



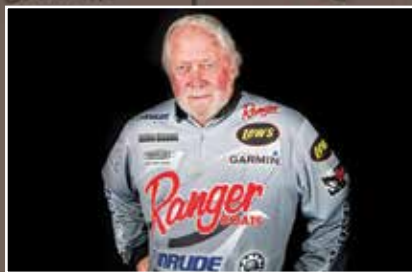
LAKE OF THE OZARKS Fishing News

FREE

IN MEMORY OF

**GUIDO
HIBDON**

(July 10, 1946 – March 10, 2018)



A FISHERMAN'S PRAYER

*I pray that I may live to fish until my dying day,
and when it comes to my last casts, then I must humbly pray,
when in my Lord's great landing net I lay peacefully asleep,
that in His mercy I be judged big enough to keep.*



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FROM THE FOUNDER

Bob Bueltmann
Founder, BassingBob.com

Most of you probably already know that in March of this year we lost a legend of fishing, Guido Hibdon. Guido's humor, personable personality, love for family and fishing will be missed greatly not only in our local fishing community but across the country. Guido was a highly successful tournament fisherman nationwide and a pioneer of the sport that is now participated in and enjoyed by millions around the world. In this edition of the Fishing News Magazine we provide you with some statistics of his accomplishments as well as technique article that was recently written by outdoors writer, John Neporadny. While Guido is now gone, we are fortunate to still be able to enjoy him through his family of fisherman including Dion, Lawson, Payden and Connor. This is a very close-knit fishing family and I am sure that we will see the matriarch of this amazing family, Stella Hibdon and many fishing events. Rest in Peace Guido and thank you for all you have done and the many lives you have touched.

Well this winter has been tough for catching bass but stellar for catching crappie. We had a couple of weeks of ice on the

which provided plenty of easy meals for the fish. As we move into the spring time, we will likely still have some muddy water, however with the longer days and warmer air temperatures that dirty water will warm up and get the fish more actively feeding before the spawn. Crappie, bass and catfish will get closer to the banks and start migrating to spawning areas which will make them more susceptible to be caught. In addition to the traditional year round game fish targets, with spring comes the paddlefish snagging season. I always enjoy watching the boats of all varieties from small john boats to pontoon boats loaded with a bunch of anglers pulling their poles in a rhythmic manner trying to snag one of those big historical monsters.

As we move into the summer, it is nice to hang up all the winter gear, toasty toes and hand warmers and wear shorts, tee shirts and flip flops. After the spawning season is over we get to look forward to fish relating to points and feeding up after the spawn. During the summer there is always a good morning, evening and night time bite for bass with top water bites and big worms or jigs in brush piles. Fishing a

water followed by rains that resulted in large portions of the lake being muddy and a pretty significant shad die off

bit deeper during the day but close to the banks in the low light times of the day. The crappie fishing may become a bit tougher than in the spring, but that crappie will always be in the darkest part of the shade around docks moving up and down in the water column to find their comfort zone. Catfish will begin to relate to creek channels near shallow flats and bluffs all over the lake.

In this edition of the fishing news magazine we provide you with tips and techniques for catching fish on Lake of the Ozarks during the spring and summer. We also provide you with experts and pro input for fishing this year's Big Bass Bash, the largest tournament on the lake with this year winner taking home \$100,000 for a single fish.

As always, I like to thank all of the BassingBob.com members for their support and ask all of you that read this magazine and support Bassingbob.com to patronize our sponsors and advertisers for without them and our members we would not be able to bring you this in depth fishing information. So, when you are thinking about a restaurant, lodge or other services, please flip through this magazine and www.bassingbob.com and try to make a conscious effort to patronize their business and be sure to tell them that Bob sent you.

Great fishing all and Tight Lines,

- Bob Bueltmann

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IN MEMORY

By Bob Bueltmann, BassingBob

GUIDO HIBDON

My Personal Experience with Guido

Well it is very difficult to write something new about the great Guido Hibdon that has not already been written or said, Guido was a great fisherman, a very enjoyable and humble man to be around and a great family man. His passion for the sport is reflected in his successes and the love of people is reflected in the many great stories that others have told about him, his deep love for his family and his willingness to share fishing information with anyone that asked.

My personal experiences with Guido were only over the past five years since living at Lake of the Ozarks. As I am a born and raised Missourian with a love for fishing, I did follow his success before I ever met him personally.

I finally met Guido for the first time here at Lake of the Ozarks in the fall of 2013. My BassingBob website had just gone live in July. I approached Dion Hibdon, Guido's son, at a tournament to introduce myself and to discuss possibly working together for website content, video's etc. in exchange for helping to promote their sponsors and guiding business. I was "nervous as a cat" and star struck seeing Dion and approaching Dion as well as seeing Guido sitting in the truck near where I was talking to Dion. Here I was a "fishing nobody" from St. Louis starting a fishing website at Lake of the Ozarks and I'm approaching the greatest names in the history of Lake of the Ozarks fishing, Dion

and Guido Hibdon. I can only imagine what they were thinking, "who the heck is this guy from St. Louis starting a fishing website at Lake of the Ozarks", yes I was a bit nervous. Dion, took my card and after some small talk, he said let me introduce you to my mom (Stella Hibdon) and my dad.

I found it interesting that the first thing that Dion did was introduce me to his mom. He said to her, "this is Bob with Bassing Bob and he has a fishing website that he would like some support from us". I explained the website, she took my card and that was that. I learned later on that Stella Hibdon is the backbone of the great Hibdon family. A matriarch of fishing family like no other. Stella took care of all of the details of their fishing, registrations for tournaments, registrations for hotels, setting up all the travel plans and working with the sponsors. She was the business side of Guido and Dion.



Guido with son Dion and wife Stella

Dion then walked me over to the other side of the truck and introduced me to Guido. I really did not know what to say, other than I was a big fan and congratulations on your success and told him briefly about Bassing Bob. He looked at my hands and said, "son you need to be sure to wear your sunscreen and take care of those hands, they are already looking like mine", he showed me his hands, which had the same rough and dry skin as mine from his many years of fishing. That comment from Guido, that personal touch and attention totally relaxed me and is what I had come to know over the five years that I personally knew him, friendly, personable and funny, many people shared with me that same feeling they received from him.

After that first encounter I felt very comfortable talking with him. I will never forget two other experiences with him. The first was at a pro fishing roundtable we held at Fitz Fishing ahead of a Big Bass Bash. When asked about what baits and where on the lake he would fish the tournament, he replied, "there are so many tournaments fished in the Grand Glaize arm of the lake, all the big tournament fish are released there, so I would fish the Glaize all day and as close to those released fish a possible. Second, I fish with a very small jig, know not a finesse jig, that is too big, something on a 1/16th to 1/8th oz head with six-pound line and a spinning rod around shallow cover, even the smallest



of twigs or small branch in the water". I came to learn, that a jig technique, a small jig at that is what made Guido famous and worldly successful. I later talked to Dion about that and Dion shared with me an analogy that I will never forget relating to a jig, he said, "if you put a bag of potato chips on a table with a bunch of guys

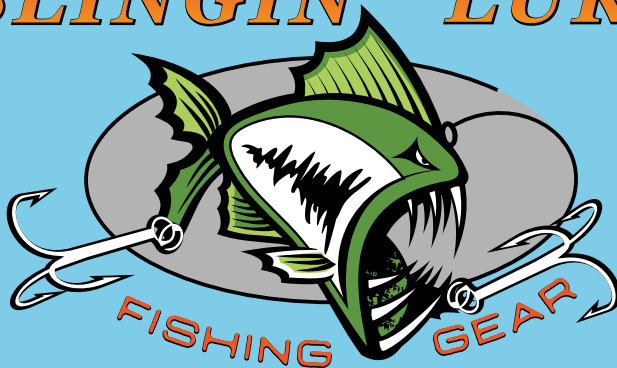
sitting around, whether they are hungry or not, they will eat those potato chips, a jig is just like a potato chip to a bass". Dion went on the tell me, "big bass like to dominate a piece of structure, all it takes is a small stick or tiny brush pile for that big bass to own and dominate as it own, only enough space for one fish". Now that is some fishing wisdom.

Guido participated in the first Missouri Invitational Fishing and Golf Championship at Old Kinderhook. He told me that the event was one of his favorite events that he had ever participated in. On stage during the final weigh-in he commented, "I have never been to Old Kinderhook before, I never knew it existed, but this is the best resort at Lake of the Ozarks". I can assure you that made my buddy, Bob Renken, the VP and GM of Old Kinderhook very happy. Bob's intent for hosting the tournament was to gain exposure to the property to the fishing community versus just golfers. Bob's mission was accomplished and validated when Guido said those very kind words. Guido Hibdon was a very special individual and touched some many people including little people like me.

Guido's Final Hours, Service and Celebration of Life

Guido's memorial service was held in Versailles, MO with a Celebration of Life that followed in Stover, MO. These are very small towns well off the beaten path of major cities. I share this part of Guido's life with permission from family members and the hope that you can relate to the greatness of this man, even if you never met or knew him. There were hundreds of people from all over the country packed into the funeral home building for the short memorial service. While there were many very touching stories shared during the service, I think the story relayed by Guido's son Dion, really tells the story of his strength and love for his family. Dion shared the story of Guido's final hours. As many of us know, Guido was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago. He battled through all of the cancer treatments with the courage and determination of a lion. Many of us would always inquire of Dion at tournaments, "how is your dad doing"? There was always a range of replies, from he is not doing so well to he is up and walking, the cancer treatment was successful and he is regaining his strength.

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He was getting to the point in the months prior to his passing that he would be at tournament weigh-ins with Stella. We all felt that Guido was on his way back. Then, the story as of the final hours as told by Dion at the memorial service. He had a bit of a relapse, a medical condition not so much related to his cancer but rather to his weak body. The doctors were not too optimistic about him fighting this final battle and then finally he reached the end without the help of life support. The family decided to choose the life support so they could gather family around for his final hours. The family was gathered and they took him off of life support, but that was not the end of this great and strong man. One in a half days later, Stella left to get something to eat, however returned decided to return without eating as she just did not want to be away from him. Dion was sleeping on a chair in his room and Lawson Hibdon, Dions son was in the room as well, Guido opened his eyes. Lawson woke Dion, they had their final words with Guido, and then in walked Stella much to Dions's surprise as she had just left to go eat but chose not to. The family members were all able to say their final words and express their love and then Guido passed. Now that is strong man with great love for his family.

Ron Lappen, FLW Costa Series Director travelled from Benton, Kentucky to speak at Guido's service. Ron read the details of Guido's accomplishments at the professional fishing level, see table of accomplishments and talked about Guido's national fishing legacy, it was a very touching talk by Ron. Others followed with similar stories of his kindness and that personal touch that he passed on to every single person that he ever encountered, where we all felt as though he was OUR personal best friend, so special.

At the Celebration of Life in Stover, MO following the memorial service, again the room was jammed packed with those that Guido touched. Professional fishing legends like Rick Clunn, younger professional legends in the making like Marcus Sykora, B.A.S.S journalist John Neporadny and many others. The leadership of FLW President Kathy Fennel along with Ron Lappen and Mark McGwa made the journey from Benton, KY to pay their respects right in the middle of the national tournament schedule and so many family and friends.

Guido was a great man and he will be missed by all of us.

A few facts about Guido

By John Neporadny, Jr. in his book titled "The Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Guide".

This former third generation guide, began taking clients crappie fishing at Lake of the Ozarks when he was 13 years old. He honed his bass fishing skills on his home lake and began fishing national tournament circuits in 1980 when he won Bassmaster Missouri Invitational on Lake of the Ozarks. Hibdon emerged as one of the top angler in the world when he won the 1988 Bassmaster Classic and two straight B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year titles in 1990 and 1991.

The Pro angler has seen the lake change drastically since his guiding days, but he still considers it a top notch bass fishery. "Lake of the Ozarks has a lot of pressure on it, but I still rank it in the top five in the country". Hibdon says. "It's still an awful good place. I wouldn't live hear if I didn't think it was a good lake.

Guido loved the Lake of the Ozarks. Lake of the Ozarks was his training ground and propelled him to national stardom and fishing success.



Professional Success

- 300 National Pro Level Tournaments
- 10 Bassmaster Classic Appearances
- 6 FLW Forrest Wood Cup Championship Appearances
- 1988 Bassmaster Classic Champion
- B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year 1990 and 1991
- 7 National Professional Tournament Wins
- 23 Top 5 Professional Tournament Finishes
- 47 Top 10 Professional Tournament Finishes
- 80 Top 20 Professional Tournament Finishes
- 90 Top 30 Professional Tournament Finishes
- 100's of tournament trail, buddy tournaments and charity tournament wins.



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—Eric Faucett

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BassForecast®, a new app designed and developed by the same company chosen by Nike and Under Armour for their apps, is producing more than just fish tales for the many knowledgeable Bass anglers who have been using it.

BassForecast is the first company to produce a forecasting product exclusively for Bass Anglers. Founder, Entrepreneur and avid Bass Angler, Mike Mehlmann says he was "fed up with generic fishing forecasts." "Bass and Trout are completely different species with different peak metabolic temperature ranges and environmental preferences. One generic fishing forecast cannot accurately cover all species," says Mehlmann.

BassForecast produces a "BassForecast Rating" ranging from 1 (least active/"Poor" conditions) to 10 (most active/"Epic" conditions) for each of the upcoming 10 days for any location in the continental US. The proprietary formula uses a variety of environmental factors that affect Bass feeding behavior including past, current and forecast weather (temperature, barometer, wind and other factors), and solunar tables. It is so much more scientifically advanced than any other fishing forecast that it even factors in the temperature transference time lag effect from air to water temperature. According to Mehlmann, "This is really our secret sauce, because water temperature trends are the most important factor affecting Bass metabolism and feed activity."

In a recent catch rate study, when the BassForecast Rating was Good,

Bass anglers caught 68% more Bass per hour than when it was Fair or Poor. During Epic rated days, anglers caught a whopping 4.1x more Bass. In 2017, 11 out of 153 anglers reported catching their lifetime personal best Bass on Epic rated days.

Even on a low rated day, BassForecast is a valuable tool. According to Timmy Horton, famous professional Bass Angler and founder of Timmy Horton Outdoors, "BassForecast doesn't tell me when to fish because I have to fish most days. But it does help me figure out which baits and patterns to use. If the BassForecast Rating is low, I may need to downsize and slow down."

BassForecast even produces GPS specific feeding time windows so Bass Anglers don't have to do their own mathematical adjustments using print publication solunar charts, which can be off by up to an hour depending on where one lives within their time zone.

Like any quality electronics tool that helps Bass Anglers, BassForecast simplifies the complex process of trying to figure out how all the weather and solunar variables interact to affect Bass feeding behavior. BassForecast is so simple, even non-technical Anglers are finding it as easy to use as any weather app. Simply enter your location and BassForecast crunches all the data for you. BassForecast is a must have tool for any Bass Angler from Pro to beginner.

Download BassForecast now to get your free 60-day Premium trial.

Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

APRIL

| Date | Time | Location | Boats | Club | Phone |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 4/1/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 4/7/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | LORA | 40 | Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn. | 573-346-5673 |
| 4/7/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:30 PM | Hawks Landing Resort | 100 | Sheet Metal Workers Local #36 | 314-285-2625 |
| 4/7/18 | 07:00 AM - 04:00 PM | PB #2 | 150 | "FLW, LLC" | 270-703-9551 |
| 4/8/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Robin's Resort | 60 | Twisted Cat Outdoors | 217-242-5305 |
| 4/8/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 60 | Joe Bass Team Trail | 314-220-7196 |
| 4/13/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 30 | Meek's: The Builder's Choice | 417-521-1103 |
| 4/14/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Rock Harbor Resort | 50 | IBEW Local 1 | 314-805-6762 |
| 4/14/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Runaway II Resort | 30 | Mid Lake Bass Club | 573-480-6162 |
| 4/14/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Robin's Resort | 60 | USA Bassin Lucas Open | 314-346-6963 |
| 4/14/18 | 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Pa He Tsi | 20 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 4/14/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 150 | Anglers in Action | 866-515-0102 |
| 4/15/18 | 07:00 AM - 04:00 PM | Shawnee Bend Access | 25 | Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn. | 573-480-2664 |
| 4/15/18 | 06:30 AM - 02:30 PM | Red Oak Resort | 50 | Reel in a Cure Open Buddy Bass | 314-313-0595 |
| 4/15/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 4/15/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 40 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 4/21/18 | 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Robin's Resort | 25 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 4/21/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:00 PM | PB2RdOakAlhRdFoxPtRndl | 1200 | Big Bass Bash | 866-515-0102 |
| 4/22/18 | 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Robin's Resort | 25 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 4/22/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:00 PM | PB2RdOakAlhRdFoxPtRndl | 1200 | Big Bass Bash | 866-515-0102 |
| 4/28/18 | 05:45 AM - 03:00 PM | Runaway II Resort | 40 | Int'l Fed. of Black Bass Anglers | 704-467-6609 |
| 4/28/18 | 06:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Pa He Tsi | 50 | St. Louis Bass Busters Open Buddy | 314-409-8314 |
| 4/28/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:30 PM | PB #2 | 130 | "FLW, LLC" | 270-703-9551 |
| 4/29/18 | 05:45 AM - 03:00 PM | Runaway II Resort | 40 | Int'l Fed. of Black Bass Anglers | 704-467-6609 |
| 4/29/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:45 PM | PB #2 | 300 | Fish for Sight Buddy Bass Tourn. | 314-422-0662 |
| 4/30/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Alhonna Resort | 35 | Curt Schuette Memorial Bass Classic | 913-207-4603 |

MAY

| Date | Time | Location | Boats | Club | Phone |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 5/5/18 | 06:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Lake Breeze Resort | 30 | PayneCrest Electric Buddy Bass | 314-642-2121 |
| 5/5/18 | 06:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Red Oak Resort | 50 | Piney Point Bass'n Classic | 314-497-4414 |
| 5/5/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:15 PM | Bass Point Resort | 70 | Bass Point Tournament | 314-537-6407 |
| 5/5/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Shawnee Bend Access | 25 | LOZ Crappie Club | 573-480-6587 |
| 5/5/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:30 PM | PB #2 | 200 | Carpenters' Buddy Bass Tournament | 314-644-4800 |
| 5/6/18 | 06:00 AM - 02:00 PM | PB #2 | 60 | Angler's Choice | 618-496-3610 |
| 5/12/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | LORA | 40 | Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn. | 573-346-5673 |
| 5/12/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 200 | Catfish Weekly TV | 417-631-6081 |
| 5/13/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 200 | Catfish Weekly TV | 417-631-6081 |
| 5/19/18 | 05:30 AM - 02:30 PM | Rock Harbor Resort | 100 | Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562 | 314-393-4578 |
| 5/19/18 | 05:30 AM - 03:00 PM | Pa He Tsi | 20 | Sol Pro Bassmasters | 816-695-3322 |
| 5/19/18 | 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Pa He Tsi | 20 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 5/20/18 | 05:30 AM - 02:00 PM | Pa He Tsi | 20 | Sol Pro Bassmasters | 816-695-3322 |

* Missouri Angler Wednesday Night Tourneys every Wednesday out of PB2 - April 18 - September 19 (6:30 - 10:00)

Thursday Night Bass Busters every Thursday out of PB2 - April 19 - August 9 (6:30 - 10:00)

Eldon Bassmasters every Thursday out of Coffman Beach Access - April 19 - September 13 (6:30 - 10:00)

For a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

RPE Tackle Tungsten Swinging Football Jig

Using a swing head gives your trailer a tremendous amount of lifelike action, allowing it to move more naturally in the water and trigger finicky bass into striking. This swing head is unlike the others in that it features a unique quick attachment system that allows you to easily connect a hook of your choice. Another thing that makes this product unique is that it is made out of tungsten, which makes them 30% smaller than comparable lead jig heads for a more compact presentation. Since tungsten is also much harder than lead, they provide far greater sensitivity.



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the Teckel USA Sprinkler Frog combines the weedlessness of a frog with the loud agitation and splash of a whopper plover. the Teckel USA Sprinkler Frog blurs the line between prop bait and frog to give anglers a new hybrid topwater that can be fished through heavy cover.



River2Sea Chris Lane Lane Changer

Built with soft plastic propellers on the front and back, the River2Sea Chris Lane Lane Changer delivers a heavy sputter that produces a loud and enticing sound. Followed by a small, subtle wake, the Lane Changer excels at calling-in big bass, especially in calmer conditions. This bait is an excellent choice for locating finicky spawning bass on the Lake of the Ozarks.



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This new design mimics a small cluster of fleeing baitfish just like an umbrella rig. The three Teaser bodies and willow blade at the top of the lure roll side-to-side, creating vibration and a flicker-like flash. When the bass see the Spinner Rig, they are more likely to strike the target body that is segregated away from the main cluster of teaser bodies in the bait ball. This lure will excel in pre-spawn and post-spawn on the Lake of the Ozarks.



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Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

MAY (continued)

| Date | Time | Location | Boats | Club | Phone |
|---------|---------------------|----------|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 5/20/18 | 06:00 AM - 02:00 PM | PB #2 | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 5/20/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 40 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |

JUNE

| Date | Time | Location | Boats | Club | Phone |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 6/2/18 | 08:00 PM - 11:59 PM | PB #2 | 50 | Camden County Bass'rs Open Tourn. | 573-480-2664 |
| 6/2/18 | 06:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Larry R. Gale Access | 60 | USA Bassin Lucas Open | 314-346-6963 |
| 6/3/18 | 12:00 AM - 07:00 AM | PB #2 | 50 | Camden County Bass'rs Open Tourn. | 573-480-2664 |
| 6/3/18 | 06:00 AM - 02:00 PM | PB #2 | 60 | Angler's Choice | 618-496-3610 |
| 6/3/18 | 06:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Larry R. Gale Access | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 6/8/18 | 07:30 PM - 01:00 AM | LORA | 40 | Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn. | 573-346-5673 |
| 6/17/18 | 06:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Larry R. Gale Access | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 6/23/18 | 08:00 PM - 11:59 AM | PB #2 | 40 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 6/24/18 | 12:00 AM - 07:00 AM | PB #2 | 40 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 6/30/18 | 08:00 PM - 11:59 PM | PB #2 | 50 | LOZ Open Night Fishing Championship | 417-718-3262 |

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Thursday Night Bass Busters every Thursday out of PB2 - April 19 - August 9 (6:30 - 10:00)

Eldon Bassmasters every Thursday out of Coffman Beach Access - April 19 - September 13 (6:30 - 10:00)

For a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

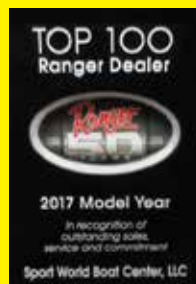
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offers trips on the Osage River below the dam and on the Lake of the Ozarks. We offer guide trips for bass, crappie, catfish, white bass and walleye.

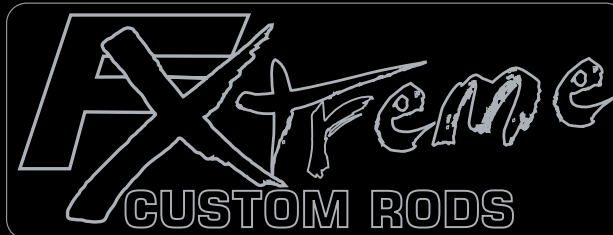
Lake Ozark Fishing Guide Service offers clients our knowledge of fishing the back waters and the more quiet areas on the Osage River.



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JULY

| Date | Time | Location | Boats | Club | Phone |
|---------|---------------------|----------------|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 7/1/18 | 12:00 AM - 07:00 AM | PB #2 | 50 | LOZ Open Night Fishing Championship | 417-718-3262 |
| 7/13/18 | 07:30 PM - 01:00 AM | LORA | 40 | Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn. | 573-346-5673 |
| 7/28/18 | 07:30 PM - 11:59 PM | Robin's Resort | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 7/28/18 | 08:00 PM - 11:59 PM | PB #2 | 40 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 7/29/18 | 12:00 AM - 07:00 AM | Robin's Resort | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 7/29/18 | 12:00 AM - 07:00 AM | PB #2 | 40 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |

AUGUST

| Date | Time | Location | Boats | Club | Phone |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 8/3/18 | 08:00 PM - 11:59 PM | Coffman Beach Access | 20 | Eldon Bassmasters | 660-460-0045 |
| 8/4/18 | 12:00 AM - 08:00 AM | Coffman Beach Access | 20 | Eldon Bassmasters | 660-460-0045 |
| 8/4/18 | 07:00 PM - 11:59 PM | PB #2 | 15 | Cowtown Bass Busters | 314-277-6706 |
| 8/10/18 | 07:30 PM - 01:00 AM | LORA | 40 | Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn. | 573-346-5673 |
| 8/24/18 | 06:30 PM - 02:00 AM | Coffman Beach Access | 20 | Eldon Bassmasters | 660-460-0045 |
| 8/25/18 | 08:00 PM - 11:59 PM | PB #2 | 40 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |
| 8/26/18 | 12:00 AM - 07:00 AM | PB #2 | 40 | Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc. | 314-409-9015 |

* Missouri Angler Wednesday Night Tourneys every Wednesday out of PB2 - April 18 - September 19 (6:30 - 10:00)

Thursday Night Bass Busters every Thursday out of PB2 - April 19 - August 9 (6:30 - 10:00)

Eldon Bassmasters every Thursday out of Coffman Beach Access - April 19 - September 13 (6:30 - 10:00)

For a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

Tournament Schedule at The Lake

| SEPTEMBER | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Date | Time | Location | Boats | Club | Phone |
| 9/8/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | LORA | 40 | Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn. | 573-346-5673 |
| 9/8/18 | 06:30 AM - 04:00 PM | PB #2 | 150 | IUOE Local 148 Charity Bass Tourn. | 573-760-5669 |
| 9/15/18 | 07:00 AM - 04:00 PM | PB #2 | 120 | "FLW, LLC" | 270-703-9551 |
| 9/16/18 | 07:00 AM - 04:00 PM | PB #2 | 120 | "FLW, LLC" | 270-703-9551 |
| 9/22/18 | 07:00 AM - 04:00 PM | Alhonna Resort | 60 | Lake of the Ozark Shrine Club | 314-471-4292 |
| 9/22/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Robins Resort | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 9/22/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 120 | Anglers in Action | 866-515-0102 |
| 9/23/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Robins Resort | 60 | USA Bassin | 314-346-6963 |
| 9/23/18 | 06:30 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 60 | Angler's Choice | 618-496-3610 |
| 9/28/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Robins Resort | 45 | "Webb Outdoors, LLC" | 417-425-7513 |
| 9/29/18 | 06:30 AM - 02:30 PM | PB #2 | 30 | Thursday Night Bass Busters | 417-718-3262 |
| 9/29/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Robins Resort | 45 | "Webb Outdoors, LLC" | 417-425-7513 |
| 9/29/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | PB #2 | 125 | FLW College Fishing | 270-252-1593 |
| 9/30/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Alhonna Resort | 60 | Lake Area Firefighters Bass Tourn. | 314-620-1711 |
| 9/30/18 | 07:00 AM - 03:00 PM | Robins Resort | 45 | "Webb Outdoors, LLC" | 417-425-7513 |

* Missouri Angler Wednesday Night Tourneys every Wednesday out of PB2 - April 18 - September 19 (6:30 - 10:00)
 Thursday Night Bass Busters every Thursday out of PB2 - April 19 - August 9 (6:30 - 10:00)
 Eldon Bassmasters every Thursday out of Coffman Beach Access - April 19 - September 13 (6:30 - 10:00)

For a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

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A INSIDE LOOK INTO
TOURNAMENT TEAM
Rob Bueltmann and Ben Verhoef

Hard Work ■ Chemistry ■ Passion ■ Mentors and Humility

By Bob Bueltmann



In the past couple of years the fishing team of Rob Bueltmann and Ben Verhoef have met with consistent success. They have finished many tournaments in the top 10 and had wins in highly competitive tournaments including Anglers in Action, Joe Bass, Anglers Choice and this year they won the Bassing Bob Winter Bass Challenge Series Championship. In addition to local success, they have qualified through local tournament trails for national championships and have finished in the money in the three national championships they have fished. While there are many very good Lake of the Ozarks tournament teams, successful tournament fisherman are taking notice of Ben and Rob and their recent consistent success. Mark Wiese, a very successful tournament fisherman recently commented, "these two are trouble" and another highly successful tournament fisherman, Dale Burgman commented, "fishermen are really taking notice of these two".

Rob Bueltmann Background

Rob, 34 years old was born and raised in St. Louis and is my son. Since the age of five Rob was passionate about fishing. Each summer for ten years we would take a family vacation to Tablerock Lake, Rob could always be found on the dock fishing for catfish, bass, bluegill, whatever he could get to bite. Every year Rob would catch some kind of big fish and his picture was placed on the resorts wall of fame. He also enjoyed fishing whenever he could at local community lakes, amongst school work and playing soccer and baseball at high levels of competition, he always found a day or two a week to go fishing. After college, Rob worked as a laborer in St. Louis laying asphalt until he got a call from me in June of 2014 asking him if he would move his family to Lake of the Ozarks to help with Bassing Bob, he moved that 4th of July weekend. In Rob's first year of competitive fishing he won the Co-Angler of the Year award in the FLW BFL Ozarks Division. Rob is married to Amanda Bueltmann and has two young children, Tyler 7 years old and Lexi 6 years old.



Ben Verhoef Background

Ben, 25 years old is a native of Osage Beach. Ben did not start fishing until he was in middle school. Ben's neighbor, Wayne Fitzpatrick, Owner of Fitz Fishing Tackle and Supplies and long time successful tournament angler asked Ben if he wanted to go fishing with him. Ben took Wayne up on his offer and has been hooked ever since. Wayne continued to mentor Ben, teaching him baits, techniques, patterns for all areas of the lake during all seasons of the year. Ben had a small john boat and after fishing with Wayne, he would get on the water as often as time permitted to practice and expand on what Wayne taught him. Ben went to Mizzou and joined the fishing club. In his final year at Mizzou he was the president of the club. His college fishing success included making the FLW and Bassmaster's National College Championships, finishing 25th in the Bassmaster event. In Ben's senior year Mizzou was ranked 8th in the country.



Ben and Rob Fishing Team

Ben and Rob met at Fitz Fishing before Rob moved to the lake and while Ben was still in college. They first fished together on the second day of the spring 2014 Big Bass Bash out of Ben's aluminum john boat. Later that summer, Rob saw Ben take 2nd place in a Wednesday night tournament and he started thinking about asking Ben to be his fishing partner for some tournaments. While in college Ben also worked, when he could, at Fitz Fishing. Rob would go to Fitz's and hang out with Ben talking fishing. Ben recalls Rob asking a million questions about baits, patterns, techniques and areas of the lake. Ben and Rob became close friends and started fishing

tournaments together that fall with moderate success, but finishing in the money on a consistent basis. When Ben graduated from college, he came to work for BassingBob which then had them working together in addition to fishing together and their friendship really grew. As they continued to fish together they met with more and more success winning tournaments and finishing many tournaments in the top 5-10. After winning this years Winter Bass Challenge Tournament and following that up the next weekend with another tournament win, it seemed that these two are really clicking. Ben and Rob attribute their success to five things; hard work, chemistry in the boat together, a

passion for fishing, being surrounded by great fishing mentors and remaining humble.

Hard Work

Ben and Rob both have the benefit of working for Bassing Bob and at Fitz Fishing. Working for BassingBob not only affords them time on the water but time on the water is required for fishing reports. Working at Fitz Fishing on a part time basis keeps them close to the latest baits and techniques as well as being able to discuss fishing with Wayne. They invest time and effort each year dropping brush piles and rock piles in the lake, they also do a tremendous amount of internet video

research and graph study. They will often invest up to a couple hours a day doing graph work on the water, looking for any small indication of how the fish are setting up, what depths, locations in a cove or main lake and what are the fish relating to. They attribute their success at other lakes to investing a lot of time doing map study before they go to a lake and then graphing fish before they start fishing.

They also do a lot of bait study and technique study and use their time on the water trying to perfect the techniques often times having success with baits that are not used often on Lake of the Ozarks such as vertically fishing a spoon, fishing a drop shot rig, working a great big swim-bait, etc. They seem to always be working on fishing common baits with new techniques, like letting a stick bait sink to the bottom and then ripping it off the bottom or pulsating an A-Rig.

Chemistry

As mentioned above Rob and Ben have become very good close friends, they hang out together drinking beers, hunting, etc. Ahead of a tournament they are comparing notes from practice. Discussing what baits, techniques and patterns are working. When it comes to tournament day, they have there "milk run" figured out, who is going to work what bait, who is going

to be on the trolling motor, adjustments they may have to employ are all thought out before the tournament. When on the water, they get along great. Although they are fishing and are heads down trying to catch big ones, they have a lot of fun together, talking and laughing. When one or the other indicate it's time to move or lets go over there and try that point, they are always on the same page. They are both very competitive. When they fish a tournament they only want to win, that quiet but understood competitiveness between them bounds them together even stronger when they catch a big one and are high fiving each other or when they don't get them, they understand each other's disappointment.

Passion

Like competitiveness for winning they both share the same passion for fishing. They are passionate about trying to figure out patterns to catch really big fish. If you ever meet Ben and Rob at Fitz Fishing or out on the water or at a tournament, they are both very enthusiastic about fishing and are both willing to share information to help others do well. Whether bass fishing, crappie fishing, catfishing or chasing whites and stripers they just love getting big bites and finding the fish and technique to catch them.

Mentors

Rob and Ben have been very fortunate to have some great fishing mentors.

Wayne Fitzpatrick has taught them so much about baits, techniques and areas of the lake during varying seasons. Wayne taught both of them how to flip docks and the success to be had with that technique. Wayne knows the entirety, from dam to dam, of this lake as well as anyone. Wayne taught Ben how to use the stick bait. He is always helping them to match the right rod, reel and line size for all the varying baits used by Ben and Rob. Wayne has had the experience on the water in all areas of the lake in all seasons and he shares that information with them. Wayne taught them both how to deep water fish with a jig and how to site fish for spawning bass. Wayne is like a best uncle to Rob and Ben as well, they all eat, drink, work, hunt and fish together. Wayne also has taught them how to remain patient with a pattern and not to give up too fast on a pattern as often fishing is just a matter of timing.

Vern Jaycox took Rob and Ben under his wing in 2014. They met at Fitz Fishing. Vern has 40 years of experience fishing on Lake of the Ozarks and was a very successful tournament fisherman fishing against the likes of Guido Hibdon, Bill Davenport, Denny Brauer and many of the other legends that have fished competitively on

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#1 TACKLE SHOP AT THE LAKE!

Lake of the Ozarks. Vern, 80+ years old had a desire to pass on his fishing wisdom to younger fisherman and Ben and Rob jumped at that opportunity. Vern would go fishing with them, introducing them to areas of the lake that have had good fishing history, teaching them fine tuned techniques with the stick bait, jig, worm, spinner bait and others. Vern is also a master of understanding conditions such as wind direction, water clarity, sun, cloud cover, etc. He has passed that wisdom on to Rob and Ben. Often before tournaments, Ben and Rob will talk to Vern for hours regarding the forecasted conditions for an up coming tournament. Vern is like a grand dad to Rob and Ben and like Wayne, they are also very close friends. You will often see Vern at tournament weigh-ins cheering them on and feeling happy being a part of their success.

Marcus Sykora has helped Rob and Ben so much with tournament fishing. Marcus not only helps them with baits, techniques and patterns but has help them tremendously with the mental part of competitive fishing. Rob has had the benefit of pre-fishing with Marcus in many national tournaments on other lakes when Rob is fishing as a co-angler. Marcus taught Rob his approach to figuring out a lake, how to practice for a tournament and in doing so taught him many new techniques for fishing varying lakes with different structure, depths, etc.. Marcus has coached them on how to stay mentally strong on the water even when the bite is tough. Marcus also teaches by example, when practicing for a tournament Marcus is the first guy on the lake and the last off the lake. Like Wayne he taught them the value of remaining patient, fishing slow and trusting their instincts that they are around fish and just need to wait them out. Or if things aren't going well, to follow their instincts to fish a location or technique that they did not practice but in the moment looks good. Marcus's family and Rob's family are best friends. Rob and Marcus kids go to the same school and both of their wives are best friends now too. Wow, what a great best friend to have as a fisherman.

While Wayne, Marcus and Vern have been Rob and Ben's most active mentors, Rob and Ben mentioned so many others that have helped them learn, such as Bill Davenport, Dennis Berehorst, Roger Fitzpatrick, Dale Burgman, Mark Wiese, Jr., Brett Gouvreau, Jamie Eynard, Andy Newcomb, Terry Blankenship, James Dill, Jack Uxa Shawn Kowal, The Hibdons, Dirk Sluyter and many others.

Humility

Both Rob and Ben know that with success will come disappointments as well. Everyone leaves the tournament take-off with an empty live well and those that finish on top after a day of fishing have executed well and have had a bit of luck too. There are days when execution and luck don't come together. They recognize the value of staying humble, as quick as the success can come it is also common to go through long stretches when you just are not catching them very well. While Rob and Ben love to celebrate their success, they both realize that success can be short lived and the best fisherman are the fisherman that are consistent. Their goal is to remain consistent and approach each tournament one tournament at a time in terms of hard work and mental approach.



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Favorite Baits/Locations by Time of the Year

Early Winter

Nianguas and Glaize

Winter

Gravois to the Dam

Fishing shad baits, a-rig and stick bait, over and around the 250 plus brush piles they have put in the lake. They like to put brush out that they can use all seasons, typically on points, shoulders of ditches, around docks and in transition areas. They like to have their brush in 12' - 14' of water when the lake is at full pool.

Fall

Hurricane Deck area to the Dam

Fishing the RKCrawler (aka Rock Crawler), top water baits and flipping shallow docks with a Missile D-Bomb, beaver, black n blue pegged worm or a pegged brush hog.

Summer

Glaize to the Dam

Targeting brush piles, off shore busted up rocks, bluff ends big structure. Fishing with worms and jigs on sunny days and top water baits in low light conditions, also fishing big spoons over deep water points and big crank baits over brush or digging into rocky off shore banks.

During the late summer they like to fish the backs of creeks with brush hog, shallow running crank baits, trick worms and other creature baits.

Spring

Glaize to the Dam and the Nianguas

Fishing shad baits, like a-rig and stick bait in early spring, pre-spawn/spawn they fish spinner baits RKCrawler and carolina rig and brush hogs/creature baits for bedding bass, then in the post spawn, carolina rig, zara spook and spinner baits.

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FREE FISHING SEMINARS EVERY MONDAY APRIL 2ND TO OCTOBER 1ST

Bassing Bob and outdoor writer, John Neporadny have teamed up with the City of Osage Beach Parks Department and local expert fisherman, pro fisherman and fishing guides to provide fishing seminars *every Monday from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.*

The seminar series is targeted at anglers of any skill level including local anglers and vacationer anglers. The seminar series will be to discuss the latest fishing reports including the baits, colors patterns and areas of the lake to catch bass, crappie, catfish and other species that you desire to target. Each seminar will also include technique demonstrations on how to effectively use specific baits.

The seminars will also include such topics as how to tie knots, pairing up the right rods, reels and line size to use with specific baits. Other information will include current lake conditions, lake level, water temperature and color of water through out the lake.

The Osage Beach City Park has a small pond which has recently been renovated and in the process of being filled. While the fish stocked in the lake are all yearlings, the seminar series will include demonstrations of casting and reeling techniques as well as techniques for working varying baits. There will not be fish catching during these seminars as the lake was just recently stocked.

Whether you plan to fish from a boat, dock or from the bank the seminar will help you prepare to catch the types of fish you desire and the baits and techniques to catch them. Bring your questions so that the local experts can help you catch more fish.

Each seminar will be instructed by a knowledgeable local fisherman including pro fisherman and fishing guides, including:

Marcus Sykora – National Tournament Pro and 2014 FLW All-American Champion

John Neporadny – Outdoor Writer, B.A.S.S. Writer and Author of The Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Guide

Steve Wilson – Instructional Fishing Guide and Sport Boats USA Bass Boat Sales

Jack Uxa – Owner of Jacks Guide Service

James Dill – Successful Tournament Angler, Fishing Guide and Owner of Crock-o-Gator Bait Company

Ed Franco – Owner of Big Ed's Guide Service

Bob Bueltmann – Owner BassingBob.com and Fishing News Magazine

Ben Verhoef – Successful Tournament Fisherman and content creator for BassingBob and Fishing News Magazine

Rob Bueltmann – Successful Tournament Fisherman and content creator for BassingBob and Fishing News Magazine

Wayne Fitzpatrick – Successful Tournament Angler and Fishing Guide

Terry Blankenship – Successful Tournament Angler and Fishing Guide

All seminars will be held at Osage Beach City Park located off of Osage Beach Parkway at the parks Pound Pavilion.

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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 decided to ask our experts to give us their input on how they would break down each area of the lake.



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



Wayne Fitzpatrick
Owner of Fitz Fishing Tackle & Supplies
Tournament Fisherman



Jack Uxa
Fishing Guide
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Osage River – From Truman Dam to Hurricane Deck Bridge

Jim Dill: “I would like to be in this area of the lake in April and again in September. You can still catch them in between those months on jigs, plastics, and buzzbaits. In April I will look for pea gravel pockets. They will be spawning or getting ready to spawn then, so they really want to get around those pea gravel areas.”

Wayne Fitzpatrick: “The fishing can be really good up there in April and again going into early fall. The whole river from the Hurricane Deck and up seems to fish the same. The fish will get on little channel banks up there in the spring. There's a lot of lures that you can use up there, like a spinnerbait, wiggle wart, or shallow running crankbait. A jig is also deadly up there. The pre-spawn to spawn time is when it is really good up there. I will fish up there until about the middle of May. The post spawn can be very finicky up there, so I will wait to go back up until early fall. That's when you can really sack them up on the shallow boat docks. In the fall you can catch them on a lot of things. My favorite baits for the fall are flipping baits, spinnerbaits, squarebills, and buzzbaits.”

Jack Uxa: “There is some great fishing up the river in April. The guys that are going up the river in the spring time are catching big ol bags if the conditions are right. The fish up there just don't get the pressure that they do down here on the lower end. If the weather is nice and sunny, you can sack them up in the river. The fish really like to get on wood and visible cover. It is as simple as, ‘if you see a stump, throw at the stump’. That is the great thing about the river.”

Niangua Arm

Jim Dill: “It's going to be the same deal in the Niangua as it is up the river. The fish will set up in pea gravel pockets in April where they feel protected. It happens a lot quicker up in this area because it is a little bit shallower. A jig can be good when they are spawning, but also a Wiggle wart and spinnerbait right before they spawn.”

Wayne Fitzpatrick: “I know there are people that have, but I have never had a whole lot of luck there in the spring, and that is probably because I don't fish there for the most part. The bite is really good there in the summertime. You can get out on those deeper points and ledges and catch

them on a big jig or worm. My favorite time to fish the Niangua is in the early part of fall. That is when the fish get set up good on the shallow docks. I will throw the same baits there that I do up the river, but mainly flipping baits like a tube or a beaver.”

Jack Uxa: “I like the late spring in the Niangua as well. I don't like it during the summer months, but it gets better there again in the early fall. The lake starts to cool down earlier there than it does in other places. The shallow square bill bite starts to heat up in late august. Look for your shallow flats and backs of creeks. There is a lot of shallow docks and cover for fish to move up under in the late summer/early fall.”

Mid Osage – From Hurricane Deck Bridge to the Toll Bridge

Jim Dill: “The mid lake area is a good place to flip shallow docks in the spring. The fish will again set up around pea gravel spawning pockets and transition areas. You can flip these docks with a jig or a creature bait. Once we get into summertime I would target the main lake. The fish will get on points and bluffs in this area with a big jig once the water starts to get hot.”

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Wayne Fitzpatrick: "That can be a very good area to catch fish leading up to the spawn. You can catch them on a stick bait or a spinnerbait all the way until they get up on the nest. Once they are spawning you can catch them good in that area on flipping baits, especially if there is dirty water. Look for your flat pea gravel spawning banks and target shallow cover."

Jack Uxa: "The early summer time frame is my favorite time for this area. The traditional current baits seem to really excel in this area. That's the easiest time to catch fish on the main lake. This is the time where you catch numbers of fish and big fish. If you get out early in the morning before the big boats get out, you can have a lot of fun on the points."

Glaize Arm

Jim Dill: "I like the Glaize in May and June. I will throw a carolina rig on gradual sloped pea gravel banks, dragging it pretty slow. A good bait for the carolina rig is a Crock-O-Gator Muskrat. I will also fish bluffs with a big jig in the Glaize."

Wayne Fitzpatrick: "The Glaize can be a dead zone in the wintertime, but once

we get into spring, the fish really start to bite good. One of the main reasons the Glaize is so good is because you have a lot of fish released in that area from all of the tournaments. Whenever the fish move shallow, you can catch them really good on crankbaits, jigs, and spinnerbaits. The summertime and fall can also be good in the Glaize. The fish will move out to deep points and brush piles where you can catch them on big worms and jigs."

Jack Uxa: "The best time to be there or anywhere else on the lake is in early summer. Another great bite is in the mid-summer. Take a 10" Berkley Power Worm and throw it in a brush pile on a Texas Rig. That's a great bite in that area all summer long. You can play around with your weights for that bite. Sometimes they like it swam over the brush pile, and sometimes they like it soaked down into the brush pile."

Gravois Arm

Jim Dill: "I don't fish in the Gravois very often, but I will fish there in September. I like it in there more than any other month."

It has a lot of docks and bigger creeks with different water color. There is also a good top water bite in this arm throughout the fall. My favorite are spooks, whopper plop-pers, and a head knocker buzzbait."

Wayne Fitzpatrick: "The Gravois is usually pretty clear compared to the rest of the lake. In April, you will see a lot of big fish cruising the bank, so this is the place to sight fish for them. If you run to the very back, you can find a lot of stained water that is good for flipping all year round. You can catch them both deep and shallow there in the fall of the year. A lot of tournaments are won there in early fall."

Jack Uxa: "There's never really a bad time to fish the Gravois. There are a lot of brush piles in there that you can always get bit out of. The summer time frame can be very good. That area tends to hold on to a summer bite later on into the fall than the other areas of the lake. You can catch them deep on a summer patters on fall warming trends pretty good. In the fall, the docks in the Gravois are much easier to flip than the ones on other areas of the lake. For some reason, the docks have bigger and wider holes in the floats."

(continued on page 19)

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Lower Osage – From Toll Bridge to the Dam

Jim Dill: “My favorite time to be on the lower end is in June, and then again in August. It has a lot of deep clear water that the fish like in the summer months. In that area I like to throw a 3/4 ounce reaction jig, or a 5/8 ounce shaker head with a big worm on the end. I will drag those baits off of ledges and bluff ends.”

Wayne Fitzpatrick: “This area sets up a lot like the Gravois. It is the deepest, and has the biggest creeks. It is also one of the hardest places to find fish because there is so much water. Once you figure them out in this area, you can pattern them a lot easier. A lot of the fish will be on pea gravel banks and pockets in the springtime, and then move deep in the summer. If we have current moving through the lake, you can catch them really good on big jigs on the main channel.”

Jack Uxa: “The lower end is again good in the early summer time frame. It is good all year round, but it seems like it really shines in the post spawn. There is a lot more current since it is closer to the dam, which makes a big difference to the fish. You can fish for schooling fish and also catch big ones. The bluff bite is good all summer, and the point bite is good as well. *Refer to my article on current below for a little more info on this awesome current bite.*

SUMMER FISHING WITH CURRENT

By Jack Uxa

If you would ask any one of us local hardcore fishermen when our favorite time of the year is we would all say early summer when the current is being ran through the dams. For those fortunate to live here full time we follow the bass year round and while many fishermen view Lake of the Ozarks as a spring and fall lake they are missing out on the easiest time of the year to catch good bass on a regular basis. Believe it or not every season has its good times and its challenges. In the summer months the lake is busy. We were voted the #1 recreation lake in the country for a good reason. The people, the boats are everywhere. All kinds of boats from the little wave runners to the giant wave crushing cabin cruisers. You have to learn how to manage the boat traffic, navigate with the waves and balance on the front of a bass boat. It's all totally worth it when

you fire up a school of quality largemouth on a deep summer time point. Once the school is fired up it can be cast after cast like no other time of the year. There are some ingredients you need to watch for:

1) Post spawn with 90% of the fish doing one thing moving out to deeper water in search of food to recuperate.

2) Current being drawn from Bagnell dam and Truman dam which positions the fish on points ready to feed. Sometimes this is best in the afternoons since that is when there is the highest demand for electric power. Usually this peaks around Father's day and will last until Truman lake goes back to normal pool 706 ft.

3) Sun light helps the fish stay low in the water column where they are easier to catch. Cloudy days have good early top-water action but then the fish suspend mid day.

4) A good fish finder. I run Humminbird Helix units that work great. Map study and

then being able to mark fish and bait fish schools is the big deal. My number one bait is the ever popular Berkley 10 inch worm. Pick your color, they're all great. You can Texas rig, shaky head or even use as a trailer on a big football jig. Other baits that you'll need to have available are drop shots, deep crankbaits, and spoons. I want you to have good sized baits with some weight to them so you're able to have good bottom contact. Study your maps for off shore humps, and points that extend out to the old river channel. When you stop getting bites on one bait quickly try another one to keep the school excited.

This current helps all the predator fish feed. We kill the white bass and blue catfish with different patterns but the result is the same. The current makes everything easier because the fish are biting. Final note is to follow the dams discharge: <http://apps.ameren.com/HydroElectric/Reports/Osage/HSTBagnellDaily.aspx>



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Spring/Summer Crappie Fishing

with the Bassingbob.com Expert Team

These BassingBob Crappie experts have over 75 years of experience crappie fishing on Lake of the Ozarks. Jim Verhoef, Terry Blankenship, and Stacey Helton have been 3 of the best crappie fisherman this lake has seen for years. The knowledge they share is current, and they also share there tips for crappie fishing year round. Though these guys have a similar approach for spring and summer fishing, each have a little different outlook on it. From swimming and corking jigs, dock shooting, and trolling crankbaits our three experts have mastered techniques, and share their ideas and approaches spring through summer crappie fishing on Lake of the Ozarks.



Jim Verhoef
Crappie Expert
Dock Fishing Expert



Terry Blankenship
Crappie Expert and Bobby Garland Pro
Tournament Fisherman



Stacy Helton
Crappie Expert
Tournament Fisherman

Between spring and summer the crappie fishing on Lake of the Ozarks can produce some real size and numbers of fish caught. In the spring the fish will tend to push shallow and get right near the places that they will want to spawn. Then as summer approaches the fish will seek out deeper water, with cover nearby. In these months yes there is a lot of change, but for the most part they are predictable changes. I have interviewed our Bassingbob.com team of crappie experts to get an understanding on what spring and summer crappie fishing means to them, and also the habits of these wonderful fish.

Stacey Helton or “Big Stace” what I like to call him has been one of the most successful crappie fisherman on Lake of the Ozarks for some time now. With several crappie tournament wins, and countless hours spent on the water chasing the crappie around, he is one of the more knowledgeable crappie fisherman that you will find. In the spring Stacey starts by seeing what the water color is along with the recent weather patterns. This year in particular the crappie made their way back into the creeks a bit earlier. The amount of rain and fresh water run off coming in

the backs of the creeks has something to do with that. “The fish have been right on the bank with some of the weather warming up” Stacey says. He targets these fish with a balsa wood cork and any kind of paddle tail or curly tail jig. Stacey focuses more towards the backs of bigger coves and starts around the last secondary point in these coves. Any kind of pea gravel mixture, or just straight pea gravel is where these fish want to be. They want to be right on the bank on those high sunny days, and with a little bit of wind chop you can really load your boat quickly. “I’ve never seen this many crappie on this lake ever” Helton says. This year the crappie have really shown how well our population really is. Stacey says pretty soon some of the fish will pull off just a bit, “the females will pull back and the males will stay right on the bank.” Helton notes that the number of crappie we have been seeing are due to great spawn hatches the past few years. As we get into the spawn, Stacey fishes the same pea gravel banks, but takes his cork off and just slow rolls a paddle tail jig on a 1/16th ounce jig head.

As we move into the summer Stacey just hopes we had a good spawn, and that

worries him a bit because of the number of fish taken out of the lake in the pre-spawn stage. “Pound to pound and a quarter fish will be everywhere” Stacey says. He really stresses throwing the big fish back and keeping your 10 and 11 inch fish. “Let the big ones get even bigger.” In the summer Stacey likes to pretty much fish where he did in the winter. The fish will hang at the edge of those drops around deeper water. Helton likes to troll the Bandit crankbaits in the summer. In the clearer water he will troll with the Bandit 300 series to get down deeper, but if he is in more colored water he will go with the Bandit 200 series, because the fish won’t be as deep in that colored water. He targets brush and docks around deeper water. “Its amazing how one piece of small brush over their eye will work” Helton notes.” The post spawn will get a bit tougher, the males will be guarding fry and the females will be sick from the spawn.” It takes a few weeks for them to get hungry again. In the summer Helton speaks of a technique that has been becoming pretty popular, and that is dock fishing under submerged lights. He recommends buying some of these lights and trying them out on your docks. “It’s really



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neat as it brings bait, crappie, bass even catfish around."

Jim Verhoef, Bassingbob.com expert advisor also knows a thing or two about crappie fishing on Lake of the Ozarks. With over 40 years of experience on the lake he has seen it all, highs and lows. This year it's at its best point that Jim has ever seen it in 40 years! Pre-spawn these fish have moved in from the deeper waters, and moved to the staging areas. Like Stacey, Jim has been targeting these fish with a cork right on the bank in pea gravel areas. Jim says "lots and lots of black crappie are on the banks, the population of blacks is better than I have ever seen it in my 40 years of fishing for them." Water temperature is very important to Jim, he notes that this year at this time it is 10 degrees cooler than it was last year. When we move into the spawn Jim says "be a bank beater." No cork just tie on a paddle tail jig of some sort and cruise down the bank. If there is a dock in these spawning areas Jim highly recommends to learn how to fish it, because it can be loaded with crappie. "Even if the lake comes up they will stay right there because spawning is on their mind." In April it's always good to fish during the full moon period. Jim sticks to a 1/16th ounce paddle tail jig, but also recommends throwing what you like best, whatever you have the most confidence in. "Lots of good baits to

choose from now days, not a bad one on the market" Verhoef says.

In post-spawn moving into summer Jim moves back out to docks around deeper water. He also targets brush piles in the deeper areas as well. Jim never cleans these summer/ post-spawn fish. "The fish are real skinny and mushy" Jim states. If you're going to keep these fish in the summer make sure you take care of them, use lots of ice to preserve them. Like Stacey, Jim recommends keeping the fish you catch in the winter, "They just taste better, and are a lot healthier that time of year." Jim really enjoys the pre spawn fishing better than the summer time fishing. "The post spawn fishing gets a little slow, and the fish need time to recoup" this is the time when Jim pulls out his blue catfishing gear!

Terry Blankenship couldn't agree more with the other experts that this has been one of the best years for crappie that he has ever seen here on Lake of the Ozarks. Terry chalks the great early spring bite up to a very early cold December. "Usually the extreme cold is in January, but this year it was December, so as we got a little bit of warmth these fish pushed shallow and got to feeding big time." Now the water has stabilized and Terry noticed that the fish have scattered some. "The fish are tightening up to shallow brush, not in as big of groups as they were weeks ago" Terry says. Terry has

been fishing shallow brush getting right on top of the piles and fishing vertically with Bobby Garland baby shad baits. As soon as we get a little more warmth these fish will start fattening up for the spawn. Terry speaks that the biological clock on these fish are ticking as we near the spawn. "The males will be up there sunning, and feeding on the bank, and the females will just be a hair backed of the bank."

After the spawn Terry says the crappie just disappear! "After the spawn the fish are a little beat up and sick, so the bite will really slow down." After the fish go through that sick stage of post spawn, Terry suggest trolling Crankbaits, minnows, rooster tails, and jigs. He will target brush and docks that are in 15-20 foot of water, around or close to the main lake." As we move into the warmer months of June to July the fish will start schooling again." The fry will hatch that bring the bait back in, and the game fish will be right behind the bait. Terry is a big believer in the match the hatch saying. With the small fry swimming around Terry really likes to use the Bobby Garland Itty Bites. Terry has made many videos showing the success of the Itty Bites. Lastly Terry states that our crappie fishery is as good as he has ever seen it, and doesn't see it changing anytime soon!

Spoon Fishing in the SUMMERTIME



Summertime on the Lake of the Ozarks is one of the best times of the year to catch monster fish. Since the bass have recently finished their annual spawning ritual, they are left beat up, skinny, and HUNGRY. At this time the big fish leave their spawning pockets in search of food. Therefore, in order to locate these big fish, you must first locate the food.

Throughout summer the main source of forage for these fish is going to be big gizzard shad, so at this time it is important to use your electronics to locate schools of shad, and even schools of bass. In most scenarios, I won't drop my trolling motor until I have found a school of fish. Once the school is located, I will hit a waypoint and circle the boat around. These fish can be caught on a number of different ledge fishing techniques, but my personal favorite is with a spoon. It's a match the hatch deal, and the hatch just happens to be 9 inch gizzards. In this situation I will opt for a Ben Parker Magnum Spoon. This spoon mimics an injured shad fluttering in the fish's face, and it falls very fast, which forces the fish to react.

When it comes to equipment, you don't want to throw this on a small rod. I have found that a 7'11" Heavy rod works the best for this 3.5-ounce bait. I'll pair that with a Lew's Super Duty 8.3:1 Reel that will horse them back to the boat on 20lb

Fluorocarbon.

When working the bait, I have found short violent rips to work the best. I'll let the bait fall to the bottom peeling line with my hand and give it a great big rip once it hits the bottom, although if the cast was on the money it usually doesn't make it to the bottom. After I rip, I will watch my line as it falls back down, lowering my rod just behind the slack.

Since the bait weighs over 3.5 ounces it is best not to play around when reeling them in. If you let the fish come up and jump, then it will most likely throw the bait. I try to horse them in as fast as possible and keep total control of the fish. With that being said, pulling a fish up very fast out of deep water will a lot of times give the fish a bad case of "the bends". So I wouldn't try this technique without a fizzing needle to deflate their air bladder.

Catching fish on a spoon is an art, so it's best to go out and drop it to the bottom a couple times to get a feel for how it falls through the water column. I think that will help you determine bites a little better. For an in depth video explanation of how I work the spoon to catch big fish in the summertime, check out this video link:



<http://www.bassingbob.com/videos/watch/how-to-fish-a-spoon/>

FISHING THE UPPER OSAGE WITH JOE'S LAKE OZARK GUIDE SERVICE



As the winter season moves into the spring, fishing in the river section of Lake of the Ozarks improves as bass go through their annual spawning ritual. The river section is usually classified from the 36 mile marker on up to Truman Dam. As bass begin their spawning process they sometime will spawn up river first and work its way down lake as water temperatures increase. This article by Joes Lake Ozark Guide Service will help anglers catch bass that go through spawning phases in the river.

PRESPAWN

Pre-spawn in the river begins in early March and continues the whole month for most of the upper lake area. Some bass may begin spawning by the end of the month if there is an early spring, but most of the month bass will be in their pre-spawn phase. Water temps in early March will be in the low 40's and increase to high 40's to low 50's by the end of the month. I pay more attention to the direction the water temperature is going and not an actual number. If the water temperature is on the increase for a few days I target flatter banks that have chunk rock that transition into pea gravel. If the water temperature is falling from cold fronts, then target steeper banks with more of a vertical slope that are nearby the flatter banks. Creek channel banks are good areas to target because you can find flat and steeper sections along the channel. Where the creek channel swings in close to the bank can be prime pre-spawn locations. Points are always good areas to fish the whole year,

but secondary points seem to produce during the pre-spawn time period. Water clarity will dictate how deep and what lures that can be used during this time period. If the water is dirty then the bass will move shallow and seek out cover such as rocks, logs, and shallow docks. Lures to be used will be jigs, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits. If the water is cold or falling, then fish slow keeping lures next to shallow cover longer. Colors can be overrated, but darker colors for jigs, and brighter colors for spinnerbaits and crankbaits work best. If the water color is clear, then the bass can be a little deeper on the same type of cover or even suspend off the bank or cover. This is where suspending jerk baits and Alabama rigs can work. Crankbaits, Spinnerbaits, Carolina Rigs, Jigs and other bottom bouncing baits like the Shaky Head are also great lures to use during clearer water and using colors that are more natural will get an angler more bites.

SPAWN

The month of April is when most bass begin to spawn as they will look for banks with more pea gravel. Not all bass will spawn at the same time, so the spawning phase can begin in late March and still be going on into June. These banks or pockets of pea gravel are usually flatter type banks that lead into protected pockets and small bays. Depending on the water level the back of creeks can be prime spawning locations. Look for areas that are protected from wind and waves such as next to logs, rocks and behind docks. Sight fishing is usually not a technique used up river due to low visibility in the dirty water. Bass will usually pick up a lure and move sideways with out the angler feeling the bite so watching your line where it enters the water is a must. Lures for this time period can be any number of jigs or soft plastics like tubes, creatures, and worms can get bites from bass on or near spawning beds. Clearer water can increase the number of lures you can use, but the water is often dirty this time of year in the upper lake area.



LURES FOR THE UPPER OSAGE



(continued on page 30)

SPRING CATFISHING OFF THE DOCKS



By Vincent Rumsey (11 year old student from Chaminade in St. Louis)

Where to Find Them

At the Lake of the Ozarks, we are lucky to have many catfish. Catfish grow to great sizes and put up a formidable fight. Catfish are sometimes deemed a “trash fish” or “bottom feeder”, but most catfish feed on live schooling baitfish or other types of forage fish.

Our lake has three types of catfish: channel catfish, blue catfish, and flathead catfish. They all have different feeding patterns and reside in different locations in the spring. Channel catfish are the smallest of the three catfish. They are also the most abundant and easiest to catch. Channel catfish are scavengers. They will comb the bottom of the lake to find food. You will normally find channel catfish wherever you can locate a food source. In our lake, the common food source is shad. As channel catfish are scavengers, you will ideally find them under the school of bait.



Large blue catfish caught off the docks.

Blue catfish are the largest type of catfish. They also live in the deepest of water. Blue catfish are categorized as open water predators. This means that they spend most of their time in the main channel but will move shallower when the food source moves. Spring blue catfish will be at a similar level as the school of bait that you find. Small to medium sized blue catfish hunt in groups, so don't be surprised to double-up. Blue catfish of all sizes are both tasty and very fun to catch.

Flathead catfish are the most territorial and least abundant type of catfish. They will reside most of the year in heavy cover. During spring, flatheads are trying to stock up food after a long winter. You may find them in any area that has heavy brush and may hold baitfish. Flatheads are also the most predatory of the three catfish, and they will normally take live bait. The spring Flathead action starts to turn on in the moderately shallow water around April because they are beginning pre-spawn.



Nice flathead catfish caught off the docks.

During the spring, all catfish begin to move shallower to feed on the shallow flats. Most docks provide both cover

and structure that baitfish can use. This is where my favorite phrase in catfishing really applies. “If you find the bait, you find the fish.” This phrase means that all species of catfish will follow the shad patterns, making catfish very predictable in all seasons.

How to Catch Them

Catching channel catfish off docks is normally easy. When you fish for channel catfish, find a type of cover or structure in about 15- 30 feet of water that leads to a shallow flat or a point. Here, you will use a small piece of cut shad or bluegill on a 3/0 Team Catfish double action hook. Cast you line on the edge of the structure so the catfish will find the bait easily. In a similar way, you can use dip bait on a treble hook to catch channel catfish. When fishing for channel catfish I use a basic bottom rig or Carolina rig. When fishing off docks always use slightly heavier gear than you would on open water.

When fishing for blue catfish from docks, find heavy cover located near the longest dock in the set or the corner of the dock. These special locations act as secondary points for the baitfish to congregate near. These schools of bait fish attract the catfish. I fish for blue catfish with very heavy gear because of the abundance of snags. I use 30-65 pound test mainline and leader of a similar pound range. For blue catfish, I use an 8/0 circle hook with a chunk of cut shad. For blue catfish I normally use a Santee-Cooper rig to lift my bait off the bottom. I cast my line on any

(continued on page 26)



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(continued from page 24)

cover or structure. The location that I fish in the spring is very similar to channel catfish but slightly shallower.

Fishing becomes tricky when targeting flatheads off docks. Flatheads do not feed very often, as they would rather take a very large meal than many small ones. Flatheads are also normally tucked into the heaviest cover that you can find. To fish heavy cover, make a drop-shot rig with a 3-ounce weight and an 8/0 circle hook. Bait the hook with a lively bluegill or green sunfish. This rig helps keep the baitfish in place, so it does not snag your line. As an extra tip, do not start fishing for flatheads until the bass begin to make beds. In mid to late spring flatheads are very exciting to hook.

Early spring is notorious for cold fronts that can throw off the fishing for days. Even during cold fronts, some docks still produce catfish. When the air is cold, and the fishing is slow, catfish tuck themselves in to the heaviest cover that they can find. If the catfish are in shallow water, they will also retreat to deeper water. Cold fronts also slow the fish's metabolism. When their metabolism is slow, they do not need as much food to survive. To appeal to the fish, downsize your hooks and sizes of bait significantly. For example, for blue catfish use sizes of bait that would normally catch channel cats. During cold fronts, flathead catfish get completely turned off.

To catch cold front catfish from the docks, take into consideration the effects that cold fronts have on your target species. Try to locate the thickest or largest brush pile or down tree in your range. Downsize your hooks and bait size but upsize your line and weight to prevent from snags. A heavy rod will help pull larger fish out of thick cover. If you use some special techniques, you can still catch catfish from the docks during cold fronts.

Catfish are one of if not the hardest fighting fish in our lake. Even though many people feel that dock fishing for catfish is just a summertime sport, it can be done year-round. Docks provide cover and structure that serves as a hiding place for both predator and prey alike. During spring-time, docks are an excellent location to find all species of catfish.



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JIG WORM FISHING ON LAKE OF THE OZARKS

This was John's last article written with the Great Guido Hibdon



By John Neporadny Jr.

Many touring pros have dubbed it shaky head fishing but Lake of the Ozarks legend Guido Hibdon likes to call it jig worm fishing.

The Godfather of Finesse Fishing's label best describes this tactic because it requires using a jighead and a plastic worm. The term shaky head derives from having to shake the jig and worm to trigger strikes but Hibdon doesn't always need to shake his jig worm to catch Lake of the Ozarks bass.

"Every day will tell you a different story on how to work it," Hibdon says. "I hop it a little bit. Sometimes I just throw it out there and crank it real slow and let it just bump the bottom every now and then. The next time I might have to pick it up and pull it a little bit and hop it once or twice."

Taking a break from the FLW Tour, Hibdon has returned to guiding on his home waters of Lake of the Ozarks. During an outing with Hibdon, I got a chance to learn some of the legendary pro's tricks for catching finicky bass on a jig worm. Despite facing some tough conditions (calm bluebird skies and bass recuperating from the spawn) we still managed to catch 15 keepers with our best five fish probably weighing around 15 pounds. Almost all of the fish we caught that day was on a hop-and-fall presentation.

When guiding Hibdon frequently sets up his clients with a jig worm. "A jig worm is one of those deals that anybody can do," Hibdon says. "It is the simplest fishing that anybody can possibly do. I get a big kick out of it."

Hibdon's clients get a big kick out of it too because not only does it catch lots of fish, it also coaxes big bass into biting. "You bet it will," Hibdon claims. "The biggest fish I have seen this year a guy caught out of the back of my boat on it. He had an 8-pound, 6-ounce fish that he caught on 8-pound line with a jig worm on one of my rods. The heck of it was if you took his best five fish he would have ended up with 26 or 27 pounds."

Using a light jighead is the key to jig worm fishing. "The lighter you can keep the head the better off you are," says Hibdon. The former Bassmaster Classic champ uses 1/16- or 1/8-ounce jigheads for most of his jig worm applications but he will upgrade to a 1/4-ounce head on windy days to prevent his line from bowing.

Pouring his own jigheads allows Hibdon to make models with different size hooks. So when he fishes 4-inch finesse worms the veteran guide opts for a jighead with a 3/0 or 4/0 hook and switches to a model with a 5/0 hook for 6-inch or larger trick worms. "You don't have to use a real small bait to do it," says Hibdon, who matches his jighead with a Zoom Magnum Trick Worm during the summertime and fall.

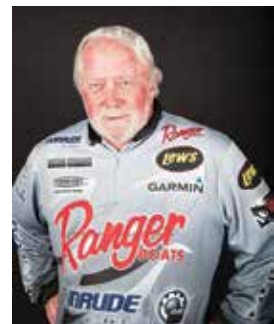
Before rigging the worm on the jig, Hibdon slightly pushes down on the bend of the hook with a pair of pliers which helps the worm lay straighter on the hook and assures a better hook set. The key to rigging the combo is to make sure the worm sits straight on the hook. "If the worm has a little crook in it the line will get twisted all the time," Hibdon warns. When rigged correctly the point of the hook should be barely under the skin of the worm body to make the combo weedless.

Hibdon ties his jighead with a Palomar knot onto an 8-foot leader line of Berkley Trilene 100% Fluorocarbon followed by tying a main line of yellow 10-pound Trilene braid with a Double Uni or Albright knot. "I don't use straight fluorocarbon because I can't see it and if I use anything heavier than 8 pounds on the (spinning) reel you can't keep it on the reel," he says. "It just spins off of their too easily (and will create a tangled mess)."

The longtime FLW Tour pro prefers the yellow braid so he can see the line easier, but Hibdon adds the fluorocarbon leader to prevent fish from detecting his line. "I get paranoid knowing fish can see that yellow line, so that determines how long I make my leader," says

Hibdon. In the clearest water, he lengthens his leader to 10 to 12 feet. In dirty water he still throws the same fluorocarbon braid combination but opts for a leader of 12- to 15-pound fluorocarbon and a main line of 15-pound braid.

Hibdon recommends throwing the jig worm on a 7-foot medium-action spinning rod that has a strong backbone yet a fast tip for casting accuracy and distance. He favors using a Lew's spinning reel with a medium size spool.



For information on lodging and other facilities at the Lake of the Ozarks or to receive a free vacation guide, call the Lake of the Ozarks Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-FUN-LAKE or visit the Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau web site at funlake.com.

For copies of John Neporadny's THE Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Guide call 573/365-4296 or visit www.jnoutdoors.com

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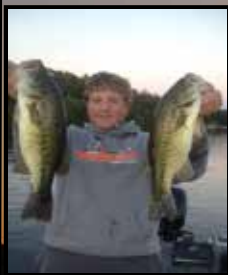
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(continued from page 23)

POST SPAWN

As bass finish their spawning phase they will hang out nearby the spawning area and rest next to cover or under docks. Then they will move to their summer locations towards the main lake or stay in the creeks. An angler can retrace their steps as they followed the bass from pre-spawn to the spawning areas back out to those areas they found bass in the pre-spawn phase. This is the time of the year the top water lures begin to draw plenty of strikes. I usually use a top water lure that you can stop and move the bait in short movements. Poppers, zara spooks and propeller baits work best until the bass recover from the spawn. Then anglers can use faster top water baits as water warms in the summer months like buzz baits and other baits that you can move at a faster pace. Jigs, worms, creatures, crankbaits and spinnerbaits will work as well during this time.



ranging from backs of creeks to main lake areas like points and bluffs. The best main lake locations will be areas that have some kind of current where the main river channel runs close next to a point or bluff end. Main lake points with docks that have brush piles under them are also prime locations for summer bass. As far as the creeks are concerned the back of creeks are always good during the summer months. The water level is at its highest point and bass will see cover in the back of creeks and stay. Secondary points in the creeks are also good areas to try as bass that have spawned will move out to those points and stay until fall. Lures to try in summer can be any lure in the tackle box. Top waters during lowlight conditions to lures that run deeper as the sun gets higher in the sky. Large worms such as the 10-inch worm is probably the best choice for fishing around cover and brush piles. Jigs and soft plastics pitched to docks work very well to catch bass that are hiding in the shade waiting to ambush prey.



SUMMER

During the summer months the bass can be found on a variety of locations and patterns

As you fish from the spring months through summer try to keep an open mind and go with your gut instincts. The upper areas of Lake of the Ozarks have great areas for anglers to fish without the competition of big boats and fishing pressure that the lower end can experience. If you are interested in a guide trip call Joe Arnold at 573-915-9628 to learn more about the upper lake area.



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Spring/Summer Lew's Rod and Reel Set-ups

Big Worm Rod

Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPJWR

Length: 7' 2"

Power: Heavy

Taper: Moderate Fast

Reel

Lew's 7.5:1 Team Lite Speed Spool



The Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPJWR was designed by Mark Rose, and was built specifically for Jig and Worm fishing. This rod is sensitive, yet powerful enough to drive a big hook home on a fish. The Lew's 7.5:1 Team Lite Speed Spool is a very light reel that features a fast gear ratio for maximum efficiency.

Big Jig Rod

Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPMPS

Length: 7' 4"

Power: Heavy

Taper: Fast

Reel

Lew's Tournament Pro G 8.3:1



The 7' 4" length is perfect for stroking, and the longer heavy/fast action is a must for driving that 1-ounce hunk of lead into the head of those deep dwelling beasts. The Lew's Tournament Pro G 8.3:1 is a great reel for this technique because it has a fast gear ratio that helps a lot when taking up slack to set the hook on a deep fish.

Carolina Rig Rod

Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPMH

Length: 7' 3"

Power: Medium Heavy

Taper: Fast

Reel

Lew's 7.5:1 Team Lite Speed Spool



When it comes to Carolina Rigging, a longer rod will help you heave the bait out there and it will also help to take up slack on the hookset. The Lew's 7.5:1 Team Lite Speed Spool is a very light reel, which helps with sensitivity.

10XD/Monster Crankbait Rod

Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPMCBBR3

Length: 7' 11"

Power: Medium Heavy

Taper: Fast

Reel

Lew's Super Duty Wide Spool 5.1:1



When wielding a big crankbait, it is important to have a long and powerful rod to get those extra long casts that help the bait get down deep. This rod is a workhorse that can lob a 10XD a mile. The Super Duty Wide Spool is the perfect reel for this technique. The slow gear ratio allows you to reel the bait with ease, and the wide spool allows you to make long casts with the larger line that is needed for this oversized bait.

Swimbait Rod

Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPSWBR

Length: 7' 6"

Power: Medium Heavy

Taper: Moderate Fast

Reel

Lew's 7.1:1 BB1 Pro



Similar to the crankbait, a big key for swimbait fishing is making a super long cast. The Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPSWBR was designed by Mark Rose, and was built specifically for swimbait fishing. The Lew's 7.1:1 BB1 Pro is a great option for throwing swimbait because it was built for making long casts, and has a fast gear ratio to help get the fish back into the boat when you have a lot of line out.

6XD/DD22 Rod

Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPMCBBR2

Length: 7' 11"

Power: Medium Heavy

Taper: Fast

Reel

Lew's Super Duty Wide Spool 5.1:1



This rod is perfect for handling the pull of a Norman DD22 or a 6XD. It is important to have a longer rod to get extra long casts that help the bait get down deep and hunt. The Super Duty Wide Spool has a bigger spool that helps for making long casts, and it also has stronger gears to endure the constant resistance of a deep diving crankbait.

Spring/Summer Lews Rod and Reel Set-ups (continued)

Drop Shot/Wacky Rig Rod

Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPAPS1

Length: 7'

Power: Medium

Taper: Fast

Reel

Team Lew's Pro Speed Spin 3000



When things get tough, the Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPAPS1 spinning rod gets the job done. It is one of the most sensitive rods on the market, and preforms flawlessly in any line situation.

Flipping Rod

Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPMPS

Length: 7' 4"

Power: Heavy

Taper: Fast

Reel

Lew's Tournament Pro G 8.3:1



The Lew's Team Custom Pro TLCPMPS is ideal because it is a very light and sensitive rod, but has a lot of backbone for getting strong hooksets and horse the fish away from heavy cover. A fast gear ratio reel is also important to quickly take up slack and get the fish into the boat.

Crappie-Dock Shooting Rod

Lew's Custom Speed Stick

Walleye Special (LWS)

Length: 7'

Power: Medium Light

Taper: Fast


Reel

Lew's Mach II Speed Spin 200



Lew's Crappie Pro and Bassingbob Expert advisor Terry Blankenship recommends this rod for dock shooting. The LWS is the perfect combination of power, distance, and accuracy to get that bait into hard to reach areas where the big crappie live.

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 April 28th Saturday Weekly Show #1 Spring Opener
 360 Winged Sprints, War Non Wing Sprints, ULMA LM, LOS Racesaver & SS
 May 4th Friday Special Event #1
 World of Outlaw Sprint Cars + 305 Racesaver Sprints
 May 11th Friday Weekly Show #2
 May 12th Saturday Weekly Show #2
 May 18th Friday Weekly Show #3
 May 19th Saturday Weekly Show #3
 May 25th Friday LOS Spring 360 Sprint Nationals
 ASCS 360 Winged Sprints + LOS Racesaver Sprints & USAC Lighting Sprints
 May 26th Saturday LOS Spring 360 Sprint Nationals
 ASCS 360 Winged Sprints and Powri War Sprints
 June 1st Friday Weekly Show #4
 June 2nd Saturday Weekly Show #4
 June 8th Friday Weekly Show #5
 June 9th Saturday Weekly Show #5
 June 15th Friday Special Event #3
 LOS Street Stock Spring Fling Night One + USRA A-Mods
 June 16th Saturday Special Event #3
 LOS Street Stock Spring Fling Night Two + USRA B-Mods (Old Timers Night)
 June 22nd Friday Weekly Show #6
 June 23rd Saturday Weekly Show #6
 June 29th Friday Weekly Show #7
 ULMA Triple Crown, USRA A-Mods, USRA B-Mods & Hornets
 June 30th Saturday Weekly Show #7
 ASCS 360 Winged Sprints, LOS Racesaver, Midwest Lighting Sprints and SS
 July 6th Friday Special Event #4
 Lucas MLRA Late Models, B-Mods \$3000 to Win LM
 July 7th Saturday Special Event #4
 Lucas MLRA Late Models & Street Stocks \$5000 to Win LM with Fireworks
 July 13th Friday Weekly Show #8
 July 14th Saturday Weekly Show #8
 July 20th Friday Special Event #5
 ULMA Late Model & USRA A-Mod Show Down at the Lake (50 Laps)
 July 21st Saturday Kids Night at the Races
 360 Winged Sprints & LOS Racesaver Sprints with Kids Bicycle Races
 July 27th Friday Weekly Show #9
 July 28th Saturday Weekly Show #9

August 3rd Friday Open
 August 4th Saturday Weekly Show #10
 August 10th Friday Weekly Show #11
 August 11th Saturday
 Weekly Show #11 August 17th
 Friday Special Event #6
 1st Annual Powri Non-Wing Nationals Night One + LOS Racesaver Sprints
 August 18th Saturday Special Event #6
 1st Annual Powri Non-Wing Nationals Night Two + LOS Racesaver Sprints
 August 24th Friday Weekly Show #12 - Final Points Race
 August 25th Saturday Weekly Show #12 Final Points Race
 September 1st Saturday Special Event #7
 9th Annual LOS 360 Nationals Night one & Powri National Midgets
 September 2nd Sunday Special Event #7
 9th Annual LOS 360 Nationals Night Two & Powri National Midgets
 September 7th Open
 September 8th Saturday MMTTPA Tractor Pull
 September 14th Friday Special Event #8
 LOS USAC Lighting Sprint Nationals Night one + LOS Racesaver & 600 cc
 September 15th Saturday Special Event #8
 LOS USAC Lighting Sprint Nationals Night Two + LOS Racesaver & 600 cc
 September 21st Friday
 1st Annual Lake Ozark Speedway Bluegrass Festival
 September 22nd Saturday
 1st Annual Lake Ozark Speedway Bluegrass Festival
 September 27th Thursday Special Event #9
 LOS B-Mod Spectacular Night One Inside Row Quallifying + Hornets
 September 28th Friday Special Event #9
 LOS B-Mod Spectacular Night Two Outside Row Quallifying + SS
 September 29th Saturday Special Event #9
 LOS B-Mod Spectacular Night Three \$5000 to Win A Main
 October 5th Friday Special Even #10
 USAC National Sprints & LOS 360 Winged Sprints
 October 12th Friday Weekly Show #13
 USRA B-Mods, Street Stocks, Pure Stocks and Hornets
 October 19th Friday Weekly Show #14
 USRA B-Mods, Street Stocks, Pure Stocks and Hornets
 October 26th Friday Weekly Show #15
 USRA B-Mods, Street Stocks, Pure Stocks and Hornets

Tournament Anglers Group, TAG *New Incentive Program for Tournament Anglers*



Tournament Anglers Group was started by co-founders and tournament anglers Mark Wiese, Jr. and Kelly Power with assistance from national professional tournament anglers James Watson, Mike McClelland and Jason Christie. The registration and information website went live February 14th, 2018.

There are currently 29 tournament organizations/specific events with a total of 850 sanctioned tournaments available to freshwater and saltwater tournament anglers, providing them with more opportunities to increase their winnings.

Tournament Anglers Group (TAG) offers incentive rewards to all tournament contestants from elite-level pros to co-anglers and weekend tournament anglers with equal payouts in three tiers of membership (silver, gold and platinum). There are no limits on the number of times or amount a TAG member can win per year. Registered TAG members are eligible to receive incentive rewards of up to \$5,000 by competing in sanctioned bass, walleye, crappie and saltwater tournaments.



Paying a \$1,000 platinum membership fee gives TAG members a chance to earn a \$500 reward for winning a sanctioned event with a 30-59 boat field or being the highest Top 10 finisher in a sanctioned tournament with a minimum field of 60 boats. A TAG platinum member can also earn a \$5,000 bonus by winning a sanctioned event with a 60-boat minimum field.

TAG gold members pay a \$500 membership fee to earn a \$250 reward for winning a 30-59 boat sanctioned event or being the highest Top 10 finisher in a sanctioned tournament with a 60-boat minimum field. Gold members who win a sanctioned event with a 60-boat minimum field will receive \$2,500 from TAG.

A silver membership costs \$250 a year and pays out \$125 to TAG members who win a sanctioned event with a 30 to 59 boat field or is the highest Top 10 finisher in a sanctioned event with a 60-boat minimum field. TAG silver members can earn \$1,250 if they win a tournament with a minimum 60-boat field.



"You could look at this as a five-year investment opportunity," TAG Co-founder Mark Wiese said. "If you fish 10 tournaments on a gold level membership it would be \$50 per event. Over five years that would give you 50 chances. If you only won once, you would still break even. Top 10 finishes or any other wins are pure profit to you." Mark and co-founder Kelly Power said they hope this added incentive will encourage more anglers to patronize the sanctioned events, making this a "win/win" for all parties involved.

According to Mark, their first year goal is to have 500 TAG members and the reception by anglers of the program has been very positive. To date TAG has already paid

out thousands of dollars to anglers that were early participants in the program. Mark indicated that like most new businesses the early challenges are creating awareness of the program to tournament anglers. Mark said "the investment as a TAG member is like the positive opposite of insurance, when you do well you get paid and most anglers just never know when that really good tournament is going happen".

The vision for the future includes, sanctioning more tournaments, working closely in cooperation with national tournament trails and other fishing incentive businesses, offering more member benefits and possibly an annual tournament of champions.



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