



LAKE OF THE OZARKS

FREE

Fishing News



**FEATURED
ANGLER
MARK
TUCKER**

- Spinnerbait Configurations
- Jigs for Every Season
- Kayak Fishing
- Economic Impact of Fishing
- MDC Corner with Greg Stoner
- Lake Ozarks Gary "Coach" Shultz, Referee with Major League Fishing Bass Pro Tour



**2019
CRAPPIE
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FROM THE FOUNDER

Bob Bueltmann
Founder, BassingBob.com

Welcome to the 2019 spring / summer edition of the Fishing News Magazine. In 2018, the bass bite seemed to be behind all year due to a late spawn and some of the regular good patterns, like the June point bite and the fall top water bite never really materialized for more than a week. Tournament weights were also not as great as we saw in 2017. Hopefully things will get back to normal in 2019, although the year has started off a bit tough as we had dirty cold water through most of January and February, but some solid limits including a 25+ pound bag was caught in early February.

I want to give a big shout out to the BassingBob Experts Group and Professional Advisors. In the winter of 2013 when I first moved to the lake and decided to start BassingBob.com, I knew that without a group of experts that the website would lack credibility and let's face it, I had zero brand as a fisherman and still consider myself very average.

I solicited three experts. First, I talked with Jack Uxa, Lake of the Ozarks number one fishing guide, Jacks Guide Service. I knew Jack from taking guide trips with

him over the years before I moved to the lake. He not only said yes that he would help out, he also gave me a list of others to

approach. At the time I was thinking that I would need five to six experts. I next talked with Wayne Fitzpatrick, owner of Fitz Fishing and Supplies in Osage Beach. Wayne seemed interested but skeptical, his first question was "how much does it cost?", my reply was easy, nothing but your time and hopefully we can help your business with wider visibility. His second question was "how do you plan to keep reports updated and fresh?" my reply was that I plan to fish everyday and report my results on the website. He agreed to help out.

Third was James Dill, tournament fisherman, fishing guide and owner of Crock-o-Gator Bait Company. James was one of the experts that Jack recommended. My brother Dave who was working with me at the time approached James the St. Louis boat show about helping us out and he agreed.

Six years later, Jack, James and Wayne are all still providing expert input to help all of us be better fisherman on the lake. They take time out of their schedules to do videos, help us with articles and as we move into our 6th year they have all

attended about 60 monthly expert video roundtables.

Along the way we have also received support from many of the great fisherman at the lake, who have also assisted us with videos and fishing content. Greats like Marcus Sykora, Mike Malone, Dion Hibdon and his boys, Casey Scanlon, Gary "Coach" Shultz, Denise Dill, Greg Stoner from MDC, Bill Davenport, Roger Fitzpatrick, Dennis Berehorst, Vern Jaycox, Jim Verhoef, Dale Burgman and others.

I encourage all of you readers of the Fishing News and members of BassingBob.com to be sure to thank these individuals when you see them. If you have never met them before, just introduce yourself, each and every one of these guys/gals are very approachable and easy to strike up a conversation. BassingBob.com and The Fishing News would not exist without all of their support and expert input.

We also encourage you all to patronize the advertisers in the magazine and on the website. We need their support as well. Whether you live at the lake or travel to the lake, these advertisers pay their money in the hope that we fisherman will patronize their businesses, so let's make our best efforts to show them our appreciation in return.

Good Fishing All,

- Bob Bueltmann

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MISSOURI INVITATIONAL RECAP



Mark Tucker (left) and Don Beckley posed with three of the bass that helped them win the Missouri Invitational.

Don Beckley figures he got a good return for his investment in the Missouri Invitational Fishing and Golf Pro-Am at Lake of the Ozarks.

As an amateur, he paid \$1,000 to register for the unique event, sponsored by Old Kinderhook Resort and Golf Course and Bassingbob.com.

Then, he shelled out another \$2,500 at the pre-tournament banquet when he bid for the pro fisherman he wanted to team with, Mark Tucker of Kirkwood, Mo.

But it proved to be a wise gamble. Tucker and Beckley, who lives in Linn Creek, Mo., ended up splitting \$30,000 after taking the championship in the nationally recognized event Nov. 14-16. Fishing in sub-freezing temperatures and a biting wind, they caught 15 bass weighing 49.41 pounds.

Pro Jeremy Lawyer of Sarcoxie, Mo., and his amateur partner, John Hewkin of Sullivan, Mo.—last year's champions— finished second with 45.29 pounds of bass.

Jeremy Lawyer headed to the fire to warm his hands after fishing the first round of the Missouri Invitational.



The fourth annual Missouri Invitational was supposed to feature two days of fishing sandwiched around one day of golf at Old Kinderhook. But Mother Nature had other ideas.

When the course was deemed unplayable because of the snow and ice, tournament officials decided to add another round of fishing in place of the golf. And Tucker and Beckley teed off on the bass.

“Mark and I have been friends for five or six years, and I knew what a good fisherman he is,” Beckley said. “I followed him when he went to the (Bassmaster) Classic, and I knew how good he was at Lake of the Ozarks.

“If I was going to put my money on anybody, it was going to be Mark. I was just hoping the bidding wouldn’t get too high.”

Tucker and Beckley, had a game plan going into the tournament. Beckley would lead the way on the golf course, Tucker would take control on the water.

In the scramble-type golf competition, the teams are paired with local golf pros, and each par, birdie and eagle the groups get translate to the equivalent of pounds of bass in the final score.

Beckley practiced for weeks and was ready to help his team’s cause on the golf course. But the weather changed all of that.

So like the other 35 teams, Tucker and Beckley toughed it out on the water. With some snow on the ground and temperatures below freezing, it didn’t look like fishing weather. But Tucker knew the bass would still bite.

“This cold weather came at the front end of the season, so the water still wasn’t real cold,” Tucker said. “The water temp was still in the mid-50s, and they’ll hit when it’s like that.”

The bass were active enough that Tucker caught all of his bass on the second day on a topwater lure, a Whopper Plopper.



Marcus Sykora placed a cast during the Missouri Invitational at Lake of the Ozarks.

There were two key moments in the team's victory. First, Tucker noticed a bass swimming lethargically through the water and flipped a jig in front of it. The bass flared, but when Tucker let the lure settle to the bottom, it hit and ended up in the live well. Tucker pitched to the same spot seconds later and caught another keeper.

"Both were three-pound fish, and that really helped," he said.

The second key moment came when Beckley, an experienced tournament fisherman in his own right, caught a bass that weighed 4.61 pounds on the second day of competition.

"It was a grind," Beckley said. "We would go an hour without a bite, then we would catch one."

The team concentrated on the Glaize arm of the lake, fishing shallow water in pockets and the back of coves.



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Lawyer and Hewkin used Wiggle Warts and spinnerbaits to catch their fish. They found success in the Osage arm, but also caught bass in the mid-lake area.

"The fish were scattered," Lawyer said. "We just had to make a lot of casts and hope we would get our lures in front of one."

The Missouri Invitational has become a fall tradition at Lake of the Ozarks. Presented by Ulrich Marine and Duncan Fine Jewelry, the tournament features the top fishermen in Missouri paired with amateurs who pay to be in the boat and on the golf course with some of their heroes.

For information on Lake of the Ozarks, go the website funlake.com. For more on Old Kinderhook Lodge and Golf Course, go to oldkinderhook.com. And for information on the fishing at Lake of the Ozarks, go to bassingbob.com.



Stacey King was bundled up for the elements when he fished in the Missouri Invitational on Lake of the Ozarks.

The upcoming
2019 Missouri Invitational
will be held
November 13 - 15, 2019
at Old Kinderhook.

While amateur spots in the event
are limited, please email to
ben@bassingbob.com if you
are interested in participating.
Sponsor programs are also available
if you would like to promote your
business or products during the event.

MDC Corner

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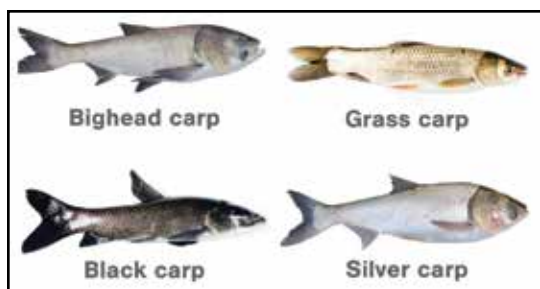
Greg
Stoner



There is an alien invasion going on all around us! Now these aren't the aliens that you see in the movies, but they are certainly just as scary if you enjoy spending time on the water. Asian Carp pose a great threat to our waterways here in the United States, and are knocking on our backdoor here at the Lake of the Ozarks.

What Are Asian Carp?

Big Head, Silver, Black, and Grass Carp are all collectively known as Asian Carp, with the most prolific being Big Head and Silver Carp. They were introduced to the U.S. in the 1970's to control plankton and other nuisance populations in southern ponds. Flooding allowed these fish to escape their confined ponds and make their way into the Mississippi River. These non-native invaders have since been able to bulldoze their way up the Mississippi river. According to a 2013 study by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, they can now be found in over 23 state's waterways.



Why are they a problem?

Asian Carp are a non-native species, with Blue/Flat Head Catfish and Alligator Gar as the only known predators that will consume them. They are also very prolific, capable of laying hundreds of thousands of eggs multiple times a year. Because of this, they are able to take over a large portion of the biomass of the ecosystem they invade. They are a fast growing fish that can measure over 4ft long and weigh in at well over 100 lbs. Because they can consume up to 40% of their body weight every day, they may outcompete native species for plankton, an organism at the base of the food chain.

In addition to the threat to the ecosystem, they also pose a huge problem for aquatic tourism. Silver Carp are known to group up into massive schools, and will often jump up to 8 ft out of the water once spooked by a boat. This is both dangerous and highly discouraging to recreational boaters and fisherman.

Are Asian Carp in the Lake of the Ozarks?

According to MDC Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Biologist Greg Stoner, they have found a small number of Asian Carp in the Lake. "We did have a couple of Big Head Carp show up this year, but they have been in the 70 lb range. The last one that showed up prior to that was in 2011, and it weighed 106 lbs, so it is feasible that those fish could be from the same year class. If we were to find a 5lb fish, then I would be concerned. That would mean that there is some reproduction going on. As variable as fish growth can be, it is very plausible that the 70 lbs and 106 lb fish were all the same age." When asked about Asian Carp's capabilities to reproduce in the Lake of the Ozarks, Stoner went on to add, "Truman dam is actually a barrier that helps prevent a mass reproduction event. They need a very long expanse of open and free flowing water for their eggs to develop, and we don't typically have those conditions. However, there is some concern for if they were to get into Truman Lake, since it has a long expanse of free flowing water coming from all the way up into Kansas."

What are some ways to help prevent them from spreading?

Since we have Bagnell Dam as a barrier, and they don't have a lock to swim through, the only way carp can make it into our lake is through human hands. Stoner adds, "The best thing we can do is educate the public, and a lot of it has to do with bait. We know that there are Asian Carp in the Osage River. If you look at a three-inch-long Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, and Gizzard shad, they will all look the same. Since it is so hard to tell the difference, you should *NEVER* transfer bait from one body of water to another."



Top fish is a native gizzard shad. Lower fish is an invasive young silver carp.



2019 SCHEDULE

- APR 7** Open Test & Tune
- APR 14** Open Test & Tune
- APR 20** **Weekly Show #1 - Spring Opener**
360 Winged Sprints, POWRI Racesaver Sprints, ULMA LM, USRA A&B Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- APR 26** **World of Outlaw Sprint Cars**
+ POWRI Racesaver Sprints & Midwest Lighting Sprints
- MAY 4** **Weekly Show #2 - Pure Stocks \$500 to Win**
ULMA LM, USRA A&B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- MAY 11** **Weekly Show #3 - Street Stocks \$700 to Win**
360 Sprints, POWRI Racesaver Sprints, Midwest Lighting Sprints, USRA B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- MAY 18** **Weekly Show #4**
ULMA LM, USRA A&B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- MAY 25** **LOS Spring 360 Sprint Nationals - \$3000 to Win**
ASCS National Tour + POWRI War Series
- MAY 26** **LOS Spring 360 Sprint Nationals- \$5000 to Win**
ASCS National Tour + POWRI National Midgets
- JUN 1** **Lucas Oil MLRA Late Models Show Down at the Lake**
ULMA LM \$1000 to Win
- JUN 8** **Weekly Show #6**
POWRI War Sprints, 360 Sprints, POWRI Racesaver Sprints & Midwest Lighting Sprints
- JUN 15** **Weekly Show #7**
ULMA LM, USRA,B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- JUN 22** **Weekly Show #8**
ULMA LM, USRA A&B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- JUN 29** **Weekly Show #9**
360 Sprints, POWRI Racesaver Sprints, USRA B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- JUL 5** **1st Annual Randy McGraw Memorial**
ULMA LM & USRA A-B Mods - \$2500 to Win ULMA & \$2000 to Win A-Mods + KC Vintage Racers
- JUL 6** **Weekly Show #10 - \$1776 to Win ASCS Warrior Sprints**
ASCS Warrior 360 Sprints Red White Blue Tour, POWRI Racesaver Sprints & Pure Stocks
- JUL 13** **Street Stock & Pure Stock Show Down at the Lake!**
\$1500 to Win SS & \$1000 to Win PS
- JUL 20** **Weekly Show #12**
ULMA LM, USRA,B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- JUL 27** **Weekly Show #13 - POWRI Racesaver Sprints \$800 to Win**
360 Sprints, POWRI Racesaver Sprints, USRA B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks + Midwest Lighting Sprints
- AUG 3** **Weekly Show #14**
ULMA LM, USRA,B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- AUG 10** **Weekly Show #15 - \$1000 to Win ULMA LM**
ULMA LM, USRA A&B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- AUG 16** **2nd Annual POWRI War Sprints Nationals**
+ USMTS Modified Tour
- AUG 17** **2nd Annual POWRI War Sprints Nationals**
+ 360 Winged Sprints & Midwest Lighting Sprints
- AUG 24** **Weekly Show #17 - \$700 to Win Street Stocks**
ULMA LM, USRA,B-Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- AUG 31** **10th Annual LOS 360 Nationals Night 1 - \$3000 to Win**
ASCS National Tour + Warrior & POWRI National Midgets
- SEP 1** **10th Annual LOS 360 Nationals Night 2 - \$10,000 to Win**
ASCS National Tour + Warrior & POWRI National Midgets
- SEP 7** **Weekly Show #18 - ULMA LM \$1000 to Win**
ULMA LM, USRA,B-Mods, Street Stocks and Pure Stocks & Midwest Lighting Sprint
- SEP 8** **Tractor Pull**
MMTPA Truck & Tractor Pull - Pulling Starts at 3:00 PM
- SEP 14** **Weekly Show #19 - End of Season Championship**
360 Winged Sprints, POWRI Racesaver Sprints, ULMA LM, USRA A&B Mods, Street Stocks & Pure Stocks
- SEP 27** **Night 1 B-Mod Show Down at the Lake**
\$1000 to Win + Hornets
- SEP 28** **Night 2 B-Mod Show Down at the Lake**
\$5000 to Win + A-Mods
- OCT 4** **Midwest Lighting Sprint Nationals**
+ POWRI Racesaver Sprints
- OCT 5** **Midwest Lighting Sprint Nationals**
+ ASCS 360 Warrior Sprints
- OCT 19** **World of Outlaw Sprint Cars**
+ POWRI Racesaver & IMCA Racesaver Sprints

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Event Posters By:



Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

APRIL

Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
04/06/2019	11:00 AM - 06:00 PM	Rock Harbor Resort	50	Hawg Hawlers Bass Club	573-718-4510
04/06/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn.	573-346-5673
04/06/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Sunrise Shores Resort	20	St. Charles County Hawghunters	314-249-8385
04/06/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	9	West Suburban Bass Anglers	630-531-0566
04/06/2019	06:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Hawks Landing Resort	100	Sheet Metal Workers Local #36	314-285-2625
04/06/2019	06:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Silver Sands Resort	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
04/06/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	20	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
04/06/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	10	Mexico Bassmasters	573-544-7279
04/06/2019	08:30 AM - 04:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	Bush Beaters Bass Club	660-909-4808
04/06/2019	06:15 AM - 03:15 PM	Robin's Resort	15	Perryville Basscasters	573-768-4184
04/06/2019	08:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	LOZ Crappie Club	573-480-6587
04/06/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	25	American Bass Anglers Division 49	816-772-5994
04/07/2019	06:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Rock Harbor Resort	50	Hawg Hawlers Bass Club	573-718-4510
04/07/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
04/07/2019	06:30 AM - 02:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	9	West Suburban Bass Anglers	630-531-0566
04/07/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Silver Sands Resort	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
04/07/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	McCubbins Point Access	15	Upper Meramec Bass Club	314-602-0895
04/07/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	50	Reel in a Cure Open Buddy Bass	314-313-0595
04/07/2019	05:00 AM - 05:00 PM	Robin's Resort	85	Twisted Cat Outdoors	217-242-5305
04/07/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
04/07/2019	06:15 AM - 01:15 PM	Robin's Resort	15	Perryville Basscasters	573-768-4184
04/07/2019	08:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	LOZ Crappie Club	573-480-6587
04/07/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	50	Joe Bass Team Trail	314-220-7196
04/08/2019	06:00 AM - 05:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	40	Pro Firefighters of E MO Local 2665	314-630-4665
04/09/2019	06:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	40	Pro Firefighters of E MO Local 2665	314-630-4665
04/13/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	50	Edward Jones Private Fishing Tourn.	314-369-2905
04/13/2019	09:30 AM - 03:00 PM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn.	573-346-5673
04/13/2019	06:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Alhonna Resort	40	"Crest Industries, Inc."	314-560-1230
04/13/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	15	Misfit Fishing Co.	417-766-7202
04/13/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
04/13/2019	06:30 AM - 02:00 PM	StartAnywhere/EndCaptRons	85	Outdoor Kids LLC	573-280-8020
04/13/2019	06:30 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	200	Carpenters' Buddy Bass Tournament	314-269-5227
04/14/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	25	East Ozark Bass Club	314-899-6722
04/14/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	UAW Local 2250 Club Tournament	636-544-3387
04/14/2019	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Drake Harbor	20	UAW Local 249	816-454-6333
04/14/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	15	Misfit Fishing Co.	417-766-7202
04/14/2019	07:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
04/14/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	150	Anglers in Action	314-591-4578
04/19/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	PB #2	12	Camdenton Castaways Club Tournament	573-836-1695
04/20/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	Angler's Choice	618-496-3610
04/21/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin Lucas Open	314-346-6963

* Missouri Angler Wednesday Night Tourneys every Wednesday out of PB2 - April 17 - September 11 (6:30 - 10:00)
 Eldon Bassmasters every Thursday out of Coffman Beach Access - April 18 - September 19 (6:30 - 10:00)

For a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

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Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

APRIL (continued)					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
04/27/2019	06:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Lakeview Resort	20	Elevator Constructor's Local #3	314-623-8966
04/27/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB#2RdOkAlhnnaPtRand	1200	Big Bass Bash	866-515-0102
04/28/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB#2RdOkAlhnnaPtRand	1200	Big Bass Bash	866-515-0102
MAY					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
05/04/2019	06:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	70	Roofers Mart Fishing Tournament	314-968-9366
05/04/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
05/04/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Windermere	75	Heaven's Anglers Bass Club	636-936-1715
05/04/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	LOZ Crappie Club	573-480-6587
05/04/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	60	MO State Council of Machinists	314-731-0603
05/04/2019	07:00 AM - 03:45 PM	PB #2	300	Fish for Sight Open Buddy Bass	314-422-0662
05/04/2019	06:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	20	Missouri Chiropractors Bass Fishers	314-344-4438
05/05/2019	06:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	15	Upper Meramec Bass Club	314-602-0895
05/05/2019	06:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	20	Missouri Chiropractors Bass Fishers	314-344-4438
05/05/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	150	Anglers in Action	314-591-4578
05/11/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	25	UPS Bass Tournament	636-485-8315
05/11/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	St. Louis Bass Busters Open Buddy	314-409-8314
05/18/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn.	573-346-5673
05/18/2019	06:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Sunrise Shores Resort	20	St. Charles County Hawghunters	314-249-8385
05/18/2019	05:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Rock Harbor Resort	100	Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562	314-388-0722

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MAY (continued)					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
05/18/2019	05:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	15	KC Area Bassmasters	816-213-4497
05/18/2019	05:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	20	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
05/18/2019	05:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	25	Kansas Buddy Bass	785-393-2144
05/18/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	75	Heaven's Anglers Catch a Vet Tourn.	636-936-1715
05/18/2019	06:00 AM - 02:00 PM	PB #2	60	Angler's Choice	618-496-3610
05/19/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Drake Harbor	20	Premier Bass Anglers Open	660-441-7726
05/19/2019	05:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	30	Missouri TBF	660-723-4980
05/19/2019	05:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	20	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
05/19/2019	05:00 AM - 05:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	Central Missouri Catfish Tourn.	660-651-2408
05/19/2019	06:00 AM - 02:00 PM	PB #2	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
05/19/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
JUNE					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
06/01/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	PB #2	50	Camden County Bass'rs Open Buddy	573-723-1020
06/01/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Purvis Beach Resort	20	Ozark Mountain Anglers Bass Club	573-819-2923
06/01/2019	05:45 AM - 03:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	20	Smithville Bassmasters	913-484-2369
06/01/2019	05:30 AM - 02:00 PM	Drake Harbor	25	Men of Honor Bass Club	660-723-4980
06/02/2019	06:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	15	St. Louis Bassin' Bass Club	314-413-1322
06/02/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	PB #2	50	Camden County Bass'rs Open Buddy	573-723-1020
06/07/2019	07:30 PM - 01:00 AM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn.	573-346-5673
06/08/2019	05:30 AM - 04:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	15	St. Louis Bassin' Bass Club	314-413-1322
06/08/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
06/09/2019	05:30 AM - 01:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	15	St. Louis Bassin' Bass Club	314-413-1322
06/09/2019	06:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin Lucas Open	314-346-6963
06/09/2019	06:00 AM - 02:00 PM	PB #2	60	Angler's Choice	618-496-3610
06/15/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
06/15/2019	05:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	15	KC Area Bassmasters	816-213-4497
06/15/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	10	Central Missouri Bass Masters	573-201-4798
06/16/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
06/16/2019	06:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
06/22/2019	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	12	Camdenton Castaways Club Tournament	573-836-1695
06/22/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
06/23/2019	06:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	20	Backlashers Bass Club	913-626-8955
06/23/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
06/28/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Coffman Beach Access	20	Ozark Mountain Anglers Bass Club	573-819-2923
06/29/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	20	Ozark Mountain Anglers Bass Club	573-819-2923
06/29/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
06/29/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
06/30/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Drake Harbor	15	Benton Co. MO Bass Club	660-723-1170
06/30/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
06/30/2019	06:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963

* Missouri Angler Wednesday Night Tournaments every Wednesday out of PB2 - April 17 - September 11 (6:30 - 10:00)
 Eldon Bassmasters every Thursday out of Coffman Beach Access - April 18 - September 19 (6:30 - 10:00)

For a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

JULY

Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
07/12/2019	07:30 PM - 01:00 AM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn.	573-346-5673
07/12/2019	08:00 PM - 03:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	20	Ozark Mountain Anglers Bass Club	573-819-2923
07/13/2019	05:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	UAW Local 2250 Club Tournament	636-544-3387
07/13/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
07/13/2019	05:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	15	St. Louis Area Bassmasters	636-388-1629
07/13/2019	05:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Drake Harbor	15	Olathe Bass Club	817-939-5072
07/13/2019	07:00 PM - 11:59 PM	LORA	25	Tri-County Bass Club	573-762-2668
07/14/2019	04:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	25	UAW Local 2250 Club Tournament	636-544-3387
07/14/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
07/14/2019	05:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	15	St. Louis Area Bassmasters	636-388-1629
07/14/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	45	Mondo Tackle Buyers Club	913-800-0429
07/14/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	LORA	25	Tri-County Bass Club	573-762-2668
07/20/2019	08:00 PM - 04:00 AM	Larry R. Gale Access	12	Camdenton Castaways Club Tournament	573-836-1695
07/20/2019	07:30 PM - 11:59 PM	PB #2	50	Camden County Bass'rs Open Buddy	573-723-1020
07/20/2019	07:30 PM - 11:59 PM	Coffman Beach Access	20	St. Charles County Hawghunters	314-249-8385
07/20/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
07/20/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
07/20/2019	07:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Coffman Beach Access	20	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
07/20/2019	04:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Mexico Bassmasters	573-544-7279
07/20/2019	05:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	20	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
07/20/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	10	Central Missouri Bass Masters	573-201-4798
07/20/2019	07:30 PM - 11:59 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin Lucas Open	314-346-6963
07/20/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
07/21/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	PB #2	50	Camden County Bass'rs Open Buddy	573-723-1020
07/21/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	20	St. Charles County Hawghunters	314-249-8385
07/21/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
07/21/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	20	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
07/21/2019	05:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	20	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
07/21/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Shawnee Bend Access	10	Central Missouri Bass Masters	573-201-4798
07/21/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin Lucas Open	314-346-6963
07/21/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015

AUGUST

Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
08/03/2019	05:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	UAW Local 2250 Club Tournament	636-544-3387
08/04/2019	05:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	25	UAW Local 2250 Club Tournament	636-544-3387
08/09/2019	07:30 PM - 01:00 AM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn.	573-346-5673
08/10/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
08/11/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
08/11/2019	06:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	20	Premier Anglers Bass Club	660-441-7726
08/16/2019	07:00 PM - 02:00 AM	Lake Ozark City Ramp	10	Mexico Bassmasters	573-544-7279
8/17/2019	06:30 AM - 2:30 PM	TBD	50	BassingBob Summer Sizzler	314-575-5545
08/17/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
08/17/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
08/17/2019	07:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	10	Central Missouri Bass Masters	573-201-4798

AUGUST (continued)					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
08/17/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
8/18/2019	06:30 AM - 2:30 PM	TBD	50	BassingBob Summer Sizzler	314-575-5545
08/18/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
08/18/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports Tournament Assoc.	314-409-9015
08/24/2019	07:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	20	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
08/25/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Larry R. Gale Access	20	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
SEPTEMBER					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
09/07/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area Tourn.	573-346-5673
09/07/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin Lucas Open	314-346-6963
09/07/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	20	Ozark Mountain Anglers Bass Club	573-819-2923
09/07/2019	08:00 PM - 11:59 PM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
09/07/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
09/07/2019	06:30 AM - 04:00 PM	Drake Harbor	12	Central States Bass Association	816-924-9651
09/07/2019	06:00 AM - 04:00 PM	PB #2	100	IUOE Local 148 Charity Bass Tourn.	573-760-5669
09/08/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn.	573-723-1020
09/08/2019	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	PB #2	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
09/08/2019	12:00 AM - 07:00 AM	Coffman Beach Access	10	Sportsmans Edge Bass Club	636-544-5528
09/14/2019	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	25	UPS Bass Tournament	636-485-8315
09/14/2019	06:00 AM - 04:00 PM	PB #2	200	FLW T-H Marine BFL	270-703-9969
09/15/2019	06:00 AM - 04:00 PM	PB #2	200	FLW T-H Marine BFL	270-703-9969
09/20/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	15	Minor League Bass Club	470-263-3673
09/21/2019	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	15	Minor League Bass Club	470-263-3673
09/21/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Sunrise Shores Resort	15	St. Charles County Hawghunters	314-249-8385
09/21/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	Angler's Choice	618-496-3610
09/21/2019	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	100	Project Warrior X Veterans Tourn.	573-631-7525
09/21/2019	08:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	15	LOZ Crappie Club	573-480-6587
09/22/2019	06:30 AM - 01:00 PM	Sunrise Shores Resort	15	St. Charles County Hawghunters	314-249-8385
09/22/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
09/22/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	50	Joe Bass Team Trail	314-220-7196
09/28/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
09/28/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
09/28/2019	05:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	15	KC Area Bassmasters	816-213-4497
09/28/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	15	Bush Beaters Bass Club	660-909-4808
09/29/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	12	Camdenton Castaways Club Tournament	573-836-1695
09/29/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	60	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
09/29/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	15	Benton Co. MO Bass Club	660-723-1170
09/29/2019	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Runaway II Resort	30	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-480-6162
09/29/2019	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	12	MO-KAN Bassmasters	816-536-1702

* Missouri Angler Wednesday Night Tourneys every Wednesday out of PB2 - April 17 - September 11 (6:30 - 10:00)

Eldon Bassmasters every Thursday out of Coffman Beach Access - April 18 - September 19 (6:30 - 10:00)

For a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

Multi-Species Fishing From the Bank *By Vincent Rumsey*

The Lake of the Ozarks is a very popular lake for vacationers nationwide. This means that the summer season will bring many visitors hungry to catch some fish. Even though there is a horde of boat traffic and swimmers, some simple techniques will allow you to catch a variety of fish without leaving the dock or bank. These fish include the common sport fishes of bass, catfish, and sunfish.

When you have limited space to fish in, it is extremely necessary to pay close attention to your location. Even though the warm air and water will keep many fish in the shallows, most species will move to deeper water or cover when the sun is high. To help me find shallow fish, I often look for places with a potential food source. For example, if the bass in the area are feeding on small bluegills, I would fish on riprap banks and shallow brush piles do to their ability to harbor baitfish. Your best bets on finding fish will be brush piles, riprap, and sloping banks and drop-offs. When you find these areas, search for baitfish or other forage. If you find forage that fish are feeding on in a high percentage area, you are very likely to catch a boatload of fish.

There are many techniques that can help you have a very enjoyable time catching fish from the bank. To catch bass, I

would start by finding the optimal location. This is normally one with a food source and cover from the hot sun. To find these prime locations, check the bank for any changes in structure, and move often. Most shallow cover will not hold large schools of bass, and they normally hold small groups of 2-4 fish. I normally catch these fish with finesse baits, but sometimes power fishing can be an option.

For bass I would start with a lifelike finesse lure like a wacky-rigged senko. I normally buy my senkos in a black and blue or green pumpkin color. These two colors are very universal and are extremely effective in any water color. I personally rig the worm with an O-ring and a small 1/0 wacky hook. I rig the worm weightless and hook it through the middle to complete the wacky rig. I fish the wacky rig by casting it out towards the brush or cover you want to fish and slowly letting it sink until it hits the bottom. If you do not get a bite on the fall, twitch the worm up from the bottom and let it fall again. Wacky-rig bites will often be subtle, and you will just see your line moving to the side. Senkos can be fished on any spinning rod with light line. I normally use a medium or medium-heavy power spinning rod paired with 6 to 10-pound line.

If you have the luxury of a heavier bait-casting rod, bass will also respond well to power fishing lures. I my favorite type of summer power fishing is flipping or pitching a jig or Texas rig. To flip and pitch, simply do a short, underhanded cast up to heavy cover and then hop or drag the bait back on the bottom. When using this technique, I normally use a 7'6" heavy power flippin' stick with 50-pound braid. I fish with a ½ ounce bullet weight paired with a variety of creature baits. Bass fishing with swimbaits can also produce great results. Fishing a 5-6-inch swimbait on a jig head or weighted swimbait hook will often produce the biggest bass of the day. I fish smaller (4-5 inch) swimbaits on a 7' medium-heavy bass rod with 15-pound fluorocarbon. For swimbaits 6 inches and bigger, I will use a flippin' stick with heavy line to help me handle the size of the bait.

If you don't feel like catching bass, catfish fishing can also be a fast-paced style of fishing. To catch catfish, you first have to master location. Because most people do not have access to deep enough water to catch blue catfish, I will mainly focus on channel catfish. In the summer, channel catfish will be spawning. This means that they will cruise the banks in big numbers looking for food and a mate.

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To catch channel catfish, you will mainly fish along the first drop-off from a rocky bankline. For frequent catches and fast paced fishing, grocery-store items and a large hook is all you will need for tackle. Simple baits like bread or hotdogs rigged on a weightless hook is sufficient. If you are looking for a bigger bite, I would use a small weight on your line along with a piece of cut bluegill or shad. Fish these baits in slightly deeper water on the bottom. For tackle, I would use a spinning rod and 8-12-pound line depending on the size of fish you are targeting.

Lastly, if your goal is to get kids into fishing, there is no better place to start than sunfish. They are very easy to catch and handle. Sunfish often reside in shallow water, making them more accessible to young kids than any other species.

Summer fishing can be a great time for multi species fishing, and the best part is that a boat is not completely necessary to have a great day fishing and catching fish. So go up to your nearest tackle store and give bank fishing a try.

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Weigh-In: 2:30 p.m.

Includes Big Bass

Register at: www.bassingbob.com/tournaments

Entries will also be accepted in person at the ramp beginning at 5:00 a.m., by mail, or at Fitz Fishing in Osage Beach.

Payouts Include:

- 1st Place – 2 Day Total Weight \$2,500 for each 15 boats (30 boats = \$5,000.00)
- Additional payout places to be paid based on each 8 boats.
- Payouts will increase with the addition of each entry based on a 90% payback scale.

Additional Payouts:

- Biggest Bass of Tournament: \$500.00
- Low Weight for 2 days (10 keepers): \$400.00

See complete tournament details and rules at: www.bassingbob.com/tournaments



Lake of the Ozarks Cats *with Jack Uxa*



I'm a bass fishermen first and foremost, I've got a bass boat full of all kinds of rods and reels rigged and ready to test my skills against any other tournament

fishermen on this lake. But I tell you there is something about hooking into a good sized catfish on Lake of the Ozarks.

Every summer I get into chasing our big blues around the lake. I am in the position to put fishermen in front of some really big catfish. Many have caught their biggest fish ever with me which is so much fun.

Lake of the Ozarks has 3 species of catfish. Channel catfish are the smallest but pretty easy to catch just about anywhere on the lake. Any dock, cove, whatever. A variety of baits work too. Simple as split shot weight small hook and a night crawler is a classic and still catches fish. A chunk of hot dog works and you don't have to worry about them getting to hot or dieing. The guys that get more serious about it use the nasty stink bait. Berkley Catfish Power Dip, PowerBait Catfish

Power Punch. Anytime we get some rain go to the creeks that seems to activate the channel catfish. Hanging out on the docks at night in the summer is a fun time. Good times for any kid or adult.

On guide trips I target blue cats because they can be pretty aggressive and are the biggest. We slow troll for them on points, flats and some coves. We'll also set jugs which nowadays is cut up swim noodles in bright colors so the other boaters can see them. It depends on what the fish are in the mood for and the time of year. Regardless blue cats are usually around the big bait schools. A fish finder is important and the fish are easy to see on it since they are so big. I use pretty big equipment for these guys as last year we caught several in the 30's, 40's and one 50 pounder. 5/0 to 8/0 hooks, one ounce weights, Spiderwire braided fishing line as these fish are not line shy. It's important to have a pair of Lipper Grippers on board for landing and handling these fish for pictures. Best bait is cut up bluegills or shad.

The other catfish we have here is the Flathead. It's probaly the strangest looking fish we have here as they are camouflage. I

catch several of these by accident but really don't set lines out over night which is the best way to catch them. Limb lines, dock lines baited with a lively green sunfish (bluegill) is the standard. June is magical month for flatheads for some reason. That's when they spawn and they just get really aggressive.

All of these catfish are fine to eat except for the really big ones. Deep fried catfish nuggets are great for a big family fish fry. Do pay attention to the state laws and regulations as many cat fishermen do not follow the rules. Blues in particular have a protected slot limit encouraging fishermen to keep a bunch of the smaller ones and release the bigger ones. We have a great population of catfish in this lake and so much of the times they get over-shadowed by bass tournaments and the great crappie fishing we have here.



Any Time Is A Good Time To Fish Lake Of The Ozarks *by Deborah Wolfe*

Even though a deluge of frigid rain pelted the Lake of the Ozarks area during the October FLW Costa Series fishing tournament, it couldn't dampen the ambitions of 360-plus anglers raring to reel in more than \$100,000 in prizes that included a brand new Ranger bass boat.

With a bounty that big on the line, anglers were willing to endure the nasty climate for a chance at the top prize, but Bassingbob.com founder Bob Bueltmann said winning an FLW tournament is about much more than the money.

"The FLW is the world's largest tournament-fishing organization," Bueltmann explained. "And winning certain FLW tournaments can put you on the path to competing in the most prestigious tournament in bass fishing - the Forrest Wood Cup."

Named for the founder of Ranger Boats, the Forrest Wood Cup is considered the ultimate bass fishing tournament for good reason. In 2007, the Cup was the first fishing tournament to award a \$1 Million prize to the winner.

Today, the event garners international media coverage and draws thousands of fans to the community hosting the three-day championship.

"You can see why winning an FLW tournament is a really big deal," Bueltmann said. "And it can be an even bigger deal for the handful of lake communities that are selected to host the lucrative events."

According to the FLW, competitive anglers spend on average \$1,660 at a lake for a multi-day fishing tournament; and they typically arrive a couple of days in advance to practice. That is a substantial economic impact."

That means the October FLW-Costa Series tournament likely brought more than \$500,000 into the Lake community in less than a week. Those numbers are consistent with the latest data from the U.S. Fishing and Wildlife Service showing that more than 1.5 million anglers spend \$684.4 Million annually while fishing in Missouri.

"Close to 500 fishing tournaments take place each year at the Lake of the Ozarks," Bueltmann said. "Some of those are small clubs, but many of them draw a few hundred anglers who pay for lodging, food, fishing gear, boating equipment, entertainment and more while they are here."

As the founder and CEO of Bassingbob.com, Bueltmann has a fine-tuned knowledge of the Lake area fishing scene.

Over the last five years, he and his team have spent countless hours on and off the water compiling fishing reports, interviewing pro fishermen, tracking lake levels, weather conditions and tournament results; as well as serving up donuts and hot dogs at dozens of tournaments each year.

In addition to BassingBob.com, the outlet publishes the twice-yearly Fishing News magazine which is available on Lake Area newsstands.

"It all started because we were trying to fulfill a need for information," Bueltmann said. "Lake of the Ozarks has always been one of the best bass fishing lakes in the country, but it's not always easy to get information about how fish are being caught."

Today, BassingBob.com is the No. 1 source for information about fishing the Lake of the Ozarks. The site is highly-regarded by recreational fishermen and tournament pros as a useful tool for bringing home a big catch.

"Many of the top pros at Lake of the Ozarks have contributed their years of knowledge by way of expert videos and articles," Bueltmann said. "Marcus Sykora, Roger Fitzpatrick, and Dennis Berhorst along with full-time fishing guides such as Jack Uxa, James Dill and Gary Schultz, provide detailed information and useful tips to help you catch more and bigger bass." All that intel is reaping big rewards for Bassing Bob anglers.

Bueltmann proudly noted that several Bassing Bob subscribers made impressive showings at recent tournaments including a \$20,000 second-place finish for Travis Meyer at the fall Big Bass Bash and Carl Breeden's second place finish as a co-angler in the BFL Regional Tournament on Kentucky Lake - a feat that qualifies him to compete in the FLW All-American Championship.

Tournament wins aside, Bueltmann stressed that regardless of the time of year or the ability of the angler, any time is a good time to fish the Lake of the Ozarks. For this reason, the group launched a series of weekly fishing seminars in 2018 to help recreational anglers get expert advice from local pros and they plan to continue them come spring of 2019.

"I love fishing the Lake of the Ozarks; it's one of the most beautiful lakes in the country," Bueltmann said. "We are very fortunate to be able to share our lake and our fishing knowledge with anglers from all across the nation."

Whether you are a recreational fisherman or a tournament pro, you'll find a wealth of info about fishing the Lake of the Ozarks at www.BassingBob.com.



Lake of the Ozarks Team Trail 2019

NOTE: All tournaments will be out of Alhonna Resort

Tournament #1	December 16, 2018
Tournament #2	February 17, 2019
Tournament #3	March 3, 2019
Tournament #4	March 17, 2019
Tournament #5	April 7, 2019
Tournament #6	September 22, 2019

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Since 2015 BassingBob.com has created a wealth of fishing content about the Lake of the Ozarks that includes:

- ☐ 2,359 Daily fishing reports on bass, crappie and other types of fish
- ☐ 492 - Videos ☐ 560 - Tournament Results
- ☐ 150 - Articles ☐ 24 - Publications

A INSIDE LOOK INTO

TOURNAMENT FISHERMAN Mark Tucker



Mark Tucker is one of the most respected anglers in the midwest. In addition to all of the local and regional victories, Mark has been able to refine his skills around the country fishing the Bassmaster Pro Tour, and through that has qualified to fish in eight Bassmaster Classics. Since Mark has had a recent hot roll of the dice with a big Missouri Invitational win, we decided to sit down with him for a little bass fishing Q&A.

Q Where did you grow up? And when did you start tournament fishing?

A “I am originally from Ballwin Missouri, and have worked as a concrete finisher for 37 years. I started tournament fishing a long long time ago in a pro-am tournament in the early 70s.”

Q Was there anyone that helped you get started or mentored you in tournament fishing?

A Definitely my dad, he was the one who really got me into it. He fished a lot of tournaments in the late sixties when tournament bass fishing was really starting to take off. I started out fishing some buddy tournaments with him, and then from there my dad started taking me to the pro-am style tournaments as a co-angler.”

Q When did you start fishing professional Bassmaster tournaments?

A “I fished tournaments here and there until one day my wife put me into a B.A.S.S. tournament, and that is kind of what started it all. I didn’t even plan on fishing those because I really didn’t think I could make a living fishing back then. That was the first pro tournament I had fished, and it just happened to be held on the Lake of the Ozarks. I ended up finishing third and Guido Hibdon had finished second. At that time, Guido was also a pretty influential mentor to me. I can remember him coming up to me after the tournament and telling me, ‘You can catch fish anywhere in the country’. That really meant a lot to me, and still sticks with me today.

He was the one guy that kind of pushed me to join the professional ranks. I fished the Bassmasters for quite a while, and back then it was when you drew out another professional, and that format was just a nightmare. We could only have the front of the boat for half of the day, which made things pretty tense at times. I ended up fishing the Bassmaster Circuit for twelve years, and made the classic for eight of those years.”

BASSMASTER TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

Total Tournaments	137
Classic Appearances	8
Classic Wins	0
Time in Money	74
1st Place Finishes	1
2nd Place Finishes	3
3rd Place Finishes	2
Top 10 Finishes	18
Top 20 Finishes	32
Top 30 Finishes	48
Total Weight	3518 lb - 3 oz
Career Winnings	\$727,941.66

Q What was it like fishing on the Bassmaster Elite Circuit?

A “Looking back on it I really wished I would have approached it with a different perspective. You know you always want to do well just so you can succeed in the sport. In the Elite Series, if you don’t do well in every tournament, that makes things pretty hard. If you didn’t catch fish, then you had to have

some sort of gimmick to keep you afloat. I believe the key to succeeding in the sport at that time was to not only catch fish, but also have a gimmick to make a name for yourself. My deal was that I had to come home and work as a concrete finisher when I was fishing the Bassmasters. Anyone who fishes tournaments knows that to do well, you have to go out and fish relaxed. When you are paying your own entry fees, it is hard to go out there and fish relaxed because you have all that money on the line. I really enjoyed getting to fish all of the different lakes and compete out on the highest level, but I wish I could have found a way to go out and fish more relaxed.”

Q Did growing up fishing Ozark Lakes help shape you as an Angler?

A “I grew up fishing a lot on the Meramec River, and also around the trout parks around my home. That really helped me hone into learning current breaks and how fish position themselves in moving water. Those places also held all three species of bass, so I had a better Idea of the habits of each fish. Lake of the Ozarks also helped me a ton when it came to learning a big body of water and how to pattern fish in those big bodies. I would consider Lake of the Ozarks to be my home Lake. My Dad used to take me there as a kid, and it is the closest lake to me that holds a lot of tournaments. I would also fish Mark Twain and Truman, but Lake of the Ozarks was just a lake that I got a good connection with to where I have a feel for what I need to do. It is a lake where the numbers of fish are there, and once you figure something out, you can replicate that around the lake. I found that to really help me out when going around the country, because even though it was a different body of water, the same basic principles of fishing would be there.”

Q Out of any lake around the country that you have fished, what would you consider to be your favorite lake?

A “Without a doubt, Lake of the Ozarks. It is just a pure target rich environment where you can fish however you want to fish. If you want to fish off-shore, there is a ton of deep structure and brush piles, and if you want to fish shallow there is a ton of docks and shallow cover. There is just so many options that all hold numbers of fish, and that is what makes it such a good lake. There is also just an awesome fishing community down there! There is no other place like it. There is so many people that are willing to help out and support the fishing industry down there, and I really try to make it there every chance that I get.”

Q What is your favorite fishing style?

A “I really like pitching and flipping shallow cover in 10 ft. or less. That is by far my favorite way to catch them. I have learned how to fish out deep ledge fishing and all that stuff, but I still have the old graphs in my boat, so I just stick to the way I have done things for years. I feel most comfortable with my boat in shallow water, flipping a jig or running square billed crankbaits, that type of fishing. To me there is nothing like just picking up a jig and going to town on them.”



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Q What is one of your greatest memories from tournament fishing?

A “It would probably be qualifying to fish my first Bassmaster Classic. When anyone starts tournament fishing, that is what we are fishing for. Everyone who is into the sport knows that the classic is the ultimate prize in bass fishing, so to have a shot at that is pretty special. It was a very hard road to the classic back then, because during the regular season events we had to split our boat with another pro for half of the day. That was not an ideal format since you had no control over half of the fishing time. The classic itself was an incredible experience! I got to meet a lot of really great people along the way, and it was just really neat to be a part of the industry at that time.”

Q In addition to all of the regional and professional top finishes, you were able to win the 2018 Missouri Invitational. What were your thoughts on the event, and some of the adjustments you made to get the victory?

A “My main goal going into the event was to try to win it of course. But anyone who knows me, knows that I wouldn’t be able to do that on the golf course. I can’t golf at all, so I was out of the game to start with. The only prayer I had was for it to snow or get really cold, and it just so happened that it did both. I was really fortunate, because that turned it into a fishing only event. Those conditions also made the fishing pretty darn tough. With the water cooling down so drastically we ended up getting our bites by slowing way down and fishing very thoroughly. It was a very well ran event against some of the best sticks in the Midwest, and it is one that I am very proud to come out of with the win!”

Q What is your advice to young anglers who are just getting started in tournament fishing?

A “The Biggest thing I think is understanding the seasonal patterns of the fish to where you don’t get cluttered with too many different techniques. You know I see a lot of young guys that want to tie on and try a ton of different baits, and that’s great, but to learn you really need to stick to your guns. Try to figure out and master one technique at a time. Once you do that you will learn what your strengths are, and that’s when you can start adding other pieces to the puzzle. Another thing that I didn’t have growing up is the internet, you can get on sites like Bassingbob.com and really learn a lot that would take you years to learn on your own.”

Spring/Summer Bass Fishing

Breaking Down the Lake by Season

with the Bassingbob.com Expert Team

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



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



Wayne Fitzpatrick
Owner of Fitz Fishing Tackle & Supplies
Tournament Fisherman



Jack Uxa
Fishing Guide
Jacks Guide Service

SPRING

Jim Dill: "In the spring I am going to fish from Linn Creek to the upper river area. I am mainly going to be using jigs and wiggle warts. Early in the spring I will target the ends of channel banks with a wiggle wart, looking for places that transition into a spawning areas like flats and pockets. Later in the spring I will move into the spawning pockets with a jig, and then later on in the spring I will look for the transitions coming back out of those pockets. In late spring I like to throw topwater lures, like a Crock-O-Gator Head Knocker Buzzbait and a Heddon Zara Spook."

Wayne Fitzpatrick: "Starting in April, I just love river fishing, so I will be going up the river quite a bit up until the fish start to spawn around the first of May. Even when they do start to spawn, the upper river can still produce big fish. If you catch that spawn just right in that shallow stained water, it can just be flat out awesome. When I go up the river I will either be throwing a spinnerbait or flipping a tube up shallow. If you can't make it up the

river, late April can also be a pretty good time for sight fishing on the lower end."

Jack Uxa: "I kind of like the mid-lake section from the 35 mm to the Toll Bridge. Secondary points and creek channel banks are a pretty big deal throughout the spring, but especially in early and late spring. Another big deal from March until May is to look for smaller rock and pea gravel areas. During the spring I am going to be fishing a lot of plastics. Berkley has a really good plastic stick worm called The General. It has a really nice scent and consistency that fish tend to hold onto a little better than some of the other baits out there. I will whacky rig it on a spinning rod and skip it into hard to reach areas that aren't getting hit by other people. As we get later on into May, it turns more into a top-water bite. You can have a ton of fun on a cloudy day with top-water at that time."

productive places to catch big fish. I like to throw big 3/4 oz. Zapper jigs and deep diving crankbaits in those areas."

Wayne Fitzpatrick: "It depends on our rainfall, but from years past we normally have a lot of current in the summertime. That is probably the most fun time of year to catch a lot of big fish. I will fish the main lake with a 1 oz. jig from the TanTara area on down to the Dam. Once the current stops, I like to go back into the creeks and look for deeper brush piles with a 10" Zoom Ol Monster Worm."

Jack Uxa: "It is hard to narrow it down because the whole lake can fish pretty darn good in the summer, but if they are running current the lower end can be lights out. Throwing big 3/4 oz. jigs, a 10" Plum Berkley Power Worm, and a new Berkley Max Scent Magnum Shaky Snake. The Shaky Snake is a big profile bait, but it has a subtle action that is perfect for a shaky head. I will target points and brush piles and try to focus on deeper water."

SUMMER

Jim Dill: "In the summer I like to fish from the Glaize arm down to Bagnell Dam. That area has deeper water with a lot more distinct ledges and drop offs. Since they are usually pulling a lot of current through June and July, those ledges can be really



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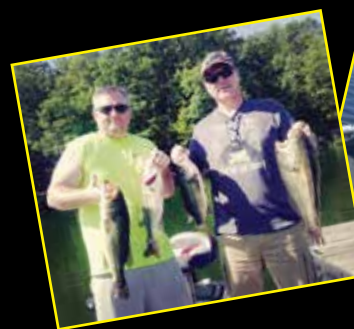
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LATE SUMMER / EARLY FALL

Jim Dill: "In that late summer time frame I really like to fish from Bagnell Dam to the 30 mm. You are still looking for ledges, but also deeper brush piles, and even some bluff ends. Some good lures to try at that time are a Zoom Magnum Finesse Worms on a Crock-O-Gator Shaky Head, and a 10" worm texas-rigged with a 1/2 oz. tungsten weight."

Wayne Fitzpatrick: "In early fall I am starting to revert back to the shallow pattern. The entire lake is wide open at that point in time, but a really good bite is in the Niangua Arm around late August and early September. It doesn't seem like the bite lasts very long there, but it can be an awfully good area for 3-4 weeks. I will flip a beaver style bait around shallow docks and shallow cover, and try to be as thorough as possible when it comes to flipping all of the targets."

Jack Uxa: "A lot of times I will go to pitching docks with plastics in late summer. Don't be afraid to pitch something that falls fast to get a reaction strike because the fish will be a little more lethargic. Brush piles can also be a huge player since the fishing is generally a little tougher then. I will throw a Berkley 10" Power worm through brush piles for most of my bites at that time. As far as location goes, anywhere from the mid-lake on down to the dam can be pretty productive."

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



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2019 Spring And Summer Crappie Expectations

The crappie fishing on Lake Of The Ozarks continues to thrive year in, and year out. With a large population of black and white crappie in the lake you always have the option of patterns, and which type of crappie you want to target. Spring and summer are two of my favorite seasons to fish on Lake of the Ozarks. Whether it's the spring and the fish are moving to the bank to spawn or summer when they are deep in brush, or tucked in the shade of a dock.

This spring has already been really good! With a very cold winter, as soon as we got a small warming trend the fish got really active. The crappie pulled up on the bank towards the end of March. We had one week of higher temperatures, and the fish flocked to the warming shallow water. I was catching fish on pea gravel banks and points with a weighted cork, with my crappie jig about 2 foot down. When you found some of these schools that were seeking the warmer water they were in massive schools. This made fishing outstanding for about 2 weeks. Then the weather warmed even more and just like that the bite on the bank slowly tapered off. Now we are rapidly approaching the crappie spawn. With some fish already being caught super shallow and showing signs of the spawn. The crappie will begin cruising the banks making nest in pea gravel pockets all throughout the lake. When the spawn is on the bite is on! My favorite way to catch them this time of year is with a paddle tail jig. I prefer to use the Strike King Slabacious with a 1/16th ounce spinner head. I throw it on a 6'6 medium fast action St. Croix Avid X rod. With the paddle tail jig, you can pick any pea gravel bank or pocket and throw it up on the bank and slow retrieve back in. the key is really just covering water, eventually you will find a saturated area that is littered with crappie. The early part of the spawn you will catch a lot of male crappie. You can tell this just by their color. The males will move up shallow first and the sun turns them a real dark color, its actually really neat to see. The males are a lot thinner and smaller than the females right now. The females will sit just off the banks and wait until they are ready to move up, they are nice and plump and full of eggs. As we move into this spawning season for 2019 I expect the lake to be on fire from dam to dam. Pick up a paddle tail jig and take the family with you!! It's a great time to get the kids out. The bites are plentiful and fairly simple to get.

Post spawn into summer can be a bit finicky at first. Coming off the spawn the fish are lethargic the spawn really takes a toll on them. It takes a couple weeks to start seeing improvement in the fishing. Post spawn into summer the crappie will seek out cover where they feel most comfortable. Usually its deeper brush piles

and docks that sit over deep water. In the summer when the water is warm and the sun is usually high and hot I think shade, shade, shade. Whats great about the Lake of the Ozarks is all the docks that lace the shoreline create cover and shade for our crappie

population. The summer can be tough, that's why I recommend working on dock shooting. Dock shooting is growing bigger and bigger every year. There are so many fish that school up under the docks and the only way to get to them is to shoot in the holes of the foam, or cast into shady dark wells. This is why I love dock shooting, its very rewarding when you make a good shot and the fish bite. When setting out to dock shoot its import to have decent electronics with side imaging. Scanning the docks to see if fish are underneath is the most important part. I look for deeper docks on channel banks in the coves, or main channel isolated docks. If you see a dock on the main channel that sits all by itself the percentage of crappie being under or around it is high. In the summer I like to have at least 25 foot of water under my boat. The fish will find the most comfortable depth in between 1-25 foot to sit in. Everyday can be a different depth, they can be right underneath the foam or a 10 count under. Just let the bait free fall and figure out where they are at.

Trolling for crappie in the summer also can be very effective. I like to troll bandit crankbaits behind the boat out in front of the deeper docks. This is what I will go to if the wind is to strong to fish brush or dock shoot. I just cast behind the boat and troll at a nice pace until I get a bite. Once you get one bite just keep trolling that same area until they stop biting. Usually where there is one crappie there is a lot closer by. Trolling windy bluff end points and main lake bluffs is also a big player in the summer. A lot of the choices you make on how to crappie fish on that certain day should boil down to the weather, whats the wind doing, do we have cloud cover, and so on and so forth.

One thing we can expect for this coming Spring and Summer is that the fish will bite and will continue to bite through these two seasons. The Lake Of The Ozarks crappie population is doing great, and seems to get better and better each year. So to all you who enjoy this bite as much as I do tight lines and enjoy this outstanding fishery!

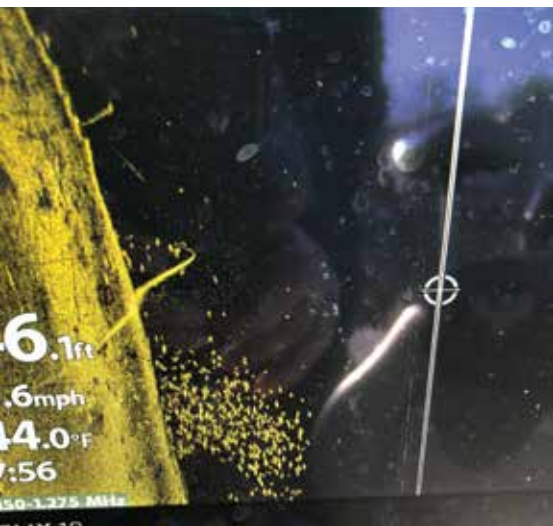
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JIGS FOR EVERY SEASON

By Vincent Rumsey

As the years continue to fly by, our sport of bass fishing ages. If you keep up with “ICAST” or “What’s New at Tackle Warehouse”, you will notice that new baits are being designed and released every week. Due to the bombardment of new tackle that is impressed upon us, many pros and amateurs alike are forgetting some of the key baits that formed the sport of bass fishing which we have grown to love. One of these baits that must never lose its luster is the jig. The old-fashioned jig has been adapted and changed to fit in every possible scenario due to its great drawing power and ability to catch fish. Even though the many variations of this great lure are all called “jigs”, they are very different and are normally used on greatly varying tackle. There are 5 major types of jigs: flippin jigs, football jigs, finesse jigs, casting jigs, and swim jigs.

FLIPPIN’ JIGS



Flippin jigs are a very versatile jig that I have tied on throughout spring and summer. You can go to a flippin jig anytime you are fishing in thick cover

or are around big fish. During the early spring and prespawn, you can catch some giant bass flipping shallow brush or docks with heavy cover. I will also opt for a flippin jig whenever I want an oversized profile. My favorite way to present a flippin jig in the springtime is to cast a heavy flippin jig (3/4 ounce) along chunk rock banks and secondary points. When doing this, I work the jig somewhat aggressively with a large trailer. My favorite trailers for this technique are the Strike King Rage Craw and the Missile Baits D-Bomb. This represents a large crawfish and will appeal to hungry pre-spawn bass. The flippin jig will often catch aggressive spawning bass. To catch these fish, use a wider trailer and a jig with a bluegill-like pattern. This can easily trigger spawners to react to your bait. Sometimes they will eat the jig immediately, but I normally must annoy the fish with repetitive casts to trigger her to bite.

Once summer comes along, post-spawn bass are hungry again and ready to eat. I often turn to a flippin jig instead of

a creature bait for pitching to docks and brush. The jig’s added profile can be very impactful when trying to tease hungry summer bass. During this time, bass will move deeper and into heavier cover. To catch these fish, I like to target deep docks and especially those with crappie beds under them. Summer bass will often stage on the corner of the dock to catch unsuspecting baitfish. Even though a flippin’ jig normally is used on a crawfish pattern, a highly active trailer like a Yamamoto Cowboy can easily look like swimming bluegill.

Though many people turn to an oversized worm in the “Dog Days” of summer, this is not always the right decision. I feel this way because of the sheer amount to tourists and fishermen torment the water with the same baits making the bass very wary to big worms and plastics. To produce the same amount of action and appeal, I will often opt for a large jig with a Missile Baits D-Stroyer as a trailer. The 2 large curl tails on the D-Stroyer combined with the bulk of a jig will produce more vibration and drawing power than a 10-inch power worm.

I fish flippin’ jigs on a 7’6” heavy power Lew’s TP-1 Speed Stick. I like this rod due to its sensitivity for light bites and the ability to use leverage on fish in heavy cover. A longer rod is essential for hard hooksets and heavy cover fishing. With more length on your rod, you can use leverage to set the thick hook often seen on flippin jigs. The stiff rod also allows for longer casts with heavier baits. I pair this rod up with a Daiwa Tatula 150 HS 7.3:1 with 50-pound braid and an optional 20-pound fluorocarbon leader.

FOOTBALL JIGS

Football jigs are often my first choice of jig when dealing with a rocky bottom. It

is widely known that springtime bass are commonly patterned on chunk-rock banks and rocky tapering points around the lake. These bass will be looking for crawfish and small baitfish in the rocks. Even though these bass can be quite active, many fishermen make the mistake of fishing too fast. Football jigs have a



wide head which allows them to not get stuck in the rocks. This feature makes the football jig a perfect option for covering water more thoroughly than a crankbait like an RKCrawler or 3XD. The slow movements of the jig gives bass more time to eat the bait and permits bass to come from farther distances and still catch it. A double-tail grub or crawfish trailer is often very productive on the back of a football jig. I have also heard of some anglers using a brush-hog-style bait as a trailer. To fish a football jig, I will normally drag it across the rocks with some pauses between drags. I will also stroke or hop a football jig on occasion.

When the air heats up and the fish go deep, football jigs can be hard to beat. After the bass spawn, many of the big females move deep while the males stay shallow. These deep-water bass often locate themselves on offshore structure. My favorite structures to fish are points, creek channels, ledges, and bluffs. Due to the football jig’s large, heavy head and the power to kick up rocks and mud just like a crawfish makes them extremely effective in deep water. I fish these jigs with slow drags of the rod tip and try to feel the jig dragging over the rocks. To imitate darting crawfish, I will swim the football jig with a highly active trailer like a Missile Baits Craw Father, so the head of the jig barely ticks the top of the rocky bottom.

Due to the football jig’s wide range of uses and sizes, I use multiple setups to fish this diverse category of jigs. For larger, heavier jigs like the Strike King Tour Grade Football Jig, I like to stick with a heavier setup. I use a flippin’ stick with 20-pound fluorocarbon line. If you prefer to use a braid mainline, tie on a long, 7 to 8 foot leader. I use a long leader due to the fact that I am often fishing around

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abrasive cover like wood or sharp rocks. This long leader also allows invisibility when working the jig slowly. Since football jigs can be very heavy, a stiff rod will also help cast the weight of the jig. Even though most football jigs boast a large, thick hook, finesse-style football jigs are gaining great popularity. For these smaller jigs, I will use a 7' medium-heavy casting rod with 12-15 lb. fluorocarbon line. Lighter line is much more effective on smaller jigs because on the slow pace that you fish them at.

FINESSE JIGS

Many times, throughout the spring and summer, fish get finicky and are slow to bite. In these times I often drop down to a finesse jig on a spinning rod. I have encountered many times in the prespawn phase when you must force bass to eat your bait. This can be due to clear water, sun, and cold fronts. During these times the bass will either move into extra heavy cover, or they go under docks and sticks. In heavy cover, a flippin' bait is much more effective, but if bass are roaming under docks or are on flats the finesse jig can create great bite. The finesse jig is at its best in natural colors due to its slow-moving nature. A



slow dragged finesse jig will sit in a bass' face, slowly enticing it to eat. In the spring, I will pair my finesse jig with a natural trailer with little action. I will cast this jig along and under docks and parallel the chunk rock banks.

In the summer, most fishermen turn to plastic worms and creature baits. These fishermen also tend to put the jig aside. It seemed to dawn on me that many of the fishermen who stick to just these baits will complain of catching small summer bass. Even though I do use these plastic baits quite often, jigs will help me attract larger fish. If the fish are keyed in on a texas-rig pattern, I will make a switch to a finesse jig to provide a larger profile. The skirt will flare out into the water with an undulating, enticing action. I will use a highly active, crawfish trailer for summertime finesse jigging to add to the large profile that I am trying to create. In the summer, I will fish the jig much faster than I do in the springtime, and I will fish it on a fast drag or a hop and pause retrieve. To mix up your profile, try a finesse jig this summer.

I will use both spinning and casting gear for finesse jig fishing. In winter and spring, I work the jig very slowly, calling for lighter line. For slow fishing, I will use a 6'6" to 7' medium-heavy spinning rod. I pair this rod with a large 3000-4000 size spinning reel spooled with 15-pound

braid. I connect the braid to an 8-foot leader of 8-10 pound fluorocarbon. This technique is great for slower fish, but when the fish go deeper or want a more aggressive presentation, I opt for casting gear. I use a 7 foot, medium or medium-heavy casting rod with a 7.3:1 high-speed reel. I spool this reel with 30- 40-pound braid and a 12-pound fluoro leader. I will normally use this setup with heavier jigs that are still finesse cut or have a thinner hook.

CASTING JIGS

When bass relate to deeper cover, rocky banks, or they need a slightly bigger profile than a finesse jig, a

casting jig can be tough to beat. Even though rarely discussed in the fishing world, a casting jig can be a deadly secret for bass fishing. In the springtime, Bass will often be on rocks too shallow for ideal football jig fishing or in wood too deep to flip and pitch to. During these occasions, you can cast a jig to fish on structure to create a perfect crawfish profile and get through cover that fish hold on. When the bass move up on chunk rock banks and under docks, they often relate to a



(continued on page 25)

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(continued from page 23)

piece of secondary cover. To find fish in this secondary cover, I will cast a jig into a high percentage area and work it back. For spring bass, I fish my casting jig on a slow drag with pauses in between. I pair the jig with a smaller trailer like a rage chunk to fit the rather diminutive profile on the jig.

In the summer, casting jigs can be very highly effective. I will often cover water by casting parallel to docks in an attempt to find schools of bass or structure under the dock. This technique will also help catch bass that are tormented with bigger flippin jigs and Texas-rigs. When the sun is high and the fish become resistant to bite, I will often step up from the finesse jig to a casting jig to entice a big fish into biting. In similar conditions, I will flip and pitch a casting jig to light cover. Casting jigs are also key performers in tournaments because of their smaller profile and ability to catch both keepers and a kicker fish. I fish summer casting jigs on a fast drag or a hop-and-pause retrieve with a highly active trailer.

I fish my casting jigs on a medium-heavy casting rod spooled with 40 lb. braided line with a 15lb. fluorocarbon leader. This tackle allows me to provide large amounts of action to the jig with enough power to set the hook. Even though I normally use this tackle, I will often fish bigger casting jigs on a flippin stick and smaller ones on a spinning rod. These changes allow me to have the perfect amount of action and power to handle the diverse category of casting jigs. I choose what size of tackle to use based on the thickness of the hook and the cover I am fishing in. For example, some casting jigs are designed for wood, others for grass, and even more for rocks. The many variations of casting jigs allow them to be the BEST multi-purpose jig.



SWIM JIGS

In the springtime, spinnerbaits and chatterbaits become very

popular, but many people forget about the traditional swim jig. Swim jigs are designed to take on a baitfish profile without the added sound and vibration of other baits. This feature can prove to be highly effective when clear water is present, or the fish want a more finesse-style profile. In the springtime, bass will often be in moods where they are not looking for the flash of a spinnerbait or the sound of a chatterbait. This is often due to a large number of fishermen who fish for the big spring bass. In the spring, the swim jig can also be one of the first moving baits to leave the tackle box. I begin fishing my swim jigs when the water reaches 50-55 degrees. When fishing in colder water, I use a highly-active swimbait trailer that is effective when slow-rolling. My favorite springtime trailer for swim jigs is a 3.8-inch Keitech FAT Swing Impact swimbait. I fish the jig on a slow roll in colder water and fast in warm water. The swim jig is also often overlooked for spawning fish. Pausing and slow rolling over shallow cover is an excellent way to find and catch spawners.

In the spring, the swim jig can also be one of the first moving baits to leave the tackle box.

Swim jigs, like most other jigs, vary greatly in size, weight, and shape. This variation causes me to opt for multiple types of rods and line. On smaller swim jigs with a lighter hook, I use 14-17-pound fluorocarbon line on a medium heavy casting rod. I opt for lighter tackle on these jigs because I usually fish them around lighter cover and I don't want to bend out the hook on heavy line. When I am using a light jig with a slightly heavier hook, I will still use a medium-heavy rod, but I will use 30-pound braided line instead of fluorocarbon. The braided line will help keep fish pinned on a thick hook along with improving the hookset. I will pair this braid with a 17-pound fluoro leader. On heavy swim jigs, I step up to a flippin' stick and 50-65-pound braid. The heavy tackle will allow for the ultimate hookset strength and the ability to bring fish out of cover. Even though there are so many new baits being released and newer techniques becoming very popular, you must not forget about the tried and trusted baits that have and will catch fish for many years to come.

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All about Spinnerbaits on Lake of the Ozarks

By Steve Evanoff (Owner of E-Factor Lures)

The many different shapes and styles of spinnerbait blades available can make selecting a spinnerbait or the right spinnerbait confusing for many anglers. That confusion turns into over purchasing and wasting money on lures that will never even get wet. As anglers we already have the tendency to over-think things and that normally leads us to an unproductive day on the water. The last thing we need is a massive spinnerbait selection all with different blade styles to further complicate our day. So when it comes to the blades on your spinnerbait my advice is to keep it simple.

There are three basic blade styles that have proven to be consistently productive over many years in our sport; the Colorado Blade, the Willow Leaf Blade, and the Indiana Blade. If you opened my spinnerbait box or if you looked into the spinnerbaits I offer at E-Factor Lures those are the three blade styles you will see. One of these three styles or a combination of them is all you need on your spinnerbait to be successful. So how do you know which blade to use and when? By understanding the mechanics of a spinnerbait blade and the specific characteristics of each blade style, that question becomes much easier.



Colorado, Indiana and Willowleaf Blades

The Blades Make The Spinnerbait

The blade or blades of a spinnerbait is the most important part of the lure, period. Spinnerbait blades are designed to produce both flash and vibration as they rotate and spin while retrieved. The shape of the blade influences the amount of flash and vibration produced as well as the speed at which the blade will spin. The speed and rotational arc (either tight or wide) of the blade is controlled by the amount of water resistance the blade produces and can alter the amount of flash and/or vibration produced. Fish are attracted to the spinnerbait

by the blades flash and vibration as well as the blades speed at which it spins. While flash and vibration can attract fish from further away, the speed is a great up-close visual attraction for fish. Each of these attributes, either separately or combined, is what makes the spinnerbait so versatile and effective.

The Colorado Blade

Colorado blades feature a wide rounded profile and cup that spins slowly in a wide arc displacing more water than both the Willow Leaf and Indiana blade. This blade will produce more vibration and thump and allows the spinnerbait to be retrieved much slower than the other blades. The Colorado bladed spinnerbait shines in colder water when bass are lethargic because of its ability to be fished slowly. The vibration it produces also makes this blade the ideal choice in dirtier water when the bass rely on their lateral lines to feed. These blades will catch fish year round and work great as a tandem or double Colorado spinnerbait presentation. Colorado blade also makes a great kicker blade behind a Willow Leaf or Indiana blade. If you want to increase the flash of your Colorado try a Diamond Pattern Colorado blade.



Bigger Cup for More Bass

A Deep Cup Colorado delivers more thump, more vibration, a slower retrieve, better control, and more bass at the weigh-in. The Deep Cup Colorado blade on a 3/4 oz. or 1/2 oz. spinnerbait has been quietly producing tournament wins on the Ozarks for many years. This blade excels in the colder waters of early spring because of its ability to be fished slower keeping the bait in the strike-zone longer. That allows the lethargic bass more opportunity to strike and increases your odds of a successful day. To spice it up, add a #2 or #3 red Deep Cup Colorado kicker blade and see what happens!



My preference: I exclusively use a Deep Cup Colorado blade on all my spinnerbaits. The shape is basically the same as a standard Colorado but the end of the blade has a much bigger cup. This creates more water displacement which increases the thump and vibration of the blade. That allows me to work my Colorado spinnerbait much slower and with better control than other anglers. I have found that when the fish are lethargic or when fishing dirty water, the deep cup blades will out-produce a standard Colorado blade. In fact I am such a believer in the Deep Cup Colorado blades that at E-Factor Lures all my Colorado blades, even the kicker blades, are all deep cupped blades.

My favorite time to throw a Colorado blade spinnerbait is in the early spring when the water is cold. I use a 3/4 oz. spinnerbait with a single #7 Gold Deep Cup Colorado and a slow retrieve with the lure out of sight. I try to parallel the bank keeping my spinnerbait in the strike zone as long as I can. In certain conditions I will go to a 1 oz. with the #7 blade or drop to a 1/2 oz. with a #6 blade. Normally I use the Perfection Skirt or a Chartreuse/White Skirt unless the water is dirty then I will change to the Fire Tiger.

I also like a tandem Deep Cup Colorado spinnerbait in the same sizes early in the year with a #2 or #3 Colorado red kicker blade behind my #7 or #6 Colorado. There are times when this combination is hard to beat especially in off-colored water. I use the same skirts as above for this combination as well. During the fall I will shorten the arm on my single Colorado spinnerbait when I am fishing ledges so I can drop the bait off a ledge easier. This allows my blade to spin freely while falling and reduces the chance of the blade grabbing the line.



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When I want to increase the flash of my Colorado blade I will swap to a Diamond Pattern Deep Cup Colorado blade. Sometimes that increased flash added to the vibration is all it takes to entice those fish into biting. The deep cup blades also excel at night fishing because the amount of vibration makes it easier for the fish to hone in on the bait.

The Willow Leaf Blades



The Willow Leaf blades are probably the most popular of the three blade styles. Most anglers fish these blades in a tandem Willow Leaf or a Willow Leaf/Colorado combination.

They feature an elongated body with less cup, a faster spin, and a tighter arc than any of the other blades producing more flash but less vibration. These blades are designed to entice strikes from the amount of flash generated as well as from the speed of the blades spin. The flash will allure fish from a distance and the speed of rotation is a great visual stimulation up-close. Because of their tight arc rotation and less water resistance they can be fished much faster than the Colorado or Indiana blades. Willow Leaf blades are ideal in clearer water conditions when bass are primarily feeding by sight but they produce fish in many different conditions. A Diamond Pattern Willow Leaf blade will produce considerably more flash than the traditional smooth blade.



Flash = Bass on the Ozarks

Increasing the flash of your Willow Leaf blades can help you load the boat with more bass. You can boost the flash of a willow by using a larger blade (increasing the surface area) or by changing the pattern of the blade. I mainly use a Diamond Pattern Willow Leaf blade while targeting bass on The Lake of The Ozarks because of

its flash. The stamp on this blade creates diamond shaped bumps covering the entire blade body. Each one of these multi-angled protrusions will reflect light from so many different angles allowing this blade to produce a ridiculous amount of flash. Give one of these Diamond Pattern blades a try the next time you are out on your favorite lake.

My Preference: I fish a tandem Diamond Pattern Willow Leaf blade probably 95% of the time while throwing this style of blade. The amount of flash that the Diamond Pattern produces is insane! I still use the smooth blades as well just not as often. The Diamond Pattern Willow Leaf was the reason I started E-Factor Lures many years ago. Some companies were putting them on their spinnerbaits back then and then all of a sudden you couldn't find a spinnerbait with Diamond blades. I found out that for me to purchase for myself I needed to be a "company". So I figured what the hell and did it. Yes, to me they are that good!

My Favorite: the 3/4 oz. tandem willow spinnerbait with a #6 Diamond Gold and a #5 Diamond Nickel in the Perfection skirt and Chartreuse/White skirt. I am a big fan of contrasting gold and nickel blades on my Willow Leafs even in low light or dirty water conditions. They just produce fish, period.

I start throwing the tandem willow 3/4 oz. spinnerbait in the early spring when the water temperature rises to the mid 40's targeting channel swing banks in longer coves and river arms. Just like the Colorado spinnerbait I try to parallel the bank if possible. I will have one of these spinnerbaits tied on until the water drops back down to the mid 40's in the winter. This spinnerbait is a killer during the spring and the fall when you get around the big shad because of the large profile of the bait. The size of the blades is key to this spinnerbaits success as well. These blades are big enough and spaced correctly allowing the blades to "clank" together anytime you pause and restart the spinnerbait. During the fall I slow this spinnerbait down when targeting bluffs. Sometimes I will go up to a 1 oz. bait depending on the depth that I am keying on.

I also throw a lot of the Purple Shad, Smoke Shad, and Mouse in the same sizes throughout the year. On these spinnerbaits I utilize both the diamond and the smooth blade combinations targeting the same areas. I personally catch more fish on these colors in the fall but I have friends

that swear by it all year round and especially in the spring. These spinnerbaits really shine during the shad spawn.

Here's a tip; this spring or next fall when you are in the back of a cove with a lot of shad. Try ripping a 3/4 oz. spinnerbait bait with either 1/2 oz. blades or 3/8 oz. blades on it. All I can say is hold on tight if you do!

Indiana Blades

Indiana blades are more oval or teardrop shaped and has characteristics of both the Colorado blade and Willow Leaf blade. This blade produces less vibration but more flash than the Colorado and more vibration but less flash than the Willow Leaf blade. It also has less lift than the Colorado but more lift than the Willow Leaf. These features make the Indiana blade a great compromise between the other two. They are normally thrown in tandem with a Colorado blade behind the Indiana blade.



My Preference: I utilize both smooth and diamond pattern blades when I throw the Indiana blade and I almost always use a Colorado above the Indiana. I like a larger sized Indiana blade so I can get more flash and more thump. This blade is one of the most over-looked and under-used blades of the three even though it has Bassmaster Classic wins under its belt. I am as guilty as everyone else. This combination works best for me in water above 65 degrees and I will continue to throw it off and on through the spawn.

When throwing the Indiana blade I mostly use a 1/2 oz. spinnerbait with a #7 Gold Indiana in front and a #3 Nickel Deep Cup Colorado blade behind it with a Chartreuse/White Skirt. I will switch to double Gold blades in low light or dirtier water conditions. I will also experiment with a White skirt and a Fire Tiger skirt during those conditions as well. Some very accomplished tournament anglers that I know will drop down to a 3/8 oz. size to keep from spooking the bass during the spawn.



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This Indiana/Colorado works best for me in water temperature above 65 degrees and I will continue to throw it off and on through the spawn.

Adjustments

There are times when you need your spinnerbait to run faster or slower and times when you need them to run shallower or deeper. You can meet each of these needs by simply adjusting your spinnerbait blades.

Faster = Deeper / Slower = Shallower: The speed and depth at which you can retrieve any spinnerbait is based on the lift of the blade or blades. Generally to increase the speed and depth on a spinnerbait you need to decrease the lift of your blades and to decrease the speed and depth you need to increase the lift of your blades. Colorado blades have the most lift, Indiana blades have the second most, and the Willow Leaf blades have the least. Blade size is also a key factor in lift.

Example: To increase the speed and the depth that you can fish a tandem Willow Leaf blade all you need to do is downsize a blade. This will decrease lift and increase the speed as well as the depth at which you can retrieve the spinnerbait.

My Adjustments: Honestly, the only time

I really adjust for speed or depth is in the fall when fishing skinny water or ledges. When going deeper I will downsize my back Willow Leaf blade until I can achieve the depth that I want. This allows me to utilize at least one larger blade which I am a big fan of. In skinny water most of the time I keep the same bigger blades on unless I want to "burn" the bait. Then I will keep the head size but reduce both of my blade sizes.

What sets E-Factor Spinnerbaits apart from others?

There are several factors that I believe sets E-Factor Lures apart from the other spinnerbaits on the market. I think one of the most important factors is that each and every bait is made the old fashion way one-at-a-time. Every single bait that I make is truly a custom made product. I use nothing but the highest quality materials and take pride in each bait that passes through my hands. My name is associated with these lures and there is no way that I would ever attach my name to a subpar product.

I believe that the quality of your components is equal to the quality of your finished product. We all know that the blades make the spinnerbait however if the blades are unable to spin freely you lose the most

important fish catching factor of a spinnerbait. This is especially true with the swivel on every spinnerbait. I spare no expense on the swivels of my spinnerbaits. At shows I always tell any potential new spinnerbait customer to please compare my spinnerbaits to all other spinnerbait vendors before you buy from me. I ask them to "flick" the swivel blades of any spinnerbait before you make a purchase. It's kind of like checking the oil of a used car before you buy because it shows the care and attention that it was given.

I am also a believer in big blades. The bigger the blade, the more flash, the more vibration, and the more fish our anglers will catch. I think my spinnerbaits out produce the other brands because of our blade size on every spinnerbait. Our standard blades are bigger than most of the other spinnerbait company's blades. Our anglers are not only catching more fish with our spinnerbaits but they are getting more bang for their buck as well!

In general, I make all of our baits for the benefit of our anglers. I spare no expense in any of our products and I believe in quality over quantity without exception. My goal is to produce bass fishing lures that will give our E-Factor anglers an advantage anytime they are out on the water.

Denise Dill

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

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



Baits for Summertime Fishing on the Lake of the Ozarks



The 6th Sense Cloud 9 C20 is the ultimate deep diving crankbait to catch deep dwelling ledge bass on the Lake of the Ozarks. On a long cast the crankbait will reach that perfect 20-22ft depth range. What sets the cloud 9 apart from other crankbaits on the market is that it always runs true right out of the package, helping you to keep that bait down and in the strikzone. The C20 also features a 1/0 EWG Treble that is perfect for keeping those deep fish pegged.



The 6th Sense Devine ScrewLock Swimbait Jig Head will keep your swimbaits in place better than any other jig head on the market, saving you time from re-rigging, and also saving you money by

not going through as many swimbaits. The 3/4oz head features a 5/0 Hook and works perfect with any 6-7" Swimbait, especially a 7" Core-X Swimbait for when the fish are suspended under baitfish in the summertime.



The 6th Sense Peg-X Weight Stoppers are the best stoppers on the market. No more messing with multiple pegs to keep your weight in place. These pegs will lock down your weight in place through the heaviest of cover imaginable. If you are throwing a Texas rigged worm this summer, throw away that line cutting toothpick and put one of these bad boys on your line.

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The 6th Sense Crush 50X is the perfect shallow running crankbait for those finicky late summer Lake of the Ozarks Bass. These little bulldozers are designed for crashing into and deflecting off of thick shallow cover to create a reaction strike from big dormant fish. The Crush 50X is very durable compared to others on the market, and is also very buoyant, quickly backing out of cover so you don't get hung up.



The Speed Glide 100 Swimbait was designed to be an all-purpose baitfish imitation. The natural action of the Speed Glide resembles a fleeing baitfish in distress and it can be retrieved in multiple different ways. The Speed Glide Swimbait gives anglers the ability to retrieve the swimbait according to how fish are reacting on any particular day.



Don't Leave the Dock Without Checking Your Prop

FJ Propeller Midwest brings state-of-the-art diagnostics and propeller repair to Osage Beach By Deborah Wolfe

Ask competitive anglers what the most important tool is for garnering tournament wins and their answer might seem like a no-brainer – it's the boat. After all, it's pretty hard to win a tournament if you can't get away from the dock or you end up stranded in the middle of the lake. Let's face it, if the boat doesn't move, neither do you.

But in today's world of high-dollar bass boats with monstrous outboard engines that reach water shredding speeds of 70-plus mph, staying afloat both literally and financially takes paying meticulous attention to your boat's mechanics and build.

According to Casey Boaz of FJ Propeller Midwest, an essential tool in any angler's arsenal is often ignored because it sits below water, but it can profoundly affect your boat's performance on top of the water.

"Propeller performance is highly-important, but often overlooked," Boaz said. "For instance, it's essential to make sure the propeller blades are perfectly true and balanced. Propellers from the manufacturer are not always perfect in this regard and just making a propeller true and balanced can sometimes gain 1 to 2 mph as well as increase efficiency."

While most manufacturers conduct endless hours of testing to determine the optimal prop for their hull-outboard combinations, there are other variables that can impact performance.

"Tweaking cupping, pitch, diameter and even a little bit of thinning the blades all have their pros and cons," Boaz said. "Changing those things can create or reduce bow and or stern lift, help hole-shot, and increase top end and efficiency."

In addition, having the right model of propeller with the proper pitch maximizes speed, overall performance and fuel economy.

"Getting the proper pitch and diameter is essential," Boaz said. "Marine engines have a recommended rpm operating range, and at wide open throttle (WOT), the right propeller will turn the engine within that range. If the WOT rpm you get when running your boat doesn't match, there may be problems with your propeller."

Check your owner's manual to determine the WOT rpm range for your engine or if you don't have the manual handy, a quick Google search will likely turn up the info.

Repair Now - Keep Your Prop from Becoming Scrap Later

Given that rough water conditions are synonymous with the Lake of the Ozarks, regular prop inspections should be on every boater's "must-do" list. For this reason, Boaz recommends inspecting the prop before the boat goes in the water and after it comes out – every, single, time.

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



It's equally important to have your prop inspected and repaired by a qualified professional that is up-to-date on the latest technology.

"Simply fixing tiny nicks and hairline cracks with a file or a grinder like most shops do, ends up removing too much material, altering blade geometry and killing performance and efficiency," Boaz said. "A bad repair can cause irreversible damage to the propeller that includes overly thin blades, different blade shapes and altered cupping."

Indications of a shoddy repair job include blade edges that feel uneven in their thickness or feel wavy and bumpy; dull blade tips, mismatched blade shapes, and heavy

scratches from grinding on the surface.

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

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

To find a reputable propeller shop, ask for recommendations from other boaters whose opinions you trust and research customer reviews online. When visiting a propeller shop, don't be afraid to ask to see other props they repaired before making a decision.

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Established in 2018, FJ Propeller Midwest in Osage Beach was founded by Casey Boaz and his son Jesse. A welder by trade, Casey owned a lumber yard and hardware store in southern Missouri prior to moving to the Lake of the Ozarks. Jesse utilizes his graphic design, web design and photography skills to help promote the business and educate consumers on the company's products and services.

In addition, the senior Boaz has nearly two decades as a performance boat racer to his credit. Jesse sometimes teams up with his father to race and also works as a crew member on the race team. Fine-tuning these gargantuan, highly-complex performance engines has instilled both men with a passion for using detailed scientific data along with state-of-the-art technology to craft precisely designed components that maximize performance and increase stability. Their drive for perfection is reflected in every service performed at FJ Propeller Midwest.

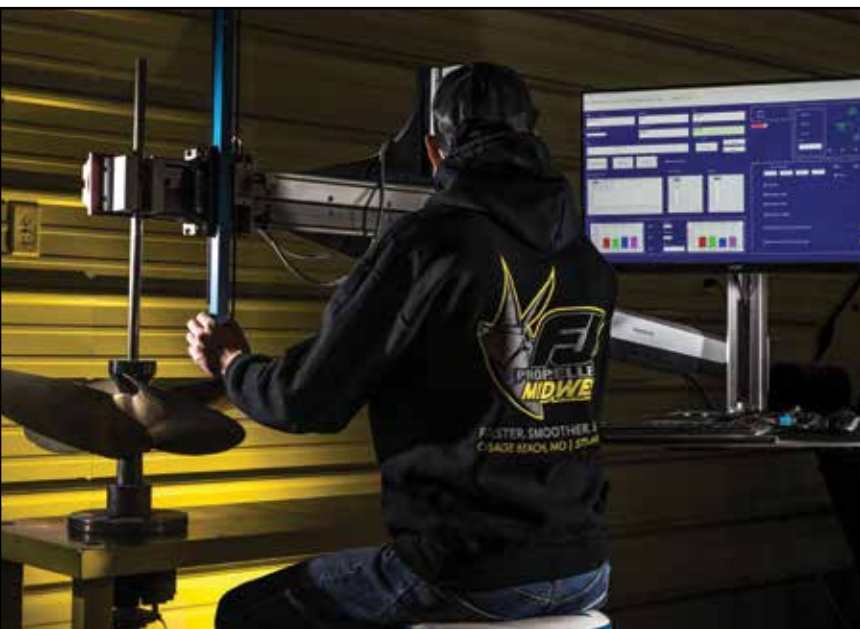
The company's fully-computerized 3D inspection and balancing system can identify the smallest miscalibration so that a prop can be adjusted to precise specifications. It also records and documents the



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exact condition of the propeller, resulting in a concise visual summary that assists with determining the optimal propeller repair or reconditioning service best suited to a boater's needs.

"A vibrating or damaged prop can appear visually okay but still need a full recondition," Boaz explained. "With 3-D technology, we completely remove the 'guesswork' and ensure your propellers are properly pitched for peak performance."

Boaz noted that there are times when even a geometrically accurate propeller can be unbalanced causing mechanical vibrations and decreasing bearing life and efficiency. FJ Propeller Midwest uses a dynamic balancer to not only balance and repair a propeller in a vertical rotating plane, but also adjust your propeller in two separate planes.

"The only scientific manner in which to accurately measure and correct dynamic unbalance is through the use of a true multi-plane dynamic balance analyzer," Boaz said. "Dynamically balancing a propeller in two separate planes means fixing any 'couple' or 'twisting' forces that can cause a rocking motion fore and aft or side to side."

Given that even the slightest fault in a propeller blade can mean a 10-15 percent decrease in gas mileage and performance, not to mention a loss of tournament winnings; utilizing the latest advanced technology to have your boat propeller accurately diagnosed and precisely repaired is a well-worthwhile investment.

More About FJ Propeller Midwest

FJ Propeller Midwest carries the name of one of the largest and most well-respected propeller repair facilities in the world – Florida-based FJ Propeller, widely known as Frank & Jimmie's Propeller. This collaboration provides the Boaz team with the extensive knowledge and training required to perform the techniques and cutting-edge technologies, honed through 60+ years of experience, that make FJ Propeller masters at crafting perfectly-constructed, high-performing boat propellers.

According to the company's website, Casey and Jesse Boaz "embarked on this journey with a clear set of objectives: to offer the highest quality repair with unparalleled service and experience necessary to meet the highest expectations, while helping to nurture our growing community of boaters around the lake." Judging by the company's massive growth and numerous positive customer reviews, FJ Propeller Midwest is accomplishing all that and more.





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NIGHT-TIME

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While fishing on the Lake of the Ozarks can be great all year round, heavy summer boat traffic and hot temperatures, may sometimes make fishing conditions seem less than ideal. Combine that with the fish becoming inactive and stingy in the mid-day heat and you may start to question your summer fishing decision. However, if you plan your trip out with these in mind, you can avoid both and catch a ton of big fish.

The simple answer to your summer fishing woes is to break out the lantern and give night fishing a try! The mild night temperatures and calm waters make for a much more pleasant experience on the lake. The low light conditions are also more conducive to finding active and feeding fish. Here are a few tips on how to catch some of the most popular fish species at night this summer.

Bass

While bass can be caught during the day in the summertime, the odds of hooking into a big one go way up once the sun goes down. As the water temps get warmer, you should plan your fishing trips for later on at night. In fact, one of the best times to catch big fish during the “Dog Days” of summer, is usually from midnight to 4 a.m. Many tournament fishermen will use a black light that illuminates their line to detect strikes. Popular places to fish at night are around lit docks and in brush piles. Nighttime fish in august can be caught in both shallow and deep brush piles with the most important factor being deep water access nearby. Texas-rigged worms and creature baits are both popular options for this style of fishing, and the fish seem to bite dark colors like junebug and

black ruby better at night since they have more contrast to the fish in the dark water. Another trick that helps draw fish in at night is to add a rattle to your bait. The rattle will help the fish hone in on your lure and will draw more strikes in the dark.

For an excellent video of Lake Ozark Fishing Guide Gary Shultz explaining night time bass fishing tips and techniques, check out this link on Bassingbob.com:

<https://bassingbob.com/videos/watch/monday-seminar-series-fishing-guide-gary-coach-schultz-discusses-baits-patterns-and-tactics-for-night-fishing-on-lake-of-the-ozarks/>

Catfish

Lake of the Ozarks is one of the best fisheries in the country when it comes to catching catfish in the summertime. Here you can find blue, channel, and flathead species of catfish. While there is a large population of all three, the most sought after and best eating is the blue cat. You can actually target certain species of catfish with certain baits. The flat heads seem to prefer a live and active bait, like a crawfish or a sunfish hooked through the back, whereas the blue cats favor a dead or cut bait such as shad sides or a filleted sunfish. You can use a ton of different baits to go after channels, with the most popular being dough or stink bait. Regardless if what species you are targeting, a popular method to catch these at night is tight-lining. For this rig you will need an egg sinker and a heavy wire hook. Tie the hook onto the line first with a Palomar knot, but make sure to leave a couple feet of tag line. Then take the tag line and run it back through the eye of the hook so you can tie your sinker to the end. The depth of water may vary depending on where your dock is positioned. Cast the rig out into anywhere from 10-40ft of water and let it sit still on the bottom with the line tight to detect strikes. The tight-line is effective because it will suspend your bait off of the bottom where big cats are usually more prone to bite. I call this the “lazy man’s fishing method,” because all you have to do is sit and wait for a big catfish to sniff out your bait, making it the perfect method for fishing at night. When tight-lining I recommend using a rod holder, because a big fish can easily pull your rod into the water if you are not paying attention. A good strike indicator at night is a must! You can attach bells, or reflective tape to the end of your rod to let you know when one grabs the

(continued on page 36)



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(continued from page 35)

bait. The catfish on our lake can get enormous, so I recommend using the heaviest tackle that you have on hand.

Crappie

Crappie is without a doubt the most sought after fish to catch and eat. They can be found all over the lake and can be caught with ease once located. When searching for crappie at night time a good place to start is to look for well-lit areas like community docks, or large private docks that keep their lights on. The lights attract bugs which in-turn ignites the food chain and attracts fish of all species, especially crappie. Another great place to find nighttime crappie is under a submerged fishing light. You can recognize these lights from a giant green underwater glow. Like the lighted docks, the fishing light attracts smaller bait fish which in turn brings in the predator fish. If you are fishing off of a dock a vertical presentation works great over these lights. An ultralight spinning combo paired with 4-6 lb. test is going to be the ideal setup for this presentation. If you like using live bait, a minnow is hard to beat right now. But if artificial baits are more your style, go with a 1/16 oz. jighead tipped with a dark colored crappie tube and a Crappie Nibble. Position yourself directly above the fishing light, and drop the bait down vertically 10-25 ft. Make sure to keep an eye on your line as it drops because sometimes the crappie will hit the lure as it falls. Once the bait is down well below the light, slowly reel up a couple of handle turns, letting the bait sit for a while every so often until you get a bite. Once you get a bite, make sure to take note of how deep the fish was and concentrate on fishing that depth.

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Many of you may already know Gary Shultz, from being a Bassing Bob Pro Advisor, Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Guide, Wednesday Night Tournament angler or from his coaching and teaching at Waynesville High School. We refer to him as "Coach" due to his many years of coaching football and track at Waynesville High

School. In 2018, Coach retired from teaching and coaching and amongst his spending relaxing time with his wife Lucie, fishing more, doing more fishing guide trips, he became a Major League Fishing Bass Pro Tour Referee.

Many of you may not know that Coach refereed high school and college basketball starting in 1970. He refereed at about the highest level of basketball possible from Wanyesville, MO. his home town. Coach refereed in the Frisco League, NIAA Division II college basketball, two

NCAA division finals, twenty Blue and Gold Tournament of Champions and three Christian Association Finals. Coach said that "he always wanted to be an official on a major league level, however I was a bit constrained from pursuing such with my teaching and coaching obligations and living in Waynesville, MO, which is not very convenient for nationwide travel".

For those of us that know Coach, his is very easy to get along with, has an excellent gift of gab, and has tremendous people bonding skills. Coach attributes those acquired skills from working with people at his parents chain of convenience stores and working with high school kids.

At Waynesville High School, in addition to coaching he was responsible for kids that were "at risk". These are kids that may not have been the most educational motivated kids. Coach took responsibility at a personal level for each student, having daily communications with these kids to be sure they showed up for school and got their work done. Coach worked with all of the other teachers to understand how they were doing in their classes. He put together

game plans for each student to help them overcome their deficiencies and promote to each of them a positive outlook on life. He helped to envision their life after completion of school and reinforced the habits that would be required of them in the work world. During coach's tenure at Waynesville High School, he graduated 600 kids that likely may not have graduated without his oversight. Many of the kids at Waynesville High are children of military families at the near by Ft. Leonard Wood military base. Coach felt it was very important for him to understand the emotions of many of these kids as a parent or parents perhaps could be in harm's way from their military duties. It is easy to see from his teaching background the importance of having good people skills, communications and skills and need to have an sympathetic approach. Coach said, "there was a fine balance between showing the respect for the kids, bonding with them on a one-on-one personal level and yet build a level of trust and a respect for his authority".

(continued on page 44)



**Anglers of
all skill levels
can win big payouts
and stay close to home with
the FLW BFL series**

By Deborah Wolfe

FLW Bass Fishing League (BFL) returns to Lake of the Ozarks May 18, 2019

Back in October 2018 when Fishing League Worldwide (FLW) announced the schedule, rules and increased regional payouts for the 2019 T-H Marine Bass Fishing League (BFL) series, the Ozark Division opener was set to launch at the Lake of the Ozarks March 2. But the wicked winter weather took an icy toll on area docks and boat ramps and it left a lot of boats sitting on trailers when FLW officials erred on the side of safety and postponed the tournament to May.

Fortunately for anglers, the delay means there is still time to register for the May 18 Ozark Division tournament, and regional payouts that include \$8 million in awards and 10 no-entry-fee championships makes competing an exciting endeavor.

Plus, fishing the BFL puts local anglers in front of the largest fan base in the sport with coverage on FLWFishing.com that includes the FLW Live Stream from every weigh-in and coverage on FLW's social media outlets, including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter. Combined, they reach more than 1 million fans each month.

"The BFL offers anglers of any skill level an opportunity to compete in a low-cost, professionally-run, reliable and consistent tournament series close to home," FLW public relations director Joe Opager said.

"Now BFL anglers have the convenience of fishing close to home with opportunities to advance to 10 no-entry-fee championships, including the BFL All-American, Costa FLW Series Championship and FLW Cup, for a shot at winning the biggest payday in bass fishing."

Another popular addition to the pool of prizes is the "WIN AND YOU'RE IN" format allowing anglers a shot at qualifying for a regional championship where they can win \$70,000 as a boater and \$50,000 as a co-angler. Qualify for the All-American, and you can win \$120,000 as a boater and \$60,000 as a co-angler. Plus, you only have to beat five other anglers from your regional to advance to the FLW Series Championship for more lucrative payouts and another shot at the FLW Cup.

FLW is the world's largest tournament-fishing organization, providing anglers of all skill levels the opportunity in 2019 to compete for millions in prize money across five tournament circuits. Headquartered in Benton, Kentucky, with offices in Minneapolis, FLW and their partners conduct more than 290 bass-fishing tournaments annually around the world.

In 1984, the FLW began the T-H Marine BFL circuit, originally called the Operation Bass Red Man Series, with 94 tournaments in 22 states. Back then,

tournament fishing required anglers to take time off work to travel long distances and dole out high entry fees so they could compete for hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and prizes. Seeing the need to make tournament fishing more accessible, the FLW established the BFL series as a way to give everyday anglers the opportunity to compete close to home.

"The overwhelming majority of FLW tournament anglers are not professional anglers – they are people with jobs, families and commitments that don't allow them to take the necessary time off of work to compete at the Costa FLW Series and FLW Tour level," Opager said. "The BFL offers anglers of any skill level an opportunity to compete in a low-cost, professionally-run, reliable and consistent tournament series close to home."

The Lake of Ozarks has a long history of hosting FLW tournaments for good reason – it checks all the boxes on the FLW "must-have" list for host communities. First and foremost, the lake has to be a dynamic fishery that can handle the fishing pressure of an FLW tournament. Other requirements include facilities that can host a takeoff with 100+ trucks/boats/trailers, etc. and can comfortably accommodate a weigh-in for the FLW staff, fans and anglers.

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"We also try to choose locations with a strong appreciation for bass-fishing – we want fans to come out and have a fun day at our show, seeing all of the great catches that are brought to the FLW stage," Opager said. "The Lake of the Ozarks has everything that FLW looks for when choosing a location – prime fishery, great facilities and a fantastic bass-fishing community."

The T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League Ozark Division open will take place May 18 with Takeoff at 6:30 a.m. and weigh-in at 2:30 p.m. at Pa He Tsi Lake Access in Lake of the Ozark State Park in Osage Beach. Entry fees are \$300 boater and \$150 co-angler per qualifier - \$350 boater and \$175 co-angler entry fee for Super Tournament. For complete details and updated information visit FLWFishing.com or call (270) 252-1000.

More Reasons to Fish the TH Marine FLW Bass League Ozark Division Tournaments

The 2019 BFL is a 24-division circuit devoted to weekend anglers, with 128 tournaments throughout the season, five qualifying events in each division. The top 45 boaters and co-anglers from each division, along with the five winners of the qualifying events, will advance to one of six regional tournaments where they are competing to finish in the top six, which then qualifies them for one of the longest-running championships in all of competitive bass fishing — the BFL All-American.

- Fish the BFL as a boater and you are also eligible for FREE Bass Pro Shops FLW Tournament Incentives at: basspro.com/flwincents, including a VIP discount card for 25 percent off Bass Pro Shops branded merchandise all year plus additional lucrative bonuses Ranger, Triton, Nitro, Evinrude, Mercury, Costa, Berkley, Toyota, Power-Pole and T-H Marine.
- \$8,000 boater and \$3,000 co-angler 1st-place award in every qualifier.
- \$11,000 boater and \$4,500 co-angler 1st-place award in the two-day super tournament.
- WIN AND YOU ARE IN: Tournament winners* and the top 45 boaters and co-anglers in each division advance to a no-entry-fee regional championship.
- \$70,000 Top Boater award includes a Ranger Z518L with a 200 HP outboard and \$20,000 cash in each regional.
- \$50,000 Top Co-Angler award includes a Ranger Z518L with a 200 HP outboard in each regional.
- Top 6 boaters and co-anglers from each regional (including the Wild Card) advance to the All-American for a shot at winning \$120,000 and \$60,000, respectively.
- The winning boater at the All-American advances to the FLW Cup for a shot at winning \$300,000.
- Top boater and co-angler from each regional (including the Wild Card) at the All-American advance to the no-entry-fee FLW Series Championship for a shot at winning \$100,000 and \$35,000, respectively.
- You only have to beat 5 anglers from your regional to qualify.
- Winning boater at the FLW Series Championship advances to the FLW Cup.
- Winning co-angler at the FLW Series Championship advances to the FLW Cup as a pro & receives use of a Ranger Z520L.

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Kayak Fishing



Kayak fishing has become a very popular method for fishing enthusiast as well as tournament anglers. Kayak fishing has been enjoyed by thousands of fishing enthusiast for many years, providing avid outdoorsmen with an inexpensive means to enjoy on the water fishing as well as to realize the health and exercise benefits. Over the past few years the popularity of recreational kayak fishing and improvements made by kayak manufacturers has sparked a new method for bass tournaments.

Jeff Mellencamp, a local firefighter with the Osage Beach Fire Department is enjoying success kayak tournament fishing. Mellencamp and his wife Tiffany and children Spencer and Macy, started to kayaking on 2017 as a family hobby. They purchased four river kayaks and would take the kayaks to local rivers and protected coves on Lake of the Ozarks.

One day when planning a kayak outing with his family he decided to take a fishing rod along, he caught several fish and was immediately hooked on kayak fishing. He joined Missouri Kayak (Mo-Yak) Fishing Series a regional kayak fishing club and he joined Kayak Bass Fishing (KBF) a national kayak tournament fishing series in 2018. Mellencamp qualified through his

success with Mo-Yak and KBS for the 2019 National Championship Tournament

In 2018, Jeff's first year of competitive kayak fishing, he had twelve top 10 finishes including four 1st place finishes a 2nd place and 3rd place finish as well as a big bass award catching a 24" bass (approximately 8 pounder) on Pomme De Terre lake. Mellencamp finished fourth in Angler of Year standings with Mo-Yak.

Kayak Fishing Tournament Format

There are primarily two formats for kayak fishing tournaments, On-line format and All Lake format.

The on-line format is generally a 30 day tournament the allows the anglers to fish any public lake in the state. The All Lake Tournaments are typically one day tournaments on a specific lake. The anglers launch from any public ramp. Most tournaments average about fifty anglers and regional and national championships well into the 100's of anglers.

Kayak tournaments score bass based on the length of the fish versus the weight of the fish. When a kayaker catches a measurable bass, minimum of 8", they measure the fish on a specified measuring boards a Hawg Traugh or a Ketch Board. Each registered angler is provided a special identifier

code, which most anglers will write or type onto a small card like sheet and put into a plastic cover. When an angler catches a measurable bass, they place the fish on the board with their identifier code and take a picture of the bass. The photo along with the anglers GPS coordinates and a time stamp is uploaded to an on-line scoring system, Tourney-X, to be judged by a person and recorded. Total score is determined by the angler with the longest total length for his best five fish.

There are three types of kayaks, paddle, where the anglers sits in the kayak and uses a paddle to move, peddle, where the angler has a set of peddles to move and motorized, where the kayak is equipped with a trolling motor to move about.

While all the traditional paddle and peddle style, kayaks have optional upgrades or third-party components to assist with angling, such as rod holders and room for bait boxes, the motorized kayaks have specific designs built-in for kayak fishing, including trolling motor mounts, graph mounts, rod holders and storage areas for baits. Kayaks range in price from from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. The most popular brands of kayak are Hobie, Jackson, Old Towne, Wilderness, Bonafied, NuCanoe,

and Vibe. Sport World Boat Center at Lake of the Ozarks boat dealer, carries the Bonafied brand of kayaks and Ozark Archery inside of Fitz Fishing is the exclusive dealer for the NuCanoe brands.

Comparing Bass Boat Fishing with Kayak Tournament Fishing

Mellencamp explained that the biggest difference between traditional tournament fishing out of a bass boat versus a kayak is mobility and speed. On average, Mellencamp said that he will cover about five miles of water in a typical tournament day.

Considering the slower mobility of a kayak angler, the anglers typically fish substantially slower, really picking apart a stretch of bank. Fishing a specific area with multiple baits, fishing a spot both shallow and deep and even fishing into the same water with multiple cast versus bass boat fishing where the anglers a work an area of bank with a few casts and continue to move down the bank.

While bass boat style anglers monitor weather conditions a kayak angler needs to study the conditions a bit harder as wind can be a major factor related to mobility, therefore the kayak angler must plan his day based on wind conditions to be able to fish without being blown around too much based on the lightness of the kayak as well as the time it takes to move around from spot to spot without the speed of a bass boat motor.

Keys to Success

Mellencamp attributes his success to substantial research, map study and time on the water. He said, that the Bassing Bob website is his primary research website in addition to YouTube and other specific bass fishing web sites. He also indicated that he learned a lot of baits and techniques from the local and regional pro's at the Bassing Bob weekly seminar series at Osage Beach City Park. He said that one seminar in particular he learned from Pro Dion Hibdon specific techniques for fishing a jig, he applied those techniques in his next tournament and finished in second place.

He also said that he does significant map study. Considering the slower mobility fishing from a kayak, he tries to learn feature, contour lines, depth changes and sun/wind direction so when he goes to fish a bank, he knows from the map study where the fish should be positioned based on the time of year and conditions. He also said that, time on the water is very key, thoroughly knowing the area that you plan to fish. He likes to find small areas of a lake that have many different types of structure and depth, bluff banks, big rock banks, pea gravel banks, shade or sun docks and open banks. Having all of these in a small area helps him to fish varying patterns in one day with limited mobility.

Mellencamp said that he loves the serenity of fishing from a kayak and being so close to the water catching a landing a 5 pounder is exhilarating.

Continued Growth

The popularity kayak fishing is continuing with a new format called "Pond Warrior". Pond Warrior provides a format similar to described above with the restriction of fishing lakes/ponds that are less than 100 acres. Another indicator of success is that national tournament trail FLW has partnered with KBS to sponsor an FLW Kayak Tournament Trail.



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(continued from page 37)

Coach has loved fishing his entire life. He started fishing with his Grandpa on the Gasconade and Big Piney rivers at the age of seven. Fishing for perch, goggle eye and catfish out of a wooden boat that his Grandpa made. While in college at Mizzou a few of his buddies were packing their gear for a weekend fishing trip to Table Rock lake and he joined them. They stopped on their way at the original Bass Pro Shop, which was in the back of a liquor store and he bought some Manns worms. Coach remembers catching a six pounder in Mill Creek that trip with his Zebco 33 fishing reel and rod combination and he was hooked on bass fishing. He joined the Pulaski County Bass Club and started tournament fishing. Fishing with and along side fishing legends like Bill Davenport. He progressed to other clubs fishing against other legends of bass fishing, including Guido Hibdon and Denny Brauer. Coach and his wife Lucie moved to Lake of the Ozarks in 1999 and in addition to fishing tournaments with great success he started Smokies Guide Service.

Coaches background of being a high school and college referee, coaching and teaching kids, his passion for fishing combined with his awesome people skills all prepared him well to be a Major League Fishing Bass Pro Tour referee. However, at the time he retired, that was not on his radar.

Coaches grandson Colton, who is also and avid fisherman, asked him if he could get him a Major League Fishing (MLF) cap. Coach went on line to the Major League fishing website to buy the cap and he saw an application form to be an MLF referee. He decided to compete the application, however his expectations were low as one of the requirements was to live within two hours of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the headquarters of MLF. After completing the application process and submitting he was surprised to receive a phone call and email from the head of referees, Aaron at MLF to come to Tulsa for an interview. Having just retired and settling into his retirement live, he was a bit hesitant to really pursue this, however with his drive to be an official at a major league level, he decided to take the next step and do the interview. There were hundreds of applicants. MLF told coach the interview process would take about 45 minute to an hour. After five minutes in the interview with Aaron the head of training and referees, Aaron said, "you will fit right in" and after some further small talk, the interview was concluded.

Shortly after the interview Coach received informal communication that he was going to be accepted and that was followed by a formal acceptance communication. Coach said "my thoughts after that communications, was that this has just got real". Thinking about the commitment he just made of being on the road for twelve days at a time for about four or so tournaments.

Coach said that in addition to an instructional manual for training they also received classroom style training. He indicated that the majority of the classroom training was situational scenarios when in the boat with the pro's, most of which was focused on penalties. MLF does not allow fish to hit the carpet of the boat, the side of the boat and anglers cannot corral the fish to their bodies when landing the fish. There are also special rules for releasing the fish back into the water. A violation of these rules result in a 2 minute penalty during which the angler cannot fish, tie baits or move their boats. Other aspects of the training included people skills, referee interaction with the pro anglers - the do's and don't's, standards of professionalism and learning how to work with the score tracker program that each referee inputs and records fish catches as well as an up to date view of the standings, which is communicated to the pro. Weighing the fish and dealing with challenges of the weight from the pro's is also a major part of the referee's responsibility.

In Coaches first two events, the first at Lake Toho in Florida and the second on Jordon Lake and Falls Lake in North Carolina, Coach was in the boat with some of the top anglers in professional fishing, Tim Horton, Boyd

Ducket, Fred Roumbanis, Brandon Colter, Andy Montgomery, Zack Burge, Marty Robinson, Chris Lane and Todd Faircloth. Coach said that the most interesting aspects for him observing these top anglers, is their decision making and work rate. He said, he can see their minds working regarding their next move to a spot or baits they should be throwing a lot of which he says is determined by their current standings against other anglers weights. He also said their work rate is phenomenal, they do not miss a cast and they maximize every second, keeping their baits wet and putting the baits in prime locations.

Coach has really enjoyed the experience and is happy that he chose to pursue this adventure. While he indicated that it is a bit of a grind, driving many hours to a destination, up at 4 in the morning and on the boat for several days with great responsibility, the rewards of meeting these anglers and observing their fishing skills has been very rewarding. In addition, he indicated that the MLF group takes great care of the referees, with great accommodations and meal/event opportunities with the anglers.

Coach has a busy up-coming schedule as he will be headed to Smith Lake in Alabama, Tablerock in Missouri and Grand Lake in Oklahoma in the coming months.

While many of us know Coach from being a Bassing Bob Pro Advisor, teacher, coach, referee and fishing guide. Coach is becoming very well known now in the ranks of professional bass fishing and the thousands of anglers that follow MLF on their streaming on-line live video feeds and national TV.



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