



THE SPLASH

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Gaylon Newbold • Whitefish/Bonneville
Kept • Division #1 – Rod/Reel • 14 lb. line class
2 lb. 14 oz. • Bear Lake, Utah • 12/13/2015



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- Record Book Published Annually
- Recognition for Achievement of Excellence in Sportfishing
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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK
 by Emmett Brown

January 13, 2016

What happened to our mild winter? We haven't been able to get above zero for the last several days up here in Hayward. Two days ago we had lows in the below mid-twenties. But it is January after all and we do expect those temperatures this time of the year. The regional meteorologists have predicted a little relief for the next few days, but it's back in to the deep freeze over the weekend. That said, on balance, it still has been a relatively mild winter - so far!

I'll tell you what I like about this time of the year. About 3 weeks ago, it was dark at 4:30pm. Not so much anymore. Now it's closer to 5:15pm when the cloak of darkness descends upon us. I'll take it. Can spring only be a few months away? You bet!

Normally, I'm writing this column at my Hall desk with it's magnificent panoramic view of our grounds. Not this month. I'm on my home computer today rehabbing from knee replacement surgery. My orthopedic surgeon was quite literally sawing/shaving my right knee exactly one week ago today - to the minute!

I can report that, so far, there has been much less pain than anticipated. Every day I seem to get more and more mobile. It's probably going to be quite a while before I can tryout for the Chicago Bear's place kicker position, but things are coming along nicely.

Fortunately, what I do this time of the year for the Hall, is largely done on the computer and phone. So from where I am doing it, does not matter much. Technology, I love it! Dar and Vicki are very competent employees and are holding down the fort (and graciously putting up with my incessant calls) in my absence.

A bit of advice for all of you who have sore knees, get them checked out. They do not get better on their own. Don't do what I did and let your knee get "bone on bone."

I trust everyone had a safe and pleasant holiday season.

Think spring!

Regards,

Emmett A. Brown, Jr.
 Executive Director

2015 HALL LAPEL/HAT PIN NOW ON SALE!

We receive many requests at our gift shop for lapel/hat pins every year. This pin is our third installment, in a continuing annual series, of limited edition pins for Hall members and supporters. 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 200.

2016 PINS GO ON SALE IN MAY

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.

2015 MEGA RAFFLE WINNER



On November 1, 2015 Hall executive board president John Dettloff drew the winning stub. And the winner was: Ron Miller of Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. Congratulations Ron and a huge thanks to all those who supported this very important fund raiser. (Photo Wendy Williamson)

SPRING ICEFISHING



In 2013 the upper midwest had a very late winter and subsequent ice-out, as attested by these photos.

Hall electrician Shaun Kreyer took these photos on May 4th on Round Lake near Hayward, Wisconsin. Shaun reported that Round had 21 inches of ice that day. It should also be noted that May 4th was opening day of the inland open water sportfishing season that year!

Fellow fisherman Rob Lee is holding a nice walleye.



CHASING LATE-WINTER CRAPPIES

By Hall of Famer Babe Winkelman

As I write this in Minnesota, we're still sitting on about 3 feet of solid ice. Temperatures are on the rise, and the melt will happen quickly to turn our white lakes into blue. In the meantime, it's also one of the best times to capitalize on panfish through the ice!

Why? Because those crappies are in a very predictable pre-spawn pattern. Inside the bodies of the females, plump yellow egg sacks are already in place. The crappies are instinctively aware of the season that awaits... spawning season. To prepare for the rigors of the spawn, crappies have a need to be in tip-top condition. And feeding is a necessary element in that preparation. In addition, they need to be relatively stress-free. That means expending as little energy as possible during the pre-spawn, when traveling, feeding, etc.; and being as protected as possible from predation.

So, crappies intuitively gather at pre-spawn staging areas in late winter. They corral where there's ample baitfish to feed their pre-spawn appetite; where there is sufficient access to protective cover and/or deep-water sanctuaries to escape predators; and their very act of schooling provides an anti-predator mechanism too. After all, 500 eyes are better than two when surveying the underwater horizon for toothy pike, muskies, walleyes or bucket-mouthed bass that would be tickled to have a protein-rich crappie in their gullets.

So, where are these pre-spawn crappie haunts? Often they're exactly where you'd expect them: just outside of shallow bays or within deeper holes on shallow flats that are ideal spawning areas when the water warms up.

Other times, the staging areas are quite distant from the spawning grounds. Or at least we "perceive" them as distant. But think about how fast a fish can cover water. A pre-spawn staging area can be miles away from spawning territory. But a fish can cover a mile in a relatively short swim.

The best way to identify pre-spawn staging areas is by doing your homework and doing the work. Ask the man at the bait shop in your area what he has heard. He wants you to succeed, because then you'll buy more bait. Talk online to guys on local forums. Read the regional fishing publications. There's a wealth of information available to every angler from other fishermen. And you know how they like to talk! So take advantage of all those resources to help locate a bite in your area.

(continued on page 5)



Babe Winkelman

MUSKIE BASICS: LOCATIONS, TIMING AND LURES

By Hall of Famer Ted Takasaki and Scott Richardson

Sometimes muskie fishermen seem to spend as much time in bait shops as they do on the water. Muskie hunters seem to need all the latest and greatest baits in order to catch that one fish of ten thousand casts.

Right now is a great time to take an assessment of your muskie tackle in order to fill in the gaps. There are a ton of muskie shows around the country with vendors who would like to help you with discounted lures along with a wide variety of them.

In order to put the odds in your favor, it is important to keep in mind some of the key feeding periods and locations for muskies:

- Low-light periods such as early morning, evening, or at night
- Just before low-pressure storm fronts roll in
- A few days before and after full moon periods
- Wind-blown shorelines/rock reefs
- Big patches of cabbage or other fish-holding weeds with multiple open pockets and boulders around

Muskies are at the top of the freshwater food chain and are not the most aggressive fish. Triggering fish to bite is the key to any successful muskie angler. Knowing when and how to fish a particular bait is often more important than the bait itself. The point is you just don't need a suitcase full of expensive lures to be successful.

Shopping List of Essential Lures

- Bucktails, like Venom Outdoors' twin-bladed Rattler, work in spring, summer and fall by creating flash and vibration to attract and trigger muskies. They are also an efficient lure that is designed to cover water fast and effectively. They can be reeled fast to stay near the surface, or more slowly, to go deeper.

Use Colorado-bladed bucktails to run high in the water column or you can weight them to run deeper. Smaller blades can be reeled faster. Speed sometimes is the key to trigger strikes. Big double-bladed spinners with #10 size blades, have been very productive in capturing monster muskies.

The walls of tackle stores are covered with every color in the rainbow. But keep it simple. White and silver work well. Combinations of chartreuse, orange and black are good in dingy water or at night. Flashabou/tinsel are excellent when



Ted Takasaki

the forage are shiny like ciscoes, tullibee, or shad.

- A 10- to 12-inch crankbait like a Grandma can be twitched to resemble a wounded baitfish. It can be used shallow or deep. A few outlandish colors aren't bad to stand out in a crowd. But make sure to have natural colors that resemble the forage.
- A topwater propeller bait can be retrieved across the surface at varying speeds. They work best when surface temperature is above 65 degrees or are devastating at night. There's nothing better than a gigantic muskie hitting at boatside when you can't see it!
- A second topwater bait can offer a different look. Try a Jackpot, which slides from side-to-side. Or a Suick which is more a jerk bait, but dives just slightly below the surface.
- A pin-style spinnerbait offers both flash and vibration and can be fished top to bottom, fast or slow. The pin-style spinner also can be jigged up and down below the boat or trolled over the top of weedbeds, on weed edges, over wood and along drop-offs.
- Larger crankbaits can also be used for trolling. Make sure you vary your speed in order to trigger strikes or find out what the fish want.
- Plastic baits have caught a lot of winning fish on the Pro Musky Tournament Trail, according to Jim Saric of Musky Hunter Magazine. Bull Dawgs make great 'throw-

back' lures to trigger strikes after a follow on a crankbait. They shine on pressured waters and during tough times, including cold-front conditions.

No matter the lure you are throwing, always do a 'figure-8' at boatside after every cast. When trolling lures, speed up and slow down, in addition to making sharp 'S' turns with your boat. The change of speed and direction are key strike inducers.

Release Tools

Muskie anglers, who give everything they have to catch one fish, can't get that fish back in the water fast enough after finally subduing it. To be gentle on the giants you release, it's important to get quality tools for the purpose. Long needle-nose pliers and bolt cutters are must-haves. A protective fish-handling glove improves the odds of a safe release. Every boat should be equipped with an extra large net to keep the muskie in the water while you grab your release tools and a camera.

There's no need to take out a loan to buy a boatload of muskie gear, but it is beneficial to start with some key pieces. Keep your lures wet and be prepared to make a bunch of casts. Always maintain a positive mental attitude and make yourself believe that a big 'ski is right behind the very next cast!



Are muskies the fish of 10,000 casts? Not if you gather a selection of key lures and keep one of them in the water at all times. And a positive attitude helps keep you casting through the slow times. Notice the smile that breaks out when everything comes together!

(Photo: Ted Takasaki)

HOW TO FIND EARLY SPRING FISH? By Chuck Schalz

I've been fishing most of my life and have been lucky enough to have learned from a large group of fishermen including my dad who taught me the most. Before my dad passed away he told me to befriend an old man and listen to what he said. Pay attention to how he acted and how he did things. What great advice, this taught me a lot about life and fishing. I was lucky enough to find a couple of these great men, so with their knowledge and that of other friends and peers, I've collected bites and pieces of information that a lot of them called secrets. Most all of it is common sense or some people call it street smarts or whatever it is, it's all around us. As I get older it's getting harder and harder to find these old men. I did learn something my dad didn't teach, that is younger men and children also have something to give. The real secret is don't be afraid to listen to others.

I just go nuts during the first thaw of the year. Birds flying and singing, sun shining and the rivers and creeks are pouring water onto the ice covered lakes knowing that soon we'll be out there making that first cast. At this time of year when I walk past my boat I grab a towel and continue to rub off more of that gel coat and dream of that first cast or that first fish. If the lakes don't open soon, I'm afraid I'll rub that finish right off my boat. So let's start thinking about out what we need to do to catch these early fish.

Have you ever paid attention when the snow melts in the spring? Notice how the snow always disappears on the north or east sides of roads and houses first. The snow seems to lay dormant on the south and west sides. The sun in late winter and early spring is in the southern skies and will melt the snow on the north and east sides first. When the sun rises higher and the temperature increases the east side will also start to melt. Let me try to clarify this a little. What I'm trying to say is that the early morning sun comes up and shines on the west side first but it's still too cold to melt that snow. By noon it's warmed up a bunch and now the sun is shining downward and back to the east causing the snow to melt on the east side before the west. The same principle will hold true on lakes, the water normally warms first on the east end and the north shore. There are exceptions, maybe the lake you fish has a very shallow bay on the west end or maybe a river coming in on the south shore.

Have you ever paid attention to how the snow melts off the blacktop driveways and blacktop parking lots? What's interesting is the snow is still sticking on those concrete drives and gravel parking lots. The dark color draws the warmth from the sun and the lighter ones



Chuck Schalz

reflect it away. How about the bottom of the lake? The dark areas or muddy bottoms and old dead weed growth areas will also warm first. Shallow water bays and shallow flats also warm earlier. Pay attention to which way the wind is blowing; warm surface water can be blown to areas that will also hold fish. Maybe

the last couple of days the wind was too strong to fish. Check out the shoreline where all that surface water blew. Strong winds will also help mix that warmer top water with the deeper cooler water.

What else can we learn before we get in the boat and start fishing? We need a few more ideas before we can say GO FISH. What do the fish eat early when that water is still cold? I haven't seen many robins yet. What does that have to do with catching fish? They eat worms and with the ground still frozen maybe not too many worms yet. Let's start off with minnows or minnow baits when the water is still cold. As the water warms the worms will work better and as it warms more leeches and other grubs will produce more fish. I'm not saying that worms, leeches or grubs won't work early, but remember, what did we call it - street smarts.

Now it's finally time to get into the boat, turn on that locator with temp. gauge and find that warmer water and make that first cast and hopefully the surface will explode with that first bass of the season. Good luck, good fishing and better catching.

CHASING LATE-WINTER CRAPPIES (continued from page 3)

Read the regional fishing publications. There's a wealth of information available to every angler from other fishermen. And you know how they like to talk! So take advantage of all those resources to help locate a bite in your area.

Arm yourself with an accurate lake map or a GPS chip that can help you pinpoint key structures on the lake you're fishing. Fill the tank on your Eskimo auger and be prepared to drill. And drill. And drill.

Hole-hopping is a must when chasing crappies, whether it's pre-spawn or at any time of year. They're roamers. Moving just 20 feet away from a dead hole, or even 10, can mean the difference between an empty bucket and a heavy one.

So, how many holes should you drill in one location? 20 is a good round number. Try and drill those holes in thoughtful locations. For example, if you're in a relatively small hole on a flat, drill some holes up on the flat... down the break at varying depths... a series of holes on the deepest part of the hole... and some more holes up the opposing side of the break. This way, when you hole-hop, every hole you check has a different condition. You might find zero fish at 15 and 20 feet, but a stack of suspended crappies at 18 feet. Every day is different.

I like to space my holes about 15 yards apart. That provides good area coverage without wearing you up too much when drilling or checking holes. Checking holes is easy, but it does require having sonar equipment. After you've drilled all your initial holes, grab your sonar unit and rod and go to the first hole you drilled [since it's had a chance to calm down from the commotion of drilling]. Drop your transducer down the hole. If there are fish on the screen, catch them. If there aren't, move on to the next hole. Repeat this process until you see fish on the sonar and try and catch those fish. When a hot hole suddenly goes cold and the fish are gone, relax. They've just roamed away. Pick up, scope out neighboring holes and find them again.

The nice thing about this time of year, and this style of ice fishing, is that typically the weather is downright beautiful. You can fish in the warm sunshine or under the stars in complete comfort. No need for shelter or heat. If it is cold, rainy, snowy or windy, then bring along your Eskimo portable shelter and be comfortable. Either way, you're going to have a fine time while putting some amazingly delicious crappie fillets on the table for your family.

Good Fishing

PADDLE YOUR WAY TO BETTER BOAT CONTROL

By Hall of Famers Gary Parsons and Keith Kavajecz

Ask a group of walleye anglers what the most important aspect of catching walleyes is and you will no doubt get a variety of answers. But one of those answers that you'll get from many of them will be "boat control." So many walleye presentations rely on the angler being able to put the boat over the right spot at the right speed in order to get bites. To accomplish ideal boat control walleye anglers have many tools at their disposal, but one boat control device we have come to rely on a great deal the past couple seasons is a paddle ... bet that gets your attention!

Now we are not talking about your typical "row-row-row your boat" kind of paddle. We're talking a Power-Pole Drift Paddle! If you have seen our boats the past couple seasons, you have noticed they sport these tall apparatuses on the transom opposite the kicker motor. That is a Power-Pole Shallow Water Anchor. While these have been very common on bass boats the past few years, you are just beginning to see them mounted on walleye boats. How they work is with the push of a button, the device scissors out and down, and drives a fiberglass rod into the bottom. For those few presentations like pitching jigs to shallow shoreline breaks, or tossing crankbaits along weed edges, where anchoring in shallow water is called for, these work perfectly.

But only a small percentage of walleye fishing is done in shallow water. Most of the time we are drifting deeper flats or trolling structure or open water. So how can a Power-Pole be of use in those situations? Honestly, as a shallow water anchor in those situations they are of very little use, but attach a Power-Pole Drift Paddle to the unit's spike and now you have a boat control tool that can be used in a number of ways to keep you on fish.

Let's take on a couple key scenarios where the drift Paddle would be used and we think you'll see how this unique accessory can become an integral part of your walleye fishing.

Scenario #1: You are trolling open water in early summer using spinners. The wind is up to about 15 to 20 mph, and as you troll with the wind, it becomes difficult to maintain a good slow speed for the spinners because the wind is pushing you so much. With the Drift paddle attached to the Power-Pole, you simply deploy it into the water creating drag that helps slow down your trolling speed. You can even control the amount of drag it



Keith Kavajecz

creates by how far down into the water you lower the paddle. Deploy it only half way and it slows you down a little; deploy it all the way down into the water and we have actually been able to slow the boat down as much as a mile to a mile and quarter when trolling with our big engines.

Another advantage of using the drift Paddle in this scenario is that with the paddle down, it dramatically decreases the "surge" effect the waves have on the boat as you troll. That's a big deal, especially when trolling spinners, as the surges can affect how the spinners are running, and in dingy water can make it difficult for the fish to track down your bait. By eliminating or at least lessening the surging, the spinners run truer and therefore are more effective. Not to mention it just makes for a more comfortable ride for the angler.

In scenario #2, you have found a school of walleyes scattered along the break off a large shallow main-lake flat and determined that a controlled drift approach would be the best bet for approaching and boating a few of these fish. One of the great features of the Drift Paddle is that it can be set has seven quick change positions that cover a full 180 degrees, allowing you to set the paddle at the angle you need to help the boat drift on the path you want it to. Controlling the boat's path from the bowmount trolling motor, when you need to move the in or out on the break, the Drift Paddle easily cuts through the water making positioning so much easier than having to drag a drift sock as we used in the past. Drifting with the paddle off the back and our bowmount trolling motor up front,

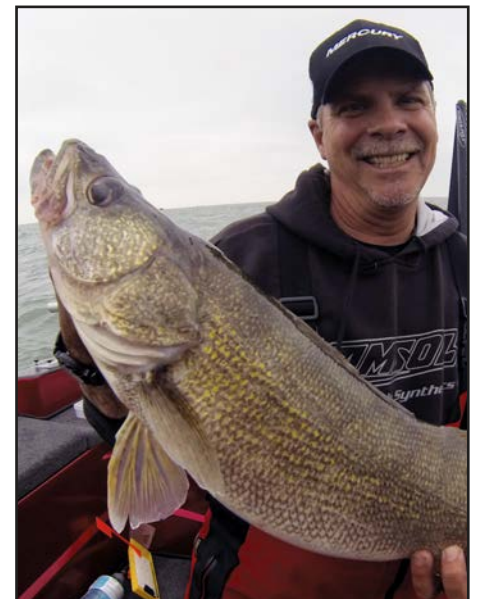
this is Controlled Drifting with the most ultimate control we've ever had!

Another advantage to the Drift Paddle over the drift sock, in both scenarios, when a fish is hooked and being brought to the boat, the paddle can be easily lifted out of the way with the touch of a button – especially using the key-fob remote control that we just wear around our neck when fishing.

And the Paddle is tough. It's made of a space age UV stable polymer that flexes with the spike for increased stability, features stainless steel and bronze hardware for durability and silicon rubber bumpers for quiet operation.

Could you do the same thing with a drift sock? Sure you could, but with a lot more work and much less versatility. Not to mention, any of you that have used drift socks know the mess they can make when you bring them in the boat, getting everything wet. The Power-Pole and Drift Paddle adds so much versatility and control to walleye anglers we believe that adding one to your boat is one of the best things you can do to ensure your success at getting your Next Bite.

Editor's Note: If you have questions or comments on this or other articles from Gary Parsons and Keith Kavajecz, visit their website www.thenextbite.com.



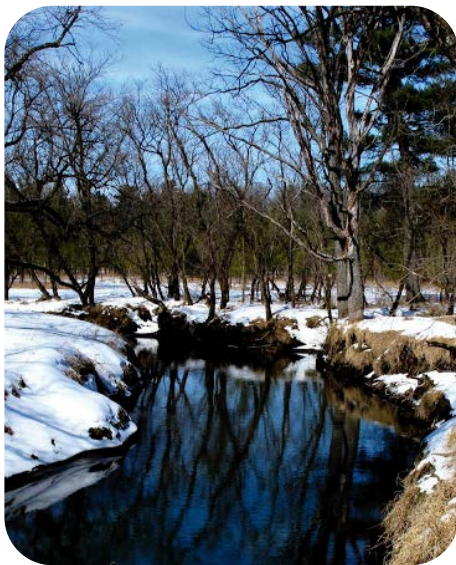
To accomplish ideal boat control walleye anglers have many tools at their disposal, but one boat control device we have come to rely on a great deal the past couple seasons is a paddle ... bet that gets your attention!

Yesterday I fished alone on a long wooded stretch. I typically don't like fishing alone. If I have a fishing partner I have someone to talk to and a photo subject also. Yesterday was different. I went alone to have some me time. Some recent news had me thinking about why I fish.

I started on my fishing journey at age five. I am fifty-six now. My first outing is very vivid in my mind to this day. My recent outings have been a little labored due to my back problems. They are shorter outings and I have lost my path a little. My focus seems clouded and not about the big picture.

Yesterday when I fished I was thinking about my past and what led me to this journey that is trout fishing. It was easy to establish my starting point and my motives. The big trout bug bit me on my very first outing at age five. The other anglers that have taken a similar journey talk about the evolution of a trout angler. I was always of the opinion that I was stuck on that big trout level and that was why I fished. Yesterday as I fished I did some soul searching. The reason I trout fish came to me and it wasn't just one thing or the next big trout.

I take lots of photos when I am out on stream. Every so often I get a photo or two taken of me holding a trout. Every person that has ever taken a photo of me asks me why I don't smile when I am holding a big trout? I thought about it yesterday. What makes me smile when I am out there? I caught myself smiling a lot when wandering yesterday. It clicked and it was a self aware



A cold Wisconsin morning trout fishing can be exactly what the doctor ordered.

moment. I thought back in to my book of life and it was obvious.

A cold Wisconsin morning trout fishing can be exactly what the doctor ordered.

Early season trout fishing is cold and stark. The snow is typically deep and I wear out easier. The environment is not inviting like the lush greens of summer, but there is an allure to those days of frozen guides and numb fingers. The long winter has made me forget the gnats and mosquitoes of late September. My heart yearns to brave the crisp cold days of Wisconsin's early season. I like to be the first one to place their footstep in fresh snow of opening morning. It makes me feel like I am the first angler to ever set foot on that stream. One of my biggest smiles I can ever remember while fishing is when the snow was coming down hard on one of those frigid openers. The snow was going down the back of my coat and then that big broad smile was painted on my face. You would have had to experienced it yourself to feel what it meant to me. The solitude was deafening.

Spring comes quickly to my home waters. I don't miss a beat and am out there fishing and continuing my journey. The smells are amazing in spring. The ground melting has a unique smell to it. The trees are budding and the grasp of winter is being shed. The world is becoming anew. That very first smell of a plum tree blooming triggers a smile for me. The smell is better than any expensive perfume from Paris or New York. I feel alive again and I am anew.

Early summer comes and with it the baby

birds and the sounds of the stream come with them. The first wildflowers appear. Not far after that the wood anemones and blue bells paint a tapestry on the valley floors. My stream is a veritable sensory smorgasbord. A constant smile was painted on my face. My stream is alive and me with it.

Summer brings heat and biting insects. My lust for the stream is dampened by the stifling heat, but I trudge on. What more could an angler wish for? I am one of those crazy guys that wade in water and mud up to their belly buttons and enjoy it. The only thing that could make it better would be a slow steady rain. Are you smiling now?

Enjoy life's special moments for they can be fleeting.

September comes quickly. The trees begin to change color. The leaves on your sentinels of the streams are tipped with gold. You need to layer up to fish because that cold wind has whispered to you that winter will come quickly. If you are not smiling then you need to lay your pole down and take up golf.

My very good friend was diagnosed with liver and colon cancer this spring. He is upbeat and positive. I was bashful at first to talk to him about it. It made me feel so mortal and close to death myself. We talked this weekend about it. He was candid about his condition. His positive thought process was obvious. I noticed he smiled a lot during our conversation. I need to learn to smile more often. The outdoors is sometimes the best medicine.



The day was cold and brisk but the solitude was deafening.

“I’M NOT SURE FISHING DAY”

By Hall of Famer Dan Galusha

Anglers normally have a favorite lure, and an idea of what they are going to use. There are also those days when it is a new body of water, drastically changed conditions, and so on when it turns it to an “I’m not sure what to use fishing day”.

With this sort of day be ready to fish fast at first and make frequent changes. To help with the changes use more than one rod, or a “quick change” snap for crankbait type lures.

My normal arrangement is 8 rod/reel combos. I have had as many as 12 on the deck while doing a television show when we were short on time, and had not pre-fished an area to see “what was hitting on what”.

The first lures I like to have rigged for bass are a Rat-L-Trap, which is a fast moving, rattling lipless crankbait that can cover a lot of water at different depths; two Stanley Vibra/Wedge spinnerbaits - one small single willow and the other larger double willow; two plastic worms - 5.5” Sidewinder and 4” Ribworm; a 1/4-ounce Road Runner with a Havoc Deuce body; a 2” Power Minnow rigged on a 1/16 oz Precision H2O jig head (used for Finger Jigging), and a Blitz 1/4 oz Spyder Jig with a Chigger Craw and 1/8 oz Spyder Finesse Jig with a Havoc Pit Boss Jr or Manipulator twin-tail grub. In most cases these may be all I need all day, and one or two will start being the main fish catching pattern producers.

Here is how I will approach a few of the more popular types of structure until a pattern is found.

RIP-RAP

Four or five casts with the Rat-L-Trap at



A Road Runner head teamed with a Havoc Deuce, is a great lure to use when using a swimming retrieve to quickly search for active bass.



Dan Galusha

different speeds, and in a parallel and angel pattern, to each section of the shore. Follow with the larger spinnerbait, and then the smaller in the same way as the Rat-L-Trap, then crawling the worms, hopping the jig, “finger jigging” the Power Minnow and swimming the Road Runner. Each would be about 4 to 6 casts to each section of the shore.

In some cases I will switch to a diving crankbait if there is an indication that fish are hitting on a faster moving lure that is bumping the bottom, or if there is evidence of crayfish.

TIMBERED SHORE

The Rat-L-Trap will be used first in a paralleling of the shore, and close to the timber, as to not get hung up. This is followed by spinnerbaits at variable speeds, and bumping the timber. After that it is time to go close with the slow moving



These are a few of the author’s favorite soft plastic lures to use on a day when you are “not sure”.

worms and jigs crawled over, along and through the timber.

POINTS

Points will be worked from shallow to deep, and over the top from side to side. The crankbait goes first, as with the other structures, followed by a swimming of the spinnerbait, finger jigged Power Minnow, Road Runner and jig. Then the worms and jigs are worked along the bottom from shallow to deep, and if there is a deeper side, especially near a creek bed, then they are paralleled the length of the deep water, and over the edge.

WEEDLINES

Everything is used from fast to slow, and paralleled first. The inner area of the weeds is finally fished with the worms and jigs.

STUMP FIELD

With a stump field I would prefer using the Rat-L-Trap along the outer edge first, and then work all areas with spinnerbaits. The spinnerbaits would have several casts so that the first few would not bump any of the stumps. Then they would be slow rolled so that they would bump roots, sides and tops of the deeper stumps.

As with all the others worms and jigs would be fished next. They would be worked around, over and through each stump, being sure to fish the root system that extends outward from each stump, which many anglers forget.

LOG JAMS AND HEAVY WOOD COVER

A few casts are made around the outside edges with spinnerbaits to pick up any active fish. Worms and jigs are then worked slowly from the outside to the middle with flipping/pitching techniques. If in the current any break areas are given extra attention with the slow moving lures, allowing them to flow around naturally to where the fish would be feeding.

Anytime you are faced with one of those “not sure what to use” days, then be sure to use several basic types of lures, and alternate often within the same area until a fish producing pattern is found.

If there are any questions on this or another fishing subject drop me a line through the Dan’s Fish ‘N’ Tales® website at www.dansfishntales.com. There is also a link to the Dan’s Fish ‘N’ Tales® Facebook page, where you can click on the “like” button.

Until next time, get out on the water, and enjoy a great day of fishing.

DON'T FORGET YOUR FISHING TACKLE

By Hall of Famer Kenneth L. Kieser

Time for traveling and most people leave their fishing tackle at home—unless they are going fishing. Many years ago my folks stopped at a hotel by a catfishing river in Iowa. I watched people fishing and catching catfish every few minutes, the fish were really biting. I didn't have a rod or reel and could only watch. That was a miserable afternoon for this 14-year-old angler in 1967 and the last time I left my fishing rod at home.

Most ponds or small lakes throughout the country are stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and occasionally crappie. The exception might be northern ponds or lakes where a northern pike, chain pickerel, yellow perch, smallmouth bass or walleye might be waiting for a well-placed lure or bait. The trick is packing the best traveling equipment.

Having an understanding of the fish you will find in smaller waterways is important. Your local game and fish commission will have adequate publications on each fish. But for now, here is a brief idea of the fish you will encounter.

Smaller fish like bluegill and crappie generally feed on minnows, insects or worms around brush or heavy cover. They stay in safe areas to avoid being eaten by bigger fish or other predators. Bigger fish like largemouth bass and northern pike are opportunists that hide around heavy cover and feed on small fish, worms, insects, baby ducks, birds, crawfish, snakes, frogs and anything living that is a good fit for their large mouths.

The following are my top choices for your portable fishing tackle box that will fit beside luggage.



My daughter Holly fortunately brought rod and reel on our trip. Photo by Kenneth L. Kieser



Kenneth L. Kieser

SMALL SPINNERS— Spinners are my first choice. Mepps and Roostertail spinners are excellent for catching almost everything except catfish—and even they occasionally hit a spinner. A constant flashing through the water is often interrupted by a vicious strike.

I prefer a #2 Mepps with gold blade and brown bucktail or the smallest Roostertails available. I have caught everything from big bass to small bluegill on this type of spinner, apparently believing they were hitting a minnow. Work spinners as slow as possible while staying out of the moss and still making the spinner spin.

JIGS— Crappie jigs, Beetle Spins, and Road Runners are imitations of minnows and highly effective. They are generally retrieved slowly with an occasional twitch to make them jump. Pauses are good and will often draw strikes. The key is to make the jig look like a live minnow.

Small bobbers are often attached a foot or two above feathered or plastic jigs, especially when a pond has heavy moss. Then use a steady retrieve, slowly in waves and quicker in calm waters. You can expect to catch almost anything on a jig.

I occasionally attach another jig by tying a small leader to the first jig. This gives fish the idea of two minnows or perhaps a small school passing by. Fish feeding frenzies have been started over passing minnow schools.

BASS LURES— Lures for bigger fish are plentiful at your local tackle store. My

favorites for a portable box are Rebel Floating Minnows, plastic worms, rubber weedless frog or mice for ponds covered in moss and any small topwater lure. They do not take up a lot of room in your portable tackle box and are effective.

I fish these lures slowly and by heavy cover when possible. Black Jitterbugs are extremely good for first light or late evening topwater fishing when daylight is almost gone. Topwater hits are generally heart stopping and unforgettable!

LIVE BAIT— Hooks, sinkers and bobbers are always good when you have access to live bait and chances are a bait store will be in the area. Sometimes gathering bait is an adventure. Earth worms or night crawlers will catch any worthwhile fish from a pond or lake. Crickets are excellent for bluegill and perch while small minnows from the nearby creek will take all species.

Small bronze hooks that will fit in a bluegill's mouth are best for earth worms. I always use Eagle Claw gold hooks for crappie; the gold reflects light for more attraction. You will catch bass, walleye, channel catfish and northern pike on this rigging. A piece of lead split shot is used to hold baits down, especially on windy days or in current.

Crawfish, generally found in any type of waterway, are excellent channel catfish bait. Most anglers remove their pinchers so they can't crawl under a rock or log. Hook the crawfish through its tail with your hook pointed away from its head and add a weight or two. Many prefer sliding sinkers so the catfish will not feel pressure while swimming away with its meal.

PLASTIC BOXES— This brief listing of lures are designed to fit in a thin, Plano plastic box that will slide under a pickup seat. You can make compartment sizes fit your needs for different sized lures by arranging the portable tabs that come with each box. A tiny square will hold twenty feathered jigs while a six-inch square will hold several floating Rebels. Make each box fit your needs.

ROD AND REELS— There is a wide variety of rods and reels available. You can find rods, spinning or fly fishing versions, that break down into three or four sections and even more in two sections. Both take up very little space and are generally stored in safe places where the delicate tips will not be broken. Spincast reels are generally not very

(continued on page 10)

DON'T FORGET YOUR FISHING TACKLE *(continued from page 9)*

large and spinning reel handles unscrew and fold in. Hunters occasionally tie rods to the inside top of their camper shell. This is great for protecting delicate rod tips.

FLY FISHING—There are few more enjoyable moments than flipping popping bugs into a pond or small lake. Strikes are generally vicious and the fights worthwhile, even bluegill. I prefer a size four or five flyrod that breaks down in two or three sections with a two to four pound leader on floating fly line.

Bigger rods like a size five are preferred because occasionally big bass will take small popping bugs or flies. I have caught bass over six pounds during an unexpected moment and nerve-wracking fight while fishing for much smaller fish.



A good selection of small lures is important. Photo by Kenneth L. Kieser

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Popping bugs vary in size but the rule is simple: use small bugs for bluegill or perch and bigger for bass, pickerel or northern pike. I prefer the tiniest poppers available for big bluegill and occasionally crappie. Big poppers are great for bass and northern pike.

I love to fly fish 1/80th or 1/100th ounce jigs over floats. Flip this combination over a submerged crappie bed and slowly twitch it, retrieve and then twitch again. Biting crappie seldom resist this temptation.

Hand-Made Trophy Musky Hardwood Lures

LUCKY PIERRE (2000)



Yellow Black/FireBelly • (2015)

SURFIN JIMMY (3000)



Perch • (3011)

SURFIN TAIL (3100)



Black/Fire-Tail • (3117)

CHUGR BUG (4200)



Black • (4210)

LUNGE WALKER (5000)



Chartreuse • (5014)

CABBAGE GLIDER (6000)



Chub • (6010)



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1st QUARTER - 2016 UPDATE

NOTE: World angling records are updated quarterly and the ultimate synthesis is published annually in book or update form each May, distributed free to members of the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

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

Fish	Line Class	Lbs./Ozs.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/Rock	12 lb.	1-8	Robert Warne	Oak Orchard River, New York, USA	6/14/2014
BASS/Spotted	All-Tackle	11-3	Lou Ferrante	New Bullards Bar Res., California, USA	2/21/2015
	8 lb.	11-3	Lou Ferrante	New Bullards Bar Res., California, USA	2/21/2015
BASS/Yellow	4 lb.	1-2	Paul A. Zoch	Lake Kegonsa, Wisconsin, USA	10/22/2015
TROUT/Cutthroat	12 lb.	12-0	Gaylon Newbold	Pyramid Lake, Nevada, USA	11/25/2015
WHITEFISH/Bonneville	4 lb.	2-11	Gaylon Newbold	Bear Lake, Utah, USA	12/3/2015
	8 lb.	2-9	Gaylon Newbold	Bear Lake, Utah, USA	12/3/2015
	12 lb.	2-3	Gaylon Newbold	Bear Lake, Utah, USA	12/3/2015
	14 lb.	2-14	Gaylon Newbold	Bear Lake, Utah, USA	12/13/2015

"CSR" WORLD RECORDS LIST DIVISION #2 - FLY FISHING

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
TROUT/Lake	25 lb. Tippet	41"	Chris Mundwiler	Lake Athabasca, Saskatchewan, CANADA	9/22/2015
	40 lb. Tippet	39"	Chris Mundwiler	Lake Athabasca, Saskatchewan, CANADA	9/25/2015

DIVISION #1 - ROD/REEL - FOREIGN CAUGHT

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
ARAPAIMA	All-Tackle (only)	121"	Leonard J. Kouba	Essequibo River, Guyana, South America	10/31/2015

BARB/Soldier River	All-Tackle (only)	30"	Leonard J. Kouba	Caho Lake, Thailand, ASIA	12/4/2015
CARP/Siamese Giant	All-Tackle	43"	Leonard J. Kouba	Caho Lake, Thailand, ASIA	12/5/2015
	20 lb.	43"	Leonard J. Kouba	Caho Lake, Thailand, ASIA	12/5/2015
CATFISH/ChaoPhraya	All-Tackle (only)	70"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	12/9/2015
CATFISH/Redtail	All-Tackle	51"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	11/27/2015
	Unltd.	51"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	11/27/2015
CORVINA	All-Tackle (only)	25"	Leonard J. Kouba	Essequibo River, Guyana, South America	11/2/2015
GAR/Alligator	20 lb.	41"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	12/8/2015

DIVISION #2 - FLY FISHING - FOREIGN CAUGHT

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BARRAMUNDI	12 lb. Tippet	30"	Leonard J. Kouba	Bang Pakong Lake, Thailand, ASIA	11/24/2015
	15 lb. Tippet	29"	Leonard J. Kouba	Bang Pakong Lake, Thailand, ASIA	11/24/2015
	17 lb. Tippet	31"	Leonard J. Kouba	Bang Pakong Lake, Thailand, ASIA	11/30/2015
CATFISH/Redtail	17 lb. Tippet	49"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	11/26/2015
	50 lb. Tippet	49"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	12/9/2015
GAR/Alligator	15 lb. Tippet	40"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	11/27/2015
	17 lb. Tippet	48"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	11/25/2015
PACU	17 lb. Tippet	26"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	11/26/2015
	30 lb. Tippet	26"	Leonard J. Kouba	Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA	12/7/2015
TAIMEN	All-Tackle (only)	57"	Darren S. Hanifi	Ur River, Mongolia, ASIA	9/26/2015

CATCH & RELEASE FISH



Leonard J. Kouba • GAR/Alligator

C&R - Foreign. Div. #1 - Rod/Reel. 20 lb. line class. 41".
Lake Ratchaburi, Thailand, ASIA. 12/8/2015.



Chris Mundwiler (right) • TROUT/Lake

C&R - Division #2 - Fly Fishing. 25 lb. Tippet. 41".
Lake Athabasca, Saskatchewan, Canada. 9/22/2015



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