

# Fishing '88

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**SONAR EXPLOSION:  
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**SPRING CREEKS:  
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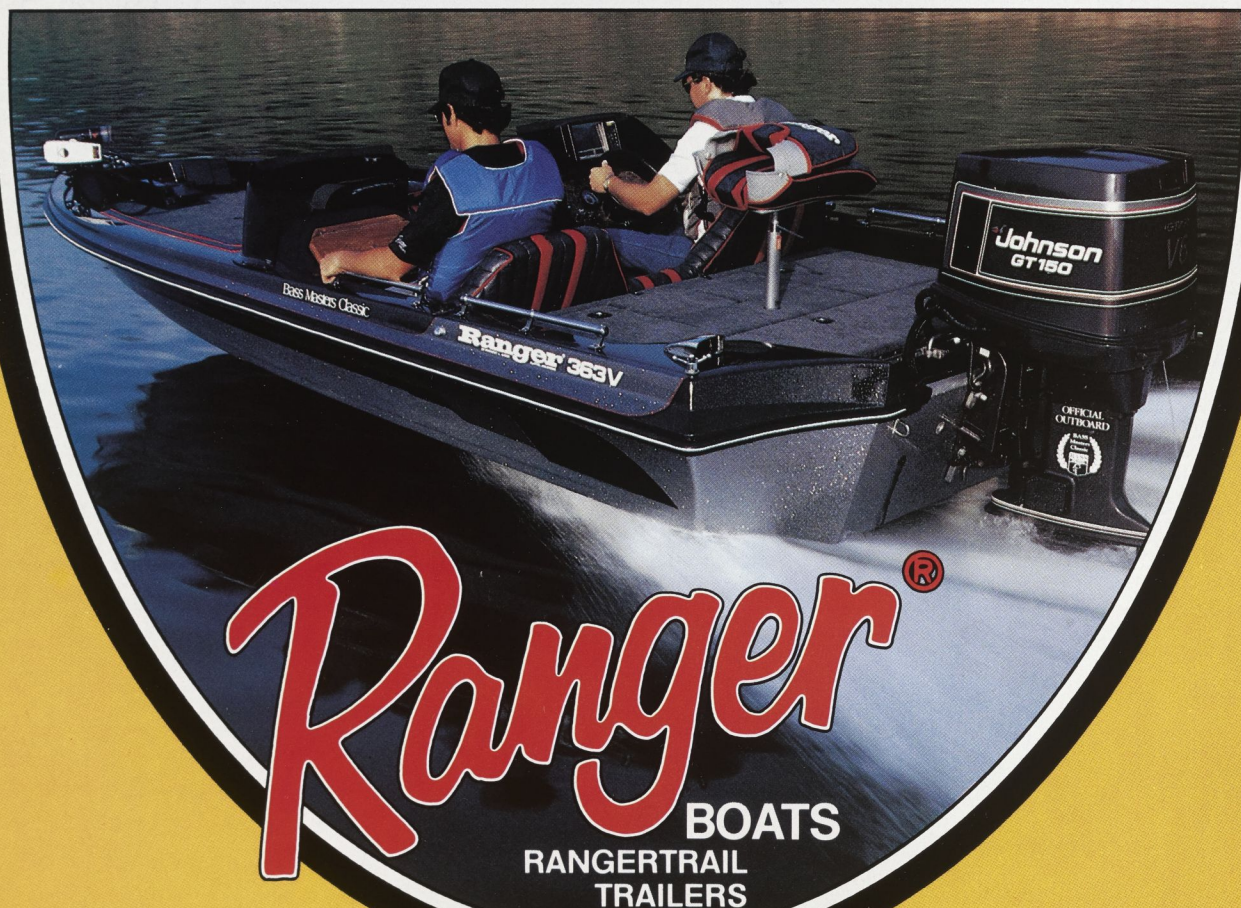
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# Fishing '88

## TROUT BEYOND THE RANGES

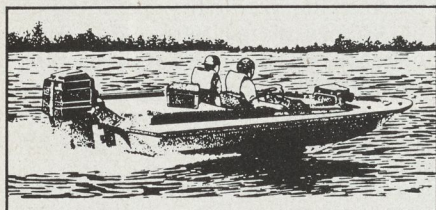
By K.C. Pearson

This is fishing that calls to the bold. Deep in the backcountry, the lake or stream of your dreams is waiting. **4**

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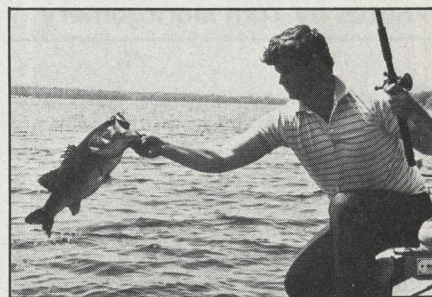
By John E. Phillips

The '88 fleet features an array of dazzling features that will make your days on the water more fun than ever. **59**

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By Gene Hill

In fishing, there is a lot of opportunity for a kid to sort of adopt an older person. Perhaps even a parent, if there's no one else handy. **82**



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Virginia Commander  
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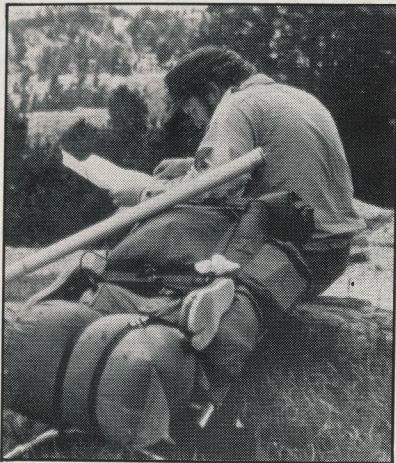
Len Kabatsky Paul Wheeler  
Cover Design Copy Editor

Parker Gentry Advertising Director  
(212) 807-7100

The cartoon illustrations are all by John Troy and were excerpted from his books, *Fly Fishing #@%&\*!*, *Bass Fishing #@%&\*!*, and *Fishing #@%&\*!*, all published by and available from Nick Lyons Books, 31 West 21st St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Line drawing illustrations are the work of Steven Cavallo.

Cover photography by Jim Vincent.



# TROUT

## Beyond The Ranges

**When you fish the high wild, you'll be alone but never lonely! This is top-drawer action that calls to the bold.**

By C.C. Pearson  
Photos by Tom Montgomery

**Y**ou've done 12 hours' hard labor, working and commuting, and now that you've driven through the rain-soaked hell of rush hour, right through the spectacle of civilizations ongoing collapse, you find yourself stuck in an intersection where a large semi has gotten wedged across the road. No way out, friend; and hallucinatory or not, that red light ahead is shaping itself into one word, ripe with meaning: ESCAPE.

Since you are mired at this godforsaken intersection, there is time to peek at that magazine you picked up from the newstand, the one with the mountains, the fish, the grandeur of the West. The images convey the feeling of the way it used to be, before urban sprawl did its cancerous thing.

Papa—the Papa, Ernest Hemingway—remembered the purity of those times out of time, in out-of-the-way places. He told us about the way it was in the great outdoors in a wonderful story called *Big Two-Hearted River*. It's about a guy named Nick Adams who went fishing by himself. If you're contemplating heading out to the big country, there's probably a thing or two you can learn from Papa's story about Nick.

What's so great about *Big Two-Hearted River* is the way the hero gets into all the details of camping and being outdoors. He arrives in the area by train, and then hikes into the river. Once he gets there, he makes a place for his bedroll; he wants his camp to be ready so that he can get to the business at hand: fishing. After that, he puts up his canvas tent, which has a cheese cloth mosquito screen. Then, Nick makes a fire, and he cooks beans and



spaghetti. It tastes great because he hiked all that way to the river. After that, he knocks a nail into a tree for his napsack, and then he gets in his tent. It feels like home, which is how a good tent should feel. Before he goes to sleep, he kills a mosquito with a lighted match.

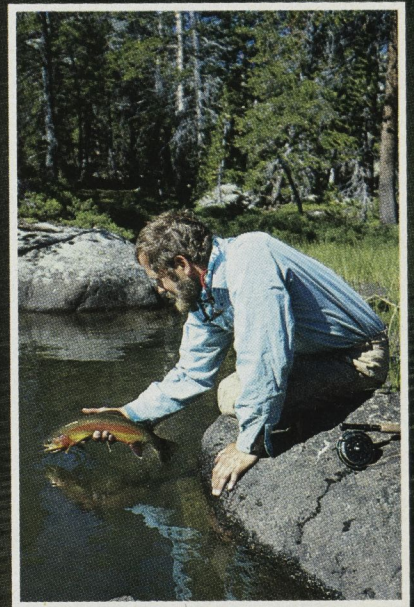
In the morning, Nick makes coffee, and you can smell and hear the fat frying in the pan; when he makes the flapjacks you get totally engrossed in how they become porous and crisp, the way they should be. You know they're not still moist, or gooey inside.

Then, and only then, does the hero, Nick, go fishing. Two things are notable, among others, about this fishing: one is that he does not wear waders. Second is that Nick is all alone on the river!

This fact is quite amazing. Most vacationing anglers shirk the true spirit of adventure and follow the map laid out by outdoor writers. Nothing wrong with that except the obvious: your fishing based on such intelligence may have more in common with a white sale at the local whorehouse. All kidding aside, *crowded* is the way it can be. But more of this later.

Back to Nick. He was not a fly fisherman, nor was he a lure fisherman. He was a hopper fisherman, in this instance. And even on the river, which swirled around him, he was observing all sorts of details. He noticed that the grasshoppers were black, because there had been a big fire in the area. He lost one hopper that escaped from the bottle, but the second one he put on the hook, and before the end of the day, he had two nice trout in the canvas creel he was dragging behind him. When he

**On your own in the wilderness, you'll discover more than good fishing: the joy of self-reliance and the gentle pleasures of backcountry tasks and living.**



# — Beyond — The Ranges

stopped fishing, it was because it was *time*. He had two fish, and he didn't want to go down into the swamp area to fish, that day. So, he cleaned the trout, and he cooked them. And the best thing was, he had many days before him to fish some more.

Time. Simplicity. Observation. Oneness with nature. The small triumphs of the accomplished woodsman, who can

feed himself without destroying the fishery. Who can also release a gret game fish, or a native trout.

We live in a more complex, crazy time, but because of that there is even more reason to savor the wildness/outdoor experience. In attending well to the small details of fishing, hunting, and camping, you'll find the kind of high you simply cannot buy.

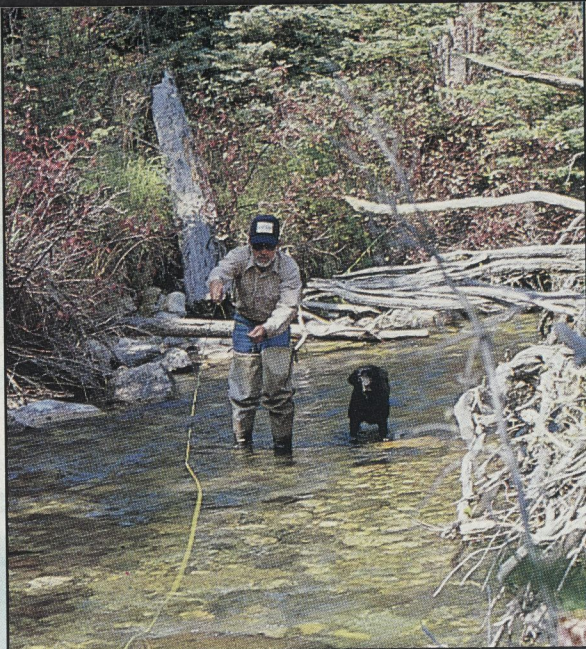
Perhaps as you contemplate your ESCAPE, there is little distinction in your mind between the ecstasy of catching a five pound rainbow trout, and the exhilaration of waking up in the West, mountains everywhere you look, the smells of sage, fir trees, coffee, and

a good breakfast mingling...and that fact is significant. Don't be like the guy who, when he broke loose and headed out for that consummate fishing vacation, blew it all by forgetting that the total experience is far more important than playing a numbers game of fish caught to fish blown.

Why? Because the West is a very big place with a lot of good water. Trying to make a hero of yourself the first time out might be a big mistake, especially as that is not what it's all about. A lot of guys buy a ton of equipment and beeline out to Montana, Idaho, or Wyoming, with one thing in mind: that

*Continued on page 32*





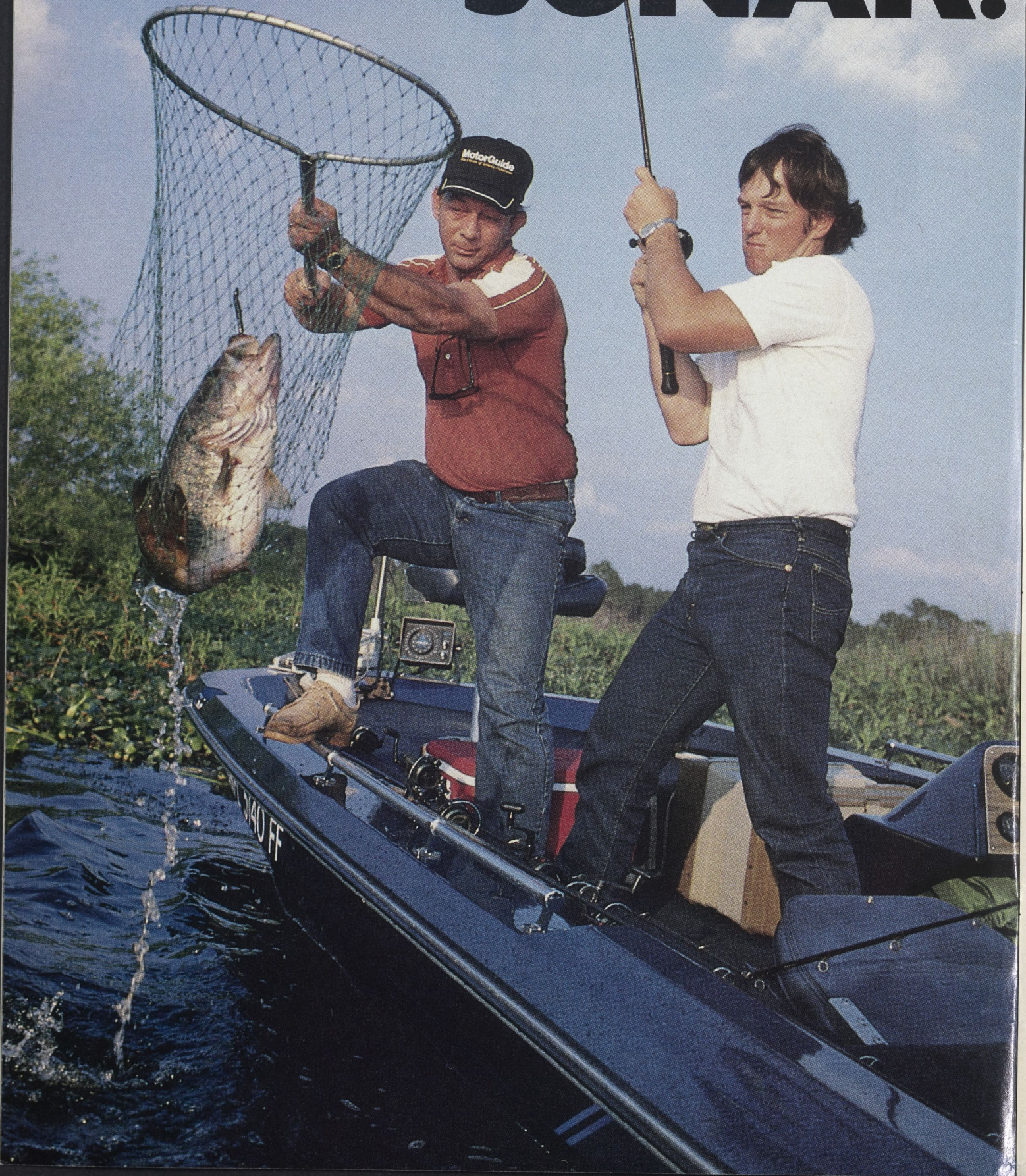
Dale Spartas Photos

You top a final ridge and suddenly, magically there it is: a lake or stream filled with cutthroat trout—and you've got it all to yourself!



**HIGH-TECH FISHING**

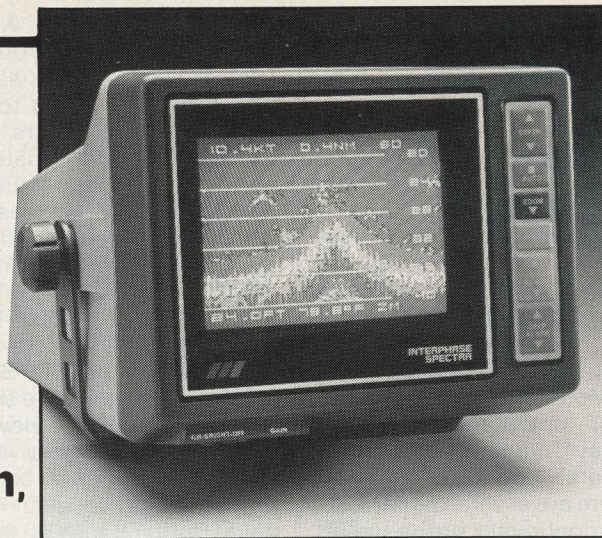
# SONAR:





# The Ultimate Advantage

The hottest news in Fishing '88 will be created by the new breeds of sonar units. They do it all—with precision, colors and sound effects!



Interphase Spectra

By Nick Sisley

**T**oday, we're already beyond blase Buck Rogers space age stuff when it comes to the latest in fishing sonar. Tomorrow, it won't be surprising to me if these electronic wonders are capable of driving our cars to the launch ramps, even launching our boats. For sonar units you say??

The latest in depth finding equipment from the fishing sonar industry is capable of far, far more than they were only a few years ago. Many anglers still don't realize this. Last year a number of new-kids-on-the-block, as far as sonar manufacturers are concerned, emerged. At last summer's American Fishing Tackle Manufacturer's Association (AFTMA) Show in Atlanta, I personally felt a number of newer depth finders, many with all manner of sophisticated, yet easy to operate gadgetry, stole the show.

For example, a number of these breakthroughs were personified by Impulse, one of those new-kids-on-the-sonar-selling block. Relatively, at least, John Mazerkowitz with Impulse's ad agent, The Walker Agency, showed by a most impressive Impulse unit on opening day of that AFTMA Show. It's a

Loran that works in conjunction with their Model 3000 sonar.

If you've ever been deep sea fishing, you know that the boat's skipper utilized a very sophisticated Loran. That unit was able to keep in contact, electronically, with signals emitted from specific shoreline stations. By zeroing in on two of these signals, the Loran on ship was able to triangulate its exact position at any time. Consequently, from a safety standpoint, the craft could always return safely to port. Further, these electronic radio waves could be used to re-find a fishing hotspot, like a wreck, dropoff, whatever—again via triangulation. With a Loran there's no wasted time looking for such fishing spots, or the home port. In recent years charter boats on the Great Lakes have made effective use of the Loran, too.

These Lorans have been very expensive, with only charter boats and a handful of rich sportsmen being able to afford them. Impulse now puts Loran capabilities in the hands of many, many more of us. Their unit, priced in the mid-\$700 neighborhood, uses graphics to display the Loran's radio wave information—on the LCD display screen of the company's Model 3000.

Briefly, the boat's start position is in

the middle of this screen, with directions being like a map, up for north, left for west, etc. Just one example of how the Loran can work for you is—say you found a fishing hole you never knew existed before—on your home lake, or a distant one. You simply punch in the Loran coordinates of that fishing spot. The unit automatically puts that info into memory. The next time you want to return to that fishing hotspot, you punch in the Loran coordinates you want, and the Impulse unit, on the display screen, points out, unerringly, how to get there, telling you when you're off course, etc.

Another breakthrough in the 3000 is called Super Twist. In bright light most LCD sonar units are very difficult to see. You have to be directly in front. Be off to the side maybe less than a foot or so, and you often can't read the LCD screen. Through a breakthrough in the lap computer screen industry, wide-angle viewing is now available via Super Twist. Not only is the viewing angle appreciably wider, the quality of the images on the screen are clearer as well.

Even further, there are more pixels. Pixels are the square dots on a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen. The more (smaller) the dots, the finer the defini-



Three sonar units from Eagle: The 7200 (left), The 7500 (center), and The 3D-100 (right).

# Sonar

tion. However, prior to Super Twist, more dots meant less contrast on the screen. So, while you got more detailed information with more pixels, a lot of resolution was lost because more pixels meant lighter and lighter shades of black. Reportedly, Super Twist combines the best of both worlds—more detail through more pixels—AND more contrast for better resolution.

When the Model 3000 is in the regular (non—Loran) operating mode, the screen displays much more information than merely the bottom and its contour. There are several digital read-out numbers continually on the screen, and they're continually changing. Like a number showing the depth in feet, the surface water temp, boat speed, the distance logged in yards, and more. The water temp can be graphed, too, to indicate possible temperature changes over holes, shallows, different bottoms, changing currents, whatever. A battery pack unit is available for it, too, in case anglers want to travel with this unit with so many features, but travel without their boat.

## Bottom Line

Another sonar producer with which I was most impressed was Bottom Line, specifically their Model 310. It was last year when Bottom Line blew away much of the competition with its Model 300. This year's 310 features many

improvements in it. And, if you're already figuring that you should wait a year or two, or three, assuming every new season is going to bring added features to new sonars, consider this. Bottom Line will update any of their current 310's features in future years, adding those new breakthroughs to your existing unit. They do this through plugging in new software.

Bottom Line is based in Boise, Idaho. Don't assume they're there for the scenery and the outdoor opportunities. As head honcho Bill Bogan puts it, "Nick, the reason we're situated here in Boise is because of Hewlett/Packard. They're a great innovator in many facets of the complex computer industry. By being located in Boise with them, Bottom Line can take advantage of our closeness to their engineering personnel and equipment. This town is a mecca for hi-tech, the largest producer of Dynamic RAM memory chips in not only this country, but the world."

Bill went on, talking about his baby for this season, the 310, "We simply listened to the fisherman and our dealers, discovering what other features they'd like to see incorporated in last year's 300."

There are only five "soft" keys for operating the 310. You simply touch the keys when you want something else shown on the LCD screen. The 310 constantly monitors, through digital numbers on the screen, water temp, boat speed and bottom depth in feet. The screen is very high definition, with over 30,000 pixels.

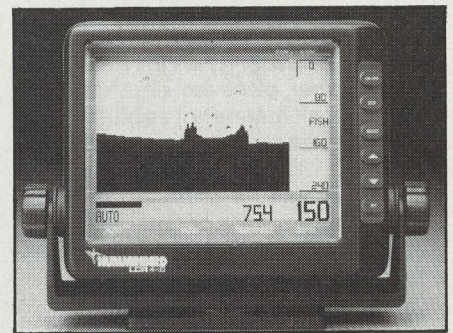
One new and most interesting feature is called Fish D'Tect. An audible

alarm goes off when the transducer passes over a fish. But there's more. You can set the minimum size of the fish you want to be warned about. The 310 then ignores the smaller ones. Even further, the unit displays on screen the size and species—via a special computer-generated fish symbol! There's a separate alarm system for depth.

There are many different depth scales available on the 310. If you're using say the 1—30 foot range, and the boat goes into water that's deeper than 30, the unit automatically switches to the next deepest scale. Another great feature is the ability to zoom into specific parts of the screen. Let's say you're on the 1—30 foot scale. You can look at any five foot segment of that, like the 5—10 range, 25—30, whatever, that specific 5 foot section then filling the entire screen so you have a much more detailed picture of it.

You can split the screen, too, so you can read full depth information on one half, while the other half reads the portion of depth you have zoomed in on. And is the 310 thin? Like only 3/4 of an inch thick! And you can put everything the 310 records over the course of a fishing day—onto a cassette tape via any portable recorder you can carry along. This feature will be particularly helpful when fishing new lakes. You can't be watching the display screen continually. After all, you have to be fishing some time during the day! But

Humminbird LCR 4X6



**The latest in depth finding equipment from the fishing sonar industry is capable of far, far more than they were only a few years ago. Many anglers still don't realize this.**

Impulse LC240



by tape recording the information while you're fishing, you can, at any later time, plug in the cassette recorder tape and review, on the LCD screen, your entire fishing day, then maybe making notes of stuff like dropoffs you hadn't seen on the screen because you were fishing, maybe thermocline info, bottom changes, temperature changes, structure and more. The unique possibilities of this new cassette feature are only limited by your own imagination.

You can also incorporate what Bill dubs a "Cross-Hair Target Cursor," which zeroes in on the target's depth and its distance from the boat. That means you know how far to cast beyond—to bring the bait or lure right past it. This feature will also be great for trollers, especially in the Great Lakes. They'll know when to anticipate strikes. If they don't receive strikes when expected, they'll know to double check the depth at which their lures are running, and/or there's an indication that a change in lure color could be in order.

## Interphase

If it's beginning to sound like using one of these new depth sounders requires a degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, just the opposite is the case. They're remarkably simple. The Bottom Line 310 even has a "help" menu, which is always

### Impulse 3000 Loran C



instantly available, in case you do have questions. Interphase, yet a third relatively new-kid-on-the-sonar-selling block, also has easy-to-operate units. Last season Interphase set the industry on its ears with significant price breakthroughs—and in units which incorporated many, many new and worthwhile features.

Adamant about not sitting back on last year's laurels and eye-popping sales record, Interphase is perhaps going to make this an even bigger and better year. Mild mannered but burly TV fisherman Billy Westmoreland "col-lared" me near the Interphase booth at the AFTMA Show. "Nick, come with me. I want to show you some mind-boggling sonar stuff from Interphase."

When big guys like Billy have me by the collar, it's just like with the old E.F. Hutton TV commercials. "I listen!" But I wasn't disappointed a bit. On the contrary, I was most impressed.

Manufacturer's rep Simon Cohen made his pitch about various Interphase sonars right then and there. Later, via the phone, it was Sales Manager Tom Harris who answered my questions and provided additional input about these products.

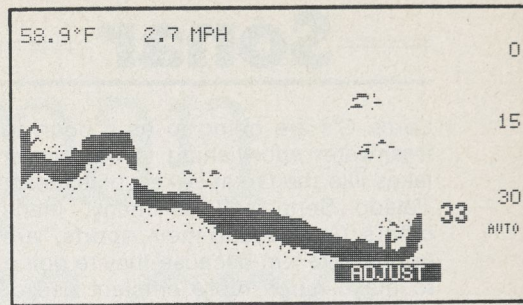
Word has it last year's do-everything Interphase sonar was priced in the mid-\$400 range, this season's updated version should have a price reduction of maybe another \$100! The unit of which I speak is their 20/20. It features a new, much easier to see amber screen. The 20/20 screen is especially easier to see and read in bright sunlight. The background on screen is dark, even black. The amber color of the graphics shows up extremely well on that dark background. Further augmenting this ease of viewing is a sun shield that I was able to check out at the AFTMA Show.

The 20/20 also has a digital read out on the LCD—of depth in feet and water temp. There are several screen speeds. Through those different settings, you can see on the screen, as Bill Bogan puts it, "...up to almost a minute of fishing history."

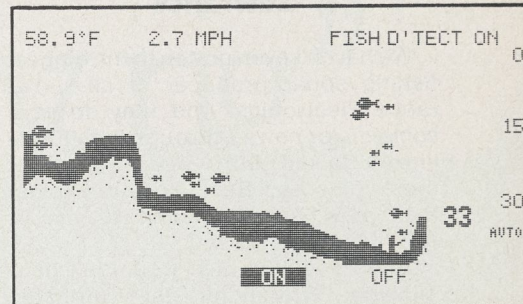
Sonars read by sending a sound signal downward, then record how long it takes for the sound to bounce back to the transducer. The longer it takes for the sound to come back, the deeper the depth. There are three speed settings on the Bottom Line 310. The fastest allows you to see up to 12 seconds of "history" (what still remains on the screen). Two other speeds allow you to see what the boat has gone over in the last 24 and 48 (almost a minute) seconds.

There are two audible alarms incorporated into the 20/20, a "top" and a "bottom" alarm. The operator sets both whenever and wherever he wishes. Say you want to know when your boat moves into water that's 5 feet or shallower—for safety reasons. You can slow the boat down to be safe if you've been zipping along on plane and that "top" alarm goes off. Set that "top" alarm at any depth you wish. Say you want "warned" when the boat goes out of the shallows, like when you're anchored in a bay for overnight, or you're working the edge of a creek channel for whatever species. Set the "bottom" sound alarm for whatever depth you chose, too.

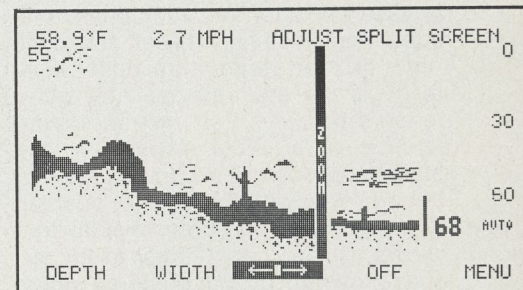
Supposedly, it was Billy Westmoreland who talked Interphase into making their Sportsman model. Unique, it's an in-dash amber screen LCD that also displays water temp and digital bottom depth. Featuring six ranges, you can also zoom into 20 percent of any of



Bottom Line™ 310 with normal display on the high-resolution liquid crystal screen.



Bottom Line™ Tournament 310 with Fish D'Tect' on. This Bottom Line™ exclusive shows all fish and their relative size with special computer-generated fish symbols.



With the Bottom Line™ Tournament 310's adjustable split screen zoom, anglers can take a closer look at fish and structure (on the left) while also viewing the entire surface-to-bottom picture (on the right).

those six ranges. Ditto for the 20/20 as well.

There's a color readout sonar from Interphase, too. Dubbed the Spectra, its screen has a blue background. Targets that the sent sound waves hit come back and appear as eight different colors. The colors change as the hardness of the surface of those targets change. Thus the user can quickly learn which color is a mud bottom, which is sand, rocks, which fish species appear as red, which species appear as other colors, which colors tend to be submerged stumps, brush piles, and so forth.

Interphase, like Impulse, also has a new, relatively inexpensive Loran, compared to those very expensive ones we knew up until this time. You can program up to 40 fishing hotspots into this unit, then, via the Loran coordinates, zero right back in on them at any later date. I think these new

# Sonar

Loran C's are going to be a boon to freshwater sportfishing in the bigger lakes like the Great Lakes, plus Mead, Toledo Bend and so many, many others. Guides, and their "sports," are gonna love 'em because they're going to make much more efficient use of their fishing day.

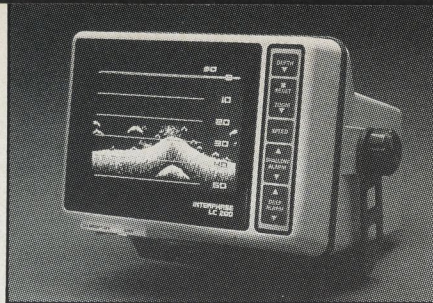
## Lowrance

We haven't even gotten to the biggest fishing sonar producer of all—Lowrance Electronics. And they do have some major news—through their Eagle line. I talked with Steve Schneider there, plus had Buzz Godwin explain their new headliner unit to me at AFTMA—their 3D-100.

When I looked at it I couldn't help thinking, "Why didn't I think of that?" So basic, so obvious, yet no one had thought of the concept previously—a sonar utilizing three separate transducers. The middle transducer reads impulses straight down. But Eagle precisely positions an additional transducer immediately to the left and to the right of that center transducer. The result is the operator can now get a readout below—of six times (circumference of a circle involved in the mathematics here) as much area or bottom. Yes, with the 3D-100, you can now enjoy an LCD screen display that shows what's considerably to the left and to the right of your boat—as well as what's underneath.

During "normal" operation, the screen reads what all three transducers are picking up. However, by merely pressing a button you can switch to a screen that shows only what the left transducer is picking up, or only the right, or

**"Those who spend time learning about graph units, through the manuals, can expect to receive more and more out of such sonars. Also, learn to believe that what the sonar is telling you is actually there, for it doesn't lie."**



Interphase LC-200

only the center. Mark my words, unless Lowrance has a well protected patent on this idea, everyone is going to incorporate the trio-of-transducers concept into their line very shortly.

As Steve Schneider put it, "Nick, I think the 3D-100 is going to be used a great deal in shallow water, where so many of us fish. Previously, we were able to monitor maybe a 3-1/2 foot circle of the bottom—directly under the boat—when it was sitting in 10 feet of water. Now we're able to expand that under-boat zone to a 10 foot circle with the 3D-100. from a circumference standpoint, that's six times more viewing area!"

So—with the 3D-100—you'll be seeing a circle that's roughly as round as the depth the boat is sitting in—i.e. a 10 foot under-boat circle of the bottom when the boat is in 10 feet of water, a 20 foot circle when the boat is in 20 feet, et cetera.

The Grayline, popular from the Lowrance line, is now incorporated into the Eagle Z-7200. Grayline, on the screen, separates "structure" from the real bottom—so you know it's something different—i.e. maybe weeds, a brush pile, rocks, a submerged tree, log, whatever. Once you discover, on the screen through Grayline, some structure, you can zoom in on that depth for full-screen scrutiny. This type of sonar has been and will be very valuable to not only fisherman—how about rescue units looking for people who they think have drowned?

The Eagle Z-7500 is their high resolution model, with easy-to-read display, even with polarized sunglasses, and most of us wear such lenses when fishing. As with many of these other newer LCD sonars, the screen shows digital readouts of water temp, boat speed and depth, in addition to the readout of the bottom.

Steve Schneider was quick to point out, however, that there's still a very important place for graph-type sonars. "Those who spend time learning about graph units, through the manuals, can expect to receive more and more out of such sonars. Also, learn to believe that what the sonar is telling you is actually there, for it doesn't lie."


PR honcho at Humminbird, Larry Columbo, feels that their new LCR 4x6 is going to be his company's headliner for the coming season. "The new high

resolution screen with tiny pixels can be seen in bright sunlight, plus the 4x6 size is larger."

All this model's features can be brought on screen by the mere touch of a soft control. As Larry says, "...it's not at all complicated, what we call 'user friendly.'" Humminbird has worked closely with Hitachi in their development of the high resolution screen. Cost to the consumer will be mid \$500's for the LCR 4x6.

A second unit Columbo is certain will be popular is their CVR 1000—a waterproof color sonar, mainly intended for off shore use, but it will also find a welcome home around Great Lakes waters as well. To be able to see its screen in detail, a sun shade is required, or it should be placed permanently inside a ship's cabin. Once so positioned, the CVR 1000 can tell the operator a great deal, the different colors showing up as readouts from bottoms with different hardness—or the different hardness of structure or the fish species themselves. At the end of the day, when the mates hose down everything to help cut down on saltwater corrosion, no problem hosing down the waterproof CVR 1000.

## Summary

If you've been thinking about buying your first sonar equipment for your fishing boat, you'll be amazed with what features are now incorporated in the new models I've been writing about here. And I've scratched touched the surface. There are other companies I haven't covered, plus every company I have written about here has numerous other models, with similar, fewer, or even more features. In most instances, however, I've written about the individual company's top-of-the-line sonar model here. If you've been accustomed to using only a flashing-type sonar, for a season or two, or for decades, isn't it time you checked out one of these new types of space-age sonars? You'll be shaking your head in disbelief at all they're capable of accomplishing, just as I was shaking my head! 

*(Editor's Note): Nick Sisley is the author of BASS MAGIC, a new, limited edition book on bass fishing full of expert tips from men like Ray Scott, Larry Nixon, Hank Parker, Basil Bacon, Jerry Rhyne, Jimmy Houston, Bill Dance and others. Only 1500 copies will ever be printed. BASS MAGIC is expensively bound, expertly printed. It even comes with a deluxe slip case for added protection. In addition to its inherent value, it should also increase in worth through the years because it is a guaranteed limited edition of only 1500 books. Price is \$35.00 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling. Make checks or money orders out to Impact, Alder acres, 509 1st St., Apollo, PA 15613.*

# "The Coleman RAM-X<sup>®</sup> Pro is one tough, sneaky rig."

*Rick Clunn  
Champion Bass Fisherman*



"I have a big boat for competition. But when it comes to fishing for the pure fun and relaxation of it, I load a Coleman RAM-X Pro in the back of my Suburban and take off.

"It's small and light, but it's tough. It's made of RAM-X, the same exclusive material that allows Coleman's whitewater canoes to smash into rocks without cracking. So it'll last longer than other bass boats.

"RAM-X is quieter, too. So when you scrape a gravel bar or bang an oar against the boat, the fish

don't hear it for miles around. You just kind of sneak up on them.

"The seats are high enough that you can just lean over to reel them in. Yet it's a stable boat in the water. And it's loaded with features.

"The RAM-X Pro is a boat to last a lifetime of lunkers."



IT'S NOT JUST THE NAME OF A COMPANY.  
IT'S THE NAME OF A FAMILY.

250 N. St. Francis  
Wichita, KS 67202  
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## FLOAT FISHING

# Currents To Action

**Want to go fishing for trout in spectacular surroundings? Head west—and let the rivers take you to the fish!**

**By Bud Lilly and Paul Schullery**

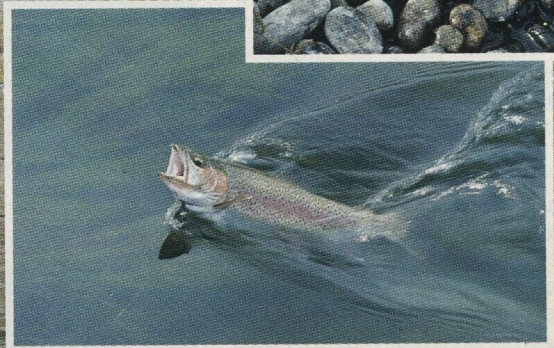
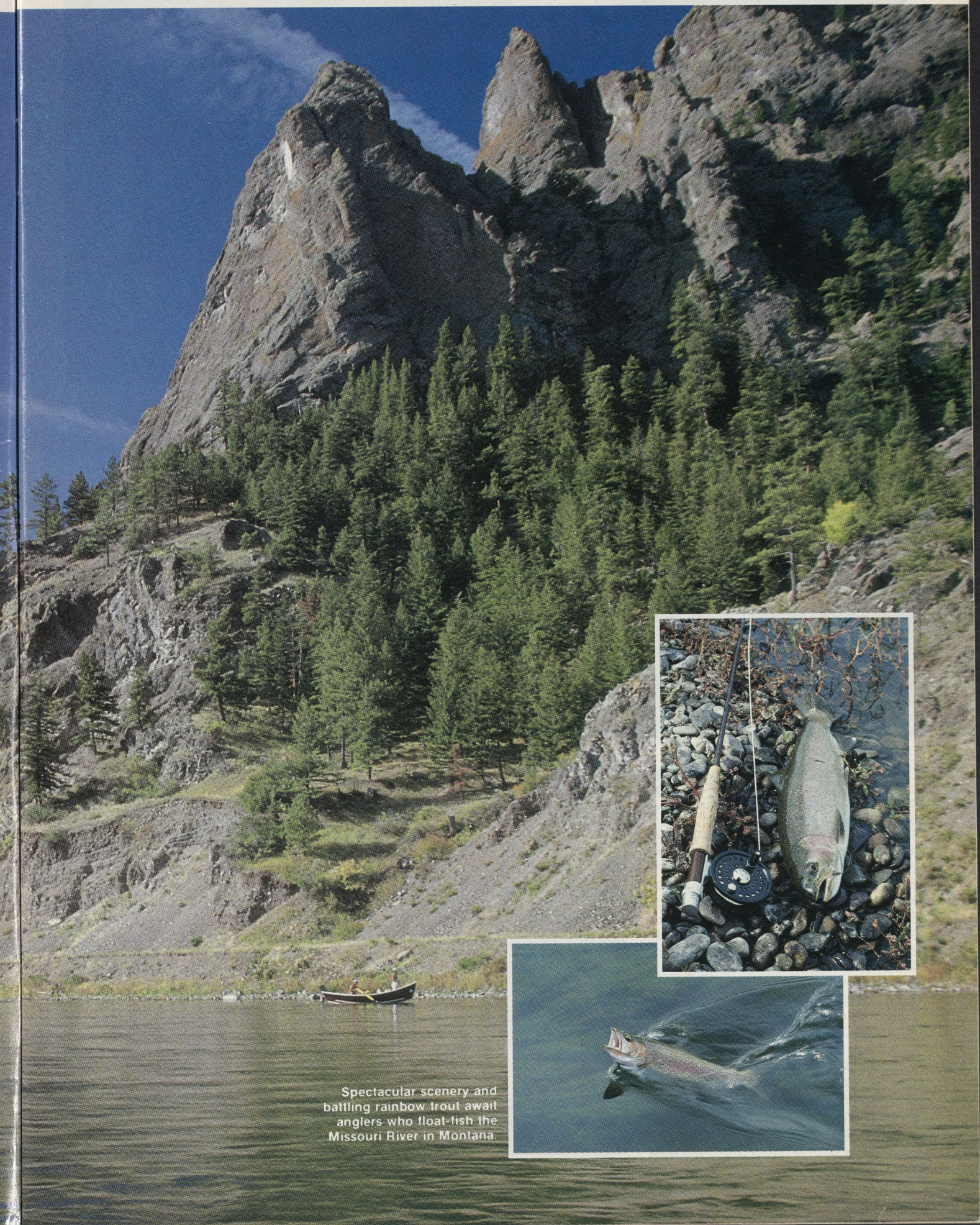
**O**ne of the most exciting experiences a western fly fisherman can have is to drift a good stretch of trout stream in a boat or raft. Whether you're dead-drifting big nymphs in the middle of the current, dropping a grasshopper imitation over still pools, or slamming big streamers into slick pocket water at the edge of the main current, drift fishing provides you with opportunities much different from those available to the wading or landbound fisherman.

I'm not saying that drifting is always better, though on many occasions it has great advantages as far as the number of fish you might see. Drifting is another, unusually exciting, way to enjoy western fly fishing.

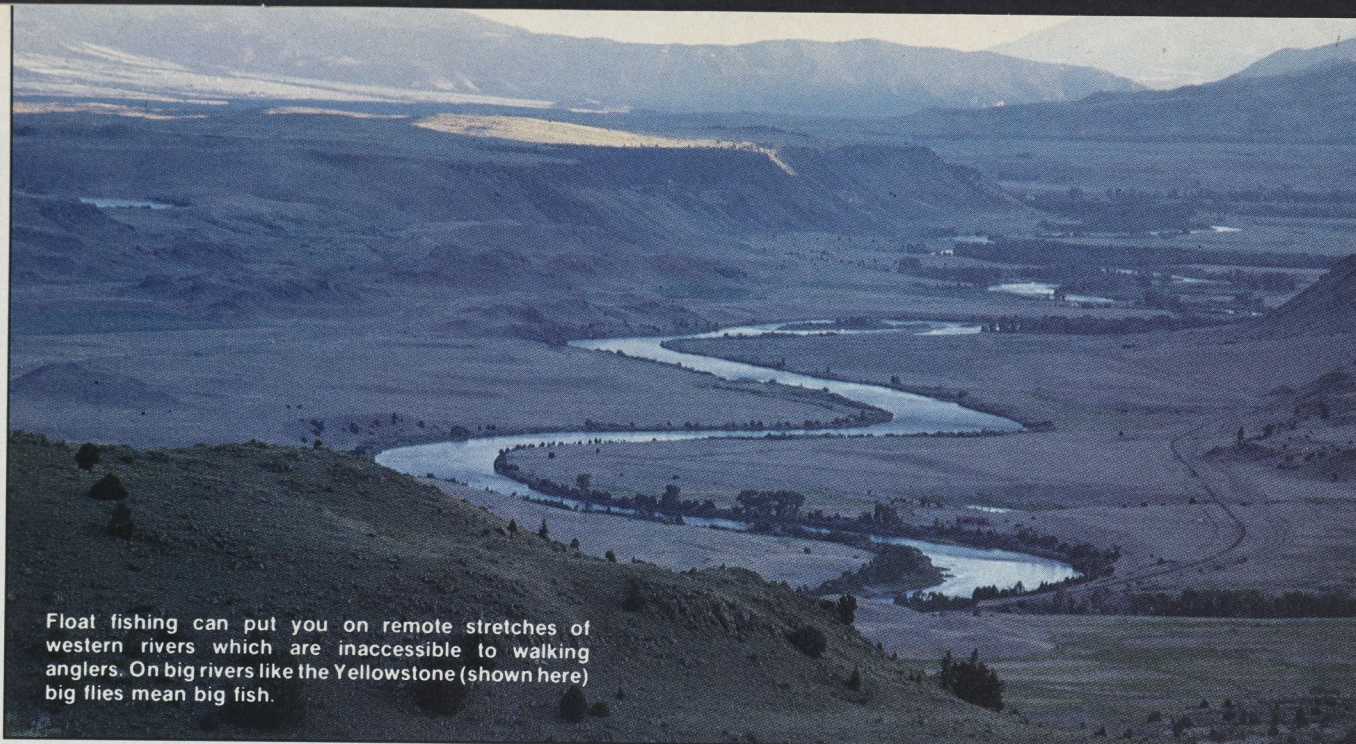
Its big advantage is that it allows you to cover so much water. The wading fisherman who drives to a place on the river and starts to fish can make many casts to each good pocket. The drifting fishermen will make one cast to each of many good pockets. The drifting fisherman not only sees and fishes a lot more water, he exposes his fly to hundreds of times as many fish. That holds true whatever type of fly fishing he is doing that day. He won't get the fish that needs some coaxing, because he will only make a cast to each spot. But he will get a chance at a huge number of fish in the course of the day.

The other big advantage of drifting, and one that too few people appreciate,

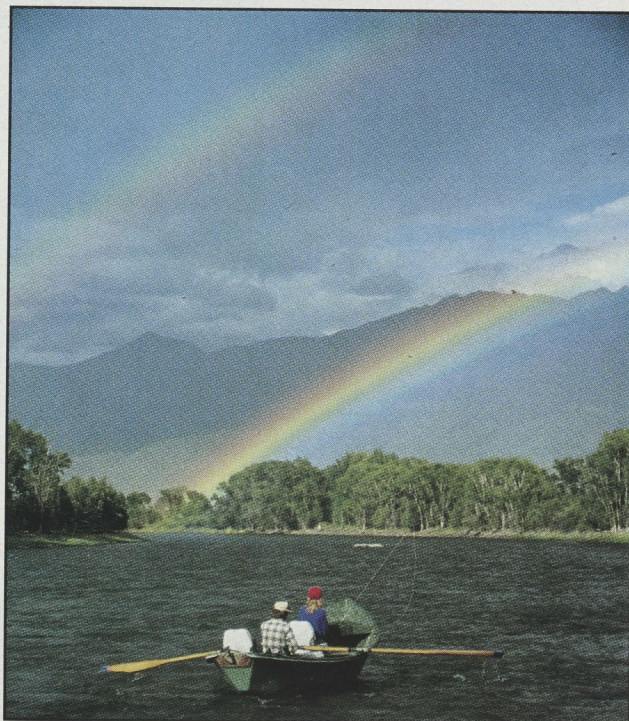




Spectacular scenery and battling rainbow trout await anglers who float-fish the Missouri River in Montana.



Float fishing can put you on remote stretches of western rivers which are inaccessible to walking anglers. On big rivers like the Yellowstone (shown here) big flies mean big fish.



## Currents

is that it lets you pick the best spots you see all day, in several miles of river, to stop and wade. Drift fishing shouldn't just be a long boat ride. It gives you the opportunity to stop now and then and fish areas that may be inaccessible from land. There are many miles of outstanding wade fishing on the most famous western rivers that can only be reached by floating to them, and stopping for some wading in a promising side-channel or along some isolated gravel bar is a great break from floating.

Drifting allows you to fish the river from a new perspective. You may drift through water you've often wade fished, and notice many pockets that you could reach, along the bank, where the brush was too thick for fishing from shore. You will fish water that only gets



fished from boats, and you will get a whole new outlook of the river, no matter how well you know it. You're suddenly fishing the river from the middle rather than from the edges, and you'll be surprised at how the experience changes your understanding of a trout stream.

Many people float western rivers in rafts, canoes, johnboats, and all manner of craft, but most serious fly fishing guides use McKenzie drift boats. Each type of boat has its advantage, though, so I might mention a few of them here.

The four- to eight-man raft is light enough to load on and off the top of a big car or truck. It has an incredibly shallow draft so that you can get it into



places you could not normally get a drift boat. It's comfortable and easy to get in and out of, and if it has a good rowing platform mounted on it, it is fairly maneuverable. It doesn't approach a drift boat in maneuverability, though; the entire underside of the raft is in contact with the water surface, and that's a lot of friction and resistance to overcome when you want to turn or hold in the current. You can't stand up in it, at least not long enough to fish safely.

The johnboat shares the raft's weight advantage; it's not that hard to load one on the top of a car or truck. It's a little more maneuverable than the raft, and perhaps a little easier to stand in, but again it does not approach the drift boat in those ways. Like the raft, it costs less than the drift boat.

Canoes are not used much for fly fishing western rivers. People occasionally use them on the rivers, and they can be very handy on small, relatively quiet streams, but most people who use them on big western rivers are either not fishing or are using the canoe to get to a good spot where they will get out and wade.

The drift boat, because of its unusual shape, has very little surface area in contact with the water compared to most boats. It is much easier for the guide to hold the boat in place in a good current, and also much easier for him to maneuver it here and there as needed, back and forth across the river to good fishing spots. It is stable, and has braces for the fishermen's legs so that they can stand and fish. Being able to stand in the boat is a great advantage, partly because you can cast better and see better, and partly because many people find it awkward and uncomfortable to cast sitting down all day.

This is not a chapter about how to handle a boat or a raft; it is about how to fish from such craft while the craft is being handled by someone else. There are some good books on boating and rafting for those who want to obtain their own boat. Because most guides use drift boats, I'm going to talk about float fishing in terms of fishing from a drift boat. You can easily enough adjust what I say here to suit the other watercraft.

## Getting Set

Just getting into a drift boat is a challenge for some people, it doesn't need to be. Just because you see the guide performing various acrobatics climbing around the boat, don't feel you have to mimic him. He does it all the time.

The safest way to get in and out of the boat is with both legs at once. If you put

one foot in, as soon as it hits the floorboards it's almost sure to start pushing the boat away from you, and there you stand doing a very poor imitation of a cheerleader doing the splits. Turn your back to the boat at the spot where you want to get in, sit down on the cross-braces that hold the seat, and scoot yourself into your seat, then swing your legs in. The same is true for getting out. Swing both your legs over the edge, drop them down, and ease into a standing position in the water or on the bank. Get in fanny first, get out feet first. Driftboats are remarkably stable, and though the boat may dip when you sit on it, it isn't going to go over. You could sit right there all day and it wouldn't go over.

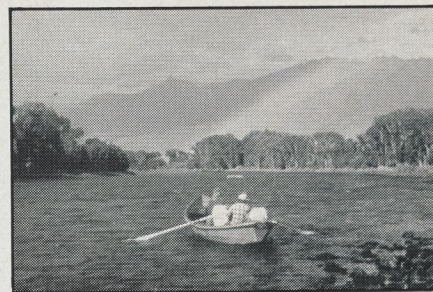
Once in, get your gear organized, and get anything you don't really need stowed out of the way. The guide may have a wtaerproof container for things that should not get wet, such as clothing or cameras, though it's wise to bring your own camera container. If you are not familiar with boating, you will be surprised how anything in a boat can get wet even though there is no water to speak of in the boat. You track in water when you get in and out, your fly line will drag in water that in a few hours of rubbing against a coat can get it quite wet, and in other ways water seems to find its way to whatever you want to keep dry.

## Two Fishermen or One?

If you are floating alone with the guide, you'll be in the bow, because that's the position in which the guide can most easily manage your fishing. If there are two of you with the guide, one will be in either end. It's possible, but not really comfortable, for more than two to go with the guide in one boat, but one or two are normal, and only two can fly fish at once from the boat.

It always bothers people to be put in the back of the boat. There is no real disadvantage to being in the stern seat, though of course the two anglers can trade off during the day. The guide will handle the boat differently depending upon whether he has one or two clients that day. If he has one, for example, he will often drift with the bow angled in toward the bank; if he has two, he will just keep the boat parallel to the bank so both fishermen have as easy a time casting to shore. Where you sit isn't all that important as far as your fishing goes, though you may prefer to sit up front because you like the view better.

It isn't all that important where you sit because there is so much good water that each of you will often be hitting spots with your casts that the other didn't hit. If you're fishing a bank, you're moving along and pocket-



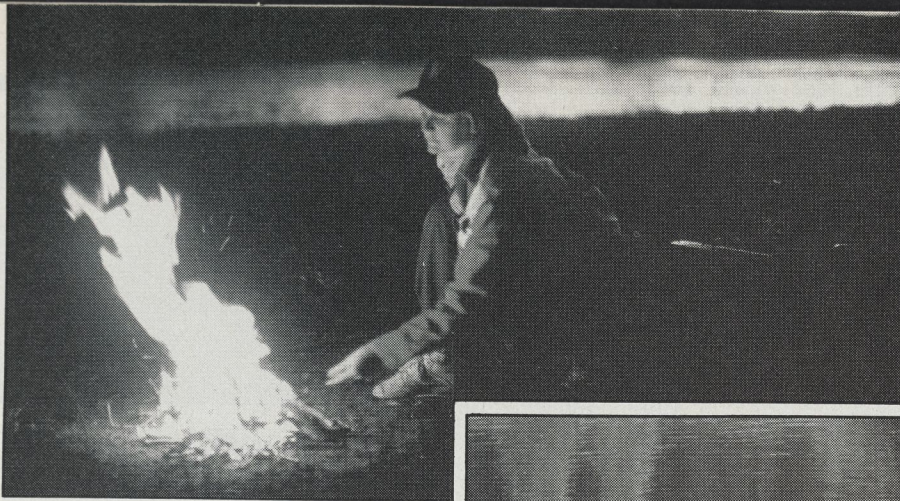
**You're suddenly fishing the river from the middle rather than from the edges, and you'll be surprised at how the experience changes your understanding of a trout stream.**

shooting with the flies, and nobody is fast enough that they hit every pocket. The fisherman in the stern might occasionally watch to see where the fisherman in the bow has put his casts, so he can hit alternate spots. But it also pays to hit the same spot again; sometimes the first fly that goes into a little pocket only alerts the fish and is gone before it reacts. The second one gets the strike. The fisherman in the front should alert the other fisherman to any such spots where he thought he saw a fish turn at his fly; the second cast could be the one.

## Line Management

There are two important rule to line management. The first is keep your line free of entanglements. Drift boats usually have a little shelf in front of the bow fishermen's legs, and that's a handy place to keep extra line, coiled loosely, to be shot if needed. Watch your line, and don't let it get tangled around things in the boat; the guide should be careful to keep his boat as clean as possible for that reason. The more oars, rods, thermoses, vests, and seat cushions near you, the more likely you are to tangle your line.

One advantage of floating is that you don't need to keep your vest on all day; you can lay it down somewhere, out of the way but handy, and just get flies and leaders as you need them. For some of us, who like to carry a lot of gear in our vests, it's a real relief for the shoulders not to have that vest hanging



way, with large nymphs such as the stonefly imitations. With the help of a strike detector you can fish a lot of water with very few casts. It's an odd feeling for many people, because we're so conditioned to believing we have to cast a lot to keep the fly in the good water. Don't worry about that; if you

**Some of the best parts of "float fishing" don't involve floating at all, but camping on the bank or wading a special piece of water.**

## Currents

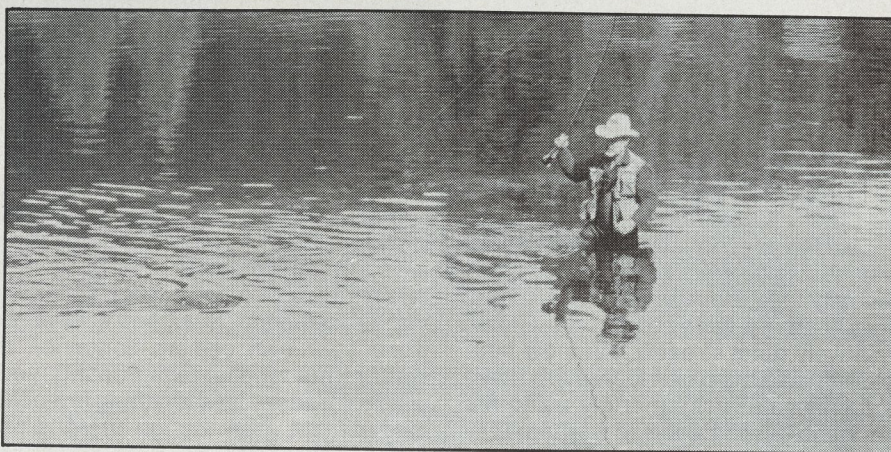
on us for eight hours. But that means that the vest, with all its little zingers and clippers, is one more thing to catch a stray loop of fly line just when you wish it wouldn't, so stow it out of the way (and don't forget to put it back on when you get out of the boat to wade fish for a while).

The second important rule of line management involves casting. Always cast across the boat. Don't cast lengthwise of the boat or you'll risk hooking your companions. Greg, who has floated far more clients than I have, tells me that he has yet to be hooked by a client, but that clients do now and then hook each other, because the two fishermen are higher, on the ends of the boat, and he is low in the middle. The flies go over him and nail the other fisherman.

The guide will do all he can to keep the boat parallel to the shoreline or to whatever area is being fished, so that the fishermen can cast without risking harm to each other. If the boat is temporarily out of position, don't take a chance on a cast. Wait until it's safe.

Crossed lines are almost inevitable when two fishermen are casting at the same time. The one in the bow may see a spot he missed and cast back to it just as the one in the stern sees a spot he doesn't want to wait for and casts up to it. The one in the bow may see a spot way ahead and cast to it just as the one in the stern sees a spot behind him and casts back to it, and their backcasts then may cross. Only vigilance and

**One of the real surprises for the first-time drift fisherman is how close to the fish he can be.**



courtesy can keep these problems to a reasonable number.

One of the real surprises for the first-time drift fisherman is how close to the fish he can be. When fishing banks and ledges along shore, you may be only fifteen or twenty feet away, towering over the fish, and you'll see fish seem to abandon all caution to rush the fly. Only on rare occasions does drift fishing require real distance casting. Don't worry too much about the boat's shadow or shape spooking the trout. It probably isn't coming into their field of vision until after they've taken off after the fly, and even if it is, it doesn't seem to matter to them much. You will even see fish chase the fly right to the boat, or appear from the bottom of the river when the fly is right alongside the boat. There is nothing more exciting than the long follow, when a trout appears and hangs right on the tail of the fly as it swings out away from the bank, and you often have to suppress the urge to yank the fly away. Wait until you think the fish has it, then wait a little more.

Drift boat fishing gives you the chance to do something most wade fishermen never get to do: fish a practically endless drift with no drag. If, for example, you're floating a river with many long productive riffles, like the Madison, you can cast your hopper on your nymph over the most likely part of the river and let it go for hundreds of feet, twitching it or working it now and then if you like. There is often no need for repeated casting; the goal is to keep the fly on or in the water as much as possible.

This works especially well, by the

can keep it in good water without casting, that's fine.

Fishing a hatch from a boat is different from fishing it while wading, of course, because you only get one or two shots at each rising fish you see. There's nothing to keep the guide from stopping to wade fish if you find a big stretch of river with many rising trout, but you can do just as well by moving along.

### Fishing a Hatch

Dry flies can be fished very well as "prospectors," putting the fly into likely pockets using the same techniques I'll outline in the next section for big wet flies and streamers. But they can also be fished well from a boat over risers. This is a matter of looking ahead for the likely spots, finding the risers, and making the good cast when within range. You won't get to work any individual fish, of course, but you'll put the fly over many, and in situations where fish are rising throughout a long run, one cast will cover many fish until one takes it. This fishing requires no more casting accuracy than does dry fly fishing while wading, but it often requires more speed; you have to be ready to make the cast, and you have to make it quickly when the fish rises.

This is some of the most exciting and exacting drift fishing you can have. It is most often done early and late in the year, with large streamers, nymphs, and combination flies that defy traditional categorization (the Woolly Bug-

*Continued on page 67*

# NEW LURES

## You'll Be Hearing About!

New lures catch fishermen first—then they get to go out and catch fish! We're betting on these to deliver when you're on the water!

By John E. Phillips

Can you remember when you were a six-year-old child, and you walked into your first real candy store—the kind of candy store where delicious treats were not only displayed at eye level behind counters but also in jars and barrels decorating every corner of the store? And there wasn't a piece of candy in the entire store that didn't look scrumptious?

Such are the offerings this year from the fishing tackle industry. There are more new lures, motors, electronics, rods, and reels than ever before in the history of fishing. From surveying the market, I've seen very few that won't catch a fish. Let's look at the new products being introduced, and see what we'll all be angling with this season.



### "Dredge 'Em Up!"

This year Bagley's Bait Company has one of the newest deep-diving lures on the market—the new **DKB2-Dredge**. According to the company, the depth barrier no longer exists where this bottom prowler is concerned, and it is weighted to counteract

the flotation of the balsa wood from which it's made. And the **Kill'r B II Dredge** retains all the action you've always had with the Kill'r B series—it just dives deeper. For more information, write the Jim Bagley Bait Company, P.O. Box 110, Winter Haven, Florida 33880.

### Mannipulator

The **Mannipulator**, from Mann's Bait Company, has a distinct scale pattern on the tail to reflect more light and increase vibration as it slithers through the water. The extra power in the tail helps stabilize the Manipulator and prevent line twisting on retrieval. The curl of the Manipulator's powerful new tail design will be locked in at the factory by a plastic attachment, which will keep the tail curled until the lure is ready for use to ensure perfect tail action and eliminate stretching and



### Mann's Manipulator

straightening of the tail in the package. Available in five inch, seven inch, and nine inch lengths and 16 colors, the Manipulator comes in packs of 15 in ziploc plastic bags. Contact Mann's Bait Company, 604 State Docks road, Eufaula, AL 36027.

# '88 TACKLE ROUNDUP



## Spring-Bil Spinnerbait

The new Wig'l spinnerbait—the **Spring-Bil**—has been introduced by **Lunker Lure Products**. What makes this spinnerbait so different is that the front safety pin wire harness, found in all spinnerbaits, has been eliminated. Also the **Spring-Bil** spinnerbait has a metal bill molded into the head. The blades are connected to a music wire spring and flex wire combination that is molded directly into the head, eliminating the long wire harness.

The Spring-Bil has a swimming action similar to a crankbait plus the vibration and flash of a spinnerbait. The bill is nickel-plated, copper-plated, and/or polished brass to match the blades, which gives extra flash, and good looks to the spinnerbaits. Eliminating

## Lunker Lure's Spring Bil

the wire harness has solved many problems found in other spinnerbaits. Since torque, which causes a bait to roll, has been completely eliminated, the Spring-Bil will handle any size blade and not roll but is heavy enough to cast like a bullet. Yet with the slightest turn of the reel handle, the bait will start its wig'l action.

By molding the spring and flex wire combination directly into the head of the bait, Lunker Lures has transferred the vibration directly to the head and tail and not through a wire to the fisherman's hands like other spinnerbaits. The Spring-Bil will hold and retrieve at the depth to which it is dropped and is virtually weedless and snagless. Write Lunker Lure Products, Inc., P.O. Box 64, Carterville, Illinois 62918.

## Gaines Poppers For Top-Water Fiends

For the angler who likes to fly-fish for bass, the **Gaines Company** has some new popping bugs out. The **Spin Popper** has a weed guard, which allows the fly fisherman to angle in some of those thick places where only spinnerbait anglers could fish before. The Spin Popper is big enough to call a big bass and has a hook stout enough to hold the fish if it attacks.

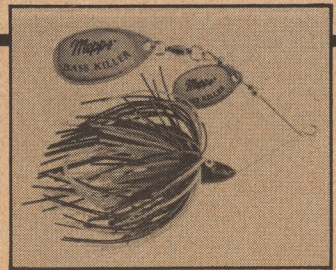
The **Dixie Devil** is one

of my favorites from the Gaines Company. One of the reasons I like this popper is that it has a big enough hook and makes enough racket to call a five pound plus largemouth yet is small enough so that I can catch and release the 3/4 to two pound bass that fight hard and are so much fun to catch. To receive a complete catalogue of popping bugs for fly fishing, write The Gaines Company, Box 35 B, Gaines, PA 16921.

## Mepps Bass Killers

Last year **Mepps** entered the spinnerbait market with its **Bass Killer** line of quality spinnerbaits, which became one of the hottest selling new products ever introduced by Mepps. The original Bass Killers weighed approximately 3/8 ounce, and remain available in both a patented, adjustable, single blade model and a tandem model featuring Mepps Aglia spinner blades. Both are available dressed with either living rubber or bucktail.

For 1988—Mepps's 50th



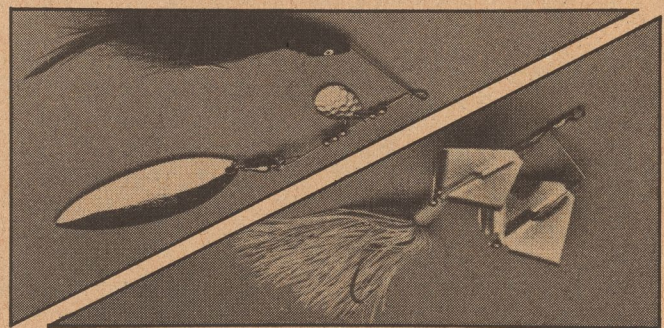
## Mepps Bass Killers

anniversary year—Mepps is expanding the Bass Killer line by adding 1/4 and 1/8 ounce models. Too, the Bass Killers will be available this year with Mepps Aglia long willow-leaf spinner blades. Each of the lures comes in seven colors. For more information, contact Mepps, 626 Center Street, Dept. BK8A, Antigo, Wisconsin 54409-2496.

## New Baits From Roland Martin

More doesn't always make it better, but in the case of the new **Roland Martin Double Buzzer Bait**, more has made a winner. This counter-rotating Delta Blade surface lure makes the water boil. Available in three sizes, 1/4 ounce, 3/8 ounce, and 1/2 ounce, with 2/0, 4/0 and 5/0 hooks, and head colors of

## Roland Martin's Double Buzzer Bait, made by Blue Fox



black, white, chartreuse and yellow with skirt colors of black, white, yellow, chartreuse/fleck, and yellow/blue, the Roland Martin Double Buzzer Bait is a big lure for big fish. Contact the **Blue Fox Tackle Co., 645 North Emerson, Cambridge, MN 55008. The Roland Martin**

**Musky Special**, a big bucktail lure also by Blue Fox, comes in chartreuse, black, yellow, and natural and teams up with a big Roland Martin willow leaf blade. Available in nickel, brass, chartreuse, and orange and a large non-sense 6/0 hook.

The newest addition to the Roland Martin/Blue Fox flipping jig family is the **Roland Martin Big Bass Willow Flip**, which is designed for taking trophy bass, and is offered in 1/4, 3/8, and 1/2 ounce sizes. The swinging head design

## Blue Fox's Roland Martin Musky Special

coupled with the stand-up brush type weed guard will walk it through the snaggiest cover without hanging up. Featuring a #2 willow blade to get big bass excited, the bait is available in eight all-rubber skirt colors.



Mann's 30+ and 10+

### Tom Mann Goes Deep

For 1988, **Mann's Bait Company** breaks a new barrier with the **30+**, which is guaranteed to dive past 30 feet. Also new for 1988 is the super-fast action **10+**, which completes Mann's impressive arsenal of "Depth Plus" deep-diving crankbaits guaranteed to reach down to where the big fish are in any situation.

The 30+ features the revolutionary Davis System lip which drives the lure down through the water at an unbelievable 45-60 degree angle. This

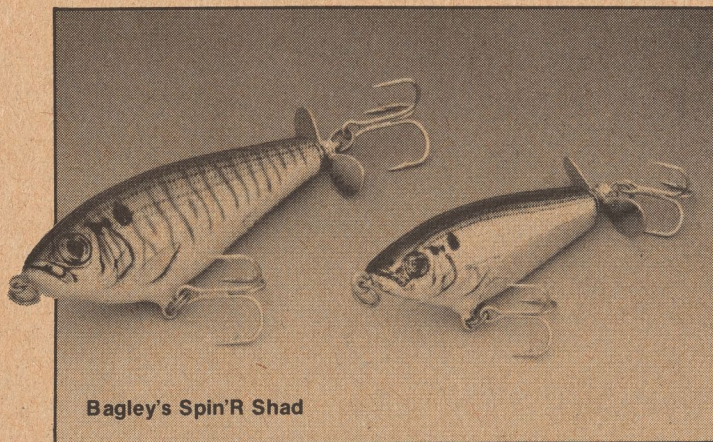
means that the 30 foot barrier will be broken within the first 30 feet of the retrieve on a 70 foot cast, and the lure stays that deep throughout the retrieve to the boat. Likewise, the 10 foot ultra-light barrier will be reached by the 10+ within 10 feet of the retrieve.

All of the Depth Plus lures are cast tail-first like a bullet with no hook entanglement or end over and tumbling. Depth Plus crankbaits float to the surface at a rate of one to 1.5 feet per second. All run true out of package and at high speed retrieve and trolling speeds.

### Spin'r Shad

**Bagley's Spin'r Shad** is a topwater lure that looks exactly like a baitfish. Without the diving lip, the Spin'r Shad rips along the surface with its spinner cutting up plenty of action and noise—just like a crippled baitfish. The Spin'R Shad is effective

when you're fishing areas that have weeds just under the surface, because it skims along in areas where other crankbaits wouldn't dare to go. The Spin'R Shad's colors include black on silver foil, black on gold foil, Tennessee shad, shad on white, crippled shad/pearl, yellow, and gray shad.



Bagley's Spin'R Shad

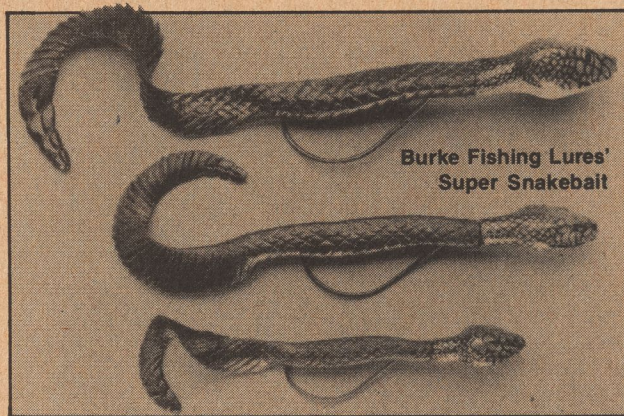
### Super Snakebait

The new 9-1/2 inch **Super Snakebait** joins the famous Snakebait family. As with the five and seven inch models, the lifelike, detailed head and body were crafted by Lynn Hannon, a wildlife artist. The lure's size and action were first developed by well-known angler, Doug Hannon, then passed along to wife, Lynn, for finishing touches.

"The need for a high displacement, high visibility lure occurs

whenever bass are in heavy cover, or the water clarity is poor," Hannon explains. "Many of the over 10 pound bass I've taken had to be teased out from under hydrilla or dense lily pads. A large lure makes a big bass want to go for that large meal."

Available in living look colors that match those of real snakes, for additional information contact: Bing McLellan, **Burke Fishing Lures**, 1969 South Airport Road, Traverse City, MI 49684.



Burke Fishing Lures' Super Snakebait

### Bagley's Top Gun



Top Gun

**Bagley's** introduces its **Top Gun**, which comes with the Bang-O-Lure wobble, rattles like a machine gun, and throws

like a bullet. The colors for Top Gun are black on silver chrome, blue on silver chrome, red on gold chrome, crippled shad on gold chrome, crippled shad on silver chrome, black on gold chrome, and silver chrome.

### Weedlers "Do Jigger"

The **Do Jigger** is a weedless jig from **Pisces** and has the same attractive fish-like head design as their very popular Willow Whip spinnerbait. It also features a weedless grub and is available in eight head and nine grub colors and is offered in 1/4 ounce and 1/2 ounce



Do Jigger By Pisces

sizes. Contact the Pisces Corporation, P.O. Box 610, Lexington, Oklahoma 73051.

# '88 TACKLE ROUNDUP

## Hank Roberts Expands Bass Bug Line

To meet consumer demand for quality bass bugs, **Hank Roberts** has added five new patterns—a **deer hair Bug**, **Mouse**, **Diver**, **Frog**, and **Gerbubble Bug**. Each bug is carefully trimmed to float high and look natural. Deer hair is securely anchored with extra wraps of thread and half-hitched at every tying step to prevent the hair sections from twisting on the hook shaft. All are tied on Mustad wide-gap Stinger hooks for extra

clearance between the bug body and the barb to give deep, unobstructed penetration and secure hookups. Mono weedguards allow Hank Roberts' bass bugs to be fished in the heaviest cover.

Colors are solid or combinations of yellow, white, black, or natural. Hook sizes are two, six and 10 for most patterns. All Hank Roberts bass bugs have a lifetime warranty. For more information, contact the **Fred Arbogast Company**, 313 W. North Street, Akron, Ohio 44303.

## Hot Shot "S.E."

For a productive, deep-diving crankbait, bass anglers should try the new **Hot Shot "S.E."** from **Luhr Jensen and Sons**. This high action casting or trolling bait will dive to a depth of 12 feet and weighs a full 1/2 ounce. The belly hook eye on the "S.E." is specially designed to allow instant hook changes by

unscrewing the eye a few turns, which allows conversion of the plug from bass to salmon or steelhead fishing when the steelhead/salmon river angler needs the full half ounce for casting.

Available in 36 finishes, write **Luhr Jensen and Sons, Inc.**, P.O. Box 297 Hood River, OR 97031.

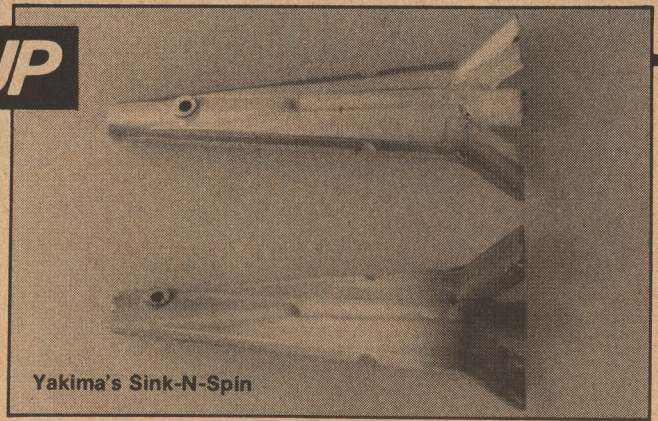
**Luhr Jensen and Sons' Hot Shot "S.E."**



## Rat-L-Trap ProTrap

**Bill Lewis Lures** introduces the all new **Rat-L-Trap ProTrap** which has the super action of the Rat-L-Trap and comes with a new slide-line body, direct line-to-hook tie design, and a larger, sharper hook. The new slide-line body, by inserting the line through the ProTrap and tying directly to the hook, allows the lure to slide up

the line when a strike occurs—thereby decreasing the chance of the fish throwing the hook. Produced in 5/8 ounce and 3/8 ounce tournament sizes and in 10 pro-choice colors, the ProTrap will be hand-crafted and individually inspected to insure the highest standard of quality is maintained. Write **Bill Lewis Lures**, P.O. Box 4062, Alexandria, LA 71301.



Yakima's Sink-N-Spin

## Sink-B-Spin

**Yakima Bait Company** has introduced a new lure to their line called the **Sink-N-Spin**, which features a design that creates an erratic, spinning action as it moves through the water and is a very productive lure when jigged for salmon. The Sink-N-Spin has also proven effective when trolled or cast in both fresh water and salt water. Available in four sizes and seven colors, the lead-bodied Sink-N-Spin is

strung on the line ahead of a rubber stopper and hook. A plastic tube that runs through the lure's hollow center protects the line from rubbing against the edges, preventing wear and breakage. The Sink-N-Spin also features an eye on each side of the lure and a groove down the side where a light stick can be added for fishing at night or in off-colored water. For more information, contact the **Yakima Bait Company**, P.O. Box 310, Granger, Washington 98932.



Rabble Rouser's Ashley Probe

## Ashley Probe

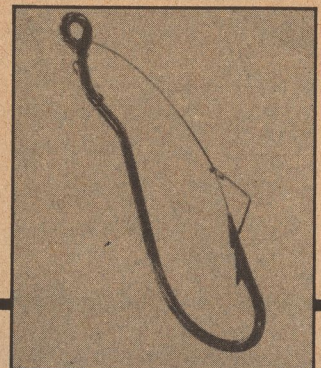
The **Ashley Probe**, the newest addition to the **Rabble Rouser** line, is also the first 1/4 ounce crankbait to break the 20 foot mark. Among the outstanding features are the Rattle Clatter Chamber and of course the big bug eyes. But perhaps the most striking

feature is the new lip. Besides the obvious benefits of diving deeper than any other lure of its type, this feature enables the lure body and hooks to run higher in the water, which means fewer snags. For complete details, contact **Rabble Rouser Lures**, P.O. Box 644, New Philadelphia, OH 44663.

## Crossfire

**Tru-Turn's** new **Crossfire** is available in sizes 1/0 through 4/0 and brings the hooking power of Cam-Action to trailer hooks. With optional **GrassMaster** weedguards, you choose your angle of attack. Cast your spinner/buzz baits, jigs,

and spoons in hard to fish places. Contact **Tru-Turn** for further information.



Tru-Turn's Crossfire

## "StumpPuller" Shiner Hooks

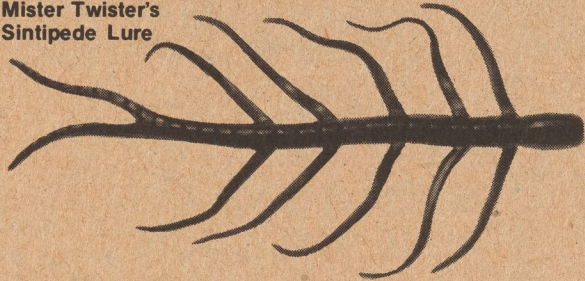
New for shiner fishermen are **StumpPuller** shiner hooks by **Tru-Turn**. Combined with the new Grassmaster, tension-adjustable weedguards, these heavyweights let you fish where you want with the added advantage of original Cam-Action. StumpPuller hooks in sizes 3/0 through 7/0 are bronzed and forged with O'Shaughnessy design



**Tru-Turn StumpPuller shiner hook**

and spear point and are formed of high quality stainless T 302 spring temper wire. For more information contact Tru-Turn, 100 Red Eagle Road, P.O. Drawer 767, Wetumpka, AL 36092.

**Mister Twister's Sintipede Lure**

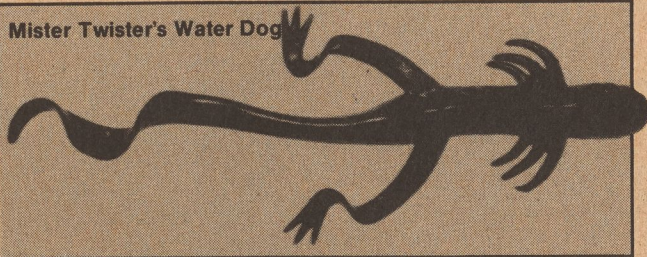


## The "Sintipede" Lure

The **Sintipede Lure** by **Master Twister** is a 6-1/2 inch lure of perpetual motion with 10 tentacles and a twin tail section that attracts fish like a magnet. A ringed body facilitates a creeping motion as it is

drawn over logs, branches and bottom structure. The Sintipede Lure is available in black, purple/firetail, grape/blue flake, motor oil/red flake, black/firetail, and black/chartreuse. Contact Mister Twister Inc., P.O. Drawer 996, Minden, LA 71058-09906.

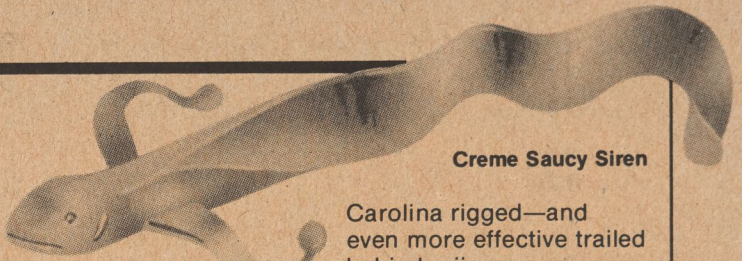
**Mister Twister's Water Dog**



## Water Dog

According to the manufacturers, **Mister Twister's Water Dog** is to a bass a combination of what prime rib, fillet mignon, and pheasant-under-glass is to a man. Sure, bass love worms, frogs, crawfish, and other food, but they'll kill for a

succulent salamander. And Mister Twister has introduced a water dog in its most desired form, the larval stage. The most important characteristic, the gills, is obvious and prominent. Colors include black, motor oil/red flake, red/black line, grape/blue flake, white/white dots, and chartreuse/black line.



**Creme Saucy Siren**

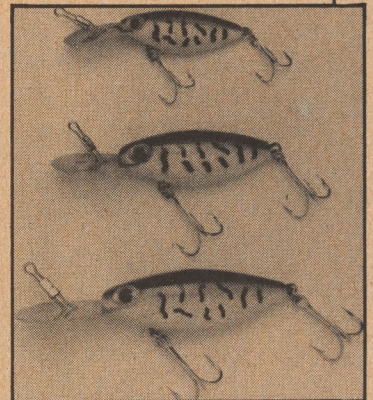
## A Shorter 'Saucy Siren'

For 1988 **Creme** translates bi-planar design to a four inch **Saucy Siren** that is every bit as action-laden as the large version. The four inch Siren is outstanding Texas or

Carolina rigged—and even more effective trailed behind a jig or spinnerbait. The small size is ideal for smallmouth bass as well as largemouth—versatile enough to work in saltwater and for other freshwater species. Contact Creme Lure Company, P.O. Box 87, Tyler, Texas 75710.

## Magnum Hot 'N Tot

**Storm Lures** is once again expanding one of their mainstay lines, the deep-diving Hot 'N Tot lure by adding a larger, even deeper diving model, the **Magnum Hot 'N Tot**. fishermen who are familiar with the two smaller Hot 'N Tot lures will readily welcome this new size with open arms. The Magnum Hot 'N Tot is 1-1/2 inches longer than the smallest Hot 'N Tot and 3/4 inches longer than the middle size making it a total length of 4-1/2 inches. This bigger size is heavier, too with a weight of 3/4 ounces. With this extra weight and the larger dimensions emphasizing its baitfish simulating body shape,



**Storm Lures Magnum Hot 'N Tot**

the Magnum Hot 'N Tot is armed for bigger game whether the prey is walleye, trout, steelhead, salmon, musky, or stripers. Contact Storm Mfg. Company, P.O. Box 265, Norman, Oklahoma 73070.

## Uncle Josh Pork Rinds

The **Uncle Josh Bait Company** recently introduced a new line of pork rind baits designed specifically for panfishing—**Panfsh Pork**. This is a great visual attractor for all types of panfish when fished on small jigs, spoons, spinners or with live bait. Made from naturally

tough pigskin for durability and long life, **Panfsh Pork**, like all pork rind baits, features its own pork scent and has the ability to absorb other scents better than most artificial baits. Each jar contains 20 different baits—five active patterns in four exciting colors. And each pattern features a small pre-punched hole to make rigging easy. For more information write Uncle Josh Bait Company, P.O. Box 130, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538.



**Uncle Josh's Bait Company's Panfish Pork**

# '88 TACKLE ROUNDUP



The Rattle Shaft

## Classic Jitterbug Gets a Jitter-Tail

The **Fred Arbogast Company** has introduced the **Jitter-Tail**, a totally weedless Jitterbug that actually walks on weeds, lily pads, and coaxes those lurking bass to strike. Anglers generally feel that a very weedless lure is a fishless lure which produces strikes but very seldom hooks fish. However that

problem has been solved by adding a soft vinyl tail with a stinger hook rigged Texas style for those bass that just miss the lure.

The stinger hook is attached to the lure with a 360 degree swivel allowing the tail to swim in extremely lifelike manner. The Jitter-Tail comes in two sizes—3/8 and 5/8 ounce—and all the basic fish-attracting colors of the regular weedless Jitterbug.



Arbogast's Jitter-Tail



Mepps Crappie Kit

## Mepps Crappie Kit

Crappie fishermen will add to their stringer with **Mepps** new **Crappie Kit**. The 50th anniversary kit contains five proven Mepps spinners, each representing a decade of Mepps fish catching

growth. The sixth compartment in Shep's Crappie Kit contains 12 Mister Twister tails in proven fish-attracting colors. For more information contact Mepps, 626 Center Street, Dept. KSC9A, Antigo, Wisconsin 54409-2496.

## Rattle Shaft

The **Rattle Shaft**, also from **Fish World Lures**, has all the requirements of a superior buzz bait with a metal blade that goes into buzzing action the moment the lure hits the water. The heavy steel hook is concealed by a quality pro skirt that adds fish attraction. Designed to skirt over the heaviest vegetation areas and remain virtually weedless,

this lure has a blade that rotates on the retrieve, creating a turbulence that churns the water and makes bubbles resembling those made by many natural creatures that fish love. Weighing in at 3/8 ounce, the Rattle Shaft features an arrow-shaped head for easy gliding and skirt colors of either white, yellow, chartreuse, chartreuse and blue, black, and/or brown and orange.



Jiggin' Bee

## Jiggin' Bee

**Bumble Bee's** new **Jiggin' Bee** is an innovative spoon-and-spinner combination, which is effective for deep, vertical spoon jigging for tough-to-catch and inactive bass. The Jiggin' Bee has a small spinner blade on a thin shaft head of the spoon. As the lure falls, not only does the spoon flutter from side to side, the blade spins, vibrates, and flashes for added action

and attraction. The vibration makes the lure easier to feel and control, too, because you know when the vibration stops, the time has come to set the hook. The Jiggin' Bee can also be cast and is especially effective when bass are suspended or schooling. The spinning blade provides even more shadlike action to draw strikes.

Write to Bumble Bee Bait Company, P.O. Box 1169, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

## Kangaroo Lizard

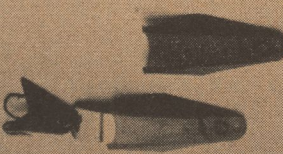
A new addition to the Kangaroo System of fishing from **Fish World Lures, Inc.** is the **Kangaroo Lizard**. Lifelike, this productive bait features the pouch that is characteristic of the

Kangaroo System. A split shot in the pouch causes the head to rise and swim with a natural action. Pack the pouch with a piece of foam rubber soaked in natural fish scent or a small piece of shrimp to enhance the fish attraction. The pouch is designed to cause extra flotation when fished empty. 7-1/2 inches long, the Kangaroo Lizard is available in an array of natural colors as well as the new Tri-Lite colors that create erratic color patterns when light hits the bait. The Kangaroo System is crafted by Fish World Lures, Rt. 2, Box 84C, Eufaula, Alabama 36027.

## Fish World Lures' Kangaroo Lizard



## Vortex Lures' KLIPR spoon



## Spoon-Fishing System

**Vortex Lures** of Kalispell, Montana, a division of Utex Industries, has introduced a radical new concept of spoon design and technology, blending the technology used in

manufacturing molded packings, gaskets, and seals with their knowledge of spoon fishing to develop the KLIPR spoon fishing system. This system employs a tail with the hooks to attract more fish, and interchangeable soft plastic, reflective covers which allow an angler to change the color of the spoon to match fishing conditions or to cause bass to continue to bite after they've wised up to a color. For information contact, Vortex Division, Utex Industries, Inc., 640 W. Montana, Kalispell, MT 59901.



# RODS & REELS

## For Smoother Fishing

You never show your rods and reels to the fish—but they control what the lures and bait do! And that means everything!

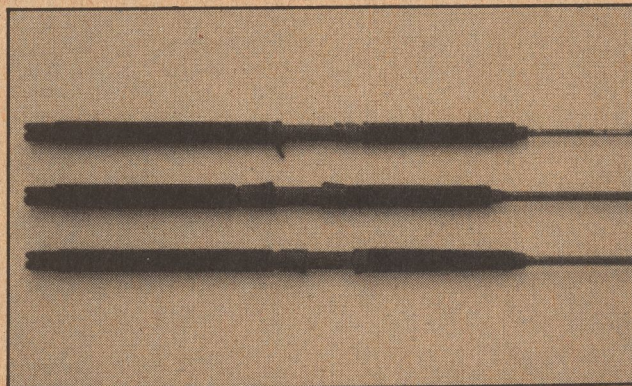
By John E. Phillips

Some of the tools we have to fish with this year will be featuring revolutionary designs, upgrading in performance, new cosmetics, lighter weight, and more strength. Let's look at some of the new concepts in rods and reels, and see how they've been improved.

### "Beastmaster" Rods From Shimano

Shimano's Triton BeastMaster live bait rods have been designed for specific fishing applications, with models that have features exclusively for West Coast anglers, East Coast anglers and one model just for Florida fishing techniques.

The Triton BeastMaster rods are built to handle heavy line and maximum drag settings. Shimano research shows that most anglers do not set their reels' drags to their potential—a setting just



Shimano's Beastmaster Live Bait Rods

below the line's breaking strength where maximum pressure is placed on the fish to tire it out. With the BeastMaster live bait rods,

an angler can increase his reel's drag setting, apply hard hooksets, and keep maximum fighting power on the fish without

worrying about the rod giving up.

There are 10 rods in the Triton BeastMaster live bait series with six conventional models and four spinning models. The conventional rods feature Shimano's Fightin' Grip, which uses a single piece of hypalon, a synthetic material from DuPont used for its resistance to ultraviolet sun rays and abrasions from line friction, to make the rod handle virtually slip-proof. For further information contact: The Walker Agency, 15020 N. 74th St., Suite B, Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

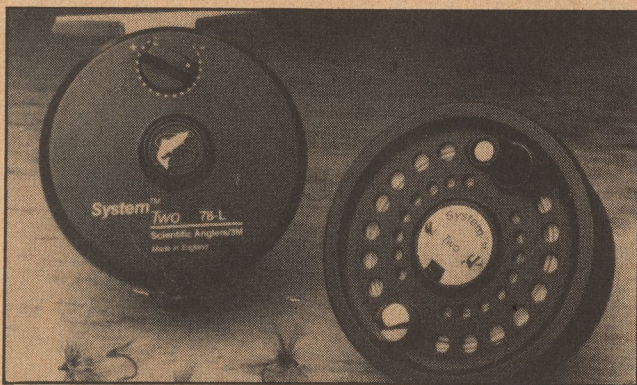


# FISHING TACKLE '88

## New 3M Fly Reel

3M Scientific Anglers is introducing a new fly reel—the **System Two-L (Lightweight) Fly Reel**—which incorporates many of the features of their best-selling System Two saltwater/steelhead fly reels. This fly reel is 2-3/4 inches in diameter and will be available in four sizes for trout to steelhead/salmon at fly fishing specialty shops

**3M Scientific Anglers—System Two-L (Lightweight) Fly Reel**



## Lew Childre's New "Speed Sticks"

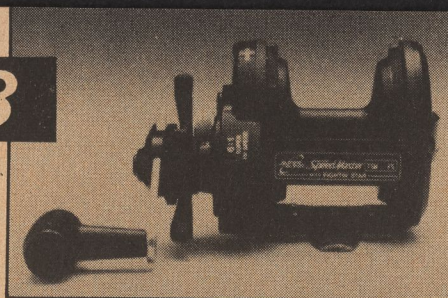
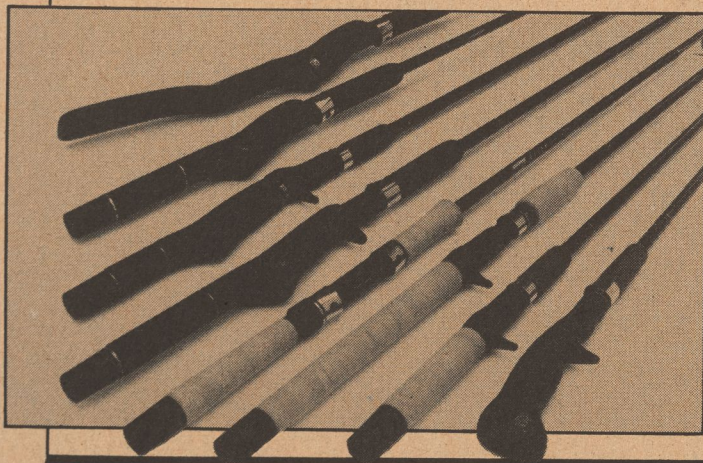
**Laser Graphite Speed Sticks** from Lew Childre are light, fast, and strong with a better-than-ever selection of graphite casting rods, spinning rods, and specialty rods. Every model is well-dressed with Fuji gold plated hardloy guides, tops, and reel seats for

and general fishing tackle and sporting goods stores.

The System Two-L Fly Reel, which boasts an exceptionally smooth and highly adjustable disc brake drag designed to land the largest fish on the lightest tackle, also has a rim control palming spool, a counter-balanced spool for smooth runs, a high silicone-content, lightweight aluminum frame, and inexpensive spare spools. For more information contact: 3M/Scientific Anglers, 3M Center, 224-2S-27, St. Paul, MN 55144-1000.

top of the line performance and appearance. The Pistol Plus specialty rods—Poppin', Pitchin', Steelhead/Salmon and Flippin'—and the new Spin Pistol spinning rods show Childre's commitment to excellence.

**Lew's Laser Graphite Speed Sticks**



## Shimano's Fightin' Star Drag

reels—because it moves less than half a turn and

## New Drag Innovation On Shimano Reel

For 1988 anglers will realize they can catch even more fish with **Shimano's** newest drag innovation—the **Fightin' Star**. It combines the best features from lever drags with the best features from star drags. Like a star drag, Fightin' Star uses an adjustable, pre-set wheel to adjust the drag tension for any line test being used. The Fightin' Star itself then acts like a lever—much like the lever on expensive big game lever drag

has a strike setting.

The strike position allows anglers to set the perfect drag for the breaking strength of their line and then lock it in permanently. With other star drags, you set the perfect drag too, by pulling line off the spool or by using a scale and adjusting the star until the tension is right. That's the strike position. But when the star is moved for more or less drag while fighting a fish, the strike setting disappears. Write Russ Johnson, Shimano American Corporation, One Shimano Drive, Irvine, CA 92718.

## Ryobi Bait Casting Reel: Distance Without Backlash

For decades, baitcasting was a refined technique only the most skilled fisherman could enjoy because of one highly annoying problem—backlash. The development of the centrifugal brake began to tame this problem. And magnetic braking systems have come close to eliminating backlash altogether. But unfortunately even at low power settings, conventional magnetic systems retard casting distance.

But **Ryobi** has introduced an amazing reel that takes the guesswork out of cast control through the magic of computer technology with the **E 1 baitcasting reel**, which allows anglers to take advantage of automatic magnetic braking—only when the spool is about to overrun. The rest of the time, the E 1's spool is revolving freely, resulting in

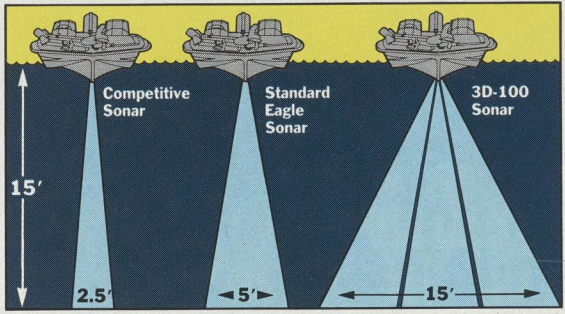
maximum distance with every cast.

Ryobi incorporated the important factors that affect casting into the remarkable CCS circuitry inside the E 1 and programmed the different spool-RPM levels at which backlash is prone to occur given variable lure weights, rod actions, wind velocities, and the skill characteristics of individual fishermen. When switched on by depression of the thumb bar, the E 1's circuitry monitors spool rpm's and directs anti-backlash magnetic braking only at those times during the cast when there's potential for spool overrun. Also sportsmen can choose to lengthen or shorten the duration of the automatic backlash control. The E 1 is loaded with many other options and features that make fishing better. For more information, contact Ryobi America Corporation, Fishing Tackle Division, 1158 Tower Lane, Bensenville, IL 60106.



# 3-D SONAR.

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, YOU CAN TELL ON WHICH SIDE OF THE BOAT FISH ARE LOCATED!



- A FISH (flashing)
- B GRAYLINE®
- C DEPTH READOUT (digital)
- D BACK-LIGHTED DISPLAY and KEYBOARD FOR NIGHT USE

THE 3D-100 IS THE ULTIMATE SHALLOW WATER SONAR GIVING YOU SIX TIMES THE COVERAGE AREA OF MOST COMPETITIVE UNITS.

The new Eagle 3D-100 scans left, center, and right. It shows you six times more underwater area than most other sonar brands.

Three full power sonar beams can be viewed all at once, so you see a wider area when looking for fish. Then you can zero in on the specific side of

the boat the fish are on by scanning left, center, or right.

To catch more fish, you've got to find more fish. To find more fish, get the Eagle 3D-100. You'll find it at your nearest tackle store, sporting goods department, or boat and motor dealer.



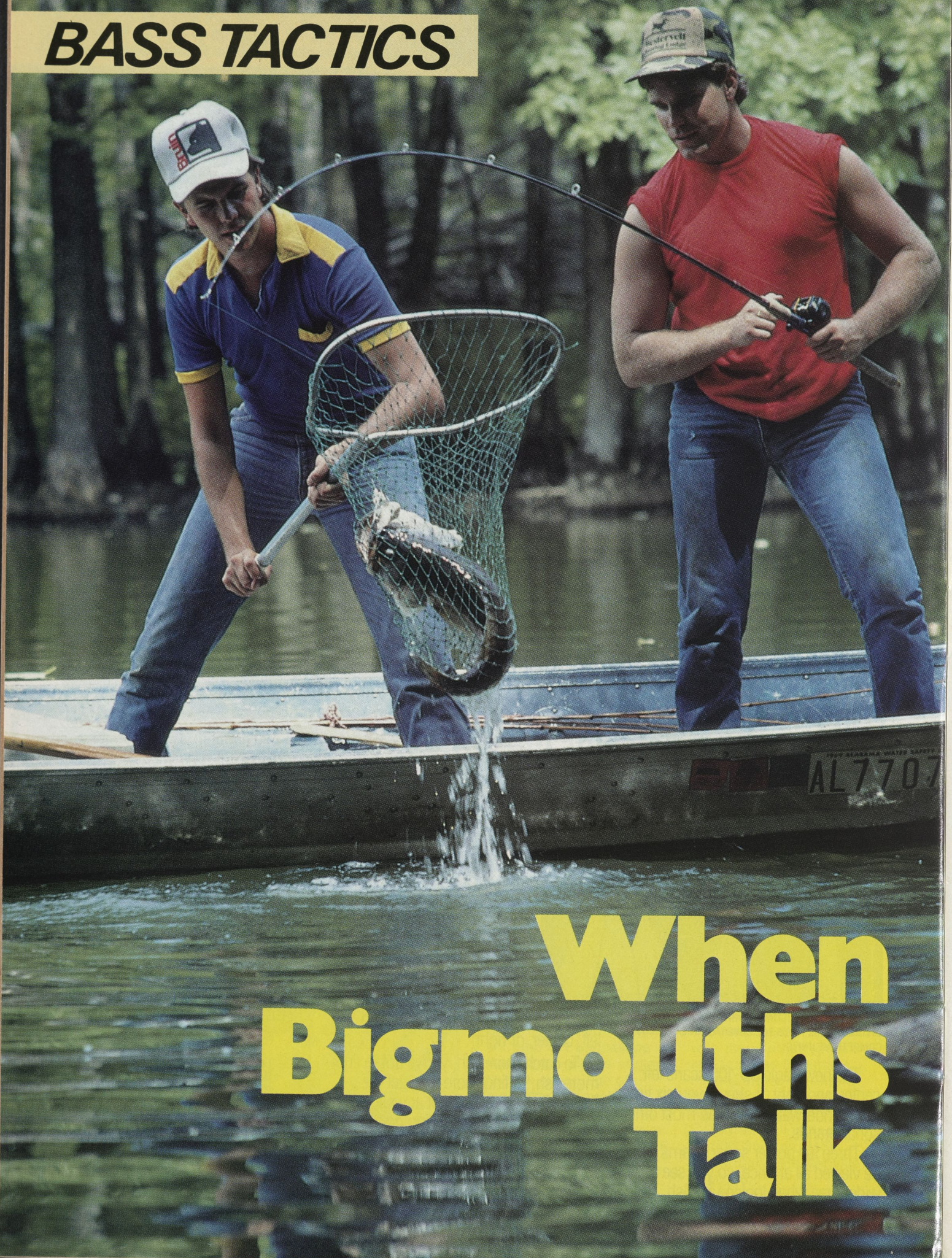
**YES!** RUSH me a FREE 1988 Eagle catalog and a copy of the 3D-100 owner's manual.

FILL OUT AND MAIL TO:  
**Eagle Electronics**  
 P.O. Box 669 Catoosa, OK 74015

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dept # \_\_\_\_\_



# ***BASS TACTICS***



**When  
Bigmouths  
Talk**

By John E. Phillips

**"T**he bass will tell you where they are, what baits they prefer, and the presentation that will be required to catch them," Rick Clunn, three time B.A.S.S. Masters Classic winner, says. "The problem that most anglers have is that either they don't listen to the fish, or else they don't understand what the bass are saying."

The language of a bass is spoken in a whisper, is coded, and is often either not heard or misunderstood. However, if a fisherman learns to interpret bass, he can catch more fish.

Fishing on the Ohio River in the 1987 B.A.S.S. Masters Classic was slow. My partner, Jimmy Houston of Cookson, Oklahoma, the 1987 B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year, had had only a few bites all day as he fished down the shoreline. In the middle of the day, a nice bass came to the surface and blew a perch out of the water three or four times.

"Did you see that?" Houston asked. "That bass is trying to tell us something."

Then Houston began to interpret the language of the bass for me.

"John, the bass was telling us that we're fishing too close to the bank, because that fish hit 20 yards away from the bank. The bass also said we should be fishing a large crankbait that's shaped and colored like a perch. The fish also let us know that he likes his bait just under the surface. By listening to what bass tell you, you can determine what you need to be doing to catch them."

To catch bass you must know where the bass are. Although that statement may sound simple, many anglers don't understand how to find fish. Gary Klein of Irving, Texas, one of the United States' top contenders in bass fishing, has learned to let the fish themselves tell him where they're holding.

"To consistently catch bass, the

Lady anglers listen when bass talk.



Bass can tell you whether they're holding on solid wood like this pier piling or on scattered wood like these treetops under the bridge.

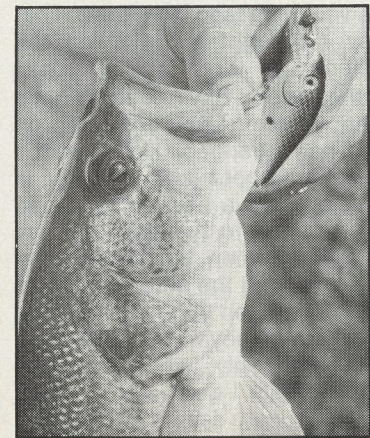
angler not only has to pinpoint where the bass's house is but also which room the fish is in. By knowing exactly where to locate bass, you can spend more time angling where the fish are instead of where they aren't.

"For instance, I was once fishing a boatdock pattern and catching a few bass. I noticed that I was taking the most bass around the transoms of motors. At that point, I realized that the bass were saying, 'If you want to catch

more fish, Gary, concentrate your fishing on the transoms of the motors. Don't waste time fishing beside the boat, under the docks, or any other place.'

"Therefore I began fishing the transoms of the motors and caught numbers of bass. I traveled to different marinas and docks on the lake and continuously took bass that were holding on the feet of boat motors. On that lake, on that day, I listened to what the bass were saying and caught more fish."

"One of the most important things a



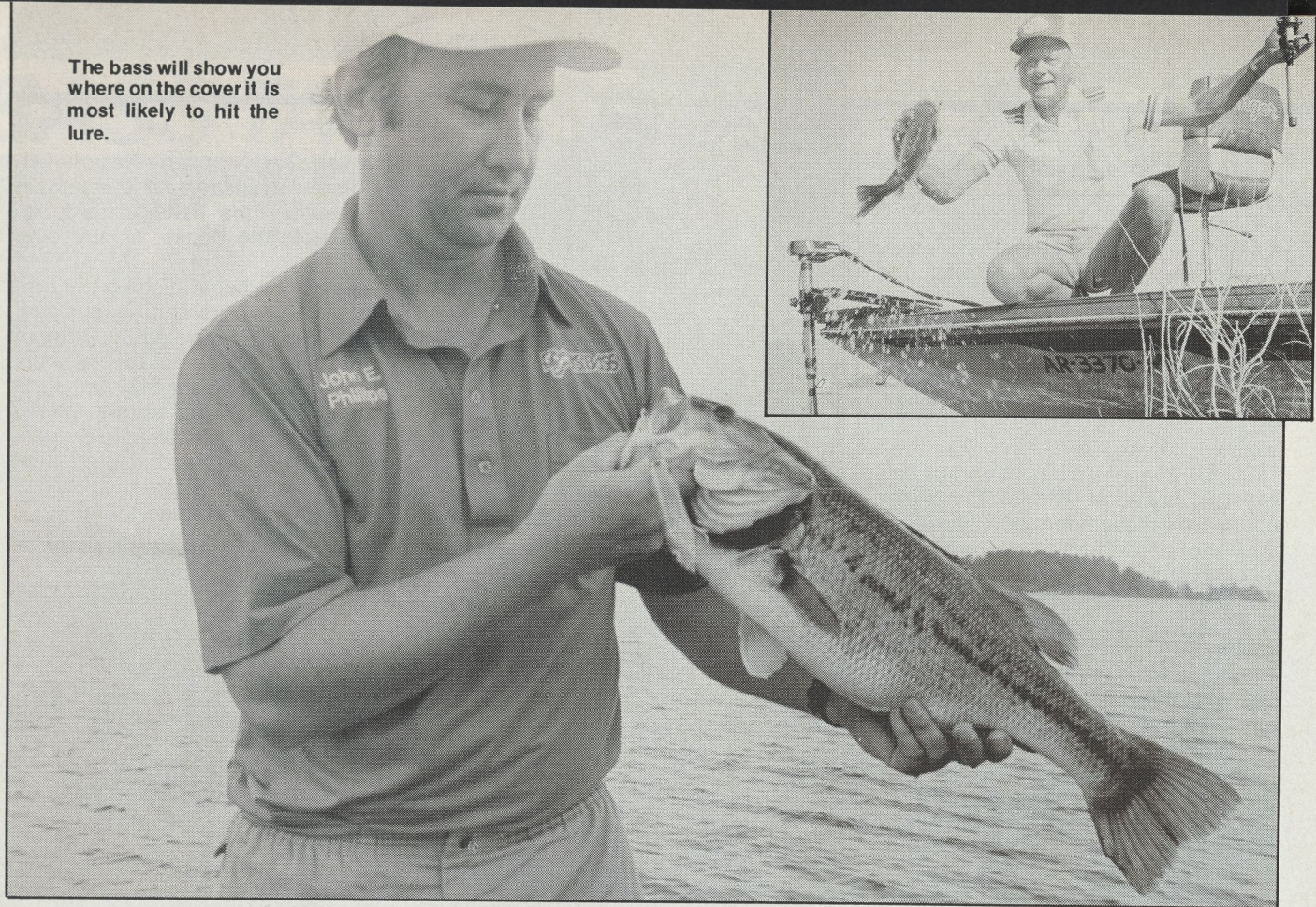
**"The problem most anglers have," says this pro, "is that they don't listen to the fish, or else they don't understand what they're saying!"**

bass can tell you is his mood," Tommy Martin of Hemphill, Texas, former winner of the B.A.S.S. Masters Classic, explained, "If a bass is aggressive, it will come out of the cover and chase a bait. Bass will move long distances and even out of deep water to hit a lure. They will also strike more aggressively and take the bait when they are active. Generally, when you spot bass chasing baitfish or blowing up through cover, you can assume that the bass are active and may be easier to catch.

"However when bass are inactive, you will rarely see them on the surface chasing lures. Most sportsmen will think that there aren't any bass in the area, which is a mistaken idea. Just because you're not getting bites does not mean there are not bass where you are casting. The bass may just be inactive. And many anglers overlook good bass fishing because of an incorrect assumption.

"I've fished down a break where I knew the bass were before and not had a strike. By realizing that the bass were still on the bank where I found them before and changing tactics to fish for

The bass will show you where on the cover it is most likely to hit the lure.



## Bigmouths

inactive fish, I've caught bass in regions where most anglers would have sworn there were no fish. Once the bass tells you what mood he's in, he also lets you know what bait to fish and what tactic to use."

### How to Catch Me When I'm Active

"When the bass tell you they're active, then you know several things," Martin said.

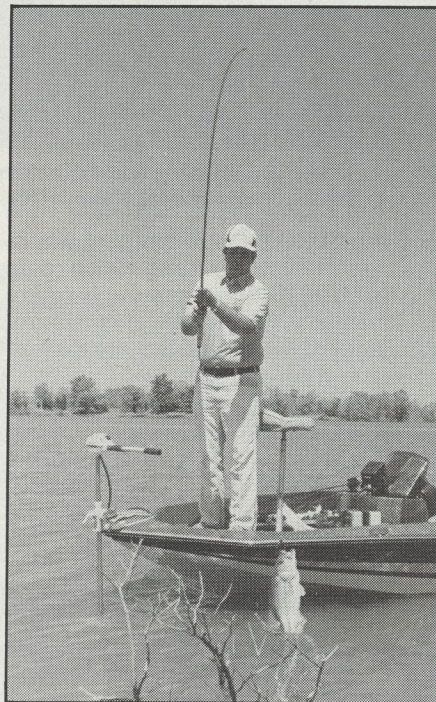
"... You're going to catch more fish. Active bass are easier to take, because they want to bite and will attack a variety of lures.

"... You can cover more water. If bass are active, the faster you fish, the more fish you'll catch. Since the bass want to bite your lure, the more fish that see your bait, the more bass you will catch.

"... You'll be able to draw bass away from cover. So you're not likely to get hung and break off fish.

"... You know the lures that will be the most productive. When the bass are active, I usually fish for big bass. So I use a spinnerbait, a pig and jig, and the Rattletrap.

"The spinnerbait is a big bass bait that can be fished fast and around any



Top bassing pro. Larry Nixon, has learned to listen when bass talk.

type of cover. Most sportsmen don't think of the pig and jig as a bait they can work fast. However, when the bass have told me they're active, I fish the pig and jig fast. I swim the lure through the water and let it fall off ledges, drop into holes, or fall off rocks.

"The third lure I try to feed to active

bass is the Rattletrap. The type of cover on the lake I'm fishing dictates which of these three baits I'll utilize. If the lake has very little cover, and the bass are in open water, I usually will select the Rattletrap to cover the water and catch big fish."

### When I'm Inactive and Don't Want to Bite

"I was fishing a tournament on Sam Rayburn Lake near Lufkin, Texas," Tommy Martin remembered. "On the first day of the tournament, I had a limit of bass by 9:00 A.M. and caught bass the rest of the day. The fish were active, and I took them by swimming a jig and Uncle Josh's pork frog by the bushes. The bass came out of the cover and aggressively attacked the bait. That first day I thought I could win the tournament.

"But the second day I couldn't get a bite. The water nor any condition on the lake had changed. However the bass just would not hit. At 1:00 P.M., I still did not have a bass in the boat. Finally I listened to the bass. All day long they had been telling me they were inactive, and the entire day I had been trying to catch them like I did the day before when they were active. So at 1:00 P.M. with only two tournament hours left to fish, I decided to believe what the bass were saying and fish for

them with an inactive pattern.”

Here are some characteristics an angler automatically understand about inactive bass.

... The fish will be in the thickest part of cover, if they are in cover.

... The angler must place the bait right in front of the bass's nose.

... A sportsman must aggravate the bass into biting.

... Fishermen must angle slowly and work for each strike they get, because the bites may be few and far between.

“When I realized that I had to change tactics, I started catching fish,” Martin recalled. “I flipped a pig and jig into the center of the bushes. As the jig fell over a limb in the bushes above the water, I

shallow water tactic. So when the bass are deep and inactive, you basically use the same presentation but merely change the lure and the technique. In deep water, I'm still looking for thick coverbrush, standing timber, or aquatic vegetation like milfoil and hydrilla. In the brush and timber, I fish a jiggling spoon. In the aquatic vegetation, I will use either the jig and pig or the worm. But I still fish vertically and try to aggravate that bass into biting.”

Knowing whether a bass wants to run or fight is another key to catching more bass. And the bass will let the angler know the state of the fish's nerves.

“If you throw a loud, heavy racket bait close to a nervous bass, you can

bass's nerves are in is important, if you want to catch the fish.

“If I'm casting lures in close to cover and seeing swirls but not getting strikes, I assume that I'm spooking the fish. Often, even the slightest splash will spook a nervous bass. So when the bass says, ‘I'm scared and spooky,’ I change tactics so I won't scare him.

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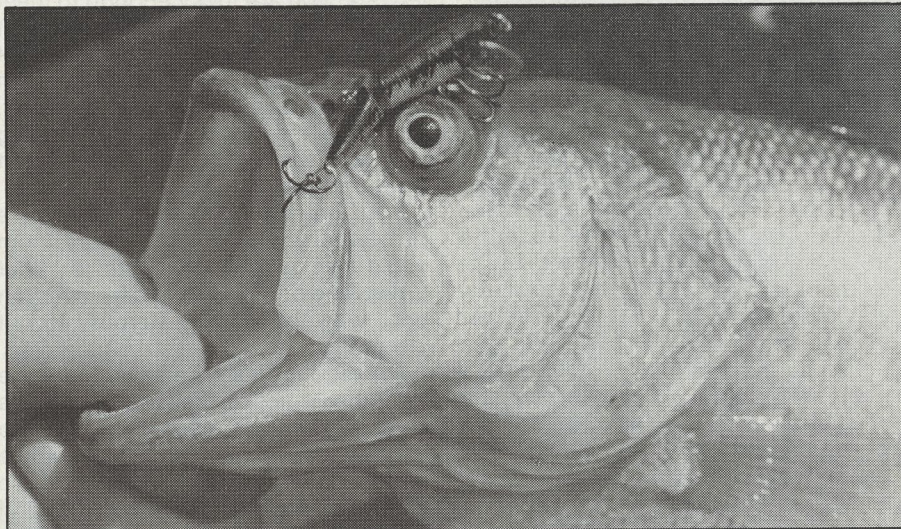
## Knowing whether a bass wants to run or fight is another key to catching more bass. And the bass will let the angler know the state of the fish's nerves.

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“First, I use a soundless lure—a plastic worm, a plastic lizard, or perhaps a pig and jig. I cast well past my target area where I believe the bass is holding so that the splash won't alarm the bass. Then I swim the lure quietly into the bass's strike zone. Many times that silent presentation will trigger a strike.”

Determining the direction the bass is looking lets the angler know where to cast his lure so the bass can see the bait.

“The bass will usually tell you which



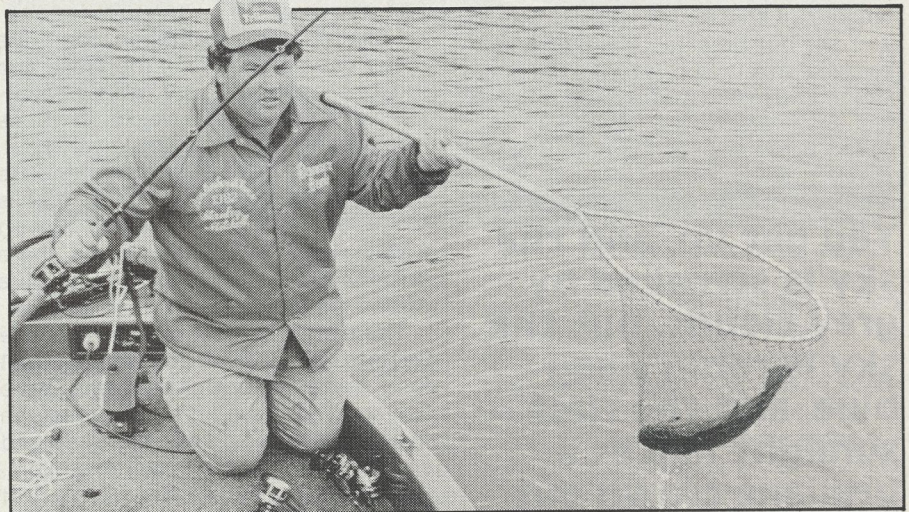
The color of bait that a bass prefers can be learned by watching the bass feed.

eased the bait down into the water and allowed the lure to slow-fall to the bottom. Once the bait was on the bottom, I hopped it up three or four times off the bottom and then slowly pulled the pig and jig to the surface. When I spotted the lure just under the surface, I twitched my rod tip to make the bait shake and vibrate. Then I let the lure fall back to the bottom.

“All the bass I caught utilizing these techniques took the bait after I shook the bait and let it fall back. In one hour of angling, I caught four bass that weighed a total of 15 pounds. Other anglers who were fishing near me never got a bite. On that day, in that place, I believe that shaking the bait just under the surface was what aggravated the bass into biting.

“When I hear the bass tell me that they're not aggressive, I move to the thickest part of the cover I'm fishing and flip either a pig and jig, a plastic worm, or a plastic lizard. Flipping, in my opinion, is the most deadly tactic for catching bass when the fish tell you they don't want to bite.

“And the same method is productive if the bass are deep. Flipping, a vertical presentation of a lure to a bass, is a



Sportsmen can learn a great deal by listening to bass.

run the fish off and never get a strike,” B.A.S.S. Masters Classic winner, Hank Parker of Denver, North Carolina, observed. “By the same token, if a bass is feeling mean and bad, you want to put some sound on the water to call the fish to the fight. Many times a bass that's mean will come away from cover to kill a bait that the bass may not be interested in eating. So learning what shape a

way he is looking if your understand the fish,” Gary Klein reported. “When the water is falling, the bass does not want to get trapped on the bank and neither do the baitfish. So the baitfish will be swimming well away from the bank, which means the bass will be looking toward the deep water. You can learn which way the bass are facing

*Continued on page 78*

# Beyond The Ranges

Continued from page 7

big rainbow or five they can talk about back home. Maybe the fish should be just part of the experience; and maybe because of that approach, the fishing will be a lot better.

Let's say that right now, you are camped in a national forest, right in the heart of the West. You're surrounded by lodge pole pines, snow covered mountains, and the day is just beginning. Let's see if you can live it in a Nick Adams mode.

You get up, and the sky is streaked by grey clouds, but the sky is robin's egg blue, and the first sunlight makes a brilliant crown out of the mountains. As you emerge from the shuck of your sleeping bag, you nearly trip over a stump; somebody must have forgotten to take it with the rest of the tree. The national forest is full of things to fall over. You swear. This is nature; the wild. You go to the forest service tap, and you turn it on. The sluggish trickle begins to fill your pan. You would drink the river water, except that the river is down a dangerous incline and the local beavers have infected the water with giardia.

After you wipe off the dew, you get the two-burner propane stove going, and you put the water on. On the tailgate of the rented station wagon, you set out breakfast: instant coffee, pancake mix, syrup, canned milk, and sugar. Looks like a Nick Adams breakfast.

You take your second cup of coffee

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**You get up, and the sky is streaked by grey clouds, but the sky is robin's egg blue, and the first sunlight makes a brilliant crown out of the mountains.**

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for a stroll over to the lake from which the river flows. There are thick piles of brush and trees lined up close to each other along the shore. As you walk up, there is a sound like the one a small car would make if it were dropped fifty feet down into the water. At the same time, you see the fleeting image of something very big, and brown, splashing;

and then you realize you are running... this is not a fantasy, and real fear is driving you to get away. You did the smart thing to go like sixty. Nick would have.

When you get back to the tent, you ask yourself, how are you going to get the most out of being *here*, within range of the fine places in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. First of all, you are going to hire a guide.

What, you say? Hire a guide? Isn't that rather a contradiction in terms? Doesn't that violate the basic Nick Adams concept? Not really. Nick Adams had something that you don't, right now. He knew something about the water he would be fishing. Or he had some idea what to expect from it.

What sort of things will you garner from your guide, if he knows his stuff and you pick his brain to the fullest? He'll tell you all about the fishery, what the fish eat, and when, and what kind of tackle works, and when; and where the fish tend to congregate, and how to read the water; and the difference between the rise of a whitefish and a trout; and how to cast; and how to set the hook and release the fish. He'll row you down rivers. He'll help you stagger through wading water; he'll help you rig flylines and tie flies; he'll orient you to the whole area and save an awful lot of frustration. Yes, by all means. Hire a *worthy* guide for a few days; if he knows what he's doing, he'll be worth his weight in fish.

## Making Plans

Luckily, as to orientation, there are many camping areas in the West, and lots of productive water. With a potential variance of six weeks in those "ideal" times to fish any given spot, your best bet is to plan for a change. Be prepared for surprises. Water that is unresponsive at one point, may turn on a week later. In Montana alone, there are 452 river miles classified as blue ribbon water.

There are a number of ways to tackle western water. Some are: wading, float tube, drift boat, power boat, and shore fishing. There are, in short, freestone rivers, and spring creeks; big lakes, and small ponds; reservoirs, and big rivers. Big rivers are better fished from a drift boat, or a rubber raft. While the boat is more maneuverable, with an anchor you can halt your progress downriver in the raft long enough for some blind casting with terrestrial imitations. You might want to outfit your truck with a rack on top where you can stash the raft in transit without deflating it.

In many smaller western rivers, fly fishing and wading are the rule, but many rivers have both "hard" and "easy" water, for more advanced and novice anglers.

Blue ribbon trout streams have native trout, a self-supporting population. These should be released; they're too precious a resource to waste, and catch only once. There are many feeder creeks and lakes stocked by the Fish and Game Departments, and it is a fine thing to catch, cook and eat these fish.

If you've got a nice campsite within range of all sorts of water, and you've spent several days with a guide, maybe you're ready now for the real test: living your own version of *Big Two-Hearted River*. Here's where your personal adventure really begins, and when you've got a sense of where you are and what you're doing.

Let's suppose you have three days left, and you are lucky enough to meet some local anglers on the river. One of them offers to give you a day you won't forget: a grand slam during which you'll fish a lake, float a freestone river, and have the final glory of matching wits with one of the world's toughest trout contenders.

Your new friend says that there are two lakes you can fish. One of them you'd fish with belly boats, or float tubes. The other you'd fish from his jon boat with the 25 h.p. Mercury to get around it.

On the first lake, he says, there are trout that cruise on the surface, mouths open, feeding voraciously on tiny Trico and Calabaetis mayflies. It's not unlike tarpon fishing in the Keys, where angles of interception are crucial. In this lake, you cast your #16 Adams ahead of the fish, and if he stays on course, he'll eat the bug.

## Going It Alone

The other lake is where you end up going. It is surrounded by mountains, and has brook trout, and rainbow-cutthroat hybrid trout. The lake also had an intense growth of aquatic plants, so you are spoon trolling a brown, green, and purple leech at the end of three rods, on six pound test line, and three "colors" of leadcore line. Each color is ten feet long. A small spinner can be as effective as the artificial leech patterns. You fish from seven to nine-thirty, and in that period have a great time. As you troll, you catch half a dozen healthy hybrid fish, keeping several for lunch. It makes you realize that a good time need not adhere to any particular formula for tackle, species or technique of fishing. A good time is a good time. And the fine fish make a good lunch.

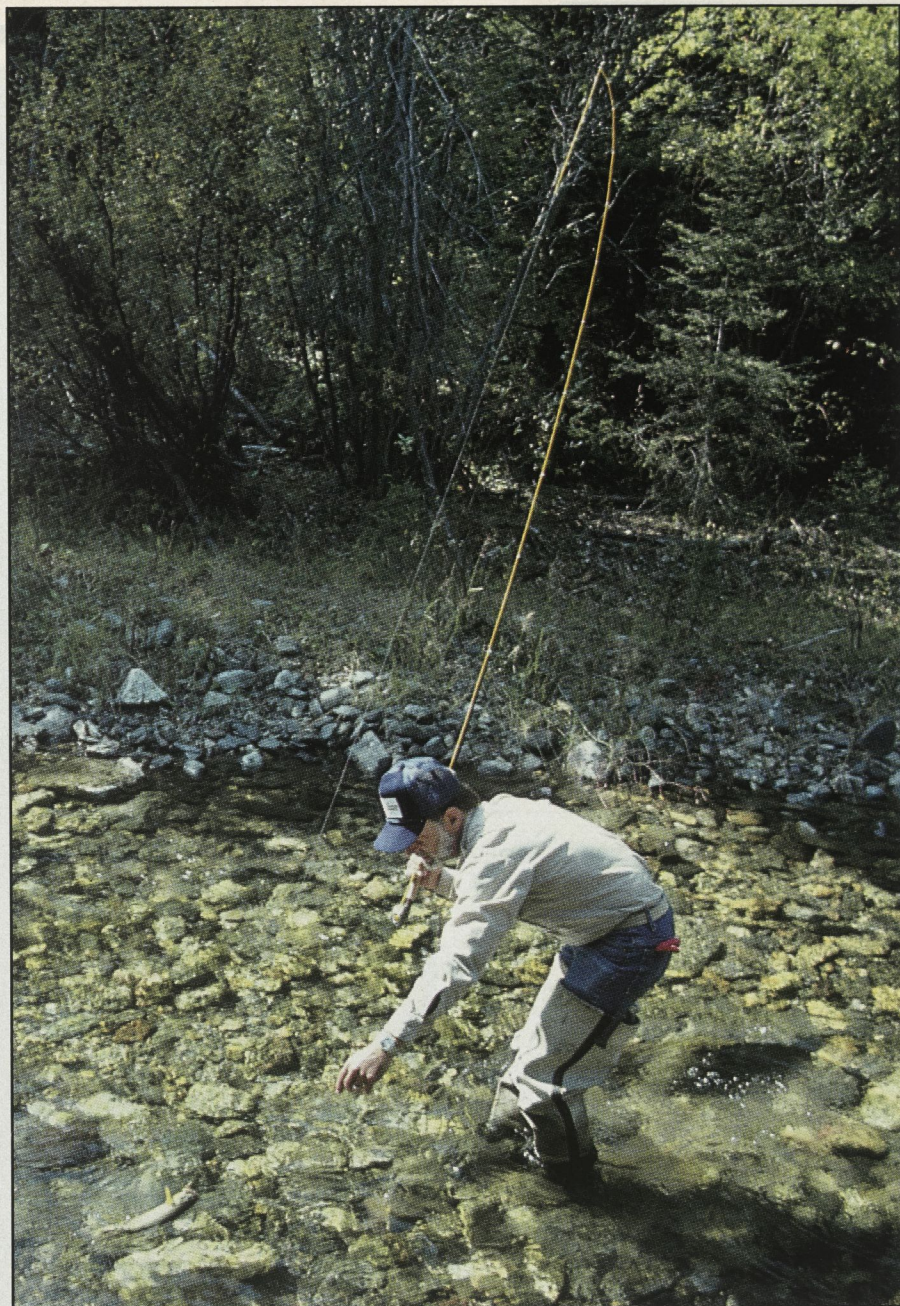
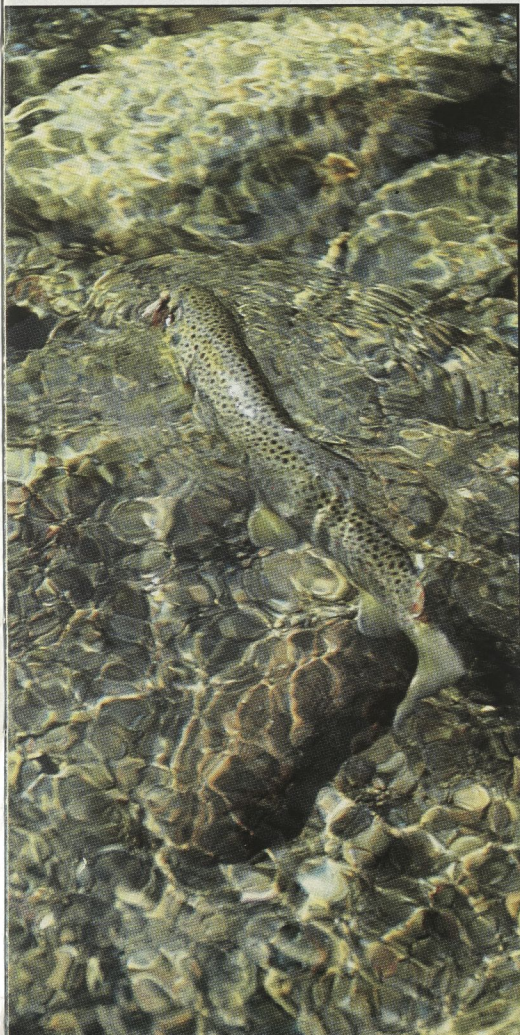
After lunch, you drive about twenty miles north of the lake. You get to the put-in and unload your friend's boat. The river is fast-moving and freestone; some people call it magnificent, others the armpit of the West. It is known for its hellacious winds and big brown



trout. Your friend offers to row the boat, and leap out occasionally, in order to hold it in position while you cast behind some likely looking rocks.

You have your caddis fly at the ready, and somewhat unsteadily you are standing in the bow, casting at rocks while the drift boat goes down with the river, down around the big, sweeping bends bordered by low banks, and vistas of uncontested grandeur. He gets up, leaps out as promised, and holds the boat near the shore, telling you to cast to the bank. You do, working your fly along the edge. Something plucks at your heart strings as the fly is taken and the line attains a tension, the twang of a hefty brown. As you set the hook, the fish takes a powder down the bank, bowing your winston rod in an arc. You reel in, bending down as you take up the slack, until he is close enough so you can bring him near for removal of the hook with your hemostates. But, first, you lovingly wet your hand and gently grasp the buttery, spotted brown trout; so sleek, alive and anxious to leave you. It is a fine fish; your fish. You nervously retrieve the hook, open your fingers, and he's gone. You're left with a feeling like downing a glass of champagne. Headiness Onward! You continue on down the roily, graceful river.

Now, it's late afternoon, and you're heading down the road to the world's




**In the crush of civilization, it's hard to remember sometimes that clear waters and beautiful trout still exist. But they do!**

toughest trout stream. A river, actually. However, as you pull up at one of the main entry/parking points, you see a mass of cars redolent of a shopping mall back home in the East. The river is dotted with casting fly anglers and you feel intimidated. Your friend smiles knowingly. He can fish this river; he's put in the time. But he also knows that you, with your short vacation and need to realize that big overview of the best of all possible outdoor experiences, need something a little less demanding.

You drive a little ways and park near another entry point. There are fewer cars; you'll have to walk a half an hour. You cross a flat stretch of land as the sun-drenched beauty of the place be-

comes paradisaical. You cross a bridge; the river runs beneath it. You are walking through the valley of a caldera; an enormous volcanic depression. The road curves around; you hear sandhill cranes, sounding like rusty screen doors. You come up a rise, to the top of a cut bank, and down below in the river you can see big rainbow trout, cruising along the cut bank. There is a hatch of Green Drakes, and there are aureoles spreading on the glassy mirror of the slow river. In the distance, there are mountains turning the color of pink flamingoes. You watch the big fish, mesmerized. Then, your friend tugs at your sleeve, and you start down the path from the top.

You thank *Papa*; whether or not you catch a fish, you've finally gotten to know what Nick Adams was all about. And from now on, life will be a finer, richer, and deeper experience. 

# The Best & The

**The water is quick, clear and cold. The trout are there, rising to minute insects. You should be there too—and you can be!**

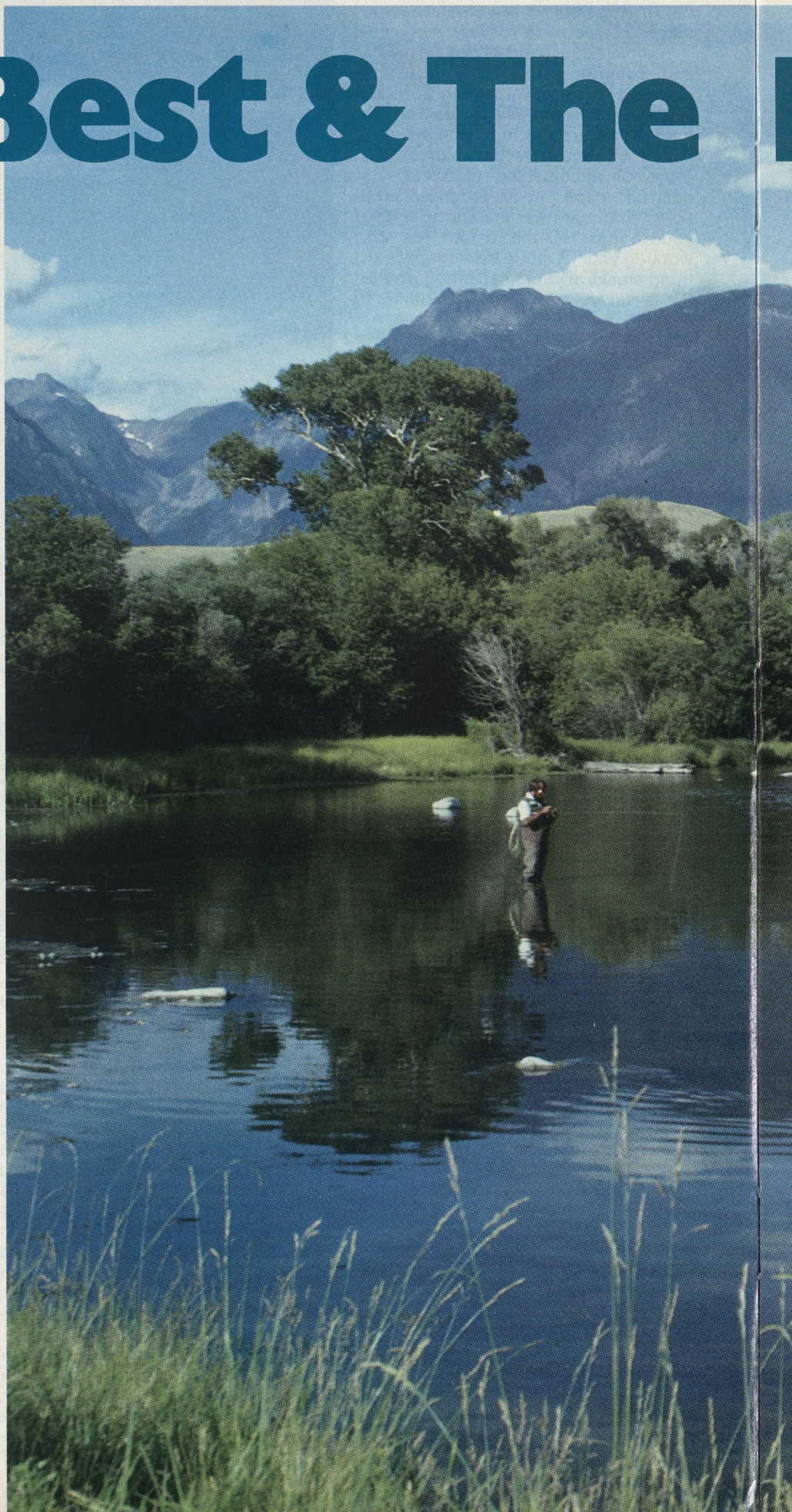
By Nick Lyons  
Dale Sparta Photos

**C**rystalline water—often slow and moody and flat; the clearest of water, in which the auburn, spotted forms of fish and the wavering hairlike masses of elodea and watercress are ghostlike, haunting; trout to make your eyes pop, rising to flies and size of gnats—this is the world of spring creek fishing. For the fly fisherman, wherever such conditions exist, this is the most exacting and compelling brand of fly fishing for trout imaginable.

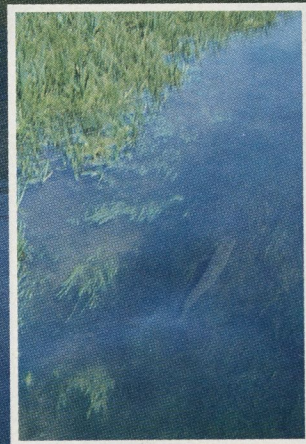
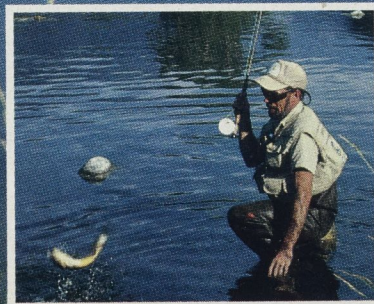
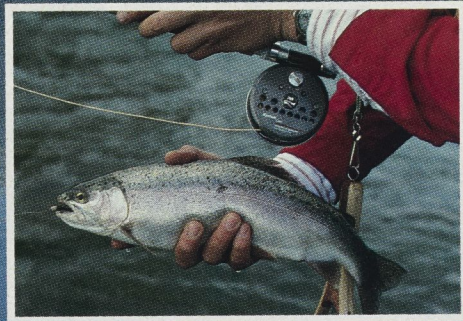
Picture this situation, which I experienced last summer: It is a chilly gray afternoon and I am preparing to fish a remote and exquisite spring creek in the Rockies. It is a large river, and this is one of its largest pools, perhaps 150 feet across, holding the largest fish. As I string up my rod and put on my hip boots, I keep scanning the river, searching for the wink of light beneath the surface that signals a feeding fish, the spreading circle produced by a trout rising to take an insect from the top of the water. The water is a little nervous here and there; there are slight wakes and bumps on the surface and I know that some of the big trout—browns better than 20"—are not far beneath the surface of this shallow water. But my presence, even after a stealthy approach, has made them skittery. I will have to wait until they calm down and begin to feed again, which may take ten minutes or an hour.

I sit quietly on a slight mound and lay my rod across my knees. There are a few golden specks on the surface—

*Continued on page 76*



# Brightest



Reservations to fish classic spring creeks like Nelson's and Armstrong's must be made far in advance. Some anglers book a year ahead!

# SLABS!

Everybody can catch runt blue gills. Here's how to get the big ones—the slabs that fill a plate!



By Jim Zumbo

**“Y**ou drove HOW far to catch bluegills?” my friend asked.

“Eight hundred miles,” I repeated, “but they were monsters—bluegills so big you couldn’t get your hand around them.”

At that I related the story, as I often do, about a journey from New York to South Carolina exclusively for bluegills. But that wasn’t the only time I’d done such craziness for bluegills. To me, a monster bluegill is a quarry worthy of my undivided attention. It is a fish just as exciting as anything that swims, and my advancing age hasn’t dulled my attitude one bit.

Most American kids grow up making their fishing debut with a bluegill at the end of the line. The fish are ubiquitous, and are found in all the lower 48 states. They’re also easy to catch, and will take practically every bait or lure that will fit into their mouths, and sometimes they’ll attack lures and baits that they could never begin to swallow.

But there’s a world of difference in consistently catching everyday bluegills and BIG bluegills, unless you fish a fantastic lake or river that has large populations of the oversized panfish. And, of course, you might happen into a situation where buster bluegills are temporarily congregated to the point where you can’t beat them off the hook.

For most of us, catching a mess of



giant bluegills is a matter of luck or being at the right place at the right time. Doing it regularly is a science, especially when conditions are all wrong for catching big bluegills.

The South Carolina trip I mentioned at the beginning of this article coincided with the bluegill spawning period. My pal and I rowed a small pram into a pond and caught huge bluegills on crickets under bobbers. The fish were spawning; my buddy said he could detect them by the odor on the water's surface. This might be a laughable point, but serious anglers say the milt given off by spawning male bluegills is so distinctive that it can be smelled in the atmosphere. I've never been able to detect the odor, but I'm not about to question the possibility. After all, fishermen never lie.

Spawning time is the finest period to take heavy stringers of big bluegills, because fish enter shallow water and are heavily concentrated. You'll have a few days to get in on the bonanza. If you miss it, you'll have to go to the next strategy, which means deep water.

One of the best catches of bluegills I ever made was in a New York lake. I knew the lake well, and caught plenty of bluegills from it, but never any big ones with any degree of consistency. One day in mid-May I cast a small spinner in a cove and caught a chunky male bluegill full of milt. The next ten casts produced five more big fish, all similar-sized male bluegills.

When the fish quit hitting the lure, I tried my old standby. Being an opportunist, I used a worm and bobber and commenced to make a small dent in the cove's bluegill population. I caught more than 100 bluegills between one-half pound to a pound and a quarter, and released all the females and all but two dozen males.

I returned to the cove for the next few days and caught plenty of fish every day. Then, just as quickly as they appeared, they were gone.

I recorded the dates in my fishing diary, and tried the same spot the next year. The bluegills were back, and I had no trouble finding them every year.

Obviously I'd stumbled into a bonanza, but I explored the lake and discovered similar areas. All the hotspots were quiet bays with the same water depths. To see if that lake was an exception, I tried other waters and also located good concentrations of heavy bluegills. I learned that the trick was to time the spawning period just right; then cruise the perimeter of a lake and seek out bluegill schools.

There might be some moral objections to catching and keeping large

numbers of fish, but bluegills are exceedingly prolific and need to be heavily thinned to keep their numbers in balance with the lake's ability to support them. I've yet to meet a biologist who has said that bluegills can be overfished, except in very rare situations.

While the spawning period is prime for large bluegills, the rest of the year can be frustrating in terms of locating oversized fish. It's easy to catch plenty of bluegills, but most are small to medium-sized. Where do the big ones go?

The answer is in the depths. Large fish migrate to deep water in the summer, but will make forays into shallow water late in the afternoon, during the night, and early in the morning.

**At NIGHT, you say?**

Absolutely.

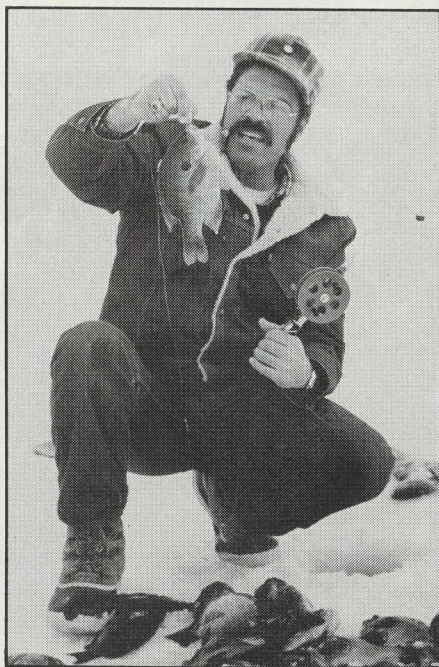
I learned about this behavior pattern while catfishing. Bluegills hit my worms readily, and I initially thought it was a freak occurrence. But I learned through



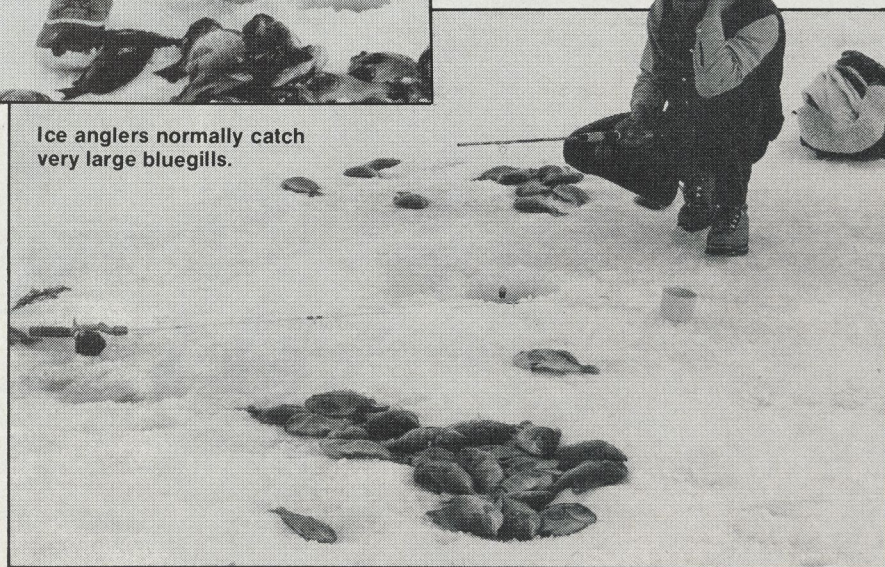
**These bluegills weighed an honest two pounds. Fish this big are tough to come by.**

my own experiences and from fishing buddies that bluegills indeed hit at night. Action is much slower than during the day, but the average fish caught is much bigger than those caught in daylight hours.

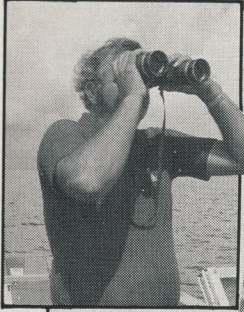
I learned much about bluegill fishing from the late Charlie Booth, a good fishing buddy who probably spent 300 days a year fishing during each of his retirement years. Charlie lived in Highland Falls, New York, and was intimately knowledgeable about dozens of lakes in the area, many of them within sight of the Empire State  
*Continued on page 74*



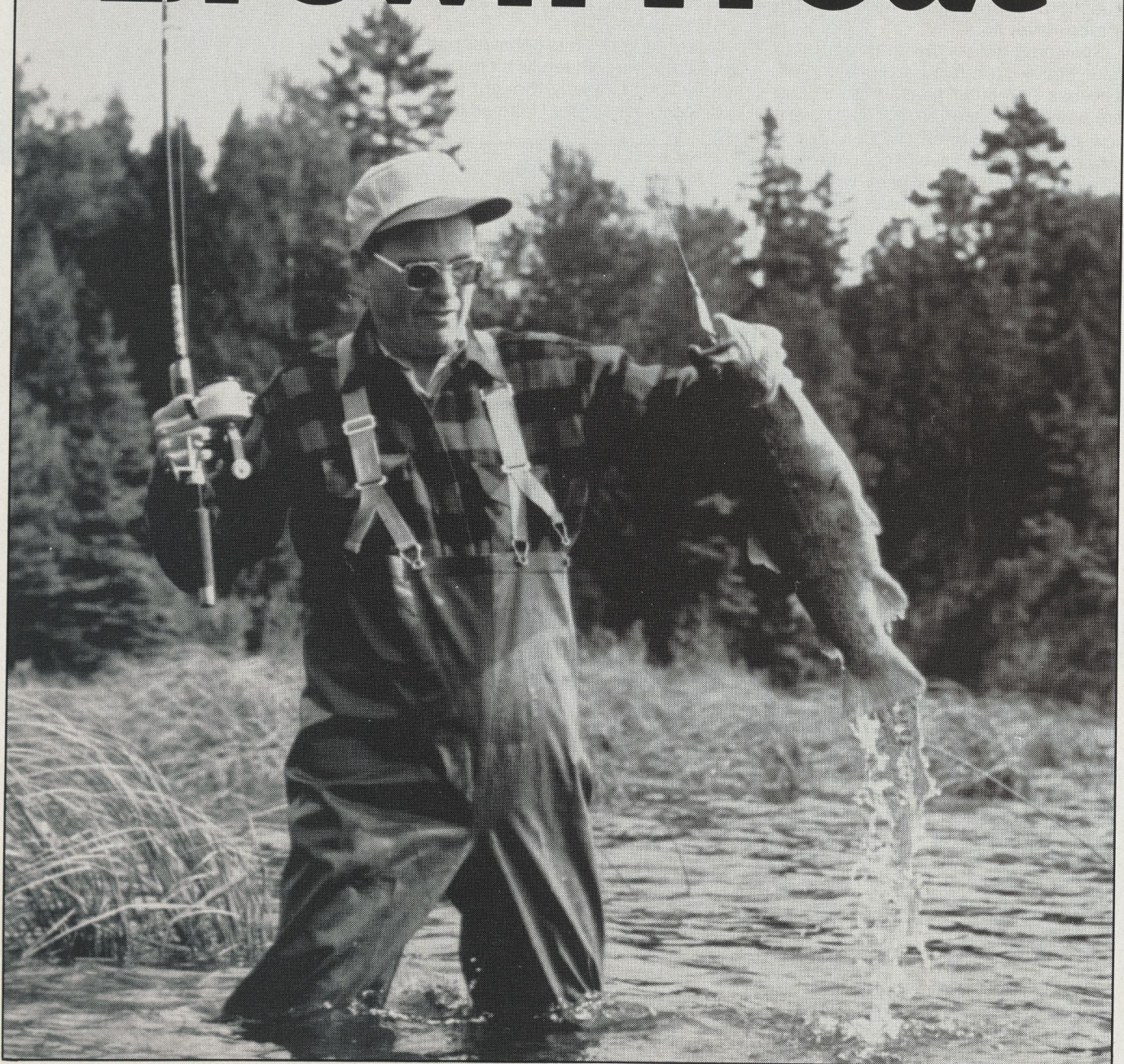
**Ice anglers normally catch very large bluegills.**



**WHERE-TO-GO**



# Reach Out For Trophy Brown Trout



By John Weiss

**M**y friend Karl Richards is not an easy man to discourage, but there was a morning at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, last fall, when he came very near to tossing in the sponge.

When we pulled into that bustling fishing community, dark thunderheads were low in the sky and near-gale winds were lashing Lake Michigan waters against Door County's jagged shoreline. Tuning the radio to a weather forecast was not necessary because frantically beating windshield wipers on passing vehicles, swaying boulevard trees, and gushing rivers of curbside water were clear and ominous indications that our weeks of impatient preparation were about to end on a sour note. The clincher came when our scheduled charter captain shook his head with discouragement and refunded our deposits.

"If Michigan's waters are too rough for safety," Karl desperately suggested, "let's see if anything else is available. Maybe another skipper knows of sheltered waters, such as Baily's Harbor to the north or Green Bay to the west, where some big king salmon are running."

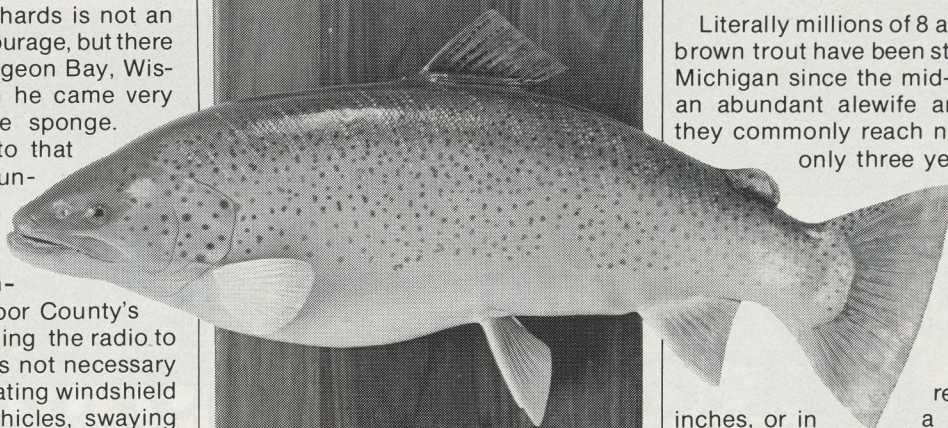
With that, Karl and I dashed across the black, shiny-wet asphalt street to a phone booth.

The ninth name on the charter listing given to us by a local tourism agency was that of Captain John Sarter and what he had to say was the first favorable hint that we might at last find the action we had come for.

"No fish in the world is worth the danger posed by big Lake Michigan swells which can throw even a 30 foot cruiser around like a matchbox," Sarter advised. "But if you want to salvage your trip, I know of some shallow, protected bays where you can have some fun. Would you mind donning chest waders, standing waist deep in cold water, having to make long casts, and catching brown trout that are averaging 8 pounds or better?"

"Mind? Would we mind!" I almost choked. "Point us in the right direction and turn us loose!"

What happened later that day may sound like one of the usual exaggerations fishermen are known for. But I contend it was—and still is—unquestionably the finest brown trout fishing that can be found anywhere in the world. The scenery was magnificent and access to the water entailed a mere 100 yard hike from where we parked. Moreover, we consistently caught and



This 23-pound, 12 ounce whopper was taken by Lewis Ramsey. Lake Michigan now boasts the finest brown trout fishing in the world.

Literally millions of 8 and 9 inch long brown trout have been stocked in Lake Michigan since the mid-1960s and on an abundant alewife and smelt diet they commonly reach nine pounds in only three years! Compare that to the same trout in a limestone creek of the northeast which in the same time period may reach only 12 inches, or in a rushing river where it may reach 16 inches, and the Lake Michigan fishery is even more impressive. Currently, anglers are catching browns, although infrequently, which pull honest scales down to the 25 and 30 pound mark!

Michigan and Wisconsin have jointly played roles in Lake Michigan's ongoing brown trout program, and along with stocking efforts many fish have been tagged to monitor their growth rates but also their travel tendencies. One revealing bit of insight coming from the tagging has been that brown trout are relative homebodies that seldom travel more than a mile or two from their release sites. It stands to reason, therefore, that homing-in upon the largest concentrations of brown trout can be reduced to a matter of simply determining where most of the fish have been stocked in the last 10 or 15 years.

The answer to that is easy! Although

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**In these Lake Michigan bays, brown trout average eight pounds or better, and all it takes to get them is a long cast from shore.**

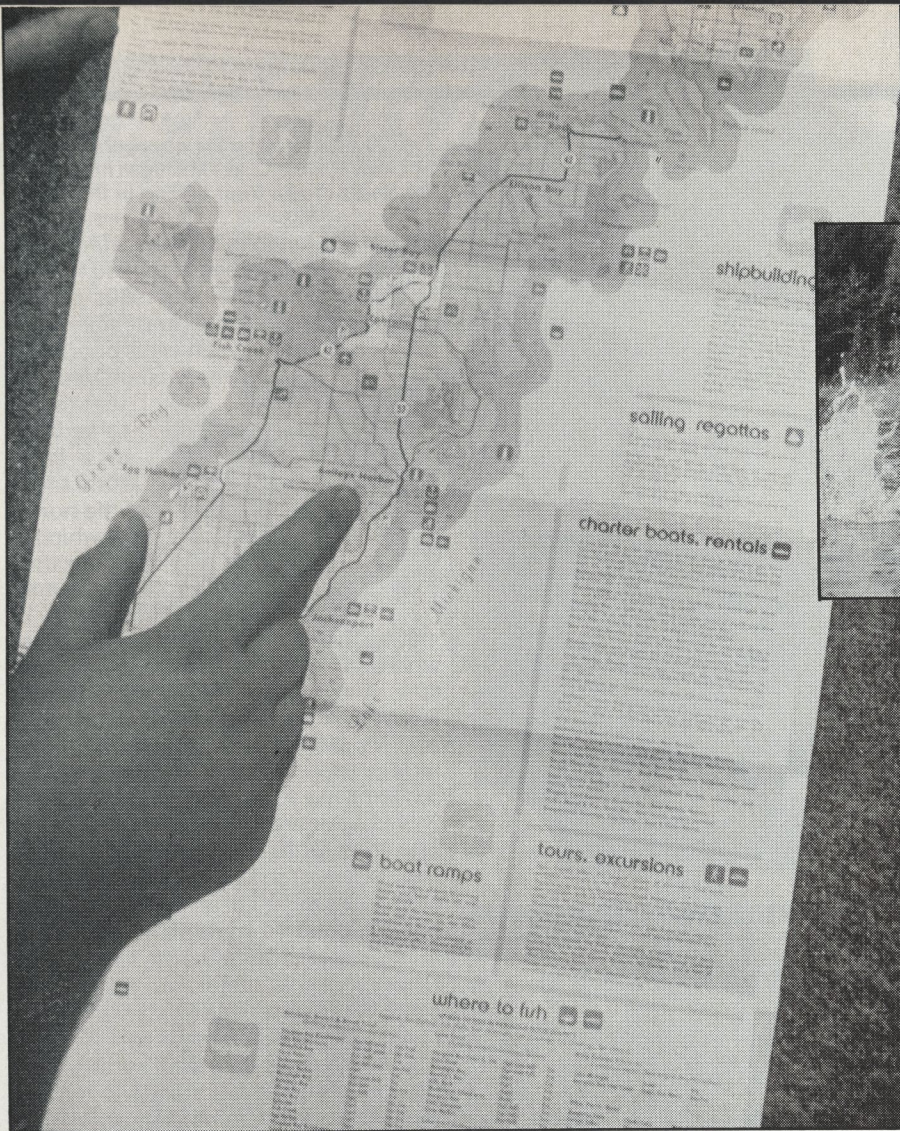
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released hard-fighting fish all afternoon and the trout did indeed average 8 pounds or better. One particular fish tipped the scales at 14 pounds.

Interestingly enough, the appearance of these fish aptly describes their near-perfect environments. I've caught hundreds of brown trout in lakes, rivers and streams from coast to coast and a preponderance of them have resembled long and lean smoked sausages. But Lake Michigan brown trout look almost like footballs. With high, broad shoulders, underslung bellies, and comparatively small heads in relation to their bodies, it is evident they have available to them an abundance of prime forage and that they put on weight very rapidly; conversely, fish which have large heads and small bodies indicate sparsely populated habitat and starving aquatic life.



The Little Cleo is the favorite locale lure because it represents the brown trout's favorite forage and is compact and weighty for long-distance casting.

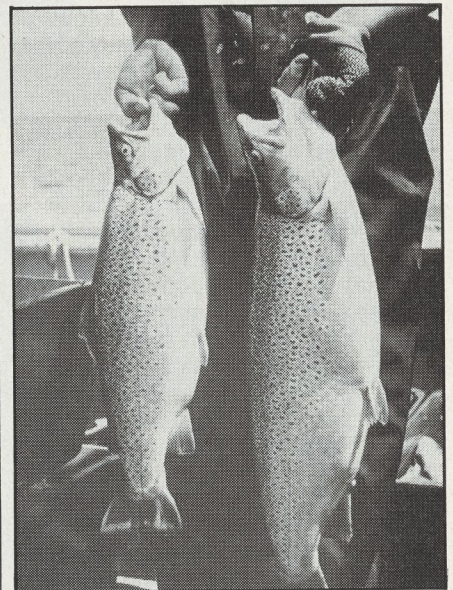


The Door County peninsula has countless shallow bays where anglers can wade-fish 8 months of the year.

When hooked in only two feet of water, brown trout are like sticks of dynamite.



cling to relatively shallow water is because unlike other trout and salmon species inhabiting the lake which dote upon cool water temperatures (around 50 degrees) which are often found at great depths, browns don't even begin exhibiting increasing metabolic activity until the water temperature reaches 55 degrees, and their peak operating range is from 62 to 65 degrees. Naturally, therefore, shallow water ranging



On a rich diet of smelt and alewives, Lake Michigan's brown trout reach this size in only 3 years!

from two to ten feet deep is their ideal niche early and late in the year, and this places them well within reach of wading fishermen. During the warmest months of the summer, the fish may drop down to the ten to 20 foot level to find their preferred water temperature, but even then a long cast may well reach them, especially if you know the locations of sudden drop-offs.

It was mentioned earlier that anglers trolling from small boats occasionally

*Continued on page 79*

# Trophy Brown Trout

browns have been planted throughout the big lake, the vast majority have been released at various places along Wisconsin's Door County Peninsula. Here, 110 miles of jagged beachhead is indented with countless, shallow bays and rubble-strewn or sandy shorelines. Virtually all of them are capable of producing memorable brown trout fishing throughout much of the year. Happily also, most of the shoreline is owned either by the state or individual counties, which means that access is no more complicated or brow-furling than merely parking in a convenient location and hiking a short distance to the water's edge.

I have not personally fished all of Door County's so-called brown trout bays as that would take even a local angler a lifetime. However, shaking out on top as the unanimous best choices would have to include Cave Point, Lily Bay, Whitefish Bay, Moonlight Bay, North Bay, Bailey's Harbor, Fish Creek, Sister Bay, Sand Bay, Egg Harbor, and Roley's Bay. For maps showing the

locations of these hotspots, along with brochures describing local accommodations and other services, write to the Door County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 346, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235.

Mention Lake Michigan fishing and it instantly conjures thoughts about far offshore fishing onboard an expensive charter-boat, but when it comes to hitting paydirt with the lake's brown trout population just the opposite applies. There is a brief period during midsummer when the use of a small boat might indeed be justified but most of the year sees knowing anglers wade-fishing along the shorelines.

## Tapping the Mother Lode

In order to tap into this brown trout bonanza, however, it's first necessary to understand how the fish live and move and feed in the shallow-water ecosystems of the Door County bays.

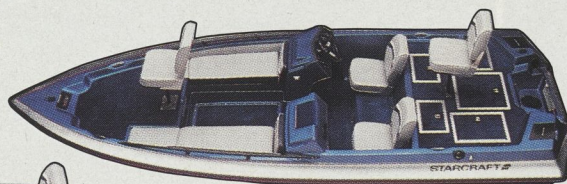
The primary reason the brown trout



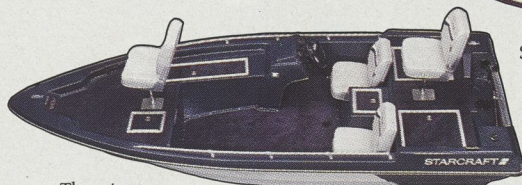


1988 Bass Boats by Starcraft

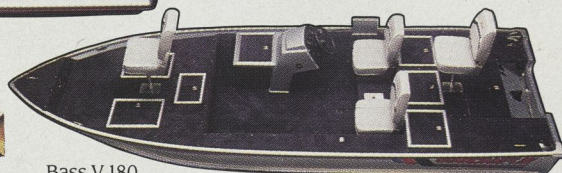
# HIGH PERFORMANCE IN ALUMINUM AND FIBERGLASS



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Thruster



Bass V 180



## THRUSTER

Thruster is the perfect "starter" bass boat because it gives you so many standard features at an economical price.

There's a rod locker big enough for 7' rods, and aerated livewells large enough for those "trophy bass". You'll also find two large storage compartments in the stern casting deck. Thruster's high-performance hull is rated for 80 h.p. but performs great with just 60. The two-tone gel coat, metalflake finish and convenient side-rails combine to make her look great.

With Thruster, you don't have to spend big money to get into fishing in a big way.

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This boat is designed with good times in mind for the whole family. The versatile Stalker is equally at home pulling skiers or pulling in a trophy bass.

The family fisherman will appreciate Stalker's aerated livewell and two dry storage boxes in the rear deck. The upholstered seats up front flip to reveal carpeted fishing decks with storage underneath. There's also an insulated ice chest in the port console. Stalker has a 30-gallon gas tank for a full day of fun and an in-dash AM/FM cassette radio is standard.

Whether you're fishing or skiing, Stalker's 150 h.p. rating will make it the hottest thing on the water.

Starcraft's Escort (top photo) runs great with Yamaha's three-cylinder 90 with Precision Blend Oil Injection. The 90 comes standard with power trim and tilt, and your choice of a stainless steel prop at no extra charge.

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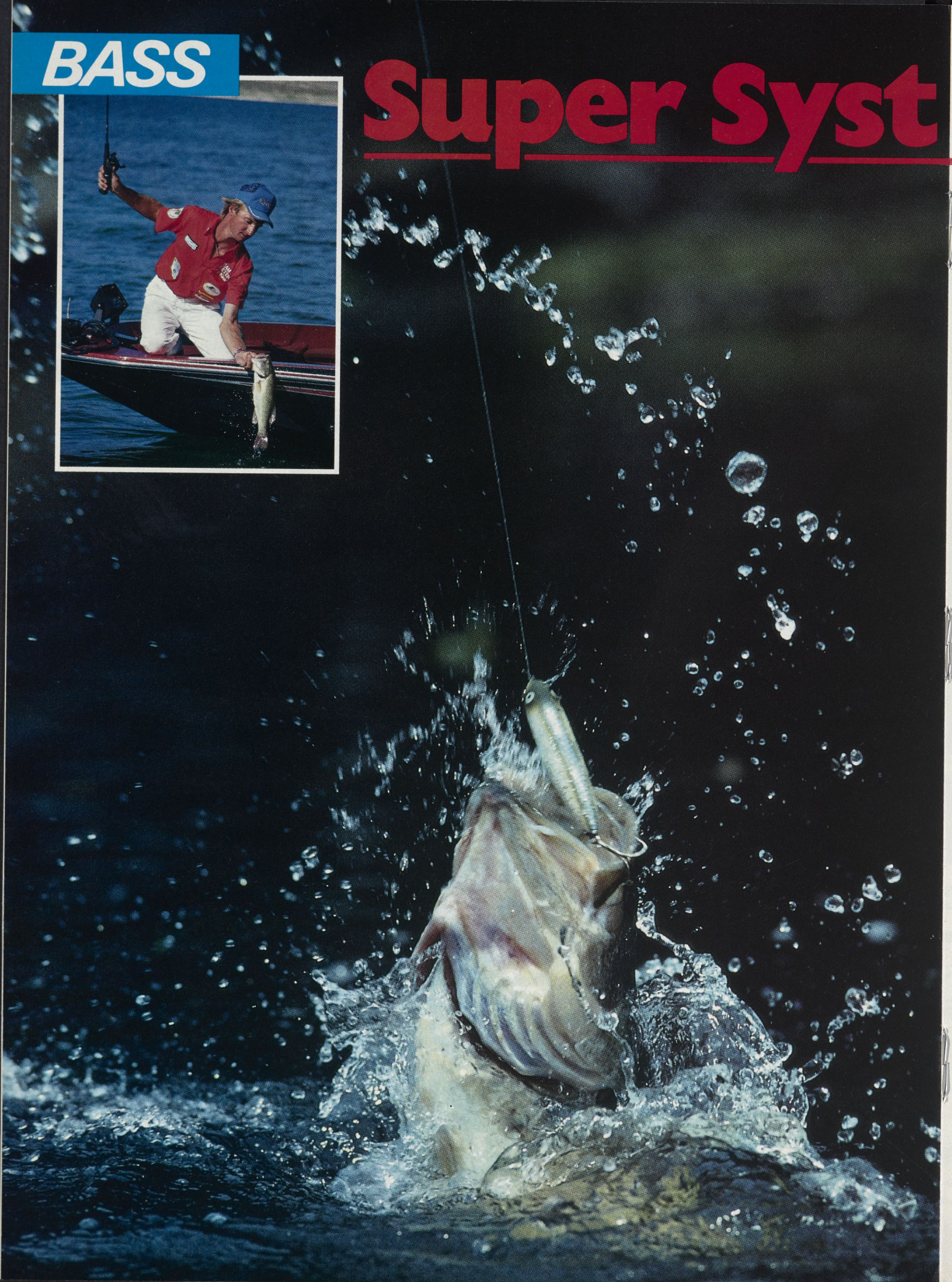
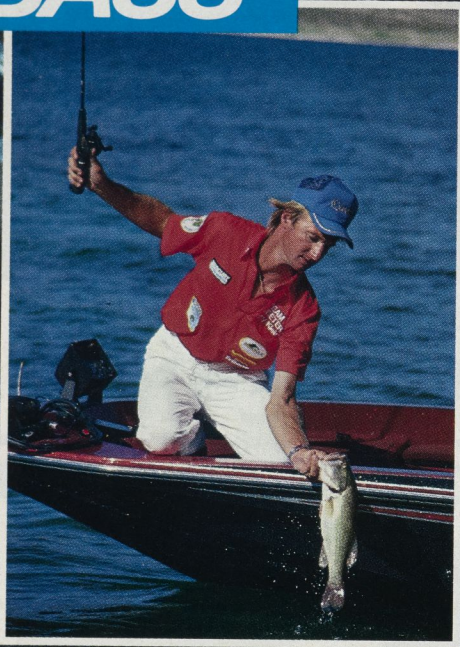
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**BASS**

# **Super System**



# ems For Success!

By Hank Parker  
As Told to John Phillips

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Hank Parker is the first basser to make the Grand Slam-winning the B.A.S.S. Masters Classic (1979), Bass Angler-of-the-Year (1983) and the Super B.A.S.S. Tournament (1985). Parker, who has qualified for 10 straight Classics since joining the B.A.S.S. tour as a regular in 1978, has placed in the money in 60 of 77 events, earning \$253,890.48.

**A**lthough some of these tactics I've developed myself, others I've learned from pros and other good fishermen. But each of these techniques has improved my ability to take bass under different circumstances at various times of the year.

The Do Nothing rig employs a one ounce bullet sinker on the line with a red bead under the sinker to keep the lead from beating against the line where the line is tied to a barrel swivel. From the other end of the barrel swivel, I tie on two to three feet of leader line and attach a crankbait. This rig allows me to fish a crankbait deeper and slower than I normally would be able to fish it.

One of the most productive situations for using this particular system is when you're fishing beside a dam that's generating hydroelectric power. If you cast your crankbait up near the dam and close to the running water, the current will wash the crankbait away from your target zone. However, by utilizing this Do Nothing crankbait rig, the lead will pull the crankbait to the bottom and allow you to slow retrieve the lure next to the bottom.

Another type of structure that presents a problem for the crankbait angler is a steep, bluff wall. If the fisherman casts the crankbait to the wall, by the time he reels the bait down to the depth where he believes the bass are holding the lure is too far away from the wall to entice the bass to bite. However by using that one ounce sinker to get the bait straight down, the lead will draw the crankbait down to the depth where the angler wants to fish without the lure having to be retrieved.

Several years ago, I was fishing at Dunn's Creek where the bass were holding right up against a steep bank. Although the bass would hit a worm, they'd take a crankbait 10 times better.

However there were two trees coming out from the bank which meant there was no way to cast parallel to the bank and crank the bait down without hanging up in the trees. But by using this Do Nothing crankbait tactic, I could cast my lure parallel to the bank, let the bait fall, and reel it just above the trees to catch the bass.

I view baits not as gimmicks to make bass bite but as tools to do my job. I do whatever I have to do with the bait to make that lure catch fish. I want to fish or perform with that lure in a way that I think a bass may take the bait better. The only reason for using this Do Nothing crankbait system is to allow the angler to fish a crankbait in areas where he normally can't—like in regions where he usually only fishes a worm. Do Nothin' cranking also lets a sportsman fish a big crankbait on the bottom without having to use a fast retrieve.

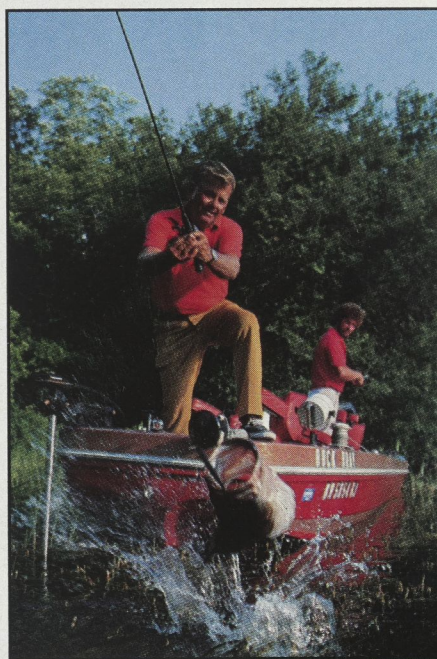
Creating new ways to fish lures to me

is much like being an automotive mechanic. I adapt my baits to fit the situation, like a mechanic who has to get to a half inch bolt under a manifold pipe adapts his tools. He may take a tool that's designed for another purpose and bend and twist and maybe grind that tool down until it will go up under that manifold pipe, fit perfectly on that bolt, and unscrew the bolt. The tool he creates may not look like much—but it'll do the job it was designed to do.

And I think this is the best way for anglers to develop new techniques and lures for fishing. If you stumble upon a fishing problem, and there's not a lure designed to solve it, create one.

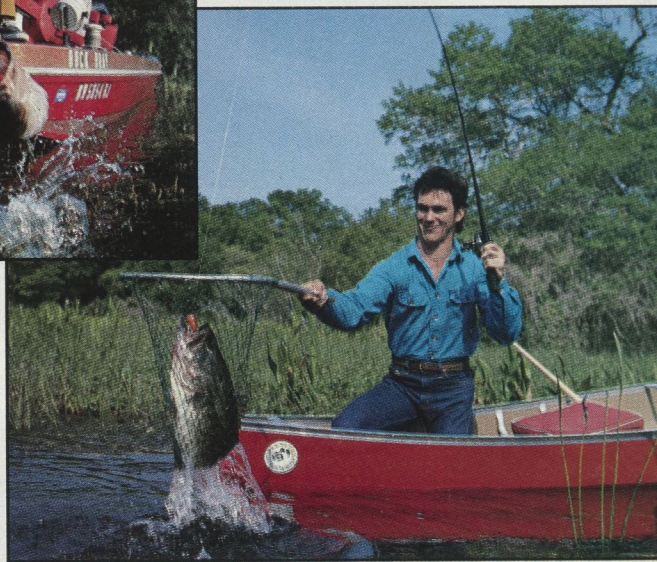
This is one technique that I almost hate to tell about because the method is so deadly. And few people are fishing like this. Although I use a Do Nothing rig in this method, instead of tying a crankbait on the leader line, I hook on a

*Continued on page 46*



**Bass tournament pro Hank Parker, shown in photo on the opposite page, likes to customize his crankbaits to deal with the many varying moods of bass. He feels a creative solution can be found for every angling problem.**

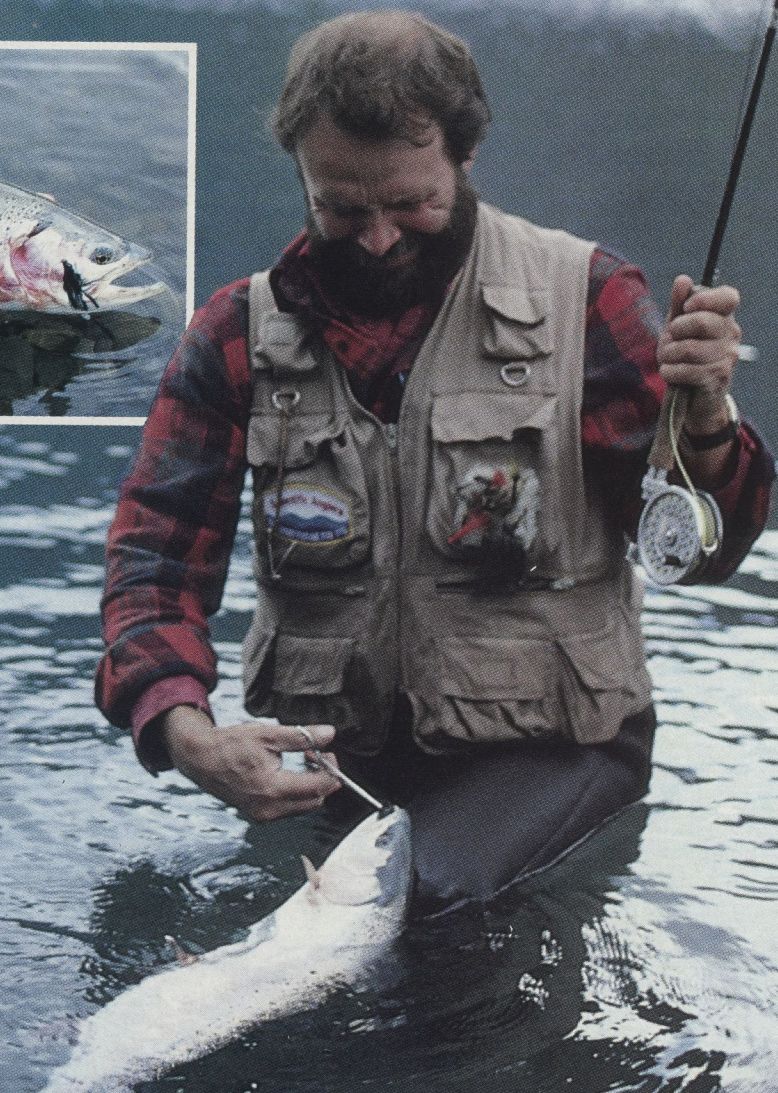
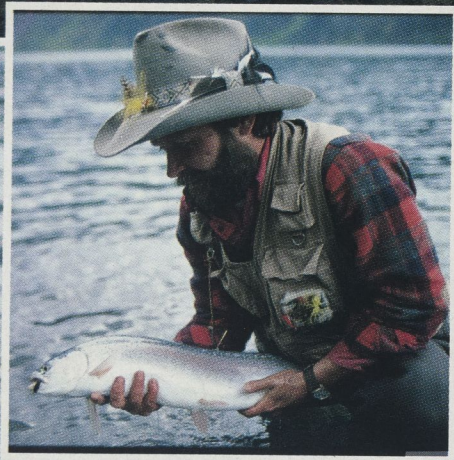
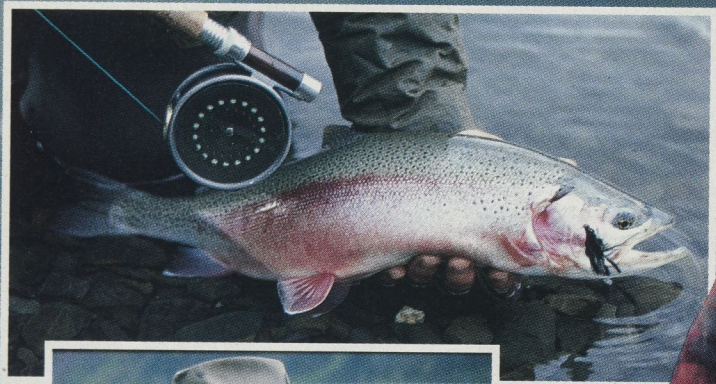
**You'll be glad you heard about these pro-proven methods. They'll give you action on days when everybody else is getting whipped!**

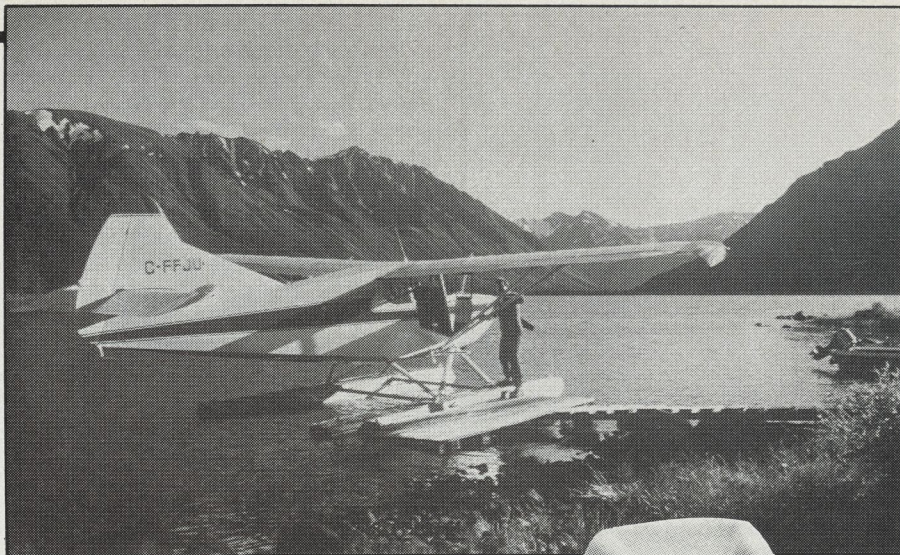


**TROUT WHERE-TO-GO**

# Rainbows Off The Map

The wilderness around these waters is as awesome as the grizzlies that roam it. But this is where the giant rainbows are!





Flying out from the remote lodge in the heart of British Columbia's Spatsizi wilderness, we fished rainbow waters that are the stuff of dreams.

the guide license to 3600 square miles of magnificent wilderness in which they run a complex operation offering both hunting and fishing.

Comparisons inevitably spring to mind. Anyone who has recently shelled out three big ones to fish in Alaska may have subsequently questioned why he did so in the first place. The enticing brochure shows float planes, wilderness, and trophy rainbows. Why doesn't it show the squadrons of float planes from other lodges fishing the same Alaskan waters?

When I guided in the Bristol bay area of Alaska, over twelve years ago, there were only four lodges using that vast wilderness of lakes and rivers. My wife, Kitty, and I went back five years ago on our own float trip and, while fishing my favorite river for large King Salmon, I saw so many float planes that an air traffic controller was direly needed just to route the traffic.

At a recent sport exposition in Cali-

By Jim Vincent and K.C. Pearson

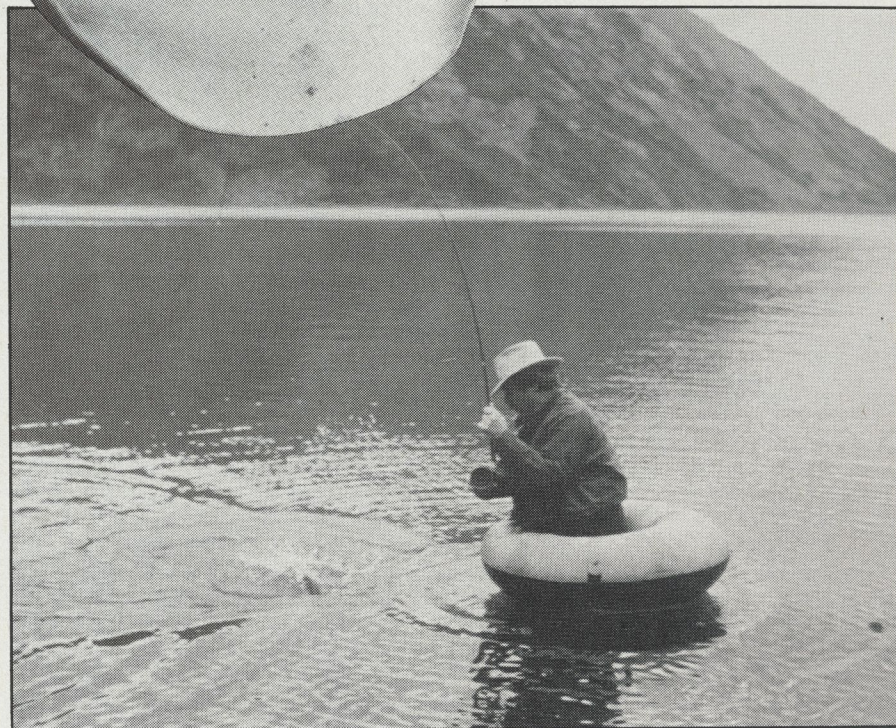
The excitement increased perceptibly as the plane transported us from the Smithers airport to our destination. From the airstrip at Cold Fish Lake we would walk to the lake front, there boarding Ray Collingwood's red and white Stinson float plane. In the heart of Canada's north country—Spatsizi Wilderness Provincial Park—we'd fish a variety of waters including the incredible Lake X, a treasure trove of big rainbow trout. Our guide, outfitter Ray Collingwood, had spoken of an angler who caught a 16 pound rainbow right off the bat, but had to kiss the fish good bye because it came out like a shot—reel smoking, line breaking—and that was that. With 120 yards off the reel, there was nothing to stop him as he surged away.

It was late August when Ray flew us over the panorama of Spatsizi into the same glacial lake waters, setting the sturdy Stinson down and working it into the shore. We, too, were to have a crack at the torpedo rainbows of mysterious Lake X. It proved to be an unbelievable afternoon filled with the whines of stressed out reels and the frothy wakes of trout on almost every cast. They were magnificent battling rainbows, looking more like steelhead.

"Tell me," asked Ray, "where can you get rainbows this brilliant in color, more so than any rainbow you'll ever see?"

Lake X is Ray's second to last day bonanza for his angling clients. "You sure know how to top a trip off," said one of his guests.

After fishing awhile, we had lunch, finishing the sandwiches and feasting on Linda Collingwood's carrot cake. Ray told us about how the Collingwood Brothers got started, back in 1968, when Ray bought Ted Campbell's guiding license, the original guiding



rights which Campbell had won by gambling. After his gift from Lady Luck, Campbell travelled north, in 1928, with his wife, and baby, driving a brand new Hudson up from Bakersfield, California, via the Fraser Canyon, to Hazelton. They had a billy goat strapped to the running board for milk when the baby got hungry.

Ray and Reg Collingwood still have

fornia over forty lodges were exhibiting photographs of trophy fish and proclaiming how they were long time sourdoughs, first lodge in the bush. Since the laissez-faire policy of Alaska's government has provided no protection for the real pioneer lodges, there has been an imitation of the 1898 gold rush: The lodge rush of the 1980's.

*Continued on page 69*

# Super Systems!

Continued from page 43

Fat Git-Zit. Since the inside of the Git-Zit is hollow, I put a piece of cork in the Git-Zit so that it will float up off the bottom.

This tactic is very productive in crystal clear water that homes finicky fish suspended up off the bottom. Simply use the same retrieve you would if you were fishing the Do Nothing Worm—drag the lead across the bottom, and let the Fat Git-Zit float up into the water. The Git-Zit is such an easy, slow-moving, attractive bait that even finicky fish will strike the lure.

Normally the Git-Zit is cast to a target and allowed to fall. Usually the bass will take the bait on the fall. However fish that don't really want to bite and are not very aggressive may not hit that lure when it falls. But if the fish spot that Fat Git-Zit floating up off the bottom—easing through the water—they can't seem to stand not taking a bite of it.

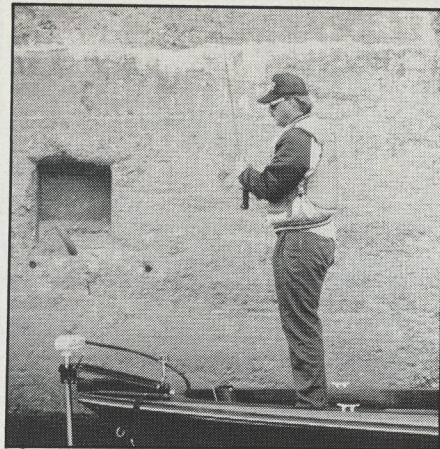
This technique works well on clear lakes like Lake Martin in Alabama, Lake



Although crankbaits will produce trophy bass, unless you use some of Parker's techniques you may not be able to put the lure where you want to fish.

Cherokee in Tennessee, and possibly Nevada's Lake Mead. The key here is fishing clear lakes with long points running out into them, because this technique will not pay bass dividends in a clear lake with a sheer rock wall that drops 100 feet.

Because you have on the one ounce lead, you can cast the bait a long way to keep from spooking the fish. When the lead goes to the bottom, the Git-Zit follows it to the bottom and then starts to float up. As you pull the lead across the bottom, the force of the water when the bait moves forward pushes the Git-Zit down. But when the lead stops while the angler reels up slack, the Git-Zit will



When Parker is fishing beside a lock and is prohibited from getting into the trailrace because of buoy barriers, he utilizes his closet rod technique to get his bait to where the bass are.

float up. So the Fat Git-Zit is a light, soft bait that dives to the bottom and floats up every time you move your line.

To get the proper action on the Git-Zit, don't pack the little hollow worm too full of cork. Place just enough flotation in the worm to allow the bait to rise—if it's sitting still. But if you pull the bait, the Git-Zit will fall. If you have the buoyancy just right in the Git-Zit, the bait will dive for the bottom when you pull the line and slowly and gradually float up when you stop the line. Don't ask me why bass will bite a Git-Zit when they won't strike anything else. I don't know why they will—I just know they will. Maybe the smallness and daintiness of the Git-Zit is what they like.

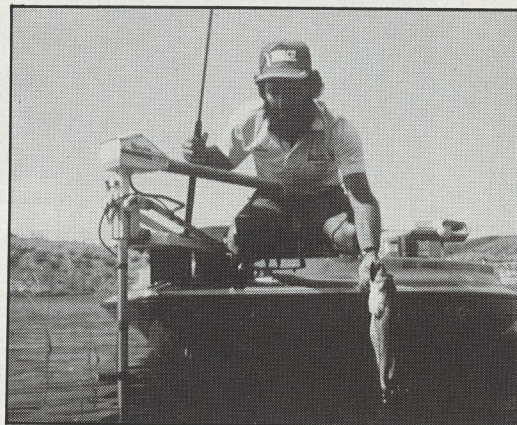
If you have difficulty finding Git-Zits in your area, you can purchase them by writing or calling Bobby Garland, c/o Bass 'N Man Lure Company, P.O. Box 340, Washington, UT 84780, Phone (801) 628-1011.

## The Worm Spook

Two of the best baits for springtime fishing are the Zara Spook and the plastic worm. The darting action of the Spook calls bass to the surface and makes them bite. The soft plastic worm is such an easy, lazy bait that bass will hit it at almost any time of the year under most any weather and water condition. I use the action of both lures to produce a better bait for bass by fishing a fluorescent worm rigged Texas style and causing it to dart from side to side by giving the bait quick, short jerks—just like you fish a Zara Spook. This tactic produces best in the middle of the day in the spring of the year.

This is how the Spook works. If there's a bush just off the bank that's holding bass, and you run a spinnerbait or a buzz bait through the bush and

catch a bass, or if you flip a pig and jig in that same bush and take a bass, then you know the fish are in the bush and active. But later on in the day when you come by that same bush and cast a spinnerbait or flip a pig and jig in it, all you may see is a boil on the water. If you don't get a bite, then you know something is wrong. What I believe has happened is that the sun has risen high in the sky and perhaps the wind has laid. So the bass have floated up in the bush and may be suspended—maybe

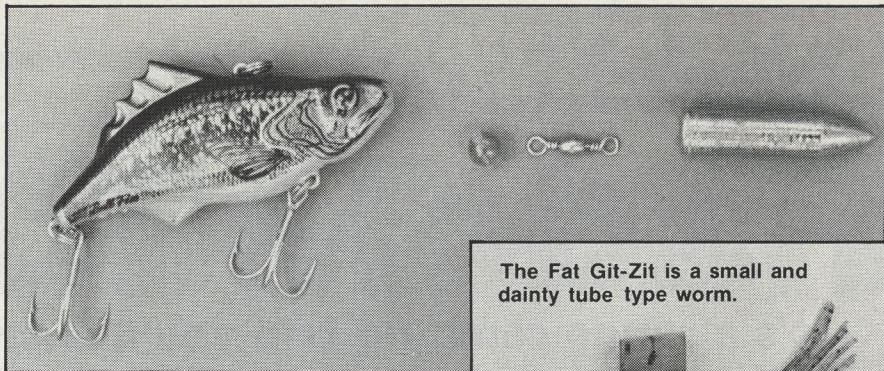


When the water is deep and clear, the little floating Git-Zig is a deadly bait.

only two or three inches beneath the surface of the water. Therefore when you throw that hardware into the bush, you'll spook the fish.

If you're going to catch that bass, you must finesse the fish—cause it to bite. I put 10 pound test line on a spinning rod and cast that little six inch fluorescent worm with no lead out past the bush and dart it through or beside the bush. When a bass sees that dainty bait darting across the top of the surface and not making any noise, the fish will float up under the lure and suck it in. If the bass doesn't come out of the bush to take the bait, repeat the same cast. When you get right to or beside the bush, just stop the bait, and let it lie there.

The reason for using the fluorescent worm is not because I believe that particular color causes the bass to bite better. What the fluorescent worm does is allow me to see the bait. Many times a bass will float up under the worm, suck the lure in, and blow it out without your ever being able to see it if you're using a black, grape or dark blue color worm. But with a fluorescent worm I know that when I don't see the worm—I'd better set the hook. Most of the time a bass will be there. I've seen four and five pound largemouth suck in worms before and never leave a swirl on the water. A bass like that can take your bait and have you tied up in a bush before you know you've had a strike, which is why using a highly visible worm is so critical to this technique.



The Do Nothing rig for crankbaits requires the following equipment: a crankbait, a plastic bead placed above the barrel swivel to keep the lead from beating against the knot, then a one ounce torpedo-shaped lead. An 18 inch piece of line runs from the crankbait to the barrel swivel. Then the line from the rod passes through the lead, through the bead, and ties to the other end of the barrel swivel.

I like to say that an angler must keep his eye on the bubble gum to catch bass, because bubble gum is a good color of fluorescent worms to use since it's so easy to see. Another of my preferred colors is fluorescent orange. But my favorite color is fluorescent yellow, which is so bright that the angler can spot the worm—even if he casts it all the way into the next county.

When utilizing this tactic, if you wait to feel the fish hit the worm, the bass will have you broken off in the bush before you know you have a bite. This method is extremely deadly when you find bedding fish in the spring. Dart the worm across the water from behind the bed, and stop the worm just as it comes to rest right on top of the fish. Then hold on!

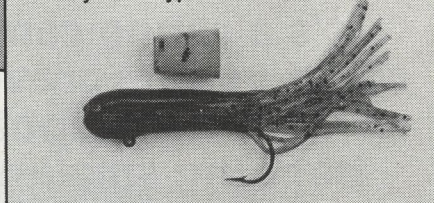
## Decoy Baits

Many times in the summer you can get a bass to come after a topwater lure. But the fish never will hit the bait, which is one of the most frustrating situations in angling. Watching a big bass follow your lure to the boat and not take the bait is maddening. However the advantage to being able to see the fish is that you at least know the fish is there. So even though the bass doesn't bite, the topwater lure does draw the bass to the surface where you can see it.

Sometimes anglers will work together as partners in a tournament where one fisherman will cast a buzz bait to draw fish out of the cover and up to the surface. Then as soon as the fish is spotted, the second angler will cast in on top of the bass with a plastic worm. And the bass will hit the worm although it won't strike the topwater bait.

I learned about this technique when I was fishing in a tournament with a man

The Fat Git-Zit is a small and dainty tube type worm.



I thought was an absolute nut—Frank O. Hill. I fussed at him all day long. That guy was taking a Devil's Horse and throwing it in all kinds of mess like stumps, logjams, and treetops. Although he stayed hung-up most of the day, he had three big fish on that had broken off. I hadn't even had a bite.

About the middle of the day I kept noticing that he continued to throw that Devil's Horse, but he wasn't hanging-up at all, and was still getting a lot of strikes. He had six more bass blow up on the lure, but he didn't hook any of them. I still couldn't get a bite. I was going crazy. The man on the front of the boat was getting all the bites and the fish, and I couldn't even get a fish to look at my lure.

One time I watched him throw way in the back of a logjam and work that Devil's Horse through all those logs without getting hung up. Even if I'd cast a worm in the same spot, an hour would have been required for me to work the worm out of those logs. But his Devil's Horse came out like it never had a care in the world and never got hung-up. When he retrieved his Devil's Horse, I made him show me his bait. He had removed all the hooks from his lure so he wouldn't hang, and I wouldn't fuss at him. But he could still make fish strike—even though he didn't catch any.

I started watching Hill's Devil's Horse. When a bass blew up on the hookless bait, I'd cast a worm in to the fish. I really started catching bass. I took five bass fishing behind Hill when I couldn't get a bite just fishing the worm by itself.

So I got a Devil's Horse out of my box, took all the hooks off of it, and starting angling it just like Hill. Every time a bass blew up on that hookless lure, I'd grab my spinning rod that I had a plastic worm rigged Texas style tied on and cast to the spot where the bass had blown up. Using this technique, I caught 13 bass on a stretch of bank where I had already fished with a worm

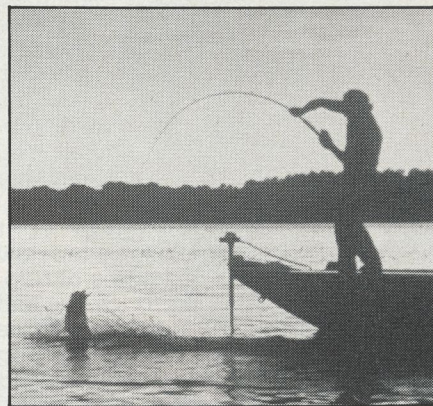
and hadn't even had a bite. I also call this system of bassing—bird dogging bass. The topwater bait goes on point just like a quality bird dog shows you where the quail is. Then when the time arrives to flush the bass, I shoot the fish with the worm.

One of the most frustrating fishing conditions in the world is to be angling below a hydroelectric plant where the Corps of Engineers has put up buoy barriers to prevent you from going up the tailrace where all the bass are. I've sat at those buoys and watched those big bass roll in the eddy areas with no way to cast a lure. But while doing that, I developed a technique for catching those bass.

The problem is how to get a bait further than you can cast. As I sat below that dam and watched those bass rolling, I realized that on the side of the current there was an eddy or a flow of water that returned to the dam. In other words, the current from the hydroelectric plant was coming downstream, but the water just off the current a little ways from the dam was flowing back to the dam.

So I went home and got me a closet rod—a wooden dowel. I cut that dowel in lengths of four to six inches long and bought me some clothespins that would clip onto those dowels. Then I took my flipping stick and went back to the dam.

I clipped my line to the wooden dowel with the clothespin and tied a



By learning to adapt baits to fishing situations, you can catch more bass.

bait on the end of my line. You can use any type of bait that you think will catch bass—like topwater lures, jigging spoons, or a live minnow. Then you take your flipping stick and lob that closet rod that's carrying your bait as far as you can into that reverse current area. When the wooden dowel lands on the water, the reverse current pulls your bait up to the dam as you feed out line. Once your closet rod has floated your bait to the place you want to fish, you give your line a hard jerk which causes the clothespin to snap free of the closet rod. Although you lose a

# WILDERNESS FISHING



## Paddle To

**It's a canoe-camping trip you'll wish could go on forever: a vast wilderness of unspoiled lakes, filled with battling smallmouth bass, succulent walleye, and savage pike.**

By Michael Furtman

**F**riends, let me tell you what it's like. Let me *try* to tell you. You wake up to your first morning in Quetico after yesterday's long drive and rigorous paddle into the wilderness. Though it is yet August, the morning is so cool that you reach back into the tent after rising and retrieve your woolen shirt. Your campsite, a small island with a large view to the east, is awash in the morning's first light, the sun not yet over the horizon.

The magnificent lake stretched before you is flat calm in the still morning air. You are watching the lake cool down as it begins the slow process of turning to ice, ice that will stiffen up in three months to envelop this northern land well into the following May.

You stretch the kinks out of your back and survey the campsite. The food packs, hung safely away from bears, dangle from the branch of a

large Norway pine. You lower them to the ground and retrieve the battered coffee pot and the makings for breakfast. Stooping on a rock to fill the pot with crystalline lake waters, you glance up when you feel the warmth of sun on the side of your face. It is sunrise and you watch the sun's quick progress while you peer through the twisted branches of a jackpine.

While you break some small spruce branches for kindling and place them atop the few strips of birch bark you secured from a fallen tree, you hear the nearby sonorous quavering of a loon. Its song is a short, plaintive, single "whoop." A loon yawn. Before you can even put a match to the pile of twigs lying in the blackened stone firerig, the call is answered by another loon. Then another. Within moments every loon on this and surrounding lakes is singing laughingly, wildly. Then, as if on cue, they cease abruptly, as though they were a single voice.

The little spruce and jackpine fire

snaps to life. One, two, three heaping tablespoons of coffee are dumped into the cold water in the coffee pot and the whole thing is placed on the firegrate you hauled with, setting the pot squarely over the yellow flames. It will be the best coffee you have had since you can't remember when.

When the coffee is nearly to a boil you walk back up to the tent and shake it, waking your partners. The day has broken completely clear and you are going to go fishing and explore the beautiful country. Some mysterious Indian pictographs await your inspection far down the lake. You will troll your way down to the pictographs, perhaps picking up some smallmouth, walleyes, or northern pike. It will be a glorious day. It is time to get going.

Quetico. Even the name is mysterious. Though there is some argument as to exactly how the name came to be, there is little doubt what it means today. Quetico is the familiar name, shortened from Quetico Provincial

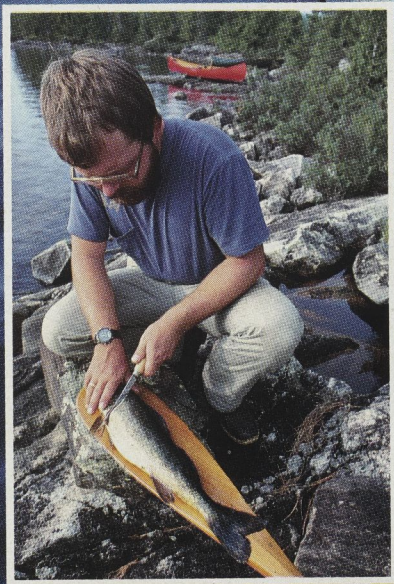
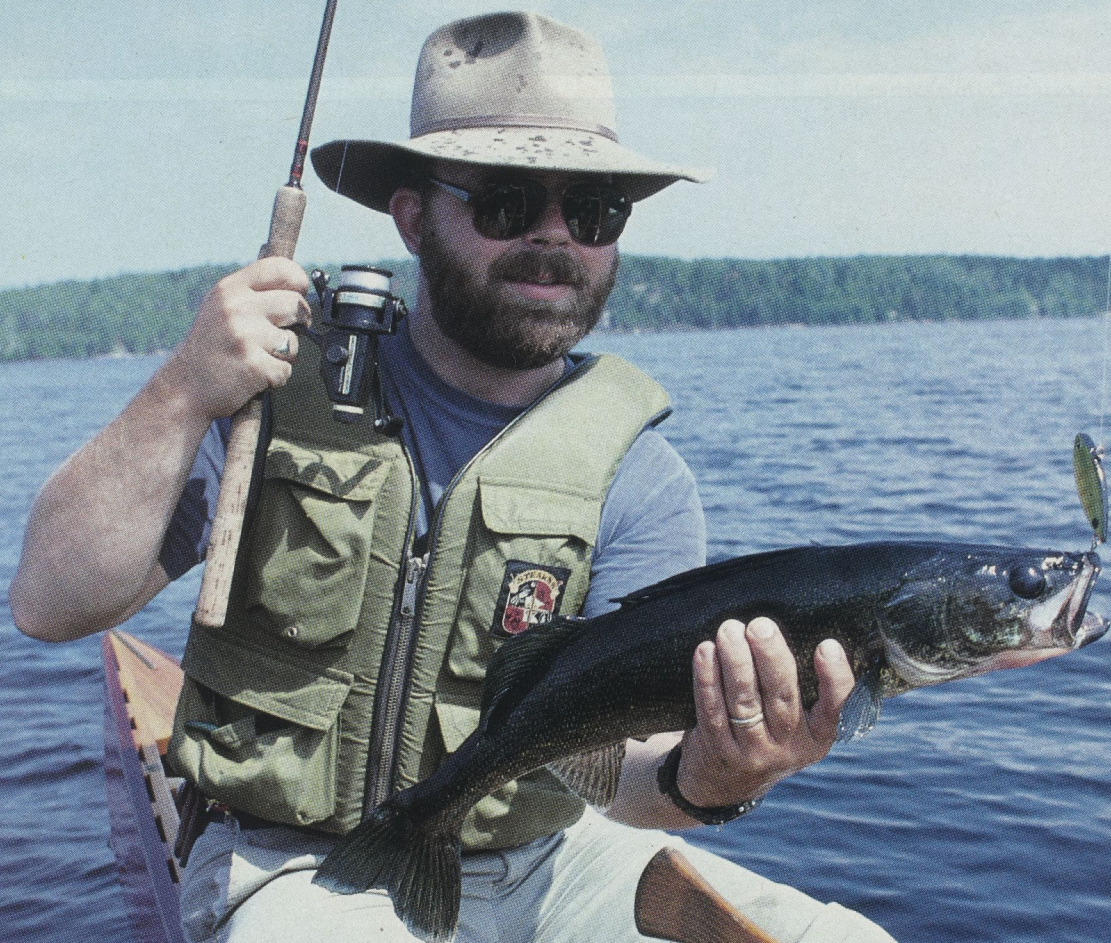
**Walleyes like the beauty on the right were filleted for the campfire. The country, the camping, and the fishing provide a feast for the sportsman paddling through the Quetico.**

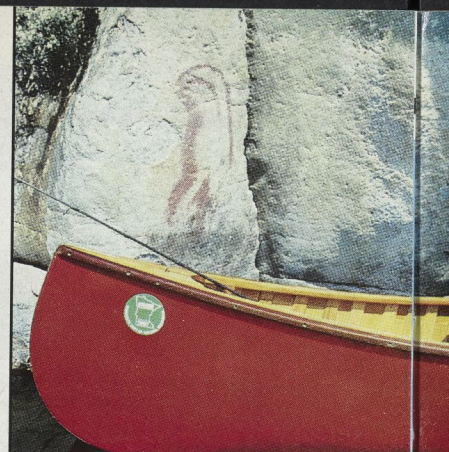




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# Contentment





Portage trails, battling smallmouths, fascinating cliffs with Indian pictographs, campfires beside the lakes—they're all part of the Quetico experience.





## **Paddle To Contentment**

Park. This wilderness park in southern Ontario is part of the glorious canoe country that spans both sides of the U.S./Canadian international border. One wilderness, it is managed by two government bodies. In Minnesota, the southern half is known by the awkward name of Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. In Ontario it is the Quetico. To those who love every inch it is known as Canoe Country, the finest area in the world for wilderness canoe travel.

This area is not a canoeist's paradise simply because governments have set it aside and declared it so. Long before the white man ever appeared on the scene the Sioux, and later, the Chippewa Indians travelled this country in their bark craft, harvesting the moose, deer, caribou, waterfowl, fish and wild rice. The make-up of this region determined that the canoe would become important, not the other way around.

Almost more water than land, there are probably close to 1200 lakes be-

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**The magnificent lake stretched before you is flat-calm in the still morning air. Steam-like mist rises as an apparition.**

---

tween the two regions. While the U.S. side most likely has more of these lakes, the Quetico contains many of the larger bodies of water and more navigable rivers and streams. Where these bodies of water are not directly connected, they are linked by forest trails over which travellers carry their baggage and canoes. The trails, known as portages, and the hundreds of lakes and rivers combined with the eminently portable canoe opens this country to delicious wilderness travel.

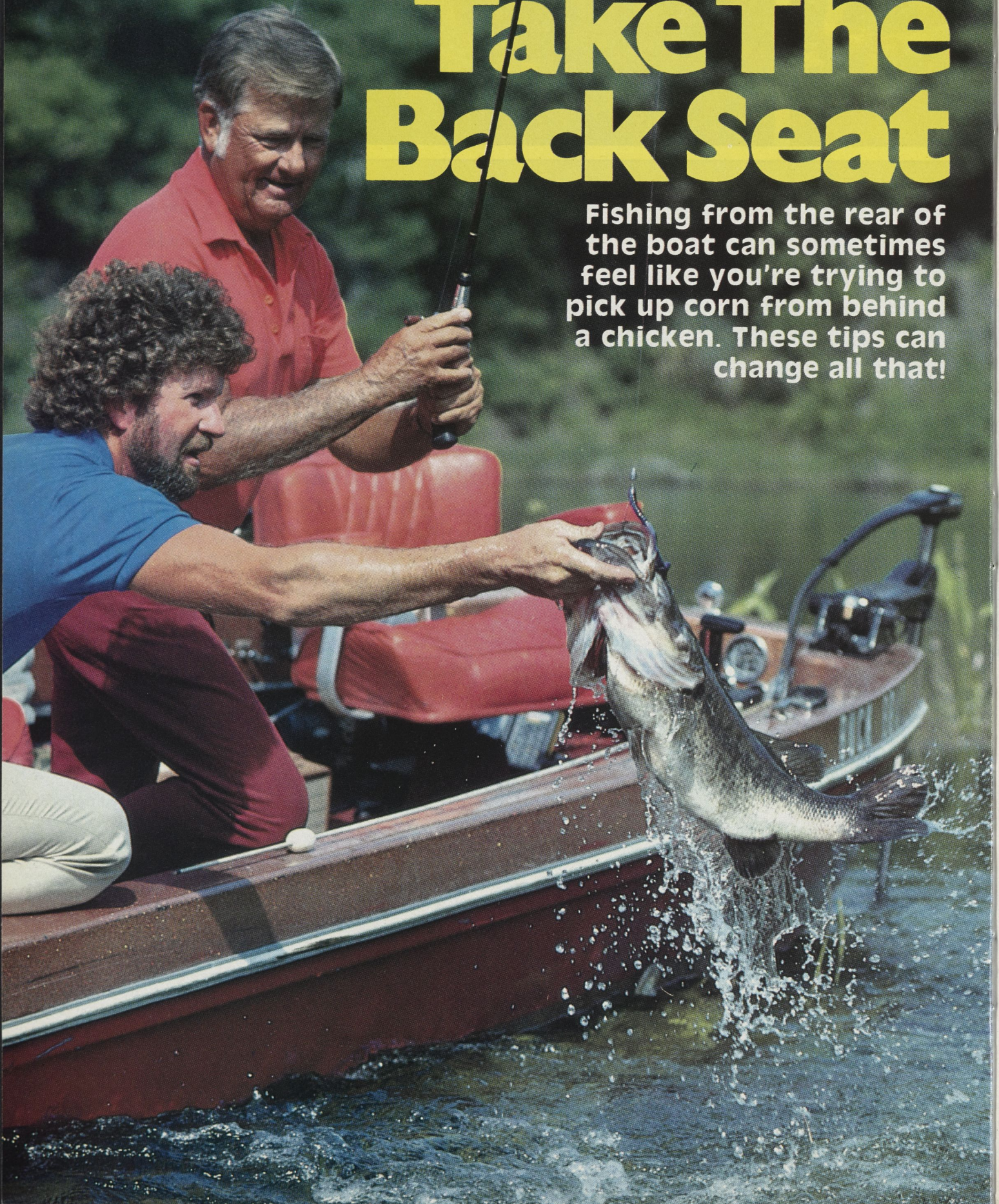
On each side of the border lies set aside approximately one million acres of wilderness. Though on a map the border is clearly distinct, and each wilderness is governed by similar though separate rules and permits, it is in fact the same wilderness. The timber wolves that pursue the moose know no bounds nor do the myriads of other wildlife. Water flowing from the U.S. side into Canada does not stop to clear customs and the eagle is an interna-

*Continued on page 71*

## **BASS TACTICS**

# Take The Back Seat

Fishing from the rear of the boat can sometimes feel like you're trying to pick up corn from behind a chicken. These tips can change all that!





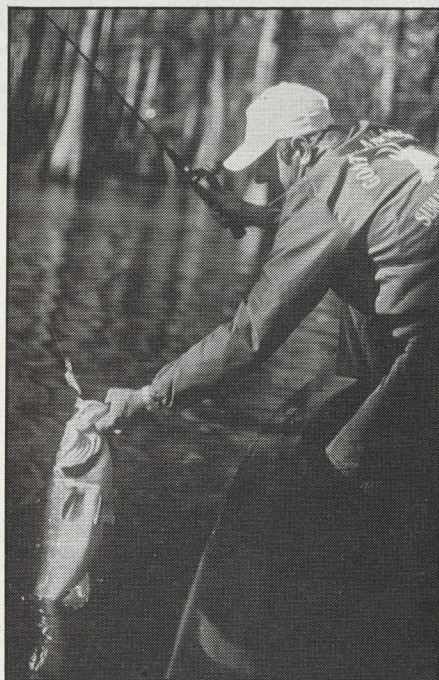
By John Weiss

**W**hen sleek bassboats started becoming popular on lakes and reservoirs more than a dozen years ago, a whole new fishing jargon was born. Instead of working a lure across an ordinary pile of rocks on the bottom, you now fished "structure." A common drop-off became a "breakline." The bass themselves became "hawgs." And the guy that had to do his fishing from the back seat found himself having to fish "used water."

Logically, it seems that the angler in the front of a boat working down a shoreline should indeed have a distinct advantage over his partner to the rear. Not only does he have the first "shot" at a bassy-looking stump, but since he's working the bow-mounted electric motor he can position the craft in such a manner as to best execute that presentation. He also can make very long casts when need be, off the front of the boat, which is a distinct plus when the water is clear and you don't want to risk letting the boat get too close to cover and possibly spook fish holding there.

Conversely, the man in the back seat is faced with having to make rather short casts to cover what already has been fished. Worse yet, in not being able to control the boat, he can't position the craft in such a way as to have just the right angle for his cast or retrieve.

That's the bad news. The good news is that I'm here to say that having to sit in the back seat isn't entirely the picture of despair that everyone claims. In fact, many times I've proven that a savvy angler can very often out-fish his partner up front. Make note, I'm not saying that bass fishing should be reduced to keeping score regarding who catches what or how much. What I am saying is that all boats have only one front seat. Therefore, when two angling pals want to spend a day together on the water, one of them simply has to spend at least half of the day in the stern. Furthermore, there are many ways that

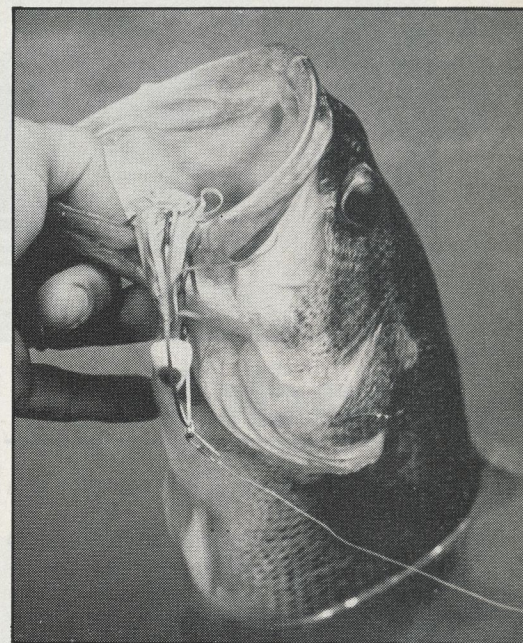


**A lunker largemouth that came from supposedly "used water." To that, this happy angler is likely to reply, "my partner up front didn't 'use' the water properly."**

time in the rear of the boat can be enjoyed with a deep bend in your rod.

Curiously enough, my first viewpoints about back-of-the-boat fishing occurred during a BASS Masters Classic tournament as an observing press angler. For those who aren't aware of how such contests are staged, 40 professional anglers compete against each other in 40 identically rigged boats. Riding in the back of the boat is an outdoor writer who's assignment is to take photos, obtain information for future magazine or newspaper reports, and ensure the pro in the boat adheres to all the tournament rules. Not only can the press anglers do a little fishing themselves, but they are encouraged to do so by the tournament sponsors. In fact, BASS president Ray Scott awards a \$500 cash prize every day to the press angler who brings in the largest bass, which is a further incentive for outdoor scribes to do more than just take notes

Many times, bass don't engage in feeding responses but have to be provoked into striking. Sometimes this may take numerous casts. So don't be afraid to repeatedly cast to cover, varying your angle of presentation and speed of retrieve.



**It's always wise to follow a slow bait with a fast one, and a quiet lure with a noisy one. This bass ignored a plastic worm that crept through its lair, then hammered the author's spinnerbait.**

and click the shutter buttons of their cameras.

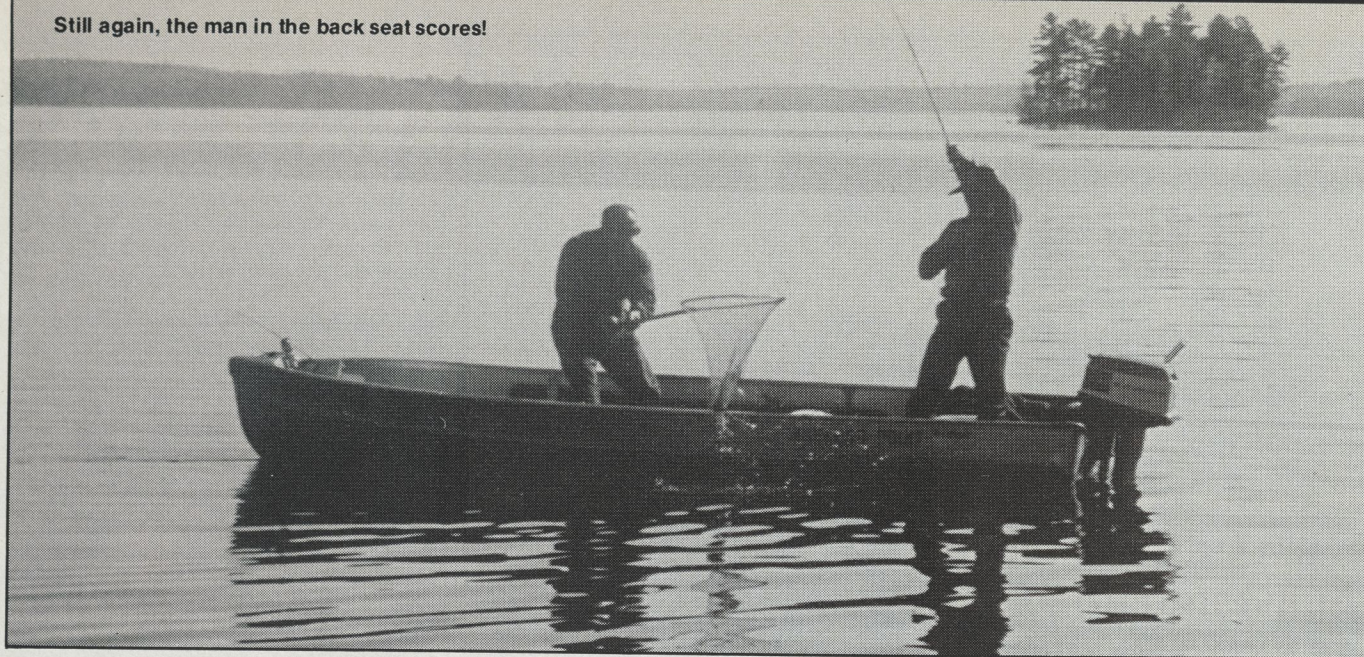
However, a growing number of professional anglers competing in such tournaments impose their own "unofficial" mandates upon their press partners. And as it typically happened one morning just before the day's competition got underway, the leading tournament contender I was paired with told me in no uncertain terms what was expected of me.

"John," he said, "I don't want to sound mean but I have a good chance to win *big* bucks in this contest. You can fish if you want to, but I don't want you to even think about casting a lure to a piece of cover I haven't already thoroughly worked."

Admittedly, I was sympathetic with his cause. If he maneuvered the boat up to a weedbed he wanted to fish and I fired off a quick cast and hooked a five-pounder, it would mean \$500 in my pocket for sure. Yet just as likely, that single fish could easily cost him a \$40,000 win plus an additional \$60,000 pocket money in paid endorsements and promotions over the years.

"Okay, Bub," I replied. "I won't do anything to hinder your chances of catching a single fish. But I want to tell

Still again, the man in the back seat scores!



## Back Seat

you in advance that two can play this game."

As it happened, I didn't catch a \$500 bass that day. The four-pounder I boated was several ounces shy of the winning fish caught by another outdoor writer. But I did get six bass in all, which isn't a shabby showing when working behind a tournament pro who scours the water like a vacuum cleaner. Moreover, the strategy I used can be employed by casual anglers who are fishing during weekends and vacation time or whenever anyone finds himself in the back of the boat.

### Back Seat Tactics

The simple tactic I put into play on this particular tournament day was to absolutely *never* throw the same type of lure my pro was fishing. Bass are as individualistic as people in their varied responses to stimuli and many times they'll totally ignore one type of lure that passes in front of them and then absolutely hammer something entirely different.

If my pro was casting a white spinnerbait, I'd tie on a shad-colored diving plug. If he began casting a purple plastic worm, I'd go to a yellow top-water buzzer. If he was throwing a black jig, I'd go to a silver weedless spoon.

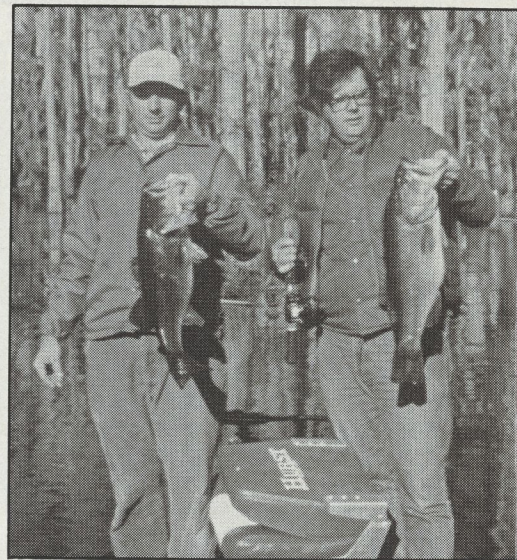
Stop and think about the logic behind this approach. When someone in the front of a boat is casting a specific type of lure and is not catching fish, you have the distinct advantage in your favor of knowing what *doesn't* work. And that insight helps you narrow the odds of what may indeed produce!

Always play the game of opposites when you're in the back of the boat. Even if your partner up front is hauling them in one after another on a particular lure, doing something a little different can add to your own catch and maybe even entice the biggest fish in a school.

One time, in another tournament, my pro up front was really doing a number on bass by giving them motor-oil colored plastic worms. The only trouble was, he couldn't get anything to go over 15 inches. I tried many other lures but it was patently clear the bass wanted worms that day. To not fish plastic worms would mean catching nothing, so I gave in, yet didn't fish exactly the same thing as my partner. I tied on a black plastic wiggler with a red firetail and then proceeded to boat a four-pounder from "used water." Seeing that, my pro switched and in rapid succession derricked a three-pounder and then a six-pounder off the same bottom contour.

Yet even more subtle variations than this may be warranted from time to time. Let's say the fish are showing a decided preference for motor-oil colored worms. You can still play the game of opposites. Look at the size worm your partner is casting. If it's a four-incher, tie a seven-incher onto your own line. How's he working his worm? If he's bringing it across the bottom rather fast, make your's s-l-o-w-l-y inch along. If he's crawling his bait with all the patience of Job, pump your's along at a good clip. It is amazing how such slight nuances of presentation can trigger fish that otherwise might not respond to a particular approach.

The same strategy might apply to the use of spinnerbaits. If the bass definitely are showing a fondness for 1/4 ounce white spinnerbaits with tandem copper blades and simply are ignoring everything else, don't be a dummy. Use the



Author Weiss (right) and his pal Inky Davis admire two bass over seven pounds. All boats have only one seat up front, so anglers spending a casual day on the water should take turns fishing from the bow platform.

same type of lure but in a slightly different manner. If the guy up front is working spinners so the blades break water and gurgle across the surface, try working yours a bit slower so the blades merely cause a slight bulge beneath the surface.

One time on Lake Barkley in western Kentucky I had the so-called advantage of fishing from the front of a bass-boat and my friend Tom Tompson taught me a thing or two. I had boated only three scrawny bass but he had five, all beauties, taken from water I had already combed. The bass had told us they wanted nothing other than crawfish-colored crankbaits and Tom and I had therefore tied on identical lures. Still, he continued to outfish me by a wide margin.

"If you don't tell me what you're doing different," I finally insisted, tak-

ing a threatening posture, "I'm going to bounce this crankbait off your forehead!"

"Okay, okay," Tom laughed. "I'll give you a hint. Look at our reels."

Right then and there the secret to his success was unraveled. I was using an old favorite, a Garcia Ambassador 5000-A. Yet Tom was casting with an Ambassador 5500-C. Those who are familiar with Garcia reels will instantly know the one I was using has a 3-to-1

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**"If you don't tell me what you're doing different," I finally insisted, taking a threatening posture, "I'm going to bounce this crankbait off your forehead!"**  
**"Okay, okay," Tom laughed. "I'll give you a hint. Look at our reels."**

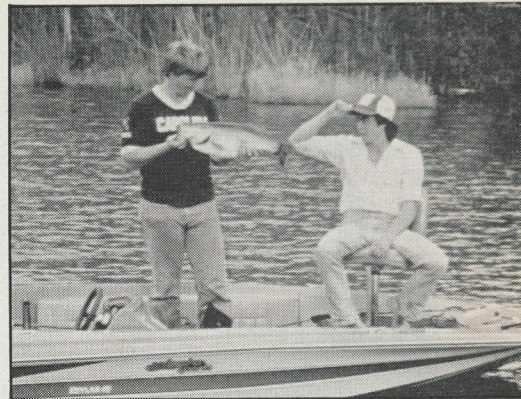
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gear ratio, while the other has a 5-to-1. Consequently, with each turn of the handle, Tom's crankbait was being retrieved about twice as fast as mine! That was the key. The bass that day wanted a lure that was verily ripping along, not plodding slowly as I had been doing. When I switched to a 5-to-1 reel as well, I matched my partner fish for fish the rest of the day.

8 pound test line of the same brand name. In other situations, a clear mono may be more effective than one which is fluorescent blue, or vice-versa. It would be difficult to define each and every one of these whimsical aspects of bass behavior, so don't even try. Just keep experimenting to find out what they want, and keep an open mind with the realization that what they're clobbering today may be totally ignored tomorrow.

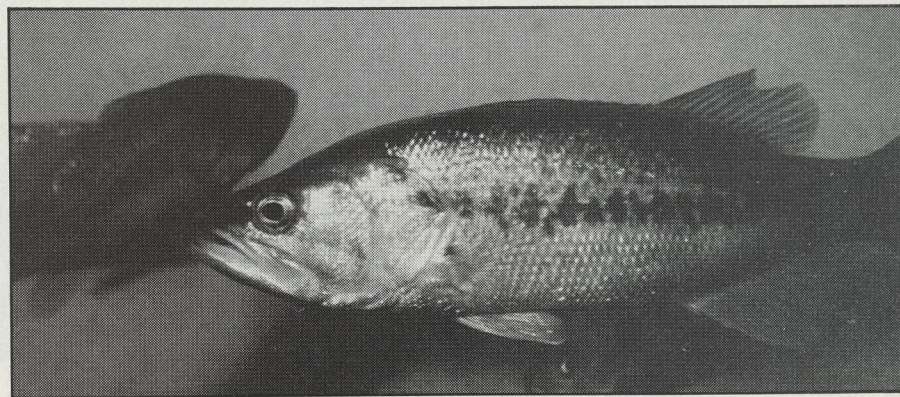
In going back to lures, there are several other tactics you can use from the back of the boat to increase the weight of your stringer. First, when pondering which lures to try that are different from what your partner is casting, remember that bass frequently exhibit different types of strike responses.

Sometimes, when a bass hits a lure, it is a feeding response. The bass sees something it wants to eat and engages in routine chase and catch behavior. Yet other times, a bass does not strike at a lure with intentions of eating but has merely been provoked into making a spontaneous striking response in



**An observant back-seat angler can catch more bass than his front-seat partner. When the man up front isn't catching anything, you automatically know what *doesn't* work.**

barely scratching it along the bottom, and he's not catching fish, then an excellent choice for you to tie on would be a crankbait that races past a bass's nose so quickly he only has a fleeting glimpse of it. If he didn't want to "eat" the slow worm or jig, maybe he can be "forced" into making a non-feeding involuntary response and will blast the



Even the type of line you're using may have a telling influence on the day's results. I've seen many instances in which one angler was using a thick-diameter 20 pound test line and due to the extreme water clarity wasn't catching as many fish as his boat partner using an almost invisible thin-diameter

anger, defense of territory, or simply as an involuntary reaction to some stimulus that has triggered its predatory instinct.

As a result, it's always wise to follow a slow bait with a fast lure. In other words, if your partner up front is casting a plastic worm or jig-and-pig,

If a piece of cover or structure looks bassy, don't be reluctant to fish it even if your partner has already done so. Bass are school fish much of the year and certain individuals in that school may respond to your presentation that would not strike at your partner's lure.

Whenever the bow of the boat is pointed toward the shoreline, and you can't cast to visible cover along the bank, check the depth sounder. Most lakes have a series of drop-offs and there may be fish directly beneath the boat you can catch by vertical jiggling!

cranker out of sheer cussedness alone.

Similarly, if your partner is casting a quiet lure, such as a stick-bait, working it slowly in place for a long time, a good lure for you to follow-up with might be a similar stick-bait with noisy propellers fore and aft, a surface buzz-bait, or a spinnerbait with large blades that cup air and force it underwater.

From the back seat, you may even be able to work entirely different structure formations than what the guy up front

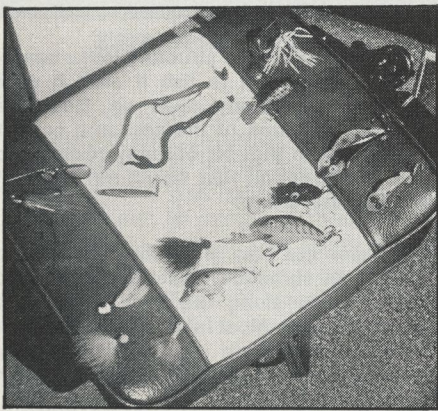
# Back Seat

is concentrating upon. This is precisely what happened in another professional bass tournament in which I was relegated to the back of the boat as a press observer with instructions to not fish any of the shoreline stumps my "expert" up front was working. In fact, he constantly positioned the boat with the bow pointed directly toward the shoreline and the stern extending out over open water, so that I couldn't cast to the stumps even if I wanted to.

Purely by coincidence, from the back seat, I happened to glance over at the depth sounder mounted on the steering console and noted that it was lighting up like a Christmas tree. I knew what that meant! The stern of the boat was directly over the top of a drop-off that went from ten to 30 feet and was littered with brush. My partner up front, a confirmed shallow-water angler, was so intent upon working his stumps he didn't even care about the drop-off. Since it was a hot, midsummer day, I figured, hey, that drop should actually hold more bass than the shallow bank.

With that little clue at hand, I tied on a chrome Hopkins jiggling spoon, paid out slack line until it sank to the bottom directly beneath the boat, and began vertically pumping it up and down.

To make a long story short, I caught seven bass that day, all from similar drop-offs, and one of those fish pulled the scale down to the six-pound mark. When I collected my press-angler prize



**If you're observant, smart, and willing to be flexible in your selection of lures, you may even do better than the guy up front!**



**Being relegated to the back of the boat isn't the doom and gloom picture most people claim. With a few tricks up your sleeve, you can catch your share of bass.**

money later that afternoon, my pro congratulated me with the comment, "I really put you onto some nice fish today, didn't I?" I simply laughed (all the way to the bank).

Even Roland Martin, perhaps the country's most acclaimed bass expert, believes there are times when the angler in the back of the boat has the odds tilted in his favor in being the second person to work a given piece of cover.

One time we were relaxing, just enjoying a casual day on the water at Santee-Cooper in South Carolina. We were using my Ranger bassboat and had agreed he'd fish up front for half the day and then I'd have the bow station for the other half. This is the best way for angling pals to spend any day on the water, taking turns. Anyway, we were working a shoreline when we came upon a lone cypress tree sitting in five feet of water. I fired a spinnerbait along one side, then picked up a second rod and tossed a crankbait along the other side. No luck, so I switched my attention to a buttonbush I spotted 25 yards away.

Roland, however, began hammering away at that cypress tree like it was the only one in the lake and on his sixth cast a four-pounder inhaled his spinnerbait. Make note, that bass had allowed no less than seven lures to come by its lair before finally becoming aggravated and pounding the eighth!

"I've had times when I found a piece of cover I just *knew* had to hold a fish," Roland explained, "and made as many as 30 casts before I finally provoked it enough into striking."

It would be difficult to explain why this happens, but it does happen with enough regularity to always keep in mind the often peculiar nature of bass behavior. So if some type of cover or structure absolutely screams BASS! don't be reluctant to cast to it again and again, even if your partner up front has already given it a good lick.

By the same token, realize that bass often position themselves in certain ways in relation to cover and for some

odd reason often will respond to a lure presented only from a certain angle. Most often they are on the shady side, but not always, especially during cold weather when the fish like to bask in the radiating warmth of midday sunlight. Consequently, if your partner up front makes only one cast to a particular stump or brush pile, and he selects the right side (or left), you'd be foolish not to make at least one cast to the opposite side.

## Back Seat Advice

A few other things also are worth mentioning that are sure to increase your ratio from the back seat. First, spend as much time standing as possible, rather than giving in to the temptation of plunking your backside into a comfortable pedestal chair. This is especially important if your partner up front likes to fish from a seated position.

When standing, not only can you cast more accurately but from an elevated vantage point you can see down into the water much better. On countless occasions I've been sitting in the back seat, decided to stand to stretch my legs, and suddenly saw the dark shadow of a deep stump before me that entirely escaped my notice from a seated position. If your partner up front is seated, that very stump or other cover probably eluded his notice as well and there just may be a bass there.

On bright, sunny days you should also wear polarizing sunglasses which reduce glare from the surface of the water and allow you to see deep cover.

It should go without saying, but I'd like to see the term "used water" removed from the vocabularies of bass anglers because the only time an angler in the back of the boat has no chance whatever of catching fish is when the fellow in the bow is dragging a seine net. Since that practice is frowned upon by state game and fish officials, rest assured you can indeed catch bass from the back seat.

If you're observant, smart, and willing to be flexible in your selection of lures, you may even do better than the guy up front!







*Continued from Page 47*

piece of dowel and a clothespin each time, now your lure is in a place where the bass are. You can fish it all the way back to where you have your boat parked on the other side of the buoy barriers.

The trick here is to use a lure that you don't have to set the hook on, because usually you have enough line out that you won't get a very powerful hook set. Therefore, I don't utilize a plastic worm with this system. I do use baits that have treble hooks or live bait that the fish can swallow. I can put my bait where the fish are without breaking the law and catch plenty of big bass that nobody else can.

I hate to admit to this technique, but it does produce bass. And I like to catch fish. So I'll go ahead and tell it. In the middle of the summer, big bass often will come up under pier lights at night. Although many times you can see the fish, you can't get them to hit any artificial lures. So I use live bait. I stay away from the lights, go into the shore, and try and stay hidden as much as I can from the area I'm attempting to

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**I view baits not as gimmicks to make bass bite but as tools to do my job. I do whatever I have to do with the bait to make that lure catch fish.**

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fish. I use a 4/0 worm hook with no weight, hook a minnow, and cast it out under the light so that the minnow can swim free under the pier light. I use very light line—the lighter the better.

As soon as the bass takes the minnow, and I set the hook, I start running my trolling motor toward deep water. Generally when a bass is hooked, he'll go for deep water. Although I prefer six pound test line, most of the time I use eight pound test. Many times I'll be

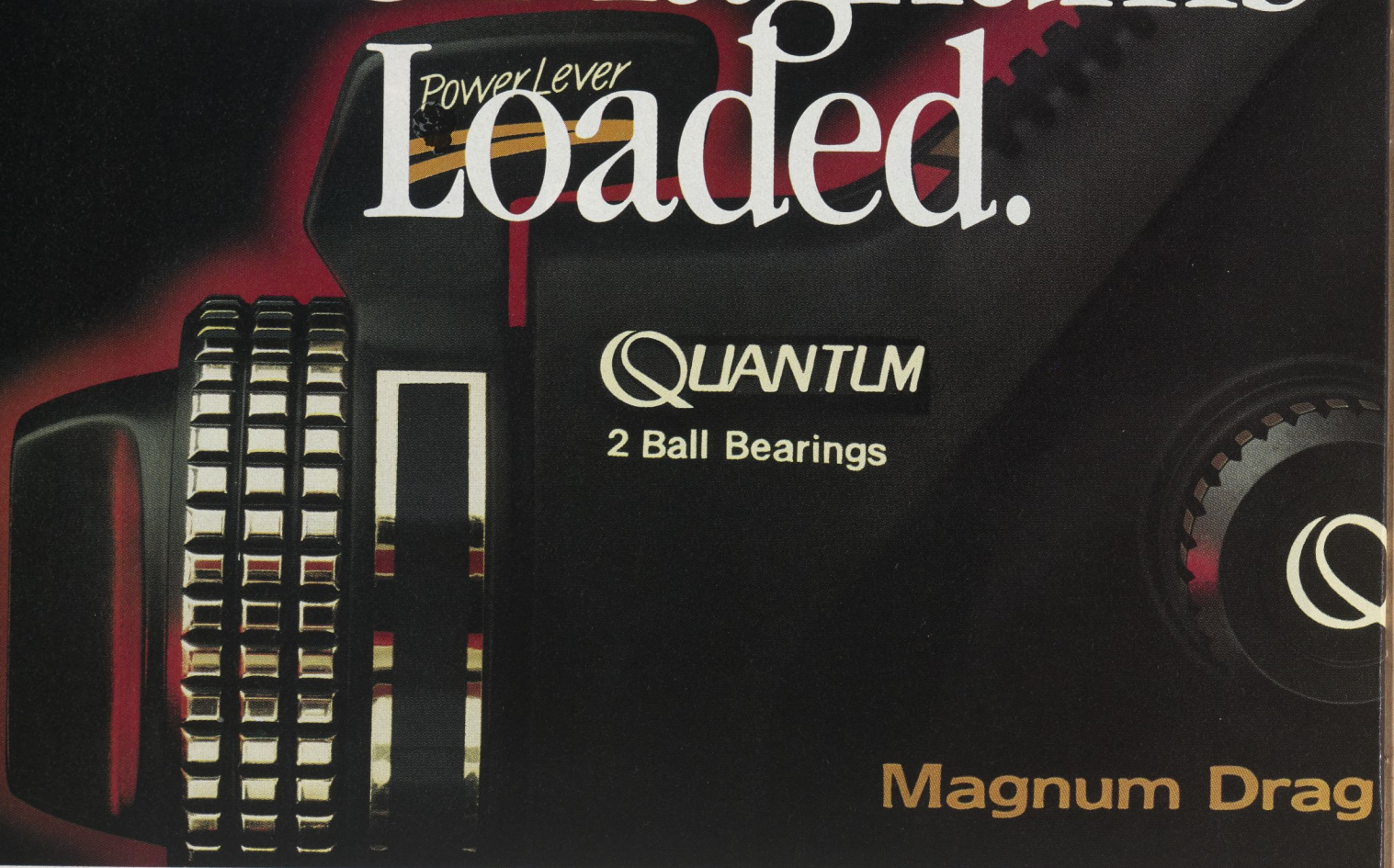
fishing pier lights under styrofoam docks. When a bass takes the bait and feels the hook, he'll run for dark water—which often is back under that styrofoam. So I have to have the extra strength in the eight pound test line to muscle that bass out from the styrofoam if I'm fishing styrofoam docks.

I don't like an overly big shiner. About a two to a 2-1/2 inch shiner minnow is the best bait. To make that bait perform right, most of the time I'll thump the minnow in the head so that when it hits the water under the light it quivers. I've found that a bass just can't stand a quivering minnow and must eat the minnow.

Most of the techniques I've given you are ones you won't find written up in any book on bass fishing, and you'll rarely read about them in magazine articles, because they're off-the-wall tactics. But by utilizing these methods, I've been able to catch bass under difficult situations when conventional tactics failed to produce. I have fun with my bass fishing, and I hope you do too.



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*Do you feel lucky? Well, do you . . . lunker?*

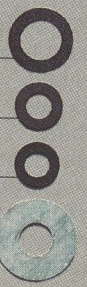
If you're thinking about a new spinning reel, ask yourself this question: Do I want to carry a reel – or a weapon? Then pick up a new Quantum Cobra<sup>™</sup>, Express<sup>™</sup> or QG with Magnum Drag System. Because, in a spinning reel, nothing's more important than the drag. And this Magnum's loaded.

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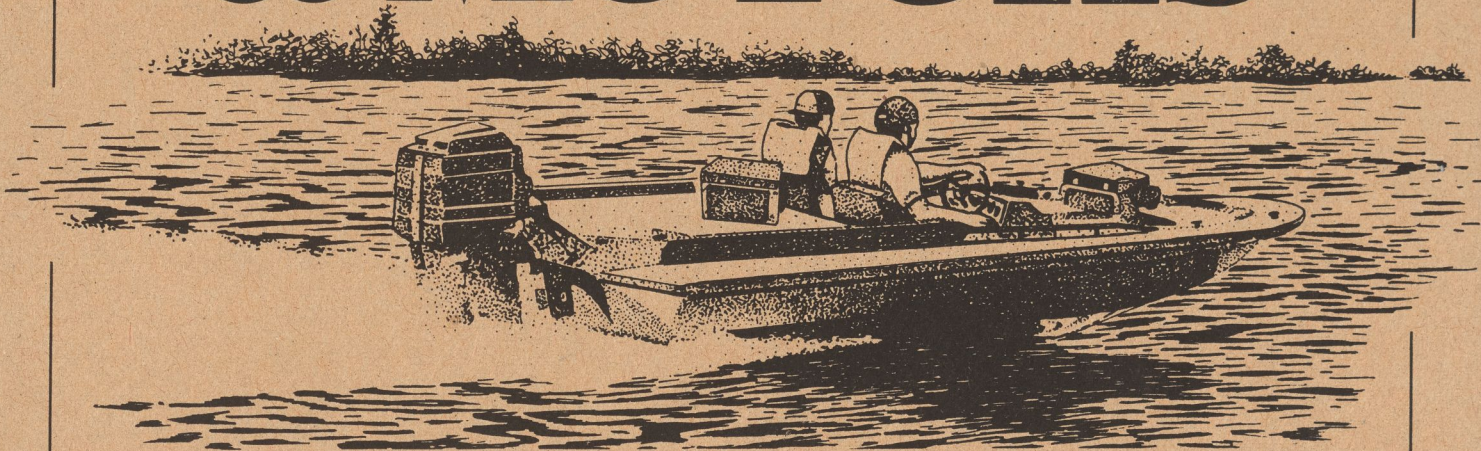
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# NEW BOATS & MOTORS



The '88 fleet offers an array of features that will make fishing more fun than ever!

By John E. Phillips

**M**anufacturers have answered many of the fishing family's needs in the boats and motors available this year. Besides a wide range of features on these boats and motors, there are also varied prices, depending on the options you choose.

## Fisher Marine

Fisher Marine has added a twin-console version to its fleet of **Grey Thunder**, high-performance aluminum bass boats. The new 1988 SV-18 GT-TC joins the single-console 18 inch and 16 inch models and boasts such standard features as an extra-wide casting platform, cushioned helm and buddy seats, twin casting chairs, fore and aft

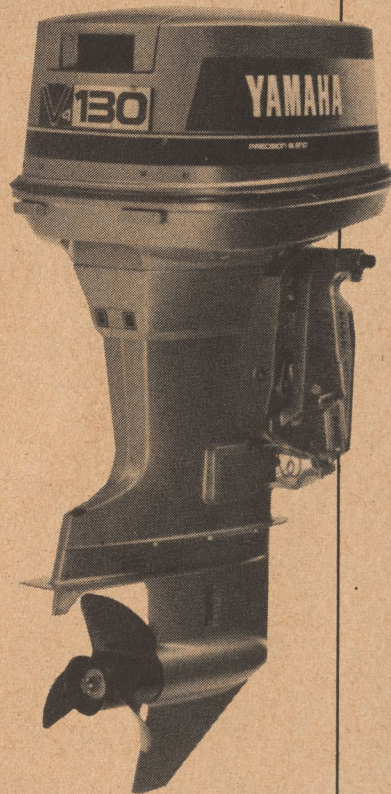
electric-fill livewells, five locking rod and gear storage compartments, and a 22-gallon built-in fuel system. Its modified version of Fisher's semi-vee hull delivers a smooth ride through chop and high performance from economical mid-range outboards. Contact Fisher Marine, P.O. Box 1256, Highway 45 A South, West Point, MS 39773.

**Fisher Marine's Grey Thunder SV-18 GT-TC**



## Yamaha Marine

Developed to fit the power needs of a large percentage of boatmen, including water skiers, anglers, and pleasure cruisers, **Yamaha Marine** introduces its new **130 horsepower V4** outboard motor for 1988. Yamaha's 130 V4 is durable and features a 90-degree design for improved balance and cooling, as well as a digital LCD Marine Meter that combines tachometer, trim, and oil warning lights in one easy to understand unit. The 130 V4 is backed by Yamaha's two year factory limited warranty. For further



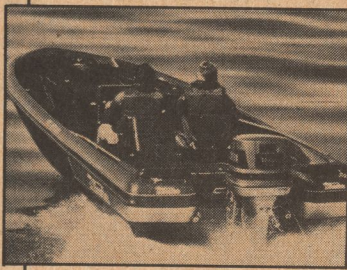
**Yamaha 130 V4**

information, write the Walker Agency, 15020 N. 74th St., Suite B, Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

# FISHING TACKLE '88

## Skeeter Sk-2000

The **Skeeter Sk-2000**, designed to easily handle rough water and heavy loads, is 20 feet, 7 inches long and 96 inches wide. To accommodate this length and width, Skeeter crafted a special, high-performance, deep V hull



with assistance from world record holder Reggie Fountain, one of the foremost authorities on hull design for rough water and high speed performance.

Complimenting the new hull design is the center console that places the driver and rider in the center of the boat for more stability, faster acceleration, and dryer ride. Rated for 150-250 horsepower engines, the Sk 2000 is built by Skeeter, One Skeeter Road, P.O. Box 230, Kilgore, TX 75662.

**Skeeter SK-2000**

## BassMaster 160SV

The **BassMaster 160SV** has poly flake deck and stripe, two aerated livewells, three lockable storage compartments, a lockable chest-type rod locker, insulated cooler, built-in 18 gallon tank, instrument panel with tachometer, speedometer,

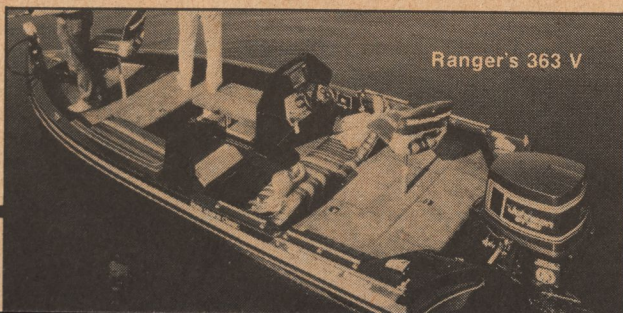
fuel gauge, deluxe custom-designed troll motor panel, four folding chairs, bilge pump, deluxe sportwheel, hand rails, remote livewell drains. For more information contact: Jay Bee Enterprises, Inc., **Jay Bee Boats**, Bassmaster Boats, Danville, Kentucky 40422-0803.

## Ranger 363V

Introduced this year as the hands-down choice for the contenders' use in the prestigious B.A.S.S. Masters Classic event, **Ranger's 363V** is the perfect choice for both the pro and sportsman angler. Combining a serious fishing layout with the versatile appointments of a family's fish 'n play rig, the 363V meets the requirements of all-around boat for the outdoor-minded.

Beneath the luxurious styling and design is where performance and handling begins with Ranger's double-step hull

design that promotes riding comfort and stability. Plush forward lounge seating forward of the passenger's console also does double-duty as the protective lid for the rod and gear locker below. The spacious front deck houses a huge storage compartment. And the deck itself can be extended via a cleverly designed folding platform, forward of the driver's console, that provides additional deck room for another angler or for flippin' and better fish control. Contact Ranger Boats, Wood Manufacturing Company, Inc., Flippin, AR 72634.



**Ranger's 363 V**

**Starcraft Bass V180**



## Starcraft

**Starcraft** has reworked the popular Bass V170 for 1988 and put in the extra things that fishermen want. The result is the **Bass V180**, which features the same quiet, dry hull as the V170 but has many improvements. New this year is a built-in, 18-gallon gas tank and bow trolling motor panel with interior light and trim switch. The boat has a new look thanks to the fiberglass console (with full instrumentation) with a built-in cooler, which is lockable and can be used for extra dry storage. Rated up to 120 horsepower, the boat has been clocked at more than 65 m.p.h. For catalogs showing Starcraft's complete '88 fishing boat lineup, write:

Starcraft Fishing Boat Catalog, 2703 College Avenue, Goshen, IN 46526.

The **Starcraft Bluewater Series** are three, rugged, fiberglass center consoles designed for Starcraft by Marine Concepts, Inc. of Cape Coral, Florida—an 18-footer and a 21-footer with an 8-1/2 foot beam and a 23 footer with a 9 foot beam. The modified vee-bottom design gives a smooth ride in rough seas and has numerous standards, including two aerated baitwells/livewell, large fish boxes, a chart bube, an anchor compartment and a lot more. All three models can accommodate twin outboards and have wash-down pumps. The Bluewater 230 is rated up to 300 h.p.; the 180 for 150, and the 210 up to 235 h.p.



**Novurania Pram 300**

## Novurania Inflatable

**Novurania's** new **Canguro Pram 300** is an inflatable boat with all the style you would expect from an Italian boat builder, with all the features you need in sports-oriented tender. Up to four persons can ride in the 300, and with a 20 horsepower outboard mounted on the fixed transom, this tender can pull your waterskiing fans in style. A rigid keel is used to maintain

consistent bottom shape and comfortable ride, there are lifting rings for davit-style storage, and transom drain plug, a bow cover, and document pouch are included as part of the standard equipment package. Available in either red or white hull colors, the hull fabric is identical to that used in their larger boats. For more information contact: Novurania of America, Inc., 2909 Oregon Court, Building C-2, Torrance, CA 90503

## Fisher Marine

A new 16 foot center console model has joined the 18 foot CC introduced last year to make up the **Salmon Series** of big-water aluminum fishing boats announced by **Fisher Marine** for 1988. Both offer an extra large forward casting platform, stand-up center console system with tinted windshield, and three storage compartments, an electric-fill livewell, and a combination seat/cooler/rod holders

unit built into the front of the console. Construction features include Fisher's exclusive Fisher-Flare Wave-Tamer bow for a smooth, dry ride and a tough Unit-Frame construction for a long, durable life. Twin comfort-cushioned helm and buddy seats are standard. A cushioned leaning post with four rod rocket launcher is one of available options. The new 16-foot center console is recommended for outboards 20-75 horsepower.



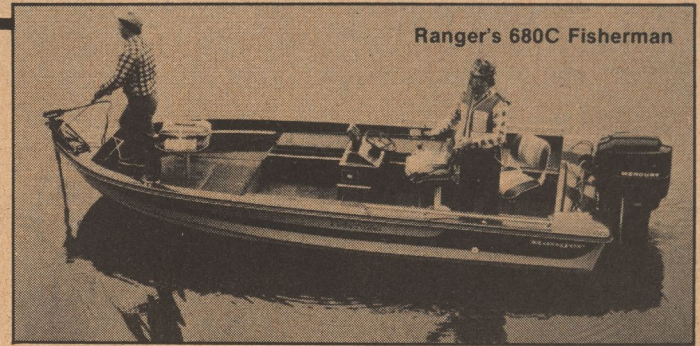
Fisher Marine's Salmon Series

## New From Avon

Following on the success of their popular S3 40 RIB, **Avon** has introduced an all new hybrid design combining a vee-shaped fiberglass hull bottom with inflatable side tubes—the **Supersport S4.00 Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB)**. Measuring just 13'2" long and weighing only 210 pounds, the S4.00 will carry up to six people in comfort and safety, can accept outboard motors rated up to 40 maximum horsepower, and is capable of top end speeds ranging from 26 to 35

mph. depending on load and power. Four lifting eyes for davit style storage, molded-in footrest and fuel tank details, and a handy bow storage compartment are among many standard features. Optional equipment includes many fine extras. Avon's grey Hypalon coated nylon boat fabric is guaranteed against deterioration for 10 years from the date of purchase. For more information, contact: IMTRA Corporation, 151 Mystic Avenue, Medford, MA 92155.

**Avon Supersport S4.00 R.I.B.**



Ranger's 680C Fisherman

## New Console Ranger

Inspired by the success of the Ranger 680T (tiller) model Fisherman, **Ranger introduces the new console steering version, the 680C (console) Fisherman.** This new Fisherman features the same, roomy, guide-designed layout as the previous tiller steering model, but you can harness more horsepower to the transom. In fact,

the console Fisherman will tame the rough stuff with engines up to 115 horsepower, while maintaining the precise back-trolling tracking that is making the Fisherman hull famous.

Couple all the special features with the dry, cushioned ride and Ranger's reputation for quality, resale value and safety, and you owe it to yourself to see this new breed of Fisherman.

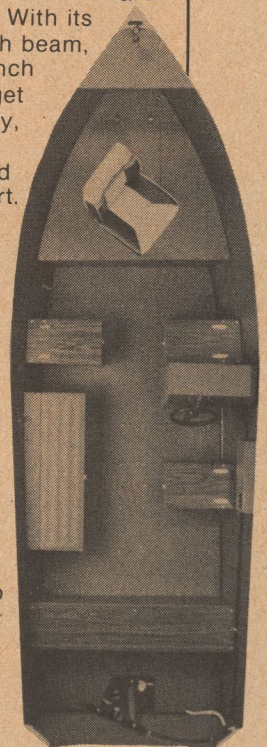
## New Grumman's

**Grumman** has incorporated many improvements in the 1988 model of the **Deluxe Funship**. One feature that remains unchanged are the 21 inch diameter pontoons, which provide a lot of extra buoyancy over other boats in this category. The boat also has an improved design layout of the aft area with the barrel seat immediately aft of the single fiberglass console with stereo AM/FM radio and cassette player installed. The new refreshment center, which is located to port of the console contains an insulated ice box. A table and sundeck with a cushion are also standard features. Ladies will particularly appreciate the optional Porta Potty and its privacy curtain. The Deluce Funship is 24 feet in length with a deck width of eight feet, a maximum recommended horsepower of 90 and maximum weight capacity of 2200 pounds. For more information contact: Grumman Boats, P.O. Box

549, Marathon, N.Y. 13803.

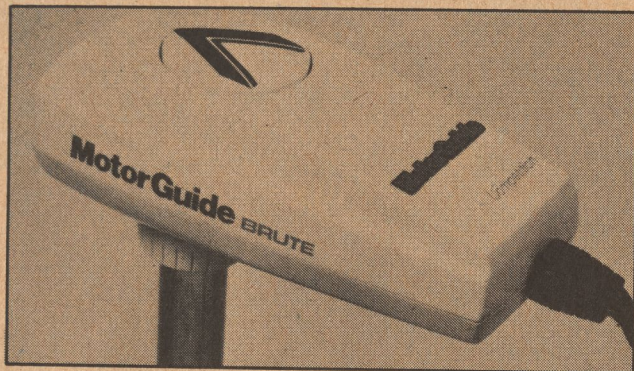
Practical and livable define the **Grumman Fisherman** series. The 16 inch split seat Deluxe provides easy access throughout the boat, with no seats to step over, and a perfectly flat floor. Lots of storage space and an 18 gallon aerated livewell are all standard. With its wider 65 inch beam, and full 31 inch depth, you get more stability, more cargo capacity, and more comfort. Surprisingly light, this Grumman's seat/side braces and full flotation in the seats give ruggedness and rigidity. Optional swivel seats and console allow you to customize to your heart's delight.

**Grumman's Fisherman Series**



# FISHING TACKLE '88

## TROLLING MOTORS



### MotorGuide

**MotorGuide's Competition Series** trolling motors feature a revolutionary 45-pound thrust WhisperGuide lower unit that is quiet and powerful. The WhisperGuide combines a highly efficient magnet system, a durable steel armature shaft, and a special prop that produces a high

performance level. Monitoring and controlling the Competition Series' efficient amp draw is DuraAmp 2, MotorGuide's electronic pulse monitoring system that extends the power of a fully charged batter up to 300 percent. For more information, write to MotorGuide, % Zebco Corporation, P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, OK 74101.

### Johnson's Weed Invader

**Johnson Fishing, Inc.**, has introduced the new **Weed Invader** electric motor by **Minn Kota**, which means that weeds need no longer keep anglers from moving in

close to fish. The Weed Invader has 37 pounds of thrust and provides the convenience of both hand control and remote foot control. Contact Johnson Fishing, Inc., 1531 Madison Ave., P.O. Box 3129, Mankato, MN 56001-5498.

### Evinrude Super Scout

**Evinrude** has come with the continuation of the **Super Scout** model in both 120 volt hand and foot-control steered models. The high thrust hand-control model features 26 pounds. Evinrude's Ben Sherwood notes that, "Our Scout electrics are state-of-the-art technology. And being rated number one by 'Popular Mechanics' in an independent test speaks for itself." Contact Tom Anderson, % Evinrude Motors, 4143 N. 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53216.

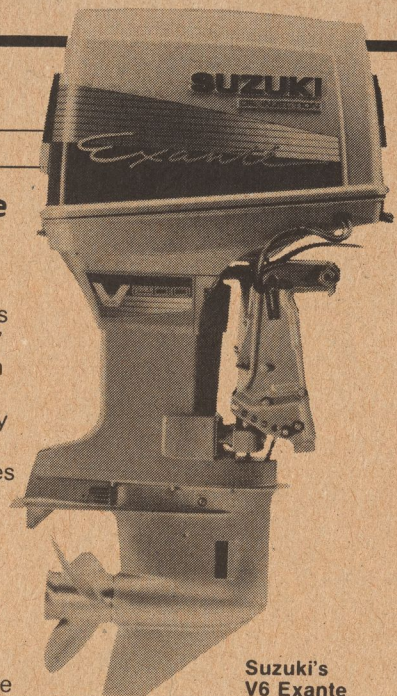


Evinrude's Super Scout

## BOAT MOTORS

### Suzuki V5 Exante

**Suzuki's** new 200 horsepower **V6 Exante** outboard motor features the exclusive "Comlink" system, the first time an outboard motor has possessed the capability of delivering voice-communicated messages to the driver. Electronically activated, the Suzuki "Comlink" system will give pre-programmed audio messages that relay a variety of information ranging from vital engine functions to safe boating reminders to the boat operator through a speaker system located in the forward dash panel.



Suzuki's V6 Exante

Write Suzuki, 3251 East Imperial Highway, P.O. Box 1100, Brea, CA 9262-1100.

### Johnson Outboards V8



Johnson's GT300 V8

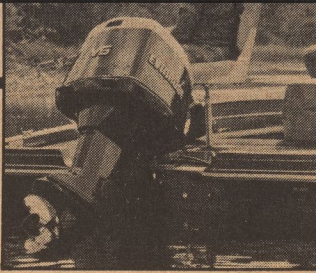
**Johnson Outboards'** new **GT300 V8** motor gets a boost in acceleration for 1988 from increased displacement, since the cylinder bore has been increased from 3.500 inches to 3.685 inches. Also the GT 300 V8 features the new Johnson electronic engine management system which automatically increases idle speed during engine warm-up and helps prevent the engine's being damaged by limiting rpm if the engine overheats. Contact Bob Collinson, Manager, Marketing Communications, Johnson Outboards, 200 Seahorse Drive, Waukegan, IL 60085.

### Merc 5

The **Merc 5**, new from **Mercury Marine**, is a five horsepower engine that boasts both 360-degree steering as well as full forward-neutral-reverse gearshift, underwater exhaust through the

propeller hub to bury noise and fumes far astern, and a splined rubber prop hub that acts like a shock absorber to prevent damage to the drive train when striking an underwater object and eliminates the need for a shear pin.

# FISHING TACKLE '88



## New Evinrudes

For 1988, Evinrude is offering two, loop-charged V8 outboards, the 275 horsepower and the Evinrude XP 300. Both of these motors feature power steering as standard, as well as the S-L-O-W (Speed Limiting Overheat Warning) system, Quikstart, the new automatically controlled easy starting system, a 35 amp high output alternator, and Evinrude's Power Boost cooling, which provides instant cooling on demand for faster acceleration and smoother operation.

## Evinrude V6 150

Evinrude also is fielding a full line of counter rotation models for 1988 in most V6 horsepower—including the 150, 200, and 225 horsepower, 25 inch shaft categories. All loop-charged 200 horsepower and 225 horsepower V6 models have the same technology as found in the V8. The V6 loopers also have a new increased cylinder bore from 3.500 inches to 3.685 inches to provide for improved low-end power and acceleration. Also the idle quality and trolling speed smoothness of the loop-charged V6 models is improved with the redesign of the engine intake ports exhaust idle relief system.

## New From Yamaha

Many times small boat anglers have had to accept compromises in their outboards, but Yamaha's all new oil-injected twin cylinder 25 horsepower outboard gives anglers high performance convenience features such as the controls are all front-mounted, including the shift lever for easier operation, the double levers for free lock release, and shallow water drive. And weighing only 104 pounds, the Yamaha

25 is very light.

Yamaha's Marine 1988 3 horsepower outboard offers small motor portability with big motor features such as twist-grip throttle, hot-sparking CD ignition, and forward and neutral shifting with 360 degree steering, which gives the operator better control and allows newcomers to operate their boats like veterans. There's also a built-in "cruise control" friction lock on the throttle and an adjustable co-pilot for steering to help on longer runs or when trolling.

# RODS & REELS

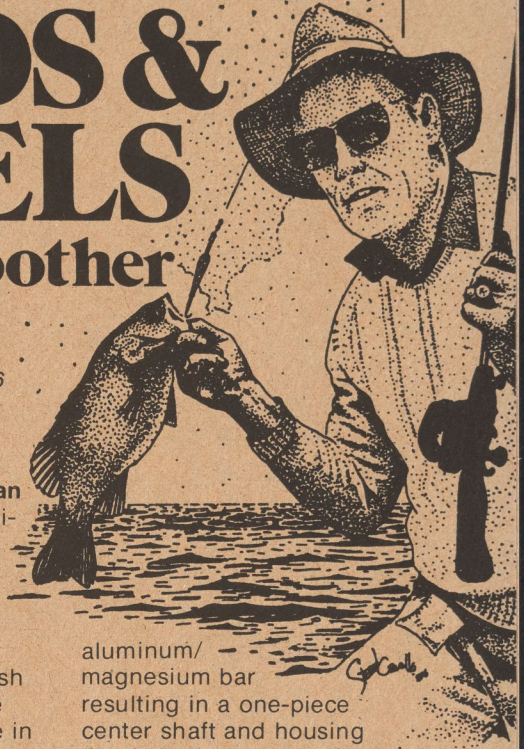
## For Smoother Fishing

Continued from page 26

### STH Reels

STH Reels Caribbean Series features an anti-reverse system plus double-braking drag surfaces of cork and teflon for longer life without overheating. Designed for both fresh and saltwater use, the Caribbean is available in four sizes and recommended for large fighting fish like tarpon and salmon. Improvements for 1988 include a lower profile drag knob and an even stronger cranking handle. All STH reels are machined from a solid

aluminum/magnesium bar resulting in a one-piece center shaft and housing that is both strong and lightweight. No tools takedown and simplicity of use are additional features, all backed by an unconditional 25 year guarantee. For further information contact: STH Reels, 6619 Oak Orchard Road, Elba, N.Y. 14058.



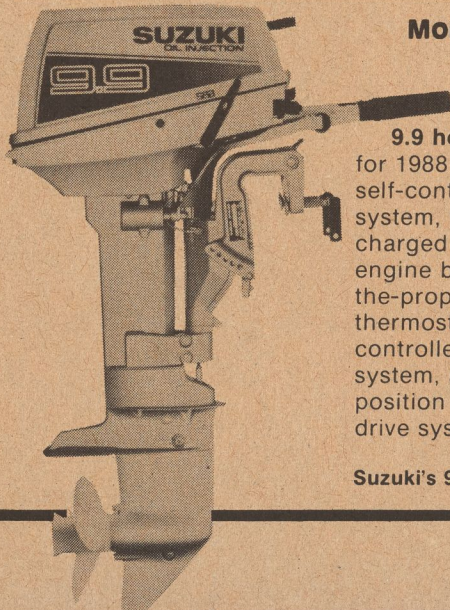
### Fenwich Crankshaft

## Fenwich "Crankshaft": It's a Rod!

Fenwich combines the best of Fencil and graphite to produce a state-of-the-art specialty rod, the Fenwich Crankshaft that is engineered to land more fish. At the crucial moment when the fish is brought close to the boat, there's not enough line stretch to provide a shock absorber—nor is the hard, quick action of a graphite beneficial. The forgiving glass tip on the Crankshaft provides the rod action required to prevent the fish from shaking loose. Ask any bass pro or fishing guide,

and he'll tell you the secret to landing more fish on treble-hooks is fiberglass.

Fenwich Crankshaft features a new Sensi-Touch reel seat with the new comfort grip rear handle and foam covered, locking foregrip. Drag reducing high-frame Fuji guides keep the line off the rod blank, enhancing sensitivity and fighting power. The collapsible handle features on 6-1/2 and 7 foot models permit easy soage storage a rod locker or car trunk. For more information, contact: Howard Hagy, Woodstream Corp., P.O. Box 327, Lititz, PA 17543.



## More Suzuki's

Suzuki's all new 8 and 9.9 horsepower models for 1988 include a totally self-contained oil injection system, two cylinder loop charged 12.8 cubic inch engine block, through-the-prop exhaust, a thermostatically controlled engine cooling system, and a five position shallow water drive system.

Suzuki's 9.9





Mitchell's Signature Series Freshwater Rods

## New Berkley Rods

**Berkley's new Series One Walleye and Muskie/Northern** rods have actions designed for top performance when fishing for these and similar fish. The Walleye models contain an extra fast tapered tip for greater sensitivity on delicately feeding fish, plus a longer foregrip for greater comfort. The Muskie/Northern actions have long cork handles,

with a long foregrip designed for comfort in handling large baits or bucktails.

The Walleye models are both spinning in 5'6" and 5'10" lengths and actions designed by famed fisherman, Al Lindner. The Muskie/Northern actions include a 5'10" jerkbait rod and a 6'4" rod for casting large bucktails. For more information contact: Berkley, One Berkley Drive, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

## "Ugly Stiks"

**Shakespeare's Ugly Stik tournament Class rod series** is a sensitive, fast-tapered, and cast-controllable rod for the more demanding and discriminating fishermen. During the four years of research for this rod, Shakespeare developed a new grinding process to create a thinner, yet equally as durable tip. The result is a faster taper for accurate tip action in

casting for fishermen on the tournament trail.

A double-coated rod built from Shakespeare's legendary construction of rod blanks, and featuring the clear tip that has become the Ugly Stik trademark, the Tournament Class Rod has gold-plated guides, an exposed blank-through handle, and a double-coated epoxy finish. Write Vince Thompson, % Shakespeare, Drawer S, Columbia, S.C. 29260.

## Shakespeare Reels

The **Shakespeare USA graphite fly reel** is based on one of England's most successful fly reels, a heritage that involves a history of quality craftsmanship—lightweight reels with a heavyweight punch. To the touch, these reels display a lightweight, precision balance, and each model weighs between three and four ounces. With its rim-control spool, it's easy to palm for instant drag. Lightweight construction combined with better handling and control, the high-strength spool and frame are made of durable Shakespeare graphite.

The non-reflective graphite finish helps reduce visibility on the water, and other features include a built-in



Whisker Titan reel

permanent clicker, reverse line guard, and adjustable right/left retrieve.

**Shakespeare** also announces a new reel called the **Whisker Titan 2201**, which is lighter weight with no sacrifice in strength and durability. Fibers of whisker titanium add toughness to the reel, with an amazing lightness that lets you cast for hours. A smooth, teflon-impregnated ceramic spool lip protects the line from abrasion, while the selective internal trip closes the bail arm automatically or manually within a full 360 degrees.

## 7 Mitchell Rods

**Mitchell** introduces the **Signature Series freshwater rods** available in seven popular models including spinning, casting, and fly rods. All rods in this series feature Mitchell's exclusive graphite powered blank construction. Guides are of single-foot, black wire frame, reinforced ceramic construction on all models. Sizes range from

a five foot ultra-light model up to an 8-1/2 fly rod. Other features standard for this series are high density black EVA handle grips, improved graphite design reel seat with stainless hoods and blank through handle construction for durability and sensitivity. For more information contact: Mitchell Sports USA, Inc., 4220 chambers Hill Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

## Laser Spinning Rods—Cajun Style

**Lew's new Cajun Style Laser Spinning Rods** provide function and comfort over a full day of boating boxes of fish. The extended and slightly uplifted butt section gives tremendous hook-setting and fish steering power, plus the benefit of blank-thru handle design.

The flat part of the

handle extension is made of urethane material while the actual grip portion is PVC over urethane.

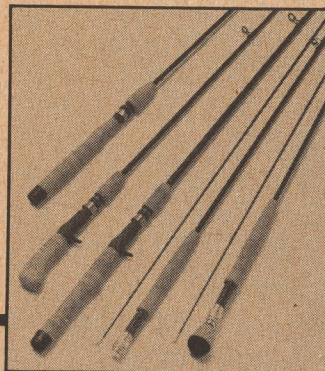
Featuring Fuji gold frame hardloy guides, three models will be offered in 6'6" lengths with actions in light/medium, medium, and heavy. A 7' one-piece rod will be made in medium action. For more information contact: Lew Childre & Sons, Inc., 110 E. Azalea Avenue, Foley, AL 36535.

## All-Graphite Rods From St. Croix

**St. Croix** announces the introduction of an advanced all-graphite rod line—the **Legend Series**. In each Legend rod, the St. Croix rod builders bring together decades of handcrafting skills with advanced graphite technology and components to produce higher performance rods. Each Legend series rod blank is made from high modulus, IM-S graphite, a material which was originally developed for use by the aerospace industries, and is meticulously handcrafted, using fine components. Legends are available in fly, spinning, and two-hand casting models. For more information contact: Paul Schluter, St. Croix Rod, P.O. Box 279, Park Falls, WI 54552.

The classic looks and performance of **St. Croix Graph-Lite** rods are now available in an expanded line to match all types of saltwater fishing. Three new stand-up rods join a series of spinning, surf, trolling, and jigging rods. Graph-Lite's feature strong graphite butt shafts and flex tips of Croixglass, and all models have corrosion-resistant hardware and foam grips. They are strong, lightweight rods with plenty of backbone.

## St. Croix's Legend Series





## Zebco Focuses On "Hawgs" and Crappies

The **Hawg**, a heavy duty spin-cast reel new from Zebco for 1988 features a direct-drive design for maximum hook setting power and greater retrieve muscle. It features Zebco's exclusive Positive Pickup System and is equipped with a Bait Alert system that sounds an audible warning click when a fish moves off with the bait. The Hawg also features a double power handle and silent, selective anti-reverse that eliminates clicking during retrieve. For more information contact: John Scott, Zebco Corp., P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, OK 74101.

Zebco's new **Crappie Classic spin-cast reel and rod combination** features a depth locator reel, light action graphite composite rod with straight handle to fit rod holders, and a high visibility tip for night fishing. Zebco also offers a special **Crappie Classic spinning combination** which includes a **CR10 spinning reel and a 5-1/2 foot, light action fiberglass rod.**

Featured on both Crappie Classic combinations is a special **"Crappie Fishing Tips" audio tape**, narrated by "Sports Afield" fishing editor, Homer Circle, filled with crappie catching tips.

The Crappie Classic's depth locator switch allows a crappie angler to pre-set any depth from one foot to 40 feet to

### Zebco's Hawg Spin Cast Reel



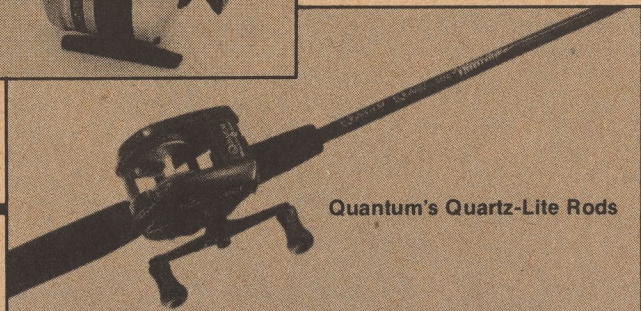
### Zebco's Crappie Classic CR10 Spinning Reel and Rod

automatically repeat bait placement at the same depth every cast. The CR60 reel automatically releases the Depth Locator when an angler catches a large fish or becomes hung up on an underwater obstruction. The Crappie Classic is also equipped with a wide range star drag system that won't twist the line.

To coincide with the introduction of the Crappie Classic and spotlight the popularity of crappie fishing nationwide, Zebco also announces a **\$10,000 prize** for any angler catching a **new state record crappie on either a CR60 or CR10 reel and any Zebco rod.** The contest runs through July 31, 1988, and **participants must be pre-registered to be eligible.** Contact: John Scott at Zebco.

Quantum's new **Quartz Lite rods**—a 14 model series with six casting, five spinning, and three special purpose rods—feature a small-diameter, thick-wall blank design for lighter weight, greater strength and increased sensitivity. The sensitivity of the Quartz Lite rods is enhanced by the addition of a small resonance chamber located in the handle. Inside the chamber are two quartz elements that capture and amplify the vibrations that travel the length of the rod. All Quartz Lite casting rods have an exposed blank under the reel seat for even greater feel. Write John Scott at Zebco.

### Quantum's Quartz-Lite Rods



## Browning Goes Spinfishing

Browning has expanded its 800 series **spinning reel** line to include two high speed models which will give anglers the fastest gear ratio available in a spinning reel. The new **810 and 812 High Speed** models feature an incredible 6.3:1 gear ratio. Browning's faster gear ratio will enable anglers to work their lures and baits faster than ever before. In many situations fish strike a lure at higher speeds, so anglers will have greater success using a Browning High Speed reel. Fishermen also will appreciate the faster gear ratio which make controlling tight line and avoiding slack line and line stretch easier.



### New Garcia Cardinals

Abu Garcia has introduced a new generation of its popular **Cardinal 700 Series of rear drag spinning reels** featuring a 30 percent larger drag surface sealed for protection from rain or spray. Constructed of lightweight, corrosion-proof Graphitanium for

### Berkley's Vectra Rod

Berkley's new **Vectra** rod now stands at the top of Berkley's 100 percent graphite rods. Constructed from 100 percent graphite, this unique rod blank carries graphite rod technology into a new realm, featuring a new Berkley solid fusion tip which is four times stronger than graphite tubular tipped rods while light and

### Browning's 810 and 812 Spinning Reels

Tournament fishermen will enjoy the Browning High Speed reels since they will be able to cover more water during the course of a day. The faster retrieve allows an angler to get fish out of cover quicker, preventing possible tangles which could result in losing a big lunger.

The 812 High Speed is a general freshwater/light saltwater class spinning reel and weighs 13 ounces. Contact Paul Thompson, % Browning, Route One, Morgan, Utah 84050.

### Abu-Garcia's Cardinal 700 Spinning reels

strength and effortless use, the Cardinal 700 Series offers a 750 degree drag adjustment range to fine tune the drag for precise fight control. Available in a wide range of sizes and models for fresh or big water fishing, several Cardinal 700 models feature the Fast Cast Bail Trigger for easy one hand, one finger operation, folding handles, and push button pop-off graphite spools. Contact Barbara Avrin at Abu Garcia, 21 Law Drive, Fairfield, N.J. 07006.

### Berkley's Vectra



sensitive. The Vectra has a unique straight handle, constructed from 100 percent graphite and textured to assure a non-slip grip. Contact Bob Knopf, Berkley, One Berkley Drive, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

# FISHING TACKLE '88

Abu Garcia's  
Ambassadeur  
1000C

## Big- Water Ambassadeur Makes a Comeback

Abu Garcia will reintroduce the **Ambassadeur 1000C Big Water Classic** reel. Available without levelwind, the Ambassadeur 1000C offers automatic dual speed gearing which is unique to Abu Garcia. In

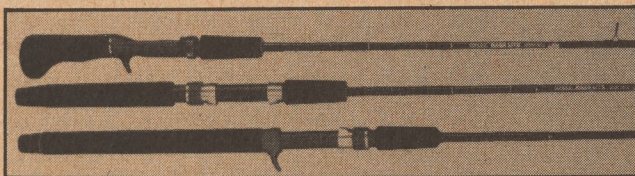
normal cast and retrieve situations, it retrieves at a high speed 4.2:1. Once a fish is hooked, it automatically shifts to 2.5:1 fighting retrieve for more power with less strain on the fisherman. The Ambassadeur 1000C is constructed with a stainless steel frame, bronze and stainless steel gears, power handle, and wide range, strong drag.

## Garcia's "Bass Lite" Series

Created specifically for bass fishing, **Abu Garcia's** new conolon **Bass Lite Series** provides strong and sensitive rod performance for any bass fishing technique. Conolon Bass Lite rods are constructed of a composite blend of graphite for power and sensitivity and fiberglass

for toughness and durability. Blank through handles and high density EVA foam grips deliver lightweight comfort. Bass Lite is available in models for casting, pitching, flipping and spinning in a wide variety of actions and line classes. Each baitcasting model is a perfect match for the new Ambassador Lite Series.

**Abu Garcia's Bass Lite Series**

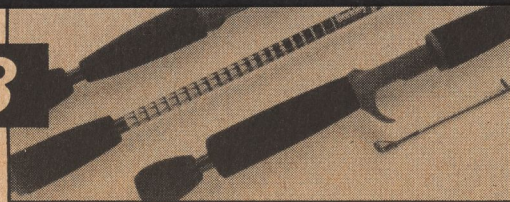
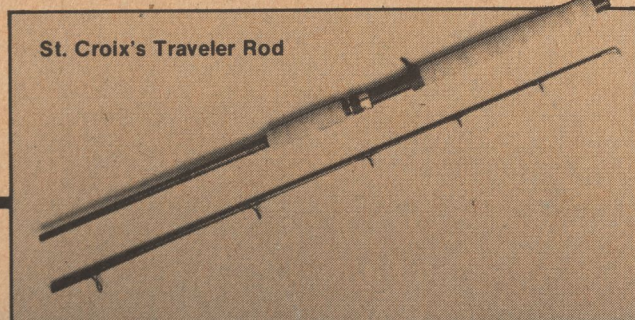


## St. Croix Rods in Graphite

**St. Croix Rods** now offer an all-graphite, heavy action, casting travel rod for the angler on the move—a 6'2" Premier rod that fits most travel cases for storage or

in-flight trips. Its length and power are ideal for musky, northern pike, striper, bass, and light saltwater species. The **Traveler** features graphite shaft and reel seat, two hand cork grips, and an Ever Fit ferrule assuring complete rod flex.

St. Croix's Traveler Rod

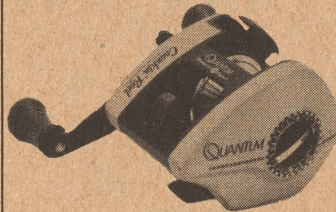


Berkley's  
Power Pole

## Berkley's Power Pole

**Berkley's Power Pole**, which is designed for maximum strength, offers tough, power that handles fishing's most abusive conditions by combining power, strength, and durability into a quality

built rod. Berkley's Power Pole's high visibility yellow fluorescent tip makes it easy to see all bites. When night fishing using a black light, the tip will glow in the dark. It is available in six actions: three spinning, two casting and one trigger reel seat.



## Quantum "Cranking" Reel

Quantum's new **381 Crankin' Reel** is a baitcast reel that delivers fish-fighting power and the retrieve speed needed to fish deep-diving crankbaits that perform better at slower speeds. The concept for the 381 came from a survey of major lure manufacturers conducted by Zebco Corporation. Without exception, the manufacturers said that most anglers fish deep-diving crankbaits and other lures far too fast, limiting their effectiveness

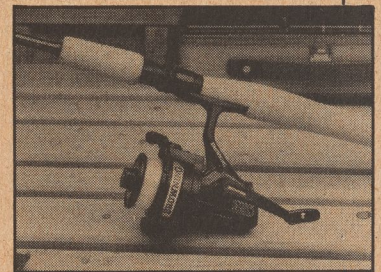
## Quantum's 381 Crankin' Reel

and causing them to catch fewer fish. Zebco took the study to heart and created the Quantum 381 Crankin' Reel, which has a smooth, powerful 3.8-to-1 retrieve ratio. Many times the key to landing a big fish is the power to pull it away from heavy cover, which is what Quantum's 381 Crankin' Reel surpasses all other reels on the market today in.

In addition to providing extra power, the 381 Crankin' Reel's lower gear ratio means the 381 is a cinch to reel when retrieving deep-diving crankbaits or big-bladed spinnerbaits. The lack of heavy resistance typical of 6-to-1 retrieve reels is less tiring for the angler and extends gear life of the reel substantially.

## Browning's SDX Series

The spool drag is back at **Browning**. The new **SDX series** has all the features today's avid fisherman demands plus smooth reeling. All six SDX reels feature a spool-mounted drag with a proven configuration of alternating teflon drag disks and metal heat dissipation washers. Fishermen who prefer the front drag reel will appreciate the SDX's smooth and consistent braking under heavy



Browning SDX Graphite  
Spinning Reel

tension. Also the graphite construction gives greater strength and durability and also allows for a compact, lightweight design, distance because of less friction.



# Currents

Continued from page 18

ger, for example). Most rivers have miles and miles of good holding water right up against the bank or only a few feet out over a gravel bar. If you've never fished this kind of water, you may be amazed at how many fish there are so close to shore.

The guide will be your biggest help here, by showing you the kinds of spots

another. One day White Zonkers may be best and they may ignore Yuk Bugs. Another day they may prefer Woolly Buggers. Again, you must experiment.

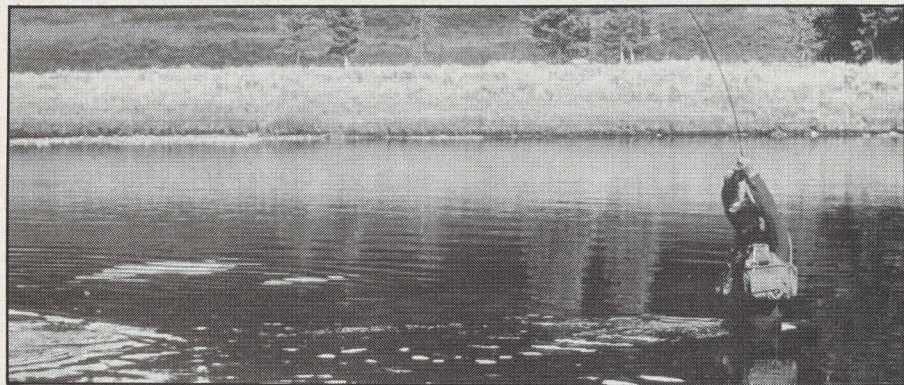
When you're fishing to these pockets, whether from the front or the back of the boat, try to hit the pocket before the boat drifts even with it. The fish are reluctant to take these big flies when they are dragging directly downstream. Occasionally you'll see a good fish turn and chase the fly, but you'll do better if you can keep from fishing on a downstream drag.

The pace of this fishing is sometimes very demanding, especially if you're

not be expected to hold you constantly at the same distance from the shore all the time). The result is a nearly frenetic pace: fire the fly into that quiet pocket behind the willow, work it out, back-cast, adjust the rod to put the fly in the hole behind that rock, shooting a little line because the boat has moved out a couple feet, watch for the snag, yank the fly back (was that a fish flashing under it? Can I put it in there again without interfering with the other caster?), making the forward cast before the line falls behind you...

Some people don't like it, some do. I think it's great fun, and when the fish are hitting, or at least rolling after the fly a lot, two fishermen and a guide can make a lot of noise, yelling and whooping and cussing as they see the fish coming out after these fast big flies. It's a kind of fly fishing with more action than almost any other kind. The first time Paul's wife Dianne saw this kind of fishing, with two fishermen slapping big flies against the rocks and the fish swirling violently after the flies, she called it "Samurai fly fishing."

Of course nobody is requiring you to hit every spot, or even half of them. If you find it tiring, slow down, and just pick a good pocket now and then. If you need more time to get your distance right, or to spot the good water, take it. This is supposed to be fun, so fish as you like.



One of the problems of float fishing is that you can move too fast. That's why it's a good idea to get out and wade-fish some stretches.

where the fish hold. You're usually looking for small, quieter stretches of water right against the bank; there may be raging current only six inches out, and the fish are holding flat against the bank. When they see food, or something that excites them, they have to act fast and make their decision based on very little information—"Aha! It's big, it's wiggly, and I gotta get it before it's gone!" Quite often your fly will only be in the good water for a second or two before the faster current and the motion of the boat drag it away.

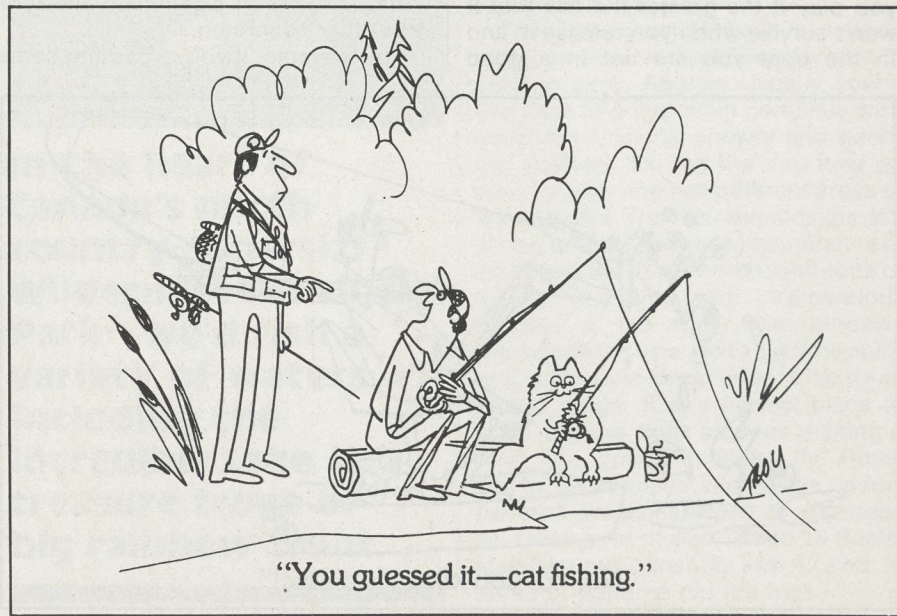
That makes fly control (and line control) very important. My son Greg describes this kind of fishing as a form of target shooting, and that's true; it's where the fisherman who is both quick and accurate has a real edge. If you think the spot behind that rock is a good one, stretch the rod out so that the fly holds in there just a little longer. Try to give the fly as much action as possible while it's in the good water; twitch it, jerk it, make it pause. Much of the time it will be all you can do to get it into the good spot in the first place, never mind making it act in a certain way, but there are lots of times when how you maneuver the fly will make the difference. Experiment. The guide should tell you what has been working best.

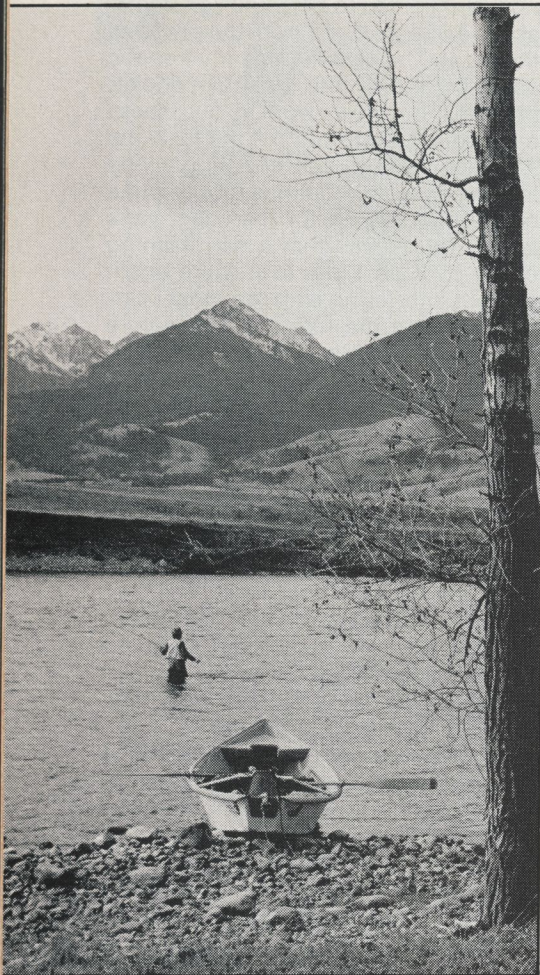
I don't know why it's the case, though I assume it has to do with water clarity and sunlight, but you will often find that the fish prefer one type of big fly to

fishing a stretch of river with lots of good holding water along the bank. You're fishing a heavier rod and a heavier fly, usually in the #6 to #2 range, and heavily weighted, and you're making an astonishing number of casts very fast, firing the fly into one pocket after another. At the same time, you're trying to check the good spots that are coming up (the guide will help here), and you're adjusting the length of the line as the bank moves closer and farther away (the guide will keep you within a reasonable distance; but can-

## Landing Fish

Drift boats are high, and a wildly flopping fish can often not be lifted by the leader. The guide will have a long-handled net, and in any situation where the fish or the leader is at risk the net should be used. As always, get the fish in as quickly as possible, not just for the fish's sake but for the fishing's sake;





Float-fishing can get you into stretches of western rivers too remote for walking anglers to reach. Get out and wade for productive fishing on the best stretches.

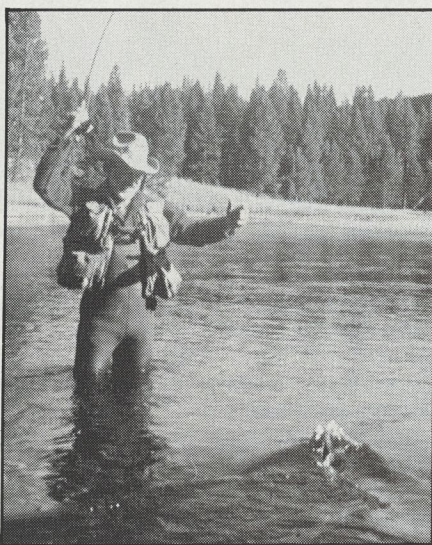
remember that as long as the guide is waiting for your fish so he can net it, he is unable to keep the boat in a good fishing position for the other fisherman. Obviously if it's a trophy fish, don't rush it too much, but the common tendency is to play the fish too long. The longer you play it the greater the risk that it won't survive when you release it, and in the boat you are not in a good

position to revive it. You pretty much have to let it go as it is and hope for the best. If you've played it fast it will be fine. Just slip it back into the water (don't toss it) over the side.

### The Well-Behaved Floater

Floating has increased in popularity in recent years maybe even more than fly fishing in general. Some rivers are getting pretty full, and people are rubbing up against each other more than ever before. As with all other fishing situations, the more of us there are, the more we must watch our manners.

Floating manners are just an extension of the manners discussed in Chapter 5. Give others as much room as you can. The guide has the biggest share of responsibility for this. He must see that



his boat waits its turn in line to be launched, or to get out. He must keep the boat a proper distance from other boats and from waders, so that he and you do as little as possible to interfere with other fishermen.


For example, if you're passing some

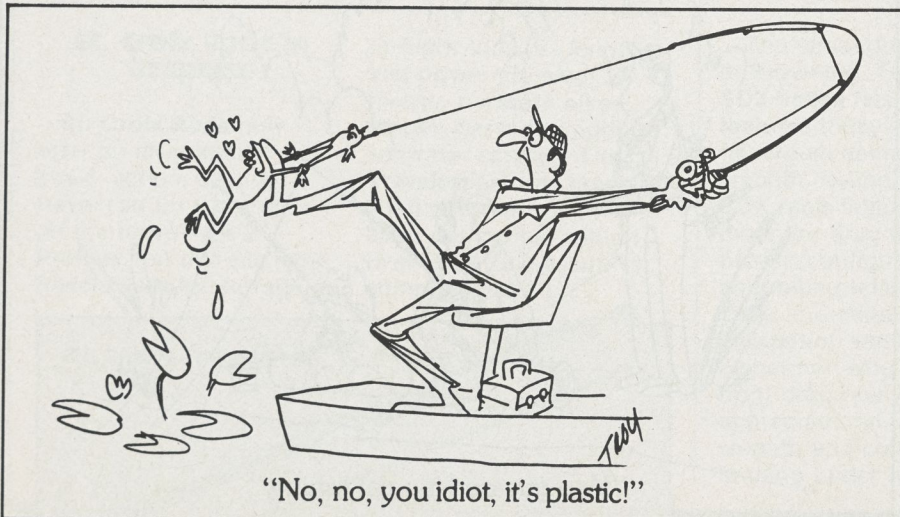
wading fishermen, pass them as far to one side as you can, to avoid crossing over their rising fish or in any way interfering with their casting. If you're about to start floating after beaching the boat, and you see another boat coming down the river, don't rush to jump out in front of it. Let it go by and start out leisurely after it. There is only so much fishing a boat can do, and even if you follow right behind another boat, or several other boats, you're still likely to fish water they've missed. If you approach other fishermen, either wading or fishing from a boat, and it's at all narrow in the stream, stop fishing and get your lines out of the water. It never hurts to over do courtesy a bit, and it may pay off in the fishing later, if they approach you in the same situation.

Remember, this is fishing. It's not competition, and it's not a test of your manhood. If you want to look for fights along the river, bad manners are a good way to find them. You and your companions will have a lot more fun if you just exercise a little common courtesy.

### Conclusion

In mid-October of 1986, as Paul and I were finishing up this book, I asked my son Greg to take us for a day's float to help us organize this chapter. He chose the lower Madison, the last fifteen or so miles above Three Forks, where the river joins the Gallatin and Jefferson to become the Missouri.

The day was a great object lesson in why everyone should try floating, especially with a good guide. Using big weighted flies and casting them directly against the bank, we turned more than 100 fish, hooking at least forty or fifty of them. The excitement of that kind of fishing is increased by having a great guide constantly maneuvering you into position; it's the closest that fly fishing comes to true teamwork. Greg was constantly aware of who was about to be in position for a good case to a likely spot, just as he was looking ahead to see if he should quickly take us to the other shore for some good water. As busy as that, he was still often the first to see a fish following one of our flies even though we were concentrating only on the flies! The opportunity to share that kind of knowledge of the river, to enjoy and benefit from a person who has floated, as Greg has, ten thousand or more miles just like this, is certainly as good a reason to try floating as is the fishing itself. 



# Rainbows

Continued from page 45

Having searched for other waters, we found them in Canada at half the cost of an Alaska lodge. The difference is that British Columbia's provincial government assigns an outfitting area to one, or at most, two outfitters. This assures a true wilderness vacation for the angler without the competition for fishing water so prevalent in Alaska.

In Spatsizi Wilderness Provincial Park, the only fishing outfitter is the Collingwood Brothers, known to all as Ray and Reg. They have been active in the area for nearly twenty years, first as hunting guides, now in fishing as well.

In Spatsizi, there are lakes and streams where one angler can catch 70 to 100 rainbows a day on dry flies. Alaska, on the other hand, has very few hatches of mayflies and little real dry fly fishing.

## The Spatsizi Region

Spatsizi, meaning land of the red goat, is a phenomenal region of 3,000 square miles, a wilderness park in northern British Columbia. The western and southwestern boundaries of the park are Kluayetz Creek, the Klappan and Little Klappan rivers. The Stikine forms the eastern and northern borders. The Stikine, entering the Pacific Ocean at Wrangell, Alaska, rivals the size of the Columbia River. Spatsizi country has two broad physiographic regions, the Spatsizi Plateau—a wide-open, gently rolling upland through which the Stikine passes—and the Skeena Mountains, which dominate the southwestern half of the park. Most dramatic on this side of the park is the jagged ridged Eaglenest Range, topped by 8,250-foot Mount Will. The Indian name, Spatsizi, comes from the color of mountain goats that have rolled in red soils from Spatsizi, or Red Goat Mountain.

The headwaters of the Stikine, just above the Collingwood's lodge on Laslui Lake, flow from glaciers and lakes that are surrounded by craggy tall mountains and alpine valleys. The Eaglenest Range and Spatsizi Plateau are home to the elusive Stone Sheep, mountain goat, Osborn or Woodland Caribou, moose, black and grizzly bear. Laslui is accessible only by float plane over a distance of two hundred miles from the nearest incorporated town, Smithers. It is true wilderness.

Rainbow Trout are the main sport fish here. They average one and half pounds, but there are fish up to four pounds and Lake X has rainbows up to



Collingwood's lodge on Laslui Lake is accessible only by float plane over a distance of 200 miles from the nearest incorporated town. This is wilderness!

20 pounds! If you tire of catching rainbows, you can switch to Arctic Grayling, up to 2 pounds, or Dolly Varden Char, a very aggressive fish that can weight up to 15 pounds. Lake Trout inhabit Cold Fish Lake and have been caught in excess of 20 pounds.

Landing at Laslui Lake, the main camp and wilderness base, we were duly moved by the staggering beauty of the scenery which seemed like a cross between Montana and Alaska. In reality it's all British Columbia. We saw a herd of mountain goats on the grassy slopes as we descended towards the lake. The Collingwoods have nine lakes at the 4,000 foot elevation within a twenty minute flight of Laslui.

The main camp at Laslui has large comfortable log cabins, and in our temporary home the wood stove was humming with a cheerful warmth. Every day after we returned from fishing a different lake or stream, Chris, one of

Ray's and Linda's boys, would light the stove before we arrived. A nice touch. We'd strip off our soggy duds, and prepare a suitable evening libation to celebrate the day's fishing.

Spatsizi is not an area for trophy rainbow fishing, except for Lake X. But, it is the perfect place to go for lots of action. If I had a young son or daughter or a wife just getting into fly fishing, I can think of few areas as productive of fish and as conducive to enthusiasm as this one.

Ray's fishing log gives all the evidence necessary. I read it while at Laslui.

"Mid-June. High water runoff from the snow pack. Four anglers only caught 37 rainbows for the day.

"First part of July unseasonably high runoff, two anglers caught 41 rainbows. Went to Lake X for a half day and they caught 45 rainbows averaging seven pounds each.

"July 19th. not a bad day on Tuaton, for three inexperienced anglers. Caught 71. Then, four anglers caught 130 rainbows the next day."

The totals for the short season and twenty anglers added up to 800 rainbows, about 200 grayling (75 out of one hole), 160 Dolly Varden averaging six to eight pounds.

The Collingwoods have a second camp on the Firesteel River located in Tatlatui park. Anglers usually spend two days at a log cabin complete with cookhouse, sauna, shower and sleeping quarters. During the day they go out in a boat and fish different areas of the Firesteel. The river reminds me of a spring creek. There is an abundance of aquatic grass that is home to all sorts of mayfly nymphs with tremendous hatches of the duns. The rainbows average about a pound to a pound and a half, with some larger ones in the three pound range. It is a perfect place to learn angling skills such as making a drag free drift with a dry fly. Royal Wulffs, or Humpys and all the caddis patterns are as selective as you need be. I saw a lot of size 16 and 18 Baetis mayflies, but generally size 12 and 14 attractor patterns did the trick.



**In the heart of Canada's north country—Spatsizi Wilderness Provincial Park—we'd fish a variety of waters including the incredible Lake X, a treasure trove of big rainbow trout.**

A camp record seventeen pound Dolly was caught at Lake Hotlesklwa, and Lake Tuaton is probably the best fishing hole in Canada for rainbows. When the dry fly action tapers off, Muddler Minnows, Bucktail Coachman, and leech flies will get you back into the action. Other superb lakes are Happy, Ella, Klahawya, and Buckinghorse. Primarily, fishing takes place in the outlets to the lakes or creeks that flow into them.

Fifty air miles north of Laslui is Cold Fish Lake. Mink Creek in particular is without peer. In mid-June, you can catch premature Lake Trout up to 2 pounds, and Arctic Grayling of 2-1/2 pounds. The rainbows, boiling the water in the evening as they rise for mayflies, are extremely strong fish, jumping five to eight times and taking a good bit of line.

Now, let us go back to the day Ray loaded us up in the Stinson for the trip to Lake X, and said "bring a heavy rod." We flew over the mountain ranges of Spatsizi and landed on a long alpine lake. Ray had told me that this was a special fishery. The mountains in that area get more snow than anywhere surrounding and the lake is not always good, so he picks a day when he thinks the fish will be near the shore. He'd told me about a rainbow his friend caught on a lure that weighed 19 pounds and how these fish would scream out backing from a fly reel to the middle of the lake. He doesn't allow anglers to kill any of these special fish, thus ensuring a productive fishery each time he goes there.

After lunch, I rigged up a Winston nine foot fly rod for a seven weight line and put a sinking shooting head on the reel. Ray suggested I use a Muddler

**"First part of July's unseasonably high runoff, two anglers caught 41 rainbows. Went to Lake X for a half day and they caught 45 rainbows averaging seven pounds each."**

Minnow, but I tied on a black and yellow Marabou leech about four inches long. Most of the clients work the shoreline, but I had a very light float tube or belly boat made by Del Canty, and I pumped it up and waded out about fifty feet and started casting towards the shore. The first time I cast I thought the Hi-D line was sinking too



fast. I seemed to have snagged a rock. The rock moved slowly and then started to pull line off the reel. Then the rock turned into a rainbow jumping three feet out of the water and running into the middle of the lake. Again, the rainbow jumped and continued across the lake. There was no stopping him. I glanced at my reel and saw that he had over a hundred yards of 20 pound backing out of the tip. Then I put the butt to him and was able to turn him towards me. Ten minutes and several runs later, I unhooked the barbless leech from a seven pound rainbow.

No sooner had I released him than I made a half roll cast to clear the shooting head from the tip and had another "rock." I've heard of catching fish on every cast, but to catch a fish on a half cast is amazing. These fish jumped and fought better than most steelhead, and ran better than a salt-water bonefish. I lost more than I caught, but brought in and released about 10 in an hour.

On one cast the Marabou Leech was lying on the water. It hadn't sunk and a big swirl engulfed it. I had the fish on for about five minutes before the hook pulled out. Ray told me that he had caught several on large dry flies, but on this particular day there wasn't any hatch so I stayed with the wet fly.

The lake is full of freshwater shrimp (scuds) and snails and on the right day the rainbow move into shore and feed along the shoreline. I've fished for rainbows all my life and I've never seen such strong fish. Ray and I must have caught 20 each before the weather started to sock in and we had to leave. I don't think we worked a total of three hundred yards of the shoreline. One of Ray's guides named Derek caught one bow that weighed sixteen pounds on a muddler. He released it.

You can't always get into Lake X, but weather permitting, usually at least once a week during your stay with the Collingwoods, you'll have a chance to freeze your reel on these magnificent rainbows.

As Ray never fails to emphasize, the fishing in Spatsizi is notable not for trophy fish, but for numbers of lively grayling and rainbows, hefty Dolly Varden and Lake Trout, and an untrammeled wilderness environment, where the maximum eight angling guests

**The lakes are full of freshwater shrimp (scuds) and snails, and the rainbows cruise along the shoreline to gobble 'em.**

virtually have the place all to themselves.

We came away from Spatsizi like people who had nearly died and gone to Heaven. We felt a oneness with earthly magnificence that is hard to communicate. Perhaps it is in the mix of religious emotions that well up when a slight updraught buffets the light aircraft, in the sights of sheep and goats tearing across shale and rock-face, in the mist lowering and rising on Laslui, in the ancient terrain, in the cosy hearthside of the lodge and out-post buildings, where warmth is not something one takes for granted. From the air, the lodge at Laslui is clearly engulfed in the surrounding natural fastness of Spatsizi.

Back at the lodge, come dinnertime, we were lavished with excellent, imaginative food prepared by Linda Collingwood. Anyone who has spent a day in waders, fishing in the outback, can fully appreciate the uplift of good food and good company. Our compliments go to the chef at Laslui.

Coming north to this area of Canada, the average visitor will have little familiarity with the Stikine River and the Spatsizi area. It is a fabled kingdom, still rich with its past and natural heritage.

### Spatsizi History

In one sense, it began with early Tlingit Indians, over two thousand years ago, who came from the interior, and lived in the region carrying on trade, wars, and treaties. As the ages rolled on, others came. In the 19th Century, there were old ships and fabulous characters departing from the docks in Wrangell to cut across the muddy tidal flats and into the main body of the Stikine. They disappeared upriver into a vast sea of mountains which promised gold. There were gold rushes, and thousands of Chinese in backbreaking toil panning the bars for ephemeral fine flour gold. There were dreams of railroads, telegraph lines, and great mines that never happened, and expeditions made by royalty trekking far into wilderness plateaus to take game trophies. This vast interior of northwestern Canada is a certain kind of raw, earthly Heaven, with fish. It's hard to imagine its magnificence until you go there. Ray and Reg Collingwood have the keys to the kingdom.

To contact the Collingwood Brothers, write or call: Spatsizi Wilderness Vacations, P.O. Box 3070, Smithers, British Columbia, Canada VOJ 2NO, (604) 847-9692, (604) 847-9790, Hosts: Ray & Reg.



# Paddle To Contentment

Continued from page 49

tional resident, nesting perhaps in a tree in one country and taking its lunch from a lake in the other.

The Quetico has attracted people for many centuries. The Indians simply lived there. Later, white explorers used its waterways in an attempt to find the Northwest passage. In the 1700's, the Voyageurs, those hardy, free-spirited French Canadian traders passed through the region regularly, taking trade goods further inland and returning with bales of furs. The famous explorer LaVerendrye established trading posts for the French on Basswood



ing this wild essence and seemingly is one up on the U.S. Forest Service which manages the Minnesota side. Not bowing down to whining outfitters who declare that everyone has the right to make a buck from this natural resource, the Quetico permit system allows one-tenth the number of visitors each year as does the BWCAW. This resistance to allowing larger numbers of people into the park is the one point that really marks the difference between the Canadian and U.S. sides of the border.

## On Your Own In the Wilderness

What this means is that you can expect a fair amount of solitude on your canoe trip to the Quetico. On my last trip, during the heaviest use month of August, by carefully selecting our route and destination, we were virtually alone for two weeks. Our destination and base camp was on a large lake, perhaps ten miles in length. We were visited by otters, serenaded by timber wolves, sung to sleep by loons and gorged on walleyes. We caught fish almost at will. Walleyes running three to six pounds could not leave our Rapalas alone. Smallmouth bass also found the fake minnows irresistible,



and Saganaga Lakes around 1731 and through these tons of furs were sent east over the Great Lakes to Montreal.

Although set aside as a park shortly after the turn of this century, loggers managed to secure access to the park's vast white and Norway pine forests. Logging removed the bulk of the region's virgin pine and was only completely discontinued in Quetico as recently as 1971.

Despite all that has gone on here, the Quetico remains wilderness in nature. The most recent visitors come primarily for that reason, to stamp out the mark of their harried existence by immersing themselves in the peaceful surroundings and through the sweat that non-motorized wilderness travel requires. Yes, thankfully, both the BWCAW and the Quetico have been established as roadless, motorless wildernesses. One of the few places left where one stands a better chance of

**Portage trails of varying length link the lakes of the Quetico wilderness. Careful planning takes you through a lot of good fishing and camping areas.**

hearing a timber wolf howl than a discordant sound.

I would venture to guess that most of the region's visitors pack along with them some fishing equipment. Yet if you totaled the number of serious fishing trips made into the interior it would be quite low in comparison to the total number of visitors. Couple that with the fact that because travel is by sweat power, not horsepower, and that access to the wilderness is strictly controlled by permit and you have a wide array of lakes and fish species that almost never see a fisherman or fishing lure. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the government body responsible for managing this wilderness park, does an admirable job at retain-



and large northern pike, up to fifteen pounds (the ones we landed; we had bigger ones up to the canoe, but light walleye gear just isn't made for horsing those big brutes around), forced us to put light steel leaders on all of our lures because of their frequent attacks.

For the sportsman who enjoys roughing it a bit, who doesn't mind a little toil along with the pleasure, the Quetico can be a fishing paradise. If I told you about lakes that in some years probably don't see a fishing lure, about lakes where catching thirty or forty smallmouth bass in a day is not unusual, about spring trips for lake trout just after the blue-black rotting ice gives way to sparkling waves when the lakereels feed voraciously and in great abundance, you may think I'm stretching the truth. I'm not.

It is all there in the Quetico. Work. Sweat. Fish. Bugs. Solitude. Great beauty. There are campsites here that will take your breath away, campsites

## Logging removed the bulk of the region's virgin pine and was only completely discontinued in Quetico as recently as 1971.

nestled in piney forests on sloping granite points jutting far out into the lake. Campsites with spectacular vistas of the pristine lakes. Campsites with more fish than you can catch cruising just within casting range.

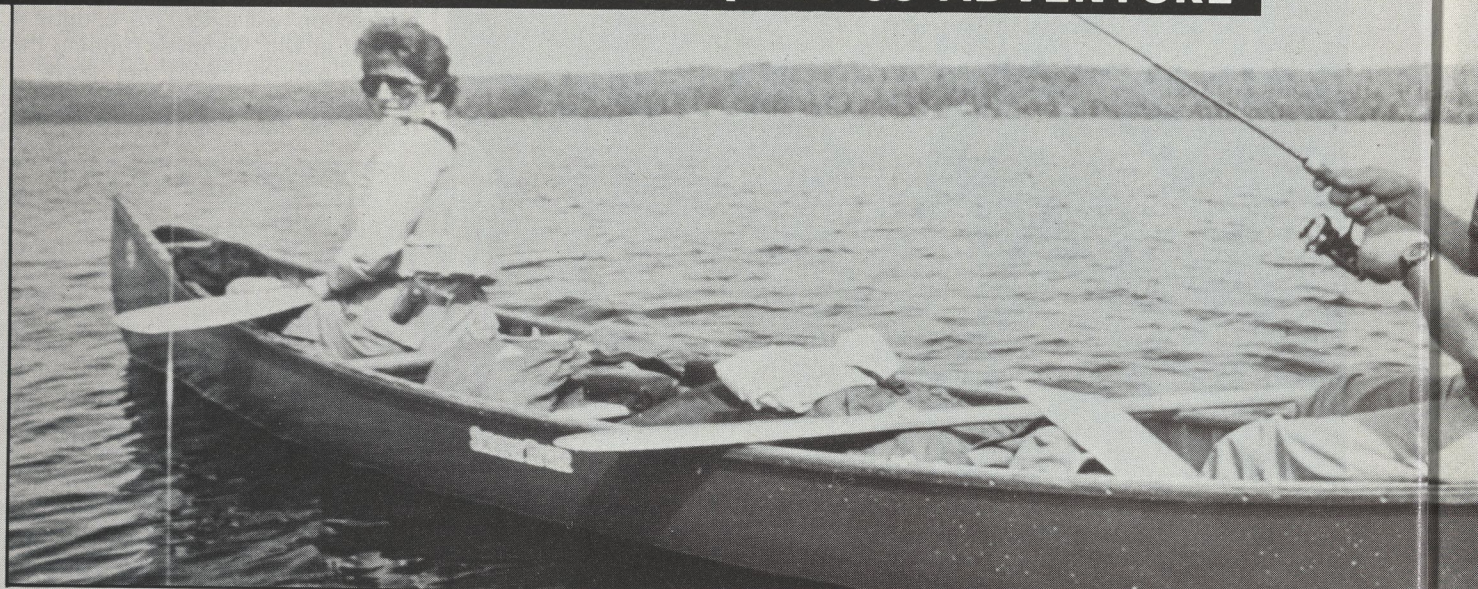
The major game fish species in the Quetico are walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass and lake trout. There are also a few lakes with good large-

mouth bass fishing. There is good to excellent fishing for these species throughout the ice-free part of the year but if you asked me to set up the ideal schedule for a series of fishing trips, here is how I would do it (and have!).

I'd head into the Quetico, selecting a small lake (because it's easier to find the fish), in early May. I'd try to be there as close to ice-out as possible because I'd be seeking the hard-bodied, colorful inland lake trout. For equipment I'd pack my standard medium action spinning gear (these lakereels usually average under five pounds) and a wide selection of Rapala-type lures (the ones with orange backs are deadly) and some spoons and spinners. A few keel sinkers in 1/4 and 3/8 ounce sizes would round things out just in case the lakereels are deeper than I hope but I'd count on catching most of the trout right near the surface by either casting or trolling.

I'd follow that trip with one of the bigger walleye lakes, trying to be up

## PLANNING & ORGANIZING YOUR QUETICO ADVENTURE



**T**o enter the Quetico you must first secure a park permit. They are limited to 75 per day. Your party size is limited to nine and two parties may not camp together or travel together if they exceed the nine total.

Because of the limited amount of permits available it is wise, though not necessary, to make a reservation. Quetico officials prefer you do this by phone using your Visa or Mastercard. There is a \$2.25 charge (Canadian funds) to make the reservation and a \$3.00 per person per day fee to camp in the park. Anglers must have an Ontario fishing license. For more information or to make reservations you can call Park Headquarters at (807) 597-2735.

Officials will ask you the group leader's name, size of your party and the ranger station through which you will make your entry (the six ranger stations are French

Lake, Nym Lake, Beaverhouse Lake, Lac La Croix, Prairie Portage on Basswood Lake and Cache Bay on Saganaga Lake). Permits must be picked up in person by the group leader on the day of your entry. Don't forget that U.S. citizens must also pass through Canadian Customs.

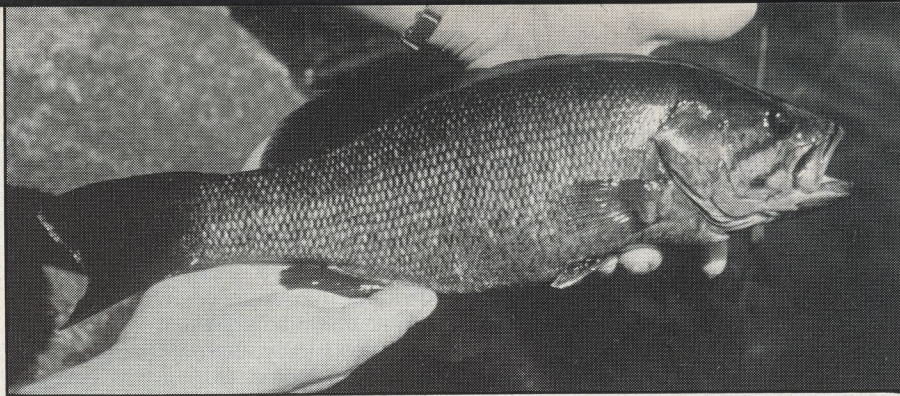
Entry on the north side of the park is by road so you will have already checked in at customs when you crossed into Canada. Many canoeists, however, enter the Quetico by first paddling through the Boundary Waters on the U.S. side. For those entering in this manner there are wilderness customs posts at Sand Point Lake (for entering via Lac La Croix Ranger Station), Prairie Portage and Saganaga Lake.

If you enter from the U.S. (Minnesota) side you must also secure a valid BWCAW permit. These permits are free but a \$5.00

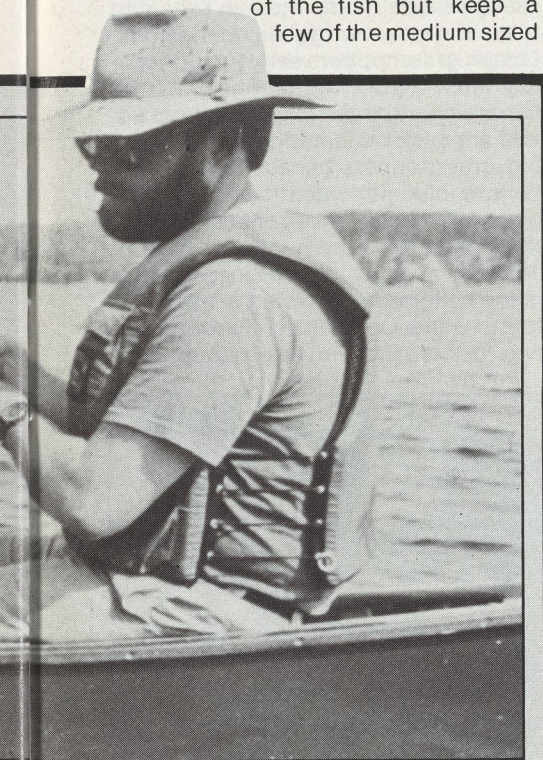
fee is charged to reserve one. No nightly camping fee is charged in the BWCAW. Reservations can be made on the phone by calling (218) 720-5440. Information and reservations can be obtained by writing to the Superior National Forest, Box 338, Duluth, MN 55801. One dollar will buy you a large map of the Superior National Forest which includes the BWCAW. Much of the Quetico is shown on the map as well.

If you have never before travelled the wilderness by canoe it might be wise to go through an outfitter. The gear is specialized and the aid of a good outfitter in arranging your plans and menu can be invaluable. There are many different routes one can take through the canoe country and an outfitter will help you in your selection. An alternate is to select one lake as a destination and set up a base camp, exploring and





there near the last weekend in May. My equipment would be pretty much the same but I'd substitute jigs for the trout spoons and I'd also take with some live bait, probably leeches. The walleyes will be in five or ten feet of water on wind and wave washed reefs and we'd catch them by trolling plugs or anchoring and fishing the leeches on a slip rig of some type. We'd release most of the fish but keep a few of the medium sized



fishing many surrounding lakes. In either case, an outfitter's advice can make your trip much more pleasurable. There are many outfitters from which to choose both in Canada and the U.S.

The hotbed of canoe outfitting in Ontario is Atikokan. For information on these outfitters write to the Atikokan Chamber of Commerce, Box 997B, Atikokan, Ontario, Canada P0T 1C0.

On the U.S. side many outfitters also cater to those entering the Quetico as well as the BWCAW. Ely and Grand Marais Minnesota are home to many fine professional outfitters. You can get more information on the outfitters in these areas by writing to the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely, MN 55731 or to the Tip of the Arrowhead Association, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

ones for dinner. The fresh walleye fillets sizzled over the campfire will make our mouths water and will be one of the most memorable experiences of the trip.

The next expedition would follow fast on the heels of the last. We'd resupply the head into a little small-mouth bass lake I still see in my dreams. A small box of lures consisting mostly of Mepps spinners, Shad-Raps and a few top water plugs such as the Heddon Tiny Torpedo will be stashed in my Duluth pack. The last hours of light would find us casting to rubbly, fallen tree strewn shoreline. We'd try the surface lures first because that is the most fun and at this time of year, about mid-June, we'd toss our lures right up next to the bank and hold on tight. If all goes well my partner and I will have hooked and released nearly three dozen bass, some up to five or six pounds, before dark. We'll return to the campsite with the after-smell of fish on our hands, relishing the odor as we sit before the campfire.

I'd make as many trips during the summer as I could, though as the weather warms up the fishing will taper off (it'll still be damn good though). The last serious fishing trip of the year will be in late August or early September. We'll paddle into a large lake I know of that is filled with many islands and bays. In the channels created by all that twisting shoreline we'll fish for big northern pike. By concentrating on drop-offs and bottle necks, and trolling or throwing stick baits or spinners, we'll battle these toothy critters. Most will be five to eight pounds but we will hook many up to fifteen. One of us might get lucky, like he did two years ago, and land one near twenty-five pounds. Quite a feat, getting that big pike into that little canoe.


### The Fishing Adventure That Calls to the Bold

Anyone intrigued by this description of the Quetico should realize a few things. This is a wilderness area and those entering should be prepared to deal with any and all of the situations that may arise. Travel is strictly by canoe so some experience in canoe



Smallmouths like the one on the left get the nod for sport and action, but walleyes (above) provide the most coveted fillets for supper.

handling will be extremely helpful. This is also a delicate resource and those who visit are duty bound to make their presence unobtrusive and take pains to avoid leaving any sign of their passing. It is a fragile ecosystem and scars left by humans take years to disappear. All trash must be burned or packed out and food stuffs in cans and bottles are not allowed. The few rules imposed on visitors to this fair land are sensible and should be strictly adhered to. Those insensitive slobos who can't abide by the rules or whose camping practices date back to Daniel Boone are too frequent as it is. They should stay at home. Be gentle too with the fishing resource. Keep only what you can use for a meal and carefully return all other fish to the water.

It is evening. You have paddled a good distance today. The Indian pictographs were all that you imagined, the red mysterious paintings giving you an eerie feeling for the agelessness of this land. The fish weren't overly cooperative today but you did manage to catch a few smallmouth bass and a couple of nice walleyes. The ones you kept for dinner were delicious and you savor the plump feeling in your stomach as you sit relaxed around the snapping campfire. The loons are singing again. Tomorrow you'll fish more seriously. Tonight, though, you will sleep the sleep of a thousand dead men. 

# Slabs!

Continued from page 37

## Building.

When Charlie regularly brought heavy stringers of big bluegills to the dock in the middle of the day, I asked if he's show me his secret.

He obliged, and I learned that his method was simple and deadly. Anchoring his boat in 25 feet of water near an offshore reef, he hooked a small garden worm through the collar and weighted the line with a single split-shot. He used ultra-light spinning tackle with four-pound test line.

## Simple Technique

Charlie cast the worm away from the boat, kept the reel bail open until the bait hit bottom, and let the worm sit there for a full minute. If he didn't get a hit, he'd slowly reel the worm in, bouncing it along bottom and giving it a tantalizing twitch every now and then. On practically every cast he'd hook a good bluegill.

I followed his instructions, and began catching fish between a half pound and a pound. When we headed for the

dock, we had 50 lovely bluegills on our stringers.

I thought about Charlie's technique. Who would ever think of anchoring a boat in the middle of a lake at midday and fishing a garden worm on the bottom? It was so simple, but no one ever tried it. Since those days, I've imitated the deep water method elsewhere and caught nice stringers of bluegills. A graph will help locate schools of bluegills, and most fish are close to a sudden structure change, such as the reef that loomed in the middle of the lake.

Bait fishing for bluegills follows tra-

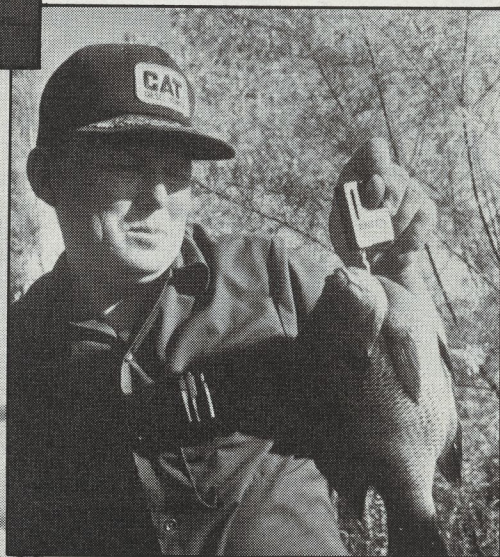
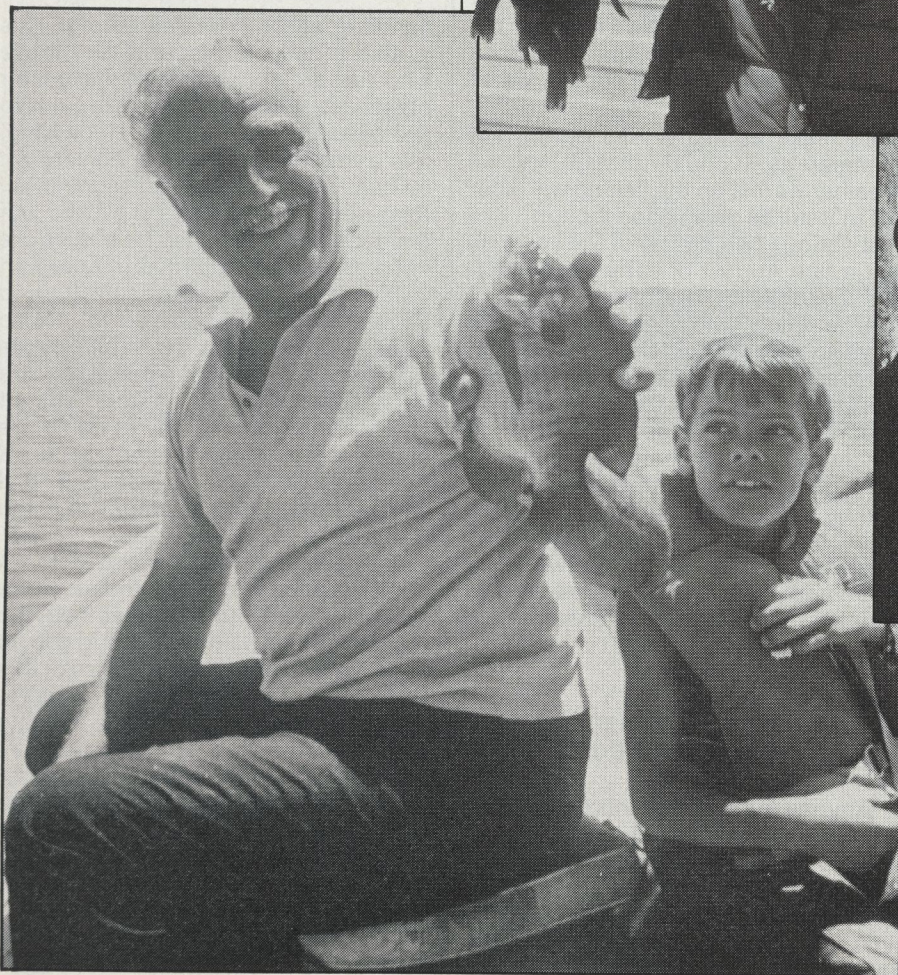
ditional patterns: worms in the north and crickets in the south. Being curious, I've experimented with different baits, and came up with some that seem to attract fish when others won't.

Nightcrawlers are excellent baits, but many anglers impale all the worm or too much of it. A big crawler can be divided into four or five sections. I prefer the tail, because it's slender and wriggles nicely. Garden or red worms are more suited to bluegills because the baits are smaller. Hook the worm once through the collar, allowing it to seem natural. Always bury the hook point entirely in the worm.

The worm is hard to beat, but at times I've seen bluegills brush right by and ignore them. When that happens, I'll try something else, because I believe a bluegill is always in the mood to strike something.

Grasshoppers are superb baits. Bluegills love them, and can't seem to resist the insect wriggling on the hook. I catch grasshoppers early in the morning after a cool night. They're a bit lethargic until the sun warms them up, and are easier to capture. I discard the big grasshoppers because they won't fit in a bluegill's mouth and the fish generally tear them up, or at least steal them as you set the hook.

Another bait that drives bluegills crazy is the hellgrammite, which is the larval form of the Dobson fly. These huge, two to three inch larvae are tough and



**Bluegills like these were caught during the spawning season in May. It's a prime time for large fish.**

rubbery, and one will catch a dozen fish. Bluegills love them, but the baits aren't always readily available. I always caught mine by overturning rocks in small creeks, but now and then they're sold by bait dealers.

Sometimes a bluegill is turned off by a big bait. I try all sorts of grubs and maggots which can be bought at bait

shops or found in various places. Mousees and wax worms, used extensively by ice anglers, can be purchased from commercial dealers who advertise in classified sections of some magazines.

### Popping Bugs

One of the sportiest ways to catch big bluegills is to pursue them with popping bugs on the surface. To entice large fish, get to the lake at daybreak, and cast around weedy banks, lily pads, and shoreline structure. Use a light leader, and don't work the bug too violently. A frequent twitch is usually all it takes.

An all-time favorite artificial used by serious bluegill fishermen is the spider with rubber legs. Almost no fish can look at this tantalizing offering as it sinks without smashing it solidly. I've seen the spider slay bluegills when nothing else seemed to work.

Every type of fly will tempt bluegills, including dries, wets, nymphs, and streamers. When I was in high school I tied original patterns, and caught fish on all of them.

Tiny lures and plugs are effective, whether cast or trolled. I like using very small flatfish or similar plugs, and they're an excellent means of locating a school of fish. Simply troll and small plug at various depths until you catch a big bluegill. Mentally mark the spot, and fish it with bait or any favorite artificial you prefer.

A small, 1/32 ounce or 1/16 ounce jig is another artificial that big bluegills love to murder. I like marabou dressing because it undulates in the water and seems alive. Black is my favorite color, but I'll go to greens and browns if black doesn't do the trick.

Sometimes bluegills will hit a jig lightly or strike it short, missing the hook. If that happens often, I'll sweeten the jig with a tiny piece of worm—just enough to trail a short distance behind the hook.

Bluegills are school fish. You'll seldom see one by itself. They also tend to school in similar size classes, but that's not always the case.

If you can't seem to get away from small fish, change locations and try another part of the lake. Sooner or later you're apt to locate a bunch of good fish.

There are plenty of lakes that don't have big schools of hefty bluegills, but only occasional large fish. You might have to return a dozen or so small fish to the lake before hooking a big one. All you can do is be patient until big fish start showing up. Sometimes the activity of smaller bluegills will draw in bigger fish.

Occasionally I'll stand on a dock and toss out a piece of fresh bread or

dough that I've rolled into a tight ball. Invariably, small bluegills will fight for the morsels, until dozens are swimming about. Sooner or later, big fish will usually appear. That's when the next piece of dough will have a hook imbedded in it. Be sure chumming is legal if you try this.

If you're using bait in fairly deep water and bluegills are suspended, it might be difficult to get the bait to the bottom where bigger fish lurk. Try adding weight to get the bait down quickly. If that doesn't work, try a 1/4 ounce jig in hopes that smaller fish will ignore it.

Don't overlook small farm ponds for bluegills. I've had fantastic fishing in ponds that were less than an acre in size.

You'll either be fishing in clear or colored water. If you can't see in the water, you'll need to fish blind and try

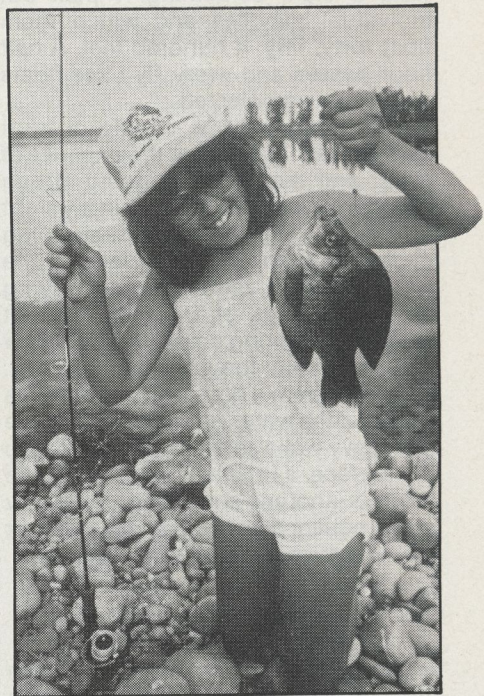
**These youngsters display huge bluegills that any angler would love to catch.**



likely areas. The key is to keep moving until you find good fish. Don't waste your time if an area produces only small bluegills.

One of my favorite methods in clear lakes is to spot fish with the assistance of polaroid eyeglasses. This is espe-

**Most American kids grow up making their fishing debut with a bluegill at the end of the line. The fish are ubiquitous, and are found in all the lower 48 states.**



cially effective when bluegills are schooled in shallow, sunny parts of a lake in the early spring. They bask in the sunshine, and are often easily visible.

When I see them, I select the biggest fish and carefully slip a bait, jig, or fly in front of it. The bluegills are usually hungry after the winter, and will strike anything that looks like food.

IcEFishing for bluegills is one of the deadliest methods of all, but, of course, you can do this only in northern latitudes. For some reason, much larger bluegills are caught through the ice. I use a small teardrop jig baited with a grub on four-pound test line. For best results, fish the bait just off bottom.

No matter which way you fish, you'll have plenty of action when you fish for bluegills. They're great fun for the family, and can't be beat on the table. A batch of floured bluegill fillets fried golden brown in butter ranks as one of the top piscatorial treats you can find.

What's more, you won't need expensive tackle, or drive long distances, and you can usually keep all you want. What more can you ask?



# Best & Brightest

Continued from page 35

Pale Morning Duns, a delicate mayfly the size of a grain of rice, and they are floating downriver like diaphanous little sailboats. My eyes flick everywhere across the surface, looking for a rise, a wak, a sign, something. I pick out individual mayflies and watch them float forty, fifty, a hundred feet. A half hour passes and every fly I see floats downriver unmolested.

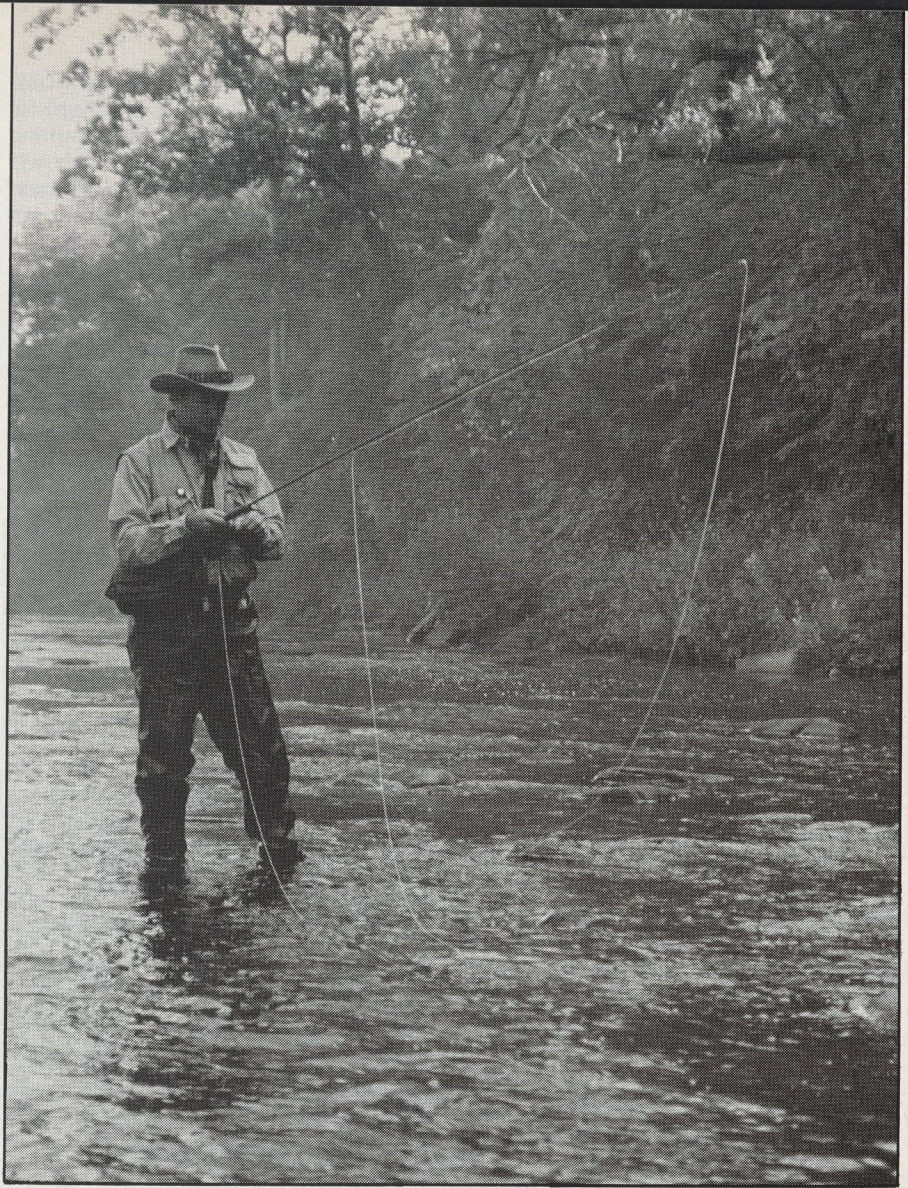
Then, suddenly, a couple of trout start to feed. I scan over the expanse of water and that hatch is going strong enough for a dozen fish within my sight to be causing those heart-stopping circles to form on the surface of the water. There is something electrifying about the rises of trout on the flat surface of a spring creek: they are slow and deliberate; they signify large fish. Here and there a dorsal fin or a tail slips up out of the water, sharklike, and there is a heavy wake as a fish moves close to the surface, a little less wary, and then there is another spreading circle. My quiet patience gives way to an inner mania, which I struggle to suppress.

## The Right Fly

I know the right fly but have fifteen different versions of it in my half dozen fly boxes, each tied with slight variations in color, body material, or structure that could be crucial. In this flat, diamond-clear water, the trout can examine the fly more easily before it comes to lunch than in choppy, even slightly discolored water. The fly I choose is sparsely tied, thorax style.

The trick now is to cast a full sixty or seventy feet, from my sitting or perhaps a kneeling position—so my shadow does not scare the fish—and have the fly alight like thistledown a few feet above the feeding position of one of the trout. Not only will it have to land in the precise spot—try tossing a dime that far with any accuracy—but it will have to land and float so naturally, without drag, that the trout will mistake it for a real Pale Morning Dun. And trout in spring creeks often take fixed feeding positions, so it will have to float within inches of this fish's nose.

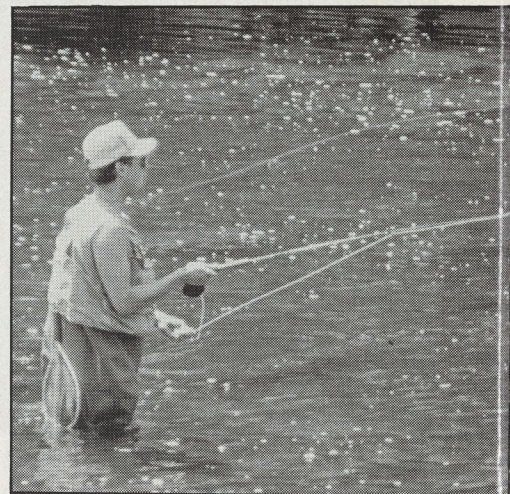
Miraculously, I make the impossible cast the first time. The fly falls perfectly and starts an ever-so-slow float toward the spot where one of the trout has been rising. I wait. The moment is charged with intensity. Someone could kick me in the kidneys, I'd feel nothing. I lean forward, waiting for the speck of



**When trout are rising freely in spring creek waters, the angler may be frustrated by his inability to match the hatch—but never bored! This is the ultimate challenge!**

gold on the slate surface to disappear in the ring of a trout's rise. I mutter to the fly that it should not drag. I wait some more. He'll come to lunch, I think. And then the fly floats merrily over the trout and on down the river.

Why? Why didn't the fish rise? There has to be a reason. Was the fly tied wrong? Was the 6X leader too heavy? Was there imperceptible drag? Had I picked the wrong pattern, made of the wrong materials? Were the fish really taking the *emerging* mayfly and not the adult, as I'd supposed? There are scores of theories about why feeding fish do not take a given fly, about what a trout sees and hence what a fly should look like. I think of what I've read in Vincent Marinaro's *A Modern Dry Fly Code* and *In the Ring of the Rise*, and what Datus Proper says about trout vision in *What the Trout Said*. I remember that I once lay on the bottom of a bathtub with goggles on to get a trout's eye view—but didn't learn much. In



spring creeks the importance of such questions is magnified many times, because of the clarity of the water, its shallowness (which puts what happens on land closer to their lives), the flatness of the surface, the far more critical eye of the trout.

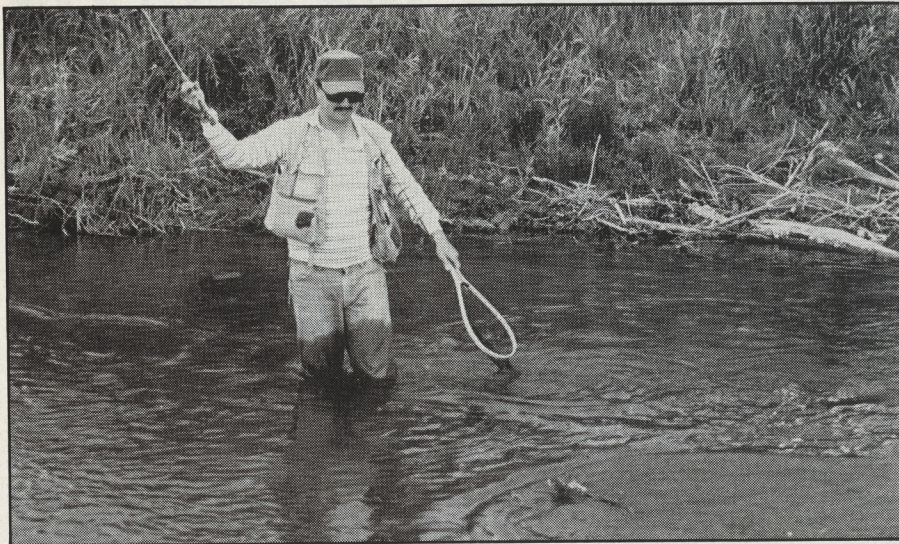
Conventionally tied flies rarely work well on this kind of water. You do better with a no-hackle or a parachute pattern

or the thorax style: with a fly that does not ride so high on the surface but more closely represents in its attitude on the water the attitude of the natural insect. I have seen trout bolt as from a

this) and so does the silhouette of the wings (which conventional hackle may also hide).

An hour later, on my 27th cast, and my ninth change of fly, a positively

boring great brown trout; there are others in Wisconsin and Wyoming and Montana—some small, some sixty or eighty or several hundred feet (like the Henry's Fork) across—that have trout up to ten pounds in them. There are others in Argentina and Chile, which I've only heard of, that have even larger fish. And all the famous British chalkstreams are spring creeks, too, and rivers like the Test, the Itchen, the Kennet, the Kentish Stour, and others all share qualities and rewards with their kin-rivers on other continents.




**There is something electrifying about the rises of trout on the flat surface of a spring creek: they are slow and deliberate; they signify large fish.**

gigantic trout comes directly to my imitation Pale Morning Dun (tied parachute style, with cut wings) and heads directly across the pool like a torpedo, inches beneath the surface, sending up a rush of water, stopping my heart.

The scene is typical. It takes an immense amount of careful thought to fish a spring creek well but the challenge is exhilarating. I have seen or fished such rivers in both the East and West, and once fished a lot on the chalkstreams of England, which are spring creeks. The Letort, near Carlisle, Pennsylvania, is a classic small spring or limestone river—its water temperature and level about the same in all seasons, weedy and difficult and har-

### The Difference

Spring creek fishing is different from fishing a freestone river. The limpid green waters are more delicate, mysterious, than those born of mountain lakes or runoff. The waters, less acidic because of the heavy concentrations of limestone in them, are more fecund, for insects as well as fish—and the fish are often seen feeding throughout the year, even in the coldest weather. Spring creek trout are brightly colored and healthy creatures; the bigger fish will feed on the surface, for tiny flies, while fish that size in freestone rivers often feed only on larger underwater food like minnows or stonefly nymphs or crayfish. Spring creek trout are born paranoids—afraid of the least shadow, the slightest unnatural movement around them. All this makes spring creeks enormously memorable rivers to fish, and perhaps the ultimate fly fishing challenge. 

*Nick Lyons, the president of Nick Lyons Books, has written four books and hundreds of articles on fly fishing.*

werewolf when they saw a conventionally tied fly in such spring creeks. Most flies for this fishing are sparsely tied, with hackle that comes out sideways rather than up and down, with hackle that comes closer to representing a mayfly's legs not a clump of floating grass. Such things as body color are extremely important here, so it must show (conventional hackle obscures

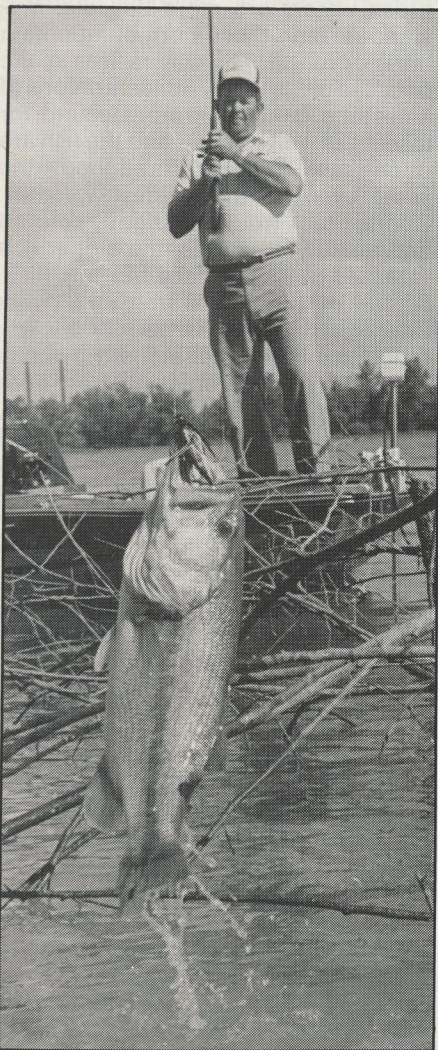


# Bigmouths

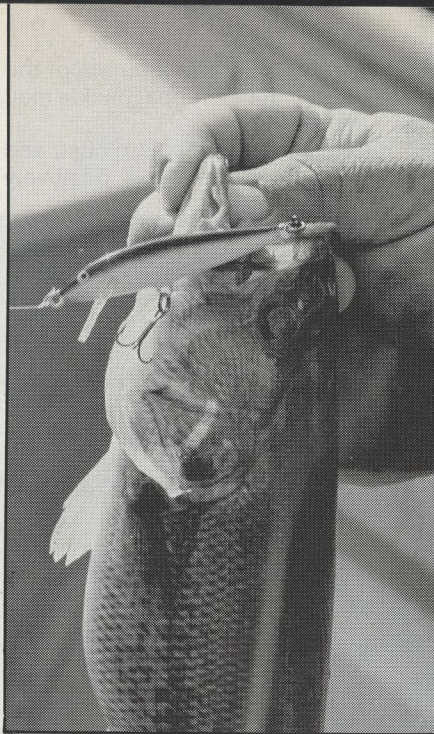
Continued from page 31

by casting to the bank side of a bush on falling water and swimming a lure by the bush, which will probably spook the bass. When the fish hear a bait coming from behind them, where the bait is not supposed to be—they're not going to hit.

"However when the water's rising, the bass generally is looking to the bank because that's where the baitfish are feeding and where the fish will be



**"To consistently catch bass, the angler not only has to pinpoint where the bass's house is but also which room the fish is in."**




**When you see bass feeding on the surface, they're trying to tell you that you should be fishing surface lures.**

eating lunch. Often on rising water, I will cast a worm or a pig and jig up on the bank and drag it into the water to get a bite, because if the bass is close to

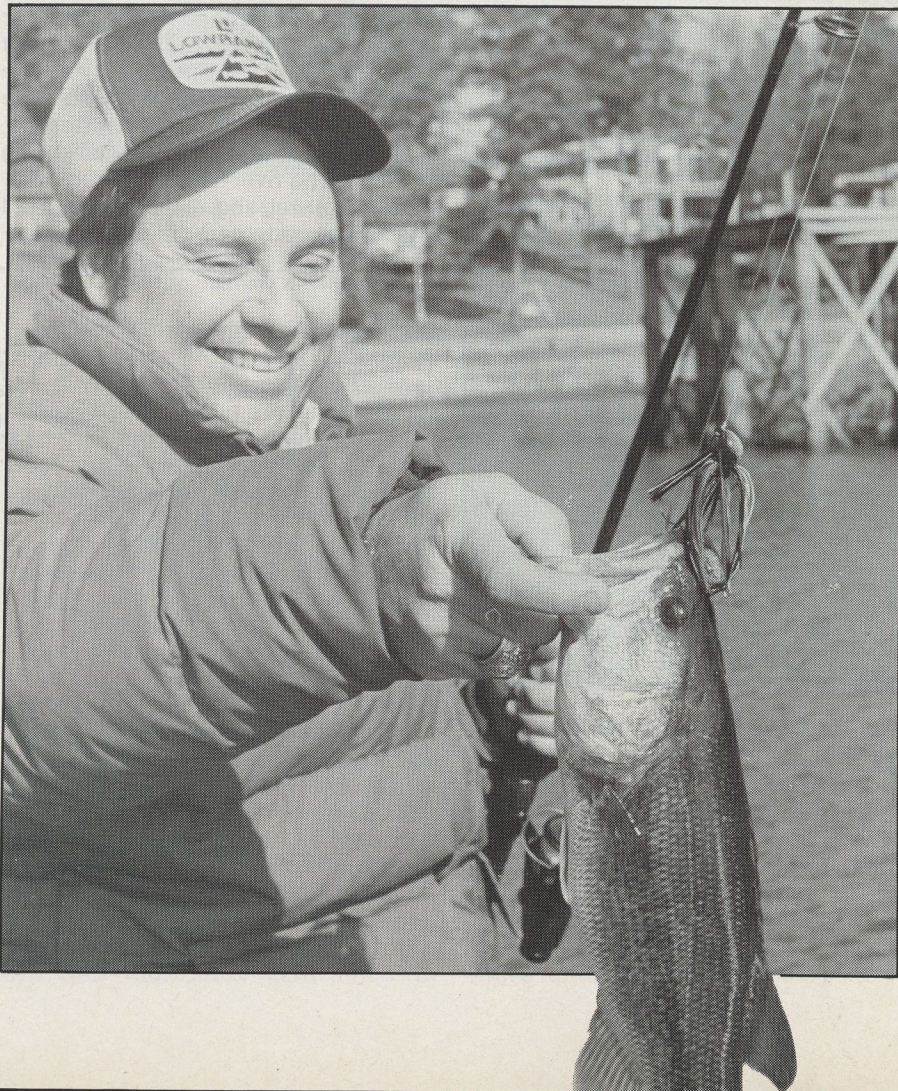
the bank and watching in that direction, the fish will be spooked—if you cast a foot away from the bank. The bass is saying, 'Dummy, you cast on top of me.'

## How to Know How Heavy a Line and/or Lead to Use

"When you're worm fishing, a bass will often tell you that you are using either too heavy a line, or the lead is too heavy," Tommy Martin mentioned. "If a bass picks up a plastic worm and feels either the lead or the line, the fish will often drop the bait. If bass are just pecking the worm, the heavy lead or heavy line may cause the fish to drop the lure. If the angler changes to a lighter lead and line and still doesn't catch the bass that are hitting his lure, he may be angling a bait that's bigger than the bass wants to bite. If that's the case, the sportsman can pinch off a portion of the plastic worm and often get the bass to bite."

Bass tell pro anglers where to fish, how to fish, what baits to use, what moods they're in, and which way they're looking. By knowing what the bass are saying when they talk, the pros catch more fish. My advice is, when bass talk, fishermen should listen. 

**Professional fishermen learn to listen to bass while they're fishing.**



# Trophy Brown Trout

Continued from page 40

do very well with brown trout, but generally this is not the case at all unless very specialized tactics are used. Browns are inherently shy fish and when the water is less than 15 feet deep they spook easily when a boat looms overhead, scattering like a flushing covey of quail. Consequently, those anglers who do elect to troll from small boats find themselves having to use lines as light as four- and six-pound test strung out as far as 150 yards behind the boat and its accompanying engine noise.

Enter the wading fisherman who has several concrete advantages in his favor, the primary ones being *stealth* and *quiet*. When you unobtrusively blend in with your environment it is the rule—not the exception—to do battle with

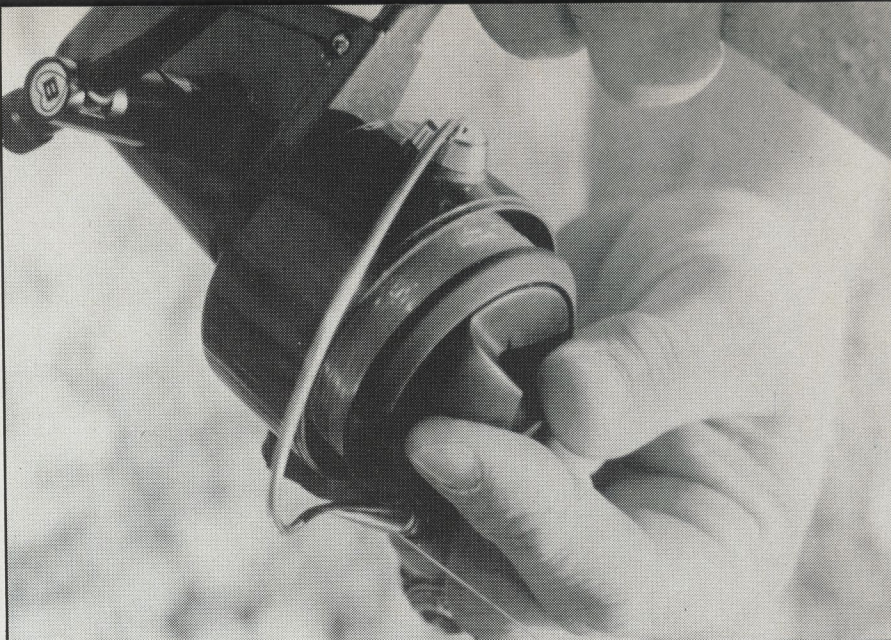


Relatively small heads in proportion to their bodies are indications of the brown trout's near-perfect habitat.

brown trout close-in. Of course, long casts are always recommended. But during the course of retrieving lures I've very frequently seen trout follow my offering almost to the very rod tip before striking. But regardless of whether the jarring strike occurs *this* close, or ten feet away from your waders, any fish which weighs more than five pounds is certain to explode and add several more gray hairs to your scalp.

The season usually begins about one week after ice-out, which may be around late February or not until mid-March, depending upon weather fluctuations. In any event, anglers can periodically check the stomach contents of fish they've taken for evidence of the brown trout's favorite shallow-water forage...smelt.

Paradoxically enough, if you find a



One key to success is using 4- to 6-pound mono and a very light drag setting.

trout's belly packed with smelt, you've hit it a bit too late. This isn't to say you cannot enjoy superb action, just that the best of the best takes place before the smelt enter the shallows to spawn. With a distinct absence of the preferred baitfish, the brown trout are very hungry. And it's axiomatic that hungry trout means fantastic trout fishing!

As the water continues to warm, the trout begin drifting toward deeper water in the bays. Now is when many wading anglers throw their hands up in despair, thinking that boat fishing is mandatory. Not so! Brown trout are notorious night-feeders and even on the warmest days they infiltrate the shallows as soon as the sun lays down behind the evening horizon.

I don't recommend wade-fishing after dark. However, the two or three hour dusk period preceding dark, and the first two hours of dawn the following morning, are well worthwhile.

Wading fishermen score big all day long again beginning with the month of September. Now, and until bitter cold

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**We consistently caught and released hard-fighting fish all afternoon and the trout did indeed average 8 pounds or better. One particular fish tipped the scales at 14 pounds.**

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weather makes fishing downright unpleasant, a majority of the fish are in water less than six feet deep.

In the spring, anglers must be a bit scientifically-minded in their evaluation of weather and water conditions because on a given day the wind direction will determine where a bay's warmest water is to be found. As the wind direction periodically changes from one day to the next, it will rearrange the water temperature, actually pushing it around to various regions of a bay. And the brown trout, rather than stay in a place where the water is getting cold, will follow the warm water. This aspect of brown trout



Experiment with a wide variety of lures to determine what the fish want on a given day.

fishing is extremely important because many Door County bays consist of mammoth expanses of water that cannot be productively tapped on merely a guesswork basis.

Consequently, a small thermometer in your fishing vest may very well be more valuable in catching brown trout



During midsummer, when the fish move slightly offshore into deeper water, small-boat trolling brings action.

is noticeably warmer than the mass of water being pushed offshore.

Once, I was working trout in a 58 degree warm-water mass as it circulated around a bay. Suddenly, the wind changed and began pushing that warm water toward the main lake. However, just about the exact time this occurred, I happened to be in the vicinity of a rushing stream where the incoming water temperature was 62 degrees. At the very mouth of the stream, where it

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**In order to tap into this brown trout bonanza, however, it's first necessary to understand how the fish live and move and feed in the shallow-water ecosystems of the Door County bays.**

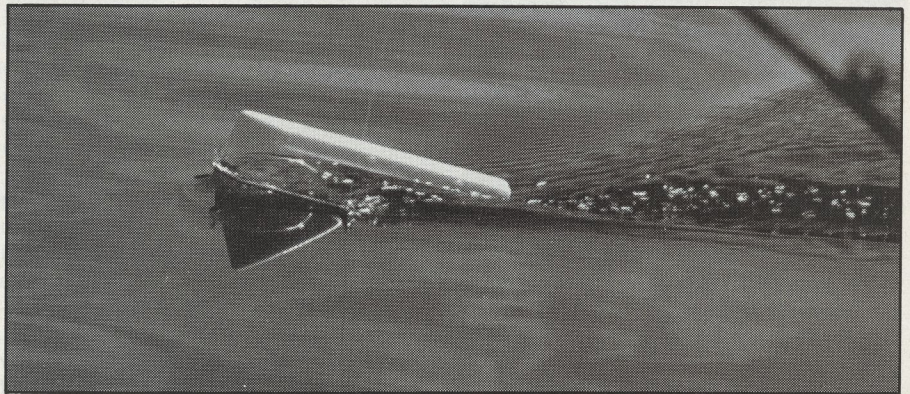
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than any lure you could possibly select.

When evaluating the water temperature in various regions it is not really critical to find a specific temperature. Rather, simply find the *warmest* water the bay has to offer and you'll be within casting range of your quarry; however, keep in mind that tomorrow the picture may be entirely different.

Take, for example, an east-facing bay. For several days, winds out of the southeast may have been pushing warm surface water to the northernmost shore of the bay, so, likely as not, that will be your starting point. But after a day or two of action, let's say the wind direction changes and begins charging down from the northeast. In a matter of brief hours, this may have the effect of slowly pushing that mass of warm northern water in a counterclockwise direction. The fish will follow, meaning that you'll see your best sport along the western bank. If this particular wind direction remains steady for any length of time, two days later may eventually see you methodically working all the way to the southernmost shore, perhaps several miles away from your starting point at the beginning of the week.

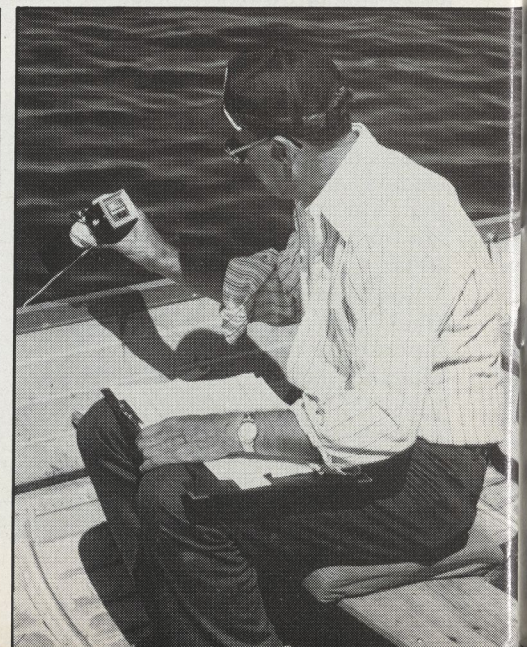
From my experience, when the wind direction is blowing from the main lake into a bay, no matter what specific direction it is coming from, the fishing always is better. Remember it's always



Since brown trout spook when a boat looms overhead, side-planing boards allow lures to be trolled parallel courses as much as 40 yards from the path of the boat.

the surface water that's the warmest and you want to hope for that warm water to be blown into the area which is accessible to wade fishing. Conversely, if the wind is blowing out of the bay toward the main lake, it will push the bay's warm surface water far offshore, in which case the browns will again follow, leaving the shallows pretty much barren of fish activity.

One exception to this rule, in which brown trout will remain in a bay and not follow the mass of warm water far offshore, is in the vicinity of feeder creeks and tributaries dumping into the bay where the water temperature often





entered the bay, there were more brown trout than I would have believed possible.

The fish were in water only 18 inches deep and I could occasionally see their humped backs breaking the surface. They were basking! By wading as quietly as if I were stalking a deer, I made casts around rock formations and patches of reeds. When a 10 pound trout is hooked in water that skinny, I quickly learned, it has no place to go but down and out like a wide receiver, or straight up!

Later in the fall, brown trout habitually follow warm-water masses around a bay the same as they did in the spring. Only now, the water temperature is steadily with each day becoming cooler rather than progressively warming.

## Summer Tactics

Although there are sometimes unusually cool summers in which Door County's waters never become overly warm, in which case a wading angler can see shallow-water action even in July and August, the fish generally begin moving deeper.

Now is when an astute angler should substitute a bottom contour map for his water temperature gauge. What he'll want to look for is a portion of the bay where he can wade to about waist-deep and make long casts into troughs, cuts, depressions, or other places where the water sharply drops to ten to 30 feet deep. Somewhere, off the edge of the



Since most of the bays are shorelined by public land, great fishing is only a short walking distance from your car.

Savvy anglers know that in the bays, brown trout follow their favorite water temperature as the wind direction pushes it in various directions.

drop-off, the trout will have found their preferred temperature range of 60 to 65 degrees.

Of course, when wading, you won't know the exact depth where the magic water temperature prevails. But, you can count your lures down to various levels until you find the particular depth

level at which the trout are holding.

Additionally, be on the alert for any long piers that extend out into the bay because they, too, will allow you to cast into deeper water. Sometimes, the shoreline points guarding the entrances to the bay also have deep water just off their tips.

Although this report has focused primarily upon the superb brown trout angling that can be experienced by wading fishermen, small boats ranging in length from 14 to 18 feet can be the ticket to success during unusually hot summer months when the trout are forced away from the shallows and into deep water. Just remember the spooky nature of the fish and their tendency to race away from the sound or shadow of a boat suddenly passing overhead.

Take the water temperature and if the trout are at least 15 feet deep, or deeper, conventional trolling tactics can be employed. This might mean using downriggers, but often simply putting weights on your line or even flat-line trolling with diving plugs is sufficient.

However, if the fish are shallower than 15 feet, you'll have to troll exceptionally long lines. Most of the local brown trout experts stalwartly claim you'll receive twice as many strikes with four- to six-pound mono than when using ten- or 12-pound, but you'll also experience quite a number of break-offs. The secret to minimizing these lost fish is by setting your reel drag very light and *not* attempting to set the hook when you receive a strike. Most times, the jolt of the trout hitting the lure will be adequate to drive the barbs home.

An increasing number of small-boat trollers are also relying upon skis or trolling boards such as the Red Rover and Yellow Bird. These are planing devices which veer out sharply away from the boat so that lures can be trolled parallel to the craft but as much as 40 yards to either side. Strikes are indicated by a little flag popping up, upon which the line is simultaneously released so you can battle your quarry without the resistance of the board. After the fish is landed, the trolling board is retrieved and re-attached to the line.

## Tackle Tricks

On any given day, a wide variety of spoons, balsa minnows, or wobbling plugs may account for Door County brown trout. But the undisputed favorite lure among both the trout and the anglers who seek them is a 1/2-ounce blue and silver Little Cleo spoon. Sometimes, the browns will take absolutely nothing else.

As evidence of the popularity of this particular lure on Lake Michigan trout,

Ludington tackleshop owner and outdoor writer John Gleason said he once sold 185 of the spoons in a mere two-day period!

Due to its weight and compact body size, the Little Cleo is especially well-suited to the wading angler who needs to reach out long distances with his casts. When using medium-light spinning gear and no more than six-pound test line, these lures seemingly fly forever. With a full one-ounce spoon, in fact, it is not difficult to cast 100 yards.


However, brown trout can be fickle and if they're not interested in Cleos you'll want to experiment. I like Krocodile spoons and Sugar Spoons, but slim-minnow plugs such as the Rapala, Rebel, and Red Fin, and wobbling plugs such as the Flatfish and Tadpolly also fare well. The problem with some of these lures is the lightweight, wind-catching enigma they pose, which makes them suitable only when the trout are extremely shallow and you are stalking individual fish you can actually see or are casting short distances to visible cover such as boulder-reefs or reeds. Ditto for the popular line of Mepp's spinners. Still other lures such as the wafer-thin flutter spoons by companies such as Luhr Jensen, Les Davis and Daredevil should be reserved exclusively for trolling.

Probably the most exciting brown trout fishing is when a wading angler has fish surface-rolling all around him. In most cases the trout are chasing down baitfish. Cast ten feet ahead of the direction the trout are traveling, then wiggle your rod tip to impart the spasmodic, fluttering action of a crippled forage fish and you may be rewarded with a jarring strike.

Other times, when trolling, it is equally exciting to see entire schools of trout splashing and porpoising across the surface. Literally hundreds of trout at times gather in wolf packs to surround a baitfish school, force it to the surface and then charge into it on a feeding frenzy.

It is not unusual to see such surface carnage from a mile away, whereupon anglers who have spotted the action with binoculars then race to the scene to present lures.

However, you'll ruin everything if you troll right through the feeding melee. Instead, troll the outermost perimeter of the feeding action and steer your craft in an erratic zigzag manner. Or, as in jump-fishing for bass or stripers, remain a cautious distance away and make long casts.

In whatever way you approach the sport, Door County's bay fishing is now reputed to be the finest brown trout angling anywhere, bar none. If you own a pair of chest waders and a spinning rod, there simply is no excuse for not enjoying your share of the action. 

## INTO THE BACKING

# TAKE A GROWNUP FISHING

By Gene Hill

**W**e've got a celebration day called "Take a Kid Fishing." Not a bad idea, but to my way of thinking, not nearly as good as a day set aside for "Take a Grownup Fishing." Kids have enough as it is: ten-speed bikes, motorcycles, their own rooms, understanding parents, designer jeans.

Grownups need someone to talk to besides people their own age so they can learn about the real world. They ought to have someone to row the boat or run the motor, younger hands to tie knots and eyes to read the fine print.

I think it would be an unforgettable day for a kid to take some semi-forgotten man or woman out for a day every so often. The kid would get a thrill from listening to someone who didn't say "you know" every other word. He might even learn something about ancient history—listen enthralled to stories about the dark ages when you had to learn how to thumb a bait casting reel, use real worms that didn't (for all I know) taste and smell like anise and vanilla or strawberry. What kid wouldn't thrill to reminiscences of wood boats and oars, or be charmed to use a rod made of bamboo or steel, just to see what hardships some of us used to endure?

Youngsters need someone to look after, to give them a purpose as well as a good glimpse into the future. I don't see any harm in discovering or at least giving some thought to the fact that you won't be young forever. Kids ought to appreciate that we've had to learn to whistle two or three times. The first time was with a scattering of teeth, the second was with a full set of nature's own, and then, due to the ravages of time and chewing tobacco, back to a scattering

Kids today spend a lot of time in school learning "arts and crafts." They could teach us what they've learned about whittling. Nobody taught me

how not to cut myself—I learned the hard, bloody way.

I seem to remember a time before every town in the country had pedestrian lights, when a good Scout tied a knot in his kerchief if he had the luck to be able to help someone across the street. I, for one, know plenty of streams where I'd welcome a little help getting across. In turn I'd be delighted to teach a strapping youngster how to chew tobacco; it's a lot more involved than sugarless gum and it would be something useful to aggravate his parents besides playing his stereo at peak volume.

There is a lot of opportunity here for a kid to sort of adopt an older person. Perhaps even a parent, if there's no one else handy. You can ask anyone why he should take a kid fishing and he'll give you a dozen good reasons—probably none of which include really teaching someone how to fish. You ask him if it wouldn't be a good idea for a kid to go out of his way and take someone else fishing, and you'd be lucky if you get more than a stare.

I'm not an anthropologist but I'd bet that there are ten cultures or peoples that are devoted to their children for every one where the middle-aged and older are cared for with more than a desultory attitude. As the politicians are fond of saying, maybe "it's time for a change."

Of course you realize by now that I'm not being very serious. But I am a *little* sincere. I know a lot of parents who would give a great deal to have one of the sprouts off the family tree really want to spend a day outdoors with the people who bore and raised him. I know we have to wait until the children pass the age where they're convinced that their parents are ignorant and uncultured, but that will eventually happen; having children of their own does a lot to hasten the process.

I've been lucky enough to have had a guide who was close to eighty on two or three occasions and I class those

times as some of the most pleasant and informative I've ever had. Men with this kind of seasoning are almost always patient, knowledgeable, kind, and understanding. They are living encyclopedias and usually pretty witty and wise to boot. Being with a man of this depth and character is as good a reason to spend a day out fishing as any that I know.

I believe it was Shaw who said something to the effect that "Youth is such a wonderful thing, it is a crime to waste it on children." Well, a lot of it isn't wasted on children, since a lot of us believe that youth can be a glorious state of mind that has little or nothing to do with calendar years. Wouldn't it be a nice thing if some of the worried "young" might come to learn that?

High among my personal regrets are the times when I

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**"There is a lot of opportunity here for a kid to sort of adopt an older person. Perhaps even a parent, if there's no one else handy."**


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should have and could have gone a little bit out of my way and taken an old, old friend along for a day of fishing—and high among the things that make me feel good about myself are the times when I've done just that. Not in the idea of "Christian charity" either, but just plain good and enjoyable company, with more than the usual laughs and "reasons for just being there."

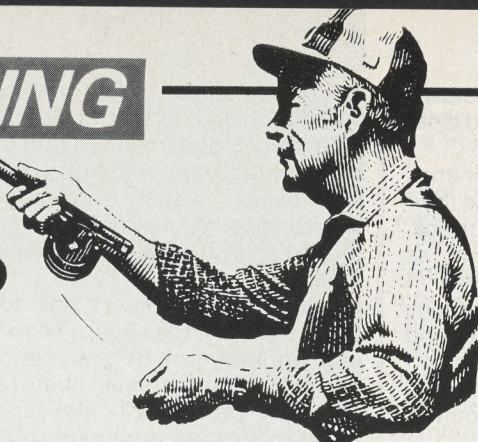
A good friend of mine in Texas started a movement a good many years ago, called Operation Orphan. And it's just what it sounds like. A group of men and women take children

from the local orphanages on hunting and fishing outings. I know that they all have a marvelous time; it was a wonderful idea and it has done a lot of good for everyone involved. I don't know what the reverse term would be for older and neglected people, but they're "orphans" too in a very real sense. This is perhaps even more tragic in a way because they knew and gave what they could and now when they need it most, they have no one who remembers what they so much loved to do.

I like few things better than fishing with a youngster, but I know that I'm a little selfish, because I'm the one who is usually having the most fun. Unfortunately it isn't typical, but I remember a man, who happened to run one of our biggest tackle companies, trout fishing along one of the better Eastern streams. He'd done fairly well and at noon was sitting watching for any activity on the water, enjoying his lunch and just taking things easy when a boy of about ten or so came along and started fishing. The man watched him struggle with his cheap and heavy telescoping rod for a while and then called him over for a chat. The kid's eyes went immediately to the man's tackle—a fine bamboo rod, Hardy reel, the works—as any kid might say. The two chatted about fishing until the company president had a brilliant idea. He asked the young man if he'd ever used a fine rod. The boy said that he hadn't, but some day he sure would like to. The man said to take his for a while since he was tired and wanted to rest. The boy was the picture of delight as he waded out into the stream and started to cast. The president watched him for a while, remembering another boy from another time, then wrote a note and placed it on his fly box where the boy would find it and very quietly walked out to the road, got in his car and drove away.

Come warm weather, I'm going to take a kid fishing; I hope you do too. But nothing would make me happier than to look across the cove or down the stream and see a young one help an old one remember what it was like to be young in Springtime. 

(Excerpted from the book, "A Listening Walk," published by Winchester Press and copyrighted by Gene Hill. Reprinted by permission.)

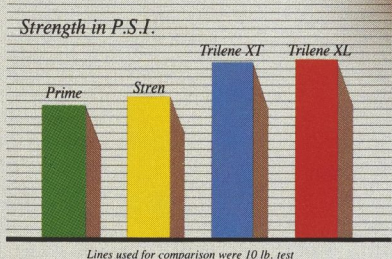


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