



THE SPLASH

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Cutthroat Trout



Gaylon Newbold • Trout/Cutthroat (Kept)
16 lb. line class • Div. #1 – Rod/Reel • 7 lb. 14 oz.
Bear Lake, Idaho • 4/27/2011



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

*Museum open April 15 through October 31
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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Emmett Brown

August 1, 2011

Although today is the first day of August, there is no sign of visitor or summer wind-down here at the Hall. Our visitor count remains strong and the heat (and the sometimes accompanying humidity) remains intact. Additionally, this summer we have seen the return of rain. No rain outs, just plenty of it. It is very welcomed, indeed!

My staff and I are busily preparing for the upcoming annual awards selection meeting which will take place in just a few short weeks. I always look forward to seeing this diverse group. I just wish it wasn't only on an once a year basis. Oh well, I guess that is what email and phones are for.

I have looked, preliminarily, at all the nominations and it appears we have an exceptionally fine group of candidates for consideration this year. Yes sir, the Awards Committee is going to be very busy. We will announce the fruits of their deliberations in the next Splash. Good luck to all!

I am extremely proud of how much our awards program has grown over the last few years. This growth is due largely to the hard work of my staff (most notably Dar Overman) and the Awards Committee (particularly Chairman Bill Gautsche). Thank you all very much.

I have a few dates I would like you to jot down and remember, please. On Sunday, September 11th we will once again host our annual Kids Fish O Rama. This is the day when we invite all of the local and vacationing children to participate in a free-for-all fishing contest on our grounds. There will be many prizes and, of course, complimentary hot dogs, chips, pop and ice cream for all the kids. If you are up this way, come on over.

Finally, don't forget that you can still get in on our Mega Raffle this year. We will continue to sell tickets for this tremendous Lund/Mercury fishing boat package through October 31st at our location in Hayward. The drawing will take place on November 1st at 11:00 am at the Hall. Good luck everyone!

Until next time.

Warmest regards,
Emmett A. Brown, Jr.
Executive Director

HALL AWARDS ARE PRESENTED



Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) President and CEO Frank Peterson (left) receives his group's induction plaque from Hall Executive Director Emmett Brown on July 12th at the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades (ICAST) in Las Vegas, Nevada. A hardy thank you goes to American Sportfishing Association (ASA) executives Mike Nussman and Mary Jane Williamson for making this presentation venue possible. Another great show!



Awards Committee member Mike Dombeck (left) presents to Paul Brouha his enshrinement plaque at Paul's home near Sutton, Vermont on June 6th. Thank you Mike and congratulations Paul!



Executive Director Emmett Brown (right) presents to Tom Swanson his plaque for induction as a Legendary Guide on June 11th in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. Congratulations Tom and your hospitality that day is much appreciated!

AWARDS COMMITTEE TO MEET

On August 15th and 16th, 2011 our Awards Committee will hold its annual selection meeting in Hayward, Wisconsin. This committee consists of a select group of individuals representing the entire spectrum of fresh water sportfishing. They are: Bill Gautsche (Chairman) - Wisconsin; Larry Colombo - Alabama; Clem Dippel - Wisconsin; Dr. Mike Dombeck - Wisconsin; Dr. James Gammon - Indiana; Elmer Guerri - Indiana; Bruce Holt - Washington; Tim Lesmeister - Minnesota; Gil Radonski - North Carolina; Vin Sparano - New Jersey; Wendy Williamson - Wisconsin; Gregg Wollner - Minnesota and Forrest Wood - Arkansas.

The results of their deliberations will be announced in November, 2011 for 2012. The purpose of our Awards Program is to recognize those men and women who have made significant and lasting contributions to the sport of fresh water fishing on a local, regional, national and/or international basis. Awards recognition is a core program of the Hall and is, of course, a significant part of our mission.

We are always asked, "How does someone get in to the Fishing Hall of Fame?" The process can only start with a nomination. For information about the nomination process and more information about our Awards Program, just go to our website at www.freshwater-fishing.org and click on Enshrinement/Induction - left navigation.

WE'LL MISS YOU!

It was with great sadness that we recently learned of the passing of Legendary Angler Charles Lahey. Charles was inducted in to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in an October 26, 2009 ceremony for 2010 at the age of 100! Charles was an avid fly fisherman most of his life and spent many days afield even in the last few years of his life. May we all enjoy our sport to the extent Charles did. Goodbye Charles!



TIPS YOU CAN USE!

If you've ever spilled a box of tiny trout flies in tall grass or on a rocky stream bank, you know what real frustration is. A small bar magnet, available at any hardware or feed store, will find the flies when your eyes and fingers cannot. Add one to your fishing vest or tackle box.



Courtesy of the Plano Molding Co.

THE FABULOUS BLUEGILL By Legendary Communicator Kenneth L. Kieser

Bluegill constantly get a bad rap by fishermen. Magazine articles in this day and age of “catch the biggest” bass or walleye list this feisty game fish as forage. But a big “slab” can provide quite a fight when rod, reel and line matches this opponent. A bass reel with heavy rod might not provide much challenge, but a lightweight spinning rod and reel on light line means quite a fight. Perhaps more importantly, bluegill are a great fish for kids to start and stay with as have I the past 50 years.

My love affair with bluegill fishing started in the late 1950's with a worm, small bobber and a small hook. Then in 1968 at age 15, a kind neighbor loaned me his old lightweight flyrod and reel. I practiced and learned enough to try this unique form of fishing.

I walked down to a promising lake shore the following morning and flipped out fly line where I knew a big school of bluegill were suspended. The bug landed with two feet of line dropping on top in a big splash, but the Gods of fishing smiled and everything untangled in the water. I pulled out the slack and twitched the popping bug. Nothing. I twitched again and made the rubber legs kick like an insect. “BLOOP.” The artificial bug disappeared in a mini-explosion on the lake's surface.

The big bluegill started pumping towards the safety of depth. The old flyrod maintained a satisfying bend. The slab turned its body sideways to create the most drag and resistance possible. I soon examined the big slab and found a blue marking around its head and gill, highlighted by a bright orange belly. I had a heavy wire mesh sack full of slab bluegill by day's end, the beginning of a life-long addiction.

Bluegill provide an excellent day's fishing with promise of a good fillet dinner. These



The author is holding a fine string of big bluegill about 1963 and wearing a hat he would rather forget now. -Photo By LaDonne Kieser



fillets are not large but daily limits are generous, sometimes up to 30.

Bluegill are not hard to catch, making them kid friendly. Popping bugs, worms, crickets and tiny lures are the main bluegill baits. But that is the joy of bluegill fishing—they are not particular. If it looks or smells good, chances are they will bite it.

During the spawn bluegill are mostly caught in shallow areas. After spawn, bluegill are found in deeper areas. But they will move into the shallows for food, especially around logs and stumps. Fly fishermen consider this



The author and his little brother hold a string of bluegill and other species that made a fine dinner. By 1970 the author had given up strange fishing hats for long hair. Today he is bald and wearing ball caps. -Photo By LaDonne Kieser

to be one of the best times to fish. Try an 8-inch leader, two to four pound test and a box of tiny popping bugs.

An old fisherman once told me, “It don't matter what color you use, as long as it is yellow.”

This is proven advice, but black, brown and white will attract a fair share of bites too. Flip the tiny popper in productive water and gently move the rod tip until the rubber legs kick. All game fish love to find a bug struggling and helpless in the water, imitating an easy meal.

Bluegill tend to hang around woody cover for protection. Wood draws a healthy population of insects. Bluegill love these tiny aquatic insects and respond well to black and brown wet flies normally used for trout. You might do as well with 1/80 and 1/100-ounce black and brown jigs—usually found in trout tackle boxes.

Match your tackle to a school of big bluegill and prepare for a great day, but I highly recommend you don't eat the fillets, save them for me!



Bluegill are top fighters on flyrods or ultralight. A school of big "gills" will provide a day of action and an incredible meal! -Photos by Kenneth L. Kieser

CATCHING MUSKIES ON A FLY - 1949

By Bill Gautsche

Through my seven years of guiding (1946-1952), I kept a fishing log with dates, times, locations, weather conditions, total catches and the client names. Was it a bit crude? You bet it was! It was weather beaten, wrinkled and full of misspelled words, but it was mine and I updated and referred to it daily.

When I got married in the fall of 1952 there came many new responsibilities, which included looking for a better paying job. A nationally known fishing rod manufacturer offered me a job, which involved moving to Hastings, Michigan. A few years later, as children arrived and numerous relocations occurred, my fishing log was lost, never to be seen again.

My God, I can't tell you how many times over the years that I've been involved in the fishing industry, I've wished for that log. Proof of bragging rights still stand out as the number one reason not to have lost it. The log documented my experiences, good or bad, as well as client names and notations of the things they taught me. The recording of the weather conditions on any given day would have been a fantastic record to have kept.

That log and I survived wind, rain, cold, sweltering heat and hot sun, all for \$5 a day when I started as a guide in 1946. I am forever grateful for the lessons my fellow guides were willing to share with a twenty-year old novice guide.

During this time period, I designed and developed the Billy Finn Bucktail in the guide shack at Ross' Teal Lake Lodge, Wisconsin, with the constructive comments, encouragement and assistance of a close friend and fellow guide, George Brandt. While my Billy Finn Company has been very successful, unfortunately all those great reminder notes, including my early ideas for the bucktail, are gone with the log. It may be lost forever, but many of my memories still remain.

One memory, which stands out is fly fishing for muskies. Little did I know, back in summer of 1949, that we were pioneering muskie fishing on a fly. Yes, for me it happened as an accident. During the summer of 1948, along with the introduction of the Billy Finn Bucktail to the fishing market, I also tied conventional bucktails dressed trebles in the evenings in the guide shack to make extra cash. I would sell them to clients, resort guests, at the local bars and just about anywhere that I could find an outlet.

Believe it or not, I made more money in those two hours after dinner tying bucktails than I made guiding. It was great gas money for my Model-A Ford.

One summer evening in 1949 as my fellow guides and I sat around discussing the day's happenings, my roommate in the guide shack and fellow guide friend, Freeman Metcalf, said he needed a favor. He said, "I'm scheduled to guide a client who is a 'dyed in the wool' fly fisherman and he wants to fish for muskies exclusively with a fly rod. I don't know anything about fly fishing, but I do know that you fly fish and have at least some experience."

Freeman's schedule was tightly booked and he didn't have all the time available that the client wanted to book. Since I had a fairly open schedule, he then generously passed his client to me. Naturally, I jumped at the challenge. I knew that I was going to enjoy working with this fly fisherman to assist him in developing his technique for muskie fishing.

I was introduced to the client and found him to be very agreeable to the switch, as did the guide scheduler for the guests at the resort. It didn't take us long to review his interests, desires, plans and his arsenal of fly fishing tackle. His tackle certainly put mine to shame. What I had were mostly hand-me-downs that worked well for me. His was a beautiful 3-piece, 9-foot bamboo rod with an extra tip section, large open cage, single action Pflueger fly reel, an assortment of fly leaders and flies, mostly bass, trout and panfish types and a few streamers. I know out of respect, I called him a Mister. So, for purposes of this story we'll refer to him as Mr. X.

He was a kind, pleasant and personable gentleman with whom I shared a mutual love for fly fishing. He was very easy to get along with making it fun to work together towards his goal. "Catching them on a fly" with a man who is 6'2", roughly 225 pounds and in his mid-sixties offered challenges in and of itself. I wasn't sure if we would work together only one day or every day until the end of his stay. Fortunately, we ended working together for the duration of his trip.

Our first and second days out on the water were truly trial and error. We had the wrong weight fly line, the wrong leader. We were changing flies constantly to try to develop what we both thought would look good. Should we use a floater, a popper, a streamer

and on and on it went. We experimented with the proper line weight and leader length to turn the fly for a successful presentation. We retied leaders until our fingers hurt. After hours of trial and error, we finally got everything to work right. I even cut the tip of his double tapered fly line back in increments of six inches at a time until I had cut off two feet of it or more. I can still remember the look on his face as I cut his new line.

I then tied two feet of heavier diameter leader to the fly line tip and shortened the leader from nine feet to about seven feet. This way he could turn a good loop presentation without wearing his arm out. Not all these ideas were by the book or perfect, but they worked and we improved upon them by the day.

Naturally, most casts were 25 to 40 feet. Our next decision was where to fish. We both agreed that bays, pockets, selected shorelines and weed lines out from the shore were the prime places to start. The third day we pushed off from shore heading for our chosen hot spots with confidence. The weather conditions were cloudy with a low wind. My job was to control the boat with the oars, watch every cast and keep Mr. X in the best position possible. His job was to select the spot, make his cast and work the fly. In other words, do what he came to do. He was extremely accurate, not just casting for the sake of casting and he could roll cast when needed. By the end of the third day, he had two muskies follow and he caught a 3-pound bass. The first muskie raised was on a red and white bass popper. This fly also worked for the bass. The second muskie was red hot, hungry and legal and was a good thirty-three inches long. The thrill of seeing the muskie on a fly was unbelievably exciting.

We felt that we were ahead of the challenge, but I felt that we were still missing something. Fishing weedy shorelines, pond lilies, old boat docks, sight fishing and following the fly action were not the total story. It became obvious to me, with the earlier success of my slim Black Billy Finn Bucktail, that a black streamer fly with a modest weed guard could be the answer.

You guessed it. The fourth night we were in the guide shack until midnight trying out every configuration of what we thought to be a perfect bucktail streamer. We finally settled for three sizes ranging from three inches to four inches in length and three different color configurations. The combinations that we

CATCHING MUSKIES ON A FLY - 1949

came up with were all black, black with a tuft of white, black with a tuft of white as a weed guard and a red hackle tail accent. These are known now to be proven muskie bucktail colors. We were pleased with our work and ideas, but we had to ask, "Will the muskie go for it?"

The next morning as soon as we finished our breakfast, we were on the dock testing them out. As all the other guides departed with their guests, they just shrugged their shoulders at the goofy stuff Gautsche and his fly fishing guest were doing now. The new combinations all worked only giving us problems when we could not consistently turn them for a good presentation. Both of us gave the problem some thought and we decided we needed more power! We had all the line, weight and leader that we thought we needed. We asked ourselves what to do next.

We decided that we needed a heavier tip section for his bamboo fly rod, so Mr. X returned to his cabin and found just what would hopefully work for us - an extra heavy tip section. It made a tremendous difference to the presentation and now everything was perfect.

After another shot of coffee and just one more sweet roll, we were on the water.

What a day we had! Minimum casts, easy presentations and we were able to raise three legal muskies. Two strikes caught one fish using the black and white streamer with the red hackle. The thrill of doing this type of fishing with a fly rod was wonderful. The remaining days we had action along the shoreline of Teal Lake and its islands. It became obvious that the only problem was always getting a good solid hook-set.

Swimming the streamer properly and keeping the line tight can become monotonous. You don't want to fall asleep anytime that you are fishing for muskie. Should you let down your guard at any juncture, be it the casting, trolling or fly fishing, you're guaranteed to lose.

The challenge of keeping this big man somewhat comfortable in my boat was a problem that I had to deal with quickly. He would occasionally stand-up in the narrow 16-foot cedar strip rowboat, which was not only dangerous, but also extremely fatiguing for him. After giving the problem some thought, I came up with this solution. I drove



A 1948 photo of muskie guide, Bill Gautsche, relaxing after a day's fishing on Teal Lake in northern Wisconsin.

the twenty-two miles into Hayward and went to the local lumber mill where I purchased a perfect piece of pine, 1"x14" wide and 6' long. I cut it to fit across the width of the boat to sit on the top of the gunwale. Then I cut and fitted a backrest with braces. It now looked like an old stadium seat.

With the old kapok boat cushion, this raised the seat about eight inches higher than the conventional fixed boat seat. What a difference it made. It was easier for him to cast and get a good visual of the line and lure. It proved to be a good solution to the problem. However, the streamers we had already tied rode poorly. Sometimes the hooks wouldn't ride facing down but upright or off center making it nearly impossible to get a good hook set into the bony upper jaw of the muskie. You want to hook him in the fleshy lower jaw, which means tying the streamer so the hook point always rides down. We went back to the guide shack for further refinements of our techniques. Another attempt to weight or balance the streamer was by adding a drop of solder and then tying the dressing differently. Our changes proved successful and reduced the missed strikes by about fifty percent.

Another point of interest - when a muskie was hooked in the tongue, it would always immediately jump. This was quite a thrill to see. This technique has held true over the years with a lot of different fish that I have caught. The first week went by too fast with Mr. X's departure date quickly approaching. Prior to leaving, he made his reservations with the resort for the upcoming year. As he had requested my guide services, we were both ready for some great fishing, the good Lord willing, when the next season rolled around.

Unfortunately, next year's trip was never meant to be.

I learned some valuable lessons from this gentleman. These lessons, including patience, have carried over from guiding to working with people in the business world, as well as with my growing family. The interesting part, as I look back on this time, is that Mr. X was a purist, a naturalist and a conservationist before his time. He did not want to keep any fish, nor did we remove them from the water for photos or weighing and measuring. He insisted that no fish be taken from the water. All were measured in the water with our very best estimates and the fish released at boat side. It was a great lesson on the proper handling and release of fish. Controlling the boat with a pair of oars and seldom starting the motor made for long, fun days.

Maybe now you can better understand my feelings about the loss of my fishing log and how much it meant to me. Those long lost records made up memorable thoughts and stories that were meant to be shared and passed on to my family and friends who really care. I can only say a big thanks to all my friends and cohorts who kept me between the waves. Remember the good times and great memories. The rest is all just numbers.

Here is a list of fly fishermen who I have been lucky enough to have been closely associated with over the years. Many I fished with, several I worked with at major sport shows putting on fly fishing demonstrations, and I worked closely with the legendary Ted Williams developing his line of fishing rods.

Bill Cullerton Sr.*, Eddie Wood*, Leon Chandler*, Stu Pritchard*, Doc Wellman*, Ted Williams*, Jack Sharky, Lew Morrison*, Jim Green, Lee Cuddy, George Foti, Leo Pachner*, and Tom McNally*.

**Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame inductee*

Editor's Note: We gratefully acknowledge Terry McBurney of Woods-N-Waters News of Grand Rapids, Michigan, for allowing us to re-print this fine story for all our Splash readers. Bill's story is currently appearing in the current (August 2011) edition of Woods-N-Waters. Bill Gautsche is the Hall Executive Board President, Hall Awards Committee Chairman and Hall Enshrinee. Most importantly, Bill is a fisherman extraordinaire! Thank you Bill and Terry.

LEGENDARY ANGLER TONY RIZZO CATCHES HIS 1,000TH MUSKIE By Brian Rose

(Reprinted with permission from the July 28, 2011 Lakeland Times, Minocqua, Wisconsin)

Measuring 35.5 inches, it certainly wasn't the biggest fish expert muskie guide Tony Rizzo has ever caught, but it may be one of the most memorable.

On June 17, 2011, Rizzo reeled in the fish to catch his one thousandth legal muskie in his 42 years of hunting big fish.

"What I like best is that they are unpredictable," Rizzo said of why he likes to fish for muskie. "They have a very uncanny ability of getting off the bait and getting off the hook."

With a crafty fish as his target, Rizzo, an inductee of the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, has picked up a few tricks over the years to help him reach that 1,000 mark, including keeping where he fishes under wraps.

"I will never tell a lake," Rizzo said. "I talk about lakes but in generalities. I don't know any muskie fisherman that will tell their lake."

Being vague is not something that comes naturally to Rizzo, who keeps copious notes about his fishing expeditions.

"I am kind of amazed that I have accumulated these statistics," Rizzo said.

The habit was formed in his early days when he lived in Chicago and would fish for bass in the Chain of Lakes around the area.

"I don't know why I did it, but I just wrote down everything I did," Rizzo said.

When he started guiding, the practice continued and the results document an outstanding career.

In his time, Rizzo has seen 32,897 muskies in his boat while spending 36,134 hours, or four years, one month and 15 days, on the water.

"I also have the names of every client I ever fished with," he said. "They are all special because there is a person attached to each fish and each number."

Rizzo also guides for walleye and smallmouth bass and his record keeping shows the success his clients have had in



Tony is pictured with the largest muskie he ever personally caught, a 41 pound, 52 inch monster on October 24, 1972.

those areas as well.

Rizzo and his clients have spent 761.5 days on the water fishing for walleye and have reeled in 10,712 of the fish for an average of about 14 a day.

It is that kind of success that made some of his clients question why he hadn't hit the 1,000 muskie mark earlier.

"I had one client say to me, 'Tony, I thought you would have hit 1,000 years ago,'" Rizzo said, "But the thing is, I guide during October and November but I don't fish. I feel that is when the best chance to get a trophy muskie is. I have 65 trophy catches. I don't need another, I want the clients to get that."

Experience backs up Rizzo's claim that late in the season is the best time to bag that big muskie.

The largest fish he ever caught was a 41-pound, 52-inch monster on Oct. 24, 1972.

The biggest fish Rizzo has ever seen in his boat is a 55.5-inch, 47.5 pound muskie caught by a client on September 28, 2006 during a Canadian fishing trip.

But Rizzo said the most rewarding thing



Tony Rizzo holds up his 1,000th legal muskie, which he boated and released on June 17th.

about being a guide has not been the size or the number of fish that he has caught over the years, but the people he has met.

"I have clients who come back year after year," he said. "We have built up some tremendous friendships. They are all special people."

AN EVINRUDE BICYCLE?

"Who said you need water to run an outboard?," states Hall member Walter Zielke of Prescott, Arizona.



Walt found this on display in Don Laughlin's Antique Car Museum in Laughlin, Nevada and took a few pictures for us. It comes complete with a water-cooled Evinrude motor and gas tank. This is obviously a homemade fabrication, but it is quite ingenious. No word on who the bicycle manufacturer is.

Thanks Walt!



A LURE OF IMPULSE – BILL PLUMMER'S SUPER FROG By Noboru Nakazawa

If you like fishing, you must have in your tackle box the most unforgettable lure in your fishing career. One of the most impressive lures in my life is an artificial lure called Super Frog. This lure was invented by Bill Plummer who was once a flight instructor near Westboro, Massachusetts. He liked bass fishing so much that even when he was flying with his student(s), he flew very low to watch how the remote ponds looked for his next fishing trip.

It was in the mid 1970's when I found Bill Plummer's Super Frog for the first time in a fishing catalog sent to me from the United States. I didn't notice at all why I felt very familiar with this Super Frog. Had I seen this somewhere before? Anyway, for some reason, I ordered several of his Super Frogs for a try.

The Super Frog I saw in the catalog was an egg-shaped life-like rubber frog. However, at the same time a new type of Super Frog was already for sale with the re-formed shape round body under the name of Harrison Hoge Industries.

One day in June, 1978 I went to a pond, a one hour drive from the center of Tokyo, with this brand-new Plummer's frog. It was a very hot morning. This pond was shallow and covered with the dense lily pad growth of the summer. There were some visible holes in the dense pads where you had no choice but to cast a snag-proof lure, like the weedless Super Frog. The boat was similar to an American 12 ft jon boat, but it was made of wood.

From past experiences I knew that bass were there, invisible, but they were always below the dense lily pads. It was a little bit difficult for me to keep a sense of high anticipation in



This is in the middle of the lily pads. Below, one can see the green UMCO tackle box.



the very hot morning, but I kept on casting. After several casts, I made one very long cast and watched Super Frog arc in the air and then settle down into the water. The very next moment a giant fish suddenly jumped out of the lily pads, like a flying rocket, and dove into the water again.

Boom! The water exploded. I immediately set the hook, but the fish was so powerful it was hard to control. My Fenwick FC60 glass rod kept bending and my Abu-Garcia 4600C reel was working smoothly. However, the fish was already in the dense weeds and was not moving. There was just my taut 16 lb test monofilament line between the fish and myself. I had to be patient. I had to wait for the fish to move up. After half an hour the boat went forward to the fish location little by little and finally I could retrieve the line directly with my left hand. Holding the big weed ball with the fish inside, I threw it into the boat. The fish was a so-called "snake head" over 65cm in length. This fish looks like a "garpike." In Japanese it is called "Rai-Gyo." With luck, I would be able to catch one more snake head with the Super Frog. The fish was not a largemouth bass, but it was satisfactory. A very good surface game, indeed.

Through the years, I have been able to uncover a little history about the Super Frog. This is what I have learned.



Largemouth bass – Super Frog in its mouth

Bill Plummer's frog was originally called the Bass Frog and then later was known as the Super Frog. It was and always will be a great surface lure.

Bill Plummer invented his original Super Frog based on his daughter's toy frog. Beth, Bill's 5-year-old daughter, promised not to cry for her dentist check-up if she could take her favorite toy frog to the dentist's office. As Beth sat in the dentist's chair, Bill studied the frog. Soon, Bill put two and two together and started formulating his own plans for rubber frog fishing.

The next day Bill borrowed his daughter's frog, attached a weedless hook (soon to be patented) on it and went fishing. It was 1957 and it caught bass, a lot of bass! Bill located the frog manufacturer in Japan and ordered hundreds of this toy frog. This is why I was familiar with Bill's frog, I first saw it in Japan before it became a fishing lure!

After a few year's of making the Super Frog on his own and only on a regional basis, Bill teamed with Harrison Hoge Industries and was able to market them throughout North America.

In the end Bill Plummer's Super Frog became a mega hit lure! Bill would go on fishing seven days a week for more than 30 years. Countless bass have been fooled by the Super Frog.

Bill Plummer's Super Frog was a lure of impulse in my angling history.



The above fish are called "Rai-Gyo". A large one is more than 1 meter in length.

Editor's Note: The author lives and fishes in Japan, but is inextricably tied to American sportfishing culture.

Bill Plummer was inducted in to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame as a Legendary Angler in 2006. Sadly, Bill passed away in 2007.

LATE-SUMMER/EARLY-FALL BASS ON MAIN LAKE DOCKS By Legendary Angler Babe Winkelman

When my youngest daughter Karlee was about four, she was gleefully plucking small bluegills off the end of our dock while I grilled some Johnsonville brats on shore. Then she screamed. I looked up to see her rod doubled over as 6+ pounds of largemouth bass did its best to pull the little tyke into the lake. Perhaps fortunately, her line broke.

When I tell people that story, they're usually surprised. "A fish that big? Right off the dock? Really?" Absolutely! The truth is, docks represent one of the best bass opportunities in a lake system – no matter where you fish in North America.

Like all angling patterns, dock fishing is an art form that must be perfected by experience, experimentation and dedication. I'll share some fundamentals and proven tactics with you today. But then it's up to you to fine-tune your approach and presentation(s) to put more and bigger bass in the boat.

Why Docks? The first step to fishing docks effectively is to understand why the bass are there in the first place. The answer is pretty simple. They're there because a dock provides bass with three key needs: structure, shade and food. Dock posts, boat lifts, cables, boat engines, etc. all account for fish-holding structure. The surfaces of these structures are ideal for periphery growth that attracts bait and, conversely, predator fish. And the dock surface creates a wonderfully shaded environment that's perfect for "ambush" fish like bass.

When? The late-summer/early-fall months are prime time for fishing main-lake docks. Does this mean they can't be caught under docks during the spawn? Sure they can, as long as the docks you're fishing are tucked back in bays, creek channels and other spawning habitats. But we're talking August to October here. The bass are done spawning and relating to main-lake structures.

As for the best time of day, the afternoon hours are ideal. Sunny days can be the best. Many bass will move up from nearby breaks and out of neighboring weed beds to feed under docks and seek the shade temperature they often desire.

Which Docks? This is the million-dollar question. And a darned good one too. The first docks worth trying are the ones in close proximity to classic fish-holding spots: points, humps, saddles, inside turns, weed



beds, mid-lake islands, steep breaks, channels, etc. The shorter the distance between a dock and a proven bass sanctuary, the better. If the water depth at the end of the dock is 5 feet or more, that's ideal.

When considering the dock itself, I prefer L- or T-shaped stationary docks with wooden posts more than any other. Bass are more drawn to wood than steel, probably because wood is more conducive to periphery growth. Plus wooden posts have more girth, more "structure" than steel posts. From my experience, floating docks tend to hold the fewest bass, because there's very little sub-surface structure beneath the platform.

If given the choice, go for docks with platforms that are close to the water's surface, with tight spacing between the platform boards. Both features create better shade underneath. And because low platforms are tougher to fish, anglers with inferior casting skills won't be able to get to bass that the skilled "skipper" can reach.

How? I approach docks with the same general patten every time. I use the word "general" because different factors can affect your approach to a particular dock – such as water clarity and depth, wind, dock shape, weed thickness (if any), etc.

I start by making long casts to the outside edges of the dock to pick off bass that are hanging near posts and on the shadow line. Shallow crankbaits, spinnerbaits and plastics all work well. When working these edges, try and get your bait to make contact with the posts or other structures. That contact can often trigger a strike.

After fishing the edges, switch gears and begin really picking the dock apart. I always

opt for soft plastic baits on spinning tackle for this task. Move in a little closer and pitch or flip the bait under the platform near posts, boat lifts, etc. Let the bait free-fall to the bottom and be on high alert for a bite during the drop. Dead-stick it on the bottom for several seconds, then give it a little move. Sometimes a twitch-fall works best. Other times a slow drag is what they want. Experiment and find out what presentation is the order for the day.

Most anglers make the mistake of only fishing the fronts of docks. But you'll often find that the bass are positioned under a shallower portion of the walkway. So fish your way around the sides of a good-looking dock too. After you've covered all the potential ambush points under the edges, it's time to skip.

Skipping a weighted or non-weighted soft plastic bait is the only way to truly penetrate the darkest recesses of a dock. Good skippers can turn a lure into a flat rock and skip it from the front of a long dock all the way up to shore. Accomplishing such a feat takes a lot of practice. Some can do it with a baitcaster, but most prefer spinning gear. If your initial skip-casts are awkward, don't give up. Keep at it and soon you'll be skipping your way to big fish.

When you hook up, take quick control of the fight. There's a lot of stuff down there for a bass to wrap into. You can't give him that chance. Winch him out fast. This requires strong, abrasion-resistant line. Today's braided lines are ideal. I like 12-pound braid because it's strong enough for an aggressive fight but light enough to intentionally break off if I hang up on a boat lift leg or other obstruction. A lot of anglers prefer monofilament or fluorocarbon line. It's all a matter of taste.

A few final things about dock fishing: Be prepared to have lake home owners give you a hard time. Some of them will be pleasant and interested in how you're doing. They're the ones who fish, and understand the effectiveness of this pattern. Others will walk down to the shore and tell you to move on. They can't make you do it, but they can ask. Be polite. Be thoughtful in your casting to avoid injury to others and damage to boats and other personal property. Always avoid casting to docks that have people on them, no matter how tempting the target. And finally, have fun!

Good Fishing!



OL' TACKLE TALK

Chris Slusar

CAN YOU ID?

Well, my early summer has been packed with activity, including lots of time on the water. Fishing has been great! During a late June fishing trip that included a visit to the HOF, I was able to boat my largest musky to date, a 48 inch fish. Even better, my son was on-board to enjoy the whole experience.

Aside of the outdoor fun, I've been actively chasing, identifying and appraising fishing tackle.

As I've been short on the "Can you ID" section of recent articles, I thought I'd dedicate some space to several assessments.



Emmett Brown forwarded this picture for evaluation earlier this year. The bait is a South Bend Surf Oreno. The Surf Oreno is a fairly common variety of lure, but this one has one unique feature. As you'll note in the photo, this piece has reinforcing hardware on both the front and rear. The extra bracing was provided during the period 1927-1929, which helps us date this guy fairly precisely. Although aged, the paint pattern is common and the overall condition is lacking. Consequently, I would value this piece at \$15-\$25.



Emmett was kind enough to forward this one as well. The pictured lure is a #33- Shakespeare Underwater Minnow and employs B-notched props, characteristic of certain Shakespeare offerings about 100 years ago. This piece also utilizes what appears to be "flat plate" hook hangers. Such hardware has origins back to the earliest Rhodes minnows, which were known for their innovation including the "flat plate" design. As such, Shakespeare and Rhodes minnows are sometimes confused. In its current condition, this piece would retail at \$50-\$100.



This piece came my way through a fellow collector looking for a firm identification. It dates to the period right after WWII and was made by a small time lure maker in Racine, Wisconsin named Hans P. Olson. Mr. Olson received a design patent for his piece in 1945. Not much is known about this slightly obscure piece but it does appear under the name Rolling Plug. This early version of the lure is slightly less common and is valued at \$40-\$75.



This piece popped up recently for consideration and is the later counterpart of the Rolling Plug above. You'll note that it utilizes two treble hooks, versus the two single hooks above, a change likely intended to improve fish catching ability. The name of piece appears to have changed along with the hardware and is advertised as the Bass Snooper. At some point, manufacture of this piece moved down to the Chicago, Illinois area. The two treble hook version is a bit more common and is valued at \$25-\$50 in this condition.



A good friend from California called with a question about this early Lauby lure. Strange that such an early and thin produced piece would wind-up so far from home. Those frequent readers of Ol' Tackle talk will recognize this piece from an earlier edition. It dates to the mid-1930's and is the forerunner of what became the Lauby Wonderspoon. This earliest version of the bait was manufactured in Marshfield, Wisconsin and pre-dates the production period which ran from the later 1930's to the beginning of WWII. This rare piece is valued at \$150-\$250.



This photo came to me from another Californian looking for some history. Pictured are the two smaller versions of the Johnson Auto Striker, made by Carl A. Johnson of Chicago, Illinois. These pieces date to the mid-1930's. The larger of the two pieces is valued at \$100-\$150. The smaller piece is exceptionally tough to find and is typically missing a good deal of paint. In this condition, this piece would likely fetch \$100-\$175.



Couldn't help it, just had to include a photo of the catch! Until this big guy came along, I'm happy to say that I released every musky I'd ever caught.

Please do forward your questions or requests for identification to slusar@wi.rr.com. Alternatively, send your queries to Chris Slusar in care of the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

Until next time, enjoy an old lure!

WORLD ANGLING RECORDS GRANTED

3rd QUARTER - 2011 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
AMUR/ White	All-Tackle	79-0	Jacob Millichamp	Crescent Lake, Illinois, USA	4/12/2011
	20 lb.	79-0	Jacob Millichamp	Crescent Lake, Illinois, USA	4/12/2011
BULLHEAD/ Brown	15 lb.	3-12	Roger Aziz, Jr.	Forrest Lake, Massachusetts, USA	6/19/2011
	20 lb.	3-8	Roger Aziz, Jr.	Forrest Lake, Massachusetts, USA	5/8/2011
BULLHEAD/ Yellow	2 lb.	5-15	Roger Aziz, Jr.	Stiles Pond, Massachusetts, USA	6/24/2011
BURBOT (Eelpout/ Lawyer)	All-Tackle	25-2	Sean Konrad	Diefenbaker Lake, Saskatchewan, CANADA	3/27/2010
	14 lb.	25-2	Sean Konrad	Diefenbaker Lake, Saskatchewan, CANADA	3/27/2010
CARP/Big Head	10 lb.	35-1	Dwain Melvin	Horseshoe Lake, Arkansas, USA	3/23/2011
CARPSUCKER/ (Quillback)	10 lb.	4-13	Paul Zoch	Wisconsin River, Wisconsin, USA	5/11/2011
DRUM/ Freshwater	12 lb.	24-6	James Norris	Nickajack Headwater, Tennessee, USA	5/19/2011
TROUT/ Cutthroat	16 lb.	7-14	Gaylon Newbold	Bear Lake, Idaho, USA	4/27/2011
TROUT/ Rainbow (Inland)	All Tackle	48-0	Sean Konrad	Diefenbaker Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada	9/5/2009
	20 lb.	48-0	Sean Konrad	Diefenbaker Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada	9/5/2009

DIVISION #2 - FLY FISHING

Fish	Line Class	Lbs./Ozs.	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/ Smallmouth	6 lb. Tippet	3-14	Dan McGuire	Rainy River, Minnesota, USA	5/15/2011

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

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
STURGEON/ Lake	Unltd.	65"	David Saunders	Rainy River, Minnesota, USA	4/10/2011
TROUT/ Brown	16 lb.	26"	John Regan	Westfield River, Massachusetts, USA	6/26/2011
WALLEYE	4 lb.	33"	Pat Retzlaff	Perrault Lake, Ontario, CANADA	6/4/2011
	14 lb.	34"	Bridget Mohler	Hawk Lake, Ontario, CANADA	6/11/2011

DIVISION #2 - FLY FISHING

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/ Largemouth	10 lb. Tippet	24"	Robert Warne	Albion Reservoir, New York, USA	5/8/2011
PIKE/ Northern	50 lb. Tippet	39"	Pete Siggelko	Great Slave Lake, N.W.T., CANADA	6/16/2011
SALMON/ Atlantic (Sea-Run)	15 lb. Tippet	33"	Alan Madden	Patapedia River, New Brunswick, CANADA	6/20/2011
	20 lb. Tippet	41"	Alan Madden	Restigouche River, New Brunswick, CANADA	5/15/2011
SALMON/ Chinook (Inland)	25 lb. Tippet	33"	Alan Madden	Patapedia River, New Brunswick, CANADA	6/20/2011
	6 lb. Tippet	44"	Robert Warne	Oak Orchard Creek, New York, USA	10/10/2010
TROUT/ Brook	10 lb. Tippet	45"	Robert Warne	Oak Orchard Creek, New York, USA	10/10/2010
	14 lb. Tippet	21"	Alan Madden	Lit. S.W. Miramichi R., New Brunswick, CANADA	6/15/2011
TROUT/ Rainbow (Inland)	15 lb. Tippet	18"	Alan Madden	Lit. S.W. Miramichi R., New Brunswick, CANADA	6/15/2011
	17 lb. Tippet	21"	Alan Madden	Lit. S.W. Miramichi R., New Brunswick, CANADA	6/15/2011
TROUT/ Rainbow (Inland)	25 lb. Tippet	21"	Alan Madden	Lit. S.W. Miramichi R., New Brunswick, CANADA	6/15/2011
	12 lb. Tippet	34"	Robert Warne	Oak Orchard Creek, New York, USA	4/10/2011

DIVISION #3 - POLE/LINE/NO REEL

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
BASS/White	Longest (only)	13"	Patric A. McDaniel	Seneca White Ohio, USA	5/11/2011

DIVISION #4 - ICE FISHING - POLE/LINE

Fish	Line Class	Length	Angler	Where Caught	Date
WALLEYE	Longest (only)	34"	Jay Millar	Lake Temagami, Ontario, CANADA	1/22/2011



David Saunders Lake Sturgeon, Div. #1 - Rod/Reel, Unlimited line class, 65", Rainy River, Minnesota, 4/10/2011



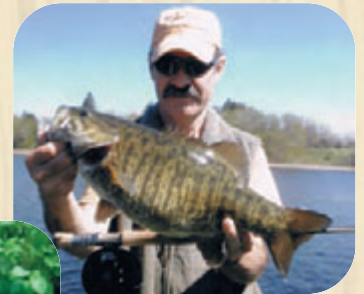
Pat Retzlaff Walleye, Div. #1 - Rod/Reel, 4 lb. line class, 33", Perrault Lake, Ontario, Canada, 6/4/2011



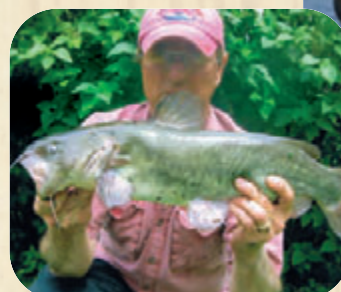
Bridget Mohler Walleye, Div. #1 - Rod/Reel, 14 lb. line class, 34", Hawk Lake, Ontario, Canada 6/11/2011



Dan McGuire Smallmouth Bass, Div. #2 - Fly Fishing, 6 lb. tippet, 3 lb. 14 oz., Rainy River, Minnesota, 5/15/2011



Roger Aziz, Jr. Yellow Bullhead, Div. #1 - Rod/Reel, 2 lb. line class, 5 lb. 15 oz., Stiles Pond, Massachusetts, 6/24/2011





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