

SAVE AMMO AND SHOOT BETTER WITH 3 OFF-SEASON DRILLS, P.10

GAME & FISH

MIDWEST

The Regional Outdoor Guide

GAFMAG.COM
JUNE/JULY 2022

TM

BIG CAT PLAYBOOK

THREE TOP GUIDES SHARE
THEIR SUMMERTIME SECRETS
FOR FLATHEADS, CHANNELS
AND BLUES

CATCH MORE TROUT
ON PLUS-SIZE LURES

DOG TRAINING TIPS
TO BEAT THE HEAT

SLAMMIN' SALMON
ON THE ST. MARY'S

CRANK UP BASS AROUND
OFFSHORE STRUCTURE

FISH SHALLOW FOR
OVERLOOKED PANFISH

REGION ROUNDUP

- BUCKEYE BASS
- BOIS BRULE TROUT
- HOOSIER BLUEGILLS
- KANSAS RIVER CATS
- MINNESOTA COYOTES
- CHICAGOLAND PERCH
- BLUEGRASS BUSHYTAILS

A man in camouflage gear and a tan cap stands next to a Can-Am utility vehicle in a wooded area, holding a set of antlers. The Can-Am logo is prominently displayed in the center of the image.

can-am[®]

**GONE HUNTING.
LEAVE A MESSAGE.**

**STEVEN RINELLA
FROM THE NETFLIX SERIES
MEATEATER.**

OFF-ROAD LIVIN'



2022 DEFENDER 6X6 DPS
MOSSY OAK® EDITION

BUILT FOR THE HUNT

Hunt the right way with the Can-Am Defender 6x6 Mossy Oak Edition. The heavy-duty Rotax® engine is paired with a smooth, durable and responsive transmission for the ultimate power trip. It's like a tank on six wheels, giving you more traction, load-carrying and capability than ever before. Need more? We've got all the accessories to set yourself apart from the rest.



[CAN-AMOFFROAD.COM](https://can-amoffroad.com)

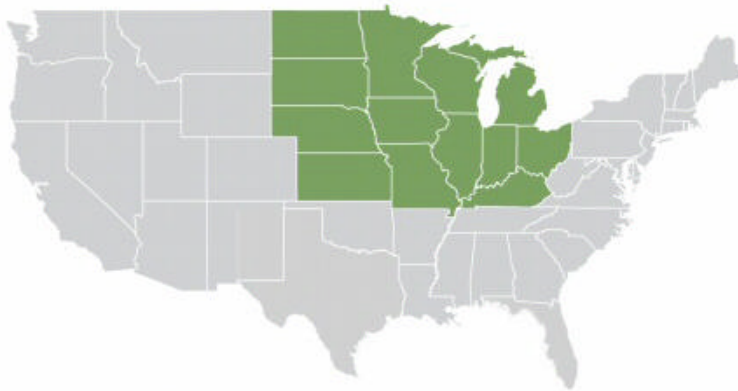
© 2022 Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP). All rights reserved. ®, TM and the BRP logo are trademarks of BRP or its affiliates. In the U.S.A., products are distributed by BRP US Inc. BRP reserves the right, at any time, to discontinue or change specifications, prices, designs, features, models or equipment without incurring obligation. CAN-AM OFF-ROAD VEHICLE: Some models depicted may include optional equipment. For side-by-side vehicles (SxS): Read the BRP side-by-side operator's guide and watch the safety DVD before driving. Fasten lateral net and seat belt at all times. Operator must be at least 16 years old. Passenger must be at least 12 years old and able to hold handgrips and plant feet while seated against the backrest. SxSs are for off-road use only; never ride on paved surfaces or public roads. For your safety, the operator and passenger must wear a helmet, eye protection and other protective clothing. Always remember that riding, alcohol and drugs don't mix. Never engage in stunt driving. Avoid excessive speed and be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Always ride responsibly and safely.



GAME & FISH

The Regional Outdoor Guide

MIDWEST



REGIONAL EDITOR: Drew Warden, Drew.Warden@OutdoorSG.com | COVER IMAGE: Bill Lindner Photography | [@GAMEANDFISHMAG](https://www.instagram.com/GAMEANDFISHMAG) | [FACEBOOK.COM/GAMEANDFISH](https://www.facebook.com/GAMEANDFISH)

CONTENTS
JUNE/JULY 2022

62

HOW-TO

44 INSIDE GAME

Hit shallow-water structure for crappies, 'gills and other panfish.

By Keith Sutton

56 DEEP DIVE

Boat more offshore bass during the dog days with the help of this deep-crankbaiting strategy.

By Mike Pehanich



44

50 THREE-PHASE PLAYS

Stay on summer catfish during the pre-spawn, spawn and post-spawn.

By Scott Mackenthun

62 GO BIG

If you hope to tempt a stream's largest trout, then throw your largest flies, lures and baits.

By Scott Mackenthun



50

38 AROUND THE MIDWEST

Set sights on hot bites for perch, bass, bluegills and more.

By Brandon Butler

FIELD SKILLS

40 HEAT ADVISORIES

Prevent Heat-Related Illness in your dog during summer training.

By Tom Keer

DESTINATIONS

66 A KINGLY PURSUIT

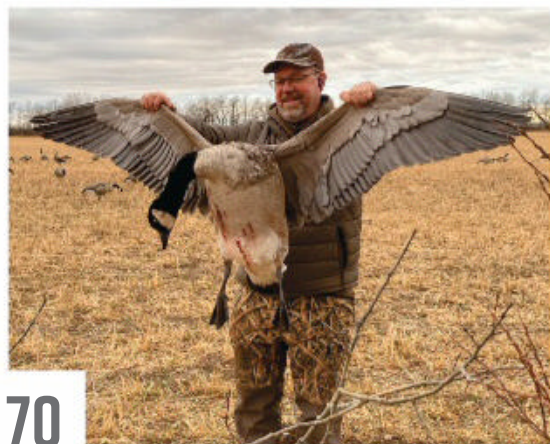
Head to Michigan's St. Mary's River to do battle with the "king of fish," the Atlantic salmon.

By Mike Gnatkowski

14



18



70

76

FEATURES

24 HIKE, FISH, REPEAT

Whether it's in the backcountry or the back 40, escaping crowds to fish less pressured waters is often all about the trek.

By Jim Zumbo

70 SUPERB SASKATCHEWAN

Hunters will be hard-pressed to find a more productive area for a mixed bag of ducks and geese than the northern end of the Central Flyway.

By Brad Fenson

GEAR

76 FIELD TEST

The tiny Garmin inReach Mini 2 sends and receives texts, summons help, marks waypoints and more, with no cell service required.

By Aram von Benedikt

78 HOW IT WORKS

There is a whole lot of research and science behind the way Berkley makes its new jigs smell and taste better to bass.

By Drew Warden

IN EVERY ISSUE

04 EDITOR'S LETTER

08 MOON TIMES

80 RITES

DEPARTMENTS

10 SHOOTING

Start prepping for deer season now with these three drills, none of which require shooting boxes of ammo.

By Richard Mann

18 DO-IT-YOURSELF

With proper organization and planning, cooking great meals at camp won't be a hassle.

By Adam Heggenstaller

14 FISHING

Bass seek shade from the sun, and techniques that pull them from the slop can provide action all summer.

By Dr. Jason Halfen

20 CONSERVATION

Boone and Crockett's Poach and Pay program seeks to determine just how much poaching costs state agencies.

By Andrew McKean

24





SUMMER SCHOOL

If you've been waiting to introduce someone to fishing, now is the time to do it. Kids go on summer break, leaving their days open for a trip to the water. And if you're looking to take an adult on his or her first outing, longer periods of daylight leave more time at the end of the workday for a lesson. No need to make it an all-day event; newbies won't likely appreciate a hard-core approach no matter how good the fishing. An hour or two in the morning or evening is perfect.

Summer is a time for ponds and panfish, which is the ideal combination for new anglers. Moving water introduces current into the presentation equation, which can be tricky for beginning anglers to understand. Large bodies of water oftentimes require a boat to reach prime spots, and fish can be difficult to pinpoint in summer months. Panfish in shallow ponds, however, are usually easy to reach from the bank, don't require expert presentations and are typically hungry for a meal. It doesn't hurt that they are usually colorful and feisty when hooked, either.

One more reason why summer is ideal for taking out a new angler: free fishing days. Most states have days or weekends in June and July when anglers are not required to possess a license to fish. Visit takemefishing.org for a list. Certain restrictions and additional regulations may apply, so check with your state agency before helping someone wet a line. One day on the water could lead to a lifetime spent outdoors.

Adam Heggenstaller
Editorial Director

GAME & FISH

The Regional Outdoor Guide

PUBLISHER

Michael F. X. Cassidy

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Adam Heggenstaller
Adam.Heggenstaller@outdoorsg.com

EDITOR

John Taranto
John.Taranto@outdoorsg.com

REGIONAL EDITORS

Dr. Todd A. Kuhn
Chuck Smock
Drew Warden

ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR

Scott Bernarde

ART DIRECTOR

Brian Judge

ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR

Andrew Tuchscherer

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Melissa Williams
Melissa.Williams@outdoorsg.com

ADVERTISING

NATIONAL ENDEMIC AD SALES

Jim McConville | (440) 791-7017
James.McConville@outdoorsg.com

WESTERN REGION

Hutch Looney
Hutch@HLooney.com

MARINE/FISHING ADVERTISING

Michael Cassidy | (407) 625-0992
Michael.Cassidy@outdoorsg.com

MIDWESTERN REGION

Mark Thiffault | (720) 630-9863
Mark.Thiffault@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL AD SALES

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR DETROIT OFFICE

Kevin Donley | (248) 798-4458
Kevin.Donley@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE CHICAGO OFFICE

Carl Benson | (312) 955-0496
Carl.Benson@outdoorsg.com

DIRECT RESPONSE AD/ NON-ENDEMIC

Anthony Smyth | (914) 409-4202
anthony@smythps.com



RIFT



PIVOT



APEX

Magpul® Eyewear models provide premium clarity, contrast, and features, all with advanced ballistic impact protection built right in for those times when things don't go as planned. You also get stylish looks and the edge you need with an array of lens color, mirror, and polarization options. From the water, to the range, and everywhere else your life takes you, we've got you and your eyes covered. See all of our rugged models at [Magpul.com](https://www.magpul.com).

 **MAGPUL**
www.magpul.com

© 2022 Magpul Industries Corporation. MAGPUL, MAGPUL LOGO & DESIGN, and others are trademarks of Magpul Industries Corp.

TRENDING NOW AT GAME & FISH ONLINE

GET TIPS, SEE GEAR AND CELEBRATE THE LIFESTYLE AT [GAFMAG.COM](https://gafmag.com)



GRILL LIKE KVD

Planning a barbeque? “7 Meaty Recipes for Summertime Cookouts” includes bass pro Kevin VanDam’s famous citrus-soda method for preparing ribs.



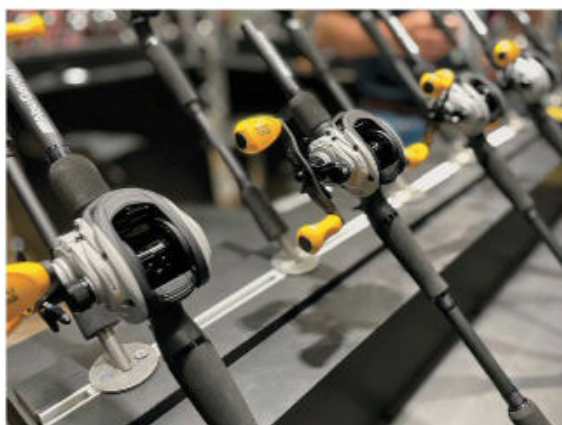
LUNKER HISTORY

June marks 90 years since George Perry landed the All-Tackle record largemouth. See other behemoths in “10 Biggest Largemouth Bass World Records Ever.”



GIFTS FOR DADS

Father’s Day is June 19, and you’ll find a truckload of perfect gifts to show dad your appreciation in the “Game & Fish Father’s Day Gift Guide.”



FISHING [GEAR] SEASON

ICAST, the mid-summer fishing-tackle extravaganza, returns to Orlando in July. Get reports on hot gear from the show by clicking “ICAST” on our homepage.



DEER AMMO

It’s not too early to think about ammo for deer season. See what’s new from this year’s SHOT Show in “Best All-Around Deer Hunting Cartridges.”



GET TO KNOW SNAKEHEADS

Invasive northern snakeheads are fun to catch and tasty to eat, yet pose concerns for biologists. Learn more at “Everything You Need to Know About Snakeheads.”

OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP® PUBLISHING & BRANDED MEDIA

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
PUBLISHING & BRANDED MEDIA**
Mike Carney

EVP, GROUP PUBLISHER & OPERATIONS
Derek Sevcik

VP, CONSUMER MARKETING
Peter Watt

VP, MANUFACTURING
Deb Daniels

SENIOR DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION
Connie Mendoza

DIRECTOR, PUBLISHING TECHNOLOGY
Kyle Morgan

SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Tim Neher

DIRECTOR, DIGITAL EDITORIAL
Jeff Phillips

For questions regarding digital editions,
please contact digitalsupport@outdoorsg.com.

MEDIA
[OUTDOORSG.COM](https://outdoorsg.com)

TELEVISION
[OUTDOORCHANNEL.COM](https://outdoorchannel.com)
[THESPORTSMANCHANNEL.COM](https://thesportsmanchannel.com)
[WORLDFISHINGNETWORK.COM](https://worldfishingnetwork.com)

HUNTING
[BOWHUNTER.COM](https://bowhunter.com)
[BOWHUNTINGMAG.COM](https://bowhuntingmag.com)
[GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM](https://gameandfishmag.com)
[GUNDOGMAG.COM](https://gundogmag.com)
[NORTHAMERICANWHITETAIL.COM](https://northamericanwhitetail.com)
[PETERSENSHUNTING.COM](https://petersenshunting.com)
[WILDFOWLMAG.COM](https://wildfowlmag.com)

FISHING
[BASSFAN.COM](https://bassfan.com)
[FLORIDASPORTSMAN.COM](https://floridasportsman.com)
[FLYFISHERMAN.COM](https://flyfisherman.com)
[GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM](https://gameandfishmag.com)
[IN-FISHERMAN.COM](https://in-fisherman.com)

SHOOTING
[FIREARMSNEWS.COM](https://firearmsnews.com)
[GUNSANDAMMO.COM](https://gunsandammo.com)
[HANDGUNS.COM](https://handguns.com)
[RIFLESHOOTER.COM](https://rifleshooter.com)
[SHOOTINGTIMES.COM](https://shootingtimes.com)

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES: For address changes, subscriptions or questions, e-mail GNFcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, call (877) 416-2649 or write Game & Fish, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539. **BE AWARE THAT GAME & FISH ONLY ACCEPTS SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS FROM AUTHORIZED AGENTS! WE MAY NOT HONOR REQUESTS FROM UNAUTHORIZED AGENTS, AND YOU THEREFORE MAY LOSE YOUR MONEY IF YOU BUY FROM AN UNAUTHORIZED AGENT.** If you are offered a subscription to Game & Fish, please call (877) 416-2649 to determine if the agent is authorized. For more information on subscription scams, please visit www.ftc.gov.

Occasionally, our subscriber list is made available to reputable firms offering goods and services that we believe would be of interest to our readers. **If you prefer to be excluded, please send your current address label and a note requesting to be excluded from these promotions to: Outdoor Sportsman Group®, 1040 6th Ave., 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018, Attn: Privacy Coordinator, or email your label information and note to privacy@outdoorsg.com.**

REPRINTS: Reprints/Eprints or Licensing/Permissions, contact Wright’s Media at (877) 652-5295.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Contact Drew Warden at Drew.Warden@outdoorsg.com for writer’s guidelines. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to unsolicited material.

GAME & FISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL OFFICE
6385 Flank Drive, Suite 800, Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 695-8171 | Fax (717) 545-2527

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Copyright 2022 by Outdoor Sportsman Group®. All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission from the Publisher.

GAME&FISH® is a registered trademark of Outdoor Sportsman Group® in the United States.

The Publisher and authors make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the information contained in this publication. Any reliance or use of the information is solely at your own risk, and the authors and Publisher disclaim any and all liability relating thereto. Any prices given in this issue were suggested prices at the press time and are subject to change. Some advertisements in this magazine may concern products that are not legally for sale to California residents or residents in other jurisdictions.

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

DIGITAL ACCESS NOW INCLUDED WITH YOUR PAID SUBSCRIPTION!

ENJOY DIGITAL ACCESS ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET & MORE*



SUBSCRIBE TODAY AT

WWW.GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM

CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS GO TO MYMAGNOW.COM
AND SELECT "CREATE DIGITAL ACCOUNT"

*Digital Edition is available on updated iPad/iPhone, most Android devices, and the Microsoft Store for Windows

WE CARRY
MATCH GRADE



Each order is individually mixed from the highest quality paints by our precision color match system. It exactly matches your factory color from our library of more than 300,000 OEM colors. Combine that accuracy with our industry leading primers and clear coat and you have the easiest to use, most professional looking touchup paint on the market.

AutomotiveTouchup.com
888-710-5192

MOON TIMES

Powered By



JUNE 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 am 1:18 to 3:18 pm 1:42 to 3:42	2 am 2:06 to 4:06 pm 2:30 to 4:30	3 am 2:54 to 4:54 pm 3:18 to 5:18	4 am 3:42 to 5:42 pm 4:06 to 6:06
5 am 4:30 to 6:30 pm 4:54 to 6:54	6 FIRST Q am 5:18 to 7:18 pm 5:42 to 7:42	7 am 6:06 to 8:06 pm 6:30 to 8:30	8 am 6:54 to 8:54 pm 7:18 to 9:18	9 am 7:42 to 9:42 pm 8:06 to 10:06	10 am 8:30 to 10:30 pm 8:54 to 10:54	11 am 9:18 to 11:18 pm 9:42 to 11:42
12 am 10:06 to 12:06 pm 10:30 to 12:30	13 FULL am — to — pm 12:06 to 2:06	14 am 12:30 to 2:30 pm 12:54 to 2:54	15 am 1:18 to 3:18 pm 1:42 to 3:42	16 am 2:06 to 4:06 pm 2:30 to 4:30	17 am 2:54 to 4:54 pm 3:18 to 5:18	18 am 3:42 to 5:42 pm 4:06 to 6:06
19 am 4:30 to 6:30 pm 4:54 to 6:54	20 LAST Q am 5:18 to 7:18 pm 5:42 to 7:42	21 am 6:06 to 8:06 pm 6:30 to 8:30	22 am 6:54 to 8:54 pm 7:18 to 9:18	23 am 7:42 to 9:42 pm 8:06 to 10:06	24 am 8:30 to 10:30 pm 8:54 to 10:54	25 am 9:18 to 11:18 pm 9:42 to 11:42
26 am 10:06 to 12:06 pm 10:30 to 12:30	27 am 10:54 to 12:54 pm 11:18 to 1:18	28 NEW am — to — pm 12:06 to 2:06	29 am 12:30 to 2:30 pm 12:54 to 2:54	30 am 1:18 to 3:18 pm 1:42 to 3:42		

JULY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 am 2:06 to 4:06 pm 2:30 to 4:30	2 am 2:54 to 4:54 pm 3:18 to 5:18
3 am 3:42 to 5:42 pm 4:06 to 6:06	4 am 4:30 to 6:30 pm 4:54 to 6:54	5 FIRST Q am 5:18 to 7:18 pm 5:42 to 7:42	6 am 6:06 to 8:06 pm 6:30 to 8:30	7 am 6:54 to 8:54 pm 7:18 to 9:18	8 am 7:42 to 9:42 pm 8:06 to 10:06	9 am 8:30 to 10:30 pm 8:54 to 10:54
10 am 9:18 to 11:18 pm 9:42 to 11:42	11 am 10:06 to 12:06 pm 10:30 to 12:30	12 am 10:54 to 12:54 pm 11:18 to 1:18	13 FULL am — to — pm 12:06 to 2:06	14 am 12:30 to 2:30 pm 12:54 to 2:54	15 am 1:18 to 3:18 pm 1:42 to 3:42	16 am 2:06 to 4:06 pm 2:30 to 4:30
17 am 2:54 to 4:54 pm 3:18 to 5:18	18 am 3:42 to 5:42 pm 4:06 to 6:06	19 am 4:30 to 6:30 pm 4:54 to 6:54	20 LAST Q am 5:18 to 7:18 pm 5:42 to 7:42	21 am 6:06 to 8:06 pm 6:30 to 8:30	22 am 6:54 to 8:54 pm 7:18 to 9:18	23 am 7:42 to 9:42 pm 8:06 to 10:06
24 am 8:30 to 10:30 pm 8:54 to 10:54	25 am 9:18 to 11:18 pm 9:42 to 11:42	26 am 10:06 to 12:06 pm 10:30 to 12:30	27 am 10:54 to 12:54 pm 11:18 to 1:18	28 NEW am — to — pm 12:06 to 2:06	29 am 12:30 to 2:30 pm 12:54 to 2:54	30 am 1:18 to 3:18 pm 1:42 to 3:42
31 am 2:06 to 4:06 pm 2:30 to 4:30	<p>The moon's phases are listed as New, First Quarter (First Q), Full and Last Quarter (Last Q). Times listed represent the peak activity times for game and fish each day.</p> <p>For your own 2022 Doug Hannon's Moon Clock go to moontimes.com or send \$9.95 each, plus \$3.75 shipping/handling per order, to: Moon Clock, P.O. Box 28460, Atlanta, GA 30358.</p>					<div>BEST DAYS</div> <div>GOOD DAYS</div> <div>FAIR DAYS</div>

NOW PICTURE — YOURSELF —



SAVING MONEY

GEICO®

GEICO.COM • 1-800-947-2886 • LOCAL OFFICE

GREAT LOW RATES | MULTI-VEHICLE DISCOUNT | SPECIALIZED AGENTS

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. In the state of CA, program provided through Boat Association Insurance Services, license #0H87086. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Customer satisfaction based on an independent study conducted by Alan Newman Research, 2020. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2022 GEICO 21_782312631



DRILL DOWN

Many hunters struggle to get their gun on their shoulder and their sights on the target quickly. You can practice developing this skill in a safe environment without ammunition.

THE BEST WAY TO BECOME A BETTER MARKSMAN AND RIFLE HUNTER IS TO **PRACTICE WITH DRILLS.**

Story and Photos by Richard Mann

Bowhunters practice a lot. In the months leading up to bow season, it's not uncommon to see bowhunters shooting in their backyards every evening. Gun hunters, on the other hand, rarely practice. For many, the closest thing they do to practice is checking to see if their rifle is still sighted in a few days prior to the season starting. This obviously explains why so many deer are missed and wounded with rifles every year. It could be the reason you missed or wounded a deer last season.

The key to becoming a better shot with a rifle is to practice. Understandably, it is hard for most to shoot their rifle in the backyard; a trip to a suitable and safe range is needed. Also, ammunition is expensive and currently nearly impossible to find. So, when it comes to practicing with your hunting rifle, here are a few drills you can use—with and without ammunition—to help you become a better rifle shot on game.

THE MOUNT DRILL

Many outfitters in North America and Africa have told me that the most common problem clients have is getting their rifle on target. Often, I've heard how clients

struggle to mount their rifle, disengage the safety, and then point at the animal so that it can be seen through the riflescope. Granted, buck fever always plays a part in this, but you can overcome buck fever just as you can unfamiliarity. Weaponcraft is the skill associated with managing your firearm, and part of that is mounting the rifle and getting it on target.

You can easily practice mounting a rifle almost anywhere. All you need to do is make sure your rifle is unloaded, that there is no ammunition anywhere around and that you have a safe direction in which to point your rifle. Then, pick a target, and—starting out slowly—practice bringing the rifle up to your shoulder, disengaging the safety and acquiring the target through the riflescope or even open sights. One trick that helps is to ensure the last movement of the rifle is straight back into your shoulder pocket.

A mistake that hunters routinely make is having the magnification on their scope turned up too high. When carrying a rifle, the magnification should be set as low as possible. This makes finding an animal through the riflescope easier. And, if the animal is far enough away to require more magnification, you'll have time to make that correction before shooting.

USE THE RIGHT TARGET

About a decade ago I participated in a deer culling event in Texas. Prior to the culling, I got all the shooters together and we had a competition. We used two different targets. One was a round bulls-eye target, and the other was a life-size cardboard deer target. The competition was timed, and the goal was to see who could make the best shot, the fastest.

On the bullseye target the shots were evenly distributed around the center. On the deer target, most of the hits edged toward center mass. Why? It's because under stress shooters tend to aim more toward center mass to ensure they get a hit. Most guides and professional hunters I've discussed this with agree and have told me that most bad shots they see are gut shots—center-mass shots.

Let's return to bowhunters. Bowhunters often train with lifelike targets to hone their instinct to aim at the right spot. Most gun hunters like shooting at geometrically balanced shapes, like circles and squares. With these, you can quarter the target with the reticle and hit center. If you quarter an animal with the reticle, you'll hit center, too. The problem is that center hits on an animal are not in the kill zone; they're in the gut.



MAX CUT. MAX PENETRATION. MAX EVERYTHING.



2.0 Titanium



1.5 Titanium



2.0 Robusto Steel

Get the world's most accurate broadheads.
SUMMER SALE going on now at SEVRBROADHEADS.COM

SEVR
BROADHEADS

Even without ammunition you can practice aiming and pressing the trigger. This is called dry-fire practice, and you can do it at home or at the range. It teaches you how to make a clean trigger press without disturbing the sights. After you're skillfully dry-firing, combine the mount drill with a lifelike target and continue your dry-fire practice. When you think you're getting good, and if you can spare the ammunition, try conducting the drill and actually shooting at the lifelike target.


RUN YOUR GUN

Sometimes, no matter how much we practice, we still miss. But a miss is not always the end of a hunt. A fast recovery can sometimes still put meat in the freezer.

I was still-hunting a grown-up clear-cut and managed to sneak within 80 yards of a bedded whitetail buck. After about five minutes, he stood up and I missed him. Flabbergasted, I quickly cycled the rifle's action, took aim and put him down before he had time to bolt. I don't know why I missed on the first shot, but I do know that my fast action after the miss is what put him on my meat pole.

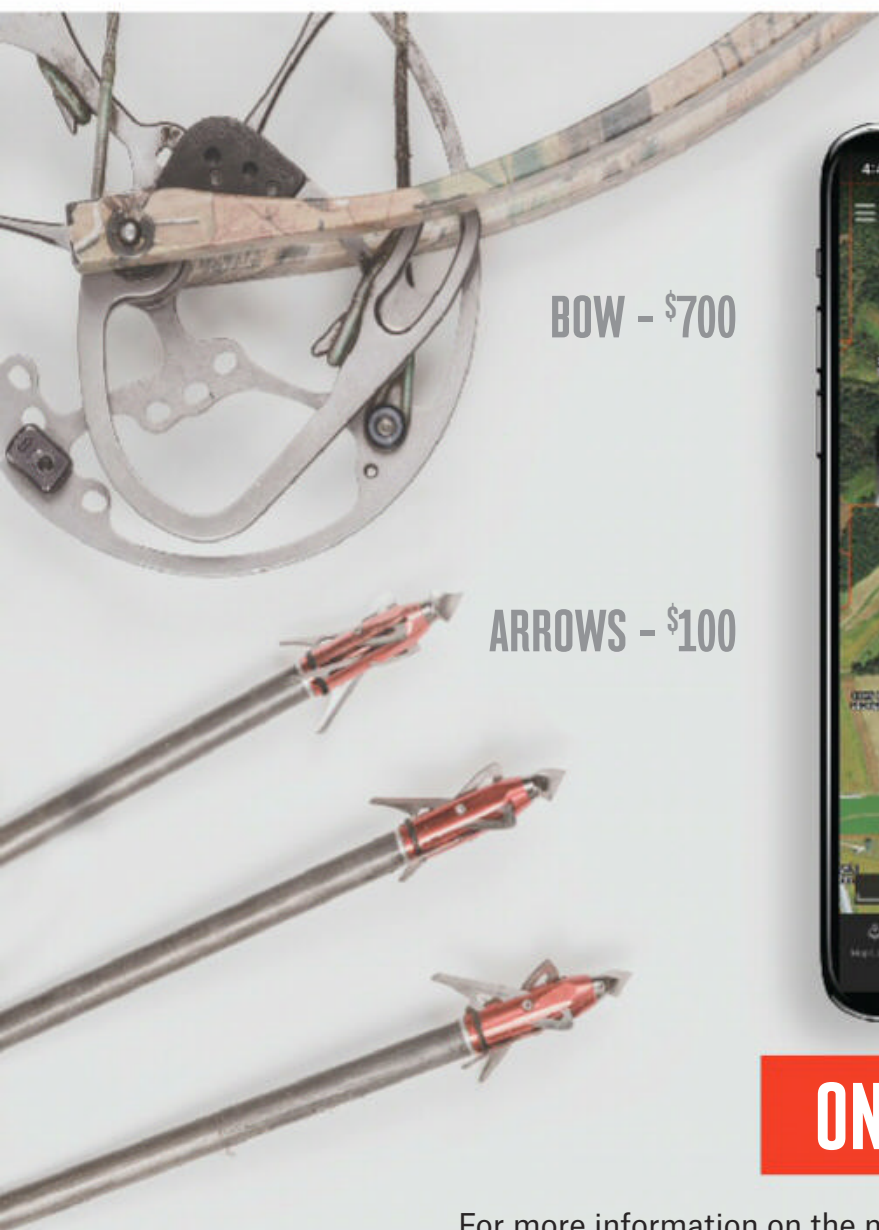
Whether you hunt with a bolt-action, pump-action, lever-action or even a semi-auto rifle, practice taking quick follow-up shots. To make a fast follow-up shot, learn to leave the rifle on your shoulder as it cycles—as with a semi-auto—or while you're cycling it if it is a pump, bolt or lever gun. You can practice this without ammo as well; just combine it with the mount drill while using a lifelike target. Dry fire your first shot, cycle the action, and press the trigger again. Just ensure that every time you press the trigger the sights are properly aligned on the killing spot. Once confident, run the drill with ammunition. And remember, you don't just want a hit, you want a good hit in the kill-zone area.

There are many other reasons hunters miss, and there are lots of other practice

drills you can use. However, to prepare to overcome the most common causes of missed shots and missed opportunities, practice mounting your rifle, practice dry-firing your rifle, and practice follow-up shots. For best results, combine all of this while using a target that looks like the animal you'll be hunting. That way, when the moment of truth arrives, your mind will say, 'Hey, I've seen something like this before. I know just what to do.' 

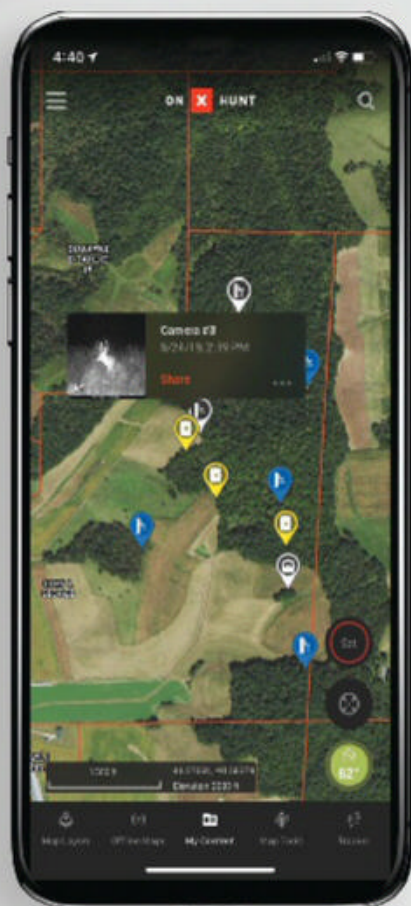


When using lifelike targets, place the bullseye or scoring ring on the target's backside. This makes you aim at the right spot—as opposed to center mass—without a bullseye reference.



BOW - \$700

ARROWS - \$100



ONX HUNT - \$30

BINOS - \$250

RANGEFINDER - \$450



For more information on the most comprehensive hunting maps available visit:

[ONXMAPS.COM/HUNT](https://onxmaps.com/hunt)



Do it Right with DR®

America's Original Field & Brush Mower

- MOW FIELD GRASS up to 8' high
- CUT BRUSH up to 3" thick
- Engines up to 22 HP
- Decks up to 34" wide
- Power steering

★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.

PLUS ALL-NEW

Commercial Grade XD Series
with hydrostatic drive!



DRfieldbrush.com

Trim and Mow the EASY Way!

- TRIM fencelines and perimeters
- MOW waist-high grass & weeds
- 5X the power of handheld trimmers
- Self-propelled models
- Gas- or battery-powered

★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.



DRtrimmer.com

SALE!

**FREE
SHIPPING**

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

Request your FREE PRODUCT CATALOG
Online or Toll-Free at 877-200-6612

GoDRpower.com

DR POWER EQUIPMENT



GET SLOPPY

Rapidly rising water temperatures and an oppressive sun drives summer bass to seek shade under thick mats of vegetation.

YOU HAVE TO DIG DEEP TO MAXIMIZE THE
**SUMMERTIME
BASS BITE.**

By Dr. Jason Halfen

Water temperatures approach their annual peak as the sun climbs higher in the summer sky. As their environment warms toward uncomfortable or even lethal levels, gamefish respond in predictable ways in an effort to do one simple thing: cool down, even by just a few degrees.

While many fish concentrate around deep cover or suspend in deep water, some fish—often largemouth bass of exceptional size—make the exact opposite transition, moving into thick, matted vegetation in shallow water. These fish ride out the summer heat in the slop.

SUMMER SHADE

The number of quality largemouth bass that are sucked into shallow slop by midsummer is amazing. The primary reason for this predictable congregation is rudimentary. Matted weed growth on the surface—and the duckweed, algae and “gunk” it collects—provides protection from the sweltering sun.

Slightly lower water temperatures, coupled with a shady, darker water column beneath the slop, yields a bass-concentrating habitat that is hard to beat. Fish beneath the slop remain supercharged with an amped-up metabolism; when the opportunity to steal a meal presents itself, slop bass are generally quite responsive.

THINK THICK

Bassmaster Elite Series angler Greg DiPalma pulls big bass out of thick slop with regularity. “Slop fishing is so productive for the simple reason that so many largemouth live there during the really warm months, and often well into the fall,” says DiPalma.

One thing that many anglers overlook is how productive slop fishing can be when a powerful cold front moves through in late summer or fall. When that happens, fish will pull into the slop to warm up instead of cool down. For that reason, anglers really need to think about slop fishing as not just a summer, warm-water pattern, but also one that



Turn Your **Passion** into **Action**

A minute of your time can ensure clean water,
abundant fisheries and the conservation of both.

Join us. Be heard.



The Voice of the American Angler

Preserve what you love at [KeepAmericaFishing.org](https://www.KeepAmericaFishing.org)

under the right circumstances can produce for long stretches of the season.

COLOR MATTERS

DiPalma selects stretches of slop to fish by first paying close attention to color—not of the lure he presents—but of the thick, matted vegetation on the surface.

“In the summer it’s important to focus on mats that are still alive, because dying mats will consume dissolved oxygen as they decay and those low-oxygen environments will repel fish. Slop starts out green of course, and then turn a very deep yellow.”

DiPalma continues, “These mats are actively producing oxygen and will hold bass. Then, the slop turns brown and black as it dies back. In the warm months, that’s the slop to avoid, but interestingly, in the colder months, you can pull bass out of that stuff because the dark cover will help keep the water warm and put bass in a feeding mood.”

WALK THE FROG

Hollow-bodied frogs are a productive way to pull bass out of the slop. An excellent representation of the abundant

amphibian prey that bass consume in the matted vegetation, hollow-bodied frogs will summon bass to the surface and draw aggressive strikes.

“Cadence—the sequence of pulls, twitches, and pauses you use when frog fishing—is critical when fishing in the slop,” says DiPalma. “Fishing frogs is much like presenting a jerkbait in open water. You’ve got to determine the right retrieve; it’s something you have to figure out on your own and be prepared to change up throughout the day.”

As the frog is worked across the slop, the movement of the lure across the surface sends vibrations through the matted vegetation, alerting lurking bass to its presence. Often it is productive to include pauses—sometimes brief and other times longer—within your retrieve as strikes will occur while the frog is motionless.

DiPalma recommends twitching and shaking the rod tip when the frog is paused. Additionally, time spent lingering around edges, pockets, holes and other structural elements within the slop, things like sunken tree limbs and embedded areas of lily pads, attract big numbers of bass.

DiPalma says, “We focus a lot on lure cadence, but in all honesty, I’ve also had plenty of times that all I had to do was make a long cast and retrieve the frog straight in. It’s all about figuring out the bass’ mood and then showing them a retrieve that matches their attitude.”

AMPHIBIAN HOOKUP

Frog fishing is an incredibly visual experience. Violent strikes hurl water and vegetation into the air, to the thrill of the angler that has induced the surface attack.

One of the most critical aspects of frog fishing is learning to pause before setting the hook. If you don’t, you will invariably pull the frog away from the fish before the hooks that ride on top of the frog’s body can bite and take hold.


Teach yourself to count to three after a bass attacks the frog, and then set the hook with authority. Bass will not release the frog during that short delay, and you’ll be rewarded with a much higher hooking percentage.

GEAR UP

Tackle for slop fishing is necessarily stout. Choose a rod longer than 7 feet to help with casting distance and to move line on the hookset. Because you need to horse fish out of the thick stuff once they’re hooked, consider casting rods with medium-heavy or heavy power and fast or extra-fast action.

DiPalma recommends a heavy-power, fast-action rod like a 7-foot-2 Shimano Zodias or a 7-foot-5 Shimano Expride. Pair these rods with a powerful, high-gear-ratio casting reel to winch hooked fish quickly out of the slop. DiPalma rigs his rods with Shimano Chronarch or Curado K reels. Strong, no-stretch braided line is the only way to go. DiPalma spools his reels with 60- or 65-pound-test braid.

DiPalma offers one additional pro tip for success with hollow-bodied frogs in the slop. “Sometimes on heavily pressured bodies of water, extreme casting distance is the key to getting bites. My favorite frogs are SPRO. They cast great and really look like the real thing.”

To get more casting distance, DiPalma shoves seven or eight copper BBs into the bait’s hollow body. That little bit of extra weight allows him to get more distance on the cast, without being so heavy that the frog busts through the matted vegetation. 



Hollow-bodied frogs are easily the most versatile of the slop baits. They can be fished literally anywhere bass hide.



"The Crew"

10/22® Team, Newport, New Hampshire

BE ORIGINAL

Built in our American factories by American workers, every 10/22® rifle that comes off the line is a quality firearm. With millions sold over a span of more than half a century, the Ruger® 10/22® has long been America's favorite rimfire rifle. When it comes to choosing your next .22 rifle, don't settle for an imitation, make it an original.



T H E R E I S O N L Y O N E 1 0 / 2 2 ®

RUGER.COM/1022



RUGER®
ONLY 10/22®

FIRE IT UP!

FOLLOW THIS THREE-STEP PLAN
FROM A VETERAN CAMP COOK TO
**MAKE EVERY OUTDOOR
MEAL A HIT.**

By Adam Heggenstaller

Whether you're camping as part of a fishing or hunting trip, or camping just to spend more time outside during the warmer months, meals are always a memorable part of the activity. Ask any kid to name the best part of camping, and there's a good chance the answer will be either hotdogs or marshmallows cooked over the fire. Adult tastes tend to lean toward meals that are a bit more involved (not that there's anything wrong with a roasted 'dog on a stick), but camp cooking doesn't have to be a laborious process.

Brooks Hansen, public relations manager for Camp Chef, is a master of outdoor cooking. He's put together meals for folks ranging from celebrities to ranch hands, and you should see what he can do with a pile of mule deer shanks. Hansen uses a three-step process that makes his meals as efficient as they are delicious. Follow his lead to elevate your status as camp cook without wasting valuable hunting or fishing time.

"The first thing to consider is how many people will be in your party," notes Hansen. "That determines how you should set up the camp kitchen."

The number of mouths you're feeding will dictate everything from the size of fire or stove to the amount of ingredients you need. While there's no harm in bringing extra if you have space and don't have to carry it far, backpacking



Propane stoves like the Camp Chef Pro 14 and Pro 16 make preparing meals outdoors easy, as long as you stay organized.

or canoeing trips are a different story. You'll need to carefully plan ingredients and components of the camp kitchen. Hansen recommends, however, to err on the side of large when considering a stove.

"People overlook the size of the stove they need," he says. "If you have room, don't be afraid to take a bigger stove. It will make your camp cooking experience that much better."

For a group of two to four people, Hansen recommends the Camp Chef Pro 14 with two 30,000 BTU burners and a cooking area 32 inches wide and 14 inches deep. If serving larger parties,

step up to the three-burner Pro 16 stove with more than 600 square inches of cooking area. More compact options include the Everest and Rainier stoves, which are adequate for up to four people.

"The second step is to organize your kitchen in an efficient way that will make it easier for you to prep, cook, serve and clean," continues Hansen. "I like to be organized and make sure everything has a space."

For that, Hansen relies on the Sherpa Camp Table and Organizer, which consists of four removable storage bags inside a folding frame to keep utensils and ingredients within easy reach. Small

COURTESY OF CAMP CHEF

GET MORE DIY TIPS

Backyard Ready offers expert advice on outdoor projects


Hunters and anglers live to be outside, and we've partnered with DR Power Equipment to bring you a wide range of how-to articles and videos that will help you improve the appearance and utility of your outdoor spaces. Whether your projects focus on your yard, deck or garage, the Backyard Ready section of gafmag.com has you covered.

Want to build a bait station that will keep minnows, earthworms and crickets ready for your next outing? Looking for new games to play on the deck? How about tips that will help you maintain your grill and smoker? All these topics and more, including tons of recipes for outdoor cooking, are covered in Backyard Ready.



utility bins, stuff sacks and gallon-size freezer bags packed inside a utility tote is another system for storing essentials and keeping them handy.

"Third," says Hansen, "don't forget to have fun. Prep as much as you can at home before you head out."

Chopping vegetables, packing meats in marinades and other prep work accomplished in your home kitchen reduces the number of utensils and containers you have to take with you to the campsite. It also cuts down on the amount of work you'll have to do just before a meal, leaving you with more downtime to enjoy the outdoors. 

News Flash....

Government Gets Something Right



Super Light Titanium Timepiece Loses Only One Second Every 20 Million Years.

BOULDER, Colorado The U.S. government has engineered the most ingenious, most accurate clock in the world: the F-1 U.S. Atomic Clock in Boulder, Colorado. Our extraordinary new Stauer Titanium Atomic Watch utilizes the transmissions directly from that remarkable cesium fission atomic clock to report the most precise time. This scientifically advanced timepiece will gain or lose only one second over a 20 million-year period. It is that accurate! This perfectly tuned technological invention with the super light strength of titanium is now available for UNDER \$130.

Super Light Titanium has two big advantages over steel. One is corrosion resistance and the other is that titanium has the highest strength-to-weight ratio of any metal, which means that titanium is approximately 45% lighter than steel. But every other titanium watch that we can find is priced at over \$400, and none of those are nearly as accurate as our atomic movement. Stauer has decided to bring these resources together in a timepiece that has the most accurate movement available today. You'll never have to set this watch. Just push one of the buttons and you

are synchronized with the atomic clock in Colorado, and the hands of the watch move to the exact time position. The sleek black textured dial has luminous hands and markers plus the timepiece is water resistant to 3 ATM.

The Stauer Titanium Atomic Watch is not available in stores and it comes with our 30 day money-back guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with the accuracy, simply return the watch for the full purchase price. Includes a 2-year warranty on the movement.

Not Available in Stores

Stauer Titanium Atomic Watch ~~\$195~~ **now \$129** +S&P or
2 credit card payments of \$64.50 +S&P


Call Toll-Free now to take advantage of this limited offer.

1-800-333-2045

Promotional Code TTA551-10
Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Ste 155, Dept. TTA551-10
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com



ASSESSING THE 'DARK FIGURE' OF POACHING IN AMERICA

**THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB AIMS TO QUANTIFY
WILDLIFE CRIMES—AND THEIR HIDDEN COSTS—
THROUGH A NEW PROGRAM.**

By Andrew McKean

Go ahead, ask your hunting buddy. What percentage of poachers in America are caught and convicted? Half? A quarter? Not even close.

Research sponsored by the Boone and Crockett Club and its partners indicates that the number is incredibly, depressingly much lower. Based on early studies of a decade of wildlife crime citations and court data from Kentucky, researchers estimate that fewer than 3 percent

of poachers in the Bluegrass State are caught and convicted. That's probably not an outlier; poaching rates in other states are distressingly similar, based on earlier studies that looked at illicit wildlife exploitation.

Poaching is not only a theft of animals and opportunities from legal hunters, but it turns out there's a tremendous monetary cost, too. Using only the minimum penalties assessed for fines and restitution, researchers estimated

the annual fiscal consequences for all detected fish and wildlife violations in Kentucky at about \$1.1 million. By estimating the "dark figure" of undetected wildlife crimes at about 98 percent, the researchers calculate that the real cost of wildlife violations in Kentucky is more than \$43 million.

"That's about half the annual operating budget for Kentucky's wildlife agency," says Jonathan Gassett, one of the researchers for the Boone and Crockett Club's Poach and Pay initiative and former director of Kentucky's Fish and Wildlife Department. "Imagine the wildlife habitat and access initiatives a state agency could deliver if it could recoup that lost revenue, or the number of game wardens they could put in the field to reduce poaching."

Currently, Gassett and co-researcher (and spouse) Dr. Kristie Blevins are in the



Research indicates that a miniscule fraction of poachers are apprehended and convicted of their wildlife crimes.

data-collection stage of their multi-year research, parsing some 80,000 surveys of hunters, conservation officers and land-owners across eight different states and regions that aim to estimate the prevalence of poaching across America. Next stages are interviews with convicted poachers to get a handle on motivation, followed by studies of state judicial systems that could lead to reforms in how poaching cases are adjudicated in the courts.

As the oldest conservation organization in America and champion of ethical hunting, the Boone and Crockett Club has a keen interest in the equitable distribution of and access to the public's wildlife, says Tony Schoonen. Chief executive officer of the Boone and Crockett Club, which was founded in 1887 by Theodore Roosevelt and other early leaders of America's wildlife conservation movement, Schoonen says the club has long

WINDIGO IMAGES

How to Be Cut Off From Civilization

When it's you against nature, there's only one tool you need: the stainless steel River Canyon Bowie Knife—now **ONLY \$49!**

The *River Canyon Bowie Knife* hand-forged, unique knife comes shaving sharp with a perfectly fitted hand-tooled sheath. The broad stainless steel blade shines in harmony with the stunning striped horn, wood and bone handle. When you feel the heft of the knife in your hand, you know that you're ready for whatever nature throws at you.

This knife boasts a full tang blade, meaning the blade doesn't stop at the handle, it runs the full length of the knife. According to Gear Patrol, a full tang blade is key, saying "A full tang lends structural strength to the knife, allowing for better leverage ...think one long steel beam versus two."

With our limited edition *River Canyon Bowie Knife* you're getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers. What you won't get is the trumped up price tag. This quintessential knife can be yours to use out in the field or to display as the art piece it truly is. But don't wait. A knife of this caliber typically cost hundreds. Priced at an amazing **\$49**, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the *River Canyon's* handle, you'll be ready to carve your own niche into the wild frontier.



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

Not shown actual size.

River Canyon Bowie Knife ~~\$79~~

Offer Code Price Only **\$49*** + S&P **Save \$30**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: RCK429-01

**Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

What customers are saying about Stauer knives...

★★★★★

"First off, the shipping was fast and the quality is beyond what I paid for the knife. Overall I am a satisfied customer!"

— D., Houston, Texas

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. RCK429-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

• Full tang 4 1/4" stainless steel blade, 9" overall length • Genuine horn, wood and bone handle • Polished brass guard and spacers • Includes leather sheath

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™



Rating of A+



been active in anti-poaching initiatives, but the outlines of the Poach and Pay program were formed and developed during the Cecil the Lion controversy.

“During Cecil, we saw poaching and hunting being described interchangeably by the international media,” says Schoonen. “We were—and are—worried about the image of hunting. We do not want to see hunters and poachers being used in the same sentence.”

Neither Schoonen nor Gasset are prepared to say that poaching is more or less prevalent now than in past generations. But Poach and Pay, which is funded in part from a grant from the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, is designed to raise awareness of illicit activity, to quantify the problem and to ensure that penalties match the crime.

“There are three factors associated with whether somebody decides to commit a crime,” says Gasset. “The certainty of being caught, the penalty if they are caught and convicted, and the speed of prosecution. Right now we don’t know



SCI APPEALS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DECISION

The organization seeks to maintain expanded hunting opportunities.

In April, Safari Club International (SCI) joined with the National Rifle Association, Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to appeal a decision of the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana denying the pro-hunting organizations’ efforts to intervene and defend the expansion of hunting opportunities on federal lands. The four groups stress that the court’s decision was made in error.

In *Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, the plaintiff challenged a 2020 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulation that expanded hunting and fishing opportunities on almost 100 national wildlife refuges. SCI notes the plaintiff wrongly asserts that expanded hunting and fishing threatens species listed under the Endangered Species Act, such as grizzly bears and whooping cranes. The Center for Biological Diversity also challenges the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on national wildlife refuges in the case. The pro-hunting organizations seek to defend the 2020 regulation, which they point out is consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act’s directive to prioritize hunting and fishing on refuges.

In the appeal, the hunter-advocacy organizations will demonstrate that the district court erred in ruling that they do not have a legal interest in maintaining a rule that expanded hunting access. “The district court’s ruling ignores the clear interest of SCI members who want to take advantage of expanded hunting on these federal lands,” said SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin. “Hunters have a right to defend their interests in the federal judiciary on an issue that will directly affect thousands of sportsmen and -women across the country.”

SCI is committed to a “No-Net-Loss” policy, which ensures that the amount of federal land for hunting and fishing stays constant or increases, but is not diminished. To sign the organization’s No-Net-Loss petition, visit safariclub.org. —Adam Heggstaller

what the level [of poaching] is, just that it's extremely high. But if we can get it down to even 20 percent—you're going to get caught every fifth time you poach—then we could cut out a lot of what I'd call opportunistic poaching."

Part of that crackdown might be putting more conservation officers in the field. Or ensuring that judges take poaching more seriously. Or increasing penalties for poaching. All those might be prescriptions produced by Poach and Pay and offered to state agencies and legislatures, says Schoonen.


What's harder to quantify is why poachers poach. Blevins is tackling that end of the equation through a series of interviews with convicted poachers.

"We think there are five primary motivations," says Gassett. "People poach opportunistically; they don't intend to, but the opportunity presents itself and they make bad choices. Some people poach for subsistence, to feed their families. Others poach for trophies. Some poach to feed their egos. And others poach for financial gain, selling what they kill."

If law enforcers can reduce those motivations, they may be able to stop some poachers before they commit a wildlife crime. Other actions might be working with judges and justices of the peace to ensure poachers face the full extent of the law. Others are increasing fines to reflect the theft of a valuable public resource.

"In many jurisdictions, poaching is considered a victimless crime," says Gassett. "Judges have such full dockets of crimes with higher priorities that often poaching is considered minor in comparison. But if we can make the case that the real victim of poaching isn't the animals that are poached but rather the people of the state, hunters whose opportunity has been stolen from them, and the revenue that's not going to the state agency, then I think we can elevate the seriousness of poaching and get judges to take cases more seriously."

For Schoonen, raising awareness of poaching and working to reduce its prevalence are squarely in line with the Boone and Crockett Club's mission.

"This falls under our mission of advocacy," says Schoonen. "We are committed to advocating for ethical standards of sportsmanship. Poaching, by its definition, is the antithesis of sportsmanship." 

JOIN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR HUNTING RIGHTS



SCI is the only major hunting group that takes the fight to Washington, D.C., state legislatures, courthouses and the public arena to expose the lies of those who want to cancel our freedoms. Our freedoms to hunt and fish are constantly under attack. Whether we hunt big game, deer, upland birds or waterfowl, the anti-hunting crowd wants to destroy our freedoms. They're opposed to ALL hunting – and they're better organized and better funded than ever before. We need your help.

Please join SCI Today to Continue the fight to protect our hunting rights.

Texan is America's Preferred Big Bore Air Rifle

TEXAN 50-CF



Thousands of hunters agree, the AirForce Texan is the world's most powerful and most reliable production big bore air rifle. Capable of over 800 foot pounds of muzzle energy and available in a wide variety of calibers and configurations, no other airgun even comes close.

Serious airgun hunting starts at AirForce Airguns.

www.airforceairguns.com
or contact us today at 877-247-4867

Shown with optional scope and rings.



AIRFORCE®
airguns

SUMMER ESCAPES

TRAILS LESS TRAVELED LEAD TO
WATERS LESS FISHED.

By Jim Zumbo

Anglers don't always have to hike for miles to find unpressured water. Overlooked areas that are difficult to access can be within a short walk of a road.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Fishing is many things to many people. It can be as easy as stepping out of your vehicle next to a stream or lake and walking a few feet, or jumping in a boat tied to a slip, or hiking to a destination that requires some degree of physical ability. Many of my favorite fishing memories involve adventures I've had in the back 40 or high in a remote wilderness. The idea of just getting away from people is plenty of reason to visit the backcountry, and we all know about competition among anglers. It's often true that the less pressure, the better the fishing.

I've learned you don't need to trek many miles in the wilderness to enjoy backcountry fishing. I've had outstanding angling in places where just a half-mile walk put me in spots where I was virtually alone and caught all the fish I wanted. Many of those places were adjacent to urban areas. In one instance I made several trips a year to a small pond a few miles from my hometown. It took me a half hour to work my way along a sparse trail full of briers, but I always came home with a stringer full of big bluegills and slab crappies.

When you think about fishing in remote areas, trout come to mind. That's only natural because trout inhabit ponds, lakes and streams in areas that are often inaccessible via a vehicle, and they're typically found in mountainous regions. But there are plenty of backcountry opportunities where you can catch warm-water fish such as bluegills, crappies, yellow perch, bass and many others.

GET BACK THERE

Obviously, hiking is the primary means of penetrating the backcountry. Some anglers may bushwhack across rugged terrain, but most will follow trails. Horses are used in the summer to reach remote areas. Many big-game outfitters offer summer fishing trips, utilizing tent camps or cabins that are normally used for autumn hunters. Boats, canoes and kayaks are also used to access the hinterlands. ATVs are popular in the summer and fall to reach remote waters as well. Using motorized vehicles may be unappealing to some, but anglers who are elderly or have physical issues may not be able to hike.

In the winter, backcountry enthusiasts often use snowmobiles to reach waters that are far from roads or near roads that

Although trout are usually the primary target of hike-in trips, anglers can also find hot bass and panfish action in remote places.



ATTENTION!

Safety Warning and Recall Notice for Henry Single Shot Rifles and Shotguns



Henry Repeating Arms Company has recently discovered a potential safety issue wherein, under certain conditions, it is possible that some of these models may discharge without the trigger being pulled if the hammer is partially cocked and released.

All H015 model owners should visit www.HenryUSA.com/recall email recall@henryusa.com , or call 866-200-2354 (M-F, 9AM ET-5PM ET) to obtain additional information.



HENRY

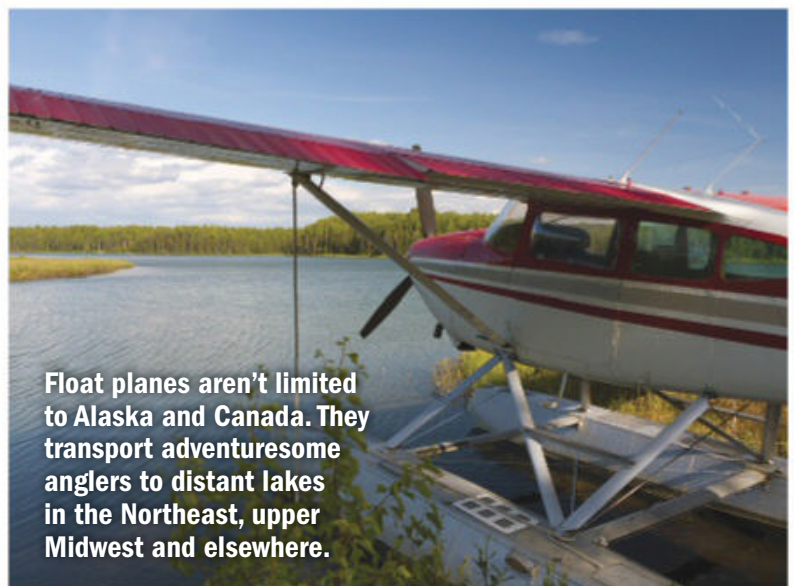
Made In America,
Or Not Made At All

are snowed in and closed. Some hardy anglers use snowshoes or cross-country skis to get to remote lakes in the winter, dragging a sled to carry ice-fishing tackle and gear.

There's yet one more way to reach the backcountry, and that's in an airplane. You can hire a bush pilot to take you into remote areas. That's especially true in Alaska, where hundreds of outfitters and transporters are available, but planes are an option for accessing the backcountry in the lower 48 as well.

Many years ago, when my two oldest children were 7 and 9, I wanted them to hear the call of a loon. To me, a loon represents the wilderness, and I'm thrilled every time I hear one. I hired a bush pilot to take my wife, the kids and me to a remote lake in New York's Adirondack Mountains. After we were flown to the lake in a float plane, we said

goodbye to the pilot and were left alone on a five-day adventure. We put up our tent and in no time caught some brook trout for dinner. We ended the perfect day around the campfire, and after marshmallows we settled into our sleeping bags. Around 2 a.m. I was awakened by a loon. I was excited and woke everyone up. Two loons called to each other for several minutes. The kids loved it, and I think that adventure was key to them forming a lifelong bond to the outdoors.



Float planes aren't limited to Alaska and Canada. They transport adventuresome anglers to distant lakes in the Northeast, upper Midwest and elsewhere.

MEET THE WATER'S

LIGHTEST

25hp

FOUR STROKE

THE COMPLETELY REDESIGNED YAMAHA 25 HP FOUR STROKE.

Yamaha's 25 hp four stroke features an innovative design for a power-to-weight that's not only class-leading; it's category jumping. Twenty-four percent lighter than the competition, our 25 hp is so light, it's portable—and perfect for 14- to 16-foot aluminum boats.

Built on the proven DNA of Yamaha reliability, the 25 hp features:

- ▶ Two-cylinder, 432cc, SOHC, 4-valve EFI with multi-point injection
- ▶ Battery-less EFI for easy starts
- ▶ Wide-span motor mounts for smoother running
- ▶ Shortened tiller handle for convenient control of small jon boats
- ▶ External drain for easy oil changes
- ▶ Variable Trolling RPM Switch (VTS) for precision trolling

Learn more about the Yamaha 25 hp four stroke at YamahaOutboards.com/F25.



REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal flotation device and protective gear. © 2022 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. 1-866-894-1626

Reliability Starts Here.®



BACKCOUNTRY TACKLE AND GEAR

Fishing tackle for venturing into places inaccessible to conventional vehicles is typically downsized because you'll be hiking or riding a horse—either yours, a rental or stock provided by an outfitter for the trip. In some cases, you might fly into remote areas in a bush plane, as I did with my young family.

Ultralight spinning gear fits the bill nicely because it stows easily and is lighter. Travel fly rods have multiple short segments that are fitted together and stored in a small case which, along with a reel, can easily be accommodated in a backpack. There are also telescopic rods that are compact and can be stored in small places. I normally use a fly rod that's seen its better days, because when I'm walking along a stream through timber and brush I might inadvertently damage or even break it. (That happened to one of my buddies. He tripped on a log and severely damaged his expensive rod.)

Here's an interesting twist. When I'm fishing streams in meadows I sometimes use a 15-foot crappie rod that has several telescoping segments and is quickly



The cutthroat is the jewel of backcountry fishing trips in the West, and trout from small streams are usually eager to smash large patterns fished on the surface.

SHUTTERSTOCK



IT'S THE *simple* THINGS...

...like hearing the waves lapping the side of the boat, watching the sunset as you cast your line from the pier, or reeling in your first catch of the day. Charter, deep-sea, offshore, and inshore fishing are all some of our favorite ways to reel in dinner.



**GULF SHORES &
ORANGE BEACH
TOURISM**
Alabama's White-Sand Beaches

GulfShores.com | OrangeBeach.com
877-475-1534



downsized into a unit 3 feet long. In very small streams there's no need to cast with this long pole. I simply sneak as close as I can to the water's edge and drop in my fly or bait. I tie on only 7 or 8 feet of 2-pound-test monofilament. The long pole works best in open meadow areas. It can be tricky and frustrating to thread it through the trees along the stream when fully extended, though it takes only a few seconds to slip the telescopic segments down for easy carry.

When you're heading into the boonies don't make the mistake of leaving the backpack behind, even if you're making a short hike. Murphy's Law is always lurking, and you never know when an unplanned incident or change in weather can alter your plans. I carry survival gear, a first-aid kit, food, lightweight raingear and extra clothing. If you're camping, a lightweight, waterproof tent and sleeping bag are in order. In the high country, temperatures can drop drastically, even on a summer day, and you might get caught in a lightning storm. Keeping dry is important since hypothermia is always possible.

Sturdy boots are always recommended, and they should be well broken in if you're going on a long hike in rugged terrain. I like boots with air-bob soles since they provide excellent footing, especially on slippery rocks along streams.

If you're headed for Lost Lake in the middle of a wilderness, you should have the means to navigate to it and back out. A mobile device with OnX or another mapping app is a good idea, and paper maps and a compass are prudent backups.

CRAWL YOUR WAY TO TROUT

Mountain streams, regardless of the region, are almost always gin-clear and often shallow. For that reason, it's essential to dress appropriately and keep a low profile. If fish see you, they're likely to dart away and seek refuge under a rock or overhanging bank. A run or pool that was loaded with fish could be deserted in seconds.

There are ways to resolve this problem. Always wear a camo or dark-colored shirt. If you wear a white or yellow shirt, the fish will spot you much farther away than they would if you



LIVE BAIT FISH SHIPPED

OVERNIGHT FedEx

WHOLESALE PRICING FOR BAIT SHOPS

PERFECT FOR POND STOCKING

WWW.ANDERSONMINNOWS.COM

501-676-2716



Anderson
MINNOW FARM

- **Live**
- **Frozen**
- **Forage**

blended in with the surroundings. Recently I fished with a group that included a woman who wore a bright-orange shirt. I'd have wagered that she wouldn't catch a trout in the small, shallow stream we fished. She didn't. I didn't know her well enough to recommend she wear more subdued clothing. On another trip, my daughter and her husband returned to our campsite after

The Cabela's Stowaway breaks into sections less than 2 feet long, which makes toting the rod into remote places easier.



fishing and hadn't caught anything. I noticed that their trousers were clean and suggested that if they crawled to the stream and kept low to the ground, they'd be successful. A couple hours later they walked into camp with muddied knees and a bunch of brookies.

One of my favorite streams in Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains is extremely narrow, anywhere from 18 inches to 3 feet wide. I fish it about a mile from the road. It runs through a meadow with

grass 2 or 3 feet high along the banks. I crawl as close as I dare and never peek at the water. If I can see the stream, the fish can see me. I extend my fly rod over the water and dap my fly. Much of the time I have no idea my fly is actually in the water if the stream is particularly narrow. A sharp tug and a splash



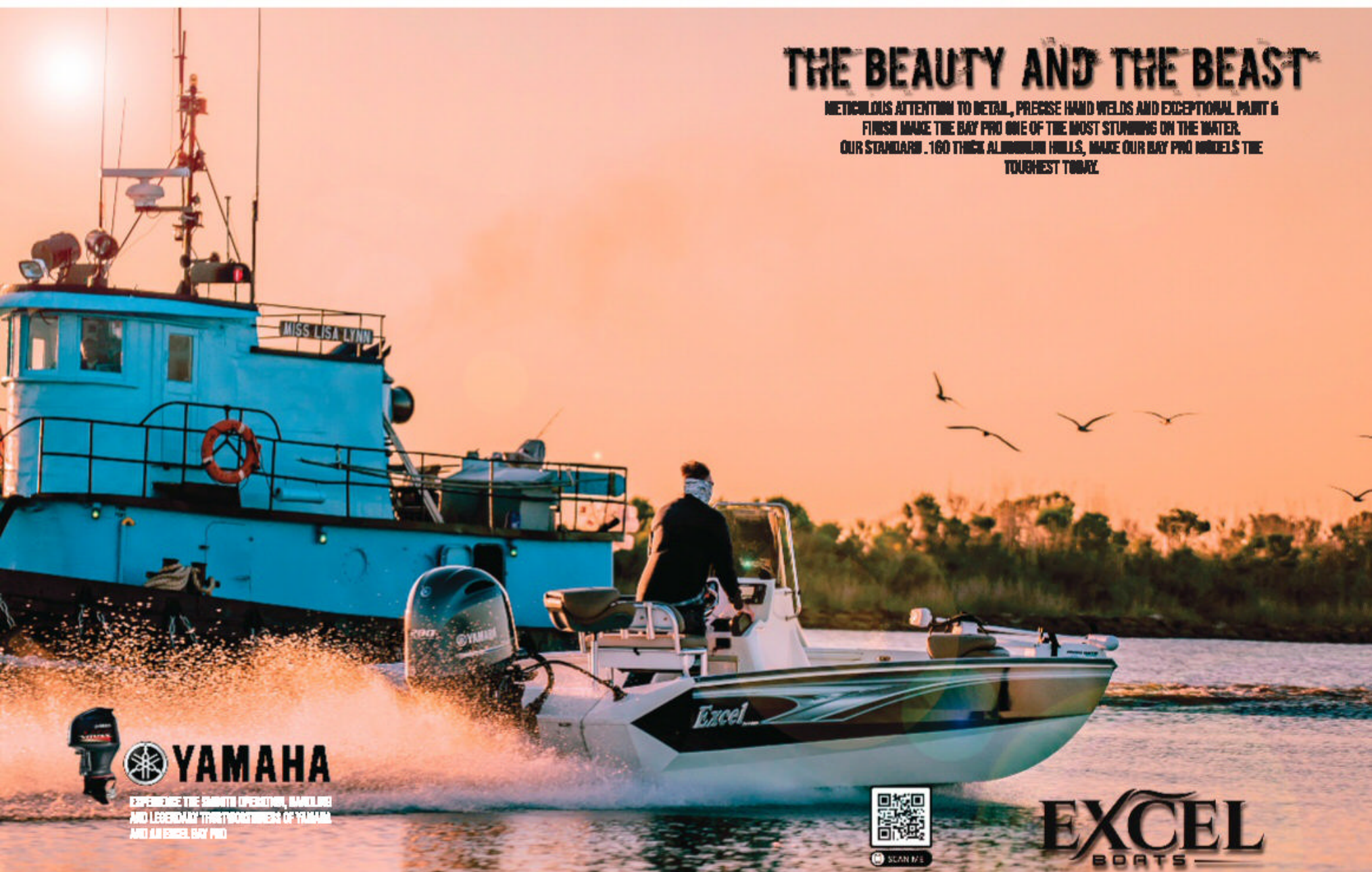
Carrying water, raingear and basic survival items in a small pack like the Simms Freestone is smart when heading into the backcountry.

indicate a strike. If I'm using a small worm, I can hear it make a slight plop when it hits the water, but oftentimes the offering will inadvertently get caught in streamside grass and I can't see it.

There are no places off-limits to trout in small streams. They'll lie in places that would amaze you, such as tiny holes

THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

METICULOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL, PRECISE HAND WELDS AND EXCEPTIONAL PAINT & FINISH MAKE THE BAY PRO ONE OF THE MOST STUNNING ON THE WATER. OUR STANDARD .160 THICK ALUMINUM HULLS, MAKE OUR BAY PRO MODELS THE TOUGHEST TODAY.



YAMAHA
EXPERIENCE THE SMOOTH OPERATION, HANDLINE
AND LEGENDARY THROTTLEWEISS OF YAMAHA
AND AN EXCEL BAY PRO



EXCEL
BOATS



YOUR RODS. YOUR WAY.

Elevate your fishing game
with custom built rods.

Mud Hole
ROD BUILDING & TACKLE CRAFTING

MUDHOLE.COM



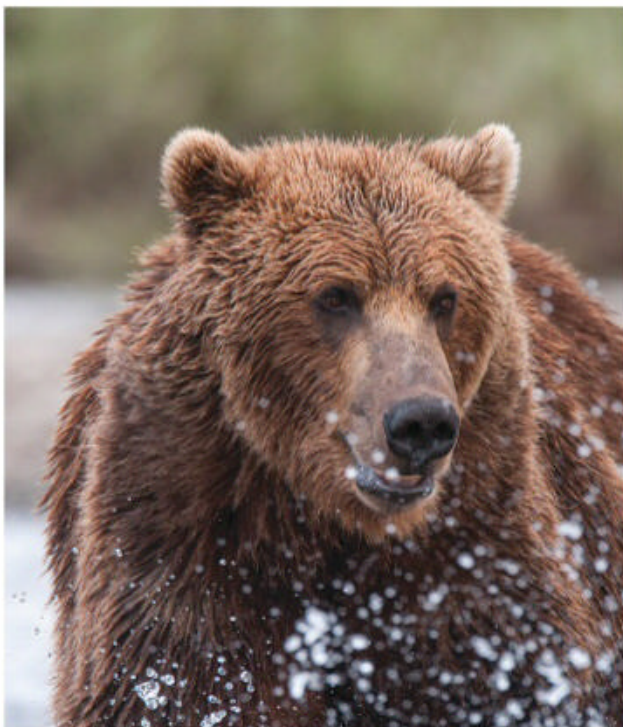
Approach promising spots in tiny streams with stealth, and make presentations from a distance to avoid spooking fish.

along the shore that are no bigger than a bucket or in a run that's barely 5 inches deep. A deeper pool is often a hangout for multiple fish. I've seen more than a hundred brookies in a single pool. It's possible to catch several fish from a

pool as long as you don't show yourself when landing one.

This low-profile technique works well in tiny creeks, but in bigger streams flowing through open meadows you can make long casts, putting your fly into likely

spots. I've found that open meadow areas with clumps of willows and high grass along the banks are far more productive than streams that rush through rocks in timbered areas. There's far more feed in the meadows in the form of aquatic



ALASKA ADVENTURE

Chasing backcountry salmon among brown bears

One of my all-time favorite backcountry visits was an 80-mile float down Alaska's Talachulitna River. Our group flew to Judd Lake via a float plane where our journey began. There were seven of us in the party including two guides. We floated the river in two rafts and had another raft to carry tents, gear and food. We made camp along the brown bear-infested river and panned for gold in small tributaries.

Our mission was to catch a world-record king salmon on a fly rod. Though we caught dozens of fish during the five-day excursion, we never set a record, but several salmon came close. Hooking a big king on a fly rod was an incredible experience. If the fish decided to run downstream to the ocean from whence it came, I had to dash along the shore, following it until the fish temporarily settled in a pool. Only then could I catch up and hopefully tire it out. The presence of brown bears provided an extra thrill. Luckily, my group had no close encounters, which was much appreciated.

HENRY RAMSAY (TOP); SHUTTERSTOCK (BOTTOM)



GARRISON

Featuring forged materials and heirloom-quality construction, the Garrison 1911 combines modern materials and design with a heritage spanning back more than a century. Available with classic hot salt blued carbon steel or rust-resistant stainless steel construction, the Garrison is a rock-solid 1911 that gives you a host of modern upgrades along with the strength to provide a lifetime of service.



[SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM](http://springfield-armory.com)

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.

larvae, grasshoppers, various other flying insects and worms. More than once I've cleaned trout that had bellies full of worms, especially after a rainfall.

CATCH AND COOK

Whether you're hiking in the mountains or canoeing in a remote area, a stream-side lunch is always a welcome treat. Somehow a meal cooked over campfire coals tastes so much better than one made on a kitchen stove. When I'm backpacking for mountain trout, I carry the essentials to cook fish.

If weight is a big consideration, I'll fold a few sheets of aluminum foil and put them in my pack along with a stick of butter in zip-top bag, a small onion, packets of salt and pepper, another small bag containing spices and herbs, plastic utensils and paper plates. After the fish are cleaned, sprinkle them with

Fresh-caught fish is always a welcome meal at camp and can be prepared with only a handful of ingredients.



Making a cast and landing a fish can be a challenge in the tight spots that are common to mountain streams.

salt, pepper and seasonings, place them on the foil with a couple pats of butter inside each body cavity, and cover them with sliced onions. Wrap the fish tightly in foil and place them on hot coals. When done, sit back and enjoy a fabulous meal.

If you have room in your backpack, you can skip the foil and bring a small, lightweight skillet. Once, more than 50 years ago, I went on a backcountry trip in New York's Catskill Mountains with several other people. One enterprising individual insisted on bringing along a huge cast-iron skillet that had to be 16 inches wide and weigh a dozen or more pounds. Our fishing efforts were successful, and we cooked up a fantastic meal that I still remember today.

YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER

Access to good fishing in America's backcountry should never be a problem considering the enormous chunk of acreage managed by various government agencies. Notably, the U.S. Forest Service administers lands on 154 forests in the United States amounting to 188 million acres. These national forests are located all over our country, from Florida to Maine, in the Great Lakes states, and throughout the Midwest, South, West and Alaska.

Trails abound in all the forests, some maintained by the government and

JIM ZUMBO (2)

TASTE THE ADVENTURE



On Monday nights, we're serving up incredible, wild adventures — with a gourmet touch. Taste of the Wild showcases the culinarily delights of fresh game and fish, expertly harvested and prepared by hosts Mike Robinson of *Fishing the Wild*, Daniel Vitalis of *WildFed*, Steven Rinella of *MeatEater*, and Tommy Gomes of *The Fishmonger*.

MONDAYS ^{BEGINS} 7P **Outdoor**

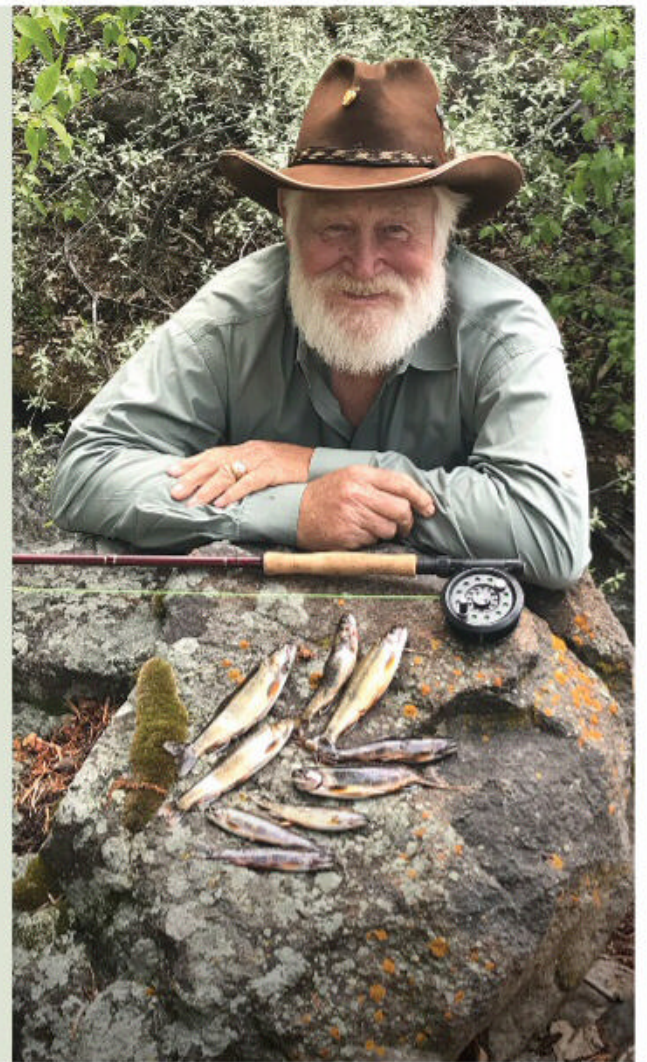
BROOK TROUT BOUNTY

In the Rockies, brookies are meant for meals.

Before the West was settled, cutthroats were the only trout in the Rocky Mountains. Well-meaning individuals and groups thought it would be wonderful to augment the population with brook trout from the East. On they came, countless brook trout, transported by trains, a variety of vehicles and whatever other means available. The result was, biologically, a disaster for the native cutthroats. Brookies quickly outcompeted them and succeeded in driving the cutthroats out of thousands of miles of streams in the Rockies. Now most of those streams contain only brookies.

What does the abundance of brookies mean to the backcountry angler? If you're interested in a brook trout dinner, either streamside or at home, bonus limits of brook trout are allowed in some Rocky Mountain states. These bonus limits of brookies are in addition to the regular trout limit. For example, Idaho has a limit of 25 brookies; Montana, 20; Wyoming, 16; and Colorado, 10—provided the brook trout are under 8 inches.

Bonus limits are established to encourage anglers to keep more brookies, which helps reduce competition in streams. Mountain waters are typically cold year-round, they're less productive than other streams, and the short growing season doesn't allow large populations of aquatic insects and other invertebrates that are necessary for fish growth. Studies show that a 6-inch brook trout from overcrowded waters can be upwards of 10 years old. While it may seem the bonus limits are too liberal, consider that most brookies in these Western waters average 6 to 7 inches. It takes a bunch of these little fish to satisfy a healthy appetite.



some by private groups. I live close to Wyoming's Bighorn National Forest, which is my all-time favorite stomping grounds for backcountry fishing. With 1,500 miles of trails, and with streams and creeks everywhere on 1.1 million acres, it's never a problem to take a hike and find outstanding fishing. I've yet to find a waterway that had poor fishing.

The Bighorn is just an example of what you can find in other national forests in the U.S.

There are also millions of acres of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These are typically low-elevation areas and deserts in the foothills, but many BLM lands offer excellent backcountry mountain fishing.

National wildlife refuges and state lands also offer noteworthy remote fishing.

All you need to do is a bit of research to find hidden jewels in the hinterlands, where you'll never see a posted sign. In today's crowded world, that's plenty of reason to grab your rod, don a backpack and head for America's spectacular backcountry. **G&F**

Brook trout are native to the East and are protected under special regulations in some waters, while in Western states they are an introduced species and high-country anglers are encouraged to keep liberal limits.



REALITY TV.



A gar and crappie
suspended in a fallen tree.

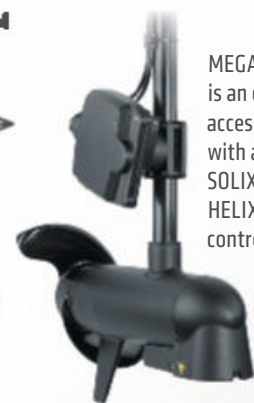
MUST-WATCH DETAIL, NON-STOP ACTION **MEGA** **LIVE** IMAGING™

It's showtime. New MEGA Live Imaging™ delivers the edge-to-edge clarity you need to see exactly what's below the surface in real time, with no gaps in coverage and MEGA Imaging® detail across the entire view. Want to know if a certain area is worth fishing? You can be absolutely certain with crystal-clear, live sonar returns of fish, structure and your lure, in Down, Forward or Landscape Mode. There's no image like it. For real. Learn more at Humminbird.com/MEGALive.

OPTIMIZED SONAR BEAM Coverage + Detail



Edge-to-Edge MEGA IMAGING CLARITY



MEGA Live Imaging is an optional accessory compatible with all APEX™, SOLIX® and select HELIX® Series control models.



AROUND THE MIDWEST

A SAMPLING OF THE REGION'S BEST HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THIS SUMMER

By Brandon Butler

The summer months, while hot, can be a great time to experience a wide range of outdoor adventures, whether pursuing monster catfish in big, muddy rivers or chasing squirrels in a hardwood forest. June and July may not rival the prime months of spring and fall, but there is still plenty to keep us busy over the next two months. Fishing opportunities abound for numerous species across the region, while small game and predators give us a chance to keep our trigger fingers limber.





YELLOWWOOD LAKE BLUEGILLS

Indiana's Yellowwood State Forest is home to 133-acre Yellowwood Lake and Jackson Creek, both of which provide fishing for bass, catfish, crappies and even stocked trout at certain times of the year. But it's the bluegills in Yellowwood that draw anglers from near and far. You can catch 'gills just about anywhere on the lake, as well as below the dam in Jackson Creek. Remember to respect the resource of these muscular panfish; it's not hard to overfish a lake the size of Yellowwood. This non-motorized lake offers solitude and a limited availability of primitive camping right by the water, making fishing quite convenient.



APPALACHIAN HILLS BASS

The Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area in Ohio is home to 350 lakes with nearly 300 campsites. With 35,396 acres open to roam, this huge piece of public land allows anglers to spread out, often leaving them alone on a remote piece of water. Many of these are full of largemouth bass. The Ohio DNR listed Appalachian Hills as the second-best largemouth destination in the state. Most shorelines are forested, making this a great place to fish from a small kayak or float tube.



BLUEGRASS BUSHYTAILS

Kentucky has a short spring squirrel season that runs until mid-June. Squirrels are most active at dawn and dusk but may be hunted all day. The state has three tree squirrel species: eastern gray, northern fox and southern flying. Flying squirrels are protected and can't be killed. The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area offers 170,000 acres, with most open to squirrel hunting.



BRULE RIVER TROUT

Summer trout fishing on Wisconsin's Bois Brule River is tough to beat. This iconic water is known for its salmon and steelhead runs, but the resident trout alone make this a must-fish destination, especially during the hex hatch in June and early July. The emergence of the *Hexagenia limbata* mayfly prompts trout to feed aggressively. Anglers on the hunt for brookies and browns gorging on the meaty insects should focus on the upper Brule above County Highway B, one of four management segments.



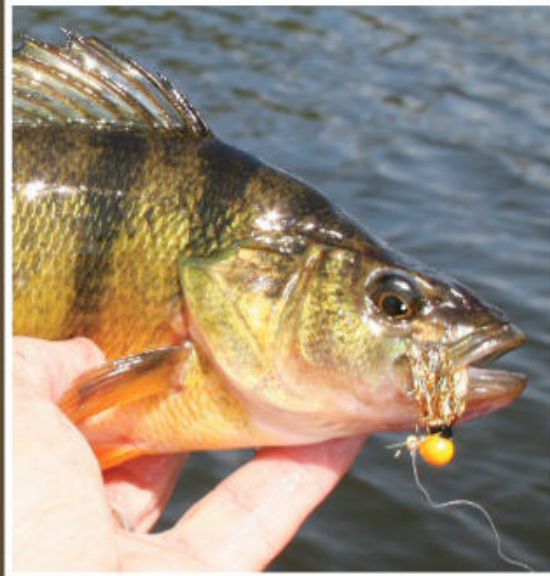
KANSAS RIVER CATFISH

Summer is catfish season, and the Sunflower State's Kansas River is known for big ones. A tributary of the Missouri River, the Kansas holds big blues, flatheads and channel cats (the former state-record 34-pound 11-ounce channel came from here). The biggest cats are typically found downstream from Lawrence to the river's confluence. Shad are plentiful and a good bet when used as cut bait.



LAKE MICHIGAN PERCH

Perch transition during June and July. Pre-spawn fish congregate on clay flats in 50 to 80 feet of water all along the Chicago lakefront, but after they spawn towards the end of June, they move into shallower water from 20 to 40 feet deep with temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees. A simple two-hook live-bait rig with a bottom-bouncing bell sinker is a popular method. Blade baits, ice-fishing jigs and Swedish Pimples are a few artificial options. Keep everything on the bottom. Calumet Harbor is an annual hotspot.



MINNESOTA SONG DOGS

Coyotes are an unprotected species in Minnesota, meaning there is no hunting season or bag limit. Hunting these animals in summer—when populations are at their highest—is too often overlooked. In June and July, calling 'yotes in recently cut hay fields is a good bet. While found throughout the state, coyotes are more prevalent in the southern prairie region. Swan Lake WMA has good opportunities, but knocking on farmers' doors and offering to thin out their predators is a great way to develop relationships ahead of deer season.

SUMMER'S DOG DAYS



OFF-SEASON TRAINING CAN BE DANGEROUS
FOR HUNTING DOGS IN SUMMER.
**KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR TO KEEP
YOUR DOG SAFE FROM THE HEAT.**

By Tom Keer

It's summertime, and the weather is hazy, hot and humid. However, Opening Day is only a few months away, and if we want our dogs to be ready to roll, we'll need to run them in the heat. Here's how to train while avoiding Heat Related Illness (HRI).

WHAT IS HRI?

Hyperthermia is when a dog's core body temperature rises above its normal 101 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit range. There are two types of HRI: non-exertional and exertional. An example of non-exertional HRI is when a dog overheats when left

in a car in the summer. Exertional HRI comes from running dogs when it's hot.

HOW DOGS COOL

Russ Kelley, science lead nutritionist at Eukanuba's Pet Health and Nutrition Center, says sporting and working dogs dissipate heat in a variety of ways, with about 70 percent being dissipated through their skin. As we all know, they also cool down by panting, and Kelley adds that dogs get rid of heat through their noses and paw pads, too.

However, when outside temperatures are close to a dog's body temperature, he says, it doesn't cool down very easily.

The same holds true when it exhales hot air and inhales hot air. Add to this the fact that a dog's nose has a small surface area, and calloused paws don't allow it to perspire. Then, Kelley says, you can better understand why these conditions make it hard for dogs to cool down this time of year. That's why handlers should pay careful attention to their dogs when working them in the summer.

DETECTING HRI

There are three stages of HRI. Each has some different signs, and being able to read these in your dog is key to early detection and treatment.



MORE FEATURES.

MORE FISHING.

FISH FOR MORE

© 2022 Johnson Outdoors Marine Electronics, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

GET MORE OUT OF YOUR TIME ON THE WATER WITH MINN KOTA®

Every Minn Kota® is made to help you get more of what you came for. Get on fish. Stay on fish. And put more fish in the boat. And when you connect your Minn Kota to a Humminbird®, the One-Boat Network® unlocks all new ways to hook up on the water. Because when you fish with us, you fish for more.

› minnkotamotors.com/more



STAGE 1: Heat Stress Clinical Signs

- Less animated behavior
- Visibly tired or moving at a slower pace
- Changes in the dog's focus or readiness
- Change in attitude (i.e., seems apprehensive)
- Pasty saliva in the mouth
- Increased thirst
- Tongue excessively protruding with a flattened end
- Cheeks pulled back revealing the full arcade of the teeth, including the molars
- Feels overly warm to the touch
- Brick-red mucous membranes
- Excessive panting
- Heat cramps or muscle spasms

STAGE 2: Heat Exhaustion Clinical Signs

Any of the signs from the 1st stage, plus:

- Weakness or stumbling
- Mentally aware but too tired to react
- Excessive panting becomes uncontrollable
- Significant thirst
- Sunken, dry eyes
- Lack of skin elasticity
- Dry mouth, gums and nose
- Vomit or diarrhea
- Muscle tremors

STAGE 3: Heat Stroke Clinical Signs

Any of the signs from the first and second stages, plus:

- Significant slowness or lack of coordination
- Weakness in the hind end
- Wobbly and unsteady
- Unresponsive or confused
- Incessant or noisy panting
- Dark urine or lack of urine
- Seizures
- Head tremors
- Shock
- Collapse
- Coma

HRI TREATMENT

STAGE 1: Heat Stress

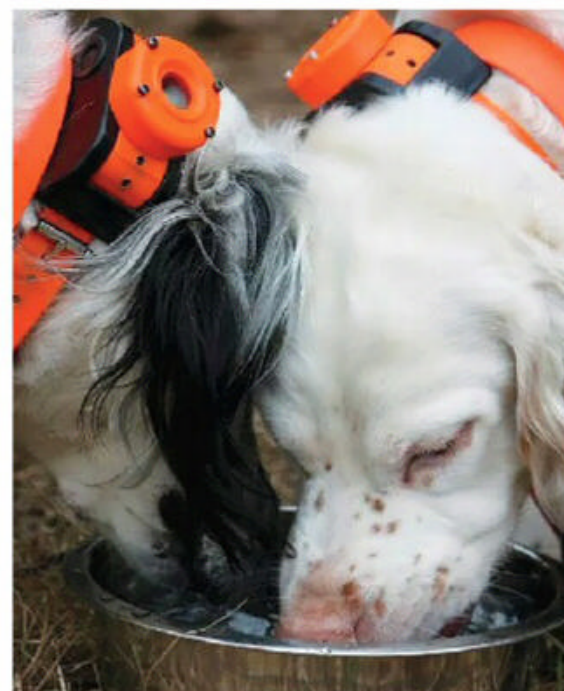
- Take a break from the activity. Sit in a shady area with a cool breeze and provide your dog with lots of water.
- Apply cool water to the paw pads and underbelly, both of which help reduce core body temperature.
- Rinse out the mouth to remove the pasty saliva from the gums and tongue.
- Since pasty saliva can be an early sign of heat stress, check the dog's temperature with a rectal thermometer. If the temperature is elevated, soak a pad with rubbing alcohol and place on the pinnae of the ears, in the "armpits" and in the groin area. The alcohol placed in these areas will help cool the surface blood immediately.
- Do not start working the dog until he is fully recovered. Even then, it might be best to rest your dog until the following day.
- Consult your vet for additional instruction.

STAGE 2: Heat Exhaustion

- It's best to get your dog to a veterinarian.
- Before heading to the vet, place your dog on her side on a cool, wet towel. Placing her in a dog box with poor air circulation isn't a good idea.
- Apply cool water to the paw pads and underbelly.
- Rub alcohol-soaked pads on the pinnae of the ears, "armpits" and groin area.
- Absolutely do not put the dog in extremely cold water.
- Never put ice on the dog's skin. That extreme cold causes surface blood vessels to shrink and increases the risk of both dehydration and heat stroke.

STAGE 3: Heat Stroke

- Get your dog to the nearest vet immediately.
- Follow the before-mentioned actions from Stage 2 before you begin your drive to the nearest vet.



DOG TRAINING DO'S

Six tips to keep in mind for summer dog training

- **THE 140 RULE:** Add the air temperature and humidity percentage. If the sum is over 140, think about doing finish work instead of conditioning.
- **OPEN-AIR CONCEPT:** Work dogs in open spaces where air circulation is better.
- **SHADY SETUPS:** Keep dogs staked out in the shade so they don't get hot before a workout.
- **WATER WORKS:** Work your dog through water when you're running him. Water cools seven times faster than air, so let dogs splash in a pond or stream. It's good exercise, too. Hold off on letting hot dogs get into super-cold water, though. The shock may be too much.
- **FINISH STRONG:** Very hot days can be a great time for finish work. Birds and checkcords, woah tables or placeboards for steadiness, and short retrieves are all good ways to prep for the season without potentially causing dogs to overheat.
- **MORNING RUN:** Do any conditioning work during the coolest time of the day, which is usually before sunrise.



WE LOSE, **YOU LOSE**

Join the Sportsmen's Alliance to protect hunting from animal-rights activists.

With every anti-hunting law passed, wildlife management suffers and
you lose a memory in the field.

JOIN THE SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE

SPORTSMENALLIANCE.ORG/MEMBERSHIP





SHALLOW

MINDED

SUMMER PANFISH AREN'T ALWAYS LURKING IN DEEP WATER. MANY FIND EVERYTHING THEY NEED MUCH CLOSER TO SHORE.

By Keith Sutton

Summer panfishing can be frustrating. Anglers must contend with finicky fish, stifling heat, crowds of recreational boaters and rapidly changing water levels. The fish are especially exasperating because many move to deeper water where they're hard to find and catch.

Not all panfish move deep, though. Some remain shallow if they find locations that provide food, protection and shade. Such areas include boat docks, weed beds, bridges and brushy points. And if you know how to fish these sites, you can enjoy fast-paced action for crappies, bluegills and other panfish—even during the heat of summer.

BOAT DOCKS AND PIERS

Boat docks and fishing piers are among the first places you should head when seeking summer panfish. The best ones are built on wood pilings in 5 to 15 feet of water near cover and/or structure, have been in the water for several seasons and are situated very close to the water's surface.

These structures attract panfish with prolonged shade throughout the day. The wood pilings provide a comfortable sense of security, which structure-oriented panfish require, and they also harbor a smorgasbord of foods. Algae growing on the seasoned wood hide grass shrimp, newly hatched minnows,

aquatic insects, insect larvae and other panfish favorites. Plenty of yummy stuff falls off the dock, too, including spiders, roaches, crickets, moths and other insects.

Size should be another consideration. Think of docks and piers as fish hotels. Big hotels have rooms for lots of guests. Occupancy is limited, though, at smaller establishments. If other traits are equal, try to concentrate on larger docks and piers.

Savvy anglers move in close and fish under each structure where big panfish are most likely hiding. A short, light spinning or spincasting outfit is handy for this kind of fishing because it allows



Shallow vegetation offers summer bluegills shade and oxygenated water. Look for small holes or other changes like timber stick-ups or points.

anglers to skip, flip and ricochet baits or lures into even the tightest areas—a tactic called sling-shotting. Use slow-falling baits like twister-tail jigs or unweighted crickets to mimic falling insects. Flip or shoot these under the dock and prepare for a strike as the bait falls. If a hit is not forthcoming, a slow retrieve close to the bottom will frequently produce.

If you have a sonar unit on your boat, watch for brush piles placed around docks and piers by the owners or local anglers. It's rare when there aren't several brush piles in the vicinity of a dock, with several nice crappies or bluegills hiding within these shelters.

GREEN WEED BEDS

Beds of green aquatic vegetation attract summer panfish for several reasons. They provide shade and protection, as well as abundant oxygen produced through photosynthesis. Baitfish and invertebrate forage animals are attracted to this comfortable environment, and panfish follow.

Most anglers assume that since they can't see open water, the area can't be fished, so they go about pecking along the edges. But panfish, especially the heavyweight elders, are deep within this seemingly impenetrable sea of greenery. The best way to catch them is to get right in there.

The trick is working methodically to cover every accessible nook and pocket. A cane pole or jigging pole is ideal for this because it allows you to reach likely honey holes from a distance with fewer hang-ups. Attach a bobber above your bait—jigs, crickets, grass shrimp, minnows and worms are good choices—and probe every opening you see, changing the position of the bobber occasionally until you determine the depth where fish are feeding.

Don't be shy about fishing tiny, impossible-looking openings. The best technique with these small holes is to leave off the bobber and pull your line so your bait comes up tight against

PANFISH PLAYGROUNDS

Summertime angling for crappies, bluegills and more is often hot-and-heavy at these five fisheries.

BELLEVILLE LAKE

This 1,270-acre impoundment in Michigan's Wayne and Washtenaw counties southeast of Ypsilanti is loaded with nice crappies. Look for schools around stumps and downed timber near the sinuous river channel.

LITTLE SAUK LAKE

Special regulations on this Todd County reservoir in Minnesota allow anglers to keep just five bluegills and five crappies. That means this is a superb place for big panfish. There are no well-defined points, sunken islands or reefs here, though, so look for depressions on broad, shallow flats that hold fish. Call Fletcher's Bait (320-352-2155) in Sauk Centre for local intel.

COUNCIL BLUFF LAKE

If you like catching redear sunfish, aka shellcrackers, this 440-acre Show-Me State lake in Mark Twain National Forest south of Potosi should be on your must-visit list this year. Redears nearing the 10-inch mark are abundant, and you'll find plenty of 12-inch fish, too, along with bonus bluegills and crappies. Ultralight spinning gear baited with worms or crickets (minnows or jigs for crappies) is the ticket to success.

BLACK HAWK LAKE

Target yellow perch in this 922-acre lake near Lake View, Iowa, with waxworms or live minnows on a small jig. Focus efforts in the southwest portion between Provost Point, Denison

Beach and Ice House Point. Bonus crappies and bluegills are possible. Black Hawk State Park (712-657-8712) on the south side of the lake offers camping.

BOX BUTTE RESERVOIR

This 1,600-acre lake 9 miles north of Hemingford on the western edge of Nebraska's Sandhills harbors very healthy populations of panfish, including yellow perch, bluegills, crappies, pumpkinseeds and rock bass. Catch them with jigs or small pieces of worm fished beneath a bobber around the lake's flooded cottonwood trees. Call Box Butte Reservoir State Recreation Area (308-665-2903) for additional info.

the rod tip. Then, position your pole over the opening and slowly release the line to lower your bait into the hole. Using this method, your bait should get through even the thickest tangles. Panfish in such places are far more likely to strike than those found along an edge that every passing angler has already pounded.

When all vegetation seems to look alike, focus on structural features that don't conform to the norm. Timber stick-ups often concentrate fish, as will open cuts through the vegetation and nearby points or underwater humps. On waters harboring several different types of water plants, try differing weed beds, as one type may hold more fish than the others.

BRIDGES

Bridges are very attractive to panfish in hot weather. The shaded channel beneath provides a constant supply of cool, aerated water, and the pilings are covered with algae that attract aquatic invertebrates, small fish and other foods.

First, fish around those pilings in shallower water. Use a sonar unit to find fish concentrations or simply work various depths until fish are found. Throw a small jig, spinner or slightly weighted live bait past the piling, then let it drift down to feeding fish as you

count. Once a fish is caught, count down to the same level on your next cast and catch another. Try not to bump the pilings with your bait, as this frightens fish away from the structure.

After fishing the pilings, work the rock riprap that usually lines the shore under bridges. Cast parallel to the shore, starting shallow and gradually working deeper as you move away from the bank. Deep-diving, ultralight, crayfish-imitating crankbaits are real bluegill killers in these waters, and they will

often entice slab crappies, too. Small spoons 1/10- to 1/4-ounce produce well when vertically jigged to resemble a dying baitfish fluttering to the bottom.

BRUSHY POINTS

Points are excellent panfish spots year-round because they serve as pathways for fish moving between shallow and deep water. By working a point methodically from shallow to deep, you can determine the day's depth pattern and use it to help locate panfish on other points or



A longer cane or jigging pole is a real asset when panfish are tucked back in thick, green vegetation. Jigs, crickets, worms and minnows under a bobber are great here.

KEITH SUTTON

RESERVE SERIES OVER-AND-UNDERS

**RAISE
YOUR
GAME**

#75472
Gold Reserve
12GA, 30"
Grade-A Black
Walnut

SAFETY TIP 

Store firearms securely, inaccessible
to children and unauthorized users.

Consult and comply with any and all applicable
federal, state, and local: laws, regulations, requirements,
and/or restrictions, including but not limited to those regarding
the purchase, ownership, use, transport, and carrying of a firearm.

**MOSSBERG INTERNATIONAL™
RESERVE™ SERIES OVER-AND-UNDERS.**

Whether spending mornings out wingshooting or busting clays— do it in style
with an all-new Reserve Series Over-and-Under. Sporting handsome top-shelf
materials and features usually found on more expensive break actions, this
Series is well-suited to help you raise your game.


LEARN MORE AT
MOSSBERG.COM

MOSSBERG®
SINCE 1919

structural features. Many of these fish will be in shallow water.

Work a jig or live bait around all visible cover and fish-concentrating structure: stumps, fallen and standing timber, rocks, man-made brush piles and the like. If you catch most fish around features near a point's upper end, concentrate on shallow features when you move to other areas. If crappies and bluegills seem to favor deeper areas on the point, fish deeper water until you notice a shift in the pattern.

One good point-fishing tactic involves yo-yoing a small jig/spinner blade combo like a Beetle Spin, or buzzing it along the surface and allowing it to fall or "die" right beside cover. Position your boat in deep water and cast toward the shallow part of the point.

The hot summer months aren't the best time for catching panfish, but neither are they the worst. If you approach it properly and try fishing around shallow-water docks, weed beds, bridge structures and brushy points, your hot-weather fishing can be very productive and provide an exciting alternative if bass, catfish and other species play hard to get. 



Bridges also provide panfish with shade and cooler water. Work shallow pilings first, then try fishing parallel to rock riprap lining the shore under the bridge.

BILL LINDNER PHOTOGRAPHY

CATCH IN COMFORT



PRO-M B100 BOAT SEATS

Millennium Marine's Pro-M 100 features a unique, patented design that provides unmatched comfort, functionality and durability. Enjoy all-day comfort on the water rain or shine with Millennium Marine.



MILLENNIUMMARINE.COM

FARM THE SEA WITH A FISHING LEGEND

THE FISHMONGER

Tommy Gomes is a commercial fishing lifer with a singular purpose: to put fresh, sustainable seafood on America's dinner tables. Join him as he visits ports in California, New England, Alabama and Louisiana, and explores the challenges faced by America's fishermen and lobstermen.

ALL NEW
MONDAY 8:30 P ET


Outdoor

COUNSELING FOR

CATS

NEED HELP GAME-PLANNING FOR SUMMER CATFISH? FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF THREE WHISKERFISH GUIDES **TO CATCH MORE CATS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE SPAWN.**

By Scott Mackenthun

Catfish frequently hold in or around snag piles during the spawn and after it. Anglers who can get baits tight to this cover can do well, even during the heat of the spawn.

Longer days and the heat of summer bring on the spawn for channel, blue and flathead catfish in reservoirs, streams and most major river systems across the Midwest. Attentive catfish anglers can see minor and major differences in catfish behavior and locations across these species as the summer progresses from pre-spawn, through the spawn and into the post-spawn period. A strong pattern in early June might be completely different come August. Knowing where to target catfish as the water warms and the spawn comes and goes ensures a summer full of rod takedowns and slimed-up landing nets.

FEASTING FLATHEADS

Fishing guide Darren Troseth of 3 Rivers Fishing (3riversfishingadventures.com) has been a flathead catfish addict ever since leaving Minnesota's Iron Range and settling into the Minneapolis-St. Paul area with its confluence of major rivers. He suggests that flatheads have distinct summer movement patterns,

with fish moving upstream as they settle into their spawning pattern.

"Pre-spawn, they are on the move," Troseth says. "Creek mouths are active spots, especially if they have a current seam where the tributary meets the main river."

Fish try to avoid heavy current while moving steadily toward spawning sites and feeding along the way, so Troseth sets up on current seams that flatheads use as travel corridors. On the Minnesota, St. Croix and Mississippi rivers, he says flatheads move from as little as a few miles up to a couple hundred between overwinter areas and spawning sites.

As the spawn progresses and flatheads begin making nests, Troseth suggests anglers key on structure. He recommends targeting snags, sheer cutbanks or riprap. With fish guarding nests, anglers must be tight to these structures. During this time Troseth catches more nest-guarding males before eventually getting into a mix of both sexes once some fish finish up spawning.

Troseth says the exact timing of the spawn, which can extend from late June all the way to August, is kind of a mystery. The only way to know when it begins or ends is observing the fish you catch and their condition.

When spawning is done, Troseth searches for flathead catfish in several specific locations. He targets roamers feeding out on the flats, as well as fish on structures similar to those frequented during the spawn. He says there are also fish still hanging in their normal home range, usually around snags by day and in the shallows at night, when they get more active.

For targeting flatheads in all three periods, Troseth generally likes an 8/0 Kahle-style Trokar hook with live bait or a 7/0 circle hook baited with cut chubs or suckers.

CHANGING CHANNELS

Brad Durick of Red River Catfish Guide Service (redrivercatfish.com) calls North Dakota's Red River—perhaps the world's best channel cat fishery—home.

After their spawn is done, flatheads are often found feeding on the flats or hanging around snags during the day.



COURTESY OF JOHN KIMBLE



Just before the spawn, blue cats often hold on ledges and drop-offs and in main channels of a reservoir. After, they tend to roam. You'll have to do the same to find them.

On the Red, Durick says the stage and flow of the river greatly affect where he ultimately finds pre-spawn channel catfish each year.

With high-water spring conditions, Durick looks for slower water in the pre-spawn period. He often sets up on inside corners on the secondary current seam until the water level lowers and stabilizes a bit. At the start of his pre-spawn fishing, he estimates water temperatures are often around 50 to 55 degrees, and the action only increases as water temps rise.

"I like fishing in stretches below dams," Durick says. "The fish are moving upstream, so if I can fish 3 to 5 miles below a dam in the pre-spawn, I encounter more fish."

In lower water years, Durick seeks out fast water. He suggests targeting the current seam and tempting fish as they move upstream for the spawn.

"Always hit the pinch points on the current seam," he says. "A hole, a log or something that will hold them up and make them look at a bait."

Durick sees the spawning process ramp up and more fish move downstream when the water temperature gets just under 70 degrees. While things slow down during the spawn, fish do still feed. Thankfully, this slowdown doesn't last too long, and after a few weeks, Durick says, fishing starts returning to normal.

However, if the temperature gets hot and stays hot, he says fish will come into and out of the spawn around the same time. When this happens, there's a miserable dip in the catch rate and the size of individual catches. Durick says there are usually enough fish spread throughout the river that you can find a good bite somewhere.

Post-spawn, Durick sees Red River channel cats start moving downstream to find more food. Bordering state and provincial fishery biologists have documented larger fish as you proceed downstream, likely taking advantage of more available forage, namely goldeye.

Durick says post-spawn fishing mirrors the pre-spawn, but you work it downstream instead of upstream. He looks

at deeper holes, faster water and snag piles. Some years, he says, pre-spawn and post-spawn periods fish so similarly, you don't miss a beat. But usually the spawn is spread out, and he suggests anglers will catch the same number of fish—they'll just be skinnier after the spawn.

For his spring and summer fishing, Durick uses a Carolina rig with a 9- to 12-inch snell and a Berkley Fusion19 8/0 circle hook. He uses whatever bait is working best at the time—cut gold-eye, sucker, chubs or frogs. He adjusts the weight to the current and suggests that—at least on the Red River—"any time you need more than 5 ounces, you are in the wrong spot."

Durick has started using small-engine fuel line tubing as a knot protector above his swivel. He says it's more expensive than surgical tubing, which he's also used, but it's more durable.

BEASTLY BLUES

Captain Chris Jones of Catfish Pursuit Guide Service (catfishpursuit.com), guides on Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks

KEITH SUTTON

— INTRODUCING THE — **FLEX**

THE PERFORMANCE YOU WANT,
THE FREEDOM YOU NEED

RELIABLE CONNECTIVITY VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE

Dual Sim Card | Auto-connects to best cellular network | All carriers

STUNNING PHOTOS & VIDEOS

33 MP | 1080P FULL-HD Videos

TRANSMISSION TO APP

Photos | Videos

CUSTOM SCOUTING OPTIONS

Maps | Weather | AI Tracking

SIMPLE SETUP

Test Button | microSD Card Formatting

EASY MAINTENANCE

Remote Firmware Management

COMING SUMMER 2022



SUMMER SWEET SPOTS

Five big rivers with catfish to match

WHITE RIVER

You can get after some big flatheads and channel catfish in either fork of the White River in Indiana. Try hopping snags and fishing current seams for a shot at either species.

MINNESOTA RIVER

From Granite Falls to its confluence with the Mississippi River, the Minnesota has tremendous channel and flathead catfish angling. Hit the upper portions for bedrock fishing, or ply the many accumulated snags on the downstream end closer to the Twin Cities.

WISCONSIN RIVER

Tangle with channel cats and flatheads from Prairie du Sac and on downstream. The Lower Wisconsin kicks out some plus-size fish.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

The Mississippi is a reliable option for Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri anglers. Huge catfish can be caught on Old Man River throughout the summer period. Try setting up in backwater side channels where flow slows and baitfish are thick, which draws in flatheads. You can also find

channels and blues in channel swings and tucked behind wing dams on the main branch.

MISSOURI RIVER

The Missouri River offers opportunities for huge channel, flatheads and blue catfish. Upstream in South Dakota, you can fish it like a major river, but once it reaches Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri, it gets so big that you either need to get larger gear or focus on habitat off the main channel. Seek out discharge from USGS gauging stations and find something that suits your comfort level.

and absolutely loves blue catfish. He chases these fish all across the reservoir's 92 miles from Truman Dam to Bagnell Dam, trying to pinpoint which small rivers and feeder creeks blue cats prefer and which main-lake spots are producing the best.

When spring rains or flooding adds water to the reservoir, Jones says the lake fishes more like a river due to the substantial current. Prior to the spawn, he sees fish in as little as a foot of water in long, mid-lake bays usually feeding on winterkill shad.

Fish then transition to main channels, sharp ledges and drop-offs, and Jones looks for mud flats that lead to a drop-off. He says blue cats stack up on those ledges because they're ambush points for bait.


There's a natural slowdown as blue cats spawn, which Jones takes in stride. He says it typically occurs in June, and while there's a definite break in the action, you can still catch fish.

After blue catfish spawn, they often move around, spreading out a lot. Jones does the same, going on the hunt for these post-spawn fish. Compounding the issue of fish spreading out, however, is the fact that they don't all spawn and finish spawning at the same time. The main way Jones combats both problems is spending a lot of time searching with his sonar.

Where he finds post-spawn blue cats often depends on the water temperature.

If the lake doesn't have a thermocline, he fishes deep water, holes in the outside bends of the river channel or along those same pre-spawn ledges. Conversely, if Lake of the Ozarks does build a good thermocline, then Jones must go shallower in order to find depth transitions or neckdowns.


Jones prefers drift fishing for blue cats in the summer so he can cover water. He

usually ties a Santee rig with 2 ounces of weight and a float and goes on the hunt. Other times, he'll drift three-way rigs. He likes using Mustad 10/0 extra-fine wire UltraPoint circle hooks on 60-pound monofilament. Then, for a dropper, he'll use an 8-inch segment of 30-pound monofilament with a weight heavy enough to keep baits on the bottom, depending on depth. 

Fish deeper holes or faster water for post-spawn channel cats. A Carolina rig with a strong, sharp 8/0 circle hook does the trick.



COURTESY OF BRAD DURICK

A man with a beard and blue eyes, wearing a grey and black camouflage wetsuit, is smiling and holding a large, orange and brown crab. He is standing on a boat, with a rocky coastline and blue water in the background. The wetsuit has a logo on the left sleeve that says "CRESSI CHAMPION".

TURN YOUR WILD CATCH
INTO A WORLD-CLASS MEAL

Take an unforgettable culinary journey with award-winning chef and avid angler Mike Robinson. Step by step, he'll show you how to do more with your wild catch — creating spectacular dishes you can serve to family and friends.

ALL
NEW **FISHING THE WILD**
MONDAYS 7^{P ET}


Outdoor

ROLLING IN THE

DEEP

**FISHING
CRANKBAITS
AROUND KEY
OFFSHORE
STRUCTURES
IS ONE OF
THE HOTTEST
SUMMER BASS
BITES AROUND.**

By Mike Pehanich

Fire in the hole!” said Brad Richardson with a knowing chuckle, his rod bent into a convincing arc.

It was the heat of summer and Richardson—an accomplished outdoor photographer and avid angler—and I were fishing a bass lake near the Wisconsin-Illinois border. I had just launched a lengthy cast courtesy of a 7-mph wind at my back and was in the middle of a long retrieve when my lure, too, hit kinetic resistance.

“Guess you’ll have to land that one yourself,” I laughed as a largemouth at the end of my line thrashed in the distance.

Moments later, I belly-scooped a 4-pound fish. Brad held up its near twin.

“Brace yourself,” he said. “We’re just getting warmed up.”

He wasn’t wrong. In rapid succession, we landed a half-dozen bass that weighed between 3 and 4 1/2 pounds. In fact, each stop on our predetermined “milk run” that evening ended up producing similar results.

Neither of us was surprised. We were on a red-hot deep crankbait bite, a pattern that holds up from the summer peak until early fall. If you know where and how bass spend their time offshore, you can apply this same tactic to your home water.

LOCATION

On both reservoirs and natural lakes, prime deep cranking spots generally have four key components. The first is good structure, a term that refers to a feature of the lake bottom that stands out from



When deep cranking, look for key structural elements on maps, like break lines, depressions and humps.

the surrounding bottom. Many anglers conflate “structure” and “cover,” the latter being objects like docks, trees and brush piles that fish use for protection, shade or ambush. When cranking deep structure, cover is an enhancement to existing fish-holding structure.

Some of the most critical structural elements are break lines. These are defined lines or edges along the lake bottom—drop-offs (ledges), inside and outside edges of vegetation (“grass edge” or “weed line”) and the channel edges

of main rivers or feeder creeks. Other key structural elements are bars, points, pockets and bends; depressions, humps and sunken islands; and changes in bottom content from muck and soft silt to sand, clay, gravel, chunk rock and more.

“Breaks,” distinct changes along a piece of structure, including cover like boulders, sunken objects and brush piles, often concentrate fish drawn to attractive structure. A break on a break line can be that desirable “spot on the spot,” holding not one or two bass but a large school.

After structure, the next key is abundant forage. In many places, this is bluegills, but crayfish are widely available. Gizzard shad are found in many reservoirs and river systems. Whatever the most common forage, bass want it nearby.

Hard bottom is another big item. This can be rock, clay, remnants of a roadbed, limestone ledges, gravel or shell beds. The presence of crayfish is a plus, but the subtle structural variety offered is equally at play. Bass like edges and transitions, and hard bottom, like a depth change beyond sunlight’s penetration, often defines the edge of aquatic plant growth.

The last key is vegetation. Healthy aquatic plant growth offers preferred habitat. “Grass” provides cover, ambush positions and abundant insects and microscopic food sources for fry, baitfish and, in turn, larger species that bass crave. Bass hunt efficiently on inside and outside edges of grass lines and penetrate grassy flats to feed or take cover.

Crankbait master and pro angler David Fritts focuses on grass a lot in his fishing. He looks for key differences—grass patches, rocks in the grass, underwater points of grass, hard spots, stumps and, particularly, grass edges. Outside edges—usually defined by a depth change or a transition to hard bottom—are key deep-cranking targets.

MAPPING

Today’s anglers have numerous effective mapping options at their disposal. Many high-end GPS/sonar units come with forward- and side-view capabilities as well as mapping features. A number also come with maps pre-loaded. But your best deep-cranking success comes when you refine maps with your own notes and details or, better yet, when you make your own maps. Humminbird Autochart Live, Lowrance Genesis Live and Garmin Quickdraw are three mapping software systems that have revolutionized fishing in recent years, and most are compatible with existing lake map software.

Richardson credits Steve Everetts of Finseekers Guide Service (finseekers.com) with mentoring him in electronic mapping. He says the difference between how he’d imagined a fishing spot versus how it appeared with mapping technology was staggering. He understood why some approaches worked or didn’t, and

he was able to fish productive areas more effectively than he had before. Mapping is a topic that merits its own article, but manufacturers provide good educational materials, and avid users offer helpful videos that show systems in action.

One final word on mapping: Don't overlook the value of crankbaits themselves in helping to pinpoint objects or "breaks" on structure in real time. Bottom-bumping baits fished with the appropriate tackle transmit signals from the lake's basement. These "signals" can help you discern transitions in the lake bottom and the presence of bass-holding objects like boulders, stumps and grass edges.

Note boat position and casting angle and distance. Use a GPS anchor like Spot-Lock, or marker buoys and an old-fashioned anchor, to best fish the bite. One big fish is nice, but 10 or more from a spot can be magical.

PRESENTATION

Crankbaits have lots of built-in action. While that alone draws strikes, adding small wrinkles and variety to your retrieve yields even more. Focus on the following.

Depth

Keeping your bait in the target area gets harder as bass go deeper. Whether targeting lake-bottom or suspended fish, pick baits that reach the desired depth and remain effective. When bass hold near bottom, try baits that run deeper than target structure. You'll reach the strike zone quicker and extend its track within that zone.

Long Casts

Crankbaits take time to reach target depths, so long casts are critical. They allow baits to reach maximum depth and spend more time in the strike zone before climbing back to the surface. Long rods and finely tuned reels pay big dividends.

Angle and Boat Position

A prime target merits casts from several different angles.

"I preach religiously about making multiple casts to one rock or one stump or an edge of grass," Fritts says. This has paid off for him often. In one tournament, he changed his casting angle to a promising rock repeatedly. "I must have made 50

casts before I hooked into a largemouth that went 9 pounds 4 ounces," he says.

Retrieve

Vary your retrieve speed until you find what fish want. Richardson stresses getting baits down to desired depths quickly before tampering with speed. When bottom-bumping, he slows his retrieve to let baits dig and deflect.

"Bass don't react that well to a bait tracking a straight path," he says. He compares a crankbait deflecting off lake bottom to a crayfish fleeing.

"That's why bass react to a bait that deflects off a rock or hard bottom so well," he adds. "If you don't have an object to deflect off, you can simulate a deflection with a stop-and-start or a sweep of the rod."

Bass suspended in the water column can also be taken on deep crankbaits if fished just off bottom. "That's where color and action come in," Fritts says. "If you have something bass want, something that resembles what they are feeding on, they will move to bite it [even if it's not deflecting off bottom or rocks]."



Be mindful of how a crankbait feels while being retrieved through the water. Know how to tell the difference between bottom contact, vegetation dragging on the lure and a strike.

BRAD RICHARDSON/GET N BIT PRODUCTIONS



Do it Right with DR®

Make Yard Cleanup EASY with a Chipper Shredder!



- CHIP big branches up to 5" thick
- SHRED lighter yard & garden waste
- REDUCE it all to a fraction of its original volume

★ **USA**

ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.

DRchipper.com

Make Stumps Disappear!



- Grind away stumps fast
- Tungsten carbide-tipped teeth
- Rotary head takes 360 "bites" per second
- Self-propelled available

DRstumpgrinder.com

World's Most POWERFUL Leaf Vacuum!



★ **USA**

ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.

Tow-Behind

- Rated #1 in vacuum power
- Huge capacity up to 321 gallons
- Folds flat for storage

Walk-Behind

- For landscaped or smaller properties
- Easy on/off 8-bushel collector bag
- Self-propelled models available



DRleafvac.com

Make Your Driveway Like NEW with a Power Grader!



- Fill in potholes and smooth out washboard
- Loosen & redistribute existing material
- Tow with your ATV, UTV, or tractor

DRpowergrader.com

SALE!

FREE SHIPPING

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

Request your FREE PRODUCT CATALOG
Online or Toll-Free at 877-200-6612

GoDRpower.com

DR POWER EQUIPMENT



Awareness and Feel

Focus on your bait's vibration. Identify when a lure is hobbled with vegetation or digging into mud, rock or shell bottom—and, of course, the feel of a fish.

TACKLE

Too often, bass shake free of a bulky crankbait, so opt for tackle with some “forgiveness”—shock absorption from the rod, stretch in the line, a well-set drag. Many take this too far, settling for tackle with some forgiveness but limited feel. You may land more of the fish you hook, but it limits your ability to read bottom type, lure action or even a glancing strike. Keep the following in mind.

Rod

Use rods 7 feet to 7 feet 11 inches long. Fiberglass, graphite and glass/graphite composite rods all work. According to Bob Brown, who heads Lew's Fishing's product development, a graphite rod recoils, while fiberglass rods flex and stay bent. Glass rods keep more fish pinned, but graphite weighs less, and “feels” nice.

Most crankers like a moderate rod action. It slows hookset response, cushions against runs and head shakes and loads the rod for long casts. With the strain crankbaits place on tackle, you want rods with backbone—those with medium-heavy or maybe even heavy power.

Gear Picks: **St. Croix's Legend Glass** (\$260–\$280; stcroixrods.com) series has seven moderate-action models in medium, medium-heavy and heavy power. **Lew's Fishing's David Fritts Perfect Crankbait Rod** (\$89.99–\$109.99; lews.com) comes in five models with moderate action and medium-heavy power options. **Abu Garcia's Veritas Winch Crankbait Rod** (\$99.99–\$119.99; abugarcia.com), which has three moderate-action models in medium, medium-heavy and heavy power, is another great choice.

Line

Each line type has trade-offs. Mono has good stretch but reduced feel and limited ability to shake vegetation. Braid transmits bottom signals well and can rip baits free of vegetation but requires more controlled hooksets. Fluoro plays the middle, with less stretch than mono and more than braid. Braid's small diameter and fluorocarbon's density make both



The Bomber Fat Free Shad is a great deep-diving crankbait. The deepest model dives 14 to 18 feet, but you can alter this a bit by tweaking line type and rod position.

better for achieving depth than monofilament. Tip: Add a fluorocarbon leader to braid to limit bait tangles.

Gear Picks: **Seaguar TactX** (\$16.99–\$31.99/150 or 300 yards; seaguar.com) is a four-strand camo braid that reduces wind knots, cuts through vegetation and packs to the spool without cutting into itself. **Sufix's 131 G-Core X13 braided line** (\$39.49/150 yards; rapala.com) has 12 HMPE fibers and one GORE Performance Fiber for reliable uniformity and knot strength. The 100-percent fluorocarbon **Sunline Crank FC** (\$26.99/200 yards; sunlineamerica.com), with added stretch and abrasion resistance, is great for cranking. For a leader, try **Sunline's FC Leader** (\$12.49/50 yards, \$30.99/150 yards), which has superb knot strength, low water absorption and enough stretch for crankbaiting.

Reel

Get reliable, high-capacity reels for casting distance. Many like slow 5:1 gear ratios that wind comfortably yet not too fast. Fritts just wants a reel that brings in 21 to 24 inches of line with each turn.

Gear Picks: Fritts likes **Lew's BB1 Baitcast** 5.1:1 and 6.4:1 gear-ratio reels (\$159.99; lews.com). **Abu Garcia's Revo Winch Reel** (\$119.99; abugarcia.com) has a 5.4:1 gear ratio and works well.

Lures

Manufacturers list the depths their crankbaits reach, but vary your line test and rod position to get deeper. Pick lures built to

hit your target structure. Choose colors and finishes that mimic forage species and others that stand out in dark water.

Gear Picks: The **Norman DD22** (\$6.99; lurennet.com) dives 14 to 18 feet and has caught bass for years. The **Bomber Fat Free Shad** (\$7.49; lurennet.com) is another classic, with the BD5 diving 8 to 10 feet and the BD6 and BD7 diving 8 to 14 feet and 14 to 18 feet, respectively. The **Rapala DT10, DT14 and DT16** (\$9.49–\$9.59; rapala.com) dive to 10, 14 and 16 feet, respectively, and are awesome balsa wood options. The David Fritts-designed **Berkley Dredger** (\$9.99; berkley-fishing.com) has 6 sizes designed to reach 8 1/2- to 25 1/2-foot depths and is a long-casting bait perfect for exploring the depths.

RAID THE DEPTHS

Summer's deep crankbait bite can provide some of the hottest bass action you'll ever experience. Double-digit catches from a single location aren't uncommon. Richardson's best day came this past summer. He caught more than 40 big fish within a shortened day, with 10 topping the 5-pound mark, numerous 4-pounders and a bloody thumb to show for his success.

With practice and good conditions (try to avoid the bluebird skies following a cold front), deep cranking can be one of the most reliable summer techniques for bass. Gear up and get ready. You may become a deep-cranking addict once you give it a try. 

Grab Your Piece of America's Silver Legacy

**99.9% Fine
Silver Bars**

Actual size is
30.6 x 50.4 mm

Fill Your Vault with Morgan Silver Bars

Not only are these hefty bars one full Troy ounce of real, .999 precious silver, they're also beautiful, featuring the crisp image of a Morgan Silver Dollar struck onto the surface. That collectible image adds interest and makes these Silver Bars even more desirable. Minted in the U.S.A. from shimmering American silver, these one-ounce 99.9% fine silver bars are a great alternative to one-ounce silver coins or rounds. Plus, they offer great savings compared to other bullion options like one-ounce sovereign silver coins. Take advantage of our special offer for new customers only and save \$5.00 off our regular prices.

Morgan Silver Dollars Are Among the Most Iconic Coins in U.S. History

What makes them iconic? The Morgan Silver Dollar is the legendary coin that built the Wild West. It exemplifies the American spirit like few other coins, and was created using silver mined from the famous Comstock Lode in Nevada. In fact, when travelers approached the mountains around the boomtown of Virginia City, Nevada in the 1850s, they were startled to see the hills shining in the sunlight like a mirror. A mirage caused by weary eyes?

**No, rather the effect came from tiny
flecks of silver glinting in the sun.**

A Special Way for You to Stock Up on Precious Silver

While no one can predict the future value of silver in an uncertain economy, many Americans are rushing to get their hands on as much silver as possible, putting it away for themselves and their loved ones. You'll enjoy owning these Silver Bars. They're tangible. They feel good when you hold them, You'll relish the design and thinking about all it represents. These Morgan Design One-Ounce Bars make appreciated gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and graduations, creating a legacy sure to be cherished for a lifetime.

Order More and SAVE

You can save \$5.00 off our regular price when you buy now. There is a limit of 25 Bars per customer, which means with this special offer, you can save up to \$125.

Hurry. Secure Yours Now!

Call right now to secure your .999 fine silver Morgan Design One-Ounce Silver Bars. You'll be glad you did.



One-Ounce Silver Morgan Design Bar
\$49.95 ea.

Special offer - \$44.95 ea. +s/h

SAVE \$5 - \$125

Limit of 25 bars per customer

**Free Morgan Silver Dollar
with every order over \$499
(A \$59.95 value!)**



FREE SHIPPING over \$149!

Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

For fastest service call today toll-free

1-888-201-7144

Offer Code MSB172-01

Please mention this code when you call.

SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER



GOVMINT.COM®

GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. MSB172-01, Eagan, MN 55121

GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2022 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



BIG BITES

FOR THE BIGGEST TROUT IN THE STREAM, SKIP THE DAINTY INSECT IMITATIONS
AND THROW MEATY FLIES AND LURES INSTEAD.

By Scott Mackenthun



For trout keyed on small baitfish and sculpins, few things beat a streamer. In bigger pools with deeper water, use a sink-tip line to get flies down.

Few things are more appealing during a sweltering Midwestern summer day than plying a cold-water stream for trout. However, the middle of summer is a unique time for trout anglers. It's often too early for late-summer grasshoppers and too late to fish spawn sacs, egg patterns or beads. You can, of course, fish insect hatches.

But if your goal is to tangle with a stream's biggest trout, which are often fish-eating predators, it's time to go big. Large rainbow, brook and brown trout are feasting on minnows, chubs, dace, sculpins and suckers now, and big streamers, inline spinners and stickbaits are some of your best bets for a summer lunker. All you need to do is find the right spots to fish and toss some big baits for chunky summer trout.

TARGET AREAS

Select Good Streams

Eddie Rivard chases big stream trout in Minnesota's southeastern Driftless region. By his own admission, he'd rather catch one large trout than a hundred small trout, so he targets the streams that are most likely to have large fish. These are usually larger order streams—rivers that smaller trout streams flow into. According to Rivard, trout streams containing creek chubs can be particularly lucrative for big trout, especially if you come across stream sections that don't receive a lot of pressure. He recommends looking, too, for out-of-the-way streams where fish haven't been caught, or even harassed, as fish often grow large in obscurity.

Stream size matters, too, at least for rainbow and brown trout, which are more tolerant of warmer water and more likely to move downstream into larger water to find bigger prey. Brook trout are the exception. They favor small headwater streams because they're intolerant of warm water and don't generally grow as large as browns and rainbows. In fact, some large brook trout inhabit streams anglers might easily jump across. The downstream movement of large trout is a breakout of a concept in the field of stream ecology called the river continuum concept. To meet their greater bioenergetic needs, large trout move to bigger water where their prey is also larger or more abundant, or they otherwise cope by spending time in prime lies in small streams.



Spinners are great for summer trout. Start your retrieve quickly to get the blades going and maximize your opportunities. Use fluoro-carbon line when water is super clear.

Break Down Water

Reading water for big trout is important no matter where you fish. Rivard looks for a certain amount of depth and cover. This could come from cutbanks, debris, snags in the stream, a deep pool, a boulder or various other features up to and including beaver dams, manmade dams or more natural barriers like waterfalls. Some streams also grow prolific rooted aquatic plants, which can offer lanes of current and shadows. Both are great places for large trout to lie in wait, ready to pounce on unsuspecting baitfish traveling up- and downstream.

Take Notes

While fishing, mentally catalog big fish you see in certain spots or large trout that reveal themselves, perhaps by taking a swipe at your fly or lure. Whatever the case, Rivard suggests remembering where the fish was so you can come back another time and throw something different. Every near miss or big-fish sighting is a chance to learn something new—but only if you pay attention.

Track Temperatures

Rivard also recommends paying attention to temperature as part of your big-fish

quest. Big trout love hanging out where cold-water tributaries pour into warm-water streams or at spring sites. Both areas concentrate fish and help them meet their temperature requirements.

Rivard once found some historical Google Earth aerial photos of a favorite stream that had been taken in winter. Most of it was white, indicating ice and snow cover, but on certain stretches there were pockets of black. Those were where springs were coming up at a constant temperature.

Rivard catalogued this information, and once summer arrived he fished those spots where cool spring water was feeding into the stream. This offseason homework helped him pin down spots where he could make each cast count.

Be aware, too, that on some streams, groundwater enters not from springs in the creek but from spring seeps inside hills. These banks also make great fishing spots.

FLING A FLY

Tackle and Flies

For going big on fly gear, it's hard to beat streamers on 5-, 6-, or 7-weight rods appropriately sized to the flies you're throwing and the fish you plan to catch. Woolly Buggers, Slumpbusters,

Muddy Buddies and Zonkers are all great choices. Rivard is also a fan of modern streamer master inventor Kelly Galloup.

"He's kind of the modern-day [bad boy] of fly fishing with his edgy and cool streamers," Rivard says. "You have to have that personality if you want to chase big fish. You have to live with some failure."

Rivard's favorite Galloup patterns—which often have a sort of anti-establishment nod—include the Butt Monkey, the Peanut Envy (a twist on Russ Madden's Circus Peanut), Bangtail T&A and the Sex Dungeon. The latter of these is Rivard's top pick because of how the articulated fly sinks and moves in the water.

FAB FLOWS

*Top rivers to fish
for trophy summer trout*

KINNICKINNIC RIVER

This Wisconsin river has brook trout in its upper reaches. However, it's best known for its big brownies.

TURKEY RIVER

Located in Iowa's Driftless region, the Turkey River is another great choice. You can catch brook, rainbow and brown trout here, and you'll encounter some natural fish as well as stockers.

MANISTEE RIVER

The Manistee is holy water in Michigan. You are likely to tempt big browns and brook trout from cut banks or fallen tree snags.

BLACK HILLS BEAUTIES

Castle, Rapid and Spearfish creeks in South Dakota's Black Hills contain brown, rainbow and brook trout. Some fish are naturally reproducing, while others are stocked. Reservoir outflows are also worth a look when fishing the Black Hills.

ROOT RIVER

This Minnesota river's many branches offer loads of opportunities. Just remember: The bigger the water, the bigger the brown trout.

Tactics

On big pools or in really deep bends, Rivard uses a weighted sink-tip line with articulated streamers to get them down deep enough. However, he emphasizes that this takes a certain level of commitment; it's difficult to quickly switch back to another type of presentation when you're rigged to fish this way.

When fishing big streamers for trophy trout, you usually want something that sinks fast. According to Rivard, a store-bought Woolly Bugger likely won't sink at the rate you desire. For this reason, he often ties his own flies to ensure they sink quickly. He says that while trout can come charging out of cover—sometimes as much as several feet—for a large streamer, you usually still want to get a bait right in the fish's face. To do that, you need to get down to where they are. He adds that if you don't use a weighted line, you should at least go with a longer and heavier leader.

Wherever you're fishing, Rivard emphasizes making good casts and efficiently pulling streamers through

the target area. He suggests stripping streamers frantically through heavy cover and mixing in some pulsating pauses. Also, try some irregular jerks and pauses for a good injured-minnow performance, as many large trout find it irresistible.

TAKE A SPIN Tackle


Conventional anglers using spinning gear can also tempt big trout in their own ways. Long rods help make deft casts, but they can be hard to maneuver on brushy riverbanks. Medium-action rods are stiff enough to make long casts and have enough flex to offer a bit of forgiveness when erratically fighting fish to the landing net. In terms of line, monofilament's stretch can be useful; however, fluorocarbon is a good choice for dealing with clear waters and fish that spook easily.

Lures

Inline spinners are great options for large stream trout. Look to Worden's Rooster Tails, Panther Martins and

Mepps Aglia spinners in size 1 or 2 with dressed or undressed hooks. When fishing these, the quicker you can start your retrieve to get the blade(s) going, the better.

Collared jigs with clubtail or scisortail minnows work well on the live-bait front, or you can sub in curly-tail grubs if you prefer artificials. If big trout aren't motivated enough to chase down inline spinners, which must be fished quickly to keep the blades turning, a jig with a plastic trailer is an effective way to put a bait in front of a trout's face and keep it there. Just hop it along the bottom or swim it back on a leisurely retrieve.

Small stickbaits such as Rapala's Ultra Light Minnow, Countdown or Jointed models satisfy a trout's big-bait cravings. However, any stickbait or jointed lure in a small profile makes a great choice. Jerkbait work well, too; just be careful of the float or sink rate with anything that is not neutrally buoyant. Retrieve with fits and starts quickly to mimic a fleeing minnow, or twitch it irregularly as if it's injured. 

WE SELL LAND



GREG MEADE

Agent, Land Specialist
East Central Kentucky
(859) 771-7640

DAVE SKINNER

Agent, Land Specialist
West Central Kentucky
(270) 791-3705

JOE MARTIN

Agent, Land Specialist
Southern Kentucky
(606) 669-2702

MARK WILLIAMS

Broker, Land Specialist
Western Kentucky
(270) 836-0819

CORY MEADE

Agent, Land Specialist
East Central Kentucky
(606) 481-4696

ISAAC SINGER

Agent, Land Specialist
Northeast Kentucky
(606) 748-6458

JASON WALLIN

Agent, Land Specialist
North Central Kentucky
(859) 492-9041

MATT YOUNG

Agent, Land Specialist
Western Kentucky
(270) 952-8624

QUINCY ADAMS

Agent, Land Specialist
Central Kentucky
(270) 823-4301



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE

HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER

WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM

Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC DBA Whitetail Properties, DBA Whitetail Properties Real Estate. In the States of Nebraska & North Dakota DBA Whitetail Trophy Properties Real Estate LLC. Licensed in CO, MN, ND, SD, TN & WI - Jeff Evans, Broker. Licensed in FL, KS, MO, OH & PA - Jefferson Kirk Gilbert, Broker. Licensed in TX & NM - Joey Bellington, Broker. Licensed in IN - Bill Minor, Broker. Licensed in AL, GA, LA, & MS - Sybil Stewart, Broker. Licensed in TN - Tim Burnette, Broker. Licensed in TN - David Pritchard, Broker. Licensed in AR - Anthony Chrisco, Broker. Licensed in NC, SC, VA - Chip Camp, Broker. Licensed in IA, NC - Richard F. Baugh, Broker. Licensed in MI - Edmund Joel Nogaski, Broker. Licensed in IL, MD, WV - Debbie S. Laux, Broker. Licensed in ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, & WY - Aaron Milliken, Broker. Licensed in NY - John Myers, Real Estate Broker. Licensed in OK - Dean Anderson, Broker. Licensed in KY - Derek Fisher, Broker. Licensed in OH - Jeremy Schaefer, Principal Broker. Licensed in NE - Jason Schendt, Broker.

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



AVXLIVE • ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>

THE SALMON OF ST. MARY'S

DIVIDING MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA AND ONTARIO, THE ST. MARY'S RIVER IS AN OVERLOOKED HOT SPOT FOR ONE OF THE MOST PRIZED COLDWATER GAME FISH IN THE WORLD.

By Mike Gnatkowski



In freshwater fishing, few species are more revered than the Atlantic salmon. It's been called both the "king of fish" and the "fish of kings." Unfortunately, it is a species virtually inaccessible to most Americans. The best salmon rivers are found in faraway places like New Brunswick, Iceland, Norway and Russia, and many of these fisheries charge beat fees to access rivers, which can be pricey. Our own wild populations have been decimated so much due to dams, pollution and overfishing that angling for purely wild Atlantic salmon is prohibited in the U.S.

Luckily, this does not apply to man-made fisheries supported by stocking. And unbeknownst to many, there is a fantastic one that's much closer to home for Midwest anglers.

ST. MARY'S SALVATION

Separating Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., the St. Mary's River is the outlet of Lake Superior. This cold, clean river system travels eastward roughly 70 miles to its junction with Lake Huron. Historically known for world-class Pacific salmon and trout fishing, in recent years it's become a burgeoning Atlantic salmon

fishery. Ironically, this new opportunity began just as an old one—for non-native Chinook salmon—declined steeply due to a depleted alewife population.

Before this crash, Lake Superior State University's Aquatic Research Laboratory (ARL) began working on a possible solution. The goal of the ARL's project, led by its head, Roger Greil, was producing a viable population of Atlantic salmon. This would challenge aquaculture students and eventually help fill the gap in the Lake Huron fishery. In 1985, Lake Superior State University, Edison Sault Electric Co. and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) joined forces to begin



The St. Mary's Rapids offers shots at good-sized adult Atlantic salmon. Muddlers, Bombers and Clousers are popular flies to throw.

this project in the St. Mary's River system. The endeavor faced challenges, but the collaborative team persevered. The rest, as they say, is history.

For the past 20-odd years, the ARL has stocked an average of more than 30,000 Atlantic salmon per year, for a total well over 700,000 fish. The result? A dependable annual run of adult Atlantic salmon each year. And since Edison Sault (now Cloverland Electric) donated its historic building to the university for renovation and expansion of the ARL and its fish hatchery, there's no telling what other improvements might follow.

FIT FOR A KING

The history of this unique fishery is important, but so too is knowing where to find St. Mary's Atlantic salmon in the summer—and how to catch them once you do.

Detour Passage

Atlantics are highly nomadic much of their life, so it's difficult to guess where they'll spend their time, with one exception: They grow more predictable when returning to their planting site. One place that typically produces a reliable fishery is near Detour Passage from mid-May through July.

Captain Dan Cruchon of Stormy Chinook Charters (stormychinook.com) takes his 28-foot Albemarle to Drummond Island in the spring to target Atlantic salmon. Some years are better than others, but in good seasons he averages six or seven Atlantics per trip.

Cruchon targets the waters near Twin Sister Island, Crab Island Shoal and Frying Pan Island, depending on wind direction and water clarity. When waters are clear, he pulls smaller spoons, like Silver Streaks and Super Slims, in red, orange and Wonder Bread colors off short, two- or three-color lead cores. He says the Atlantics love sliders, too, and he can't guess how many times a fish has come blasting out of the water behind the boat with a spoon in its jaw though a rod never moved.

Edison Plant

Atlantics trickle through the lower St. Mary's River all summer long, but many beeline straight for the Edison facility where they were originally planted. These salmon usually show in June.

Randy Claramunt, the MDNR's Lake Huron Basin Coordinator, says many anglers target Atlantic salmon right below the power plant after putting in at Osborn Park and running up. He says lots of those boaters fashion hooks out of rebar to link their boat to the wall and hold themselves in place. If you do the same, use hooks designed to permit quick release when you hook up. You might handle a 3- to 5-pound fish without moving, but anything bigger will require detaching to give chase.

Claramunt says salmon nose right up in the boil where it exits the plant, and any offerings need to sink quickly. Fly or spinning gear is fair game. Bead-head flies like Hare's Ears, Pheasant Tail Nymphs, Copper Johns, caddis larva and soft hackles all work. Jigs with wax worms produce, too. Claramunt likes fishing two hooks when targeting Atlantics—one with a bead-head nymph and a second with live bait.

The appearance of the Atlantics also coincides with the *Hexagenia limbata* mayfly hatch. Claramunt says it's easy to collect these mayflies, which fish slurp down like candy, from under streetlights using a paper bag. Salmon show up at the power plant in late June, and fish remain well into late October

and early November when biologists start taking eggs from fish to rear a new batch of Atlantics.

The Rapids

This is the St. Mary's River's most famous Atlantic salmon destination. Getting there requires crossing the International Bridge to a parking lot and a boardwalk that takes you to the Rapids. The walk is scenic but treacherous. You must cross side channels where the water is crystal clear, the rocks are slippery, and a wading staff and a pair of high-traction wading boots are mandatory.

Guide John Giuliani (stmarysrapids.guiding.com) is an authority on St. Mary's River Atlantic salmon. He mainly guides fly anglers, but he's experienced with other techniques, too.

When he meets new clients at the Rapids, he has them practice with a spey or two-handed switch rod. Within 30 minutes, he'll have them making serviceable casts. He prefers these rods because they make accurate long-distance casts (up to 80 or 90 feet) more efficiently than traditional fly rods, which require lots of false casting. However, he notes that spey and switch rods are also capable of short, precise casts, which can be made with a single motion of the rod. The longer rod allows the angler to keep more line out of the water to control the fly, whether swinging or drifting.

At first glance, the Rapids look like a monotonous piece of water. It's anything but. Light and dark patterns in the crystal-line flow identify boulders, runs, depth changes, slots, sandstone ledges, shale benches and pockets that salmon use. The whole stretch is interlaced with pools and riffles that all potentially hold fish.

Giuliani says that Atlantic salmon relate to different locations than other salmonid species like steelhead. He suggests they often prefer holding in the sweet spot just ahead of boulders or right up on a flat shale bench. Various flies, including Muddlers, Bombers, Clouser Minnows and caddis patterns, will interest Atlantics. Most of these salmon are muscular 3-year-old fish weighing between 9 and 15 pounds.

The Rapids fishery remains hot through July and beyond as various salmonids filter in and out of the river. Later in the summer, Giuliani fishes the base of the Rapids from a boat. The Atlantics often herd schools of smelt to the surface at this time.

To catch them, Giuliani relies on several techniques. One is a traditional tactic called harling, with roots in old-school Scottish salmon fishing. Here, streamers are allowed to swing behind the boat while the trolling motor's GPS anchor feature holds the boat in place. Giuliani will also cast soft plastics like flukes and swim baits when Atlantic salmon are busting smelt.

TRIP PLANNER

Places to stay and dine around the St. Mary's River

Thankfully for visiting anglers, there are plenty of places to hang your hat and grab a bite on both the Michigan and Ontario sides of the St. Mary's River.

ONTARIO

There are many familiar lodging options in Sault Ste Marie, Ont. The **Sleep Inn** is a good and affordable choice right along the river. Nearby is **Montana's BBQ and Bar** if you want a steak or ribs north of the border. For classic Italian, hit **Giovanni's Italian Restaurant**. For some fine dining, check out **Gliss Steak and Seafood**, which has an expansive menu that includes everything from perfectly cooked steaks and braised lamb to stuffed salmon and fresh whitefish.

MICHIGAN

Mid-City Motel and **Superior Place** are two solid, affordable lodging options. As with Ontario, many other choices at varying price points exist. Stop in at **Antler's Restaurant** for poutine, fried fish platters or burgers and enjoy the décor, which includes mounted game animals, antlers and fish. Or, for a killer burger, fries and onion rings in an old-school setting, hit up **Clyde's Drive-In**.


On the heels of the Aquatic Research Lab's success with stocking Atlantic salmon, the Michigan DNR has also begun raising them for Lake Huron.

Those who prefer trolling for Atlantic salmon should pull small spoons, like Silver Streaks and Super Slims, on lead-core lines.



A BRIGHT FUTURE

Buoyed by LSSU's successful stocking program, the MDNR has also jumped on the Atlantic salmon bandwagon in recent years. The state is now raising Atlantics at its Platte River and Harrietta hatcheries. In 2022, the goal is to raise 100,000 Atlantic salmon yearlings at the Platte River Hatchery (plus 35,000 additional Atlantics for Torch Lake) and another 80,000 yearlings at the Harrietta Hatchery for Lake Huron. The MDNR salmon will be stocked in Torch Lake, in the Au Sable River near Oscoda, in the Thunder Bay River and in Lexington Harbor.

In short, anglers may have even more Atlantic salmon options on Lake Huron in the coming years. Claramunt says the MDNR has been test-planting the salmon in rivers, harbors and bays to determine which planting sites yield the best results. He estimates there are approximately 500,000 Atlantic salmon in Lake Huron, but expects that number to increase in future years. All in all, it's an exciting time to be a Midwest salmon angler. 

Boost Testosterone

Drive & Peak Performance



EXPIRES 09/30/22 MANUFACTURERS COUPON

SAVE \$3.00
ANY IRWIN NATURALS PRODUCT



Consumer: Redeemable at retail locations only. Not valid for online or mail-order purchases. Retailer: Irwin Naturals will reimburse you for the face value plus 8 (cents) handling provided it is redeemed by a consumer at the time of purchase on the brand specified. Coupons not properly redeemed will be void and held. Redemption by any party by any means is expressly prohibited. Any other use constitutes fraud. Irwin Naturals reserves the right to deny reimbursement (due to misrepresentation activity) and/or request proof of purchase for coupons submitted. Mail to: CMS Dept. 16564, Irwin Naturals, 1000 Union Pacific Blvd Ste 5, Laredo, TX 78045-9475. Cash value: .001 (cents). Void where taxed or restricted. ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Not valid for mail order purchases. Retail only.

0710363-014936



\$3 COUPON redeemable at all Drug, Grocery and Health Food stores Nationwide

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

WATERFOWL

A black and white photograph of three waterfowl, likely Canada geese, flying in a snowy sky. The birds are captured in mid-flight, with their wings spread wide, showing detailed feather patterns. Snowflakes are visible throughout the scene, creating a sense of movement and atmosphere. The birds are positioned diagonally across the frame, with one in the upper right, one in the middle left, and one in the lower center.

**DUCKS AND GEESE FLOCK
TO SASKATCHEWAN TO FEAST
BEFORE MOVING SOUTH, BUT
HUNTERS SHOULD COME
PREPARED FOR WILD WEATHER.**

By Brad Fenson

OVERLOAD

Mother Nature has a unique sense of humor. We had gone to bed with bare, dry fields and roads but woke to 8 inches of fresh snow. Part of our hunting crew suffered delays getting to camp, which meant only a handful of us were crazy enough to consider a morning hunt.

We pulled onto the highway, and there were no other vehicle tracks. The

snow was up to the hubs on the trailer wheels, and it was still snowing hard. I could not help but think about the passage from Robert Ruark's "The Old Man and The Boy," when the Old Man remarked that you had to be crazy to be a duck hunter, as foul weather also spells fowl weather. I went bugged-eyed trying to see through the blowing snow but couldn't forget the insane

waterfowl action described by Ruark while fighting the elements.

There were no tracks, droppings or feathers in the field to help us decide where to set up. The west side had a strip of tree cover that broke the wind and worked as a snow fence to prevent the white stuff from drifting. It was the perfect spot to draw the birds that would want to be out of the wind and blowing snow.



At the northern end of the Central Flyway, hunters often see action in the form of hungry Canadas arriving amid a snowstorm.

We set up blinds with snow covers and decoys before huddling in the decoy trailer to stay warm and dry. The anticipation of the morning's events gave us butterflies in our stomachs, and we tried to be patient, knowing the birds would be coming late. Finally, the sky brightened, but visibility did not improve.

We dusted the snow off the decoys in the field and placed fresh ones. A large

flock of lesser Canadas swung over the field and circled low to the ground. We called, and eventually the birds made a beeline in our direction. Along with the short-necked lessers, big honkers, specks and even a snow goose were in the mixed flock. Some of the birds landed in the field out of range. However, most closed the distance until the order was yelled to shoot.

Shotguns roared and birds crumpled from the air, sending a wave of snow cascading as they hit the ground. The foul weather had produced extraordinary results, giving us a mixed bag of geese to retrieve.

Soon more birds lined up on the flanks of the field and worked their way to the decoys that required continual maintenance and cleaning. We shot honkers, specks, some snows and lots of ducks. It was a test for our Final Approach Branta Primaloft insulated bibs and jackets, but they kept us dry. My hands may have been freezing, but I was enjoying some of the best hunting associated with miserable weather.

FIRST FIELDS

The snow had stopped by the time we headed back to the Saskatchewan Goose Company lodge. Tyler Mann, owner and outfitter, is a mountain of a man who lives for waterfowl. His red beard and jovial smile fit his fowl-minded slant to life. The unofficial U.S. Postal Service motto, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," sums up Mann's approach to waterfowl hunting.

The prairie provinces of Canada have a transition area where agriculture meets forest. For many of the ducks and geese coming out of the Arctic, the first fields they encounter are on this boreal fringe. A duck or goose living on sedge and grass can't help but stay and fatten up before considering moving farther south. It is a strategic choice to hunt here, but expect cold, snow, frost and other conditions that can make a waterfowl hunt an adventure.

Western Canada has experienced both 100-year floods and droughts in a fraction of that time. Saskatchewan is blessed with water, and several regions could be considered droughtproof with extensive wetlands and rivers that seem to never run dry. Mann is located on the northern extreme of agricultural fields against the boreal forest. Many of the ducks and geese we shot came from boreal wetlands and into the agricultural fields. It was a smart choice for an outfitter hunt during last year's arid conditions.

Saskatchewan is an unbelievable duck and goose mecca. It is difficult to explain

New Last Pass silhouette and HD full-body goose decoys from Final Approach drew birds to the blind.

FOWLING FAVORITES

A new shotgun, lighter loads and updated decoys prove their worth.

Although the **Mossberg 940 Pro Waterfowl** I took to Saskatchewan was brand new, it felt like I had been shooting it for years. Anyone who has wielded a shotgun that seemed to become an extension of the arms will understand that's high praise. A slim fore-end and new barrel design made pointing the Pro Waterfowl intuitive, and it was light and easy to swing.

Perhaps the most surprisingly aspect of the shotgun, however, is its ability to reduce felt recoil. The 940 Pro line is equipped with a new gas operating system that throws spent shells 12 to 15 feet and uses up much of the energy that contributes to recoil. It cycled flawlessly as I chewed through a case of ammunition.

The shotgun is adjustable for drop, cast and length of pull from 13 to 14 1/4 inches. It's easy to load with an oversized charging handle, beveled loading port and a large bolt-release button.

The versatility and improved handling come from a partnership with competitive shooters Jerry and Lena Miculek, which led to the 2020 launch of the 940 JM Pro, a 12-gauge semi-auto for competition. Mossberg uses the new technology in its 940 Pro Waterfowl and 940 Pro Snow Goose shotguns.

Corrosion-resistant internal parts, including a boron-nitride-coated gas piston, magazine tube, hammer sear and return-spring tube, complement the chrome-lined chamber and bore. Mossberg reports that hunters can shoot up to 1,500 rounds before cleaning the Pro Waterfowl without interfering with its performance.

The 940 Pro Waterfowl (\$1,092; mossberg.com) has a 28-inch vent-rib



barrel fitted with an extended, ported X-Factor choke tube. A HiViz TriComp sight comes with interchangeable triangular and round LitePipes to customize the configuration to a hunter's preference. The barrel and receiver have a Patriot Brown Cerakote finish, and TrueTimber's Prairie pattern covers the stock.

It is surprising what a shortage of ammunition can teach you. With a lack of 3-inch shotshells, a case of 2 3/4-inch loads forced me to re-evaluate my needs during the trip. I shot **Federal Premium Black Cloud FS Steel** (\$26.99 per 25; federalpremium.com) loaded with 40 percent FlightStopper steel pellets and 60 percent premium steel pellets. The ringed FlightStopper pellets increase trauma, while the rear-opening FliteControl Flex wad holds them and the round pellets together longer for tighter patterns. The FliteControl Flex wad can be shot out of any standard or ported barrel or choke tube. I used the 2 3/4-inch loads on ducks and smaller geese with no troubles and felt I had been brainwashed to think I had to shoot 3-inch shells.

One hunt for giant prairie honkers called for **Black Cloud TSS** (\$50.99 per

10), loaded with 60 percent Tungsten Super Shot pellets and 40 percent FlightStopper steel in the FliteControl Flex wad. Tungsten has twice the density of steel allowing pellets to maintain velocity and penetrate at greater distances. The load's No. 9 TSS pellets create incredibly dense patterns, while the No. 3 FlightStopper steel pellets spread more quickly. The result is great patterns close with steel and at long range with TSS. The biggest birds of the trip fell to this load.

Final Approach (fabrand.com) wants waterfowl hunters to know it is making strides to re-establish its products at the top of the industry. Founded in 1993 by a single waterfowler who set out to be a better hunter, the company earned a reputation for quality. An ever-changing industry saw the company being sold several times, and elements of quality waned. Since July 2018, Final Approach has had new owners, and decoys are born from fresh carvings with upgraded plastics or premium EVA material and high-end paint schemes.

As Final Approach closes in on its 30th anniversary, the most significant change is with its layout blinds. The company was the first to offer a commercial layout blind with its Eliminator model, and innovation continues with the **Knockout layout** (\$250). The Knockout sets up and breaks down in seconds and has a durable frame and support bars that withstand pressure when getting in or out of the blind. Final Approach also has a new apparel line that offers abrasion resistance, windproof and water-proof layers, and proven components like Primaloft insulation and YKK zippers.



the number of birds encountered or the shooting opportunities that never seem to end. The next few days were great examples of why this Central Flyway province is a bucket-list destination for most waterfowlers.

GOOSE, DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE

The snow melted away as quickly as it had come. The following morning, we found ourselves in a large pea field with a heavy layer of frost. The rest of our crew had arrived as the storm died and was eager for some action. We set up on the south edge of the field to reduce our footprint, where a finger of grass extended from a steep ravine. Peas butted up against barley stubble, and the transition helped our blind be less conspicuous. With decoys placed in front of the blind, we anticipated the sunrise. We waited and waited, but the birds did not move a feather until the sun was well in the sky and starting to warm the surroundings.

The morning was, quite literally, a great icebreaker for the group. It was

tough with bluebird skies, no wind and frosty conditions even by waterfowler standards. However, we still managed to keep the barrels of our Mossberg 940 Pro Waterfowl shotguns hot. We shot plenty of big honkers, and the ducks added regular excitement to the mix.

A snow goose hunt filled the evening, as we did not have much room left on our dark goose and duck limits. It is a “problem” Saskatchewan waterfowlers often face. Most of us would have paid just to watch the waves of birds moving across the sky against an incredible sunset to finish the day.

The next morning was a mixed-bag hunt with all types of ducks and geese that feed in agricultural fields. The area we hunted was higher in elevation, and there were still remnants of snow forming ice patches in the field. It was cold, and the wind made the blind the best place to stay warm. Mallards and pintails swaggered for positions in the air to find a place to land on the ground. Sometimes we were challenged to leave the ducks and wait for geese. We shot



Blowing snow on the first morning of the hunt made for wonderfully miserable conditions and steady shooting at a mixed bag of waterfowl.



8 CIGARS *only* \$10*

FIRST-CLASS PREMIUM CIGAR SAMPLER

When it comes to cigars, no one even comes close to Cigars International and we're ready to prove it to 'ya with an outrageous intro offer: 8 premium handmade cigars for just \$10.* Go ahead, price shop this one and prepare to be stunned. When you're ready, we're here waiting with the world's largest selection of premium handmade cigars at the planet's lowest prices, delivered fast and fresh. That's our guarantee.

Visit: CigarsIntl.com/SA8428

Enter complete web address or search keyword: SA8428

1-888-244-2790 Mention code SA8428

Item #: CA49-SP

Includes 1 each of:

Macanudo • Hoyo de Monterrey • Arganese • Gurkha
Villazon • Sancho Panza • Bahia • CAO



\$5 UPGRADE

ADD A TRAVEL HUMIDOR

CRUSHPROOF | WATERPROOF | \$30 VALUE

**\$52
value**



*Plus \$2⁹⁹ s/h. Purchase may be subject to state, local or excise taxes where applicable. First-time purchasers only. One per customer. No sales to anyone under the age of 21. We do not ship to Utah. For shipping information & restrictions please visit www.CigarsIntl.com/SHIP. Offer expires 7/15/22.

The author and his group shot a couple giant Canadas that weighed more than 14 pounds.

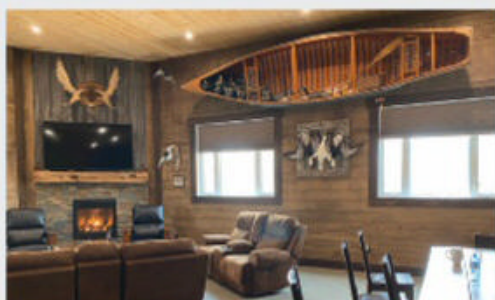


PLAN A TRIP

Options for waterfowling in Saskatchewan

Tyler Mann came from eastern Canada years ago to hunt waterfowl in Saskatchewan and never left. Being at the top of the Central Flyway and in an area where many migrant birds find their first agricultural fields, he knew he had found paradise. Mann established the Saskatchewan Goose Company (saskgoose.com) shortly thereafter. The lodge is first-class and was converted from an automobile service station to four-bedroom, three-bathroom accommodations, with half the space as a kitchen and social area. Its duck, goose and deer mounts leave new clients staring at the walls for hours.

Adventure-seeking waterfowlers can explore options for a DIY trip through Tourism Saskatchewan (tourismsaskatchewan.com). The organization's website is a valuable resource for planning hunting and fishing adventures, and it offers a guide to top experiences, including guided packages.



snow and blue geese that were more flighty than hungry. Several flocks of smaller Canadas made the morning with solid commitment. The ducks put on a show, and we targeted green.

STRATEGIC SETUPS

Our setup for the following day put us in a haled-out pea and barley field where the ducks had been feeding by the thousands. A couple of local hunters had asked to join us, and with nicknames like Tuffy, Toque and Tooth Fairy, they were bound to be as much fun as the hunt itself. The field was undulating, and it was challenging to find a flat spot to set the decoys and blind. The first birds that worked the spread had to fly over a hill, and it bumped every flight to one side.

We quickly discussed decoy strategies and moved everything out of the center of our spread to the long edges. The new layout allowed the ducks to come around the hill and follow the decoys to the front of the blind. It worked like magic. The ducks came in flocks of 25 to 300 and lined the sky to the horizon. There was plenty of shooting, laughter and excitement as Mann's black Lab got an extreme workout.

Being strategic and altering the decoy spread was critical to success. The

ducks would have kept coming, but they would not have finished where all shooters could have regular volleys. An outfitter that responds to what the birds are doing when conditions aren't perfect can make the day. We had several hunts where we set blinds against rock piles or used the edge of a field to hide. Decoys




Lesser Canadas worked snowy fields in huge numbers.

BRAD FENSON (3)

were set for changing wind conditions, and if required, wholesale changes were made to layouts and plans.

In the end, every outing was successful because we could be flexible with our setups while reading the birds. These are good points to keep in mind when asking for outfitter references and talking to other hunters about their experiences.

The ducks may have stolen the show in Saskatchewan, but the geese were world-class. We had some tremendous shoots with specklebellies and big honkers. One morning we shot a couple of giant Canadas that tipped the scales at more than 14 pounds. The sheer number of lessers made their patterns seem choreographed as the geese worked a field. It was magic to warm a bird hunter's soul. It was late in the season, and though we struggled to shoot daily limits, the quality of the experience was unbeatable. The geese were a challenging bonus, with the ducks coming in endless waves.

An evening hunt in a pea field provided a surprise. The ducks worked our decoys like high-school sweethearts, providing steady gunning. I was fortunate to have an end position in the blind and ran out to retrieve a duck that fell on my end of the field. Most of the birds were in eclipse plumage and often didn't get a second look, but one duck caught my attention. The markings on the bill and colors in the speculum and on the head were indicative of a pintail-mallard hybrid. With the extreme number of ducks and geese encountered on a trip to Saskatchewan, you never know what treasure you'll find. 

MARKETPLACE

WORK FROM HOME \$500 WEEKLY

Assemble Products From Home
Free Information Available
Call 860-357-1599

ADVERTISE HERE

CONTACT

Brendan Vorobiev
730-800-6666

Brendan.Vorobiev@outdoorsg.com

Dr. Bross All Natural Herbal Liquid Can Work Faster Than The Blue Pill

PRO+PLUS XTREME

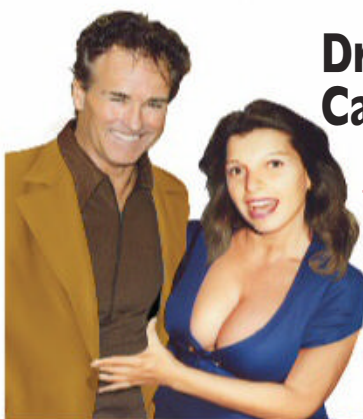
Can Work In 30 Minutes Effective Up To 12 Hours.

Take with or without your favorite beverage.

Greater Stamina & Longer Lasting Performance

Pro+Plus Xtreme is a professional strength liquid formula that digests quickly for immediate erections, increased blood flow and can help you maintain a firm erection.

Liquid is shown to work faster than pills or lube. However some men prefer PRO+PLUS XTREME pills or lube as an excellent alternative.



I'm Sheri, My man takes the Pro+Plus Xtreme while listening to the Ever-Last Subliminal Audio CD and he satisfies me every time.

EVER-LAST AUDIO CD

Control Premature Ejaculation Programs your mind to help blood flow and help give you more control, firmer erections and performance.

Super Formulas See FREE Special Offer Online

SEXCITER LIQUID
Excites women better than Spanish fly. A couple of drops mixed with or without her favorite beverage can increase libido.

ATTRACT-A-MATE
Human pheromone spray can make women desire you.



Easy To Use • Quick Absorption • Fast Acting • Be Ready Anytime

PRO+PLUS MYTMAX TESTOSTERONE BOOSTER
Can Help Raise Testosterone Levels. Increase Drive, Libido, Performance, Energy Stamina And Strength. Reduce recovery time between intervals. Can increase performance in 3 to 4 days.

POWER SEX-ESS AUDIO CD ATTRACT WOMEN
Programs your mind to make you irresistible. Hidden subliminal messages sends commands into your subconscious mind to achieve confidence and sex appeal.



Call us about our products. We'll give you important information you can trust. Be careful of discounters and imitators that sell the same type of products on Amazon, Ebay and Google. Our products are not authorized to be sold through these companies. Don't buy from sellers who don't disclose where their products are made, use inferior blends and cannot call them.

FOR THE FASTEST WAY TO RECEIVE YOUR ORDER:
PAYPAL us at our email: DELUXE69@EARTHLINK.NET

Credit Card Orders Online: WWW.ProPlusMed.com

Credit Card Orders or Check By Phone: call 1-707-931-1001

Customer Service 1-747-230-5000 Se Habla Español



Mail Payment to: Avid Pro Medical Dept. 27GEA

22287 Mulholland Hwy Box #416, Calabasas, CA 91302

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Cash

www.ProPlusMed.com

Money Back Guarantee

Name (Print. I am over 18 and agree to the terms of ProPlusMed.com)

Address / City / State / Zip



— EVERLAST AUDIO CD \$29.95 \$
— POWER SEX ESS AUDIO CD \$29.95 \$
— SEXCITER LIQUID to Excite Women \$25.00 \$
— ATTRACT-A-MATE Pheromone to Attract Women \$25.00 \$

MYTMAX Testosterone Booster 30 Days + 30 Days FREE \$45 \$
Can increase sex drive and performance 120 Days + 120 Days FREE \$110 \$
One Year Supply \$150 \$

Pro+Plus XTREME Lube or Pills or Liquid

Lube	Pills	Liquid
Results in 2-3 Hours.	Results in 1-2 Hours.	Results in 30 Minutes to 1 Hour.
1 Jar 60 Applications	1 Bottle 60 Capsules	1 Bottle 60 Servings
1 Jar \$50	1 Bottle \$60	1 Bottle \$75
2 Jars \$85	2 Bottles \$100	2 Bottles \$125
3 Jars \$100	3 Bottles \$120	3 Bottles \$150

Total From Other Side \$

Shipping, Rush Service and Insurance \$20.00 VALUE ONLY \$14.95

Total Enclosed \$

© 2020 Avid Pro Medical. Individual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

V196



Put your ATV to Work!

☒ FACTORY-DIRECT PRICES!
☒ FREE SHIPPING!*



☒ EASY FINANCING!

Check out the DR® Tow-Behind Field and Brush Mowers!

Hard-working ATV attachments from DR Power Equipment—
DRpower.com/ATV

NOW ON
SALE!

- Mowers
- Trailers
- Tillers
- Graders
- Cultivators
- Harrows
- Spreaders
- and More!

*Some limitations apply. Go Online for details.



ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

DIGITAL ACCESS NOW INCLUDED WITH YOUR PAID SUBSCRIPTION!

ENJOY DIGITAL ACCESS ON
YOUR PHONE, TABLET & MORE!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AT

WWW.GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM

CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS GO TO MYMAGNOW.COM
AND SELECT "CREATE DIGITAL ACCOUNT"

*Digital Edition is available on updated iPad/iPhone, most Android devices, and the Microsoft Store for Windows.

GARMIN INREACH MINI 2

**SEND TEXT MESSAGES,
MARK WAYPOINTS, SUMMON HELP
AND MORE—ALL WITHOUT CELL SERVICE.**

Story and Photos by Aram von Benedikt

The Mini 2 will operate for two weeks to 30 days on a single charge depending on the selected tracking mode.



Years ago I'd disappear into the wilderness to hunt elk for 10 days or two weeks at a time. No one would know where I was, or even if I was still alive. It was awesome, but it was also dangerous and stressful for my family. Those times have changed. Now I carry one of Garmin's inReach satellite communication devices anytime I venture afield. With it I can text my friends and loved ones, check the weather, navigate, mark waypoints, save tracks and much more. And should I become seriously ill or injured I can, with the push of a button, summon search

and rescue directly to my location.

My go-to inReach device has been the standard Explorer unit, except during hard-core backpacking hunts. For that I carried a superlight Mini device. Both have served me well, but now there's an even better option. Garmin's new inReach Mini 2 offers enhanced interface, location tracking, battery life and capability. The Mini 2's updated features can change the way you hunt in the backcountry.

User interface is a big deal for me since I'm somewhat technologically challenged. The interface has been updated and is more intuitive, both when using

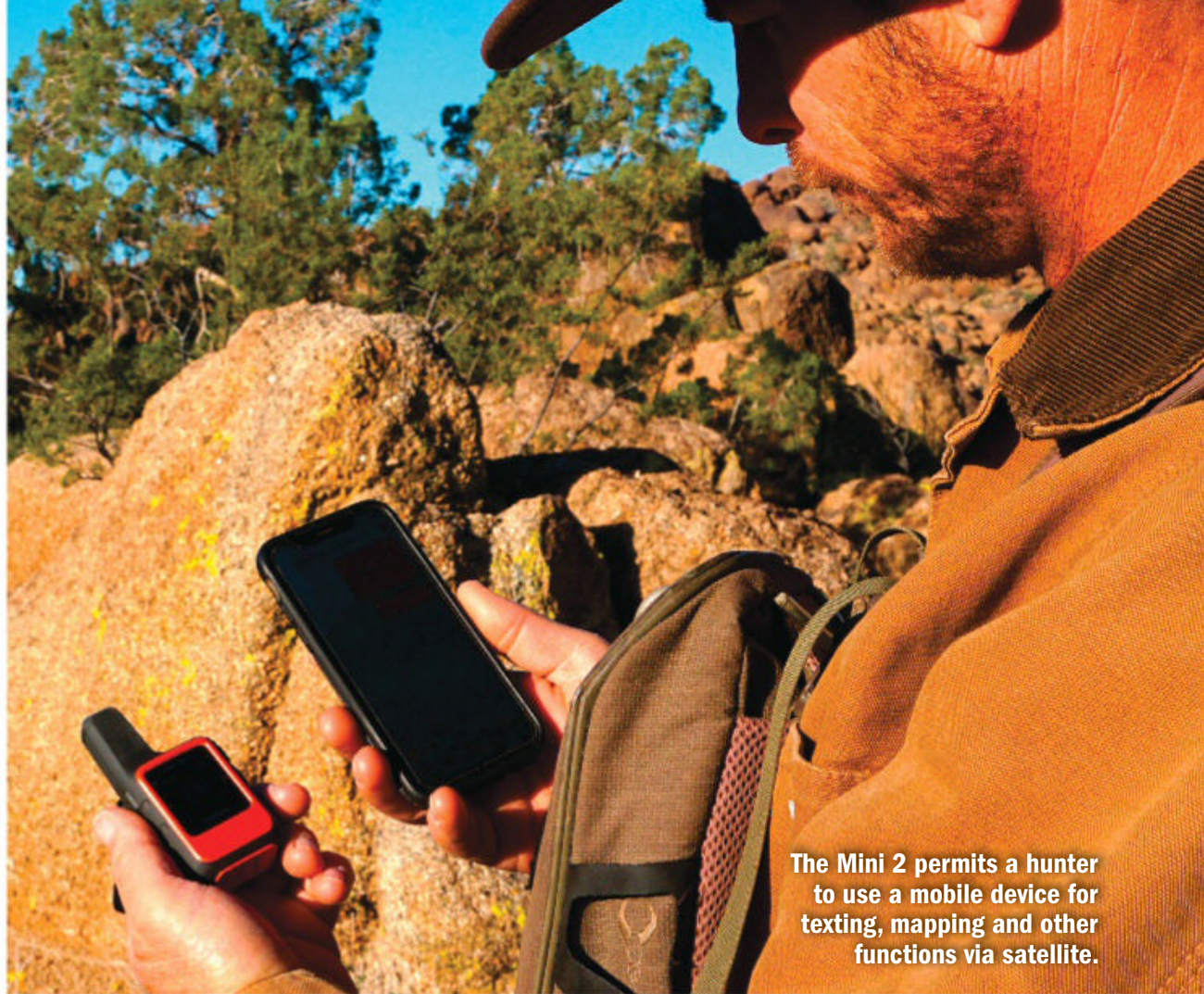
the handheld unit alone and when it's paired with a mobile phone or other device. Garmin's free Explore mobile app makes it easy to map, track, sync and share your trek via your phone. You can use your device to type messages, get up-to-date weather information, download maps, review your trips and so on.

The unit's tracking feature is a favorite among spouses and loved ones. Your Mini 2 will send your location to anyone you wish at selected intervals ranging from 10 minutes to four hours, updating them to your whereabouts and enabling them to digitally follow along on your adventure.

Furthermore, the Mini 2 makes communicating from the backcountry easy. Let's face it, we're all hopelessly addicted to texting with our buddies and families. However, in many backcountry settings cellular service is non-existent. Not to worry, just pair your phone with your Mini 2 and carry on. The Garmin sends and receives messages via satellite; no cell service needed. If you don't have your phone along you can still text, but it's a bit laborious to compose a message using the toggle buttons on the inReach unit. Considering that, it's a good plan to create some preset messages on your Garmin account. That way you can select and send "All's well honey! Love ya." within a matter of seconds. No matter which method you use, it's comforting to be able to stay in touch with family, friends and loved ones while in the wilderness.

You can embed GPS coordinates in your messages so recipients know exactly where you are. Or you can simply share your location through the inReach MapShare page. Pretty cool feature, especially when you and your hunting buddy are trying to find each other in a sea of wilderness.

In addition to your phone, the Mini 2 will pair with more than 80 different



The Mini 2 permits a hunter to use a mobile device for texting, mapping and other functions via satellite.



An SOS button triggers emergency response, and the Mini 2 enables communication with rescuers en route.

Garmin devices ranging from smartwatches to aviation systems. You can message, track, trigger a satellite-relayed SOS and more from the paired device.

The Mini 2 allows hunters to quickly mark waypoints, and I use this feature like a borrowed tool. It's great for marking the location of a hidden spring or elk wallow, or camp, or that big bull you just killed deep in the black timber. Once saved, the waypoint enables you to navigate to that location from any angle. It's visible on your maps as well, giving you a birds-eye perspective of the area.


The ability to pull up an accurate weather forecast through the Mini 2 is a priceless feature when you're deep in unforgiving wilderness territory. Several times my inReach device has forewarned me of massive storms about to hit the high country where I was hunting. I was able to batten down the hatches and ride out the storm safely and in good style.

A new feature of the Mini 2, TracBack enables you to backtrack along your route at any time. You don't have to worry about setting up the track or programming the Mini 2; it automatically remembers your recent travels and can produce the track upon demand. This is a great feature if you are navigating new territory or are a directionally challenged hunter.

The Mini 2's SOS capability is the most important feature and, hopefully, the one you will never need. Should

the proverbial poo-poo hit the fan, you can hit the dedicated SOS button and your inReach will summon the Garmin International Emergency Response Coordination Center, which will then notify search and rescue. Communication is interactive so you can stay in touch with rescuers to update them and keep them apprised of the situation. It's a feature that's saved thousands of lives and counting.

One of the big challenges associated with inReach devices has been maintaining battery life through the duration of a 10- or 14-day hunt. Say goodbye to that predicament. Set on the default 10-minute tracking mode, the Mini 2 will last for two weeks of continuous use; on the 30-minute tracking mode, it will run continuously for 30 days. When the unit is turned off and stored in your car, boat, plane or emergency duffel, the battery will remain charged and ready to go for up to a year.

The Mini 2 is 2 inches wide and less than 4 inches tall, and it weighs just 3.5 ounces. It has a waterproof rating of IPX7 and is virtually bombproof. The unit's MSRP is \$399.99, and like all inReach devices, the Mini 2 requires a satellite subscription. A variety of plans are available starting at about \$12 per month. To my way of thinking, that's a small price to pay for a tool that can save your life. 

JUICED-UP JIGS

AN INSIDE LOOK AT HOW BERKLEY'S NEW POWERBAIT JIGS TANTALIZE BASS

By Drew Warden

Years of research and lab work at Berkley's Spirit Lake facility resulted in a method of combining water-soluble attractants with silicone.

Jigs are one of the most versatile and effective bass lures of all time. They can probe the entire water column and produce in any habitat, including heavy cover or snag-laden structures where other baits struggle. They're also known for catching big bass. Historically, jigs have done a great job of visually and audibly attracting bass in environments that few other lures can reach. But now with the introduction of Berkley PowerBait Jigs, which utilize the company's proprietary infused skirts, anglers can fish jigs that appeal to bass' sense of smell and taste, too.

I recently visited Berkley's laboratory in Spirit Lake, Iowa, to get a behind-the-scenes look at the development and testing of PowerBait Jigs. Although the chemists and technicians there didn't reveal any secret formulas, they did shine

some light on how science and technology is combined with fishing know-how to create baits that bass like to bite.

While bass certainly use sight to feed, they also have incredibly sensitive olfactory and gustatory (taste) systems. Studies show that bass can detect as little as a few ounces of amino acid mixed into 6,000 gallons of water. Like other fish, bass have an olfactory system comprising two pairs of nostrils (nares), each with an inlet, an outlet and sensory cells between them to detect water-soluble chemicals and transmit this info to the brain via nerves. In addition,

a bass' mouth is loaded with gustatory chemoreceptors. Located on the tongue and other areas inside the mouth as well as on the lips outside, gustatory chemoreceptors sense whether an item is food and almost instantaneously send this signal to the fish's brain.



POWERBAIT
SWIM JIG

How fast does this happen? Berkley's research shows that once bass taste and determine an item is not food, they'll spit it in roughly .25 second. That leaves anglers very little time to set the hook on a strike. Because they have gustatory chemoreceptors on the outside of their lips, bass can "sample" a bait before fully ingesting it. This, too, hampers an angler's ability to convert bites into hookups.

Developed through extensive research and testing, PowerBait passes this taste test. It's made up of water-soluble organic and synthetic chemicals that mimic the scent and taste of bass forage. This tricks the bass' chemoreceptors in the mouth and nares into believing the bait is legitimate prey. The result, as Berkley studies have revealed, is fish hold on to PowerBait 18 times longer than other artificial baits. This gives an angler more time to set the hook before the fish spits the bait if it ever does.

The skirts of PowerBait Jigs utilize a customized blend of polymers (silicones) that Berkley has engineered for increased water permeability. John Prochnow, Berkley's director of research and development, explains that the blend permits some PowerBait scent and flavor to "migrate out to the surface of the silicone and not just be locked in," as with traditional oil-based polymers. The benefit is more of the water-soluble PowerBait attractants are exposed to, and dispersed in, the water. In addition, a PowerBait-infused skirt has 10.4 times the surface area of the average jig trailer, which means it can contain and disperse a lot more scent and flavor than a scented trailer alone.

Still, while some scent and flavor are diffused in the water, the jig skirts are designed more to retain the PowerBait formula and release it when fish strike rather than to leach it during the presentation. PowerBait skirts essentially encase water-soluble chemicals inside a silicone embodiment. Much of the smell and taste remain inside the skirt until the bite from a fish releases them. The more the bait is




Infusing any polymer with PowerBait requires a balancing act to ensure the material remains durable.

abused, the more formula enters the water.

This is unlike PowerBait MaxScent, which utilizes a more porous material designed for immediate and maximum scent dispersion without drying out. For a potent combination, anglers can marry one of the new PowerBait Jigs with a MaxScent trailer to add more taste and release a larger scent field.

Infusing PowerBait into silicone jig skirts required years of research and development. While the final PowerBait Jigs took two years to complete, Prochnow says initial attempts at making a PowerBait skirt began with PVC in the early '90s and included a couple tries with silicone later. In fact, he feels that it was the early trials and errors—including the work Berkley did with PVC materials and attractants—that ultimately allowed its staff to find success. The big challenge, he adds, was similar to what Berkley faced with original PowerBait: infusing water-soluble attractants into a new oil-based polymer material.

Mark Sexton, Berkley's manager of fish science and product testing, explains that any time a new or different material is infused with fish-attracting chemicals, the ratios and percentages of what and how much goes in must be balanced. Otherwise, the integrity of the material can be compromised. Too much attractant, and the material falls apart; too little, and the product is not effective. Prochnow says the goal was to retain the physical properties of solid silicone so the skirts don't fall apart, while introducing water-soluble attractants that can degrade the material if added too liberally.

While this delicate balancing act took time to perfect, now anglers can reap the rewards of Berkley's efforts. Greater appeal to more of a bass' senses should bear fruit on the water. Berkley PowerBait Jigs feature ultra-sharp Fusion19 hooks and smart new jighead designs from pro anglers Gary Klein and Bobby Lane. The jigs are available in seven different styles for \$4.99 each. 



POWERBAIT
HEAVY COVER JIG



POWERBAIT
FINESSE JIG



POWERBAIT
FOOTBALL JIG

THE QUESTION ABOUT ELEPHANTS

SOMETIMES THE 'CORRECT' ANSWER ISN'T THE TRUTH.

When Shane was in seventh grade his class took a field trip to the city zoo. The day was dreadfully hot, so most of the big animals did little more than lie in the shade by their water troughs.

“I kinda feel sorry for them, especially the elephants,” said Shane to his teacher.

“Why so?” Ms. Jansen asked.

“I heard elephants often roam hundreds of miles in their natural habitat. They can’t do that here.”

“Hundreds of miles?” she asked skeptically. “Where did you hear that?”

“I read it, actually,” said Shane, “in one of my dad’s Africa hunting books.”

“Well,” Ms. Jansen replied, “I doubt Africa hunting books are the best source of information. After all, if there weren’t hunters, we wouldn’t need zoos. Elephants are nearly extinct because of hunters.”

Shane took Ms. Jansen’s words as a personal jab because everyone knew he was a hunter. Somehow, she’d made it seem like *he* was responsible for the elephants’ plight. He didn’t say anything as he slunk down the footpath and into the air-conditioned snake house.

Back at home that evening, Shane found his father in his favorite easy chair. Shane slumped onto the nearby couch with a sigh, and his father looked over the Civil War book he was reading to peer at Shane.

“Dad, my teacher says elephants are almost extinct because of hunters. That true?”

“Well, son, it’s complicated, but you shouldn’t believe everything you hear, even in school. Your uncle was stationed in

Africa for eight years. He says that generally elephants are thriving in the places where they are legally hunted, but they’re almost gone from the areas where hunting is banned.”

“How can that be?” asked Shane. “It sounds so . . .” he searched for the word.

“Counterintuitive,” said his father. “I know it does, but elephants are a lot like deer, turkeys, elk and bears in America. If animals are made valuable by hunters who pay to hunt them, then the local people will protect them. But if animals are not managed through regulated hunting, populations grow to the point where they become more than the land can handle. Hungry elephants turn to eating peoples’ crops, and hungry people don’t take kindly to that. So they kill all the elephants they can, regardless

if it’s illegal. On the other hand, hunters only thin the herd to healthy levels, rather than destroying it.”

“So you’re saying hunting actually helps elephants?”

“Regulated hunting does, yes,” said his father.

“So Ms. Jansen is wrong?”

“Yes, son. She’s full of it. The truth is, elephants are not close to extinction worldwide, and the reason we have zoos is so that people who never hunt or get out in the wild can also see them. But I wouldn’t tell her all that if you value your grade.”

The following night, Shane again sought out his father.

Ms. Jansen sprung a pop-quiz on us today, Dad,” said Shane.

“Oh yeah?”

“Yeah, and one of the questions was, ‘True or false: African elephants are going extinct due to loss of habitat and trophy hunting.’”

“And what did you mark as your answer?”

“True, even though I know it’s . . . BS,” said Shane. It was about the closest he’d ever come to openly cussing around his father.

“So you got a hundred?”

“No,” said Shane. I missed a stupid question about something called guano. Do you know what that is?”

“Yes,” said Shane’s father. “It’s bat sh—” he continued, making the “sh” sound with his mouth but stopping short of saying the whole word.

“So it’s BS, too!” said Shane with a laugh.

“I guess you can say that,” said his father, now smiling also.



Shhhhh. No wake zone.



Protect your baby (and their toys) with coverage for fishing gear and personal property too.

1-800-PROGRESSIVE / [PROGRESSIVE.COM](https://www.progressive.com)

PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. & affiliates. Additional charge may apply. Prices vary based on how you buy.

SCIENTIFICALLY FORMULATED TO REACH OUT AND
**GRAB THEM BY
THE FACE.**

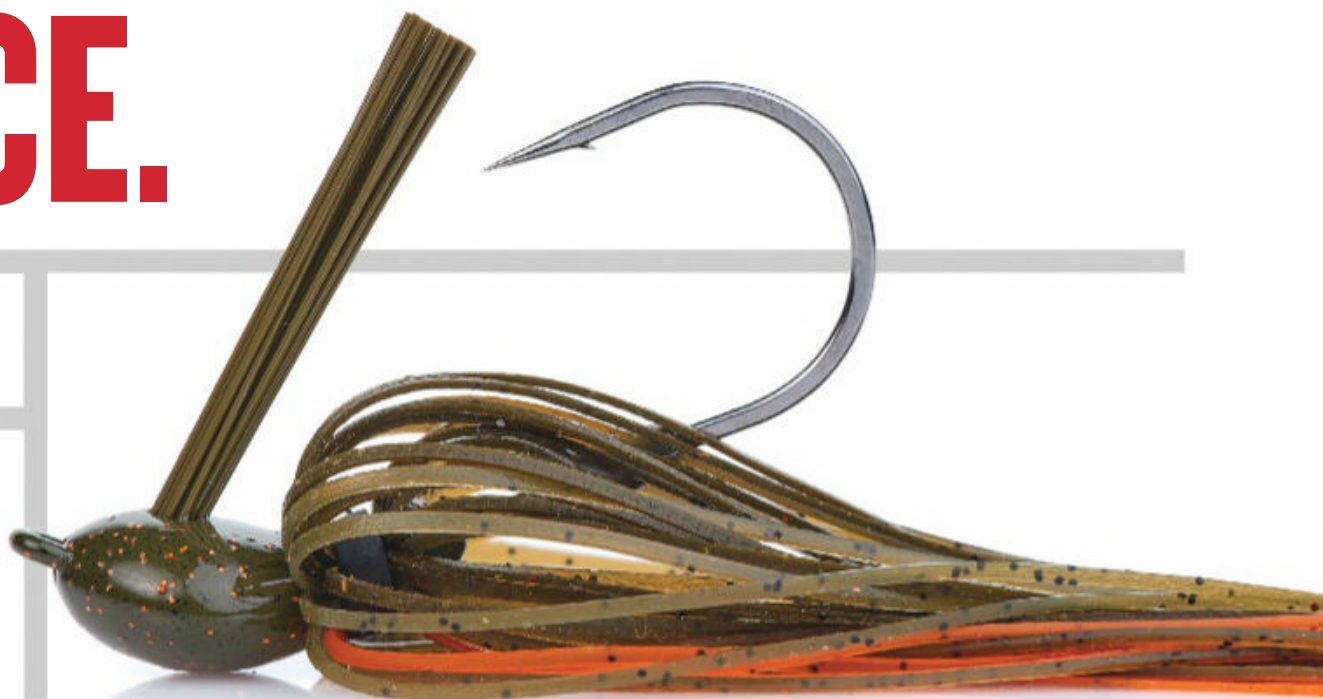


NEW POWERBAIT® JIGS

This is your jig game on performance enhancers, courtesy of the scientists at Berkley® Labs. Our first-ever infusion of PowerBait with silicone jig skirts creates an unrivaled attraction radius and provides a surface area 10.4x larger than the average jig. This allows the enzymes to do their work and means fish smell it, taste it and hold on dramatically longer.



JOHN P.
Berkley Labs



Berkley
PowerBait



Berkley-Fishing.com

©2022 Pure Fishing, Inc.

YOUR FISH. OUR SCIENCE.™

7 STYLES | 23 COLORS



SWIM



FOOTBALL



FINESSE



SKIPPIN'



FINESSE
SWIM



HEAVY
COVER



FLIPPIN'