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Opening Cast

The crazy winter that stuck around too long has finally given way to warmer weather and periods of really good fishing across the south and middle state regions. Fishing has been up and down due to fronts and changing water conditions, but the warming has thrown fish into pre-spawn, spawn, and in some cases post-spawn. It’s great to see weekend fishermen out on the lake enjoying the sport. Sure, it’s crowded but we can’t blame fishermen for heading to the lake this time of year.

I had the opportunity in March to fish with some BnM pro staffers and then attend the Crappie Masters tournament on Grenada Lake in Mississippi. It’s always a blast to fish at Grenada because you never know if the next bite will be a monster. I had a 2.90, 2.81 and got to net a 3.10. I enjoyed the fishing and got to take a lot of photos to go with interviews, tips and stories I’ll be sharing in magazines.

A question arises this time of year. What is a big, slab crappie? Some lakes I’ve fished a 1.5 pounder is an excellent fish you can be proud of catching. Mississippi lakes and a few others have much higher expectations. A Wildlife Officer at Grenada hates to see people just take the 3-pounders for granted. He says a 3-pound crappie is the equivalent of a 12.06 pound largemouth. There are lakes in Texas, Mexico and Florida where the big bass can be caught but seldom do you see a 12 pounder anywhere else. Same with crappie. Few places produce 3-plus pounders. So, like in deer hunting and bass fishing, the size crappie considered to be a big slab is relative to the region and water you are fishing; not to be judged just by the premier big crappie lakes.

May CrappieNow Magazine has good fishing tips for lily pads, rigging a boat and other typical how-to information. However, fishing is more than just the nuts-and-bolts of catching fish or throwing a fillet in the grease. Keith Sutton sets the mood in a unique article you’ll enjoy. Darl Black shares some in-sight of a writer’s crappie camp. Hope you enjoy it.

Good fishin’ & God Bless,
Tim Huffman, Editor
Lily Pads

Lily pads are a hiding place for many species of fish, including crappie. Try shaking a lily pad and you’ll see why. Many insects and organisms will fall into the water. Anything will feed on these but more importantly, the small food draws baitfish that draw larger fish.

Where to Fish

Look across Reelfoot Lake in the hot summer and you’ll see pads for hundreds of yards. Other lakes might have small patches in shallow or back-out areas. So each lake is different with different amounts of vegetation.

Fishing the pads can be divided into three or four very basic patterns. The first is an isolated pad. An isolated pad associated with other pads is a good item to fish. The isolated pad will provide shade and a small spot can be dominated by one large or aggressive crappie. Always try an isolated pad.

Small patch of five to fifty pads is another great spot to try. This “something different” among field of pads can produce numbers of fish.

A hole in a bunch of pads is a key spot. Not only is it easier to drop a jig into but the opening is a place a fish will watch from the shade of a pad.

An outside edge is often the first and best place to fish. Crappie like edges. The edge lets a crappie hold in the shade and cover but go out into open water while staying near the cover.

Catching from the Pads

A 2014 trip with Russ Bailey to Pymatuning, Pennsylvania, highlighted the advantages of lily pads in a northern lake. We were fishing three to four foot deep water filled with pads.

“The fish might be in the tightest pads or they might be in openings,” says Bailey.
“I call the openings “getaways” where crappie like to hold. Whatever the fish are doing, it’s important to find a pattern and then a pattern within a pattern. For example, it’s not enough just to know they are in the holes, you need to know exactly what depth, bait and action along with preference for large holes, small holes or ones with larger or smaller pads.”

Bailey says pads can be good in the spring, early summer and fall. To catch them he typically uses his BnM Signature Series 10.5-foot pole. He uses the long pole to flip away from the boat or straight down presentations. He believes in an extremely fast hook-set.

Equipment includes 6-pound test Vicious line, a 1/32-ounce Road Runner or plain ball head in 1/48-ounce jig, Southern Pro Stinger Shad, Berkley Crappie Nibbles and small teardrop floats. The float needs to be barely large enough not to sink.

“The float is important. It lets you work a jig as slowly as you want and it keeps the jig at the right depth. Seeing bites on a tiny float is the best.”

A wild-card item that works great in the pads is a Power-Pole or Talon anchor. It makes it great to quietly stop anywhere you want by dropping the poles into the bottom. An alternative is a typical anchor you can quietly ease into the water.

Bailey says, “Everyone always ask about jig colors. There are no magic baits that always work best, but in clear water I’ll start with a yellow-white jig. It use to be popular but not so much any more, but it works for me. In dingy water I’ll use the yellow-white and a blue-white. I’m an old-school fisherman so when something works I stick with it.”

**Other Tips**

No matter which style of jig you prefer, sticking with a small 1/32-ounce jig that gives a
Lily Pads

Fighting a fish in the pads is fun, fun, fun. A long pole and light line adds more bites and gives the fish a sporting chance.
slow fall will trigger more bites.
Fishing straight up and down gives fewer
hang-ups. A hook in a pad stem is a problem.
Pole length is important to get the bait
away from the boat in the shallow water.
Always use scent. You’ll catch more fish.
Minnows work to catch fish in the pads,
but a jig is easier to use.
Everything is behind due to a colder than
normal February and March. Pymatuning, and
other northern lakes, should be prime-time
right now through June. Middle states should
be in late spawn to post-spawn.

Factors
Wind: “Wind can be an enemy or a
friend,” says Bailey. “A wind can be bad but
use it for an advantage. Wind will push baitfish
into the pads. Creating more active feeding
fish. Also, the pads will buffer part of the wind.
A light ripple wind is good to make fish less
spooky.
Cold front: Cold front will be tough for
shallow fish. The fish will still bite but will be
slow.
Clouds/rain: An overcast day will spread
fish out because they don’t need the protection
from the sun.
Sun: Good for moving fish into the shade.
Look for crappie to be tight to the stems.

Contact info for Pymatuning Lake is www.
visitcrawford.org, Crawford County Convention
& visitors Bureau. For Reelfoot Lake visit www.
reelfoottourism.com. Russ Bailey is a crappie
guide and is host for BrushPile Fishing,

- Tim Huffman
By Charles Bunting

“I run a 1/4-inch air line from the front of the boat to the back. I have a Mr. Bubblers in the back of the boat wired to my big battery. I have a switch to turn them on or off. So in front of the boat where we are fishing we have no noise while we aerate the minnows. It’s so much easier than listening to a noisy aerator. Also, we don’t have D-batteries going dead on us.

“Water temperature is very important. We keep our water below 70 degrees to keep our minnows alive. It’s the same on our fish in the livewell. We don’t run oxygen any more but with cool water, aeration, and no circulation pump on, we have no problem keeping fish or minnows alive.”

Charles Bunting, is from Missouri, partners with son Travis, and won the 2012 Crappie Masters National Championship. The team is pro staff for Power Pole, BnM Poles, Humminbird and others.
New for 2015...
Kayak Division
For info visit: www.crappieusa.com

2015 Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Talquin, FL</td>
<td>01/16-17/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cresnt/Dead Lakes, FL</td>
<td>01/23-24/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oran.-Loch-Newn., FL</td>
<td>01/31/15</td>
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<td>Weiss Lake, AL</td>
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<td>Clark’s Hill, GA</td>
<td>03/06-07/15</td>
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<td>Lake of Egypt, IL</td>
<td>03/13-14/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Hickory, TN</td>
<td>03/21/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherokee Lake, TN</td>
<td>03/27-28/15</td>
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<td>Lake of Ozarks, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>KY/Barkley, TN</td>
<td>04/10-11/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green River Lake, KY</td>
<td>04/17-18/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pickwick/Wilson, AL</td>
<td>04/24-25/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cave Run, KY</td>
<td>05/02/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss.-Sal., IN</td>
<td>05/09/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Shelbyville, IL</td>
<td>05/16/15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are many books and magazines that contain within them great writing about crappie fishing.
Since I was a young boy, I have loved books. It is quite natural that this is so, for my mother was a librarian. Every day she brought home a new book for me to read. This continued from the time I was six until I was well into my teens. On those rare occasions when she was unable to do this, I felt neglected until I got my next literary fix.

I became a book junkie, prowling dusty shelves for hardback highballs and soft-cover fixes. And like most junkies, I eventually narrowed my choice of poisons to one in particular that gave me the biggest rush. I got hooked on books about fishing and hunting.

I never made an attempt to kick the habit, and to this day, I’m strung out on the words of people like Ernest Hemingway, Zane Grey, Havilah Babcock, John Madson, Charlie Salter and more.

My years as a bibliophile have led to some unusual quirks, including one in particular—bookmarking or turning down the corner of each page where I chance across some magical combination of words that says something special about the pastimes I love. Last night, for example, I was compelled to bookmark a page where President Herbert Hoover was quoted as saying: “Fishing is the chance to wash one’s soul with pure air. It brings meekness and inspiration, reduces one’s egotism, soothes over our troubles and shames our wickedness.”

My God, I thought. Those words say what I wish I could say, and they say it better than I ever could. It is a line that is magical and unforgettable and insightful all at once. When I read it, I wondered if President Hoover, an avid fisherman, had to struggle with the words as he tried to connect them in just the right way, or if he put them to paper with hardly a second thought.
For some, such things come easy, like turning on a faucet. For others, like me, the words never seem just right. We sweat blood to create sentences with far less permanence and perfection.

In this article, therefore, I have decided to give you some of my thoughts about crappie fishing, but not in my words. Following are some of the many unforgettable passages about our sport taken from the dog-eared pages of my books and magazines.

Successful crappie fishing can be compared to making love. If you go about it in the same mechanical, predictable manner every time, you’re going to miss out on a whole lot of fun. -Buck Taylor, Buck Taylor’s Practical Guide to Catching More Crappie, 1983

The annual spring crappie run is a fishing fever that collectively infects more Americans than any other outdoor event. Why is it so popular? Every crappie fisherman would probably have his own unique answer. But for most, it offers the first chance to wet a line after many months of doing nothing but watching an endless parade of football, basketball and hockey games for excitement. Now is their chance to compete in person against something, instead of battling the opponent vicariously. Now is their chance to take in the fresh spring air, to see warblers returning from winter homes and to watch migrating arrows of waterfowl pierce the springtime sky. -Dan Gapen, Crappie: A Fish for All Seasons, 1974

This may be the modern era of fishing, but our image of the crappie fisherman has changed little over the years. We still see him as a simple man sculling a johnboat with one hand, a cane pole in the other. A bucket of minnows rests at his feet. It is an image of a sport that seemingly has been bypassed by sophistication. To many, crappie fishing will always be the humble sport of the masses. -Bill Dance, Bill Dance on Crappie, 1995

… a golden brown fillet of crappie. Ooooh! It is the food of gods. -Jim Robbins, Crappie! 1991

Crappie are as erratic as a “Flapper” with three pairs of silk stockings—you never can tell what to look for next! -“El Comancho,” Pacific Motor Boat, Volume 14, 1921

Take, if you please, a beautiful bay on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, a sunny day in May, no hotels or cottages in sight, with red-winged blackbirds singing “Ok-a-lee!” in the cattails, and the Calico Bass becomes one of the prettiest fish you can pull out of the water. Each time it gives a firm and vigorous bite, and leaves the water with a swish that once heard under proper conditions lives long in the memory. -William Temple Hornaday, The American natural history, 1914

“The reason I can’t make it as a tournament fisherman is because other fishermen always catch larger crappie than I do.”
A fish does not pick up the universal moniker “papermouth” just because, every once in a while, an occasional angler loses one because his hook pulls out. That name was earned over several decades as thousands of fishermen watched millions of hooks pull out of the mouths of millions of crappie. -Cliff Hauptman

“What’s Black and White and Caught All Over?” Field & Stream, June 1986

There is one thing about a crappie—it likes company. Catch one and you will likely catch several without moving. It is similar to pickles in a jar, however. Get the first one out and the others come easy; it’s the first pickle—or crappie strike—that’s the problem. -Russell Tinsley

“Fooling Crappies,” Field & Stream, May 1983

One morning in Everett Beal’s drug store… several fishermen were comparing their scores on nearby Lake Sidney Lanier. One of them shook his head and confessed he barely caught enough crappie to grease his skillet.

Bill Nichols, a truck driver, chuckled and said, “You must have been using ugly 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

A Humorous Look at Crappie Fishing with Jim Mize

One of the funniest stories about crappie fishing is “Crappie Confusion” in Jim Mize’s wonderful book, The Winter of our Discount Tent (acreekticklessthroughit.com). Herewith, some words of wisdom from Mr. Mize:

“Some people wonder how to get crappie to bite at night. Here’s a little trick I’ve found that works every time. Lay your rod down, hold a cup of scalding coffee in one hand and a floppy sandwich in the other, and, if possible, try to balance the open thermos on one leg. Then just wait. This technique is so effective that bait is optional.”

“Lots of fishermen will submerge Christmas trees to create an impenetrable crappie heaven… A Christmas tree, by the way, is probably the thickest bush on the planet and the one most likely to grab your hook. But let me ask you, what’s so special about Christmas trees? Why not Easter baskets? They would certainly be easier to fish, and crappie are more likely to bite around Easter than Christmas anyway.”

“The reason I can’t make it as a tournament fisherman is because other fishermen always catch larger crappie than I do. I keep hearing them talk about slabs. If I were really honest, I’d have to call mine slivers.”

- By Keith Sutton
Q: What type knot do you use and why?

Kyle Schoenherr, Illinois - “I tie a loop knot especially with double-jig rigs. This allows me to cut the bottom hook off when in shallow water. I don’t have to retie everything. Then all I have to do is go above the one jig and tie on another one with another loop knot and I’m double-jigging again.”

Mike McClure, Missouri - host of Brush Pile Fishing TV says, “My dream is I use a Palomar knot because it’s so strong. I use it on everything whether crappie fishing or catfishing. For crappie, I use 10-pound test braid with a 2 to 4 pound diameter. I don’t worry about the knot position on the jig head because I believe it’s all about the presentation.”

Bobby Whitlow, Virginia - “I use both the loop knot and Palomar. The loop knot lets my jig run freely so it has more action. Sometimes that makes a difference and sometimes it doesn’t. I use P-Line, 4-pound test some, beef up to 10-pound test when at Grenada, but most of the time I’m using 6-pound test.”

Jack Lindon, Illinois - “I use a fisherman’s knot most of the time. Take three to five wraps then take it back through the loop and snug it up. I like it because you can angle the jig. I pull the knot toward the hook point so my jig will rest horizontal. I use Sufix 20-pound test braid with about 8-pound test diameter.”

Gilford Sipes, Alabama - “I use a loop knot a lot. I run the line through the lure leaving a long tag line. Make an overhand knot running the lure through the loop two times. You then have a loop knot about an inch front the jig. The jig has more action.”
Crappie can be all over the place in May. Most of the fish are likely to be in 14 to 16 feet of water suspended up at 6 to 8 feet deep. If water doesn’t get too hot they’ll stay in this post-spawn pattern for a long time this year and they will be catchable. The size of fish will be good for the next couple of years. My favorite bait at Truman is a Crappie Town Daddy Shad jig on 8- or 10-pound test Cajun red line. I like the larger line in the wood because a big fish is less likely to break off. –Ernie Slape
I’ve been going crappie fishing each spring for 60 years. But I’ve learned more about crappie fishing in the past 15 years than I did in the first 45 years.

My earliest days of crappie fishing were always in the company of my father. Back in the mid-1950s we fished Pymatuning Lake regularly in the spring, sometimes bringing home a mess of crappies – sometimes not.

Dad only knew two approaches to catching crappies. The primary method was a fathead minnow on a #6 hook suspended below a bobber presented near shallow cover. If I was persistent with my request that I wanted to do more than sit and look at a bobber, Dad allowed me to cast a 1/8-ounce white chenille/marabou jig. That was the extent of what Dad did to catch crappies.

When I was old enough to fish on my own, I continued to use the same two presentations – although I replaced the marabou jig with a small white Mister Twister Curly-Tail when soft plastic was introduced to the angling market. However, by then I had become more interested in bass fishing than crappie fishing. With panfish as a sideline, there was little change to my crappie tactics over the next several decades.

By the 1990s, angling writing and photography assignments were forcing me to expand my horizons beyond bass. Personal fishing junkets through the South and Mid-West made me aware
of different crappie tactics, but it was the specific crappie fishing media events conducted by tackle manufacturers that really helped me drill down on tactics. Along with widening my horizons on lure and live bait applications, I also learned about single pole jig dipping, pulling, pushing, and crankbait trolling for crappies. I conveyed information on these skills to a national audience through various magazine articles.

Yet in the northern tier of states, especially in my home region of Northwest PA, there was reluctance by anglers to try presentations that were successful in other parts of the country. Every season anglers did the same old thing – bobber and minnow or casting a Mister Twister.

Then about four years ago, I decided it was time to introduce local outdoor writers who did not travel out of the area to crappie-catching techniques from
different regions, as well as introducing southern and mid-western writers to the crappie fishing here in Pennsylvania. Modeled after similar events I had attended in other states, the PA Crappie Camp was born.

With Pennsylvania’s best crappie lake – Pymatuning Lake – plus several other top ten crappies lakes located in NW PA, the decision where to host a national writer’s event was easy. The Pymatuning State Park cabins at Jamestown would be home base. A 20-minute drive would put us on Shenango River Lake downstream of Pymatuning, or a 10 minute drive would put us on Conneaut – the state’s largest inland natural lake. Each of these three lakes has unique characteristics thereby allowing different techniques to shine.

For three days, media representatives were given the opportunity to fish with and interview pro-staff anglers from several sponsoring tackle companies. Hands on experience with new tackle, sharing useful techniques, shooting photos and promoting Pennsylvania crappie fishing were all part of the program. Attendees included regional writers as well as a handful of outdoor communicators from other crappie-rich states, plus pro-staff from several sponsoring tackle companies – all in pursuit of America’s #1 favorite fish.

Over several years of PA Crappie Camp, a wealth of information exchanged hands. Here’s a sampling: Alabaman Dan Dannenmueller (professional crappie tournament angler) provided instruction to John Hayes (outdoor columnist for Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) on spider rigging. Russ Bailey (host of Brushpile Crappie TV show) showed Dale Black (president of Gamma Line) how to catch tight-lipped crappies from emerging lily pad beds by dipping a jig on a long rod. Larry Claypoole (editor of Ohio Valley Outdoors) acquired hands-on experience pushing jigs with the electric motor while fishing with TJ Stallings (PR manager for Road Runner Lures).

Information flowed both ways, with several expert local anglers providing Pennsylvania presentations to writers from other states. Bryan Stuyvesant of Meadville schooled Southern attendees about natural lake crappies during spring cold fronts, demonstrating a presentation to catch fish suspended in open water off deep weedlines. Ken Smith (Mr. Shenango) wowed everyone with his unique application of side-pulling jigs in a figure eight pattern on submerged brushpiles.

After witnessing the sometimes strange multi-rod presentations on the water, local fishermen were posed with questions at the ramp as our crews were taking out. That’s when another idea...
sprouted. With so much talent from different states in one place, why not offer a public seminar for local anglers? So for PA Crappie Camp the following year, we incorporated an evening seminar where anglers had the opportunity to listen to experts on techniques and equipment, and then ask follow-up questions.

The packed room listened intently to a half dozen presentations, including explanation of the Driftmaster Rod Holder System for the various multi-rod techniques, as well as an explanation of Garmin’s Down Vu and Side Vu sonar impact on crappie fishing.

PA Crappie Camp is in hiatus for spring of 2015, but will return in 2016 with more information for outdoor media plus a public seminar for anglers to glean a lot of valuable information in a short time.

- by Darl Black

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**Crappie Masters 2015 Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament Lake</th>
<th>Nearest Bass Pro</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Late Fee Applies After</th>
<th>Late Registration &amp; Meeting</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<td>St Johns River</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>1st Leg FL. State Championship</td>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>February 6</td>
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<td>Harris Chain of Lakes</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>February 13 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Final Leg FL. State Championship</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>February 12</td>
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<td>Lake Marion</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>National Qualifier</td>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>February 27</td>
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<td>Greenwood Lake</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>National Qualifier</td>
<td>February 21</td>
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<td>Pearl, MS</td>
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<td>National Qualifier</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
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<td>Grenada Lake</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
<td>March 27 &amp; 28</td>
<td>MS. State Championship</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>March 26</td>
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<td>Lake of the Ozarks</td>
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<td>1st Leg MO. State Championship</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>April 10</td>
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<td>Beaver Lake</td>
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<td>Kentucky Lake</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>May 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>TN, State Championship</td>
<td>April 17</td>
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<td>Tennessee Tombigbee</td>
<td>Pearl, MS</td>
<td>May 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>One Pole Ultimate Challenge</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>May 7</td>
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<td>Reel Lake</td>
<td>East Peoria, IL</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>National Qualifier</td>
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<td>May 15</td>
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<td>Crappie Masters + Yeager Cycle</td>
<td>Springfield, MO</td>
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<td>Big Fish Challenge</td>
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<td>Truman Lake</td>
<td>Springfield, MO</td>
<td>June 19 &amp; 20</td>
<td>One Pole Ultimate Challenge</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Twain</td>
<td>Columbia, MO</td>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>2nd Leg MO. State Championship</td>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>August 7</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truman Lake</td>
<td>Springfield, MO</td>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>Final Leg MO. State Championship</td>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Championship</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>September 23-26</td>
<td>Championship</td>
<td>30 Days After Qualifying</td>
<td>Registration Sept. 23</td>
<td>325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada Lake</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
<td>Oct 30 &amp; 31</td>
<td>Early Bird 2 Day National Qualifier for 2016</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sometimes the simplest things are overlooked. For example, if you head to a new lake or haven’t been to your home lake in a while, take time to get information before you go. Find out if the crappie are biting, the depth of the fish and any other facts possible. Knowing the general area and best baits will help, too.

Also ask about the lake level and condition. Is it low, high or normal? This can make a huge difference on navigation and fish patterns.

After getting the basic information, look at a map and form a game plan for finding fish. Know which areas you’ll check and have a logical plan for finding the right depths and structure.

Spending a short time checking online and making a few phone calls can help give you a good strategy for finding fish.
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 Adjust to Conditions in the Spring
Aluminum boats have always been popular among crappie anglers if for no other reason than economy. Today’s aluminum boats go further than economy by offering styles and accessories that even the pro fishermen like. Their lightweight, all welded construction, choice of hull type, built-in fishing decks and convenient storage put anglers on the water in comfort and style.

Any fishing accessory you can put on a fiberglass boat can be installed successfully on aluminum boats, including those accessories needed for boat control under different fishing conditions. Any savvy angler worth their weight in crappie will tell you just how important boat control...
is. The control that crappie anglers need most includes setting still in an anchored position or fishing slow, even in wind or current.

The traditional answer to setting still was to tie to structure or throw out an anchor. Both methods work successfully. There are brush gripping accessories to help tie up and there are anchor designs for every type of bottom structure.

If you are spider rigging or pulling out the back, speed control is a highly important factor for catching crappie. A trolling motor will help you go faster when needed, but what do you do to slow down in wind or current? The solutions include pulling a bucket, a length of logging chain or purchasing a drift sock designed for the task.

When there is a need to be filled some creative angler comes up with an innovative commercial solution to meet it. The Power-Pole shallow water anchor was the first high-tech answer to anchoring up. Shortly after that, the Talon shallow water anchor was introduced.

**Power-Pole Shallow Water Anchors**

The Power-Pole is a wireless remote controlled device that hydraulically drives a spike into the lake or river bottom. Several models of Power-Poles are available in different colors and sizes. All units come with a hardware package to complete a transom installation. Buyers should be aware that different models have
different pump speeds that will effect deployment time.

One of the important decisions buyers will make relates to the depth of the water they normally fish. The John Oliverio Signature Series is named after the man who conceived the Power-Pole concept. It comes in 4- and 6-foot models. The Pro Series II and the Sportsman Series II will anchor in water up to 8 feet deep. The Blade Edition gives the deepest penetration extending to 10 feet. The newer Micro Anchor comes with an 8.5-foot spike and it will work with manual spikes like the Stick-It Anchor Pin. The Micro mounts easily on any small boat or kayak and works well with light aluminum boats. The Micro will also mount on the bow.

Pro crappie angler Kevin Jones gives a good example of why aluminum boat owners might want to add a Power-Pole to their boat. “We were fishing in the lily pad stems on Kentucky Lake,” explains Jones. “It is hard to move in the thick vegetation with the pads coming up above the surface. We simply Power-Poled down and set 20 foot B’n’M Poles in the Driftmaster rod holders. We could cover 60 foot of water from that one position. We were using corks, so just setting there, even in the wind, allowed us to target some quality fish.”

Attaching Power-Poles to an aluminum boat is as easy as matching one of many adapter plates to your make and model of boat. If you prefer to mount without drilling holes in the transom there are brackets for using the same holes as the motor or jack plate.

**Power-Pole Drift Paddles**

Power-Pole shallow water
anchors have evolved from their first model that also helps anglers slow the boat. Drift Paddles will attach to any 8 or 10 foot Power-Pole and have the capability of slowing the boat by 50 percent in windy or high current conditions.

The paddles are completely adjustable with seven quick-change positions that provide different angles and levels of drag when deployed. A tapered design provides precise drift speed control. The deeper the blades are deployed the greater the resistance and the slower the boat speed. In addition to slowing the boat the angler’s presentation is made with no mechanical noise that might spook the fish.

Floridian George Parker is a tournament angler with a focus on presentation. He uses drift paddles for both spider rigging and pulling. “If you want to be successful fishing for crappie you have to concentrate on your presentation,” instructs Parker. “Often the presentation needs to be slow. I use Power-Pole Drift Paddles anytime I need to go slower.”

Parker says the paddles are especially helpful in severe wind conditions. “If it is blowing 20 MPH or more, I can stick those paddles all the way down and achieve a much slower speed and a much smoother ride. The paddles stop the bouncing and hold the bait presentation better.”

He says the easily adjusted paddles allow him to control his drift with precision. “Simply pull a spring loaded lever to adjust the paddles to the angle you want. You can set them up so you drift parallel to a bank, or follow a ridge or drop. I set the trolling motor on autopilot to keep the boat straight and forget about it. I can spend my time tending the poles instead of controlling the boat.”

The drift paddles have worked beyond Parkers expectations. “I did not dream how useful they would be until I used them. They will be on any boat that I use for crappie fishing.”

**Talon Shallow Water Anchor**

The Talon from Minn Kota is the newest entry into the shallow water anchor market. Instead of folding out and down to set the spike, Talon operates vertically using a two-stage deployment. The Talon is deployed 

Talons may be installed with an accessory bracket using the same holes as the motor or jack plate or may be mounted directly to the transom as shown here.
by double clicking the down button on a wireless remote or by a switch on the control panel. Once the spike hits the bottom a feature called Auto Drive delivers three successive hits to drive the spike and complete the anchoring process. Its electro-mechanical design makes it similar to mounting a trolling motor and by all accounts it is an easy installation. There are no hydraulic pumps or lines, so storage space is saved for other things.

The Talon has a rough water mode on the control panel. A touch of a button will activate Auto Drive three successive times to set the spike solidly in the bottom. Talon also has a wave-absorbing feature that allows the boat to bounce on the waves without pulling the spike. In case of failure, or a spike stuck too solidly in the bottom, the Talon has a manual override bolt that will lift the talon using a socket wrench.

Bill Burnett is an avid crappie angler and owner of Big River Marine in West Memphis. He has years of experience in the marine industry where his company specializes in Xpress and Ranger aluminum high performance fishing boats. Burnett uses a Talon on his Xpress H20 PFC to stop the boat and remain stealthy. “I’ve noticed a unique problem when fishing shallow water for crappie in heavy cover, “explained Burnett. “In the spring, the cold fronts always seem to be followed by heavy winds and high pressure which makes the crappie hold tight to the cover and makes them extremely skittish and spooky.”

Those spring cold fronts and
the accompanying wind and waves makes anchoring aluminum boats a challenge because of their lighter weight. “Standard anchors are cumbersome, heavy to lift, noisy to deploy, and get your boat’s interior filthy,” comments Burnett. “I’ve come to depend on a much better solution to those anchoring problems by using a Talon from Minn Kota.”

Instead of lifting and tossing an anchor overboard, Burnett simply pushes the down button on his remote and he’s securely anchored. “The Talon helps you with the spooky fish,” adds Burnett. “It’s stealthy to deploy and helps you hold position without running the trolling motor.”

“When trolling or spider rigging for crappie in open water I use the Talon to stop me over cover, like brush piles, stake beds and tree tops, when the depth allows. The Talon keeps my boat positioned so that I can suspend my baits right on top of the fish.”

Burnett thinks all serious fishermen should have a Talon. “Whether you tournament fish or just want the most from your weekend fishing, these devices help put more fish in the boat?”

The days of pulling log chains and buckets are not dead, but their days are probably limited as high-tech solutions to slowing and anchoring make the process simpler and more convenient.
I’m originally from L.A. (old joke about Lower Alabama). During my L.A. fishing days from the 40s to 60s, I didn’t know many fish species because I just fished farm ponds. I knew green trout (largemouth bass), bream and catfish. At that time I hadn’t even seen a crappie. I’d been ignorant and missing some fantastic fishing for nearly a quarter of a century but as soon as I moved to Tennessee after college I started making up for lost time. Now I know Alabama has incredible crappie fishing, as well as many other game fish species.

Soon the big reservoirs in Middle Tennessee become my second home. One day fishing from the bank below Cheatham Dam near Ashland City, Tenn. I hooked my first walleye casting a Hellbender. I landed two in short order but I gave those toothy things away because they looked way too ugly to eat. Boy, was I wrong.

A few years later I moved to Minnesota to work at Mayo Clinic for a few years. When I lived there I learned about walleye and other species. It was then that I started collecting fish and game recipes. The following recipe came from a fishing buddy’s wife. It was originally meant for cooking walleyes but I found it lends itself very well to the fine flesh of crappies.

**Crappie with Rice Stuffing**

1 6-ounce package wild and long grain rice mix
1 teaspoon instant chicken bouillon granules
1 1/2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms (optional)
1/2 cups chopped celery
2 tablespoons butter
1 2-ounce jar drained sliced pimientos
1/8 teaspoon ground sage
2- to 2 1/2-pounds crappie fillets (or walleye)

Prepare rice as directed on package, adding bouillon granules to water. Set aside. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Grease broiler pan or 13x9-inch baking pan. In a small skillet, cook and stir mushrooms and celery in butter over medium heat until mushrooms are tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in pimiento and sage. Stir vegetables into rice. Place fish on broiler pan. Stuff with rice mixture, placing any extra stuffing around fish. Cover rice only with foil. Bake until fish flake easily at backbone, 20 to 25 minutes.

**Stuffin’a Bird**

Try this apple-raisin whole wheat stuffing in a turkey, chicken, Cornish game hen, pea fowl, pheasant or crow (well, maybe not a crow but a suitable bird of your choice).

12 cups cubed whole wheat bread
1 1/2 cups raisins
4 chopped unpeeled apples  
1 1/2 cups finely chopped onion  
4 cups thinly sliced celery  
3 eggs (or egg whites)  
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans  
4 tablespoons melted butter  
2 1/2 cups chicken broth  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  

If the bread is not stale, spread the slices out on a rack or counter for 1/2 day to dry and then cut into cubes. Combine the bread cubes with raisins, apples, onion, celery, eggs, walnuts or pecans, butter, chicken broth, and black pepper. Stuff the bird or bake stuffing in a covered oven-proof dish for about 40 minutes at 325 (or whatever temperature you are using for your bird).  
Option: Put into Crockpot and cook on high for 2 hours then low for 4 hours.  
To make more use of this recipe, fill quails, doves, rails, snipes or other small birds with this tasty stuff.
### 2015 Crappie Calendar

(Fishermen, check with club/association for exact dates, changes, cancellations and rules.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAY 1-2</td>
<td>CRAPPIE MASTERS</td>
<td>KENTUCKY/BARKLEY LAKES</td>
<td>STATE CHAMPIONSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 2</td>
<td>CRAPPIE USA</td>
<td>CAVE RUN LAKE-MOREHEAD, KY</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 2</td>
<td>INDIANNA SLAB</td>
<td>FREEMAN/SHAFAER</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 2</td>
<td>EASTERN BUCKEYE</td>
<td>SENECA DAM RAMP</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 8-9</td>
<td>CRAPPIE MASTERS</td>
<td>TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE</td>
<td>ULTIMATE CHALLENGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 9</td>
<td>CRAPPIE USA</td>
<td>MISSISSINEWA/SALMONIE –WALBASH, IN</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 9</td>
<td>MAGNOLIA</td>
<td>SARDIS RESERVOIR -SARDIS, MS</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 10</td>
<td>GRAND LAKES</td>
<td></td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 16</td>
<td>WAPPAPELLO</td>
<td>SLABBER DAVE’S</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<td>MAY 16</td>
<td>EASTERN BUCKEYE</td>
<td>DILLON PARK RAMP</td>
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<td>MAY 16</td>
<td>CRAPPIE MASTERS</td>
<td>REND LAKE- WHITTINGTON, IL</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<td>MAY 16</td>
<td>INDIANNA SLAB</td>
<td>SALAMONIE LAKE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 16</td>
<td>CAT TX</td>
<td>RAY ROBERTS</td>
<td>QUALIFIER</td>
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<td>MAY 17</td>
<td>GRAND LAKES</td>
<td>LAKE SHELBYVILLE- SHELBYVILLE, IL</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<td>MAY 16</td>
<td>CRAPPIE USA</td>
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<td>MAY 23</td>
<td>MIDDLE TENNESSEE</td>
<td>WOODS RESERVOIR-FRANKLIN COUNTY RAMP</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 23</td>
<td>SHOALS AREA</td>
<td>BCDA-(YOU PICK) CJ’S</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 30</td>
<td>EASTERN BUCKEYE</td>
<td>ATWOOD DAM RAMP</td>
<td>25 HORSEPOWER LIMIT</td>
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<td>MAY 30</td>
<td>CRAPPIE MASTERS</td>
<td>TRUMAN LAKE- CLINTON, MO</td>
<td>BIG FISH CHALLENGE</td>
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<td>MAY 30</td>
<td>INDIANNA SLAB</td>
<td>MIONROE LAKE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 30</td>
<td>E. MISSOURI</td>
<td>LAKE OF THE OZARKS</td>
<td>3 MAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 5-6</td>
<td>CRAPPIE MASTERS</td>
<td>ALABAMA RIVER-PRATTVILLE, AL</td>
<td>STATE CHAMPIONSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 12-13</td>
<td>MAGNOLIA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>STATE CHAMPIONSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 13</td>
<td>CAT TX</td>
<td>CEDAR CREEK</td>
<td>JR ANGLER</td>
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<td>JUNE 19-20</td>
<td>CRAPPIE MASTERS</td>
<td>TRUMAN LAKE- CLINTON, MO</td>
<td>ULTIMATE CHALLENGE</td>
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<td>JUNE 20</td>
<td>MIDDLE TENNESSEE</td>
<td>TIM’S FORD-DEVILS STEP RAMP</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<td>JUNE 20</td>
<td>CAT TX</td>
<td>RICHLAND CHAMBERS</td>
<td>QUALIFIER</td>
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<td>JUNE 27</td>
<td>SHOALS AREA</td>
<td>CEDAR-SLICK ROCK</td>
<td>CLUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 17</td>
<td>MIDDLE TENNESSE</td>
<td>NORMANDY-BARTON SPRINGS RAMP</td>
<td>NIGHT TOURNEY</td>
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<td>JULY 18</td>
<td>CAT TX</td>
<td>TEXOMA</td>
<td>QUALIFIER</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 25</td>
<td>SHOALS AREA</td>
<td>WHEELER-SPRING CREEK</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
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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  
Will be hosting its 1st Festival Bass Tournament on Brows Creek, Lake Guntersville Saturday April 11, 2015

**CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS (CAT)- TX**  
www.crappieanglerson廋texas.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; also facebook

**INDIANA SLAB MASTERS- IN**  
www.indianaslabmasters.com

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

**SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION -AL**  
www.shoalscrappie.com shoalscrappie@yahoo.com

**WEST ALABAMA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION -AL**  
www.westalabamacrappie.com Tracy Humber 662-574-0649

**SLAB MASTERS TOURNAMENT TRAIL -GA**  
www.slabmasterstournamenttrail.net

**EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB- MO**  
www.easternmocrappie.com

**EASTERN BUCKEYE CRAPPIE CLUB -OH**  
Easternbuckeyecrappieclub@yahoo.com  
www.easternbuckeyecrappieclub.com

**WILLIAM’S CREEK CRAPPIE CLUB- TX**  
www.williamscreekcrappieclub.com

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

**GRAND LAKE CRAPPIE SERIES- OH**  
www.grandlakecrappieseries.comule.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

ARIZONIA 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.crappieguys.com

CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION  
www.carolinacrappieassociation.com 704-792-5022 raeudy@ctc.net
### Tournament Results

#### MAGNOLIA
**March 21**
**Location:** Granada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hugh Krutz/Steve Stevenson</td>
<td>18.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tim Blakely/Jack Wells</td>
<td>17.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Steve Marquis/Troy Garrett</td>
<td>17.19</td>
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#### CAT TEXAS
**March 21**
**Location:** Livingston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AJ Matura/Carolyn Matura</td>
<td>5.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Max Jordan/Kenneth Gaby</td>
<td>5.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ralph Lane/Johnny Boyd</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>JayDon Reeve/Rhonda Reeve</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ron Conaster/Richard Bailey</td>
<td>1.73</td>
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#### BIG FISH
**Shoals Area**
**March 28**
**Location:** Guntersville

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jeff Harris/Clarence Harris</td>
<td>12.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jenkins/Toby</td>
<td>11.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Joe Lambert</td>
<td>11.48</td>
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</table>

#### CRAPPIE USA
**March 27-28**
**Location:** Cherokee Lake

**Amature Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Darren Caughron/Tracy Caughron</td>
<td>17.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>David Rogers/Scott Buchanan</td>
<td>11.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wally Littrell/James Baxter</td>
<td>5.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gregory Oaks/Shane Yocum</td>
<td>4.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gary Musselman/Larry Musselman</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semi-Pro Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wayne Darnell/Ricky Keener</td>
<td>18.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Neal Alvis/Scott Bunch</td>
<td>18.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tommy Cherry/Rick Howard</td>
<td>18.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Randy Pope/Steven Deitz</td>
<td>16.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Todd Dalton/Robert Massey</td>
<td>13.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### BIG FISH
1. Darren Caughron/Tracy Caughron 1.92
2. Randy Pope/Steven Deitz 1.89

### CAROLINA
**MARCH 27-28**
1. Potts/Shore 23.01
2. Curtis Robertson 21.22
3. Huffstetler 20.20
4. Whisnant 20.20
5. Bundrick/Bundrick 19.85

### CRAPPIE MASTERS
**MARCH 27-28**

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**Check out the NEW 2"Crappie DAPPER!**

- **Pink Ghost**
- **Chart. Pepper Shad**
- **Slammin' Chicken**
- **Monkey Milk**
- **Popsicle**
- **Grey Ghost**

[www.bassassassin.com](http://www.bassassassin.com) | 668 N. Fletcher Ave. Mayo, FL 32066 | 386-294-1049
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Vic Finkley/Kim Gray</td>
<td>34.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. David Cox/Steve Hockett</td>
<td>34.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Kyle Schoenherr/Rodney Neuhaus</td>
<td>34.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Matt Morgan/Kent Watson</td>
<td>33.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Billy Williams/Scott Williams</td>
<td>33.83</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**BIG FISH**

| 1. Mounty Blount/Keith Sullivan | 3.36           |
| James Heflin/Jamie Heflin       |                   |

**Male/Female**

| 1. Vic Finkley/Kim Gray | 34.55 |

**Adult/Youth**

| 1. Aaron Clark/Dylan Clark | 6.18  |

**GA SLABMASTERS**

**MARCH 28**

**LAKE OCONEE**

| 1. Jonathan Stanton/Paul Van Tongren | 11.20  |
| 2. Ricky Willis/Ian Smith             | 10.42  |
| 4. Ricky Burgamy/Randy McCoy         | 9.69   |
| 5. Bob Hodge/Wayne Hodge             | 8.96   |

**BIG FISH**

| 1. Jonathan Stanton/Paul Van Tongren | 2.09  |

**CRAPPIE USA**

**APRIL 4**

**LAKE OF THE OZARKS**

**AMATURE DIVISION**

| 1. Craig Hanson/Derrick Vetter | 8.58  |
| 2. Jeremy Lindsey/Robert Grimes | 8.22  |
| 3. Kevin Terry/David Brumley   | 7.57  |
| 4. Kenneth Osborn/Fate Johns   | 7.49  |
| 5. Justin Neuman/Daniel Pemberton | 6.74 |

**SEMI-PRO DIVISION**

| 1. Eric Wiethop/Clayton McAlpine | 9.30  |
| 2. Tony Edgar/Travis Lepley      | 8.75  |
| 3. Jesse Shoemake/Keith Mueller  | 8.50  |
| 4. Barry Morrow/Chad Maupin      | 8.10  |
Tournament Results

5. Paul Alpers/Brian McGhee 774

BIG FISH
1. Eric Wiethop/Clayton McAlpine 1.72
2. Paul Alpers/Brian McGhee 1.68

INDIANNA SLABMASTERS
APRIL 4 LAKE BROOKVILLE
1. Larry Yates/Tim Allen 6.12
2. Charlie Hildreth/Paul Hildreth 5.77
3. Bob Bales/Jason Burnette 5.54
4. Rodney Hiler/Lloyd Hiler 5.29
5. Leslie Gough/Steve Mitchell 5.19

BIG FISH
1. Bob Bales/Jason Burnette 1.76

CRAPPIE USA
APRIL 10-11 KENTUCKY/BARKLEY LAKES

AMATURE DIVISION
1. Doc Holladay 27.03
2. Bobby Cox/Bettye Cox 26.82
3. Cody England/Brent Williams 25.72
4. David Sharp/Lonnie Mathis 25.09
5. Chad Maida/Dave Slepawic 23.59

SEMI-PRO DIVISION
1. Sammy Tidwell/Danny Todd 27.80
2. Hunter Dowdy/Brently Smith 26.82
3. Dewayne McCord/Robert McCord 26.25
4. Doug Sikora/Don Licht 25.93
5. Scott Watson/Douglas Muench 25.81

BIG FISH
1. Jeffrey Lang JR/Jeffrey Lang 3.10
2. Scott Waldrop/Christy Johnson 2.57

GA SLABMASTERS
APRIL 11 LAKE OCONEE
1. Ricky Willis 10.01
2. Robert Huff/Tommy Huff 8.46
3. Greg Hanson/Paul Johnson 8.20
4. Kim Maxwell/Dan Sidle 7.63
5. Charles Wood/Alan McGinnis 7.03

BIG FISH
1. Ricky Willis 1.78

MAGNOLIA
APRIL 11 BARNETT
1. Pat Jeffcoats/Rabbit Rogers 13.53
2. Robbie Niven/David McWilliams 12.32
3. Terry Stewart/Tonya Stewart-Anna Grace 11.86
4. Ken Middleton/Larry Nipper 11.66
5. Jerry Gross/Adam Calcote 11.53

BIG FISH
1. Pat Jeffcoats/Rabbit Rogers  2.64  
2. Ken Middleton/Larry Nipper  2.42

**CRAPPIE MASTERS**  
**APRIL 11**  
**LAKE OF THE OZARKS**  
1. Shane Cappel/Jesse Shoemake  10.62  
2. Tom Sobaski/Mitch Sobaski  10.54  
3. Greg Webster/Brandon Vogeler  10.28  
4. Brian McGhee/Paul Alpers  10.11  
5. Travis Stevens/Rich Campbell  9.96

**BIG FISH**  
1. John Moore/Pam Edgar  1.88  
**MALE/FEMALE**  
1. John Moore/Pam Edgar  9.94  
**ADULT/YOUTH**  
1. Aaron Clark/Dylan Clark  5.53

**INDIANNA SLAB MASTERS**
## Tournament Results

### APRIL 11  
**PRARIE CREEK**  
1. Kelly Rinker/Shannon Walker  4.35  
2. James Laswell/Dan Long  4.34  
3. Tim Dunigan/Joe Dunigan  4.21  
4. Randy Hooser/Sharri Hooser  4.00  
5. Brian Reed/Aiden Reed/Allen Reed  3.98  

**BIG FISH**  
1. James Laswell/Dan Long  0.96  
2. Brian Reed/Aiden Reed/Allen Reed  0.91  

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
**APRIL 18**  
**NORMANDY**  
1. David Odell/Mario Ortega  6.63  
2. Rodney Edwards/Coby Edwards  6.25  

**BIG FISH**  
1. Dave Odell/Mario Otrega  1.64  

### CRAPPIE MASTERS  
**APRIL 18**  
**LAKE D’ARBONNE**  
1. Jay Stone/John Godwin  12.30  
2. Whitey Outlaw/Mike Parrot  11.00  
3. Josh Gowin/Josh Chipman  10.75  
4. Steve White/David White  10.72  
5. Brian McGhee/Paul Alpers  10.49  

**BIG FISH**  
1. Freddie Dooly/Dwaine Barthol  2.03  

**MALE/FEMALE**  
1. Jason Thomas/Kasey Thomas  9.93  

**ADULT/YOUTH**  
1. Jason Ewton/Jordan Knipp  5.50  

### CRAPPIENUTZ  
**APRIL 18**  
**LAKE HARDIN**  
1. Gary Clancy/Bell  
2. Roger Milby  
3. Guerry Burnett/Landrum Burnett  

**BIG FISH**  
1. Landrum Burnett  

**TOP FEMALE**  
1. Jennifer Underwood  

**TOP YOUTH**  
1. Caden McGiver
May 30, 2015

Crappie Masters
Yeager Cycle
Big Harley
Big Crappie Challenge

DATE
May 30, 2015

LOCATION
Clinton, Missouri

HOST
Clinton Chamber of Commerce

SEMINAR & REGISTRATION
Friday, May 29 • Bucksaw Resort Pavilion
670 SE 803 RD off Hwy 7, Clinton, MO
Registration 5:00pm, Seminar 6:30pm

AWARDS CEREMONY
Saturday, May 30 • Bucksaw Resort Pavilion
670 SE 803 RD off Hwy 7, Clinton, MO, 5:30pm

Big Crappie of the day wins a new Harley Davidson Motorcycle!
10 places in cash, every three hours!

$100.00 per person, up to 3 people per boat
Membership not required
Weigh in is open to the public at no charge!

Crappie Masters Call 660-351-4187
www.crappiemasters.net

WEIGH IN SITES
Bucksaw Marina & Resort
670 SE 803 RD off Hwy 7, Clinton, MO
Talley Bend Boat Ramp
8950 NE HWY C, Lowry City, MO 64763
Deepwater Boat Ramp
End of SE 700 Rd, Deepwater, MO

FISHING HOURS
7:00am – 10:00am
10:00am – 1:00pm
1:00pm – 4:00pm
Show off your great catches in the Crappie Now e-magazine! Each monthly winner will receive a fantastic prize and be featured in Crappie Now!

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.
Honorable Mention
Chris Kubilius
Kentucky Lake
2.1lbs 14 inches

Honorable Mention
Brynna and Elyssa Yandell
Kaw Lake, OK
2.2lbs and 1.12lbs

Who needs minnows?
Stubby Steve’s Bait lasts all day!
Our parting shot is 16-year old Stewart Harrison with a nice, big crappie.

T.J. Stellingsphoto