Post Spawn Transition
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I was privileged to give a speech at a football banquet in honor of two football dynasty teams from the small town of Piggott, Arkansas. An early 60’s team racked up undefeated seasons. Four players from those teams were recruited by the Arkansas Razorbacks. One player got injured, one got love sick and went home, and two more started for the Razorbacks. Tommy Dickson was later drafted by the Buffalo Bills. Gary Adams was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles and played a few years with them. Not bad from a town of less than 3000 people.

I played in the late 60’s at Piggott. Our three-year regular season records were 10-1, 10-2 and 9-1. For a few of us who moved up late-season as freshmen, our high school record was 32-4.

What does this have to do with fishing? Actually there are a lot of similarities in sports when it comes to being successful. The first is the desire to succeed. Whether succeeding means catching a few fish for supper or winning a national tournament, the desire must be there. If you don’t try you’ll likely not succeed.

Hard work is a key element in all sports. Few things come easy. Consistency requires hard work, time, dedication and knowledge learned from experience. The list of characteristics goes on and on.

The end of my speech was directed to the current high school players. However, I believe it is also relevant to all of us. “Don’t live in yesterday. You can’t take back the bad decisions, mistakes and things you’ve said. Don’t just live in tomorrow’s dreams. You can’t control or predict the future. Health, financial situations, and relationships change. All you have is today. Live it hard and live it wisely. If you have things to tell people, things you want to accomplish, changes in your life you want to make, don’t wait. Today is all you’re guaranteed so now is the time to become who and what you want to be.”

Good fishin’ & God Bless,
Tim
Edges are great for catching crappie. It's no secret that the fish are edge oriented. An edge can be a dock, sun-shade edge, a line of trees or an underwater ledge. Edges are an important part of forming a pattern.

Current Edge

Try standing for a while in a 30 mile-per-hour wind. You'll eventually take refuge. The same is true for a crappie in current. It will move tight behind cover or leave the area for a calmer place with less current.

Where's the refuge in a river with current flowing? Behind a dam it could be a wing wall or wind dam. Further down river it can be a backout, big cut in the bank, or an area protected with cover. A big laydown is a good example of a cover break.

A key spot to look for is a long mud or sand bar. On the end and backside of the bar will be current breaks. Reverse current, eddies and still water are common. Where you find these you'll also find the crappie. Find wood cover in the slack water and you'll likely find a gold mine of crappie.

If you are in current let it work in your favor. For example, current probably means you fish the backside of stumps or trees and not waste time putting your jig in the current.

Note that current doesn't just happen when the dam gates are open or there are heavy rains. Wind causes current especially when fishing shallower cover.

Josh Lantz caught crappies while trolling crankbaits at two specific edges: (1) along a deep ledge; and (2) along the outside edge of a tree line.
Treat wind current similar to regular water current.

**Standing Timber**

Timber provides a vertical edge. A fallen tree provides a big horizontal cover edge. Leaning timber provides an angled edge. They are at different angles but each can be a dynamite spot.

A standing tree in 15 feet of water gives crappie an edge to roam up and down in the water column without leaving the safety of the tree. The fish might be at 3 feet or down at the bottom at 15 feet.

Jigging tactics vary among fishermen but a typical outfit includes a 10 to 12-foot pole, 8 pound test line and a 1/16-ounce jig. Pole length, line size and type jig can be adjusted depending upon water clarity, thickness of cover and depths being fished.

One of the best jig fishermen I’ve been with is Louie Mansfield. He says, “I’m a firm believer I always do better with a slow presentation. After letting the jig rest in a spot, I dip the jig instead of jigging it up. That seems to work best for me.”

Mansfield also says that being quiet in the boat is more critical than most fishermen believe. “You’ll still catch the small and medium sized fish, but the big ones are smarter and won’t bite if they know you are there.”

His last tip is to fish against the wind because boat control and position are both critical.

A totally different edge the is outside edge of a tree or stump line. The cover may be fished by vertical jigging along the trees but might also be fished by slow or fast trolling just outside the main cover.
Deep Weed Edges
Clear lakes have weeds that offer good holding locations. The pockets and outside edges of the weeds are great places to find crappie. Crappie can be deep inside the weeds but are much more likely to be on the edges. Slow trolling, casting and casting a slip-float are good tactics. Once the strike zone is found, the best method can be selected so baits can be concentrated to the high- percentage spots.

Fence Rows
Truman Lake fishermen know the importance of a good fence row. The rows were left when the lake was built and provide a long edge for crappie to use as a holding or travel structure. The rows are excellent because they provide both horizontal and vertical edges. Vertical jigging dominate so baits can be placed up and down, or sometimes pitched, and worked at different depths with a minimum of hang-ups.

Sun-Shade Edges
Most fishermen don’t think of shade as an edge. However, snags, bridge pilings, and docks are all shade producing structures. Sometimes a crappie will hold behind a snag on the shady side; or along a dock within the shade next to sunny water. Whether it’s for concealment or for comfort due to their big eyes, crappie love shade. It’s simple and quick to check to see if active fish are present in a shady spot.

Ledges
A drop-off creates an edge. It’s a perfect place to catch crappie. Today’s electronics makes ledge fishing much simpler than in previous decades. Almost any technique works when fishing a ledge dotted with cover. Getting a bait to the fish in the cover is the key.

Ledges are also good when pulling crankbaits. Crappie will sometimes hug a ledge but other times they simply use it for a reference. They’ll often suspend directly up over the top. I’m guessing that a nearby edge gives them a good reference for their position and it’s a known structure where schools of baitfish like to roam.
Final Note

Edges are wherever you find them. It can be a mud to clear water line, mud bank intersecting riprap, or a typical ledge. More fish can be brought to the boat by taking note of obvious and subtle edges.

Steve Parrott knows the fun of springtime fishing. Stick to a structure edge for good success.
Weary of traveling Interstate 40? In Arkansas, many exits lead to great crappie fishing lakes where you can take a break and enjoy some fishing from the shore or a pier.
On its 2,555-mile journey from California to North Carolina, Interstate 40 spans the breadth of Arkansas. Some have described this transcontinental superhighway as “the most boring roadway in America,” and anyone who’s ever driven from Ft. Smith to West Memphis would find it difficult to dispute that contention.

Fortunately, the I-40 traveler need not venture far from the interstate to enjoy some of Arkansas’ most beautiful scenery and finest outdoor recreation areas. For example, in its 300-mile journey across the Natural State’s midsection, I-40 passes some of Arkansas’ finest crappie lakes. Five of these—lakes Dardanelle, Overcup, Conway, Dunn and Austell—are 15 minutes or less off the interstate. All offer fishing piers and bank-fishing areas where the road-weary traveler can stop and enjoy some fishing, no boat required.

Lake Dardanelle

This 50-mile-long honeyhole on the Arkansas River spreads westward from Dardanelle Lock and Dam at Russellville to cover 35,000 acres. Numerous access points with boat docks, campgrounds and parks are on the north side just a short drive off I-40.

Lake Dardanelle State Park near Russellville is one great place to visit. Near the
park’s fishing tournament weigh-in pavilion is a covered, barrier-free fishing pier, a popular facility for bank-fishing enthusiasts, sightseers and photographers because of its sweeping view of the lake and 1,350-foot Mount Nebo to the south. Casting a jig or spinner near brush fish attractors around the pier will almost always produce a few crappie, regardless of the time of year.

If you bring a boat, you could fish every day for a year and not run out of topnotch crappie spots to try. Some of the my favorites in June include the Spadra Creek and Little Spadra Creek arms just south of I-40 at Clarksville, the Shoal Bay area near New Blaine on Highway 22 and waters around Shiloh Park on U.S. 64 just west of Russellville.

For more information, visit the park website at www.arkansasstateparks.com/lakedardanelle/.

Lake Overcup

Continuing east on I-40 from Lake Dardanelle, one soon arrives at Morrilton. Just north of this Conway County community, only a five-minute drive off the interstate, is another exceptional honeyhole for Natural State crappies—Lake Overcup.

This 1,025-acre Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) lake has forged a place in the hearts of crappie enthusiasts throughout central Arkansas. Catching 30-fish limits is a cinch when conditions are good, and stringers are likely to be anchored with crappie in the 2-pound class.

You can bankfish from the lake’s mile-long dam or from a jetty at the lake’s south end. Lake Overcup also has two wheelchair-accessible fishing piers: one adjacent Overcup Landing on the lake’s northeast corner and another beside Lakeview Landing, an angler concession just off Highway 95. At times, fishing around sunken brushpiles in deep water near the ends of the piers can produce dozens of 1- to 2-pound crappie.

Much of the best fishing is in brushy,
stump-laden waters accessible only by boat. In June, I usually start fishing jigs or minnows in shoreline cover near one of the boat ramps, then move to stump fields where the biggest fish often hide.

Two exits on Interstate 40 at Morrilton provide access to the lake. Turn north at Exit 107 to follow Highway 95 to Lakeview Landing. To reach Overcup Landing, turn north at Exit 108 and follow Highway 9 to its junction with Highway 915. Turn west on Highway 915 to the lake.

For additional information, including a map, visit the AGFC website, www.agfc.com.

Lake Conway
This 6,700-acre Game and Fish Commission lake adjacent I-40 just east of Conway serves up great action for slab crappie. Fishing can be superb in June, with some crappie staying shallow following the spawn to feed on shad and other baitfish. Crappie weighing 1-1/2 to 2-1/2-pounds are fairly common, and during recent years, I’ve seen several Conway crappie exceeding 3 pounds.

Perhaps the best thing for the traveler making a stop is the variety of fishing areas accessible without a boat, all of which are marked on the lake map you can download at www.agfc.com. Good bank-fishing areas are available at Lawrence Landing on the lake’s west side, at the Palarm Creek and Adams Lake access areas on the east side, and at the Highway 89 bridge on the south. The latter site is especially popular with local crappie fans, as heavyweight slabs haunt flooded timber adjacent deeper boat lanes there. Anglers can fish from the bank on both sides of the highway bridge. This is a great place to pull off I-40 for a few minutes of fishing and a respite from interstate travel.

Also available are two handicapped-accessible fishing piers. One is on the Pierce Creek arm, just a few miles east of the interstate on Highway 89. There’s another, the Gerald Ward fishing pier, just south of the Lawrence Landing access off West Street, and a third adjacent the Adams Lake access. Small jig/spinner combos worked around brush or timber flats in these areas often prove deadly on big crappie.

Exit 135 (Mayflower) on I-40 offers access by way of Highway 365 (on the west side of I-40) to docks on the west side of the lake, or by State Highway 89 and Clinton Road (east of I-40) to docks on the east side.

Lakes Dunn And Austell
The 90 miles of I-40 from Little Rock east to Forrest City cross flat-as-a-pancake delta

Interstate 40 Trivia
- Interstate 40 is third-longest interstate overall (2,554.22 miles across eight states), surpassed only by Interstates 80 and 90.
- Tennessee has more miles of I-40 within its boundaries than any other state, with 455 miles traveling through 20 counties.
- Major cities along I-40 include Flagstaff, AZ; Albuquerque, NM, Amarillo, TX; Oklahoma City, OK; Little Rock, AR; Memphis, TN; Nashville, TN; and Raleigh, NC.
- Interstate 40 in Arkansas is named the Veteran’s Memorial Highway.
- I-40 in New Mexico has been designated the Purple Heart Trail to honor veterans who have been injured or lost their lives defending our country.
farmland. At Forrest City, however, travelers notice a narrow band of low hills called Crowley’s Ridge. North on the Ridge, about a 15-minute drive from I-40, are two more fine crappie lakes: lakes Dunn and Austell in 7,000-acre Village Creek State Park.

Most folks who fish Dunn and Austell are after one thing: big bass. That’s good for crappie fans, because crappie are practically untouched here. Two-pounders are rare, but at times, you can catch 1- to 1-1/2-pound eaters as fast as you can cast a jig or minnow.

Dunn and Austell are small—65 and 85 acres, respectively—so crappie generally are easier to find than on large impoundments. June anglers should concentrate efforts around standing trees, stumps, logs and other cover along the shoreline. I fish most often from the dams where there are plenty of open areas allowing you to cast tangle-free to nearby brush and other crappie cover. I also like fishing from the boat docks on both lakes. Big crappie often hide in the shade below these structures.

To reach Dunn and Austell, take Exit 242 off I-40 just east of Forrest City and travel 12 miles north on Highway 284 to the park. For more info, visit www.arkansasstateparks.com/villagecreek/.

The waters I’ve described are just a few of the great fishing spots you can find just off I-40. When the interstate is driving you crazy, just pull out your Rand McNally and look for some blue waters to fish. There’s no better way to make travel on the four-lane more enjoyable.

Editor’s Note: Keith Sutton is the author of The Crappie Fishing Handbook, a 198-page, full-color book full of crappie-fishing tips for beginners and experts alike. To order an autographed copy, send a check or money order for $29.45 to C&C Outdoor Productions, 15601 Mountain Dr., Alexander, AR 72002. For credit card and PayPal orders, visit www.catfishsutton.com.

minnows. That’s what was wrong. When I got to the bait shop, I push the ugly minnows aside. I want the pretty ones.

“I look for pretty minnows with smiles on their faces. They know I’m gonna use them, and I know they’ll smile when I get back to the lake and put them on my hooks.” -Charles E. Salter, Bent Poles & Tight Lines, 1982
Q: What’s your best June fishing tip?

**Charlie Campbell, Tennessee** - “It’s a good time to troll crankbaits with my favorites being the Bandit 200-series in pink sparkle, sparkle minnow and firetiger. The great thing about trolling is finding good spots holding fish that can be marked with electronics to go back and fish using a jig. A fisherman can pick up crappie that trolling might miss.”

**Rodney Brown, Kentucky** - “The fish are ganging up on stake beds and channels. They bite good until it gets real hot. At that time they’ll move to deep beds. Slow trolling and vertical jigging both work but I prefer jigging. Some of my favorite colors are red, chartreuse, and white or any combination of the three. Minnows are good any time.”

**Larry Woody, Tennessee** - “For me it’s all about the tube jig and I stick with it year round. In June here some of the crappie may still be shallow but most are in the middle depths. Later I’ll look for deeper ledges. I’m old school and still prefer casting just because it’s so much fun. And if I can do it anybody can do it. My best color lately has been blue with clear sparkle.”
A recent trip to Parsons Kansas revealed some laid-back, enjoyable, fun fishing. The town of 11,000 people has a great, revitalized main street. An F3 tornado hit the town in 2000 so there is a mixture of older and newer buildings. The area is primarily agricultural. The railroad was a major part of the town until a few decades ago. For you zombie enthusiasts, ZombieGeddon was filmed in Parsons in 2002. Parsons may be best known for Dwane’s Photo, the last processor of K-14 Kodachrome film and was the location of the last frame taken on the final roll.

Big Hill Reservoir, KS

Southeast Kansas hosts a variety of hunting and fishing spots. Crappie waters include small strip pits, lakes and reservoirs. Big Hill Reservoir is located 8 miles west of Parsons and about 4.5 miles from Cherryvale.

Big Hill is 1240 surface acres with a maximum depth of 60 feet. Normal lake level is 858 feet. Water is usually relatively clear with 6 to 10 feet visibility. It’s controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers. Crappie creel limit is a liberal 50. No boat motor limitations apply.
Big Hill is a very productive fishing lake. Although popular, it is seldom crowded with fishermen. Along with crappie, the lake includes many other species. The best part of the lake is the timber left standing when the lake was built. A locator and an eye for typical fishing locations is all you need to find fish.

My trip was during post-spawn a few weeks ago. Local fishermen say crappie had spawned three weeks earlier even though we found the water temperature stable at 67 degrees. On day one, due to the water temperature, we couldn’t help but give shallow water a few hours of hard fishing. However, we found no fish left in the skinny water.

As usual, electronics were critical. We found suspended fish in open water areas and near the edges of standing timber. We switched to trolling crankbaits and immediately started picking up crappie. A Flicker Shad and Rebel Deep Wee trolled behind the boat did the trick. Crappie were suspended 10 to 14 feet deep with water depth 15 feet or deeper. It seemed 20 feet of water over a drop-off was ideal.
My day two fishing was with Larry Steeby, a retired fire chief and former bass pro who grew up in the area. He says, “The reason the lake is such a good crappie lake is the standing timber. Crappie usually spawn here April and then make a slow transition out toward deeper water. Right now (mid-May) they are going to be in the 10 to 15 foot water out away from the banks.

“As the summer temperatures come into play the crappie go out toward the deeper areas in the middle of the lake. Many will stay around the brush and submerged timber out in deeper water.

“I call the water “green water”, clear but not too clear,” says Steeby. “It’s a rare type lake where so many species live and strive together without one species dominating. Crappie, smallmouth, largemouth, walleye, white bass and others live in harmony. It’s easy to fish because of its size. I really like a hair or a feather jig here for crappie.”

Trip Overview

June fish should be on deep timber and ledges. As the temperatures increase some of the crappie will stay suspended in open water while others will go deeper along channel drops and deep cover. The small lake can be quickly covered with electronics to learn fish depths and structures.

Big Hill is clear making it excellent night fishing for crappie. If you’re serious about catching numbers of fish, night fishing might be the best bet from now until fall. During the day look for trolling cranks to be a key tactic.

The lake is known for good numbers of smaller sized crappie. Our largest was around 11 inches with most 8 to 9 inches,
but locals say it’s not uncommon to catch a few bigger kickers on most trips.

Negatives include: out-of-the-way location (not near a big city for secondary vacation activities); the average size of Big Hill crappie are small but big ones are possible.

The positives of a trip to Parsons and Big Hill Reservoir include: Relaxed community; a timber-filled lake set up great for crappie fishing; large enough for different structure fishing but small enough to easily analyze; good numbers of crappie with a liberal 50-fish limit; fantastic hunting if you want to do a combo hunt/fish trip to the area; Parsons is a nice, quiet, clean town to visit, eat, and stay; bonus fishing is available at the 770 acre Parsons Lake; and nearby mined pit fishing.

For more information, go to visitlabette.com or call 800-280-6401; kdwp.state.ks.us; ksoutdoors.com.

- By Tim Huffman

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**Crappie Masters 2015 Schedule**

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<th>Type</th>
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Trolling Cranks... and Vertical Jigging Bonus Fish

Expert Tennessee crappie angler Jim Duckworth has a decision to make when he wants to go crappie fishing in June. He needs to decide whether to go to a lowland lake like Percy Priest where most fish are caught between 10 and 25 feet of water, or go to a clear highland lake like Center Hill where the fish will be staging in 5 to 55 feet of water.

Duckworth describes Center Hill as all rock, deep and super clear. Percy Priest is areas of rock, gravel, dirt, clay and sometimes a mixture of all that in the same place. The lake is relatively shallow with a little bit of color to the water. Both are good crappie lakes, but in June Duckworth has reasons to prefer Percy Priest.

“Trolling requires the right equipment and good concentration. A good set-up includes having baits spaced as far apart as possible, a wide trolling path, strong holders, good baits and an eye on the sonar. In June I would go to a lowland reservoir because the crappie are 10 to 25 feet deep. Crappie in a highland lake in June can be 40 to 50 foot because of the visibility and the fact that..."
when you get 10 yards from the bank it is 30 plus feet deep” He says those conditions simply make them harder to catch. “The highland lakes just don’t produce as well trolling, and it takes too long for a Road Runner to fall 50 feet if you are vertical jigging.” He explains that the deep water results in 1/3 of the casts that you would get on a lowland reservoir in a given period of time and that translates to fewer crappies.

With the decision to fish a lowland lake Duckworth explains how multitasking helps him put more crappie on the dinner table. The techniques he employs will work well in many lakes across America.

The June crappie bite in Tennessee consists mainly of trolling, but Duckworth complements it with vertical jigging. The trolling catches plenty of crappie, but switching from 7 poles in a long line trolling scenario to one pole in the angler’s hand can add significantly to the daily harvest.

Duckworth explains it like this. “The June crappie bite is troll, troll and troll. However, if you watch your down imaging on your Humminbird to locate cover that’s holding crappie you can come back later and fish it. Mark the structure with a waypoint and throw out a marker buoy.” That does two things for you according to Duckworth. First you can use the marker to go back through and troll the area again. Secondly the marker shows you a place to come back to later and fish the spot vertically.

**Where to Troll?**

Duckworth’s trolling takes place along break lines. “I like the edges of the flats the fish used to spawn on. As temperatures warm I will get out to the creek channels or the river channels because it’s cooler and the shad will be out there. Find the food and you find the fish. Just remember those channels are not straight and you want to track the actual contour as...
Maps and electronic charts will help you plan your trip. You can determine what part of the lake has stump beds, lay downs, brush piles, etc. “Since it is hard to troll laydowns or brush piles the stump beds are always a good place to start,” explains Duckworth. “My crankbaits will often times kick off a stump and not get hung up as easily as in a laydown or brush pile. If I am getting hung up a lot I will take the front hook off, or cut off the bottom shank of the front hook.

Then I don’t get hung up as much.”

“I could give you specific spots to fish,” says Duckworth, “but trolling is not about spots, it is about big areas. Trolling will allow you to cover 5 to 8 miles a day. As you make more and more trips to the lake you will develop trolling patterns where you will consistently catch crappie.”

**Trolling Techniques**

In the lowland lakes like Percy Priest the crappie roam around chasing shad in the big bays. “Most of them are less than 30 feet deep,” says Duckworth. “The less than clear water sets up great trolling possibilities.”

Duckworth trolls using a 5-rod Driftmaster trolling bar. He sets the outside holders about 5-degrees forward with 16-foot B’n’M Trolling Rods. Next to the 16-footers he uses his own B’n’M signature model Jim Duckworth 10-foot Crappie Special set at a 45-degrees to the
transom. The center holder is filled with a 7-foot medium action Berkley Lightning Rod extending up and over the engine. “I fish the 16-foot rods at about 100 feet back; the 10-foot rods at about 60 feet and the center rod at about 80.”

On each side of the bow he deploys 12-foot B’n’M Trolling Rods on single rod holders. “I use Driftmaster single rod holders with 12-inch stems to raise them up off the deck. I fish the front rods about 60 feet back. This spread keeps everything from tangling.” He reminds anglers to stay wide on the turns and over points to maintain the spread.

Teamwork is required when you get a fish on either of the 2 outside rods. In this case the front rod on the same side as the fish needs to be retrieved to prevent tangles. The front rods are always the last to be deployed. Duckworth adds a special 2-lure wire rig on the back outside rods. “That gives me 7 rods out with 9 Bandit Crankbaits in the water,” comments Duckworth.

He chooses light, sensitive rods for trolling crankbaits. “When you are trolling you will notice the rod tip quivering. When you see it stop quivering you either got a fish on or you picked up a piece of trash that you need to clean off.”

He spools low-profile baitcasting reels with 8-pound test line. “Anglers might break more baits off, and if that’s a problem, I recommend going up to 12-pound line, but no greater. Crappie can be line shy and the bigger you go the easier it is for them to see it. The more color in the water the more you can get away with larger line.”

Duckworth adds a snap on the line to allow quick bait/color changes. “I like to change colors often until I find the one the crappie are liking on any given day. All my baits are what I call a minnow color.”

His favorite bait is a 200 Series Bandit. “The 200 Series Bandit will get down about 10 feet on 8-pound test line and that is exactly what I want on most of the lowland lakes.” He customizes his crankbaits by replacing the front hook with a red Daiichi Bleeding bait hook. “Putting that red hook on the front causes the fish to bite it more than the back hook. I catch and land a lot more fish by controlling the strike.” He adds that in deeper water he switches to a 300 Series Bandit because it will dive to about 15 foot on 8-pound test line.

Duckworth reminds anglers to check every drag on every reel before the trolling begins. “Crappie are what we call paper mouth, because they have a very tender mouth and a hook can pull loose. I want a fish to start pulling drag the minute it hits. I always watch my rod tip looking for a bite, but if I see line going off that reel it also tells me I have a fish on.” He also
admonishes anglers to let the rod holder set the hook. The angler’s tasks are not over with the bite. “When you get a bite, pull the throttle back to neutral, let the prop stop, pop it into reverse and back up on the fish. During this time your partner should be clearing other lines out of the way if necessary.” When the pressure is taken off the fish, Duckworth reews it slowly, but steadily to the boat, being careful not to pull the hook.

The caught crappie is ripping and pulling the lure and slowly making the hole in its jaw larger. “I use a Stowmaster dip net by placing it under the fish so if it falls off you catch it in the net,” comments Duckworth. “Avoid putting the fish in the net deliberately, because you end up tangling treble hooks in the net and spending too much time untangling them. Hold the net under the fish and get back to trolling quicker.”

Duckworth’s techniques suggest that crappie anglers may have been the original multi-taskers. In the process of trolling for crappie he is constantly checking the sonar, water temp, water depth, and boat speed. In Duckworth’s case he is also marking brush piles to come back to later and vertical jig.

**Vertical Jigging**

When he is finished trolling Duckworth uses his Fenwick 6-foot medium-action spinning rod to fish the various structures that were marked while trolling. His reel is an Orra SX ABU with 20-pound Spiderwire Stealth on the spool.

Duckworth ties a Kentucky Lake Rig directly to his braid. “I tie directly to the lures and use all braided line. I don’t believe it hurts me and it keeps me from breaking off lures. The rig consists of a 1-ounce bell sinker on the bottom with 2 drop-loops tied in at about 2 and 4 feet above the weight. Those distances are just general guides. I watch my down imaging on the bow depth finder to make a final determination on where to set the drop-loops.”

“I will fish 1/8- to 1/4-ounce Road Runner’s or Tru-Turn Blood Red hooks on the drops. If using the hooks it is because I want to fish with minnows. Sometimes I will tie a Roadrunner on the bottom with a hook and minnow on the top.” The presentation is a slow, up and down, jigging motion. He moves the boat right up on a brush pile and drops the rig vertically into the structure. “You have to make sure to raise and lower your bait in a smooth motion and have no slack in it for the jigs or live bait to tangle in. If it is a particularly thick brush pile I lift the rod as high as possible before letting it down in a different location. If you try to pull it sideways you are likely to get hung.”

A Roadrunner will often bump the wood and bounce back allowing free vertical movement without getting hung. If you do feel a hang, drop it down immediately before you drive the hook into the branch. “If I feel a snag I let it fall back fast because the sinker will pull you free. Sometimes you have to raise and lower the sinker several times when you’re hung, but usually it comes loose.”

This is where the 20-pound braid comes in. “When I do get hung up, braid is strong enough to straighten a hook so I get it or the lure back. I can use a pair of pliers to reshape the hook and get right back to fishing. The other advantage of the braid is sensitivity. I can feel every little bite because the line has zero stretch.”

According to Duckworth it is important to have a sonar unit on the front of your boat when vertical jigging. “Using sonar is how you stay on the structure and determine how populated it is. All brush piles don’t hold fish; so don’t spend too much time on one if you are not getting bit.”

Duckworth advises anglers not to shake a brush pile or laydown, because it will spook the fish. If you happen to spook the fish just leave the area and come back later after the crappie have had a chance to regroup.

Duckworth has one final tip. “Anglers can create a more natural looking presentation when jigging by moving the knot to the back of the jig eye. Simply take your fingernail and push the knot to the back of the eye. The result is a jig that hangs horizontal and looks more natural to the fish.”

Combining crankbait techniques with vertical jigging techniques allows Duckworth, and you, to catch more Crappie Now.

- Ron Presley
Cool gear that’s catching!

Mr. Crappie Premium Line
- Low memory; high abrasion resistance
- Special softeners for superb performance
- HiVis, Camo and Clear - 4, 6, 8 and 10 lb.
- Available in Mega Spool and Mega Bulk

Mr. Crappie Spinning Reels
- Strong graphite body and rotor
- Double anodized aluminum spool
- Zero Reverse one-way clutch

Mr. Crappie Slab Shaker Spinning Combo
- Smooth 2-ball bearing system
- Thin, compact gear box
- Pre-spooled with Mr. Crappie HiVis line
- Graphite composite rods with split grip handle

Mr. Crappie Slab Shaker Rods
- Premium graphite blanks
- Lightweight EVA grips
- Aluminum oxide guides

www.mrcrappie.com

Crappie NOW How To Tie Knots

Crappie NOW On-Line Magazine

23 Crappie NOW June 2015
Modern electronics have become the cat’s meow, the bee’s knees and the cat’s pajamas to crappie fishermen everywhere. Modern units help anglers find structure, chart courses, follow contours, indicate water temperature and actually show them the fish. They are too awesome to be without.

The good news is that aluminum boat owners can enjoy the same great performance from their electronics as fiberglass boat owners. All they have to do is get the installation right. “I believe installation is a key on all boats,” says Bill Carson of Johnson Outdoors. “It is not complex or rocket science. When done correctly it makes all the difference in the world.”

Jim Edlund, Traditions Media LLC and student of marine electronics agrees. “Correct installation is key,” says Edlund. “Making sure that the transducer cavitation is correct will provide accurate data at any speed.”

“Selecting a unit, whether for a glass or aluminum boat, all comes down to the needs of the angler,” continues Edlund. “In my opinion 2D sonar and GPS mapping are must-haves in any boat. Down Imaging, Side Imaging (SI) and newer technologies like 360 Imaging, SmartStrike, AutoChart Live (the latter two available only via ONIX) can boost the odds in any angler’s favor.”

Screen size is another important factor in choosing a unit. “You can typically get by with smaller units in smaller boats,” says Edlund. “However, the more screen real estate you have, the better you can read the data.”

Price points on new units have come down considerably over the years, making it possible for most anglers to afford some type of unit. Like most other fishing equipment, the choice will depend on the type of fishing you do and the budget you have to spend. As the price goes up so do the features included in the units.

For beginning anglers with a small budget a simple black and white unit like the Humminbird 541 can be purchased for around 150 bucks. If you limit your fishing to shallow water from a small boat this might be what you would want.
need. You won’t get any GPS or navigation features, but if you don’t need them why pay for them. Similar units are available from other manufacturers like Lowrance and Garmin.

As your budget increases you can get into features like colored screens, GPS and a multitude of features that go beyond simply finding fish. The GPS function allows anglers to mark waypoints and navigate back to them when desired. The ability to add a chart like those from Navionics is also a desirable feature. Charts of particular fishing areas give anglers tons of information on ledges, creeks, drop-offs and other structure that it would take years of fishing to discover. If cartography appeals to you, be sure to purchase a unit that supports it.

The screen sizes on less expensive units are naturally smaller, but I recently experienced a Humminbird Helix 5 SI GPS Fishfinder on an aluminum boat that worked and viewed superbly. We were running on plane with no bottom loss as well as great depiction of structure. For a budget around
$400 this unit will give anglers a 256-color display and all kinds of functions including zoom, split screen viewing, down and side imaging.

Dr. Jason Halfen is an avid crappie angler. He owns and operates The Technological Angler (www.thetechnologicalangler.com) with a primary mission to help anglers learn to use their on-board technology to its fullest potential.

“In the world of fish finders, I think the most important tool for crappie anglers, is side imaging,” reports Halfen. “I have been running Humminbird units for the past 6 years, and am continually impressed by their ability to mark schools of crappie, up to 150 feet to the sides of the boat.”

Halfen uses his SI to spot crappie schools away from the boat. “When I spot crappie at long distances using SI, I will drop a GPS waypoint on the school, turn off my main motor, and creep over to the school using my Minn Kota Ulterra bow mount trolling motor. Approaching a school of crappie with whisper-quiet electric power, especially when that school is in shallow water, ensures a much higher catch rate than if I had charged through the school with my main outboard.”

Anglers can also add multiple units as budget permits. Many crappie anglers have one unit on or near the console for cruising to locate fish and for navigation purposes. They have another unit mounted where they fish, like spider rigging on the bow, to stay on the fish once they find them. Pro crappie anglers Scott and Billy Williams are two such anglers. They won the Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters Florida State Championship on Lake Monroe in 2013 and again in 2014. The father/son team credits much of their success to current sonar technology.

In the 2014 Florida Championship, their

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**Go Fishing With The B'n'M Pros.**

**Sam Heaton’s 7-Foot Super-Sensitive**

The SHSS72n is a spinning rod with the same sensitivity and feel of the jig pole series. Improvements include Dyna-Flo guides for smooth line retrieval and a cork knob handle for outstanding balance and feel. Historically one of the most popular rods on the water, the SHSS72n is still supple, strong and sensitive.

**Whitey Outlaw DOUBLE DUTY**

Get back to “Fishing The Basics” with Whitey Outlaw. This Medium-Action rod is for big heavy hybrid bream, monster shellcrackers & any size crappie. It’s perfectly balanced with a comfortable foam handle for all-day fishing - no reel needed. It features a tough & lightweight Graphite Blank, and one tip eyelet, with one reinforced Tie Down Guide.
Humminbird SI helped them find a deep cut in an old run-around off the main river with a bunch of trash piled up. “We couldn’t spider rig up on it so I rigged a slip cork on a B’n’M jigging pole and flipped it up under there,” explained Scott. “We immediately started catching nice specks. I would not have known that structure was there without side imaging. All I had to do was watch my bow-mounted sonar and figure out how to get my bait to em’.”

**Dream Machines**

More expensive units bring bigger screens, more technology and better data interpretation. If you are an angler who wants
to go the extra mile with technology the high-end machines are there for you.

The Humminbird ONIX, for example, can be purchased in 8 different combos, one of which should match your fishing requirements. It produces 360 degree imaging and features like SmartStrike that give anglers a new tool for finding fish based on species, season, time of day and weather conditions.

The Humminbird website reports, “SmartStrike highlights areas of the map where your prey is most likely to be located—before you even wet a line. This minimizes guesswork, fruitless searching or wasted casting, thus maximizing your time on the water to fish. It’s like having your own personal fishing guide with decades of experience.”

Space age technology even transforms your sonar screen into a cockpit like monitoring of important engine data like oil pressure, engine temperature, RPMs and fuel level on compatible engines.

All the major manufacturers make dozens of units in various sizes and combinations of technology and it seems to grow and improve each year. A Google search of Bass Pro Shops fishfinders revealed three Internet pages with more than 80 units priced from $99 to $4,999. Needless to say, buyers must plan well, study their options and then purchase a unit that best matches the way they fish.

Editor’s note: Next month’s column will discuss electronics placement, installation and transducer protection.

- Ron Presley
Fish-n-Foil Italian Style

It’s so easy to zest up your crappie for grilling by adding Italian dressing. If you cook on a grill, you may want to baste your fish every two minutes to prevent it from drying out. If you choose to cook crappie and veggies in foil (think easy and clean) there is no need to baste your fish.

1-1/2 pounds crappie fillets
1 cup Italian dressing
2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
2 each red and green bell pepper, each cut into 6 pieces
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese (freshly grated is better)
2 tablespoons finely chopped cilantro

Mix dressing and crushed red pepper. Pour over crappie fillets and sliced peppers in shallow glass dish; turn fish and peppers over to coat both sides of each with dressing mixture. Refrigerate 15 minutes to marinate.*

Heat grill to medium-high heat. Remove fish and peppers from marinade; discard marinade.
Grill fish and peppers on covered grill about 4 minutes and turn fish over. Grill covered for 2 minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork. Place fish and peppers on serving plate. Sprinkle with cheese and cilantro. Let stand 3 minutes.

Foil Packet Grilling: This method is terrific for cooking a delicate fish, such as crappie. This is also a great way to cook an entire meal, because you can cover the fish with vegetables.

Place your fish (and any veggies you want to cook) on a piece of foil, then bend the foil over top and seal all the sides by folding them over several times. Foil packet grilling marries the flavors of the fish, spices and veggies. Medium-high heat cooking this way will also keeps the grill clean.

Personal Touch: I imagine the flavors and textures of the veggies and how they will blend with crappies. You can call me an “eye-ball cook” because I rarely measure; I let my imagination “say when” (like I’m thinking with my taste buds). I add whatever veggie or fruit (even bacon crumbs). Sometimes my imagination leads me astray but I eat it anyway.

*To Marinate or Not: I don’t believe crappie fillets need to be marinated but thick, fish steaks or fillets (like bass, catfish, stripers or saltwater fish) may taste better when marinated with a simple mix of oil, vinegar and spices (dry soup spices work well). If you’re cooking a drier kind of fish, the marinade makes it juicier.

With thick chunks of fish I like it to coat the steaks or fillets with mayonnaise, sprinkle with a salt, pepper and spices, and then slap it on a hot grill. I let it sear for a few minutes on one side, baste and turn it sideways for those pretty grill marks and then flip it over until it’s done.

Before cooking oily fish like trout, salmon or thick saltwater species, dry them thoroughly with paper towels. Add a little bit of flavored butter or oil and sear them. Add a sauce or other condiments just before or after the fish comes off the grill.

General Cooking Tips for the Grill: The basic rule is to cook fish 8 minutes per inch of thickness or 10 minutes per inch if the fish is whole. Baste every couple of minutes to prevent drying and be sure to put the grill cover back on.
Check fish two minutes before you think it should be done, keeping in mind that everything keeps cooking for a few minutes after it leaves the grill. Fish is best when it just starts to flake off with a fork. Undercooked fish looks translucent and overcooked fish looks dry and falls apart.

Keeping it Safe: Never refreeze fish once it’s been thawed. Store in the refrigerator, tightly wrapped or in an airtight container, for no more than 2 to 3 days. Fresher is mo’ better!

**Dessert: Poached Apples**

- 5 cooking apples
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 5 to 6 drops red food coloring (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon extract
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Pare the apples and cut them in half crosswise. Pick out seeds, but do not core. Make a syrup of sugar, water, salt, food coloring, cinnamon extract, nutmeg extract and vanilla in a large skillet and bring to a boil. Stir in the apples and simmer until tender, watching carefully, lest they will get too tender all at once.

If nutmeg and cinnamon flavoring extracts are not obtainable, use the same amounts of the dry spices; mix with the 1 cup sugar before adding to water.
(Fishermen, check with club/association for exact dates, changes, cancellations and rules.)

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(More events will be added throughout the year so check each Club often for new dates and places)
(Note that club news, results and schedules are taken from websites around the 10th of each month. Only those who provide information through their website or by email will have updated information and results included.) Fishermen, check with club/association for exact dates, changes, cancellations and rules.

### Clubs/Regional Tournaments

**MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB - MS**  
[www.magnoliacrappieclub.com](http://www.magnoliacrappieclub.com)  
Will be hosting its 1st Festival Bass Tournament on Brows Creek, Lake Guntersville Saturday April 11, 2015

**CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS (CAT) - TX**  
[www.crappieanglersoftexas.com](http://www.crappieanglersoftexas.com)  
Will be hosting its 2nd annual “Crappie Fest” on Lake Fork, Saturday April 11, 2015

**WEST TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB-WTCC - TN**  
[www.westtennesseecrappieclub.com](http://www.westtennesseecrappieclub.com); also facebook

**INDIANA SLAB MASTERS- IN**  
[www.indianaslabmasters.com](http://www.indianaslabmasters.com)

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB -TN**  
middletennesseecrappieclub@gmail.com

**SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION -AL**  
[www.shoalscrappie.com](http://www.shoalscrappie.com) shoalscrappie@yahoo.com

**WEST ALABAMA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION -AL**  
[www.westalabamacrappie.com](http://www.westalabamacrappie.com) Tracy Humber 662-574-0649

**SLAB MASTERS TOURNAMENT TRAIL -GA**  
[www.slabmasterstournamenttrail.net](http://www.slabmasterstournamenttrail.net)

**EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB- MO**  
[www.easternmocrappie.com](http://www.easternmocrappie.com)

**EASTERN BUCKEYE CRAPPIE CLUB -OH**  
Easternbuckeyecrappieclub@yahoo.com  
[www.easternbuckeyecrappieclub.com](http://www.easternbuckeyecrappieclub.com)

**WILLIAM’S CREEK CRAPPIE CLUB- TX**  
[www.williamscreekcrappieclub.com](http://www.williamscreekcrappieclub.com)

**WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIECLUB- MO**  
Facebook: Wappapello CrappieClub

**GRAND LAKE CRAPPIE SERIES- OH**  
[www.grandlakecrappieseries.com](http://www.grandlakecrappieseries.com)
COOSA RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB
Paul Whorton 205-821-8373
Joe Thomas 205-746-4409
(see facebook)
CRAPPIE BUCKS- TX
www.crappiebucks.com

CRAPPIE SLAYERS TOURNAMENT SERIES- MO
See the www.crappie.com MO-tournaments

CAPITAL CRAPPIE CLUB- MO
Mike 573-230-3058, Ben 573-694-3588
Marshall Albertson 573-690-2370

ARIZONA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION -AZ
www.azcrappie.com (forum)

BUCKEYE CRAPPIE CHALLENGE -OH
www.buckeyecrappiechallenge.com

NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB -OH
www.northeastohiocrappieclub.com

SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE CLUB- IL
www.springfieldcrappieclub.com

CRAPPIENUTZ- MS
www.crappieguy.com

CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION
www.carolinacrappieassociation.com 704-792-5022 raeudy@ctc.net
MARCH 28    LAKE OF THE OZARKS
1. Jesse Shoemate/Shane Cappel  9.54
2. TJ Westoff/Joe Wilmes    8.98
3. Mitch Satterfield/Ron Molitor   8.50
4. Brad Perotti/Rob Ott    8.10
BIG FISH
1. Rob Ott  2.04

SPRINGFIELD
MARCH 28    LAKE SANGCHRIS
1. Greg Cockrell/Randy Cox  5.55
2. Bud York  5.47
3. Scott Boston/James Shell  5.29
BIG FISH
1. Bud York  1.30

SPRINGFIELD
APRIL 4    LAKE CLINTON
1. Greg Humphrey/Luke Humphrey  5.89
2. Ivan York/Andy Roberts  5.23
BIG FISH
1. Ivan York/Andy Roberts  1.33

CAT TX
APRIL 11    LAKE FORK
1. Mark Standridge  2.51
2. Raul Sandoval III  2.45
3. Lee Braly  2.23
4. Chuck Martin  2.23
5. Bob McAffrey  2.10
YOUTH 11-17
1. K Rogers  1.85
2. R Trevillion  0.75
3. D Scott  0.70

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SPRINGFIELD

APRIL 18
LAKE SPRINGFIELD SAILBOAT RAMP

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<td>Rick Montooth/Brad Ruyle</td>
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<td>3</td>
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BIG FISH

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Keith Stinson/Ryan Cain</td>
<td>1.40</td>
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Pink Ghost
Chart. Pepper Shad
Slammin' Chicken

Monkey Milk
Popsicle
Grey Ghost

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### EASTERN MISSOURI

**APRIL 18**

**MARK TWAIN LAKE**

1. Ken Massman/Darin Orf/Tim Besselman 8.18
2. Jesse Shoemate/Shane Cappel 7.41
3. Brad Perotti/Dan Rowles 6.59
4. Tim Gerner/Diesel McGuire 6.55

**BIG FISH**

1. Darin Orf 1.86

---

**CRAPPIE USA**

**APRIL 24-24**

**PICKWICK/WILSON LAKES**

**AMATURE DIVISION**

1. Kenny Lawson/Daniel Beard 21.54
2. Dennis Gooch/Ken Fisher 21.48
3. Keith Dodd/Darrell Keil 20.01
4. Adam Phillips 19.45
5. Jay Harris/Price Hopson 18.15

**SEMI-PRO DIVISION**

1. Michael Walters/Steve Ferguson 23.70
2. David Sisson/Larry Sisson 23.08
3. Bud Waters/David Waters 23.05
4. Henry Haley/Jo Haley 22.41
5. McCord, Dewayne, Robert & Reed 21.77

**BIG FISH**

1. David Rogers/Jerry Rodgers 2.24
2. Keith Dodd/Darrell Kiel 2.10

---

**CRAPPIE MASTERS**

**APRIL 25**

**BEAVER LAKE**

1. Jeff Riddle/David Maddux 9.62
2. Phillip Harp/Anthony Moten 9.55
3. Marvin Walker/Johnny Cross 9.51
4. Ronald Barker/Donald Doby 9.37
5. Charlie Rogers/Kevin Rogers  9.27  
**BIG FISH**  
1. Kent Keith/Bob Bethell  1.79  
**MALE/FEMALE**  
1. Donald Hawkins/Teresa Hawkins  6.60  
**INDIANNA**  
**APRIL 25**  
**MONROE RESERVOIR**  
1. Bob Raymer/Jason Snyder  9.37  
2. Tony Williams  8.16  
3. Tom Hankins/Glenn Gill  8.07  
4. Bob Bales/Jason Burnette  7.35  
5. Larry Yates/Doug Allen  7.06  
**BIG FISH**  
1. Kirk Wyman/Walter Moore  2.19  
2. Kelly Rinker/Kyle Kress  2.02  
**GRAND LAKES**  
**APRIL 26**  
**GRAND LAKES, ST MARYS**  
1. PH Lincoln/Mike Freewalt  8.95  
2. Rich Goodwin/Steve Walter  8.43  
3. Mark Puthoff/Mike Shroyer  8.24  
4. Jordan Fraley/Steve Wagner  8.22  
5. Joey Sampson/Kenny Germann  7.96  
**CRAPPIE MASTERS**  
**MAY 1-2**  
**KENTUCKY LAKE**  
1. Dewayne McCord/Robert McCord  24.77  
2. Bruce Christian/Dan Hudgens  24.69  
3. Tony Hughes/Randall Hughes  24.17  
4. Leonard Barnette/Ronnie Edge  23.81  
5. Wade Hendren/Roy Logan  23.63  
**BIG FISH**  
1. Paul Turner/Elizabeth Turner  2.45  
**MALE/FEMALE**  
1. Ronnie Capps/Kelly Capps  21.38  
**ADULT /YOUTH**  
1. Mark Arnold/Olivia Arnold  19.90  
**INDIANNA**  
**MAY 2**  
**FREEMAN/SHAFER**  
1. Jim Wilson/Brad Rush  5.65  
2. Charlie Hildreth/Paul Hildreth  5.65  
3. Dave Harrington/Bill Rairden  4.29  
4. Jason Shingler/Mike Arnold  4.26  
5. Bret Cunningham/Keith Lucas  4.12  

Tournament Results

38 Crappie NOW June 2015
### BIG FISH
1. Bruce Monroe/Chester Riley   1.73

### SPRINGFIELD

#### MAY 2
**WILBORN CREEK LAKE SHELBYVILLE**
1. Lee Penn/Fred Brozio     6.57
2. Bob Sarko/Rick Clifton    6.41
3. Duffy Cleland/Matt Jones  6.32

### BIG FISH
1. Lee Penn/Fred Brozio     1.57

### WEST TENNESSEE

#### MAY 4
**REELFOOT LAKE**
1. Allen Kolwyck               10.38
2. Kent Williams               8.28
3. Josh Gowan/Chippy Josh Chipman 7.69

---

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<td>CRAPPIE MASTERS</td>
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<td>TENN-TOMBIGBEE</td>
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<td>Carl Froshour/Justin Lindsey</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1. Brad Calhoun/Tommy Moss  2.58

GRAND LAKES

MAY 10     ST MARYS
1. Lincoln/Carpenter   8.74
2. Puthoff/Shroyer    8.71
3. Goodwin/Walter     8.70
4. Backs/Lawler      8.59
5. August/Deiters    8.59

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

MAY 16     WOODS RESERVOIR
1. Tracy Farmer      6.81
2. John Wells/Terry Spray 6.74
3. JW Jackson/Sally  6.21
BIG FISH
1. John Wells/Terry Spray 1.80

CRAPPIE MASTERS

MAY 16     REND LAKE
1. Robert Dent/Todd Dent   9.87
2. Nick Shafer/Bob Shafer  9.46
3. Charlie Rogers/Kevin Rogers 9.35
4. Jason Dudley/Zach Pierce 9.25
5. David Cox/Steve Hockett 8.96
BIG FISH
1. Robert Dent/Todd Dent 1.74

MALE/FEMALE
1. Vick Finkley/Kim Gray 7.93

ADULT/YOUTH
1. CHRIS Younger/Cameron Younger

INDIANNA

MAY 16     SALMONIE LAKE
1. Doug Allen/Larry Yates  7.48
2. Noel Thompson          6.34
3. Charlie Hildreth/Paul Hildreth 5.91
4. Jim Wilson/Brad Rush  5.56
5. Bret Cunningham/Mike Spieker 5.54
BIG FISH
1. Noel Thompson      1.69
2. Bret Cunningham/Mike Spieker 1.69
CRAPPIE USA

MAY 16                  LAKE SHELBYVILLE
AMATURE DIVISION
1. Trent Trudeau/Ryan Markwell   7.90
2. Frank Revell/Deboeah Revell   6.10
3. Lee Penn/Fred W Brozio        5.86
4. Bret Giaudrone/Morrie Giaudrone  5.67
5. Rick D Clifton/Bob Sarko      5.56

SEMI-PRO DIVISION
1. John Carr/Joe Carr            7.48
2. Duffy Cleland/Spencer Cleland 7.26
3. Dean Benson/Steve Songer      6.25
4. Luke Humphrey/Greg Humphrey   5.90
5. Tyler Brandenburg/Kevin Brandenburg  5.65

BIG FISH
1. Duffy Cleland/Spencer Cleland 1.68

GRAND LAKES

MAY 17                  ST MARYS
1. Freeman/Freeman               8.99
2. PH Lincoln/Brian Carpenter    8.50
3. Richey/Mack                   8.21
4. Jon Tipton/Bob Tipron         8.18
5. Ray/ Lawler                   7.91

SHOALS AREA

MAY 23                  BCDA LAKES
1. Harris/Harris                 6.38
2. David McCarley/Jimmy McCarley 6.36
3. Kevin/Rick                    6.19

BIG FISH
1. Harris/Harris                 1.54
“Ranger’s RT188c and RT178c are the ideal pair of crappie rigs. They’re loaded with space, easy to maneuver, ultra-stable, and full of features. From quality to price, I love these designs.”

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1st Place This Month!

Dennis Van Meenen
17 1/8 inches
Crystal Lake, IL

Honorable Mention

Shelby Fowler
16 1/8 in.
Strip Pit, Southern, IL

Don’t forget to send in your recent photo by the 15th.

Crappie NOW e-magazine accepts color digital images for publication. A single photo will be selected after the 10th of each month for the next month’s edition. The winner will be contacted via email with prize information.

Check out www.crappienow.com for more details.
Show off your great catches in the Crappie Now e-magazine! Receive a fantastic prize and be featured in Crappie Now!

**Honorable Mention**
Katelynn Hines
7 inches
Keesler AFB Marina, Biloxi, MS

**Honorable Mention**
Tom Rigsbee
13-15 inches
Lake Hogue, Arkansas

**Honorable Mention**
Jack Davis
15 Inches
Kendal Lake, Elaine, Arkansas

**Honorable Mention**
Nick Birch
Length/Weight: 13 inches/2.5lbs and 11.5 inches/2lbs
Sandusky River, Tiffin, Ohio
Until Next Month...Good Fishing!

Covered fishing pier at Lake Dardanelle State Park, Ark.

Keith Sutton photo