

Louisiana

RV EDITION



SPORTSMAN[®]

MARCH 2021

www.LouisianaSPORTSMAN.com

BIG BASS HANGOUTS

**TIE ON A
SWIM JIG**

**HIT WOOD
FOR BASS**

**PADDLE UP
'GREEN TROUT'**

**CANDID CAMERA
GOBBLERS**

**PLANER BOARD
CRAPPIE**

**MARSH ISLAND
REDFISH**

**HARD BAIT
FOR SPECKS**


**TRICKS FOR
MARCH TROUT**



\$3.99

MARCH 2021





A deal you
can't pass up.
From your expert,
local dealer.



Get the expert service and quality parts that only your local Kubota dealer can deliver. They'll take great care of you and your equipment. Register for this great deal at KubotaOilOffer.com.

GET **\$10** OR MORE OFF A 5 GALLON BUCKET
OF KUBOTA UDT2 HYDRAULIC OIL

Parish Tractor

1602 S Main St
Poplarville, MS 39470
(601)-795-4521

KubotaUSA.com

© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2021. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer. For the complete disclaimer, go to KubotaUSA.com/disclaimers and see the posted disclaimer. Coupons must be present when service order is written or parts are purchased. Not valid with any other offer of discounted service. Offer good for \$10 off one 5 gallon bucket of Kubota UDT or Super UDT2 hydraulic fluid for B, BX, and LX Series tractors; \$20 off of two 5 gallon buckets of Kubota UDT or Super UDT2 hydraulic fluid for L Series tractor; and \$30 off of three 5 gallon buckets of Kubota UDT or Super UDT2 hydraulic fluid for M Series tractor (excluding M7). One coupon per customer per tractor. Valid only with original genuine Kubota parts purchased at the dealership. Coupon not valid on previous charges. Subject to availability. Coupons have no cash value. Excludes hazardous waste fee, tax and shop supplies. Offer valid through 3/31/2021

CHEVROLET



THE 2021 CHEVROLET **SILVERADO**

AVAILABLE NOW AT



CHEVROLET | CADILLAC

337-234-9411
ServiceGM.com

FIND NEW ROADS™



BREAUX & DAIGLE MARINE, INC.

985-252-6411 | HWY. 70, PIERRE PART, LA

www.breauxdaiglemarine.com

20 XB | SPECIFICATIONS

- Length 20' 1"
- Beam 97"
- Transom Height 20"
- Max Horsepower 200 HP
- Side Height 24"
- Bottom Width 69"
- Approximate Draft 11"
- Aluminum - 5052 Gauge 0.125
- Approximate Boat Weight 1,594 lbs
- Fuel Capacity 32 Gallons*
- Divided Livewell 25 Gallons
- Aft Storage Boxes 50 Quarts Each
- Forward Insulated Cooler/Day Box 37 Quarts
- Persons and Total Persons Weight 4/750 lbs
- Max Weight Capacity 1760 lbs



AVID BOATS BOAT DEALER!

23 FS | SPECIFICATIONS

- Length 22' 7"
- Beam 97"
- Transom Height 25"
- Max Horsepower 200 HP
- Side Height 24"
- Bottom Width 69"
- Approximate Draft 12"
- Aluminum - 5052 Gauge 0.125
- Deadrise @ Transom 13°
- Approximate Boat Weight 1,580 lbs
- Fuel Capacity 34 Gallons*
- Forward Livewell/Baitwell 13 Gallons
- Aft Livewell 21 Gallons
- Bow Fish Box 100 Quarts
- Persons and Total Persons Weight 8/1157 lbs
- Max Weight Capacity 2030 lbs



ALL
POWERED
BY



YAMAHA

They're Scratch-tastic!



Scan to Download
Your FREE Lottery App.



LOUISIANA
LOTTERY
CORPORATION

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.

27

SUN-SOAKED WOOD
= BASS



69

HARD BAITS FOR
SPECKS



Louisiana CONTENTS

Volume 41 | Number 3 | March 2021

FEATURES:

27 SUN-SOAKED WOOD = BASS COVER STORY

The warmest water around on a late-winter or early spring day will be right against wood that's been taking in direct sunlight. And that's one place the bass will be.

> By Keith Lusher Jr.

31 IT ONLY TAKES ONE

A single, isolated piece of cover will often be a spot where a big, prespawn or post-spawn bass is hanging out. Here's how to fish a spot like that when you find one.

> By Kinny Haddox

39 GO FOR A SWIM

Swim jig is a perfect lure for bass when it seems like nothing else is working, and it doesn't take a genius to tie one on and fish it effectively.

> By Bobby Cleveland

69 HARD BAITS FOR SPECKS

Twitchbaits, jerkbaits, stickbaits — they all have their place in the tackle boxes of anglers targeting speckled trout. Here are a few ideas about choosing and using them.

> By Jon Miller

85 CRAPPIE ON A DIFFERENT PLANE

Planner boards allow fishermen to slow-troll their baits and lures in extremely shallow water as prespawn slabs move toward the bank. Here's how to set up for this technique.

> By Dusty Wilson

97 SMILE, TOM, YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA

Don't put up your trail cameras after deer season ends; they can be great tools for preseason turkey scouting.

> By Andy Douglas

FISHING HOTSPOTS:

50 Toledo Bend

78 Marsh Island

52 Sabine River

90 Tchefuncte River

76 Lake Ponchartrain

77 Golden Meadow

SAVINGS SO REAL YOU CAN ALMOST TOUCH THEM.



Switch to GEICO and see how easy it could be to save money on boat insurance. Simply visit [geico.com/boat](https://www.geico.com/boat) to get started.

GEICO | FOR YOUR BOAT

[geico.com/boat](https://www.geico.com/boat) | 1-877-434-2678 | Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2021 GEICO. 21_550729281



97

SMILE, TOM,
YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA



Louisiana
SPORTSMAN

www.LouisianaSPORTSMAN.com

PRESIDENT: Lisa Lottinger Cuccia

PUBLISHER: Jonathan Menard

MANAGING EDITORS: Alicia LaFont, Dan Kibler

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Jeff Caldwell

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Desiree P. Lewis

ART DIRECTOR: Kevin Orgeron

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:
Jeff Cashio, Alissa Zeringue

ADVERTISING SALES:
Mark Hilzim (National Sales), Asa Faulkner,
Mark Boyd, Burton Angelle, Peter Church,
Bret Holten and David Hughes

CONTROLLER: Juanita Guidry

CREDIT MANAGER: Dean Church

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: Bruce Mehrtens

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
Chris Berzas, Patrick Bonin, David A. Brown,
Chris Bush, Josh Chauvin, Brian Cope, Darren,
Digby, John Flores, Bill Garbo, Kinny Haddox,
Capt. Steve Himel, Chris Holmes, Keith LaCaze,
Dora Lambert, John E. Manion IV, Joel Masson,
Todd Masson, Jon Miller, David Moreland,
Sammy Romano, Don Shoopman and Rusty
Tardo

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:
advertising@LouisianaSportsman.com
985.758.7217

CIRCULATION INQUIRIES:
985.758.7217

**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, Founder, 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 41 | No 3

OUTDOOR UPDATE:

10 TWO HUGE BUSSEY BRAKE CRAPPIE, DESCEND ACT, UNIQUE TEAL, CANEY LAKE LUNKERS

PLUS

18 MORE BIG BUCKS



85

CRAPPIE ON
A DIFFERENT PLANE

ON THE COVER:



Like spring, bass fishing is busting out all over Louisiana in March. Learn how to fish sun-soaked wood, single bits of cover and swim jigs this month. Photo by Brian Carroll.

COLUMNS:

- 44 PADDLES 'N PUDDLES**
By Chris Holmes
- 48 LURE REVIEW** By Don Shoopman
- 95 SPECIES SPOTLIGHT** By Brian Cope
- 102 GRUNTS & GOBBLES**
By David Moreland

DEPARTMENTS:

- 56 Bass Class**
- 61 Sportsman RV Section**
- 65 Sportsman Showcase**
- 105 Fishing Regs**
- 106 Sportsman Astro Tables**
- 107 Sportsman Tide Guide**
- 108 Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook**
- 114 Sportsman Classifieds**
- 115 Advertiser Index**



BLUE WAVE

Makaira & 2800 Pure Hybrid

NOW Standard with 3-Sided Tempered Glass Windshield & Garmin Electronics

NOW Available with Second Station

RULE THE BAY or CONQUER THE BLUE

build yours online | www.bluewaveboats.com



Outdoor
UPDATE

'NEW' BUSSEY BRAKE GIVES UP LOUISIANA'S NO. 2 WHITE CRAPPIE

By Kinny Haddox

If you are a betting man, the odds might be in your favor if you put down a wager on Bussey Brake Reservoir as the spot to give up the next state-record crappie in Louisiana.

Local fisherman Anthony Griffith isn't a pro with a lot of fancy equipment, but he was in the right place at the right time on Jan. 30 on the 2,200-acre lake in Morehouse Parish. Griffith dropped a green/gold, hand-tied Jimmy Watt hair jig into the flooded bushes and pulled out a 3.6-pound white crappie. Griffith had it weighed on certified scales and is submitting it to Louisiana State Fish Records. When certified, it will be the No. 2 white crappie ever caught in Louisiana.

"I'm not going to lie," Griffith said. "When that fish came up and rolled on the top of the water, it was so awesome it scared me. I said, 'Oh, Lord, help me get this fish in the boat!' I caught it without a LiveScope, no side-imaging, just old-school, single-poling. I fish with a 10-foot B'n'M Tree Thumper. I was just in the right place at the right time."

PERFECT TIMING

Griffith was sitting in his boat, enjoying the morning, when he felt a pretty solid thump on his line.

"When I set the hook, nothing happened for a few seconds," he said. "It just sat there. I thought I was hung. But then it moved. I didn't know what was going on until it rolled on top of the water. Then, oh my goodness. I switched my pole to my left hand, grabbed my little landing net and scooped it up. I don't have a very big net, and at first, I didn't think I could even fit it in the net."

What's interesting is that another fishermen told Griffith that somebody else had been sitting in that very spot but was leaving when Griffith arrived. So he just pulled in, tied up, and in a few minutes, "BAM," he felt the thump of the big slab. Griffith said he landed the whopper fish a few minutes after 9 a.m.; he snapped his first picture of it on his iPhone at 9:07.

OPPOSITE: Anthony Griffith with his 3.6-pound white crappie from Bussey Brake.

CATCH-AND-RELEASE

The rest is a story in itself. He kept the fish alive in his livewell with the aerators running. There are no certified scales at the lake, so he took it to a local man, Roy Riles, who had a set of bass tournament scales. When they saw how much it weighed, Griffith realized he had to find a set of certified scales, even though they knew the first scales were accurate. He put it in a 72-quart K2 cooler full of fresh water and drove to a local deer processor, Hammond's, and weighed it again on their certified scales. The weight didn't change: 3.60 pounds.

Griffith is a self-professed "weekend fisherman" who wanted to mount of his "catch of a lifetime" — but he also wanted to release the fish. So he took all the measurements to have a replica made, loaded the fish back in the ice chest full of water and headed back to Bussey Brake.

He got to the lake, took the big fish out, turned her loose and watched her swim away as several astounded fishermen stood by watching. One was a small boy who was fishing off the pier at the main boat dock.

"We've got something special here, and I hope people will take care of it so it stays special for a long time," said Griffith, 48. "Maybe that fish will just keep on growing, and some young fisherman like that boy that watched me release the fish can catch it one day, and it will be the state record."

BUSSEY'S FIRST SPRING BACK

This is the first winter/spring period that Bussey Brake has been open in almost 10 years after being closed and refurbished by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. It has been restocked, but this fish are obviously one that had been in the lake for quite a while.

When certified, Griffith's fish will be the No. 2 white crappie ever caught in Louisiana. It surpasses the previous No. 2 white crappie caught by Twayne Hosea at Poverty Point in February 2016. The top white crappie is a 3.80-pound Lake Verret fish caught by Tim Ricca in May 2010. The state-record black crappie weighed 3.84 pounds and was caught by Jan Causey at Poverty Point in April 2020. ■



This is the gold/ green hand-tied Jimmy Watt hair jig that fooled a 3.6-pound Bussey Brake slab.

“Maybe that fish will just keep on growing, and some young fisherman like that boy that watched me release the fish can catch it one day, and it will be the state record.

DESCEND ACT WILL TAKE EFFECT IN 2022

The Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices (DESCEND) Act of 2020 was signed into law on Jan. 13, 2021. It will require commercial and recreational vessels (including for-hire) to have a venting tool or descending device rigged and ready to use when fishing for reef fish species in Gulf of Mexico Federal waters. It will go into effect in January 2022.

The DESCEND Act was passed to try and reduce mortality caused by barotrauma on reef species like red snapper. Barotrauma is an increase in internal gas pressure caused by the sudden changes in pressure that fish undergo when being reeled up from depths generally greater than 90 feet, although it can occur in shallower waters of 33 feet or more. Fish experiencing barotrauma have difficulty quickly swimming back to the depth they were caught, often floating on the surface where they are vulnerable to attack by dolphins, sharks, and birds.

Descending devices are outlined as a weighted hook, limp clam or box that will hold a fish as it is lowered to a sufficient depth to allow for recovery from barotrauma. A venting tool is a sharpened, hollow instrument that can penetrate a fish's abdomen to release excess gas acquired as it was reeled up.

The next step for the DESCEND Act of 2020 is for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to develop an implementation plan along with outreach and education materials.

For more information on barotrauma, the different types of devices, and how to use them visit the LDWF Spotlight on Barotrauma at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/barotrauma>. ■



James Morgan of Rocky Branch with his 3.22-pound Bussey Brake black crappie.

BUSSEY BRAKE BLACK CRAPPIE SHATTERS 3-POUND MARK

By Kinny Haddox

James Morgan, a former resident of Bastrop, fished Bussey Brake for decades back in the old days and caught untold numbers of crappie, including several 3-pound slabs, so he was excited to get back to the lake on Jan. 23 for the first time since it reopened last summer.

Morgan, who now lives in Rocky Point, was rewarded beyond his own expectations. He flipped a Jimmy Watt black/chartreuse jig with a pink head way back up in the brush and pulled out a 3.32-pound black crappie on his 11-foot Ozark rod and Martin fly reel. The fish, if certified, will rank No. 6 in the Louisiana State Fish Records. He weighed it on certified scales at K&M Coffee, Corks and Camo in Farmerville.

"(It) was kind of a miserable morning," Morgan said. "It was misty rain and foggy, and that's not a good place for somebody who wears glasses, but I went anyway. Catching that fish made it worthwhile. I caught several, but that's the only one I kept."

CRAPPIE HEAD DEEP

Crappie fishermen were worried last summer and into the fall that Bussey Brake might not return to its glory days for crappie, because they were hard to catch. But cold weather has sent them to deeper holes, and the lake is producing some good catches right now.

"I was way up in some thick brush, and I had broken off a couple of times earlier," Morgan said. "I usually fish braid with a short monofilament leader, but I went to straight braid because of the conditions, and I'm glad I did."

"When that fish first hit, it really nailed it, and I thought for sure it was a catfish. When it started pulling, I just knew it wasn't a crappie, but when I caught a glimpse of it the first time, I got pretty excited. I hardly ever use a dip net, but I used it on this one."

Morgan said Bussey was drained for so long that the lake



bottom grew up in bushes and small trees, great for fishing. It isn't a large lake, and when fishing pressure gets too heavy in certain areas, fish will move out of deeper holes and scatter in that brush. That's the situation right now, according to Morgan, who said his fish was obviously one that had been in the lake for 5 to 7 years, not one of the fish restocked in the past couple of years.

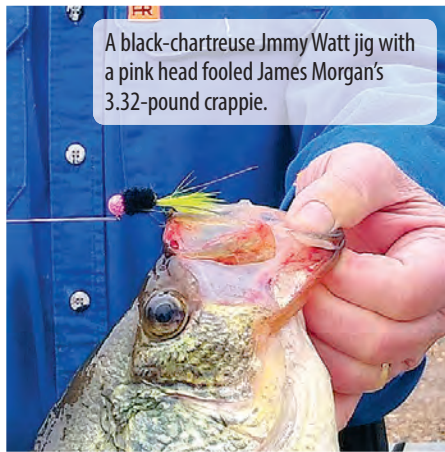
BUSSEY'S FISHERY

Bussey Brake is the only state-owned Wildlife Management Area that is a lake. It was donated to the state by International Paper and went through a long renovation before being reopened in 2020. It is in Morehouse Parish, about 5 miles north of Bastrop. It has an improved launching area and parking lot on the north end.

"My hope is that people will be responsible in managing the fishery in this lake and help it get back to the good old days where there are plenty of fish to catch for sport and for eating," Morgan said. "Everybody plays a role in that by fishing and harvesting responsibly, especially in these first few years.

"Some of the popular spots in the lake is like playing bumper boats right now because they get crowded, but there are fish in other areas. You just have to spend some time looking and fishing."

The fish population, though not fully mature, is able to sustain fishing at this time. Special LDWF regulations have been put in place to protect the young and expanding fishery, and to hopefully ensure a quality fishing experience for all anglers. The regulations for crappie are a 25-fish daily creel limit with a 10-inch minimum size limit. All fishing gears other than rod-n-reel or cane pole are prohibited. ■



A black-chartreuse Jimmy Watt jig with a pink head fooled James Morgan's 3.32-pound crappie.



2021'S IN STOCK



NO HASSLE, NO HAGGLE PRICING

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Bryan's **MARINE** Mississippi-Louisiana's Boating Headquarters Since 1986

JOIN US ON

4899 HWY 84 WEST VIDALIA, LA
318-336-9009

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8 AM - 5 PM

YAMAHA www.BryansMarine.com

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

COURTESY

EXPERIENCE THE NEW BUICK

GMC WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

COURTESY

BUICK **GMC** **LAFAYETTE**

337.761.6238 • LAFAYETTESCOURTESY.COM
4750 JOHNSTON ST. LAFAYETTE, LA 70503

The leucistic condition occurs when the melanin or natural colorations of a bird are disrupted.

AVOYELLES PARISH HUNTER BAGS RARE, LEUCISTIC TEAL

By Darren Digby

Louisiana's 2020-21 waterfowl season will go down as one most hunters will forget. Aerial survey counts found below-average numbers of birds holding in the state, and fewer birds in January than December.

As usual, though, there were some bright spots and decent hunting to be had when hunters were in the right place at the right time. Count Todd Couvillion of Darrow in that group — being in the right place at the right time.

Sharing a blind with his brother, Paul, and nephew, Mitch, on a warm Jan. 30 morning in an Avoyelles Parish rice field, Couvillion was at the ready when a rare bird came swinging in.

"She broke off a group of about 20 other green-wings," Couvillion said. "She whipped around from the back and came out front where I shot her."

Couvillion missed his first shot and later found that his second shot, which downed the bird, only connected with a single pellet to the head.

Indeed, the bird was once-in-a-lifetime prize for Couvillion, who has hunted the area his whole life, including 16 years on the current farm.

'BLONDE' TEAL

A quick check with Paul Link, a duck biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, confirmed the bird as a leucistic green-winged teal. According to Link, though not as white in coloration, nor as rare, as an albino specimen, the leucistic or "blonde" condition is indicative of the melanin or natural colorations of the bird being disrupted. As a result, the feathers appear largely pale with only minimal coloration. Link indicated that he encounters only one or two such birds a year during his banding work but gets reports from his peers of a few more.

Couvillion has never mounted a duck before but said this one is special enough to be headed to the taxidermist.

"Out of thousands of ducks killed in my life, this will be my very first duck mount," said Couvillion, who has mounted a specklebelly goose and a blue goose.

The rare teal should make for a great piece to help

remember the morning with family in the blind. Couvillion had a slow season in terms of the number of birds he took. He took a banded blue-winged teal early in the season, and he even had a shell go off in his pocket without injury. Given the rare teal finding his blind to cap off the season, Couvillion might want to spring for a lottery ticket next. ■



Todd Couvillion of Darrow killed this leucistic green-winged teal in an Avoyelles Parish rice field on Jan. 30.

STIHL

CLAIM YOUR OUTDOORS.

— GET SET FOR THE SEASON WITH STIHL.



12" bar*

MSA 120 C-B

Reliable, battery power for clearing sight lines, stand locations, ground plots, and shoreline. Essential tool for firewood and around camp.

\$299⁹⁹ Includes AK 20 battery and AL 101 charger.



RB 400 DIRT BOSS®

Powerful pressure washer for cleaning a variety of equipment and surfaces after hunting and fishing.

\$619⁹⁹

Real STIHL. Find Yours at STIHLDEALERS.COM

All prices SSW-SRP. Available at participating dealers. *The actual listed guide bar length may vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. ©2021 STIHL 21SPM2FP-12-145316-2

THE KREWE OF CANEY

BIG-BASS PARADE BEGAN ON JAN. 30

By Kinny Haddox

Many Mardi Gras parades have been cancelled this year, but on Jan. 30, the big-bass parade at Caney Lake rolled on.

“Throw me something, Mister” was just what Krewe of Caney anglers wanted to hear.

Ben Raley of West Monroe was “King of the Krewe” that day. He landed a whopping, 12.40-pound largemouth bass and caught a second fish that weighing 8.19 pounds in a Caney Creek Bass Club tournament.

Wait, there’s more.

It was a magic day on the water. Raley and partner Corey Harris weighed in seven fish at 41.44 pounds, but that was only good enough for fourth place. Monroe pro Tyler Stewart and partner Matthew Colvin won with a 10-fish limit weighing 62.6 pounds, including a 10.8-pound kicker. Their best five weighed 33.97 pounds.

Don’t put up that dip net or those scales yet. Matt Holloway of Sterlington also caught a once-in-a-lifetime lunker weighing 11.59 pounds. *Laissez les bon temps rouler!* If that doesn’t float your boat, nothing will.

AN AMAZING DAY

On the day, four fish weighing more than 10 pounds were brought to the scales. Second place in the tournament went to Trey Bayles and Hunter Freeman, another bass pro, with 44.03 pounds.



Ben Raley and his 12.40-pound Caney Lake lunker that hit a red Rat-L-Trap on Jan. 30.

Here’s how the two biggest bass were caught.

Raley’s first spot didn’t produce anything, and he and Harris were pulling away from the second spot when he made one last cast, and the big fish hit it. He knew it was pretty heavy, but it wasn’t until the fish got close to the boat and tried to jump — and was so fat it couldn’t — that Raley got excited. When Raley and Harris got the bass in the boat, they took it straight to the weigh-in site without making another cast, got the fish weighed and released it back into the lake. Both of his big fish gobbled up a red Rat-L-Trap.

Raley’s previous best was an 11.08-pound fish caught on Caney in the fall of 2019.

“Days like this don’t happen very often,” he said. “It was a pretty amazing day.”

HOLLOWAY JOINS THE PARTY

At 11.59 pounds, Holloway’s bass wasn’t quite as big as Raley’s, but his story was a good one, too. He and Risinger had struggled early and didn’t have much to brag about before noon. On top of that, their trolling motor had quit that morning and they were literally just letting the wind blow them down the edge of a grass line off the main lake. They were just about to the bank when Raley made his magic cast.

“Honestly, I had no hope at all that I was going to get bit way up there, but then she thumped it,” he said. “She never came up, and

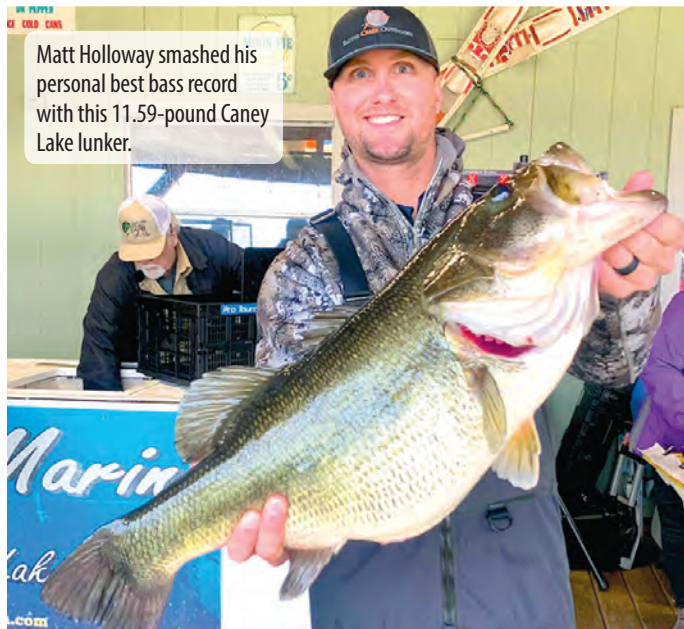


Tyler Stewart, left, and partner Matthew Colvin show their four biggest Caney bass from Jan. 30. Their biggest 10 weighed a whopping 62.6 pounds.

it was hard to tell how big the fish was, but when she got to the boat and almost took the rod out of my hands, I got excited. She went under the boat and came back out right where we had the dip net. We knew she was over 10 pounds.”

Holloway’s catch came on a Rage Craw Creature Bait in Bama craw color. His previous biggest bass was a 6-pounder, so he made quite a leap in his personal-best standings.

All the fish in the tournament were weighed alive and released back into the lake. ■



Matt Holloway smashed his personal best bass record with this 11.59-pound Caney Lake lunger.

CADDO LUNKER



Joshua Whitt shows off the 11.06-pound bass he caught while fishing a Jan. 1 tournament on Caddo Lake. He used a 1.0 3/8-ounce Funkbuster WW tungsten black/gold jig to hook the 26 1/2-inch long bass.

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

HISTORY, NATURAL BEAUTY, & SMALL-TOWN CHARM JUST WAITING TO BE EXPLORED

In Louisiana’s northwest, come fish sand bass on the trophy-fishing waters of Toledo Bend Lake and the Sabine River. DeSoto Parish has adventure and history just waiting to be explored.

Our pioneer spirit also beckons you to explore rolling, piney woods, and boat on peaceful waters only disturbed when you pull in the big catch! Conquering hunger is no trouble here either, as hot cornbread and fresh, fried catfish also calls your name.

DISCOVERDESOTO.COM

discover **DeSoto**

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
LouisianaTravel.com



TWO BUCKS, ONE STAND, 15 YEARS IN BETWEEN

Dale Bordelon sat his 13-year-old son, Hunter, in a deer stand on his property in Avoyelles Parish in 2005. Hunter Bordelon did what his father hoped he'd do. A big buck walked out at 372 yards, and he shot him.

The buck was taken to TP Outdoors, a sporting goods store in West Monroe, to be entered in that store's big buck contest. After some 250 entries were judged, Hunter Bordelon walked away with the first-place prize, a free mount of his 175½-inch, 14-point buck, a mount that today hangs on his wall.

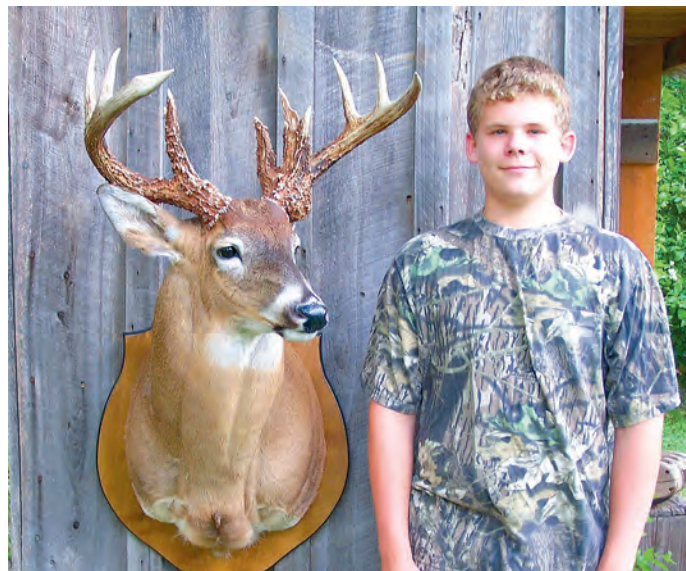
Fast forward 15 years to Jan. 11, when, sitting in the same box

stand overlooking the same field where he killed the 175-inch trophy, Hunter Bordelon had a similar experience. A big buck he had never seen walked out, and he dropped him.

Bordelon, 28, lives in Effie, where he works for his father's duck call manufacturing company, Bayou Beast Duck Calls.

"I had hunted all weekend without success, and when Monday rolled around, I was in no mood to go back to my deer stand," Bordelon said. "However, my mom talked me into it. Plus the fact that some bucks had been moving around, indicating that the rut was about to kick in, so I decided to go."

Hunter Bordelon took this buck 15 years ago from the same stand where he killed another trophy on Jan. 11.



"He was lying there with only the left side of his rack showing, and I was a little disappointed at first because he didn't look as big as when I first saw him," Bordelon said. "Then I turned him over, revealing the right side and I thought, 'Man, that was a lot better deer than I thought it was.'"

The buck sported a 12-point rack, which featured a long drop tine and huge sticker point. The inside spread was 17 inches with bases $7\frac{7}{8}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference. The buck weighed 270 pounds. Its buck's teeth were practically worn down. The taxidermist who measured the rack determined the buck was at least $8\frac{1}{2}$ years old, with a rack that measured $174\frac{3}{8}$ inches. ■

THE RIGHT MOMENT

Bordelon's family owns 1,200 acres in Avoyelles Parish roughly 40 minutes from their home. He drove to the property, shouldered his Remington 7 Mag rifle and climbed into the stand around 3:10 that afternoon.

"I hadn't been in my stand long at all when, at 3:30, four does appeared and headed for the feeder," Bordelon said. "I was watching them when a bunch of crows sitting in trees down the way all took off suddenly like something had spooked them. I looked up, and this big buck, a deer I had never seen, walked out and headed to the feeder; he didn't seem to be interested in the does."

After feeding along with the does for a few minutes, the buck made a move in Bordelon's direction.

"When he got to about 320 yards, he reached a point in the field, a big wide open field, and I got the crosshairs of my scope on him," he said. "My rifle is sighted in at 350 yards, and I felt comfortable with the shot, so I squeezed the trigger, and he hit the ground. I called my dad and told him I had a big buck down, but then the buck got back up, so I got another round into him and watched him take off dragging a leg."

THE BIG REVEAL

Getting down from his stand, Bordelon headed to where the deer was standing when he shot, followed the trail and found the buck, still alive, 40 yards away. A third shot completed the deal, and Bordelon was standing over a buck he had never seen.

TU01 FIELD PRO TURKEY SEAT

TU02 RUN N' GUN TURKEY SEAT

IMPROVE YOUR GROUND GAME

To help you keep from wiggling and spooking birds, a comfortable, high-quality, portable turkey seat is so much better than sitting on the ground. And there are none better than Millennium Outdoors' premium-quality TU01 Field Pro Turkey Seat and TU02 Run N' Gun Turkey Seat. Both have been designed to provide the ultimate combination of comfort and convenience for serious turkey hunters.

MILLENNIUMSTANDS.COM

CALHOUN WOMAN DROPS HUGE MADISON PARISH TROPHY

HUNTER HAD NO QUESTION BUCK WAS
BIG ENOUGH TO MEET CLUB RULES

By Dan Kibler

Kim Greer of Calhoun hunts on hunt-club land in Madison Parish where the rule is, you can only kill two bucks per season, and they have to be at least 5 years old.

"I'm always worried about shooting a young deer," she admitted.

But when a big buck stepped out in a logging road 70 yards from her box stand the afternoon of Jan. 16, there was no doubt that it was a shooter.

Weighing 240 pounds and carrying a rack that measured 165½ inches, yep, he was a shooter, and she knew it.

"We knew this deer was on our club, but my husband and I didn't have any picture of him on our cameras — except the day before I killed him," Greer said. "A lot of guys in the club had pictures of him, but he was only coming out at night."

In her stand that afternoon, she had seen plenty of does, plus a 6-point buck and a spike buck, and at 5:25, when she looked down the road to her left, out stepped a big buck, 70 yards away.

"Where we hunt, a buck has to be 5 years or older before you can kill him," she said. "I picked up my binoculars and looked before I got my gun up. I knew he was big enough, but I didn't know how big, because I could only see one side."

"I got my gun out the window, but he turned and was going to go down the road. When he turned back, I saw the other side, and I knew I had to shoot."

SURELY BIG ENOUGH

Using her husband Mickey's Browning .30-06 that day because her own 7mm-08 was in need of a new scope, Greer pulled the trigger, and the buck turned and raced back into the woods.

"I texted my husband, 'Big buck down,'" she said. "What I didn't know was another guy in our club was hunting 400 or 500 yards away, down that road, and he watched the whole thing in his binoculars. He had been hunting that buck for a while. He texted my husband, 'Kim just shot the big one.'"

"I wanted to get down and go look for him, but my husband wanted me to wait until everybody got finished, so we finally



Kim Greer of Calhoun killed this 11-point trophy buck in Madison Parish on Jan. 16.

went down there, but we didn't see any blood. We were walking in the woods and didn't find a drop. Then, the guy who had watched came down and showed me this little grass patch, a little CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) patch that they used to flood for ducks, that's gotten all grown up, and he had run in there. He didn't start bleeding until right before he fell. He probably went 40 yards.

"That was when I really saw how big he was. I'm glad I didn't know when I shot him, because I'd have probably been shaking too much."

Greer believes the buck had been bedding in that CRP patch, had risen that afternoon and walked the 40 yards to the road before she shot him.

"He wasn't chasing a doe or anything," she said.

GREER'S GIANT BUCK

Greer's buck carried a main-frame 4x5 rack with double split brow tines; the split on the right brow tine was broken off, but the buck still scored as an 11-pointer. Cecil Reddick, a local scorer for Buckmasters, put a tape on the buck and came up with 165½ inches, including 22½-inch inside spread, a 26½-inch main beam on the left side, and bases that were 5½ and 5½ inches in circumference.

Obviously, it was Greer's biggest buck ever, but it also put her in the lead in the husband vs. wife category. Mickey Greer took a 157½-inch buck last season, on Jan. 10, in Madison Parish. ■

WONDERING IF NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO SELL?



BLAKE CHARLES
Agent, East Central LA
(337) 945-4061



BLAKE SHELBY
Agent, Northeast LA
(318) 366-5913



CADE TAYLOR
Agent, Southeast LA
(225) 719-0495



CLINT WOOD
Agent, Northeast LA
(318) 348-0675



CONNOR CAMP
Agent, North LA
(318) 458-7563



WESLEY MCCONNELL
Agent, North LA
(217) 371-9094

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAND SPECIALIST TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUYING
AND SELLING HUNTING, RANCH, FARM AND TIMBERLAND.



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE

HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER

WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM



Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC DBA Whitetail Properties. In the States of Nebraska & North Dakota DBA Whitetail Trophy Properties Real Estate LLC. Licensed in IL, MO, IA, KS, KY, NE & OK - Dan Perez, Broker. Licensed in AR, CO, GA, MN, ND, SD, TN & WI - Jeff Evans, Broker. Licensed in FL, OH & PA - Jefferson Kirk Gilbert, Broker. Licensed in TX & NM - Josy Bellington, Broker. Licensed in IN - Bill Minor, Broker. Licensed in AL, GA, LA, & MS - Sybil Stewart, Broker. Licensed in TN - Tim Burnette, Broker. Licensed in TN - Bobby Powers, Broker. Licensed in AR - Anthony Chrisco, Broker. Licensed in NC, SC, VA - Chip Camp, Broker. Licensed in NC - Rich Baugh, Broker. Licensed in MI - Edmund Joel Nogaski, Broker. Licensed in MD, WV - Debbie S. Laux, Broker. Licensed in MT, ID, UT, WY, OR - Aaron Milliken, Broker. Licensed in NY - John Myers, Real Estate Broker.



Joey Woodard killed this big Natchitoches Parish 8-point buck.



A BIG 10? NOPE, BUT 162-INCH 8-POINTER IS OKAY

By Glynn Harris

When 43-year-old Joey Woodard walked up to the buck he'd just killed, he got a surprise. Thinking he had arrowed a big 10-pointer he had been hunting, he found a huge 8-pointer instead, a buck that measured more than 160 inches of antler.

Woodard, from Rosepine, is an avid bowhunter who does some serious scouting. On the day he downed the big buck, his GPS revealed that before getting into his stand the afternoon of Jan. 22, he had walked 9½ miles over the area he has permission to hunt in Natchitoches Parish.

"After walking the woods all day looking for likely bedding areas, I decided my best bet was to set up in an area where I had spooked a buck and doe a couple of weeks earlier," Woodard said. "I wasn't able to see the buck well enough to know what it was,

but I knew a big 10-point was hanging out and probably bedding in the area."

With thick brush and low hanging limbs preventing Woodard from using his climbing stand, he decided his best bet would be to back up against a tree, which would give him an opening in case the buck made an appearance.

"I decided this was my best chance to see a buck if it moved from the thick tall patch of grass where I suspected he might be bedded," he said. "So I hung my bow on a limb and just backed up against a small tree and waited it out."

BUCK FEVER

Woodard settled down for what would be a rather brief hunt. Also, it was cloudy with intermittent rain showers, darkening the

skies even more.

"Because of the showers off and on all day, there was a good bit of water on the ground. In fact," he said, "I was standing in shallow water. Around 5:15, I heard footsteps in the water in the bedding area. I watched a spike walk out of the area and move on through."

A few minutes later, Woodard heard a noise he thought could have been another deer walking in the water, 50 yards away. A few seconds later, more footsteps let him know something was approaching.

"I didn't know if it was another deer or maybe a hog, but as the steps became more steady and regular, I saw movement, and then I saw antlers," he said. "I was certain I was looking at the rack of the big 10-pointer I knew liked to bed in that area. My heart started beating a little faster, and I asked the Lord to calm me down and not mess up."

The deer was getting closer, and easing his bow from the overhanging branch, Woodard came to full draw and aimed his arrow at a small opening where the buck was headed. Woodard shoots a Hoyt Vectrix XL bow with a Grizzly Stick Samurai broadhead.

"The buck stopped to work an overhanging branch, and I'm at full draw," he said. "Because of a branch just over my head, my bow hit it just enough to cause the branch to move. I had to get into a slight, crouched position and started to wonder if maybe I'd drawn my bow too soon."

A GOOD SURPRISE

The buck finally stepped into the small clearing at 15 yards, slightly quartering toward Woodard. Placing the pin on the buck's shoulder, he released the arrow.

"I could tell I hit him as he whirled around to the right and bounced 30 yards into the thicket," Woodard said. "Then, he just stopped and stood for what seemed like 10 minutes, looking around. Then he started slowly walking off."

Waiting a while, Woodard used the light on his cell phone to walk over to where the deer was standing when he shot. Finding no blood, nor his arrow, he backed out,

knowing the temperature would be low that night, and the meat wouldn't spoil.

The next morning, he recovered his arrow. Walking in the direction he had last seen the deer walking away, Woodard found the buck piled up. When he saw the rack, he was surprised to see it was not the 10-pointer but a big 8-pointer.

It's for certain he wasn't disappointed because the heavy symmetrical rack carried a 23-inch inside spread with bases some 7 inches each. The 200-pound buck, estimated to be 4½ years old, was unofficially scored at 162¾ inches. ■

OVER 1,000,000 ACRES SOLD!

10 YEARS 1# UNITED COUNTRY OFFICE

- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- Alabama
- Arkansas

REALTREE UNITED COUNTRY HUNTING PROPERTIES

SOUTHERN STATES REALTY

View All Land For Sale
SouthernStatesRealty.com
601.250.0017

FIVE RUNNING BUDDIES KEY GASPARD TO BIG BUCK

By Glynn Harris

Trail-camera photos gave Nikki Gaspard of Quitman a clue that culminated in her getting a chance at a 155-inch Bienville Parish buck.

The camera caught five does coming out to feed on corn and rice bran late every afternoon — and the buck would follow them. However, the cameras also revealed that he always came out after dark except on the afternoon of Jan. 23, when he stepped out at 5:30 while Gaspard was in her stand.

"This is a buck that first showed up on my trail cameras in 2017, and I actually got to see him last season but he went back into the thicket before I could get my rifle up," she said.

She also had a nice 8-point on her trail cameras and had killed him earlier in the season.

Gaspard belongs to Union Hunting Club; she was hunting, a 2,500-acre tract the club leases from Weyerhaeuser.

BIG BUCK'S POSSE

Climbing into her stand around 3 o'clock on the afternoon of Jan. 23, Gaspard was thinking about the big buck, hoping he would finally show himself before dark. Her box stand overlooks four shooting lanes that sit in a mixture of thinned pines with thick brush growing up around the pines.

"Late that afternoon, the five does showed up right on schedule as they have been doing just about every time I



Nikki Gaspard and the 11-point Bienville Parish buck she killed on Jan. 23.

hunt that stand," Gaspard said. "From the trail-cam photos I had, this buck seemed to see this bunch of does as his buddies; I had pictures of him feeding along with them after dark.

"They began feeding on the corn and rice bran when a couple of the does ran off. Another doe left and came back for another bite, and I noticed this doe was looking back toward the woods. That's when I saw what she was staring at. I could see antlers behind a pine, and this big buck stepped out at 130 yards."

GASPARD GETS HER CHANCE

The next few seconds were nerve-racking for Gaspard as she got the scope on her .35 Whelan on the deer, but she was shaking, so she had to lower the rifle and take a few deep breaths before finding him in her scope again. Fortunately, the buck was still standing there when she got the crosshairs on his shoulder and squeezed off a shot.

"When I shot, the buck took off across the shooting lane, and I thought I heard him crash," she said. "I usually wait awhile before leaving the stand to check on a deer I've shot, but as it was getting late, I

decided to walk on down there to see if I could find blood. I was heartsick when there was no blood to be found."

ON THE TRAIL

Returning to camp, she waited for her boyfriend, who was hunting on another stand. They went back down to where the deer was standing and could find no evidence she had hit the deer.

"I called Todd Moreau, who has a blood-trailing dog named Raven, and we agreed to meet up the following morning to see if the dog could find a trail to follow," Gaspard said. "Five minutes after the dog hit the trail, Raven led us to the buck, which had only traveled about 75 yards after being shot."

The mature buck, estimated to be at least 5½ years old, carried a rack of 11 points with an inside spread of 19½ inches and 6-inch bases. It weighed 190 pounds. She took the buck to Simmons Sporting Goods in Bastrop to enter it in that store's big buck contest, and the rack was measured at 155½ inches.

"Everybody on the club was hunting this buck," said Gaspard, "and I feel blessed to be the one that finally got him." ■

GET LUCKY WITH A JEEP FROM SOUTHLAND!



2018 JEEP WRANGLER JK UNLIMITED SPORT



TRANSMISSION: AUTOMATIC
 EXTERIOR: BILLET SILVER METALLIC CLEAR
 ENGINE: 3.6L V6
 DRIVETRAIN: FOUR WHEEL DRIVE
 STOCK : 11579
PRICE.....\$32,997



BEN BADON
SALESMAN



FURNELL RUFFIN
SALESMAN



MELVIN PORTER
SALESMAN



TIM BILELLO
SALESMAN

2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT



TRANSMISSION: AUTOMATIC
 INTERIOR: BLACK
 ENGINE: 3.6L V66
 MILEAGE: 52,988
 STOCK : 11567A
PRICE.....\$30,997

6161 W PARK AVE • HOUMA
 SALES: 985-303-1589 • SERVICE: 985-303-1594 • PARTS: 985-303-1581
SOUTHLANDDODGECHRYSLERJEEP.COM



Photo courtesy of Viking



Introducing the new TracVision TV-series

The best just got even better.

Sophisticated technology for hundreds of channels of crystal-clear HDTV

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

Simple to install and easy to use

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



Marine Electronics

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

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



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



THE WARMEST WATER AROUND ON A LATE-WINTER OR EARLY SPRING DAY WILL BE RIGHT AGAINST WOOD THAT'S BEEN TAKING IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT. AND THAT'S ONE PLACE THE BASS WILL BE.

SUN-SOAKED WOOD =

BASS

■ By Keith Lusher Jr.

It was my best bass-fishing trip ever. I was 19, it was the middle of the afternoon, and I had just gotten home with a brand-new rod and reel. It was early March, and it was very cold.

I slowly paddled down the canal, casting along the shoreline using a Beetle Spin. I wasn't concentrating all that much on the fish, but more on the performance of my rod and reel. I approached a point that was lined with pilings.

The pilings were set about 5 feet apart, and they completely surrounded the small peninsula. My lure dropped just past a set of pilings, and as I reeled it past, I had a hit. I set the hook and reeled it in, still concentrating more on my new toy rather than trying to find a pattern. I unhooked the 12-inch bass, tossed it back, and flung the Beetle Spin right back in between the pilings. The same thing happened. The third turn of the handle, and another bass jumped on.

I was liking my new setup, but after I put another bass in the boat on my third cast, my attention shifted to trying to catch a limit. Well, that limit came quickly, and after an hour, I must have caught and released more than 20 fish.

That afternoon is etched in my memory, and I could never

come up with a reason for those bass being so concentrated in one area. When I told the story, I always ended with the same exclamation, "I have no idea why!"

Fast forward 27 years. I told the story to tournament angler Chris Basey of Covington. Fortunately, he's fished the same spot numerous times. All he had to do is ask me two questions, and I finally knew why I caught so many fish that afternoon. The first one was, "Was it cold that day?" The second being, "Was it sunny?"

"When you're dealing with cold water, you always want to try and find water that's warmer," Basey said. "On a cold day, when the sun is shining bright, that's the perfect time to seek out wooden pilings or bulkheads."

THE COLDER THE BETTER >

THE COLDER THE BETTER

Cold weather isn't something anglers such as Basey have to worry about all that often in the Bayou State, but there are days when he specifically targets structure that has been soaking up the sun.

"If I see that the forecast calls for a high of 50 degrees or lower, I know what my strategy is going to be," he said.

While the magic number for Basey is 50, he said that the rule works even better when the temperatures dip into the 40s.

"The colder the better. These fish down here are southerners, just like us, and not used to dealing with ultra-cold water," he said. "Their top priority is going to be finding warmer water."

BAITFISH

During a recent tournament, Basey had the chance to witness first-hand the effects of sun-soaked wood. He was cruising past a bulkhead and saw something that stood out on his electronics.

"That bulkhead was loaded with baitfish that were clinging to

the face of the structure," he said.

Basey eased in and made a few casts horizontally along the bulkhead and started catching bass that were there to ambush the baitfish. He said the warm water was serving two purposes: it attracted smaller baitfish that were seeking warmer water, and that attracted the bass.

"It's the perfect scenario for bass: the water is warmer, and there's a buffet waiting for them," he joked.

THE EXPERIMENT >

““” *These fish down here are southerners just like us and not used to dealing with ultra-cold water. Their top priority is going to be finding warmer water.*

Each of these submerged tree trunks might wind up being a bass magnet in cold, sunny weather, as the sun warms the wood and surrounding waters.



G3 EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

QUALITY *you can trust* PERFORMANCE *you can see* SATISFACTION *you can feel*



LENGTH	17'2"
BEAM	83"
HULL GAUGE	.100
MAX HP	75
FUEL CAP	19G
LIVWELL DIM & CAP	15" x 20" 14G 10" X 29" 19G
COLORS	Seafoam Midnight Blue Burgundy

BAY 17 WITH
YAMAHA F50LB

\$18,495** MINUS \$1500 REBATE
\$16,995*
plus T.T.L., freight & dealer prep

LIMITED TIME OFFER
Contact your dealer for details

**Nationally Advertised Price; actual sales price determined by dealer. Price does not include freight, dealer prep and T.T.L. Prices may vary due to supply, location, freight, etc. *Nationally Advertised Price with \$1,500 rebate. Consumer benefit for purchasing a new (unused, not previously warranty registered) eligible MY 2021 and prior boat from 1/1/21 - 3/31/21 is an instant rebate applied at time of final sale by dealer; at no extra cost to consumer. NO BENEFIT SUBSTITUTIONS. Promotion is only applicable from authorized participating G3 dealers in the U.S.A. and Canada sold to purchasing consumers in the U.S.A. and Canada. Promotion is limited to available stock in dealer inventory that is sold, PDI completed, delivered and warranty registered in accordance with G3's promotion and warranty registration requirements during applicable dates. No model substitutions, extensions or rain checks will be allowed. Not redeemable for cash. This promotion can't be used in conjunction with any other G3 offer or discounts. Some exceptions may apply. G3 reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. Boats sold or provided for commercial, camp, resort, rental, promotional/demo, government agency, competition, tournament or sponsorship use are not eligible. Other restrictions and conditions apply. ©2021 G3 Boats, a division of Skeeter Products, Inc. All rights reserved. This document contains many of G3's valuable trademarks. It may also contain trademarks belonging to other companies. Any reference to other companies or their products are for identification purposes only, and are not intended to be an endorsement. Remember to observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and ride. Dress properly with a USCG approved flotation device and protective gear. Boats may be shown with optional equipment. See your authorized, participating G3 dealer for complete details.

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



Sun-soaked wood = bass

THE EXPERIMENT

While fishing in the East Pearl River one sunny, cold day, Basey brought along a simple, floating thermometer. He tied the thermometer to the tip of his rod and extended it towards the bulkhead. He placed it in the water within an inch of the wood and checked the reading after 30 seconds: 54 degrees. Next, he dropped the thermometer 6 inches from the pilings, and after 30 seconds, got a reading of 52 degrees. He took three more readings, placing the thermometer a foot, 3 feet and 5 feet away from the bulkhead. The temperature readings were 49, 48 and 48 degrees respectively.



A wooden bulkhead will soak up the sun's rays and affect the temperature of the water within a foot or so from the wood, attracting fish.

The takeaway was clear. While the wood did heat up the water, it only was able to affect the water within very close by — within a foot or so. While it was a simple experiment, it has changed the way Basey fishes in terms of where he places his casts. It's important to put your lure as close to that wood as possible, and doing so has made for some successful days.

While targeting bass next to sun-soaked structure on cold days should be in your game plan, Basey said that there is one factor that can nullify the effects: current. He recommends finding canals and cuts that are off of any main river where a swift current might be found. ■



Keith Lusher Jr. owns and operates NorthshoreFishingReport.com. He is the outdoor writer for the Slidell Independent Newspaper and host of the Northshore Fishing Report on WWL Radio. Lusher is a member of the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association and can be reached at Keith@NorthshoreFishingReport.com.

BLANCHARD'S

Our Customers Are The Coolest®



NO HUNTING OR FISHING CAMP SHOULD BE WITHOUT ONE OF THESE!

300 LBS ICE MAKER
with a 290 lbs Storage Bin
\$3090

150 lbs for **\$2054**

CALL US TODAY TO ORDER YOURS!

WALK-IN COOLERS
Available 6x6 Starting at **\$9415**



Larger Models Available Upon Request

BLANCHARD'S REFRIGERATION

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

CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICING BOATS IN STOCK



BAY PRO 203



BAY PRO 220



1308 Canal Blvd Thibodaux
985-447-4156

2268 Grand Caillou Rd. Houma
985-873-7731





IT ONLY TAKES

A SINGLE, ISOLATED PIECE OF COVER WILL OFTEN BE A SPOT WHERE A BIG, PRESPAWN OR POST-SPAWN BASS IS HANGING OUT. HERE'S HOW TO FISH A SPOT LIKE THAT WHEN YOU FIND ONE.

■ By Kinny Haddox

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE CAST THAT TURNED ON THE LIGHT FOR ME.

I was fishing with my father-in-law, Jack Brumfield, on Toledo Bend, when it happened.

We were fishing down a shoreline that had a little bit of everything: brush tops, boat docks, fallen trees, grass lines, the works. And we were catching a few bass. As we rounded a small point, I noticed a single, small stickup poking out of the water about 3 inches, with nothing else around it. It was just out of casting range, so I moved closer and cast my purple lizard next to it. Before the bait hit bottom, the line immediately headed right back to the boat. I reeled up the slack and set the hook. A few minutes later, a huge bass was jumping by the boat trying to escape the landing net.

The bass showed 8¼ pounds on the little Zebco scale; this was a while back, before digital scales were popular. The big fish went back in the water, but the lesson learned stayed in the boat. Over the years, the pattern has paid off more times than I can remember.

Never underestimate what a big, old bass may be laying up beside, especially this time of year. A little stickup, a lone pole from an abandoned pier, a single lily pad or strand of grass could be holding a springtime lunger. Big females tend to want to hold in a spot away from the bass crowd when they are approaching the time to spawn, and they look for the same type cover when they are finished.

Greg Terzia, a bass pro who owns Terzia's Bait and Tackle in Ruston and is director of North Louisiana Media Bass tournaments, has noticed the same thing.

"If you find an isolated stickup or small tree, especially in the early spring in shallow water, there's a good chance there's a bass by it, and there's a really good chance it's a good one," he said. "Sometimes, I'll troll or idle 5 minutes all the way across a flat just to fish a stickup, single tree or old duck blind post that's all by itself. There's a good bet it's got a good fish on it."

Terzia said it pays to keep your eye out for those kind of spots, and not only because they produce bass, but they often reload with another good bass fairly quickly, sometimes within just an hour or so. So always check them more than once.

Sometimes, these little isolated stickups look so good it makes Terzia nervous.

"I'm not kidding; when you see a little spot like that, you get more worked up than a regular cast because you know you've got to put the bait right in the best spot. I won't throw a crankbait or spinnerbait," he said. "I'll fish something subtle, like a Rattlin' Rogue. I'll toss it out past the stickup, ease it right by the structure and then let it sit there. They'll just rise up and suck it in. But if you make a bad cast and get hung up or spook the fish, it's game over."



A single stickup, stump or leaning log all by itself like this one is usually a prized spot for a big, solitary large-mouth bass to hang out.

When Greg Terzia ties on a Senko as a follow-up bait, he dips it in Spike-It Dip-n-Glow to add some color to one end.



IT MAKES SENSE: STICKBAITS FOR STICK BASS

When it comes to choosing lures, you can't beat the combination of owning a tackle store and fishing bass tournaments. That's why you should pay attention to the stickbaits that Greg Terzia picks for "stick bass."

Stickbaits are simple baits. They don't dive, wobble or have propellers. They are like sticks. Most of them float on the surface, and when you reel them in, they just come in. There are also stickbaits that sink slowly and even plastic stickbaits that sink slowly enough to cover every inch of a stickup in shallow water. Some fishermen jerk or twitch the bait, but this time of year, just letting it sit in front of a big bass is probably the top technique.

Some of Terzia's favorites are Smithwick Rogues in chrome with a black back and orange belly and Yellow Magics that you can put right in front of the fish and let them sit.

Hard-plastic stickbaits work, but sometimes you need a lure that will sink down on the fish. That's when Senkos are productive. Two new colors, African and tilapia magic, have quickly become Terzia's favorites. A new bait, Zoom's Fluke Stick, looks like a Senko with a Fluke tail on one end. Watermelon and watermelon red are his favorite colors, mainly because that's what the fish seem to favor.

A little spring secret? Terzia likes to dip the tails of his stickworms in a little Spike-It Dip-N-Glo dye to kick it up a notch. ■

When it comes to stickbaits, Greg Terzia's favorites are Smithwick Rogue in baby bass and chrome/black back.



Greg Terzia's experience on the water and as director of Media Bass tournaments has helped him learn a lot of the secrets to success for catching largemouth bass.

IT
ONLY
TAKES

Big fish will sometimes roll and miss the Rogue, but Terzia sends a 5-inch Senko back in the spot before the ripples are gone, and nine times out of 10, the bass will gulp that down. If they don't hit that, his secret "third-time-is-the-charm" try is usually with a shaky head with a Zoom finesse worm on 8-pound line. If they are there and you drop it in their face, they can't resist, he said "Big bass are territorial, and they find spots like that to call their own," Terzia said. "If they are females and have spawned, or are getting ready to, they'll find a spot like that. They aren't hanging out there necessarily to feed, but if they've been sitting there all day and something drops by, they'll nail it. Well, they'll eat it. It may be a more subtle bite than you'd expect. Pay close attention, and watch your line, too."

Terzia is an old-school bass angler, and this kind of fishing is his happy place. He said electronics gets so much attention these days, that it's good to have a way and a place to fish where the anglers' skills at finding and catching fish come into play without staring at a fish on the screen in front of them before they catch it.

"I've got nothing against the guys that do that, but man, to me, it just isn't any fun," he said. "The game has changed, but I think I'll just stick with the old ways, especially in the spring."

Well played.

Any good lesson is worth repeating. So, here it is in a nutshell:

You don't have to find mega brush piles or piles of sunken logs that look like a pulpwood truck that's turned over to find spring



bass. Often, some of the biggest bass will hang by the smallest pieces of structure. It can be one little stickup, a single strand of grass or a small change in the depth. Talk to fishermen and find out how they look for single pieces of structure and target them for post-spawn bass in the Bayou State. These spots are worthy of more than one cast with more than one bait. ■

ANATOMY OF A STICK ➤

YOUR
HAPPY PLACE
IS WAITING
We'll finance it.

We've been financing land for over 100 years, and we are here to make your dream of owning recreational land a reality. Contact us today!

Member FDIC 1-877-648-5263 | LouisianaLandBank.com/recreation

NEW BUBBA®

PRO SERIES ELECTRIC FILLET KNIFE

CORDLESS // LITHIUM ION



NEXT LEVEL CUTTING POWER

AVAILABLE NOW

www.LouisianaSportsman.com

    @BUBBA
www.bubba.com

March 2021 | Louisiana Sportsman 35

ANATOMY OF A STICK: THERE'S OFTEN MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

The bottom line on why many fishermen pass up casting to a single stick poking out of the water is, frankly, it just doesn't look like much — but there's often more than meets the eye.

It's true; sometimes a single stickup has some magic quality that just attracts bass. Anglers find that those places tend to hold fish all the time. Even if you catch one there, another will move in. It's hard to explain.



When a lake is down, anglers can see why a single stickup is so productive. With 2 or 3 more feet of water, only the tallest stickup will be showing, but it's in the middle of a pronounced hump that is a magnet to bass and baitfish.

But often, the stick has help. It could be on a subtle hump, or the stick might belong to a big stump or log. It could be the only visible limb on a big, fallen tree.

When a lake is drawn down, you can sometimes see why your favorite stickup holds fish. It might be on the top of a shallow hump that is normally in 4 feet of water when the surrounding water is 10 feet deep. That's the kind of natural spot that attracts baitfish and bass.

In a world where more and more anglers rely on looking at a sonar screen to find fish and fishing spots, it's nice to know there are some places you can still catch fish just by doing this simple thing: fishing for them. ■



Kinny Haddox has been writing magazine and newspaper articles about the outdoors in Louisiana for 45 years. He publishes a daily website, lakedarbornnelife.com and is a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the Outdoor Legends Hall of Fame. He and his wife, DiAnne, live in West Monroe.



LOW PROFILE. HIGH POWER.



Lowboy II
LowboyPro

Adequate, convenient power is a must. Don't gamble on anything less than the proven performance of Kubota. GL Series generators deliver impressive power in a low-profile design for countless applications. Depend on Kubota, and count on low emissions, one-side maintenance and your choice of receptacles, terminals or both, depending on the model.

THE GENERATOR OF SUCCESS



Call (800) 925-4966 for discounted pricing. Visit gulfengine.com for unit specifications.

2306 Engineers Road, Belle Chasse, LA 70037 • (504) 393-1701 • gulfengine.com



AUTHORIZED DEALER
ENGINES | GENERATORS | PARTS



BlackJack
boats

224



SHEARWATER
270 CAROLINA FLARE



2104
FRONTIER



Bay Pro 203

EXCEL
BOATS



TURNER
BOATWORKS



BlackJack
boats 256



(504) 341-4852

3028 4TH STREET
HARVEY, LA 70058

#1 BlackJack
boats
DEALER IN AMERICA

*The Versatility You Need.
The Style You Want.*



Introducing the NEW BlackJack 256 Coastal

The BlackJack 256 Coastal is the newest addition to the BlackJack line, combining offshore and bay boat elements. Its three-piece design, deeper casting deck and open aft deck give you the ability to fish comfortably in bigger waters without sacrificing inshore capabilities. Add forward seating, and the Coastal converts to a day cruiser perfect for family trips to your favorite sandbar or island. The Coastal has the versatility you need with the style and performance you've come to expect from BlackJack Boats.

Go to blackjackboats.com to learn more or find a dealer near you!

BlackJack

POWERED BY **YAMAHA**

NauticStar BOATS



Excel
BOATS



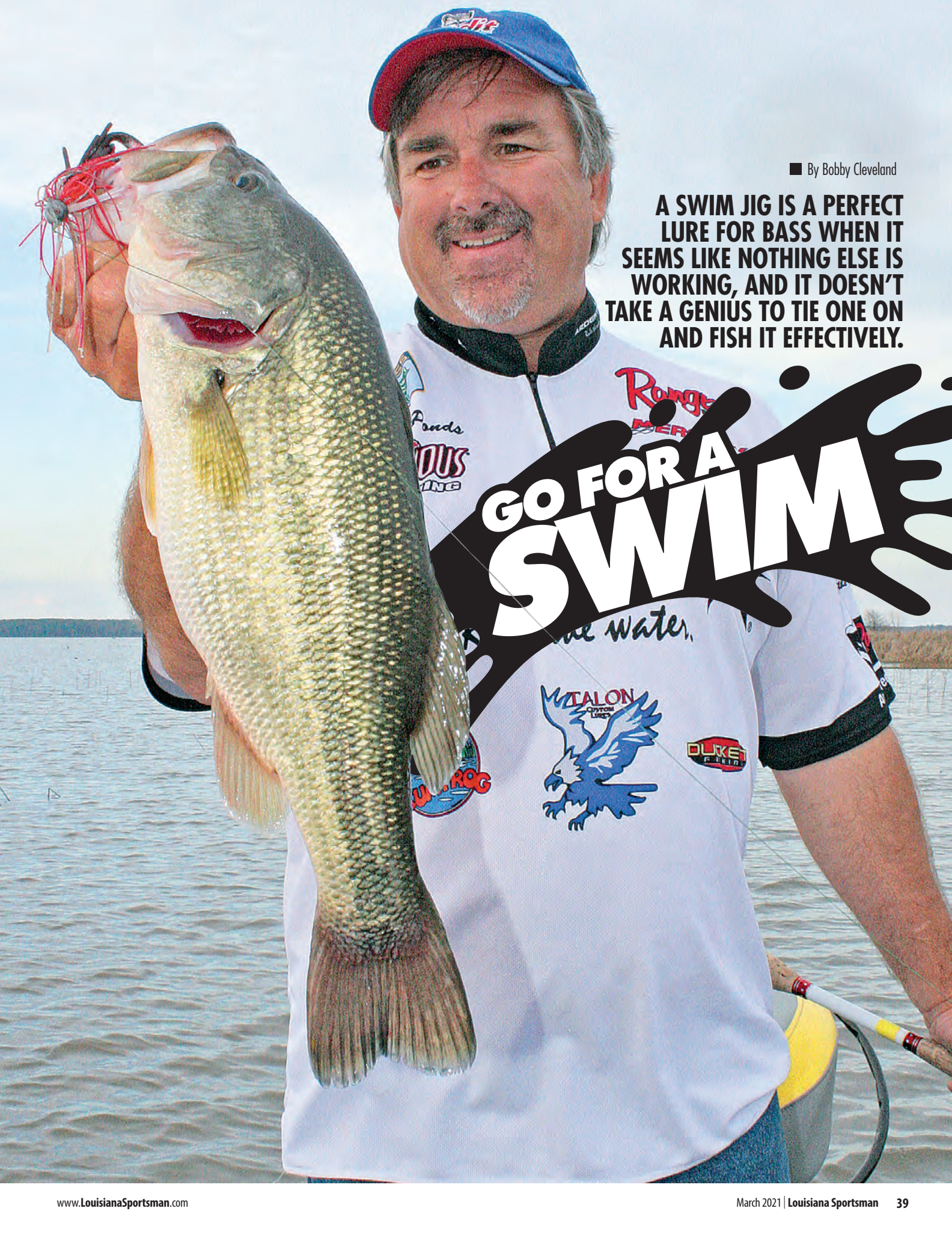
JERRY'S MARINE

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



■ By Bobby Cleveland

A SWIM JIG IS A PERFECT LURE FOR BASS WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE NOTHING ELSE IS WORKING, AND IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO TIE ONE ON AND FISH IT EFFECTIVELY.

GO FOR A SWIM

After patrolling the shallows in a popular prespawn area of Barnett Reservoir on a warm March morning, bass pro Pete Ponds of Madison, had put dozens of small buck bass in the boat with a swimming lizard and a buzzbait.

NO LUNKERS WERE TO BE FOUND.

“I think we’ve proven that the big sows haven’t moved up to the shallow beds yet, but the water temperature says they ought to be,” said Ponds, as he turned to look back at the deeper water. “It was 56 when we got here, and it’s 58 now, and 58 has always been the magic number for the females to start. I think we’ll try the edges of that old creek that runs back in here to this spawning flat.”

It was the right move.

Within 10 minutes, we got two timid strikes, Ponds on a buzzbait and me on the lizard. They fish didn’t take either one.

Ponds again made the correct call, bending down to the front deck of his boat and grabbing another white Duckett rod, this one armed with a silver and red prototype swim jig. He added a soft plastic crawfish trailer.

“I’ve got a feeling,” he said.

He launched the lure just past the spot where a bass had



swirled on my spinnerbait just 30 seconds earlier and began a slow, steady retrieve out of the ditch up onto its edge, lined with pad stems.

“Whoa,” Ponds yelled as he bowed up hard against a fish. “This is a big one.”

The 4-pounder was swung quickly up in the boat.

I was already tying on a swim jig and adding a 4-inch, soft-plastic swimbait, trying to relocate the spot where Ponds had a swirl on his buzzbait. He pointed to the spot with his rod tip, and I launched.

“Just reel it like a spinnerbait,” Ponds said. “It’s an idiot bait; any idiot can fish it. Cast and reel. Cast and reel.”

The lure passed the spot, and I could see the water bulge just before there was a huge swirl and splash.

“I got him,” I hollered, quickly pulling in a 4-pound female fat with eggs.

My introduction to and instant infatuation with the swim jig continued throughout that morning. We put about a dozen sows in the boat over the next 2 hours that would have allowed us to easily cull the 3- and 4-pounders, had it been a tournament.

“An easy 25- or 27-pound day,” Ponds said, referring to our best five fish.

Less than a year from that day, Ponds and Talon Lures introduced the Pete Ponds Series Finesse Swimming Jig. I was hooked.

MULTIPLE USES >



A native of Hattiesburg, Miss., and graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, **Bobby Cleveland** lives on Ross Barnett Reservoir near Jackson with his wife Pam. He can be reached at bobbyc7754@yahoo.com.



The prototype swim jig that Pete Ponds and the author used to catch dozens of big, prespawn bass in March became the Talon Pete Ponds Finesse Swimming jig. **OPPOSITE:** Bass will work over a swim jig when they won't mess with a noisier, more active lure.

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


MULTIPLE USES

“There’s so many uses for the swim jig,” Ponds said later. “What you saw that day was just one. Those fish were on the move shallow to spawn but were timid. The other lures were spooking them. I don’t think the bass were swiping at the buzzbait as much as running from it. If you remember, they acted the same way with the spinnerbait you had been throwing.”

“The swim jig is a little more subtle. It is basically the body of a spinnerbait or buzzbait, a lead conical-shaped head with a hook and a skirt but without any blades. You add the trailer of your choice, just like you would either with the buzzbait or spinnerbait, and you cast and reel. It’s pretty much the same thing.”

Ponds said a swim jig is effective in several situations.



 Pete Ponds’ swim jig, matched with a soft-plastic trailer, offers bass a more subtle lure than a buzzbait or spinnerbait, with their whirling blades.

Schooling bass. Ponds put a whopping on feeding large-mouth with a white swim jig and pearl grub trailer.

“Reel it like fire to get in the middle of the frenzy, then pause and let it fall,” he said. “The smaller fish always seem to be up on top doing the work; the bigger fish are usually under them, picking off all the shad that are either injured or shaken up and sink below the frenzy.”

That same action was magical that fall when big striped bass were schooling on Barnett Reservoir. My lake-best of 13 pounds, 11 ounces came on a swim jig I let flutter down through a school.

Docks and piers. Ponds is expert at skipping a bait under wooden structures and is adept with any lure. The swim jig is no exception.

“I can bounce that as far as or further than anything else and then start bringing it back,” he said. “There’s a lot of lures that will produce on that in the summer when the bass are hiding

so far back under a dock, but a swim jig is really effective when the fish are finicky. It’s just subtle.”

Gene Bishop of Ridgeland, a 2016 Bassmasters Classic qualifier, loves that pattern on Eagle Lake, where boat houses and piers are the primary bass habitat in the summer and fall. Bishop, who regularly posts YouTube fishing shorts online, made a video on the pattern.

“You can take a swimbait and add it to a swimming jig and throw it up under those piers, and bass can’t stand it,” he said. “They see so many lures. You have to change up. The lure is also extremely structure-friendly. It’s weedless, and you can get in and around those pier pilings and cross beams where the fish are.”

Vegetation. Ponds likes a swim jig around vegetation where options are limited.

“You can swim it in, around and through pads, around thick grass mats, through sparse vegetation, and above heavy bottom vegetation,” he said. “A lot of lures can’t get through all those scenarios without grabbing greenery or slime that comes out with it, but the swim jig can and will. In the fall, when the shad start migrating out of the river into the backwaters, they stop and hang out on pad points. The pads are starting to thin out at the same time, and they open up just perfectly for the swim jig.”

Angler Ricky Johnson of Brandon uses it similarly in the pads on the main upriver and secondary points on Barnett from early March through May.

“Those points are staging areas for bass moving back into the backwaters for spawning, and again in the post-spawn period as they move back to deeper water,” he said. “I catch so many fish on those points with pad stems in late February and March, then turn and hit them again in the blooming pads in May. There’s always a swim jig with a 3-, 4- or 5-inch swimbait trailer on the front deck of my boat when I’m on the river in the spring. I just cast and reel, usually keeping

the lure about a foot to two deep in the sparse pads. I absolutely love it in the scattered pads when the fish are in there.”

Rip-rap banks. Ponds likes the swim jig along rocky banks both at Barnett and a subdivision lake near his home.

“What’s great about the lure in that situation is, once you establish the depth that fish are holding, whether it’s a foot or 18 inches right on the rocks, or 5 or 6 feet or even 8 feet, you can reel the swim jig and trailer at that depth and keep it there,” he said. “You keep that sucker in the strike zone long enough, and it will make you happy.”

Swim jigs come in weights ranging from ¼- to ½-ounce, with ⅜-ounce providing the most versatility. The ¼-ounce lure is usually reserved for sparse cover or shallow, grassy coves or bays where the lure must be kept above submerged vegetation. The ½-ounce lure is a great pick for the rip-rap scenario where you might want or need to fish deeper. The ⅜-ounce action is great for shallow structure and skipping situations.

Spinning gear is great for skipping, but a short rod is necessary. Otherwise, any medium-heavy action rod works fine. ■

A KILLER REDFISH BAIT, TOO

Capt. Tommy Sutton of Slidell, La., was introduced to swim jigs on a redfish trip in the Biloxi Marsh that needed a mid-morning rescue.

"I won't ever leave the dock again without some of those in the boat; you can be darn sure of that," he said.

Sutton was talking about a swim jig, a bass bait that has exploded on the scene over the past decade, that saved that day's trip.

It had started with a perfect, rising tide that by 9 a.m. had turned into a dead tide. For those first 2 hours, Sutton, Dan Smith of Ridgeland and I stayed busy hammering slot and bull reds on spinnerbaits. Rarely did 10 minutes pass without one or more of us tied into a redfish. We boated at least 35 or 40, releasing all but the legal limit.

Then the tide stopped, and the bite did, too. We could see the reds in the clear water, but we couldn't entice even a casual look-see at one of our offerings.

"That redfish right there just ran from my spinnerbait," Sutton said, pointing with his rod tip as the fish swam past the trolling motor. Smith tossed a grub out in front of it, and the splash caused the fish to turn and race off in another direction.

"It's about over y'all," Sutton said. "We should have picked up some live bait. They're running from everything else."

Our options were limited. The shallow water was full of slimy moss that rendered grubs and spoons useless. As soon as one hit the water, it instantly transformed into a baseball-sized clump of green, with several inches trailing behind it in the water.

Desperate and looking through my gear, I came upon a bag filled with ¼-ounce swim jigs. I passed them around and we tied them on with 4-inch swim-baits for trailers.

"Throw them and fish them just like a spinnerbait but keep them up out of the slime," I said. "This might reduce the spooking."

We were stunned. Not all the fish reacted positively but most did. We went back to catching fish. The baits produced in many different scenarios, including points, shoals, broken grass, mossy shallow ponds and oyster beds.

The tide really started falling 2 hours later, and, as would be expected, the action hastened. All three of us stayed with the swim jigs.



Capt. Tommy Sutton learned how much redfish like swim jigs on a trip to the Biloxi Marsh.

Bobby Cleveland

Sutton took us to the outer edges of the marsh where the bayous met the open water, and we fished points. It was magical.

"Not many days that you spend more time reeling in fish than you do just casting and reeling, and we did that today," Sutton said. "We were able to keep fishing through the dead tide, catching fish when usually you have to throw in the towel or switch to live bait." ■

PADDLES 'N PUDDLES ➤

SB-57™

#SB57 #RattleTrap
#BillLewisFishing

Bill Lewis
rat-l-trap.com

Bill Lewis is once again teaming with Mark Daniels Jr. to design a high performance yet affordably priced lure - the new SB-57™.

Top Features include:

- Honey-comb constructed walls for increased durability and action.
- Large #4 hooks.
- A hybrid coffin squared chipboard bill.

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.

YAKKIN' FOR GREEN TROUT

BASS BEING ADDED AS A COASTAL TARGET

Many years ago, you rarely heard the word “bass” spoken by fishermen in southeast Louisiana. The coastal marshes were salty, and trout and reds were king. However, if you fished inland, you could catch perch (bream), sac-a-lait (crappie) and of course, green trout (bass).

Nowadays, green trout have spread back to areas that were historically brackish but had all but disappeared across the coast due to saltwater intrusion. It's almost impossible to fish speckled trout and especially redfish these days without encountering some green trout.

Yes, bass still inhabit the inland canals and lakes, but their populations are booming in much of the coastal water that has reverted to brackish for a variety of reasons. In efforts to combat coastal erosion, freshwater diversions have greatly lowered the salinity throughout their reach. Other mitigation and hurricane-protection projects have changed the hydrology in many areas and slowed the flow of saltwater inland and reduced inner coastal salinity. A prime example of this is the waters of St. Bernard and Plaquemine parishes.

In St. Bernard, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet was closed to commercial traffic, dammed off below Bayou LaLoutre at Hopedale. While water still flows through the porous structure, the hydrology has changed, and green trout and other freshwater species are being caught in areas they hadn't existed in the 40 or so years before. This was bolstered by the “Great Wall” storm-surge barrier and new floodgate built as part of the revamped levee system across the MRGO near Chalmette.

On the east bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemine Parish near Buras, the river cut a natural diversion in what has been named Mardi Gras Pass in honor of the day on which it was discovered. The pass, left to the whims of mother nature, rapidly expanded and became a natural freshwater diversion that mimics the seasonal flooding that occurred before the levees were built to constrain the river.

So what does this have to do with kayak anglers? With all the freshwater came changes to the habitat and species. Many areas have become shallower due to silt build-up, and submerged aquatic grasses have exploded in many areas. The mixing of freshwater and saltwater species has broadened the opportunities for kayak anglers to catch more fish in areas that are difficult for many powerboat anglers to reach. Healthy stands of submerged aquatic vegetation do their part to filter out the river's silt and keep the water fairly clear.





For many decades, bass in south Louisiana were only found in freshwater lakes and canals having been driven from the coastal marshes due to saltwater intrusion. However, due to the effects of natural and man-made river diversions combined with hurricane protection projects, the waters are switching back to brackish and the bass have spread throughout the area.

PADDLES 'N PUDDLES

continued

So what do kayak anglers need to do? Nothing, really. The same rod-and-reel outfits and lures you've been using for specks and reds can add green trout to your cooler. Moreso than specks, green trout are structure-oriented, like redfish. Pay attention to logs, sticks and pilings. They are particularly fond of old duck blinds.

Any day you think is a good day for trout and reds is also a good day for green trout. Green trout are influenced by tides, just as specks and reds. Days with good tidal movement generally see better bite activity. However, bass spawn quite differently than trout and reds. The bass spawn occurs in early spring and is distinctly different. While trout and reds travel to specific areas and gather for spawning rituals, bass utilize beds in nearby spawning areas where they spend most of their time. Built by the males, the beds are in shallow areas along the shoreline, where the females come to lay their eggs. During the prespawn, male bass cruise shallow areas to find bed sites. As the water warms, both males and females can be found in these areas. Cold fronts can move fish to nearby, deeper waters.

The good news is that the addition of green trout to the area has not seemed to negatively affect the number of trout and reds. However, reds are more tolerant to freshwater than are trout. All three species can be caught using the same bait, lures and techniques. Don't be surprised if one cast is a bass, the next a redfish and the third a speck. You just never know, and that just adds to the excitement.

State regulations for green trout allow for a daily creel limit of 10 fish, with no minimum or maximum size limits. The fish are great acrobatic fighters and make great table fare.

While some boat anglers lament the changes taking place in the coastal marshes, kayak anglers are more apt to recognize that the reduction of saltwater intrusion is good both for the coast and the sport. A healthy marsh builds land and offers better protection from future storms. The increase in kayak fishing opportunities is simply a welcome bonus. ■

LURE REVIEW ➤

Green trout (bass) populations continue to explode throughout the marshes of southeast Louisiana. They can be caught in the same areas as speckled trout and reds, using the same gear and lures.



504-682-5252

www.tims-marine.com

Powered by



YAMAHA

FOR OVER
41
YEARS

Tims Marine

MODELS
AVAILABLE FROM
20-26'

SPECIFICATIONS

Beam.....	8 ft 6 in
Deadrise.....	16 deg
Draft.....	13 in
Fuel capacity.....	.67 gal
LOA.....	24 ft 09 in
Maximum HP.....	350 hp
Weight (approx. w/ engine).....	3,500 lbs (w/ F300)



PATHFINDER

2500 HYBRID

The most comprehensive family of bay boats on the planet perfect balance of performance, stability, shallow water capability, and comfort. All the models are designed for the family angler that wants to retain shallow water capabilities but does not want sacrifice ride quality.



G3 Boats

The Bay Series is all-aluminum and all-welded. These models feature wide, deep hulls, exceptional handling and top-end performance, and all of the fishing features that anglers have come to expect from G3 and Yamaha.



SPORTSMAN

The Masters Series Bay Boats have the perfect balance of performance, stability, shallow water capability, and comfort. All the models are designed for the family angler that wants to retain shallow water capabilities but does not want sacrifice ride quality.



Triton BOATS

Countless options available on models from 22 to 26'.

LURE REVIEW

Don Shoopman

Bass pro Mark Daniels set out to design a square-bill crankbait. The Bill Lewis MDJ Series SB-57 is the result.



SB-57 MDJ SERIES CRANKBAIT

BILL LEWIS LURES HAS ANOTHER WINNER IN THIS PRO-DESIGNED, SQUARE-BILLED BAIT

The latest addition to Mark Daniels Jr.'s MDJ Series of crankbaits will play bumper car and bounce off structure time and time again as it's reeled through the strike zone.

Daniels, a 39-year-old bass pro, can take all the credit for the lure he designed a few years ago for Bill Lewis Lures, the home of the Rat-L-Trap. Crankbait aficionados can count on them to produce as they have for him on Major League Fishing's Bass Pro Tour.

A California transplant who lives in Tuskegee, Ala., Daniels put months of thought and effort into making the SB-57. The crankbait was popular last year as

more people took up bass fishing due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

Wes Higgins, president of Bill Lewis Lures of Alexandria, is impressed with the crankbait.

"Everybody who gets their hands on it likes it. We're letting people decide. It's kind of been under the radar. With all the shows canceled like they were, we weren't able to get the word out like we wanted," he said.

The SB-57, which weighs $\frac{3}{8}$ -ounce, was introduced at the ICAST trade show in 2019, it went on the shelves in 2020, and the fishing public spoken in terms of sales through 2020.

HIGH-END PARTS

This crankbait is something different, a higher-end artificial lure at an affordable price, Higgins said, noting its quality components and high-performance features seen in higher-priced crankbaits.

It's just what Daniels wanted in a crankbait not named MR-6, another one of his signature baits, or Echo 1.75. The SB-57, which dives 3 to 6 feet and deflects off



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.

wood and rocks, fills the niche he was hoping to fill.

"I've been thinking about it for about 3 years," he said. "I wanted a bait I could just pull up to any lake in the country and tie on. I started talking to Wes. I said, 'Let's design one to be that all-purpose design square-bill.' I did it all on my own. I took a lot of different qualities from baits I've used over the years. I incorporated what I wanted in a square bill and came up with the SB-57. It's been an excellent bait."

The 2¼-inch SB-57, balanced to give it a slow rise during a pause in the retrieve, has a different body shape than the MR-6. Plus, it has a computer-chip lip — a circuit-board, square, coffin-style bill.

It's armed and dangerous.

"The name SB-57 comes from the length (5.72 centimeters). It has No. 4 Mustad Triple Grip treble hooks. I feel like it fits the square-bill best and holds big fish the best," he said.

UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION

The SB-57's most-notable feature is a honeycomb interior that allows for a thinner body but makes it very durable. Daniels borrowed that concept from some of his favorites over the years.

"It's unique. That's the first-ever square bill that's got a honeycomb-body construction. That allows the walls to be more thinner but still strong. It acts like a wooden bait but has the durability to go along with it," Higgins said.

Daniels had only a prototype of the SB-57 last June when he finished 12th in an MLF tournament on Wisconsin's Lake Winnebago.

"I literally had only one, a prototype. I was catching them back-to-back-to-back," he said. "It's been a real good bait. I've done really good with it. It's an all-around good bait. I like to call it my 4-wheeler crankbait."

Daniels' favorite color is red glitter craw, he said.

Daniels throws the bait on 12-pound Seagaur fluorocarbon spooled on a 6.8:1 ratio BPS Johnny Morris Platinum Signature Series reel seated on a medium-action, 7-foot-5 Favorite Rush Series rod. ■



A Bill Lewis Lures' MDJ SB-57 crankbait.

For more information about SB-57 MDJ Series crankbaits and other Bill Lewis Lures products, go to www.rat-l-trap.com.

TOLEDO BEND ➤

A black and white photograph of a fisherman in a boat on a river, casting a line. The background shows a rocky shoreline with trees. The text "TOUGH AS NAILS" is overlaid in large white letters. The Gamakatsu logo is in the top right. A large image of the Superline Offset Round Bend Worm Hook is shown in the foreground.

TOUGH AS NAILS

Gamakatsu

Superline Offset Round Bend

WWW.GAMAKATSU.COM

It's a jungle out there and the Gamakatsu Superline Offset Round Bend Worm Hook is built using heavy wire specially designed for braided line and heavier fluorocarbon. Have no fear.

LOW WATER AT TOLEDO BEND WILL MOVE BASS TO STRUCTURE ON SHALLOW FLATS

Bass anglers are preparing for a magical time of year on Toledo Bend — the spawn — but it could be mystical as well, depending on the pool stage in late February and March.

Right now, I'm getting ready to get my sled — my new, red Skeeter bass boat — wet, and more than likely, start getting into prime time bassing territory on the northern end between San Miguel Creek and San Patricio.

Last year, I focused on the upper end of the lake too late and waited too long, by being stubborn and staying below Pendleton Bridge. It'll be important to target bass above the bridge sooner because, if the lake doesn't get to full pool or close to it, more structure will be in the water above San Miguel Creek than, say, so many areas south of Pendleton Bridge.



Shreveport's Mark Ray has a firm grip on the lip of a big bass he caught last March 20 while fishing with guide John Dean. They caught 25 to 30 bass — all 2-pounds and better — on Zoom Super Flukes, either dead sticking or Carolina-rigged.

MIKE GERALD'S #15 TRAILER DEPOT

OVER 25 ACRES OF TRAILERS IN STOCK!

\$1,275

Entry - 5x10-13 Utility Trailer

Heavy Duty Truck Accessories

WE RENT TRAILERS!

1516-13

\$1,699

TopHat TRAILERS

McClain TRAILERS inc.

"BUILT FOR THE LONG HAUL"

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

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

Mon-Fri 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

TIE UP YOUR LOOSE ENDS.

INFUSED WITH

RUSTRICTOR
BLOCKS RUST 5X LONGER

The World's Most Advanced Tackle Storage

PLANO
EDGE

STAY SHARP.

▶ TERMINAL 3700

We have to assume the water will be below full pull (172.0) when March rolls around. That's a game-changer on where to find bass doing their thing or about to do their thing in a lake pretty much devoid of grass.

Where bass set up to spawn depends on whether the water's high — 6 feet up in the bushes — or low. That's when you need to target stumps on flats 3 to 5 feet deep. They're going to be around the base of stumps on flats if there's no water in the bushes.

With the water level slightly below pool at the end of January, chances are good the bass will be available in more abundant cover up north. Otherwise, if you fish south of the bridge, target open ridges with a lot of stumps or head to the back of Housen and the back of Six Mile.

Wherever you go to target stumps, it's important on the retrieve to rub your fishing line on the structure, because bass get tight to the cover.

Bass fishing the first week of March ought to be awesome, weather and water conditions permitting, for another reason: the February full moon is the 27th.

When water temperature, locations and the moon phase are favorable at or almost at the same time, bass storm the beaches, but not all at once. Typically on Toledo Bend, the north end fires first, and the spawning period works its way down the lake, which is shared by Louisiana and Texas. Water temperatures between 55 and 65 degrees generally are what biologists say bass look for to spawn, and at the end of January it's been a steady 49 to 54 degrees.

Wherever you go to target stumps, it's important on the retrieve to rub your fishing line on the structure, because bass get tight to the cover.

Before bass get on their beds, moving baits such as black/blue and golden bream bladed jigs — I really like Delta Lures' Thunder Jig — gold/orange Smithwick Rogues and crawfish-colored crankbaits will pick them off more often than not. But there comes a time when soft plastics can't be beat. Once bass are locked down on a bed, it's time to feed them soft plastics.

Carolina-rigged soft plastics — my favorite is a dark-colored Fluke — Neko-rigged, Texas-rigged and wacky rigged green pumpkin or watermelon Senkos and creature baits inevitably become the go-to baits to put bass in the boat in March. Dead sticking, slowly and meticulously, is one of my tried-and-true ways to trigger bites more reliably and consistently through March and April and into May. ■

— 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.

SABINE MARSH BASS >

SOME PEOPLE SPEND WAY TOO MUCH TIME ONLINE

Advanced tackle storage for overly obsessive anglers.

planomolding.com/edge    

SABINE NWR MARSH IS PARADISE FOR REDS, LARGEMOUTH BASS

Hunting season is over, and it's time to be completely focused on fishing. I am looking forward to things warming up around a little bit, but mostly I am excited about the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge opening March 15. At that time, anglers will have access to fish more than 100,000 acres of some of the most beautiful marsh on the coast.

The past couple of years, the bass fishing has trumped the red-fishing by a long shot. It has been exciting to see how much our local bass fishing has improved.

Typically, if we were catching bass in my boat, they were by-catch and not necessarily our targeted species; however, now with the fishery being so full with quality fish, I find myself targeting those marsh bass regularly. I prefer sight-casting to redfish, although the bass are a lot of fun as well, and in my opinion, easier to target than redfish.

When searching for redfish, I am looking for both the clearest and shallowest water I can find. When bass fishing, I am looking for the deepest holes and guts I can locate. We catch them drifting open ponds and fishing shorelines, but I find much bigger numbers in deeper holes and guts. These areas are significantly

Noah McFarlane, 7, has become quite a fisherman, keeping his dad busy netting solid bass like this one.



ADVANTAGES OF A METAL ROOF

- More strength than shingles
- Excellent heat reflectance
- High savings on energy costs
- Better weather resistance
- Longer warranties
- It looks great



CALL CUSTOM CORRUGATED FOR A FREE QUOTE ON A METAL ROOF SYSTEM.

2727 W. PARK AVE, GRAY, LA
985-876-2555



deeper than their surroundings, anywhere from about 3 to 6 feet deep, with some even deeper.

The extra depth provides bass with more cover to ambush their prey, as well as providing more protection from drastic temperature changes. I prefer to slow-roll a spinnerbait with a gold Colorado blade in these deeper areas. I like to put Egre's chicken-on-a-chain Wedgetail on the spinnerbait; the tail adds even more vibration coming through the water. A good buddy of mine, Luke McFarlane, prefers to catch them on either a Spro frog or a Reaction Innovations Skinny Dipper. When throwing the Skinny Dipper, he prefers their sungil color rigged weightless and weedless. When throwing the Spro frog, he likes to work it in a walk-the-dog fashion, mixing in pauses.

McFarlane has done well in local bass tournaments on the

The extra depth provides bass with more cover to ambush their prey, as well as providing more protection from drastic temperature changes.

Sabine River for quite some time. His son, Noah, is also becoming quite a bass fisherman. They spend more time on the water fishing than most people, and it shows. Noah McFarlane finds it a real treat when he hooks a big redfish while fishing for bass in the marsh. Normally, if he hooks into something other than a bass, it would be a grinnel, but they have definitely upgraded in the by-catch department now that they are fishing further south. McFarlane and I pick on each other quite a bit when it comes to comparing saltwater and freshwater fishing. I have to remind him that the fish I am after eat his fish. ■

— Capt. Adam Jaynes



Capt. Adam Jaynes grew up fishing Sabine Lake and Lake Calcasieu and surrounding waters. He specializes in light tackle with artificial lures in the year-around pursuit of speckled trout and redfish. He can be contacted at justfishsabine.com



As the water temperature begins to rise, solid bass like this one Noah McFarlane is holding will start to hit a Spro frog viciously.

HOW TO 'SPIKE' BASS ➤

GRAND ISLE, LOUISIANA

Whether CHARTER FISHING, watching for MIGRATING BIRDS, KAYAKING through mangroves, or just sitting back to enjoy the SUNSET ON THE BEACH,

Every day is an adventure on Grand Isle.

You set the Pace.

TOWNOFGRANDISLE.COM

Bass pro Cliff Crochet adjusts the Spike, a soft-plastic, stickbait-style worm. Crochet uses it year-round but especially likes to throw it during the prespawn and spawn. **BELOW:** Crochet grips the lip of a sizable bass he caught while fishing Jan. 13 along Bayou Cheraimie near Grassy Lake.

HOW TO 'SPIKE'

CROCHET: STICKWORM, MATCHED WITH SPINNER, IS A VERSATILE BASS BAIT

By Don Shoopman

When Cliff "Cajun Baby" Crochet takes a soft-plastic stickbait-style worm out for a spin, it's all about the spin.

Crochet, a pro bass fisherman from Pierre Part, attaches a Humdinger Power Spinner, designed by Keith Poche, to a Set the Hook Spike, marketed by American Baitworks Co. The Spike can be fished other ways but adding the small screw-lock spinner blade gives it a little flash.

Crochet demonstrated how to fish the Spike on a cold, mid-January day in south Louisiana. He launched at Doiron's Landing to sample the waters he fished since he was a boy growing up.

After a short ride to the Bayou Cheraimie area near Grassy Lake, Crochet went to work with the hand-poured Spike, which has a soft, tapered body that shimmies as it falls. Besides adding a spinner, Spikes can be fished wacky style or on a drop-shot, he advised.

His descriptions for one of his go-to artificial lures all end in "est." "That Senko is the stupidest, simplest and best bait in the world," he said, adding with a smile, "I've got a lot of bests, a lot of favorites."

He pointed out the trend in the bass fishing world to follow labels, such as Senkos, Rat-L-Traps, Chatterbaits and Lunker Lures. There are many other soft-plastic stickbait worms, lipless crankbaits, bladed jigs and buzzbaits.

Crochet bit off about ¼-inch off the tail end of a 5-inch black/blue Spike, then screwed in the gold hammered Colorado Power Spinner. He fished the soft plastic Texas-rigged and weightless with regular baitcasting equipment and targeted cypress trees and deadfalls in 1- to 3-foot depths.

He had a 4/0 EWG hook imbedded in the Spike, tied on with 20-pound Seaguar InvizX fluorocarbon line.



Photos by Don Shoopman

"It's finesse but you're still fishing big. That's bubba-size, but you can still downsize everything to make it more finesse. I've done that in different parts of the country, but I don't have to down here," Crochet said as he cast and slowly pumped the 7-foot-3 KastKing Spirale rod with a KastKing Bassinator Elite.

"I worm it real slow," he said. "To me, I feel like the less you do with it, the better. The deal is, when you drop it, it quivers. That's when you talk to them."

The spinner triggers bass bites any time of the year. Action gets better and better as January turns to February, then March, he knows from experience.

"Why I think that works, that Colorado blade when I'm worming, when I pull the bait in, the blade thumps, thumps. Imagine a crawfish on the bottom with its tail. You can imagine the crawfish scooting along the bottom when you pick that bait up," he said.

Five minutes after he started throwing it, a 10-inch bass bit near the base of a cypress tree and was reeled in, then released. Crochet caught another bass on it a little later. He had two other half-hearted bites in the 50-degree water.

His friend, Poche, capitalized on the spinner in the 2012 Bassmaster Classic on the Red River out of Shreveport, finishing third with 45 pounds, 15 ounces, worth \$42,500.

"Keith did real well with it at the Classic. It came out and kind of ran its course with some people, but I still throw it a bunch," Crochet said. ■

BASS CLASS >

BLUE WAVE.
2021 2400 Pure Bay

IN STOCK!

SOUTHERN OUTDOORS & MARINE LLC
1308 Canal Blvd • Thibodaux
985-447-4156

YAMAHA

BLACKWELL'S

Work, Play HUNT

2021 LandStar L3

SEVERAL AVAILABLE

\$5500

AMERICAN LANDMASTER
Made in the U.S.A.
KOHLER ENGINES

www.blackwellsoutdoor.com
106 Market Street | Hammond, LA 70401 | 985-542-7702

BASS ANGLER SPOTLIGHT: DAWSON ANDREWS, WYATT ENSMINGER

By Don Shoopman

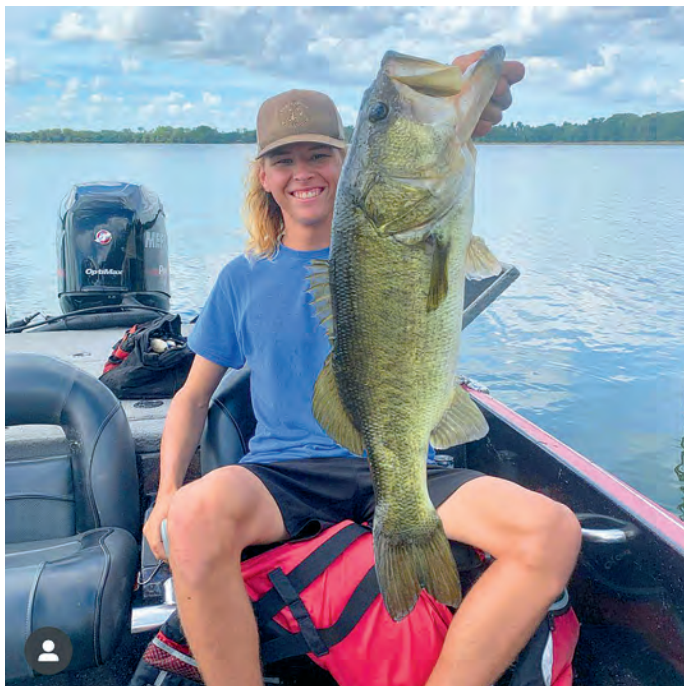
Overcoming adversity to achieve success is the mark of a championship team like Dawson Andrews and Wyatt Ensminger, tournament partners from the Southeastern Louisiana University fishing team who won the 2020 Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation College Championship last March.

That title was another notch in the rod handle for the two young men who live within 5 minutes of each other in Central. They are among the growing number of college student-athletes in Louisiana who pick up a fishing rod to compete.

Andrews and Ensminger had their share of adversity and anxiety on the way to winning the championship, which propelled them to the 2020 Carhartt Bassmaster National Championship last October 2020. While pre-fishing for the state tournament in the Atchafalaya Delta out of Berwick, Ensminger's bass boat hit a wooden pier under the surface, obscured by lily pads.

"That gave us a good scare down there," Ensminger said.

The transom was cracked but the boat was usable the next day — it was repaired later. They traveled an hour upriver from the boat launch at the juncture of the Atchafalaya River and Intracoastal Waterway to fish found by Andrews, who convinced Ensminger to go there March 4. The SLU sophomores didn't have a bite, though, until 11 a.m.



Wyatt Ensminger



Dawson Andrews

Bass started biting, and they returned to the weigh-in with the winning weight of 16.64 pounds, including the day's biggest bass, a 4.34-pounder. Seven months later, they fished the national tournament, and their 28 pounds, 5 ounces, on the Harris Chain of Lakes in Leesburg, Fla., gave them a lofty 23rd-place finish.

The college state championship was their second major win since 2017, when they won the Louisiana B.A.S.S. High School state tournament on the Atchafalaya Delta. They were sophomores on the bass fishing team that they started as freshmen at Central High under the guidance of Ensminger's father, Tom Ensminger.

Andrews and Ensminger, both 20, are, one might say, symbiotic brothers. The two bass fishing-aholics have been fishing together since age 13.

"Mr. Tom calls me his adopted son," Andrews said. "I treat his house like it's mine sometimes."

The two anglers think alike, a key to putting bass in the livewell at crunch time.

"Well, Mr. Tom likes to say we share a brain. I've got half and (Wyatt) has got half. We normally know what each other's thinking. It normally works out pretty good," Andrews said.

That's an understatement. As high schoolers, they finished first in two other tournaments — with 16.56 pounds in a state qualifier out of Bayou Segnette in February 2018 and with 13.67 pounds in a state qualifier in the Atchafalaya Basin in March 2019.

As with any team sport, their success boils down to trust.

"Fishing together so long, that definitely plays a big role in all the tournaments we fish. We totally trust each other in the boat, running the trolling motor, bouncing stuff off each other" and, of course, finding fish, Ensminger said.

Andrews said one of his finest moments came after their first-ever bass tournament together. The young teens fished a Junior Bassmaster derby and finished in the middle of the pack in a 10-boat field.

"Wyatt needed a partner for the state tournament," Andrews

Dawson Andrews (left) and Wyatt Ensminger from Southeastern Louisiana University have been fishing together since age 13. They started bass fishing as young boys and began competing in the seventh grade as Junior Bassmasters.

said. "He didn't know anybody at the time so asked me. We got, like, fifth. We had two fish. We felt like big shots walking across the stage. They had a big crowd and everything. That's probably one of the funnest tournaments we fished."

It was a positive start for the up-and-coming 13-year-olds, who grew up together.

Andrews and Ensminger have the meat of their 2021 schedule planned. They will fish two of four Carhartt Bassmaster College Series regular-season tournaments, one April 16-17 at Lewis Smith Lake in Cullman, Ala., and another June 23-24 at Lay Lake in Shelby County, Ala.

Of course, they'll try to defend their state championship. Andrews believed the 2021 B.A.S.S. Nation College Louisiana Championship would be at Toledo Bend, but officials announced Jan. 15 it would be held March 14 at Caney Lake.

Ensminger, who is majoring in electrical engineering technology, works for his grandfather's electrical company, while Andrews, who's major is business administration, works for his stepfather's company.

"When people ask what my major is, I joke and I tell them it's fishing," Andrews said.

"After college, I don't know if I'm going to try to find a full-time job or just try to fish (Bassmaster) Southern Opens. I'm going to give Opens a shot before I fish local tournaments," he said.

Andrews' favorite artificial lure is a dark-colored or "candy grass" Missile Baits D-Bomb.

Ensminger, who is related to Steve Ensminger, offensive



coordinator for the 2019 national champion LSU Tigers, plans to fish Bassmaster Opens, balancing that schedule with work, and hopefully one day becoming a Bassmaster Elite.

To those middle-school and high-school students interested in competitive bass fishing, Ensminger said, "I'd tell them, I'd say, you've got to love it, when you're catching them and when you're getting your butt handed to you. You've got to stay committed to it."

His favorite artificial lure is a yellow-bellied Spro Popping Frog. ■

COVER THE SPREAD



**R100 SPYDERLOK
ROD HOLDER**

Take your spider rigging to the next level. With 360 degree rotating arms and 4 locking rod holders this rig will be your new favorite. Designed for trolling or anchor, saltwater or freshwater. Each rod holder on the R100 SpyderLok Gen 2 features our patented SpyderLok technology - the teeth lock in place, securing your position tightly.

MILLENNIUMMARINE.COM



**MILLENNIUM
MARINE**

Alario Bros



Visit our website www.AlarioBros.com

Hard Hat Lights



Trailer Supplies



Dexter Knives

Large Selection in Stock



Gloves



Push Poles



Shrimp Devieners



Anchors & Cajun Anchors



Fishing & Alligator Hooks



Anodes



Fishing Leads



Knife Sharpeners



Fishing Line



Crab Knife



**Briggs & Stratton
Engines**



**Oyster Openers, Oyster Knives,
Oyster Hatchets & Leads**



Crab Tongs



Crab Claw Crackers



**Pots,
Burners,
Regulators,
Hoses &
Paddles**



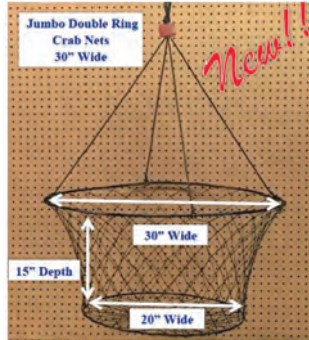
Cast Nets



Crab & Bait Holding Cages



**NEW 30" Crab Nets!
Made In-house**



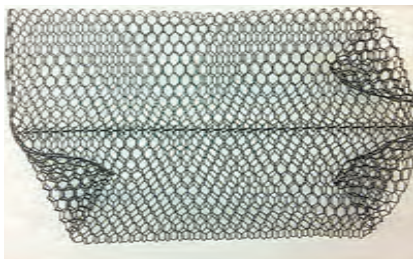
Crab Traps



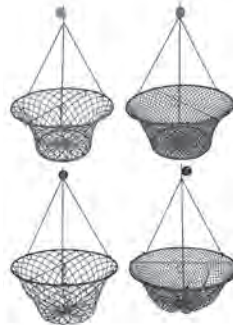
Trawls



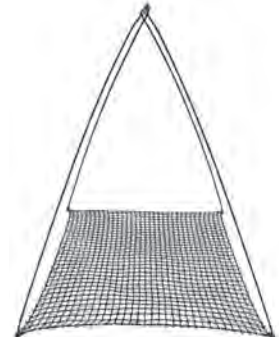
Crawfish Pillow Traps



**Large & Small Crab Nets
Made In-house**



**Crawfish Nets
Made In-house**



504.341.1843

894 Avenue A. Westwego, LA 70094 www.alariobros.com

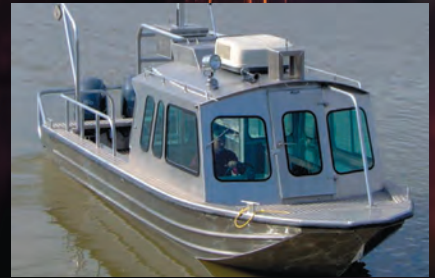
Scully's

**CUSTOMIZED
ALUMINUM BOATS**

**WORK BOAT
SPECIALIST**

20' TO 40' BOATS AVAILABLE

**LOUISIANA'S
#1 CUSTOM
BOAT BUILDER**



YAMAHA



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



COURTESY
 AUTOMOTIVE GROUP



**4 LOCATIONS
&
6 BRANDS
READY TO SERVE YOU!**

**LAFAYETTE, BROUSSARD
& ABBEVILLE**

COURTESYAUTOMOTIVE.COM



SPORTSMAN[®] RECREATIONAL VEHICLE SPECIAL





millersrv.com

**BRAXTON
CREEK**

BUSHWACKER PLUS



SPECIFICATIONS:

- 2-Burner cooktop
- Kitchen sink with integrated faucet
- LED interior and exterior light package
- Blue-tooth ready Stereo with speakers
- 110V and USB ports
- 5000btu A/C
- Multi-directional TV antenna with WIFI prep
- TV Prep package
- Go-Power Solar prep pkg
- Spare tire and integrated carrier
- 6-gal DSI gas/electric water heater
- 12,000btu furnace
- 3-Way Refrigerator
- 12-volt high-output attic fan
- 21 Gal. fresh water tank
- E-Z Swap LP Tank
- 2 Rear BAL Stabilizing Jacks
- E-Z Bed/Dinette System
- Expanded "wet-bath" with integrated shower/toilet enclosure
- Over-sized, all-terrain Radial Tires, with Alloy Aluminum Sport wheels
- 3000lbs High-Clearance, torsion-flex, Independent axle
- Norco, stamped steel, e-coated mainframe



Bushwacker Plus 17Bh

2021 WINNEBAGO HIKE H171DB



Specifications:

- Sleeps 3, Slides 1
- Length 20 ft 7 in , Ext Width 7 ft 9 in
- Ext Height 9 ft 11 in, Int Height 6 ft 5 in
- Hitch Weight 420 lbs, Gross Weight 3700 lbs
- Dry Weight 3340 lbs
- Fresh Water Capacity 31 gals
- Grey Water Capacity 25 gals,
- Black Water Capacity 25 gals
- Tire Size 235/75R15, Furnace BTU 18000 btu
- Available Beds RV Queen
- Refrigerator Type Gas/Electric
- Convection Cooking Yes
- Cooktop Burners 2
- Number of Awnings 1, Axle Weight 3700 lbs
- LP Tank Capacity 20 lbs
- Water Heater Capacity 6 gal
- Water Heater Type DSI Gas/Electric
- AC BTU 13500 btu
- TV Info LR LED, Awning Info 10' Power with LED Lights
- Axle Count 2, Number of LP Tanks 2
- Shower Type Standard



BLANCHARD'S

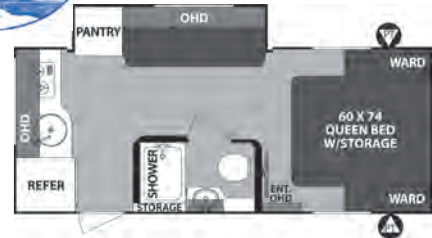
www.blanchardrv.com

FOREST RIVER R-POD 196



Features:

- Large 36 gallon holding tanks
- Pet Friendly Frame Mounted Utility Hook & Food/Water Bowls
- LED interior lighting
- Tinted safety glass windows
- 6 Gallon Gas/electric DSI hot water heater
- Water heater by-pass system
- 3-Way refrigerator (Gas, Electric, 12V)
- Two burner recessed cook top w/ flush mount glass cover
- 20,000 BTU furnace
- 12V demand water pump
- Monitor panel
- 55 amp converter w/ charger
- 4 speed MaxxAir® Fan
- Thetford™ toilet
- USB charging port



FORREST RIVER SURVEYOR 267RBSS



- Designer Carefree® Flooring
- Shaker Style Cabinets with Concealed Hinges
- Solid Lumber Core Cabinet Fronts Assembled with Screws
- Residential Wood Drawers with Ball Bearing Glides
- Ceiling Light Switch at Entrance Door
- 13.5K Air Conditioning
- 20,000 BTU Furnace
- Digital Wall Thermostat
- 6 Gallon G/E DSI Hot Water Heater with Quick Recovery
- 8 cu. ft. G/E Flush Mount Refrigerator
- Two Burner Range Top
- Power Range Hood with Light
- Convection Microwave
- USB Charging Stations





REDWOOD FIFTH WHEEL 3981 FK



Highlights:
 • Five Slides
 • Rear Bath

• Shower with a Seat
 • Theater Seats
 • 40" Bedroom TV

You're going to love the unique layout of this fifth wheel. The front kitchen features dual opposing slides, creating a large space to prepare all your meals while you are away from home. You'll also find dual opposing slides in the middle living area and a king bed slide out in the private bedroom suite. The kids will love to relax on the sofa after a day in the hot sun and the ceiling fan will provide a nice breeze as you visit with family. Mom and dad will appreciate the full rear bath that features a double sink vanity that allows them both their own space. Come check out this fifth wheel today!



2021 32RLS HEARTLAND ELKRIDGE FIFTH WHEEL 32RLS



Highlights:
 • Opposing Slides
 • Kitchen Island

• Private Bedroom
 • Full-Size Closet
 • Free-Standing Table

You will easily find so many excuses to take this ElkRidge fifth wheel out to the campsite! From the king-size bed and full-size closet in the front private bedroom to the great living area with opposing slides and a kitchen island, this fifth wheel provides you with convenience and comfort with exceptional features. You will have cozy spots to sit down and chat with friends at the free-standing table with chairs, the theater seating, and the sofa. Plus, you can also offer these guests some snacks from the large pantry.



TRIPLE THREAT SPINNERBAIT

Bass pro Boyd Duckett, a past winner of the Bassmaster Classic, has been manufacturing and selling top-drawer fishing rods for years. Duckett Fishing has added a handful of “Pro Driven” baits to the line this year, and the Triple Threat spinnerbait is one of them.

The bait, which features three arms and three willow-leaf blades in a unique horizontal configuration — sort of a mini-Alabama rig — comes in a ½-ounce size and in four colors. The fish-head jig balances the bait,

and cosmetic details are unsurpassed, including life-like eyes and a fine-cut, color-graded skirt, plus a super-strong OMTD hook.

Greater flash and vibration are givens in this compact spinnerbait, which comes with an R-bend.

MSRP: \$14.99

For more info, visit: duckett-fishing.com



PLANO FROST COOLERS

Plano, the Texas-based molding company that has put many of the industry’s best tackle boxes on store shelves around the country, has entered the cooler market with three models featuring the quality Plano purchasers have come to expect.

Plano’s line of “Frost” coolers features 14-, 21- and 32-quart models, shock-resistant and injection molded to be able to keep the contents cool for up to five days, thanks in part to Plano’s Dri-Loc® seal and 1-inch, industrial-rated foam insulation.

Each model comes with a stainless-steel bottle opener on the lid, plus a small, hanging basket inside. The 32-quart model comes with a small twist drain and internal divider that can serve as a cutting board, plus integrated tie-down slots on the handle.

The coolers and drop- and shock-resistant for security and ease while travelling.

MSRP: \$99.99 to \$199.99

For more info, visit: <https://www.plano-synergy.com/new-products/>

ESCORT PS TURKEY HUNTER SHOTGUN

Escort has added to its line of semi-automatic shotguns a model specifically designed for turkey hunters, at an affordable price.

Escort’s PS Turkey Hunter comes in 12- and 20-gauge models, as well as .410, all chambered for 3-inch magnum shells. It’s got a short, 24-inch barrel, made for the close quarters hunting lots of turkey hunters are used to, and the 12-gauge model weighs only 6.9 pounds. Three interchangeable chokes, including Extended Extra Full, are included. It comes in Mossy Oak BottomLand or RealTree APG patterns, and sling studs are already mounted.

The gas-operated gun has Escort’s Smart Valve piston, which allows for flawless shucking and loading of

shells of all sizes and powers, plus the FAST loading system that allows for one-handed reloading.

The barrel is ready to accommodate a variety of Weaver mounts for scopes, and it features bright fiber optic front and rear sights for low-light hunting. The red front fiber is windage adjustable while the green fiber rear sight is both windage and elevation adjustable.

MSRP: \$499.99

For more info, visit: productwebsite.com



SPORTSMAN

#1 **XPRESS**
DEALER
in LOUISIANA
XPRESS
BOATS



YAMAHA

Certified Master
Yamaha Technician On Site

Boats Unlimited

7035 AIRLINE HWY.
BATON ROUGE
225.357.3118

www.BoatsUnlimitedLA.com



HUNTER OF THE MONTH

Felix Simoneaux III

Felix Simoneaux III killed this buck, which he nicknamed "G10" in mid-January when it seemed to be at peak rut. Simoneaux had watched the deer for more than a year. On Jan. 14, G10 stepped out in front of him at 50 yards and he dropped the trophy buck that scored 161½ inches.

ConocoPhillips
Coastal Wetlands

A legacy of conservation and collaboration

Through our subsidiary, The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company LLC (LL&E), ConocoPhillips is the largest private wetlands owner in Louisiana. For years, we have worked with groups such as the South Lafourche Levee District and Ducks Unlimited to strengthen flood protection and enhance habitat in coastal Louisiana.

To learn more, visit www.conocophillips.com/SLLD.

© ConocoPhillips Company, 2021. All rights reserved. ConocoPhillips supports social distancing. Picture taken 2019.



OF THE MONTH



SMITH SHANKLIN SOSA
PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL LAWYERS

Sportsman-At-Law
Not all attorneys wear suits



16851 Jefferson Hwy, Suite 7C, Baton Rouge • 225-223-6333 • www.geaux2law.com

ANGLER OF THE MONTH

Dalton Guidry

Growing up in Cut Off, Dalton Guidry's love of fishing was instilled at a young age. After high school, he began working offshore, purchased his own Surface Drive and fished all over the Pointe Aux Chene WMA, learning different areas that hold redfish.

"My love of redfish plus my job has recently given me the opportunity to combine both," Guidry said. "I have recently decided to start charter fishing. I sold my Surface Drive and have upgraded to a Haynie Bay boat."

Guidry enjoys the challenge of getting a redfish to bite.

"Also, once I get a hookup, the fight is better than any other inshore fish," he said. "Lots of screaming drag. Watching a school of reds finning gets me excited. Sneaking up on to them and pitching a bait past them to reel it into them. Then feeling the thump of the strike and the fight. That is why I love redfish."



Louisiana SPORTSMAN DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM

EXCLUSIVE KERRY'S POINTE BAYOU FRONT PROPERTIES AVAILABLE

30 minute drive to New Orleans – 50 minutes to Grand Isle by boat
 Located in one of the state's top ten wealthiest Parishes – St. Charles Parish-Des Allemands, LA
 Private subdivision boat launch leading to hunting, fishing and water recreation



118 KERRY'S POINTE WEST

MOTIVATED SELLERS MUST RELOCATE!

Metal Stud framing, commercial grade doors and windows. Two chef kitchens w/quartz & stainless counters. Wolf, Subzero & Miele appliances. 4 bdrms-3 baths-Interior passenger elevator. Gather your fishing/hunting buddies & make it your luxury "Camp"-Possible 1st floor uses; Guest home/Gym/Media Room/Home business.

Offered @ \$775K • Regina H Allemand-504-495-2452



13371 Hyw 90, Ste B
 Boutte, LA



121 KERRY'S POINTE EAST

Luxury custom built home right on the Bayou! View the sunrises on the terrace with amenities to dream gourmet kitchen, large walk-in pantry, double ovens, beautiful large island, top of the line appliances and elevator. The primary suite features an oversized walk-in shower & sauna for a spa-like experience. Cruise by boat to Grand Isle in only 50 minutes; drive to New Orleans in 30! Truly a Louisiana Paradise!

Offered @ \$799K

Amy Barrios 504-874-7819 • Liz Ackal 504-810-3481

985-785-0336
 Licensed in Louisiana



G3 Boats
G3 BAY 20 DLX

GREENWELL SPRINGS
 Marine

225-273-4853 • Fax 225-273-4762
 12014 GREENWELL SPRINGS RD
 BATON ROUGE
 MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8 AM - 5 PM





Over the past few years, I have progressively increased the time I spend throwing hard baits for speckled trout, and the average size of the fish I catch has increased.

The baits can be categorized as twitchbaits, jerkbaits and topwater stickbaits. They cannot be used in every situation, but I am very pleased with how versatile they are. But given the astonishing number of choices available, deciding which ones to buy can be daunting, especially with an average price tag around \$7. To make that choice a bit easier, here are some things I have learned while throwing these lures for speckled trout.

LIGHT INTENSITY'S EFFECT >

TWITCHBAITS, JERKBAITS, STICKBAITS — THEY ALL HAVE THEIR PLACE IN THE TACKLE BOXES OF ANGLERS TARGETING SPECKLED TROUT. HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS ABOUT CHOOSING AND USING THEM.

HARD BAIT FOR SPECKS

■ By Jon Miller

Christopher Bush

LIGHT INTENSITY'S EFFECT

Fish have the instinct to watch for creatures above the water, not just in the water. This is easily observable in my neighborhood creek, where minnows scatter when I approach the bank — and for good reason. Egrets and herons wade the creek, and minnows are definitely on the menu.

When the sun is high and light penetration into the water is greatest, near-surface underwater objects are more visible from above the water. Fish instinctively know in this situation that they are in more danger from predators, and they will move to put cover between themselves and the surface or move deeper. In low-light conditions, whether early morning, evening or under cloudy skies, objects below the surface are less visible from the sky. This apparently gives speckled trout more confidence to feed at or near the surface. We can use this relationship between a trout's comfort level when feeding and daylight conditions to help us choose the appropriate hard baits.

Two other conditions decrease the visibility of objects in the water: wave action and turbidity. These theoretically improve the protection for fish from overhead predators, but do they bring the trout to the surface to feed? My experience suggests that surface ripples in bright sun can encourage a rise, but larger waves and turbidity do not. Therefore, I don't typically move to surface lures because of rough water in those situations. In fact, high turbidity is the condition in which hard baits are the least effective.

LOW-LIGHT LURES

As a general rule for spring, I fish topwater or shallow-running baits in low-light conditions. Plenty of baits work well, but here are some I often throw. For topwaters, I use MirrOlure SheDogs and Heddon Zara Spooks most often. Some excellent choices

for shallow-running baits are floaters like a Matrix Shad RipShad and Texas Custom Lures' Double D. Shallow suspending baits I use regularly are: Rapala Shadow Rap and Subwalk, and Mirrolure's MirrOdine and Catch 2000. These last two lures are versatile, because if worked fast, they are effective near surface, and if worked slowly, they are effective in the middle of the water column.

BRIGHT-LIGHT LURES

When light intensity increases, trout are less willing to rise high in the water column to chase topwater or shallow-running jerkbaits and twitchbaits. I find it amazing that even in water



as shallow as 2 feet, trout often will not rise to hit a topwater bait on a sunny day. There are certainly exceptions, especially in spring when warm days can make the trout aggressive, but I generally fish deeper as light intensity increases.

We are blessed to have plenty of quality lures to choose from when fishing deeper. Most I use are labeled as suspending, but don't rely on the rated depth when using these in inshore waters. Many baits, such as the MirrOlure lineup, appear to be rated for buoyancy in full saltwater. In the low-salinity, less-dense waters of the estuaries, these baits will suspend at twice the rated depth.

LURES FOR THE BOTTOM ➤



Fishing big twitch baits, such as the Paul Brown Fat Boy, can increase the size of the speckled trout you catch.



I-10 Hwy 49 South
Gulfport, MS
228-731-3955

www.coastalmarinesales.com

KenCraft
Model 21 & 25 Available



Bay Rider

Model 2060, 2260
& 2460 Available



Model 219 & 239 Available

BUY • SELL • TRADE
NEW & PRE-OWNED



YAMAHA

**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
(337) 948-3601
Charlie Hebert
Jamey Kelly
Mike Higginbotham

LURES FOR THE BOTTOM

For fishing at the bottom of the water column in spring, I regularly use the Paul Brown Fat Boy and MirrOlure Soft-Dine, and more recently, the Devil. I also use the MirrOdine, Catch 2000 and Catch 5 lipless baits. These twitchbaits need time to sink in order to be used in the middle and bottom of the water column, which means they are fished with a slower cadence.

If I want a faster cadence near the bottom, I will use lipped baits such as the Rapala X-Rap series and Husky Jerk, and the Matrix Shad Matrix Minnow. These suspending, lipped baits reach the bottom by driving, so they can provide an aggressive action near the bottom, and when paused, float slowly upward. That's the opposite of lipless, suspending baits, which rise when worked and fall on the pause. As subtle as that difference may seem, I have seen days when the trout only wanted one of those two actions, so I experiment with quite a few different hard baits on many trips.

CHOOSING COLORS

One of the most-difficult questions is whether the color of a bait makes a difference. This complicates bait selection, because it adds another layer to the decision tree. I started conservatively, mostly fishing natural-looking color schemes, while I concentrated on the functional aspects of these baits. Once I



felt confident selecting baits based on their function, I began to experiment with colors. One thing I have learned is that some of the most-outrageous color schemes, such as electric chicken, can be very productive. I have begun regularly fishing suspending baits with pink, gold and bright red colors.



Jon Miller is an engineer, lifetime fisherman, and host of the YouTube channel Jon Miller Fishing.

THE BEST LURE SIZE? >

The Soft-Dine is effective for fishing the bottom of the water column due to its slow, flat stance when falling.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Large twitch baits, like this 5-inch Magic Swimmer from Sebile, are the key to catching large speckled trout.



OVER ALL	BEAM	POWER	HEIGHT	(APPROX)	TRANSOM	@ENTRY	(APPROX)	CAPACITY	PERSONS WT	CAPACITY
22'6"	8'6"	250 HP	25"	13"	16"	40"	2175 LBS	58 GAL*	8/1200 LBS	2000 LBS

227 XTS XTREME TOURNAMENT SERIES

KEY FEATURES

- Bow Holders Includes Lockable Tarp and Carbonized Rod Lockers (2 Rods Each Side), 30 Gal. Insulated Fish Box, Large Dry Storage Box, and 13 Gal. Livewell/Baitwell
- Tackle Storage in Jump Seat Back with 5-Panel Baiter
- Elevated Console with Removable Windshield, Steering Wheel Holders, and 8 Vertical Rod Holders. Shown with Optional Backrest Bait Package
- Shown with optional Canvas T-Top (No Standard Console)
- Horizontal Gunnel Rod Holders - 1 Each Side
- Deluxe Low Profile Livewell Panel with Backrest, Storage Rod Holders, Trolling Motors, and 34 Qt. "Big" Cooler
- 3-Across All Jump Seats with 40 Gal. All-Burned with Aerator in Center, Storage in Port & Starboard Seats
- All Drop-In Tackle Storage (Starboard) and Cast Net Bucket Storage (Port)

BOAT SHOW SEASON DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE NOW!

2021 MODELS NOW IN STOCK!

NauticStar BOATS

VISIT DAGATES.COM FOR ADDITIONAL BOAT PACKAGES!

LENGTH OVER ALL	BEAM	MAX HORSE POWER	TRANSOM HEIGHT	DRAFT (APPROX)	DEADRISE @TRANSOM	DEADRISE @ENTRY	BOAT DRY WT (APPROX)	FUEL CAPACITY	PERSONS/TOTAL PERSONS WT	MAX WT CAPACITY
20'9"	8'6"	150 HP	25"	11"	12"	36"	2100 LBS	58 GAL*	10/1450 LBS	2280 LBS

211 HYBRID

KEY FEATURES

- Wrap-around Bow Seating for 5 People (Shown with Optional Filler Cushion/Tabble)
- The Bow Filler Also Converts to a Picnic Table
- Flared Starboard Enclosed Fish Boxes
- Insulated Bow Cooler - 15 Gal.
- Console Livewell/Baitwell - 13 Gal.
- Console Stainless Steel Vertical Rod Holders - 6
- Standard Laying Post with 34 Qt. "Big" Cooler (Shown with Optional Flip-Flop Seat and 48 Qt. Cooler)
- 3-Across All Jump Seats with Locking 55 Hinges, Cast Net Bucket Storage in Port Seat, 27 Gal. Livewell in Center, and Battery Storage in Starboard Jump Seat
- Stainless Steel Drink Holders - 8
- Horizontal Gunnel Rod Holders - 2 Each Side

SHOWN WITH OPTIONAL SPORT PACKAGE, BOW FILLERS, AND FLIP-FLOP SEAT

COME SEE OUR FULL LINE OF **ALWELD BOATS**

1856VV CC MARSH SERIES

1756V PRO MARSH SERIES

HURRY! THIS PROMO ENDS MARCH 2ND!

YAMAHA OUTBOARDS' **THE POWER OF RELIABILITY** SALES EVENT

OFFER VALID FROM **JANUARY 5, 2021 - MARCH 2, 2021**
Must take delivery by **May 31, 2021**

For a limited time, purchase a new, select eligible Yamaha Outboard and choose either:

UP TO \$1500 IN DEALER CREDIT **or** **5 Years** OF WARRANTY PROTECTION

2.5-300 hp - Three years of Yamaha Limited Warranty Coverage, along with the additional protection of a two-year Yamaha Extended Service (Y.E.S.) plan. That's a total of FIVE years coverage at no additional cost!

300 hp - Five years of Yamaha Limited Warranty Coverage, along with the additional protection of a two-year Yamaha Extended Service (Y.E.S.) plan.*

DAGATE'S
"Keepin' Fishing Fun" Since 1949
MARINE

2018 Best Boating Dealership for Terrebonne Parish

WWW.DAGATES.COM

FACTORY TRAINED TECHNICIANS TO SERVE YOU!
1128 BARROW ST, HOUMA
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
985.872.4181 • 985.868.7534

POWERED BY **YAMAHA**



A motor designed with a sportsman in mind

Our mid range 4-stroke outboards are the lightest weight in their class, without sacrificing performance. The revolutionary design offers a lower gear ratio for improved hole shot and top end speed.



Feel the Wind™
www.tohatsu.com

POPPING CORKS ARE NO. 1 CHOICE FOR PONTCHARTRAIN GUIDE

Trout in transition this month, but they'll bite wherever you find them

March is a strange month across the Lake Pontchartrain basin. The fish aren't exactly at the ever-so-popular bridges yet, like the Causeway and the Trestle — but they're not still in their winter holes either.

The past three years in March, Capt. Kris Robert of One Last Cast Charters has found very good speckled trout action in Lake Catherine.

"Last March, I had some real productive days until we had those fronts move in," he said.

Roberts throws popping corks to target the trout. He favors 4-Horseman corks for their great sound, as well as their castability.

"They've got a little bit of weight behind them," he said. "You can get some distance on them."

Lemonhead, shrimp creole and tiger bait Matrix Shads are among Roberts' favorite colors. He really likes another in particular.

"I love the Holy Joely, because it just looks like a shrimp," Robert, who feels like tossing a variety of colors to start a trip is important.

"If I have a couple of customers on the boat, we'll all be using different colors and see which one is the hot color, and then at that point, switch over," he said.

Jighead weight under a cork is something a lot of anglers overlook, but Roberts pays close attention to it.

"I try to use the lightest thing I can, because I want it to sink the slowest it can," he said. "When you're popping that cork, the bait comes up, and the slower it falls back, that gives them a faster opportunity to grab it."

Another thing Robert focuses on is his cadence he pops his cork.

““”

I'm definitely looking for grass lines. They're sitting on that grass line ambushing the white shrimp.



Capt. Kris Robert finds gobs of speckled trout in Lake Catherine this month.

"A lot of people will pop, pop, pop and continually reel," he said. "The fish is trying to figure out where that sound is coming from, and if you're steadily dragging it out the strike zone when he hears the last pop, you've already drug it out of that area. I like a hard three pops, let it sit for a few seconds, let the current move it a little bit and pop it again. I'm taking up the slack, but I'm not moving the cork out of the area. I try to keep it in that area as long as possible."

When Roberts hops in his boat in the morning, he keeps an eye on the American flag, which helps him determine which area of Catherine to fish.

"If it's blowing out of the south or southeast, I'm generally on the south end of Catherine, because that's where the cleaner water is going to be," he said. "Opposite — if it's blowing out of the north or northeast, then I'm heading back more towards the Rigolets part of Lake Catherine."

Once he gets in those areas, he positions himself near the vegetation.

"I'm definitely looking for grass lines," he said. "They're sitting on that grass line ambushing the white shrimp. Some of them are left over from the year before that just kind of buried down, and some are the new hatchlings being born that are hanging out in Catherine."

Identifying where the grass is can be pretty simple, particularly with some quality sunglasses.

"You'll actually see the grass line, and all you're doing is getting on the outside of that grass line and just kind of working it in that area," he said. "I love the areas with hard shell bottom, and I like the areas where water is ripping around a point." ■

— Joel Masson

GOLDEN MEADOW TROUT YOU CAN BANK ON!

Reggie Legendre, a veteran angler who targets speckled trout and redfish, had a fishing rod in his hand at an early age.

"Growing up in lower Lafourche Parish, I believe that people learn how to fish before they learn to walk," said Legendre, a manager for the Rouses Markets grocery store chain in Golden Meadow, who proves on a regular basis that you don't have to spend thousands of dollars on a boat or carry a mini-tackle store along to catch fish.

"Basically, I'm a bank fisherman," he said. "That's what I love to do. And when I can't get to them from the bank, I take out my little 8-foot Pelican boat and find them that way. I can actually go places and catch a limit of trout this time of year in the same amount it takes some fishermen to launch their boat, park their truck and motor to their fishing spots.

"And that reminds me that fishing is fun, not a competition. It's about having fun in nature, and if you keep your energy up and stay positive, you can catch fish down here."

Legendre said that if you follow a few simple steps, you can catch a bunch of speckled trout almost anywhere down Highway 1 from Golden Meadow to Grand Isle. Years of experience have taught him where and how to catch them on the bank or in a small boat.

"It's pretty simple, really," he said. "The main thing you want to do is find moving water. When you (do), you find the areas where they fish are setting up and you can catch one right after the other. I love the falling tide best. You can't beat that. The second thing that is a 99% sure thing is watching the birds. If the birds are diving and feeding, you can bet there are trout up under there."

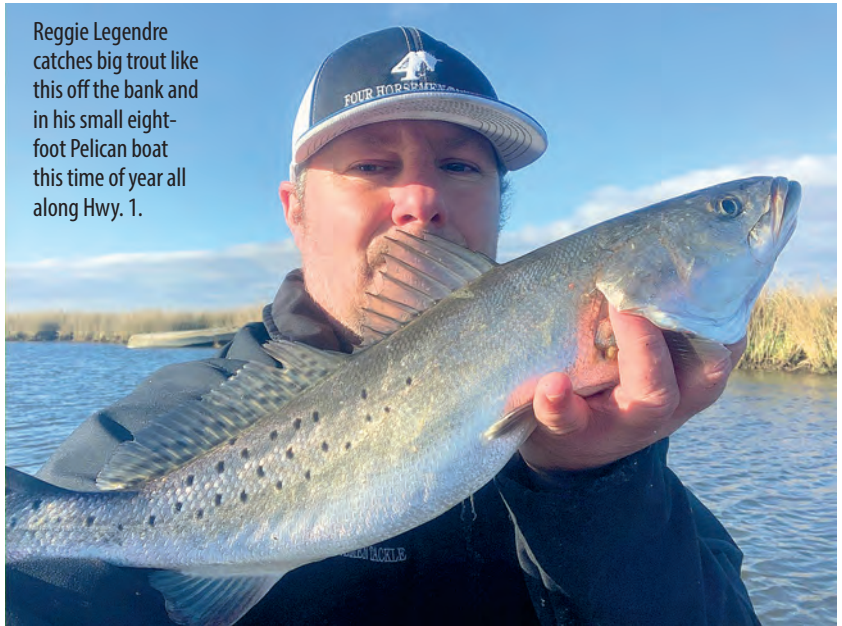
That sounds simple enough. Kind of like his approach to tackle.

"Look, I'll load up four or five jigheads, a couple of 3-inch Four Horseman popping corks and three or four packs of Matrix plastic tails, grab a couple of rods and head out," he said. "I don't need a whole tackle store — and I love to help support our Louisiana bait companies."

Legendre likes to fish a Charleigh's Cajun Cocahoe in Matrix's cookies-and-cream color, a Matrix Shad in pink champagne and a Captain Lane Ghost Minnow.

When the tide isn't falling,

Reggie Legendre catches big trout like this off the bank and in his small eight-foot Pelican boat this time of year all along Hwy. 1.



Legendre takes his small boat into deeper water to find trout. They are a little less concentrated, but when he finds them, it's on. It just often takes a little more time.

Legendre sticks with two simple techniques to land limits of specks in March. He loves to fish a popping cork when fish are in moving water. He casts it, lets it sit, then gives it a "pop-pop-sit" action. A fish will usually nail it after he's done that once or twice. If fish are not as active and are deeper, he puts on a heavier jig-head and fishes without the cork. His retrieve here is a "jerk-jerk-sit" cadence; he never just reels the bait back in.

Legendre tags and releases a lot of fish as part of a Matrix Shad promotion. He also has a sweet deal with his father, who will clean the specks he catches, and what he can't eat himself, he'll give to other people. ■

— Kinny Haddox

REDFISH HOTSPOTS ➤

BEAT THE SPRING RUSH!!
BOATS ARE IN STOCK!

SPORTSMAN
YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL!

214 TOURNAMENT

YAMAHA

SOUTHERN OUTDOORS & MARINE LLC

1308 CANAL BLVD., THIBODAUX
985-447-4156

CONCENTRATE ON MARSH ISLAND REDS OVER MARCH TROUT

Catching 6- to 8-pound redfish is fun and very doable in March, weather and water conditions permitting, in and around Marsh Island south of Cypremort Point.

While guide Shane Johnson of New Iberia leans more to putting speckled trout in the boat, this early, early spring month is kinder more often than not to those chasing redfish. Don't rule out finding water conditions good enough to hold speckled trout, but be prepared to bust the redfish's chops.

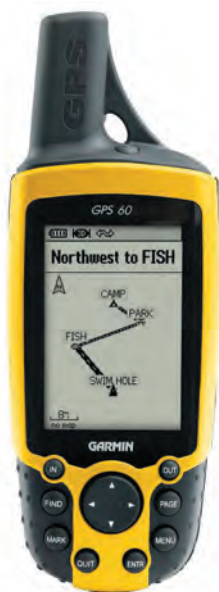
Johnson, a guide with Acadian Outdoor Charters, believes there are resident speckled trout in the area, but they are harder to track down than redfish inside and outside Marsh Island. He is equally adept at catching those fish with spots, too.

Johnson, 47, and Lorrie Ardoin of Lafayette, a guide with Acadian Outdoor Charters who teaches full-time at Green T. Lindon Elementary School, set the hook on quite a few slot-sized redfish on Jan. 19 in a canal on the west end of the island near the Gulf of Mexico. He has found and boated redfish consistently this winter.



Shane Johnson of New Iberia, a guide with Acadian Outdoor Charters holds a big redfish he caught Jan. 18 fishing a canal on the west side of Marsh Island.

Capt. Paul's FISHING EDGE



- Gives the fisherman an advantage in getting to & finding fishing spots, moving around, and getting back from some of the more favorite fishing areas in the state
- Downloads directly into various GPS units
- Saves countless hours of manually entering waypoint values into the GPS receiver
- Are files are transmitted as an attachment to an email
- Attachment is IMPORTED into your mapping program and electronically downloaded into your GPS unit via GPS/Computer connection
- You must have an email address that will accept attachments on your incoming email



Only \$24.95

Click on the Louisiana Sportsman Outdoor Store, SportsmanGear.com

Some of the "EDGE" positions are underwater reefs, shoals, structures, and honey holes

Capt. Paul Titus is Louisiana Sportsman's GPS expert. Need to ask him a question? Go to www.louisianasportsman.com

Contains Over 170 Waypoint Locations

- Cocodrie-Dulac-Dularge
- Leeville East
- Leeville West - Terrebonne & Timbalier Bays
- Barataria Bay
- Lake Borgne
- Hopedale to the Mississippi Sound
- Hopedale MRGO to Bayou Terre aux Boeufs
- Delacroix to Point a la Rache
- Bayou Bienvenue
- Port Sulphur
- Lakes Ponchartrain & Maurepas
- Calcasieu Lake
- Myrtle Grove-Lake Hermitage
- Empire to Buras
- Pearl River WMA
- Lafitte
- The Rigollets
- Vermillion Bay
- Bayou Sauvage NWR
- Big Brans NWR
- MRGO WPS & Dam Routes

"A buddy of mine said, 'You've got the redfish locked down.' I said, 'Patterns can last one tide cycle. Fishing's an hour to hour puzzle to solve.'"

Rather than exact locations of perennial hotspots, it's more important and valuable to learn what to look for, as well as develop successful techniques and strategy to match the time of year in and around Vermilion Bay.

"This place is such a dynamic fishery but soooooo fickle," he said.

The fickleness is compounded in late winter and early spring because of the Atchafalaya River. After it rises, as it always does, higher than, say, 11.0 feet, freshwater runoff pours into Vermilion Bay.

No matter the water color, he offers the fish soft plastics first. "I'm a plastics guy, and I love topwaters. It's really the fish tell you what you want," he said.

When Johnson fishes in late February, March and early

April, he'll try to feed redfish soft plastics first, either under a popping cork, on a Carolina rig or a leadhead dragged or hopped along the bottom. Keep in mind, he said, redfish have been feeding the past few months primarily on shrimp, but they usually expand their diet to pogeys and mullets.

He's been successful most of the time this time of year using 3/8- to 1/2-ounce leadheads. Usually, he ties on gray leadheads, but bright colors work, too.

"If the water's decent, try flashy (colors), like chartreuse or pink leadheads," he said.

As for colors for the soft plastics, he'll try to "match the hatch." For March, that encompasses pogy, mullet and shrimp colors.

If soft plastics fail to generate bites, fishermen can turn to natural bait.

"Redfish love shrimp," he said.

Where you dunk those soft plastics or natural baits is the key.

"The main thing is to find bait and find the best water you can," Johnson said, noting just because the Atchafalaya River is pumping muddy water out of the Wax Lake Outlet doesn't mean there isn't decent water to be found, and it doesn't have to be green.

"People focus on finding perfect water conditions. Redfish just don't care — dirty water or stained water. I force myself to forget about water clarity and focus on how the fish feed," he said,

adding that oxygen levels and, to an extent, salinity levels must be acceptable.

Plus, he said, "What I'm learning about redfish; they love cold water."

He's found redfish on so many occasions in shallow water, despite very low water temperatures, but it's important to have moving water, such as drains along bayous and canals inside Marsh Island. Late last winter, he took three fishermen to the reefs in Southwest Pass, and they caught and released so many bull reds — doubles and triples — he stopped taking photos after 42.

The reefs along the coast just south of Marsh Island can be just as productive, he said.

Mostly, however, the redfish action is at its best inside Marsh Island's canals, bayous and ponds. Johnson has more faith in the bayous, like Bird Island, Oyster, Blanc and The Worm. There might be 10 drains along one stretch but as often happen only one of them produces, he said.

Marine electronics have allowed him to find "high spots," or reefs, in the bayous that also give up redfish, he said. ■

— Don Shoopman

FIELD NOTES >



CARGO LIFTS

THREE MODELS ★ THREE CHOICES ★ SAME QUALITY

DO-IT-YOURSELF KITS NOW AVAILABLE!

EasyLift™



Lifts 1000 lbs

EconomyLift™



Lifts 1000 lbs

MiniLift™



Lifts 500 lbs

Equipped with "Cage-Arrest™" Brake System & Safety Screen to protect cargo from falling out.

This cage features balusters to better match deck hand railing.

This unit is for the small needs & take less space. Gates optional.

Marine Grade Aluminum . Stainless Hardware . Dual SS Cables . Remote Controls

Call today 888.684.6110 or visit www.beachouselifts.com

Speckled trout like this one are just moving up into shallower water and by structures that hold heat from the sun and warm up quickly.



TACKLE LATE-WINTER SPECKS, REDS

By Kinny Haddox

Two things Brent Taylor of Gretna wants you to know about fishing in his stomping grounds around Bayou Bienvenue, Shell Beach and Hopedale:

- One, it's a good time to start targeting speckled trout and redfish in transition.
- Two, when you look good, you play good. And that translates into when you look good, you fish good.

As a weekend warrior on the fishing-just-for-fun circuit and CEO of Nauti By Nature apparel, he knows quite a bit about both.

"This time of year the fish are in transition, and you have to time your trips to take advantage of warming water," he said. "You don't have to get an early start on the specks or reds, because they really won't get moving until the sun starts warming up that shallower water."

Even if you target shallow water, Taylor makes a point that you have to work every level of the water column with different presentations to make sure you aren't skipping over fish.

"They may not be as aggressive as they will be in a month or so, so make sure you try different presentations," he said. "If it's slick, I'll start out with a topwater, then go to baits that sink slow, then put on a jig that gets the bait all the way to the bottom. Find the fish. Catch the fish. When you find what works, stick with it. But be aware as the water warms, they may move up higher or into more shallow, warmer water."

TAYLOR'S TOP PICKS

When Taylor talks his favorite fishing gear, he doesn't start with the bait. He starts with the cork.

"I'm a VersaMaxx guy," he said. "I love fishing their corks because they are designed to give you maximum versatility. You can make the transition from 12 inches to 3 feet or anything in between in a matter of seconds. The most-popular models of corks in this series are the Hybrids for redfish and the Bolts, regular and pro series for trout."

And, oh yes, the bait is important, too. He loves a Deadly Dudley in salt-and-pepper with a chartreuse tail and limetreuse. He caught his personal-best trout, a 23-incher, on the solid limetreuse. When he catches a big trout, he quickly measures it and gets it back in the water, not even taking time to weigh it.

"An important tip is to keep your eye on the water," Taylor said. "If it's moving, use a heavier jig to hold your lure down. When they are aggressive, it isn't a problem, but when they are lethargic, you want to get that bait down in their face."

"The areas that I usually fish — Bayou Bienvenue, Shell Beach and Hopedale — aren't known for monster trout, but they will really stack up this time of year. If it's cold, they'll stay near deeper holes and move up to feed. If it's warm, you can just work the shallower water."

"The best news is that I can leave my house and in 40 minutes, be catching fish just for fun."

“”
They may not be as aggressive as they will be in a month or so, so make sure you try different presentations.

A NEW VENTURE

Taylor has always liked to look sharp while he's fishing, and the pandemic birthed Nauti By Nature early in 2020. As a worker in the oil and gas industry, he found himself without work for a time and started up the line of jerseys, hats and other gear to keep himself busy and make a few extra bucks. It's taken off even better than he had anticipated.

"We have some very unique designs, and the apparel is geared to make you look good and have more confidence. When you have more confidence, you catch more fish," he said. "We've got a lot of neat stuff now and even more new spring 2021 gear coming. I'm excited." ■

You can find out more about Taylor and his apparel line at [instagram.com/bignautifishing](https://www.instagram.com/bignautifishing) or [nautibynatureapparel.com](https://www.nautibynatureapparel.com).

DTR Custom
INSHORE RODS

INSPIRED BY ADVENTURE

Designed in Venice Louisiana, DTR Custom Inshore rods were developed for the harsh conditions associated with the Gulf Coast. With 11 technique-specific models to choose from, the DTR Custom Inshore rods are built on light and responsive 24/30-ton low resin carbon blanks and are created to withstand even the toughest fighting fish.

okuma
INSPIRED FISHING
www.okumafishingusa.com

DTR-S-701MH-CR

Florida transplant Terry Smith said his arsenal of speckled trout baits is fairly limited; he sticks with baits that have fooled fish in the past.



FLORIDA TRICKS WORK ON LOUISIANA MARCH SPECKS

By Rusty Tardo

Terry Smith grew up fishing for big trout in the waters of eastern Florida's Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon system, known for producing sizable specks. He thought he was leaving a fisherman's paradise when his pipeline job transferred him to south Louisiana for what was supposed to be a 6-month stint. But he made the mistake of taking his boat with him, just to try trout fishing in Louisiana waters. He said after his first fishing trip in the Rigolets and MRGO areas, he knew he was staying. And he applied the same tactics for catching bigger trout here that was so successful there, and found them just as effective.

TARGET BIGGER TROUT

"I'm committed to catching bigger trout for the thrill of the catch and the fight," he said. "I'm not after the barely legal-size fish, and I'm not interested in a meat haul to fill my freezer. I believe in conserving the resource, so I release a lot of fish, I always release everything over 20 inches for conservation's sake, and I'm content catching fewer bigger fish than a box full of small ones. That's just my preference."

STICK WITH WHAT WORKS

Terry's arsenal of baits is surprisingly limited.

"I don't bring a thousand different baits to try, though I do like to try different stuff on the hard days when action is slow," he said. "And I'm not above asking other anglers what they're using when I see them catching fish. But I've been here for several years now, and every year the baits I've used in Florida are producing here, too, so I stick with what is working."

"My go-to favorites are the Paul Brown soft-plastic twitch baits, mainly in opening night or a similar color. I probably catch more fish and bigger fish on that bait than any other. It sinks slowly, and I fish it slowly in the colder months. Whenever I try a twitch bait I drop it in the water to see how fast it sinks. If it sinks fast, I'm not interested. I find you have to do everything slower right now to provoke the big fish to bite."

Terry said some of his other favorite baits are the MirrOdine XL

suspending twitch baits, and he's had success with the Rapala X Rap long-cast, shallow hard baits, but their single-hook design has cost him a few fish.

"Personally, I don't like the lipped hard baits even though they are popular in deeper-water fishing, and some swear by them. I think the lipless baits look more natural and catch more fish in my type of fishing, but that's my personal experience talking," he said.

TERRY'S TACTIC

"It's pretty simple, long casts, wait 3 to 5 seconds for the bait to sink down to the depth you want to fish, and then twitch, twitch, pause, twitch, twitch, pause," he said. "I usually lift my rod tip a bit on the pause to feel the bait and take up slack, and repeat a thousand times. Often, they'll hit it on the pause, so always be ready. The strike seems to come out of nowhere, and when they hit it, they'll try to rip the rod out of your hand."

TROLLING FOR TROUT

Another key to success Terry said, is to keep trolling.

"I find that, in general, when the boat stops moving, the fish stop biting," he said. "I'll hit the spot-lock if I'm into a frenzy of action and try to stay on that action, but I'll resume trolling as soon as the bite quits, and either recover that same area to see if I can get them started up again, or I'll head on down the rocks" he said.

FAVORITE MARCH HAUNT: MRGO

"I'll fish along the rocks from the Chalmette Wall all the way down to Violet and Hopedale," he said. "I look for good water and signs of bait, and once I find a spot to work, I turn off the outboard and work the trolling motor."

"I'll work all along that area, moving in a bit closer or moving out a bit farther, trying to locate the fish. In deeper water, I give the bait a few more seconds to sink and naturally, less time in shallower water. I always like to have the wind at my back whenever possible so I can make those long casts, and I fish with a 10- or



Paul Brown twitch baits are some of Terry Smith's favorites, especially for big speckled trout.

12-pound fluorocarbon leader on 20- to 30-pound braided line. I'd say probably 90% of my fishing is along the rocks in the MRGO, or anywhere I can find deeper water and grass beds" he said.

SOFT PLASTICS

Terry does fish soft-plastic lures on occasion as well, mostly the Matrix Shad in the green hornet or ultraviolet colors, or the Down South Lures in the bone color, and always on the lightest jig the tide will allow, usually a 1/8-ounce, and almost always, cast and retrieve. He rarely fishes with a cork, but when he does, he likes the noisy 4 Horseman.

"March is a great time to fish this tactic, the trout are hungry, they're feeding on baitfish, so get out and give it a try," he said. ■

“ March is a great time to fish this tactic, the trout are hungry, they're feeding on baitfish, so get out and give it a try.

STIHL

CLAIM YOUR OUTDOORS.

— GET SET FOR THE SEASON WITH STIHL.



12" bar†

MSA 120 C-B

Reliable, battery power for clearing sight lines, stand locations, ground plots, and shoreline. Essential tool for firewood and around camp.

\$299⁹⁹ Includes AK 20 battery and AL 101 charger.

Real STIHL. Find Yours at STIHLDEALERS.COM

All prices SSW-SRP. Available at participating dealers. †The actual listed guide bar length can vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. ©2020 STIHL. #18PM13R-04-145116-1



DUVIC'S, INC.
3650 Westbank Expwy. Harvey • M-F 8am-5pm
504-341-1654

SERVING ALL
YOUR
BOATING
NEEDS
SINCE 1890

the Service
team



EVINRUDE®
SAVINGS\$
 SALES EVENT
 Through April 30, 2021

3-YEAR COVERAGE* & **UP TO \$2000 REBATE****



MON-FRI
 8AM-5:30PM

5196 HWY. 311 • HOUMA
985-876-7821



CRESTLINER
XF 189

GREENWELL SPRINGS
Marine

225-273-4853 • Fax 225-273-4762
 12014 GREENWELL SPRINGS RD
 BATON ROUGE
 MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8 AM - 5 PM



Planer boards allow fishermen to slow-troll their baits and lures in extremely shallow water as prespawn slabs move toward the bank. Here's how to set up for this technique.

By Dusty Wilson

CRAPPIE ON A DIFFERENT PLANE

By the time March rolls around, crappie fishermen are chomping at the bit for waves of slabs to invade the shallows. And even though tight-line and long-line trolling techniques are proven winners, guides like Brad Taylor are adding another wrinkle, using planer boards to spread baits out even farther from the boat and access territory otherwise out of reach.





Most anglers would agree that spring crappie fishing is an endeavor where every inch matters — corroborated by the 16-foot rods that sprout from the bow of a serious tight-liner's boat. The question is, how many split seconds can you give a fish to eye your bait before the hum of the trolling motor, hull slap or even the ping of a transducer give you away?

PLANER BOARDS TAKE BOAT NOISES OUT OF THE EQUATION.

“It's not a lazy man's game at all,” said Taylor, “but it's a very good way to catch those spawning fish. You can get a bait up there in shallow water where you couldn't get a boat without spooking the fish or places where you wouldn't want to take the boat — like a submerged stump field.”

Taylor's long-line trolling spread consists of three planer boards off each side of the boat. The first runs about 20 feet out, the second 30 feet out and the third 40 feet out, each staggered slightly behind the other due to the length of line necessary to add the distance from the boat. The rod whose bait is farthest from the boat is set in a rod holder closest to the stern, with the others staggered forward. This keeps boards and baits apart and cuts down on tangles when a fish is hooked.

Taylor said the tips of his rods should be raised slightly to lift more line out of the water so the planers cut into the water and fan out. In addition to planers, Taylor often runs a tradi-

“It's not a lazy man's game at all, but it's a very good way to catch those spawning fish.”

tional spread of four to six long lines off the transom from 20 to 40 feet behind his boat.

“It's a lot of work, because the guy on the shoreline side of the boat has to keep adjusting them to make them go around fallen trees or whatever is in the way,” he said. “You want to make that board go down the bank as close as you can get it. I like to fish them near cover and along breaks — places where the water will be 3 to 4 feet deep and drop off to 10 feet. Typically, the fish will be sitting off one of those drops. A lot of our spawning flats have a channel where the old creek bed went through, and you can run the boat through there and get the boards out into the shallow water.”



Planer boards allow guide Brad Taylor to slow-troll lures or minnows in very shallow water for crappie that have moved in to spawn.



Gaining a little weight isn't **ALWAYS BAD**

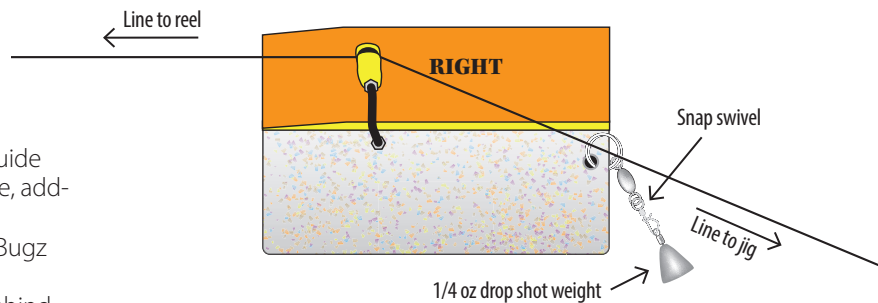
While most folks stress about putting on a little weight, guide Brad Taylor said that when pulling planer boards for crappie, adding a little weight can go a long way.

"You have to put something on them," Taylor said. "Water Bugz are the best that they've designed yet for crappie, but you don't have enough resistance with that little jig you pull behind them. If you add little weight to the back of the board, you'll get enough resistance to make it run hard."

Most of the time anglers in the south use planer boards, they're pulling bigger baits or lures for bigger fish; a healthy shad or a bigger shiner pulls enough to causes the board to angle up and out and reach the optimal distance from the boat. A 1/32-ounce jig is doing next to nothing for this cause, but with a little modification, Taylor can increase the board's performance.

"The Water Bugz boards come with a spiral-type line holder on the opposite side of the line clip," said Taylor. "I take those off and put a snap swivel on it to hold the line. On that same swivel I snap on a drop-shot weight. It's something you have to tinker with, but it doesn't take a whole lot of weight. A 1/4-ounce will make it dig." ■

Light planer boards like Water Bugz are more suitable for pulling light lures and baits for crappie.



2484 RCV

Luxury cabin boat equipped with self-bailing front, LED light bars, Sea dek, FLIR Camera, Shock Seats and much more. Taking orders for the April deliveries.

995 Utah Street
Berwick, LA 70342
985-385-3310
hankos.com

Clean & Restore Your Boat
DECKS UPHOLSTERY ENGINES . . . EVERYTHING!

FREE SHIPPING



ProClean MARINE™

Learn More at **ProcleanMarine.com**

MADE IN THE **USA** SAVE \$10 per gallon USE CODE **SAVE10**

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 at SPORTSMANGEAR.com

For information on PRIVATE GROUP SEMINAR RATES INDIVIDUAL TUTORING • SCHEDULED SEMINARS Call Captain Paul@ (985) 847-0536 e-mail: captainpaultgps@gmail.com

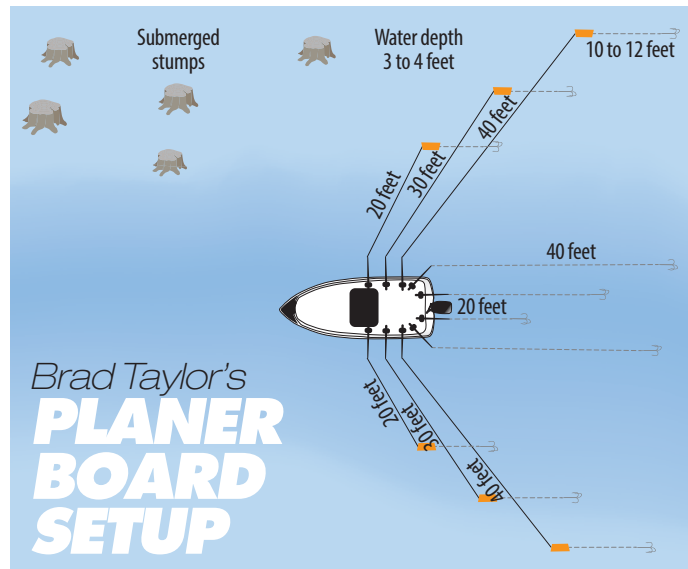
Discover the BEST Inland Fishing in the South



Close to New Orleans
Great Fishing
Duck Hunting
Gated
Pool
Private Launches
Protective Covenants
Close to Marina (Bait/Fuel)
Best Time to Buy
Lawn Maintenance Included

Call Hunter Cazes at 985-226-3106
www.FortBMarina.com

CRAPPIE ON A DIFFERENT PLANE



In a depth of 3 to 4 feet — trolling about 1 mile per hour — Taylor advises running a 1/32- or 1/16-ounce jighead with a 2-inch curlytail grub 10 to 12 feet behind the planer board, often lengthening the distance between the board and jig on the deeper side.

Two of Taylor's favorite jig colors are chartreuse/black and yellow/white, but given the shallow cover involved, you're bound to be sacrifice plenty of jigs. That's why Taylor ties a short leader of 4- to 6-pound mono with a barrel knot to his 8- to 10-pound mono leader. This way, the leader pops below the knot on the lighter line before the clip is released, allowing the board to be retrieved without stopping the show.

“You want to make that board go down the bank as close as you can get it.”

“Crappie will rarely ever break the clip free when they're hooked,” Taylor said, “and you run the risk of losing the fish or breaking the line if you try to snatch it free. I always just reel him up, because typically, you don't have much line out. It works a lot better with two people. The guy fishing towards the front of the boat will reel him up beside the boat, and the other guy can dip the fish out at the back, but there are times when I just unclip the board and deal with the fish.”

While there are a number of smaller, lightweight planer boards designed to be less cumbersome for crappie, Taylor said these will often lack the necessary buoyancy to make the board cut into the water and fan out.

He uses the same Water Bugz planer boards that he pulls for stripers, but he said any board of a similar size is sufficient. ■



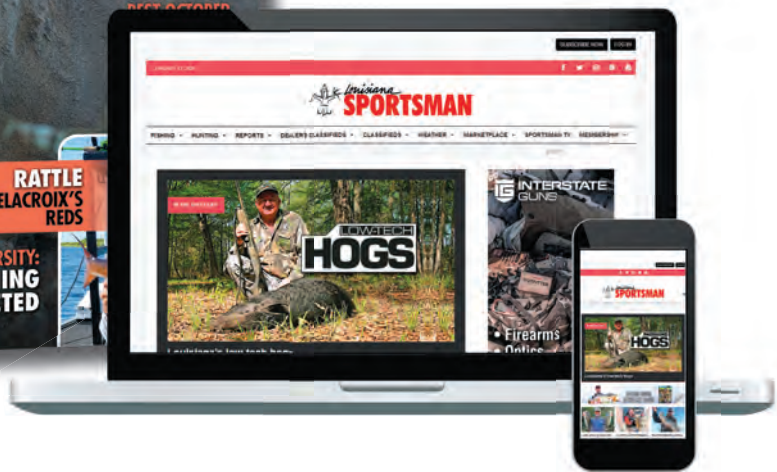
Dusty Wilson is a lifelong outdoorsman who has been blogging and writing about the outdoors for the past half-dozen years.

SAC-A-LAIT HOTSPOTS ➤

SUBSCRIBE TO
Louisiana
SPORTSMAN[®]



**ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
OFFER**



Subscribe to get our monthly print magazine and full web access on all your smart devices.

Subscribe today for the best:

- FISHING HOTSPOTS • HUNTING TACTICS
- LATEST MUST-HAVE GEAR • EXPERT ADVICE

To Subscriber 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



Photos by Keith Lusher Jr.

SPREAD OUT THE CRAPPIE SPAWN ON THE TCHEFUNCTE

Slab-sized sac-a-lait do their thing throughout March

The rivers that span the Northshore are home to some of the best waterways in Louisiana, for producing sac-a-lait. Originally from Luling, Tim Bye has started fishing the Tchefuncte River since moving to Folsom recently, and he said the deep, winding river has plenty to offer crappie anglers.

"I believe this river has the most sac-a-lait per square foot of water in the entire state," he said.

With warming temperatures, Bye said it's all about the spawn in March. However, while most anglers will be putting corks on their lines, looking to target the shoreline in less than 3 feet of water, Bye sticks with what works for him.

"I fish crappie year-round, so I like to let them do their thing in the shallows when the water warms up into the 60s," he said.

Bye's preferred style of fishing is deep-jigging rather than using corks in the shallows.

"Most people think the spawn happens all at once, but I find that there are different sections of the river that warm up faster than others," Bye said. "Also, these fish don't take as long as people think to do their thing. I find that it's only three or four days that a pair will be in the shallows and they're heading back out."

Crappie will start moving to the mouth of canals and small bayous when the water temperature gets to 60 degrees and stays there.

Just as sure as you can bet on each fish being in the shallows once a year, you can bet on those fish being in staging areas and post-spawn areas.

"These fish have to eat to stay alive, and I find that they feed best before the spawn and after, he said. "During the spawn, their priority is to bed, and feeding becomes less important."

Bye said he'll fish two patterns during the spawn, allowing him to take advantage of both prespawn and post-spawn sac-a-lait.

PRESPAWN STAGING

As water temperatures approach the lower 60s for a few days, sac-a-lait will start to move into the entrances of canals and smaller bayous that feed into the main river. Bye said he's finding fish consistently in early March, but don't expect to hit the mother load in one spot.

"I find that the fish that are staging are a bit more spread out," he said. "I'll pick up one or two in each spot in 6 to 10 feet of water."

For prespawn slabs, Bye uses a 9-foot crappie pole with a spin-cast reel. He prefers a 9-foot rod over a 10-footer because it allows him to flip his jig outwards a few feet instead of being

Vertical jigging with a light jighead and crappie tube produces a lot of nice slabs from the Tchefuncte River.



limited to jigging straight down. As far as lures go, he rigs a 1/2-ounce head on 8-pound test and threads on a blue/chartreuse Scale Head tube jig made by Lil' Hustler. Bye makes a small adjustment to the jig however.

"I like to take my pocket knife and slice the head of the tube off so the body fits flush up against the jighead," he said.

POST-SPAWN RETREAT

While the sac-a-lait spawn seems to last four to six weeks, Bye has seen fish heading back to deep water as early as the end of February.

"It doesn't take them long; once they're done, they're back out to deeper water where they spend the majority of the year feeding," he said.

Crappie are known as feeding machines, and after they are finished spawning, they feed non-stop.

"When they are done with the spawn, these fish are hungry!" Bye said. "I compare the way they eat after the spawn to November, which is probably the month that they feed the best here on the Tchefuncte."

While Bye stays out of the shallows, he admits that finding the right canal in March could make for a big day to fill the ice chest.

"There's no doubt you can put a hurtin' on 'em if you find the right shoreline," he said. "I've seen some really nice boxes taken from this river with just a jig with a cork from guys beating the bank." ■

— Keith Lusher Jr.

FIELD NOTES ➤

GET ON THE WATER TODAY!

ALL NEW SKEETER ZXR 20/YAMAHA VF 250



JUST ARRIVED!



GREAT FINANCING AVAILABLE!



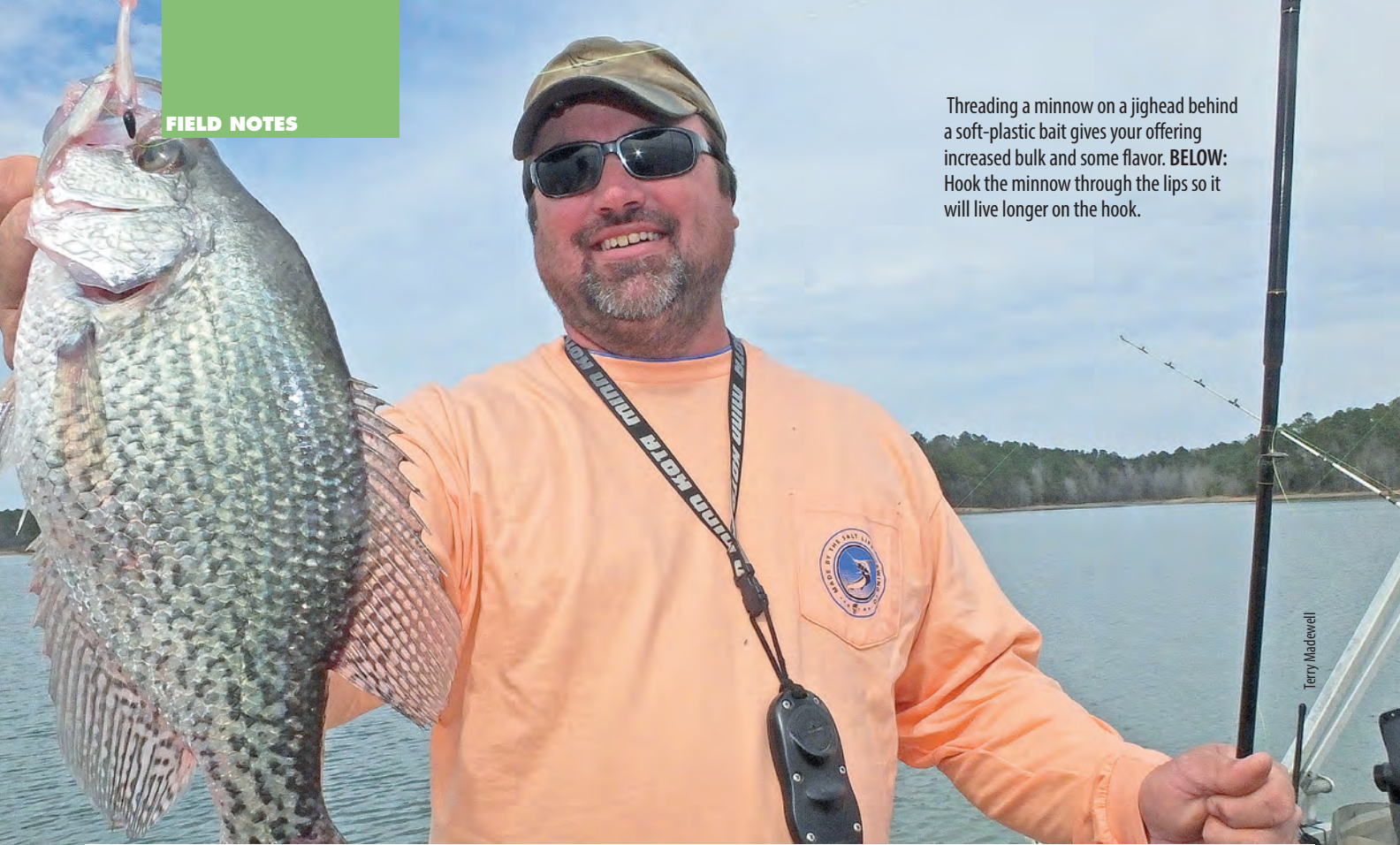
7113 HWY. 1 • SOUTH ADDIS, LA
225-749-5001 • 877-396-8365
CAJUNOUTBOARDS.COM



YAMAHA



Threading a minnow on a jighead behind a soft-plastic bait gives your offering increased bulk and some flavor. **BELOW:** Hook the minnow through the lips so it will live longer on the hook.



MINNOWS ADD MASS, SCENT, ACTION

By Phillip Gentry

For all the discussion about crappie jigs, live minnows account for at least half of the fish caught. No discussion about jigs is complete without mentioning how and when to pair live minnows with jigs and soft plastics.

Some anglers will tip a jig with a minnow on almost every occasion and have success. It's generally accepted that jigs are tipped with minnows when the bite is slow. It's also good when water temperatures are less than 55 degrees, or in low-visibility conditions. And if you want to add scent to the jig, tipping it with a minnow is a good bet.

Tipping jigs with minnows sees more usage from the static group of crappie-fishing techniques. Trolling and casting tactics rely on impulse bites. Crappie see a soft-plastic bait on a jig, swimming through the water and instinctively eat it. Adding a minnow behind the soft-plastic bait on a jighead designed to provide swimming action in the water often inhibits the action of the bait and negates its usage.

Soft plastics designed with pulsating or breathing action are better choices for minnows. The bait contains color, static action, flash or vibration, especially if using an underspin, pony head jighead. The minnow adds a natural feel and smell to the bait, often causing the fish to hold on to the jig longer. This gives the angler more time to detect the strike and set the hook.

Don't overlook a live minnow hooked on a naked jighead as a very deadly bait under the right conditions, either trolled or as a static bait.

Another aspect of tipping your jig with a minnow is that it adds bulk to your offering. Anglers who fish where white crappie are found understand that white crappie frequently prefer a mouthful of bait. But too much mass may discourage black crappie.

Another trick to remember when tipping jigs with live minnows is to make sure to hook the minnow through the lips so it remains alive and active on the hook. Some anglers will hook the minnow so it rides upside down, increasing its struggles but decreasing its lifespan. ■



Dan Kibler

Terry Madewell



By Phillip Gentry

THAT'S A 'WHOLE' PLATE FULL OF CRAPPIE

Like many older anglers, I grew up eating nothing but whole, fried fish. There were times the only thing we had was whole bream and catfish. I was in college before I heard of a "fillet" — and then I thought to myself, "What a terrible waste of fish." So, I still love to eat whole fish: bream, catfish and small crappie. The best crappie are usually 5 or 6 inches long.

But how is this for kicking it up a notch? Recently, I scaled, cleaned and removed all the inedible parts (gills, fins, etc.) from two 16-inch, 2-pound crappie and decided to cook them whole. It was remarkably successful.

HERE'S HOW IT WENT

Slab crappie No. 1: I took out my grill pan, coated an area exactly the size of the fish with garlic-flavored olive oil, then seasoned the fish on both sides with Cajun seasoning and placed it on the pre-heated pan. Then, I squeezed lemon juice on the fish, added

melted butter and a dash of mango balsamic vinegar and a light dusting of corn starch. I cut three diagonal slits in the fish and gave it a grape for an eye and put the pan on a 450-degree grill and closed the lid. After 15 minutes, it was done through and through and tasted as good or better than any whole snapper or redfish I've ever tasted.

We even pulled the leftover fish off the bones and made fish tacos for lunch the next day.

Slab crappie No. 2: The inspiration for this culinary quest was to make a giant, whole, fried crappie. I took the other 2-pounder and seasoned it well with my homemade Mr. Kinny's seasoning (salt, pepper, cayenne, garlic, parsley and about 10 other ingredients), then gave it a good rubdown with French's Yellow Mustard before coating it with Louisiana Fish Fry. I then heated up the peanut oil in the fish cooker to 375 degrees and eased the fish in. It was a hungry fisherman's version of "catch and release — into hot grease". After 5 minutes, it was crispy and floating in the oil.

TOP: The finished product: grilled whole 2-pound crappie ready for the side dish of your choice. **BOTTOM:** Leftover grilled crappie was used for lunch the next day in a delectable fish taco.

Eating the fish off the bones is a delicacy few things compare to. There's a reason the phrase "the nearer the bone, the sweeter the meat" has been around since the 14th century. You bite off the crispy part of the tail; pull out the fins to eat the crispy part and then suck out the tender meat under the fin. Then, you carefully open up the fish into two halves and eat the crispy parts off all the bones from head to tail. If you are still hungry, you can eat the real fish meat or just debone it and save chunks of it for a little crappie Étouffée. ■



NITRO
PERFORMANCE FISHING BOATS

BASS FISHING IS AROUND THE BEND

A photograph of a boat on a lake with two people. The boat has two outboard motors labeled 'Z21'. The background shows a wooded shoreline.

HENDERSON

LAKE CHARLES: 337-436-4366 | ABBEVILLE: 337-893-1451
WWW.HENDERSONIMPLEMENT.COM

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Brian Cope



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: BLUE CATFISH

POPULAR AMONG FISHERMEN, THEY'VE SPREAD OUT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

Blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) are native to the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio river basins. They're typically the biggest catfish species in most states, including Louisiana and Mississippi, and the largest species of catfish in North America.

Blue catfish are slender, smooth-skinned, scaleless fish. They have deeply forked tails, which makes them easily distinguished from flathead catfish. They have a set of four whiskers called barbels around their mouths.

Despite the name, the color of a blue catfish varies widely, based on water quality. They are often slate blue on their backs, with the blue giving way to silver or gray on the sides, and white on their bellies. However, some blue catfish are much darker and some very light-colored. Even in the same bodies of water, their colors of different fish can vary.

Blue catfish have a distinct line running from their upper mouths to their dorsal fins. Their anal fins are straight-edged and have between 30 and 36 rays. At cer-

tain sizes, it takes counting these rays to distinguish a blue cat from a channel cat.

Although only native to the river basins mentioned earlier, blue catfish have been stocked in many states. Their fast growth rates, along with their tasty flesh, have made them popular across the country. In some states, blue catfish have been blamed for diminishing populations of other catfish species, most notably channel catfish.

HABITAT VARIETY

Blue cats are highly adaptable and live in almost any type of freshwater; lakes, ponds, creeks, swamps and rivers are all good candidates to hold populations of blue cats. They are often even found in brackish waters, and anglers sometimes catch them mixed in with flounder, redfish and other saltwater species.

Just like their flexibility in habitat, they are much the same in diet. Other fish, crustaceans, insects, mussels and other shellfish and plant matter make up the bulk of their diet. Even ducks, mice, snakes and turtles aren't safe when a

Blue catfish in this size range make fine table fare. Many anglers prefer this size for eating over larger ones.

Brian Cope

hungry blue catfish is around.

Breeding at around 4 years of age, males create nests in logs, between rocks, under downfall and any other type of protected areas. Females produce 10,000 to 60,000 eggs per year. Spawning occurs in the spring, once water temperatures reach about 70 degrees.

Blue cats are sometimes misidentified as channel catfish, especially when the fish is in the 5- to 15-pound range. They can grow to more than 100 pounds and can live 20 or more years in the wild.

HUGE RECORD FISH

Anglers across the country have many nicknames for blue catfish. Along the east coast, they are often referred to



Brian Cope of Borden, S.C., is a retired Air Force combat communications technician. He has a B.A. in English Literature from the University of South Carolina and has been writing about the outdoors since 2006. He's spent half his life hunting and fishing. The rest, he said, has been wasted.

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

continued

When blue catfish are this size, it's often difficult to distinguish them from channel catfish. Counting the number of rays on the anal fin is the surest way.



Brian Cope

Covers Unlimited

- Boat Covers • Bimini Tops • Full Enclosures
- Bow & Cockpit Covers • Marine Upholstery & Repair
- On Site Marine Work • Guaranteed Workmanship

Proud Distributor of Eagle Carports

Custom Pool Covers

LOUISIANA'S CUSTOM CANVAS LEADER



as Arkansas blues, mainly because Arkansas provided many of the early catfish stocked in other regions. Other nicknames include fork-tail catfish, humpback blue, silver catfish and chucklehead.

The Louisiana state record blue catfish is 114 pounds. It was caught in the Mississippi River by Lawson Boyte in March 2014. The Mississippi state record, a 95-pound blue, also came from the Mississippi River — the Natchez area. Dakota Hinson caught the fish in March of 2009.

The world-record blue catfish weighed 143 pounds. Nick Anderson of Greenville, N.C., caught the giant fish in Kerr Lake, aka Buggs Island Lake, on the North Carolina-Virginia border in June 2011. ■

225-261-4057

13140 Hooper Rd • BR, LA 70818
www.coversunlimited.net

DON'T PUT AWAY YOUR TRAIL CAMERAS AFTER DEER SEASON ENDS; THEY CAN BE GREAT TOOLS FOR PRESEASON TURKEY SCOUTING.

■ By Andy Douglas

SMILE, TOM, you're on Candid Camera



TURKEY SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER,

and it's time to scout and find out where the big gobblers are on your turf.

Any hunter worth his or her salt will know before the season opens what they've got and where they're hanging out.

Early morning sits within hearing distance of roosting areas are traditional ways of preseason scouting that work well. A hunter hears some gobbling, makes notes and is on the way — but what about the rest of the day?

"I leave my cameras up after deer season," said Matt Courtney, a veteran turkey hunter from Hinds County. "They are already in key locations where I hunt. I will just change out the cards, replace the batteries and let them set."

Undisturbed birds are easier to bag than educated ones, and there's no better way to see what's on your hunting property,

with minimal disturbance, than by utilizing trail cameras. Here are a few tips and ideas to help get started.

WHERE TO PLACE THEM

It's really a no-brainer that food plots are the No. 1 location to place cameras. This time of year, gobblers will still be in small, bachelor groups and will frequent plots planted in wheat, oats, clover and deer-plot mixes. A tom may even be caught on camera displaying if the day is nice and a hen is nearby.

Logging roads or trails in the middle of your hunting area are another idea. Turkeys use trails, especially trails in open hardwoods. Long straight-of-ways are places toms love to strut. In thicker areas, turkeys will use trails, especially when it rains.

Long ridges are another excellent place to set a cam. Hens and gobblers naturally travel ridges, using them as a vantage point to look out for danger. Ridges can become strut zones for big toms;

A well-placed trail camera can give turkey hunters a big head start on the upcoming spring season.



they fancy places where hens can see them display from distances.

Look for areas with fresh scratching, droppings, feathers or tracks as go-to locations when setting up cameras. As the old saying goes, "Where there's smoke, there's fire" — if you find the sign, you will find birds.

"I set up a camera every year on a place I hunt that's an old road with gravel and sand," Courtney said. "The birds come to the sand; when I see several tracks, I set my camera. I've located a lot of gobblers over the years using this method."

Woodlots between fields can be hangouts that bring birds into close quarters. Winding creeks and stream management zones (SMZs), pinch points, natural funnels and field edges are places for camera setups. Open, grazing pastures and fresh-plowed

fields or row crops will attract turkeys. Set cameras on fence rows or timber edges overlooking fields where there's sign present or if you have seen turkeys there before.

SET IT UP >

GREAT DUCK FOOD

See Us On **Amazing Banana Water Lily, Reborn.mp4**

DYNAMITE DUCK FOOD www.BANANAWATERLILIES.com
(843) 240-0530 www.FROSTWATERFOWL.com



Boiling Pots, Pit Blinds & more!

CALL US TODAY!
337-824-2176

5min
FASTEST BOILER
ON THE MARKET!

HUGHES
MANUFACTURING

1300 AIRPORT RD. | JENNINGS, LA. 70546 | 337-824-2176
 | www.hughesmfg.net

SET IT UP

Turkeys are not as wary of trail cameras as deer tend to be, so hunters don't have to worry about hiding them or making them inconspicuous. They can be set in wide-open places with little worry of spooking any birds. Actually, the wider open, the better shots you'll get.

The height you set your cameras will be a little different; they need to be lower than where you set them up for deer; 2 feet above the ground is perfect. Cameras need to be aimed as parallel to the ground as possible, maximizing the effectiveness of their range. If it's in tight quarters, dropping the height to 1 foot and angling the camera slightly upwards will produce fantastic photos.

WHEN TO CHECK

There's really no right or wrong time to check a game camera, and every hunter has to utilize his or her spare time when doing so. Just check them when there's no risk of alerting turkeys of your presence. The absolute best time is at dusk — right after fly-up time. Some die-hard hunters will only check them at night.

Cellular cameras, such as ones made by Moultrie, Covert or Spy Point, are even better for locating gobblers. The only time a hunter needs to visit the camera is when batteries run low.

Trail cameras can help hunters scout without requiring them to be in the woods, where the chances of spooking turkeys are greater. An old gobbler with long, sharp spurs won't stand for a lot of intrusion. **BOTTOM:** Turkeys frequent openings or clearings in the woods; those are great places to set up a trail camera.



SHNELL

3.10.2016 9:08:06

Trail cameras are a great tool to use when scouting turkeys. If done right, it will show hunters what they've got without pressuring the birds.

"It keeps me from having to go out too many mornings prior to the season opening," Courtney said. "It saves me a lot of leg work."

Making the most of game-cams will help you stay on top of what is happening, and when, on your turkey hunting grounds. You may be surprised at what you find and it is sure to change the way you hunt. ■



Andy Douglas is an outdoor writer and photographer from Brookhaven. A native of Lincoln County, he's chased deer, turkeys, bass and most anything else the past 35 years. He lives the outdoor lifestyle and is passionate about sharing that with others through stories and photos.



Nothing beats finding an old gobbler's roosting area before the season, but trail cameras can help hunters pattern a tom's movements throughout the day.

GRUNTS & GOBBLES ➤

NEW LISTING

Canard Brake

+/- 933 acres in Catahoula Parish

Adjoins Dewey Wills WMA on entire west boundary

+/- 835 acres in row crops with +/- 400 acres irrigated

3 bedroom camp on pilings. Area well known for waterfowl and whitetail deer hunting



bakeragproperties.com

Nighttime Wild Hog Hunts!

PRICES AND EXTRAS

FEES

One Nighttime Adventure: \$500
(Ranch rifle w/Ranch night vision scope)

Hunter's own Rifle \$400
(with hunter's night vision scope)

Arrive 3 hours before sunset.
Includes taking 2 hogs and guide services

EXTRAS

Additional hogs (each): \$100

Ranch rifle w/night vision & suppressor: \$100

Game-cleaning (each): \$40

Lodging (per night): \$100

Consecutive Friday & Saturday night Hunts: \$900

Arrive 3 hours before sunset.
Includes taking 4 hogs, guide services, lodging, meals, and fishing (bring equipment)

**SEE WEBSITE
FOR DATES AVAILABLE**



McKenna Ranch Outfitters

741 County Rd 313 • Pachuta, MS
601-692-3224
mckennaranchoutfitters.com

GRUNTS & GOBBLES

David Moreland

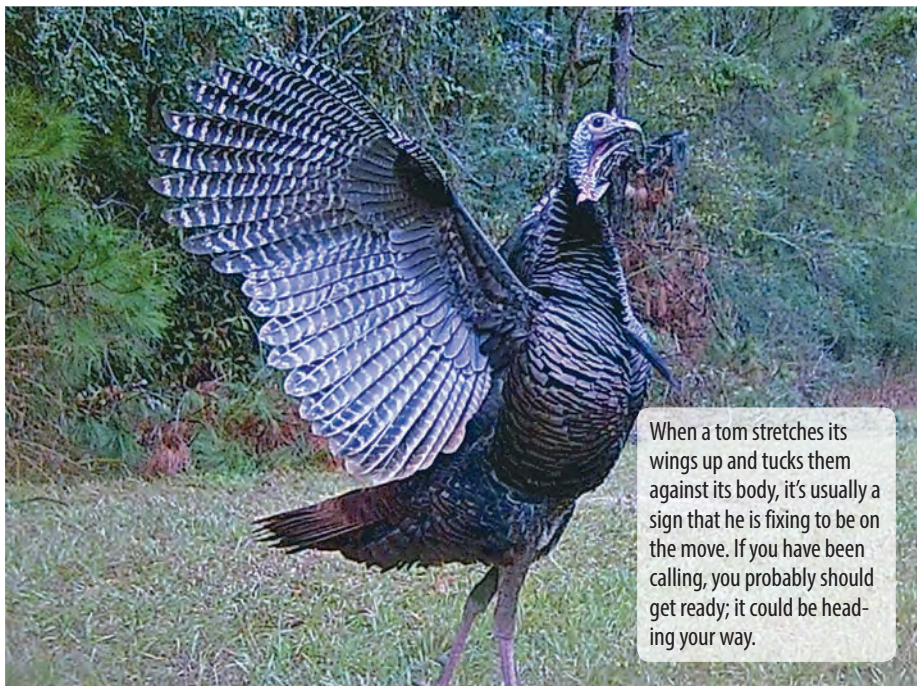


FOLLOW YOUR HENS, THE GOBBLERS WILL

BEFORE TURKEYS GO ON THE NEST, ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO TRACK GOBBLERS IS TO KEEP TABS ON THE HENS

This past deer season, you may have seen groups of turkeys moving around on the land you hunt, if you are blessed to be in an area that has a decent population of turkeys. During the fall and winter, turkeys are rather nomadic, living in

separate flocks or groups. Hens normally are together, and the toms are together in separate groups, moving around looking for hard mast on which to feed. With the low acorn crop that we experienced this past year, they may have been making good use of deer corn and food plots.



When a tom stretches its wings up and tucks them against its body, it's usually a sign that he is fixing to be on the move. If you have been calling, you probably should get ready; it could be heading your way.

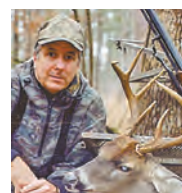
09AM 11/11/2020 1235

A nice flock of hens visited the author's small property this winter; he's hopeful a few will come back this spring to nest, and perhaps, a tom will tag along after them.

Keep in mind that as spring approaches the flocks will begin to break up before the breeding and nesting season.

The turkey population in my portion of East Feliciana Parish declined dramatically after the extreme flooding of 2016. Consequently, I was excited to see a large group of hens and a small group of adult toms this past deer season. They would appear on the trail cameras a couple of times during the week, and on a few occasions, I actually saw them. However, as deer season closed, they seemed to disappear from the landscape, and now I am wondering if they will be around when the season opens in April.

Turkey hunting is quite challenging, and a 3-year-old gobbler is a very sharp and alert quarry. While 2-year-old toms are often quite responsive and sometimes will run into your lap and say "Shoot me," older toms are not so easily outwitted.



Dave Moreland is the author of the 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.

REVERSING NATURE

In the turkey world, the tom gobbles, and the hen comes to him. In the hunter's world, the hunter yelps and hopes the gobbler comes to him. Consequently, the hunter is trying to do something that goes against the biology. On one occasion at Pearl River years ago, I had a tom gobbling early one morning, made my setup and chirped back to the gobbling tom. He responded, and I thought it might happen but then, I caught movement to my right, and there came a hen, heading right toward the tom. I sat there and watched it walk out of sight, wondering if maybe I should have spooked it and made it go away, but then, had the hen sounded off with an alarm putt, it would have been over for me anyway.

Observing turkeys as they move around the landscape during turkey season is a great way to learn their habits and movements and may help one connect with a tom. Many will scout before the season and do some calling, but this can make the birds call-shy, more wary and harder to kill. Simply watching the birds and their daily movements will provide insight as to their roosting sites, feeding and nesting areas. With the poor nesting areas. With the poor nest crop we experienced this past season turkeys may cover a lot more ground than in the past. It is legal to feed turkeys during the season, you just can't hunt over the feed or within 200 yards of the area where the feed has been deposited.

HABITAT-HELPING HANDS

Hunters who have the benefit of hunting on large tracts of land have an edge on hunters who hunt small tracts. Managing the habitat to provide good nesting and brood-rearing habitat may help hunters on small tracts attract hens, and where the hens go, the toms go.

When the season opens toms are generally vocal and have plenty of hens around them. They will move around with the hens, strutting and displaying, trying their best to impress the females. A hunter will often find it difficult to

PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY



www.SPORTSMANGear.com

lure a tom away from these live

decoys. The tom may come close but then hang up as it waits to see the hen that has been calling. As breeding occurs and hens begin to nest, it will sometimes be easier for the hunter to call in a tom. Consequently, early in the season, simply sitting quietly and watching can often make for success.

PATTERNING BIRDS

Years ago, I was hunting a small tract of land where the neighbors had an area where they were feeding turkeys. The turkeys would roost on that property and then fly down and head to the corn. After the morning feeding, they would then begin to

CENTRAL LOUISIANA'S PREMIERE SHOW UP & SHOOT HUNTING LEASE

- 4000+ acres of true sportsman hard wood river bottom paradise.
- 40+ spacious box stands with feeders and food plots.
- 15+ brushed duck blinds in cypress lakes with decoys.
- 4 Private lakes with maintained boat landings. Excellent Bass, Bream and Crappie fishing.
- 8 point or better deer management in place.
- Exceptional flocks of turkeys.
- RV and Mobile Home Lots available overlooking the lakes.



COST

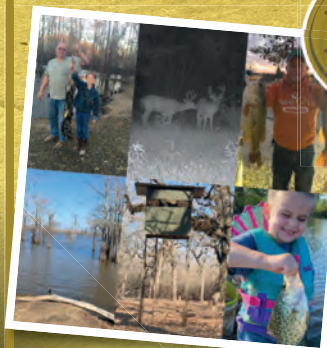
- Hunting & Fishing Lease \$6,250
- Fishing Lease \$1,750
- RV Lot Lease \$1,200
- Mobile Home Lot Lease \$3,000

CONTACT INFO

See us on
FB @ Kitterlin Creek Outfitters or web @
kitterlincreek.com

LOCATION

Southern Portion of LaSalle Parish on the banks of Little River. 16 miles south of Jena, LA



SCOTT OGLE
 office: 318-992-4867
 phone: 318-308-7521
 e-mail: kc_outfitters@yahoo.com



ARE YOU A SPORTSMAN SUBSCRIBER?

then you are already a member

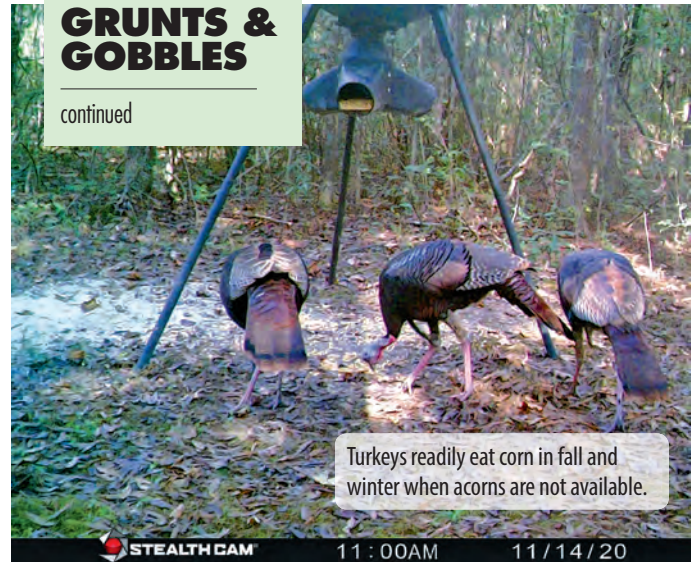
Simply log in to get full web access on all smart devices and our monthly print magazine



GO SPORTSMAN:
LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM

GRUNTS & GOBBLES

continued



disperse and move around the landscape. I had a friend who had never killed a turkey coming to hunt, and I was scouting, trying to locate some gobblers. I quickly found that this was their normal pattern: roost off the property, fly down and eat corn for a while, and then begin moving around. Their movements included coming onto the property I was hunting and visiting several of our food plots, generally from noon until roosting time. I watched a group of hens moving on a woods road with a nice gobbler following them. The hens went to plot and then moved through a drain and into another larger plot we had, and then from there would follow the trail back around to the neighbor's property and then go to roost.

A few days later, my friend showed up to hunt. Sure enough, there was plenty of gobbling off the property on the roost and as the birds flew down and went to the corn. We never had any toms near us, so around 11 a.m., I said we might as well go eat lunch and try later. Before leaving, we set up a ground blind off the trail where the turkeys had travelled. We came back around 2 p.m., and I put my friend in the blind. I told him the turkeys would probably come up the trail to this small plot, then head across to roost next door. I went somewhere else if by chance birds were in that area. At 5 p.m. I heard my friend shoot, so I picked up and went to him. A fine adult tom was lying dead on the trail, and he said the tom had come right up the trail as I had predicted.

Sometimes a plan does work out, especially if you keep an eye on the hens. ■



Wild Hog Ridge Hunting Club

Experienced guides for bow, gun or horseback/dog hunts. Full accommodations.

Jerry Bailey

3918 Hwy. 846 • Columbia, LA
318-331-1000
www.wildhogridge.com

FISHING REGULATIONS



2021

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^)

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)	36" 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)*
Scamp^	16" TL	
Nassau & Goliath	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
Yellowfin^	20" TL	
Red^	20" TL	2 of 4 grouper total
Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead shark@	None	1/day
Shortfin Mako Shark@	Males 71" FL / Females 83" FL	1/day/vessel/aggregate
Other sharks (except prohibited species)@	54" FL	1/day/vessel/aggregate
King Mackerel*	24" FL	3/day
Spanish Mackerel*	12" FL	15/day
Striped mullet	None	100 pounds/day
Black seabass	None	None
Seatrout, Spotted (Speckled Trout)	12" TL*	25/day*
Red Snapper*	16" TL	2/day*
Other Snapper		5 mutton in 10 snapper aggregate
Mutton Snapper	18" TL	
Cubera, Yellowtail, Gray (mangrove)	12" TL	10 in aggregate*
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Vermilion Snapper	10" TL	
Schoolmaster, Dog, Mahogany	None	None
Gray Triggerfish*	15" FL	1/day in aggregate
Lane Snapper	8" TL	
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, & Blueline Tilefish	None	20/person/day in aggregate*
Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish	None	
Tripletail	18" TL	5/day
Hogfish	14" FL	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/ Hybrid Striped Bass	**	5/day*
Sturgeon	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
White Bass	None	50/day*
Yellow Bass	None	50/day*
Bluegill (Bream)	None	None*

* 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.

^ Closed season for gag grouper Jan. 1 - May 31. Closed season for black, red, yellowfin,

yellowmouth & scamp grouper from Feb. 1 - March 31. ~ Greater amberjack season is open May 1-31 and Aug. 1 - Oct. 31. * Closed season on gray triggerfish Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 and June 1 - July 31.

Spots & Specks
CHARTERS, LLC

Golden Meadow to Grand Isle
Inland & Coastal Fishing
USCG Licensed & Insured
985-637-3177
ldwfs #057-087-5112 fishing2morrow@yahoo.com
spotsandspeckscharters.net

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**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Phone: 337-330-4408
Email: sales@houseboatoutlet.com

VISIT US ONLINE:
www.houseboatoutlet.com
www.facebook.com/aheadsantitionsystems

BRING THIS AD WITH YOU FOR A \$100 DISCOUNT

SPORTSMAN

\$2.99 PER MONTH

JOIN THE CLUB

VISIT: WWW.LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM/SUBSCRIBE



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 2021 PrimeTimes Wall Calendar. \$13.95 (plus \$4 s&h). Know the best days, best times, and their relative strengths for all of 2021 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 2021, the year's best periods, a look ahead at 2022, and more. Comes with FREE 2021 Astro Tables pocket calendar, which sells separately for \$8.95, 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.

2021 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...** \$47.95 (plus \$6 s&h).
 #3: **Same as #2, minus book...** \$38.95 (plus \$5 s&h).

Send to: PrimeTimes 2021 • Dept. LS • 2487 NW 75th Ave., Ste. 100 • Ankeny, IA 50023

For credit/debit card orders, call 515-964-5516, or go online to primetimes2.com and click **Catalog**.

BEST DAYS				
2021 MAR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL VALUE
Mon 1	██	██	██	55
Tue 2	██	██	██	42
Wed 3	██	██	██	33
Thu 4	██	██	██	34
Fri 5	██	██	██	41
Sat 6	██	██	██	28

Sun 7	██	██	██	22
Mon 8	██	██	██	21
Tue 9	██	██	██	22
Wed 10	██	██	██	32
Thu 11	██	██	██	43
Fri 12	██	██	██	55
Sat 13	██	██	██	62

Sun 14	██	██	██	53
Mon 15	██	██	██	46
Tue 16	██	██	██	38
Wed 17	██	██	██	37
Thu 18	██	██	██	40
Fri 19	██	██	██	43
Sat 20	██	██	██	50

Sun 21	██	██	██	62
Mon 22	██	██	██	53
Tue 23	██	██	██	48
Wed 24	██	██	██	48
Thu 25	██	██	██	57
Fri 26	██	██	██	66
Sat 27	██	██	██	76

Sun 28	██	██	██	78
Mon 29	██	██	██	66
Tue 30	██	██	██	51
Wed 31	██	██	██	44

25 50 75
AVERAGE

LUNAR PERIODS						TIMES OCCURRING AT NIGHT ARE SHADED	
MOON RISE	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD	MOON SET	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT				
9:00 PM	1:03 am - 3:19 am	8:21 AM	1:28 pm - 3:44 pm	○	Perigee		
10:10 PM	2:03 am - 3:59 am	8:54 AM	2:28 pm - 4:24 pm	○			
11:20 PM	3:05 am - 4:41 am	9:28 AM	3:30 pm - 5:06 pm	○			
	4:08 am - 5:24 am	10:06 AM	4:33 pm - 5:49 pm	○			
12:31 AM	5:11 am - 6:13 am	10:49 AM	5:36 pm - 6:38 pm	☀	Half		
1:39 AM	6:14 am - 7:06 am	11:37 AM	6:39 pm - 7:31 pm	○			
2:44 AM	7:14 am - 8:02 am	12:32 PM	7:39 pm - 8:27 pm	○	Low		
3:42 AM	8:13 am - 9:01 am	1:33 PM	8:38 pm - 9:26 pm	○			
4:33 AM	9:04 am - 10:00 am	2:36 PM	9:29 pm - 10:25 pm	○			
5:16 AM	9:52 am - 10:58 am	3:40 PM	10:17 pm - 11:23 pm	○			
5:52 AM	10:35 am - 11:53 am	4:42 PM	11:00 pm - 12:18 am	○			
6:24 AM	11:12 am - 12:48 pm	5:43 PM	11:37 pm - Midnight	○			
6:53 AM	11:46 am - 1:42 pm	6:42 PM	Midnight - 1:13 am	○	New		
8:20 AM	1:20 pm - 3:32 pm	8:39 PM	12:11 am - 2:07 am	○	Begin DST		
8:46 AM	1:52 pm - 4:22 pm	9:35 PM	1:45 am - 3:57 am	○			
9:12 AM	2:25 pm - 5:11 pm	10:32 PM	2:17 am - 4:47 am	○			
9:40 AM	3:00 pm - 6:02 pm	11:28 PM	2:50 am - 5:36 am	○			
10:11 AM	3:37 pm - 6:53 pm		3:25 am - 6:27 am	○	Apogee		
10:45 AM	4:18 pm - 7:44 pm	12:26 AM	4:02 am - 7:18 am	○			
11:24 AM	5:02 pm - 8:38 pm	1:23 AM	4:43 am - 8:09 am	☀	Spring		
12:09 PM	5:51 pm - 9:31 pm	2:19 AM	5:27 am - 9:03 am	☀	Half		
1:01 PM	6:44 pm - 10:24 pm	3:13 AM	6:16 am - 9:56 am	☀	High		
1:59 PM	7:42 pm - 11:14 pm	4:04 AM	7:09 am - 10:49 am	○			
3:03 PM	8:40 pm - 12:02 am	4:50 AM	8:07 am - 11:39 am	○			
4:10 PM	9:41 pm - 12:47 am	5:32 AM	9:05 am - 12:27 pm	○			
5:18 PM	10:41 pm - 1:31 am	6:10 AM	10:06 am - 1:12 pm	○			
6:28 PM	11:45 pm - Midnight	6:44 AM	11:06 am - 1:56 pm	☀			
7:39 PM	Midnight - 2:11 am	7:17 AM	12:10 pm - 2:36 pm	☀	Full		
8:51 PM	12:46 am - 2:52 am	7:50 AM	1:11 pm - 3:17 pm	○			
10:04 PM	1:51 am - 3:33 am	8:24 AM	2:16 pm - 3:58 pm	○	Perigee		
11:17 PM	2:55 am - 4:17 am	9:02 AM	3:20 pm - 4:42 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

For more, visit primetimes2.com

Scully's

CUSTOMIZED Aluminum Boats

Louisiana's #1 Custom Boat Builder

24' CUSTOM ALUMINUM BAY BOAT

2072 DUAL CONSOLE

1015 Stephenville Rd., Morgan City, LA 70381
 985-385-1323 • FAX 985-384-5146
 TOLL FREE 1-866-238-8353
www.scullyboats.com
 Email: info@scullysaluminumboats.com

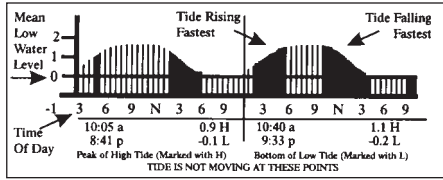
YAMAHA



IT'S NOT THE ENGINE, IT'S THE FUEL!
WWW.STARTRON.COM



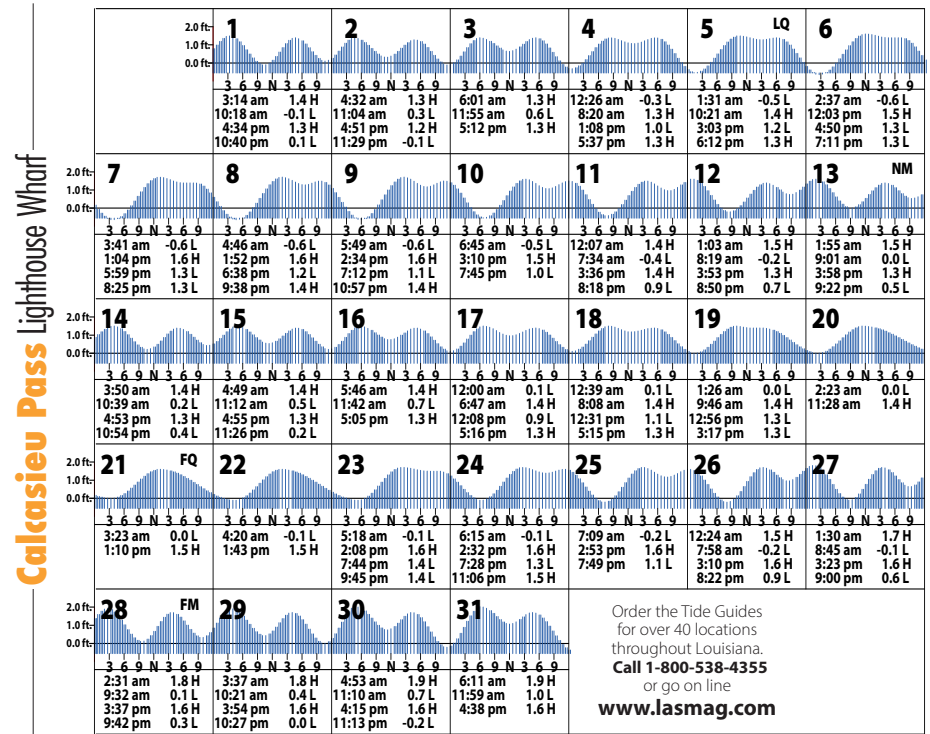
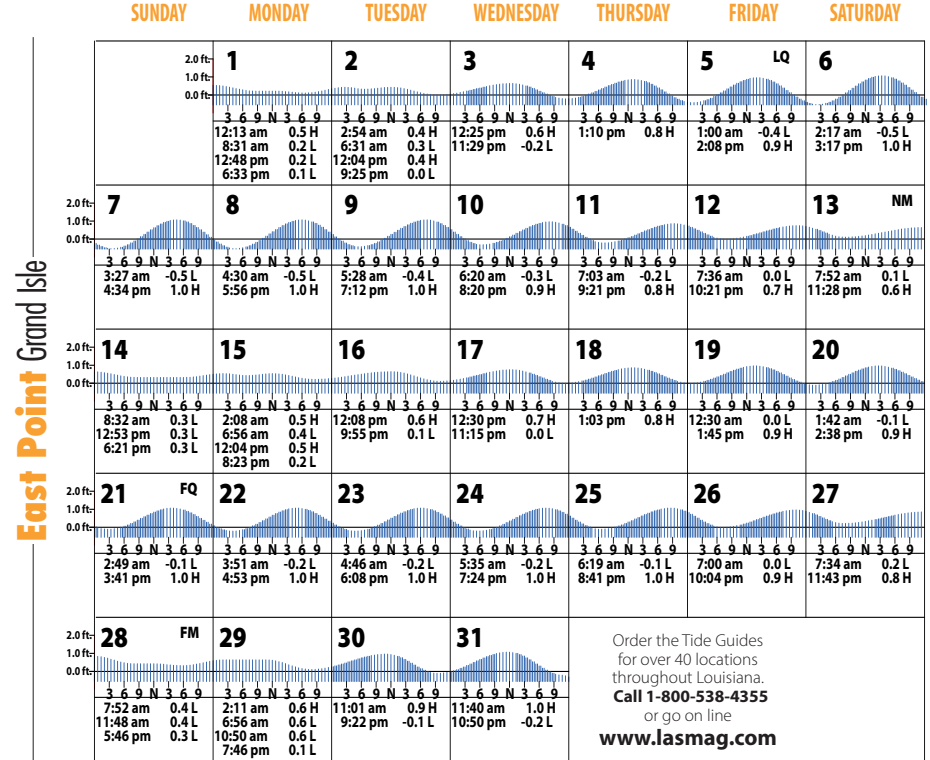
How to use the SPORTSMAN Tide Guide



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





Hunting/Fishing SCRAPBOOK

Cody Garrett took this public-land buck, his first bow kill, on Dec. 1. The trophy weighed 188 pounds and scored 165% inches.

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 images@LouisianaSportsman.com

Digital images must be at least 500KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



Cody Garrett



David Duplantis

David Duplantis shot this buck in Grant Parish on Nov. 13. The 8-point weighed a little over 200 pounds, had an 18¾-inch inside spread, one 11-inch G2 and bases that were 5 inches.



Brian, Nick & Natalie

Brian Celestin and his two children, Nick and Natalie, caught an ice chest full of crabs near the Wall where Bayou Bienvenue meets the MRGO in July.



Jordan Nami

After launching out of Campo's Marina in Shell Beach, Jordan Nami headed for the Biloxi Marsh where he caught a ton of bass plus his limit of redfish on a combination of the Matrix Craw and live shrimp under Four Horsemen Corks on Sept. 6.



William Haddox

William Haddox, 10, of Baton Rouge got a brand new Weatherby 7mm rifle for Christmas, and it didn't take him long to put it to good use. William started off the year right with his first deer — a mature 7-pointer killed on New Year's Day in Tensas Parish.



Derek & Bryson Gros

Derek Gros and his son, Bryson Gros, with a bull red from a fishing trip in Lake Catherine on Oct. 18, 2020.



Aaron Olivier

Aaron Olivier killed this 8-pointer on Oct. 16 in Allen Parish during primitive season. The 170-pound buck was taken with his CVA Scout .35 Whelen at 75 yards broadside.



Ed Walters

Ed Walters with a slew of speckled trout caught in Grand Isle back in May.



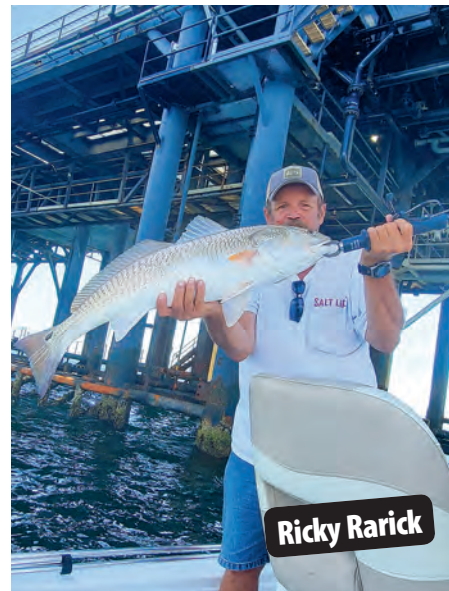
Luke Michel

Luke Michel shows off a nice speckled trout that he caught out of Delacroix.



Carly and Chad Achord

Carly Achord and her dad, Chad, with the 13-point buck Carly killed during the Oklahoma youth season. The 247-pound buck was taken with a .243 at 106 yards.



Ricky Rarick

Ricky Rarick holds a nice redfish out of Port Fourchon back in September.



Kaleigh LaPrairie

Kaleigh LaPrairie, 13, of Deville killed this unique 10-point in Avoyelles Parish on Jan. 2, 2021. This was her second 10-point of the season.



John Robbins

John Robbins killed this great buck on Dec. 23, 2020, in Franklin Parish.



Stephanie Bonner

Stephanie Bonner killed her first alligator, an impressive 10-footer, in Delacroix on Oct. 23, 2020.



Cooper Babin

Cooper Babin was 11 years old when he harvested his first buck on Nov. 22, 2020, in Holmes County, Miss.



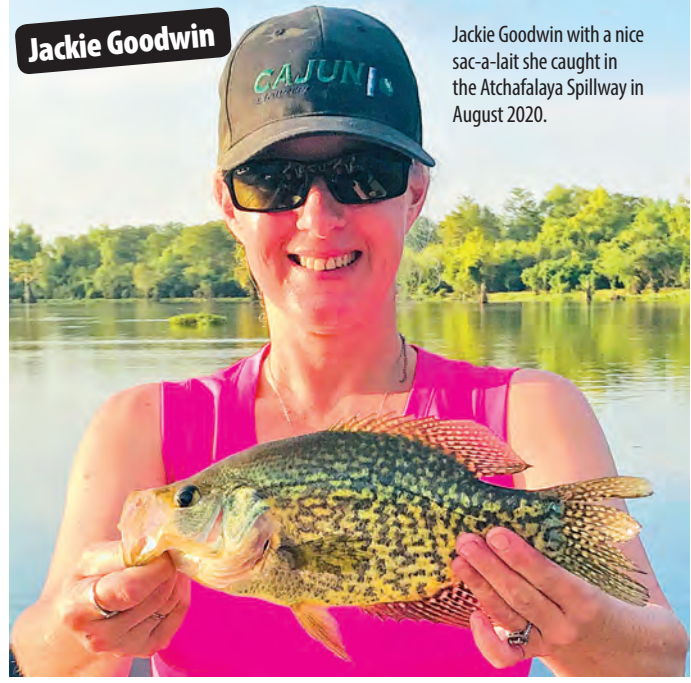
Steve Bellot

Steve Bellot hooked his first tuna in the Gulf of Mexico on May 6, 2020.

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 images@LouisianaSportsman.com

Digital images must be at least 500KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



Jackie Goodwin

Jackie Goodwin with a nice sac-a-lait she caught in the Atchafalaya Spillway in August 2020.



Violet & Cortney Seymour

Violet Seymour, 5, her mom, Cortney Seymour, and their dog, Scout, pose with Violet's first redfish. She hooked it and reeled it in by herself in the Biloxi Marsh this past September.



504-682-5252
www.tims-marine.com



Nathan LaGrange

Nathan LaGrange, a firefighter out of Baton Rouge, was hunting in Centerville, Miss., when he took this 10-point on Dec. 21. It went on to score 134 with a main beam of 22¾ inches.



Hayden Juul

Hayden Juul of Prairieville with the trophy buck she killed on Dec. 4, 2020 in Liberty, Miss. The big buck weighed 200.3 pounds and had an 18-inch spread.



Aubrey Husser

Aubrey Husser, 12, with her first buck killed in Doloroso, Miss.



Garrett Bull

Garrett Bull caught his first redfish out of T-Irvs Marina in Dulac. He was using a Zebco Rhino with a popping cork and shrimp.



Ana Roberie

Ana Roberie, 8, went on an opening morning squirrel hunt and bagged her very first squirrel.



Mike Simmons

Mike Simmons with a redfish caught in Cocodrie.



Jaxson Delume

Jaxson Delume was fishing the Slidell fishing pier when he hooked this fish in September 2020.



Ian Lovell

Ian Lovell, 9, caught his biggest sheephead yet in Hopedale back in August.

SPECIALS! SPECIALS! SPECIALS!

			
BFT 75 NOW \$6,500	BFT 115 NOW \$8,200	BFT 150 NOW \$8,500	BFT 200 NOW \$9,000

LIMITED SUPPLY.



TOHATSU
Feel the Wind™



**SOUTHERN
OUTDOORS**
& MARINE LLC

2268 Grand Caillou Rd., Houma, LA
985-873-7731

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)

Up to 25 words \$19.95/mn or \$45 for 3mns. Add a photo for \$10/mn

To place a classified display ad
Call 1-800-538-4355
 Mon-Thurs 8-5 • Fri 8-3



Guaranteed Fish!

- Light Tackle
- Fly Fishing
- Redfish
- Speckled Trout

Experience Louisiana's Most Professional Guide Service
504-278 FISH • www.bayoucharters.com



Specializing in Redfish & Speckled Trout

fishing the Golden Meadow, Grand Isle & Fourchon Area

TRIPS OUTINGS, FULLY SUPPLIED CATCH CLEANED, & PACKED

Louisiana & Coast Guard Licensed & Insured

ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE

CAPT. MIKE GUIDRY
 406 E. 74th St.
 Cut Off, LA 70345

985-637-4292

e-mail: boodro@viscom.net
 www.rippinlipguideservice.com
BROCHURES AVAILABLE!

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: Hunting Property, Lacombe, LA. 105 Acre Duck/Deer hunting property next to 17,000 acre Federal Wildlife Management Area. 2-bd/1-bth Camp, New, All Wood Floors n Walls, Large porches. Wooded, 2 ponds on low side, deer stands on high side. 45 miles from New Orleans. \$299,000.
 Robert Brent (504) 236-8069

REAL ESTATE


3 BD 1 BTH ON 8 ACRES
 Great Hunting in the area would make a great camp. \$6500/year. Located in Jefferson County, Ms.
 Call for details (601)431-3287



FISH-N-TELL CHARTERS
 CAPT. BARRY SCHEXNAYDRE
 (225) 938-2419 • FISHTELLCARTERS@YAHOO.COM
 24' BAY BOATS
SPECIALIZING IN SPECKLED TROUT & REDFISH
 FISHING FROM
 FOURCHON TO GRAND ISLAND AREA

WATERFRONT LOT Du-LARGE (985) 209-9495
 1/2 Acre Lots Inside Hurricane Levee/Floodgate just north above Falfgout Canal Marina Ok RV or Build Camp \$54k

ONLY 2 LOTS LEFT, \$39,500



119' WATER FRONTAGE SOUTH OF HOUMA. Bayou DuLarge near Falfgout Canal Marina. Last pair adjacent lots. \$79,000.00 inside existing flood system. Campers, motor homes ok or build raised camps. robert@roberthale.com or 985-804-7525

LAFITTE BARATARIA WATERFRONT RETREAT for family, fisherman or just a get away!! 3 Bed, lighted large deck overlooking water, great fishing. Bass, perch, catfish and crabs, bring crab nets!! Charters & Swamp Tours available nearby!! www.manateehavens.com email manatee@manateehavens.com!! (305)360-5835

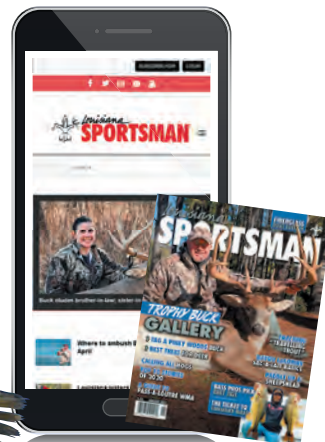


SPORTSMAN

JOIN THE CLUB

Become a member and get **FULL** web access on all your smart devices and our monthly print magazine

\$2.99 PER MONTH



VISIT: WWW.LOUISIANASPORTSMAN.COM/SUBSCRIBE

ADVERTISERS INDEX

ALARIO BROTHERS.....	58, 59	FROST WATERFOWL TRUST, LLC.....	99	OKUMA FISHING TACKLE.....	81
AMERICAN OUTDOOR BRANDS.....	35	G3 BOATS.....	29	PARISH TRACTOR.....	2
ASCENSION EQUIPMENT & RENT ALL.....	117	GATOR TRAX.....	118	PEOPLE WHO THINK, LLC.....	34
BAKER AGRI-FOREST PROPERTIES.....	101	GEICO BOAT.....	7	PLANO SYNERGY.....	50, 51
BILL LEWIS OUTDOORS.....	43	GRAND ISLE TOURIST COMMISSION.....	53	REALTOR AMY BARRIOS.....	68
BLACKWELL OUTDOOR, INC.....	55	GREENWELL SPRINGS MARINE.....	68, 84	ROCK RIDGE OUTDOORS.....	INSERT
BLANCHARD TRAILER SALES.....	63	GULF ENGINE & EQUIPMENT.....	36	SCULLY'S.....	60, 106
BLANCHARD'S REFRIGERATION.....	30	H&H MARINE.....	84	SEA TRAC OFFSHORE SERVICES.....	26
BLUE WAVE BOATS.....	9	HANKO'S.....	87	SERVICE CHEVROLET.....	3
BOATS UNLIMITED.....	66	HENDERSON.....	94	SMITH SHANKLIN SOSA LLC.....	67, INSERT
BREAUX AND DAIGLE MARINE.....	4	HOUSEBOAT OUTLET.....	105	SOUTHERN OUTDOORS & MARINE.....	30, 55, 77, 113
BRYAN'S MARINE.....	13	HUGHES WELDING AND MFG.....	99	SOUTHLAND DODGE.....	25
CAJUN OUTBOARDS.....	91	HYDRO TURF.....	41	SPOTS AND SPECKS.....	105
CAPTAIN PAUL TITUS.....	78, 88	INTERSTATE GUNS.....	INSERT	SPRO CORPORATION.....	49
COASTAL MARINE SALES.....	71	JERRY'S MARINE.....	38	STIHL SOUTHWEST.....	15, 83
CONOCO PHILLIPS.....	66	K2 MARINE.....	37	TERREBONNE MARINE.....	74
COURTESY GMC - LAFAYETTE.....	13, 60	KITTERLIN CREEK OUTFITTERS.....	103	THE RV SHOP.....	64
COVER'S UNLIMITED.....	96	LEMANN'S FARM SUPPLY, INC.....	INSERT	TIM'S MARINE.....	47, 111
CUSTOM CORRUGATED AND SUPPLY.....	52	LOUISIANA LOTTERY.....	5	TOHATSU AMERICAN CORPORATION.....	74, 75
CWP PROSERIES.....	88	MARINE LIFT AND DOCK SUPPLY COMPANY.....	79	UNITED COUNTRY-SOUTHERN STATES REALTY.....	23
DAGATE'S MARINE.....	73	MCKENNA RANCH OUTFITTERS.....	101	WHITETAIL PROPERTIES.....	21
DESOTO PARISH TOURIST BUREAU.....	17	MCM LUMBER.....	71	WILD HOG RIDGE HUNTING CLUB.....	104
DUVIC'S BOATS.....	83, 116	METRO BOATING.....	37	XPRESS BY ALUMA-WELD, INC.....	120
EMERY EQUIPMENT SALES & RENTALS.....	INSERT	MIKE GERALD'S TRAILER.....	50		
EXCEL BOATS.....	INSERT	MILLENIUM MARINE.....	57		
FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT.....	119	MILLENIUM TREESTANDS.....	19		
FORT BEAUREGARD ESTATES.....	88	MILLER'S RV.....	62		

Subscribe Today and SAVE 89

DUVIC'S!

CELEBRATING
131 YEARS
IN BUSINESS!

YOUR #1 RE-POWER CENTER



BLAZER BAY



**Introducing the NEW
2021 Key West 188BR
w/150hp Suzuki**



KEY WEST



210 Bay Reef
w/ 200 Suzuki



SOUTHFORK

LET US BUILD THE RIGHT BOAT FOR YOU!



DUVIC'S

CELEBRATING 131 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

Powered By
SUZUKI
MARINE

SERVING ALL YOUR
BOATING NEEDS
SINCE 1890



3650 WESTBANK EXPWY • HARVEY • MON-FRI 8AM-5PM • 504-341-1654

Dawn or dusk.
It's ready no
matter what.

SIDEKICK
Durability meets speed

40 MPH top speed

Gas powered



Stop in today and test drive the fast, durable Sidekick.

- Best-in-class acceleration and handling with cargo*
- Gas powered with a top speed of 40 mph
- Hauls a half ton and tows a full ton**
- Two-year, 1,000-hour warranty

Together we do more.

Ascension Equipment & Rent All

Save More Today & Mow Tomorrow!

13173 Airline Hwy, Gonzales
(225) 647-5881
ascensionequipment.com

KubotaUSA.com

*Class is based on these models: Polaris Ranger XP 900, John Deere XUV835M & Kawasaki Mule PRO-FXR. The handling comparison was performed on the FSAE SKIDPAD course in gravel conditions. **Excludes California models. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2020. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your local Dealer or go to KubotaUSA.com.

FROM
DUCK BOATS

TO
BASS BOATS



CHECK OUT WHAT



CAN DO FOR YOU

FOR A FULL LINE OF GATOR TRAX BOATS, VISIT
WWW.GATORTRAXBOATS.COM

Louisiana Sportsman | March 2021





It's About
LAND



Let's finance yours.

Your land is where your next chapter begins. It's a place to put down roots, carry on traditions, or even raise a family.

If land ownership or refinancing your land is what's next in your story, let First South guide you through financing the next chapter.



First South
Farm Credit

Let's talk



800-955-1722 | FIRSTSOUTHLAND.COM

X XCLUSIVE PRO BASS SERIES



XCLUSIVE PRO BASS SERIES
X21PRO / X19PRO / X18PRO

WHY XPRESS? WHY NOT!

Xpress Boats pioneered all-welded aluminum boat back in 1966 and is still the leader in high performance aluminum boats. Additionally, Xpress innovated longitudinal rib construction, injected, expandable foam to not only meet, but exceed Coast Guard standards, padded hull design for ultimate performance on both rough and calm water, plus shallow draft, incomparable hole shot and superior fishability. The day glass boat manufacturers have long feared is here. The Xclusive Pro Bass Series has been tested and proven on the Bassmaster Elite Series, the most competitive bass fishing tournament on the planet, and proven true. The style, fishability, storage, comfort, and performance of the Xpress Boats Xclusive Pro Bass Series is within your reach.

BASSMASTER ELITE JASON CHRISTIE

Mr. Jason Christie, a native Oklahoman, has made seven Classic appearances (two of those being second-place finishes), along with three Bassmaster Elite, and two Bassmaster Open wins to add to his stellar resume. He broke away from the notion that glass bottom boats are the only way to go and chose to run one of the finest performing, toughest, cost-effective aluminum boats on the Elite Series, the X21 Pro bass boat.



SeaDek
MARINE PRODUCTS
Available option on all Xclusive Pro Bass Series models



**OUR ELITES WILL BE AT THE SABINE RIVER
IN ORANGE, TEXAS ON APRIL 8-11**

Come out to visit them & see our boats in action!



Big Bass. Big Stage. Big Dreams.



199 Extrusion Place, Hot Springs, AR 71901



xpressboats.com



Legal Problems Solved Here



SMITH SHANKLIN SOSA
PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL LAWYERS

Stop worrying about it and call us. You will be glad you did.

Everybody has that one person you can call night or day, 24/7/365 and he or she is there for you. It doesn't matter if you are axle deep in a mud hole or fighting for your life in a flood. That person will come to help you, no questions asked. That is how you should feel about your attorney when you need legal help. Maybe you just have a simple legal question. Maybe you have been sued and don't know what to do. Maybe you are fighting for justice against big money or a large corporation and need someone you can trust. Maybe you want to start a small business and need legal advice. Maybe you have questions about a contract. No matter what your legal issue is, whether it seems small or overwhelming, you have a friend here that can help you. We give you the advice you need to make intelligent decisions about your circumstances. All it takes is a phone call. No pressure, no commitment, no consultation cost. We are your one stop shop for all.

- » INJURY CLAIMS
- » WRONGFUL DEATH
- » AUTO ACCIDENTS
- » TRUCKING ACCIDENTS
- » MARITIME/BOATING ACCIDENTS
- » JONES ACT CASES
- » OFFSHORE ACCIDENTS
- » PRODUCT LIABILITY
- » LLC AND CORPORATION START-UP
- » BUSINESS AND CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS (SALE/PURCHASE)
- » CONTRACT DISPUTE
- » BUSINESS DISPUTES AND LITIGATION
- » WILLS/DISPUTED WILLS
- » CRIMINAL DEFENSE (DWI, INCLUDING ON-THE-WATER)
- » INSURANCE COVERAGE DISPUTES
- » UNPAID WAGE AND OVER-TIME DISPUTES
- » PROPERTY DAMAGE CLAIMS



Alicia Sosa

John Smith
Sportsman-At-Law

Loren Shanklin

FREE CASE REVIEWS



SMITH SHANKLIN SOSA
PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL LAWYERS

Smith Shanklin Sosa, L.L.C.

16851 Jefferson Hwy, Suite 7C
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

225-223-6333 / www.geaux2law.com

The information you obtain from this ad is not, nor is it intended to be, legal advice. You should consult an attorney for advice regarding your individual situation. We invite you to contact us and welcome your calls, letters and email. Contacting us does not create an attorney-client relationship. Please do not send any confidential information to us until such time as an attorney-client relationship has been established.



EXCEL
BOATS

FIT & FINISH

At Excel we build every boat as if it's our own. We focus on every meticulous, finite detail to ensure you experience an enjoyable and successful outing; every time. The Bay Pro represents the highest level of craftsmanship, performance, functionality and fishability.



 **YAMAHA**

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

WWW.EXCELBOATS.COM



EASY TO RACK



Official Dealer of



Smith & Wesson®

EASY TO PACK



INTERSTATE
GUNS

www.interstateguns.com

985-340-1980

1715 S Morrison Blvd, Hammond, LA 70403

BRINGING **TOUGH** TO TURF



INTRODUCING A NEW ANIMAL INTO OUR BOBCAT FLEET.

*Stop in and experience the **Bobcat Advantage** today*

12181 AIRLINE HIGHWAY, BATON ROUGE, LA 70817
888-654-3125



Bobcat®

EMERY
EQUIPMENT

www.emeryequipment.com

RIDE ROGUE



VISIT
WWW.ROGUERIDGE.COM



Power and performance
to do the hard work.

Comfort to make
it look easy.



Grand L60 Series 37-62HP Wide Operator Station



Stop by to demo the high-performance Grand L60 Series today.

- Premium comfort
- Performance-matched implements
- Advanced HST plus transmission
- Powerful loader lift capacity

Together we do more.

LFS
LEMANN'S FARM SUPPLY
EST. 1836

**317 Mississippi St
Donaldsonville, LA
(225) 473-7927
www.lemanns.com
Email: sales@lemanns.com**

KubotaUSA.com

© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2020. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer. For the complete disclaimer, go to KubotaUSA.com/disclaimers and see the posted disclaimer.