



THE SPLASH

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Jaws!



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Programs and Activities

- Recognition of World Fresh Water Sportfishing Records
- Record Book Published Annually
- Recognition for Achievement of Excellence in Sportfishing
- Educational Museum of Sportfishing Artifacts and Library

*Museum open April 15 through October 31
 7 days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 (no admittance after 3:30 p.m.)
 Administration Office open year 'round
 5 days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except
 Christmas-New Year interim weeks)*

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK
 by Emmett Brown

July 22, 2013

A wet and cold spring has transformed itself in to a dry and hot summer in the northwoods of Wisconsin. I never would have imagined, after 18 inches of wet and heavy snow this past May 2nd, I would be hoping for the skies to once again open up on us. I know, be careful what you wish for! Did I mention mosquitos? Well they are back, with a vengeance. The Wisconsin state bird is not the mosquito (the robin is), but at 9:00 pm in my backyard, I can't help but wonder why it isn't.

Today marks the exact halfway point of our visitor season at our location in Hayward. I have been favorably struck by the rising number of youths visiting the Hall this year. I hope this is a trend which will continue. I trust we are inspiring this young demographic to become lifelong fishermen and women. That is, after all, our intended goal. I love it when a plan comes together!

Until the fall,

Emmett A. Brown, Jr.
 Executive Director

COVER PHOTO: Hall member and retired Chicago, Illinois fireman (and fisherman extraordinaire), Joe Murphy, displays a toothy northern pike he recently caught on a fly-in trip to a remote lake in northwestern Ontario. Joe reports a good time was had by all!

2013 HALL LAPEL/HAT PIN NOW ON SALE!

As most of you know, the State of Wisconsin no longer allows us to send raffle materials through the mail. This has put a real damper on this very important fund raiser for us. As the old expression goes, "Time to move on!"

We receive many requests at our gift shop for lapel/hat pins every year. Enter our first, in a continuing annual series, of limited edition pins for Hall members. This very nice pinback is actually made from a genuine Mepps #3 Aglia blade and comes in its own decorative box. We will only sell 500.



The cost is only \$14.95 which includes shipping (anywhere in the United States) and all applicable sales taxes. Shipping outside of the U.S. is an additional \$5.

Please show your support for the Hall and order yours today! They are available on our website at www.freshwater-fishing.org or call us at 1.715.634.4440. Thank you.

HALL AWARDS ARE PRESENTED!



Jim Smith (middle) receives his Legendary Communicator for 2013 induction plaque from Director Larry Voyles (right) of the Arizona Game and Fish Department at a May 2013 Arizona Game and Fishing Department meeting held in Kingman, Arizona. Also on hand for the presentation was Doug Thornburg, Sport Fishing Education Coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Congratulations Jim!

HALL ANNOUNCES YOUTH WRITING PROGRAM

How many of you love to fish and would like to earn a little money writing about it? You can do both by entering the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame's National Youth Writing Contest.

First of all, go fishing. Then, when you return, just sit down and write a two- to four-page double-spaced story about that experience. You may also write a story about a past experience as well.

For your effort you could receive a \$500.00 scholarship. We will have two age group categories (and winners): Sixth through Eight Grade and High School.

Please go to our website at www.freshwater-fishing.org and download an official entry form and get started today. There is no cost. Entries are to be sent to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, P. O. Box 690, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843 or attach it to an email and send to fishhall@cheqnet.net.

All entries will be judged by an esteemed group of national Legendary Communicators, moderated by Legendary Communicator Kenneth L. Kieser. They must be postmarked/mailed to the Hall by September 15, 2014. The winners will be announced in the November 2014 Splash.

Good luck to all and get busy fishing and writing!

HALL MEMBER CATCHES UNUSUAL BASS!



This past May Hall member Steve Norris of Chattanooga, Tennessee was fishing the Chickamauga Reservoir of Tennessee when he reeled in the proverbially "horse of a different color" or in Steve's case a fish. At first glance he thought it was just another nice smallmouth bass, but after closer examination of the fish's mouth, it appeared to be much too large for a smallie. Steve sent a picture of the fish (pictured left) to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and asked them what they felt it was. A biologist with this agency, Mike Jolley, got back to Steve quickly and felt that it "most resembles a smallmouth bass." Jolley went on to say that, "Hybrid bass do exist in Tennessee with smallmouth X largemouth and smallmouth X spotted bass crosses. This fish could possibly be a cross however we do not observe many in our surveys." As a popular cable news network tirelessly reminds us, "We report, you decide!" By the way, Steve reports the bass in question was about a 4 pound specimen and was released unharmed. Thank you for sharing Steve.

WE'LL MISS YOU!



2006 Legendary Communicator David J. Richey passed away June 20, 2013, at the Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan. In 1967, Dave sold his first story to *Sports Afield* magazine and soon become a prolific outdoor writer and photographer. Richey wrote thousands of stories for *Field and Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *Sports Afield* and many other regional and national magazines. Dave worked for *The Detroit News* as their outdoor editor and photographer from 1981 until his retirement in 2003. All totaled, he wrote over 7,000 magazine and newspaper articles and 22 books during his career. Dave will be sadly missed!

IT'S A WHOLE NEW GAME - THE RIVER ZONE!!

By Legendary Angler Dan Gapen, Sr.

As a boy growing up in the wilds of Ontario, I would have called it magic. This day, after 5 years of filming underwater video for our TV show featuring fish striking lures is only part of the game. Even so, this day was special. Along with 'Bobber' Anne, I'd found a reason why rivers MUST be fished on the bottom. It was a simple fact, one which has gathered fish species since the beginning of time....FOOD!!!

In the past three years our underwater footage had shown us there were structures existing flat on the bottom of all rivers. Current, speed, river size, bottom structure and substance on the bottom had some bearing on forming these structure pockets. But, even with a wide variety of circumstances, all rivers host these unusual structures.

What do they look like, how large are they and how many exist in a river will be explained in this column. What are these new structures called? For a lack of a better description I named them "Bottom Zones" or "Zones" for short.

Where are they and how large are they? Zones exist in all rivers and rise off of the bottom 2 inches to as much as 12 inches in depth. Sizes vary as well. They often cover the bottom of the river from side to side and extend downstream for 25 to 75 feet, or can be but a foot wide and five feet long. They are created at their upstream beginning by an object as small as a pebble or a rock as large as a human body.

Zones secretly house food in the form of minnows, fly larvae, hellgrammite and crawfish



Dan Gapen Sr. with a walleye taken from the zone.



Dan Gapen, Sr.

which find shelter here. Because current flow is near stagnant in Zones, this type of fish food is able to find shelter, grow and exist throughout these quiet waters. River currents running above the Zones may be 6 to 10 miles an hour in speed but the Zones current affected by their movement. All Zone structures are an invite to both game fish and rough-fish to "Come on in, the foods awaiting!!" Nature has created a structure of quiet water which is held in place by the suppressing currents above. Once located by the angler they provide a structure where bass, walleye, pike, catfish, panfish, trout, salmon and all rough-fish, such as carp, can be easily taken. Keep in mind: Once fish enter the Zone in a river they are there for one purpose only...to eat!!!

How do you locate these structures? Anne and I found them by using a new experimental lure call the Spin Bee™. This jig-style bait has a tail spinner which rotates rapidly in the current, vibrations which will send their rotating tremors to the tip of a high modular graphite rod. Once the Spin Bee's™ spinner ceases to



'Bobber' Anne with another Spin Bee™ walleye jerked from the zone.



The new Spin Bee™, the lure which exposed the river bottom zones.

spin (an action created as the Spin Bee™ enters the Zone) or as your lure nears bottom you know the quiet zone has been reached. Once within an inch or so of bottom the spinner will completely cease rotating.

How do you mark the spot? For me it's the old fashioned way. I line up a stump or rock on one river bank and a tree on the other. Today the Pros, with all their fancy gear, would probably use a GPS. But, I have none of that fancy gear in my Jon-boat, just an old wood 6-foot paddle for a depth finder and the good sense that God gave me. It will have to do.

Three years of testing for Zones, and finally while field testing the Spin Bee™, 'Bobber Anne' and I had our answer.

"Anne, my dear, we've been right all along. There are pockets of still water down there. Look at the Spin Bee's™ tail spinner slowing down and now it's stopping." I commented to my buddy as the under-water monitor showed the Spin Bee™ spinner slow to a stop.

"Dan, we're watching that walleye as she followed your "Spin Bee™" into the Zone. She was about five feet behind it, just watching. But the moment it dropped into the quiet water and the spinner faltered the strike was on," my partner continued. She was right! My walleye had been following the lure for 15 feet as it was trolled up in the current, its tail spinner rotating furiously. Then as it broke through the Zones' roof and dropped down she attacked.

We were fishing the Upper Mississippi near my home. Here the Mississippi averaged nearly a block wide. Unlike spring and fall, when pursuing walleye was done along shoreline, today in late July, the walleye had disappeared. By chance we'd decided to troll the midstream area in a desperate search for the lost walleye.

Water depth averaged 8 to 10 feet. Bottom texture was gravel, small rock and sand. By using the Spin Bee™ we were able to estimate that the Zone we found was no more than 4 to 10 inches deep, 30 feet wide and about 50 feet in length. As the robotic lens carrier searched out the structure we finally

(continued on page 10)

SENSATIONAL SHELLCRACKERS By Legendary Communicator Wade Bourne

It may well be the toughest pound in fishing!

That's the average size shellcracker fellow outdoor writer Will Brantley and I were catching last spring on Kentucky Lake in the state of the same name. Will knew where there was a spawning bed, and we were pulling in these fish one after another....

But only after they had pulled us around a bit! These spirited panfish were no patsies. Instead, they resisted our ultralight tackle gamely, and there was no horsing them into the boat. Will and I had to play each fish carefully, holding on as it ran and battled, then taking line as we could. We felt a new sense of victory each time we swung one aboard.

Indeed, shellcrackers are sensational! Besides being tough fighters, they are aggressive biters, and they are tops in table fare for anglers lucky enough to catch "a mess." And Will and I were well on our way to doing just that.

Technically, "shellcracker" is a nickname for redear sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*). The nickname comes from the fish's habit of feeding on small snails and clams, grinding the shells with special teeth in its throat. (It also dines on worms, insects, small minnows and other available prey.) The proper name stems from the bright reddish-orange border outlining the back edge of the fish's gill flap. This marking makes for easy identification by anglers.

Shellcrackers are native to the southeastern U.S., from Florida to Texas to Illinois and back to the Atlantic coast. They have also been stocked into waters of many states outside this range. They thrive in lakes, ponds and rivers that have warm, clear water, especially where vegetation is present. Shellcrackers frequently share their locales with bluegill, crappie, bass and other warm water species.

Most shellcrackers are caught coincidentally by anglers targeting bluegill. However, a much smaller cadre pursues these fish



A shellcracker after a very sporting fight.



Wade Bourne

specifically, and they use special techniques for doing so. Many times their efforts reap big rewards. In spring especially, shellcrackers can be caught in abundance by those who know where they hang out and what they like to eat.

Will Brantley is one such angler, and he was showing me that these fish are easy to catch when they move close to shoreline to spawn. "They're colony nesters," he said, "and they make their nests on hard, clean bottoms of gravel, sand or clay. To find these areas, I ease my boat along parallel to shore and look for places where these types of bottom extend above the water line. When I see a likely spot, I test-fish it straight off the bank in 3-7 feet of water. Shellcrackers tend to bed deeper than bluegill. Also, they seem to prefer fairly protected water with some deep-water access nearby. I usually find them in pockets and bays instead of the rough-and-tumble of the main lake."

Brantley's technique for test-fishing for shellcrackers is simple. He ties a drop-shot rig and drags it along bottom to coax bites from spawning fish. This rig consists of a ¼ oz. bell sinker and swivel tied on the bottom of his line. Then, 8-12 inches up the line he ties a dropper onto which he threads a small plastic bug with rubber legs. (Brantley's favorite is a Shelton Bluegill Bug, available through Shelton's Fishing Lures in Greenville, KY – 270-338-5915.) He fishes this rig on ultralight spinning tackle and 4 lb. test monofilament line.

He says, "Finding shellcracker beds is all about covering water, and you can do this much faster with a drop-shot rig. This is a dragging presentation similar to Carolina-

rigging for bass, except it is downsized, but the principle is the same. You make long casts and drag the sinker back across bottom. This is a very efficient way to find where the fish are concentrated, since you fish faster than with other baits and methods."

When he locates a spawning bed, Brantley usually swaps out the bream bug for a live redworm threaded onto a #6 or #8 thin wire hook. (This hook is tied directly into the line instead of hung on a dropper.) After casting over the bed, Brantley waits for the sinker to hit bottom, then he reels up slack and begins to drag his rig back through the bed. He typically doesn't have long to wait before his line loads or twitches with the giveaway clue that a fish has sucked in his bait.

(One note about live bait: Will Brantley advises not to substitute nightcrawler pieces for redworms. He says, "I've tried both, and I catch 10 to 1 more shellcrackers on redworms. For whatever reason, this is their preferred food.")

And usually, when he catches one shellcracker, he takes several from the same spot. "A typical spawning colony has a lot of fish on it," Brantley says. "It's not unusual to catch a limit - 20 per angler in Kentucky - from one bed. The real trick is to find the fish. After you do, the catching part is easy."

Also, anglers having difficulty locating spawning beds should also try random-fishing around any aquatic vegetation – submerged grassbeds, buck bushes, willows. And if the water level is high, try fishing flooded lawns of lake-front homes. "Worms come up out of the ground when a lawn floods, and the fish move in for the feast," Brantley says. "I've caught some of my biggest shellcrackers in this situation, and their stomachs were packed with worms."

The final reward in shellcracker fishing comes in the kitchen. These fish are large enough to fillet, and their meat is flaky white and mild-tasting. Roll the fillets in egg, coat with corn meal, and deep-fry in hot peanut oil. The result will provide one more slant on the adjective "sensational."

"It's hard to beat fried shellcracker fillets served with baked beans, slaw and hush puppies," Will Brantley proclaimed as we headed back to the boat ramp with 40 fat panfish in our basket. "Such a meal is a perfect ending to a warm spring day on the water."

This was one more area in which I intended to follow his advice!

TRY SPINNERS FOR HOT SUMMER WALLEYES By Legendary Anglers Gary Parsons and Keith Kavajecz

We've all been there; it's one of "those" kind of days on the water; hot and muggy, and your attitude is melting like the ice in your cooler. You're out in the open water, trolling over loads of fish that you know are walleyes – at least you are pretty sure since this is the same area you caught them in at this time last year. But this time around you find yourself checking your fish finder to see if it's in the "simulation" mode, because not one of the hundreds of hooks moving across the screen is making any kind of attempt at hitting your crankbaits.

The situation doesn't make sense. The water is warm, so the fish's metabolism must be high meaning they should be "active" and feeding. The weather is stable; sunny and hot for the last few days. But your "high action crankbait" which simply slayed them last year is being ignored. The problem could very well be something you can't see. This year there may have been an outstanding hatch of mayflies or baitfish and those walleyes suspending beneath the boat are tight as melons after feasting for the past few days. They're full and lazy and not in the mood to chase after your crank. Our suggestion; offer them a little dessert, and a spinner rig trailing a fat juicy nightcrawler can make a splendid final course for an over-stuffed walleye.

Several key factors make spinners and crawlers the best bet when nothing else works on suspended (or bottom-hugging) "dog day" fish. First, a spinner is presented more slowly than a crankbait this time of year, meaning the fish don't have to work very hard to get it. Second, that tempting



In the heat of summer, when your open water crankbait bite goes bust, try switching to spinners and crawlers to get back in the game.



Gary Parsons

nightcrawler is enough to make a walleye's mouth water as it wiggles and emits its undeniable aroma. Third, the spinner "sounds" like a struggling baitfish to a walleye's lateral line. And finally, the flash of a spinner will attract any active fish in the area to it, so even though you troll more slowly and cover less water, the strike attraction zone of the spinner is probably greater than with a faster moving crankbait. In other words, the fish can see this slow-moving, flashy thing from a long ways away and since it is going slowly, they will swim a fairly long way to investigate.

The dog day walleye scenario takes place to some extent anywhere you find walleyes and baitfish or other food, such as insect larvae that are not relating to structure. Although it is most common to pursue these "middle-of-nowhere" fish in Great Lakes-type fisheries like the Bay de Noc (Lake Michigan), Saginaw Bay (Lake Huron) or Lake Erie's Central Basin, the fish can also be found in waters like Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin, the Missouri River reservoirs in the Dakotas and Montana, as well as many smaller lakes scattered across the "walleye belt".

No one spinner type works best in all of these different waters. You have to match spinner size to the size of fish that dominates the lake. If a big fish in your lake is three pounds, then go with about a No. 2 spinner. If you're fishing water where six and eight pound walleyes are common, go up to a bigger # 6 sized blade. We've found that the Colorado and Indiana shapes tend to work better than the willow leaves, possibly because the wider spinners emit more vibration than the slender willows. Other blade styles to consider would be the Chopper (pear-shaped) and Hatchet (sickle-shaped) style blades. These offer different vibrations than more traditional blades that can often trigger bites from walleyes that would otherwise

ignore your offerings.

As for colors, the general rule is that the silver and gold metallics work best in clear water, while cloudier water calls for bright colors like chartreuses and oranges. But those are just general rules-of-thumb. Don't hesitate to experiment. There are new color combinations coming out all the time – and it's been proven time and time again ... walleyes don't like following rules. Holographic finishes are probably the most popular walleye blade patterns going. Blades like those found in the Bass Pro Shops Walleye Angler line feature holographic colors that combine both flash (like metallics) and color for the optimum in walleye attraction.

Of course no spinner harness is complete without hooks. Considering the fact that we are talking primarily about open water trolling here, we tie up most of our spinners for this application using a size #2 Mustad Ultra Point Double Wide Fine Wire Livebait Hook (model 10548R – Red color) on the front, and a #4 size Mustad Elite Triple Grip Treble Hook (model TG588BLN – Black Nickel color) on the back of the harness. In scenarios where we are anticipating catching a number of really big fish, we may go to two trebles to help increase hooking percentages.

Taking the spinner and bait to the fish depends on where in the water column they are. A very effective and efficient weighting system for trolling open water spinners is the use of the Off-Shore Tackle Pro Weights System. Using the Snap Weight option, clip one of these to the line 50 feet in front of the spinner, let out another 50 feet of line. By varying the weight (1/2 ounce to 3 ounces), you can vary your depth. Another weighting system we have had good success with is the use of in-line weights like the Bass Pro Shops FishWeights in-line style weights. These particular weights feature holographic finishes and a shape that closely resembles a small baitfish. That gives these weights the ability to not only take your lure down in the water column, but also acts as a great fish attractor. Which weight system is more effective? Both are ... sometimes the spinners pulled behind Snap Weights get more bites, sometimes it's the ones on the inline weights. Again, it may take a little experimentation to determine what's going to work best on a given day.

Using Off-Shore Tackle OR-12 Side Planer
(continued on page 10)

WEEDLINE BASS FROM THE INSIDE OUT By Legendary Angler Babe Winkelman

Before I dive into this subject, I should probably define what a “weedline” is first. A weedline is the edge of a weed bed where the vegetation stops and open water begins. It’s no secret that largemouth bass relate to these weedlines. The reason is simple. Weedlines provide bass with protective cover and they serve as excellent ambush points when bass are feeding.

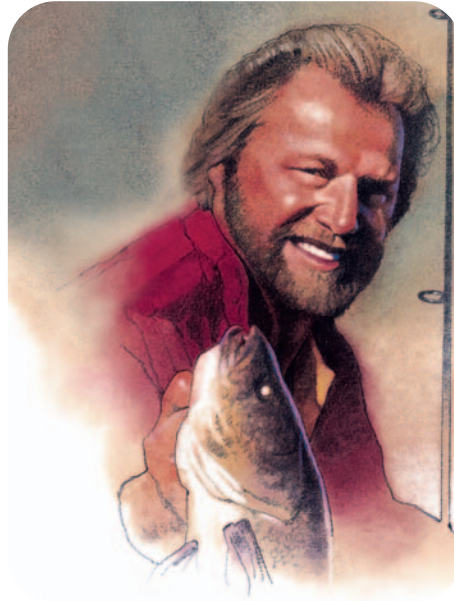
Most bass anglers spend the majority of their weedline time with the boat in deeper water while pitching to the outside weedline. That’s perfectly fine. The bass are routinely there. But what many anglers fail to appreciate is that a weed bed typically has two weedlines. One on the deep side and one on the shallow side. Sure, some weed beds go all the way up to shore – in which case there is no inside line. But more often, there’s a stretch of sandy, gravelly or rocky bottom between shore and where the vegetation starts growing. This “inside weedline” can be pure dynamite, so don’t overlook it.

When I hit the water for weedline bassing, I like to start by focusing on these inside lines. It’s often where the most aggressive fish are, and the bigger fish too. Because water depths here are shallow, I use lures that run up high and cover water fast. Spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, weedless spoons lipless or shallow-diving cranks and “dog-walking” topwater plugs are great search baits for the task.

Long casts, particularly in clear water lakes, are essential since boat presence in that shallow water can sometimes turn a fish off. If you tag a fish on one of these long casts, make a mental note of where the strike happened in the retrieve. It’s likely that the bass had some pals with him, so there’s a good chance of pulling two or three from that general area.



Babe hefts a nice largemouth bass.



Babe Winkelman

To help boost your chances of this happening, set the search bait rod down and pick up your soft plastic rod. Use a Texas-rig worm, creature bait, Senko or whatever your favorite presentation is. Get a good cast’s length from where that first fish bit and cast to that spot. Allow the bait to settle straight to the bottom and let it sit for 10-20 seconds. If a bass spotted the bait dropping from a distance, letting it sit gives him time to move in on it. And bass don’t mind hitting a soft plastic that’s just lying there. If no strike happens during this time, give the bait a subtle twitch or even a slow drag. Then let it sit, and repeat the presentation. No fish after a few casts? Keep moving and go back to that search bait rod.

As you move, pay close attention to the curvature of the weedline and focus most of your attention on areas where the weedline makes inside turns or juts out in little points. Bass like these irregularities. Also key in on spots where the weeds are the thickest. Generally speaking, the thicker the cover the better.

If the inside weedline is a bust, then it’s time to give the outside weedline a try. Approach the deeper vegetation the same way you did in the shallows, ripping search baits to locate active fish. To do this, you’ll position your boat so you can cast nearly parallel to the weedline. Again, if you pop a fish, hope there’s a school there and switch to your slow-presentation soft plastic rig. Move the boat out into deeper water and pitch into the weed edge perpendicularly.

I think a lot of these weedline bass like to feed on small bluegills, so I like bait colors

that seem to emulate sunfish. Green and pumpkin brown plastics are proven performers. And for whatever reason, blue and purple colors work great too.

Sometimes the vegetation species vary between what’s growing on the shallow side and what’s out deeper. Certain plant species seem to be better bass magnets than others. Cabbage is my personal favorite. But reeds, coontail, milfoil and wild rice all attract largemouth too. Regardless of what types of plants are growing in your lake, keep an eye out for the plant color. Healthy, bright green plants will almost always outproduce drab, wilted, browning vegetation.

Weedline bass fishing has always been one of my favorite things to do. If you haven’t done it yet, give it a try and I promise you’ll love it too. I hope some of the tips I’ve laid out here help you catch more fish. And if you have any tips you’d like to share with the rest of us, feel free to post them on the Babe Winkelman Facebook page.

Good Fishing!

THE HALL AND YOUR WILL

Do you know if you haven’t written a will, your state has one already composed for you? Each state has varying laws in this regard, but your state may not be in line with your wishes if you die intestate. Through the years, many Hall members have indicated they have intentions to remember us in their will. Sadly, from time to time, their wishes did not come to pass because the Hall was not specifically mentioned in their will or they did not have one. The Hall is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and as such, all contributions made are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Planned estate giving and properly drawn wills make the most sense in order to carry out your intent for family and charitable giving.

Most simple wills are relatively inexpensive to draft. Your charitable giving is not limited to just money, but can also be in the form of real estate, insurance benefits, valuable artifacts and the like. It may surprise you, but many people put off this important task. As a result, it has been estimated that as many as 50 percent of our population die without or with an inadequate will.

Properly drawn wills, customized to your desires, are best handled by an attorney. A qualified tax accountant or certified public accountant (CPA) can also be very helpful in this process.

If you choose to remember the Hall in your will, we will be very grateful and your thoughtfulness will not be squandered. Thank you.

A SHALLOW PERSONALITY By Legendary Guide Tom Neustrom

Walleyes are creatures of habit and their life is surrounded by adapting to their surroundings and constant search of food.

Depths of preference are cast aside when it comes to their internal mechanism that drives anglers crazy at times. Many bodies of water are shallow and some have depths that make your mind wander to comparisons of oceans and many of the Great Lakes. This is not always the case and there are countless situations that walleyes can adapt that boggle our minds, but make sense.

Years ago, growing up, I was haunted by the pursuit of walleyes and their biological makeup. There were stories that walleyes only bit at night or under low light conditions. I was bedazzled by the thought I couldn't catch these fish under several conditions and it made me educate myself on the total makeup and diversification of these fish under all conditions. It took years and years of study, understanding and catching walleyes to better myself and become somewhat of a fanatic to where they lived and hung out. Many of my fellow anglers changed species and left me to the experimentation and disappointments they succumbed to rather than keep pounding away at what made these glassy eyed predators tick.

Adapt you say? I'm talking about food sources walleyes survive on and I don't believe there is a species of fish that can attest to the multiple smorgasbord of table fare that walleyes will gobble. Examining the stomach contents of walleyes has also been one of the advanced learning curves when it comes to the autopsy that is performed when cleaning them for the skillet. I have found small snakes, leeches, frogs, mice, soft shell



Tom Neustrom

crayfish(summer molting stage), baitfish of several kinds, and many different larvae(especially mayfly)stages that inhabit the bottom of lakes and rivers. They adapt well to available food and we must respond to presentations that will make walleyes bite.

We have always known, and believe that walleyes roam depths at times that are beyond most anglers' inner sense of contact. I always fished in depths of 10-20 feet because that is what I was taught growing up. As years grew into multiple years and now decades, I have caught walleyes in depths of one foot to 80 feet. The deeper walleyes were always more identifiable and especially with the electronic tools we possess.

I spent many sleepless nights and days on Lake Geneva in Southern Wisconsin figuring out what made walleyes such a pivotal part of my future with the belief that I could figure these critters out then and forever. **WRONG!!** Before I was 16 years old, my exposure to

walleyes was catching them with my Dad at our cabin in Northern Wisconsin and that was always just before dark or the wee hours of the morning at sun up. We fished for bass, northern pike, muskies, and panfish during the day, but not walleyes. My Dad instructed me that you can't catch them during the day. As time went on the answer was never good enough for me and so the multiple decades of chasing walleyes had begun.

Guiding has taught me so much; it compares to getting your doctorate in one sense, but only if you have a long lasting passion as I do. All creatures great and small need to nourish themselves and change their food habits constantly. Once deciding that I was going to make a career guiding anglers to walleyes, I knew then I must get pretty darn good at every aspect of the game. Not just jigging, slip sinker fishing with live bait, trolling or casting crankbaits, slip bobber fishing, and the list goes on and on. Being versatile was the only answer of success "and let the music begin".

I rely on my electronics and eyes when cruising the shallows which at times can be a double fisted attack. My Humminbird 998 with Side Imaging and LakeMaster High-Definition Mapping gives me an opportunity to see shallow water locations that I otherwise would have run over the top in order to verify pertinent shallow structure. I can pick out shallow weedbeds, rock piles, wood, and other bottom changes that hold these shallow water walleyes throughout the season. I can return to these locations time and time again by marking the specific spot with a GPS Icon. Many times when the water is fairly clear I will see corners and inside turns of cabbage that are ambush hideouts for walleyes searching for an easy meal.

I'm a jiggin fool as some put it, and I can make Fred Astaire take notice of the different aspects and techniques of jig fishing. It can be a dance of many steps from the slow waltz to hard rock, but make no mistake there is a time and place for everything. Most often color is the least most important item in my theory when fishing slighter depths (although many of my customers will tell you I favor shades of greens and chartreuse). Walleyes can develop a "Shallow Personality" and are very predictable when all the pieces fall into place. Why shallow you ask? It's one of the most improbable places the majority of anglers attempt to find walleyes. My biggest character building walleyes have come from 12 feet of water and less, with oodles of fish
(continued on page 10)



The working end of a fine walleye!

SHADOWS ON THE WHITE RIVER By Legendary Communicator Kenneth L. Kieser

There are shadows on the White River that run through Missouri and Arkansas. White River guide for Gaston's Resort, Richie Hays is well aware of these shadows that few see. Some may even feel these apparitions that refuse to leave while others never believe they exist.

Hays lives and breathes the White River after 16-years of guiding. He knows that the shadows are there and perhaps someday he will join them. I have written many stories on this river and may someday be a shadow on the river too, joining a big crowd. Many shadows with unknown names and faces started the White River history centuries ago.

Men, women and children used the river for survival long before dams created this cold water chute that now supports rainbow and brown trout survival. Native Americans fished and hunted this sacred place and likely thanked their God for this special place.

Eventually pioneers took over, no doubt still thanking God for nourishment and fresh water. These pioneers brought civilization to the region and by the 1920's, when a dollar was still worth a dollar, guides found they could be paid for a day's fishing, many are now likely shadows.

Early guides on the White River worked hard for their pay, between \$2 and \$10 a day. After cooking breakfast, most used long wooden John boats to propel clients down the river in search of goggle-eye, green perch and bass. Then, after a long day of guiding, camp was set up with fresh fish, steak or chicken for dinner with potatoes and beans or whatever



Ken Kieser

they decided to haul down river and grill over an open fire.

Jim Owens, out of Branson, Missouri, was likely the most famous guide on the river. The Jim Owen's Boat Line started in 1935 and catered to thousands of sportsmen by the late 1940's for a rate of \$2 a day that eventually ballooned up to \$10.

His wooden John boats were not equipped with a middle seat so fishermen could comfortably sit in director's chairs and drink iced beverages. Owens even brought portable toilet seats for the more delicate anglers. Eventually he scored the highest paying clients. By the late 1940's he owned over about 40 John boats with almost as many guides, likely several of the shadows that

follow Hays up and down the river on every guide trip.

Many changes have occurred since the wooden John boat days. Table Rock and Bull Shoals Dams started releasing cold water down the White River chutes, creating ideal trout conditions.

Bass, goggle-eye and green perch may still be found on stretches miles away from the dams, but now White River guides mainly show clients how to trout fish. Chances are some of the earlier customers and guides since the dams are now shadows too.

"I love the history of guides on the river," Hays said. "Some of the guides I worked with are gone; they just never had a feel for this river and only wanted a pay check. Many of the guides I work with now love the White River and will likely stay."

Hays is a successful guide because of his patience with novice anglers, including women and children. In fact, many beginners insist on Hays as their guide on return trips and Gaston's White River Resort makes that possible, even though the business has a successful staff of many guides that share their river secrets with co-workers, like a select society. This group of guides loves the river and will likely be shadows watching younger guides and clients many years from now.

But for me, watching Zane Wheeler and his buddies, Michael and Hunter Taylor, all under ten years old, having fun catching rainbows on the White River is a reminder why there are many shadows on the river—or maybe not shadows, but kindred spirits. Either way, most who discover this special place never want to leave and return whenever possible for the rest of their lives—or possibly forever.

About Gastons: Gaston's has an excellent shoreline lunch where freshly caught trout are deep fried with "all the fixings." But their restaurant with Chef Mark Pagni, serves up remarkable lobster and steak dinners. Of course they have chicken and other entrées, but I only ate the incredible steak and lobster that was served by the Chef's beautiful wife, Erica and other members of a professional staff. The rooms are clean and comfortable.

For more information about fishing the White River, contact Gaston's White River Resort at: (870)-431-5202 or check their web site at: www.gastons.com.



A ghostly figure on the White River. (photo by Kenneth L. Kieser)

THE RIVER ZONE!! (continued from page 4)

found our walleye at the down-stream end of the Zone. This would be a normal position for this fish on whatever structure you found them on in a river. It was a spot I'd been bypassing for years.

With our discovery lined up by the corner of a red barn on the west bank and a tall cottonwood on the east bank we began our quest. Within a little over the one and a half hours we'd boated 17 walleye, 4 decent smallmouth, a couple stubborn fighting carp and the believe-it-or-not fish, 3 red horse suckers! Yep, all on an 1/8 oz. sucker and bumble bee colored "Spin Bee".

Later that week we discovered that mile long flat slick of 6 to 12 foot deep water on the Mississippi held about 23 more bottom Zones.

So, if this article has got you interested; go to Gapen's website at www.gapen.com and pick up a copy of my walleye River Rat DVD No. 5 or call 1-877-623-2099

Until next time I want you to Relax Savor and Enjoy our great outdoors. It's there for you to use and yours to save for future generations.

A SHALLOW PERSONALITY (continued from page 8)

over 10 pounds coming in depths less than 5 feet.

Small jigs that are fished slow on tops of weeds, over rocks, through wood and stirring up shallow sand like the slow two step. Walleyes are inquisitive like all animal life and will love the easy catch and eat approach of that slow methodical VMC Dominator jig slipping and sliding through time and space. Then there is the fast paced kid on the block, going to attract everyone's attention like Dancing with the Stars with quick moves and a quick pace. Snapping or moving a VMC Mooneye Jig with a Trigger X Minnow or Swimmin Grub can trigger uncountable strikes in shallow water, and walleyes of every size and shape will react. I like casting crankbaits as a two fisted approach and change the cadence from slow to fast by utilizing different baits. For slower stop and start, twitching and slithering I like Husky Jerks, Clackin Minnows, and X-Raps. When I pick up the pace and want to zip through the water over the tops of cabbage and shallow rocks, I unholster the Clackin Rap and new Rippin Rap to "make em mad".

Proper presentations are bolstered by the right tackle and Daiwa has a reel for every step of the way. I prefer the new Aird 2000 for smooth as silk casting ability and lightweight construction for sometimes all day throwing. Other top choices from Daiwa are the High Speed Exceler 2000 and the Ballistic 2000. All three of these spinning reels will provide the opportunity of long and accurate casts and retrieves that a Nascar Pro would envy. Utilize the proper line when casting crankbaits adds to the overall presentation. I like 832 Braid by Sufix which gives me longer casts and extra feel for the bumpers as I call them, when walleyes bump

the bait and you can react quickly to these types of strikes.

Shallow water walleyes are predictable by learning a few presentations that you can depend on. Through years of experimentation and chasing these critters we have learned valuable insights into being successful. These fish have a personality all their own and can be taken consistently with a few of these tricks in mind. See ya on the water!!!!

HOT SUMMER WALLEYES

(continued from page 6)

in-line boards to take the spinners out to the side of the boat increases the amount of water you can cover. By putting lighter weights on the outside and heavier weights inside, you can probe different depths until you find the set-up that catches fish.

This summer, trolling for plump, dog day walleyes will be a lot less frustrating if you give them a slow-moving spinner with a tasty nightcrawler. Just like the old Jell-O commercial, walleyes with full bellies will always have room for spinners.

Editor's Note: If you have questions or comments on this or other articles of ours you may have read, contact us through our website at www.thenextbite.com.

SUPPORT YOUR HALL!

Jack Daniels Fishing Story

I went fishing this morning, but after a short time I ran out of worms.

Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in its mouth.

Frogs are good bass bait.

Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in its mouth, I grabbed it right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket.

Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bit. So, I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. Its eyes rolled back, and it went limp.

I released the snake into the lake without incident and carried on fishing, using the frog.

Not long after, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was that damn snake ... with two more frogs.

Life is good.

(courtesy of Jack Daniels Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee)

WORLD ANGLING RECORDS GRANTED

3rd QUARTER - 2013 UPDATE

NOTE: World angling records are updated quarterly and the ultimate synthesis is published annually in book form each April, distributed free to members, media, manufacturers and world fisheries as a public service.

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"KEPT" WORLD RECORDS LIST DIVISION #1 - ROD/REEL

Fish	Line Class	Lbs./Ozs.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BUFFALO Bigmouth	All-Tackle	76-5	Noah LaBarge	Wisconsin River, Wisconsin, USA	6/21/2013
	8 lb.	76-5	Noah LaBarge	Wisconsin River, Wisconsin, USA	6/21/2013

DIVISION #3 - POLE/LINE/NO REEL

Fish	Line Class	Lbs./Ozs.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
CATFISH/ Channel	Heaviest (only)	16-7	Paul Zoch	Lake Mendota, Wisconsin, USA	6/7/2013

"C&R" WORLD RECORDS LIST DIVISION #1 - ROD/REEL

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/Spotted or Kentucky	17 lb.	18"	Steve Norris	Nickajack Headwaters, Tennessee, USA	6/6/2013
DRUM/ Freshwater (Sheepshead)	17 lb.	26"	Samantha Knapp	Mississippi River, Wisconsin, USA	6/12/2013
TROUT/ Cutthroat	16 lb.	25"	Gaylon Newbold	Bear Lake, Utah, USA	4/24/2013

DIVISION #2 - FLY FISHING

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/ Smallmouth	12 lb. Tippet	21"	Dave Bylsma	Wisconsin River, Wisconsin, USA	5/14/2013
CATFISH/ Channel	All-Tackle	46"	Scott R. Smith	Grand Traverse Bay, Lake Michigan, Michigan, USA	6/6/2013
	8 lb. Tippet	46"	Scott R. Smith	Grand Traverse Bay, Lake Michigan, Michigan, USA	6/6/2013
MUSKELLUNGE/ Natural	15 lb. Tippet	43"	Tom Peterson	Smoky Lake, Wisconsin, USA	5/29/2013
	16 lb. Tippet	42"	Tom Peterson	Smoky Lake, Wisconsin, USA	5/31/2013



CATCH & RELEASE FISH



Gaylon Newbold
Trout/Cutthroat

Div. #1 - Rod/Reel 16 lb. line class.
25". Bear Lake, Utah. 4/24/2013.



Samantha Knapp
Drum/Freshwater

Div. #1 - Rod/Reel
17 lb. line class
26". Mississippi River,
Wisconsin.
6/12/2013.



Tom Peterson
Muskellunge/Natural
Div. #2 - Fly Fishing line
class. 15 lb. Tippet. 43".
Smoky Lake, Wisconsin.
5/29/2013.



Scott R. Smith
Catfish/Channel

Div. #2 - Fly Fishing.
All-Tackle & 8 lb. Tippet line
class. 46". Grand Traverse
Bay, Lake Michigan,
Michigan. 6/6/2013.



KEPT FISH



Paul Zoch
Catfish/Channel

Div. #3 -
Pole/Line/No Reel.
Heaviest (only) line
class. 16 lb. 7 oz.
Lake Mendota,
Wisconsin.
6/7/2013



Noah LaBarge
Buffalo/Bigmouth
Div. #1 - Rod/Reel
All-Tackle & 8 lb. line
class. 76 lb. 5 oz.
Wisconsin River,
Wisconsin. 6/21/2013



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