled trout have to eat and any mistake could be deadly, so they have already located these spots and know to be there if they want to be fed.

## CONCLUSION

Speckled trout utilize moving water to ambush passing baitfish.

Knowing where the water moves first — especially when the tide is slack — is key to salvaging a fishing trip.

Just be sure to be the first one there, because you likely won't be the only angler headed that way. ■

*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](http://lafishblog.com).*

# PARISH TRACTOR

One of the  
**LARGEST**  
Kubota dealers in  
**NORTH  
AMERICA**



## KOMMANDER SERIES

- 21-25 HP Kawasaki, Briggs & Stratton or KOHLER Gasoline Engine Options
- 42", 48" or 54" 10-Gauge, Fully Welded Mower Decks
- Patented Steering System for Superior Handling
- Easy-To-Use Patented Deck Lift

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS

**\$81<sup>00</sup>** PER MONTH<sup>2</sup>

**\$0** DOWN | **0% A.P.R.** FINANCING | **48** MONTHS<sup>1</sup>

## BX80 SERIES

- Reliable Kubota Diesel Engine
- Ergonomic Operator Station with Easy-To-Read Instrument Panel
- Performance-Matched Loader and Other Implements Available
- #1 Selling Sub-Compact Tractor in the USA<sup>3</sup>

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS

**\$99<sup>00</sup>** PER MONTH. **INCLUDES MOWER DECK**

**0% A.P.R. FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS**



## L2501DT

- Reliable Kubota Diesel Engine
- Spacious, Ergonomic Operator Deck and Foldable ROPS
- Performance-Matched Loader, Backhoe, and Other Implements Available

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS

**\$129<sup>00</sup>** PER MONTH<sup>4</sup>

**0% A.P.R. FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS**



**POPLARVILLE**  
601-795-4521  
1602 S. Main St



[www.parishtractor.com](http://www.parishtractor.com)

**HATTIESBURG**  
601-264-5877  
7061 Hwy 49

(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. (3) AEM/EDA Industry Data, 2017. (4) 0% A.P.R., 20% down, financing for 84 months on purchases of new BX1880 Plus 54" standard mower-deck from participating dealer's in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation USA; subject to credit approval. Example: 84 monthly payments of \$11.90 per \$1,000 financed. Example amount based on sales price of \$10,395. Each dealer sets own price. Prices and payments may vary. Offer expires 6/30/18. See us or go to KubotaUSA.com for more info. (5) 0% A.P.R., 20% down, financing for 84 months on purchases of new L2501DT from participating dealer's in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation USA; subject to credit approval. Example: 84 monthly payments of \$11.90 per \$1,000 financed. Example amount based on sales price of \$13,545.00. Each dealer sets own price. Prices and payments may vary. Offer expires 6/30/18. See us or go to KubotaUSA.com for more info.



# TOPWATER TROUBLES?

IF YOU'RE GETTING BLOWUPS BUT NO HOOKUPS, TRY THESE TIPS

By Patrick Bonin

**M**ay is a great month to throw topwater lures for speckled trout all along the coast, and it's especially true in Big Lake.

"It's prime time," said Capt. Nick Poe, with Big Lake Guide Service. "May is a great topwater month. They're typically right in the middle of the spawn and they're usually willing to eat topwaters, so you always catch a lot better fish on topwaters."

But sometimes, it seems like the trout just won't cooperate.

"Especially in the first part of the month, they'll be in a finicky mood coming off spring and winter," Poe said. "So a lot of times you'll get a lot of blowups — but you won't be catching any fish."

Poe can 'walk the dog' with the best of them, but he said it's hard to pinpoint why on some days trout just won't commit to a topwater lure.



Sometimes — for whatever reason — speckled trout just won't commit to your topwater presentation. When that happens, Capt. Nick Poe switches to a twitchbait, then opts for a soft plastic on an 1/8-ounce jighead if the fish are really finicky.

Photo courtesy Capt. Nick Poe



# CARGO LIFTS

**THREE MODELS ★ THREE CHOICES ★ SAME QUALITY**

*DO-IT-YOURSELF KITS NOW AVAILABLE!*

Cargo Lift Distributors, LLC located in Port Bolivar, Texas



**EasyLift™**  
Lifts 1000 lbs

*Equipped with "Cage-Arrest™" Brake System & Safety Screen to protect cargo from falling out.*



**EconomyLift™**  
Lifts 1000 lbs

*This cage features balusters to better match deck hand railing.*

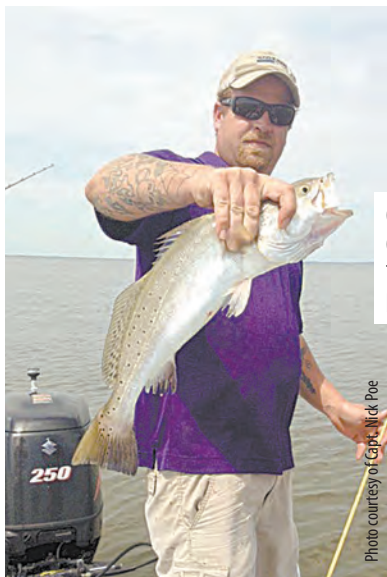


**MiniLift™**  
Lifts 500 lbs

*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](http://www.beachouselifts.com)**



Capt. Jeff Poe holds up a hefty Calacasiu Lake speckled trout. Topwaters are a great way to target bigger fish this month on Big Lake.

“You’ll see them hit 2 or 3 feet behind it and you know that fish isn’t really trying to eat that bait,” he said. “If he was trying to eat it, he’d eat it.”

“In the bass fishing

world, if you’re working a topwater and they’re hitting behind it, they say you’re going too slow. But in the saltwater world, people say if you’re working a topwater and they hit it and miss it, stop it. My deal is if I’m getting blowups, then I know they’re there. So I’m going to find something else to catch them on. Whatever it takes, I’m going to figure it out.”

## TRY A SUSPENDING TWITCHBAIT ...

Poe’s first option is to switch to a suspending twitchbait like a MirrOdine if he’s in pretty water. (His favorite color is black with an orange belly.) If the water is stained, he opts for a Corky or Soft-Dine.

“If I’m around good fish, I’m going to the suspending twitchbait,” Poe said. “If I’m in 14- or 15-inch fish, I’ll catch them on a jig because they’re easier to unhook and get it back in the water. But you’ll always catch bigger fish on a bigger bait.”

## THEN DO THE JIG ...

If the twitchbait doesn’t get any takers, then he opts for MirrOlure Lil Johns on an 1/8-ounce jighead.

“Unless I’m fishing in the (Ship) Channel or dealing with some kind of mega-tide or something like that, an 1/8-ounce is usually what I have tied on,” Poe explained. “But usually if there’s a mega-tide you’ve got dirty water, so I probably wouldn’t stop and fish it, anyway.”

In pretty water, Poe opts for the Lil Johns in opening night and watermelon red. If the water is a bit more dirty, he goes with colors like molting and glow.

## THEN GO SOMEWHERE ELSE

And if he strikes out with the soft plastics?

“My next option is to pack it up and head somewhere else, because they just don’t want to eat,” he said with a chuckle. “They’re there and they might help me the next day, but they’re worthless to me then.” ■



Capt. Eddie Berthelot, Jr.

Spots & Specks  
CHARTERS, LLC



Golden Meadow to Grand Isle  
Inland & Coastal Fishing

USCG Licensed & Insured

985-637-3177

Idwflis #057-087-5112 See us on f

fishing2morrow@yahoo.com

spotsandspeckscharters.net

## Top Whitetail Destination in the World

Now Booking For the 2018 Hunting Season

Are you ready for the whitetail hunting trip of a lifetime?



## PRIME MISSOURI HUNTING PROPERTY

1,700 acre whitetail ranch in Bismarck, Missouri

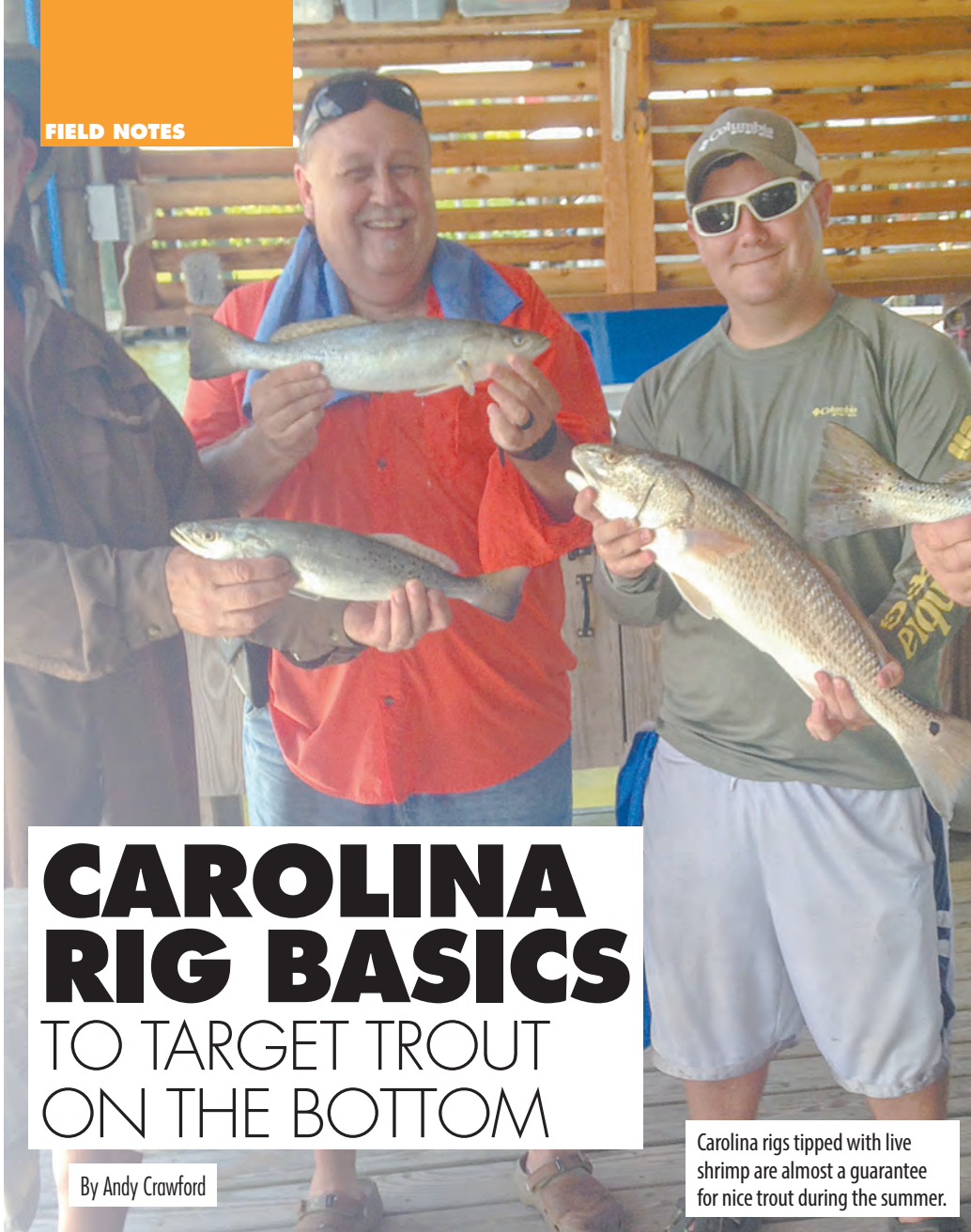
100% No Kill, No Pay

1-573-624-0100

randy@twinlakesparadise.com



www.twinlakeswhitetails.com



# CAROLINA RIG BASICS

## TO TARGET TROUT ON THE BOTTOM

By Andy Crawford

Carolina rigs tipped with live shrimp are almost a guarantee for nice trout during the summer.

It's hard to beat a Carolina rig for catching big summer trout, Grand Isle's Capt. Jake Scardino said.

"I prefer to fish a Carolina rig, but a lot of my customers are novices, so it's easier for them to fish with corks," Scardino said.

But if he has some seasoned anglers onboard, the corks usually get exchanged for bottom-dragging rigs.

Scardino's rigs are built on a foundation of 14-pound mono, which he said is better than braid for a couple of reasons.

"If a client is fishing with braid and they get hung up, it's much harder to break off," Scardino said. "It's also easier to tie to mono, so if they break off I can quickly tie a new leader on with mono."

A 3/8-ounce sliding weight goes on the main line first to keep the rig on the bottom as he drags it back to the boat.

Scardino then attaches a No. 10 swivel to the main line, and uses 16 to 20 inches of 30-pound fluorocarbon for the leader.

A No. 1 or 2 kahle hook goes on the business end of the leader, and he finishes it off with a frisky live shrimp.

So how does he hook the crustacean? He'll start by horn-hooking the bait, but he's not married to that approach.

"It depends on the bite," Scardino said. "If the fish are really slamming the shrimp, I'll keep hooking them in the horn. But if it looks like they slow down, I'll turn it around and hook them through the tails.

"It allows the shrimp to do something different. And sometimes you'd be surprised: Later in the season, trout get sore-mouthed, so they get shy of the horn. Hooking them in the tail allows them to bite without getting stuck." ■



Feel the Wind™  
A smarter, more exciting  
boating experience.





Feel the  
Wind™



## MFS 50/40

POWERS TO REACH  
YOUR DESTINATION

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.





## WEATHERBY MARK V CARBONMARK RIFLE

The latest edition to the Weatherby line is the Mark V CarbonMark, a bolt-action rifle with the company's 9-lug magnum action attached to a carbon-fiber barrel from Proof Research.

Offered in the company's .257, 6.5-300 and .300 Weatherby magnum cartridges, the rifles feature aerospace-grade carbon fiber that's up to 30 times stronger than stainless steel and 64 percent lighter than traditional steel barrels. The 26-inch barrel is finished in tactical grey Cerakote.

The Mark V CarbonMark, which retails for \$4,100, carries Weatherby's SUB-MOA accuracy guarantee, promising 3-shot groups less than an inch in diameter at 100 yards when used with Weatherby factory or premium ammunition.

**More Info:** [www.weatherby.com](http://www.weatherby.com)



## MERCURY'S V-6 FOURSTROKE OUTBOARDS

Mercury Marine decided that its 75- to 150-horsepower FourStroke outboards were so successful, the company has debuted a line of bigger engines with the same features.

Earlier this year, Mercury introduced V-6 4-Stroke engines in 175-, 200- and 225-horsepower models, explaining the engines are lighter, more compact and fuel-efficient.

Built on the 3.4-liter V-6 platform, the new engines offer plenty of options as far as mechanical or digital controls, and hydraulic or power steering.

The 200-horsepower model weighs only 475 pounds, the lightest weight in its class by more than 10 pounds, and Mercury said it provides more torque than other outboards of similar sizes at cruising speeds, while providing up to 15 percent better fuel efficiency than its competitors.

The new engines will be offered in black, three shades of whites and four accent-color panels.

**More Info:** [www.mercurymarine.com](http://www.mercurymarine.com)

## CRANKA CRAB

Sheepshead fishing is part fun, part frustration, and one of the frustrations comes from the fish's ability to steal your bait before you know it. The main bait of choice among sheepshead anglers is a live fiddler crab. And catching the crabs, keeping them alive and constantly rebaiting with them is no fun — and it's time-consuming.

But sheepshead anglers finally have a viable artificial alternative, and it's one of the hottest artificial lures on the market today. The fine details make the Cranka Crab look as life-like as the real thing, and the unique hook placement (one treble hook on each of the floating claws) means a much higher hookup rate for anglers.

As the body of the fake fiddler either sits on the bottom, sinks or rests in the water column, the claws float upward, dancing and swaying in the current to entice sheepshead to bite. And there's no need to set the hook; just lift the rod, then reel.

The lure is available in two sizes and many different color variations.

**More Info:** [www.crankalures.com](http://www.crankalures.com)



## FLYING FISHERMAN POLARIZED EYEWEAR

By Andy Crawford

Good, quality polarized sunglasses cost an arm and a leg, right? Wrong. Flying Fisherman polarized eyewear offer quality protection at a price that won't hurt the pocketbook.

And the glasses come in more than 45 styles in three collections.

Flying Fisherman's Action Angler Series is the entry level line of glasses, featuring triacetate polarized lenses. The AcuTint Polarized Lens System offers 100 percent UV protection, and the lenses are hard-coated for scratch resistance.

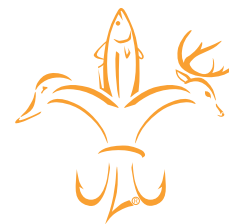
Action Angler glasses come in 25 adult models and three junior models. There also are six available clip-on models.

The next step is the Master Series Polarized Polycarbonate glasses that come in 13 models (plus three readers) and feature shatterproof RhinoLenses that are optically correct for enhanced clarity. The AcuTint Polarized Lens System are hard-coated for scratch resistance and provide 100 percent UV protection.

Move to the Master Angler Series glass line for superior ground and polished polarized glass lenses. The two options in this series employ Flying Fisherman's AcuTint polarized system, and provide high scratch resistance and the sharpest lens clarity.

Retail prices range from \$29.95 to \$89.97.

**More Info:** [www.flyingfisherman.com](http://www.flyingfisherman.com)



**Follow Us — On the water and on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/laspportsman](http://www.facebook.com/laspportsman)



## SPRO TARU SWIVELS

By Andy Crawford

One of the reasons I hate using spoons is the line twist that invariably happens, but the solution is to use swivels. And Spro's new Taru swivels offer all the lure movement necessary to catch more fish.

And these new swivels provide something other models don't: The breaking point of the swivel.

Snap and barrel swivels are available. Taru barrel swivels come in five sizes (3 through 12) with five strengths (from 28 to 100 pounds), while Taru snap swivels range from 28 to 50-pound-test over its five sizes.

Quality components deliver peak performance.

Both versions retail for \$2.13 per pack.

**More Info:** [www.spro.com](http://www.spro.com)





**Ozzy Martinez**

This 22-inch trout was caught at the MRGO with a MirrOlure C-Eye by Ozzy Martinez of Denham Springs.



**Patrick Descant**

Patrick Descant of Madisonville with the 203-pound 12-point he killed in Choctaw County, Ala., on Nov. 24, 2017.

**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](mailto:alicial@lasmag.com). Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format.



**Charleigh Champagne**

Charleigh Champagne celebrates a nice speckled trout with her mom Kristi, and "brothers" Drake and Reggie. Charleigh is the daughter of Matrix Shad owner Chas Champagne.



**Joe Rovira Jr.**

Eight-year-old Joe Rovira Jr. shot his first doe on Nov. 11 in Quitman, Miss.



**Jack Pregeant**

Jack Pregeant caught this 37-inch redfish in Bayou Barre, and took a picture before he tagged and released it.



**Tristan Morrison**

Tristan Morrison, 15, of Larose, caught his first redfish at a dock in Cut Off last spring.



**Maria Xiang**

Maria Xiang hooked this redfish while on a trip with her husband out of the new Hopedale Marina.



**Mike Guthrie**

Mike Guthrie with a nice mess of sac-a-lait taken from Duck Lake in St. Martin Parish.



**Jace Morgan**

Jace Morgan, 9, of Bossier City, caught this 8-pound hawg by himself on a fishing trip with his dad at Caddo Lake.



**Kendall Reed**

Kendall Reed with two hogs she knocked down in Pecan Island.



**Leo Labourdette Jr.**

Leo Labourdette Jr. of Mandeville shot this 145-pound 8-point on Thanksgiving evening at Hunt N Freedom in Laurel, Miss.



**Michael Veisor**

Michael Veisor caught these schooling reds on a fishing trip to Lake Borgne.



**Mary Veisor**

Mary Veisor poses with her first-ever speckled trout, caught in Lake Borgne.



**Chester Celestine**

Chester Celestine with a beautiful 6-pound, 25-inch speckled trout caught in Leesville.



**Hayden Templeton**

Hayden Templeton killed his first buck on Oct. 28, 2017 in Fardoche. Hayden used a .223 caliber rifle and shot the 190-pound 8-point buck at 89 yards.



**Bella Killmer**

Bella Killmer, 10, of Sulphur, shot this nice 108-pound doe in Beauregard Parish on Nov. 11, 2017. She took down the deer with a 75-yard shot using her .243.



**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

## Great Turkey and Deer Hunting

- **654 acres Wilkinson Co.** Located 9 miles east of hwy 61 at Woodville, Utilities available and campsite, lots of river frontage on Buffalo river, gentle rolling hills & excellent road system, hardwoods & pines. full of deer & turkey. \$3,400 per acre.
- **263 acres Wilkinson Co.** "Meyer Ranch", 3,500 sq ft lodge is top of ridge with breathtaking views, high fence enclosure with a well managed whitetail herd, This is a turn key property. \$1,300,000
- **Home & 49 acres in Jefferson Co.** Deep in the woods on the Adams/Jefferson co lies this rare gem, lies west of hwy 553 b/w Church Hill & Anna's Bottom, 2,200 sq ft home, this property is known for producing big bucks and turkeys. \$399,000.
- **455 acres in Copiah Co.** Located just 10 minutes from Hazelhurst and just a few off I-55, this is incredible hunting tract, food plots with stands and great interior road system, electricity & water are available, tons of investment opportunities. \$1,205,750



Call Daniel Case @ 601-597-0060  
Todd Case @ 601-408-5621  
[www.caselandco.com](http://www.caselandco.com)

## 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](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov)



### SALTWATER

#### STATE REGULATIONS (0-10.357 miles<sup>Δ</sup>)

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 <sup>Δ</sup> & Black <sup>Δ</sup>	24" TL	4/day (aggregate)*
Nassau & Goliath	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
Red <sup>Δ</sup> & Yellowfin <sup>Δ</sup>	20" TL	
Scamp <sup>Δ</sup>	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.

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](http://neighborsfcu.org/boat)

# May 2018

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
1st	6:17 a.m.	7:38 p.m.
2nd	6:17 a.m.	7:38 p.m.
3rd	6:16 a.m.	7:39 p.m.
4th	6:15 a.m.	7:40 p.m.
5th	6:14 a.m.	7:40 p.m.
6th	6:13 a.m.	7:41 p.m.
7th	6:13 a.m.	7:42 p.m.
8th	6:12 a.m.	7:42 p.m.
9th	6:11 a.m.	7:43 p.m.
10th	6:10 a.m.	7:44 p.m.
11th	6:10 a.m.	7:44 p.m.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
12th	6:09 a.m.	7:45 p.m.
13th	6:08 a.m.	7:45 p.m.
14th	6:08 a.m.	7:46 p.m.
15th	6:07 a.m.	7:47 p.m.
16th	6:06 a.m.	7:47 p.m.
17th	6:06 a.m.	7:48 p.m.
18th	6:05 a.m.	7:49 p.m.
19th	6:05 a.m.	7:49 p.m.
20th	6:04 a.m.	7:50 p.m.
21st	6:04 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
22nd	6:03 a.m.	7:51 p.m.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
23rd	6:03 a.m.	7:52 p.m.
24th	6:02 a.m.	7:52 p.m.
25th	6:02 a.m.	7:53 p.m.
26th	6:02 a.m.	7:53 p.m.
27th	6:01 a.m.	7:54 p.m.
28th	6:01 a.m.	7:55 p.m.
29th	6:01 a.m.	7:55 p.m.
30th	6:00 a.m.	7:56 p.m.
31st	6:00 a.m.	7:56 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](http://www.LouisianaSportsman.com)

## 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 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](http://www.bridgesidecabinsandmarina.net)

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](http://www.LouisianaSportsman.com)

Orange Beach Billfish Classic  
May 16-20

Blue Marlin Grand Championship  
July 10-15

**OrangeBeach.com / 877-475-1534**

May 2018 | Louisiana Sportsman 167

## 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 MAY	BEST DAYS				VALUE
	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL	
Tue 1					45
Wed 2					33
Thu 3					26
Fri 4					25
Sat 5					25
Sun 6					32
Mon 7					44
Tue 8					37
Wed 9					35
Thu 10					38
Fri 11					42
Sat 12					55
Sun 13					69
Mon 14					82
Tue 15					91
Wed 16					83
Thu 17					76
Fri 18					65
Sat 19					59
Sun 20					61
Mon 21					68
Tue 22					55
Wed 23					47
Thu 24					43
Fri 25					41
Sat 26					48
Sun 27					56
Mon 28					64
Tue 29					66
Wed 30					54
Thu 31					43

25 50 75  
AVERAGE

For more, visit [primetimes2.com](http://primetimes2.com)

LUNAR PERIODS					
TIMES OCCURRING AT NIGHT ARE SHADED					
MOON RISE	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD	MOON SET	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT		
9:41 pm	1:33 am - 2:55 am	7:40 am	1:58 pm - 3:20 pm		
10:37 pm	2:24 am - 3:40 am	8:19 am	2:49 pm - 4:05 pm		
11:30 pm	3:16 am - 4:24 am	9:02 am	3:41 pm - 4:49 pm		
	4:06 am - 5:12 am	9:48 am	4:31 pm - 5:37 pm		
12:19 am	4:55 am - 6:01 am	10:37 am	5:20 pm - 6:26 pm		Apogee
1:04 am	5:43 am - 6:49 am	11:29 am	6:08 pm - 7:14 pm	LOW	
1:46 am	6:27 am - 7:39 am	12:22 pm	6:52 pm - 8:04 pm	HALF	
2:25 am	7:08 am - 8:30 am	1:17 pm	7:33 pm - 8:55 pm		
3:00 am	7:48 am - 9:20 am	2:14 pm	8:13 pm - 9:45 pm		
3:34 am	8:27 am - 10:13 am	3:12 pm	8:52 pm - 10:38 pm		
4:07 am	9:05 am - 11:07 am	4:11 pm	9:30 pm - 11:32 pm		
4:40 am	9:44 am - 12:02 pm	5:13 pm	10:09 pm - 12:27 am		
5:15 am	10:24 am - 1:00 pm	6:16 pm	10:49 pm - 1:25 am		
5:52 am	11:08 am - 1:58 pm	7:23 pm	11:33 pm - Midnight		
6:33 am	11:55 am - 3:01 pm	8:30 pm	Midnight - 2:23 am	NEW	
7:19 am	12:48 pm - 4:04 pm	9:39 pm	12:20 am - 3:26 am		
8:11 am	1:46 pm - 5:08 pm	10:44 pm	1:13 am - 4:29 am	Perigee	
9:10 am	2:47 pm - 6:09 pm	11:45 pm	2:11 am - 5:33 am	HIGH	
10:13 am	3:48 pm - 7:08 pm		3:12 am - 6:34 am		
11:19 am	4:51 pm - 8:01 pm	12:40 am	4:13 am - 7:33 am		
12:25 pm	5:51 pm - 8:51 pm	1:28 am	5:16 am - 8:26 am	HALF	
1:30 pm	6:50 pm - 9:36 pm	2:10 am	6:16 am - 9:16 am		
2:33 pm	7:47 pm - 10:17 pm	2:48 am	7:15 am - 10:01 am		
3:35 pm	8:43 pm - 10:55 pm	3:23 am	8:12 am - 10:42 am		
4:36 pm	9:38 pm - 11:34 pm	3:56 am	9:08 am - 11:20 am		
5:35 pm	10:31 pm - 12:13 am	4:29 am	10:03 am - 11:59 am		
6:34 pm	11:25 pm - Midnight	5:03 am	10:56 am - 12:38 pm		
7:32 pm	Midnight - 12:53 am	5:38 am	11:50 am - 1:18 pm	SUN	
8:28 pm	12:17 am - 1:35 am	6:16 am	12:42 pm - 2:00 pm	FULL	
9:23 pm	1:10 am - 2:18 am	6:57 am	1:35 pm - 2:43 pm		
10:14 pm	2:00 am - 3:06 am	7:42 am	2:25 pm - 3:31 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 BOLD BLACK TYPE.

For more information and samples of PrimeTimes products, visit our web site: [www.primetimes2.com](http://www.primetimes2.com)

# Work Boat Specialist



20' to 40'  
Boats Available



**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](http://www.scullyboats.com) • [info@scullysaluminumboats.com](mailto:info@scullysaluminumboats.com)

make every day

Perfect!



Sun  
**TRACKER**

## PARTY BARGE 22 DLX

Two- or four-legged, everyone onboard will appreciate the huge amount of comfort and convenience this boat brings to your outing. From the smooth, stable platform provided by the 24" pontoon logs to the almost ridiculous amounts of storage under the cushions and in the seat backs. This boat is ready for huge amounts of fun.

**\$25,395**

w/ 115 ELPT FourStroke  
Command Thrust  
Price Excludes  
Optional Trailer, Prep, and Freight

**HENDERSON**

**337.436.4366**

2351 E. MCNEESE ST.  
INTERSTATE 210 HWY 14 EXIT  
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70607

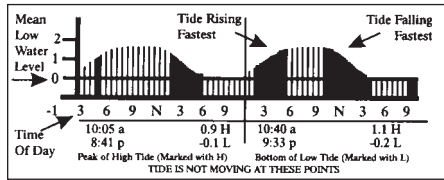
**337.893.1451**

211238 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR.  
ABBEVILLE, LA 70510





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

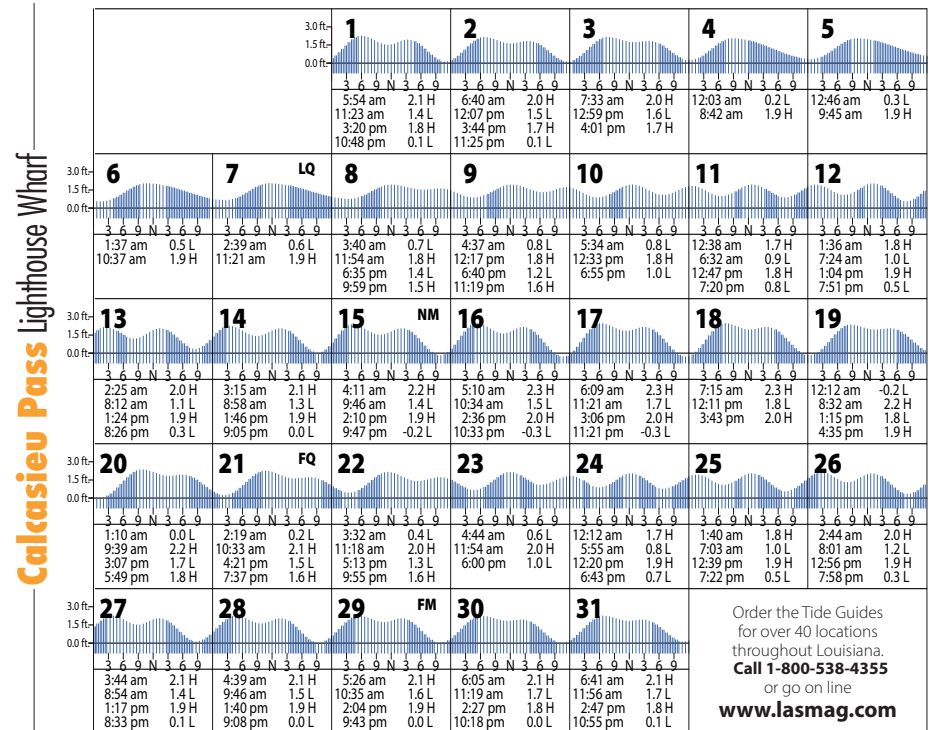
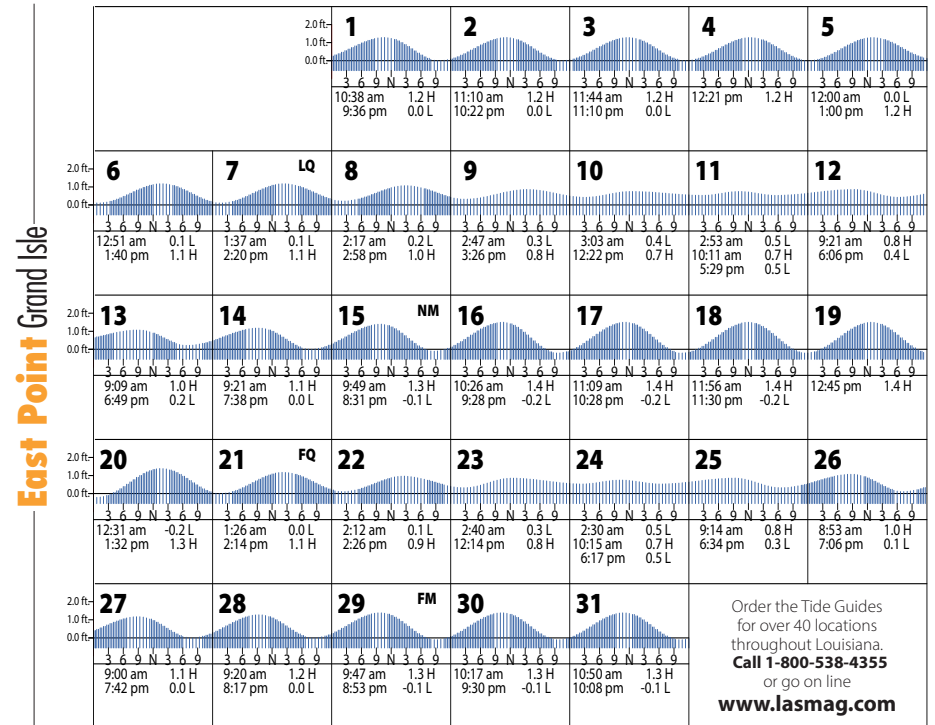
**East Point, Grand Isle** HIGH LOW

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

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



Order the Tide Guides for over 40 locations throughout Louisiana. Call 1-800-538-4355 or go on line [www.lasmag.com](http://www.lasmag.com)

Order the Tide Guides for over 40 locations throughout Louisiana. Call 1-800-538-4355 or go on line [www.lasmag.com](http://www.lasmag.com)

# Summertime is Fishing Time

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

Louisiana**SPORTSMAN**.com/subscribe

\*Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue



Louisiana  
**SPORTSMAN**

# Sportsman FISHING HOTSPOTS



## TROUT OPTIONS OUT OF VENICE

Capt. Ross Montet puts clients on consistent speckled trout action this time of year using live shrimp and plastics.

### KEEP AN EYE ON THE RIVER WHEN PLANNING YOUR TRIP

**F**ishing out of Venice usually depends on what the Mississippi River is doing — and May is no exception.

"You want to make sure the river is on the fall in May, even though it's high," Buras guide Capt. Ross Montet said. "If it's on the rise, it'll keep the fish pushed out."

If the river is falling and in good condition, Montet recommended fishing places like Breton Island and the Empire Jetties for speckled trout and redfish.

However, if conditions aren't perfect, Montet likes to focus on a different location.

"If the (wind) is out the southeast, it pushes a lot of dirty water from Red Pass

back in, and it puts dirty water on top of us, so sometimes we have to go up toward Four Bayou and that direction," he said. "If you're dealing with a river situation, that would be the area to go (check)."

Once he makes it there, Montet said there is a litany of structure to fish.

"They've got some old islands out there," he said. "I just started fishing out there 10 years ago, so I don't know what's what. I didn't get to see it when it was actually there, but I'll fish islands, or if there's a reef I can see sticking out on a lower tide, I'll fish that."

Montet also noted the Four Bayou area is littered with camps that also hold fish.

When fishing the structure, Montet sets up clients with popping cork-suspended live shrimp. Additionally, he chunks a ¼-ounce jighead with a Z-Man DieZel MinnowZ.

With the whole Buras area being heavily influenced by the Mississippi River, Montet said it's important for anglers to distinguish between pure river water and a fresh water surface layer.

"I've also fished on our end in Empire where you'll have silty looking water, but underneath will be pretty clean," he said. "I've done well in it." ■

- Joel Masson

# TRY CRAWFISH FOR D'ARBONNE BREAM

**B**luegill and chinquapin bream are just getting going on Lake D'Arbonne in Union Parish. And while there are many ways to catch them, you need to stand out in the crowd to make the most of it — and that doesn't mean wearing a bright yellow shirt or singing country songs loudly in the boat.

It means following Randy Tucker's best spring bream fishing tip.

"If there are 50 boats out there bream fishing with crickets and worms and one boat fishing with tiny 1-inch crawfish, the guys fishing crawfish will stand out in the crowd," the veteran bream buster said. "They'll be catching 10 to everybody else's one."

"Water temps have to get to about 75 degrees for bream to really get going. When it hits that, the fish start to bed. When they do that, they will jump on a crawfish anytime they see one because they don't want it in the nest. They might just nudge or nibble on a cricket, but they'll smack that crawfish."

Tucker says fishing for spring bream also requires patience. You won't find them in big piles this time of year, but if you work your way down a good looking bank, fish in 3 to 6 feet of water with your bait about a foot off the bottom and pay attention, you'll catch fish. Any area of the lake with structure, from cypress trees to boat docks to grassy banks, will hold bream.

Some favorite areas on the big lake are the coves on the south end by the spillway, the banks around Terral Island and up in Stowe Creek. Both arms of the lake, Corney Creek and Little D'Arbonne, also have miles of great shoreline for bream fishing.

## HOW TO CATCH CRAWFISH

The big "catch" to follow Tucker's crawfish fishing tip is that you have to first go out

and catch your own bait.

Tucker does that with a long pole and a 4-foot small mesh seine on the end. He pulls it through shallow grass in ditches and ruts

them cool to keep them alive and ready to go.

If you can't find crawfish, don't let that keep you from going, Tucker said. Red



Randy Tucker with his favorite fish — a big D'Arbonne bluegill.

where water stays pretty much all year long.

You may have to try five or six spots, but you will eventually get into some small crawfish. Put them in an ice chest with wet newspaper in the bottom and keep

wigglers, Canadian cold worms, crickets and meal worms will all catch fish, too. The main thing is just go, give it a try and keep your eye on that bobber. ■

- Kinny Haddox

## GOT PICS? Send 'em in!

Email images to: [images@LouisianaSportsman.com](mailto: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.

# FIND THE BAIT IN COCODRIE

The presence of shrimp means trout are there, too

**S**ometimes fishing holes are just like real estate: It's all about location, location, location. Even more specifically, prime real estate is wherever bait might be gathering.

So Cocodrie Capt. Tommy Pellegrin looks for bait this time of year, rather than heading to a certain location.

"Anywhere they'll have shrimp, they'll have fish," he said. "That's the time where you're going to see a lot of birds diving."

With that being said, Pellegrin does have specific areas that he likes to focus on, including Lake Pelto and Timbalier Bay.

Pellegrin, as a general rule, likes the transition areas where he can intercept the fish.

"The trout are just making their way out the marsh and going into the higher-salinity areas to start spawning," he said.

When fishing in these places, Pellegrin focuses on the shell reefs and points for bigger fish, and falls back on diving birds when he has to because of a dead current.

"You can kind of catch fish on any (tide) except for when the tide's extremely dead slack," he said. "That's when you're going to have to find the birds diving in open

water. Those fish don't care; they'll be out there no matter what — but they're smaller fish."

Pellegrin also said a raging tide isn't good, either.

"The heavy, heavy current movement dirties the water up a bit and it makes the trout hunker down deeper on the bottom," he said.

Because the fish are feeding on shrimp, Pellegrin likes live shrimp for bait.

However, live shrimp can get expensive, particularly when they're being mauled by undesirable species, so instead of constantly putting them on his hook, Pellegrin saves them for productive areas. When testing new waters, he uses the Berkley Rattle Shrimp.

"That way you're not wasting your live shrimp searching," he said. "If you start getting little (takedowns) and bites, and you catch a trout or two but it's not really fast — switch to live shrimp and see if it's faster. Sometimes it is, and sometimes you can stick with the Rattle Shrimp and just wear them out." ■

- Joel Masson

Cane River up next >



Capt. Tommy Pellegrin said nice speckled trout can be found using live shrimp and plastics this month.

**1<sup>st</sup>** *First 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

WHERE AMATEURS

**WIN**

LIKE THE PROS!!

**BIG-BASS  
SPLASH**



Benefitting St Jude Children's Research Hospital® & Ronald McDonald House Charities®

**\$497,000**  
GUARANTEED IN CASH & PRIZES

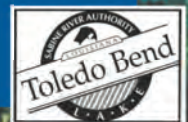


HOURLY CASH PAYOUTS,  
TRITON BASS BOATS POWERED BY MERCURY,  
RAM TRUCKS AND MORE!

*Prizes awarded may not be identically to those pictured.*

**LAKE TOLEDO BEND, LA**

CYPRESS BEND PARK; MANY, LA  
MAY 18-19-20, 2018



**ONSITE REGISTRATIONS:**

May 08- Tues	Academy - Lake Charles, LA	2900 Derek Drive	337.562.4000	12PM - 1PM
May 08 - Tues	Academy - Alexandria, LA	3205 S MacArthur Drive	318.483.3920	6PM - 7PM
May 09 - Wed	Academy - Beaumont, TX	7130 Eastex Freeway	409.895.4500	6PM - 7PM
May 17 - Thurs	Cypress Bend Park - Many, LA	Cypress Bend Blvd-Hwy 191	318.256.4118	10AM - 8PM
May 18 - 19 - 20	Cypress Bend Park - Many, LA	Cypress Bend Blvd-Hwy 191	318.256.4118	5AM - 6AM



LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY: [SEALYOUTDOORS.COM](http://SEALYOUTDOORS.COM) OR 888.698.2591 (CST 9-5)



Logan Mount with a Cane River brush top bass.

# 'PICK APART' CANE RIVER FOR POST-SPAWN BASS

**T**he list of good places to fish on the Cane River in Natchitoches is long. You've got miles of shoreline reeds, scattered brush tops, a plethora of boat docks, grass beds, lily pad fields and combinations of all those. And that goes on for 30 miles (60 total miles of shoreline if you count both banks).

So how do you find post-spawn bass? "Pick an area that you like that has the type of structure you like, then pick it apart for bass," said veteran Cane River fisherman Logan Mount. "If you can get in on the early shad spawn, you have the potential to catch some really nice fish. If that doesn't pan out, you'll have to find some type of cover and fish it slow and deliberately. The reeds will hold fish, but there are so many that you will have to find those key stretches that are holding the fish. Pads will hold fish, as well. Find what you like fishing and pick it apart. The bass will be really spread out but should be fairly active."

Mount says the fish will be where the best oxygen is, and that means looking

for the shady areas of structure.

## TOP 3 BAIT

"I have three top baits I like to fish this time of year," he said. "First, the Spro Bronze-eye Frog in killer gill color. The frog can be fished just about anywhere. I love using a Strike King Menace Grub in green pumpkin with a 1 1/2 ounce pegged tungsten weight. Find the thickest reeds and try to punch it back as far as you can with this rig.

"Third is the Zoom Fluke weightless in baitfish color. This can be fished around the grass and in the pads."



Different stretches of the Cane fish a bit differently. The north end of the river toward Natchitoches is always going to be a little more stained. But there are plenty of reeds that you can flip. As you start making your way south, there are lots of boat docks that will hold fish, especially when the sun is up and the water is warm. Also, as you meander south you'll start to find large grass flats and mats.

This can be a great place to throw a topwater lure or fish soft plastics on the outside edge of the grass. Once it mats up, you can break out the hollow frogs as well as buzz frogs and catch some fish. ■

- Kinny Haddox

**Toledo Bend** up next >

**SUZUKI**  
Spring Savings  
THE ULTIMATE 4-STROKE OUTBOARD

For a limited time, get Suzuki Extended Protection, Instant Savings and attractive financing on select Suzuki outboards from 25 to 350 horsepower. See your participating Suzuki Marine dealer for details or visit [www.suzukimarine.com](http://www.suzukimarine.com).

- 1.** Six Years of Protection at no extra charge on all new outboards 25 to 350 HP. **GIMMESIX! 3+3 SIX YEAR PROTECTION**
- 2.** Instant Savings of up to \$800 on select models. See your dealer for details. **BUCKS OFF!**
- 3.** Attractive low rates on all new Suzuki outboards (DAC). **REPOWER FINANCE**

**3909 HWY 90 EAST • LAKE CHARLES, LA**  
**337-433-7019**

**Lake Area Marine**  
Hwy 90 E  
433-7019

**SUZUKI MARINE** THE ULTIMATE 4-STROKE OUTBOARD

These are limited time offers. See your participating Suzuki Marine dealer or visit [www.suzukimarine.com](http://www.suzukimarine.com).



# BOATING CENTER

HELPING BRING YOUR  
**BOATING**  
DREAMS TO LIFE

SALES & FINANCING  
CERTIFIED SERVICE  
ACCESSORIES  
SOUND ADVICE  
KITS/RYFS



FREE  
**\$500**  
GIFT CARD



## Pro Skiff 17 CC

w/Mercury® 60 ELPT  
FourStroke  
& Custom Trailer

**\$16,395**

Plus freight & prep

SENSATIONAL  
**SUMMER**  
BOAT SALES  
EVENT



FREE GIFT CARD & GEAR  
VALUED UP TO **\$2,300**

W/PURCHASE OF SELECT MODELS. LIMITED TIME OFFER ENDS MAY 28, 2018!



FREE  
**\$500**  
GIFT CARD

**FISHIN' BARGE® 20 DLX \$19,395**

w/Mercury® 60 ELPT FourStroke  
Command Thrust Optional trailer available

Plus freight & prep

- Available w/90 ELPT FourStroke Command Thrust \$21,495 -



**Pro 160**  
w/Mercury® 25 ELPT FourStroke  
& Custom Trailer

**\$11,395**

Plus freight & prep

- Available w/40 ELPT FourStroke \$12,395 -



# BOATING CENTER

805 S. GRAND • MONROE, LA • 318.388.5790  
415 S. EASTMAN RD. • LONGVIEW, TX • 903.758.9755

100 BASS PRO DR. • BOSSIER CITY, LA • 318.549.8800  
175 BASS PRO BLVD. • DENHAM SPRINGS, LA • 225.271.3100

Photos may show optional or special edition equipment available at an additional cost. Local taxes, license, registration and doc fees vary by state and are in addition to prices shown. 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 Marine Group, LLC

# HEAD SOUTH FOR LATE TOLEDO BEND SPAWNERS

**Y**ou get an idea of what a huge, sprawling impoundment Toledo Bend is when you consider that, for the most part, the spawn is a done deal on much of the lake shared by Louisiana and Texas.

But in May, don't be surprised to see some bass beds on the extreme lower end, down by the dam, because traditionally that is the last area for bass to move up and do their thing.

The critical factor each year is water temperature, and it warms from the upper-half south during February, March and April.



This angler was fishing with John Dean on Easter weekend when he caught this bragging-size bass on a Carolina-rigged soft plastic.

## 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](mailto:thecrappiepsychic@yahoo.com)

The deep, clear water in the dam vicinity usually is the last to heat up to ideal spawning temperatures. It seems to always be a late spawn down there and, if you're looking for a trophy-sized bass in May, you should target those creeks and coves in that area. Remember, the spawn doesn't just happen and quit.

In early April, we were dealing with a high water period from some torrential rains last month.

Toledo Bend jumped to above 173 feet recently before the Sabine River Authority cracked all 11 gates at 5 feet. As of this writing, with 11 open at 2 feet, the pool level is 172.5.

To say it's a full pool is an understatement. I've been fishing flats near deep water. Bass have been getting their chops busted in the flooded bushes, but I've stayed away from the lines of boats and have been doing fair to good "offshore" on Carolina-rigged Flukes.

On the last day of March I took a couple involved in a family tournament, and they caught slightly more than two dozen keepers up to 5 pounds, including a couple of 4s and heavy 3s, and a lot of solid 2s. It was windy as all get out, but I've got to give credit to my new Minn Kota Ultrex because it kept me anchored to my spot.

Another wave of spawners moved up and in with the March full moon. Many bass also followed the shad to the shallows as the shad spawn turned on. While the shad spawn lessens over the weeks, I've seen it last all the way to June, so keep that in mind. Always look for signs of those shad.

And just as many bass will head for the shallows and underwater vegetation, the bream move in to spawn in April and May. And just like bass, they start in the upper-lake, then the central part of the lake and finally the lower part. This month should be a primetime, so break out the topwaters.

I can't wait. The bream factor, above and beyond the shad, is going to be the next deal after the shad spawn. It'll be high time to cast plastic frogs — I love my watermelon/red/pearl Ribbits — Zara Spooks and Chug Bugs. Shad-colored patterns will be effective.

While there might be some postspawn blues at times up and down the lake, May's going to be a fun month overall to fish because bass will be

chasing baitfish, mainly bream, from the bank to 7-foot depths.

May definitely will be the beginning of the topwater time of year. If there's any grass or milfoil, that's the place to fish primarily with those and other artificial lures, including C-Rigs with a green pumpkin, watermelon red or june bug Fluke, ½-ounce gold or shad-colored Chatterbaits and red Rat-L-Traps.

May also marks the beginning of some great crappie fishing success. It has been fair to good, but will be consistently good as the panfish move into the brushpiles, mostly in 25-foot depths, around the lake. They pile into those sunken structures by

the gazillions and can't pass up a minnow dropped down to them. They're actually catching on brushpiles now. ■

- John Dean



John Dean has been guiding on Toledo Bend most of his life. If you'd like to join him on a trip, give him a call at (936) 404-2688.

**MRGO, Bay Eloi** up next >

## PROPERTIES FOR SALE IN MS & LA

### AMITE COUNTY

• 23 Acres .....	\$3,476/AC
• 39 Acres .....	\$3,950/AC
• 40 Acres & Home .....	\$205,000
• 40 Acres & Home .....	\$370,000
• 51.85 Acres .....	\$5,014/AC
• 99 Acres .....	\$3,787/AC
• 115 Acres .....	\$3,750/AC
• 125 Acres .....	\$4,300/AC
• 127.5 Acres .....	\$4,200/AC
• 151 Acres .....	\$4,200/AC
• 200 Acres & Camp .....	\$1,120,000
• 209 Acres .....	\$3,348/AC
• 278.5 Acres .....	\$4,000/AC
• 360 Acres & Home .....	\$3,500,000
• 1305 Acres & Home .....	\$7,500,000

### ATTALA COUNTY

• 540.5 Acres .....	\$950/AC
---------------------	----------

### CALHOUN COUNTY

• 75 Acres .....	\$1,493/AC
------------------	------------

### CLARKE COUNTY

• 800 Acres & Lodge .....	\$2,100,000
• 40 Acres .....	\$2,025/AC
• 132 Acres .....	\$2,651/AC

### CLAIBORNE COUNTY

• 75 Acres & Camp .....	\$275,000
• 222 Acres .....	\$3,148/AC
• 176 Acres .....	\$3,181/AC

### COPIAH COUNTY

• 166 Acres .....	\$2,289/AC
• 339 Acres .....	\$2,651/AC

### COVINGTON COUNTY

• 162 Acres Cabin & River .....	\$4,650/AC
---------------------------------	------------

### FORREST COUNTY

• 80 Acres river front .....	\$2,850/AC
• 80 Acres .....	\$3,125/AC
• 123 Acres .....	\$2,500/AC

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

• 15 Acres .....	\$3,200/AC
------------------	------------

### GRENEADA COUNTY

• 160 Acres .....	\$4,000/AC
-------------------	------------

### HARRISON COUNTY

• 243 Acres .....	\$4,900/AC
• 129 Acres .....	\$3,900/AC
• 47 Acres .....	\$4,100/AC
• 82 Acres .....	\$3,950/AC

### HINDS COUNTY

• 184 Acres .....	\$2,700/AC
-------------------	------------

### JASPER COUNTY

• 114 Acres .....	\$1,400/AC
• 69.5 Acres .....	\$2,500/AC
• 58.5 Acres .....	\$3,418/AC
• 40 Acres .....	\$2,500/AC

### JEFFERSON COUNTY

• 53.94 Acres .....	\$2,682/AC
• 73.24 Acres .....	\$2,680/AC
• 2260 Acres & Lodge .....	\$8,300,000

### JONES COUNTY

• 21 Acres .....	\$2,000/AC
• 50 Acres .....	\$3,100/AC

### KEMPER COUNTY

• 40 Acres .....	\$6,000/AC
------------------	------------

### LAWRENCE COUNTY

• 52.51 Acres .....	\$2,092/AC
• 335 Acres & Camp .....	\$653,250
• 710 Acres & Camp .....	\$1,225,000

### LINCOLN COUNTY

• 87.49 Acres .....	\$2,857/AC
---------------------	------------

### MADISON COUNTY

• 206.2 Acres .....	\$2,271/AC
---------------------	------------

### MARION COUNTY

• 84.56 Acres .....	\$2,944/AC
• 40 Acres .....	\$2,800/AC

### PEARL RIVER COUNTY

• 303 Acres .....	\$3,500/AC
-------------------	------------

### PIKE COUNTY

• 10 Acres & Home .....	\$189,000
• 24.87 Acres .....	\$3,397/AC
• 28 Acres .....	\$4,625/AC
• 31.57 Acres .....	\$4,497/AC
• 40 Acres .....	\$2,475/AC
• 40 Acres .....	\$2,950/AC
• 58 Acres .....	\$2,637/AC
• 77 Acres .....	\$5,181/AC
• 80 Acres & Home .....	\$219,000
• 132 Acres .....	\$2,401/AC
• 135 Acres .....	\$2,350/AC
• 140 Acres .....	\$2,350/AC
• 144 Acres .....	\$2,956/AC
• 192 Acres .....	\$2,950/AC
• 275 Acres .....	\$2,350/AC
• 423 Acres .....	\$3,534/AC

• 335 Acres .....	\$2,950/AC
• 467 Acres .....	\$2,795/AC

### TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY

• 27 Acres .....	\$2,962/AC
------------------	------------

### WALTHAM COUNTY

• 15 Acres .....	\$3,500/AC
• 38.78 Acres .....	\$2,307/AC
• 45 Acres & Camp .....	\$204,000
• 386 Acres & Home .....	\$1,495,000
• 34 Acres .....	\$3,808/AC
• 160 Acres .....	\$2,181/AC

### WAYNE COUNTY

• 27 Acres .....	\$2,200/AC
• 120 Acres .....	\$1,500/AC
• 220 Acres .....	\$2,050/AC
• 39.5 Acres .....	\$1,974/AC

### WILKINSON COUNTY

• 153 Acres .....	\$3,790/AC
• 26 Acres & Lodge .....	\$425,000

### LOUISIANA

<b>Bienville</b>	
• 89.78 Acres .....	\$2,449/AC
<b>Bossier</b>	
• 40 Acres .....	\$3,500/AC
• 68 Acres .....	\$5,514/AC
• 75 Acres .....	\$4,250/AC
• 120 Acres .....	\$3,958/AC
<b>Caddo</b>	
• 170 Acres .....	\$4,600/AC
• 32.4 Acres .....	\$3,395/AC
• 20 Acres .....	\$4,000/AC
• 17 Acres .....	\$4,000/AC
<b>Desoto</b>	
• 55 Acres .....	\$2,600/AC
• 51 Acres .....	\$3,200/AC
• 40 Acres .....	\$2,800/AC
<b>East Baton Rouge</b>	
• 239 Acres .....	\$3,999,000
<b>East Feliciana</b>	
• 64 Acres & Camp .....	\$349,000
• 479 Acres .....	\$2,290,000
<b>West Feliciana</b>	
• 113 Acres & Lodge .....	\$1,125,000
<b>Sabine</b>	
• 21 Acres .....	\$3,571/AC
• Home on Toledo Bend .....	\$550,000
<b>Webster</b>	
• 958 Acres .....	\$1,252/AC
• 55 Acres .....	\$3,400/AC
• 113 Acres .....	\$3,200/AC
<b>Washington</b>	
• 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

# MRGO, BAY ELOI HIGHLIGHT TROUT ACTION OUT OF SHELL BEACH

May means speck bite moves into overdrive

BELOW: Capt. Tim Ursin, aka Capt. Hook, with a 3-pound trout caught on shrimp creole Matrix Shad in Shell Beach.

**M**y old friend Capt. Tim Ursin, aka Capt. Hook (504-512-2602) said if he had fingers on his left hand he'd have bitten the nails off long ago worrying about the absence of shrimp in the water — along with the absence of speckled trout, too.

“But I remind myself this happens whenever we get cold winters, and this one was exceptionally cold,” Ursin said. “But now our temperatures swing back to the normal range for this time of year, and May brings with it an explosion of action. It’s like flipping a switch in a dark room and suddenly there’s light.

“May flips the switch and the shrimp show up all over the bays and schools of trout are suddenly everywhere. The water teems with life, the birds are diving and the trout are biting and all the fishermen are smiling again. It’s like May pulls the rabbit out of the hat and abracadabra, we have trout again.”

Hook said the outer fringe bays are where the action begins this month, and Bay Eloi should be right in the thick of it.

“The MRGO rocks are a definite no-brainer because they light up with trout every year in May,” he said. “And usually the scattered islands out in Bay Eloi attract trout this month, along with the various platforms and wellheads. It’s too early to fish for trout at the structures in the deeper waters of Breton Sound, but they do hold some huge bull reds and sheepshead if you want a good fight.

“Breton Island and Gosier are often productive this month, but that’ll all depend on the water conditions. Some years they get a lot of river water that way, but if not, they’ll be worth the trip.”



For bait, Ursin said live shrimp under a cork is always the best bait overall, but if you’re fishing under birds use soft plastics and save the live shrimp for elsewhere.

“When you can’t get live shrimp you fish with plastics, tightlined or under corks, and I’ve had great success with the H&H beetles and coco-hoes, the Matrix Shad baits, and shrimp imitations like the Vudu,” he said.

If redfish are your target, Ursin said hunt them in the same areas you found them in the fall: at points, drains, cuts and coves in marsh bays and ponds. Dead shrimp under a cork is the best bait. ■

- Rusty Tardo




YOUR  
LEADER  
IN GULF  
SOUTH  
SPORTS

[www.CoxSportsTV.com](http://www.CoxSportsTV.com)

 CoxSportsTV

 @CoxSportsTV

 CoxSportsTV

**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**

# RACCOON ISLAND SPECKS

## Lots of boats ... but lots of trout

**A** scenic barrier island known as a great pelican rookery and near-offshore waters teeming with speckled trout and other saltwater fish in the Gulf of Mexico will be very popular in May.

Anglers who want to deposit speck after speck in the ice chest need to go to Raccoon Island, which is approximately 8 miles due south of Bayou Grand Caillou across Caillou Bay.

That means going in a boat seaworthy enough to get there and back if it's windy or a storm hits.

Raccoon Island is the western-most island of the Isle Denieres chain.

"May's a big month when the speckled trout show up to spawn, so the week prior to the full moon is awesome — six days before and four days after," said Capt. Bill Lake, of Houma. "The trout get up on the beach and drop their eggs. It's the best place in the world to fish down here in May."

Lake, who owns the Dularge-based Bayou Guide Service (985-851-6015), said his boats caught an estimated 3,000 speckled trout there in May of 2017.

### PASS IF YOU DON'T LIKE LOTS OF COMPANY

But if you don't like fishing in a crowd,



Christopher Lake, Capt. Bill Lake's son, holds up a nice speck.

this is a hotspot to avoid. There are plenty of boats out there fishing the surf, the rock jetties and the many guts that have formed to the west of the existing island.

"There are plenty of people out there by Mother's Day. On a typical day, it's nothing to have 40 to 50 boats out there fishing the island," he said.

Most anglers fish the surf from their boat, but there are many who get out and wade, particularly where the western end of the island has washed away. There are acres of shallow water and hard-packed sand there.

Lake advises the island is posted as a bird sanctuary, which means it is OK for wade fishermen to stay in the water — but not to set foot on dry sand.

Speckled trout action in the surf and around rock jetties can be non-stop, with the peak

in the first few hours of the day. Those rock jetties — boulders from Kentucky — are about 80 to 100 yards long with gaps of 30 to 40 yards in between.

Lake also is partial to fishing the extreme western end of Raccoon Island, where there is a noticeable dropoff carved by current rushing through the intersection of the Gulf and Caillou Bay. If mullet and shrimp are visible, the speckled trout bite will be on.

While some anglers have success with Carolina-rigged live croakers, live coahoe minnows or live shrimp, Lake relies on single- or tandem-rigged soft plastics such as gold/chartreuse or purple/chartreuse Bayou Chub Minnows and similarly colored Vudu Shrimp.

"They're hungry. They'll eat anything," Lake said.

He can't wait to try out the new Vudu Vixen, a soft plastic swim bait.

Topwaters like Zara Spooks, Top Dogs and SheDogs catch bigger speckled trout, but generally, not in numbers, he said. ■

- Don Shoopman

**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](http://www.crawfishtownusa.com)

**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!

**CRAWFISH TOWN USA**  
 Restaurant & Fresh Market  
*Real Cajun! Real Good!*

**Henderson-Cecilia, exit 115**  
 1/2 mile North of I-10  
 on LA Hwy. 347

**AWARD WINNING CUISINE**

**Bayou Black** up next >



# Sight, Cast, Reel, Catch No Frills, Just Fishing



3663 PONTCHARTRAIN DR. • SLIDELL, LA

985-643-6668

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

601-798-4700

www.cypresscove.net

**MERCURY**  
Outboards



"Like" us on Facebook



PELEGRINMARINE.COM



**TRACKER**  
boats



**PELEGRIN MARINE INC.**

10215 E MAIN ST | HOUMA, LA - (985) 872 4841

POWERED BY  
**MERCURY**



**TRACKER**  
boats



**Sun**  
**TRACKER**

PELEGRINMARINE.COM

# BET ON (BAYOU) BLACK

**T**here's an area that Bill McCarty never passes up when he wants to put bass in the boat in May.

The all-around outdoorsman from Morgan City loves to target the Bayou Black area where, as the water continues to warm in late spring, bass move from the deadend canals into main ones like Bayou Penchant, Bayou Copasaw, Minors Canal and the main canals of Orange Canal.

While he runs there much of the time from Morgan City, there are other access points at Bob's Bayou Black Marina, the Bayou Bouef Boat Launch at Amelia and Cannons Boat Launch along Southdown Mandalay Road.

McCarty prefers fishing the area on an outgoing tide and/or a windy day, and said the bassin' success usually is best early and late in the day. Look for moving water because with the warming weather, bass tend to look for a place to cool off.

"It's a whole lot better falling than if it's coming up," he said.

Target drains, scattered grass beds and willow trees whenever possible. Also, bass can be found in indentions in clumps of reeds that grow along the water's edge.

Early in the day, McCarty likes to throw a Stanley Ribbit, a white plastic frog. Later he'll switch to a ¼-ounce chartreuse/white Humdinger spinnerbait, and have a Senko ready as a comeback bait.

Around drains he works either a red shad Culprit plastic worm or a June bug-colored Speed Craw. He remembered a day last year when he and buddy Joseph Hebert caught 4-pound plus bass on back-to-back casts at a drain in the Bayou Black area.



Joseph Hebert holds two big bass caught on back-to-back casts by he and Bill McCarty in the Bayou Black area in 2017.

Most of the time the bass will be in 2- to 5-foot depths, McCarty said, although during the early morning hours they often can be picked off the flats and in 1-foot depths before the sun eases over the horizon and they move out.

There's a bonus around the Bayou Black area's drains most of the time. McCarty, an avid bream and sac-a-lait fisherman, always brings a sac-a-lait pole with him and enjoys a little rod-bending lagniappe.

"A lot of times, sac-a-lait are there. You can make it a combo trip," he said. "As it warms up, sac-a-lait tend to go to the drains. You can catch 15 to 20 at a time."

For sac-a-lait, he uses a blue/white or blue/silver Pop-A-Chop adorned with a chartreuse Crappie Nibble. ■

- Don Shoopman

**Grand Isle** up next >



SAND DOLLAR MARINA  
GRAND ISLE, LA

JUNE  
6-9  
2018

Despite the crazy spring, there should be plenty of trout swimming east of Grand Isle — and quality might be the name of the game this year.



# GO EAST FOR GRAND ISLE TROUT

'The City' is a popular hotspot

**T**his spring was crazy, with fronts pushing through the state well into April. But things should be settling down as summer approaches, and that's when Grand Isle trout fishing will really get cranked up, according to Good Times Charters' Capt. Jake Scardino (504-382-5639).

"I think it's going to be a good summer,"

he said.

Indications in mid-April were that there should be some very nice fish to be caught.

"I believe there might be more quality than quantity this year because of that freeze," Scardino said. "The fish we're catching have been nice trout."

While he fishes all over the Barataria

Basin to put his clients on trout, this guide prefers to head east to places like Four Bayous, Bay Ronquille and a spot known as "the City."

"People want to know where the City is, and it's way past Bayou Long in Plaquemines Parish," Scardino said. "It's a long run, but when the bite is on it's a great place."

He said the City is just a jumble of old camps, pilings and shell pads — and specks gang up there.

Of course, the best fishing will be had when the tide is flowing. And Scardino isn't picky about which way the water is moving.

"I like any kind of tide that moves — in or out," he said.

That said, he said sometimes water is cleaner on a given tide direction.

"I do find the clean water in Four Bayous is better on an incoming tide than on an outgoing tide," he said.

He looks for clean, moving water in the 3- to 6-foot range, and live shrimp are his favorite baits because they flat put fish in the boat.

He often hangs shrimp below corks because his clients like to see the action, but his preference is actually a Carolina rig.

"I find I catch bigger trout on the bottom with Carolina rigs," Scardino said.

He said he likes to fish down-current eddies, but there's also another very productive tactic.

"With that (Minn Kota) Spot-Lock, I can go upcurrent and just feed out weightless shrimp or croakers," Scardino said.

That offers a very natural presentation that specks can't resist.

No matter where he fishes and what approach he uses, this guide is always ready to pull up stakes and find active fish.

"I move around a lot," Scardino said. "I'll give a spot 15 to 30 minutes before moving. If I get a bite or two, I might hang around for 30 minutes and see if they turn on. But if I don't get a bite in 15 minutes, I'm gone." ■

- Andy Crawford

**Big Lake** up next >



*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><b>NauticStar</b> #1 Dealer in the Nation*</p>	 <p><b>NauticStar</b> Starting at \$29,995*</p>	 <p><b>YAMAHA</b> Starting at \$39,499*</p>
<p><b>Discounts up to \$8,000</b> Shallow Water Performance V-Hull</p>	<p><b>215 XTS Shallow Bay</b> 4-stroke &amp; trailer</p>	<p><b>210 FSH Jet Boat</b> SUV of Center Consoles Serious Fishability and Comfort for the Whole Family</p>
<p><b>Visit us to see the ALL NEW 215 XTS Shallow V-Hull</b></p> <p><i>The most affordable way to spend time with family and friends</i></p>		
 <p><b>Shoalwater</b> #1 Dealer in the Nation*</p>	 <p><b>CHAPARRAL BOATS</b> Starting at \$33,495*</p>	 <p><b>Avalon</b> Starting at \$14,995*</p>
<p><b>Save Big on 16-23' Cat Hulls,</b> One of the Most Popular Names in Ultra Shallow Water Fishing</p>	<p><b>21' H2O OB w/ 115hp Yamaha</b> Highest Quality I/O Fish &amp; Ski Boats</p>	<p><b>14-28' Luxury and Fishing</b> Pontoons</p>
<p>* PLUS OPTIONS, TT&amp;L, AND FREIGHT &amp; MAKE READY</p> <p><b>I-10 On the Curve   Beaumont TX   888.842.1601</b></p>		



\* ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER



**B & B ENTERPRISES OF GONZALES, INC.**  
13485 AIRLINE HWY.

**TRAILER SALES**  
**TRAILER RENTALS**  
**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**

<p><b>B &amp; B ENTERPRISES OF GONZALES, INC</b></p> <p>Trailer Sales &amp; Rentals Repairs, Parts, &amp; Accessories</p> <p>13485 Airline Hwy.   Gonzales, LA 70737 225-647-2777 bbenterprisesofgonzalesinc.com</p>	 <p><b>Aluminum Boats Trailers In Stock</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 15' to 40'</li> <li>• Single, Double, or Triple Axles</li> <li>• Heavy I-Beam Construction</li> <li>• Galvanized Axles and Hubs</li> <li>• Torsion Axle W/ Surge Brakes</li> </ul>
--	--

# IT'S PRIME TIME AT BIG LAKE

## Spawning trout mean big boxes, guide says

**W**ith a little cooperation from Mother Nature, Capt. Nick Poe expects May to be a banner month for speckled trout on Big Lake. "May is usually some of our heaviest boxes of fish all year long," said Poe, with Big Lake Guide Service, in mid-April. "We have a lot of bait right now, which is kind of weird. In the last week of March, I hit a group of birds and they were eating shrimp, which was strange for that time of the year. "We've got a few shrimp starting to show up, but the lake is



Photo courtesy Capt. Nick Poe

May typically means the speckled trout spawn is on — and that's a great time to be at Big Lake.

flooded with immature, tiny pogies, so that looks good." Poe suggested heading to the south end of Big Lake if you're after bigger specks this month. "That saltier water is key for those fish to spawn — they've got to have it. So the south end of the lake — the closer you get to

the Gulf the better off you are as far as salinity goes," he said. "The Ship Channel will also produce fish in May .... All up and down the channel it acts as a conduit to the Gulf, and it will shoot saltwater all the way up to Lake Charles.

"It may not be there but for a couple of days, but it will be there and those fish will go with it, so you can catch fish all along the channel pretty much anywhere in May."

May is typically a great month to throw topwater lures (See Topwater Troubles? on page 156 for tips from Poe on how to connect with some big trout) but sometimes the fish, especially earlier in the month, can be somewhat finicky.

"So a lot of times you'll get a lot of blowups, but you won't be catching any fish," Poe said. "So you can switch to a suspending bait or a jig, and a lot of times they'll just eat it up."

Poe's go-to topwater lure is a ShePup with a red head, a chrome belly and a chartreuse

# 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

LOUISIANA'S CUSTOM CANVAS LEADER



Custom Pool Covers



225-261-4057

13140 Hooper Rd • BR, LA 70818  
www.coversunlimited.net

back. His favorite twitchbait is a black MirrOdine with an orange belly.

His go-to soft plastic is the Lil John from MirrOlure, and he almost always fishes with an 1/8-ounce jighead.

"Unless I'm fishing in the (Ship) Channel or dealing with some kind of mega-tide or something like that, an 1/8-ounce is usually what I have tied on," Poe explained. "But usually if there's a mega-tide you've got dirty water, so I probably wouldn't stop and fish it, anyway."

In pretty water, Poe opts for the Lil Johns in opening night and watermelon red. If the water is a bit more dirty, he goes with colors like molting and glow.

Whatever technique you choose, May is definitely a month to be out on the water.

"It's that time when everything gets kicked off and really going good," he said. ■

- Patrick Bonin

*Editor's Note: Capt. Nick Poe, with Big Lake Guide Service, can be reached at 337-598-3268. For more information, visit [www.biglakeguideservice.com](http://www.biglakeguideservice.com).*



Area's exclusive GatorTail dealer

**GatorTail**  
OUTBOARDS

**TERREBONNE MARINE** 1201 St. Charles St, Houma • 872-3314

**BACKWATER** Revolutionary Shallow Water Motors  
MOTORS • PROPS • FRAME KITS • PARTS

**SUZUKI**  
MARINE

ONE OF THE BEST BASS LAKES IN NORTH AMERICA

**WATER YOU WAITING FOR?**



**TOLEDO BEND**  
Lake Country  
SABINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

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

1-800-358-7802

f YouTube

**LOUISIANA**  
Feed Your Spul.

LaFitte up next >

# TROUT LOOKING UP IN LAFITTE

## Speck action expected to pick up

**C**apt. Sean Thornton (504-388-4535) said it's seemed like the speckled trout had the air let out of their tires because they were a no-show after this winter's big freeze, but May should have prime speck action back on track.

"The trout got scarce everywhere after the deep freeze, but May is when they spring back and get active all over the big fringe bays," he said. "We'll fish Mud Lake, Bay Cray, Hackberry Bay and Barataria Bay, and we'll look for the usual signs that indicate fish are present. Clean water, current lines, bait activity, and the absolute dead giveaway — seagulls diving.

"Yes, there will be lots of small trout under the birds, but you'll have lots of keepers mixed in with them, and you'll have plenty of rod bending action catching fish, especially using lighter tackle."

Thornton said to fish your favorite soft plastic baits in either white or green about 18 inches under a popping cork.

"If I don't see birds, I'll focus on points, cuts, islands and structure, and you always want to fish a moving tide, whether rising or falling," he said.

Thornton said the redfish bite has stayed consistent, and May will yield plenty of fish in areas like Little Lake, the rocks along Bayou Rigolettes, the points and cuts in Bay Round, "and if the water is high enough to get up into the marsh ponds, go, because the reds will be in there," he said.

"I also expect you'll be able to catch some nice reds in the Pen this month,

though you might have a harder time taking home a limit."

For bait, Thornton said he'll fish the reds with dead shrimp under a cork, beetle-spins, gold spoons, swimbaits, and for an awesome thrill, topwaters in bone or chartreuse. ■

- Rusty Tardo



Capt. Sean Thornton caught this 9-pound redfish in Bay Round on a topwater lure.

# SPILLWAY OPENING NOT THE END OF THE WORLD

**S**pillway openings have been frequent in the last few years, and for Lake Pontchartrain anglers, that usually means short-term trouble.

However, this year's opening isn't going to have much of an impact, according to Lake Pontchartrain guide Capt. Kris Robert.

"I don't think we're going to get the effect that everybody thinks we're going to get," he said. "Everybody thinks the world's coming to an end when they open the Spillway."

Additionally, the Spillway can do some extremely positive things for the long-term fishing in the area, according to Robert.

"The good thing is in the fall we're going to have spectacular fishing because of

all the nutrients and bait that are being dumped into the lake," he said.



Capt. Kris Robert found a pile of speckled trout last May on the reefs in Lake Borgne.

## HAVE A 'PLAN B'

Robert said anglers can still expect to find fish in the usual hotspots, like the Trestles, Highway 11 and the Twin Span even with



YOUR LEADER IN GULF SOUTH SPORTS

[www.CoxSportsTV.com](http://www.CoxSportsTV.com)

CoxSportsTV

@CoxSportsTV

CoxSportsTV

the Spillway opening.

However, Robert said those aren't the only places anglers should check.

"Everybody wants to fish the Trestles in April and May because it's so convenient, but when those crowds get on those bridges, it starts to shut those fish down, you have to look for an alternative," he said.

The alternative, Robert said, is almost a must on the weekend.

"During the week, I'll kind of focus on the bridges, but when the weekend comes, I'll get away from them because the same fish that are on those bridges are on those rigs and reefs in Lake Borgne, and on the reefs in Lacombe," he said.

Reefs can be difficult to find if you don't know exactly where they are, but Robert recommended anglers go to [www.SaveOurLake.org](http://www.SaveOurLake.org) because "they have a list of all the old rigs, reefs and things they've pulled up and it'll show you the GPS coordinates."

When fishing on those reefs, Robert likes drifting about a cast off of them, and when he finds hot action, he simply uses the Spot-Lock feature on his Minn Kota trolling motor to hold the boat in one position while he and his clients work the area over.

Robert typically throws 3/8-ounce jigheads with Matrix Shad soft plastics. ■

- Joel Masson

**\$7195**

**TOHATSU**  
Outboards

2017  
**WeldBilt**  
**1648**  
w/30hp Tohatsu  
4 stroke tiller handle  
and galv. trailer

**SOUTHERN**  
**OUTDOORS**  
& MARINE LLC

Powered by:  
**TOHATSU**  
Outboards

2268 Grand Caillou Rd.  
Houma, LA

**985-873-7731**

**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

**The Prop Shop Inc**  
337-235-5761

1501 General Mouton • Lafayette, LA 70501  
337-235-5761 • [www.thepropshopinla.com](http://www.thepropshopinla.com)

**M&L ENGINE, LLC**

**CALL TODAY!**  
**985-857-8000**  
[www.mlengine.com](http://www.mlengine.com) • [sales@mlengine.com](mailto:sales@mlengine.com)  
2845 Hwy 311, Schriever, LA 70395

**COME SEE US AT THE LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN SHOW ON MARCH 15-18, AT THE LAMAR DIXON EXPO CENTER IN GONZALES, LA**

<p><b>MUD BOAT POWERTRAIN</b></p> <p><b>Kohler 44HP EFI Marine</b></p> <p><b>ON SALE NOW!!</b> 44 Horsepower! Electronic Fuel Injection ZF Transmission Air Cooled</p> <p><b>KOHLER engines</b></p>	<p><b>CAMP GENERATORS</b></p> <p>6kW-60kW In Stock!</p> <p>Heavy Duty Design Marine Grade Components Aluminum Enclosures Custom Built to your needs</p> <p><b>Value Series SALE!!</b> 6kW Diesel- \$3,349 9kW Diesel- \$4,999 14kW Diesel- \$5,800</p> <p><b>YANMAR kwjet</b></p> <p>ISUZU DIESEL JOHN DEERE WARDEN KODIAK WINCO GILLETTE GENERATORS</p>		
<b>ENGINES</b>	<b>GENERATORS</b>	<b>PUMPS</b>	<b>POWERTRAIN PACKAGES</b>

# 14 CITED FOR ALLEGED TURKEY HUNTING VIOLATIONS

MANY TICKETED FOR HUNTING OVER A BAITED AREA, LDWF SAYS

**E**nforcement agents with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries were busy when turkey season opened in all three of the state's hunting areas on April 7.

Fourteen people were cited over the opening weekend, including:

Jason Stilley, 43, of Independence, for allegedly hunting turkey over a baited area and failing to comply with turkey tagging regulations in Livingston Parish.

Nicholas McAlister, 29, of Kenner, for allegedly hunting turkey over bait and

failing to comply with turkey tagging regulations in St. Helena Parish

Andrew Skinner, 20, of Woodville, Miss., for allegedly hunting turkey without a big game license, hunting turkey without a wild turkey license and failing to comply with turkey tagging regulations in West Feliciana Parish.

Brian J. Moreau, 42, of Blanchard, for allegedly hunting turkey over a baited area in Bossier Parish.

Bryan E. Bryant Jr., 22, of Columbia, for

allegedly hunting turkey over a baited area in Caldwell Parish.

Stuart C. Baum, 27, of Calhoun, for allegedly hunting turkey over a baited area and without a wild turkey license in Caldwell Parish.

Lucas Kyle Stamper, 34, of Clarks, for allegedly hunting turkey without a wild turkey license and failing to comply with turkey tagging regulations in Caldwell Parish.





**25 Years of Quality and Value!!**

**America's Favorite Pontoon Boat!!!**





**SLIDELL MARINE**

36440 Old Bayou Liberty Rd • Slidell, LA • 985-649-4412  
[www.slidellmarine.com](http://www.slidellmarine.com)



**HONDA**

---

**MARINE**

Always wear a personal flotation device while boating and read your owner's manual.

Alexander L. Heard, 19, of Ragley, for allegedly hunting turkey without a wild turkey license and failing to comply with turkey tagging regulations in Beauregard Parish.

Jon Brumfield, 63, of Greenwell Springs, for allegedly hunting turkeys over a baited area in East Feliciana Parish.

Francis T. Elder, 48, of Washington, for allegedly hunting turkeys without a resident basic hunting license, big game license and wild turkey license in Catahoula Parish.

Jordan J. Gibson, 34, of Lafayette, for allegedly failing to comply with turkey tagging regulations in Rapides Parish.

Ricky J. Kennedy, 49, of Farmerville, for allegedly hunting turkey over a baited area in Union Parish.

Austin B. Kennedy, 18, of Farmerville, for allegedly hunting turkey over a baited area in Union Parish.

Matthew W. Nugent Jr., 19, of Dry Prong, for alleged possession of an illegally taken turkey and criminal trespassing on state property in Winn Parish.

Hunting turkeys over a baited area brings a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Failing to comply with turkey tagging regulations carries a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail. Not possessing a basic hunting license, big game license and wild turkey license each brings up to a \$50 fine and 15 days in jail. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [www.LouisianaSportsman.com](http://www.LouisianaSportsman.com)

**LARGE SELECTION OF STAINLESS STEEL & GALVANIZED HARDWARE**

**TH MARINE JACK PLATES**

**STEERING KITS & WHEELS**

**WASH DOWN PUMPS**

**BOSS MARINE ELECTRONICS**

**HIGH QUALITY BOAT CLEANERS**

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

**TOUCHARD**  
MARINE & NETTING

[www.touchardmarine.com](http://www.touchardmarine.com)  
337-685-2715  
403 E. Hwy 14  
Delcambre, LA 70528

**we've got a blind for YOU**

**CALL US TODAY! 337-624-2176**

**IN STOCK**

**Newly Innovated Design!**

**5 Minute Boiler**  
MULTIPLE SIZES

**Duck & Goose Blinds**  
AVAILABLE IN ALL SIZES

**NEW!**

**HUGHES**  
MANUFACTURING LLC  
1300 AIRPORT RD. • JENNINGS, LA 70546  
**337.824.2176**

Find us on Facebook

[www.hugheswelding.com](http://www.hugheswelding.com)

# BOYCE MAN CITED FOR ALLEGED DEER HUNTING VIOLATIONS

SUSPECTED ADMITTED TO NIGHTTIME KILLS, LDWF SAYS

**E**nforcement agents with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries cited a Rapides Parish man on April 3 for alleged deer hunting violations.

According to a news release, Jonathan Pace, 31, of Boyce, was cited for taking deer during a closed season, taking deer during illegal hours, taking deer from a public road, failing to comply with deer tagging requirements, possession of an illegally taken deer and intentional concealment of wildlife.

Agents were contacted by a Rapides Parish Sheriff's deputy who stated he discovered a freshly killed deer at a resident in Boyce. Upon arriving and examining the remains, LDWF agents determined the deer had recently been killed with a firearm.

Agents spoke with Pace that evening, and he allegedly admitted to killing the deer off of Highway 28 on April 2 around 11:30 p.m, the release states.

During the investigation, Pace also allegedly admitted to killing two other antlerless deer during nighttime hours this year — one on Jan. 13 and the other on Jan. 15. Neither of those deer were tagged or validated, according to the release.

Agents seized an antlerless deer and a 12-gauge shotgun in the investigation.

Taking deer during a closed season, during illegal hours and intentional concealment of wildlife each brings a \$900 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Possession of an illegally taken deer carries a \$400 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Taking deer from a public road and failing to comply with deer tagging requirements each carries a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail. Pace may also face civil restitution totaling \$4,873 for the replacement value of the three illegally taken deer, the release states. ■



## TWO CITED FOR ALLEGED CRABBING VIOLATIONS

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents cited a St. Bernard man for alleged commercial fishing violations on April 2.

Willard F. Guillot III, 55, was cited for allegedly possessing commercial fish without a vessel license, possessing immature female crabs, and possessing crabs during a closed season.

While on patrol in the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, agents observed Guillot running crab traps and found him in possession of three crates of crabs.

The commercial harvest of female blue crabs is prohibited during the months of March and April. Commercial fishermen are allotted just 2 percent incidental take of immature female/female crabs based on the total number of crabs in their possession.

Agents determined the three crates contained 38 percent, 54 percent and 12 percent of female and immature female crabs, and seized 350 pounds of crabs and returned them to the water.

In a separate case on April 5, enforcement agents cited a Texas woman —

Lieu Ha Le, of Bridge City — for allegedly taking female crabs during a closed season and violating interstate commerce regulations.

LDWF agents along with Texas Parks and Wildlife agents were working jointly to detect Texas commercial fishermen coming into Louisiana waters to catch female crabs and then sell them in Texas.

There is currently a closure on the taking of female crabs in Louisiana waters for commercial fishermen through April — but there is no closure for the take of female crabs in Texas waters. Agent learned that Le does not possess the required licenses for crabs in Texas because of past violations, according to a news release.

LDWF agents observed Le running crab traps in Louisiana waters and then notified TPW agents when she allegedly attempted to sell her catch at a seafood dock just off the Sabine River in Texas.

LDWF agents seized two crab crates containing 48 female crabs and returned them to the water. ■

## CUSTOM MAPS



- 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](http://www.custom-mapping.com)

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



# 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.  
Breaux Bridge, LA 70517

[www.dixierv.com](http://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**



**CLASS B**  
**WINNEBAGO**  
*Touring Coach*

Over **100**  
Motorhomes  
On Display



*"Helping You Retire One Weekend At A Time"*



# 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

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](http://www.LouisianaSportsman.com)

**Guaranteed Fish!**  
 Experience Louisiana's  
 Most Professional  
 Guide Service

**BAYOU CHARTERS**  
 Retail #1 in Louisiana  
**504-278 FISH**  
[www.CaptainCharlie.com](http://www.CaptainCharlie.com)

- Light Tackle
- Fly Fishing
- Redfish
- Speckled Trout

**Poisson Rouge Fishing Charters**



**Delacroix Inshore Specks & Reds**

NOLA accommodations available  
**504-782-4917**

**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**



**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**  
**bobbylynns.com**

**“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.

GRAND ISLE, LA  
**CAPTAIN MARK SCARDINO**  
**HOME: 985-787-3529 • CELL: 504-382-5286**  
**[www.grand-isle.com/hardtimes](http://www.grand-isle.com/hardtimes)**

**LUCKY BUCK GUIDE SERVICES**  
 Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing

**Professional guide services for inshore fishing targeting Specks and Reds.**

Golden Meadow,  
 Leeville and Fourchon area

**“Buck Rogers - Guide”**  
**985-691-2344**

**GOOD TIMES FISHING CHARTERS GRAND ISLE, LA**

Some of the BEST Inland/Coastal Speckled Trout & Red Fishing



All rods, tackle, fuel, ice and live bait provided  
 (4 boats available)  
 New 26' Avenger Available Now

**CELL 504-382-5639 • 504-464-7909**

Capt. Jake Scardino,  
 USCG Approved

**TRAILERS**

Large Selection of Trailers and Parts in Stock!




**TRAILERS Of Louisiana**  
 5703 Frontage Rd E. Hwy 90 • New Iberia, LA 70560  
**337-369-1113**

**H&M Fishing Charters**  
 (985)258-3632 • [handm@grand-isle.com](mailto: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!!**



**FISHING SUPPLIES**

Since 1999

**alltackle.com**

- Over 40,000 Fishing and Boating Items
- Rods, Reels, Lures, & Tackle
- Outriggers and Fighting Chairs

**[www.alltackle.com](http://www.alltackle.com) • 888-810-7283**

**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 or 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**

**CAMP FOR SALE**

**CAMP FOR SALE**

**Classy Custom Built Camp on Grand Caillou Bayou, Houma, LA**

**980 sq.ft., 2bd, 2 bath.  
Abundant fishing.  
One hour boat ride to Gulf. 176K.**



**Text (985) 856-3349**

**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**

**REAL ESTATE**



**Rare Red River and Lake Frontage**

**Northwest Louisiana  
\$27,000 per acre  
3 acre minimum.**

**Contact United Land & Homes, LLC  
318-678-3000**

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!**



Executive furnished cabin for the wife & kids. 2 additional homes Equipment, Hunting Trails, Deer Stands, ETC., 4 wheelers for the guys!! RV Hook-up available! All on 86Acres of Prime Hunting Land; Union Church, Mississippi. \$700K

Contact Elaine Brewer  
Betsy Smith Properties  
601-757-2565  
elaine@betsysmithproperties.com

**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

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**SHIRLEY RANCH**  
JOHNSON CITY, TEXAS Since 1963  
TEXAS TRADITION

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

**30 ACRES & CAMP HOUSE** Waterfront, borders NWR 1 hour to NOLA. Barn, tractor & all furnishings. \$325K FIRM! WON'T LAST! 504-214-6269 3RE-103/W

**WATERFRONT RETREAT** for family, fisherman or just a get away!! 3 bed 1 king, 1 trundle, 1 queen, 1 bunk, large deck overlooking water, great fishing. Bass, Perch and catfish. Bring crab nets!!! Charters & Swamp Tours available nearby!! manatee@manateehavens.com \$895/weekly (305)360-5838!!! 3RE-101/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 6RE-101/W

**HUNTING/DEER LEASE WANTED IN LOUISIANA** looking for 100+ acres w/ camp preferred on site. Game Warden recommendations provided upon request. Contact (337)540-1707 1RE-104/W

## 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

## REAL ESTATE

**MELERINES CAMP RENTAL** 3 bedroom house on Delacroix Island (504)431-3061 or (504) 491-9488 3RE-101/W

## REAL ESTATE



**WATERFRONT NEAR COCODRIE, CAMPERS-MOTORHOMES** OK near Falgoust Canal Marina fronting on Lower Bayou Dularge, south of Houma Only 7 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 Roberthalealestate.com for photos, maps and restrictions. 985-804-7525 3RE-103/P

# HELP WANTED

**We are looking for drivers to deliver the Louisiana SPORTSMAN Magazine.**

*If You Love to Fish, Hunt and Meet People You Qualify!*

Circulation experience helpful but not necessary dependable vehicle & a valid LA drivers license a must. If you have 3-5 days a month to help spread the word I would like to hear from you!

**Please Contact: Ricky Naquin,**  
 Circulation Director @ 985-859-7744 -or- rickyn@lasmag.com

*Louisiana*  
**SPORTSMAN**

Top It  
 Off!



**SPORTSMAN**Gear.com  
 or 866-616-3315

# SHOW YOUR STRIPES FOR MEMORIAL DAY.



**\$19.99**  
SHIRTS

## RED, WHITE AND NEW.

Introducing our Platinum Collection.

- Ultra Comfort
- Quick-Dry Moisture Support
- Sun Protection
- Odor Control



**\$24.99**  
HATS

**SPORTSMANGEAR.COM**

New colors & options available online

ACE'S RETRIEVERS.....	127	EXCEL BOATS .....	7	RANGER BOATS .....	69
ALARIO BROTHERS.....	111	FIRST CHOICE REAL ESTATE SERVICES .....	174	REDMOND MARINE .....	42
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC. ....	76, 77	FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT .....	203	REED'S METALS, INC.....	4
ASCENSION EQUIPMENT & RENT ALL .....	6	FORT BEAUREGARD ESTATES .....	141	S&D WHITETAILS.....	129
ASCENSION GOLF CART .....	129	FRED NETTERVILLE LUMBER.....	150	SABINE PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION.....	189
B & B ENTERPRISES INC .....	187	GATOR TAIL OUTBOARDS.....	3	SCULLY'S.....	66, 168
BAYOU OUTBOARDS, INC. ....	85	GATOR TRAX .....	107	SEA TRAC OFFSHORE SERVICES .....	33
BENT MARINE.....	49	GEICO - SPECIAL MARKETING .....	2	SEALY OUTDOORS .....	175
BERRYLAND CAMPERS.....	70	GIBSON REALTY/UNITED COUNTRY .....	179	SERVICE CHEVROLET.....	11
BEST BOAT & RV STORAGE II .....	43	GLENCOE EQUIPMENT.....	135	SLIDELL MARINE .....	43, 192
BIG TEX TRAILER-BROUSSARD.....	149	GRAND ISLE TOURIST COMMISSION .....	109	SOUTHERN EXPOSURE INLAND FISHING CHARTERS .....	86
BILL LEWIS OUTDOORS.....	55	GULF SHORES AND ORANGE BEACH TOURISM .....	167	SOUTHERN OUTDOORS & MARINE,LLC.....	59, 191
BLACK'S OUTDOOR AND MARINE .....	101	H&H MARINE.....	27	SOUTHERN POWER AND EQUIPMENT, LLC .....	75
BLANCHARD'S REFRIGERATION .....	127	H&M MARINE .....	124	SPORTSMAN TV.....	201
BLUE DOT MARINE .....	21	HANKO'S.....	92	SPOTS AND SPECKS.....	157
BLUE WAVE BOATS .....	17	HENDERSON.....	169	SPRO CORPORATION .....	35
BOAT CITY USA .....	78, 79	HOBIE CAT .....	117	STAR BRITE, INC .....	125
BOAT STUF.....	87	HUGHES WELDING AND MFG.....	193	STERLING'S UPHOLSTERY .....	116
BOATS UNLIMITED .....	64, 65, 67	HURRICANE HOLE .....	143	STRIKE KING LURE COMPANY .....	119
BOBBY LYNN'S MARINA .....	141	HYDRO TURF.....	93	SUPREME FORD.....	83
BOSS DRIVES .....	57	INTERSTATE GUNS.....	73	SWOLLFEST, INC.....	185
BREAUX AND DAIGLE MARINE.....	28, 29	IRON SKY RETRIEVERS .....	137	TERREBONNE MARINE.....	189
BRIDGESIDE / SAND DOLLAR .....	166	JEFF REGISTER BUILDING & TRUSS.....	74	TEXAS MARINE.....	187
BROOKHAVEN HONDA .....	96	JERRY'S MARINE .....	30	THE CRAPPIE PSYCHIC, LLC.....	178
BRYAN'S MARINE .....	128	K2 MARINE .....	115	THE PROP SHOP .....	191
CAJUN OUTBOARDS .....	37	LAKE AREA MARINE .....	55, 176	THE SPORTSMAN.....	36
CAPTAIN PAUL TITUS.....	120, 153	LIVETARGET.....	131	TIM'S MARINE .....	13
CAROLINA COMPOSITES, LLC .....	105	LOUISIANA LOTTERY .....	15	TOHATSU AMERICAN CORPORATION .....	158, 159
CASE LAND CO, LLC.....	164	LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN SHOW.....	9	TOP OF THE ROCK ADVENTURES .....	120
CCA - LOUISIANA.....	112, 113	LOUISIANA STATE PARKS .....	44, 45	TOUCHARD MARINE SUPPLY.....	193
CHRIS' CAJUN BOILER / STEAMER.....	153	M&L ENGINE.....	191	TOWN & COUNTRY MARINE .....	8, 151
COTTONMOUTH CUSTOM BOATS.....	73	MARINE LIFT AND DOCK SUPPLY COMPANY.....	156	TRACKER MARINE GROUP .....	177
COVER'S UNLIMITED .....	188	MCM LUMBER .....	85	TWIN LAKES WHITETAILS .....	157
COX SPORTS TELEVISION.....	101, 180, 190	MEPLAT GROUP C/O CERBERUS AGENCY.....	5	UNDERWATER FISH LIGHT LLC.....	35
CRAWFISH TOWN USA .....	182	METRO BOATING .....	35	WHITETAIL PROPERTIES .....	133
CUSTOM CORRUGATED AND SUPPLY .....	19	MIKE GERALD'S TRAILER.....	86	WILEY X.....	120, 121
CUSTOM MAPPING SERVICE .....	194	MOLPUS TIMBERLANDS MONROE OFFICE.....	135	XPRESS BY ALUMA-WELD, INC. ....	204
CYPRESS COVE BOATING.....	63, 106, 183	NEIGHBORS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION .....	165	YO-ZURI.....	63
DAGATE'S MARINE .....	95	PARISH TRACTOR.....	155	Z-MAN FISHING PRODUCTS.....	41
DAIWA .....	24, 25	PELLEGRIN MARINE .....	183		
DEEP SOUTH GOLF CARS.....	51	PLANO SYNERGY .....	123		
DEER VIEW WINDOWS CO. ....	135	P-LINE /G. PUCCI & SONS.....	99		
DIXIE RV .....	195	PRO DRIVE.....	152		
DOCKSIDE MARINE.....	40	PUGLIA'S SPORTING GOODS .....	91		
DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE.....	67, 128	PURE FISHING .....	23, 181		
DUVIC'S BOATS.....	164, 202	QUIRK'S WELDING LLC .....	74		

Get decked out in the latest  
from the **SPORTSMAN** Store . . . . .10, 199

Subscribe Today and **SAVE** . . . . . 171



Brought to you by



**BOWIE**  
OUTFITTERS  
Everything Outdoors

# SPORTSMAN<sup>TV</sup>

*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 on Sportsman TV we will be showing you how to fish deep lakes for largemouth bass as well as all of the latest fishing action from coastal Louisiana.

**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](http://louisianasportsman.com/sportsmantv)

SPORTSMAN TV SPONSORS



# DUVIC'S!

128 Years In Business!

## YOUR #1 Re-Power Center



**THE POWER OF CHOICE**  
 Select Suzuki Outboards Are Now Available In Your Choice of Black or White



**210BR** w/200hp Yamaha, t-top, tandem axle trailer

**KW KEY WEST**



**177SKV**  
 Red Fish Edition w/90HP Suzuki and poling platform



**239FS** w/300HP Suzuki, hard T-Top



**2420GTS** w/250hp Suzuki, tandem axle trailer

**BLAZER BAY**

**2400** w/300hp Suzuki, Tandem Axle Aluminum Trailer



## SOUTHFORK Aluminum Boats

**Southfork 1756CC** w/90HP Suzuki, welded floors, 18 gal fuel 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](http://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](http://www.xpressboats.com).



**Bill Lowen**  
Bassmaster Elite Angler

