

Louisiana

BOTTLED UP
FALSE RIVER CATS

SPORTSMAN[®]

JUNE 2018



PRIME SPECK TIME

**TOP 3
SURF-FISHING
MISTAKES**

**TROUT LURES:
MASTER TOPWATERS,
JERKBAITS AND PLASTICS**

**SLEEP IN — AND
CATCH AFTERNOON TROUT**

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR
TRESTLES SPECKS**

**PLUS
STATEWIDE
FISHING
REPORTS**

**TARGET FLATS FOR
POSTSPAWN
SAC-A-LAIT**

**"POCKET HOP"
TO FIND BASS**

**SUMMERTIME
BASS BAITS**

\$3.99 JUNE 2018



**7 TIPS
FOR MORE
CASTING DISTANCE**

**SKIP BRUSH PILES
— AND STILL
CATCH
TOLEDO BEND
CRAPPIE**



Big catch.
BIG SAVINGS.

You could get a discount when you combine your auto and boat policies.

GEICO  **BoatU.S.**[®]
Making Boating Better, Together[®]

geico.com | 1-800-865-4846 | Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. Multi-Policy Discount available to auto insureds that have purchased a boat policy through the GEICO Marine Insurance Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2018 GEICO

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

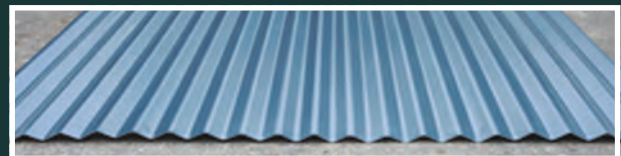
REED'S METALS, INC.

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Metal Roofing & Metal Building Manufacturer

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

800-581-4645



www.reedsmetals.com





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

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

www.meplatgroup.com

504.556.2000

info@meplatgroup.com

MEPLAT
GROUP



Kubota

COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE.

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



Z100 KOMMANDER



ASCENSION EQUIPMENT & RENT ALL A Cut Above The Rest!

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

www.ascensionequipment.com

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

KubotaUSA.com



© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2018



Wide, Deep, Tough & Fast

BAY PRO 230

.150 Tough Aluminum Alloy
Up to 250 Horsepower Rating
52 Gallon Fuel Tank
Leaning Post With Footrest
Twin Folding Rear Jump Seats
Twin Locking Rod Boxes
20 Gallon Rear Aerated Livewell

Exceleration Pad Hull Performance - 58 + MPH
Dry Box Storage Compartments 50 Cubic Feet
Deluxe Console w/6 Rod Holders
and 16 Gallon Aerated Livewell
Integrated Bow Trolling Motor Bracket
45 Gallon Insulated Fish Box

www.excel-marine.com



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

DON'T MISS IT!

JULY 20-22

MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME

Louisiana

SPORTSMAN[®]

SHOW NEW ORLEANS



DEER, DUCK & FISHING EXPO

Need Exhibitor Information? Visit: louisianasportsmanshow.com

or contact Jack Fisher - 866-238-5639 or jackf@lasmag.com / Yvette Dunn - ydunn@lasmag.com

DEER

Produced in conjunction with www.qdma.com



- QDMA National Convention Exhibitors
- Pro Staff on site to answer questions
- Celebrity guest to take pictures and sign auto-graphs.
- Big Buck contest

DUCK

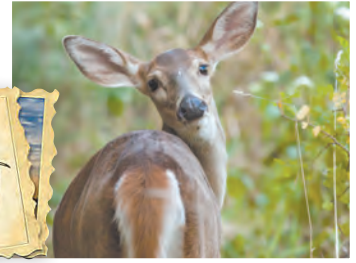
- See the latest from: **Gator Trax, Pro Drive, Go Devil, Gator Tail, Coppermouth, and many more.**
- Duck Calls, Camo Clothing, Blinds, Decoys

FISHING

- Fetch n' Fish 4500 gallon mobile tank
- Factory Reps to answer questions
- Show only deals

Chag's SPORTING GOODS PRESENTS: **THE SPORTSMAN ARCHERY CENTER**

Top manufacturers on site to help with your questions. **Mathews, 10 Point, Scent Lock** and more



PUGLIA'S SPORTING GOODS TRUCKLOAD SALE

Factory direct pricing on all your favorite fishing & hunting gear



SEMINARS

by industry professionals

- Speckled Trout Techniques
- Shallow water Red-fishing
- Kayaking for Specks & Reds
- More to come



LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN SHOW
NEW ORLEANS

JULY 20-22
MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME

Visit: www.louisianasportsmanshow.com for all the show info

MAKE YOUR DAD THE COOLEST.

SPORTSMAN COOL BREEZE
NEW COLORS AND STYLES NOW AVAILABLE

**FREE
NECK WRAP**
with purchase of any
Cool Breeze shirt.

Use Code
SportsmanDad to
redeem.

AMERICA'S #1 RATED PERFORMANCE FISHING SHIRT

- Quick-Dry Moisture Support
- 50+ Sun Protection
- Anti-Microbial/Odor Control
- Vented for Superior Breathability



SPORTSMANGEAR.COM

New colors & options available online

CHEVROLET 

LOUISIANA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF

CHEVROLET SILVERADOS

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



AVAILABLE NOW AT

 **SERVICE**
CHEVROLET | CADILLAC

337-234-9411
ServiceGM.com

FIND NEW ROADS[®]



Louisiana CONTENTS

Volume 38 | Number 6 | June 2018

FEATURES:

29 Pick your poison cover story

Topwaters, suspending baits and soft plastics can all be effective ways to reel in speckled trout — but the key is knowing when to use them. Two veteran Big Lake guides share their expertise so you'll know which trick to pick.

>>>By Jerald Horst

39 Look down for slabs

If you have the latest electronics onboard, you can forget about Toledo Bend's over-fished brush piles — and still find plenty of unpressured crappie.

>>>By Andy Crawford

47 Better late than never

Late afternoon trout trips typically offer calmer winds, fewer boats, cooler temperatures — and plenty of specks. Here's how one no-frills Fourchon angler avoids the crowd and still fills up his box.

>>>By Chris Ginn

54 Perfecting pocket hopping

Identifying the types and sizes of pockets bass are inhabiting right now is a big key to catching fish. Here's how a couple of Elite Series pros break it down.

>>>By David A. Brown

62 Get the drop on Trestles specks

It's not too late this month to target trout on the famed train bridge in Lake Pontchartrain. Find out why one guide believes the drop-shot rig is key to catching.

>>>By Joel Masson

70 Look, mom: No bait!

Two False River anglers load up on nice catfish every summer — without so much as a rod, or even a single hook. Read on to bone up on bottle fishing.

>>>By Jerald Horst



39

Look down
for slabs

80 Flat out crappie

Contrary to popular belief, there is life after the spawn for Louisiana's crappie anglers. Here's how the reigning state champ gets it done all summer long.

>>>By Kinny Haddox

90 River rattin'

The scenic, fast-flowing Bogue Chitto is a shallow, clear-water gem that's home to some Kentucky bass with big attitudes. Here's how a couple of local anglers with a specially-equipped boat run the river.

>>>By Jerald Horst

FISHING HOTSPOTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 164 Grand Isle | 174 Shell Beach |
| 165 Lake D'Arbonne | 176 Buras |
| 166 Toledo Bend | 178 Black Bayou Lake |
| 167 Henderson Lake | 180 Grand Isle surf |
| 170 Big Lake | 182 Venice |
| 172 Delacroix | |

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



Serving Southern Louisiana & Mississippi For Over 10 Years



47
Better late
than never



54
Perfecting
pocket hopping

NEWS BREAKERS:

18 Toledo Bend gives up 33-pound stringer

24 LDWF's license fee increase bill fails

PLUS

148 Cliff Crochet's Top 3 summertime bass baits

COLUMNS:

104 Creature Feature By Jerald Horst

108 Ask Capt. Paul By Captain Paul Titus

110 Fly Lines By Catch Cormier

114 Grunts & Gobbles
By David Moreland

118 Lure Review By Don Shoopman

120 Game Warden By Keith LaCaze

122 Sticks and Strings By Sammy Romano

124 Happy Trails By Bill Garbo

126 Paddles 'N Puddles
By Chris Holmes

136 Seafood Bible By Jerald & Glenda Horst

ON THE COVER:



Avid surf fisherman Sammy Romano shows off a beautiful speckled trout caught on Curlew Island in the Chandeleur chain. For more surf-fishing tips from Romano, go to page 140. (Photo by Patrick Bonin.)

DEPARTMENTS:

16 Letters to the Editor

18 Outdoor Update

140 Field Notes

152 Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook

154 New Products

156 Fishing Regulations

158 Sunrise/Sunset Chart

160 Sportsman Astro Tables

162 Sportsman Tide Guide

164 Fishing Hotspots

188 Louisiana Guides

188 Sportsman Classifieds

192 Advertiser Index



Louisiana
SPORTSMAN

www.LouisianaSPORTSMAN.com

PUBLISHER: Tony Taylor

EDITOR: Patrick Bonin

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Alicia LaFont

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Jeff Caldwell

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Desiree P. Lewis

ART DIRECTOR: Rodney Anouilh

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:
Jeff Cashio, Kevin Orgeron, Alissa Zeringue

SALES DIRECTOR: Tony Taylor
504.416.7621/tonyt@lasmag.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
Mark Hilzim (National Sales), Jay Forrest, Asa Faulkner, Brent Comardelle, Mark Boyd, Greg Webb, Peter Church, Ron Dorsey, Bret Holten

CONTROLLER: Juanita Guidry

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR:
Ricky Naquin 985.859.7744/rickyn@lasmag.com

CIRCULATION FIELD MANAGER:
Tim Stiglets 601.434.1526/timstiglets@comcast.net

CREDIT MANAGER: Rachel Champagne

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: Bruce Mehrtens

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
Catch Cormier, Bill Garbo, Chris Ginn, Chris Holmes, Jerald Horst, Keith LaCaze, David Moreland, Don Shoopman, Rusty Tardo, Capt. Devin Denman, Joel Masson, Capt. Paul Titus, Sammy Romano, Andy Crawford, Capt. Martha Spencer, Kinny Haddox and David Brown.

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS OR SUBSCRIPTION ISSUES, CALL 1-855-223-3599

Monday thru Friday, 6 am to 11 pm
Saturday & Sunday, 8 am - 5 pm CST

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

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

Volume 38 | No 6



SPORTSMAN®

Exceptional Boats-Surprisingly Affordable



Tournament 214

- Yamaha VF150LA
- Tandem Axle Trailer
- Leaning Post



Tournament 234

- Yamaha VF200LA
- Leaning Post
- Tandem Axle Trailer



Masters267

- Yamaha F300XCA
- T-Top
- Tandem axle trailer



Island Reef 19

- Yamaha F90XA
- Leaning post
- Single axle trailer



Island Bay 18

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



252 Open

- Yamaha F150XB
- T-Top
- Tandem Axle Trailer



YAMAHA

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

504-682-5252

www.tims-marine.com

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

BOBBY LYNN'S Marina

**NEW
LOCATION**

209 Moore Rd. 985-396-2678
Leeville, LA 70357 985-398-0480

www.bobbylynns.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



**Begin and End
Every Adventure with Ease.**



The South's Premier Storage for Boats and RVs

Covered and secure with on-site management. We offer amenities and services to prepare you for your next trip. Plus, 24/7 access to your boat or RV. Call **504-500-STOR** for pricing and leasing info.

COMING SOON TO ST. ROSE, LA



TheEliteStor.com // 161 I-310 Service Rd, St Rose, LA 70087



WATERWAY ACCESS ISSUE A BLACK EYE FOR THE 'SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE'

EDITOR:

Recent legislation concerning public access to our waterways and marshlands has been disastrous to the "Sportsman's Paradise."

Our so-called representatives have colluded with wealthy corporations and property owners to close off huge tracts of land — above and below surface level — to the general public. Gates are blocking off many canals. Posted signs across open marsh with nasty warnings about trespassing are everywhere.

At certain times of the year one can expect a flatboat to run up on you with an armed guard holding a rifle in his lap, with an ugly attitude, hollering for you to "Get out or else."

It matters not if you're fishing with a woman, a child, a disabled veteran or an out-of-state guest. Point out that you're not on somebody's property or land, and you learn that the land under the water (that was once land) is claimed to be theirs, too.

The threat of violence or getting shot can leave one in a state of fury, disgust and embarrassment in front of friends and family. This is the deteriorated state of our "Sportsman's Paradise," and it's why major bass fishing and bowfishing championships no longer want to invest good money in local venues. They fear for the safety of their participants.

The bottom line is, no other state in America has such a ridiculous and dangerous legal mess that has allowed the wealthy and politically-connected the means to carve out enormous amounts of our best fishing and hunting territory for the private enjoyment of a few.

Yet they will want public taxpayer dollars to be utilized to repair or rebuild the land they're losing — while they run off us public "trespassers" who just want to enjoy our precious wilderness, too.

Conservation groups constantly beg Louisiana sportsmen for money for seemingly good causes, but I wonder who's actually first in line to reap the benefits? Is it the big-time landowners who can't even tolerate an ordinary person peacefully fishing with friends or family?

I love Louisiana. I came to start life anew in 1976 and never regretted it. I remember how great the feeling of freedom was to hunt and fish that we all had, and how good it felt to share it.

As a 73-year-old decorated, and now disabled, combat veteran with two Purple Hearts, it distresses me to look over my shoulder when I hit the water and listen to some goon yell at me to leave with threats I never would have tolerated in my younger days. And from what I hear, I'm far from alone in that regard.

As sportsmen, we understand the state's coffers are hurting and could use additional funds to facilitate services at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and for conservation purposes.

But we are being asked to give more — and we're getting less than ever.

The situation on our waterways is becoming dire. Places we could be fishing, or even traversing, are increasingly gated off, posted and patrolled. Our lawmakers and true representatives need to get off their butts and out of the pockets of the wealthy and politically connected few and legally open up all the recreational waterways that the rest of America enjoys.

Instead of asking for more money, give us back our God-given rights to be on the water. Eliminate this nonsense of "land beneath the water" abuse.

Like millions of sportsmen and women nationwide, we are ready to fund and protect what is ours. We just want our money's worth.

What good are upgraded licenses if they are practically worthless? Legislators, lawmakers and representatives of the people, get to work and change this outdated, confusing, nightmare-on-the-bayou law before lives get lost.

The few should not be allowed to legally ruin it for the many.

ALAN YEDOR SR.
Harvey, La.

B & B ENTERPRISES OF GONZALES, INC.
13485 AIRLINE HWY.

TRAILER RENTALS
TRAILER SALES
TRAILER SERVICE AND REPAIRS
1 HOUR MINIMUM

OPEN

TRAILER SERVICE AND REPAIRS
1 HOUR MINIMUM

We also have utility trailers, flatbed trailers, enclosed trailers, atv trailers, and gooseneck trailers

Trailers for Bass, Flat, Bay, V-Bottom, & Pontoon Boats

B & B ENTERPRISES OF GONZALES, INC

Trailer Sales & Rentals
Repairs, Parts, & Accessories

13485 Airline Hwy. | Gonzales, LA 70737
225-647-2777

bbenterprisesofgonzalesinc.com

AmeraTrail

Aluminum Boats Trailers In Stock

- From 15' to 40'
- Single, Double, or Triple Axles
- Heavy I-Beam Construction
- Galvanized Axles and Hubs
- Torsion Axle W/ Surge Brakes

GET WILD
in the "Most Cajun place on earth!"

Sometimes we need to let loose, become one with nature and get off the grid....

Come get wild with us in the marshes of Vermilion Parish!

Vermilion
PARISH COMMISSION
Abbeville, LA
337.898.6600

www.MostCajun.com
Abbeville Delcambre Erath Gueydan Kaplan Maurice

FATHER/SON TEAM UP FOR WHOPPING 33-POUND TOLEDO BEND STRINGER

DAVE AND DEREK MONG ENJOYED EPIC DAY DURING APRIL TOURNEY

By Patrick Bonin



Derek Mong, left, and his dad Dave hold up the winning five-fish stringer that tipped the scales at 33.13 pounds — good enough to win a team tournament on April 22 put on by Keith's Toledo Bend Tackle.

Photo courtesy Derek Mong

Derek Mong and his dad Dave have been fishing bass tournaments together since he was just 4 years old.

Now 38, Derek is a noted big-bass specialist at Toledo Bend, with six hawgs officially placed in the reservoir's Lunker Bass Program, which awards a free mount to anglers who catch 10-pound-plus fish and return them to the lake.

He and his dad may have fished competitively for more than 30 years now, but they never enjoyed a day quite like they did on Sunday, April 22 — when they teamed up for an impressive five-fish stringer that tipped the scales at 33.13 pounds during a monthly tournament put on by Keith's Toledo Bend Tackle.

"I had actually found these fish about two weeks beforehand," said Derek, who noted they were fishing on the south end of the lake in the Housen and 6 Mile area. "There was another big tournament the weekend before that I tried to go back and fish these same fish, but the wind was blowing way too much from a bad direction, and I wasn't able to stay out in the main lake area where I was fishing — so I didn't get on them.

"So I guess I was expecting to catch them this time because the wind direction was blowing a lot better for that area, and I figured they'd be there — and they were."

GETTING THE 'JUMP'

Most of the damage came from two spots — one in 14 to 18 feet of water, and one 20 to 24 feet deep — that Mong called "jump areas."

"It's where the fish stop at when they're coming in for prespawn, then they stop back there on the postspawn," he explained. "Most of the time, I don't fish the spawn up shallow. I try to stay in these areas, especially this time of year when there are quite a bit more postspawners coming out."

Mong, who lives in Many next door to his dad, said all the fish were caught with two baits from V&M: a brown-purple ¾-ounce Pacemaker Flatline football jig with a J-Proz Series J-Bug trailer, and a Carolina rig featuring a blue shadow J-Bug.

"We ended up catching a limit within about the first 45 min-

utes, and we just steadily culled all day long," he said. "It actually started off pretty quick. I think we had our first fish in the boat within about 10 minutes. It wasn't one of the real big ones we caught, but it kind of got the day rolling and gave us some confidence they were still there."

8-POUNDER ON LAST CAST

The stringer's final five fish came in at about 7 ½, 6, 5 ¾, 5 ½ — and an 8-pound hammer that sealed the deal on literally Derek's last cast of the day.

"We had 30 pounds in the boat that I calculated, and it was still relatively early, but with that kind of weight I was pretty confident that we were going to win the tournament, and I didn't want to run into any kind of problems getting back — so I wanted to leave a little earlier," Mong said with a chuckle. "But my dad was wanting to stay and keep fishing because it was such a good day. I told him last cast, and he went ahead and threw another cast out, and I was like, 'Man, we need to go.' He was like, 'One more cast,' so I threw my jig back out there and it hit the bottom and I drug it about a foot — and I felt this thump.

"I set the hook and it came out and jumped about 40 yards from the boat. I was like, 'Oh my goodness.' I thought it was actually bigger than an 8-pounder when I first saw it. When I got it in the boat, we ended up culling our smallest fish at that point, which was a 5.05 before I threw it back.

"Dad was like, 'Aren't you glad I made one more cast?'"

Team Mong nearly lapped the field, with second place coming in at about 17 pounds. Father and son picked up around \$1,000 for the win, but the memories they made on the water were priceless.

"It was great. Me and Dad have been fishing together for years. He pretty much taught me how to fish when I was young," Derek said. "That was our best five-fish stringer we've had in a tournament

"It was certainly the trip of a lifetime, for sure." ■

\$10

CASH CRAZE DOUBLE DOUBLER

**WIN UP TO
\$200,000!**



louisianalottery.com



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

TWO BIG BLUEFIN CAUGHT OUT OF VENICE

MEXICAN GULF CAPTAINS BRING IN 500-PLUS POUNDERS

By Patrick Bonin

They say it's better to be lucky than good.

That was the case for four captains with Mexican Gulf Fishing Company in Venice on May 3 while they were wrapping up another successful yellowfin tuna trip about 35 miles south of Port Eads.

What they stumbled upon — or actually what came to them — was a school of giant bluefin tuna.

"We had caught our last yellowfin, and we were going to go swordfishing," said Capt. Jordan Ellis, who runs "Kimmi," a 37-foot Freeman. "So we were dumping the rest of our baits over and I looked up and my first thought was, 'Look at all the porpoises.' They were literally right next to the boat eating everything we threw in the water.

"It was pretty cool."

Once he realized he was in the middle of a mess of bluefin, he called fellow Mexican Gulf captains Kevin Beach, Zach Lewis and Colin Byrd, who were all in the same area catching yellowfin.

"I was like, 'Guys, I don't know what y'all have going on, but there's bluefin eating right next to the boat,'" Ellis said. "As soon as everybody landed the fish they were fighting, they ran over there — and it was pretty much chaos for about an hour."

The giant fish devoured the same bait



From the left, Mexican Gulf Fishing Company's Capt. Zach Lewis, mate Tanner Noakly, Capt. Kevin Beach and mate Clayton Walters pose with the 528-pound (left) and 543-pound bluefin tuna they caught May 3 about 35 miles south of Port Eads. Both fish were more than 8 feet long.

Photo courtesy Capt. Zach Lewis

used for yellowfin — pogies. Multiple fish were hooked and lost, but when the dust settled, both Lewis' and Beach's Freemans rolled into Venice Marina with giant bluefin on board: Lewis' fish measured 100 inches and tipped the scales at 528 pounds, and Beach's measured 102 inches and weighed 543 pounds.

Ellis, who fought a giant bluefin for more than three hours before it broke the line that afternoon, said even though he came up empty, it was an experience he won't soon forget.

"There's always some caught in the Gulf, but it's being in the right place at the

right time. There's nothing you can be prepared for. It's just a chance thing," he said. "Kevin's been doing this 25 years-plus and he's never even seen one before, so the odds of it happening again are pretty slim.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime deal for sure — I'm just happy I got to witness it."

The Louisiana state record bluefin was caught by Ron Roland in May of 2003 about 30 miles south of South Pass, and tipped the scales at 1,152 pounds. To just crack into the state's Top 10, a bluefin would need to weigh about 752 pounds. ■

YAMAHA OUTBOARDS

WAKE UP

TO SAVINGS
SALES EVENT

OFFER VALID FROM MAY 1, 2018 – JUNE 15, 2018



For a limited time, purchase a new, select eligible Yamaha 2.5 hp to 150 hp four-stroke outboard and receive:

UP TO **\$750** IN DEALER CREDIT
Toward the purchase of additional goods or services from your authorized, participating Yamaha outboard dealer.*

ELIGIBLE FOUR-STROKE OUTBOARDS

DEALERSHIP CREDIT TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF GOODS/SERVICES

150 HP	\$750 based on MSRP
90-115 HP	\$600 based on MSRP
60-75 HP	\$500 based on MSRP
30-50 HP	\$400 based on MSRP
20-25 HP	\$300 based on MSRP
8-15 HP	\$250 based on MSRP
2.5-6 HP	\$200 based on MSRP

See your authorized participating Yamaha outboard dealer today for details! Other restrictions and conditions may apply.

***PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Consumer benefit for purchasing a new (unused not previously warranty registered) eligible Yamaha 2.5 to 150 HP four-stroke outboard is a credit based on MSRP toward the purchase of goods and/or services at the authorized, participating dealer that sold the outboard, at no extra cost to consumer. NO BENEFIT SUBSTITUTIONS. To be eligible, outboards must also have been manufactured since January 2011. Promotion is only applicable from authorized participating Yamaha Outboard dealers in the U.S.A. sold to purchasing consumers residing in the U.S.A. Promotion is limited to available stock in dealer inventory that is sold, PDI completed, delivered and warranty registered on YMBS by the dealer in accordance with Yamaha's promotion and warranty registration requirements during applicable dates. No model substitutions, benefit substitutions, extensions or rain checks will be allowed. Outboards sold or provided for commercial, camp, resort, rental promotional/demo, scratch-and-dent, government agency, competition, tournament or sponsorship use are not eligible. This promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other Yamaha offer. Some exceptions may apply. See authorized, participating Yamaha dealer for complete details. Yamaha reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. Other restrictions and conditions apply.

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

LDWF: STILL NO CWD CASES IN NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

ADDITIONAL SAMPLING CONTINUES, BUT NO POSITIVE RESULTS YET

From News Reports

Almost 200 sample results have been received, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

is reporting that none have tested positive for chronic wasting disease in three Northeast Louisiana parishes.

The LDWF has sampled 239 deer so far in East Carroll, Madison and Tensas parishes, with 188 results back and no evidence of the disease in the state's deer herd, according to a press release from the department.

The remaining results should be in soon, and biologists plan to sample 61 additional deer to meet the 300-deer sample size in a buffer zone which extends 25 miles from Issaquena County, Mississippi, where a deer tested positive for CWD in January.

This sample size will provide a 95 percent confidence interval that sampling would detect CWD at a prevalence rate of 1 percent, the release states.

MISSISSIPPI HAS NOT DETECTED ANY ADDITIONAL CASES

Mississippi has also sampled in the area in its state and, with 275 results back, has not detected the disease outside the one case earlier this year.

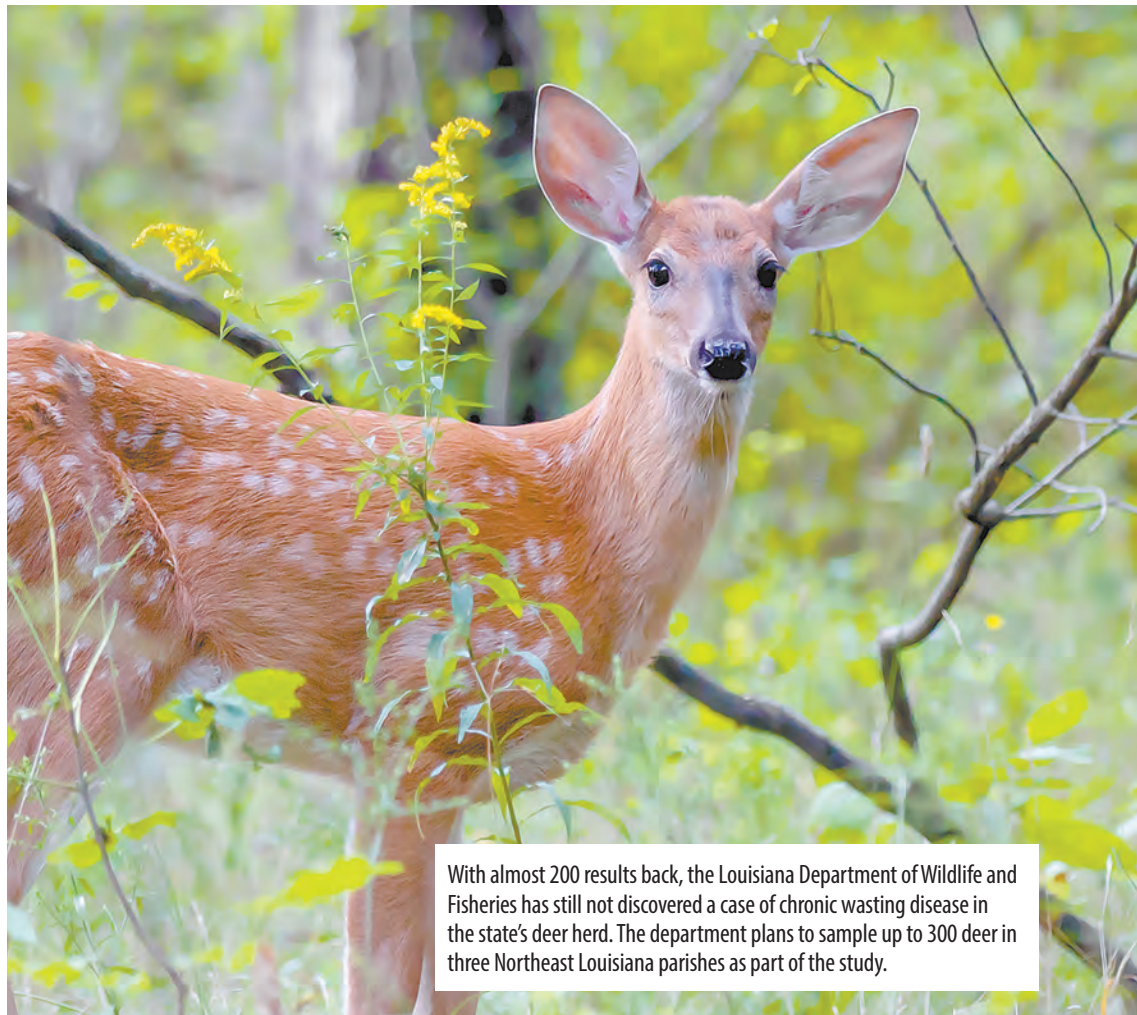
In addition to the LDWF sampling, supplemental deer feeding in East Carroll, Madison and Tensas parishes has been suspended as part of the response plan.

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.

Deer infected with CWD can spread the

tite, progressive weight loss, excessive thirst and urination, teeth grinding and drooping ears. ■



With almost 200 results back, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has still not discovered a case of chronic wasting disease in the state's deer herd. The department plans to sample up to 300 deer in three Northeast Louisiana parishes as part of the study.

disease even before symptoms develop. It can take one to two years for infected animals to become symptomatic. When symptoms appear, they can include emaciation, lethargy, abnormal behavior and loss of bodily functions. Other signs include excessive salivation, loss of appe-

NEED MORE?

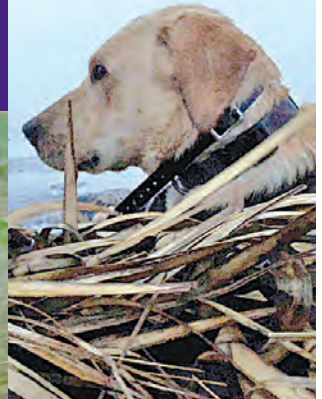
visit us online at
www.LouisianaSportsman.com

Training Spots Available!

SERVICES:

- Boarding
- Whelping
- All breed obedience training
- Puppy development training
- Basic hunting retriever training
- Advanced hunting retriever training
- Hunt test & field trial 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



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

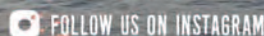
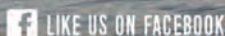
ACCESS SHALLOW WATER AREAS TO TARGET YOUR FAVORITE SPECIES.

Cottonmouth BOATS

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



WWW.COTTONMOUTHBOATS.COM



HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEE INCREASE BILL DIES IN HOUSE

By Patrick Bonin

A bill that would have raised recreational hunting and fishing licenses for many Louisiana residents failed in the House of Representatives this spring, but plans are to tweak the legislation to include commercial fee increases and then reintroduce it in 2019.



Patrick Bonin

ZERINGUE: 2019 LEGISLATION LIKELY TO INCLUDE RECREATIONAL, COMMERCIAL SECTORS IN ONE PACKAGE

As the clock wound down on the Legislature's regular session in May, Rep. Jerome "Zee" Zeringue confirmed to Louisiana Sportsman that legislation which would have increased hunting and fishing license fees for many state residents was officially dead this year. Zeringue (R-Houma) authored HB

687, which would have raised almost \$7 million annually for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, but failed on the floor of the House on April 23 with a vote of 54 in favor and 27 against. (The legislation needed 70 votes to pass because it involved a fee increase.)

But because the legislation received at least 53 votes, Zeringue had the option of reintroducing the bill on the House floor again during the regular session.

"I'm not going to bring it back up, primarily because the votes are not there. The will of the body is not to pursue it in its present form, so what we're going to

do is work with those hunting and fishing interests and continue to work with the Department on bringing in the commercial side, as well,” Zeringue said. “And I think if we can put together a collective package, we can garner more support and get the votes we need to pass this — because ultimately it’s in the best interest of the resource, and the Department.”

ONE COMPREHENSIVE BILL FOR 2019

Although the LDWF hadn’t proposed increasing license fees since 2000, the fact that recreational hunters and anglers were facing an increase with the legislation — while commercial interests were not — rubbed some people the wrong way. LDWF Secretary Jack Montoucet’s original plan was to pass the recreational side increases this year, and then pursue increases for the commercial side in 2019.

Montoucet confirmed work would begin after this session to look at the commercial fees and begin preparations to present one comprehensive bill next year. The Department’s budget has taken a big hit in the last several years because of declining mineral revenues due to lower oil prices.

“Certainly we’re going to go home and regroup, and look at what we did, and it will give us an opportunity to look at the commercial side also, and probably bring it

back next year with a complete package including the commercials, so nobody will be able to gripe saying they’re the only side getting hit, and the other side is not getting hit,” Montoucet said. “At least we have half of the puzzle done, and we can do a little fine-tuning and then we can work on the commercial side, so we’ll have more time. It’s not like we have to go home and redo the plan all over again.”

In light of the bill failing and the Department operating in deficit spending now, Montoucet said he and his staff are already planning ahead and examining potential areas to cut.

“The first thing we’re going to do ... is sit down and figure out what price of oil we need to bring our budget back in line — what’s ground zero? The other

component that a lot of people overlook is production. If production isn’t there, we’ve got a problem. So we have to determine at certain price levels, what does the production have to be?” Montoucet said. “And we’re going to look at the trend. I’ve told them we better start planning ahead and we better start looking at in this scenario: If we’re \$10 million short, what are we going to fund, and what are we not going to fund?”

“I certainly don’t want to get rid of people — that’s my most important asset for what we do But we’re certainly going to start doing things to prepare ourselves and work on if things don’t change. I’m not going to wait until the last minute. And I’m certainly not going to kick the can down the road — there’s been too much of that going on.” ■





2017 WeldBilt 1648
w/30hp Tohatsu
4 stroke tiller handle
and galv. trailer



Powered by:



2268 Grand Caillou Rd.
Houma, LA

985-873-7731

DON'T MISS OUT ...

SUBSCRIBE TO

Louisiana
SPORTSMAN

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

WWW.LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM/SUBSCRIBE



POTENTIAL NO. 2-RANKED ATYPICAL LOUISIANA TURKEY

By Patrick Bonin

DOWNED IN WEST FELICIANA PARISH

Clint Gray, left, and caller Eric Templet pose with the six-bearded gobbler Gray shot April 29 in West Feliciana Parish. Once certified by the National Wild Turkey Federation, it will become the No. 2 all-time atypical turkey in Louisiana's record books.

Photo courtesy Eric Templet

BIG GOBBLER FEATURED SIX BEARDS AND 1-INCH SPURS, SCORED 127.375

After a pretty intense game of cat-and-mouse this past weekend, Clint Gray and Eric Templet teamed up and eventually put down a six-bearded gobbler Sunday morning in West Feliciana Parish that, once officially certified by the National Wild Turkey Federation, will become Louisiana's No. 2-ranked atypical

gobbler in the all-time record books.

Gray, from Zachary, was the shooter hunting on property near Spillman, and Templet, who lives in Ethel and co-owns Sheaux Stopper Custom Calls, helped lure the big gobbler into range with his Triple V Cut diaphragm call.

The two have been hunting together for years, and have bagged many gobblers —

but none quite like this.

"We had actually went Saturday morning and heard a few turkeys and set up on this one, and got to a place where it was comfortable strutting, and it strutted for an hour or two," Templet said. "Then a couple hens came in and took it off down the road. We kind of hung tight to see if we could get it to come back, but

FINAL 2018-19 MIGRATORY BIRD SEASON DATES

it didn't — so we went back that next morning on Sunday.

"We got in the same area it was strutting and set a decoy near the side of the road, and made some soft calls — he was gobbling 80 or 100 yards away and flew down. He came out on the logging road strutting, and he was taking a step about every five minutes. Having to watch him like that seemed like it took forever for him to get to us, gobbling the whole time.

"We were set up perfect where we had a mound of dirt with some pine trees with our backs up against it, and he finally got into a spot in plain view where he was about 25 yards."

Gray fired and the gobbler went down, but neither man was aware of how special the bird really was — until they approached and noticed the six beards, which totaled 45 ¾ inches.

"When we got to totaling up the numbers and researching the NWT and Louisiana record books, and started seeing how the point system works with beard lengths, spur lengths and weight ... we kind of roughed it to where it would be in the Top 5," Templet said.

But aside from more than 45 inches of beard, an official scorer also tallied the 1-inch spurs on the bird, which was estimated at 4 years old and weighed more than 16 pounds — coming up with an official score of 127.375 that if approved actually will be the No. 2 typical turkey in the state.

Templet said Gray is getting the bird mounted, a great keepsake of a rare specimen — and a weekend when their team plan worked to perfection.

"I think with all those other birds in there, and that kind of being his little area where he wanted to be, him knowing a hen was close and other turkeys were gobbling in the area, he had to get into his strut zone to make sure his ladies were taken care of by him and not anybody else," Templet said. "The call got his attention, but I think all that had a lot to do with it, too." ■

In May, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission finalized the migratory bird season dates for the upcoming 2018-19 season.

Dove season kicks things off this fall on Sept. 1, followed by teal season Sept. 15-30, with duck season in the coastal and west zones cranking up on Nov. 10. In the east zone, duck season begins on Nov. 17.

For a complete look at important dates all season long, check out the table below.

DOVES:

South Zone: Sept. 1 – 9
Oct. 6 – Nov. 25
Dec. 16 – Jan. 14

North Zone: Sept. 1 – 23
Oct. 6 – Nov. 11
Dec. 16 – Jan. 14

TEAL: Sept. 15 – 30

WOODCOCK: Dec. 18 – Jan. 31

DUCKS AND COOTS:

Coastal Zone: Nov. 10 – Dec. 2
(Youth Nov. 3-4)
Dec. 15 – Jan. 20

West Zone: Nov. 10 – Dec. 2
(Youth Nov. 3 and Jan. 26)
Dec. 15 - Jan. 20

East Zone: Nov. 17 – Dec. 2
(Youth Nov. 10 and Feb. 2)
Dec. 15 - Jan. 27

Daily Bag Limits: 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 females), 2 canvasback, 1 mottled duck, 1 black duck, 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, and 2 pintails.

Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers - The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers, in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit - Three times the daily bag limit.

LIGHT GEESE (SNOW, BLUE and ROSS') and WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

North Zone: Nov. 3 – Dec. 2
Dec. 15 – Feb. 10

South Zone: Nov. 3 – Dec. 2
Dec. 15 – Feb. 10

Daily bag limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross): 20

Possession limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross): None

Daily Limit on white-fronted geese: 2

Possession Limit on white-fronted geese: 6

CANADA GEESE:

North Zone: Nov. 3 – Dec. 2
Dec. 15 - Jan. 31

South Zone: Nov. 3 – Dec. 2
Dec. 15 – Jan. 31

Daily Limit on Canada geese: 1 per day

Possession limit on Canada geese: 3

CONSERVATION ORDER FOR LIGHT GEESE (SNOW, BLUE AND ROSS'S):

North Zone: Dec. 3 – Dec. 14
Feb. 11 – March 10

South Zone: Dec. 3 - Dec. 14
Feb. 11 - March 10

Only snow, blue and Ross's geese may be taken under the terms of the Conservation Order, which allows the use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and eliminates the daily bag and possession limits. During the Conservation Order, shooting hours begins one-half hour before sunrise and extends until one-half hour after sunset.

RAILS: Sep. 15 - 30
Nov. 10 – Jan. 2

KING AND CLAPPER: Daily bag is 15 in aggregate, possession 45.

SORA AND VIRGINIA: Daily bag is 25 in aggregate, possession 75.

GALLINULES: Sep. 15 - 30
Nov. 10 – Jan. 2

Daily bag limit 15, possession limit 45

SNIPE: Nov. 2 – Dec. 2
Dec. 15 – Feb. 28

Daily bag limit 8, possession limit 24



LAKE CHARLES
**BOAT
 SHOW**
 SPECIALS

In Stock!



JERRY'S MARINE

YOUR FISHING BOAT HEADQUARTERS

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

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

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

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



Topwaters, suspending baits and soft plastics can all be effective ways to reel in speckled trout — but the key is knowing when to use each lure. Two veteran Big Lake guides share their expertise so you'll know which trick to pick.

PICK YOUR POISON

By Jerald Horst

Ugh!

I sure was happy when Jeff Poe pointed his boat's pointy nose north out of Hebert's Landing on Calcasieu Lake. In the early light, the sky to the south looked like a bruised eggplant — purple and ugly.

Along with the 59-year-old veteran was the young buck, his 29-year-old son Nick, a full-time guide in the family's fishing and waterfowl hunting business, Big Lake Guide Service.

Our plan was to do a round-robin of speckled trout lure types, starting with topwaters early, shifting to suspending lures later and then closing with soft plastics on jigheads.

>

They started in 3 ½ feet of water over an oyster reef just south of the small settlement of Deatonville. Nick scored first with a pink-and-chrome MirrOlure She Pup. The vicious chomp made the fish look even bigger than its 3 ½ pounds, and more good fish quickly followed.

“Oysters are the most important habitat in any estuary,” Jeff said. “We can do this all day over oyster reefs in 4 feet of water. We know so many spots like that.”

The father and son obviously were having fun.

“This is like vacation after throwing plastics all day,” cooed the senior Poe, while he unhooked a nice 5-pounder. “But,” added Nick, “the truth is that you can catch trout with all three types of baits at some place almost any day.”

“They are all good,” Jeff nodded in affirmation. “You just need to know when to use them.”

TOPWATER LURES

“Topwaters are a confidence thing,” said Nick firmly. “You can catch them at 2 p.m. on a sunny day in 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Admittedly, it is a little better very early or at dusk.”

“Location has a lot to do with it,” added Jeff. “You don’t want to use them in an area with tidal flow. They are also better in clear water. You lose a lot of fish in dirty water.”

“It needs to be warm, too,” added Nick. “Right,” affirmed Jeff. “It’s not a good winter-time bait.”

Jeff briefly discussed strategy.

“If everyone in the boat is throwing topwaters, I’d have them with three different

PROS FOR TOPWATER LURES:

1) They are good locator lures because you can cover a lot of water with them. You can get a blow-up on one, then go to a jig and mop up.

2) Fish caught on them are, on average, larger than with other lures.

3) Strikes are visual. You get to see the action. It’s an exciting way of fishing.

4) Sometimes trout will eat them when they won’t bite anything else. If you are not having any action on the bottom, it often pays to try a topwater “just to see.”

5) It’s easier to make long casts. They will cast further than anything else in the box.

6) They are great in windy conditions because they are aerodynamic. Also, trout will smash them in waves as large as 3 feet.

CONS FOR TOPWATER LURES:

1) Treble hooks are dangerous.

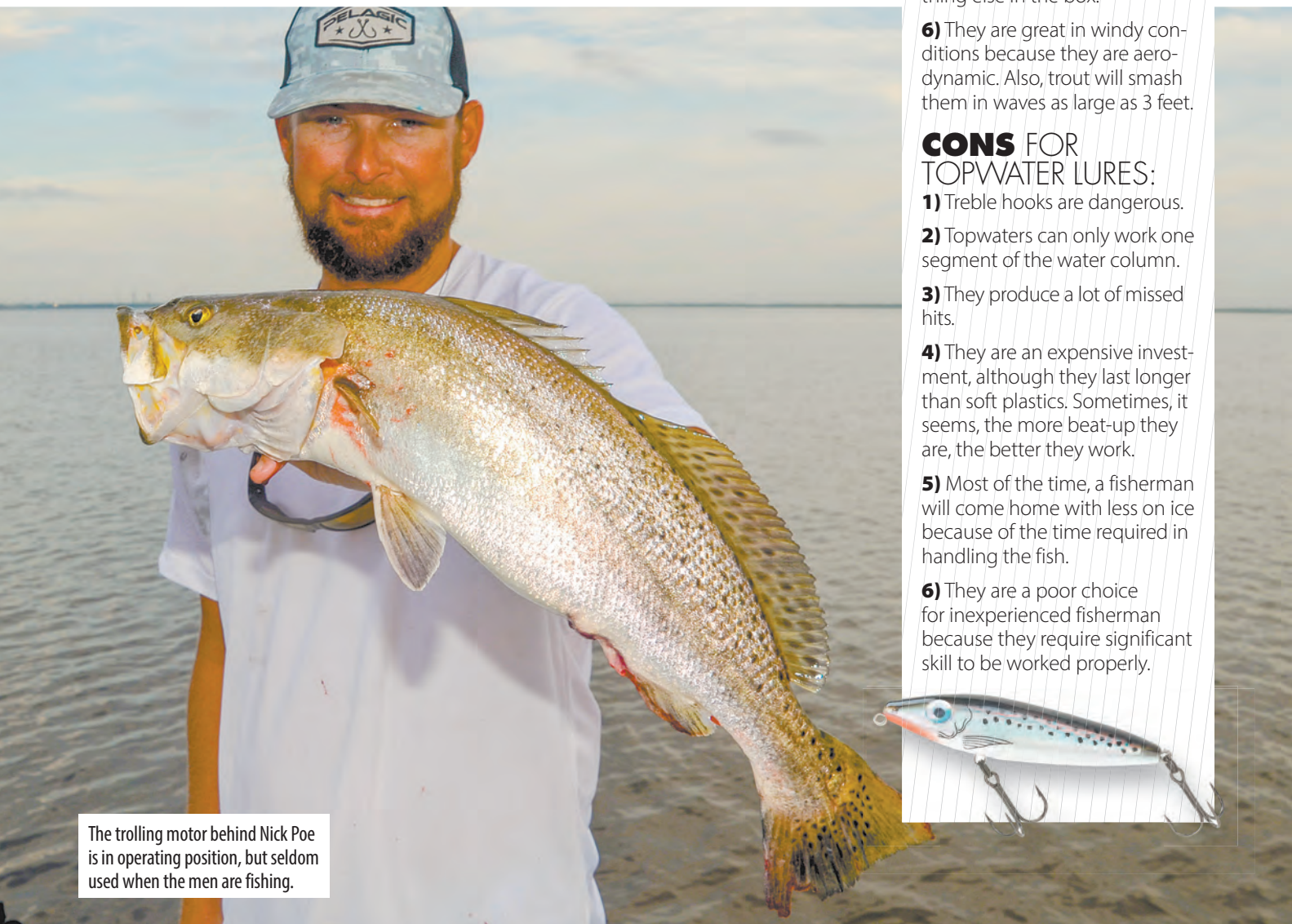
2) Topwaters can only work one segment of the water column.

3) They produce a lot of missed hits.

4) They are an expensive investment, although they last longer than soft plastics. Sometimes, it seems, the more beat-up they are, the better they work.

5) Most of the time, a fisherman will come home with less on ice because of the time required in handling the fish.

6) They are a poor choice for inexperienced fisherman because they require significant skill to be worked properly.



The trolling motor behind Nick Poe is in operating position, but seldom used when the men are fishing.

The Poe's favorite topwater lures are, top to bottom: Heddon Zara Spook Jr, Heddon Zara Spook, MirrOlure She Pup, MirrOlure C-Eye Pro Dog Jr., Rapala Skitter Walk Baby or Junior and Rapala Skitter Walk.



colors, noises and styles." By styles, he gave lures as examples: She Pups, Super Spooks and Skitter Walks.

"Try to determine what they want to eat. It's funny; sometimes everyone will be getting looks (swirls or splashes behind the lures), but they will only eat one bait.

"I don't know why they do that. If they wanted to eat it, they would."

"Color makes a difference in topwaters," said Nick, "but no way I can tell you what to use at any one time.

My favorite colors are pink, chrome and chartreuse; chrome belly with a red head and chrome with a blue back.

"If they won't hit those, I won't catch fish."

"I'm not so sure I have favorite colors," drawled Jeff.

"When I start, I start with natural colors like silver with a green back or gold sides with a dark back. But I will always have bright colors like pink or chartreuse ready."

Nick also noted that he prefers smaller topwater baits over larger ones. "People say, 'Use big baits for big fish.' But I think smaller baits catch more fish. Fish don't discriminate."

Three companies make all the topwater lures the pair uses: Heddon (Spooks), Rapala (Skitter Walks) and MirrOlure (She Pups, and C-eye Pro Dog Jrs.)

One thing they both agreed on was the treble hooks on topwater lures demand some safety precautions. Always use pliers, they stressed. Also, when one set of hooks in a lure becomes tangled in the landing net, leave them in place so they can't get you while you unhook the others from the fish.

LET'S GO BOAT RIDING IN STYLE



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



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

cajunoutboards.com

SUSPENDING LURES UP NEXT >

SUSPENDING LURES

Suspending lures, also called twitch baits, used by the Poe's fall into two groups — hard and soft. All their favorites are sold by MirrOlure. “There are others, but these are what we use,” said Jeff.

His favorite hard-bodied suspender is a MirrOlure MirrOdine XL with a black back, silver sides and orange belly. Nick likes the same color, but in the regular size rather than XL.

Jeff likes the big version because of its weight. “It goes way further when you cast.”

Early in the year, he admits to using the smaller one like Nick, but by June pogies, a prime trout food, are bigger and trout are used to feeding on them.

The MirrOdine is it for them.

“It has a really erratic motion,” explained Nick. “It has a lot of flash and it looks like easy pickings for a trout,” added Jeff.

Prime time for this bait is from November through May. “Fish will take suspenders,” said Jeff, “when the water is chilly and they are reluctant to come to the surface to feed.

“It is usually worked with twitches and pauses, but you have to vary the retrieve to find what they want. Sometimes you can't work it hard enough. Other times you have to tick the lure off the oysters.”

Their favorite soft-bodied suspending lures are Soft-Dines, Paul Brown's Original Fat Boy and Paul Brown's Devil. Soft-Dines are modeled on MirrOdines, and also are sold in two sizes.

Jeff observed that Soft-Dines seem to work better in dirtier water than do MirrOdines.

Nick explains his view of their uses. “If I'm throwing a Soft-Dine, I'm looking for a bunch of fish. If I'm throwing a Fat Boy or a Devil, I am looking for one bigger fish.”

Jeff nodded in agreement, adding that Fat Boys and Devils are winter baits.

The two captains agreed that they would rather fish for speckled trout with suspending baits than topwaters. “I fish for the thump,” rumbled Jeff.

“Yeah, the thump,” echoed Nick.

“There is a little more to fishing these than topwaters,” said Jeff. “The bite is subtle

PROS FOR SUSPENDING LURES:

- 1) Suspending baits work well in colder water when topwater lures aren't effective.
- 2) They can be fished from near the bottom all the way to near the surface. Sometimes they want it popping out of the water, but they still might not take topwaters.
- 3) Suspending fish on average are larger than those caught on soft plastics.
- 4) Like topwater lures, they are easy to cast, even in the wind.
- 5) Because they are worked so slowly, they can be kept in the strike zone longer.
- 6) You get satisfaction from learning to master the lure — subtle differences matter.

CONS FOR SUSPENDING LURES:

- 1) They are a little fragile. Red-fish mangle them and they cost \$8 to \$9 each. If you catch 15 trout on one, that's a lot.
- 2) They require patience to fish. A lot of people fish too fast to use them.
- 3) They are more difficult to master than are other lures. They require the angler pay attention to his lure and concentrate. Many people can't catch fish on them.
- 4) They are a poor choice for fishing in warmer water.
- 5) Treble hooks are a hazard. Although the Devil has only one set of treble hooks, the others have two.



Soft suspending baits are somewhat fragile, but highly effective in skilled hands.





The Poes' favorite suspending lures are, top to bottom: MirrOlure MirrOdine, MirrOdine XL, Paul Brown's Soft-Dine, Soft-Dine XL, Paul Brown's Devil and Paul Brown's Fat Boy.

and I feel like you almost have to talk the fish into biting.”

“These really are harder baits for the average person to fish,” agreed Nick.

Favorite colors for soft suspending baits for Nick are pearl with a chartreuse back, or chartreuse back, gold sides and a white belly for Fat Boys and a black back with char-

treuse or gold sides for Soft-Dines.

Jeff's favorites are black back, gold sides with an orange belly, or pink and pearl for Fat Boys and a chartreuse back with translucent sides for Soft-Dines.

SOFT PLASTICS UP NEXT >

TIP OF THE DAY

Jeff and Nick Poe recommend using electric trolling motors as sparingly as possible. In fact, neither of them use one much because they believe it spooks the fish.

Nick gave an example.

“You can drift into a shallow marsh. When you hit the (trolling motor) switch, the effect is immediate.

“Everything comes to the surface. Everything gets nervous — sheepshead, drum, mullet and redfish. And the redfish start pushing out.

“And redfish are stupid compared to trout.”

Of course, that doesn't mean they don't have a trolling motor on their boat. They do, and it's usually down in operative position while they are fishing. But they use it more to put them in position to drift where they want to be than to move the boat into the target area.

In a typical approach to a spot, they motor to 300 yards from the target location, troll to 200 yards upwind of the spot, and then allow the boat to drift in.

Their approach takes more planning and demands a little more patience, but they believe that the stealthy effort pays off with more fish. ■

- Jerald Horst

Great for Redfish, Trout, Flounder and Snook!

3-3/4" Marsh Minnow™
 MirrOlure® presents two new Marsh Minnow™ colors. This realistic baitfish profile, with its large tail design, creates lots of vibration when retrieved. Like other popular MirrOlure® Soft Plastics, this lure is heavily scented to attract finicky gamefish.

2 NEW Marsh Minnow™ Colors

38WT — Pink Silver Glitter/White Tail **14 — Glow/Chartreuse Tail**

MirrOlure®
 L&S Bait Company
 1415 East Bay Drive • Largo, Florida 33771
 Tel 727-584-7691 • www.mirrOlure.com

SCENTED

SOFT PLASTICS

This lure has two components: a hook-bearing jighead and a soft plastic grub. The Poes use 1/16-, 1/8-, 1/4-, 3/8- and rarely, 1/2-ounce jigheads. Their rule of thumb is to fish the lightest one that will get the lure to where the fish are.

"A bait with a lighter head is presented so much better to a fish than one with a heavier head," explained Nick.

"You can work a lighter bait a lot slower, too," injected Jeff. "It allows you to work it right off the bottom, right where the fish are. My bait is never not-moving."

"But if the current is sweeping your bait through the fishing zone too quickly, then go to a heavier head," added Nick.

The main place that they will use a 1/2-ounce jighead is at offshore rigs, and then primarily to get the lure quickly through the bluefish,

ladyfish and jacks that are higher in the water column. The smallest they typically use offshore is 3/8-ounce.

"An important note here," said Nick, "is to weigh your jigheads. With a lot of the companies, the heads don't weigh what's printed on the pack."

"Not even close," spat Jeff.

"That can make a huge difference," Nick went on. "The weight of the head has more to do with success than the choice of tail style."

"Most people use too big a jighead," said Jeff. "In the morning with customers, we cut their lures off their rods to tie on ours. Their jigheads are too heavy."

"They think it helps cast further, when what they really need is lighter lines and full spools on their reels."

Hooks on the Poes' jigheads are 2/0, and the heads are round in shape and unpainted.

PROS FOR SOFT PLASTICS:

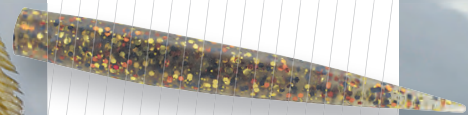
- 1) They are inexpensive and durable enough to catch 20 or 25 fish on one lure.
- 2) They can be fished at any depth.
- 3) It's easy to change colors without retying the line.
- 4) It's the easiest artificial bait to learn how to fish.
- 5) It's the best bait for catching large numbers of fish.
- 6) It's versatile enough to catch almost any species — even bass in Toledo Bend will bite them.
- 7) It is a 12-month-a-year bait, not seasonal. Use lighter heads — down to 1/16-ounce, when it is cold. In Calcasieu Lake, the Poes catch big trout by fishing slowly in 2-foot depths on foggy, warm, cloudy winter days.
- 8) With only one hook, it is safer than other baits.
- 9) It can be fished effectively in current by using heavier jigheads.

CONS FOR SOFT PLASTICS:

"There ain't none," twanged Nick. "It is the end-all, be-all for speckled trout. There is nothing even close."

"If you had to fish with only one bait, this would be the one," boomed Jeff.

"Watermelon red Lil John on an 1/8-ounce head would be it," they chimed in unison.



Jeff Poe says a soft plastic on a jighead is the single most versatile bait that can be used for speckled trout.

The Poes' favorite colors for soft plastics are, from top to bottom: watermelon red, golden bream, opening night, purple demon, glow and chicken-on-a-chain. The top three are best for clear water and the bottom three are best for stained water. The third one is on a 1/16-ounce head, the first and second are on 1/8-ounce heads, the fourth and sixth ones are on 1/4-ounce heads and the fifth one is on a 3/8-ounce head.



Plastics used on jigheads come in three basic shapes: paddle tail, beetle and what they call "eel type."

"Ninety percent of the time, I use MirrOlure Lil Johns, an eel-type bait," said Jeff flatly. "But you can probably catch them on any of the other tails."

When he isn't using Lil Johns, he uses beetles, mostly when it gets hot in July and August, and shrimp numbers are high. "I think that it's the best shrimp imitator. Every twitch, it goes in a different direction."

"I seldom use paddle tail baits," piped in Nick. "I don't like the way they fall. They are hard to use in deep water—10 feet or better, with current. I don't want to have to go to a heavier jighead."

"I do think that paddletails catch more fish in dirty water, though."

Color choice is simple. If the water they are fishing is pretty, they use something translucent, like watermelon red or golden bream. If the water is dirty, they throw solid colors like purple, black or glow.

Neither use chartreuse-tailed baits, with the exceptions of chicken-on-a-chain and glow. Neither do they use added scents, although they admit that Lil Johns have some scent built in.

As for retrieves, Jeff said a steady retrieve can be effective at times, but that he doesn't enjoy using it. "I give the bait twitches, sometimes gentle, sometimes sharp, but I am not trying to move it a lot. What I'm trying to do is keep the lure in one spot as long as I can."

Instant Rebates On XPRESS BOATS Up To \$1,700.00



XP18



H20 Bay
H22 Bay



H16
DBX



XP16 PF



H17 PRO
H18 PRO



HD15 DBX



HD16 DB

Instant Rebates On ALL NEW VERANDA LUXURY PONTOONS BENNINGTON Pontoon Boats UP TO \$3,350.00



V22RC



223 SSRX



Family Owned & Operated

JOIN US ON 

318-336-9009
www.BryansMarine.com

Mon - Fri 8 am - 5 pm • Sat 8 am - 12 noon

4899 HWY 84 WEST
VIDALIA, LA 71373



BENNINGTON



Mississippi-Louisiana's Boating Headquarters Since 1986

WHY THE POE'S KNOW

When I first envisioned a comprehensive article to make sense out of all the lure options available to speckled trout fishermen, it became obvious I needed the help of someone who really knew his stuff.

They say experience is the best teacher, and nothing succeeds like success. So I turned to Jeff and Mary Poe, owners of Big Lake Guide Service (337-598-3268.)

The couple began their business on the eastern shore of Calcasieu Lake 33 years ago. Both guided full-time. Mary has since retired from the water to manage their business and serve as chef at their fishing lodge. (See page 136 for the *Louisiana Seafood Bible* column featuring two of her delicious recipes.)

Raised in Hoover, Alabama as a soft-spoken country boy, Jeff came to Louisiana to be a duck guide at Hackberry Rod & Gun Club and stayed on to guide fishermen for three or four years. He did, at one point, make a move to Birmingham to work in real estate, but came back after only one year.

"I had to go back — fishing," he grinned.

"Once you do this, there's nothing quite like it. It's fun."

The couple developed quite a reputation for catching lots of speckled trout, and lots of big trout. Jeff's 9-pound, 5-ounce speck still holds the No. 1 all-time spot for a fly rod-caught speckled trout in the Louisiana record books.

The couple brought son Nick into the business in 2008, when he was 19 years old. Until he was a senior in high school, he paid more attention to duck hunting and baseball than fishing.

But the learning came quickly.

"The best thing that helped me was five years fishing the Redfish Cup," he said seriously. "I fished all different places and I had to figure out how to catch fish in each of them."

"I experienced fishing in water with 10 feet of visibility and a 9-foot tide on the East Coast. You got about 30 seconds to do some learning, or you are stuck."

Now, Nick makes 200 trips a year fishing and puts in 60 days guiding during teal and duck season.

The lake they fish in has provided an ideal environment for them to become experts at all three speckled trout lure types. It has always offered an explosive topwater fishery, in addition to a vigorous jig bite.

Lake Calcasieu has also served as the gateway to Louisiana for introducing the use of suspending lures, such as Paul Brown's Corkys and Fat Boys. ■

- 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.



Father and son Jeff and Nick Poe are hard-core speckled trout specialists on a lake famous for lots of trout.

STAY COOL STAY PROTECTED

STAY OUT
THERE



Solar Shade™ ZERO Long Sleeve Shirt



Who needs shade when you have OMNI-SHADE™ SUN DEFLECTOR?

Little sun-deflecting dots are applied to the outside of an Omni-Shade™ garment to deflect sunlight away from the body, so you feel cooler and stay protected.



XTS 227



Skeeter SX 22



Huge Indoor Showroom!!!

Save BIG!!!



NauticStar BOATS



2200 Sport



SX 240

NEW Location



YAMAHA

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

dockside-marine.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
- Towers
- Bimini Tops
- Boat Covers
- Boat Interiors
- Intallation of Marine Electronics
- Poling Platforms
- Custom Enclosures
- Leaning Post
- Bowfishing Platforms
- Offshore Bags
- Service of Bilge and Livewell Systems



sterlingsllc.com • 1002 Hwy 90 East, New Iberia, LA • 337-364-0783 • lance@sterlingsllc.com



Jerry "J.T." Thompson stared intently at the screen of his 12-inch down-scan unit as he brought the pontoon boat off plane.

I leaned over, again struck by the amount of bottom detail seen on these electronics. And then Thompson chuckled.

"Look at all the fish," he said, pointing at a group of white dots arrayed on the edge of a drop in the bottom contour.

"Man, that's great to see," he said.

On the mid-April trip, I had expected to spend my two days with Living the Dream Guide Service bouncing from one Toledo Bend brush pile to another.

But when I stepped onto the boat, Thompson said he and his fellow LTD guides had discovered a new way to catch the slabs for which the huge reservoir is known.

"Something new we've been doing is catching fish on structure," Thompson said. "The fish just aren't on the brush piles yet, so we've been going out and finding structure holding fish."

As an old bass angler, I loved that idea.

Now, it's probable that, by June, brush piles throughout Toledo Bend will be teeming with crappie. So that's still an option.

But the world of down- and side-scan electronics opens new possibilities to find sac-a-lait that haven't been pounded to death.

"These fish are unpressured," Thompson said. "The brush piles get hit constantly, but these fish don't see baits."

And catching these crappie is also a lot easier than when targeting brush piles.

"A fish that is located on a small piece of structure like a stump is much easier to catch than one stuck in a brush pile," Thompson said. "If he's out there on that stump, he'll eat every time."

LOOK DOWN FOR SLABS

By Andy Crawford

If you have the latest electronics onboard, you can forget about Toledo Bend's over-fished brush piles — and still find plenty of unpressured crappie.

Thompson uses a pair of Humminbird Solix 12s, with the screens split between a LakeMaster contour map, a down-scan image and a side-scan image.

The console unit allows him to use a contour map to navigate to likely contour breaks — those that drop sharply — and, with his down-scan, quickly determine if there's anything worth probing.

When he heads to the trolling motor, his second unit provides the ability to stay on the fish.

What he wants to see on the down-scan imagery is some kind of cover on the bottom: a stump or tree, for example.

"You can see the structure that's down there, and then you can see if there's fish on it," Thompson said.

While he does use side-scan imagery to locate potential hotspots off the sides of his boat, his down-scan images are the real key to spotting crappie.

"It's harder to see fish on side-scan," the guide explained. "You can see bass because you see the shadows of the fish, but crappie are harder to see."

"Seeing" the fish on down-scan images is something of an art, since the units show baitfish as well as predators.

The key is the size and shape of the signature.

Baitfish, for instance, look more like static. And the little fish are usually in clumps.

Crappie show up as sort of round puffs.

"Once you train yourself what to look for, they're easy to pick out because they look like little cheese balls," Thompson said. "Crappie are easy to pick off of structure because they look like little cheese balls — they're just little round disks."

And, while it's cool to idle over a spot and see dozens of fish ganged up, Thompson said he doesn't hesitate to stop if only a few crappie show up.

"You don't have to have a whole bunch of them on there to catch a whole bunch



Andy Crawford

of fish because the shallower you go, they're going to run from you," he said.

So when he spots a few fish on some structure, he'll shut off the main motor and spend a few minutes probing the area to allow any fish that were spooked to return.

Even if he doesn't find the mother lode, such stops can quickly add to the box.

"You'll wind up catching four or five fish, and you might crank up and motor not even a quarter of a mile and find four or five more and catch those, or at least, in general, you're going to catch half of them," Thompson said.

Because of the wary nature of crappie, the guide doesn't look for shallow-water areas.

"I don't usually try to look for fish in anything less than about 15 feet of water because it scatters them too bad," Thompson said.

A color sonar unit also is mounted on the front of his boat so he can get a really good visual of what the fish are doing.

"You see those arches?" Thompson said, pointing to the screen. "Those are crappie."

Above a group of these arches was a bunch of dots representing bait.

"You can watch the fish feed," Thompson said. "When the baitfish ball curves up, they're running from crappie. "That's when you know you're on feeding fish."

Thompson said he carefully manages his time to ensure he goes home with plenty of meat.

"When you come across some fish, fish for them," he said. "Catch four or five, and if it slows down go find you some more — catch what you can.

"Don't camp out on them, though."

GET THE DEPTH RIGHT

Effective depths to target crappie vary. Living the Dream Guide Services' Jerry "J.T." Thompson said.

"Right now (in mid-April), we're catching most of our fish in 15 to 18 feet of water," Thompson said. "In June, that level may be 20 to 24 feet."

FACING PAGE: Crappie are easy to spot on down-scan images, showing up as "little cheese balls."
RIGHT: Crappie move deeper as the summer heats up, but just be sure you fish above the thermocline.

But it also depends on the portion of the lake in which you're fishing.

"Up and down the lake, that depth will change a little," Thompson said. "Up north, there's not as much depth, so the fish will be shallower. Down south they will be deeper.

"We know the fish in the San Patricio area will orient shallower than at Indian Mounds because there's not as much depth."

Just be certain you're staying above the thermocline.

"There are no fish below the thermocline," Thompson said. "There's no oxygen down there."

Again, you can expect the thermocline to be shallower in the northern reaches of the lake than down near the dam.



Andy Crawford

GET THE BEST ELECTRONICS UP NEXT ➤

M&H

Moseley & Hollard

MEN'S CLOTHING

In Style! In River Ranch! In Lafayette!

TAILORED CLOTHING
SPORTSWEAR
FOOTWEAR

FORMAL ATTIRE
PROFESSIONAL ALTERATIONS
FUN ATMOSPHERE!

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

LIKE US ON  

MOSELEYANDHOLLARD.COM

GET THE BEST ELECTRONICS

Jerry “J.T.” Thompson said he might skimp on some things, but electronics are worth a little splurge.

That’s why he has two Humminbird Solix 12s, which retail for nearly \$3,000 each — but he said it’s money well spent.

“I’m not sponsored by any (manufacturer), but this is the only unit I’ll use,” Thompson said.

Of course, the amazing detail of the down- and side-scan imagery is one of the reasons he loves the unit.

But he said there’s also another important reason — particularly for anglers fishing on Toledo Bend.

“You can get Humminbird’s LakeMaster charts, and it’s the best contour mapping available,” Thompson said.

The charts, which were completed recently, show the lake’s bottom in 1-foot contours, allowing Thompson to precisely determine where he thinks crappie are most likely to congregate.

And the maps are available on an app, so he can pull them up on his iPad at home and make plans before he even hits the water.

The most important factor in getting the most out of your unit is to ensure the transducer is correctly mounted.

“The placement of your transducer is huge,” Thompson said. “I (originally) had mine mounted where it was hitting the lower unit (of the outboard), and it was messing up my picture. I moved it, and it made all the difference.

“I recommend putting it as far away from your motor as possible. Your picture will come out so much better.”

Paying someone who knows how the units operate is wise, he said.

“I recommend having it professionally installed,” Thompson said. “They will know what they’re doing.”

The key, whether you go all-in for a Solix or buy another of the many options, is to install electronics that will maximize your time on the water.

“You want to get the best electronics you can afford,”

Thompson said. “It’s like what we do with all our hobbies and toys: You’ve got to spend as much money as you can to get the best electronics you can.

“You’re going to get what you pay for.”

DON'T FORGET THE BRIDGE UP NEXT ➤

Purchasing the best electronics you can afford will go a long way to maximizing your time on the water.



Andy Crawford



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**





Pendleton Bridge is always a good option to find slab crappie.

DON'T FORGET THE BRIDGE

If you're having trouble finding crappie on bottom contours, that's OK. There's another feature on Toledo Bend guaranteed to hold plenty of fish.

Just launch near Pendleton Bridge and ease into position under the roadway.

"The bridge always holds fish," Thompson said. "We catch (crappie) on it summer, winter, whatever."

"It's just an easy place to get started."

He said the ends closest to the banks are usually crowded with boats early in the year because fish funnel through the pilings.

As the weather warms, however, fish move out to deeper water.

"The bridge is good, whether it's day or night," Thompson said. "The bridge has lights on it, so if it's too hot to fish in the daytime, you can do it at night."

He said fish tuck under the bridge during broiling summer days to take advantage of the shade.

"In the daytime you want to wait until the middle of the day, and then you can sit in that shade and fish," he said.

No matter what time of day you hit the bridge, fishing is pretty consistent.

"Usually, about halfway to the bottom is where most of the fish are," Thompson said. "They tend to come around those cross members that are there at about 12 feet."



Andy Crawford

J.T.'S CRAPPIE RIGS

Thompson loathes using live bait (although he carries minnows when he's fishing with clients). Instead, he tightlines 1/32-ounce jigheads with plastics to pick up bites.

"I'm going to use a jig if I can catch one on it," he said. "The only way I'm going to use a minnow is if I just can't catch (a crappie) on a jig."

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



Metro Boating

www.metroboating.com

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



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

MERCURY

TAKE CHARGE.

mercurymarine.com

But his rig is a bit different. Namely, he adds a 3/0 splitshot weight a few inches above the jig.

"I learned that from a guy named Bill Fondren," Thompson said. "He said it gives (the jig) a little extra action; it makes that jig do something different.

"And he said that crappie have to be able to see that splitshot, so it looks like a little fish chasing something."

Of course, the added weight also makes it easier to cast when the wind is blowing.

The only downside to fishing jigs on structure is that you can count on getting hung up.

"If you're going to structure fish, you have to have a lot of jigheads," Thompson said. "You will get hung up and you will break off."

He uses a variety of plastics, including Bobby Garland Baby Shads, Cajun Lures Slim Jimmys and Panfish Assassins.

Color is determined based on time of day, although for this crappie slayer it's more a matter of shade.

"Earlier in the day I'll use something a little darker; something with more contrast to it," Thompson said. "The brighter the day, the lighter the color. You don't need as much contrast."

And crappie nibbles are usually found on his jigs.

"I hate the fact that I need them because it goes against everything we say — you want (your jig) to look natural, and then you put a piece of butt cheese on it," Thompson said. "But the stuff works. It just works."

He uses fluorocarbon line because it gets more bites, with 8-pound his choice when guiding and 6-pound being used when he's out fishing for fun.

"I'm going to get bit more," Thompson said. "But fluorocarbon is expensive, and you're going to go through a bunch of it."

"You're going to break off." ■



Jerry "J.T." Thompson adds a 3/0 splitshot a few inches above his crappie jig to give the lure extra action and help with casting in the wind. Lure color depends on the day. The brighter the day, the lighter the color.



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

LIGHT UP THE SUMMER NIGHT WITH THE BEST & BRIGHTEST UNDERWATER LIGHTS



USE ONLINE CODE
LS18 FOR A
SPECIAL DISCOUNT!

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



ANNIVERSARY
TOHATSU OUTBOARDS
1956-2016

60th

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



Berryland CAMPERS

**RED TAG
SPECIALS!!!**

\$19,990*



New 2018 Puma 5th Wheel 255RKS

\$9,990*



2016 Cherokee Toy Hauler 17RP

\$32,990*



New 2018 Wildwood 5th Wheel 286RL

\$11,990*



2018 Salem Cruise Lite Toy Hauler 180RT

\$28,990*



New 2018 Arctic Wolf 5th Wheel 255DRL4

\$46,990*



New 2018 Columbus 5th Wheel 298RLC

\$13,990*



2018 Palomino Travel Trailer 177BH

\$53,990*



New 2018 Silverback 5th Wheel 35IK

\$55,990*



New 2018 Frelander Class C Motorhome 21QBF

\$17,990*



2018 Connect Travel Trailer 201QB

\$79,990*



New 2018 Sunseeker Class C Motorhome 3010DSF

\$19,990*



2018 Cherokee Travel Trailer 264L

\$119,000*



2018 Georgetown Class A Motorhome 378XLF

\$21,990*



2018 Flagstaff Travel Trailer 25FBLSB

\$23,990*



2018 Puma Travel Trailer 31BHSS

\$27,990*



2018 Open Range Travel Trailer 2910RL

\$29,990*



2018 Flagstaff Travel Trailer 27RKWSD

\$37,990*



2018 Mesa Ridge Travel Trailer 328BHS

* Plus TT&L

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
1-877-370-7001
www.berrylandcampers.com

A photograph of a person fishing on a boat at sunset. The person is wearing a tan bucket hat and a light blue long-sleeved shirt. They are holding a fishing rod that is bent, indicating a catch. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow over the water. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds. The boat's deck and part of the fishing gear are visible in the foreground.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

By Chris Ginn

Late afternoon trout trips typically offer calmer winds, fewer boats, cooler temperatures — and plenty of specks. Here's how one no-frills Fourchon angler avoids the crowd and still fills up his box.

Although he still gets up some mornings at 3 a.m. to participate in the rat race to go catch fish, Kevin Lawson admittedly isn't as mad at speckled trout as he used to be. Like many people who eventually mature to the point of not caring what anybody else really thinks, this Denham Springs angler makes no bones about grabbing some live shrimp, a box of treble hooks and some popping corks, and then launching his boat 12 hours later — at 3 in the afternoon.

Lawson kind of stumbled into the evening bite out of Port Fourchon a few summers ago when he started taking his mother Eathel Seal and some of her friends out on the water.

Kevin Lawson

“A

ctually I didn't stumble into it as much as she pushed me into it,” Lawson chuckled. “She

told me she wasn't getting up early to go fishing.

“You never hear about anybody going in the evening, and nobody will go with you in the evening, and they don't take you in the evening — so you don't know that the evening is even an option.”

But what Lawson found during the later trips was few to no boats, calm winds, calm water, slightly cooler temperatures — and lots of trout.

In fact, he started having some of the most memorable fishing trips of his life.

“Just last summer my mom came down with one of her friends, Pauline Bankston from Franklinton,” he said. “She had never even been saltwater fishing before, and she didn't want to go in the morning, either.

“We had a couple other guys in the boat, and I mean to tell you it was everything we could do to keep those two ladies baited up and in the water — because they were hammering the trout one after another.”

The group boxed more than 80 specks, and that trip pretty much sealed the deal for Lawson committing himself more to targeting evenings for speckled trout.

A SIMPLE PLAN OF ATTACK

But he isn't what you would call a technical angler. His approach to saltwater fishing out of Fourchon is more akin to his earliest white perch fishing trips in Washington Parish farm ponds.

“Man, I just fish around until I find some that want to bite,” he said. “I'd love to be able to tell you that because the wind was blowing from the west with a 1.2-foot tidal range that the trout were eating bait in a 4-foot trough off East Timbalier, but that's not my approach.”

That's why Lawson fell in love with fishing during the evening: It doesn't require a technical approach, and literally anybody can go out there and do it and be successful.

“I guess if I had to come up with some kind of theory, I'd say that the trout aren't as pressured during the evening so they're more willing to bite,” he said. “And

I think that might actually have something to do with it. I know deer and ducks respond better when they don't have as much pressure on them, so it only stands to reason that fish would, too.”

Although Lawson's approach tends to be more haphazard than technical, he does follow a plan as he works his way from Fourchon to East Timbalier.

“I start at the rocks coming out of Fourchon and hit the barges,” he said. “Then I hit a couple of the rigs on the way to East Timbalier. If time allows me to, I might work the same stuff in reverse on my way back in. It's kind of a round-robin approach that works for me.”

Lawson fishes the same route during the mornings sometimes, and he has found that he definitely catches more trout during the evening than he does when the sun is rising.

THE 'LAWSON RIG' GETS IT DONE

And he doesn't do anything special to put trout in the boat.

“I fish live bait on a treble hook under a cork,” the self-deprecating angler said. “It's so simple some of my friends call it the 'Lawson rig' — just like fishing one of Dickie's Hy Way Pak minnows under a cork for white perch around Franklinton. It doesn't take a lot of brains to do that.”

Lawson says his friends mess with him all the time and claim that he is cheating by fishing live bait under a cork, but he's quick to respond that putting fish in the boat isn't cheating — it's called being successful.

His standard rig includes an H&H popping cork - the one with the black wire - and 3 feet of leader tied to a treble hook. The only deviation from this setup is adding 3 more feet to his leader when he's fishing the rigs.

“As for the live shrimp,” Lawson continued, “I figure that if I'm going to spend



A great trip last summer with his mom Eathel Seal, left, and her friend Pauline Bankston, convinced Kevin Lawson late-afternoon was the right time for trout.

Kevin Lawson

\$250 on gas, drinks and ice, another \$50 on live shrimp is no big deal. If I'm driving that far to catch fish, I see live shrimp as insurance to keep me from going home with an empty box.”

And he believes a treble hook, which offers him two more chances to stick a fish per hook, are worth the hassle.

“They're a little harder to deal with than a single hook,” he said, “but fish just don't



Kevin Lawson uses live shrimp on a treble hook with about 3 feet of leader under an H&H popping cork to catch most of his speckled trout.

Chris Ginn

come off when they eat a live shrimp on a treble hook. I run one of the hooks under the horn up by the head. I don't figure a fish even knows what it is when he eats it — shrimp have all those sharp points, anyway.

Late-afternoon trips out of Fourchon offer more pleasant conditions, fewer competing boats, great family time — and plenty of specks.

“But if you fish with treble hooks you better keep a good pair of pliers handy to help you take the hooks out, because they can get all kinds of tangled up in a fish.”

As far as his fishing technique goes, Lawson suggested that if he can catch fish like this in the evening then anybody could do the same.

“I’m not a very smart angler,” he laughed. “Seriously, I just troll around until I find a bunch of fish. Sure, if I see birds diving or shrimp jumping then I know to go there, but otherwise I just keep fishing. If they’re not biting here, I try over there. Sooner or later, I’ll come across a pile of them.”

At East Timbalier, Lawson generally starts fishing about 75 yards off the island then trolls in and out as he works his way around - always with his live shrimp 3 feet under a cork.

When he’s on the rigs, Lawson has learned that the fish tend to be in a different spot just about every time, so the same ‘troll-around-until-he-finds-them’ approach works there, too.

TIDAL MOVEMENT IS KEY

“About the only thing I insist on other than my live shrimp is some kind of tidal movement,” Lawson added. “I know some people that know exactly where to go based on what the tide is doing, but I’m just happy to have some moving water. That always makes things a lot easier, which is what fishing in the evening is all about.”

For a 3 to 7:30 p.m. trip, Lawson said 50 shrimp per person is about right, and he isn’t picky on sizes, taking whatever the bait shop dips out.

Having made a few morning trips out of the public ramp at Fourchon and then following them up with evening trips, Lawson says there is a marked difference in the number of trucks in the parking lot.

“You may see 50 to 60 trucks

in the parking lot in the morning, but there might be only 10 in the evening, and some of those are there because they went to their camps,” he said. “I have fished out of there in the evening and literally seen no other boats on the water.”

Because of the simplicity of it all, the evening sets up nicely for introducing novice anglers to the sport. Whether kids, elderly parents or a friend who has never fished before, the evening offers a serene time to be on the water to learn without having to deal with crowds.

continues on page 50



Kevin Lawson

Perfect on front and rear decks

No more slipping and 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

Increase the value of your boat

ORDER TODAY!
504.340.0344
504.340.5221

continued from page 49

“I don’t have any statistics to back me up,” Lawson said, “but I would imagine there are more cases of boat rage in the morning than there would ever be in the evening.”

BENEFITS OF BEING LATE

Although Lawson typically makes his summertime evening runs out of Fourchon, he says he has also had success fishing later at other hotspots around South Louisiana.

“As a matter of fact, I took my mom and a high school friend to Four Horse Lake out of Delacroix, and I’ve also had some good evening trips at the Trestles in Lake Pontchartrain,” Lawson added.

If you’re thinking Lawson’s simplified way to catching trout in the evening somehow makes him a simple-minded angler, he’s perfectly fine with that. He’s actually beyond caring what you think — and puts much more emphasis on what the trout think.

And based on what he’s seen on the water, trout must think he’s doing something right. In fact, Lawson might not be as mad at them as he used to be — but the trout are sure starting to get upset with him. ■



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.



For Kevin Lawson, sleeping in and making late afternoon trout trips out of Port Fourchon is the only way to go for less-pressured trout.

Kevin Lawson

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

FOURTRAX® RANCHER®



UP FOR
IT ALL



See The 2018 Rancher Today At 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)

2018

PIONEER® 700



Pioneer 700 Deluxe model shown.



THE MULTITool
SIDE-BY-SIDE



**Support Those That Support You!
Your Local Participating Honda Dealers!**



powersports.honda.com PIONEER 700 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)

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.

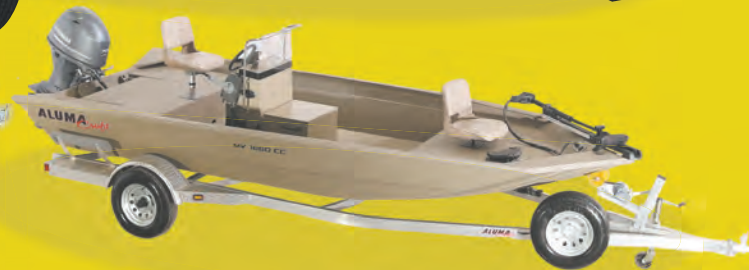
2072CC BAY

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

PERFECTING POCKET HOPPING

By David A. Brown

IDENTIFYING THE TYPES AND SIZES OF POCKETS BASS ARE INHABITING RIGHT NOW IS A BIG KEY TO CATCHING FISH. HERE'S HOW A COUPLE OF ELITE SERIES PROS BREAK IT DOWN.

Think of a scavenger hunt: You're trying to locate a specific object and the task requires a lot of looking. Random scrambling wastes too much time, so you try to mentally break down the search by likely parameters — where would the hunted items likely exist?

That's essentially the premise behind "pocket hopping." The phrase means what it sounds like it means — working from one pocket to the next; often running a similar pattern, in hopes of finding bass.

"From spring all the way through fall, pocket hopping can be phenomenal," said Bassmaster Elite Series pro Mike Iaconelli. "The interesting thing is that, like dock fishing or running ledges, you have to figure out the particulars of what kind of pocket the fish want."





When Greg Hackney finds weed mats, he knows a pocket holds fish.

"The first thing I try to do is identify what kind of pockets are they in. Are they in big main lake pockets or are they in small side pockets? And those can be sleepers, by the way. A lot of guys ignore small side pockets. So, after I identify the types of pockets, the next thing is to put the other factors into play."

Here are some of the main criteria:

ALL IN THE ANGLES

For starters, consider the bank angle. Fish need different things in different times of the year, and how abruptly the bank meets the water says a lot about when it's going to be most popular.

"In the springtime, I'm going to look for the flatter pockets; and you can do that by looking at a paper topo map or the mapping that comes standard on most GPS units," said Elite pro Greg Hackney. "Typically, that flat, shallow water warms up quicker and gives them more places to spawn.

"You can catch them in the deeper pockets in the spring, but not as many. It seems like those flatter pockets replenish faster and there will be more fish bedding in those pockets."

During the summer months, Hackney said the preference flips and those pockets with steeper banks start to shine. For his summertime work, Iaconelli said he likes pockets with deeper water and a dominant channel running into them.



When pocket hopping, keep an eye out for bream beds, which have a magnetic-like attraction for bass.

These drains, he said, provide security, comfortable water temperatures and feeding opportunities.

"A place with cover on it is a sweet spot — a spot on a spot, we call it," Iaconelli said. "It would be like where that drain runs in the back of a pocket and touches something like an isolated brush pile, or a log; that's the ticket."

Hackney adds this thought: "With summertime pocket hopping, it can just be a 1- or 2-foot ditch. The deepest part of the pocket may be 3 feet, but the best part is where that 3 feet of water gets close to the cover or close to the bank. I don't care if you spend all of your time in 6 feet or less, or 60-foot deep; there's hardly any way to truly be efficient without electronics."

This clearly applies to another of

Iaconelli's faves — secondary points. Tuck inside the mouth of a major creek or pocket and note where those lesser extensions occur. Natural gathering spots for forage and therefore natural feeding spots for predators, secondary points offer that ideal blend of shallow strategy with quick access to deeper water.

THE BIG COVER UP

Hackney's biggest summertime requirement is a pocket with cover. That might be bank grass with floating vegetation matted nicely, docks or overhanging trees.

"I'm going to be looking for some place that whenever that sun is beating straight down, that fish has a place to hide," Hackney said. "Typically, once the weather gets warm, I'm going to stay away from clean pockets without cover. With that being said, if you have a clean pocket that has one good piece of cover on it, chances are it will have a bass on it. "It's not necessarily that I would be against fishing shallow pockets in the summertime, but they just have to have that piece of overhang. It can be a leaning tree; something that allows that fish to suspend in the shade some time during the day."

Similarly, Iaconelli likes finding pockets with brush in the back. The rest of the area may be lackluster, but a little cover in the right place will draw fish with magnetic force.

"You hit three pockets, you get one bite and it's in the only pocket with brush in the back; they're the kind of pockets I'm



Pockets with docks immediately rise in interest, due to their shady cover.

continues on page 58

BIRD BRAIN

So, you pull into a pocket and you want to see it empty, right? Well, if we're talking other boats, then yes; solitude is golden. However, the right kind of company can be just what you want — and that means birds.

Indeed, our feathered pals are more than company; they offer clues that can greatly impact our bass-hunting efforts. Now, if you're envisioning a duck flying circles over bass and pointing downward with its beak, you're going to be disappointed. But if you learn to interpret legitimate bird signs, this knowledge can minimize your search and maximize your output.

Coots: These grass eaters won't stray far from their food source, so spotting a bunch of these pudgy, short-billed birds clustered at the surface should tell you you're around top-notch bass habitat. Not only will coots identify the grass, their positioning will provide advance recon about the layout — where the grass starts, where it drops, etc.

Loons: These large diving birds have short, stout necks and relatively small beaks, but they're good at catching shad, so take their presence as a clear sign of bait schools. Bigger loons can catch hefty baitfish, so finding a pocket with full-grown ones may lead you to your day's biggest catch.

Sea gulls: Simple as it gets; gulls — and terns — hovering at the surface indicates a bait school pushing close to the surface. The baitfish only do this when they're under attack, so white birds near the water usually mean bass below. ■

- David A. Brown



Loons are a sure sign of bait schools, and that food source means a productive pocket.



EST 15
15 YEARS... AND COUNTING
YOUR LEADER IN
GULF SOUTH SPORTS
www.CoxSportsTV.com

Facebook CoxSportsTV Twitter @CoxSportsTV YouTube CoxSportsTV

POCKET HOPPING

going to target,” he said. “I’m going to let the fish tell me what they want.”

And don’t overlook water clarity as a form of concealment — or lack thereof. Iaconelli said he’s had tournaments where he could only catch fish in clear-water pockets, while other times found only stained areas productive.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Possibly the most important detail for pocket hopping is food. With the exception of the spawn, bass will always want to have a food source readily available, so pay close attention to the meal options.

Shad schools play a big role here and savvy anglers will monitor their side-imaging sonar when advancing into a pocket. Spot a wad of baitfish holding on a channel turn or a little drop, and you can bet they won’t go unnoticed.

“I love pockets that have wind blowing into them and, sometimes that alone is the criteria for which ones I fish,” Iaconelli said. “If I have my choice, I want the pockets with wind blowing into them, because that blows bait into them and the fish are easier to catch in cleaner water.”

The other one is seasonal, but it’s a straight-up bass magnet — bream beds. When panfish — bluegill and others — start making little ones, they tend to cluster their nests in close

Mike Iaconelli expects to find big bass utilizing pockets with deeper water during the summer months.



proximity. This creates an irresistible feeding opportunity for opportunistic bass, which roam the banks and pick off distracted panfish.

In clear water, a bunch of bream beds often take on a honeycomb pattern. Keep watch for boils and wakes in the shallows and a hungry bass might give up his location — and that of his buds.

BAIT SELECTION

For those bream bed fish, a topwater bait is one of your best options. Walkers will earn some attention, but since the strike



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

A pocket's points are some of your best options — and cranking is always a good bet.



zone is often pretty tight, you may not have a lot of space for an effective cadence. You'll do better here with poppers and prop baits which don't need a lot of space to make a lot of commotion.

The old reliable wacky-rigged stick worm's another option, but mostly as a follow-up. If you can get that topwater bite, the adrenalin rush is worth the effort.

For general pocket work, Iaconelli leads with crankbaits. Especially when he's covering water to find fish, he's a fan of the Rapala DT10, DT14 and DT20, depending on depth.

"Once I locate the sweet spot, I'll be in the middle of that drain, and I'll quarter cast as I'm going down that drain," Iaconelli said. "They tell you, pretty quickly, if you're on the right spot. You hook one and there's often more behind it, so you hit Spot-Lock, drop a marker buoy or whatever you want to do.

"I'll continue to catch them, but I'll always have a follow-up bait and one of my favorites is an old-school Carolina rig with a Berkley Power Lizard or Berkley Power Worm. It's a great clean-up bait."

Hackney says his No. 1 pocket-hopping bait is a Strike King KVD Sexy Frog (no pun intended), but he's also going to keep a

KVD 1.5 squarebill and a Strike King Thunder Cricket bladed jig handy. Swimming a Hack Attack swim jig also delivers this time of year, as does flipping a Strike King Shimmy Stick with a light sinker.

Whatever your bait of choice, know that pocket hopping holds the potential for big-time summer success. The fish are waiting, so ... hop to it. (Sorry, couldn't resist.) ■



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

YAMAHA

J-BRAID x4
BRAIDED FISHING LINE
MADE IN JAPAN
ISLAND BLUE

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.

J-BRAID x8
BRAIDED FISHING LINE
DARK GREEN

x8 J-BRAID WHITE

x8 J-BRAID GREEN

x8 J-BRAID MULTI-COLOR

x8 J-BRAID CHARTREUSE



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



"Selling & Servicing Tracker Boats
for 19 years"



USA

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



GET THE 'DROP' ON TRESTLES SPECKS

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TARGET TROUT ON THE FAMED TRAIN BRIDGE IN LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN. FIND OUT WHY ONE GUIDE BELIEVES A DROP-SHOT RIG IS KEY TO CATCHING.

The legendary Trestles train bridge on Lake Pontchartrain is loaded with fish — and fishermen — every spring. When the speckled trout bite is super hot and winds are calm, the 5-mile-long bridge often has a boat on almost every piling.

This leads to lots of frustration among hard-core anglers. It's not uncommon to cross lines with other fishermen, have boaters do doughnuts around your spot or have trollers weave in and out of your position.

And although there is less pressure this month, anglers still have to deal with tons of boats out on the water —

there might be “only” 100 boats fishing the bridge — instead of 200.

But the boat pressure doesn't faze Capt. John Falterman.

With the sun barely starting to show itself over the eastern horizon on the first day of the work week last June, Falterman parked his boat on the west side of the Trestles, just north of the draw bridge. But he wouldn't have had a problem setting up anywhere else.

“We could go along pretty much this whole bridge and catch fish,” he said. “The bridge is way too long for everyone to be crowded up on everybody.”



Capt. John Falterman likes bank sinkers over egg sinkers because they don't roll once on the bottom. **INSET:** Nice speckled trout can be found at the Trestles in June, despite what many anglers think.



What he would have a problem changing, though, is the setup he was fishing. Falterman is a big believer in the drop-shot rig, and it's what separates his boat from the million others throwing the same bait.

"(With the drop-shot), the bait is always suspended, and the weight is always on the bottom," he said. "It's easier for people to feel."

Soon after, Falterman began raking in speckled trout that couldn't resist his offering of live shrimp.

The quality of the fish was impressive, but it certainly wasn't abnormal for June, despite what many people think.

Falterman said most anglers believe there are only male trout left at the Trestles in June, but every year he demonstrates that's false. In fact, on a trip he had early last summer, he said 90 percent of the fish he caught were females.

June may seem late to most people to fish the Trestles. The most common months to work the train bridge are in the fall and spring, but Falterman said anglers bypass the bridge too soon.

"It depends on how hot it gets, but I fish this bridge all the way into July," he said. "Year after year, it changes, and that's something you just have to figure out."

ESTABLISH THE PATTERN

When he first pulls up to the bridge, Falterman doesn't just cast in one spot.

He and his clients make multiple casts in different areas.

"We fan cast and see where they are holding," he said. "Once you find out where they are, you can hone in on that one area, instead of bouncing back and forth."

That's exactly what Falterman did on this trip, when he took his son Jacob and two guests. After casting around the boat, Falterman and his son figured out the fish were hanging a good bit off the pilings.

Once that was established, the anglers didn't waste any casts anywhere else.

Usually, Falterman has a specific side of the bridge he likes to fish.

"It's pretty much all on the west side," he said. "You have a lot more trollers on the east side."



Although you can catch fish on plastics, having live shrimp is vital for fishing the Trestles in June. Falterman loads his baitwell up for a variety of reasons.

"Once the legs get eaten off and they're not jumping around and being frisky, you

continues on page 69

HOW TO RIG A DROP-SHOT

Perhaps the most popular way to rig a live shrimp for fishing the bottom is a Carolina rig. It's been a staple setup for years, and there are still many people who use it today.

But when fishing heavily pressured areas, like the Trestles in Lake Pontchartrain, you have to do something a little different. Otherwise, you're just another guy throwing just another shrimp at the same bridge.

For this reason and many more, Capt. John Falterman is a huge fan of the drop-shot rig for live shrimp.

To tie his drop shot, Falterman first cuts a 42-inch piece of 30-pound Trilene Big Game monofilament. He prefers this heavy line, and his reasoning is sound.

"I don't have to worry about changing it because I know every time I get a little fray, I'm still going to have 17-, 18-pound test," Falterman said.

On one end of the line, he ties a No. 6 Eagle Claw treble hook. The veteran guide prefers this style of hook to any of the other ones.

"Ninety-nine percent of our fish are flipped in the boat," he said. "I don't want to be putting the whole (drop shot) in the net because it gets all tangled in it."

"We have less chance of losing a fish with a treble hook because it's going to grab one of the hard parts of their mouth."

To the other end of the monofilament, Falterman connects a 1-ounce bank sinker. He definitely prefers this over a traditional egg sinker.

"That bank sinker holds to the bottom more, and then when you're dragging it across the shells, it'll knock around," he said. "The egg sinker has a swivel in it, and I think it tends to roll, so if you're fishing a drop off, it rolls down."

A 1-ounce weight may seem a little heavy, but Falterman likes it because it sticks to the bottom better, and it gets the bait down faster.

"Even with the 1-ounce, I can still feel when I don't have any bait," he said.

To finish the rig, Falterman folds the drop-shot in half, positioning the treble hook about halfway up the rig. He then ties an overhand knot, and connects his 30-pound braid to that loop.

- Joel Masson

4TH OF JULY SALE!

TEMPS MAY BE RISING BUT BOAT PRICES WILL BE FALLING!

June 28th thru 30th!



Everglades™

ROBALO

XPRESS BOATS

SEA HUNT **SH**

South Bay
Memories for a Lifetime™

CHAPARRAL

Nor-Tech

CONTENDER

GatorTail
OUTBOARD

**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

OTHER OPTIONS FOR SPECKS

The Lake Pontchartrain Trestles isn't the only place Capt. John Falterman fishes in June for speckled trout. On calm days, he likes to run out to some of the near-shore rigs, particularly if he's struggling at the Trestles that day.

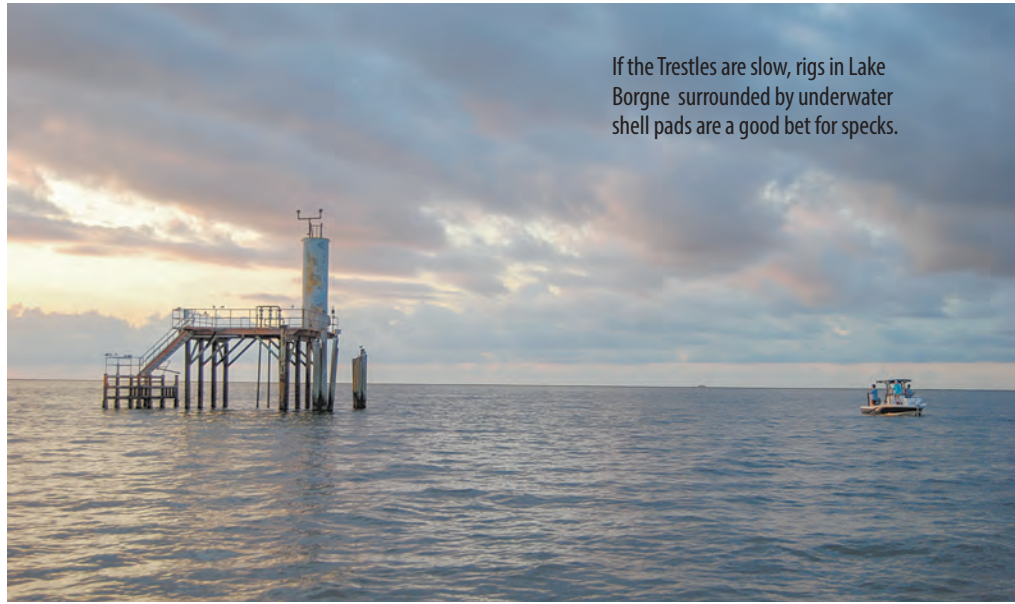
"The Lake Borgne rigs are really hot in June," he said. "Those shells concentrate the fish."

Anywhere along the coast, speckled trout love holding on oyster reefs and hard bottoms, and areas in Lake Borgne are no exception.

"The shrimp can't bury themselves on the shell pads," Falterman said. "Usually, those fish are sitting up against those shell pads, and they're ambushing the bait."

Electronics are invaluable in deep-water fisheries, like Lake Pontchartrain and surrounding areas. Locating the shell pads — which is a must if you want to catch fish at the Lake Borgne structures — is a whole lot easier with a quality depth finder.

In fact, Falterman believes in them so



Patrick Bonin

much that he has nearly \$7,000 worth of electronics on his boat.

"A (fish finder) takes a little bit of the guess work out of it," he said. "Learn your electronics, and if you're going to use them, use them to your advantage."

The specific fish finder Falterman has on his boat is a Humminbird Onix 10, with both side-imaging and down-imaging.

Besides fishing Lake Borgne, Falterman

recommends anglers explore the whole Pontchartrain fishery to locate fish.

"Find the cleanest water you can from (the Trestles) to the Biloxi Marsh," he advised. "You can get away from the boats, but it's a matter of getting a mind set you may have to bounce around and burn a bit of fuel to get on them."

- Joel Masson

YOUR LAST BOAT PURCHASE!

HANK'S

Satisfaction Guaranteed
Since 1985

www.hankos.com



247LSWT



1858WT



247VWT

985-385-3310



**995 Utah Street
Berwick, LA 70342**

Monday - Thursday 8-5
Friday 8-3



GET ON THE FAST TRACK



HVD 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   

From camps to custom homes, build with

FRED NETTERVILLE LUMBER COMPANY



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



www.nettervillelumber.com
800.343.4577

WANT REDS? HEAD HERE

One of the most underrated areas in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin is Lake Catherine. Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne receive a lot more pressure throughout the year, but Lake Catherine produces a lot of redfish this time of year, according to Capt. John Falterman.

"You can work the shorelines from the rocks all the way to Unknown Pass," he said.

Falterman said what he throws to the reds depends on the skill level of the people he's fishing with. If he's with experienced anglers, he likes throwing ChatterBaits and spinnerbaits.

However, if he's with clients, he likes throwing live shrimp under a popping cork.

Falterman hurls these lures in two different types of terrain.

"We catch them on the edge of the grass, and we catch them by the rocks," he said.

As far as size on the reds, Falterman said they're good eaters.

"Typically, they're going to be slot reds," he said. "We don't catch that many overs in there."

When fishing in Lake Catherine, a falling tide seems to concentrate the fish.

"You want to fish all those points and pockets," he said. "All that bait is staying around there."

Speaking of bait, Falterman said the redfish feed on a lot of fiddler crabs in that lake.

- Joel Masson



Capt. John Falterman impales his live shrimp on treble hooks because of the great hook-up ratio.

Mustad®

BEST SELLING HOOK ON THE PLANET

Mustad 399600-399650-399650T

DEXTER

THE EDGE SINCE 1818

Fish Skinning & Boning Knives

www.touchardmarine.com
337-685-2715
403 E. HWY 14
Delcambre, La. 70528

TOUCHARD
MARINE & NETTING

One of the largest recreational and commercial marine supplies in the Acadiana area!

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE

1907 Paulette Rd.
Morehead City, NC 28557

E-Mail: info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com

Costa Rica

42' Maverick, the Dragon Fly
 Not just fishing trips, also honeymoons, family and surf trips available. Packages include a variety of hotels and condo options, all ground transportation, guides, tours and fishing.

Also Costa Rica Tarpon
 Argentina Duck and Dove Hunting
 North Carolina Inshore/Offshore

Special discounts May-September

252-671-3474

Many anglers tie up to the Trestles to anchor, but Capt. John Falterman simply uses his Minn Kota Ulterra to keep his position.

continued from page 64



attract more of the trash fish than you would a trout,” he said. “Although the shrimp are expensive, I’d rather have one good trout than take off croakers and catfish.”

Once he notices a shrimp is on its last leg, Falterman will reach his dip net in the bait well and scoop out a fresh, lively one.

The tides in Lake Pontchartrain are about as predictable as a teenaged girl. However, just because they’re hard to gauge, doesn’t mean you should ignore them.

“You can go on the north side (of the Trestles) and have a different tide movement than you will on the south side,” Falterman said.

The strength of the current dictates where the fish will be relative to the bridge.

“You can have the current to where it’s too strong, and they’re way off the bridge,” he said. “Sometimes, we’re throwing 100, 200 yards off the bridge.

“You’ll actually see the boats throwing behind, or they’re way out and throwing parallel with the bridge.”

ANCHORS AWAY

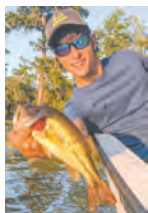
Another thing Falterman does differently is how he anchors. Most anglers either drop an anchor overboard, or they tie up to the bridge.

Falterman isn’t a fan of either method, so he uses the Spot-Lock feature on his Minn Kota Ulterra.

“I don’t have to worry about pulling up an anchor, and also the noise of it,” he said. “I’m a big believer in not slamming lids or having an anchor-toss contest. I’ve seen them out here, and it’s like an Olympic event.”

With the self-releasing feature of the Ulterra, Falterman said it really helps out people with injuries.

“I got my first Ulterra right before I had back surgery, and it was a blessing having the trolling motor deploy itself, especially when it’s bumpy,” he said. ■



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



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

209-9495 • BBandRVPARK.com

26'x40' RV & Boat side by side - \$535/m
 13'x40' Single Boat Parking - \$275/m
 One Year Rentals Only

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



A man with a mustache, wearing a grey baseball cap and a yellow fishing shirt, is smiling and holding two large channel catfish. He is wearing yellow and black striped gloves. The background shows a body of water. The text is in a yellow box in the top left corner.

Jeremy Gremillion (left) and Ray Ramagos eat plenty of fresh fillets, as well as fill their freezers, with delicious channel cats caught in bottles.

By Jerald Horst

Look, mom: **NO BAIT!**



Catfishing is supposed to be all about a gob of slimy worms, or bloody chicken liver, or smelly cut bait — or better yet some concoction of secret ingredients, usually including spoiled sour cheese.

But not for Jeremy Gremillion.

No sir, nuh uh.

He catches them without bait.

The 38-year-old Erwinville resident is a consummate South Louisiana outdoorsman. From March to October he fishes at least twice a week (he has a good shift work schedule) for largemouth bass, sac-a-lait, bream and catfish.

Beginning in October, he hunts squirrels, deer and rabbits. During turkey season he chases turkeys, too.

His outdoor kitchen has 11 rack bucks on the wall, plus an assortment of mounted fish, turkeys and ducks. He calls it his Man Cave, even though he's single.

You don't think he could hunt and fish like this if he was married — do you?

"I first heard of fishing with bottles from guys I worked with that no longer did it," said Gremillion. "From their descriptions, I made some out of emptied refrigerant bottles and they worked.

Two False River anglers load up on nice catfish every summer — without so much as a rod, or even a single hook. Read on to bone up on bottle fishing.

"That was probably 10 years ago. I've always done it in False River. It's local for me. I call it 'easy fishing,' and it's inexpensive.

"I especially enjoy bringing people that have never done it before. Everybody is amazed — no bait, no rod, no hook.

"I fish bottles from May to July. An easy way to remember when to start is when the kids get out of school. By July, I'm burned out — and the freezer is full."

I met Gremillion and his regular fishing and hunting partner Ray Ramagos to run their bottles at 7:30 a.m., with a brilliant early summer sun already well over the horizon.

"You don't need to be on the water at the crack of dawn to do this," he cheerfully chirped.



Ramagos, also from Erwinville, is a retired refinery worker who has even more time to hunt and fish than Gremillion. At 70 now, he recalls when there were no deer to hunt. His father hooked him on hunting by running rabbits with Walker hounds.

Now he hunts deer, rabbits and squirrels, and after he bought a boat at age 22, he fishes for bass, bream and catfish.

“There’s a big age difference between us, but we share a love of the same thing and have the same views on hunting and fishing.

“The first time I fished bottles, I was surprised. They really work.”

The two fishermen were taking advantage of the biological drive of channel catfish to find a hollow cavity in which to spawn. So powerful is their urge to keep possession of the cavity that unless the bottles are unnecessary jarred, the romancing pair of fish stay inside it until its brought to the surface.

Running the bottles was a simple process, since all the work had been done beforehand. Ramagos manned the trolling motor, while Gremillion did the hand-work.

When the boat was directly beside the float attached to the bottle by a cord, Gremillion grabbed the float and swiftly, but smoothly raised it up from the bottom.

When it broke the surface, he immediately covered the opening with one hand to prevent the fish from jumping out, and then held the bottle above the surface, propped against the boat’s rail until it drained.

He then tilted the bottle opening over his ice chest and shook the bottle to jiggle the fish out. Large or a stubborn fish were gaffed out.

He lowered the empty bottle overboard to allow it to fill with water through holes on the bottom, then reached in above his elbows to firmly plant the bottle in an upright position on the bottom.

Gremillion and Ramagos admitted that the bottle could simply be dropped overboard and allowed to sink on its own, but they liked to plant the bottle upright so that its entry hole wasn’t accidentally blocked by soft mud on the bottom.

Their preferred fishing depth in False River, 3 feet or less, allowed them to set the bottles by hand, even though bottles

will catch catfish in deeper waters as well.

It was slick — and quick.

Every bottle seemed to hold one or two fish.

When he was done, Gremillion flashed a toothy grin. “When I bring someone to do this, they talk about it forever.” ■



ABOVE: When two properly licensed fishermen are in the boat together, they can run double the amount of bottles than a single fisherman is allowed.

**HOW TO MAKE
YOUR OWN BOTTLES**
UP NEXT >



NOW YOUR Honda DEALER FOR LOUISIANA & MISSISSIPPI!!!



SHOP WHERE
YOU CAN COMPARE
THEM ALL!



Check out our Website!

WWW.ATVZONEMOTORSPORTS.COM



Roseland,
Louisiana

985-747-1550

Look, mom: **NO BAIT!**



How to make your OWN BOTTLES

Jeremy Gremillion and Ray Ramagos both make their catfishing bottles from emptied, metal, 30-pound R-22 refrigerant bottles. Gremillion gets his from friends who do residential cooling work. Ramagos noted that they can also be purchased from scrap yard dealers.

Tie your float of choice to the other end of the line. Gremillion uses floats cut from swimming pool noodles, but cautions that the floats must be changed every year so they don't deteriorate. "A lost float is a lost bottle." ■

— Jerald Horst

1 Using a hammer and punch, pierce the bottom of the bottle to make sure that no pressure is trapped in it. Then, using either the punch or an acetylene torch, make three additional holes in the bottom. These holes are to allow water to drain from the bottle when it's being raised.

IT'S IN THEIR GENES
UP NEXT



NauticStar
2018 NAUTICSTAR 2302 LEGACY
WITH 250 YAMAHA

**CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
IN BUSINESS!!!!**



NauticStar
2018 NAUTICSTAR 244XTS
WITH 300 YAMAHA



YAMAHA

YAMAHA OUTBOARDS SALES EVENT:
WAKE UP TO SAVINGS

OFFER VALID FROM MAY 1, 2018 - JUNE 15, 2018
FOR A LIMITED TIME, PURCHASE A NEW, SELECT ELIGIBLE YAMAHA
2.5 HP TO 150 HP FOUR-STROKE OUTBOARD AND RECEIVE:

UP TO \$750 IN DEALER CREDIT

Toward the purchase of additional goods or services from your authorized, participating Yamaha outboard dealer.

SINCE 1968

AQUA MARINE
NEW ORLEANS

8637 Oak St. • New Orleans
504-865-1194
aquamarineneworleans.com

COME SEE US AT THE
LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN SHOW
JULY 20TH - 22ND IN THE SUPERDOME FOR
NAUTICSTAR FACTORY INCENTIVES
OF UP TO **\$1,000**
BAY & OFFSHORE BOATS FROM 18' TO 28'



2 Turn the bottle upright and cut an oval hole on its upper shoulder with an acetylene torch. Gremlion prefers his hole to have a 3-inch vertical opening and a 5-inch horizontal opening. The size of the hole determines the size of the fish that will use it. "I don't like bigger holes because they catch bigger fish, and I like the taste of smaller fish better," he explained.



3 Tie a small rope or heavy cord suitable for the water depth to both of the handles so the bottle comes straight up when it is being retrieved. Alternatively, the cord may be tied to the bottle's small central valve.

THE NATURE OF COMPETITION

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  

It's in their **GENES**

Six catchable sized catfish species occur in Louisiana waters. They can be divided into two groups: bullheads and true catfish.

The three species of catfishes, channel, blue and flathead, are of most interest to fishermen. All three share the characteristic of requiring some sort of cavity in which to spawn.

Natural cavities, those not provided by man's debris, include hollow logs and holes excavated by the fish themselves under stumps and logs, or in steep, cut banks.

So obligated are these three species to spawning in cavities, that if they are stocked in a pond with gently sloping banks and no woody debris, they will live out their entire lives without spawning once.

The channel catfish is the most studied of the three, although the other two species share similar spawning behavior.

Sometime in late March or April, male channel catfish develop grotesquely swollen heads with large muscular knots behind their eyes, and thickened lips. In April, the males also begin to search for natural or man-made cavities to use as a spawning site.

Once a male claims a site, he will defend it against other males and will scour the cavity clean. He will use his jaws so vigorously in cleaning a metal container, such as a bottle or can, that he will rub the skin off the top of his head, creating open sores.

Beginning in May, ripe females will enter a male's cavity in search of mates. After several days of courtship, followed by spawning, the female will leave the cavity and her eggs in care of the male, who will fan them with fresh water with his fins and guard them against egg thieves.

Shortly after the eggs hatch, the young catfish leave the nest and the male immediately begins to prepare the cavity for the next willing female. The process occurs over and over again until early September, when the exhausted male finally quits his nest.

During this five-month period, the male feeds very little, if at all, metabolizing the muscle of its body. By September, most males are shrunken ghosts of what they were in April, and what flesh is left in their bodies is soft and mushy.

Males will use almost any available cavity for spawning. Besides refrigerant bottles, Jeremy Gremillion has heard of fishermen using metal buckets, auto tires and PVC pipes.

"For PVC pipes, the fishermen heat one end of a 4- to 6-inch diameter pipe, smash it flat and let it cool. Then, near the open end they drill a hole to which to tie a rope."

When a male fish is removed from a bottle by fishermen,



ABOVE: Many male channel catfish taken from bottles will have sores on top of their heads created by their vigorous polishing of the interior of the container. **BELOW:** A mature male channel catfish (right) develops a swollen head and thickened lips before spawning season. His body color also changes from the normal olive green shown on the female on the left to a dark slate gray.



another will quickly occupy the prime real estate, meaning bottles can be run at least twice a week.

Neither of the men feels that removing spawning fish by fishing bottles harms catfish populations. The spawning season lasts longer than does the period during which they run their bottles, and the un-run bottles provide valuable nesting space for the fish.

Like most bottle fishermen, they leave their bottles in place year-round to keep them seasoned. ■

— Jerald Horst

TREASURED TIPS UP NEXT ➤



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**



Treasured **TIPS**

Make a small gaff hook to use to pull stubborn fish from their bottle. "Sometimes I wonder how the fish get in the bottle when I can hardly get them out," mused Gremillion.

"At times I have to break all three fin spines, by twisting each spine with the crook in the gaff. Usually though, I gaff them under the chin to pull them out straight."

His gaff is made of stiff wire set into a wood handle, all taped together with duct tape. The outer tip end of the wire is heavily bent backwards. The gaff's total length is 14 inches.

"You will get dirty, wet and slimy doing this," cautioned Gremillion.

So wear appropriate clothes or slicker pants. Gremillion wears white rubber fisherman's boots, both to keep his feet dry and

because they protect his feet from fish spines better than Crocs or sandals. "This is not sandal fishing," he emphasized.

Gloves are important, not so much to protect the hands from fish spines, but rather because they help in retrieving the float line and prevent many nicks and abrasions that rusting metal bottles can inflict.

You will want an easy-to-clean boat noted Ramagos, one with no carpet. "An aluminum boat with a hard floor is easy to wash and drain," added Gremillion. "I say 'leave your bass boat at home and take your neighbors bateau (flatboat).'"

Season the bottles you plan to use at least a month before you plan to use them by soaking them in the water to be fished. "This

allows slime growth to occur inside the bottles," explained Gremillion. "Catfish don't want to use unseasoned bottles. After one month, run them and empty the silt out of them and they are ready to fish."

Partner up with another recreational gear license holder. A Pipes/Drums Recreational Gear License is required in addition to a Basic Fishing License to run bottles. The \$10 license allows the use of five bottles. Two license holders teaming up in one boat can run 10 bottles instead of five. Commercial licenses allows the use of unlimited numbers, but cost substantially more.

Time your bottle fishing for the best months of the season. Although catfish spawn from May through August, Gremillion believes that fishing is most productive in June. Earlier than June, the bottles hold mostly males preparing the spawning site. In June, a male and a female fish are often found in one bottle.

Later in the year, mostly males are found solo in the bottles. "They are nothing but head," he grimaced. "Their bodies are run down. They don't look like the pretty fish caught earlier in the year."

For better control, run bottles with the bow of the boat facing upwind when possible.



BLANCHARD'S
Our Customers Are The Coolest®

NO HUNTIN' OR FISHIN' CAMP SHOULD BE WITHOUT ONE OF THESE!!

KOOLAIRE 300 LB ICE MAKERS STARTING AS LOW AS \$2,057

Manitowoc
HOSHIZAKI

BLANCHARD'S REFRIGERATION

314 S. Hollywood Rd., Houma, LA • 888-656-2823 • 985-868-8945
www.coolestcustomers.com



Area's exclusive GatorTail dealer 

TERREBONNE MARINE 1201 St. Charles St, Houma • 872-3314

BACKWATER Revolutionary Shallow Water Motors
MOTORS • PROPS • FRAME KITS • PARTS





The size of the entry hole in the bottle determines the size of the catfish that can use it. Note the gaff hook in Gremillion's right hand.

Gremillion says that while a trolling motor is quieter, bottles may be run using the boat's gasoline engine.

"I don't find that noise affects the fish. But if you hit the bottle with a paddle or your motor's lower unit, the fish will leave."

Don't dawdle when retrieving a bottle. With the boat directly over the bottle, it should be retrieved with a swift upward pull of the cord. Cover the hole as soon as it breaks the surface. "The fish will jump and you will lose it," Gremillion said. "They will come jetting out."

"It's surprising," affirmed Ramagos. "You wouldn't think they would have the momentum to come out of the bottle, but they do."

Once the hole is covered, the bottle should be sloshed in the water to wash the mud off, and then raised to slowly drain. ■

— 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.

SOUTHERN OUTDOORS

& MARINE LLC

SX240

SX210

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

BLUE WAVE

G3 Boats

G3 18CC

SPORTSMAN
NOW AVAILABLE IN
16-19 LENGTHS

SPORTSMAN
SIZES AVAILABLE
18' TO 26'

ISLAND BAY BOAT

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



By Kinny Haddox

FLAT OUT CRAPPIE

Contrary to popular belief, there is life after the spawn for Louisiana's crappie anglers. Here's how the reigning state champ gets it done all summer long.

"The fish have it backwards when it comes to the weather," Nick Young said as he cruised his big Ranger down the edge of the boat channel, scanning his electronics for suspended crappie.

"In the winter and early spring, when it's really cold, the fish bite best here on Lake D'Arbonne early in the morning and late in the evening — so we have to get cold to catch them," he said. "Now when it starts getting hot in June and through the summer, they like to bite best in the middle of the

day — when it's hot as blue blazes."

After making a couple of trips in both conditions with Young, who is a full-time crappie guide and the reigning Louisiana State Crappie champion, it's a small price to pay for catching some slabs.

He is the only full-time crappie guide on Lake D'Arbonne, a 16,000-acre lake in Union and Lincoln parishes that is consistently ranked in the Top 10 crappie lakes in the country. The time he spent growing up on the lake, and now guiding, makes him uniquely qualified to stay on fish all year long.



Nick Young with two D'Arbonne summer slabs fresh off the flats.

"A lot of people think that when the spawn is over and the fish leave the shallow water, it's all over until the fall or winter when they begin to congregate around shad schools in the deep water again," he explained. "That isn't the case.

"When the spawn is over, it takes the fish a few weeks to get over the stress, but they move out to the same staging areas they were in before they spawned. That is usually in 10 to 15 feet of water on flats. And they like to hang out close to the stumps and timber. That's where the shad go. And the crappie start gorging themselves again to get back into good shape after the spawn."

TARGET THE FLATS

By the time the hot summer rolls around, the fish are easy to pattern in those areas — and are easy to catch because they're hungry again.

Young's approach is to spider rig the stumpy flats, moving about .75 to 1 mph with shiners for bait. He fishes 4 to 5 feet deep, sometimes even shallower.

"What happens is that during the bright sunny part of the day, the shad will try

and get in the shade of the timber — and that's where the fish go, too," he said.

"The fish are more aggressive, so shiners work best because they are moving and incite the fish's aggression."

He likes to hook them through the lips so they can swim freely.

Like any other time, finding the fish is the first and most important objective. Young spends time scanning the flats with his Lowrance sonar or side-imaging units to find fish and baitfish. But if you don't have that, he suggests just going back to the flats where you or other anglers caught fish pre-spawn. Stay in 10 to 15 feet of water near the timber or stump fields.

"They are in transition areas on flats near creeks or sloughs," he said. "They are a bit more scattered, but they are definitely in the timber. And the hotter, the better. That goes against a lot of traditional crappie thinking, but when it is so hot you can barely stand it, that's when they'll be biting.

"And up until late August when the heat may start to stress them a bit, the fish are healthy and in good shape."

continues on page 84

BE A FISH LISTENER

Forget being a fish whisperer — when it comes to catching crappie, Nick Young is a fish listener.

Do the fish want shiners, jigs or maybe a combination of both?

"Let the fish tell you what they want," Young said.

He usually sets out six to eight poles in his spider rigs. He baits some with shiners on a plain gold hook, some with jigs and plastic trailers and some with jigheads trailed by a live shiner.

"Unless we are really locked in on a pattern and lure, we try several different setups and then keep up with which poles are getting bit," he said.

"As we determine what the fish want, we switch the other rigs over to match what they are biting that day."

Young says there is no real concrete science to making that decision, but there is one thing he is sure of: Fish with what you have confidence in.

"If you think you can catch a crappie on a 1/32-ounce purple hair jig, then you probably can. If you don't have confidence, you won't catch fish on anything you are using." ■

- Kinny Haddox



Anglers cruise the flats on Lake D'Arbonne looking for the summer crappie bite. INSET: Shiners are a top bait for flat fishing. Nick Young lets the fish tell him what they want.



Can the world's most celebrated Fishfinders get any better?

Find out by going Digital with Furuno and Sea-Trac!



FCV-588 - 1kW OR 600W
 DUAL-FREQUENCY 50/200 kHz
 8.4" SUNLIGHT VIEWABLE LCD
 NEW BOTTOM DISCRIMINATION MODE



FCV-628 - 600W
 DUAL-FREQUENCY 50/200 kHz
 5.6" SUNLIGHT VIEWABLE LCD
 NEW BOTTOM DISCRIMINATION MODE



NOW CATCH EVEN MORE FISH WITH BOTTOM DISCRIMINATION, ACCU-FISH, DIGITAL SELECTIVE PROCESSING, AND POST-PROCESSING GAIN CONTROL!



SEA-TRAC IS ALL ABOUT COMMITMENT TO:

- THE BEST IN QUALITY SERVICE
- JOB DONE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME
- EXCELLENT FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT
- PROVIDING 24/7 ON-CALL SERVICE
- YOUR BOAT, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!



SEA-TRAC OFFSHORE SERVICES • 114 HICKORY AVENUE • NEW ORLEANS (HARAHAN), LA 70123
 (504) 737-0951 OR TOLL FREE (800) 899-0591 • AFTER 5 P.M. (504) 251-2715
 INFO@SEATRACOFFSHORE.COM • WWW.SEATRACOFFSHORE.COM



FURUNO
 www.FurunoUSA.com

FLAT OUT CRAPPIE

SPIDER, MAN

Young fishes 14-foot Jenko rods which have a strong backbone and a fast tip. He uses Mr. Crappie baitcasting reels lined with 8- to 10-pound test line because in this application, they are easier to use than spinning reels and most clients are familiar with how to use them.

He also has his Ranger boat set up with two seats on the front deck, where he puts his clients while he runs the boat with a remote control trolling motor.

"D'Arbonne is just a fabulous lake," he said. "It's got big crappie and lots of medium and smaller fish. You won't catch a 3-pounder here, but there are loads of 1-pound, 1 1/2-pound and 2-pound fish.

"I fish a lot of lakes and I'd just as soon be here as anywhere."

Young said if you are just fishing for fun, you can use shiners around the stumps to fish with just a single pole, or one pole in each hand. You probably won't catch as many fish, but a lot of people enjoy feeling the bite, not just seeing the end of the pole dip.

continues on page 86



Nick Young watches his spider rig closely for a crappie bite.

FLATS ARE FLAT

A "flat" is just what it sounds like — a fairly flat area of the lake with only minimal depth variations. They may be 7 feet or 15 feet deep, but depth varies little until you reach a bordering channel, slough or dropoff. Because of the consistent depth, crappie and baitfish hold tight on structure like timber or tops.

- Kinny Haddox

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



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

Jock and Nick Young with some of their Louisiana State Championship crappie — a tribute to adjusting to crappie conditions.



ADJUSTING ON THE FLY IS KEY

Earlier this year, Nick Young and father Jock beat 100 of the best crappie fishing teams in the South to claim the Crappie Masters Louisiana State Championship on Lake D'Arbonne with two seven-fish limits weighing 24.4 pounds.

"When it's your day, it's your day," Nick said at the final weigh-in. And it was their day, because they adjusted to rising water, changing weather and 15 to 20 mph winds better than anyone else.

"We didn't catch the biggest weight either day of the tournament, but we caught the biggest weight for both days combined," he said. "The reason is that we adjusted to the conditions and weren't afraid to try something different. The same thing applies to everyday crappie fishing. Have confidence in what you are doing, but be willing to adjust when you need to."

Crappie had been suspending 8 to 10 feet deep in 18 to 20 feet of water. But the already swollen lake took on 6 inches of rain two days before the tournament, and the lake rose with 3 feet of muddy water. That warm rainwater brought the surface temps up well above that of deeper water, and the light could only penetrate a few feet — so the fish moved up accordingly. The Young's first noticed fish up very shallow on their electronics, chasing shad under floating mats of debris just out of the current. They adjusted and fished 2 feet deep — and caught the winning stringers. ■

- Kinny Haddox

STRIKE KING SUNGLASSES

SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING

OKEECHOBEE SG-S11582

OKEECHOBEE SG-S11581

\$11 OPTICS \$39⁹⁹

Eleven layers of superior lens technology
100% Polarization, 100% UVA & UVB protection

FLAT OUT CRAPPIE

continued from page 84

GO "LONG" FOR MORE SLABS

He also uses another fairly new technique to Louisiana — long-lining. Long-lining is setting up poles in the back of the boat, letting out line and basically trolling. You don't long-line with shiners, but use artificials like curly-tail grubs or Road Runners. Chartreuse colors work best, but anything with pink or chartreuse is good on D'Arbonne, he said. And unless the fish are really tearing it up and you don't need them, Young also uses chartreuse Crappie Bites on his hooks to add a little extra incentive while long-lining.



It only takes a few big slab crappie like these to make a fishing trip worthwhile.

Lake D'Arbonne crappie fishing has received unprecedented attention in recent years because of the American Crappie Trail and Crappie Masters tournaments there, the only two major professional tournaments held in Louisiana. The 2019 ACT National

continues on page 88

Great place to build your dream home or just keep your boat

Waterfront Landing Lots

Rachel Lane in Des Allemands

Restricted private development on Rachel Lane in Des Allemands that provides EASY access to Bayou Des Allemands, Lake Salvador and Grand Isle.

Waterfront lots 80' x 160' with 160' feet of bulkhead start at \$39,000 with nothing down. Interest only for 5 years.

5% interest Rate — 5.07% Annual Percentage Rate with payments of \$162.30 per month**



** Payments of \$162.30 per month are based on a loan amount of \$39,000 and a 30 day month.

Call Rachael: 985-785-8430 ext. 224
rachaell@fnbusa.com



ABSOLUTE. PREMIUM. PROTECTION.™

Authorized Dealers

Academy Sports + Outdoors

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

Acadian Promotional Products

Lake Charles, LA

Barney's Inc.

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

Bass Pro Shops - Outdoor World

Bossier City, LA
Denham Springs, LA

Cabela's

Gonzales, LA

Guns N Ammo

Benton, LA

Henderson Implement & Marine

Lake Charles, LA

Slidell Army Surplus & Outdoor Store

Slidell, LA

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



ABSOLUTE.
PREMIUM.
PROTECTION.™



JACOB WHEELER



EDWIN EVERS

SHADES OF THE PROS™

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



WX KOBE

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



WX NASH

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



WX TITAN

POLARIZED SMOKE GREY LENS/
GLOSS BLACK FRAME



continued from page 86

Championship will be on D'Arbonne March 28 through 30. Tournament fishing and guiding are both hard work, but guiding has its own pressures. It's one thing to go fishing yourself and try and catch fish, but letting somebody else pay you to take them fishing takes it to a whole new level. Young admitted it's worse to take somebody fishing on a guided trip and not catch many fish than it would be for him to be in a big tournament and not catch any fish. But it happens to the best of fishermen, including guides, some of the time. Fortunately for Young, it doesn't happen often.

"My objective every trip is to catch fish and have fun," the 28-year-old Farmerville native said. But not all guided trips are just to catch a mess of fish. Many people who hire him are coming in for a week-long trip, and hire him to help them figure out the current pattern on the lake. Others are looking for instruction on different types of baits, techniques and how to learn to use electronics for crappie fishing.

Either way, it's fine with Young. He's just glad to be involved with fishing, whether it is sharing his knowledge with other anglers or being on the water catching fish.

You can get in touch with him at 318-243-8646 or by messaging him on Facebook at D'Arbonne Lake Guide Service. ■



Kinny Haddox has been writing magazine and newspaper articles about the outdoors in Louisiana for 40 years. He also publishes a daily website, lakedar-bonnellife.com. He and his wife, DiAnne, live on Lake D'Arbonne in Farmerville.

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

Special Discounts On Bear & Deer Hunts Happening Now!

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

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

FISHING IN GRAND ISLE... EVERY DAY IS AN ADVENTURE.

With more than 280 species of fish, Grand Isle beckons anglers of all ages and skill levels. Whether surf fishing, casting your line from a pier or deep sea fishing, every day is an adventure in Grand Isle.

2018 SUMMER EVENTS:

JUNE	JULY
2 – Casa of LaFourche, Bridge Side Marina	7 – Annual Fireworks and Band @ 10:00 p.m., Bridge Side Marina
3 – OMSA Rodeo, Bridge Side Marina	13-14 – Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) Fishing Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina
7-9 – Swollfest Fishing Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina	21 – SLHS Cheerleader, Bridge Side Marina
22-23 – LA Pipeliners Association Fishing Rodeo, Sand Dollar Marina	26-28 – Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, Tarpon Rodeo Pavilion Sand Dollar Marina tarponrodeo.org
22-23 – Creole Classic Fishing Tournament, Bridge Side Marina	
23-24 Grand Isle Alumni Softball and Washboard Tournament, Grand Isle Baseball Field - 985-397-2269	
29-30 Wounded War Heroes Rodeo, Bridge Side Marina	

FOR EVENT DETAILS AND LODGING, VISIT WWW.GRAND-ISLE.COM.

**SPECIAL
ENDS
SOON!**

**DON'T
MISS
IT!**



Get a Parish Package Deal

AT ONE OF THE LARGEST KUBOTA DEALERS IN NORTH AMERICA!

**L2501DT Parish Package Deal
Includes L2501DT Tractor,
LA525FL Loader, 5 ft Cutter
and **FREE TRAILER****

**\$333/mo or
\$19,500**

**PARISH
TRACTOR**

www.parishtractor.com   

Poplarville 601-795-4521 1602 S. Main Street | Hattiesburg 601-264-5877 7061 Hwy 49

Disclaimer: (1) \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 60 months on purchases of select new Kubota L2501DT 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: 60 monthly payments of \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed. Offer expires 6/30/18. See us or go to KubotaUSA.com for more information. (2) Payments of \$333.00 per month on new Kubota L2501DT based on sales price of \$20,000 at \$0 down, 0% A.P.R. for 60 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.

“Ya ever been on the river before?” drawled the laconic 48-year-old.

“Nah,” I had to answer.

“Well, welcome to shallow,” he grinned — just barely.

The “river” he was talking about was the Bogue Chitto. Located in Washington Parish (where the toenail would be in Louisiana’s boot shape), it arises near Brookhaven, Mississippi, flows south to the Mississippi-Louisiana state line, then cuts diagonally southeast across the parish to its confluence with the Pearl.

This adventure had started a couple of weeks earlier, when I pulled into the Market Max service station in Franklinton. As I gassed up my charger, a truck pulling a really odd-looking boat pulled to the other side of the pump island.

The heavily reinforced 16-foot aluminum flatboat sported an elevated transom that was 3 feet higher than the boat’s gunnels. It made the 115 Yamaha mounted on it tower over the boat’s owner, Todd McElveen, when he stood beside it.

I walked around the back of the boat and wow — no prop. It looked like someone had stolen the whole lower unit.

And to top off the bizarre look, the trolling motor on the bow deck was installed with huge springs, rather than hard-mounted.

I couldn’t help myself. So I walked up to the stranger and asked him something along the lines of “What is it?”

Fortunately, he was very cordial — and patient.

“It’s my river boat. I use it to fish in the river,”

he said, waving one hand vaguely in the Bogue Chitto’s direction. “We catch a lot of Kentuckys” — the local name for spotted bass.

Now he really had my attention.

“You want to see it run?” he cordially asked me. “We’ll go when the river goes down and clears up.”

Steven Schilling’s passion for the river is overflowing, but genuine.

FAST-PACED FISHING

I quickly realized the perspective from actually being on the river rather than viewing it from a crossing bridge was significantly different. From a bridge, it’s just a shallow, clear-water river.

Only at river level can one appreciate the velocity of the flow, sucking noisily at stumps and snags lying in its bed. Although patches of sand exist, most of the Bogue Chitto’s bed is paved with gravel.

If one is quiet in a swift-flowing spot, the sound of gravel clinking along the bottom is clearly audible. It isn’t exactly what tourism brochures would depict as being part of the “Bayou State.”

Along for the trip with McElveen, a retired law enforcement officer, was 45-year-old Steven Schilling, a wholesale/retail crawfish dealer based out of Clifton, a tiny community in rural Washington Parish.

The scenic, fast-flowing Bogue Chitto is a shallow, clear-water gem that’s home to some Kentucky bass with big attitudes. Here’s how a couple of local anglers with a specially-equipped boat run the river.





River rattin'

By Jerald Horst

In contrast to McElveen's stoic demeanor, Schilling's perpetually grinning and animated face made him seem like someone who could turn a funeral into a party. Both men are fanatical hunters and fishermen, and both share a deep love for their river.

Running the Bogue Chitto in a jet boat was an experience. Seeing the rocky bottom below, in 3 inches of water, was amazing. Popping over a big log lying across the channel 2 inches underwater was disconcerting to someone used to running a prop boat, and I fully expected the lower unit to crash into the log the next second.

When they reached their spots (all below the Highway 16 Bridge in Franklinton), they did their fishing by floating downstream until they got antsy and moved to another stretch.

At the first stop, McElveen gave instructions.

"You see how swift this river is? We are going to bump into a lot of stuff," he cautioned. "We try to warn each other when one of us sees a bump coming. I don't know if there's a trolling motor made that is strong enough to give complete control."

"But there's some real good fishing here," added Schilling enthusiastically. "You got to find their pattern. Sometimes they'll be behind the logs and stumps in the middle of the river. Sometimes they will be beside them.

"You'll catch some fish in the quieter, deeper water near cut banks, but the best places for Kentuckys are swifter water."

"But you see that?" interjected McElveen dryly, while pointing at a sand and gravel bar on one bank. "Don't cast there. That bare bank is a wasted cast."

It was fast-paced fishing, the boat drifting end around end, even with McElveen on the trolling motor, generally keeping the boat in functional fishing position. Half the time, the boat drifted stern first; half the time, bow first.

Sometimes it drifted into massive tangles of willow treetops hanging low over the water. Between and during casts, they often used their feet and hands to fend the boat off logs and stumps.

But the fishing action was worth it. One or the other always seemed to be yanking a stubborn spotted bass out of a dark water pocket next to something woody.

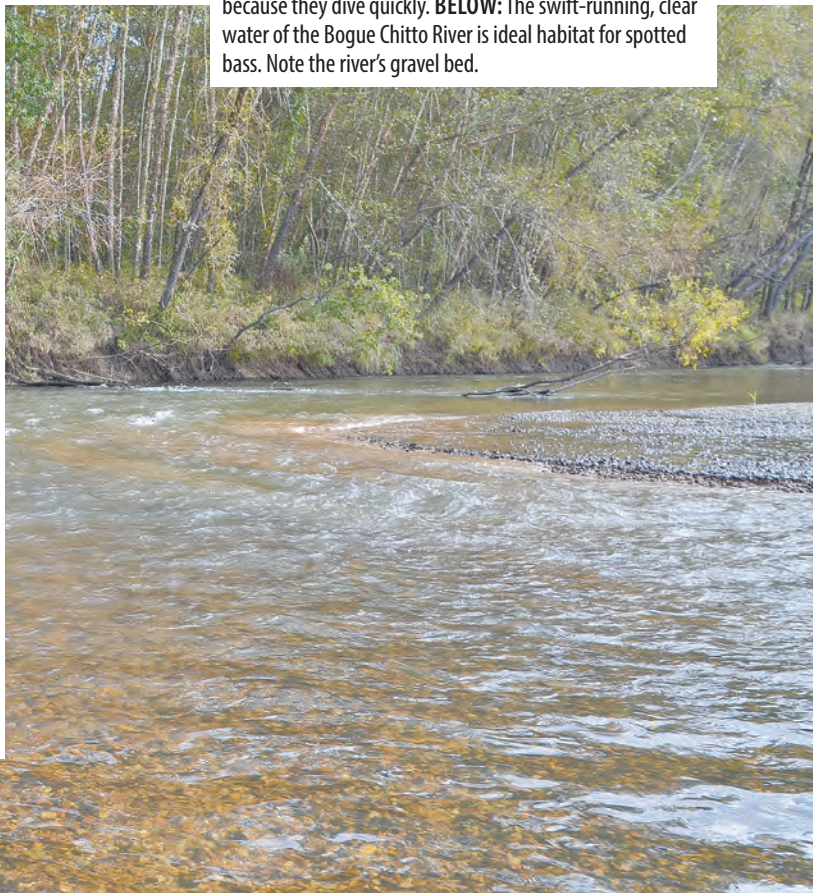
Some of the casts were long, but many, by necessity, were 10-foot flip casts made on a split-second opportunity. The fish were aggressive, so the boat being close didn't seem to matter.

The visual aspect was spectacular, especially with a spinner bait. You could actually see the fish hit the bait a split second before you felt it.

"That's a lot of fun," chuckled McElveen, "but you can't always count on seeing the fish. Sometimes, one will come out of nowhere to hit your bait in 2 inches of water." ■



ABOVE: Crankbaits are good lures to use in deeper holes because they dive quickly. **BELOW:** The swift-running, clear water of the Bogue Chitto River is ideal habitat for spotted bass. Note the river's gravel bed.



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT UP NEXT >

G3 EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

quality you can trust performance you can see satisfaction you can feel



MinnKota® 55 Edge™ 12-volt, 45" shaft trolling motor

Recessed trolling motor foot control

G3 features larger lockable storage than most competitors

Storage for cooler - Will also accommodate tackle trays

Step to front deck has underneath storage and a grab strap for a forth seated passenger

New suspended console with custom tilt wheel. Extra legroom for the "big & tall" sportsman. Now featuring Lowrance® electronics

Small item storage under both driver and passenger seats. Fold down center seat provides easy step up to the stern deck

Divided, aerated 33 gallon livewell has 800 GPH recirculation with insulated livewell lid

Your choice of interiors; plush carpet or easy care marine grade vinyl

Two bank battery charger standard

YAMAHA
MOTOR OPTIONS F40 | F50 | F60 | F70 | F75 | F90

SPORTSMAN 17
w/Yamaha F70

\$19,495*

plus freight & dealer prep
your choice of vinyl or carpet

Limited Time Offer

*Contact your dealer
for details*

*At participating authorized 33 dealers only. Limited time offer. Special price offer applies to new (unused and not previously warranty registered) G3 Sportsman 17, Yamaha motor and trailer package. (US Dollars) This special price offer is void where prohibited by law. Special price offer ends June 30, 2018. No model substitutions or rain checks. Not redeemable for cash. G3 reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. Offer good in US and Canada. Some optional equipment may be shown in some photographs. © 2018 Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA.

Length 17'10" Beam 92" Hull Gauge .100 Max HP 90 Fuel Cap. 21g Livewell Dim & Cap 15" x 45" 33g Colors Red/Silver | Blue/Silver | Camo (shown)

Visit us at g3boats.com to find the dealer nearest you. 901 COWAN DRIVE, LEBANON, MO 65536



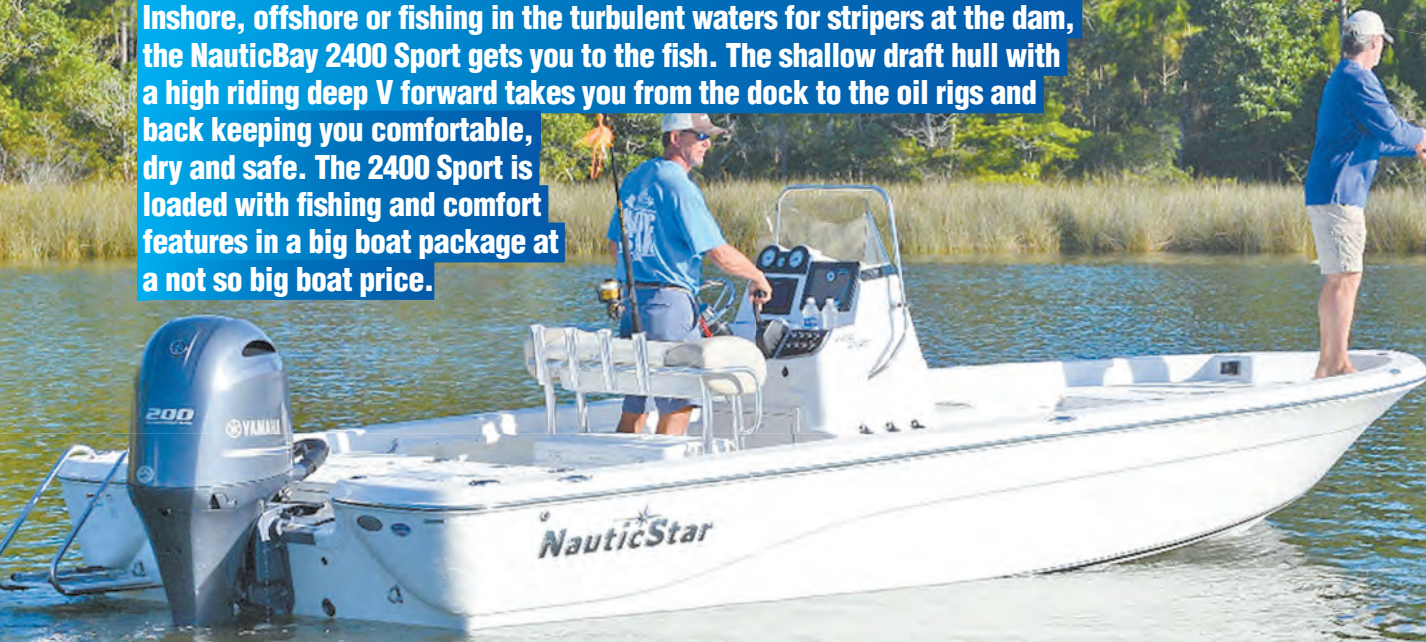
LOUISIANA'S NEWEST NauticStar DEALER!!!

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

2018 Nauticstar 2400 Sport

UNRIVALED IN QUALITY. PERFORMANCE. FISHABILITY.

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



2018 Nauticstar 215 XTS

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

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



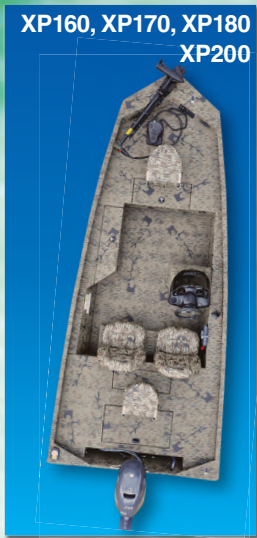


#1 XPRESS DEALER
in the nation

XPRESS
BOATS



Panfish 16



XP160, XP170, XP180
XP200



H17PFC, H18PFC



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



X-19
X-21



H18



H20B



H22B



H24B



XP16CC
XP18CC



165 Bay Skiff
185 Bay Skiff



Tunnel
Boat
SW 18B
SW 20B
SW 22B



XP20CC

Boats Unlimited

7035 AIRLINE HWY.
BATON ROUGE



YAMAHA

225.357.3118

Certified Master Yamaha
Technician On Site

www.BoatsUnlimitedLA.com

A river runs through it

Todd McElveen and Steven Schilling are hooked on the Bogue Chitto River. McElveen called it “one of the prettiest rivers you want to go on.” Schilling said, “It’s like a hidden gem.”

The river roughly bisects their home parish and all of it is fishable, although Schilling admitted, “It’s a lot of trouble to fish.”

It changes character as it winds its way southward. At the state line, McElveen described it as “small enough to throw a rock across,” and north of the line, in Mississippi, it is even narrower and deeper, he said.

From the state line to Franklinton it is uniformly shallow (the bottom is visible in most places), crooked and littered with logs. From Franklinton southward it grows gradually but steadily deeper.

Even there, Schilling doesn’t recommend running a propeller-driven outboard on a flatboat hull. “A tunnel boat in skilled hands, powered by a 25 horsepower motor or less is usable, but you still really need a jet drive motor.”

Lacking a jet drive, the men recommend using a flatboat, preferably equipped with a trolling motor, to float from highway bridge to highway bridge. Ignoring those in Mississippi, five bridges span the river and allow access: Highway 438 at Warnerton, Highway 38 at Clifton, Highway 16 at Franklinton, Highway 437 at Enon and Highway 21 in Sun (in St. Tammany Parish).

McElveen described a typical bridge operation.

“Two guys drive two trucks to the lower bridge, leave one, and then take the truck with boat to the upper bridge to launch the boat. They fish down to the lower bridge, load the boat in the truck, and then drive to the upper bridge to get that truck.”

Another option for people who don’t have a flatboat or who have only one vehicle is to use the services of Rocky Bottom Tubing and Canoeing (985-515-1477). Located

conveniently in Bogue Chitto State Park, owner Len Bickham rents out canoes and fishing kayaks.

He will ferry fishermen, using his craft or their own kayaks, to put-ins 3 miles, 6 miles or 9 miles upriver, allowing fishermen to fish at their own pace back to the park where their vehicle is parked. The 6-mile trip takes four to six hours.

Between April 1 and October 1, a staff member is present at the park daily from 9 a.m. until the last person is off the river. The rest of the year, Bickham recommends an advance call for arrangements.

Although some largemouth bass are caught in the slower currents of deeper pools, most of the catch is made up of spotted bass.

“The average Kentucky (a nickname for spotted bass) is a pound or less,” noted Schilling. “But a 1-pounder pulls like a 3 ½- or 4-pound largemouth.”

“I don’t care how big they are,” said McElveen airily. “I just love to catch them.”

“Even as big as a butter bean,” laughed Schilling. “I eat butter beans.” ■

– Jerald Horst

Swift water running around woody obstructions creates ideal ambush points for active spotted bass.



Fish catchin' stuff

This is tough fishing.

In the blink of an eye, an angler has to see the sweet spot in a pocket around structure, shoot a lure into it and immediately begin his retrieve, all while the current is trying to spin the boat one way or another and hustle it down river.

You get hung up a lot, so don't bring sissy tackle.

Both men used braided line tied directly to the lure — no leader. Spotted bass in the current don't have time to inspect the lure or whether it is tied to something. McElveen's line choice is 30-pound test, and Schilling's is 50-pound.

"Heavy line lets you rip loose from the hang without having to go back and get it," grunted McElveen. Schilling humorously called the all-too frequent hangups in trees "limb bream."

Schilling stressed the need for high-speed reels. He uses a 7:1 Pflueger on an All Star Rod, while McElveen's is an 11:1 KastKing on a 7-foot Daiwa Laguna rod. Both reels are level winds and both rods are medium-heavy — pretty stiff sticks for one-pound fish.

"You can't use a 3:1 reel here," McElveen backed up Schilling. "The current is too swift, and you have to retrieve your baits faster than the current to make them work. Plus, when you get a fish on, you have to get them out before they bury in the cover."

Lure choices are simple and revolve mostly around crankbaits and spinners. Humdingers are favored spinners, although Schilling also likes Stanley Baby Wedges, as well. Skirt colors lean toward blue and white, chartreuse and white or black and chartreuse.

For crankbaits, they stick to Bandit 100 plugs that run 2 to 5 feet deep. Colors they like include chartreuse, black and silver and any crawfish color.

For topwater variety, they throw black or chartreuse and white buzzbaits and Tiny Torpedos in chrome or frog colors.

"Spinnerbaits are number one for me," boomed Schilling. "They are faster fishing, and you get less hang-ups than with cranks."

Most of the day, McElveen fished with a chartreuse Bandit crankbait, although he opted for a spinner occasionally, just as Schilling would vary his routine with a crankbait for deep water. ■

— Jerald Horst



Favored baits and colors for fishing the Bogue Chitto River are shown here. Top row: Booyah buzz bait and Tiny Torpedo. Second row: Bandit 100 crankbaits. Bottom 3 lures: 1/4-oz Humdinger spinners. The buzz bait and all the spinners are rigged with Zoom Split Tail Trailers.

GATORTAIL
GTR37XD-EFI

GAME, MEET CHANGE

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

\$8395

3 YEAR
MOTOR HULL
WARRANTY

3 YEAR
HUMMINGBIRD
WARRANTY

LA

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

A TRICKED OUT BOAT
UP NEXT



A tricked out boat

Todd McElveen's river boat started out life as a 16-foot Xpress welded jon boat. But it didn't stay that way, getting highly modified to adapt it for use in shallow rivers with a jet drive outboard motor.

Most noticeable is the giant elevated transom that towers approximately 3 feet above gunnel level. A hydraulic jack plate is mounted on the back of the transom, and the motor is mounted on the jack plate.

For use on the river, the motor is jacked well up on the plate. "When you run a jet foot, a quarter-of-an-inch can make a major difference in performance," stressed McElveen.

This set-up allows the boat to be used with a prop foot for conventional deep water use as well. "It only takes 30 minutes to change the foot. In lakes, any chop on the water will cause the motor to suck air into the intake of a jet foot. They aren't good in vegetation, either."

A jet foot costs \$2,250 un-installed, according to McElveen, and the changeover will result in a horsepower reduction. With the jet foot, McElveen's 115 Yamaha is rated as a 90 horsepower motor.

A hull adaptation necessary to use a jet foot motor is a 2-inch-deep tunnel built into its bottom. The tunnel provides a protected niche for the foot, and allows the boat to run in shallower water than it could without it.

Another adaptation is the addition to two pontoons on the stern of the boat. These provide extra flotation to keep the stern



riding higher, improving shallow water performance.

McElveen also has made some additional personal modifications to his boat. He had aluminum half-rounds welded over both outer-runners under the boat to allow it to jump over logs without scraping the hull.



CARGO LIFTS

THREE MODELS ★ THREE CHOICES ★ SAME QUALITY

DO-IT-YOURSELF KITS NOW AVAILABLE!

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.beachhouselifts.com

FACING PAGE: This view of the rear of the boat clearly shows the jet foot of the motor. Water is taken in the bottom of the foot and forced out of the rearward facing nozzle. Also clearly visible from this angle is the tunnel in the bottom of the hull, as well as the pontoons (under McElveen's hand) added to increase flotation of the rear of the hull.

Then, to add strength, he had 3/16-inch diameter aluminum plates welded between the runners on the boat's bottom. To top things off, McElveen built a 17.5-gallon baffled fuel tank into the bow to shift weight from the stern forward. Finally, he doubled the length of the bow deck rearward, and decked over the area between the rear bench seat and the transom. The latter changes provides stable platforms for anglers while fishing the turbulent river.

River boats can be purchased or custom-built. According to McElveen, Dockside Marine (985-732-7600), a boat dealer in Bogalusa, has developed a niche market in the boats.

Scott Gilly, owner of Southern Aluma-Werks (985-515-0695), is an independent builder in Enon very near the Bogue Chitto. Gilly builds river boats, as well as other aluminum products, from scratch, custom-designed to buyers' specifications.

And about that trolling motor

There is a good reason for the Rube Goldberg-looking trolling motor on the bow of McElveen's boat. A combination of strong currents and lots of logs can quickly make a pretzel out of most trolling motors shafts.

The motor, donated by Schilling for the cause, has large garage door springs mounted on eye bolts instead of stiff metal struts.



When a break away trolling motor hits a submerged obstruction, the springs allow it to bend under the boat to pass over the obstruction and then snap back into position.

If the motor hits an obstruction head-on, the springs allow the trolling motor head and shaft to fold beneath the boat almost flush to the bottom of the hull.

After the obstruction is passed, the springs pull the motor back into position. "You will not bend a shaft with a breakaway motor," predicted McElveen confidently. ■

– Jerald Horst

LEARN TO READ THE WATER UP NEXT ➤

Great Deals On

CAROLINA SKIFF®

GO ANYWHERE. DO ANYTHING.™







SLIDELL MARINE

36440 Old Bayou Liberty Rd • Slidell, LA • 985-649-4412

www.slidellmarine.com

HONDA

MARINE

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



Learn to read the water

Not all water on the Bogue Chitto River is equal. Probably 80 percent of it is less than 1 foot deep and featureless, making it fishless as far as bass are concerned.

The first thing that Todd McElveen and Steven Schilling look for is deeper water than the gravel-bottomed riffles and runs that make up most of the river. Deeper water is indicated by the water being a dark green.

Steeply eroded banks on the outside of bends, what they call "clay banks," produce some of the deepest areas. Clay banks produce both spotted and largemouth bass, but Schilling says 90 percent of the time that you catch a largemouth from the river, it is from a clay bank. Crankbaits are especially effective there.

Also highly productive are submerged logs lying directly across the river's swift flow. A spinnerbait cast above the log and retrieved over it will often produce a hit as soon as it rolls over the log.

An ideal place to find spotted bass is in the swift water where it makes a "V" between two woody obstructions. Lures should be

retrieved right down the notch.

Fallen wood not only provides cover for bass, it makes the river's current scour a deep hole around or under it. Every log and stump should be as thoroughly probed as the river's current will permit. ■

— Jerald Horst



Runoff from rains can quickly turn the attractive clear waters of the river into a muddy mess. Best fishing is during low water periods.

PRO-DRIVE
SHALLOW WATER OUTBOARDS™

ProDriveOutboards.com 337-229-0034

/prodriveoutboards
 /prodriveoutboards
 /prodrivevids

Timing is everything

When it's hot, it's hot. When it's not, it's not.

The clear, babbling waters of the Bogue Chitto River can turn into a raging chocolate brown torrent just 24 hours after a heavy rain.

Even moderate rains can make the water milky and increase current speed, making fishing difficult.

"Good fishing begins about May when the water warms up and the fish get active," according to Schilling. "That lasts until October or November. The key is clear water."

"It's probably at its very best when the river turns green at the end of September," added McElveen. "It will get a green tint, probably from algae growing on the gravel."

"Yeah, when the river comes up after a heavy rain, it washes all the algae off the rocks," elaborated Schilling.

"When the river is up, the catfishing is good though — limb lines for tabbys (flathead catfish), trotlines, floaters and bird lines (trotlines with their main line above the water, but with the hooks hanging into the water)

are good for catfish.

"Rod-and-reel fishing with shiners or worms in deep holes is good, too. Sometimes, you can tie up in a good spot and catch 20 without moving." ■

— 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.

DAILY GIVEAWAY



SPRO
SPORTS PROFESSIONALS

www.facebook.com/spro.fishing.7




TRUSTED GEAR
★
FRABILL
★
SINCE 1938

Frabill Conservation Series landing nets are equipped with premium features so you leave nothing to chance.

- Proprietary Pow'r Lok™ Yoke System
- Stainless steel hardware
- Knotless crankbait netting
- Fish-friendly flat bottom designs
- Sizes and styles for every angler and species



FRABILL.COM



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

Revo REVO SERIES 4 Baitcast Reel Special

— DON'T MISS OUT! —



Revo S

\$129⁹⁹

Revo SX

\$169⁹⁹

Revo STX

\$199⁹⁹

Free Veritas Rod with purchase of any of these Revo Reels.

Veritas 7 Ft Med Rod \$99⁹⁹ value LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE Abu Garcia



Rick's CABARET Inshore Fishing Tournament June 9th, 2018

- 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

FISHING CLOTHES NOW ON SALE!

20% OFF THESE GREAT BRANDS!



Attack Fishing Shoe

#H8011000

Next Level \$84⁹⁹



Long Sleeve

#H1500029

\$64⁹⁹

Short Sleeve

#H1500030

\$59⁹⁹

KC Scott Performance Tailer



Long Sleeve

#H1200123

\$39⁹⁹

Short Sleeve

#H1000099

\$24⁹⁹



Eat Tuna Trucker

#50091

\$22⁹⁹

GRUNDENS



Logo Tank Top

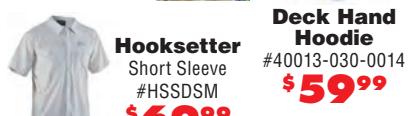
#10112-030-0014

\$39⁹⁹

Deck Hand Hoodie

#40013-030-0014

\$59⁹⁹



Hooksetter

Short Sleeve

#HSSDSM

\$69⁹⁹



Tide Chaser

Long Sleeve

#1290744

\$59⁹⁹

Short Sleeve

#1290743

\$49⁹⁹



Four Horsemen Corks

NOW IN STOCK!



Z-Man Jack Hammer Chatterbait

1/2 oz. & 3/8 oz. Sizes

Now On Sale! \$14⁹⁹

All Other Z-Man Baits - 10% Off

EZ ShrimpZ • Swimmin Trout Trick • Trout Trick • Diezel MinnoZ
MinnowZ • Streakz Curly Tailz • Grazz Kickerz

ALL FISHING RODS - NOW ON SALE!

Call For SPECIAL PRICING On These Great Brands!

SHIMANO

DAIWA

Abu Garcia

FALCON

G-Loomis

Lew's

DUCE SPIRAL FISHING RODS

TFD

fenwick

PENN

BUCKET

13

Shakespeare SINCE 1887

okuma HIGH PERFORMANCE

H&H Fishing Rods

XTRATUF Fishing Deck Boots

\$69⁹⁹ - \$74⁹⁹



AMERICAN ANGLER Fillet Knife

110 Volt - 2X The Torque - Comes With Vinyl Carry Bag & 8" Dual Serrated Blade



Reg. \$95.99

SALE \$79⁹⁹

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



HUGE SALE ON SPRINGFIELD GEAR UP NOW!

Sale Starts June 1st • Factory Rep In-House June 29th & 30th

DON'T MISS OUT!
LIMITED QUANTITIES

FREE SHIRTS, HATS, AND COOZIES
LIMITED QUANTITIES



#XDS G93345BR18 - .45ACP, Mod. 2, 3.3" bbl, Black
Reg. \$519.99..... **SALE \$469.00**

#XDS 9339BER18 - .9mm, 3.3" bbl, Black
Reg. \$459.99..... **SALE \$409.00**



#XDG 9801HCR18 - .9mm, 3" bbl, Sub Compact Black
Reg. \$519.99..... **SALE \$461.00**

#XDG 9101HCR18 - .9mm, 4" bbl, Black
Reg. \$519.99..... **SALE \$461.00**

#XDG 9845BHCR18 - .45ACP, 3.35" bbl, Sub Compact Black
Reg. \$539.99..... **SALE \$485.00**



#XDE 9339BER18 - .9mm, 3.3" bbl, Black
Reg. \$489.99..... **SALE \$440.00**

#XDE 93345BER18 - .45ACP, 3.3" bbl, Black
Reg. \$519.99..... **SALE \$468.00**



#PI 9137ER18 - .9mm, RO Elite Champion, 4" bbl
Reg. \$959.99..... **SALE \$859.00**

#PI 9126ER18 - .45ACP, RO Elite Compact, 4" bbl
Reg. \$949.99..... **SALE \$849.00**

#PI 9130ER18 - .9mm, RO Elite Operator, 5" bbl
Reg. \$1069.99..... **SALE \$959.00**



#PX 9151LR18 - .45ACP, loaded stainless, 5" bbl
Reg. \$889.99..... **SALE \$789.00**



#PG 9109SR18 - .380ACP, Stainless
Reg. \$549.99..... **SALE \$494.00**

<p>SPRINGFIELD PURCHASE ANY PISTOL LISTED & RECEIVE 5 FREE MAGS & 1 FREE RANGE BAG</p>	<p>STOOD VALUE! SPRINGFIELD ARMY. GEAR UP NOW!</p> <p><small>\$11.999 MSRP (UP FROM \$10.999)</small></p>	<p>GEAR UP CONCEALED CARRY XD</p> <p>APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 2018 3 EXTRA MAGS FREE! Receive 3 extra magazines FREE with the purchase of select Springfield Armory® XD® pistols!</p> <p>ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANY XD® 3.3" OR 4" ANY XD-S MOD.™ ANY XD® SUB COMPACT ANY XD MOD.™ SUB COMPACT ANY XD-E™
--	---	--

The tarpon fishery in Louisiana is now concentrated between the passes of the Mississippi River, and west to Grand Isle.

THE SILVER KING

LOUISIANA'S TARPON FISHERY IS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN IT USED TO BE LESS THAN 100 YEARS AGO - BUT WHY?

Listen to this: “When an angler sets a hook in a tarpon, there is an explosion. There’s no delayed action fuse in this fish. The water erupts and a platinum-silver streak shears the surface with the force of a depth charge exploding. The fish emerges with head thrashing and its gleaming body sparkling in the sunlight, lashing right and left in a wild attempt to free itself. If it doesn’t throw the hook on that first jump, time and again this sky-walking fish will burst from the surface in high, broad, twisting, tail-walking jumps making a bid for freedom.”

Wow!

Those words were written in the 1970s by McFadden Duffy, outdoor editor for the New Orleans Times Picayune newspaper. McDuff, as he was known to his friends, was also a frequent contributor to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries’ Louisiana Conservationist mag-

azine, where the words above appeared.

He liked tarpon fishing — actually, he loved tarpon fishing. And he had a lot of company. Hundreds, maybe thousands of fishermen chased the silver king across the whole of Louisiana’s coast.

But things have changed a lot.

Current state record holder David Prevost estimates that there are now only 20 serious boats targeting tarpon, with maybe another 20 boats casually doing so.

Why?

ARE OTHER FISH MORE ATTRACTIVE NOW?

Maybe it’s the edibility factor. Tuna are vicious fighters. Tuna are common. Tuna are great table fare. At the height of the Louisiana tarpon fishery, tuna fishing as we know it now didn’t exist. Now it’s booming.

Some fishermen certainly rolled backward inshore and joined the ranks of those obsessed with trophy speckled trout fishing or sight-casting for redfish. In the 1950s to the early 70s, when tarpon fishing was booming, speckled trout were those fish we used to catch “by the box,” and most of them were “cigars” (9- to 12-inch fish) or “schoolies” (12 to 14 inches).

Redfish then were rated barely better than trash fish.

ARE THERE FEWER TARPON?

Maybe there are less tarpon out there to catch. Forrest V. Durand, assistant biologist with the Louisiana Bureau of Research and Statistics, wrote this in the July 1933 issue of the Louisiana Conservation Review.

“The writer, from the deck of a boat anchored in Barataria Pass, has

observed the water churned into a commotion by these fish as far as it was possible to see, up Barataria Bay on one side and the same distance out into the Gulf on the other.”

William Dailey and Andre’ Landry Jr., Texas A & M University biologists studying the Louisiana tarpon fishery, have called the 1960s “the Golden Era.” Some numbers bear that out, in spite of 89 tarpon being taken at the Southwest Pass Tarpon Rodeo in 1947.

The Abbeville Kiwanis Tarpon Rodeo weighed in 110 tarpon in 1966. The Golden Meadow Tarpon Rodeo had 45 fish entered in 1967.

Even landings at the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo peaked at that time, with a record 48 tarpon in 1966. Over 30 tarpon have been landed four times in rodeo history, and three of those were in the 60s: 1962, 1965 and 1968.

Of course, the A & M biologists noted that in the 1960s, tarpon anglers at the big rodeo averaged about 500 in number, compared to about 100 in 2007.

And the catch-and-release ethic is strong today. Tarpon that have no

chance of winning rodeos are often tagged and released. But still; today’s “catches” are not on par with yesterday’s “landings.”

ARE THE FISH IN DIFFERENT PLACES TODAY?

The Texas A&M scientists point out that as recently as the 1970s, Louisiana’s tarpon fishery stretched from April through early November, and was done over a much broader area than today’s July through September fishery, which is concentrated in the area around the mouth of the Mississippi River stretching west to Grand Isle.

Mention was made earlier of the successful tarpon rodeos out of Abbeville, far to the west of Grand Isle. Even further west is the Calcasieu River. A writer in the July 1936 *Louisiana Conservation Review* marveled at the good tarpon fishing in the river 2 ½ miles upriver from the town of Cameron.

Tarpon were plentiful enough for Lake Charles anglers to found their own

Tarpon Club. A 1939 photo shows 15 men and women posed in front of 22 of the slain beasts.

Try catching one there now.

On the extreme other end of the state, Lake Pontchartrain tarpon fishing was hotter than a \$2 pistol in the 1930s. The New Orleans backyard lake was the scene of not one, but two annual rodeos. The New Orleans Tarpon Club Rodeo and the Semour Weiss Rodeo both required the tarpon be caught within the city limits of New Orleans.

The No. 1 tarpon in the state’s fish records program for two decades was a 198.5-pounder caught by Oswald Fry in 1951 — a Pontchartrain tarpon.

Schuyler Thibodaux took a 195-pound tarpon (then No. 3 in the records) under the Rigolets bridge in 1973. The big silver king scooped up a croaker Thibodaux was fishing on the bottom.

Do you have any idea how many croakers are soaked on the bottom nowadays by trophy trout fishermen? How many of them ever hook a tarpon now?

continues on page 106

CROSS THEIR EYES!

Designed by BASS Elite Pro
David Walker

CROSS THEIR EYES! FLIPPING JIG

- Built around a heavy duty 4/0 VMC® flipping hook
- Hand-tied 100% silicone skirts and wire trailer keeper

CROSS THEIR EYES! POWER FINESSE JIG

- Built around a small but powerful 2/0 Mustad® flipping hook
- Hand-tied 100% silicone skirts and wire trailer keeper

Z-MAN

Instagram Facebook YouTube

zmanfishing.com

CREATURE FEATURE

continued

THE FISHERY IS DIFFERENT IN ANOTHER WAY

Today's tarpon fishery is different than the historical fishery in other ways too — not all of them bad. The biggest difference is that tarpon are now definitely much larger than they once were.

Most people date the beginning of the modern Louisiana fishery (although people were catching tarpon before then) to 1928 and the founding of the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo.

From that date until 1973, not a single 200-pound tarpon was recorded, in spite of thousands of active fishermen. Today, with far fewer anglers, every fish in the Top 10 of the state's fish records program is not just more than 200 pounds, but over 220 pounds.

And it seems to be getting bet-

ter. Tarpon are definitely larger now than they were in the "Golden Era" of Louisiana tarpon fishing. David Prevost, right, poses with his 246.63-pound state record silver king, along with fishing partner Jeff DeBlieux.

ter. Six of the top seven fish were caught since 2011. In 2015, two anglers, David Prevost and Lance "Coon" Schouest Jr., placed fish in the record books. Prevost's was 246.63 pounds, and Schouest's was 226.88 pounds.

In spite of the concerns of some biologists over the status of tarpon populations, Dailey and Landry refer to the Louisiana fishery as "relatively robust."

Next month we will discuss in detail the biological quirks of tarpon — and how to take advantage of them. ■



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.



Courtesy David Prevost

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

BOAT STUF

DISCOUNT MARINE SUPPLIES

COME SEE US FOR YOUR YAMAHA RE-POWERING NEEDS



YAMAHA



SEAFOX
249 Avenger



SEAFOX
283 Commander
Twin F300's

- Yamaha Sales and Service
- New and Used Boat Sales
- Trailer Sales and Repairs
- Mobile Service Available



Gator Tail
OUTBOARDS

Gator Tail
boats and
motors!!!



BLUE WAVE

New 2800
Yamaha F300



Ranger
BOATS

RB 190 w/115hp



SILVER WAVE 230 RLP TriToon!!
Yamah F150

Let Us Sell
Your Boat
For You!

2017
Clearance
Pricing

BLUE WAVE
ALWELO
COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC.

Ranger
BOATS

SILVER WAVE
SEAFOX

sales@boatstuf.com

Like us on

www.boatstuf.com

WESTBANK
2499 Peters Rd
Harvey, LA
504) 340-4991

NORTHSHORE
662 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA
(985) 649-9044

YAMAHA OUTBOARDS
WAKE UP
TO SAVINGS
EVENT
OFFER VALID FROM MAY 1, 2018 - JUNE 15, 2018
For a limited time, purchase a new, select eligible Yamaha 2.5 hp to 150 hp four-stroke outboard and receive:
UP TO **\$750** IN DEALER CREDIT
Based on the purchase of additional goods or services from your authorized, participating Yamaha outboard dealer.

YAMAHA
COUPON

2.5-15hp - Save \$150
20-25hp - Save \$200

Expires June 30 2018



Regulator 31



Available In
23', 25',
28', & 41'

ALWELO
COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC.

Unsurpassed Durability
Heavy-Duty Construction



12' to 28' Available

ASK CAPT. PAUL

Capt. Paul Titus

Capt. Herman Solar, right, advises Capt. Paul on a GPS waypoint.

GOT A QUESTION FOR THE CAPTAIN?
EMAIL IT TO
CAPT@LASMAG.COM

WAYPOINTS FOR HOPEDALE/MRGO TO BAYOU TERRE BOEUF

PROS & CONS

This St. Bernard Parish area is one of the prime inshore fishing spots in all of the Louisiana coastal marshes, with many weather-protected fishing locations.

This area is sometimes called the Hopedale Marsh, and is located between the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) and Bayou Terre Boeufs. It can be reached via launches in Delacroix, Hopedale and Shell Beach.

The entire area is crisscrossed with natural bayous, lagoons, bays, lakes and reefs, and is bordered on the east by Breton Sound.

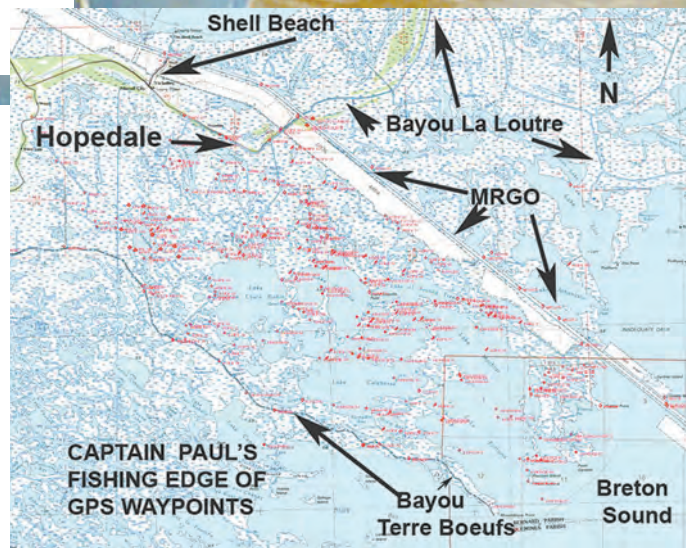
270 WAYPOINTS PROVIDED

Specks, white trout, reds, flounder, croakers, sheepshead, black drum, tripletail — and catfish and sharks — are all found in various parts of the area.

My Fishing Edge for Hopedale/MRGO to Bayou Terre Boeufs has more than 270 waypoint locations.

I have limited out our catch at many spots, including a point and a large flat lagoon to the northwest at the mouth of Bayous Bernard and Pisana at Lake Coquille, (which is French for Shellfish Lake) at 29°44.9302'N ~ 89°35.0870'W.

This Edge also has waypoints in and around Hopedale Lagoon, one of which is named as Hope 02 at a point in the lagoon located at 29°48.1265'N ~ 89°38.7596'W. Another is located around Lake Amedee by a cove on the east side named as Hope 133 at 29°46.0277'N ~ 89°41.2366'W,



More of the common hotspots are naturally the mouths and nearby turns throughout the area. It also has a warning waypoint by a sunken tank in the outfall/back levee canal that is north of Lake of Two Trees and northwest of Bayou Malatto listed as DANGER at 29°44.8033'N ~ 89°31.1916'W

Nearer Breton Sound has the location that was once Raccoon Island, but is now a reef in the area. Waypoint HD EDGE58 is at 29°38.7395'N ~ 89°28.0713'W, and the southern tip of the former island listed as HDEGE59 defines where the island was once located.

In Breton Sound, it features the location of the Five Wells and where the Dope Boat was once located.

Captain Paul's Fishing Edge of GPS Waypoints has these and many more locations, which were determined using WAS 84 Datum and are stated as degrees, minutes and ten thousandths of minutes. (DDD,MM.mmmm)

As you know, waypoints can now be electronically installed in most GPS units. This feature allows the user to install a great amount of waypoint data in just a few minutes.

Each Edge file has an electronic data file that can be downloaded in to a variety of GPS brand units. All of the EDGE programs are sent as an email attachment. This data download enters all of the Captain Paul's Waypoints into the unit in a matter of seconds from your computer. 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 images cannot be installed in the GPS unit, but offer a location of the waypoints and their descriptions, as well as a READ ME and INSTRUCTIONS file.

Latitude~longitude value of the waypoints is included, and in some instances "How to Fish" the location hints are provided. I began marketing these waypoints as Capt. Paul's Fishing Edge because I believe they will give 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.

HOW TO ORDER

Presently, there are 21 locations for Capt. Paul's Fishing Edge, including Barataria Bay, Lake Borgne, Hopedale MRGO to Miss Sound, 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, Vermillion Bay, Empire-Buras, the Rigolets and the

MRGO, Cocodrie ~ Dulac, Bayou Sauvage NWR, Big Branch NWR, the Myrtle Grove area and the Hopedale MRGO to Bayou Terre Boeufs, are covered here.

I always suggest that you have a reliable compass and a map of the area whenever you venture in the outdoors.

In order to order an Edge file, you must have an email address that accepts attachments. All of Capt. Paul's Fishing Edge files may be found in the Louisiana Sportsman Outdoor Store, located at www.sportsmangear.com.

To visit Capt. Paul's website, go to www.askcaptainpaul.com/fishingedge. Remember that you must list your brand of GPS unit, your email address and the selected area you plan on fishing. The Edge files are NOT brand name interchangeable, so be sure to make the cor-

ORDER YOURS TODAY  **Captain Paul's Fishing EDGE** GPS Waypoints

www.SPORTSMANGear.com


rect GPS unit selection.



Captain Paul's Fishing Edge of GPS Waypoints will definitely give you an edge in navigating and fishing the area. ■




Capt. Paul Titus has been responding to GPS questions on LouisianaSportsman.com since 2000. He has been fishing and hunting in Louisiana since 1957. Titus holds a USCG license and conducts instruction courses in the use of GPS for private individuals and government agencies.

GATOR TRAX Strike Series Bass Boats



- 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!



GATOR TRAX

WWW.GATORTRAXBOATS.COM

Call and have your dream bass boat designed today!

225-294-9991

FLY LINES

Catch Cormier

This nice red couldn't resist eating a Coma Spoon. Spoon flies emit flash and vibration, making them highly attractive.

SPOON-FED REDS

TOUGH DAY? SEND SPOON FLIES TO THE RESCUE

At the recent "Fly Fishin' For the Mission" tournament held out of Pointe-aux-Chenes, my teammate Kevin "Doc" Andry and I started the day hoping to repeat as overall champions.

After four hours on the water, it was looking like we might win something — like one-way tickets to Skunk City. Maybe it was the full moon, or maybe it was the barometric pressure. But the fish wouldn't even look at our flies, much less eat them.

Fortunately, we each had weapons of mass redfish destruction — spoon flies. Not wasting any more time, we put them to use. Long story short: We ended up landing 13 reds, releasing all but four, and finishing third overall, and highest among kayak teams.

WHY SPOON FLIES WORK

When it comes to catching slot and juvenile redfish, a spoon fly is money in the bank. It's also caught more different species than any fly other than the Clouser Minnow.

Some say a spoon fly imitates a wounded or frightened bait-fish. It could also be an attractor pattern — the marsh version of the coldwater trout angler's Stimulator fly. It doesn't imitate anything specific, but triggers the fish's predatory instinct.

There are several reasons I love fishing spoon flies.

First, they're lightweight and easy to cast. Second, they make almost no splash in the water, so they're much less likely to spook fish. And if they're of the Wobbler variety, they can be worked in very shallow water or heavy grass.

But perhaps the best reason is that, with their flash and vibration, they increase the radius of awareness to the fish. In clear water and good conditions, I've seen reds dart from 10 feet away to eat a spoon fly.

MATCHING THE HATCH

Jon Cave is credited with creation of the first spoon fly in the mid-80s. His Cave's Wobbler was constructed of a body of flattened mylar tubing, and epoxied over. The tail had a tuft of kiptail and a few strands of krystal flash.

Soon after came variations that eliminated the tail. Kirk Dietrich, a Chalmette native, created a mylar tubing body with more of a spoon shape. Capt. Jim Dupre of Gainesville, Florida created his version using mylar foil cut to shape and epoxied to a hook.

The Kirk's Spoon and Dupre Spoon Fly remain two of the most popular commercial redfish flies on the market.

Another variation is the Fingernail Spoon, popularized by Capt. Blaine Townsend of Cocodrie. This one uses a plastic fake fingernail epoxied to the hook, with glitter added to the epoxy that covers the fingernail and bonds to the hook.

And then there's the Waldner Spoon, created by Capt. Rich Waldner of New Orleans. This fly uses the "Mother of Epoxy" technique where the fly body is shaped by four strands of wire, and then the spaces filled with epoxy supplemented with glitter of any color.

There are many other variations. One of my favorites is the Beer Can Spoon, where a cut-to-shape aluminum can piece is pressed into a concave mold, then epoxied onto the hook.

There's no argument that spoon flies were inspired by the Johnson Sprite lure, which is why some purists refuse to fish it — regardless of how effective it is.

WOBLERS VS. SPINNERS

All of the spoon flies mentioned so far are wobblers. That is, they have a concave shape that when retrieved through the water causes them to ride hook up with a wobbling motion of 15 to 30 degrees each side.

The concave shape of wobblers makes them perfect for shallow water. But drag-induced lift means they can't be fished deep without lots of weight.

That's where the Coma Spoon came in. I created this variation based on the physics of the Sauvage screw-type propeller.

The Coma Spoon is a spinner. Unlike the concave teardrop shape of wobblers, this fly is tied using narrow mylar tubing on a 4X long

continues on page 112

TIPPETS

For contestants in the CCA STAR Fly Division, June is the best tournament month to catch big trout on a fly. At first light, use large poppers. As the morning progresses, move toward submergent flies such as Seaducers, Deceivers and articulated baitfish patterns. Casting an intermediate sinking line will produce more strikes.

In the southeast, bigger trout will be in the surf. In the Calcasieu area, West Cove and Joe's Cove will be best bets for big fly rod trout.

The interior ponds have been great for redfish this spring, and that should continue into June before it gets too hot. Where you find grass, you'll find fish. Try crab flies, spoon flies and charlies such as LaFleur's Charlie.

From Grand Isle to Grand Calliou, and even in interior lakes, bull reds have been plentiful. For these brutes, try large silhouette flies such as Toads, Borski Slider, Bissett Mud Bug, Sandbar Mullet or the Geaux Meaux.

Bream action should be peaking in the Atchafalaya Basin. Popping bugs will work just about any time of the day, but if not, try a Jitterbee or Slow Sinking Spider 2 to 3 feet under a small football cork.

Fly anglers in Orleans and Jefferson parishes report that Rio Grande perch have survived the unusually cold winter and are showing up in good numbers. These fish are great fun on a 2 or 3-weight rod. Cast small poppers and wet flies.

BLACKJACK... INSPIRED PERFORMANCE!

The new *BlackJack 256!*

BlackJack
boats

For more information
or to find a dealer near you, visit
www.blackjackboats.com



FLY LINES

continued

Mathew Roberts, center, awards Shane Coleman, left, and Mark Carline first-place honors at the recent Fly Fishin For The Mission tournament.

hook. After flattening and firming the body with 5-minute epoxy, I add a twist to the body before applying a finish coat of 30-minute epoxy.

What keeps a spinner from twisting line? First, a tippet material with high torsion resistance, such as fluorocarbon. Second, a retrieve with a short strip followed by a one-second pause. The fly rotates one direction on the strip, then reverses back on the pause.

In my saltwater fly box, I keep both wobblers and the Coma Spoon (spinner).

BAD DAY FOR REDFISH

The 2nd annual FFFTM tournament out of PAC Kayak Rentals was a great success, according to organizer Mathew



Roberts. With a larger turnout and more sponsors, it helped raise money and awareness for the Mission Six charity, which benefits veterans. And with low wind and blue skies, it was a great day to be on the water.

Most of the state's top saltwater fly anglers were on hand, and shared secrets with their counterparts. That was bad news for the reds. Despite their skittish attitude, nearly everyone caught fish. And some impressive two-fish stringers were weighed in, as well. ■

FLY FISHIN FOR THE MISSION II RESULTS: OVERALL

1st - Shane Coleman, Mark Carline
2nd - Ron Begnaud, Barrett Bertucci
3rd - Kevin Andry, Glen Cormier

KAYAK DIVISION

1st - Jerry Bourgeois
2nd - Sarah Giles, Nick Dinger
3rd - Grant Hollier, Robert Oster

BOAT DIVISION

1st - Scott Bienvenu, Brock Miller
2nd - Phillip Schexnayder, Corey Legendre
3rd - Eric Ditch, Tim Gray

SHEEPSHEAD

Nick Dinger - 4.20 lbs
Largest Red
Mark Carline - 8.81 lbs



Glen 'Catch' Cormier has pursued fish on the fly for 30 years. A certified casting instructor and renowned fly tier, he and his family live in Cotile.

PELEGRINMARINE.COM






PELEGRINMARINE.COM

PELEGRIN MARINE INC.

10215 E MAIN ST | HOUMA, LA - (985) 872 4841



POWERED BY
MERCURY



Sun TRACKER

PELEGRINMARINE.COM




PELEGRINMARINE.COM

NEW! **YO-ZURI® HIGH SPEED VIBE™**

- Irresistible vibrating action
- Fish at any range of depth
- Trolled up to 15 knots
- Casted and retrieved or fished vertically
- Catches a variety of saltwater game fish

Mackerel
5-1/4"
2-7/8 oz.

YO-ZURI
FISH THE BEST™
Yo-Zuri.com



985-857-8000 CALL TODAY!
2845 Hwy 311, Schriever, LA 70395
www.mlengine.com • sales@mlengine.com

PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE
We will match or beat any competitors price!



<p>Gas Inboard / Mud boat Power train</p> <p>Up to 44 Horsepower! Electronic Fuel Injection ZF Transmission Air Cooled</p>  	<p>Marine Diesel Generators</p> <p>6kW up to 200kW Keel Cooled Heat Exchanger Cooled</p>  
<p>Gas and Diesel Pumps</p> <p>2" - 48" Pumps Skid Mounted Trailer Mounted Dry Prime Wet Prime</p>  	<p>Packaged Generators</p> <p>6kW up to 800kW Sound Enclosures Fuel Tanks Trailer Mounted Panels and Accessories</p>  
<p>Replacement Engines</p> <p>Tier 2 Mechanical In Stock! Tier 3 & Tier 4 Available</p>  	<p>Pressure Washers</p>   <p>Heavy Duty Diesel and Electric</p>
<p>Generator Alternator Ends</p>  	<p>Custom Power Units</p> <p>6hp up to 400hp Diesel Natural Gas Gasoline Propane Accessories</p>  

HOW TO AGE WHITE-TAILED DEER: PART II

KEY IS THIRD TEMPORARY PREMOLAR
WITH THREE CRESTS

THE YEAR-AND-A- HALF AGE CLASS

The key to aging yearling deer — deer that are 1 year old — is the third premolar. The third premolar is a temporary tooth that has three cusps (or crests.) Both fawns and yearling deer have this temporary three-cusped premolar.

As discussed last month, fawns will only have one molar erupted. As the fawn grows older, the second molar begins to erupt, followed by the eruption of the third molar. So, the difference between a fawn and a yearling deer is the addition of the second and third molars to the lower jaw.

As the yearling deer approaches the 2-year age class, these temporary premolars are replaced with permanent premolars, with the third premolar now having two cusps. This two-cusped premolar is

now the key for separating the yearling deer from 2-year-old (adult) deer. This will be discussed more in the next issue when we look at the young adult age classes.

It was also discussed last month that because during hunting season deer are at the halfway mark for the year, they are aged as 1 ½, 2 ½, 3 ½, etc.

Deer that breed early in October and November have fawns born in May and June — so the half-year increment fit well for aging purposes. These early-breeding deer are found in Areas 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10.

But late-breeding areas, like 1, 4, 5, 6 and 9, can be a little challenging since the fawns are born late — and tooth eruption is behind early-born deer. However, the third temporary premolar with the three cusps is the key, even though they may not have the full complement of molars in the lower jaw.

The typical early-born yearling deer jawbone (as found in Area 2 deer) will

have the three temporary premolars, with three molars that are fully erupted in November and December. As these deer grow older, the temporary premolars may begin to break apart and be replaced with permanent premolars in January. This generally occurs around Month 18.

The typical late-born yearling jawbone (as found in Area 6) will have the three temporary premolars, with only two molars fully erupted in November and even December. As this deer grows older, the third molar will begin to erupt — and by January will look like the Area 2 jawbone in November, with the three temporary premolars and three molars fully erupted. Generally, these deer do not begin to shed their temporary premolars until after hunting season, although those fawns born in late-July or August may begin losing these premolars in January.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The stages of eruption of the third molar in yearling deer is clearly visible in this photo: Jawbone No. 5 shows the replacement of the temporary premolars with the new permanent molars.

PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY



www.SPORTSMANGear.com

These yearling deer are basically adult deer; yearling does should breed and produce their first fawn, and yearling bucks grow their first set of antlers. This is the age class of bucks that most hunters pass up with hopes that their antlers will grow larger over time. For best antler development, a yearling buck should weigh at least 120 pounds or more. Yearling bucks that weigh 100 pounds or less are generally small spikes, and unless there is quality nutrition on the landscape, they will not catch up to those deer that weigh 120 or better. If the yearling doe body weights are low, they may not be successful breeders and may not produce a fawn at age 2.

There is no reason at all for hunters not to be able to recognize deer that are 6 months old (fawns) and deer that are 1 1/2 years old (yearlings.)

Once again the key is that third temporary premolar with three cusps or crests. Fawns will only have one molar, and yearlings will have two or three molars.

In the typical deer herd, these two age classes represent two-thirds of the herd, but are the two age classes that are often passed up by hunters. Keep in mind that if you are trying to manage and monitor the growth and development of your deer herd, some deer from these two age classes should be harvested in an effort to understand growth trends and identify potential problems.

TURKEY HUNTING IN MAY

For those of you who did not kill a turkey in April, maybe you connected in May since the season ran through the 6th in Area A. This was a historic season, since the

spring squirrel season opened on May 5. Some states have fall turkey seasons that are open during squirrel season. If you killed a turkey this past season, consider yourself blessed. If you killed one in May during spring squirrel season, it was a double-blessing if you hunted the bushytails, also. Many hunters found turkey hunting in 2018 to be tough and unsuccessful. Because of the low turkey numbers on and around our property, the 2018 season was a bust — just like 2016 and 2017. To have success turkey

hunting, one has to go to areas that have good turkey populations, which currently seem few and far in this state. To have a good turkey population an area has to have a lot of turkeys. And to have a lot of turkeys, you have to have a lot of turkeys. That sounds like a bunch of double talk, but when you have a bird that nests on the ground, production can be hit or miss. When numbers decline, it really can get bad with all the factors working

continues on page 116

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
• 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
• 6.5 Acres	\$29,000
• 17.5 Acres	\$69,000

ATTALA COUNTY

• 540.5 Acres	\$950/AC
---------------------	----------

CALHOUN COUNTY

• 75 Acres	\$1,300/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
• 176 Acres	\$3,181/AC

COPIAH COUNTY

• 339 Acres	\$2,651/AC
-------------------	------------

COVINGTON COUNTY

• 162 Acres Cabin & River	\$4,650/AC
---------------------------------	------------

FORREST COUNTY

• 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
• 40 Acres	\$2,500/AC

JEFFERSON COUNTY

• 2260 Acres & Lodge	\$8,300,000
----------------------------	-------------

JONES COUNTY

• 21 Acres	\$2,000/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	\$168,000
• 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
• 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

WALTHAM COUNTY

• 38.78 Acres	\$2,166/AC
• 45 Acres & Camp	\$204,000
• 386 Acres & Home	\$1,495,000
• 34 Acres	\$3,808/AC
• 160 Acres	\$2,181/AC
• 80 Acres	\$2,150/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	\$399,000

LOUISIANA

Bienville	
• 89.78 Acres	\$2,449/AC
Bossier	
• 40 Acres	\$3,500/AC
• 68 Acres	\$5,514/AC
• 75 Acres	\$4,250/AC
• 120 Acres	\$3,958/AC
Caddo	
• 170 Acres	\$4,600/AC
• 32.4 Acres	\$3,395/AC
• 20 Acres	\$4,000/AC
• 17 Acres	\$4,000/AC
Desoto	
• 55 Acres	\$2,600/AC
• 51 Acres	\$3,200/AC
• 40 Acres	\$2,800/AC
East Baton Rouge	
• 239 Acres	\$3,999,000
East Feliciana	
• 479 Acres	\$2,290,000
West Feliciana	
• 113 Acres & Lodge	\$1,125,000
Sabine	
• 21 Acres	\$3,571/AC
• Home on Toledo Bend	\$550,000
Webster	
• 958 Acres	\$1,252/AC
• 55 Acres	\$3,400/AC
• 113 Acres	\$3,200/AC
Washington	
• 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

GRUNTS & GOBBLES

continued

The three-cusped temporary premolar is the key for aging fawns and yearling deer. The three crests or cusps of these temporary teeth are clearing visible, and have already begun wearing down. At 18 months, these temporary premolars are replaced with permanent molars.



against this ground-nesting bird, like weather, predators, floods, etc. This is why turkey populations can be cyclic, and a low population may remain low for many years.

Sometimes it may not recover unless a booster release is made to try to get the population up and going again. I am hoping that in the years I have remaining on this earth as we know it, the turkey population will rebound and not go the way of the Bobwhite Quail. It is a basic fact that Louisiana does not have the turkey population that hunters in this state

desire. This is one reason so many Louisiana hunters go out of state to turkey hunt. I am also hoping this new season structure will produce results, otherwise I may have to become an out-of state-hunter, too. ■



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.

Bayou Outboards Inc.

3710 Robertson St. • Metairie, LA

504-836-6885

www.bayououtboards.com

We offer complete service and parts to your...



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



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

10-YEAR WARRANTY!

EVINRUDE E-TEC™

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

TOHATSU

Feel the Wind™



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.



WWW.TOHATSU.COM

LURE REVIEW

Don Shoopman

Two large J-shaped high-profile legs give the Cowboy its vibrating action.

RIDE 'EM, COWBOY

GARY YAMAMOTO'S
NEW CREATURE BAIT HAS
A FLUTTERY ACTION BIG
BASS JUST CAN'T RESIST

Before Gary Yamamoto Custom Baits' Cowboy soft plastic creature bait was unveiled at the 2018 Bassmaster Classic in South Carolina, a few bass anglers were fortunate to have Ron Colby's latest creation.

And Tai Au of Glendale, Arizona — the No. 2 all-time money winner on the Wild West Bass Trail — was one of them.

"I know the lure just came out, but I've caught over 100 fish on it already," Au said earlier this spring.

"I was looking for something the fish haven't seen," the 34-year-old GYCB rep said — and he got it from Colby.

"If I didn't work for Yamamoto, I probably wouldn't tell anybody," Au said.

Distinguishing the Cowboy from the rest are the two large, J-shaped wide profile legs — the tail — under the body. It also features two sets of small, flapping appendages that give it secondary action.

VERSATILITY

The 4-inch long Cowboy can be Texas-

rigged, Carolina-rigged or used as a trailer on a football head jig, a swivel head jig and even a bladed jig like a ChatterBait.

"What's unique about the bait is there are no other creature baits on the market that I know of with a tail that moves so much. The tail's so big it moves perfectly through the water. It doesn't have any erratic action," Au said. "If you pitch a lot, you need a lure with more action, more movement. You need it to fall where it flutters. It's awesome to do that."

Before winter hit Arizona, Au caught consistently with the lure on a few trips he made in October, November and December.

At the 2017 WON U.S. Open on Lake Mead in mid-October, won by Phoenix's Justin Patti with 36.3 pounds, Au was in the Top 10 after Day 1 using the Cowboy.

His first fish was a 3 1/2-pounder ("An absolute giant for Lake Mead," he said) that bit the Cowboy he had tied to 70-pound braid under a 3/8-ounce worm weight.

"I went through every single pack. Long story short, I ran out of Cowboys," he said, noting he had five bags.

In December, which was unseasonably mild, Au took the Cowboy out for a test ride at Saguaro Lake, 41 miles from Phoenix. He punched the milfoil and had the kind of day bass anglers dream about, one that was recorded and can be seen on YouTube.

"Anyway, my biggest five would have went 25 pounds," he said.

He repeated those results the next day after Colby, who lives in Page, Arizona

— home of GYCB since its inception in 1983 — drove over to fish with him on Saguaro Lake.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Au also is a big fan of the GYCB Flappin' Hog, another soft plastic creature bait that was his favorite before the introduction of the Cowboy.

"This one (Cowboy) gives me the best of both," he said.

That was the goal, said Colby, GYCB vice president of operations who celebrated his 16th year with the company in December. He had been tinkering with something like it for a few years but got serious when pro staffers kept bringing it up.

"I had been working on it for a while. Guys were asking for a bait with more vibration, something with a bigger kick and a pretty big profile," Colby said.

"But when they put the pressure on me, put the screws to me, I committed. I'm pretty excited about it. It was in demand."

The Cowboy design he eventually came up with combined popular characteristics of the Flappin' Hog's shape and appendages with the wide profile legs of GYCB's Hula Grub.

"I beefed up the legs. I kept working with it a little bit until it put a lot of vibration out there. It seems to be doing the job," Colby said.

"What I like about it, too, is they changed the formula," Au said. "It's a little tougher, lasts a little longer."

He averages three or four bass on one Cowboy, he said.

For more information on the Cowboy and other GYCB artificial lures, go to www.yamamoto.baits.com or call (800) 645-2248. ■



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.

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

WORK HENDERSON PLAY



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



GAME WARDEN

Keith LaCaze

Bayou Rapides in central Louisiana is just one of the many freshwater bayous and lakes where hoop nets, slat traps or other legally licensed gear may be used to catch catfish. INSET: With a \$9.50 Basic Fishing License and an additional \$20 Wire Net Gear License, up to five wire nets such as this one may be used to put plenty of fresh catfish on the table.

RECREATIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO HOOK AND LINE FISHING

HOOP NETS, SLAT TRAPS EFFECTIVE

GOT A QUESTION FOR KEITH?
EMAIL IT TO
KLACAZE15@ATT.NET



The summer months offer excellent fishing in Louisiana. It is the height of the fishing “season,” and many of us get out there and do our best to procure the main course for a fish fry.

The vast majority of recreational fishermen will be bait casting, fly fishing or jig poling.

A comparatively small number of fishermen will take a different approach and fish with hoop nets, slat traps or other gear more commonly associated with commercial fishing.

They fish for catfish, crabs, crawfish or shrimp that we recognize as both commercial and recreational species. For some it is tradition passed down from dad or grandfather. Others are limited on time to spend on the water, and like the idea of having a net or trap doing the fishing for them. This group also includes retired commercial fishermen who held on to a few nets or traps and wish to continue fishing on a limited

basis for their own table.

A commercial fisherman’s license and commercial gear licenses authorize the sale of the catch and use of an unlimited number of nets or traps. But the LDWF and the Louisiana Legislature long ago recognized the need for licensing to accommodate people who wanted to use a small number of nets or traps for a recreational harvest with no desire to sell the catch — and recreational gear licenses fill the need nicely.

A perfect example was a fellow I knew who had a camp at Hopedale. He spent a lot of time at the camp, and kept crab traps in Hopedale Lagoon. When the kids and grandkids arrived for the weekend, he would run the traps for a crab boil. When shrimp season opened

in May, he would use a 16-foot trawl to catch shrimp for his family. A \$15 recreational crab trap license allowed him to fish up to 10 crab traps. A \$25 trawl license covered using the trawl.

For the freshwater fisherman with a taste for fresh catfish, a \$20 gear license authorizes the use of up to five slat traps, wire nets or hoop nets. The \$15 recreational crawfish trap license is a really sweet deal, allowing the use of up to 35 traps. These prices are resident license fees, and non-resident amounts are higher — so check LDWF licensing at

wlf.la.gov/licenses for more information.

Recreational gear licenses are issued for one specific type of gear or tackle and are not transferable to different gear or another person. For example, a recreational gear license for hoop nets is for hoop nets only, and does not allow the holder to fish slat traps or a combination of traps and nets.

WHO NEEDS A RECREATIONAL GEAR LICENSE?

A gear license is required for anyone 16 years of age or older using recreational gear with no exceptions or exemptions. Residents born before June 1, 1940 are exempt from basic and saltwater licenses but must have the appropriate gear license. Any resident 60 years of age or older born after June 1, 1940 must have the senior hunting and fishing license and appropriate gear license when using any listed recreational gear.

Remember that gear fishermen must abide by all sport fishing regulations. All

game fish taken in any type gear must be returned immediately to the water from which taken without avoidable injury. Size and creel limits apply, and during open shrimp season shrimpers using trawls 16 feet in length or less are limited to 100 pounds (heads on) of shrimp per boat per day. Those using trawls greater than 16 feet to 25 feet are limited to 250 pounds (heads on) per boat per day.

GETTING STARTED

In Louisiana's freshwater bayous, lakes and rivers, a couple of properly placed small hoop nets or wire traps will provide fresh fish for the table with a minimum amount of effort. The trick is to learn when and where to place them. Depth, current and geographic characteristics all play a part in gear fishing, just like with hook and line. As any good fisherman knows, each water body has its own hotspots where certain techniques, lure colors and presentations will put fish in the boat. You just have to figure out what works — and it's not any different with gear fishing.

Anyone interested in giving recreational gear a try should locate a fisherman with experience and find out what works locally. He may not want to reveal his best fishing spots, but most don't mind sharing tips on what gear works best and what to look for when choosing a location for a set. He can also point out where to purchase legal traps or nets. Prices are generally reasonable, and properly maintained gear will last for years.

Be sure to check state and local regulations for any gear restrictions on local lakes and reservoirs. LDWF's Recreational Fishing Regulations booklet is an excellent source of information. ■



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

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

**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

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

STICKS AND STRINGS

Sammy Romano

The TenPoint Stealth NXT offers big performance in a compact, light package.

TENPOINT ADDS A NEW CROSSBOW

STEALTH NXT PUTS THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY INTO SPACE-AGE ARCHERY EQUIPMENT



As the majority of our hunting population ages, crossbows have steadily moved to the forefront of today's archery market.

And TenPoint Crossbow Technologies has long been a leader in that segment, and they've continued that tradition for 2018 with the latest engineering and several new models.

The Stealth NXT is the culmination of this technology. With a smaller footprint, new cocking options, and new premium arrows, it offers a significant upgrade in maneuverability and performance from past models.

The first thing you will notice about the Stealth NXT is its narrow width. At only 11.3 inches axle-to-axle uncocked, and less than 6.5 inches cocked, this crossbow offers excellent maneuverability and limb clearance. It will be a dream to shoot in confined spaces, whether from a brushy tree, a ground blind or an enclosed box stand. This offers a huge advantage by increasing hunting opportunities.

The Stealth NXT is only 33.6 inches long, and weighing only 7.3 pounds, is relatively light for a crossbow. Its 13.5-inch power stroke propels arrows at speeds up to 410 feet per second. All of this with less than one-third of the noise of most other crossbows. The fact that it is so quiet will be key when shooting at jumpy animals like whitetails — and will help to offer additional shot opportuni-

ties if needed.

The Stealth NXT uses TenPoint's proven trigger design with a roller sear to reduce both creep and trigger poundage. The automatic MIM safety engages when the bow is cocked, and slides off silently to avoid spooking game. The Dry Fire Inhibitor prevents accidental dry fires.

I found the 3.5-pound trigger pull to be very easy, with very little creep. The semi-open trigger-guard design allows easy access with gloves on, while still providing protection to prevent accidental discharges. The arrow-retaining brush will not break like earlier spring-metal designs were prone to do. The machined aluminum rail and engineered optimum downward string pressure help to extend string life well beyond most other crossbows. And the dual flex limbs nearly form a circle at full draw, which helps contribute to this bow's high arrow speed.

When it comes to cocking methods, TenPoint offers several options for the Stealth NXT. The ACUdraw 50 sled uses ropes with pull handles to reduce draw weight by 50 percent. It uses a winch to crank the string back, reducing the draw weight to 5 pounds. The ACUdraw PRO also uses a crank, but it is 40-percent faster, totally silent and includes the new ACUtorq handle to eliminate the possibility of over-cranking the bow. TenPoint pioneered the bow-mounted crank cocking device, and they have perfected it over many years.

The Stealth NXT is worth a look for yourself. Its new technology and cool features will appeal to any hunter looking to up their game this year. You will be blown away by how smooth, quiet, fast and accurate this crossbow operates.

CHOOSE A PACKAGE

The Stealth NXT is offered in two configurations: the standard and elite packages. The standard package includes the TenPoint RangeMaster Pro Scope, ACUdraw or ACUdraw 50 Sled, three-arrow quiver, and three EVO-X arrows. The elite package also includes the EVO-X MARKSMAN scope and TenPoint STAG hard crossbow case.

With prices starting at \$1,449 for a complete package, this bow is affordable for many bowhunters. Both scopes offer variable speed and arrow drop compensation. The RangeMaster Pro has crosshairs and/or dots in 10-yard increments for exact yardages out to 60 yards. The EVO-X MARKSMAN scope has aiming points in 10-yard increments out to 100 yards for those who want to target-shoot at longer ranges or hunt out West. ■



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.



HEADING DOWNRANGE:

TenPoint's new EVO-X CENTERPUNCH carbon arrows offer enhanced strength, accuracy and downrange penetration over other designs on the market. These arrows are fletched slightly offset and are fitted with an 84-grain insert for improved F.O.C. They are constructed of modulus fiber at 33 million PSI and wrapped in an exclusive LAZER-TECH carbon weave, making them one of the strongest crossbow arrows ever made. These arrows are inspected for a .001-inch tolerance, also guaranteeing near perfect accuracy. Fitted with an omni-nock and receiver for easy lighted nock installation, they are a perfect match for any TenPoint crossbow.

**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



**THE MOLPUS
WOODLANDS GROUP, LLC**

- **Cleveland County 1,272+/- acres** located just south of Rison, Arkansas on AR State Highway 79, just one hour from Little Rock. This tract is an ideal deer, turkey, squirrel and duck hunting tract with tremendous amounts of ecological diversity. This tract boasts approximately three miles of Saline River frontage, as well multiple interior ponds/lakes and sloughs. Well worth checking this out! **\$3,250 per acre.**
- **Hennessey Bayou 1,685+/- acres** located on the MS River in Warren County, MS with mature hardwood and cypress. Several man-made weirs are allowing for accretion to occur rapidly. Excellent hunting and fishing opportunities. Great views. **\$2,500 per acre.**
- **Calcasieu Parish 334 +/- acres** located south of Starks, LA adjacent to Highway 109. Large contiguous block perfect for recreation with options for development along the road frontage while providing a significant timber investment. A mix of 2014 pine plantation and adjacent hardwood streamers. **\$2,500 per acre.**
- **Beauregard Parish 145+/- acres** with ¼ mile of Highway 26 frontage for easy access surrounded by undeveloped forestland with plenty of excellent wildlife habitat. A mix of 2013 well stocked pine plantation and hardwood streamers breaking up the landscape. **\$2,840 per acre.**

Timberland and Recreational Hunting land available across the country!!!

Toby Trowbridge, III
 Value Added Specialist, South Central Region
 Louisiana Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
 (318) 324-9068 Ext. 103 office

Tina Meiners
 Value Added Specialist, South Central Region
 Louisiana Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
 (337) 463-9700, ext. 113

www.molpus.com

HAPPY TRAILS

Bill Garbo

The author keeps an array of meds handy to deal with stings, itches and rashes.



PREPPING FOR FALL HUNTING

TRIPS AFIELD DURING THE SUMMER CAN PRESENT SOME INTERESTING PROBLEMS

We find ourselves in the “in-between season.” Here in the Deep South, it is not only the season of insects, heat, humidity, snakes and poison ivy, but it’s also the season of summer food plots, bush-hogging and weed spraying.

A lot of work needs to be done before next hunting season, but proceed with caution because of the plethora of things out there just waiting to make your life miserable.

After 48 years in the whitetail woods, I have pretty much seen it all, but, as I recently found out, something is always out there that you may or may not be prepared for. I decided to make a jaunt into the field, and the weather was pretty decent for central Mississippi this time of year, with a low in the upper 50s and an afternoon high in the low 70s. As a precaution against flying, crawling and

slithering vermin, I wore long pants that were bloused into my tall snake boots, a long-sleeve shirt and a hat for sun protection. I also had a can of DEET spray to apply to my boot tops, pants, sleeves and hat. In other words, I was pretty much ready for all contingencies. But we all know from experience how fast our best-laid plans can fall apart.

After leaving my truck, I sprayed down with the bug spray and began to walk across a freshly disked field. Before taking very many steps, I began to notice a building cloud of black gnats or midges that were orbiting my upper half. Forgetting the sage advice I had been given a year or so ago that DEET was absolutely useless against gnats and midges, I promptly took out my spray bottle and began to liberally spray my neck, ears, forehead and wrists.

THEY ATE ME UP

Upon sensing the sweet elixir of freshly applied DEET, an absolute horde of winged gnats or midges suddenly appeared and began to light on every square inch of exposed flesh they could find, all the while biting and chewing on me. They crawled up my sleeves as far as my biceps; they were in my ears, behind my glasses on my eyelids, forehead, and everywhere else in between. After no more than 30 minutes, having unsuccessfully trying to outrun them two or three times, I took off running for the truck. As I careened down the mud hole-pocked road, I rolled all the windows down, and then, upon hitting the blacktop, I took her up to about 50 mph for maximum suction, all the while continuing to slap and kill the few hangers-on that were still trying to extract a blood-meal.

Today, nursing my red-welted, itching face and arms, the old timers’ remedy for biting gnats is echoing in my head. The

remedy is to apply plain, unsweetened vanilla extract to all exposed skin. That is a good tip for us all to remember. Unfortunately, I was fresh out of vanilla and forgot to bring a beekeeper's suit along, so my outing was doomed from the beginning.

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT 'EM

You have to prepare for so many things this time of year. With the first hint of spring weather, I always wear snake boots in the field. Poisonous snakes are where you find them, so why even take a chance? Over the years, I have had several close calls with the big three: rattlers, moccasins and copperheads. Also, many sportsmen like to take their dogs with them into the field; if you do, bear in mind that a snake bite can be fatal to your loyal companion.

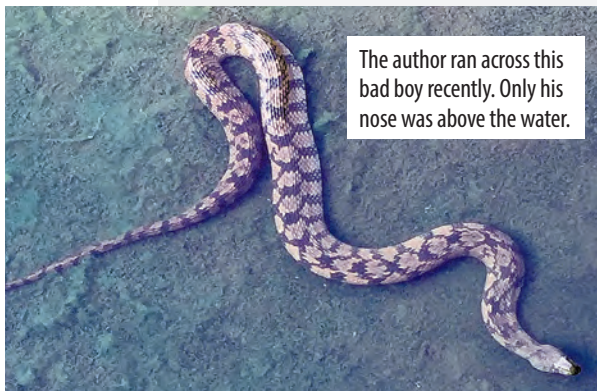
Some people, including me, are highly allergic to yellow jacket and wasp venom, and even a single sting can potentially put them into anaphylactic shock. I have to carry along or keep handy a medical kit that not only contains an EpiPen, but also has liquid Benadryl, Tagamet and a

steroid dose pack. If stung, the key is to do everything you can to not have to use the EpiPen injector. As my doctor has coached me, this can be accomplished after being stung by immediately taking a 50 mg dose of liquid Benadryl, taking a Tagamet pill, and then taking the initial dose of steroid as described on the prescription box (chewed rather than swallowed). Do all of this with your EpiPen injector right by your side.

If you are prone to anaphylaxis from stings, when was the last time you checked the expiration date on your set of EpiPens? Even if kept cool in an insulated bag and the epinephrine appears clear in the injector, get a new prescription and replace your injectors on a regular basis. Replacement can be pricey, but hey, it's potentially your life that we are talking about. ■

GETTING READY:

We have just three or four months to get ourselves physically in better condition to lift sacks of seed and fertilizer, climb tree-stand trees, drag and load up a heavy buck and hike in to scout or hunt. Get on a regular walking program. Join a gym and lift weights. There are so many ways to get ourselves in better shape to have a safer and more enjoyable hunting season this fall.



The author ran across this bad boy recently. Only his nose was above the water.



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.

S&D Whitetails

Trophy Whitetail & Exotics Dove Hunts
Central Texas
Deer up to 140 for \$2,950
Deer up to 240 - Call for pricing
3 1/2 days ALL INCLUSIVE

325-642-7596
sdwhitetails.com

No Fancy Gates, No Fancy Lodge
JUST BIG DEER!

PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

Chris Holmes



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.

'KID'-YAKING: CREATE MEMORIES ON THE WATER

A YAK IS A GREAT TOOL TO TEACH KIDS TO FISH

There's no better way to introduce kids to fishing than with a kayak.

The solitude and close quarters allow for easy instruction and great conversation, with almost endless teaching opportunities. On quiet paddles, a wide variety of wildlife may be seen — as well as several different species of fish caught.

The vast majority of kayaks used by anglers are single-seat models. However, too many anglers with small children overlook the fact that they can easily take a child along on most kayak trips. The weight capacity and stability on most models is sufficient to safely hold a small passenger — so don't leave the kids at home.

However, a kayak fishing trip with a child is necessarily different than a serious fishing trip with fellow 'yak anglers. The focus on such trip needs to be all about the child. They need to be comfortable, secure and well fed. (Nothing soothes a slow fishing trip better than their favorite snacks.)





There's nothing like the look on a young child's face when pulling in a sea monster. Ten-year-old Brody Muhoberac caught this nice blue cat while riding in the back of his dad's kayak while jug-fishing. An ice chest did double-duty, and made a great seat for Brody.

The first order of business is a proper-fitting, Coast Guard-approved child's personal flotation device. Many child-size PFDs include an added crotch strap that keeps them in the PFD in the event of a water entry. Get one that is not bulky or hot, and is sized properly for the child. It should be worn at all times. Remember, if it doesn't fit properly they are going to be uncomfortable, and probably won't have an enjoyable trip.

For fishing, quality children's-sized rod and reel combos are easier for them to handle. It makes it easier for them to learn how to cast and reel in fish with equipment that is suitable for their smaller hands and stature. Focus on teaching proper techniques, and getting the child to catch a fish. But let them do it — don't just show them how it is done. Some kids might say they don't like fishing, but none have ever said they don't like catching.

With a little ingenuity and rigging, most single kayaks 12 feet and over can easily

be set up to add additional temporary seating space. Be it a small chair or even an ice chest, the rear tank well can easily be adapted as a place that your child can ride along and fish. Keep gear to the minimum for a successful trip. Most configurations allow ample seating with room to safely stand if conditions allow.

With just a little time and expense, children can be properly outfitted for a successful and enjoyable trip. But there's no shade in a kayak, so make sure they have ample sun protection from both clothing and sunscreen. A good hat and polarized sunglasses can also make the trip more comfortable.

Remember, most kids have short attention spans, but with a few safety rules and some good advice, they'll be able to move around a bit and stay interested. Be prepared to bait hooks, undo tangles and fetch lines from trees — it's all part of the learning process. When kayak fishing with children, patience is a must. Above all, be prepared to answer questions — lots of

CONTINUES >

PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

continued

>

questions. Boredom can set in quickly on slow days, but resist the urge to pacify them with electronics. Use the experience in nature to discuss the variety of wildlife and fauna in the area, and fishing regulations and reasons to practice conservation.

While the time together is the real prize, catching fish is a welcome bonus. Pick weather conditions and locations where the chances of catching fish are best. Be it panfish or redfish, it really doesn't matter: Use live and natural baits to up the odds, and teach the child how it is handled, why it works and how to properly hook it.

Rod and reel fishing is not a necessity. A good old-fashioned cane pole and some worms make for a great outing. Catfish noodles are also a good way to introduce kids to kayak fishing. The noodles are easy to use and have a high success rate. And the kayak sits low to the water so they are easy for the kids to grab. But make sure they have on a pair of gloves so they don't get rope burns if a big fish is on the line. Kids get super-excited chasing down a free-floating noodle that disappears for a few seconds as the fish tries to get away.

A well-planned kayak fishing trip provides a lifetime of memories and learning opportunities kids can't get in school. They learn fishing terms, boating basics and even how to exaggerate the size of fish they catch. Bring along a small waterproof camera to document the outing. Tie a float to it, and let the child take photos, too.

In this hectic world, parents get precious little time together with their kids in such an intimate, one-on-one setting. Take advantage of it. ■

JUST BUY IT

It's tax refund time, and many anglers are thinking about buying their first kayak. If your budget allows, certainly consider purchasing a brand new kayak. Kayak fishing has continued to increase in popularity, and so have the prices for new kayaks. Getting a new model provides all the latest features and a warranty — but don't let sticker shock keep you off the water.

Like many other sports items, kayaks regularly come on the market for a wide variety of reasons. Oftentimes, kayak owners find they just don't have the time they thought they would to get on the water. A host of other reasons can account for the sale of a kayak, including upgrading to a newer model, a change in family situation or physical issues. So with a little preparation and research, you can be ready when the right kayak comes on the market.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Start by doing your homework and pick out a few models that fit your needs. Know the features you're looking for, and those that fit your intended use. Also, know your budget. And if at all possible, make arrangements with the seller for an actual test ride to check things like fit, comfort and stability. Take the 'yak to a nearby pond, ditch, or even a swimming pool, if that's the only option.

Thoroughly look over the kayak for any damage or broken parts. Hatches should be in good working order and latch securely. While a reasonable amount of hull rash and scratches are normal, check for deep cuts and cracks that could allow water intrusion. Severe fading is a sign the kayak was kept outside and uncovered. While this detracts from the appearance, it may not necessarily affect performance. However,



This enterprising angler used a highly-attended kayak tournament as an outlet to market his 'yak for sale. Purchasing a good-conditioned used kayak is a great way to get a higher-end model at a much lower price.

prolonged sun exposure can cause the plastic to become brittle and crack.

It is always best to purchase a kayak that has been stored indoors — or at least under cover. Shopping around lets you see a variety of models and conditions to help know when you have found the right one.

And while good deals on used kayaks usually come from individual sellers, don't overlook kayak dealers. Most dealers have a stock of demo boats they sell off once the new models come out. These kayaks are usually only a model year or two old, and are often only used a few days a year. Deep discounts over the new-boat price can usually be found.

Good deals from private sellers also come around often, but they don't last long. The used kayak market is robust, so understand you aren't the only one scouring the classifieds looking for that sweet deal. Online sales sites like Craig's List, kayak club sales listings and the Louisiana Sportsman classifieds are all great places to shop for used kayaks. Check these sites regularly — and be prepared to drive a reasonable distance if necessary. Have your cash ready, because most sellers are looking to take the best offer — and often won't hold a kayak and potentially miss out on a sale waiting on payment.

While a used kayak may not be in perfect condition, it still may be the perfect kayak for you. If you are prepared to make minor repairs and upgrades, you can often get a great kayak at an even greater price. Oftentimes buying a gently fished, higher-end kayak is preferable than purchasing an entry-model new one.

So what is really the best kayak? That's easy — the one you can afford and gets you safely on the water. ■

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 transmitted as an attachment to an email
- Attachment is IMPORTED into your mapping program and electronically downloaded into your GPS unit via GPS/Computer connection
- You must have an email address that will accept attachments on your incoming email

Some of the "EDGE" positions are underwater reefs, shoals, structures, and honey holes

NEW LOCATIONS CONSTANTLY BEING ADDED

All of the CAPTAIN PAUL'S FISHING EDGE of GPS WAYPOINTS are NOW available at the LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN'S OUTDOOR STORE which is located on the Louisiana Sportsman website

Capt. Paul Titus is Louisiana Sportsman's GPS expert
• to ask him a question go to www.louisianasportsman.com

Click on the Louisiana Sportsman Outdoor Store on the Louisiana Sportsman home page at www.lasmag.com

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 @BRAMMERMACHINE

NEW GEAR UP NEXT >

NEW GEAR REVIEWS

MICROWAVE LINE GUIDE SYSTEM

Invented years ago by the late Doug Hannon, "The Bass Professor," Microwave fishing guides are a unique line-control system for spinning rods that reduces the line coiling effect, thereby increasing casting accuracy and distance. The initial strip-per guide is where the magic happens. A cone shaped guide-within-a-guide knocks down the line coils that naturally come from casting a spinning reel. With conventional guides, these coils carry through the first guide, thereby causing additional resistance and vibration as the line continues through the remaining guides out to the tip. Slow-motion photography shows how the Microwave system knocks out the coils at the initial guide, providing a smooth, straight line flow through the rest of the guides. Using identically-rigged combos and line for nearly a year, one with conventional



guides and one with the Microwave guides, I put the system to the test with both monofilament and braided line. The Microwave system is no gimmick. You can literally feel the smoother cast and lower vibration. Casting is easier, which is important in a kayak because the seated position is not optimum for achieving long distances. Longer casts, with less effort, was immediately obvious. Using the Microwave system, line issues over the life of the test were consistently cured. Frustrating line coils gathering in the mono just did not happen. Likewise, wind knots in the braid were non-existent. The

guides, by American Tackle Company, are sold by most major rod building suppliers. Full sets include the stripper guide and a full set of snag free running guides. If you build your own rods or like having custom rods made, try a set on your next spinning rod and you won't be disappointed. Some factory made rods, including models from Lew's, can be found with the Microwave system. The guide sets are available in chrome, black and titanium. MSRP: Starting at about \$30 per set.

More information:
www.americantackle.us

RAM ROLLER-BALL PADDLE & ACCESSORY HOLDER

One key to successful kayak fishing is having your gear secure and where you need it, when you need it. The new RAM Roller Ball accessory holder works for a variety of items that have a round or nearly round handle. Paddles are the most obvious accessory that the Roller Ball grips hold in place. Simple but strong, it utilizes rubber balls that roll and spring outward as the paddle shaft is gently pushed down. The balls grip your paddle firmly, but release effortlessly and quietly when needed. The unit holds items with a diameter from 1 to 1 5/6 inches. The base mount utilizes a T-bolt screw that is compatible with RAM Tough-Track and most kayak track systems. The base is easily tightened by hand and can be set at various angles, not just parallel to the

kayak. This is especially handy for holding landing nets or gaffs at just the right position for quick and easy access. A spring-loaded plunger between the roller balls assures that there are always three points of tension for a secure hold. Another handy use is to hold your BogaGrip, or similar lip-grip tool, at the ready. And a molded-in eye at the base of the Roller Ball provides a secure location to clip a gear leash. Stake out poles, bait nets and many other items



can be securely held in place with the RAM Roller Ball. MSRP: \$17.99.

More information:
www.rammount.com

BEST BETS UP NEXT >



NauticStar

COME SEE THE
**ALL NEW
265XTS**

**244 XTS
BAY BOAT**

NauticStar



YAMAHA OUTBOARDS SALES EVENT:
WAKE UP TO SAVINGS

Offer Ends June 15th!

For a limited time, purchase a new, select eligible Yamaha 2.5 hp to 150 hp four-stroke outboard and receive up to \$750 in dealer credit toward the purchase of additional goods or services from your authorized, participating Yamaha outboard dealer.



1756 VV Center Console Alweld with F70LA Yamaha



1756 VV Marsh Series Pro Bass Console with F70LA Yamaha



FACTORY TRAINED TECHNICIANS TO SERVE YOU!

Extra \$150 - \$200 Off 
2.5hp -25hp Four Stroke Engines
Limited Quantity While Supplies Last • Ends June 30th



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

 **YAMAHA**
www.dagates.com

*Due to the lag time in printing, weather conditions can change the bite — so check in regularly with LouisianaSportsman.com for the latest updates.

JUNE'S BEST BETS

FRESHWATER

WHERE: Delacroix

WHAT: Bass, with trout and reds as a bonus

HOW: The grass in Delacroix is getting thicker by the day as summer draws near. It makes the fishing a bit tougher, but the area is filled with nice bass. Early mornings, try working topwater frogs or weightless Texas-rigged plastics on top of the grass mats. If you don't draw any explosions through the grass, let the frog sit in the open pockets of water and impart some subtle twitches. If you're fishing with plastics, drag the lure to the edge of the grass and slowly let it sink down into the holes. As thick as the grass looks on top, there is plenty of room for the fish to move about beneath it.

Oftentimes the fish are under the grass along the deeper edges. Work spinnerbaits and weedless spoons parallel to the edges of the grass beds. If you can stand in your kayak, pitching and punching through the heavy grass is a productive technique, especially during the hotter parts of the day. Use weedless plastics with a ¾- to 1-ounce weight to get your lure through the thick cover. But be careful setting the hook, as a missed fish can easily send you out the other side of your 'yak. Keep in mind that any strike could be from a bass, redfish or speckled trout. However, bass have really taken over in the areas nearer the launches and highway. It's not uncommon to have days with double digit catches of plump marsh bass, with a fish up to 4 pounds a definite possibility.

LAUNCH: Two commercial launches offer concrete ramps and secure parking. Both have small stores and sell live and dead bait. Good fishing can be found within sight of the launches, so fish your way out and you may not have to paddle very far.

Serigne's Marina: Now the oldest launch in Delacroix, it was opened in 1967. Owner Lionel Serigne has a lifetime of knowledge of fishing in Delacroix and will steer you right. 5933 Delacroix Highway, St. Bernard, La. (504) 265-0007. \$5 launch fee. Check out Serigne's Marina, Delacroix, La/ Facebook

Sweetwater Marina: Owner Capt. Jack Payne is regularly on the water running guided trips. He always has up-to-date information on patterns and locations. 6205 Delacroix Highway, St. Bernard, La. (504)342-2368. \$10 launch fee per kayak. www.delacroixfishing.com

INSIDER TIP: Camps, rooms and cabins are available throughout the area. Ask the marina owners for recommendations if you are planning an overnight trip.

SALTWATER

WHERE: Shell Beach

WHAT: Trout, reds and bonus bass

HOW: Campo's Marina at Shell Beach sits at the intersection of Bayou Yscloskey and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO). You can literally be fishing in three minutes from the marina. There is a rock wall that lines the north side of the MRGO that regularly holds trout and redfish. Live shrimp are the key for June fishing, and are readily available at the marina. But it's going to be hot, so don't overload your bait bucket or livewell with too many shrimp or you'll be resigned to fishing with dead bait. Popping corks with live shrimp along the rocks in the MRGO and the opening for Bayou Yscloskey up to the mouth of Lake Borgne on the north side, are your best bet. A sliding cork helps get the shrimp down to the depths where the fish are often holding, and makes casting easier. Note that the channel is deep, and there is a lot of powerboat activity in the area. Be careful not to anchor in the right-of-way or around blind turns in the bayou. If you don't have any luck in this area, paddle behind the rocks and into the marsh for great redfish action with some bonus largemouth bass. As summer approaches, the grass beds get thick, but still hold fish. You may need to paddle, though, as most pedal-drive systems get hard to use in the thick vegetation. Try weedless topwater baits early, and drop live shrimp through the holes between the grass pockets to find fish hiding tight in the cover.

LAUNCH: Campo's Marina is a St. Bernard institution, and they do not charge for kayak launching. However, you need to use the same concrete backdown ramp as the powerboats, so be courteous and do not tie up the ramp. If the water is high, you may be able to slide in off the small dock just to the left of the ramps. Make sure to buy bait and ice from the marina in appreciation for their free kayak launch policy. Campo's Marina, 1301 Yscloskey Hwy, St. Bernard, La. 504-252-9321. Campo's Marina on Facebook.

INSIDER TIP: As soon as you get into the MRGO, look to your right and you will see a large Hurricane Katrina Memorial cross. Although it is within spitting distance of the marina, don't overlook it as a fishing hotspot. You may not need to venture any further. Note that there are submerged rocks jutting out into the MRGO on the right as you enter the channel from Bayou Yscloskey. Follow the pilings around until you clear the rocks.



This young lady rode in style as she accompanied her dad as he participated in the Ride the Bull kayak fishing tournament in Caminada Pass last summer. The added rear seat made for a great place to relax while the two spent the day on the water.

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 ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

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



YAMAHA

Louisiana's Newest **WAR EAGLE** Dealer BOATS



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**



JUGGIN' BLUES



This was one of several big blue cats hauled in by Brody Muhoberac while on a kayak jug-fishing trip with his dad.

**SENSATIONAL
SUMMER
BOAT SALES
EVENT**



**FREE GIFT CARD & GEAR
VALUED UP TO \$2,300**

W/PURCHASE OF SELECT MODELS. LIMITED TIME OFFER ENDS JULY 4, 2018!

TRACKER
boats



Pro Team™ 175 TXW \$16,995
w/Mercury® 60 ELPT FourStroke
& Custom Trailer *Plus freight & prep*

Sun TRACKER



FREE \$500 GIFT CARD

FISHIN' BARGE® 20 DLX \$21,495
w/Mercury® 90 ELPT FourStroke
Command Thrust *Optional trailer available Plus freight & prep*

TAHOE



FREE \$500 GIFT CARD - PLUS - **\$200** IN FREE GEAR

1950 \$30,995
w/Mercury® 150 XL FourStroke
Optional trailer available Plus freight & prep

NITRO
PERFORMANCE FISHING BOATS



Z19 Sport \$32,395
w/Mercury® 150 L FourStroke
& Custom Trailer *Plus freight & prep*

TRACKER BOATING CENTER

805 S. GRAND • MONROE, LA • 318.388.5790
415 S. EASTMAN RD. • LONGVIEW, TX • 903.758.9755

BOATING CENTER

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

TR180965

FORMER BIG LAKE GUIDE DISPLAYS BIG TIME COOKING SKILLS

MARY POE SHARES TWO GREAT RECIPES

Rule No. 1 in our house is to never pass up a chance to put your feet under Mary Poe's kitchen table. Her recipes appear in three of the six *Louisiana Seafood Bible* books, and they're all great.

A speckled trout excursion on Calcasieu Lake with her husband Jeff and son Nick (see the feature story "Pick your Poison" on page 29) was all the excuse needed to court her to cook for this column.

As usual, the still-perky strawberry blonde indulged us with two of her originals, and naturally, one of them was a fish recipe. The other was her family recipe for one of our all-time favorite foods — crab cakes.

Mary and Jeff founded Big Lake Guide Service at Hebert's Landing in 1984, and she was an active guide for nearly 20 years.

"The sun and my fair skin, as well as two artificial hips, ran me off the lake," she said.

Jeff still guides every day, and has now been joined by Nick.

Although many people didn't know it, Mary has always cooked — much of her love of cooking came from her dad, Major Newlin, who enjoyed the kitchen.

Jeff says, "Her cooking is always just right. She's got a knack for putting the right amount of everything in every dish." ■



Mary Poe's crab cakes have almost no filler to hide the luscious taste of the crabmeat. **INSET:** Mary's years on the water as a top-notch fishing guide overshadow her near-magical kitchen skills.

CRAB CAKES WITH AIOLI SAUCE

"The roots of this dish go back to my grandmother, Mary Newlin," explained Mary. "She was from New Orleans, so she used Italian bread crumbs. My mother, Katherine Rentrop Newlin, modified it by using milk-soaked white bread instead of Italian bread crumbs.

"My dad said there was too much gunk in it, so she went to bread, then when that didn't work, saltines. Back then, you could buy saltines already crushed.

"I don't like a lot of filling, but you have to have a binder, so I use saltines. I tried Panko, but it doesn't work inside a dish. It's better on the surface. The crackers hold the dish together, along with the eggs and the mayonnaise, but you won't notice them.

"Generally, when I eat crab cakes I want

AIOLI SAUCE PREPARATION:

Mix the ingredients together and set the mixture in the refrigerator to chill for at least 30 minutes.

CRAB CAKE PREPARATION: Serves 4.

Mix the eggs, onions, mayonnaise, Creole mustard, lemon juice, salt, black and cayenne pepper and Tabasco Sauce in a large bowl. Blend them by hand until smooth. Add 1 cup of crushed saltines and stir until the mixture is thick. Fold the crabmeat in gently to keep from breaking the lumps. Place the remaining cracker crumbs in a shallow dish or plate. Form four equal-sized cakes with the crabmeat mixture. Each cake will be quite loose at this point. Place

to eat crab.

"I thought that the bell pepper in her recipe overpowered the dish so I deleted it. Mom used yellow mustard. I use Creole mustard just because I love it.

"Jeff loves this. I don't know if it's a true aioli, but it's what I call it. I usually make it with 2 pounds of crabmeat, so he can have sandwiches with the crabs and sauce the next day. This is a pretty fast dish. I can whip it up in 20 minutes." ■



Mary crushes the saltine crackers by putting them in a plastic zipper bag and gently pounding them with a meat tenderizer.

each cake, one at a time, in the plate of crumbs and heap crumbs up over the edges and on the tops to put a good layer of crumbs on the cakes' surfaces. Set the cakes aside as they are breaded. Heat the oil and butter in a non-stick frying pan until the oil is hot. Fry the cakes until they are golden brown on both sides. Take extreme care to prevent breakage when turning the cake to brown the second side. Serve each cake with a dollop of aioli sauce.

TIP!
The proportions of the seven ingredients which make up Mary's aioli sauce can be varied to one's personal taste.

AIOLI SAUCE INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- Zest from 1 small lemon
- Juice from a half lemon
- 1 heaping tbsp. chopped fresh dill
- ¼ tsp. garlic powder
- 4 dashes of Tabasco sauce
- 3 tsp. small capers

CRAB CAKE INGREDIENTS:

- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ cup finely minced Vidalia onion
- 3 heaping tbsp. mayonnaise
- 1 heaping tbsp. Creole mustard
- Juice of 1 lemon
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 2 big dashes of Tabasco sauce
- 2 sleeves of saltine crackers, crushed and divided
- 1 lb. crabmeat
- 2 tsp. cooking oil or olive oil
- 2 tsp. butter

FISH ALADDIN UP NEXT >



Jerald and Glenda Horst are the authors of six excellent books on Louisiana seafood — *The Seafood Bible: Shrimp*, *The Seafood Bible: Crawfish*, *The Seafood Bible: Crabs*, *The Seafood Bible: Oysters*, *The Seafood Bible: Fish: Volume 1* and *The Seafood Bible: Fish: Volume 2*. Jerald and Glenda may be contacted at jerald@rockinghorst.com.



FISH ALADDIN

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 cup chopped true shallots
1/2 cup dry white wine
2 tbsp. heavy cream
1 pinch + a few strands of saffron
1 stick butter, cut into pats
3 tbsp. lemon juice
1/2 tsp + 1 tsp. salt
3 cups Panko bread crumbs
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 tbsp. Creole seasoning
1/2 tsp. paprika
2 large eggs
2 cups water
4-8-oz. fish fillets
2 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. butter + extra pats

PREPARATION: Serves 4.

Add shallots and wine to a medium saucepan and cook over medium-high heat until the liquid reduces to 2 tbsp. Reduce heat to low and stir in the heavy cream and the pinch of saffron. Stir in the pats of butter to melt them, one at a time. Do not allow the mixture to boil or the butter will separate. Stir in the lemon juice and 1/2 tsp. salt. Strain the sauce to remove the shallots. Shake the strainer to get all of the liquid. Add the remaining strands of saffron for color, then set the sauce aside in the pan on the lowest heat possible. If necessary, set the pan half on and half off the burner. Pulse the Panko, 1 tsp. salt, garlic powder, Creole seasoning, and paprika in

a food processor to chop the Panko finer and mix the ingredients. Taste and add salt and pepper if needed, and pour the breading mixture into a plate. Whip the eggs and water to make an egg wash. Dip each fillet into the egg wash, lay it into the breading, and pat the breading onto both sides. Place 2 tbsp. butter and olive oil in a large non-stick pan or flat stove-top griddle and heat over medium-low heat until the butter is melted. Cook 2 to 4 minutes per side or until the flesh flakes easily with a fork. Add more butter pats, as needed. Serve with the sauce on the side of the fillet to keep the crust on the fish from becoming soggy. ■

With its light but savory sauce, Fish Aladdin is an elegant dish suitable for any occasion.

Xtreme Performance

Has Arrived.



Upgraded Features Include:

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

CHECK US OUT!

Find A Dealer at
bossdrives.com

BFC Marine / GatorTrax

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

Boat Doctor

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

BOSS Drives

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

Cottonmouth Boats

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

Pete Jorgensen Marine

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



1-800-MUD-BOSS



Take Charge™

TOP 3 SURF-FISHING MISTAKES

By Patrick Bonin

AVOID THESE COMMON MISSTEPS TO CATCH MORE TROUT ON THE BEACH

Plenty of speck anglers are very content to stay dry and comfortable in their boats to catch yellowmouths — but for those who really want to dive in and have more of a ‘hand-to-hand combat experience,’ nothing beats getting down and dirty with trout in the surf.

Yes, there are stingrays, and sharks might eventually steal some nice fish from your stringer. Treble hooks can definitely be a pain to deal with, unhooking undesirables is sometimes an adventure and your body might feel it a day or two after getting pounded by waves in the surf all day.

But in spite of all this, nothing beats hooking up with a nice speck on the beach with a topwater lure, and feeling the power of an angry trout in top condition that’s making a living in the surf.

So if you’ve never done it, give it a try. And if you have experienced it and are eager to go back for more, noted surf fisherman Sammy Romano shared these three common mistakes to avoid to maximize your time in the water.

1 WADING RIGHT OUT ON TOP OF THE FISH

It’s common for surf fishermen to wade right on through plenty of trout early in the morning to head out for perceived greener pastures on distant sandbars, he said.

“Proceed slowly and cautiously,” said Romano, the manager at Chag’s Sporting Goods in Metairie. “Make long casts. Don’t get on top of the fish, and if you feel like you are — if you start hooking fish 10 feet in front of you on the Gulf side — back up a little bit.

“Because you really don’t want to hook a fish on a short line — you want to have some room for him to play out.”

Sammy Romano holds up a nice speck caught on a recent trip to Curlew Island in the Chandeleur chain. Trout hit a variety of baits, including topwaters, suspending jerkbaits and soft plastics, but the key was being mobile and staying on the move to locate them.

2 FISHING THE TIME OF DAY — INSTEAD OF THE TIDE

If you wake up early and are in position at the crack of dawn, you’re guaranteed to get a great view of the sunrise — but not necessarily enjoy a great bite in the surf.

Romano recounted a trip to Elmer’s Island earlier this spring when he knew the tide started rolling around 9:30 a.m. — so that’s right about when he arrived.

“We got there and started catching immediately,” he said. “There was another angler who had been there since daybreak beating his brains in and he was headed home with nothing. If he hadn’t seen us start catching and stopped, he’d have skunked . . .

“I prefer an incoming tide personally, but as long as you have moving water you’re in the game. An incoming gives you clean, salty water pushing on the beach. Your bigger fish are almost always on the last hour or two of the incoming tide.”

3 USING THE WRONG ROD

Romano favors a 6-foot, 8-inch medium heavy rod with either a fast or extra fast tip.

“You’ve got to have enough backbone. The fish in the surf are typically larger fish, and a lot of times there’s more current in the surf than inshore,” he said. “A 2-pound trout in the surf fights like a 5-pound trout in the marsh, so you don’t want to go out there with a little wimpy rod.

“Even more importantly, you have to be able to give that lure a pop. It’s when you snatch it that the fish typically strikes, and if you don’t get enough twitch on the lure — if your rod is loading up and not moving that bait violently enough — I’ve seen guys go out there with the wrong soft rod and they just can’t get the right action.” ■



Patrick Bonin

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



FIELD NOTES

Green trees offer crappie everything they could want, from maximum cover to abundant groceries. Cinder blocks help keep the trees in place.

HOW TO CREATE EFFECTIVE CRAPPIE BRUSH PILES

By Andy Crawford

Andy Crawford

When crappie finish their spawning rituals, they head to deeper water and look for two things: Food and cover. Brush piles provide both, no matter what

reservoir you choose to fish. And that means brush piles can be a dynamite way to ensure summertime limits.

But there's more to creating effective brush piles than just loading up some wood and dropping it into the depths.

Living the Dream Guide Service's Jerry "J.T." Thompson spends a lot of time putting clients into position to dangle baits around brush piles on Toledo Bend, and he said it's imperative to keep green cover for crappie.

EARLY SUMMMER 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

Serving all of Acadiana, Iberia,
Lafayette and Vermillion Parish

1724 GENERAL MOUTON, LAFAYETTE
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

337-234-2360

Brush pile location is important — it's hard to beat a ridge next to a steep drop-off.



"People talk about PVC trees and man-made structures, but nothing works like green trees," the guide said. "As soon as that green hits the water, the life cycle begins. Grass shrimp come in and lay eggs on the leaves, and the crappie come in and start feeding. The shad spawn in there, and the crappie come in to feed."

And, of course, the greenery provides maximum cover for crappie when they're not gorging themselves.

"I can show you pictures (from down-scan electronics) of crappie just jammed up in those tops," Thompson said.

The first thing he and his fellow guides do when creating a new pile is locate premium locations.

"I like ridges that drop into deeper water," Living the Dream guide Lamar Peterson said.

On a recent brush pile-building foray, Peterson pinpointed several ridges in 17 to 20 feet of water immediately adjacent to 35-foot depths.

"See how it drops off sharply?" Peterson said, pointing at the contour map on his GPS unit. "I want to be right on the edge of that."

The LTD crew cut serious trees, some as long as 20 feet tall. They tie cinder blocks to the bottoms, while closed jugs tied in the limbs in the tops of the trees keep them standing tall in the water column.

"I don't like my trees laying down," Thompson said. "That's why we like tall trees: Even when they wilt they will be 6 to 8 feet from the surface."

So why a standing tree?

"Crappie like to get in the shade, so when it's standing up they can tuck in there," Thompson explained. "If it's laying down, they can't."

If a tree tops out at the surface, they simply break off the limbs. Then, it provides plenty

of clearance once it wilts.

It's important to note that a brush pile is only effective until the leaves fall from the trees.

"Once the leaves are gone, it won't hold fish," Thompson said.

So these guides put a lot of time and effort into revitalizing their piles.

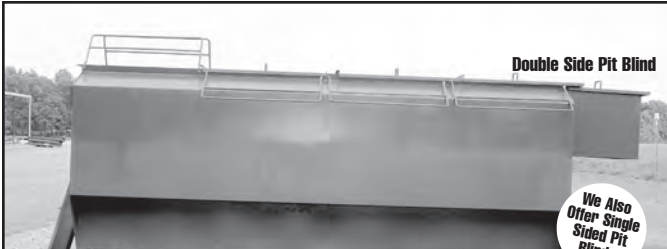
"We do this three times a week from the time the trees green out until the fall," Thompson said.

Oddly enough, he doesn't place piles around existing cover like stumps or flooded trees.

"A brush pile is a lot more effective when there's nothing else around," Thompson explained. "In fact, I've screwed up some really good stumps."

He said he believes adding brush to such natural cover changes water flow and creates something crappie don't like. So if he finds a stump or natural flooded wood on a contour, he leaves it alone and sets up brush piles elsewhere.

"Sometimes you can't do no better than what God did," Thompson said. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." ■




Double Side Pit Blind

We Also Offer Single Sided Pit Blinds


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"

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



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



TOHATSU
Outboards

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

TOP 3 TIPS FOR WINDY BASS FISHING

By Patrick Bonin

ELITE SERIES PRO SAYS BLOWING CONDITIONS ACTUALLY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO CATCH

The old wind machine has been cranked up and blowing for what seems like almost all spring, and hopefully now a more typical summertime pattern will take over.

But some type of wind is pretty much a given almost every day in Louisiana, so waiting on those rare, perfect, windless days isn't much of an option if you actually want to make a trip any time soon.

Bassmaster Elite Series pro Bernie Schultz, a native of Florida, is certainly used to windy conditions, and provided a few tips to maximize your time out on the water — even when it's blowing.

During a recent stop at Grosse Savanne Lodge for a Shimano product presentation, he said the wind actually can provide you with an opportunity to catch fish — but stressed these pointers are geared to moderate breezy conditions, not gale warnings.

1. HEAD TO THE WINDIER SIDE OF THE LAKE

"Generally, wind gets things going. It stirs up the water column, gets baitfish moving and puts oxygen in the water. It's like the cycle gets accelerated, and things start happening," Schultz said. "I think a big mistake people make on a lake that has some depth is when it gets windy, they'll automatically go to the protected side — and they've taken themselves right out of the race.

"A lot of times the windier side of the lake is more active. The fish will stage in those areas looking for an opportunity. It's easier for them to ambush when baitfish are disoriented — and wave action can disorient. So don't always run to the lee side of the lake to get out of the wind.

"Let the wind be your friend — within reason — you just have to make it work for you."



Bassmaster Elite Series pro Bernie Schultz shows off a nice bass caught in windy conditions this spring at Grosse Savanne Lodge in Cameron Parish during Shimano's "Cast Smarter" Media Conference.

Patrick Bonin

2. SET UP DRIFTS WITH THE WIND

"You want to drift as much as possible and make your presentation downwind. Make the wind work for you — don't work against it. By putting the wind at your back and drifting down a shoreline or over a field of grass, you're spending more time casting and less time fighting the trolling motor.

"At that time, the trolling motor is only to correct your drift. Especially if you're fishing really shallow water, the less you use a trolling motor the better. Generally if I know where fish are on a shallow flat with grass, I'll drift through it then motor way around it to be as stealthy as possible back up to the upwind side, shut down and then drift it again. I may go over the same exact drift if it's still productive, or I may adjust the drift by moving over or zig-zagging the flat.

"The only time I'll battle the wind is if I'm working a specific target, like a duck blind or a dock or an isolated cypress tree — something that stands out that I think is holding fish."

3. KEEP THE LURE ABOVE THE FISH — AND RETRIEVE IT BRISKLY


"Make the fish come to you. They're looking into the wind. Early in my career, Rick Clunn taught me a valuable lesson: When fish are facing into the wind in clear water, you have a better chance of fooling them by bringing the lure from behind them," Schultz noted, speaking of lures with a rate of retrieve like jerkbaits, swimbaits, ChatterBaits and swim jigs. "It's over their head and it looks like it's getting away. They have to choose right now — 'Do I bite it or do I let it go?'"

"It's kind of an ultimatum, and they have to react — and a lot of times they'll react when they normally wouldn't if it was going by really slow, when they might just ignore it or maybe move away from it.

"If a person is a lazy reeler, kind of slow with their retrieve, my recommendation is to get a higher gear-ratio reel and let the reel do the work. You can retrieve at your same rate, but you're taking in more line with each turn of the crank . . .

"A bass has incredible vision and sensory perception — they feel everything and see everything in clear water. So it's not a matter of him seeing or detecting your bait — it's how much time he has to see it, and many times in a windy situation, it's helping you. But the average angler is inclined to reel too slow. The fish is going to see the bait.

"If he can read the logo on the lure as it goes by, you're fishing too slow." ■




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





\$899

Entry - 5x10-15 Utility Trailer

Heavy Duty Truck Accessories



\$1,399 w/spare

1516-13

WE RENT TRAILERS!




• 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

SIMPLE HACK FOR CUTTING BRAIDED FISHING LINE

A LIGHTER DOES THE JOB QUICKLY AND CONVENIENTLY

By Devin Denman

The unique qualities of braided line make it a great “tool in the toolbox” for catching speckled trout and redfish.

It's sensitive because it has no stretch, and its superb strength allows thinner diameters, so we can pack more line onto our spools and make quality casts.

But like anything else, it does have a few issues to be aware of . . .

CONS OF BRAID

It also saws into wood, tangles the easiest, digs into itself on the spool, requires a backer, cuts into rod guides, slips through hook eyes and can very easily cut your hand.

All of these things can be amended in one way or another, but the most annoying aspect of braided line has got to be that it's a total pain to cut.

Thought it's not dentist-recommended, cutting monofilament or fluorocarbon only requires a sacrificial incisor — but not braid.

Gnaw all you want, and the braid will win.

Even the “cutter” on standard pliers is useless. They work, but the blades eventually dull and need replacing. If not, the result is a frayed end that doesn't thread well.

Braid knots are just obnoxious — so small they sometimes stay wrapped around the hook eye where they can't be reached by cutters.

Leaving it there isn't acceptable, as few things look goofier than an eye with frayed knots on it.

A NEW SOLUTION

A bassin' trip to Toledo Bend revealed to me the most ingenious way to handle this dilemma of braided line.

See, I had made the trip with inshore fishing guide Captain Matthew Whitman, of Whitman's Guide Service (call 504-940-4120).

We had a blast exploring “the Bend” and learning from one another, though it was our first time fishing together.

While I struggled with a pair of pliers, I watched Captain Matthew whip out a lighter and sizzle the braid off the hook eye, all in one swift motion.

It was so obvious — but I had somehow missed it all these years.

It's ingenious, really. All the problems with cutting braid I mentioned earlier are

learn here is not the inshore utility of a lighter, but the advantage of a good angler's network.

It's good to make fishing friends — and even better to maintain an open mind when fishing together.

I do, and as a result I get to assimilate their knowledge, becoming a better



Photo by Devin Denman

solved by a lighter that costs \$1 — not a \$30 set of pliers.

And to top it off, the line can't even fray because it's cauterized by the flame.

CONCLUSION

Using a lighter is a great tip that may help you out in a pinch, or simply make you look cool in front of your fishing buddies.

Yet I feel the most important thing to

inshore angler and putting more fish in the boat.

Tight lines, y'all. ■

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.

New Suzuki Outboard Center!!

SUZUKI
MARINE



Piranha Boatworks

Re-Power Specialist

GIMME SIX!

Get Suzuki's
3 Year Limited Warranty +
3 Years of Suzuki
Extended Protection
At No Extra Charge
When You Say
Gimme 6!



**3663 PONTCHARTRAIN DR.
SLIDELL, LA 70458**

985-643-6668

www.cypresscove.net

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

601-798-4700

f "Like" us on Facebook

TOP 3 SUMMERTIME BASS BAIT

By Patrick Bonin



Bill Lewis Outdoors StutterStep

'CAJUN BABY' OFFERS UP SUGGESTIONS TO KEEP BASS BITING WHEN THE MERCURY RISES

For Bassmaster Elite Series pro Cliff Crochet, summertime fishing conjures up images of time out on the water as a youngster, making both early-morning and late-afternoon trips, and learning to throw a buzzbait with some parental input.

Despite the heat and blanket of humidity about to settle over the state for the better part of the next five months, it's obvious Crochet, who hails from Pierre Part, still holds summertime fishing in high regard — and throwing topwater lures is his absolute favorite.

"There are certain things you look forward to every year, like when fish start spawning or you get that good spinnerbait bite

in the fall. But summer topwater fishing is special," he said. "Think about how many people go to the camp, get up super-early, make a morning trip until about 9:30, then come back and take a shower, chill out inside while it's 400 degrees, then leave the camp again at 5 and go make an afternoon trip ...

"That's what I like to do with my buddies around the house."

The Cajun Baby offered up his Top 3 summertime bass lures, and it's not surprising two of the three are topwaters:

1. BILL LEWIS OUTDOORS STUTTERSTEP

Not much matches the excitement of a big topwater blowup, and Crochet said this lure is one of his go-to options on a typical summertime trip.



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



HONDA

MARINE

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

"I throw it a whole lot in the morning," said Crochet, who named the silver surfer color as his favorite. "You can catch topwater fish all day long, but generally speaking that window is so small in the morning — that's when the water temperature is the coolest."

And yes, cloudy days are better for topwater action, he said. "Any time you get a change in the weather it helps, but especially during the summer when you get some decent temperatures if it's overcast and those fish roam a little bit — that can be the best days."

2. SANTONE LURES LAKE FORK BRAID BUZZBAIT

"The reason I like this one is everything is beefed up," Crochet said. "It's got a real good quality hook — this one's real sharp, real stout and has a bait keeper on the shank."

A buzzbait is one of the best reaction baits ever, he said.

Santone Lures Lake Fork Braid Buzzbait



"The topwater is a stop-and-go retrieve for the most part," Crochet explained. "But a buzzbait is a steady retrieve — there's so much going on, so much commotion, it's the perfect storm."

He especially likes throwing one over grass, but said retrieve speed is key for buzzbait fishing.

"That first retrieve is as slow as you can retrieve it while keeping it on top the water," he said. "The first two or three times might be a super-slow retrieve, and the next cast might be a little faster."

"Use different retrieves until you see some type of result."

His favorite color is black, and he throws the lure using 50-pound Seaguar braid.

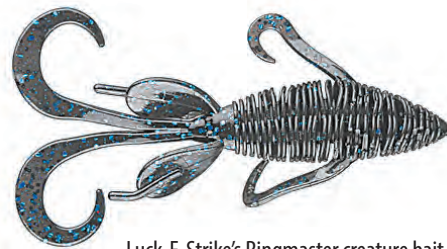
3. LUCK-E-STRIKE RINGMASTER

Crochet's punching rig is a Duce Echo 7-foot, 6-inch medium-heavy rod rigged up with 65-pound Seaguar Flippin' Braid, and he pegs a 1 1/2-ounce

tungsten weight to keep the creature bait buttoned up. His two favorite colors are black and blue, and green pumpkin.

What he's looking for when punching is anything different that stands out.

"Anywhere in the state or anywhere in the world, I'm looking for irregularities," he said. "You might be punching deep grass in Toledo Bend or shallow grass in the Basin: Look for differences in the type of grass, points of grass, pockets of grass or soft spots in the grass. Those are the types of things to keep an eye out for." ■



Luck-E-Strike's Ringmaster creature bait

SOUTHERN POWER & EQUIPMENT, LLC

802 Hwy 182
Houma, LA

985-851-1242

email:
Howard.leboeuf@spehouma.com

Excel in your field™

LS Tractor

Authorized LS Tractor Dealer

UP TO
6
YEAR WARRANTY

BECAUSE PEACE OF MIND
SHOULDN'T BE AN OPTION



GENERATORS FOR
INDUSTRIAL & MARINE

Industrial Generator:
6KW - 12KW - IN STOCK

- Compact Units
- Light Weight
- Fuel Efficient
- Quiet



Marine Generator:
5KW - 20KW
IN STOCK




Meet the Pack.

Authorized Kioti dealer/
large selection from
22-110HP



Kioti.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




Now Offering Marine And Industrial Engines By











Fine-tuning your spinning rig setup, and making sure you're using the right rod with the right-sized lure, are a couple easy steps to improve your casting distance.

7 TIPS FOR MORE CASTING DISTANCE

By Devin Denman

TWEAK YOUR SPINNING RIG SETUP TO PUT MORE FISH IN THE BOAT

Spinning tackle is the “go-to” for inshore anglers, often chosen over casting tackle because of its ease-of-use, performance in strong wind and ability to chuck bait over long distances.

And like any piece of equipment, spinning tackle can be “tuned” to achieve maximum performance, resulting in longer casts and fewer wind knots.

Here are seven tips to help you make it happen:

1. FILL THE SPOOL TO THE CROWN

Line peels off the spool at a 90-degree angle during the cast and, as it does, slaps against the crown.

The crown is the lip at the top of the spool, and is normally beveled and smooth to decrease friction on the fishing line.

However, the crown gets in the way more and more as line leaves the spool.

The way to get around this is by filling the spool all the way to crown. Otherwise, a half-full spool won't cast as far because the line is constantly rubbing the crown during the cast.

The downside to this is that too much line will result in wind knots, so don't ever fill it past the crown.

2. REMOVE LINE TWIST

Twist in the line will cause it to fold on itself once freed from the spool, making it a contributor to wind knots.

Wind knots are to spinning reels what backlashes are to bait-casters, and can ruin a good cast instantly.

Dragging a naked line from the boat, with about three-quarters of the spool out, is my favorite way to remove twist.

I have also reeled line off a manufacturer's spool through a thick book, with a C-clamp holding it shut, and onto the spinning reel. However, I don't particularly like this method because I feel it could damage the line.

3. USE A LONGER ROD

It's science: A longer rod gives you more leverage, which creates more power, and you guessed it, more distance.

4. USE THINNER-DIAMETER FISHING LINE

Thinner line is lighter and reduces the diameter of wound line on the spool on each cast, keeping a shorter distance between the surface of the wound line and the crown.

As explained earlier, this gives you an advantage of distance due to reduced friction.

5. SELECT THE RIGHT SIZE LURE

A medium-light, extra-fast rod isn't made to chuck 1-ounce bank sinkers, and an extra-heavy, fast-action rod won't perform well with 1/8-ounce jigheads.

Take a look at your rod blank near the reel seat to see the specified lure weight. If you're casting outside of that performance envelope, then you're only reducing your casting distance.

6. GET YOUR LUBE ON

Break out the Reel Magic to douse the crown and rod guides to make them slippery slick.

I also give the spool a uniform squirt the night a trip to give it

time to dry.

Trial and error revealed to me that silicon spray is effective with braided line, but does best with monofilament and fluorocarbon.

7. CONSIDER DITCHING BRAID

I know this is heresy amongst Louisiana's inshore anglers, but I've learned that one line isn't better than the other — they're just tools in the toolbox.

My buddy in Florida demonstrated this to me when he displayed his spinning combo equipped with — hold on to your seat — 12-pound test fluorocarbon.

Line absolutely zinged off the spool. It seemed like the lure would never stop and, after measuring the distance, we learned he was making consistent 50-plus-yard casts.

The redfish he catches over there are heavily pressured compared to ours, making long-distance casts a must.

But I feel that if it works for him, it will work for us. My only caveat is that it could be ineffective around heavy cover. One run into heavy grass could spell doom for that line's tensile strength, ultimately costing you a fish.

CONCLUSION

It's easy to grow complacent with our tackle, especially if we're not exposed to the critique of other inshore anglers.

So take a minute to look at your spinning rig, and you may see adjustments that could improve its performance and ultimately put more fish in the boat. ■

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

EZ-GO S4



A Textron Company



FINANCING AVAILABLE

DEEP SOUTH GOLF CARS^{LLC}

— PARTS • SALES • SERVICE —

504-737-0646

2508 Hickory Ave., Metairie, LA

www.deepsouthgolfcars.com

Ask about our
Free Customer
Appreciation
Lifetime
Service Plan

LIKE US



Dickie Hebert of Brusly shows off a 1.9-pound crappie from Toledo Bend. He was fishing with Harold, Wayne and Russell on a trip with Living the Dream Guide Service.



Dickie Hebert

**GOT PHOTOS?
WE WANT 'EM**

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of the most widely read outdoor magazine in the Bayou State. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, etc. to alicial@lasmag.com. Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format.



Kolton Cerise

Kolton Cerise, along with Gene Cerise, his Paw Paw, with a bass caught in Bayou Bienvenue.



Rick Bouterie

Rick Bouterie caught this leopard redfish in Golden Meadow.



Kane Jeanise

Kane Jeanise took his first deer on private land in Bossier Parish.



Tim Smith

Tim Smith took this 8-point on Nov. 8, 2017 at the Kisatchie National Forest in Natchitoches Parish. It weighed 200 pounds and had an 18-inch spread.



Khristian Rousseve

Khristian Rousseve caught these big boys fishing out of Lac Des Allemands.



Xander Childs

Xander Childs, 9, killed his first deer on a hunt with his dad Terry on Nov. 11 at a friend's property in Simmesport. He used a 7mm-08 to take down the 150-pound cow-horn spike.



Hadin Hohle

Hadin Hohle proudly holds up his first redfish.



Rajaheim Mills

RIGHT: Rajaheim Mills, 8, with his first buck, a 7-point, taken in Del Rio, Texas.



Beau Bonin

Beau Bonin was hunting at Lake Ophelia on Thanksgiving Day when he got this 195-pound buck with a bow.



Holle Davidson

Holle Davidson of Lafayette shot this 250-pound boar while hunting at her family's camp in South Mississippi on Nov. 12.



Carson Landry

Carson Landry of Pierre Part caught this 21-inch red white fishing Lake DeCade with his dad, Jeremy.

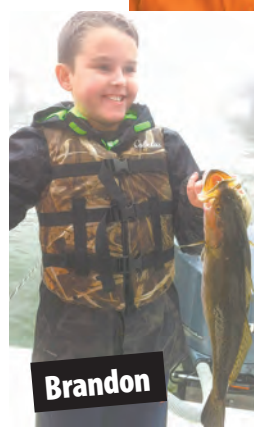


Russel Arnaud

This big buck was killed by Russel Arnaud on his birthday, Nov. 11, in Vernon Parish.



Adam



Brandon

Adam Hawkins with a 2-pound, 12-ounce blue catfish, and Brandon Hawkins with a 3-pound, 6-ounce trout caught at the Twin Spans on Lake Pontchartrain with their grandfather, Max Burnell.



Della Mara

After a 20-minute fight on 12-pound line, Della Mara hooked and landed her first bull red on Easter Sunday in Grand Isle. It measured 41 inches, and weighed 21 pounds.

ALPS DOGGIE DUCK BLIND

You're pretty good at hiding yourself beside your favorite duck hole — camouflage clothing, some brush and maybe a little camouflage cloth — but that big, black, yellow or brown dog next to you is another story. He wants to see those mallards come into the decoys as much as you do, and he needs to see them splash down when you make a good shot.

So ALPS Outdoorz, which makes all kinds of great gear, has stepped in to help. The official manufacturer and licensee of Delta Waterfowl gear, it's added the Alpha Dog Blind to its 2018 product line.

The Alpha Dog Blind is very portable and collapsible; it sets up and breaks down in seconds, and it's no problem carrying on your back to and from the blind. Shaped like a tent, it proved to be plenty big enough for the 80-pound black lab that shows up on all of my waterfowl hunts, and the padded floor provided him with a nice place to wait for his workout. You can stake it down, and it has dual-swing front and rear doors for easy exit and entry. It comes in Realtree Max-5 camo and has an MSRP of \$99.

More Info: www.alpsoutdoorz.com



SHIMANO EXAGE BAITCASTING RODS

Fishermen ready to get a jump on bass this summer have a line of Shimano baitcasting rods to choose from that carry the usual Shimano quality — with a reasonable price tag.

The Exage line of casting rods includes nine models between 6-foot-10 and 7-foot-6, three of them specifically for fishing crankbaits, a popular summer weapon for anglers around the southeast. Those rods are 7-foot, 7-foot-4 and 7-foot-6. The 7-foot model is perfect for casting small- and medium-sized crankbaits, but go longer for the big, deep-diving baits that are required as bass move into deeper, summer patterns.

Exage rods are made from 30-ton carbon for light weight, sensitivity and durability, with split grips of EVA and cork. The rods are outfitted with Fuji Alconite guides.

MSRP for Shimano's Exage rods is \$99.99.

They are available at www.academy.com/shop/pdp/shimano-exage-baitcast-rod#repChildCatSku=113767081

KAHARA DIVING FROG

The Kahara Diving Frog is a great summertime bass lure, especially on waters that get choked with surface weeds this time of year. Unlike traditional hollow-body frog lures which stay on the surface full time, this one dives underwater, and even under lily pads every time the angler moves the lure. It then floats back to the surface when anglers pause their retrieve.

This lure is especially effective along the edges of weedlines and in lily pad fields that have open sections of water. It also brings in the bites when cast near woody structure like downed timber and stickups. The diving action, along with the pop and splash created by the lure diving, is sometimes all that's needed to entice a wary bass, which may pass on a topwater-only retrieve.

While the legs of many topwater frogs are short and have little movement during the lure's retrieve, the Kahara's legs are long and springy, and stretch their full length each time the angler moves the lure. The dual hooks are similar to other topwater frogs, ensuring solid hooksets.

The Kahara Diving Frog is available in eight colors and two different sizes.

More Info: www.optimumbaits.com



New product submissions can be emailed to **Mark Hilz** at markh@lasmag.com.

DAIWA J-BRAID

By Andy Crawford

Braid is perfect for flipping for bass, working corks for trout, battling shallow reds, and snatching offshore species off the rigs and wrecks — and there are a lot of options on the market. Daiwa's J-Braid offers all the advantages in a tightly weaved package at a price point that will make you smile.

J-Braid is made of the finest materials from Japan, from which eight strands of fibers are tightly woven to create a perfectly round profile. This process results in a much stronger, softer and smoother line that is more sensitive, while allowing more distance on the cast.

There are two options: x4 and x8. The former is the tightest weave, which makes it more abrasive and perfect for cutting through vegetation — which means you can wrestle fish out of grass easier.

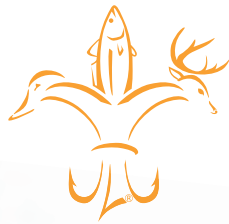
The x8 version has less memory and is softer, so it's quieter moving through your rod's eyes.

The x4 is available up to 80-pound-test, while x8 is available up to 150-pound test.

They are available in dark green, chartreuse and multi-color formats.

One hundred sixty-five yards of x4 costs just \$10.99, and 155 yards of x8 retails for \$14.99. Filler spools also are available.

More Info: www.daiwa.com



Z-MAN TROUT EYE FINESSE JIGHEADS

By Andy Crawford

Z-Man's Trout Eye Finesse Jighead is the logical next step for a line of jigs that has offered a great fishing platform for swim baits.

This new offering features the same design and head shape as the standard Trout Eye Jigheads, but in a smaller format when finesse is needed to convince fish to bite.

These finesse jigs come with strong, 1/0 Mustard UltraPoint hooks that match well with smaller lures like Z-Man's ElaZtech baits, including the Slim SwimZ and StreakZ 3.75.

The jigheads feature oversized 3D eyes and molded keeper barbs to hold plastics securely in place.

The Trout Eye Finesse Jigheads come in 1/8- and 3/16-ounce sizes with red, pearl, glow and gold eyes.

Three-packs retail for \$4.99 each.

More Info: www.zmanfishing.com



Follow Us — On the water and on Facebook
www.facebook.com/laspportsman

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

LAND FOR SALE

- **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. **Sale Pending**
- **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.
- **722 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. \$1,995,500.
- **150 +/- acres in Jefferson County, MS.** Paved road frontage, utilities already on site, two stocked ponds, equipped skinning shed, covered equipment shed, large metal workshop on slab. The timber is varied with sections of hardwood, young, and mature pine. Frontage on Gilchrist Creek and Cameron's Creek. \$475,000.00



Call Daniel Case @ 601-597-0060
 Todd Case @ 601-408-5621
 Ryan Marchbanks 601-660-4550
 Jason Bush 601-850-7777
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



SALTWATER

STATE REGULATIONS (0-10.357 miles^Δ)

FISH Species	Minimum Length	Bag Limit (per person)
Greater Amberjack*~	34" FL	1/day*
Lesser Amberjack, Banded Rudderfish*	14-22" FL	5/day (aggregate)
Yellowfin Tuna	27" CFL	3/day
Bluefin Tuna	73" CFL	1 per vessel per year*
Bigeye Tuna	27" CFL	None
Blue Marlin	99" LJFL	None
White Marlin	66" LJFL	None
Sailfish	63" LJFL	None
Swordfish*	29" CL or 33 lbs. DW	5 per vessel per trip
Cobia (ling or lemon fish)	33" FL	2/day
Drum, Black	16" TL	5/day#
Drum, Red (redfish)	16" TL	5/day#
Flounder, Southern	None	10/day
Groupers*		
Gag [^] & Black [^]	24" TL	4/day (aggregate)*
Nassau & Goliath	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
Red [^] & Yellowfin [^]	20" TL	
Scamp [^]	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, & Blueline 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.

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

Red Snapper Season
Opens June 1

Blue Marlin Grand Championship
July 10-15

OrangeBeach.com/Fishing
877-475-1534

June 2018 | Louisiana Sportsman 157

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
1st	6:00 a.m.	7:57 p.m.
2nd	6:00 a.m.	7:57 p.m.
3rd	5:59 a.m.	7:58 p.m.
4th	5:59 a.m.	7:58 p.m.
5th	5:59 a.m.	7:59 p.m.
6th	5:59 a.m.	7:59 p.m.
7th	5:59 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
8th	5:59 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
9th	5:59 a.m.	8:01 p.m.
10th	5:59 a.m.	8:01 p.m.
11th	5:59 a.m.	8:01 p.m.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
12th	5:59 a.m.	8:02 p.m.
13th	5:59 a.m.	8:02 p.m.
14th	5:59 a.m.	8:03 p.m.
15th	5:59 a.m.	8:03 p.m.
16th	5:59 a.m.	8:03 p.m.
17th	5:59 a.m.	8:03 p.m.
18th	5:59 a.m.	8:04 p.m.
19th	5:59 a.m.	8:04 p.m.
20th	6:00 a.m.	8:04 p.m.
21st	6:00 a.m.	8:04 p.m.
22nd	6:00 a.m.	8:05 p.m.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
23rd	6:00 a.m.	8:05 p.m.
24th	6:01 a.m.	8:05 p.m.
25th	6:01 a.m.	8:05 p.m.
26th	6:01 a.m.	8:05 p.m.
27th	6:02 a.m.	8:05 p.m.
28th	6:02 a.m.	8:05 p.m.
29th	6:02 a.m.	8:05 p.m.
30th	6:03 a.m.	8:05 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

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



**ASCENSION^{LLC}
GOLF CARTS
& POWERSPORTS**

13637 AIRLINE HWY
BATON ROUGE, LA
225-408-3331

13439 HWY 44
GONZALES, LA
225-644-3371

AscensionGolfCarts.com

IT ALL ADDS UP TO MORE FISH IN THE BOAT.



COURTESY OF FLW / PHOTO BY CHARLES WALDOFF

Bryan Thrift
2018 FLW Tour Lake Cumberland Champion.



P-LINE TACTICAL FLUOROCARBON
Show up prepared for the battle: smoother, more sensitive, improved knot strength, stronger, and unmatched abrasion resistance.

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



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 JUN	BEST DAYS				VALUE
	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL	
Fri 1	█	█	█	█	33
Sat 2	█	█	█	█	30
Sun 3	█	█	█	█	32
Mon 4	█	█	█	█	34
Tue 5	█	█	█	█	42
Wed 6	█	█	█	█	55
Thu 7	█	█	█	█	48
Fri 8	█	█	█	█	46
Sat 9	█	█	█	█	49
Sun 10	█	█	█	█	64
Mon 11	█	█	█	█	77
Tue 12	█	█	█	█	90
Wed 13	█	█	█	█	98
Thu 14	█	█	█	█	89
Fri 15	█	█	█	█	78
Sat 16	█	█	█	█	66
Sun 17	█	█	█	█	59
Mon 18	█	█	█	█	56
Tue 19	█	█	█	█	58
Wed 20	█	█	█	█	64
Thu 21	█	█	█	█	51
Fri 22	█	█	█	█	42
Sat 23	█	█	█	█	39
Sun 24	█	█	█	█	47
Mon 25	█	█	█	█	53
Tue 26	█	█	█	█	62
Wed 27	█	█	█	█	65
Thu 28	█	█	█	█	55
Fri 29	█	█	█	█	45
Sat 30	█	█	█	█	36

25 50 75
AVERAGE

For more, visit
primetimes2.com

LUNAR PERIODS					TIMES OCCURRING AT NIGHT ARE SHADED	
MOON RISE	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD	MOON SET	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT	LOW	APOGEE	
11:01 pm	2:51 am - 3:53 am	8:30 am	3:16 pm - 4:18 pm	○	○	
11:44 pm	3:37 am - 4:43 am	9:21 am	4:02 pm - 5:08 pm	○	○	
12:24 am	4:23 am - 5:31 am	10:13 am	4:48 pm - 5:56 pm	○	○	
1:00 am	5:05 am - 6:23 am ☀	11:08 am	5:30 pm - 6:48 pm	○	○	
1:34 am	5:45 am - 7:13 am ☀	12:03 pm	6:10 pm - 7:38 pm	○	○	
2:06 am	6:23 am - 8:05 am	12:59 pm	6:48 pm - 8:30 pm ☾	○	○	
2:38 am	7:00 am - 8:56 am ☀	1:57 pm	7:25 pm - 9:21 pm ☾	○	○	
3:11 am	7:40 am - 9:48 am	2:56 pm	8:05 pm - 10:13 pm	○	○	
3:46 am	8:17 am - 10:43 am	3:57 pm	8:42 pm - 11:08 pm	○	○	
4:24 am	8:59 am - 11:41 am	5:01 pm	9:24 pm - 12:06 am	○	○	
5:07 am	9:42 am - 12:42 pm ☀	6:08 pm	10:07 pm - 1:07 am	○	○	
5:57 am	10:34 am - 1:44 pm ☀	7:17 pm	10:59 pm - 2:09 am	○	○	
6:53 am	11:29 am - 2:49 pm ☀	8:25 pm	11:54 pm - Midnight	○	○	
7:56 am	12:31 pm - 3:53 pm ☀	9:31 pm	Midnight - 3:14 am	○	○	
9:04 am	1:34 pm - 4:56 pm	10:30 pm	12:56 am - 4:18 am	○	○	
10:12 am	2:38 pm - 5:54 pm	11:23 pm	1:59 am - 5:21 am	○	○	
11:20 am	3:43 pm - 6:45 pm		3:03 am - 6:19 am	○	○	
12:26 pm	4:43 pm - 7:33 pm	12:09 am	4:08 am - 7:10 am ☀	○	○	
1:29 pm	5:41 pm - 8:17 pm	12:49 am	5:08 am - 7:58 am ☀	○	○	
2:30 pm	6:39 pm - 8:57 pm ☾	1:26 am	6:06 am - 8:42 am ☀	○	○	
3:30 pm	7:34 pm - 9:36 pm ☾	2:00 am	7:04 am - 9:22 am	○	○	
4:28 pm	8:28 pm - 10:14 pm	2:32 am	7:59 am - 10:01 am	○	○	
5:26 pm	9:21 pm - 10:53 pm	3:06 am	8:53 am - 10:39 am	○	○	
6:22 pm	10:12 pm - 11:34 pm	3:40 am	9:46 am - 11:18 am	○	○	
7:17 pm	11:05 pm - 12:17 am	4:16 am	10:37 am - 11:59 am	○	○	
8:09 pm	11:56 pm - Midnight	4:56 am	11:30 am - 12:42 pm ☀	○	○	
8:58 pm	Midnight - 1:02 am	5:39 am	12:21 pm - 1:27 pm ☀	○	○	
9:42 pm	12:46 am - 1:48 am	6:25 am	1:11 pm - 2:13 pm ☀	○	○	
10:23 pm	1:35 am - 2:37 am	7:15 am	2:00 pm - 3:02 pm	○	○	
	2:20 am - 3:28 am	8:07 am	2:45 pm - 3:53 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

Work Boat Specialist



20' to 40'
Boats Available



YAMAHA



Scully's

**CUSTOMIZED
Aluminum Boats**

Louisiana's #1
Custom Boat Builder

1015 STEPHENSVILLE RD. • MORGAN CITY, LA 70381
985-385-1323 • TOLL FREE 1-866-238-8353
FAX 985-384-5146

www.scullyboats.com • info@scullysaluminumboats.com



Fiberglass Repair
If you want the best!

CALL TODAY (504) 277-7777

BLUE DOT MARINE

2409 Parish Road • New Orleans, LA 70129

Before

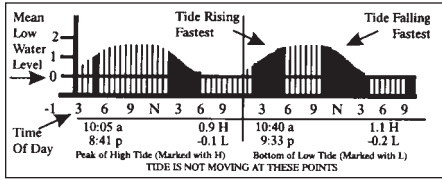
After



IT'S NOT THE ENGINE, IT'S THE FUEL!
WWW.STARTRON.COM



How to use the SPORTSMAN Tide Guide

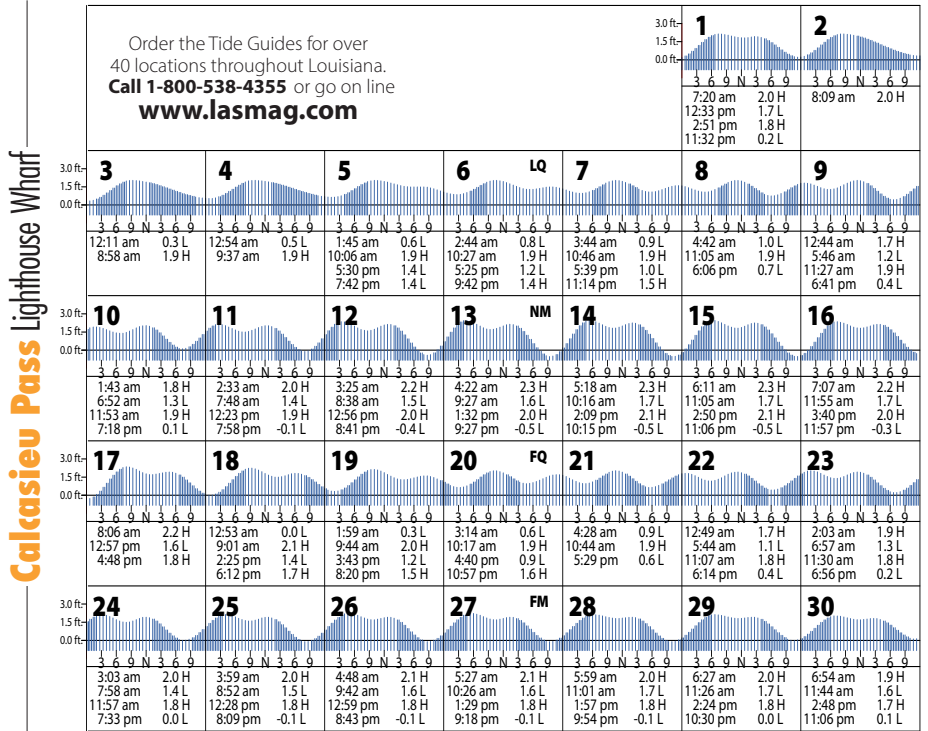
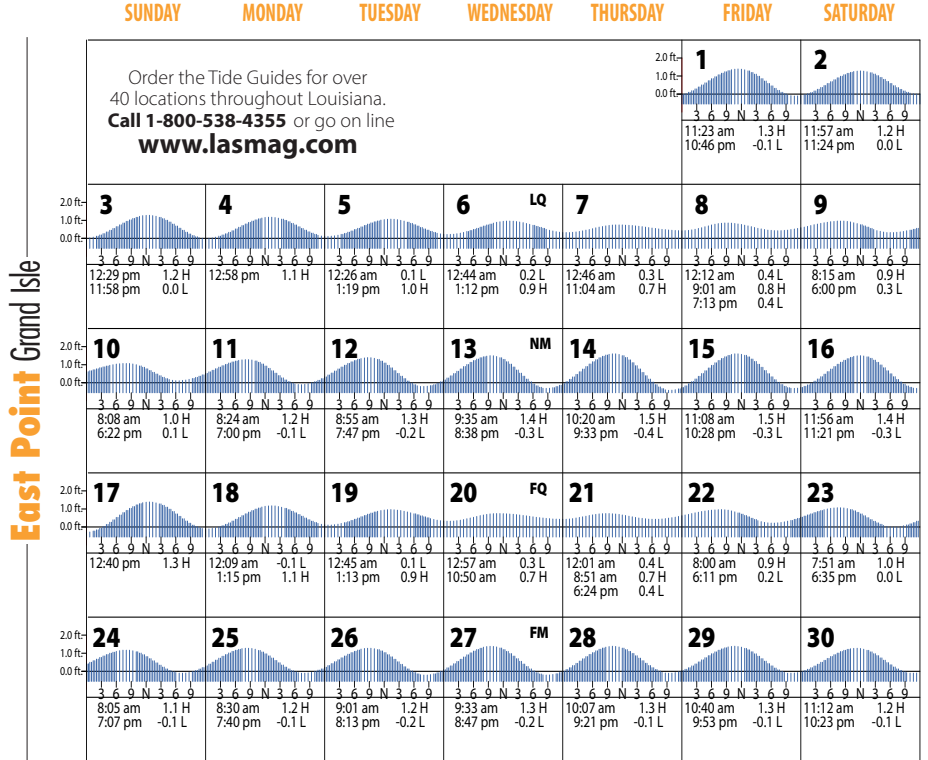


Fish feed most actively when the tide is moving. Louisiana Sportsman has made it simple to spot the most-active feeding periods each day in the Tide Guide. Just fish those times indicated in black. To find the best time to fish your favorite honeyhole, find the spot under Tide Corrections that is closest to the area, and add or subtract the time from the corresponding daily prediction.

Tide Corrections

East Point, Grand Isle	HIGH	LOW
Barataria Pass	+1:00	-0:10
Bastian Island	+0:41	+0:12
Bay Gardene	+2:51	+2:44
Bayou BonFouca	+9:59	+10:11
Breton Islands	+0:54	+0:48
Caillou Boca	+0:40	+0:48
Caminada Pass	+0:20	+0:12
Chandeleur Light	+0:37	+0:34
Chef Pass	+5:17	+5:07
Cocodrie	+1:22	+1:33
Comfort Island	+1:34	+0:54
Delacroix Island	+3:42	+3:31
Empire Jetty	-1:03	-1:45
Four Bayou Pass	+2:18	+0:17
Gardner Island	+0:40	+0:47
Grand Pass	+1:48	+1:16
Head of Passes	-0:48	+0:00
Hopedale	+4:17	+4:56
Independence Island	+2:29	+1:59
Jack Bay	+1:59	+1:28
Joseph Bayou	-0:36	-1:37
Lafitte	+1:45	+2:51
Long Point, Lake Borgne	+2:28	+2:11
Manila Village	+2:32	+3:13
Michoud Substation	+5:24	+5:02
New Canal (Bucktown)	+10:34	+10:49
North Pass	-0:31	-0:37
Paris Road Bridge	+5:53	+5:58
Pelican Islands	+2:26	+2:26
Pointe a la Hache	+3:12	+3:01
Port Eads	-0:17	-1:37
Raccoon Point	-0:03	-0:20
Shell Beach	+4:32	+4:25
Ship Shoal Light	-1:54	-1:50
South Pass, Miss. R.	-1:13	-1:20
Southwest Pass, Miss. R.	-0:38	-1:33
Tchefuncte River	+10:23	+11:01
Timbalier Island	+0:19	+0:23
Wine Island	+1:08	+1:02

Calcasieu Pass, Lighthouse Wharf	HIGH	LOW
Cote Blanche Island	+4:33	+3:40
Eugene Island	+1:49	-0:39
Lighthouse Point	+0:58	-0:53
Mermentau River ent.	+0:20	+0:25
Point Au Fer	+1:53	-1:02
Point Chevreul	+3:16	+0:30
Rabbit Island	+2:01	-0:36
Shell Island	+3:08	+0:45
South Point	+1:55	-0:33
Southwest Pass, Vermillion Bay	+1:42	+0:51
Weeks Bay	+3:58	+3:56



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

LouisianaSPORTSMAN.com/subscribe

*Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue



Louisiana
SPORTSMAN

Sportsman FISHING HOTSPOTS

Justin Webb, left, and Jay Forrest caught these specks at the Fourchon barges fishing with live shrimp.



SPECKS 'TEARING IT UP' AT GRAND ISLE

Live bait — Carolina-rigged, free-lined or under a cork — the ticket for trout and reds

The trout spawn is happening now in and around Grand Isle, and speck specialist Tommy Vidrine said June is a great month to head to the island to get in on the action.

"May, June and July are the best months, I think, for volume of fish and bait," he said.

"The pogies are everywhere, mullet are everywhere and they're catching more shrimp than they can shake a stick at.

"With all that bait here, the trout are everywhere just tearing it up."

While all the typical summer spots will

be holding fish — including places like Four Bayou Pass, Manilla Village, Queen Bess, El Cid (Hotel Sid) and the jetties all the way to Fourchon — Vidrine said Elmer's Island ranks high on his list.

"At Elmer's, I would say to put a Carolina rig on with a ¼- or ½-ounce weight above a small swivel, and about 2 or 3 feet of the leader of your choice with a 1- or 2/0 Kahle hook," he said. "With croakers or shrimp for bait at Elmer's Island, it's going to be a lot easier to get that out there than free-lining with the wind blowing

against you"

Vidrine is hoping the summer wind pattern kicks in soon, which is critical if you're planning on hitting Elmer's.

"It's usually from the southeast, and it slows down. It quits blowing 15 to 20 every day, so June usually gets some 5 mph days — and that's what you want," he said. "If you're fishing the beach, you need a south wind to make the breakers. We know trout and redfish feed where the water is breaking and baitfish are disoriented — they like those breakers."



Grand Isle speck specialist Tommy Vidrine said June is the high point of the trout spawn, so live bait free-lined, Carolina-rigged or under a cork should all be great options to put some fish on ice.

DROWN WORMS FOR D'ARBONNE CATS

Nightcrawlers make great bait

The summer months bring many things, but nothing better than the opportunity to go drown some worms and catch a good mess of Lake D'Arbonne catfish.

"This is a great time to catch catfish, and there are no better baits than worms," said Ron Manning, a lake resident. "I guess my favorite is the nightcrawler, and we can catch them right in the backyard this time of year.

"We also have access to catalpa worms, and they are tough to beat, too."

Cold worms and regular red worms also work on D'Arbonne cats this month, he said. Store-bought commercial dough bait will also work. Manning prefers the chicken blood-type because it has the most potent odor.

Once you have bait in hand, or bucket, here's how Manning fishes.

"Find a place where current is breaking if you can, and fish the edge of that in the eddies," he said. "The catfish will just lay up and wait for something good to eat to flow through."

Manning also likes to anchor the boat and tightline right under the bait in deeper water, especially around trash. That helps keep snags to a minimum. He lowers his bait to the bottom, then raises it up one turn of the reel handle. If there is no current, look for ridges or flats that have deeper water nearby. Catfish feed a lot at night, but this month they'll be up on the flats looking for food just like other species.

For a leisurely approach to catching catfish, Manning likes to take advantage of subtle summer breezes and drift fish across flats. He goes to one side of the flat, throws out his bait and lets the wind drift the boat and the bait slowly across. If there is a lot of bottom cover, he uses a bobber to keep the bait suspended a foot or so just a foot or so above any snags.

Catfish are noted nibblers: They often nibble on the bait several times before taking it. So never set the hook until you feel the fish take the bait. One way Manning increased his catch-to-bite success rate is by using a circle hook. He likes 2/0 or 3/0 hooks and said when the fish get hold of them, you just have to tighten the line, reel in and you've got them. ■

- Kinny Haddox



Ron Manning with two nice summer D'Arbonne catfish.

Of course, June also brings summer heat, so it's not exactly the best time to sleep in.

"If it's getting to 90 to 95 degrees for the high and 70 in the morning, I see the success is going to be better on Elmer's Island in the morning. If you're fishing the beach, the best bite is definitely going to be early," he said. "I don't really care about the tide — if you go out there early with some breaking waves, you'll catch some fish on the beach."

But he watches the tide more closely if he's targeting specks in deeper water.

"In deeper water like the jetties and the Fourchon barges and Fourchon Pass, those areas I like to fish an hour before the tide changes, and an hour after it changes," Vidrine said. "That's when I target being out there, even if it's in the middle of the day in the middle of the heat."

Redfish-wise in June, if you're fishing with live bait pretty much anywhere, be prepared to do battle with a big bull.

"They're everywhere, almost a nuisance," Vidrine chuckled. "If you put a croaker or pogie on, you've got a chance of catching a bull — the bigger the bait the better for bull reds.

"Target rocks, any structure and all the passes. It seems like they're more typical around deeper water with current and structure for the bulls." ■

- Patrick Bonin

GOT PICS? Send 'em in!

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.

Email images to: images@LouisianaSportsman.com

Nick Kohnke of New Orleans holds up a 3 ½-pound bass caught this spring while fishing with John Dean at Toledo Bend.

POSTSPAWN TACTICS FOR TOLEDO BEND

After a prolonged cool and wet spring, I'm ready for the next season on Toledo Bend.

And I'm sure there are many other bass anglers chomping at the bit to see what a lower pool level and warmer water temperatures bring to fishing success on this great lake. Everyone considers June to be summertime, a time to work the peppergrass and other vegetation, as well as the beginning of the traditional deepwater patterns.

Toledo Bend was at and even above full pool at times through March and late April, when the level was 171.19. I assume the SRA will continue to draw down the lake and, if that's the case, I wouldn't be surprised if was in the 168s or 169s by June.

Bassin' success ought to get better and better as the water warms. That means the topwater bite (for me the plastic frog and walk-the-dog style artificial lures, like the Zara Spook) will come into play in and around the vegetation that's showing more and more with each drop. As the water goes out, more and more vegetation will be

exposed north to south.

While the area around the dam is always the last of the places to fire for spawning bass (the fish are doing their thing in the shallows behind the haygrass), we're in or entering a postspawn period now for bass across much of the lake. The way it's looking, the spawn should be over, period, before the second or third week of May.

There are still some good-sized bass being caught now. It took five bass weighing 33.1 pounds to win a recent Keith's Toledo Bend Tackle tournament on the Texas side, with most of the bass reportedly being caught in 20- to 22-foot depths on football jigs and V&M soft plastics. That pattern, which is so effective with the use of marine electronics, should come into play more and more.

I'd target ridges, drains and flats, looking for break lines where many bass move to look for food.

I've been tapping the bass on a ½-ounce Stanley Swim Max Jig, black/blue with some pearl strands, in 5- to 8-foot depths. Most of the time the bass hit it on the first drop. If not, then after two rod snaps. That jig should continue



LATE SPAWN MEANS BREAM ACTION HEATING UP ON HENDERSON LAKE

to be effective, as will a Carolina-rigged soft plastic, which is producing for me still, and a ChatterBait-style artificial lure.

Soft plastics such as trick worms, wacky worms and Senkos are triggering many, many bites, too, and I don't see that changing through May and June. Well, the preferred color scheme probably will change from watermelon/red to more plum apple, red bug and June bug colors.

As of this writing, bream still haven't made a major move to the shallows to spawn because of the unseasonably cool water temperatures. When they do, bass will be right there with them. That's when your favorite plastic frog or other topwater lure becomes really dominant around vegetation, particularly the peppergrass.

Vegetation, by the way, is showing itself in many areas of the lake where it had inexplicably disappeared for a long while. That's a good sign going into the rest of 2018.

Crappie fishing should be good and getting better as the panfish move to 22- to 25-foot depths, where they hang around sunken brush piles and always seem hungry for minnows. They're already starting to migrate to their summer holes, and the crappie fishing should be excellent into August.

If you want to catch bass in June, I've been guiding on this lake most of my life and you're more than welcome in my boat.

Give me a call at (936) 404-2688. ■

- John Dean



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.

Bream probably will spawn later than usual this year at Henderson Lake, which means June should be a good month to deposit plenty of tasty panfish in the ice chest.

That's the way Laurette Mequet of Cecilia sees the late spring and early summer shaping up at the lake in St. Martin Parish. Like dozens of other Acadiana residents and visitors who love to tap the lake's bream population, Mequet can't wait.

But why the somewhat late start this year? The water has been high — really high — and muddy for most of the spring, rising to 17 feet mostly because of heavy rains above Henderson Lake.

How high is that? At normal pool, it's at 9 or 10 feet.

In early May, Mequet said, "Our water's getting pretty and starting to fall (albeit slowly). It should be pretty good before June."

The good news during the recent high-water period is that many sac-a-lait were able "to spawn in peace, way back in the woods," as were the lake's bass, Mequet said. Bream, which spawn later than those species, "will be getting their spawn on" in late May and June.

Mequet pointed anglers to several traditional bream fishing hotspots this time of year at Henderson Lake, including the Butte La Rose Canal, Amoco Canal, The Boulevard in front of the private boat landings along the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee and Phillips Canal. The latter is one of the most notorious for giving up beaucoups bream in the spring.

Bream get up on the mounds under the willow trees to spawn.

"There are a lot of mounds. It's a good place to go. If someone's there (fishing on one mound), you can move over (to another mound)," Mequet said.

She advised bream fishermen to target those mounds next to the willows and fish 1 1/2-feet to 2 feet deep with crickets or worms. The veteran angler prefers a small "slim" cork and prefers a red/green model that is available at the boat landing's bait shop.

Worms also catch chinquapin, which spawn a little later than bream and typically are deeper, usually on the bottom. Nine out of 10 times, if you catch a chinquapin, there are more there.

For those who prefer artificials, you can fish for bream with tube jigs or hair jigs

weighing 1/48-ounce. Mequet advised to tip them with a piece of worm. The most popular colors are blue/chartreuse, black/chartreuse, red/black/chartreuse and red/blue/chartreuse.

An average bream catch would be 30 —



Floyd Meche of Duson got an early start on some bream action when he caught these two while fishing for sac-a-lait during a weekly tournament out of Cypress Cove Landing.

enough to clean at one time — but she said numbers do get higher than that if fish cooperate.

For those who want to add sac-a-lait to their catch, Mequet pointed them to George Dupuis Pit and Kern's Pit. Fish with red/blue/chartreuse, red/olive/chartreuse or black/chartreuse tube and hair jigs in 3-foot depths approximately 5 feet from the shoreline. ■

- Don Shoopman

Sight-fishing reds up next >



**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

ABUNDANT GRASS PERFECT FOR SIGHT-FISHING REDS



Capt. Ty Hibbs puts smiles on faces when he takes clients sight-fishing for reds.

POGIES MEAN REDS ARE THERE

Capt. Ty Hibbs is a sight-fishing fanatic. He takes clients every week to the fish-filled backwaters of the South Louisiana marsh, and not only has great success, but has a ball watching redfish engulf lures.

One of the keys to his great June success is finding grass, and Hibbs said there is no shortage of it right now.

"We have so much grass this year," he said. "Everything lined up perfectly for a ton of grass: You've got the Mardi Gras cut getting deeper every year, we had a really high river in February and it was 85 degrees in February. That grass just grows like wildflowers."

However, Hibbs said not just any old grass will do. He likes vibrant-colored submerged aquatic vegetation.

"You're going to have a lot of areas, when it gets to be that 95-degree heat everyday, that are mainly like dead water because the grass is so thick and dying," he said.

"If you find that bright green hydrilla and snot grass, that's going to be your key."

Because of the intense heat that Louisiana experiences every summer, anything fish can use to stay cooler is extremely beneficial — even if that's just a few inches of deeper water.

"I like a little bit deeper water that time of year," he said. "You find ponds like that with 2 feet of water in it rather than 12 inches, it's going to help you a lot more with the heat."

Whenever he makes it to a redfish pond, Hibbs said if you see a certain kind of bait, you better stay and fish it.

"I like finding shrimp, I like finding crabs, but when it comes to redfish in Louisiana if you find pogies — especially baby pogies — there's no reason to leave," he said. "I don't care what the water looks like. The fish are going to be there. That's their number one. It's like candy for them."

When he sees a fish, Hibbs tosses either a lemonhead or pink champagne-colored Matrix Shad to it.

"I like throwing bright colors," he said. "I want to see the bait disappear when they eat it."

If he finds those lures don't appease the redfish, he'll go to crawfish baits. Hibbs likes a watermelon-red-colored crawfish.

"If a redfish doesn't eat that, he's not eating anything," he said.

As far as rigging the crawfish, many anglers choose to throw it Texas-rigged, but Hibbs rigs it on a jighead — just like he does a Matrix Shad.

"I really like the weight in front of the head of the crawfish because it's just going to dart straight down," he said. "It falls more naturally, and it gets those claws kicking a lot more" ■

- Joel Masson

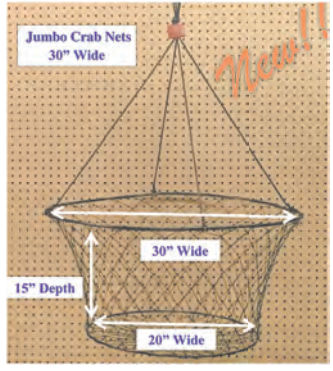
Big Lake up next >

Alario Bros

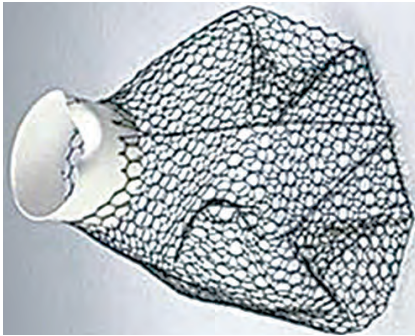


Visit our website www.AlarioBros.com

NEW Crab Nets!



Crawfish Pyramid Trap



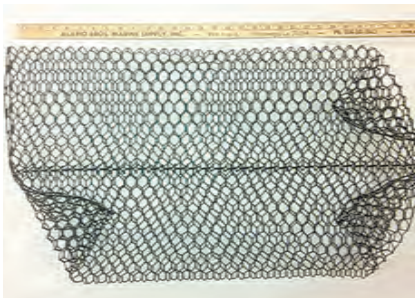
Crab Traps



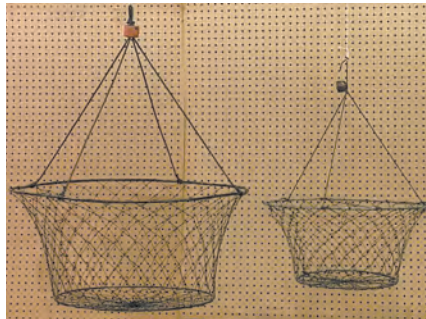
Trawls



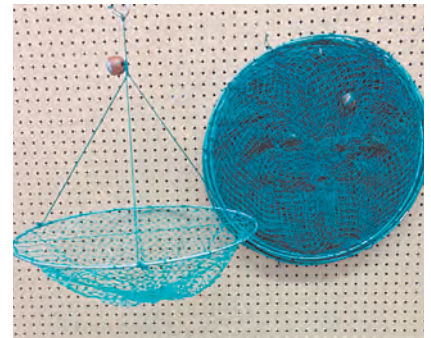
Crawfish Pillow Traps



Large & Small Crab Nets



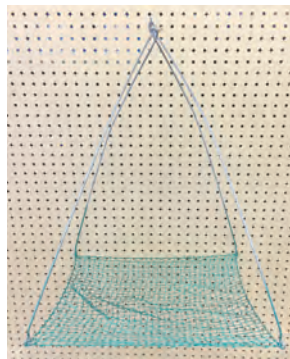
Crawfish Nets



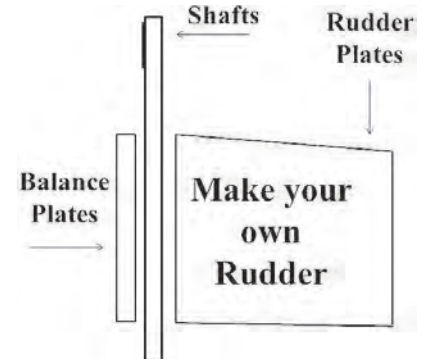
Shafts



Crawfish Set Nets



Rudders



Alario Bros
Marine Hardware & Fisherman Supplies

504.341.1843

894 Avenue A. Westwego, LA 70094 www.alariobros.com

CONDITIONS IMPROVING AT BIG LAKE

Higher salinities means speck action should improve on artificial reefs

After a subpar year of speckled trout fishing last year at Calcasieu Lake due to seven flooding events, anglers are hopeful June's fishing helps them forget about 2017.

Salinity wasn't right from Easter through September of 2017, according charter boat captain and Hackberry Rod & Gun co-owner Kirk Stansel. And the lake system was still pretty fresh this spring, all the way into late April.

But salinity readings in early May improved tremendously, said Stansel, who owns the guide service (call 337-762-3391) with his brothers Bobby and Guy. "It's a whole lot better," he said. "It's looking up,"

Without a doubt, Stansel said some of the best speckled trout fishing in June will be at five artificial reefs in the lake — Turner's Bay Island, Chenier North, the Brad Vincent Reef, Big Jack's Reef and Chenier South.

"It's a really good month for all of them," he said.

The artificial reefs are a boon to the fisheries, and give saltwater anglers more areas to wet a line.

"It helps a whole lot. It gives you other

places to fish and helps speckled trout fishermen out. You see a lot of traffic but they're pretty big reefs — all 5 to 9 acres," he said.

"I really don't have a favorite. They're all really good," Stansel said, noting the one(s) with the cleanest water and favorable wind conditions are his first choices.

Three of them are in approximately 7-foot depths. Turner's Bay Island is in 3 to 4 feet of water, and Chenier South is in 5- to 6-foot depths.

Normally, Stansel said, he catches most of his fish on the upcurrent side of the reefs. While speckled trout generally are at the reefs, sometimes they are located off the man-made structures.

CCA's Brad Vincent Reef and Big Jack's Reef are marked with buoys, the veteran saltwater fishing guide said.

Here are coordinates for the CCA installations:

- Turner's Bay Island... Limestone structure
GPS: 30° 3' 0.36, 93° 18' 0.371
- Brad Vincent Reef ... Crushed concrete



Target Big Lake specks on artificial reefs using topwaters, suspending lures, soft plastics or live bait.

structure

GPS: 29° 56' 30.844, 93° 17' 24.893

- Big Jack's Reef... Recycled whole and crushed concrete

GPS: 29° 53' 14.551, 93° 16' 47.421

Topwaters, suspending baits and soft plastics, plus live bait, are all effective at the artificial reefs. When the water's pretty, all that's needed is artificials, Stansel said.

He loves to catch fish with topwaters like Skitterwalks and Zara Spooks in bone, black or anything with chartreuse.

His favorite suspending bait is a small MirrOdine, which he rips through the water.

He fishes the topwaters and suspending baits on 20- to 30-pound braided line with a 2-foot leader of 30-pound monofilament.

As for soft plastics, he uses 3/16th-ounce H&H Salty Grubs, H&H Cocahoes and Hackberry Hustlers. Glow is one of the top colors, as well as avocado/red flake, he said. ■

- Don Shoopman

Delacroix up next >

END OF MODEL YEAR BLOWOUT!

CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICING!

ALUMA Craft

EPIC

Sportsman

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

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

337-893-0642

Spots & Specks
CHARTERS, LLC

Golden Meadow to Grand Isle
Inland & Coastal Fishing

USCG Licensed & Insured
985-637-3177
Idwfls #057-087-5112 See us on f
fishing2morrow@yahoo.com

spotsandspeckscharters.net

Capt. Eddie Berthelot, Jr.

100
TAGGED REDFISH
ARE ALONG
THE COAST
WAITING FOR YOU!



101 Days of Fishing
\$500,000 in PRIZES

CCASTAR.com

PRESENTED BY



FIND CLEAN WATER FOR DELACROIX TROUT



Capt. Mike Wittich said live shrimp under a cork or tight-lined plastics are both good options for Delacroix trout.

The Mississippi River will be a key determinant on how the trout bite shapes up this month out of Delacroix, according to Capt. Mike Wittich.

Last June, the river was high and fresh muddy water flooded much of the normal areas where the trout usually show up, said Wittich (who can be contacted at 504-577-4774).

"It was an everyday hunt for clean water," he said. "We'd search all over for pockets of clean water and whenever we found good water, we found the fish. But they were a constantly moving target because the winds kept changing and moving the river water in different directions. It'd push the clean water elsewhere, and the trout

along with it. We rarely got to fish the same area two days in a row because of it."

But this year, he said hopefully, will be far better. Wittich usually concentrates his efforts on three big bays: Oak River Bay, Lake Campo and Bay Lafourche. By late in the month, he'll start moving farther out into Black Bay and target the islands and various structures there (if the water is clean).

"But those three bays are where the trout will show up first," he said. "I target points, islands, reefs and on some occasions, birds, but only when I'm not finding fish elsewhere because you catch so many throwbacks under the birds in the spring.

"Anywhere you get a good current line off a point or around an island, those are

the places to toss a live shrimp about 2 ½ to 3 feet under a cork."

Wittich likes hard plastic corks, and either a kahle hook or a small treble hook for your live shrimp.

If plastics are your preferred bait, he likes the lemonhead or shrimp creole Matrix Shad, or a salt and pepper shrimp worm tight-lined on a ¼-ounce jighead.

"Worse case scenario, we get lots of fresh water in the Delacroix waters, I just fish farther east toward the MRGO rocks and even Bay Eloi," he said. "We'll go wherever we have to go to find the fish." ■

- Rusty Tardo

MRGO up next >

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 (800) 327-8583

MRGO ROCKS HOLDING SPECKS

Veteran Shell Beach charter guide Capt. Jacques "Jakamo" Laboureux (504-303-1494) said, "To me, June means two things: One, fish the MRGO rocks, and two, fish the reefs in the big, fringe oyster-laden bays."

"I could also say try fishing Bay Eloi or Breton Sound, or under the birds, or any number of places that'll probably produce some trout this month, but this is the simplest and easiest way to catch fish — and they'll be nice fish," he said. "Go to the rocks. I generally focus on the long rocks, and you want to look for any signs of bait in the water. It doesn't matter whether its little rain minnows or mullet or shrimp — if you see bait activity, fish there."

"Try the various points, try any place you

see water coming over the rocks where the rocks sunk, and be sure to bring live shrimp in the baitwell. Don't just fish up close to the rocks, but fish farther off of them also. That's a common mistake I see people make at the rocks, and the other common mistake is most people fish too shallow under the cork. You want to catch more fish? Fish deeper. I fish 4 to 5 feet deep under a cork, which is a chore to cast, but you'll



Capt. Jacques "Jakamo" Laboureux with a hefty trout from the MRGO rocks.

Covers *Unlimited*



Custom Pool Covers

- 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



225-261-4057

13140 Hooper Rd • BR, LA 70818
www.coversunlimited.net

catch more fish than if you fish 2 to 3 feet, guaranteed."

Laboureux said the action isn't always fast and furious, but it's usually steady, and if you're catching fish steadily, it's better to stay put and pound it out than to run all over and potentially come up dry.

"My No. 2 target this month is the oyster reefs in Lake Anastasia, Lake Eloi and Lake Fortuna," he said. "Get up in the oyster poles and drift and fan cast on all sides until you find fish, and then try to sit on them until the action plays out. Then you resume drifting. If you get no action, try another section of reefs and keep moving until you find them."

Live shrimp is again the best bait there, fished 3 to 4 feet under a cork. ■

- Rusty Tardo

Buras up next >



DIXIE RV

CAMPING & OUTDOOR STORE!!



HAMMOND
Sales & Service:
866-591-2024
Located off I-12 Exit 35
10241 Destination Dr.
Hammond, LA 70403
SALES: Mon - Sat 8 am - 7 pm
SERVICE: Mon - Sat 8 am - 5 pm



Breaux Bridge
Sales & Service:
337-889-0011
Located off I-10, Exit 109
657 Enterprise Pkwy.
Breax Bridge, LA 70517

www.dixierv.com

MOMENTUM



Over **400**
Trailers, Fifth
Wheels and
Toy Haulers
On Display!

LACROSSE
by PRIME TIME MFG.



Hammond
Only

Hideout
by Hornet



Hammond
Only

Laredo



Hammond
Only

TORQUE



SENECA



GREYHAWK



Bounder



Over **100**
Motorhomes
On Display

CLASS B
WINNEBAGO
Touring Coach



"Helping You Retire One Weekend At A Time"



YOUR
LEADER
IN GULF
SOUTH
SPORTS

www.CoxSportsTV.com

YouTube CoxSportsTV

@CoxSportsTV

CoxSportsTV

MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEL DICTATES JUNE TROUT BITE OUT OF BURAS

ACTION ON BEACHES, MID-BAYS SHOULD PICK UP AS
MONTH PROGRESSES — IF RIVER COOPERATES

With the Mississippi forecasted to still be up around 12 feet by the beginning of June, Capt. Curtis LeNormand said anglers will have to pay close attention to the river stage to get on a trout bite on the west side out of Buras.

“That’s going to be a big part of the pattern,” said LeNormand, with Curt’s Fishing Charters (504-616-2064). “At 12 (feet), that’s still pretty high. Typically by now it would be around 8 or 9.”

“So as far as fishing the Empire Jetties on a south wind, that’s going to be difficult because any kind of south or southwest wind is going to blow all the jetties out and be full of river water. All the river water coming out of Red Pass flows into the jetties and messes up Bay Coquette and Scofield Bay and the jetties, so we’ve been having to move a little further north when we have a south wind with this high river.”

That means spots like over toward Grand Isle, Four Bayous and even up to Myrtle Grove have been more productive for trout. LeNormand has had some success with plastics bounced off the bottom or under a cork, but said live shrimp are tough to beat.

“I imagine in June the birds ought to start kicking off around No Man’s

Land, Lake Washington and Bayou Cook, in that general area,” he said. “But look for clean water to start with.”

“If you don’t see clean water, you pretty much ought to just keep on going. And tide-wise, it’s been better on an incoming for the trout. On the fall, usually later in the afternoon is when birds will start diving.”



Speckled trout action at typical hotspots on the west side out of Buras — like the Empire Jetties — will be dependent on how much the Mississippi River falls as June progresses.

TEXAS MARINE.COM

*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**

NauticStar
#1 Dealer in the Nation*



Discounts up to \$8,000
Shallow Water Performance V-Hull

NauticStar



Starting at \$29,995*

215 XTS Shallow Bay
4-stroke & trailer

YAMAHA



Starting at \$39,499*

210 FSH Jet Boat
SUV of Center Consoles
Serious Fishability and
Comfort for the Whole Family

Visit us to see the ALL NEW 215 XTS Shallow V-Hull

The most affordable way to spend time with family and friends

Shoalwater
#1 Dealer in the Nation*



Call for pricing

Save Big on 16-23' Cat Hulls,
One of the Most Popular Names in
Ultra Shallow Water Fishing

CHAPARRAL BOATS



Starting at \$33,495*

21' H2O OB w/ 115hp Yamaha
Highest Quality I/O
Fish & Ski Boats

Avalon



Starting at \$14,995*

**14-28' Luxury and Fishing
Pontoons**

* PLUS OPTIONS, TT&L, AND FREIGHT & MAKE READY

I-10 On the Curve | Beaumont TX | 888.842.1601



* ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER



Redfish are abundant on the west side of the river, but not particularly big.

"There's tons of little rat reds on the west side right now, and I heard the east side, also," LeNormand said. "So you're going to have to weed through a lot of little ones to get to get your limit of decent-sized reds."

LeNormand said market or live shrimp under a cork is effective, as are spinnerbaits or gold spoons.

"Some points and leeward pockets have been pretty clean where you could actually sight-fish or throw spinnerbaits or spoons," he said.

What happens to the trout bite as the month progresses is dependent on how the Mighty Mississippi behaves, LeNormand said.

"That's when the trout ought to start moving out toward the Gulf a little more. They should have just spawned this past full moon in May and dropped their first batch of eggs," he said. "Usually the summer pattern will have them moving further out toward the Gulf, or out in the mid-bays as June progresses.

"That's when you want to try to fish the beaches — if the river drops. The main thing is if the river drops."

Trout have also been scarce on the east side of the river, but LeNormand said that could change as well if the river cooperates.

"The Iron Banks and Stone Island are usually awesome this time of year, but it's full of river water right now," he said. "But into June, if the river keeps dropping, it might not be too bad out there." ■

- Patrick Bonin

Bayou Lake up next >

we've got a blind for YOU



**CALL US TODAY!
337-824-2176**

IN STOCK

Newly Innovated Design!

5 Minute Boiler
MULTIPLE SIZES

Duck & Goose Blinds
AVAILABLE IN ALL SIZES

NEW!

HUGHES MANUFACTURING LLC
1300 AIRPORT RD. • JENNINGS, LA 70546
337.824.2176

Find us on Facebook

www.hugheswelding.com

CRAPPIE MAKING CONVERTS ON BLACK BAYOU LAKE

Target structure in
deeper water

Black Bayou Lake summer slabs like this one made Randy Smith a convert to white perch fishing.

A few years back, the only time Randy Smith ever caught a crappie was by accident. Now, he dedicates most of his time on the water chasing them.

"I've been bass fishing since I was 16, but now I fish mostly for white perch," Smith said. "One of the main reasons I converted is Black Bayou Lake north of Monroe. It's an incredible white perch lake. The thing that is unique about it is that you hardly ever catch small fish. It's amazingly consistent."

The 5,300-acre lake is part of the Black

Bayou National Wildlife Refuge operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Make sure you know all the regulations before entering the refuge or the lake. One example is the 50-horsepower outboard maximum allowed there.

"Late May through June and July, the fish will be moving back into a little deeper water, but they will still be around the same type of structure. That's trees and grass," he said. "Because the lake is literally full of them both."

But getting a jig down into the crappie's feeding zone isn't always easy. Some

people actually poke holes in the grass and then fish them. Smith doesn't do that, but he is constantly looking for holes to drop his jig through.

He also explained that Black Bayou is basically a flat lake, so when fish move into deeper water there, it isn't much of a transition. It's usually from 5 feet to about 8 feet of water.

"It isn't easy fishing," he said. "But it is productive. The key this time of year is to find what depth they are in and stick to structure in that depth range."

"The lake all basically looks alike. You

won't find them in the shallower trees this time of year. You will start to find them in the lily pads, too. The key is finding pads in the deeper water."

Hair jigs are the lake favorite, and color selection at Black Bayou is fairly simple.

"What most people here will tell you is to fish black and chartreuse. And if you don't fish that, then fish black and chartreuse," he chuckled. "Any questions?"

Smith noted that sometimes jighead colors make a difference. Black is the "go-to" color, but some days an orange head or red head will make a world of difference. He also fishes a little gray hair jig late in the day, and also uses plastics like blue thunder or electric chicken.

The other most important thing for fishermen is to determine what presentation the fish want. Most of the time, it's a straight vertical jig presentation with little movement. But there are days when they won't touch it unless you swim it.

"The only way to find that out is to spend some time on the water," he said. "And at Black Bayou, it's worth every second of it." ■

- Kinny Haddox

Grand Isle up next >

-VENICE, LA- FURNISHED TRAILER FOR SALE



16x84 that has been completely gutted, new metal roof, 2x4 studs, new flooring, foam insulation in walls and ceiling, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, laundry room with washer and dryer, pantry, microwave, full size refrigerator, side by side refrigerator, garbage disposal, dishwasher, washer and dryer, 2 queen size beds, 3 tvs with DIRECTV, central heat and air (overhead vents), deck with furniture and electrical and sink, grill and propane burner cooker with tank, security cameras. **READY TO MOVE IN!**

\$98,000⁰⁰



We also have other properties available: House trailer with covered front porch, 4200 sq ft building on 1+ acre with road frontage on 2 sides.

Properties are priced to sell. If interested, or know someone that may be, please contact me.

Gene Curtis, 601-270-5389 • genecurtis@comcast.net



Ace's Retrievers

15+ Years Experience

*Driven Naturally to Accomodate.....
It's in their DNA.*

- Located 1 hour from New Orleans
- The best in British/Irish Labradors available
- The best customer service
- Excellent pedigrees, Spectacular Health Clearances, Second-to-none Health Guarantees
- True full service kennel: Puppies, Started Puppies, Started Dogs, Imported Finished Dogs, Started Blood Trailing Labradors, Monthly Training, Boarding (large dogs)
- Well rounded, obedient dogs who make excellent companions and hunting partners
- Trained without the aid of e-collars
- Started dog payment program available

WWW.ACESRETRIEVERS.COM
Call (228) 493-7474
email us @ acesretrievers@gmail.com
Facebook - Team Ace's Retrievers

Shipping Available



Captain Paul's G.P.S. Systems™

For the Best Advice & Hands on Instruction in this New High Tech Navigation System

CAPTAIN PAUL'S FISHING EDGE of GPS WAYPOINTS are available on the Web at THE LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN'S "OUTDOOR STORE"

www.LouisianaSportsman.com
PRIVATE GROUP SEMINAR RATES
INDIVIDUAL TUTORING • SCHEDULED SEMINARS

For information
Call Captain Paul@ (985) 847-0536
e-mail: captainpaultgps@gmail.com

GRAND ISLE WADE-FISHING

SET YOUR SIGHTS BETWEEN
THE FIRST AND SECOND
SANDBARS, ANGLER SAYS

Micah Doyle is a full-time student at LSU, but when he's away from the classroom during the summer, he loves targeting speckled trout. The avid angler makes several trips throughout this month to get in on the wade-fishing action at the beach on Grand Isle.

One of the major reasons why people don't have success doing this, Doyle said, is because they do not wade far enough out.

"All the people you talk to in Grand Isle say not to go past your ankles in the water," he said. "From my own experience, and I feel like I've got quite a bit of experience with fishing the surf in Grand Isle, is that has never worked, and the fish are always between the first and second sandbars"

One easy way to tell if you're far enough away from the beach is to visually look for the sandbars.

"If the water is real clean, you can see that second sandbar," he said. "If you can, throw to that second sandbar and fish the trough between the second and first sandbar."

Doyle starts his summer trips before the sun comes up, but he said not to be flustered if the fish don't bite at daybreak.



Micah Doyle walks the beach at Grand Isle with a net full of speckled trout.

"If the fish aren't biting, especially during the summer, you can guarantee that eventually you're going to catch fish," he said.

A key part of success is tide movement. "The water has got to be moving," he said.

Doyle starts off almost every morning with a topwater rigged up. It's one of his favorite ways to fish, and it can be super productive up until a certain point in the day.

"There's always this finite point where they just stop hitting topwater, and then tight-lining with a Matrix Shad on a GoldenEye jighead always seems to work," he

said.

When tight-lining, Doyle works his bait in a unique way.

"In Grand Isle I find you cast, let it sink for a second and then just continually pop it," he said. "I don't really fish like that anywhere but in Grand Isle."

For anglers who are looking for big fish, wading in Grand Isle might not be your best option — but it can provide a lot of fast action.

"Very often, you'll get smacked as soon as the bit hits the water," he said. "When they're biting, they're biting. If you catch one, it fires them all up." ■

- Joel Masson

Venue up next >



YOUR LEADER IN GULF SOUTH SPORTS

www.CoxSportsTV.com

CoxSportsTV @CoxSportsTV CoxSportsTV

Avenger

AV-26



For more information, go to AvengerBayBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on Facebook at Avenger Bay Boats
for the latest available information.



222 Sportfish



For more information, go to PioneerBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on Facebook at Pioneer Boats
for the latest available information.

From The
Back Water
To The
Blue Water



230CC



For more information, go to BullsBayBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on Facebook at Bulls Bay Boats
for the latest available information.

TAKE YOUR PICK OUT OF VENICE



Being prepared with live bait like pogies, hardtails or mullet will be key if you plan on making a tuna trip out of Venice this summer.

Photo courtesy Capt. Martha Spenser and Capt. John Cole/Southern Catch Outfitters

TUNA, RED SNAPPER, SPECKLED TROUT AND REDFISH ALL GREAT OPTIONS IN JUNE

Offshore, Venice fishing got off to a slow start in 2018, but almost halfway through the year things are finally turning around.

Late tuna action this spring meant larger fish in May, but not tremendous numbers. So heading into June, live bait will be important.

Pogies can be caught with cast nets in the bays out of most passes. Other species

of live bait will soon be showing up on the rigs, and can be caught using sabiki-rig set-ups.

"Catch your bait as early as possible, and shoot for a minimum of 75 live baits," Capt. Andre Boudreau of Louisiana Offshore Fishing Charters said. "Spend the time to catch your bait and be patient."

Your best bait will likely be live pogies, but croakers, mullet and hardtails are

known to be eaten, too. Hardtails will soon show up on the rigs, and also can be caught on sabiki rigs.

Hook your live bait through the shoulder, being careful not to pierce the brain or hook too far back.

If you're looking for tuna, you'll definitely want to find blue water. Set your drift by backing into the current. And always keep a topwater rod set up in case

you come upon tunas in open water on your way out, or between rigs. Plan on traveling an average of 25 to 35 miles out of the river to locate rigs holding fish.

With red snapper season opening late in May in both federal and state waters, it should mean fast limits — as they are both plentiful in numbers and large in size. Cut bait, with whatever weight



Redfish action should be ramping up out of Venice, and live or dead shrimp under a cork should get the job done.

Photo courtesy Kyle Grey/REO Charters and Capt. Andre Boudreau

necessary to get through the current, dropped 50 to 100 feet should result in quick hookups. Remember, legal limits are two red snapper per person, with a 16-inch minimum total length. Mangrove snapper limits are 10 per person, with a minimum total length of 12 inches.

"Trout have come in and we are starting to see action at the islands. And as long as the weather calms down, the redfish should be on fire, as it should be," said Capt. Larry Hooper, with Our Freedom Charters. "Redfish grow approximately an inch per month, so all of the 15 1/2-inch fish we caught in May will be perfect eating size by June and July. Live bait suspended under a popping cork about a foot-and-a-half works best, but redfish will also eat dead shrimp.

"Plastics become more challenging as bait thins out in the marsh." ■

- Capt. Martha Spencer

DON'T GET BUSTED BY THE DHH

(DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOSPITALS)



LUS-75 CAMP UNIT

5 YEAR FACTORY WARRANTY



COMES COMPLETE
READY FOR YOU TO INSTALL
SALT, FRESH, OR BLACK WATER
INSTALL ABOVE OR BELOW GROUND
A LICENSED PLUMBER **NOT REQUIRED**

Approved by the Louisiana Department of Public Health and Hospitals as defined in Title 51 of the Public Health - Louisiana Sanitary Code as a Limited Use Sewage Treatment System. The LUS-75 CAMP UNIT is a biological aerobic (bacteria & air) sewage treatment system. Constructed of a Durable, Lightweight, Corrosion Proof, LLDPE material. **THIS UNIT IS NOT AFFECTED BY THE HARSHTEST ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: 337-330-4408

Email: sales@houseboatoutlet.com

VISIT US ONLINE:

www.houseboatoutlet.com

www.facebook.com/aheadsanitationsystems

BRING THIS AD WITH YOU FOR A \$100 DISCOUNT

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



THREE MEN CITED FOR ALLEGEDLY POSSESSING 35 REDFISH

TWENTY-EIGHT OF THE FISH WERE UNDERSIZED, LDWF SAYS

Agents with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries cited three men in Jefferson Parish in May for allegedly possessing 35 redfish, according to a news release.

Floyd W. Talley, 69, of Marrero, Adam H. Talley, 47, of Lafitte and Carl J. Delery Jr., 58, of Kenner, were cited for possession of over the limit and undersized red drum, the release states. Adam Talley also was cited for not having a valid basic and saltwater fishing license.

Agents were performing a boating safety and creel check when they allegedly found the men in possession of seven limits of redfish, of which 28 were undersized. The subjects admitted to catching the fish that day, according to the release.

The daily limit for red drum is five per person, with a minimum size limit of 16 inches. Agents seized the 35 red drum and donated them to a local charity, according to the release.

Possession of over 10 redfish brings a

\$400 to \$900 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Possession of undersized redfish carries a \$100 to \$350 fine and up to 60 days in jail. Failing to possess basic fishing and saltwater fishing licenses each brings up to a \$50 fine and 15 days in jail, the release states.

The men may also face civil restitution for the replacement value of the illegally possessed fish totaling \$926.45, the release states. ■

Get Back On The Water

SUMMER SALE!



Frontier boats Discover New Motors 2104



180
Frontier boats Discover New Motors



Blackjack boats 224



Blackjack boats 256

**CALL OR
STOP BY
TODAY!**



5196 Hwy. 311 • Houma, LA
985-876-7821
Mon - Fri 8am - 5:30pm • Sat 8am - Noon



TIPS TO FEEL MORE BITES

LINE-WATCHING IS KEY IN DEEPER WATER

By Capt. Devin Denman

Without a doubt, Louisiana has some of the best inshore fishing in the world. We have so many speckled trout and redfish, spread across so much marsh, that many are hardly pressured at all. And they usually hit so hard that all you have to do is lift up on the rod and start reeling.

Of course, most are caught in relatively shallow water, making for easy bite-detection because there is little bow in the line. But not every fishing trip is like this.

WHEN SETTING THE HOOK COUNTS

Sometimes we fish deeper water, say 15 to 30 feet, where a bite is less discernible due to a wider bow in the line.

And it's even worse when casting up-current. The bait hits the water, then immediately comes back toward the boat, knocking slack in the line. Trout can hit that lure as hard as they want, and you would never know if there's 10 feet of slack.

Then there are days fish simply don't commit to the lure, with it going halfway into their mouth

before quickly being spit out. This affords you only a fraction of a second to set the hook, assuming you even felt the bite.

Here are a couple easy ways to help you detect the bite in time — and get more fish in the boat.

RIDE THE LINE

Your line is literally a direct connection to the fish, and you can feel it move if you have it going over your finger.

This technique only

works with casting tackle, but know that you can hold the line coming off a spinning reel to achieve the same effect — it's just not as fluid.

USE HIGH-VIS LINE

Fishing line comes in all kinds of colors these days, giving us inshore anglers a wide selection to choose from for differing applications.

One is fluorescent fishing line because it is so bright above the water's surface — making it incredibly easy to see fish bite.

I prefer to use blue or gold fluorescent monofilament for this purpose and, while I am working a lure, pay attention not to my rod tip, but to the spot where the line goes into the water.

The slightest "tick" to the left or right is a dead giveaway that something bit the lure.

In fact, this is hands-down the best way to detect a bite, more so than riding the line or even using a super-sensitive rod.

Lake Pontchartrain's best anglers use this technique — and you should, too.

WHAT ABOUT BRAID?

Note that I didn't mention using braid for its sensitivity.

Yes, braid is far more sensitive than monofilament or fluorocarbon, having virtually zero stretch, but I don't feel that's a solution for detecting more bites.

Instead, I feel it's like a band-aid without the above-mentioned knowledge, which would still leave some hits undetected.

I have had much more success by learning and using the three tips mentioned above — especially the last one.

Learn how to do that, with or without braid, and you'll find yourself catching far more fish, and you might even gain legendary status with your friends as the angler who can pull fish out of one spot when others can't. ■

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.



Using high-vis line, and keeping a close eye on where the line enters the water, are great ways to detect trout bites in deeper water.



Brookhaven Honda

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

**2016 PIONEER
1000**
SXS10M3



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$13,999*
SALE.....\$10,697

**2017 PIONEER™
500**
SXS500M2H



5 AVAILABLE

MSRP\$8,999*
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

**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®, 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 to view applicable destination charge amount.

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

Guaranteed Fish!
 Experience Louisiana's
 Most Professional
 Guide Service

BAYOU CHARTERS
 Rated #1 in Louisiana
504-278 FISH
 www.CaptainCharlie.com

- Light Tackle
- Fly Fishing
- Redfish
- Speckled Trout

H&M Fishing Charters
 (985)258-3632 • handm@grand-isle.com
 5 Boats Available. Fishing inland and coastal waters only.
 Specializing in trout and redfish.


Fishing Charter Includes
 • Bait • Ice • Fuel • Tackle • Rods & Reels

Y'all Come Pass A Good Time in Grand Isle, LA

**Grand Isle's
 Finest
 Fishing!!**



Poisson Rouge Fishing Charters



Delacroix Inshore Specks & Reds

NOLA accommodations available
504-782-4917

Hard Times FISHING CHARTERS



INLAND & COASTAL
 SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, BULL REDS & MORE
 FISH CLEANING AVAILABLE.

OFFSHORE RIG FISHING
 SNAPPER, COBIA, MANGROVE SNAPPER, & MORE

FUEL, GEAR & BAIT PROVIDED
 USCG LICENSED.

GRAND ISLE, LA
CAPTAIN MARK SCARDINO

HOME: 985-787-3529 • CELL: 504-382-5286
www.grand-isle.com/hardtimes

Dufrene's GUIDE SERVICE, INC.
 Specializing in Redfish & Speckled Trout

Fishing Delacroix
 Chad Dufrene
 dufrenesguideservice@yahoo.com
 Cell: (985)-637-6357

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



bobblyynns.com

RIPPIN LIP SERVICE, LLC

fishing the Golden Meadow, Grand Isle & Fourchon Area

TRIPS OUTINGS. FULLY SUPPLIED
 CATCH CLEANED, & PACKED

Specializing in Redfish & Speckled Trout

LOUISIANA & COAST GUARD LICENSED & INSURED

ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE
 CAPT. MIKE GUIDRY
 406 E. 74th St.
 Cut Off, LA 70345
985-632-5846
 e-mail: boodro@viscom.net
www.rippinlipguideservice.com
BROCHURES AVAILABLE!

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

GOOD TIMES FISHING CHARTERS GRAND ISLE, LA

All rods, tackle, fuel, ice and live bait provided
 (4 boats available)
 New 26' Avenger Available Now

CELL 504-382-5639 • 504-464-7909

Some of the BEST Inland/Coastal Speckled Trout & Red Fishing



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



FISHING SUPPLIES

Since 1999

alltackle.com

- Over 40,000 Fishing and Boating Items
- Rods, Reels, Lures, & Tackle
- Outriggers and Fighting Chairs

www.alltackle.com • 888-810-7283

TRAILERS

Claude's Trailers and Sales

Since 1963 Claude's has been taking care of the trailer needs of Acadiana. Whether you need a new Boat, Utility or Gooseneck trailer of just have a problem with your current trailer, Claude's can solve your problem.

No matter where you bought your trailer, no matter what brand, Claude's services them all. We are one of a few service facilities that can build custom axles



**6400 Hwy 14
New Iberia, La. 70560 337-367-1141**

TROLLING MOTORS

CUSTOM INSTALLATION AND RIGGING

- BATTERIES
- CHARGERS
- MINNKOTA
- TALON
- HUMMINBIRD
- YAMAHA
- FISHING TACKLE



- STEERING
- JACK PLATES
- MOTORGUIDE
- POWER-POLE
- LOWRANCE
- MERCURY
- MAPS & MAP CARDS

2221 N. Airway • Baton Rouge, LA 70815
NEW & USED SALES & REPAIRS

MARINAS

Now Leasing Rigolets Marina Luxury Condos

52250 Hwy 90 Slidell, La at a Full Service Marina w/live bait, tackle, fuel ice, dry storage, groceries and much more



Starting @ \$1350 a Mo.

- Features:
- Attached Garage
 - Boat Slip w/ Lift
 - 2 Covered Balconies
 - Furnished & Unfurnished
 - 2 bedrooms - 2 1/2 bath (one full)
 - Stainless Refrigerator, Washer & Dryer, Dishwasher and Microwave

I-10 Slidell Exit 263 South 6 Miles **985-640-1566**
lralph22@aol.com

REAL ESTATE



5 acres on Grand Bayou Reservoir includes camp house and more \$229,000

Contact United Land & Homes, LLC 318-678-3000

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



(830)868-7109 | Ryan@ShirleyRanch.com | Follow Us:
www.ShirleyRanch.com

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

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

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 140, we have deer 200+. www.sdwhitetails.com 325-642-7596

REAL ESTATE

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 crab nets, bring crab nets!!! Charters & Swamp Tours available nearby!! manatee@manateehavens.com \$895/weekly (305)360-5835!!! 305-360-5835 3RE-101/W

121 ACRES LOCATED IN WEBSTER COUNTY, MS known as 'Old Cove Hunting Club' great deer and turkey hunting. Good hardwood timber. A very special place! For more information go to www.oldcoveuporams.com. Contact Wayne at 662-417-2354 662-417-2354 3RE-103/W

MELERINES CAMP RENTAL 3 bedroom house on Delacroix Island (504)431-3061 or (504) 491-9488 504-431-3061 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

BOATS FOR SALE



1998 28.5 CENTER CONSOLE MAKO w/ (2) 225HP Yamaha motors. Brand new 3 axle aluminum trailer. Asking \$42,500. Please call (985)688-2527 985-688-2527 2BS-101/P



2008 22FT FISHER FREEDOM PONTOON BOAT New upholstery, Tandem Axle trailer, Bimin top, 60HP Mercruy 4stroke 'Big foot' motor, port o potty!!! Call after 5pm! Asking \$12,900 337-501-9922 1BS-102/P

Peel & Stick



SPORTSMANGear.com or 866-616-3315

Top It Off!



SPORTSMANGear.com
 or 866-616-3315



Brought to you by
BOWIE
OUTFITTERS
 Everything Outdoors

SPORTSMAN ^{tv}

Nothing'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, as the weather heats up so does the fishing. Tune in for useful info on trout, the skinny on redfish, and bass knowledge from Greg Hackney.

Cox Sports Television Thursdays - 6:30 pm, Saturdays - 8:30 am, Sundays - 9:00 am

▶ You can catch any episode you missed on louisianasportsman.com/sportsmantv

SPORTSMAN TV SPONSORS



ACE'S RETRIEVERS.....	179	ELITE STOR	16	QUIRK'S WELDING LLC	143
ALARIO BROTHERS.....	169	EXCEL BOATS	7	REDMOND MARINE	142
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.	50, 51	FIRST CHOICE REAL ESTATE SERVICES	167	REED'S METALS, INC.....	4
AQUA MARINE NEW ORLEANS.....	74	FIRST NATIONAL BANK USA.....	86	S&D WHITETAILS.....	125
ASCENSION EQUIPMENT & RENT ALL	6	FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT	195	SCULLY'S.....	106, 160
ASCENSION GOLF CART.....	158	FRABILL.....	101	SEA TRAC OFFSHORE SERVICES	83
ATV ZONE.....	73	FRED NETTERVILLE LUMBER.....	67	SERVICE CHEVROLET.....	11
B & B ENTERPRISES INC	17	G3 BOATS.....	93	SLIDELL MARINE	99, 148
BAYOU OUTBOARDS, INC.	116	GATOR TAIL OUTBOARDS.....	3	SOUTHERN EXPOSURE INLAND FISHING CHARTERS	145
BENT MARINE.....	65	GATOR TRAX	109	SOUTHERN OUTDOORS & MARINE,LLC.....	25, 79
BERRYLAND CAMPERS.....	46	GEICO - SPECIAL MARKETING	2	SOUTHERN POWER AND EQUIPMENT, LLC	149
BEST BOAT & RV STORAGE II	69	GENE CURTIS	179	SPORTSMAN TV.....	191
BIG TEX TRAILER-BROUSSARD.....	77	GIBSON REALTY/UNITED COUNTRY	115	SPOTS AND SPECKS.....	170
BLANCHARD'S REFRIGERATION	78	GRAND ISLE TOURIST COMMISSION	88	SPRO CORPORATION (THE POWELL GROUP)	101
BLUE DOT MARINE	161	GULF SHORES AND ORANGE BEACH TOURISM	157	STAR BRITE, INC	173
BLUE WAVE BOATS	141	H&H MARINE.....	185	STERLING'S UPHOLSTERY	38
BOAT CITY USA.....	60, 61	H&M MARINE.....	133	STRIKE KING LURE COMPANY	85
BOAT STUF.....	107	HANKO'S.....	66	TERREBONNE MARINE	78
BOATS UNLIMITED	94, 95, 97	HENDERSON.....	119	TEXAS MARINE.....	177
BOBBY LYNN'S MARINA	16	HOUSEBOAT OUTLET	183	THE PROP SHOP	151
BOSS DRIVES	139	HUGHES WELDING AND MFG.....	177	THE SPORTSMAN.....	170
BREAUX AND DAIGLE MARINE.....	52, 53	HYDRO TURF.....	49	TIM'S MARINE	15
BRIDGESIDE / SAND DOLLAR	84	IRON SKY RETRIEVERS	23	TOHATSU AMERICAN CORPORATION	116, 117
BROOKHAVEN HONDA	187	JEFF REGISTER BUILDING & TRUSS.....	123	TOP OF THE ROCK ADVENTURES	88
BRYAN'S MARINE	35	JERRY'S MARINE	28	TOUCHARD MARINE SUPPLY.....	68
CAJUN OUTBOARDS	31	K2 MARINE	111	TOWN & COUNTRY MARINE	43, 133
CAPTAIN PAUL TITUS.....	129, 179	L & S BAIT COMPANY.....	33	TRACKER MARINE GROUP	135
CAROLINA COMPOSITES, LLC.....	181	LAKE AREA MARINE	143	TWIN LAKES WHITETAILS	183
CASE LAND CO, LLC.....	156	LIVETARGET.....	75	UNDERWATER FISH LIGHT LLC.....	45
CCA - LOUISIANA.....	171	LOUISIANA LOTTERY	19	VERMILION PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION	17
CHRIS' CAJUN BOILER / STEAMER.....	129	LOUISIANA SPORTSMAN SHOW.....	8, 9	WHITETAIL PROPERTIES	121
COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR CO.	37	M&L ENGINE.....	113	WILEY X.....	86, 87
COTTONMOUTH CUSTOM BOATS.....	23	MARINE LIFT AND DOCK SUPPLY COMPANY.....	98	XPRESS BY ALUMA-WELD, INC.	196
COVER'S UNLIMITED	174	MCM LUMBER	156	YAMAHA MOTOR COMPANY.....	21
COX SPORTS TELEVISION.....	57, 176, 180	MEPLAT GROUP C/O CERBERUS AGENCY.....	5	YO-ZURI.....	113
CRAWFISH TOWN USA	88	METRO BOATING	44	Z-MAN FISHING PRODUCTS.....	105
CUSTOM CORRUGATED AND SUPPLY	13	MIKE GERALD'S TRAILER.....	145		
CYPRESS COVE BOATING.....	147	MOLPUS TIMBERLANDS MONROE OFFICE.....	123		
DAGATE'S MARINE	131	MOSELEY & HOLLARD MEN'S CLOTHING	41		
DAIWA.....	58, 59	PARISH TRACTOR.....	89		
DEEP SOUTH GOLF CARS.....	151	PELLEGRIN MARINE	112		
DIXIE RV	175	PLANO SYNERGY	67		
DOCKSIDE MARINE.....	38	P-LINE /G. PUCCI & SONS.....	159		
DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE.....	68, 116	PRO DRIVE.....	100		
DUVIC'S BOATS.....	45, 194	PUGLIA'S SPORTING GOODS	102, 103		

Get decked out in the latest from the **SPORTSMAN** Store 10, 193

Subscribe Today and **SAVE** 163

THE COOLEST SHIRT YOU'LL EVER OWN.

SPORTSMAN COOL BREEZE

NEW COLORS AND STYLES NOW AVAILABLE



AMERICA'S #1 RATED PERFORMANCE FISHING SHIRT

- Quick-Dry Moisture Support
- 50+ Sun Protection
- Anti-Microbial/Odor Control
- Vented for Superior Breathability



SPORTSMANGEAR.COM

New colors & options available online

DUVIC'S!

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

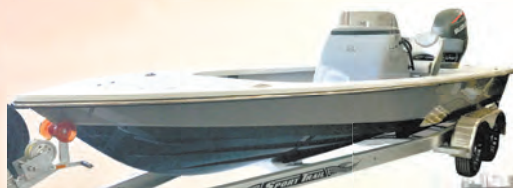
KW KEY WEST



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 | 800-955-1722



First South
Farm Credit

20
18

next level: elite performance



xpress boats®

The original all-welded aluminum boat company
is proud to announce **Bill Lowen,**
Bassmaster Elite Angler to its
Next Level Elite Team.

www.xpressboats.com

"Xpress Boats® truly depicts who I am as a competitive angler and outdoorsman. I fish hard, I play hard, and with Xpress there is a solution for every one of my outdoor pursuit needs".

Xpress Boats prefers to LEAD, not follow, prefers to pioneer, not copy, prefers to be the choice for the finest performing, finest built, original all-welded, high performance aluminum boats on the market today.

For additional information visit our website at
www.xpressboats.com.



Bill Lowen
Bassmaster Elite Angler

