

# CRAPPIE NOW! DIGITAL MAGAZINE

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Crappie.com

January 2018 - Issue #83



## Winter Fishing

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by Tim Huffman

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# Opening Cast

The college national football championship, Super Bowl, and sports shows makes this a great time of year, at least for football fans and crappie fishermen.

A lot of other things are going on during the next two months, too, including the start of national crappie tournaments in the far southern states. These tournaments allow snowbirds, local fishermen and serious traveling fishermen to get an early start on active crappie. The weather is typically warm and tuning in on hungry crappie is great fun.

Sports shows are a great way to see new products and learn more about catching crappie. CrappieNow publisher/fisherman Dan Dannenmueller will be doing seminars Feb 2-3 at Prattville Bass Pro Crappie Madness and at Airport Marine Boat Show; Feb 9-10 Crappie Madness-Spanish Fort; and Feb 15-19 Toronto Fishing Show.

A bucket-list show that every fisherman should attend is the Grizzly Jig Show, Jan 24-28, Caruthersville, MO. This show features free seminars from many of the great crappie experts around the country. You can talk to the experts one-on-one on the floor to ask whatever you want about fishing or products. There is no other place with so much crappie information, crappie equipment and tackle all in one spot. Check out [GrizzlyJig.com](http://GrizzlyJig.com).

Have a great 2018. May health, happiness and good crappie fishing come your way.

Good fishin' & God Bless,  
Tim



Cover Photo:  
Dave Lefebre with Presque Isle  
Bay crappie.  
Darl Black photo.

**Advanced**

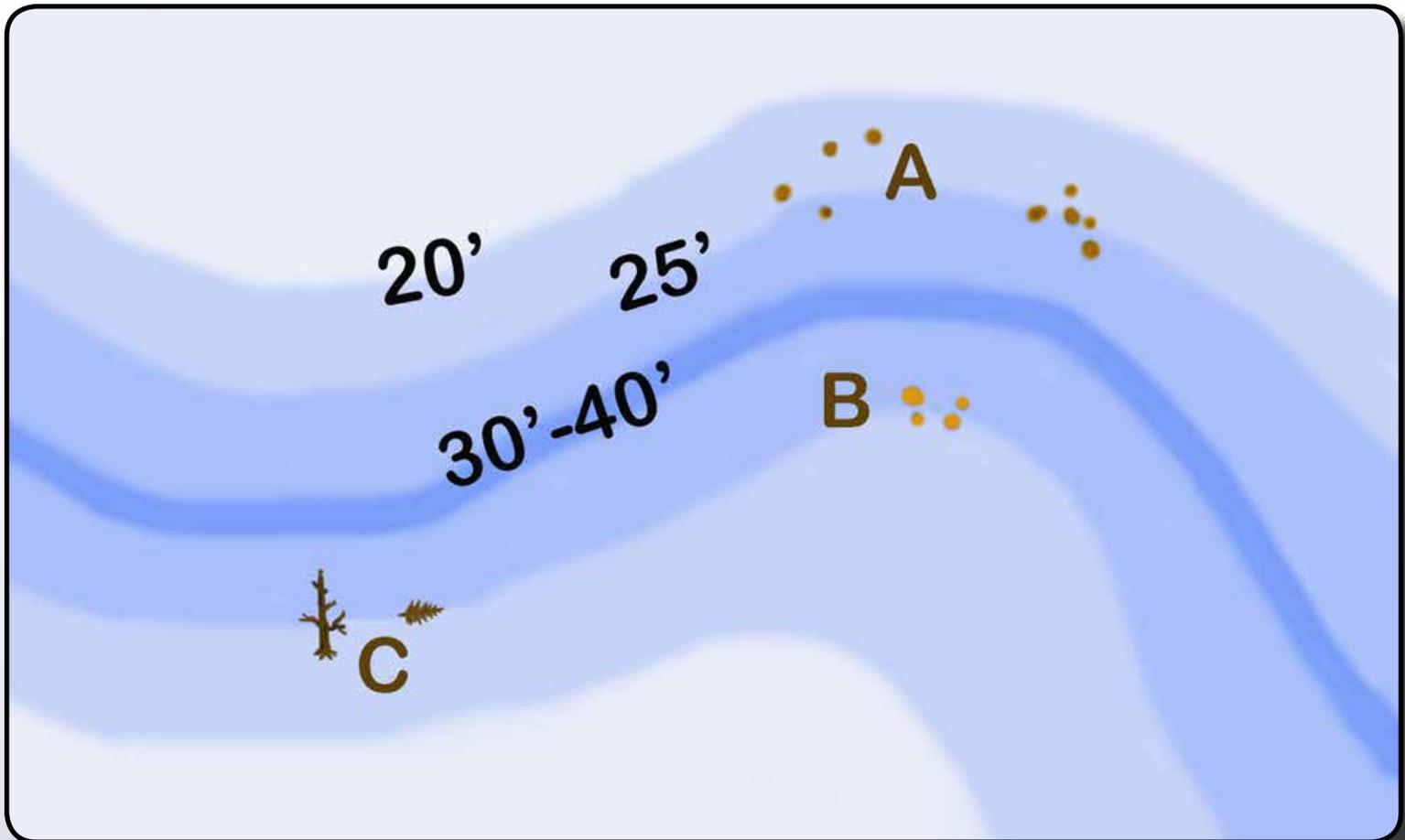
**BENDS & LEDGES**

# Seasonal Structure

by  
Tim  
Huffman



Cory Schmidt says cool weather fishing can be good, like this nice black crappie.



**W**inter fishing water that's not frozen can be a challenge with big rewards. Keying in on the right spots is very important with channel bends and ledges providing much of the action.

### What and Where

Channels wind back and forth with each turn creating what is called a bend. Current, water temperatures, cover and other factors determine if crappie like a spot or not. Shad and minnows are another key factor but they can come and go often during the day. Other channel bend characteristics and differences include angle of slope and the sharpness of the bend.

A channel ledge can be a part of a bend but it also may be a 100-yard straight area with covers and steep drops. Ledges are an important structure any time of year with the

Good winter channel spots. (A) Stumps on the outside of a bend. (B) Inside of a bend. (C) Laydown and small dropped structure.

season and water temperatures determining depth and locations.

Crappie use a ledge for a deep, winter home and they use a ledge for travel. Bends are simply defined spots where crappie often stop and use sometimes making them their homes.

Bends and ledges are easily found using paper and/or electronic maps. The boat can be set to cross a ledge or bend. When the boat crosses the graph will quickly show the drops and channels. Additional searches will pinpoint cover, baitfish and crappie.

### Tactics

Slow trolling is the accepted



method on most waters when fishing mid-depth and deeper waters in the winter. A fisherman using this multiple pole technique can cover a ledge with a very slow troll. Or, the boat can be stopped when a fish is caught or good cover is found. It's a versatile technique that puts baits right into the crappies' homes.

Another way to fish is a single long pole or two poles hand-held. It's similar to slow trolling except a fisherman has more control and feel. A bite can be felt and hooksets are immediate. This can be a tiring way to fish but may be the only way to fish when wind is pounding the boat. Wind is an enemy when poles are in the holders. Handheld allows hands and arms to keep baits more stable for more bites.

A third tactic, drop-shotin', is getting more popular every year. (In reality, it's the ultra-light version of the bottom bumping Kentucky Lake rig.) This rig allows a minnow to be presented on bottom and down into cover. Although variations are possible, the basic rig is a 3/8-ounce sinker with a minnow hook 18-inches up from the sinker. The leader is kept short because the rig is being dropped into cover. Braided line is good for strength and sensitivity if a monofilament leader is used.

A drop-shot rod can be a long or short pole, but something in the 7- to 8-foot range is good for feel and control. Since most fishing will be relatively deep, having the boat close to being over the cover shouldn't be a problem.

## Catching Fish

Your map shows a long, straight ledge and electronics confirms a good drop. Also, cover is scattered along the drop. Slow trolling is chosen for working the ledge.

You position the boat on the downwind end of the ledge and work

upwind. Poles are put out, depth adjusted and poles put into holders. The boat is eased up the ledge paying special attention to cover. Water is cold so movements should be s-l-o-w. Baits should be taken into the cover and stopped. Winter crappie move slow and bites may be barely perceptible but at other times they may be aggressive once the bait is in front of their noses.

There is nothing fancy about slow trolling. Using good basics while watching electronics leads to successful presentations.

Drop-Shot fishing is different. Electronics may be even more important because specific cover is targeted. A marker buoy can help keep the cover pinpointed.

The best situation is to catch crappie on top of the cover. But the drop-shot also allows the bait to be dropped to the bottom leaving the bait whatever length the bait is placed above the sinker. A minnow is the ideal bait because the line can be kept tight with the weight on bottom. The minnow does the work. The disadvantage of a minnow is hang-ups and lost rigs.

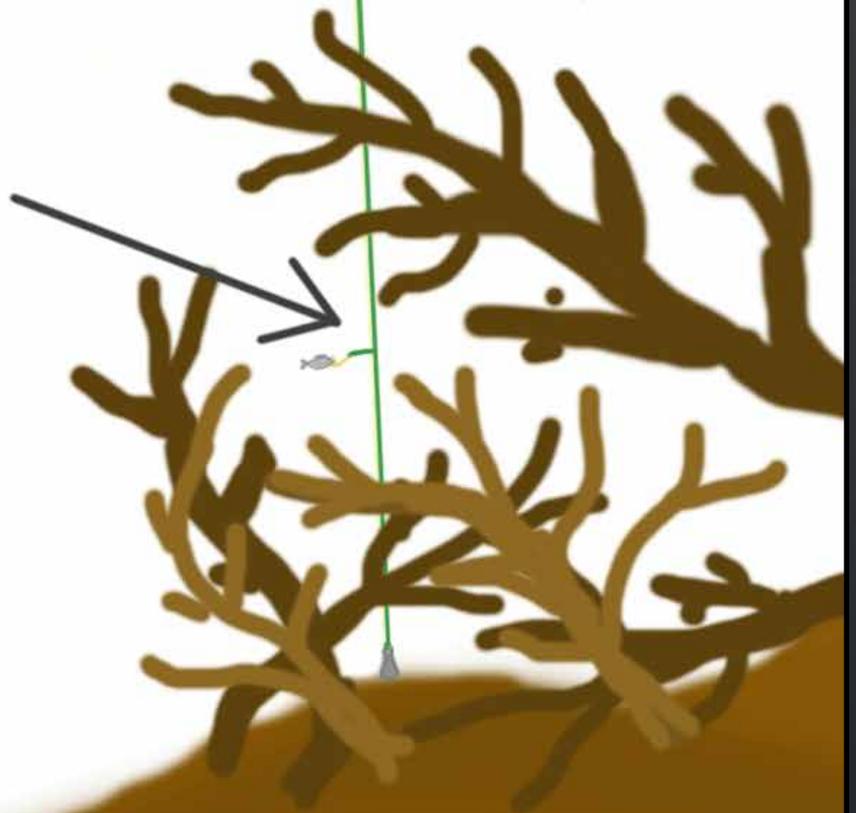
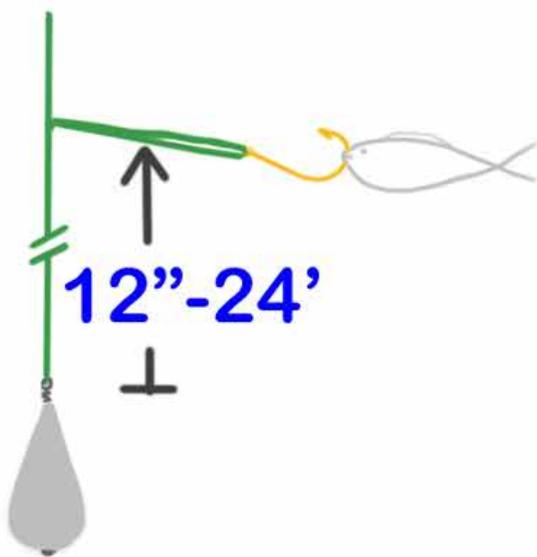
A weedless jig is better for the rig to get in and out of cover. When fish are aggressive this is the best choice.

## Conclusion

Winter fishing can be good on waters where ice doesn't prevent open water fishing. Bends and ledges offer a great opportunity for catching crappie. Slow trolling and drop-shot tactics are ways to catch these fish.



# Drop-Shot Rig



# Game Play with Ice Gadgets Yield Winter Crappies

by Darl Black

**D**ave Lefebre of Erie, PA may be best known for his fishing successes on national bass circuits, but during the tournament off season he is a crappie-fishing phenom.

“When I started in professional bass fishing, I got tagged as an old school angler probably due to my fondness for antiquated flasher sonar units. But that’s really not me. I love keeping up with the new stuff – especially when it comes to ice fishing for panfish. With the continued advances in ice fishing equipment, I’ve evolved into a gadget junkie.”

Many anglers (particularly those in the southern states who never face ice-covered lakes) may wonder just how much equipment is required for ice fishing. Maybe an auger to drill a hole, one short ice pole with some line on it to drop a baited hook into the hole, and an empty 5 gallon can to turn upside down as a seat? Old school for sure!

Think again. The tackle industry keeps pumping out new must-have gadgets for today’s ice fishermen. Lefebre now has so much equipment it requires a cargo van or a pickup truck to haul everything to the frozen lake’s edge. For a day of ice fishing he transports at least two different augers (a manual and a power auger), a flasher sonar, a GPS/digital sonar combo, an underwater viewing camera, MarCum Pan-Cam system (motorized camera which rotates a camera 360 degrees and provides a Wi-Fi signal to his smart phone or tablet so he can see what

the camera sees even when he is 100 yards from it), enough batteries to power everything, eight rods, cases of lures, and a sled (which converts to a shelter) to haul it all across the ice.

After arriving at an access point on a particular part of a lake, Lefebre pulls the loaded sled/shelter to a pre-determined site on the ice in order to establish a “base camp.” The site is selected based on a combination of previous fish catches and sonar readings during the open water season – particularly outings just prior to ice-up. With coordinates previously locked in his GPS unit, Lefebre parks his shelter right over a vital underwater

**“Drop the bait below a crappie, and the fish is a goner...”**

crossroads that may include one or more of the following: brushpile, rock pile, stump, log, weed edge, drop-off, etc.

With the pop-up shelter set, fishing holes drilled and an underwater viewing camera positioned in the shelter, the next step is to place the MarCum Pan-Cam panning camera in a separate hole outside the shelter so he can have a 360 degree view of surrounding territory.

If you think he is ready to sit back and wait



for fish to show up...well, you don't know Lefebre!

"Then I grab my MarCum Lithium Shuttle plus a hand auger and head out on my walk-about to search the area for active fish. Underwater cameras have shown us that crappie, yellow perch and bluegill schools are constantly moving under the ice, either following schools of minnows or migrating up and down in the water column to feed on zooplankton. With the Pan-Cam app on my phone and Wi-Fi connection, I can watch the water at home base site while I'm out checking the outer perimeter of the area for fish schools in transit or look for a spot-on-spot I've missed.

"The hand-carried Shuttle is loaded with a sonar unit, three or four rods, and a utility of tackle. The Shuttle houses a 40-hour lithium battery – enough power that I don't have to worry about charging it for three days. That battery powers the sonar and two USB ports

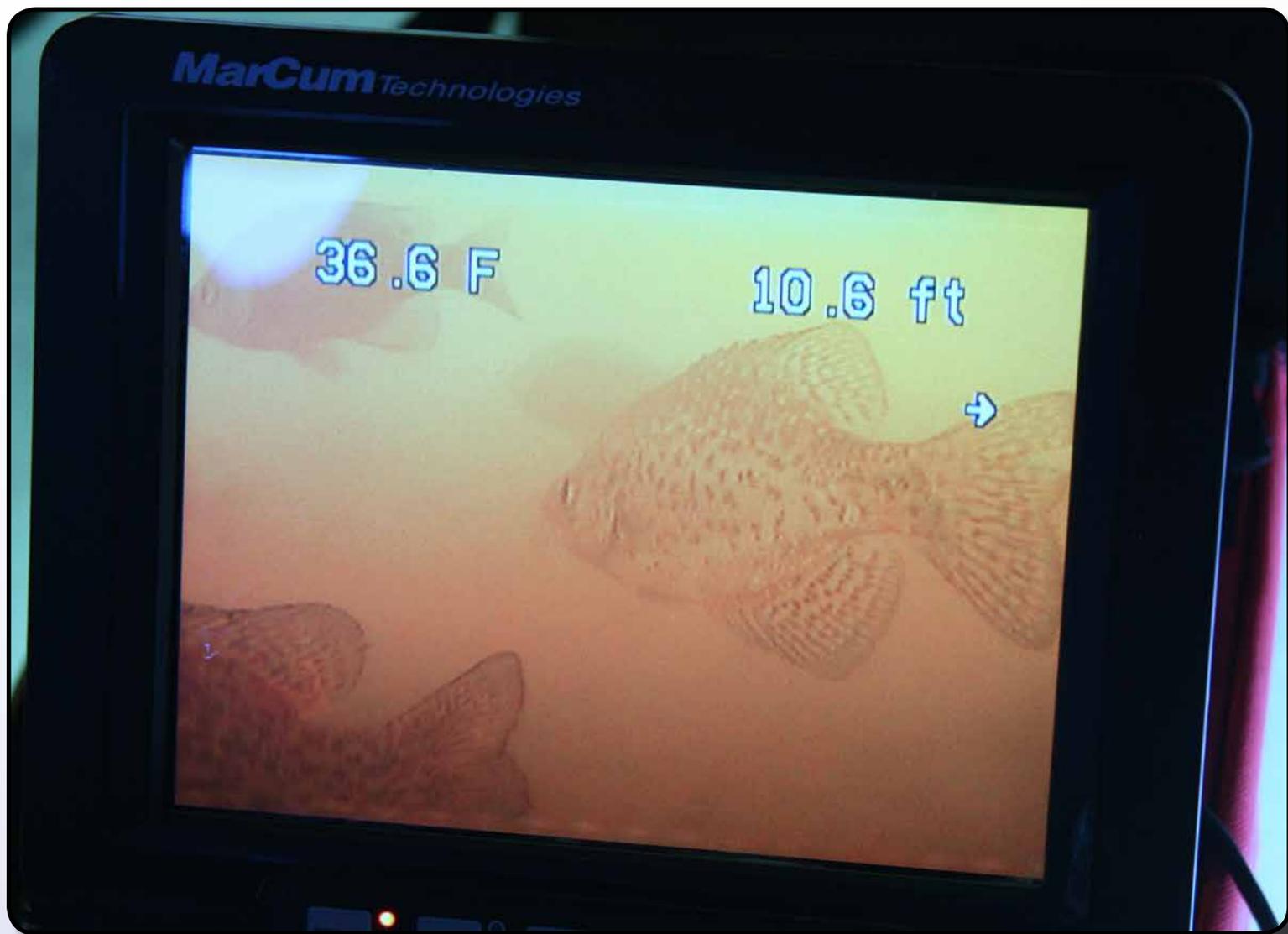
Ice fishing was so simple in the old days. But with all the equipment used today, Lefebre needs a pick-up or cargo van to haul all of it to the lake.

so I can charge my cell phone or tablet. Plus it has a bright light built in so I don't have to carry a lantern or a pocket flash to charge my fluorescent baits. Furthermore there are three spots to screw in a flexible arm grip to hold a Go-Pro or Ion Camera when shooting video."

The Shuttle has optional adapters in order to accept any brand ice-fishing sonar unit. Dave usually opts for his flasher unit when running-and-gunning on the ice, using a hand-held GPS to locate secondary sites he marked.

"When I'm on my walk-about drilling holes and dropping the transducer into the hole, if I don't see a fish on the screen, I don't





Because crappies spend so much time suspended in the water column, it is difficult to find them with a camera. Here is a view of a school moving through. The odd color is due to weak lead core battery power after one day use. Lefebvre says new lithium batteries are proving to be the ice fisherman's best friend.

fish. But when I see a fish, I begin to drop a lure down. If I see the fish react to the lure and begin moving to the bait, I feel pretty good that I can catch that fish. But I cannot let the lure drop below the fish because it will immediately lose interest. This is especially true for crappies.”

When asked why he favors a flasher

for ice fishing instead of a digital picture on a sonar screen, Lefebvre is ready with a response.

“Flashers are presenting information in real time – it is instantaneous. Digital screens cannot provide the amount of detail that a flasher does in real time - period. A flasher also tells you the size of the fish by how thick or thin the colored line appears. And it can tell you the distance the fish is from your position: if the mark is yellow, the fish is some distance from the lure in the edge of the cone signal. When the yellow line turns green, the fish is coming to your bait. And when the mark turns red, the fish is directly under you.” He returns periodically to his home base for a rest before his next run-n-gun loop or when he sees a fish school migrate into cover at home base via his cell phone camera app.



Lefebre goes on to say the greatest asset to ice fishing recently has been the lithium battery. “Lithium batteries hold a charge so much longer than conventional lead batteries, and are smaller in size. All my electronic devices are powered by lithium batteries.”

Lefebre depends on three unique baits to catch crappies. First is Rapala’s Jigging Shad Rap – a lure that is smaller and wider than the original Jigging Rap. It’s a reaction lure you work by lifting and lowering a short distance, thereby causing it to swim in a circle. Short little snaps send it darting about.

“My next bait is the Slab Rap – a lipless rattle bait – for days when crappies are little tougher to catch. Again, work it vertically by lowering it to just above fish and then lifting and dropping it. The rattles often turn them on. If the rattles don’t do it, then I go stealth mode with a VMC Tungsten Tubby Jig tipped

### Ice fishing success!

with a Tigger X Nymph body.

“You rarely find crappies hugging the bottom,” continues Lefebre. “Under the ice, they will be suspended mid-depth and typically they are high in the water column. The depth depends on water clarity and depth of preferred baitfish. For example, on Presque Isle Bay, I always find crappies 4 to 6 feet below the surface regardless of water depth.”

Lefebre concludes by stressing this point: “Drop the bait below a crappie, and the fish is a goner – it will not follow the bait down. Once the lure disappears below a crappie, the fish will be spooked and will move on.”

 - Darl Black



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### NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

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Crappie Basics #153

Building Beds

Building crappie beds isn't just a thing of the past. It's just as important now as it was several decades ago. Some waters have winter drawdown making this a good season for placing or driving beds.

There are a few general rules. (1) Beds are usually best in areas where there is little or no cover. An example, in human terms, is a motel a long distance from other motels; it will be a popular stop for travelers if nothing else is available. (2) Deep water nearby. Channels edges are very popular but a spot 75 yards off the channel may be just as good. (3) Put a waypoint on it immediately. It's funny how dropped cover can be very difficult to find if not marked or buoyed. (4) Hardwoods or plastic are the longest lasting.

Basic rules don't always work. Stakebeds along the fencerows at Truman is an example. There are hundreds of trees yet fish like a good stakebed because it's something different. The rules are good guides but often beds have to be placed, fished at different times of day and at different seasons before their best and worst situations are learned. -T.H.

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# Great Graphs for Under \$1000

by Tim Huffman

**C**rappie fishermen can improve their catching by building and sinking beds, maintaining good boat control and quickly forming patterns. However, according to experts, the quickest way for a fisherman to jump to another level of fishing is adding and learning to use advanced electronics.

In general, “advanced” means having quality mapping, side imaging and down imaging. All of these can be expected under the \$1000 price tag.

Graph prices are based upon several factors with screen size being one the primary factors. A 7-inch model at \$600 can be around \$2000 in the 10- or 12-inch version. More money means more bells-and-whistles but more importantly more resolution with better separation. So \$1000 can buy very complex units but their screens will be limited in size; not tiny, just smaller.

The good news is all brands have excellent quality electronics. Some may have a better transducer while another has a better screen, or ease of use. They are all different but very good.

The following units were chosen from interviews with manufacturer representatives, current press releases and websites. Prices are from Google searches in December.

## Garmin 742xs

This 7-inch Touchscreen Chartplotter/Sonar Combo features intuitive touchscreen controls. It also includes support for

network connectivity, including autopilots, digital switching, weather and more. It allows Garmin Marine Network support for sharing sonar, Panoptix sonar, maps, user data, radar and IP cameras among multiple units. It's preloaded with U.S. LakeVu HD maps and Blue Chart g2 charts. The unit is built-in ready to allow add-on transducers: Garmin Chirp and Chirp ClearVu. SiriusXM compatible.

John Spiddle, Regional Product Trainer, says, “Our 742 features an easy-to-see, color, sunlight viewable touch screen. It has multiple features including mapping, quick draw mapping to create your own maps. One of the best things about any of the Garmin units is there's not a lot you have to do except get it on the boat. They are ready and easy to run right out of the box.”

Price: \$999.



**Raymarine Axiom**

Axiom claims separation from the others due to its blazing quad-core processor performance and built-in RealVision 3D sonar. Users can pan, tilt and zoom the 3D image to examine views from various angles. It also has high frequency Chirp Sonar, DownVision, and SideVision; all built into a single transducer housing. It supports charts from leading map makers including Navionics. Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity.

Jeff Fink, Sr, Account Manager, Raymarine, says, "At ICAST we are introducing an Axiom, 7-inch, high resolution down imaging and sonar Chirp; Navionics Nav-Plus chart comes with it for outstanding mapping. It's an affordable unit that has quality features a fisherman needs. It can be put in the automatic mode and do a very good job or you can fine-tune by using gain and contrast to get a little better picture and performance."

Price: Axiom 7 DV \$750.



9-inch SolarMax screen and built-in high-detail maps.

Mike McCoy, tour pro rookie, says, "You don't have to have a high-dollar unit to get everything you need. You can go down to a 7-inch or 9-inch and still get the functions you need. This is the easiest brand unit to use so it's perfect for the less-techie fisherman. If you do play with it there is a Reset button for putting all controls back to original settings making it almost foolproof to mess up."

Price: \$870.



**Lowrance Hook2 9-TripleShot**

The world's easiest fish finder? That's what Lowrance says about the Hook2 9-TripleShot. The hassle of making adjustments is now done with a simple menu layout, easy access and Lowrance Autotuning sonar. This 3-in-1 unit has wide-angle, high Chirp sonar with double the sonar coverage of most fish finders, plus SideScan and DownScan Imaging. It has a



**Humminbird Helix**

The Helix 7 and 9 offers a wide range of features for a good price. These units are known for their super bright LED backlit display making them easy to see in the



sunlight. Price depends upon options and size, but in general, for the under \$1000 you can get Side Imaging/Down Imaging sonar with DualBeam Plus and SwitchFire, GPS Chartplotting with built-in Humminbird maps. Instant Access Preset buttons increases speed for changing screen views.

Humminbird's Mark Gibson says, "The Helix units have been a great addition for affordable fishing. The 7-inch units are super bright, has Side Imaging, Down Imaging, Sonar, Chirp, Navionics or LakeMaps, and better built-in maps. Our newest units are the Helix 9 Mega."

Price for best Helix 7 (Chirp, GPS, G2N) is \$800; Helix 9 SI GPS is \$999; (new Helix Mega 9 is above our limit).

## Conclusion

There are no bad choices with the brands previously mentioned. However, each one has different advantages and disadvantages. Check reviews, compare specifications and learn which one is right for you.

Note that bolting one of these units doesn't magically put fish in your boat. The number one complaint that "the unit doesn't work" are from fishermen who are not learning how to use them. Your learning may require getting someone in the boat to teach you. Read the manual front to back and get on the water, leave the fishing poles alone, and spend time learning each function. Getting results requires the purchase followed by a learning process so don't be fooled that just slapping one on your boat expecting magic. However, today's units are the easiest to learn and use. Doing so will advance you to another skill level of fishing.

 - Tim Huffman



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Lake Guntersville, AL	03/10/18
Lake of Egypt, IL	03/16-17/18
Old Hickory, TN	03/23-24/18
Pickwick Wilson, AL	03/31/18
Lk Cumberland, KY	04/07/18
Barkley-Ky Lakes, KY	04/13-14/18
Green River Lake, KY	04/20-21/18
Gnd Lk St Marys, OH	04/27-28/18
Cave Run, KY	05/04-05/18
Miss-Sal, IN	05/12/18
Monroe, IN	05/19/18
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# Tennessee's Winter Crappie Fishing with Chris Duraji

Story & photos by John E. Phillips

**C**old weather can be a nightmare for crappiers to fish. However, if you're like me, you have to fish when you have a chance. You can't change the fishing conditions. I recently fished with Chris Duraji of Lebanon, Tenn., a 42-year crappie veteran, who told me, "The crappie in Center Hill and Dale Hollow reservoirs can be caught all year long. The water is deep and clear."

The month of December is Duraji's favorite time to fish Dale Hollow for big crappie. He rarely fishes Dale Hollow in the summer, because there's so much boat traffic. During the winter months, when most fishermen aren't fishing, he goes to Dale Hollow and catches big slabs. "Since I've been fishing Dale Hollow and Center Hill, I've learned a lot more about how to fish deep for crappie in cold weather," Duraji reports.

Some of the advantages that Duraji has when he fishes deep for crappie are:

- \* Very little if any competition is present for the deep-water crappie;
- \* The crappie he catches seem to be the older, bigger fish; and
- \* Most crappie fishermen never will find the spots where Duraji fishes.

Duraji also has learned to fish brush piles in 25-35 foot deep water. He says,

"When you find a brush pile at that depth, most of the time, crappie will be holding on it."

## Fish Jigs, Light Line and Limber Rods

Duraji is not a minnow fisherman and prefers to only fish jigs. His favorite jig is a 1/8-ounce Bobby Garland Crappie Pro with a pink jig head and glow. He also fishes white, chartreuse, pink and pearl blue and blue bodies with chartreuse tail jigs. Duraji primarily fishes 4-pound-test line, since he's experimented with it and discovered he gets more bites and catches more crappie with that size line.

"I use a very limber rod too," Duraji explains. "I like my ESP rod, which also has a light drag. Most of the crappie that I keep will weigh about 2 pounds."

## Tip Jigs

I learned another secret about catching big crappie on deep, clear lakes like Center Hill and Dale Hollow from Duraji, who says, "I always tip my jigs with Berkley's PowerBait Crappie Nibbles."

To catch fat crappie like these in cold weather, you must brave the elements and use your depth finder.





Tiny to larger jigs will work to catch deep crappie, with lightweight preferred when wind allows. Or, you can create your own rig.

I totally believe in the effectiveness of Crappie Nibbles.

“In years past, when I could see the crappie holding in 15-20 foot deep water, I’d cast to them and swim the jig by them, and the crappie wouldn’t bite. But when I used that same jig and tipped it with a Berkley’s Crappie Nibbles, I would see the crappie take my jig. That made a believer of me. There’s no doubt in my mind that fishing with Crappie Nibbles gets me more bites than fishing without Crappie Nibbles. There are a lot of different colors of Crappie Nibbles, but I’ve been the most-successful with the white ones.”

## Go Deep and Use a Depth Finder

“When I fish at Dale Hollow, I catch

my crappie at between 20-50 feet deep, and I’ve never seen anybody else fishing that deep there,” Duraji reports. “I just stumbled on to this technique of fishing deep for crappie when I was fishing deep for bass. I was fishing a shaky head worm and caught deep crappie instead of bass. I was using a fluorescent pearl shaky head jig and a 4-inch Berkley PowerBait Power Worm. At Dale Hollow, I always paid close attention to my depth finder, and I found a hump out in the middle of the lake with a really-sharp, deep drop-off on its backside. I thought if I could get that shaky head to come down that hump and jump off that ledge, I could catch some bass. But to my surprise, I started catching 3-pound crappie.”

By fishing with a 1/8-ounce crappie jig and 4-pound-test line, Duraji knows that his bait falls about 1 foot per second. He counts his bait down, and for instance, when he reaches the number 35, he knows that jig is in about 35 feet of water. Then he starts swimming it by the brush and back to the boat. “Sometimes in the cold weather, I’ll back my jig size down to 1/32-ounce,” Duraji says. “However, when

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**“I’ll let the jig fall off the ledge to drop vertically right up against the wall of the drop-off.”**

I’m using a jig that small, I can’t fish it if there’s any wind at all on the lake. The wind will catch my line and not let that little jig fall vertically.

“I mainly catch crappie around deep structure I can’t see. I use a Humminbird side-scanning depth finder to locate structure and crappie on Tennessee’s deep, clear lakes. The deepest I’ve ever caught crappie was somewhat more than 50-feet deep when I was fishing on Dale Hollow in December one year. The crappie bite there seems to really turn on in the middle of December.

Generally, I can catch big crappie as fast as I can get my jig down to that 50-foot water depth. On Dale Hollow, I’ll use a 1/16-ounce jig and count it down. When I count to 50, I stop the jig and hold it very still. If I don’t get a bite, I’ll drop the jig another 3 feet and hold it still. If I don’t get a bite there, I’ll drop it another 3 feet. This way, I can tell the depth where the crappie are holding.

“Once I catch a crappie, I remember the depth where the crappie have been concentrating. From then on, I’ll count my jig down until I reach that depth. Sometimes I have to locate those crappie using my jig instead of my depth finder, because the crappie are holding so close to the drop-off, the depth finder can’t separate them out. I’ll bounce my jig off the bottom until it comes to the lip of the break. Then I’ll let the jig fall off the ledge to drop vertically right up against the wall of the drop-off. If crappie are on top to that ledge, I can pinpoint them with the depth finder. I’m sure anyone who has found this ledge hasn’t seen any crappie there before and hasn’t fished for them.”

To learn more about wintertime



Chris Duraji catches fish all year long like this warm weather crappie. However, for the big slabs, he says nothing beats winter fishing on clear reservoirs.

crappie fishing on Tennessee lakes, call Chris Duraji at 615- 519-5904, or email him at [fishingrx@aol.com](mailto:fishingrx@aol.com).

Nibbles: <http://www.berkley-fishing.com/berkley-bait-dough-berkley-powerbait/powerbait-crappie-nibbles/1285453.html>

Humminbird: <http://www.humminbird.com/Category/Technology/Side-Imaging/>

ESP: <https://www.norsemenoutdoors.com/product-category/esp-rods/>

Bobby Garland: [www.bobbygarlandcrappie.com](http://www.bobbygarlandcrappie.com)

 - John E. Phillips



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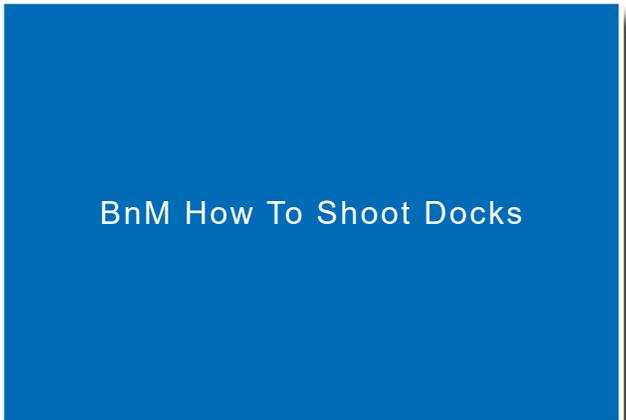
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# Fishing Funny's

by Jonny Hawkins





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## Crappie Basics #154

## Deep Fish

Lakes and rivers vary greatly in characteristics but a percentage of them will have deep crappie in the winter. It's a place they are comfortable and can survive.

Going deep is usually a progression starting at mid-depths, maybe 8 to 12 feet in early fall, and gradually working to 15 to 20 feet in late fall to early winter. As water continues to cool the fish go down to 25 to 30 feet. Depths and situations are different in each lake, but the theory is the same in most impoundments.

Structure and cover is critical in the winter. Finding a slope or drop-off with good brush, bed or laydown is the key to successful deep fishing. Seeing balls of shad around the cover makes it better. Nothing beats electronics and experience to help find and catch deep winter fish. –T.H.





## Crappie Rich Po Boy Sammiches

### Crappie Rich Po Boy Sammiches – Ain't Nuthin' Po About'em

The traditional Po Boy sandwich from Louisiana almost always contains fried seafood; shrimp, crawfish, oysters and crab. Here are some options for dressing up your Crappie Rich Po Boys.

#### Crappie Rich Boy

This comes from my experienced imagination. I started with a plain crappie fish sammich and sprinkled it with some magic culinary crumbs; all of which taste double- yummy.

1 fried crappie fillet to cover a slice of bread (cut into strips if using a bun)

2 slices of bread per sandwich\*

Slaver your bread with remoulade sauce

2-3 spicy dill pickle slices

Lettuce; leaf or shredded

Tomato slices

Onion slices

\*Experiment with breads: plain white bread, pumpernickel, rye, wheat, thinly sliced jalapeno cornbread or the traditional Po Boy bun (eight-inch French bread roll).

#### Jalapeno Cornbread

1 tablespoon canola oil

1 cup cornmeal

1 cup all purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

3/4 cup plain yogurt

1/2 cup buttermilk

1 egg

5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

1/2 cup to 1 cup finely chopped, drained pickled jalapeños or fresh jalapeños (depending on how spicy you want your cornbread to be)

1/2 cup fresh or frozen corn kernels

1/2 cup grated Monterey jack or cheddar cheese

Add canola oil to a 9- or 10-inch cast iron skillet and place the oiled skillet in the oven at 400 degrees F. In a large bowl, whisk together the cornmeal, flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, whisk together the yogurt, buttermilk and egg. Add wet ingredients to dry and add the butter, chilies, corn, and cheese and stir to combine. Once the oven has reached 400 degrees F., carefully remove the empty smoking skillet from the oven. Pour the cornbread batter into the skillet. Return the skillet to the oven and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until lightly browned on top and a toothpick inserted into the center

comes out clean. Let the jalapeño cornbread rest in the skillet for 10 to 20 minutes before cutting wedges and serving. Serving tip—drizzle with honey! There's plenty of butter in the batter, none extra needed – unless you really want to be decadent

**Traditional Po Boy Sandwich with Crappie**

- 1 1/2 pounds crappie fillets sliced into strips
- 2 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- Canola oil for frying
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 4 8-inch French rolls split horizontally
- Remoulade or mayonnaise

Shredded iceberg lettuce, sliced tomatoes, dill pickles, hot pepper sauce

Whisk kosher salt, cayenne pepper, garlic powder, paprika, oregano, thyme, black pepper and onion powder in a small bowl – this is your spice mix. Place crappie and 2 tablespoons of spice mix in plastic bag or bowl to coat the fish. Pour buttermilk into another medium bowl. Whisk flour and cornmeal in another medium bowl. Dip seasoned fish briefly in buttermilk, then coat with flour mixture. Working in batches, fry fish, stirring occasionally, until golden brown and flakes with a fork. Drain on paper towels. Open rolls and spread sides with rémoulade. Top with lettuce, tomato, pickles and crappie. Serve with hot sauce, if desired.



## SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE SPRINGFIELD

### NOVEMBER 11th

- |                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. Wes Pierceall/Wes Kauffman | 7.83 |
| 2. Sammy Wright/Zack Pierce   | 6.8  |

### BIG FISH

- |                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. Wes Pierceall/Wes Kauffman | 1.98 |
|-------------------------------|------|

## COOSA RIVER CRAPPIE CLUB

NEELY HENRY LAKE

### NOVEMBER 18th

- |                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Stanley Steed/Leonard Steed    | 10.76 |
| 2. Phil Trap                      | 10.02 |
| 3. Barbara Kendrick/Gary Kendrick | 8.38  |

### BIG FISH

- |                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Stanley Steed/Leonard Steed | 1.83 |
|--------------------------------|------|

## EAST TN CRAPPIE CLUB

CHICKAMAUGA LAKE

### NOVEMBER 18th

- |                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Scott Bunch/Neil Alvis         | 9.67 |
| 2. Mike Johnson/Brian Howard      | 9.25 |
| 3. Darren Caughron/Tracy Caughron | 9.12 |
| 4. Ricky Watts/Dakota Brice       | 7.45 |
| 5. Kevin Cardin/Scott Cardin      | 6.53 |

### BIG FISH

- |                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| 1. Scott Bunch/Neil Alvis | 1.86 |
|---------------------------|------|

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB

TIMS FORD

### NOVEMBER 18th

- |                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. Rodney/Coby  | 11.18 |
| 2. Robert/Larry | 8.96  |
| 3. Toby/Matthew | 6.49  |
| 4. Tracy/Pam    | 4.63  |
| 5. Dewayne/John | 4.4   |

### BIG FISH

- |                |      |
|----------------|------|
| 1. Rodney/Coby | 1.96 |
|----------------|------|

## NORTHEAST GEORGIA CRAPPIE CLUB

GILLS POINT

### NOVEMBER 18th

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Matt Sipper/Ben Shoemaker | 6.43 |
| 2. Scooter/Jerome            | 4.6  |

### BIG FISH

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Matt Sipper/Ben Shoemaker | 1.63 |
|------------------------------|------|

## CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB

CHESTER FROST PARK

### NOVEMBER 19th

- |                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. Brian Howard/Tina Howard    | 9.14 |
| 2. Bobby Ramsey/Tabitha Ramsey | 9.12 |
| 3. Terry Christner/Mike Brock  | 8.88 |

### BIG FISH

- |                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| 1. David Cordell | 1.74 |
|------------------|------|

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB

TIMS FORD

### NOVEMBER 24th

- |                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| 1. Matthew/Evan | 7.12 |
| 2. Larry/Robert | 6.52 |
| 3. Terry        | 6.47 |
| 4. Toby/Ethan   | 6.11 |
| 5. Brad/Will    | 5.02 |

### BIG FISH

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. Coby Edwards/Ethan Sanchez/<br>Toby Ivey All Tied | 1.51 |
|--|------|

## FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB

LAKE OKEECHOBE

### NOVEMBER 25th

- |                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| 1. Mitch/Nick  | 10.26 |
| 2. George/Tim  | 10.16 |
| 3. Tommy H     | 9.04  |
| 4. Brad Gibson | 8.82  |
| 5. Brent/Kit   | 8.76  |

### BIG FISH

- |               |      |
|---------------|------|
| 1. George/Tim | 1.97 |
|---------------|------|



## SOUTHWEST MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB

GRAVOIS MILL LAKE

### NOVEMBER 25th

1. Wiethop/Wiethop	8.48
2. Frederick/Ash	8.42
3. Surface/Helton	8.25
4. Webster/Reeves	7.65
5. Yates/Stoner	7.11

### BIG FISH

1. Surface/Helton	1.49
-------------------	------

## TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB

KY /BARCLAY LAKES

### DECEMBER 2nd

1. Chris/James	10.28
2. Tony/Mike	9.68
3. Max/Tuffy	9.01
4. Frank/Reid	8.7
5. Tanner/Emmitt	8.28

### BIG FISH

1. Chris/James	1.95
----------------	------



**FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB****DECEMBER 9th**

CRESCENT LAKE

1. Danny Williamson/Beth Williamson	13.15
2. Scott Lawson/Wendell Connor	13.11
3. George Parker/Tim Eberly	12.08
4. Ricky Williams	12.06
5. Gary/Jim	11.15

**BIG FISH**

1. Scott Lawson/Wendell Connor	2.11
--------------------------------	------

**BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION****DECEMBER 9th**

HICKORY CREEK MARINA

1. Hunter Bourke/Steven Berry/Addison Ginnaven	1.36
2. Payton/Tiffany/Cody Userly	1.26
3. Greg Robinson/Ron Walker	0.99

**CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION****DECEMBER 9th**

WATEREE LAKE

1. Danque/Willard	9.96
2. Hawkins/McGuirt	9.8
3. Cannon/Cannon	9.49
4. Duke/Huffstetler	9.45
5. Landon/Marrow	9.37

**BIG FISH**

1. Danque/Willard	1.83
-------------------	------

**CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB****DECEMBER 9th**

CHESTER FROST PARK

1. Bobby Ramsey/Tabatha Ramsey	9.96
2. David Elliot/David Stephens	9.72
3. Mike Jonston/Seth Coleman	8.83

**BIG FISH**

1. Bobby Ramsey/Tabatha Ramsey	1.73
--------------------------------	------



# CRAPPIE CALENDAR

JAN	6th	PEACH STATE	SINCLAIR	CLUB
JAN	6th	SOUTHWEST MISSOURI	LAKE OF THE OZARKS	FISH OFF
JAN	7th	CHATTANOOGA	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLUB
JAN	13th	CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOC.	WYLIE/EBENEZER	CLUB
JAN	13th	CRAPPIE NUTZ	HARDING	OPEN
JAN	13th	MAGNOLIA	OKATIBBEE	CLUB
JAN	20th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
JAN	20th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	SANDLIN/CYPRESS SPRINGS	QUALIFIER
JAN	20th	EAST TN CRAPPIE CLUB	WATTS BAR LAKE	CLUB
JAN	20th	WAPPAPELLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLUB
JAN	26th - 27th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	ST JOHNS RIVER	1st LEG OF FL ST. Championship
FEB	2nd - 3rd	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE TAIQUIN	FINAL LEG OF FL ST Championship
FEB	3rd	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	WOODS RESERVOIR	CLUB
FEB	10th	CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOC.	HIGH ROCK/TBA	CLUB
FEB	10th	CRAPPIE NUTZ	WEST POINT	OPEN
FEB	10th	MAGNOLIA	WOLF LAKE	CLUB
FEB	11th	CHATTANOOGA	CHESTER FROST PARK	CLUB
FEB	17th	BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE ASSOC.	BEAVER LAKE	CLUB
FEB	17th	CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	LAKE LEWISVILLE	QUALIFIER
FEB	17th	CRAPPIE USA	LOGAN MARTIN	CLUB
FEB	17th	EAST TN CRAPPIE CLUB	FT LOUDON LAKE	CLUB
FEB	17th	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	TIMS FORD	CLUB
FEB	17th	WAPPAPELLO	WAPPAPELLO LAKE	CLUB
FEB	23rd - 24th	CRAPPIE MASTERS	LAKE D'ARBONNE	LA STATE Championship
FEB	24th	CRAPPIE USA	WEISS LAKE	CLUB
FEB	24th	MAGNOLIA	EAGLE LAKE/CHOTARD	CLUB



<b>Club</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Link</b>
AMERICAN CRAPPIE TRAIL	MATT MORGAN	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
BEAVER LAKE CRAPPIE CLUB	PAYTON USERY	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CAPITOL CRAPPIE CLUB	AUSTIN KNEESKERN	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CAROLINA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	RICK EUDY	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CENTRAL ALABAMA CRAPPIE CLUB	DAN DANNANMUELLER/JONATHAN PHILLIPS	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CENTRAL ARKANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	JASON WESTERBERG	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB	JOE SCHRADER/GREG FOLEY	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CHATTANOOGA CRAPPIE CLUB	MIKE JOHNSTON/JIM EDMISTER	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS	JAY REVE	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CRAPPIE MASTERS	MIKE VALENTINE	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CRAPPIE USA	DARRELL VAN VACTOR	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
CRAPPIENUTZ MS	ROBERT SMITH/JOE FAIRCLOTH	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
EAST TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB	MATT	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
EAST TEXAS CRAPPIE SERIES	CREEKSIDE SPORTS-903-849-2634	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
EASTERN MISSOURI CRAPPIE CLUB	STEVE PEROTTO	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
FLORIDA CRAPPIE CLUB	DARRELL COLE	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
GRAND LAKE CRAPPIE SERIES OH	JEFF	<a href="#">WEBSITE</a>
HOI CRAPPIE CLUB	CHAD ANDERSON	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
INDIANNA SLAB MASTERS	JOE LONG/DAMON PHILLIPS	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
KANSAS CRAPPIE CLUB	JOE BRAGG/FRANK HAIDUSEK	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
MAGNOLIA CRAPPIE CLUB	MICHAEL NOWELL/ROGER WOMACK	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRAPPIE CLUB	TOBY IVEY	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
NORTHEAST GEORGIA CRAPPIE	KEVIN STRONG	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
NORTHEAST OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB	DAN ELKO/ROBERT ELKO	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
OKLAHOMA CRAPPIE TRAIL	DARRELL AND BRIAN	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
PEACH STATE CRAPPIE CLUB	ROBERT SMITH	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SHOALS AREA CRAPPIE ASSOCIATION	KEITH DODD	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRAPPIE	CHAD HAMSON	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SOUTHWEST MISSOURI CRAPPIE	KERRY YATES	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
GA SLABMASTERS TOURNAMENT TRAIL	JAMIE MOORE/DAN SIDLE	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
SPRINGFIELD CRAPPIE CLUB IL	JERRY JALLAS/RICK MONTTOOTH	<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
TWIN LAKES CRAPPIE CLUB		<a href="#">FACEBOOK</a>
WAPPAPELLO CRAPPIE CLUB MO		<a href="#">FaceBook</a>

A white styrofoam cooler is filled with several crappie fish. The fish are packed closely together, with their scales showing a mix of green, yellow, and white with dark spots. The cooler's interior is visible, showing the white foam walls and some fish heads protruding from the top. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the fish scales and the foam.

*Wishing you a  
Merry Christmas, Happy New Year  
and livewells full of crappie*