



LAKE ^{OF THE} OZARKS

FREE

Fishing News

FEATURED ANGLER

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Tin Cup to Sponsor Dion Hibdon
- MDC Corner with Greg Stoner
- Fall / Winter Bass and Crappie
- Targeting Big Winter Bass
- Boat Care Tips
- Fall/Winter Tournament Schedule

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FROM THE FOUNDER

Bob Bueltmann
Founder, BassingBob.com

Well it has been quite a different summer fishing season here on Lake of the Ozarks. Due to heavy spring rains the dam has been generating water causing strong current throughout the lake all summer and into September. The heavy current has positioned feeding fish on main lake and secondary points creating some very exciting fishing. While that bite has been fun, it seemed as though the fish never really moved to their traditional summer time brush piles. While fish behavior and fishing patterns are generally consistent and predictable through-out the year, each year always seems to have some sort of wrinkle that keeps us anglers guessing on how to catch em.

As I sit on my deck this Monday in mid-September, over-looking the Grand Glaize arm of the lake, the noise of big vacationer boats are virtually gone, the lake is very peaceful, with a few jet ski's buzzing around and also a couple of kayakers. The trees in the State Park are full of green leaves. Knowing that change is just a few weeks away.

air temperatures cooling down. The leaves on the trees will be turning to their bright orange, red and yellow colors, eventually surrendering to cold and falling off the trees. The transition of the seasons always brings about a transition in the fish behavior and our methods to catch em. Bait fish will soon be moving back into the creeks and the fish will follow their food source. Then as the water cools the bait fish will pull out and the bass will settle into their winter patterns on creek channel banks, points and close to deep water.

The question is, what, if any kind of wrinkle will mother nature throw at us this coming fall and winter that will force us to adjust our traditional fall and winter fishing patterns and baits. To me that is what makes fishing so much fun and at times frustrating. We are very fortunate to have such a healthy fishery in the middle of Missouri that provides us the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the changing seasons and also the challenge and satisfaction of figuring out the changing patterns to catch fish year round on Lake of the Ozarks.

This time of the year we will see lots of changes at Lake of the Ozarks, with water and

In this edition of The Fishing News, our MDC Corner with Fisheries Biologist, Greg Stoner shares the recent results of their annual bass, crappie and walleye shocking surveys performed earlier this year. Rob Bueltmann discusses his approach to catching big Lake of the Ozarks bass during the winter. Fishing News Writer and Media Consultant, Deborah Wolfe brings to life the story behind Dion Hibdon's new sponsor, Tin Cup Whiskey and Dan Bowman, Mercury Mechanic and angler shares his wisdom on boat maintenance.

I want to thank all of our readers, Bassing Bob members, advertisers and content contributors. Together we have a fishing community here at Lake of the Ozarks that is second to none in the country. As you read through the many articles and stories, please pay specific attention to our advertisers and try to use every effort possible to support or refer their businesses. Without them, we would not be able to bring you this magazine. Let them know that you are a fisherman and thank them for their support of our fishing community.

Good Fishing All,

- Bob Bueltmann



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OF LIFE**



2019 LAKE OF THE OZARKS SPRING / SUMMER TOURNAMENT RECAP

SPRING BIG BASS BASH: 4/27/19

• 1st Place: Thomas Smith – 7.93 lbs.

The biggest bass he has ever caught resulted in a huge payday for Thomas Smith in the Spring Big Bass Bash April 27-28 at the Lake of the Ozarks. Fishing for the first time in the Big Bass Bash, the 42-year-old Smith caught a 7.93-pound largemouth the first day of the event to win the Big Bass Bash and claim the grand prize of \$100,000. Thomas Smith is a construction company owner from Old Monroe, MO. He reported catching his big bass on a Crock-o-Gator Swamp Bug rigged on a Crock-o-Gator Shaker Head. Congratulations again to Thomas Smith, the 2019 Lake of the Ozarks Spring Big Bass Bash Champion.



ANGLERS IN ACTION: 2/24/19

• 1st Place: Jim Schnable / Josh Schnable – 19.95 lbs.

Josh and Jim fished the Linn Creek area Sunday, targeting two banks throughout the day to accumulate their limit. They had 5 keeper bites Sunday and a total of 8 fish were caught, all came on the a-rig.



ANGLERS IN ACTION: 3/24/19

• 1st Place: James Frank / Michael Montgomery – 22.80 lbs.

James Frank and Michael Montgomery slammed 22.80 lbs on the scales to take the win. They reported catching all their fish on jerkbaits and a-rigs, towards the lower end of the lake. All of their fish came off of two specific banks, and they boated over 15 keepers throughout the day.

ANGLERS IN ACTION: 4/14/19

• 1st Place: Kobe Asberry / Clay Francis – 26.53 lbs.

Ten bags over 20 lbs. were weighed in on this day, and it took over 18 lbs just to get in the check line. Kobe Asberry and Clay Francis were one of those over 20 lbs. They hammered Lake of the Ozarks for five fish that weighed in at a massive 26.53 lbs. Kobe and Clay reported catching their fish on jigs, spinnerbaits, and the a-rig.



ANGLERS IN ACTION: 5/5/19

• 1st Place: Rob Bueltmann / Ben Verhoef – 22.34 lbs.

Ben and Rob hammered Lake of the Ozarks for 22.34 lbs., which was enough to seal the win at the final regular season event of the Lake of the Ozarks division. They reported catching a big one early Sunday on topwater, then switched over to a Carolina rig to haul in the remainder of their bass.



FLW BFL: 5/18/19

• 1st Place: Adam Boehle – 20.12 lbs.

Adam Boehle of Warrenton, MO, caught five bass weighing 20.12 lbs., to win the T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League (BFL) tournament on Lake of the Ozarks. Boehle fished from the Glaize Arm of the lake to the dam, throwing a ¾-ounce green-pumpkin-colored Crock-o-Gator Reaction Jig with a Strike King Rage Bug, a 5-inch shad-colored Zoom swimbait and a gizzard shad-colored 6th Sense crankbait. "I was keying on the shad spawn in the morning, then switched to points," Boehle says. "I think I had 12 keepers throughout the day, with the majority coming on the swimbait. I made a bait change mid-morning and caught two big ones on the crankbait. I still needed a kicker, so I went flipping with the Crock-O-Gator jig and caught my biggest of the day, a 5½-pounder."



FLW BFL: 6/29/19

• 1st Place: Michael Harlin – 24.9 lbs.

Michael Harlin of Sunrise Beach, MO, caught five bass weighing 24.9 lbs., to win the T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League (BFL) tournament on Lake of the Ozarks. "I basically fished from the dam to the mouth of the Gravois arm," says Harlin, who earned his first career win in FLW competition. "I had spent my practice mainly idling around and graphing, looking for schools that were off the beaten path. I had found five or six good spots that had fish on them and weren't getting pressured, and Saturday they were there. "I had around 15 keepers and was pretty much done fishing by 10:30 a.m.," Harlin continues. "I was throwing back 3-pounders like they were nothing. I lost a couple of big ones, too. I'm very confident I could have weighed in 26 pounds if everything had stayed buttoned up." Harlin says that all of his fish came on a chartreuse and powder blue-colored Strike King 6XD crankbait. "The key was really my electronics and throwing a specific line," Harlin adds. "I wasn't fishing around spots – I was making exact casts and bringing my crankbait right through the school. I was catching them every single cast."



FLW BFL: 9/14/19

• 1st Place: Roger Fitzpatrick – 36.3 lbs.

Boater Roger Fitzpatrick of Eldon, Missouri, brought a two-day total of 10 bass to the scales weighing 36.3 lbs. to win the two-day T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League (BFL) Ozark Division presented by Bassing Bob super-tournament on Lake of the Ozarks. Fitzpatrick said his key bait was a black-and-blue-colored Omega Pro Mega Structure jig tipped with a BioSpawn VileBug, as he weighed in nine of his 10 keepers on the jig. He also weighed in one keeper on a white Berkley Choppo that came on a seawall. "My home is in the Gravois arm, so I like to fish on the north shore," said Fitzpatrick, who earned his seventh career BFL victory. "I had two different patterns going – I'd fish docks in the morning with a black and blue jig, then later in the day I'd move out to the ledges."



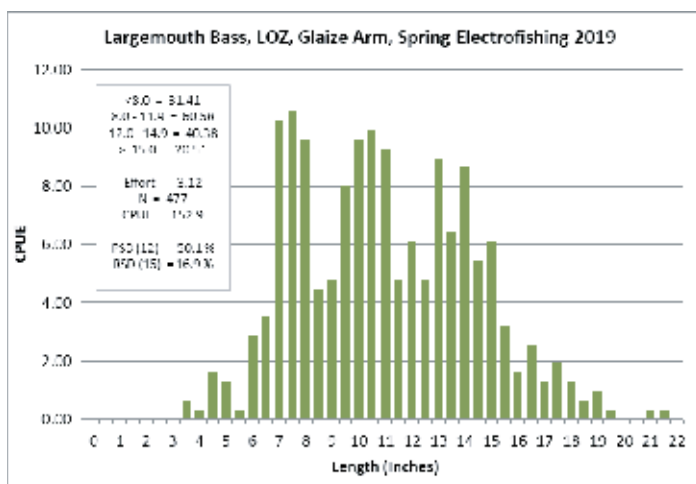
MDC Corner

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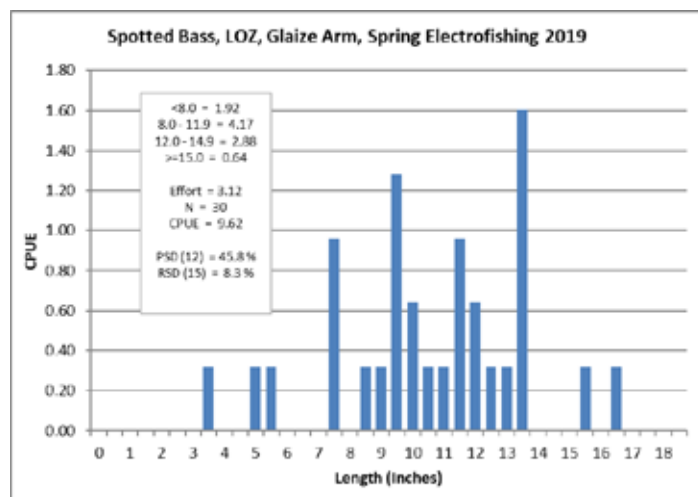
Greg
Stoner

Electrofishing Survey shows Lake of the Ozarks Fishing in Good Shape

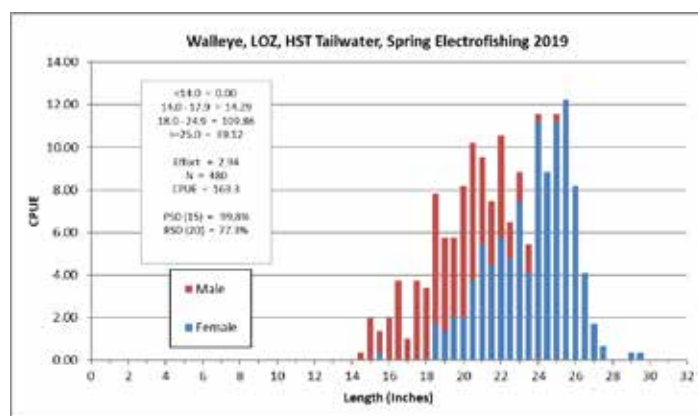
According to annual electrofishing surveys conducted by MDC, fish populations on the Lake of the Ozarks are looking great! Each spring electrofishing is conducted using a flat bottom boat with a generator. This setup creates an electrical field which stuns fish momentarily giving biologists and volunteers enough time to net and transfer to holding tanks to be identified and measured. Once measured and recorded the fish are returned safely back into the water. The charts below are some of the highlights of this year's testing. If you look at the Y Axis of the chart, you will notice that it is labeled CPUE. This stands for catches per unit of effort, which basically means catches per hour when shocking.



Lake of the Ozarks fisheries biologist Greg Stoner indicates that the Largemouth population in the Lake of the Ozarks is stable. "We sample the same stretch of bank in the Glaize and Niangua every year to keep the habitat constant and remove any bias from our testing. The largemouth are almost always the same from year to year. Since our water stays relatively stable, we get a good spawn every year, and even if we did have a poor spawn, we would have plenty of year classes of fish to back it up and keep the population stable." As you can see from the chart above, we have plenty of young fish to catch for years to come.



Stoner notes that the Spotted Bass population has somewhat declined. "I believe the decline is partially due to a few bad year classes, and also that they are more open to harvest now. In 1998 we lowered the length limit from 15 inches down to 12 inches, and the reason we did that is because most of the fish were dying before they reached that 15 inch mark. Spotted Bass are a slower growing fish compared to Largemouth. A 12 inch Spotted Bass and a 15 inch Largemouth are roughly the same age (around 5 years old)."



If you have noticed catching a few more Walleye around the lake, it is likely due to the MDC stocking program. Stoner adds, "We lost our Walleye spawning grounds when Truman Dam was built, so all of the Walleye we have today are the direct result of our stocking program. We stock Native Walleye every other year, and as a direct result, we see a growing population."



REMAINING 2019 SCHEDULE

REMAINING 2019 SCHEDULE

OCT 4 Midwest Lighting Sprint Nationals

+ POWRi Racesaver Sprints

OCT 5 Midwest Lighting Sprint Nationals

+ ASCS 360 Warrior Sprints

OCT 19 World of Outlaw Sprint Cars

+ POWRi Racesaver & IMCA Racesaver Sprints

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Event Posters By:



Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

OCTOBER					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
10/05/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB#2RdOkAlhonnaPtRan	1200	Big Bass Bash	866-515-0102
10/06/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB#2RdOkAlhonnaPtRan	1200	Big Bass Bash	866-515-0102
10/10/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	140	"FLW, LLC"	270-703-9551
10/11/2019	06:30 AM - 04:30 PM	Robin's Resort	12	Perryville Basscasters	573-768-4184
10/11/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	140	"FLW, LLC"	270-703-9551
10/12/2019	07:15 AM - 04:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	55	Iron Workers Local #396 Buddy Bass	314-401-2479
10/12/2019	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Robin's Resort	12	C & R Mechanical Fish 'n Fun	636-219-8494
10/12/2019	06:45 AM - 03:30 PM	Alhonna Resort	18	Lou Fusz Automotive Bass Tournament	636-284-0476
10/12/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	40	Benefit for Special Olympics MO	314-615-0162
10/12/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	15	Bassaholics KC	816-935-9963
10/12/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn.	573-346-5673
10/12/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin Lucas Open	314-346-6963
10/12/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Kon Tiki Resort	25	Jeffco Bass Anglers	636-399-7557
10/12/2019	06:30 AM - 01:30 PM	Robin's Resort	12	Perryville Basscasters	573-768-4184
10/12/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	10	Mexico Bassmasters	573-544-7279
10/12/2019	06:45 AM - 03:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	20	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
10/12/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	15	Sol Pro Bassmasters	816-447-7649
10/12/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	140	"FLW, LLC"	270-703-9551
10/13/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	15	Eldon Bassmasters	660-460-0045
10/13/2019	06:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	15	Bassaholics KC	816-935-9963
10/13/2019	05:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	20	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
10/13/2019	05:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	25	Kansas Buddy Bass	785-393-2144
10/13/2019	07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	15	Sol Pro Bassmasters	816-447-7649
10/13/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
10/16/2019	05:30 AM - 04:00 PM	PB #2	20	MO State Fishing Team Fundraiser	417-242-9863
10/18/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	150	FLW College Fishing	270-252-1593
10/19/2019	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Robin's Resort	75	PARIC Company Bass Tournament	314-267-5570
10/19/2019	07:00 AM - 03:15 PM	Lakeview Resort	60	Teamsters Joint Council #13	314-426-4618
10/19/2019	07:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	50	Hawg Hawlers Bass Club	573-718-4510
10/19/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	15	St. Louis Area Bassmasters	636-388-1629
10/19/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	15	Midstate Illinois Bass Anglers	618-201-6860
10/19/2019	06:30 AM - 04:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	20	Thousand Hills Bass Club	660-341-7372
10/19/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	20	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
10/19/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	10	Central Missouri Bass Masters	573-201-4798
10/19/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	100	"Dupo Marine Center, LLC"	618-286-5252
10/19/2019	08:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	LOZ Crappie Club	573-480-6587
10/19/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	150	FLW College Fishing	270-252-1593
10/20/2019	07:30 AM - 01:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	50	Hawg Hawlers Bass Club	573-718-4510
10/20/2019	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	12	Camdenton Castaways Club Tournament	573-836-1695
10/20/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
10/20/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	Benton Co. MO Bass Club	660-723-1170
10/20/2019	07:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Robin's Resort	15	St. Louis Area Bassmasters	636-388-1629
10/20/2019	06:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	15	Midstate Illinois Bass Anglers	618-201-6860
10/20/2019	06:30 AM - 02:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	20	Thousand Hills Bass Club	660-341-7372

Listings only available until December 2019 at time of print, for a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com



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Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

OCTOBER (continued)					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
10/20/2019	07:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	20	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
10/20/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	12	MO-KAN Bassmasters	816-536-1702
10/20/2019	08:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	LOZ Crappie Club	573-480-6587
10/21/2019	06:00 AM - 05:00 PM	PB #2	10	Private Fishing Tournament	860-839-4905
10/22/2019	06:00 AM - 05:00 PM	PB #2	10	Private Fishing Tournament	860-839-4905
10/23/2019	06:00 AM - 05:00 PM	PB #2	10	Private Fishing Tournament	860-839-4905
10/24/2019	06:00 AM - 05:00 PM	PB #2	10	Private Fishing Tournament	860-839-4905
10/26/2019	06:45 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	90	Ozark Mountain Team Trail	417-861-2983
10/26/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	80	Alhonna Resort Fall Open Buddy Bass	573-365-2634
10/26/2019	07:15 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	Olathe Bass Club	817-939-5072
10/26/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	25	Steel City Bassmasters	636-575-8300
10/26/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	PB #2	140	Missouri Bass Nation	314-941-6616
10/27/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	20	Average Joe's Buddy Classic	913-449-0163
10/27/2019	06:45 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	90	Ozark Mountain Team Trail	417-861-2983
10/27/2019	07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	80	Alhonna Resort Fall Open Buddy Bass	573-365-2634
10/27/2019	07:15 AM - 01:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	Olathe Bass Club	817-939-5072
10/27/2019	06:00 AM - 12:00 AM	Red Oak Resort	25	Steel City Bassmasters	636-575-8300
10/27/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	140	Missouri Bass Nation	314-941-6616

Listings only available until December 2019 at time of print, for a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

2020 SEASON SCHEDULE

BIG BASS BASH - ANGLERS IN ACTION TOURNAMENT TRAIL



2020 BIG BASS BASH SCHEDULE

PICKWICK LAKE, AL: MARCH 21-22

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO: APRIL 18-19

GRAND LAKE, OK: MAY 30-31

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO: OCTOBER 3-4

2020 ANGLERS IN ACTION SCHEDULE

LAKE OF THE OZARKS

February 23 | March 15 | April 5 | May 3

GRAND LAKE

March 7 | April 25 | May 16 | June 13

TABLE ROCK LAKE

February 22 | March 14 | April 11 | Sep. 19



FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.BIGBASSBASH.COM

NOVEMBER

Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
Date	Times	Location	Boats	Club Name	Phone #
11/02/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin Lucas Open	314-346-6963
11/02/2019	06:45 AM - 03:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	20	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
11/02/2019	05:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	25	Kansas Buddy Bass	785-393-2144
11/02/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	25	Tri-County Bass Club	573-762-2668
11/02/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	200	Anglers in Action	314-591-4578
11/03/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/03/2019	05:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	20	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
11/03/2019	05:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	25	Kansas Buddy Bass	785-393-2144
11/03/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
11/03/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	200	Anglers in Action	314-591-4578
11/09/2019	08:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	30	New American Funding	785-317-8597
11/09/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	MOBassFishin' Solo Pro Series	417-830-3177
11/10/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	MOBassFishin' Solo Pro Series	417-830-3177
11/10/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	80	Mondo Tackle Buyers Club	913-800-0429
11/16/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin Lucas Open	314-346-6963
11/16/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	20	Premier Anglers Bass Club	660-441-7726
11/16/2019	05:00 AM - 05:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	Central Missouri Catfish Tourn.	660-651-2408

Listings only available until December 2019 at time of print, for a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com



BassingBob's 7th Annual

WINTER BASS CHALLENGE

LAKE OF THE OZARKS

Host: Alhonna Resort



Open Buddy Tournament (No membership Required)

Entry: \$130/Boat - Optional Big Bass \$10

90% PAYBACK!

PAYOUTS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd heaviest bags

Additional places paid per each 7 boats over 20

SPECIAL PAYOUTS:

Largest Spotted Bass

Lowest Weight for 5 Keepers

Refreshments provided before take-off and during weigh-in

Championship Monies: Best 3 out of 4 tourneys

OFF LIMITS:

Point-to-point and inside of the coves from Pa He Tsi to Lazy Days, including all coves and points in between, including PB2 and Lazy Days points and coves or all of Alhonna cove (aka Workmans Cove). Inside bouys of Coffman Ramp, Shawnee Bend Access and point-to-point inside Red Oak's cove.

SAVE THE DATE

November 23, 2019

December 14, 2019

December 28, 2019

January 11, 2020

Sponsored By:



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or at Fitz Fishing in Osage Beach**

Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

NOVEMBER (continued)					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
11/17/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/23/2019	08:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	50	Bassingbob.com	573-280-9027
11/24/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	50	Joe Bass Team Trail	314-220-7196
11/24/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
11/24/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	Angler's Choice	618-496-3610
11/30/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	200	Anglers in Action	314-591-4578
DECEMBER					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
12/01/2019	06:15 AM - 02:30 PM	PB #2	70	JaKKed Baits	314-913-0264
12/01/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	Angler's Choice	618-496-3610
12/07/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robins Resort	60	"Webb Outdoors, LLC"	417-425-7513
12/08/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robins Resort	60	"Webb Outdoors, LLC"	417-425-7513
12/08/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
12/14/2019	08:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	50	Bassingbob.com	573-280-9027
12/15/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	50	Joe Bass Team Trail	314-220-7196
12/28/2019	08:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	50	Bassingbob.com	573-280-9027



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A Hero's Gift of Friendship Fosters a New Brand of Sponsor

Luke Foli's childhood dreams of following in Guido Hibdon's footsteps, inspired him to develop a new tournament team sponsored by TINCUP Whiskey, featuring Dion Hibdon as their star angler. *by Deborah Wolfe*

All young boys have heroes who stand larger than life in their childhood minds. Some find their heroes among football, basketball and football greats, but Luke Foli found his among the greats of tournament fishing – Bass Fishing Hall of Famer Guido Hibdon.

In 1980, Hibdon won the first B.A.S.S. tournament he entered on Lake of the Ozarks. He won five B.A.S.S. titles during his career along with 1990 and 1991 Bassmaster Angler of the Year titles. His induction into the hall of fame came in 2002.

"I looked up to Guido Hibdon since I was 12 years old," Foli enthused. "I wanted to be like him so bad that I cut grass for a year so I could save enough money to buy three Team Diawa rods and reels at the Galyan's in Plainfield, Indiana, and meet Guido."



Young Luke and Guido Hibdon

Even though Foli's father was far from being an outdoorsman, he caved to his son's constant pleas to make the nearly hour-long drive to attend a sports show where Hibdon was appearing.

"When we finally got there and saw Guido, I was too shy to say anything but a sheepish 'hello,'" Foli recalled. "My dad said, 'you have talked about him for a year; you need to go up and say more than hi.' He literally had to push me up to Guido."

While some boys are disappointed to find their heroes fall far short of their expectations, Foli found Hibdon to be even greater than he imagined. The legendary angler was warm, receptive and more than happy to let his eager fan be his sidekick throughout their visit.

"I basically followed him around for the next two days at the show," Foli said. "From that day on, any time he came to Indiana or anywhere close, my Dad loaded me up in the car and away we went to see my hero."

As time went by, Foli grew close to Guido and the entire Hibdon family including Guido's wife Stella and his son Dion who joins his father as one of the greats in pro fishing. Through fishing trips, tournaments and time together on and off the water, Foli felt like an honorary member of the Hibdon family.

"Stella became a second mother to me," Foli said. "And Dion was the best man at my wedding."

Intent on following in his hero's footsteps, Foli tried his hand at professional fishing. But after seven years of modest success, he realized it was time to trade in his rods for a day job. Foli ultimately followed his father's career path and went to work in the liquor industry as a marketing pro. He soon found that alcohol and fishing had a lot in common when it came to marketing.

"I spent four years of my pro career fishing on the Crown Royal professional bass fishing team," Foli said. "I saw first-hand how effective a marketing tool bass fishing was in the liquor world."

Through the years, he approached several liquor companies about sponsoring a fishing team, but his pitch fell on deaf ears. It wasn't until he went to work for Proximo Spirits that he found a receptive audience. Over time, he convinced the company's leadership that pro fishing was a great way to promote their classic American whiskey, TINCUP. And Foli knew the perfect ambassador for the new venture; lifetime friend and two-time World Champion Dion Hibdon.

One of the few anglers to win the Bassmaster Classic and the Forrest Wood Cup in the same year, Dion has garnered success at every level of fishing competition. He and Guido made history



Dion Hibdon and Luke Foli

as the only father and son to ever win a Bassmaster Classic – Guido in 1988 and Dion in 1997. Dion's son, Lawson, is a tournament angler and will join his father as part of the new TINCUP Professional Fishing Team.

"I'm thankful for every day I got to spend with my father," Dion said. "Sure, he taught me volumes about fishing, but he also taught me all the super important stuff that some anglers don't get today; things like the importance of working hard, being kind to your fans and keeping your family close."

Those lessons helped Dion enjoy success on the tournament trail and the home front. He and his wife raised three sons who spent countless days traveling from tournaments to sports shows as their father and grandfather racked up tournament wins.

But, as the saying goes, "all good things must come to an end," and Dion's fishing career ground to a halt in 2016 when his father was diagnosed with cancer. The entire Hibdon family rallied around their patriarch, praying for recovery through long months of treatment, improvement, and then setbacks.

"When dad got ill, nothing else mattered," Dion explained. "I had sponsors wanting me to fish, but it was more important to be by my dad's side."

On March 10, 2018, Guido Hibdon lost his battle with cancer. Today, Dion says the years spent helping to care for his ailing father were the most difficult of his life, but he wouldn't have missed a minute of it.

Still, Hibdon acknowledges that taking that much time off the water came at a high cost to his pro fishing career. During his extended hiatus, many of Dion's sponsors moved on to support other anglers. For the first time in his career, the two-time world champ struggled to rally financial support for his return to the tournament circuit.

"I went through an extended period where my life kind of sucked," Dion said jokingly. "You couldn't even write a country song that would do it justice."

Frustrated to see Dion sitting on the sidelines, Luke Foli vowed to put the Hibdon name back in the national fishing spotlight.

"I was holding Guido's hand at the hospital in Jeff City, and I thanked him for everything he had ever done for me," Foli recalled. "I told him how much he had meant to me throughout my life, and that I was going to create a professional fishing team and get Dion back out there again."

In 2019, Foli made good on his promise with the inception of the TINCUP Professional Fishing Team, signing Dion as pro-angler and brand ambassador. The

pair have spent the last several months promoting fishing and TINCUP Whiskey at sports shows, fishing tournaments, social venues and anywhere people will listen.

It's a natural fit for Dion who learned the ins and outs of public relations by watching his legendary father greet legions of fans. Chatting with people comes naturally to the seasoned angler, but even after decades as a fishing great, he is still surprised when people ask for his autograph.

"Every autograph for me is like the first one I ever signed," Dion said. "I'm always amazed when someone recognizes me or wants to talk to me."

"I'm always happy to take the time to talk with them though," he continued. "Getting to know fans and showing our appreciation is what it's all about."

His point is well taken, considering that all those years ago, Guido Hibdon was kind to a little boy who saw him as a hero. That same boy grew up to be a man with a mission to bring the Hibdon fishing legacy to a new generation of fans.

"I deeply wish Guido was here to see what Dion and I are about to do with this team," Luke Foli said of his childhood hero.

"In a sense, this project is a product of both our fathers," Foli continued. "Dion

has put all of his father's knowledge toward achieving fishing success, and I learned how to succeed in the liquor business from my father. Many of the things he taught me laid the foundation for the TINCUP Professional Fishing Team."

Follow Dion and the TINCUP Professional Fishing Team in 2020 at FLW x, BASS x, tournaments. Stay up to date on tournament news and special appearances with the TINCUP Whiskey Facebook page and by following Dion Hibdon on Facebook. Learn more about TINCUP Whiskey at tincupwhiskey.com.



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Lake of the Ozarks Winter Fishing *with Jack Uxa*



The fall fishing season is in full effect right now and for many people it's more or less their last chance to fish for months because they are unwilling

to fish during the winter. It doesn't have to be like that though. I have been teaching people how to fish in the winter more and more the last few years as people are just too hooked on fishing to simply stop during the winter months anymore. New technology has helped make fishing in the cold a lot more comfortable and effective than it used to be. To start off with a set of good rain gear has helped us keep the wind off our bodies. We use the rain gear to fight the wind, not the rain most of the time. Bass Pro Shops 100 MPH Gore-Tex suit is the standard in the industry because it will keep you warm. Hodgeman just came out with a new suit that I have been impressed with also.

I like to wear gloves when it gets really cold. You have to get used to wearing them every year. I like the brown jersey cotton gloves. I keep extra sets available for my customers or for rainy days where the cotton can absorb water. They are cheap though and at the end of the day just throw them in the wash. Dress in layers starting

with a base layer, shirt, hooded sweatshirt, maybe some flannel lined jeans. Those sun gators are awesome in the winter to keep your neck warm and face partially covered. I will often have some hand warmers left over from deer season that

I use some but to be honest I'm too busy to warm up my hands except for when we drive to a new area. I usually fish the north shore area so I don't run more than a few minutes either direction.

These new electronics with the forward looking transducers are helping too. You can see your baits out there at times so much easier than you used too. Bass and crappie tend to suspend a lot in the winter and you can see where they are.



Jerkbaits are a staple for suspended fish. The last few years the Alabama rig has

changed tournament fishing in the winter months. It catches some big fish and can cover water in a time of the year where we are usually fishing very slowly. Jigs and finesse worms still catch fish too and even slow rolling a crankbait can be the ticket some days. The other thing the newer fish finders do is they have incredible maps to where you can zoom in and see important details like creek channel banks and secondary points. I show people these little details in person to where it's easy to see them in person but harder to understand by reading about them.

Fishing in the winter is easier now than it's ever has been before. Bassing Bob and myself really look forward to the traditional winter patterns every year. The patterns are pretty stable then and there isn't any other pleasure boaters out there. We are actually having more tournaments in the winter now too. A few guys have hired me to help them learn a specific pattern like jerkbait fishing so they can do better in the tournaments. Most people hire me in the winter because the crappie can be really easy once the water temperature bottoms out. The last few winters there was no doubt the best crappie fishing of the whole year, (even better than the spawn) was in February. Big black crappie schooled up biting little crappie jigs under corks found with the new fish finders. This area has a few smallmouth bass spots too. Smallies don't mind the cold weather for some reason, it's almost like they do better in once it gets cold. All of these fish school more in the winter. So you're either in them or you're not. Plus they don't move or travel as much so they tend to be where I caught them a few days ago. Me being a full time fishing guide I'm on the water a ton in the winter, several days a week. It sounds cold but if you prepare for it, it's not bad. I study the weather forecast to pick the right times. I pack a thermos with something warm. Preparation is the key, going to schools of fish helps a lot, and fishing a pattern and spots that are the same spots that they winter at every year makes it very easy and fun to do.

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Winter Boat Care Tips *With Dan Bowman*

Big or small, every fishing boat needs to be maintained. There is nothing worse than having boat troubles on the water. A little TLC and preventive boat maintenance will help with safe boating and keep your motor running well for years to come. Dan

Bowman of Formula Boats has been working on out-board engines for over 40 years, and is often touted as one of the best Mercury mechanics in the country. Here are some tips from Dan to help keep you on the water this fall and winter.

- Probably one of the biggest issues I see in the winter is batteries. Make sure to check the water level in your batteries so that all of the cells are covered.
- When you get off the water, be sure to plug your batteries in to the charger so that they stay charged and in good shape.
- I see a lot of guys, especially with the new electronics that draw more amperage, who end up with dead batteries at the end of the day. If you spend a lot of money on a bass boat make sure not to cheap out on batteries. Rather than running lead acid batteries, I run the AGMs. Typically, they are twice as expensive, but they last more than twice as long in age.
- One of the most important things to check in the winter is your lower unit. Make sure that you change the oil, and that there is no water in it before the freezing weather hits.
- When not in use, your motor should be stored straight up and down, especially if it is sitting on a hoist. That allows the water to drain out of the engine so that it doesn't freeze and cause problems.
- If you are storing your boat, pull out the plug and make sure that all water is drained out of the boat, especially out of the live wells and bilge. You don't want water collecting anywhere in the boat.
- If you are storing it all winter, you need to put some type of fuel stabilizer in it to keep your gas tank in good shape. There are a lot of good stabilizers out there for storing boats. We have stabilizer mixed in with our gas here at the marina, but if you get gas from somewhere that does not, then you definitely need to add it yourself.
- Depending on the make and model of the engine, most will need to have the water pump replaced every two to three years.
- Making sure all of your livewell and bilge pump systems are working properly can be critical. So I would check them as often as possible.
- As far as oil goes, I am a firm believer in whatever the manufacturer recommends. If it's a Mercury, I would run Mercury oil. If it's an Evinrude then run Evinrude oil. Don't just buy the cheapest oil in that brand either. Mercury, for instance has several different blends so make sure you are running the right one. OptiMax engines need to have OptiMax oil in them. You can get many different kinds of oil, but they all have different additives that are better suited for certain engines.
- The best thing you can do for your boat is to run it all winter! A lot of problems can happen when you leave your boat sitting in the cold, so keep that in mind if you get a chance to get out on the water.

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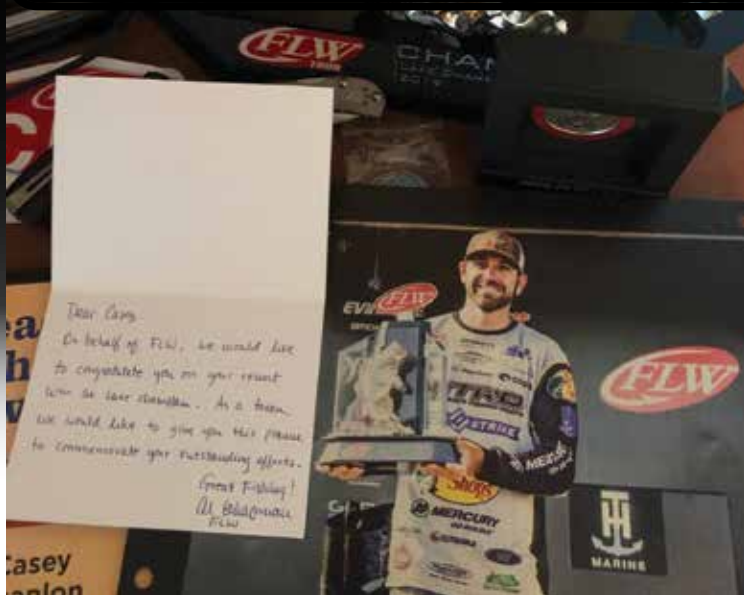
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A INSIDE LOOK INTO

TOURNAMENT FISHERMAN Casey Scanlon



Local guide and FLW Tour Pro Casey Scanlon has been kicking some serious butt on the water this year! With a recent FLW Tour Victory and Forrest Wood Cup appearance under his belt, Casey is one of the hottest anglers in the country.



Background

Casey grew up in Lenexa Kansas, just outside of Kansas City. As a kid, both of his grandparents would take him to local ponds where he was able to build an interest in fishing. Casey joined a bass club and started fishing tournaments when he was fifteen. "The first tournament I ever fished was actually down here at the Lake of the Ozarks, I ended up winning that tournament, and also got big bass, so after that I was hooked." With success at the club level, Casey went on to fish bigger tournaments around the region. When asked when



and ended up winning several boats. Eventually those big payout circuits kind of dried up, and there just wasn't a whole lot to fish. I was really wanting to compete for bigger boats and better prize money, so I started looking for those type of events. Right around that time, the Bassmaster Opens were offering a spot in the Classic if you win an event, and I had noticed that their schedule that year had an event at table rock, and a few other events that were fairly close to home. I had never really fished much out of state, and didn't have any sponsors at the time, but I just decided to go for it. I ended up doing really well that year, finishing second in the first event on Lake Lewisville, and ultimately qualified to fish on the Elite Series. That is when things really started to fall into place."

After qualifying through the Opens to fish the Elite Series in 2011 Casey said, "I really didn't have any sponsors, or any experience fishing nationally, but it had always kind of been a dream of mine. You know, I just went in to get oil one day at Pro's Choice Marine, and I had just traded in some smaller boats that I had won for basically a brand-new boat free of payments. I ended up sitting down with the guys there, and they really wanted me to fish, so they helped me sell my new boat that I had just got to pay entry fees, and provided me a boat to go fish on the Bassmaster Elite Series. They were my first big sponsor and really helped me get my career started."

Career

Casey started fishing the Bassmaster Elite Series in 2012, cashing a check in his first event, and qualifying to fish in the Bassmaster Classic through a Bassmaster Open victory on Table Rock Lake. The Classic berth was a dream come true for Casey. "Qualifying for the Classic was a surreal moment for me. As a fisherman, everyone's goal is to ultimately make it to the Classic. That is the stage we all strive to be on. The Classic that year was on Grand Lake, which is a lake that I have spent a lot of time on, so I really thought I had a shot at winning it. In the days leading up to it I really couldn't even sleep because I was so sure that I would catch them. It turned out that the fish didn't cooperate for me in that event, but it was just an unreal experience, being able to drive through the packed arena with all the fans. It really saved my butt after my first year on the Elite Series. I had just sold my landscaping company, and



checks don't come easy when you are out on the pro circuit, so being able to make the Classic was the perfect start to my professional career."

Casey went on to fish the BASS Elite Series for five more years before making the transition over to the FLW Tour. In his first year on the Tour, Casey was able to finish high enough in the standings to earn a berth in the Forrest Wood Cup. "Fishing in the Cup was another incredible experience. There is so much hype before an event like that, a lot like the Classic with big crowds and media everywhere. Although I would have liked to have won it, it was still a great cap to my first year on the FLW Tour."

This year, Casey was able to get his first FLW Tour Victory on Lake Champlain. When asked what that experience was like, Casey said, "You know, you go into every event with the goal to win, but a lot of things have to fall into place for that to happen. Those Tour level events are just so hard to win against the best fishermen in the country. Going into that tournament, I knew I had to pretty much win it to make the Forrest Wood Cup. Knowing that, I really decided to swing for the fences and make a big run to try and catch the big largemouth that live south at Ticonderoga. I had never been to the lake before, but I had done as much research as I could before I got there, and from what I noticed, that is where a lot of tournaments are won on that lake. I dedicated most of my practice down there and ended up finding the winning fish. The tournament itself was pretty stressful. Just getting down to Ticonderoga and back was a chore. I had to get gas to make it back to weigh-in each day, and the lake was rough on the final day, so it took me about three hours just to get back from where I was fishing. It was some of the worst waves I have ever seen, but I was able to get back just in time and ended up winning it! Getting that victory was a huge weight off my shoulders. It can be a pretty tough life out competing on the Tour,

B.A.S.S. TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

Total Tournaments	61
Classic Appearances	1
Classic Wins	0
Time in Money	30
1st Place Finishes	1
2nd Place Finishes	2
3rd Place Finishes	1
Top 10 Finishes	5
Top 20 Finishes	11
Top 30 Finishes	14
Total Weight	1543lb - 4oz
Career Winnings	\$300,129





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and getting that victory really helps to solidify your career. It is something I am really proud of and looking back it is definitely the highlight of my career.”

Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Guide

In addition to fishing on the FLW Tour, Casey also runs a guide service here on the Lake of the Ozarks. If you want to go out and learn to catch bass from a pro, Casey is your guy. Casey will also target crappie when they are biting really good, but mainly likes to stick to bass. “I spend a majority of my time chasing these bass around, and Lake of the Ozarks is one of the best bass fisheries in the country. We really have a huge fish population, and even though it is not the easiest to catch numbers of big fish, it seems like you can always go out and catch a good number of bass.” If you are wanting to learn how to catch bass like a pro, or if you are just wanting to get out on the water and bend a pole, book a guide trip with FLW Touring Pro Casey Scanlon. You can reach Casey for a guide trip at (913) 449-3176. Or by email at caseyscanlon@hotmail.com



Current sponsors: Bass Pro Shops, Nitro Boats, Mercury Marine, Luck E Strike, Garmin, Costa, Hayabusa, TH Marine, Russell Marine Products, Elite Anglr, BIA insurance, Power Pole, YOLOtek, Bennett Buick GMC, Tytan Rope, Gator Guards, Trophy Bass Company, Bassingbob.com.

(continued from page 3)

BassingBob Summer Sizzler: 8/18-19/19

• **1st Place: Roger Cook / Corey Cook – 39.91 lbs. (2 Day Event)**

Corey and Roger Cook won the (2) Day Bassing Bob Summer Bass Sizzler, catching 20.18 lbs. on day 1 and following that up with 19.73 on day two with a 5.76 pound kicker. Roger and Corey reported catching their winning fish, targeting both shallow brush piles mid way to the backs of coves with a 3/8 oz. shaky head worm and secondary and main lake point fish deeper when the sun came out with a 3/4 oz. jig, fishing from TanTara area to the lower Glaize. They alternated shallow and deep all day both days.



Wednesday Night Championship: 9/11/19

• **1st Place: Roger Cook / Corey Cook – 15.98 lbs. (4 fish limit)**

Roger and Corey Cook were able to dominate the Wednesday Night Championship with 15.98 lbs. The Wednesday Night Championship is an end of the year fish off for teams that competed in 12 or more weekly Missouri Angler Wednesday Night Tournaments. Roger and Corey reported catching their fish on jigs and worms in brush piles just inside of the main lake.



Fall/Winter Bass Fishing

Breaking Down the Lake by Season with the Bassingbob.com Expert Team

Bassingbob's Expert Advisor Team is made up of some of the most respected and experienced fishermen on the Lake. Since the Lake of the Ozarks stretches over 90 miles from dam to dam, and covers over 1000 miles of shoreline, the lake can fish differently depending on what area you are in. So we asked our experts to give us their input on how they would break down and fish their favorite areas of the lake through the fall and winter.



Gary (Coach) Shultz
Fishing Guide /
Boat Official with MLF



Wayne Fitzpatrick
Owner of Fitz Fishing Tackle & Supplies
Tournament Fisherman



Jim Dill
Fishing Guide /
Owner of Crock-O-Gator Baits

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Gary (Coach) Shultz: "In the fall I'm really looking at what the big shad are doing. Throughout the whole lake, I want to see where they are and how they are set up. A good starting point is to look back in the bigger creeks. I'm going to have several baits: a spinnerbait, a Headknocker Buzzbait, a rattle trap, a jig, and a trick worm. You can catch a lot of fish on a trick worm on the outside edges of docks. A swim jig or a bladed jig are also good to fish on those dock corners. Make sure to look for where the shad are swimming close to the boat docks. A lot of docks that stick out further than the others are a good ambush point for those bass. I like to fish from my house in the Glaize to down by the dam in the fall. That is such a good area because of all the big creeks, and the sheer number of docks down there. I like to fish the first and last stretch of boat docks in the creek to get a good sense of where the fish want to be."

Wayne Fitzpatrick: "From October through November, I'm going to be fishing shallow around the whole lake. I'll start looking in the backs of creeks in early October, and then move out towards the

main lake as the season progresses. Some of the main baits for that time are a jig, spinnerbait, and top water (spooks, buzzbaits, and Whopper Ploppers). I'll concentrate on docks for flipping, and then go to big black rocks as the water cools."



Jim Dill: "In those months, I will fish mostly from Tan-Tara to the dam. From mid to late fall I will mainly stick to topwater baits, like a Head Knocker Buzzbait. If topwater is just not panning out, I will go to targeting channel banks with a Zapper Jig. I am mainly looking for big shad on the bank and covering a lot of water."

DECEMBER - JANUARY

Gary (Coach) Shultz: "I mainly fish the same area around my house in the Glaize all the time, but I believe that you can catch them in any area of the lake. What I will change is my location within the creeks in that area as the year progresses. When

we are talking winter fishing, I am going to go back out to a little deeper water, but still stay around those same creek areas where I was catching them in the fall. I'm going to stick to jerkbaits, Alabama Rigs, and other slow moving stuff since the fish are lethargic in that cold water. I'll target brush and cover in that 10-18ft range, and again I am looking for bait fish. If you can find the bait in the winter, then the fish are going to be somewhere in that area."

Wayne Fitzpatrick: "Once December hits I will stay away from the river area for the most part and get back to fishing that Glaize to the Dam area. At that time, you are going to start to catch them good on jerkbaits, finesse jigs, and little swimbaits. I'll back out of that super shallow water, and start to concentrate more on points and channel banks."

Jim Dill: "I'm going to start to look into larger creeks and the channel banks within those creeks. These banks could be closer to the main lake, or even all the way back in the creek, depending on where the bait is holding. At that time, I'm trying to find where the fish are bunched up at and a lot of that is dictated on the water temperature."





Lake of the Ozarks Team Trail 2020

NOTE: All tournaments will be out of Alhonna Resort

Tournament #1	November 24, 2019
Tournament #2	December 15, 2019
Tournament #3	January 19, 2020
Tournament #4	February 16, 2020
Tournament #5	March 8, 2020
Tournament #6	TBD (At Print)

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If it is really cold, then they will tend to be closer to the main lake, but if it is in the low 50s to upper 40s range, you can still find fish further back into the creeks. I like to throw a jig in that colder water, but I will downsize the profile and use a smaller jig."

FEBRUARY - MARCH

Gary (Coach) Shultz: "That is one of my favorite times of the year to fish. I think June is the best month on the Lake of the Ozarks, but those pre-spawn months are a close second. In that period of time, the fish are going to start transitioning and feeding heavily. I'm still going to throw jerkbaits and A-rigs on colder days, but if it starts to warm up, you can catch them good on Rock Crawlers and other medium diving crankbaits. I really like that stretch from Tan-Tara to the dam at that time because there is so much water and you can find everything you are looking for down there. As it warms up into late March, your shallower baits like

square-bills and flipping jigs will start to become a player. Your tackle box is wide open, and you can start to look for fish moving shallow. If I'm fishing shallow at that time, I'm looking for big chunk rock that warms up faster than the other rock in the area. That is where the bigger fish will like to congregate as they are looking for a big meal."

Wayne Fitzpatrick: "I'm basically going to fish the same as I would in December and January. I'll fish the lower lake stretch from the Glaize to the dam. The only thing that might change is in February when the water gets really cold. When that happens, it's hard to catch them on anything, so I'll go to a Keitech Swing Impact Swimmbait on spinning gear. That little swimmbait will get bites when nothing else will work."

Jim Dill: "It's going to be pretty much the same deal in February as it is in January. If we get a cold winter and the water temperature drops down into the 30s, they will tend to be further out into the creeks on the 45-degree banks with big ledge rock. In that colder

water I am switching to finesse baits like a Crock-o-Gator Swamp Bug on a light shaky head. Another thing I will do is downsize my line. In cold water I will go down to 8-10lb fluorocarbon, which will really help you feel subtle bites."

For an extremely detailed breakdown of what the bite is like at the Lake of the Ozarks. Check out our Monthly Experts Videos On bassingbob.com!

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Precision Trolling Fall Crappie at Lake of the Ozark

By Capt. Dave Dzurik – USCG Master Captain - AKA Crappie Dave

I was once told by a guide that 90 percent of the fish are in 10 percent of the water and finding that 10 percent was the difference between bringing home fish and coming home with an empty cooler. Lake of the Ozarks can be an intimidating body of water to find the 10% with over 50,000 plus acres of water and 1150 miles of shoreline.



I recommend you do some homework before you even pack your boat. I would check the local fishing reports in the newspapers, go online and check out Bassing Bob and his website or stop at the local bait shops. Also, Wayne, Ben and Rob at Fitz Fishing in Osage Beach can always tell you where the fish are and what they are biting. Also, there are plenty of top-notch guides that can show you how to catch fish so you might want to go on a charter to learn more.

In the fall, the lake goes through a time of transition when the crappie moves from deep water summer haunts as the water temperature drops into the 70's. The lake will turn over as the denser colder water sinks to the bottom and the warmer water comes to the surface. The turn over often triggers the crappie to move into the coves chasing the bait fish which are heading to the back of the coves for the warmer creek water. This turn over can often be detected when jelly fish are noticeable in the lake.

Once the crappie start moving into the coves for the fall there are many ways to catch them once you find them. The key is how to find them. Shad are poor swimmers and the wind and current will push them around. When I plan to go fishing, the first thing I check is the weather report and the wind direction. Use the wind as your friend and check to see if the bait is stacked up under docks, against a bluff or in an open bay in a windward cove.

Now comes the tactics to catch the fish

You can cast minnows and jigs around the brush, points or docks where the fish are lurking. If the water is clear, natural colored jigs are preferred and if the water is cloudy, I prefer reds, black and green. Crappie nibbles can be used to tip your jigs to entice finicky fish sometimes. When you are ready to cast, cast toward the windward side of the docks first followed by the shaded side.

A different tactic would be to troll for crappie which professional tournament

anglers prefer using one of two methods either spider rigging or long line trolling.

Spider rigging uses long poles, some as long as 16', spread across the front of a boat resembling a spider. These baits are set at a precise depth and trolled at very slow speeds from .1 to 1 mph over brush piles and structures that are holding the crappie. The baits of choice are usually minnows tipped on various jigs or just straight minnows on a wire hook. The crappie rigs are weighted with egg sinkers of different weights to keep the rod tips about 6" from the surface and the lines straight down while the boat is moving. This method is believed by the professionals to catch bigger fish although it can be more complicated and difficult to lift the catch into the boat.

My method of choice is long line trolling because I find it easier to bring the fish in from the back of the boat and it gives me more bait options.

My set up consists of 8 poles, 2 - 16' poles, 2 - 12' poles, 2 - 8' poles and 2 - 6.5' poles matched with Daiwa SG27lc line counters. These are spooled up with 30 lb. power pro braid. My speed is usually between 1.3 and 1.6 mph to cover a lot of water for finding fish spread out over larger areas.

On the business end is a #1 or #2 Off Shore Tackle tadpole diving weight, swivel and a 6' leader of 12 lb. fluorocarbon and

a small red snap to the bait. This may seem like over kill but I would rather straighten a hook then lose a crank bait when snagged. It will also let you troll a wide variety of baits from crawler harnesses to hair jigs to any shallow running crank bait. My crank baits of choice for the fall are KVD 1.0 Square Bills, Berkley Square Bulls 3.5, Rapala Husky Jerks HJ8, and Lindy River Rockers #3. These baits are smaller than the spring baits because the baby shad which are hatched in July are now the food of choice. Change baits and colors until a pattern is determined. Usually dark baits in low light and overcast conditions and natural or chrome baits in sunny conditions.

The key is to make sure you get your bait at the right depth for the crappie to bite using your electronics or dead reckoning. I use a Humminbird 360 and a side imaging Helix 12 to find the bait and fish and their depth. I use the Precision Trolling app to determine the line let out based on the trolling weight, line diameter and boat speed. This will put the bait right in the strike zone. Once you find them troll back and forth at various directions and speeds until you find what they like.

The crappie should be somewhere in the coves chasing bait during the fall until the water starts dipping below 45 degrees. This is when they will migrate to deeper waters for the winter and suspend on brush piles or other structure 25' to 30' down. They will stay in the deep brush or structure until the spring warming will trigger another cycle to the coves to spawn.



A background image of a white bass boat with a black outboard motor on a body of water under a blue sky. The boat is slightly out of focus, serving as a backdrop for the text.

Bass Boat!

By Vincent Rumsey

These two words can define much of modern bass fishing and can completely change the way you fish!

This summer, my family and I bought our very first bass boat, a Ranger Z521L. From the ability to move across the water quickly to the great range of new things I can see with the electronics, my fishing style and technique has completely changed.

The first and most obvious thing that has changed with my fishing style is that I can cover much more water and fish many different varieties of structure. At first it completely shocked me how fast we could go and the quickness that we could get around the lake. This newly gained speed can cause some problems, though. This new speed has caused me to make the mistake of fishing too fast and being impatient when fishing a specific spot. This hurt my fishing in the beginning, but after some adjustments I could control my newly found speed on the water and could use it to my advantage. For example, if I was fishing a long point close the dam and was not getting the bites that I wanted, I could easily go up the lake to fish another point or bluff. As the fall progresses this will be even more essential as the fish will group up in specific spots including the flats at the backs of coves and windblown points. When the fish group up like this, it can be tough to reach the fish from the bank, and if a certain school of fish is not fired up at that time, a boat can help you simply move to another group of fish. Having the bass boat has also opened up much more of the lake to me. Fishing out of the boat I have seen many different types of structure and places that hold fish. Before I was able to use the boat, I only fished the docks in the cove that our condo is in along with a few other places when someone took me fishing on their boat. The challenge with this is that with so many spots to try and experiment with, it can sometimes be quite a challenge to find the best locations to fish.

Secondly, being able to use electronics and see all the structure under the water has greatly impacted my fishing. On our boat, we have Garmin electronics, and I love every part of them. My favorite feature is the LiveScope technology. This allows me to see anywhere that my trolling motor is pointing and see it in real time. This has changed my fishing style enormously

because I can make quick decisions about where I want to fish, and what is worth using my time fishing. This has been most important to me when fishing docks. I often will use my LiveScope to search for fish under the dock along with brush piles or other types of cover that bass would sit on. I feel that throughout the fall, I will use the LiveScope more for searching for baitfish and the bass under them than for finding brush, as most fall bass fishing is based on following the baitfish. In a few months, as fall tapers off, I will use LiveScope less and less until the A-Rig fishing picks up and I can use it again to find brush. Another great feature on the electronics is side imaging or SideVu. Side imaging is a very interesting and useful feature for me. I have mainly used it this summer when driving past points and docks to try to find any structure that fish would hold on. I found it most helpful when fishing deep or when exploring new places. I feel this way because the side imaging can allow you to get a good idea of what is in the general area around you before you drop the trolling motor and take a closer look with the LiveScope. Side imaging is essential in deeper water, as it is easy to run and clearer than the LiveScope in rough water and can show on both sides of the boat, where you will be casting. Throughout this fall and winter, I plan on using my side imaging more and more and putting it to different uses. In the fall, I plan on using it in shallow water to search for scattered schools of baitfish over the large flats that can lie in the ends of creeks. I will also use it to find transitions of bottom structure on and near the bank as the fall fish begin moving back out to the steep banks and bluff ends. In the winter, I think that side imaging will be my most used function of my electronics. During the winter, the bass group up onto steep banks both in coves and on the main lake. Both sets of fish, shallow and deep, both relate to structure on these steep banks. The side imaging will easily allow me to see any irregular rock formations, brush piles or other types of fish holding structure with ease. Being able to see these structures will eliminate a lot of the barren water that does not hold fish and will tell

me where I should spend most of my time while fishing this winter. Another important type of imaging is down imaging. I do not use this much, but it is essential when fishing vertically or crappie fishing. I mainly plan on using this type of imaging when finesse fishing this fall and winter. One thing I am excited to use this for is drop shot fishing. Drop shot is a great finesse technique that is fished vertically and will be greatly improved by having the access to down imaging. There are many other lesser features on my electronics also that I am excited to explore. These include the FishEye 3D feature and different types of Lake maps. FishEye 3D is one of the more interesting features. It allows you to see the bottom of the lake and the contours as if you were a fish under the water. This can be very useful, as I can see a 3D representation of the structure, I am fishing along with helping me find creek channels and holes in the bottom of the lake that might hold fish.

The last feature on the bass boat that has completely changed how I fish is my trolling motor. Aside from holding my LiveScope transducer, the trolling motor has allowed me to reach places with the boat that I never could before. The most important time I need to reach into these places is when fishing docks. When I fish docks, I like to get close into the dock and be able to reach even the farthest back pilings with a good skip. Being able to get close into the dock also allows for maximum accuracy when flipping into the boat wells. Trolling motors can also be very useful to provide stealth and not spook fish when fishing in close quarters or in shallow water. Another great part of the trolling motor is spot lock. This summer spot lock was essential due the rough water and boat traffic.

Throughout this fall and winter, I have many plans for fishing out of the boat. I am excited to improve my fishing skills and tune in on new techniques as I explore the many new opportunities that I now have. My goal is to begin to master the skill of using the electronics and trolling motor to maximize my fishing skills throughout the upcoming season.



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Targeting Big Winter Bass *By Rob Bueltmann*

When I think about targeting big bass in the winter months there is a handful of key variables that pop in my head right away. The first thing, and most undoubtedly the most important thing is where are the shad. Coming off the fall season when lots of bait fish are shallow, there is an adjustment period for the shad. As the shallow water gets uncomfortable for the bait fish, they tend to migrate to the channel banks around the lake and you know who won't be far behind them. That's right, the big green fish we all love to chase after! Every year is different so it really depends on the weather and mother nature to determine when the shad will move off their fall areas. When the shad finally get stable in their winter areas, they can be quite predictable. Meaning they really don't move much from those spots. It's likely to see them in the same cove or creek arm for weeks, even months.

The early winter transition can be kind of tough. This is usually around the middle of November into December. You get to the point where you don't know if you should be shallow, deep, or in between. Once we get the bass and shad settled in the rest becomes simple for targeting winter bass. First place I tend to start is somewhere in a big cove. Big coves have big fish and lots of

shad. This gives me a good chance to idle around and run into something that I'm looking for. When searching for big winter bass I usually cut the cove in half. I'll start side scanning with my Humminbird G2N Helix until I find some bait present. My first spot to look in these bigger coves is usually secondary points. Secondary points are high percentage year-round to have some fish on them, and a lot of time they are big! I like to see some bait but also some bass present on my units. This will give me the confidence to make several casts. Not always will you see the bass on the graphs, so just fishing around the schools of bait fish is good enough. That middle section of the cove area can really be good in the early stages of the winter, just after the stingy fall transition.

As we move from the middle section of the cove and head to the back things tend to get interesting! When I say that I mean that you can really be surprised how many fish still may be shallow in cold temperatures, and that there are lots of bait still present in the backs as well. Now saying that yes, some fish will remain shallow most the year, but most the time the winter bass will hold on the last couple deep water holes in the coves. The channel banks in the backs of the coves have been


known to harbor lots of fish and big fish in the winter months. What happens is these fish come off the shallow flats in the back from the fall season and slide out to deeper holes where there more comfortable. So, for example they will go from about 2-8 in the fall to 10-17 foot in the winter. The cool water in the backs pull the bait out which pulls big green out!!

Targeting these fish with light gear is imperative. Using lighter fluorocarbon and monofilament is the way to go. Jerk baits, jigs, and shad style baits tend to be most productive. I like the Megabass jerk baits, these jerk baits are probably the most popular to throw in the wintertime, and the reason for that is because it catches big fish. Throwing a jerk bait in the winter is like a puzzle for me. One day the fish like it subtle with subtle twitches, and the next day they want the fire jerked out of it! So, you really must change up your presentations to figure out what works best on that given day. Finesse jigs can be good as well, 1/2 ounce and 3/8-ounce Crock-o-gator jigs are what I use, as well as Dirks jig. Dirks jig is just a finesse jig that has really become a staple here at Lake of The Ozarks. Typically, though, you will see me throwing shad style baits, a-rig, jerk baits, and maybe even a small single swimbait.

Make sure you try to fish these baits around cover as well. For targeting big bass in the winter my partner and I have sunk countless brush piles around the lake to increase our chances of catching big ones. I recommend you do the same. There is nothing more rewarding than catching a fish of a lifetime out of a piece of cover you put in yourself. The blood, sweat, and tears of grinding out brush piles, map studies, and time on the water is what will benefit you for years and years to come.

I would encourage you all to come down during the winter months and get in on some of the best big bass fishing Lake of the Ozarks has to offer. These fish bite year-round and you just might catch your personal best.

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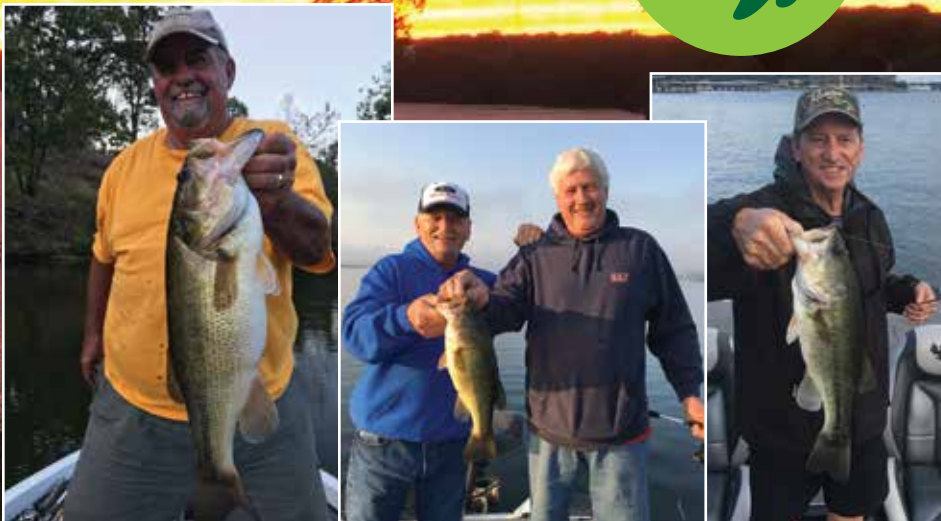
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KICKING FALL BASS

By Steve Evanoff (Owner of E-Factor Lures)

Fall bass fishing on Lake of the Ozarks can provide anglers an opportunity to boat large numbers of bass and some big ones!

As the colder nights and shorter days of fall start to cool the lakes summer waters, Ozarks Bass Fishing starts to heat up. The cooling water stimulates activity and movement in the shad population triggering the lakes bass to begin a transition from their summer haunts to their fall feeding grounds. This is the classic fall recipe that will drive the bass into a feeding frenzy that every angler can take advantage of.

This time of year bass can be caught on a wide variety of lures from the shallowest water to the main lake bluffs, so the tackle box is wide open. I encourage anglers to keep it simple through the fall and you will increase the chances for success. Follow the shad, fish your strengths, and ignore the "dock talk". To me the K.I.S.S. (keep it simple stupid) method is the way to go in the fall. Simply, if you like to fish deep then fish deep and if you like to fish shallow then fish shallow. The same goes for your lure selection. If you like jigs, spinnerbaits, and topwaters use them and if you prefer shakey heads, square bills, or swimbaits then fish with them. The more confidence you have in what you are throwing and where you are fishing the more success you will have, that I can promise you.

My approach to locating and catching fall bass is relying on what I feel are my strengths. This time of year I am always keying on the areas that have active shad. I start by searching for bass that are holding on shallow docks and flats in these areas with active shad. Skipping shallow docks and casting big spinnerbaits is how I prefer to fish in the fall. That being said, I will not hesitate to throw other lures like topwaters, square bills, and lipless crankbaits either.

Spinnerbaits

My spinnerbait approach is not complicated at all, bigger is better! I use my E-Factor Spinnerbaits in the 3/4oz size because I want those insanely large willow leaf blades in the fall. When you compare E-Factor Spinnerbaits with other brands, the most obvious difference is that my

standard blades are much larger. The reason, THEY CATCH MORE FISH!

I also add a 6-inch Mister Twister Curly Tail Grub on my spinnerbaits to increase the action and profile. I will throw these spinnerbaits in water from 1-foot, casting them over laydowns and along the sides of docks, to 25-feet of water slow-rolling them on ledges. If you have active shad, especially Gizzard Shad, hold on to your rod because you are about to get your arm broke. These spinnerbaits have cashed checks in every month of fall and through December. Honestly, I have one of these spinnerbaits tied-on at least one rod in every single month of the year, they catch fish.



3/4 oz. Chart/White-Diamond Gold/Nickel Willows



3/4 oz. Chart/White-Smooth Gold Willow Nickel Colorado



3/4 oz. Purple Shad-Smooth Nickel/Gold Willows



3/4 oz. Perfection-Diamond Gold/Nickel Willows



6-Inch Mr. Twister Curly Tail Grub

Jigs

One of my favorite ways to fish this time of year is skipping shallow docks in the backs of the longer coves on the lake. This is extremely effective on those bright and sunny blue sky days. Again, I am keying on active shad and I try to "skip" my jig as far as I can under the docks into those shady areas. If I have an area that I like and another boat has beat me there, I don't immediately turn the boat and drive away. I will drop the trolling motor and observe their approach to the docks. You will find that most anglers just hit the corners, sides, and the fronts leaving those bass tucked up under the docks alone.

This technique helped me to win a 2-day BFL Super Tournament as well as several other tournaments in September through October. The key is choosing a jig that has a head designed for "skipping". I throw our E-Factor Pitchin' Jigs and Finesse Jigs in both the 3/8oz and 1/2-oz sizes. These heads are perfectly designed to be skipped under docks and any over-hanging cover. They feature a heavy gauge Mustad Hook that gives you the confidence knowing that no matter what force you have to use, that fish is coming out!

I use several different brands of trailers on my jigs including NetBait Paca Chunks, Strike King Rage Bugs, Zoom Super Chunks, and Smallie Beavers. I try to keep my trailer colors to a minimum mainly using; Black & Blue Flake, Sapphire Blue, Green Pumpkin, and Okeechobee Craw.



E-Factor Pitchin' Jig - Black & Blue

(continued on page 26)



E-Factor Lures Pitchin' Jig - Blue Craw



E-Factor Lures Pitchin' Jig - Ozarks Craw

Shakey Heads

Shakey Heads are an important part of my fall arsenal and are extremely productive in a wide-range of water depths. I will skip my E-Factor Lures Shake "E" Heads under docks in shallow water and cast them into the deeper water out on the main lake. I personally prefer our standard non screw-lock head over our

screw-lock heads because I can rig them faster. However, the screw-lock heads will save you in the amount of plastics that you will use throughout the day. I mainly use the 3/8oz non screw-lock but I will use the 5/16oz screw-lock head when needed. These shakey heads come equipped with big 5/0 Mustad hooks that will get the job done!

I use a wide variety of soft plastics on my shakey heads but I keep the colors to a minimum once again. I rely on Green Pumpkin, Black & Blue Flake, Okeechobee Craw, Black, JuneBug and Blue Fleck the majority of the time. These colors seem to always produce on the Ozarks so I keep a variety of shapes and sizes of each.



E-Factor Shake "E" Head - Non Screw-Lock



E-Factor Lures Shake "E" Head - Screw-Lock

Fall bass fishing on Lake of the Ozarks is phenomenal and if you have not experienced it, you are truly missing out on some fantastic fishing. Simplicity is the key to catching fall bass here on the lake. If you follow the shad, fish your strengths, and add these lures to your arsenal you will find the bass, catch the bass, and come back next fall.

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In 2005, 6th Sense Lures began as a custom painting crankbait operation in an east Texas college dorm room. The art of re-awakening a customer's old, faded crankbait with a vibrant color scheme of their selection, was something that anglers across the world took a profound interest in. 6th Sense discovered a clever niche that was virtually missing from the fishing industry and decided to run with it. As demand continued to rise for these unique crankbaits as well as other customized fishing tackle, the 6th Sense brand evolved into the highly reputable fishing tackle supplier that it is today.

At 6th Sense, our primary goal is customer satisfaction. We understand the importance of quality and that if you are happy with your product, we've done our job correctly. We are a family run business and work hard to make the customer our number one priority as we aim to grow 6th Sense into a leading fishing tackle company.



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The 6th Sense Cloud 9 C15 is the ultimate deep diving crankbait to catch deep dwelling brush pile bass on the Lake of the Ozarks. On a long cast the crankbait will reach that perfect 12-17ft depth range. What sets the cloud 9 apart from other crankbaits on the market is that it always runs true right out of the package, helping you to keep that bait down and in the strike zone. The C15 also features an EWG Treble that is perfect for keeping those deep fish pegged.



Time to put away all of those "Old Warts" you have collected over the years. The 6th Sense Curve 55 is the best shallow diving cold water crankbait on the market. This bait has a unique side to side motion that perfectly imitates a fleeing crawfish,

making it perfect for fall, winter, and springtime fishing on the Lake of the Ozarks. The Curve 55 comes stock with #4 Short Shank EWG Trebles, and runs true straight out of the package, so all you have to do is tie it on and go straight to catching big fish.



Tired of spending \$25 bucks a pop on a good jerkbait? The 6th Sense Provoke 106x retails at \$10.99 and has already been proven to catch Lake of the Ozarks monsters in the wintertime. It has the same erratic dart and turn motion as some of the high dollar jerkbaits on the market, and it also comes in a wide variety of super realistic paint jobs. This is a bait you need to keep on the deck of your boat from November-April on the Lake of the Ozarks!

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The 6th Sense Crush 50X is the perfect shallow running crankbait for Fall Lake of the Ozarks Bass. These little bulldozers are designed for crashing into and deflecting off of thick shallow cover to create a reaction strike from big dormant fish. The Crush 50X is very durable and buoyant compared to others on the market.



The 6th Sense Crush Dogma was designed as a 'walk-the-dog' topwater lure. Being able to glide and turn with the twitch of the rod, the Crush Dogma's action and knocking rattle system will catch the attention of big Lake of the Ozarks Bass. Unlike traditional round topwaters, the Dogma has a cupped mouth to spit water as it walks on top, causing more commotion to entice fish. Premium super sharp black nickel hooks, 3D eyes with a realistic paint job.



Cold Weather Propeller Care *By Deborah Wolfe*

In this issue of Fishing News, we start with tips for protecting your propeller provided by Jesse Boaz of FJ Propeller Midwest in Osage Beach. For more boat maintenance tips, visit Bassingbob.com.

At a time when most Missouri boaters are tucking their vessels into storage for the winter season, avid anglers are revving up for cold weather fishing. But Frigid temps can be hard on boats and it's worth taking steps to ensure you don't find yourself adrift on chilly waters.

Give your prop a gander before you drop in the water

Often overlooked because it sits below water, propeller problems can mean dire consequences for a boat's performance on top of the water.

"Regular prop inspections should be on a boater's "must-do" list," Boaz stressed. "This means inspecting the prop before the boat goes in the water and after it comes out – every, single, time."

Boaters should carefully inspect their props for hairline cracks, particularly in the leading and trailing edges. These can be repaired, but if they aren't fixed and fixed properly, you'll eventually lose the blade and that's damage that typically can't be repaired.

Check the prop nut to ensure that it's tight to the engine manufacturer's specs, and make sure the cotter pin is secure. Prop nuts can loosen up during the course of a season and cause the propeller ring to fly off leaving you adrift on chilly waters.

Tangled up in Fishing Line

While fishing line is a vital tool for reeling in a big catch, it can cause big problems when caught in your prop. For this reason, Boaz stressed the need for in-depth prop maintenance at least two or three times throughout the boating season.

Start by completely removing the propeller from the engine to get rid of any stray fishing line that may have wrapped itself around the prop shaft. After removing the line, wipe off all the grease on the propeller shaft and the seal surrounding the prop shaft at the rear of the gearcase. Carefully examine the seal for any scoring or wear.

While most propellers can be repaired, there are times when the cost to do so might be more than purchasing a new prop.

If you suspect fishing line has damaged the prop shaft seal, have the lower unit looked at by a certified technician before using it again. Otherwise, you can simply coat the propeller shaft with the manufacturer recommended marine grease, rubbing generous amounts of the grease onto the surface by hand. Reinstall the propeller; tighten the prop nut to spec and place a new cotter pin through the prop nut and prop shaft to keep the propeller where it belongs.

Can It Be Fixed?

While most propellers can be repaired, there are times when the cost to do so might be more than purchasing a new prop.

"If the propeller is severely bent and torn to shreds the cost of welding and straightening could outweigh the cost of buying a new one," Boaz said. "But it's always a good idea to have a shop check the prop out first to determine if it should be fixed or replaced."

Given that even the slightest fault in a propeller blade can mean a 10-15 percent decrease in gas mileage and performance, utilizing the latest advanced technology to have your boat propeller accurately diagnosed and precisely repaired is a well-worthwhile investment.

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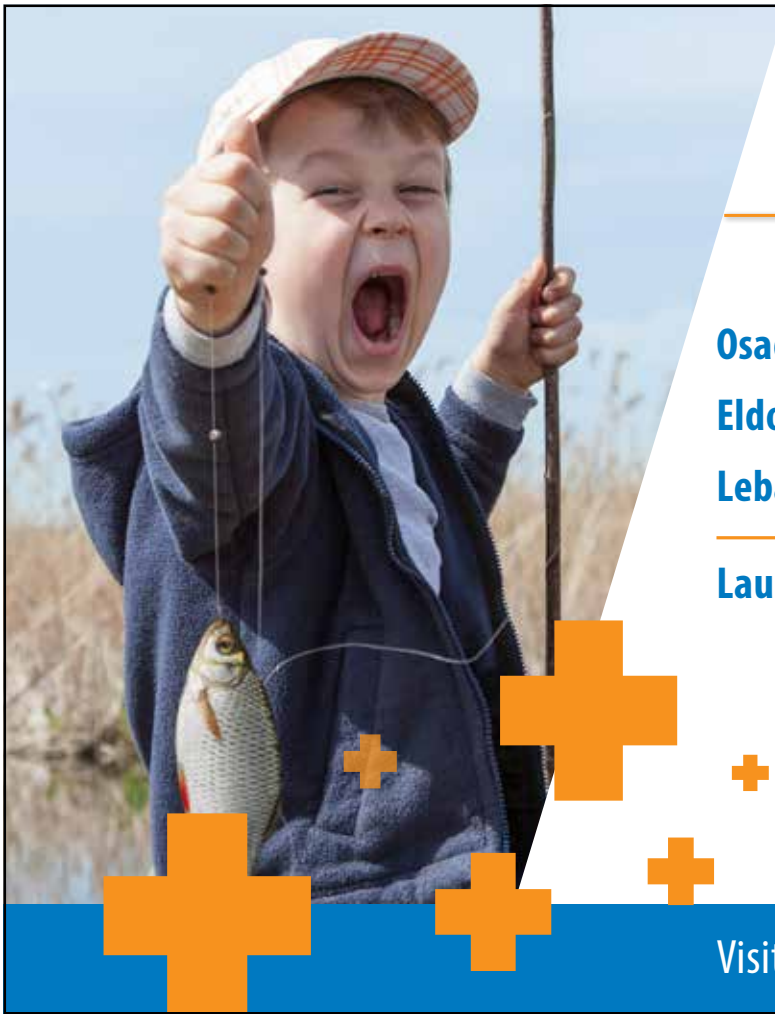
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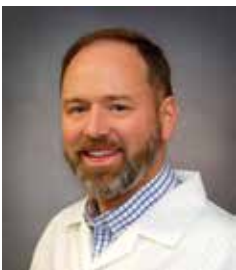
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Would You Recognize

HYPOTHERMIA?



*Todd Cooper, M.D.,
Medical Director of
Lake Regional Emergency
Department*

Cold weather doesn't mean fishing season is over at the Lake of the Ozarks. But it does mean anglers need to be smart about hypothermia, a potentially life-threatening condition. In the following Q&A, Todd Cooper, M.D., medical director of Lake Regional Emergency Department, shares some tips for recognizing, treating and avoiding dangerously low body temperatures.

What is hypothermia?

Hypothermia happens when the body begins to lose heat faster than it's produced. It can leave victims unable to think clearly or move well. As a result, victims may not realize they are in danger or be able to react.

Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at temperatures above 40°F if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat or submersion in cold water. This makes it a threat to anglers spending hours on the water on a cold day.

What are the early warning signs?

Signs of hypothermia include shivering; exhaustion or feeling very tired; confusion; fumbling hands; memory loss; slurred speech; and drowsiness.

How can a victim be warmed up safely?

When someone's body temperature drops below 95°F, it is a medical emergency. Call 911 or get the person medical attention.

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...IF YOU WERE A GRAND CHAMPION PITMASTER

If you are not able to get immediate medical care, try the following to warm the person up.

- ❑ Get the person into a warm room or shelter.
- ❑ Remove any wet clothing the person is wearing.
- ❑ Warm the center of the person's body — chest, neck, head and groin — using an electric blanket, if available. You can also use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels or sheets.
- ❑ Warm drinks can help increase body temperature, but do not give alcoholic drinks. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.
- ❑ After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrap their body, including their head and neck, in a warm blanket.
- ❑ Get the person proper medical attention as soon as possible.

A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing. In this case, handle the person gently, and get emergency assistance immediately.

- ❑ Perform CPR, even if the person appears dead. CPR should continue until the person responds or medical aid becomes available. Keep warming the person while performing CPR. In some cases, hypothermia victims who appear to be dead can be successfully resuscitated.

What precautions should anglers take when fishing in cold temperatures?

Proper dress is critical. Be sure to wear:

- ❑ A hat
- ❑ A scarf or knit mask that covers the face and mouth.
- ❑ A water-resistant coat
- ❑ Mittens or gloves
- ❑ Water-resistant shoes
- ❑ Several layers of loose-fitting clothing

Also pack a warm drink and a set of dry clothes. And in every season, be sure to wear a life jacket!

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Thank you, Big Bass Bash / Terrell Family, for holding another great event called the Big Bass Bash. This event is one of the coolest and best run fishing tournaments in existence. It gives regular anglers, like me, the chance to compete and to win the same type of prize money found in professional events.

I have fished several Big Bass Bash events in the past years and always attend the awards ceremony. I am continuously envious of the winner. After all, who doesn't want to be on stage and be handed a big \$100,000 "Happy Gilmore" check with your name on it? The thing that always enters my mind is, "It will never happen to me." Well, on Sunday afternoon around 1:10 on the afternoon, it DID happen to me.

I have been fishing most of my life. My dad taught my brothers and me how to catch bluegill using a fly rod and a popper. Since those early days, I have loved the sport of fishing. Ironically, it wasn't until I got married that I really learned how to fish Missouri reservoirs.

I cut my teeth on Bull Shoals lake where my now ex-father-in-law taught me everything he knew about bass fishing. He has fished tournaments since the 1960s and moved to Bull about 13 years ago. Learning how to get bass to hit my lures in the ultra-clear water was a totally new concept to me.



Members of JCHH celebrating Kevins big win.

It wasn't until later in my marriage that I decided to join a local bass club, The

Jefferson County Hawg Hunters based just south of St. Louis. In addition to the fishing competition, this particular clubs main objective is to teach everyone in the club how to become a better bass fisherman. After every weigh-in, we encourage our members to ask questions of the winners to learn how they caught their fish. Our winners also give honest answers to those questions. Having fished many other types of tournaments, getting a straight answer from someone who takes a check can be nearly impossible.

With this club, we fish mainly Missouri lakes including Lake of the Ozarks, Mark Twain, Table Rock, Bull Shoals and Pomme de Terre. Making the switch to the darker waters like Lake of the Ozarks and Mark Twain was foreign to me. I remember coming here to the Lake Ozarks and throwing 10 lb. test line with a jig. Everyone laughed! I quickly learned the importance of heavy line for fishing brush.

Since then, my knowledge of each lake, and of fishing in general, improved gradually. Three years ago, I hired local pro, Dion Hibdon to take a friend and me out for a day on the water. My goal with Dion was to learn how to skip jigs into the dark areas of boat docks. I also used my time on the water with him to ask as many questions as possible and try to download the incredible amount of knowledge in his head. If you have ever wondered if hiring a local guide is worth it, please let me assure you that it is!

Since my guide trip, I have spent many hours (and many spools of fluorocarbon) learning the art of skipping jigs. This technique opens a lot of doors to access the

bass that live in the darkest recesses of docks. I am, by no means, a pro at skipping, but I can at least hold my own now.

My game plan for this fall's Big Bass Bash was to target docks in the last third of creeks. I won our club tournament the week before the Bash utilizing this same strategy. Unfortunately, the bite was tough for me during the Bash, but I did manage to weigh in a 3.01 on Saturday. I abandoned my game plan and started fishing some main-lake banks near the mouth of the Little Niangua.

My friend, Steve Heitman (who works for BassingBob.com) told me on Saturday night after day one that he and his partner caught several nice fish behind the docks, so I decided to give that pattern a try. The bank I fished had wind blowing directly on it, and we caught two short fish very quickly. It was not long after that when I hooked my big fish, a 6.42 lb. fish.

The lure I used was a custom ½ oz. black/blue "Bank Robber" jig made by Rick Rouse of St. Louis. I have used his jigs now for five years and they produce very well for me. The crawfish trailer was a black/blue Rage Tail.

I am very grateful to the Big Bass Bash team for this awesome event. I am also a member of BassingBob.com. It is great site with access to a ton of information about fishing Lake of the Ozarks. I am just a regular guy who loves to fish...but can't compete with the local "big boys". This tournament allows people like me an equal chance to win some serious money.

Winning this event can happen to anyone. I can attest to that. *All it takes is one bite...*

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