CATFISH NOW! DIGITAL MAGAZINE

December 2017 - Issue #15



Catfish Kids Share the Passion

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Front Cover:
Cooper Jackson was fishing with his dad Rusty on the Mississippi River when he caught this nice blue.
Ron Presley Photo

Catfish Connections



December is the month of visiting and enjoying family, friends and especially children. Building a lifetime of memories during this blessed season and special times fishing. Based on this theme, we thought it would be a fit to dedicate the December CatfishNow edition to kids.

Growing up in the boot hill of Missouri, my dad and especially my grandmother took my brother and I fishing frequently. There were not a lot of lakes that we could access from the shorelines as we did not have a boat, so we would fish all the swamps, Mississippi River bottoms, streams and creeks to catch whatever would bite.

Armed with our cane poles, tied with nylon string and stout hooks, using spark plugs as weights, and big bobbers we could see for a mile it would seem. We would fish for catfish (especially bullheads), bowfin, etc. Anything edible would come home with us in washtubs full of water for many meals to come.

Sometimes we would get a chance to fish with a Zebco reel and rod or the old Shakespeare reels with fiberglass rods. We would use hand hammered weights and leaders strong enough to catch any critter swimming and we did.

Our bait was dependent on the time of the year. We would seine crawfish in ditches, dig worms in the river bottoms, pick caterpillars from trees, use chicken livers and stink bait, and if we could afford it, buy a few minnows. The whole process was simple, fun and one I will never forget.

Those memories will carry me to my next life and keep me focused. When I became an adult, and after my grandmother's passing, I learned that she had to find a hobby after the passing of my dad's brother at the end of WWII aboard a naval ship. The sport of fishing and my brother and I were the stress relievers for her pain. Fishing healed her wounds.

If fishing and family together can heal all the wounds we suffer today, then I say it is very relevant and required that future generations have the opportunities and abilities to do so.

I pray that our magazine will contribute to the abilities needed to enjoy the happiness and serenity that fishing provides.

God Bless,

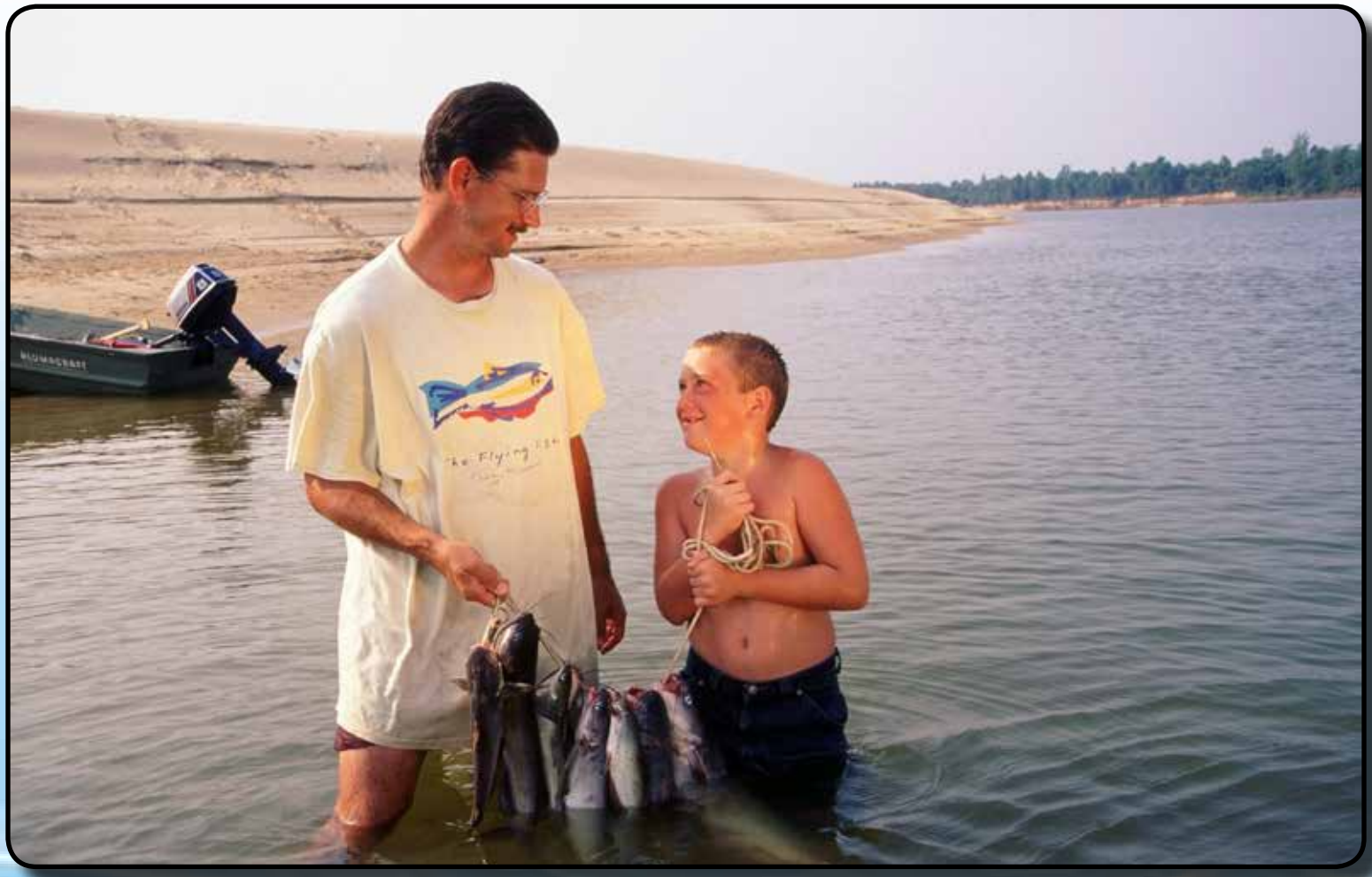
Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher

Story and photos by
Keith "Catfish" Sutton

BELOW THE SURFACE

8 Ways to Make Family Catfishing Trips Unforgettable for Kids

Fishing excursions with children should be about more than just catching fish.



A catfishing trip with Dad or Mom can be great fun, especially if the adult lets the child do the fishing while he or she assists.

It's funny the things we remember.

When I was 10 years old, my grandmother took me, my younger sister and two young cousins on a fishing trip that remains vivid in my mind even after 50 years.

It was just a day trip, but my grandmother spoke of visiting Uncle Pat's catfish pond several days prior to the actual event. Our anticipation built each time she mentioned it.

"All of you are sure to catch your biggest fish ever," she said. "Of course, you have to

land them first, and that won't be easy. Some of them are huge!"

When it was time to go, each of us was given two fully rigged cane poles of our very own. We stuck them out the windows of my grandmother's Ford Falcon and off we went to the kids-only fishing pond Uncle Pat had stocked with hundreds of catfish up to 25 pounds.

My grandmother and Uncle Pat helped us bait our hooks with worms and chicken liver and showed us how to flip our fishing rigs to the best spots. Then the action began.

As soon as our bobbers hit the water, they shot out of sight. All four of us kids hooked fish almost instantly, and no doubt our squeals of delight could be heard back in town. We walked backward up the bank to drag each whiskered fish out of the water. Then the adults would help us unhook our catch, rebait our hook and watch, smiling, as we went at it again.

None of the catfish we landed were true monsters, but several of the biggest we hooked broke the flimsy cane poles we were fishing with. When we finally left the pond that afternoon, each of us had caught dozens weighing 2 to 10 pounds, all of which were cleaned, cooked and served at a home fish fry that weekend.

I did not realize it then, but my grandmother and Uncle Pat planned that fishing trip for one reason. It wasn't about catching fish to eat or seeing who could catch the biggest or most. It was about making memories. They simply wanted to enjoy a day with us we would never forget.

They achieved that goal. I'm 61 years old now, and I remember that trip like it was yesterday.

I have six sons, all grown now. As they grew from toddlers to young men, I tried to



A child with his own fishing pole is a happy child. No need for expensive tackle. A cane pole or kid's fishing combo will work just fine.

follow my grandmother's example. Sometimes we'd spend a few hours fishing on local farm ponds or lakes. Other times we'd plan week-long camping adventures or out-of-state journeys to fun fishing destinations. Always, though, I planned these trips with the same goal my grandmother and Uncle Pat had when they took us to that pond: spending quality time together none of us would forget. What I learned while doing this can help you, too, plan some unforgettable family catfishing trips.

Just for Kids

I was in my early twenties when my first son, Josh, was born. When I started taking him fishing with me at age six, we both would fish, and I would get frustrated that I always had to stop fishing myself to bait hooks, untangle lines and remove fish. Unfortunately for young Josh, I hadn't yet learned that a catfishing trip with kids should be just for kids. Adults shouldn't fish. They should devote their time helping the youngsters be successful. My grandmother and Uncle Pat knew this. Now I do, too.

Stay Close

When children are young, it's best to fish close to home if possible. Visit a local lake, stream or pond so driving time doesn't exceed fishing time. After all, it's fishing, not riding, from which memories are made.

"It wasn't about catching fish to eat or seeing who could catch the biggest or most. It was about making memories."

Keep It Short

It's also best not to fish more than an hour or two the first few times you take your kids. A youngster's attention span is short. Fishing is fun for a while, but don't test your children's patience, and yours, by spending long hours on the water. Keep it short. Make it fun.

Tackle of Their Own

If it's not beyond your means, give each of your children a fishing outfit of their own. Rod and reel combos made especially for youths usually are inexpensive, but even a cane pole will be cherished. It also costs very little to prepare a small tackle box with their own hooks, bobbers, sinkers and other tackle.

Catch Your Own Bait

You can buy fish bait, but letting kids catch their own is much more fun. In fact, bait catching can be as memorable as fishing! Dig worms. Catch grasshoppers. Seine some minnows. Grab some crawdads. All are common, easily caught, easily kept and irresistible to catfish and other sportfish.

When catfish are the quarry, your kids can make bait at home. Have them cut some hot dogs in pieces about a half inch thick. Put them in a zip-seal plastic bag, add a tablespoon of minced garlic and a packet of unsweetened strawberry Kool-Aid. Then cover with water, shake to mix and refrigerate until you go fishing. Cats love these dogs!

Safety First

Pack a life jacket for everyone, including grownups. Start early teaching your kids the importance of wearing a personal flotation device each and every time they're on the

Good Eats

When your day for fishing arrives, be sure you pack plenty of snacks, sandwiches and cold drinks for your youngsters. Eating outdoors can be a fun part of the fishing experience. For a real treat, take along a camp stove or campfire grill, a skillet, some cooking oil, some cornmeal and some salt and pepper and cook a shore lunch of fresh fish right by the water.



Fishing is just one facet of a memorable family fishing trip. Be sure to include time for other activities as well, like swimming, catching critters, wildlife watching and camp cooking.

water. And be sure to wear yours, too. Parents should set the example.

Swimming, Frogs and Skipping Stones

One important lesson I had to learn when fishing with my sons was that a fishing trip shouldn't be just about fishing. When you put children in an outdoor environment, they quickly become distracted by other fun things to do. Don't discourage their explorations. Make them part of the overall experience. Go swimming. Skip stones. Take a hike. Look for shells. Catch some frogs, crawdads or other critters. Plan plenty of time for activities besides fishing, and your trip will be more memorable.

Say Cheese

As I write this, my sons are home visiting for the holidays. Jared asked to see photos from a fishing trip where a friend helped him catch some big cats. His brothers joined us to look at them, and soon we were pulling up photos from other fishing adventures. Seeing pictures taken years ago while we enjoyed those unforgettable days on the water brought back good memories.

On each trip, be sure to shoot lots of photos or video. Worry not that the pictures aren't perfect or the video is unsteady. Keep your camera running anyway. Someday, when they're as old as you, your children will sit down and look at them, and as memories of the good times come back, they'll smile. That's as much as any of us can hope for.

- Keith "Catfish" Sutton

Catfish Basics #029

Five Basic Fishing Tips
Cooper Jackson



Ten-year-old Cooper Jackson is this month's cover boy. He is lucky enough to have a catfishing father, Rusty Jackson, to take him fishing. Evidently, he has been paying attention on the river because he has some tips for other youngsters.

1. Fishing is a lot like school. You need to do your homework to find fish because catching is the easy part.
2. Don't use sissy rods when trying to catch big catfish. They will break your stuff!
3. Don't miss them in the net, they could come off if they aren't hooked good.
4. Make sure they are really good and alive before you release them.
5. And remember, if they are not biting, you can always start using the bathroom or open some candy to eat - that will make them bite for sure!

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Catfish Profiles in Passion: Nicholas Lyon

by Ron Presley

What isn't there to love about cat fishing

Nicholas Lyon compares his passion for fishing to Christmas morning. It's exciting, it's uplifting, and it's fulfilling. Fishing in general is an adrenalin rush for him, but there's something special about catfish.

"I would describe my passion for catfishing as being like Christmas morning every time I go out to fish," offered Nick. "I love everything about it; the work that I have to do to get my rod out on the water; getting the rig ready; catching bait, and learning new ways to maybe catch a catfish."

"I enjoy fishing in general," continued Nick. "But the more I got into it the more I began to target the fish I was trying to catch. There is something special about catfishing. I just fell in love with the fight."

Nick fished at different ponds and lakes with his dad when growing up. But two summers ago, he and his family were at Conneaut Park. His stepbrother wanted to go fish at the lake and there was a boy about Nick's age there fishing.

"He had lost his mother," recalled Nick. "I saw just how much fishing had helped him and there was something that just clicked. I was so curious as to what was under the surface. From then on, I was literally hooked. I mostly fish in the Ohio and Beaver Rivers. Those are the easiest places for my mom to take me to. But I want to travel to other places and see what huge fish I can catch."

Just like opening a present on Christmas morning, anglers never know what the next bite will bring. That is part of the attraction for Nick.

"I get my passion from not knowing what is on the end of my rod. I love the feeling I get when I am fighting a fish and bring it in successfully, and of course unharmed."



Joe Granata took Nick out when he caught his personal best. A nice flathead.

The soon to be thirteen-year-old New Brighton, PA resident is also getting his feet wet in tournament fishing. Competitive anglers will likely see more of him in the future. He is certainly a good example of the kind of youth that the catfish community needs to recruit.

"I just started tournament fishing recently," said Nick. "My first tournament was with Eric Tustin and Loui Helwig. The second one was on Oct. 28 with Cody Munyon. I did go up to Ohio and help Eric Tustin with

his tournament. I helped bring in the fish for weigh-ins and took them back to the river to release them."

Nick's mom, Megan Lyon revealed how Nick caught the fever for catfish. It relates to a head injury and a fishing video.

"After Nick received his third concussion, his dad and I decided he could not play hockey anymore," recalled Megan. "He found himself bouncing from one thing to another. He tried magic, rubrics cubes, and fishing. But with fishing something stuck!"

"He became obsessed with learning everything he could about bass fishing," continued Megan. "And then it went to carp. Then he watched a Steve Douglas video and that was it. He was hooked on catfish."

Nick recognizes Douglas and several more real-time catfish anglers among those that he respects and looks up to.

"I want to be a household name in the cat fishing community," declared Nick. "I have had several people influence me. That little boy who was fishing at the lake, whom just had lost his mom; my dad who took me out when I was little; and my step brother. But the anglers I look up too are Steve Douglas, Kris Flores, Zakk Royce, Paul Blackwell, Dieter Melhorn, and anglers like that. They have paved the way to changing how we look at catfishing, they are innovators, they are go getters."

Given the role models he mentions, it's no wonder how he feels about conservation and the catfish resource.

"My philosophy on conservation is this," said Nick. "I whole heartedly believe in CPR. I would never dream of pulling these beautiful catfish from the river! I want to ensure that someday when I have kids, I can take them catfishing and share my passion with them. If we all kept and killed the big catfish, that have taken years to grow, there wouldn't be any left to fish for. To me that is just incredibly selfish. Taking them all will also affect the ecosystem within the water. We need to leave them in their natural environment."

"…there was something that just clicked."



The battle can be from the shore or boat. Nick loves the fight of big catfish.

"I definitely think we need to ensure clean waters to ensure the health of all fish," continued Nick.

"And for pay lakes, I think they are just wrong," opinioned Nick. You are putting these huge fish in a not so favorable environment and they become diseased. I don't know why people who actually fish these can't fish like the rest of us. It's not called catching it's called fishing. So, to go and pay to catch a 'big' fish is just wrong."

When ask to describe his best day fishing, Nicks response went straight to family values and sharing experiences. With respect to his worst day, he says there is no such thing.

"A scenario of my best day fishing would have to be, hands down, fishing with my mom. The icing on the cake is that she can watch



Nick is a hands-on angler. He is shown here pouring some lead weights.

me reel in my personal best."

"If I'm being completely honest I don't think there is a worst-case scenario for fishing," replied Nick. "There are conditions that may not be so favorable, like a cold, rainy day. Or, a super-hot day when you don't catch anything. But, how can there be a worst-case scenario if I'm doing what I love?"

"I have fished regularly for about two years," explained Nick. "I have been seriously addicted for about 8 months. There is no time limit for fishing. It is something that I will be doing for the rest of my life."

"I love it because I am good at it; I love it because I can be alone with my thoughts and just focus on that moment; I love it because a severe concussion has kept me from playing hockey anymore; Fishing is now my new hockey without the risk of getting hurt; I love it because it's something I can teach my kids someday; I love it because it allows me and my mom to spend time together."

"What isn't there to love about fishing?"



Nick is a firm believer in saving the resource for the next generation. He is shown here practicing CPR on a nice flattie.

- Ron Presley

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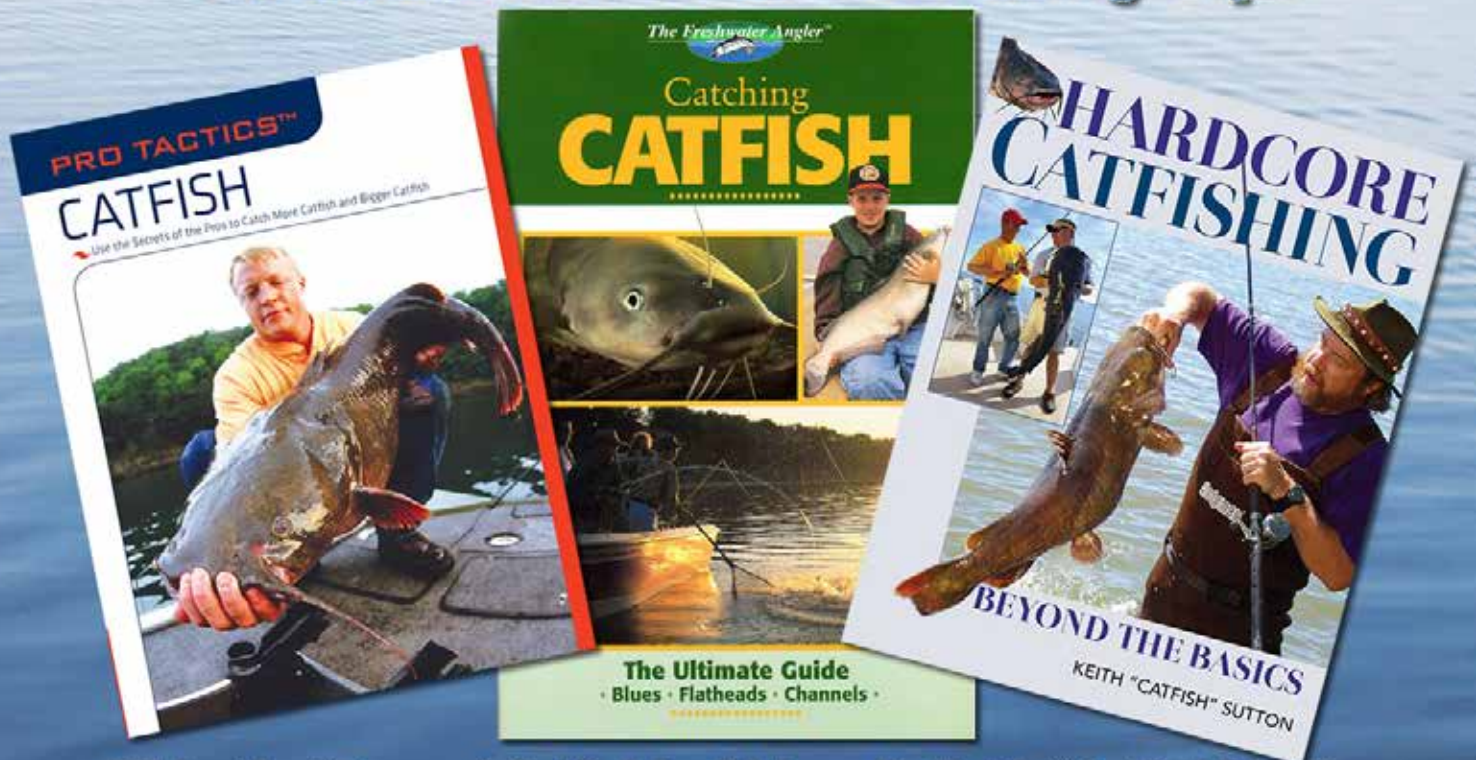
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CATFISH CONSERVATION

Trophy Catfish for the Future

by Ron Presley

Conservation Terms to Teach Your Kids



What should you teach your kids about conservation?

To begin with, kids can understand, at a pretty young age, just what it means to conserve. In our efforts to teach them about catfish conservation we should first teach them what the word means. If they spend all

Tournament fishing with kids is a good place to teach them the importance of CPR. Even if you are not fishing the tournament, you can take your kids to the weigh-in.



Give kids the opportunity to release the fish themselves when there is no danger to them doing so.

their allowance on the same day they receive it, they know they won't have any left to spend tomorrow. They must save some, or conserve some, for the future.

It is very similar with our ecosystem. We should teach our youth that if we keep all the catfish we catch, our rivers and lakes will run out of catfish. Proponents of catfish conservation regularly espouse a position of saving our catfish so their kids and grandkids will be able to experience the same opportunities that they have.

The catfish culture is divided into at least three distinct groups. There are those that fish to eat. That group is more likely than others to harvest everything they catch. This fish to eat group is likely to be practicing a way of life that they grew up with.

There are others who fish for recreation and the dinner table at the same time. That process is generally referred to as selective harvest. This group of anglers are practicing a learned behavior. They recognize that conserving our limit resources are important, but so is a fish for the dinner table. They also like to save their trophy fish memories in a photo, but they are not defined the same way as the final group.

A third group fishes for fun and returns everything they catch to the water. That group is generally referred to as Catch-Photo-Release (CPR) anglers. In the strictest sense of the phrase, this group of anglers are dedicated to recreational fishing only and see no reason to keep the fish they catch for fun.

Over time the trend appears to be moving away from the "fish to eat" group, toward the CPR group. Most anglers lay in the middle, taking some for the dinner table, but releasing trophy fish. In reality, what anglers do with their fish is





a personal decision and limited only by current laws and regulations. The slow process of change is expected to continue as more anglers adopt more conservation minded methods of fishing while educating the masses on the benefits of selective harvest and CPR.

Involving youth in resuscitating and releasing the fish will strengthen their own passion to do it. It is a good feeling to watch the revived fish swim away.

Selective Harvest

Selective harvest is a process of choosing which fish anglers decide to eat. It is offered by conservationists as a method to help manage our catfish waters without adding more regulations. Basically, selective harvest is keeping the mid-sized and smaller fish and releasing the much larger and smaller fish. Let the kids know you want the little ones to get bigger and the bigger ones to grow and have more babies. It is a personal choice that is easy to teach to your kids.

Some anglers make a defendable argument that 5- to 10-pound fish are actually better to eat anyway. Again, it's a personal choice as to what size you choose for your family.

So, choose the size of the fish that you will throw back and let the kids know what it is. Then practice that choice when you fish. Different families choose different sizes. For example, I often hear the size of 15 pounds and

above as the size of the bigger fish to throw back. Sometimes the smaller size is set by state law. If not set by law each angler/family should set their own lower size limit on the fish they will keep.

So, if you choose 10 pounds as the upper limit, when you catch a catfish heavier than 10 pounds, throw it back and tell the kids why. Let them know that you also enjoy catching the fish for sport and you want the fish to grow bigger.

If you catch a trophy catfish, educate the kids on the importance of the gene pool and how bigger fish lay more eggs and naturally grow to bigger sizes. Nothing will affect their future behavior more than the examples you set while fishing with them.

"Anglers that practice CPR have a strong desire to conserve..."

Catch-Photo-Release

Anglers that practice CPR have a strong desire to conserve and protect the fish they catch. When your child catches a fish, and for kids it doesn't have to be a big fish, he or she experiences a certain level of excitement. That experience can be captured in a photograph that will bring back the memory of that great time for years to come. And, the fish does not have to be killed. That is the essence of CPR.

Anglers need to use good judgement in fighting, landing, and caring for the fish after catching. Every effort should be made to complete the photo process while keeping the fish out of the water for as little time as possible. The fish should be resuscitated before release. Share this process with the kids so they too, can understand the goal of CPR.

The camera should be kept handy for easy access, not hidden deep in a storage area. If it is your camera you might want to instruct someone else on the boat how to use it. The key is to take the photo as quickly as possible and return to caring for the fish.

Sometimes the fish will require additional attention after returning it to the water. Don't just throw them back, but maintain control of the fish until it is obvious the fish will swim off on its own. The quicker you get oxygen through the gills, the faster the recovery. Many anglers will place the catfish in a livewell to recuperate before releasing.

Action speaks louder than words. As your child or other kids see the care you take with returning fish safely to the water they will emulate that behavior. Your actions make it clear to them that you get just as much joy from releasing the fish as catching it. And, your words can make it clear to them that by releasing a trophy fish you have made it possible for another angler to catch the fish on another day.

CPR is a method of fishery management where the ordinary angler can have an impact on the future population of the catfish. All it requires is a desire to provide an opportunity for some future fisherman to catch a trophy fish and enjoy the same level of excitement as the person who originally caught the fish. That opportunity is created by taking care to release your fish in good shape and educating others on the importance of doing it.

Kids are Quick Learners

Use good judgment when fishing with kids. Keep it interesting and keep it simple at first. You can add more detail as they get older. They need to participate too. Let them help you catch bait; let them bait their own hooks; let them reel in their own fish; let them throw them back unless the size of the fish makes it dangerous. Use grippers if necessary, but let them be involved in the process of fishing, catching, and releasing the fish. If you talk to them about why you catch them and why you throw them back they will pick it up quickly.

Your actions and behavior can create conservation kids. If they understand what and why they are doing it, in terms of conservation, they will help pass it on to their fishing partners and the next generation as well.

What could be better than a whole new generation of catfish anglers experiencing the thrill of catching trophy catfish?



- Ron Presley

Catfish Basics #030

Practice, practice, practice
Hunter Fussell



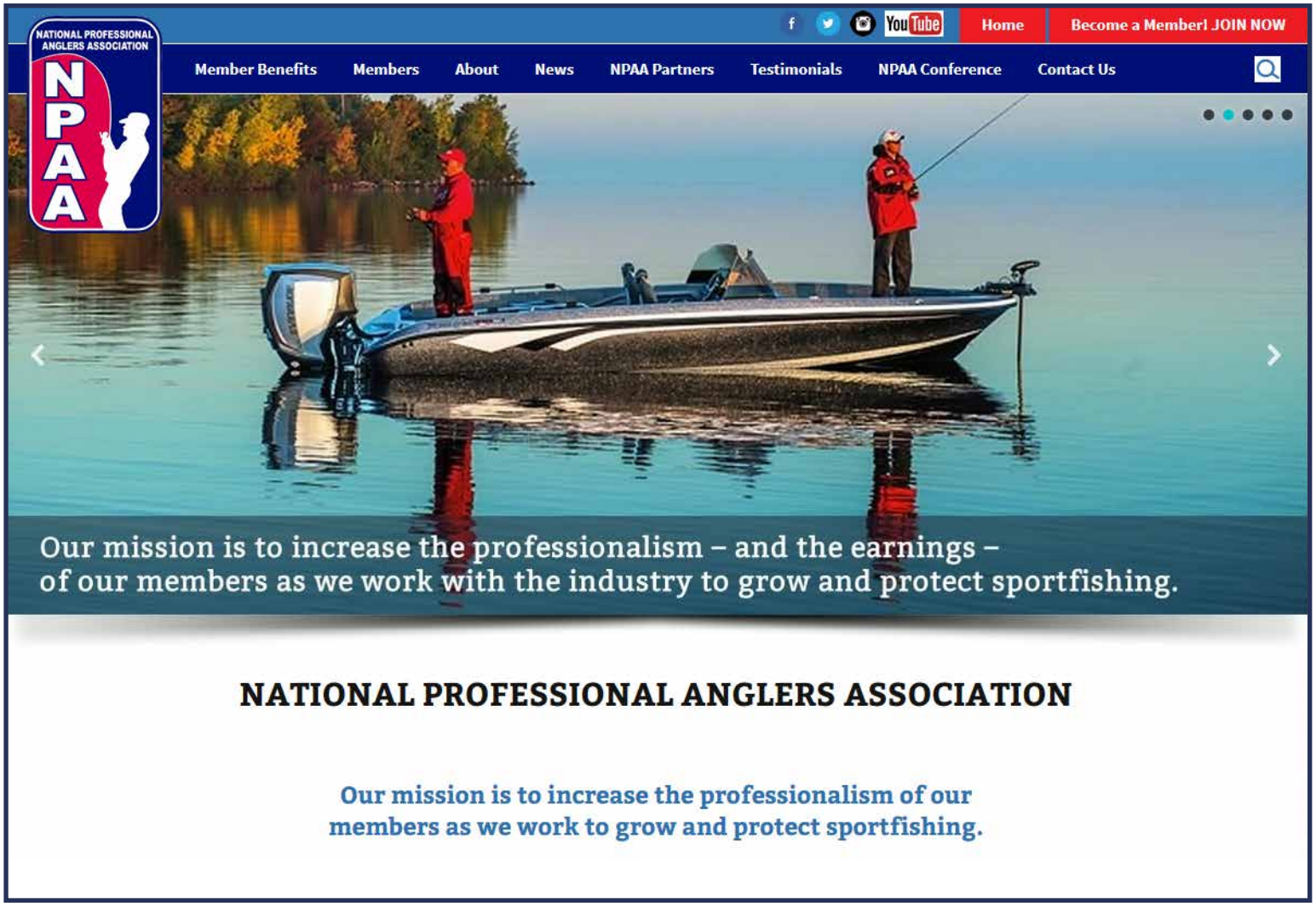
Hunter Fussell caught a 41.83-pound blue cat to earn the Big Fish Championship belt in the Youth Division at the Santee Cooper Monster Cat Quest in 2017. The Goose Creek, SC, angler believes in taking care of the fish. He was spotted in the water at the release point accepting other anglers fish and making sure they were released in good shape.

"I think catfishing is really fun," said 14-year-old Hunter. "It is a good sport for young kids to get interested in because it is fun and you get to spend time with your family and friends out on the boat. Anyone can catfish, but you have to practice and pay attention to the lines to catch the big ones. Always take advice from older fishermen and learn to appreciate the sport."





CFN How To
Circle Hooks for Catfish
with Asher Samsel



Bringing Them up Right

by Brad Durick

How I got my boy interested in catfishing



Braden with a fish from our evening adventure. While not the biggest catfish I have ever seen it was a truly beautiful fish and we took what ended up being the best catfish photo of 2016 with that fish.

As anglers there are two things that we all must take very seriously. First, we must be conservationists to protect the fish and fisheries so there is clean water and fish to catch for generations to come. Second, we MUST, and I mean MUST, do whatever we can to educate and pass on our knowledge and traditions to the next generation.

It is common to hear and read, "Take a kid fishing," but this has to be more than dropping them off at the local pond to fend for themselves. It also does not mean take them to the annual kids fishing clinic and call that their fishing outing for the year. No, we must make it part of their lives and upbringing to develop the love and skill that will last a lifetime.

I come from a family of, for lack of a better phrase, non-fishers. I am not blaming anyone, they just didn't have that upbringing or interest in fishing. I am an odd story in angling as I started much later in life than most. I had to make up time and push harder to learn and grow

in angling as opposed to a kid that was brought up fishing. But that's a story for another time.

My Boy Braden

From the moment I knew my boy was on the way I hoped and prayed that he would love fishing as much as I do. When he was born I wrote in my newspaper column that he was going to be my first mate. My hope was that everything in his angling life would come together and he would be my fishing partner for the rest of my life.

I remember the first time he was in the boat with me. I am pretty sure he was about six months old. I know he went ice fishing just after his third birthday and I know that he caught his first fish the next summer. It was a walleye on a Spiderman pole.

We have done a lot of fishing together since then, but it was a series of two trips over about a week in 2016 that brought it all together for both of us on the catfish front.

Our Catfishing Moment

Braden and I don't get to catfish together very often during the northern catfish season as my guiding schedule is so brutal that we just don't get it done. That leaves us with the early part of the season and the end of the season to chase catfish. The good news is that these times are usually the best times to catfish up here.

The year 2016 was an amazing season for big fish and lots of them. As always, about the time school starts the guiding schedule slows down dramatically. I was on an amazing big fish bite and just wanted to go have some fun on my own. I asked Braden if he would join me after school one day and he agreed. Just the two of us, armed with four Rippin Lips Rods and a cooler full of bait, set sights on the river.

We took a very short boat ride to an area that had been good the day before and set up our lines. We talked about school that day and he caught one channel cat that was about ten pounds. After about five minutes of not catching a second fish he asked, "dad, take me to your secret spot."



The Rippin Lips rod bent over in the Driftmaster Rod Holder as 6-year-old Braden fights a big catfish.



Braden's 23-pound channel cat was caught on a short after school outing.

I had to think for a minute whether he had really just said that. I replied, "OK, It's a fairly long boat ride." We reeled up and made the run. Normally, I would not make that long run for such a short fishing trip. But today it felt right to take the boy on an adventure, especially since he asked me to and was genuinely interested.

We got to the spot, baited up and set the lines. Almost immediately a rod went down. We stuffed the rod down into the Driftmaster Rod Holder and Braden cranked on it until the fish came to the net. Before I netted that fish, another rod went down and I hear, "Dad, I want that one too." So, I scooped up fish number one and he headed to the other side of the boat for catfish number two of his double.

Shortly after the double, another rod bent over with an extra big and angry catfish on the line. Braden took his time and we landed a channel cat that was just under 20 pounds. While not the biggest catfish I ever saw, it was a truly beautiful fish. We took what ended up being the best catfish photo of 2016 with that fish.

A couple days later I had completed a successful trip and raced to school to pick up Braden with my boat still in tow. When we walked out of the school doors he asked if we were going fishing. It was music to my ears. I said I had not planned on it, but if he wanted to go there was some bait left and we could go.

With the fear of his mother being mad at me for sliming up school clothes we headed back to the landing I had just come from. We launched the boat and

"It is common to hear and read, 'Take a kid fishing,' but this has to be more than dropping them off at the local pond to fend for themselves."

took off. This time we stayed closer to the landing as we had to be home for dinner in two hours.

Lines down, big fish on and then another. I hear, “I want them both.” About the same time, I saw a cottonwood tree floating down the river right at us. I did not want to panic my young partner, but knew we had to hurry. I grabbed the second fish and told him to reel faster. We netted the fish, put them on the floor without even unhooking them and I headed for the anchor.

The anchor was stuck so I started to unhook it just as it broke loose. We slipped out of the way of that tree with maybe four or five feet to spare. I moved the boat to safety just a few yards away, tossed the anchor back out and sat down. Just then a little voice asked, “Are we going to unhook these fish and take some pictures?” Oh yeah, we will, I replied. As it turned out Braden’s fish was 23 pounds, tying his personal best from the previous year.

Over the next two hours I would move the boat, set up on a spot, and just lay back and close my eyes. If a fish was on I heard, “FISH ON,” followed by the thump, thump, thump of little feet racing to the back of the boat. We landed a few more great fish that day and still made it home for supper.

We had catfished a lot before that week and since, but I think those two days were the days that put it all together in our minds that we are fishing buddies.

He saw some success and it clicked in his mind how things work and he discovered the pure excitement of a big fish. I think he figured out that his dad was a pretty cool guy that day too. I was convinced that my boy had the bug and knew what to do when we had a fish on and how to handle it, at the ripe old age of six.



Another 18-pound channel cat caught within an hour of Braden’s 23 pounder to wrap up what was an awesome couple of hours on the Red River.

Conclusions

It is critical that we take our kids in the outdoors. We must teach them how precious that experience is and the importance of spending time in nature and away from the modern hustle and bustle of life. We must teach them that the outdoors is a gift that must be appreciated and understood. Remember, kids don’t remember their best day watching TV.

Captain Brad Durick is a nationally recognized catfish guide on the Red River of the North, seminar speaker, and author of the books Cracking the Channel Catfish Code and Advanced Catfishing Made Easy. For more information go to www.redrivercatfish.com



- Brad Durick

CATFISH KIDS

by Ron Presley

It's all about the kids

Low Country Field of Dreams started out providing deer hunts for kids. Now, in their 13th year they still provide deer hunts, but have expanded to offering turkey hunting, dove hunting, and two fishing trips - a striper trip and a catfish trip - to seriously ill and disabled children.

Their mission is simple. They offer children, ages 10 to 15, with lifelong/life-threatening illnesses an opportunity to get outdoors and make memories by hunting and fishing.

The organization dates back to 2005 when Billy Wayne Chambers and a group of interested hunters wanted to do something that would introduce kids to the outdoors.

"This is our 13th year," reported Chambers. "We actually started out providing deer hunts. We took 8 kids deer hunting that first year. It was fun. It was just something to do. Then one weekend we decided that we needed to do more stuff for kids that did not have the opportunity to do what we did. It just got stronger and bigger each year."

"The following year we started to increase the number of kids," continued Chambers. "We went up to 10, and then15, and then 20. Now we target a maximum of 25 kids."

"We have a camp that can accommodate 25 kids and families," offered Chambers. "We started out calling ourselves Camp Happy Days, Camp for Kids. The camp went from kids with cancer, to military kids, to kids with lifelong illnesses."



"We actually lease an old German prisoner of war camp in Ridgeville, SC," explained Chambers. "It is Camp Duke and it actually housed prisoners of war back in the day. We have about 6 buildings that we use. The camp will sleep about 55 people."

"There are so many kids that need what Low Country Field of Dreams offers, we figured that one weekend was not enough for what we wanted to do. That is why we expanded. We now do 7 weekends a year with kids involved with different events."

Once they hit 25 kids they wanted the opportunities to be more than just deer hunting.

"A couple years ago Terry Fussell came and said he wanted to take some of the kids

fishing," explained Chambers. "He was willing to get it started and we supported him. Another Santee Cooper guide, Capt. Darryl Smith, is in charge of lining up other boats and captains, and helping with the kids. He has recruited captains from North Carolina and Georgia to come and help."

"So, we did a test run with 10 kids," recalled Chambers. "Some of them have greater illnesses than others. All of them can't do everything, so you put so many kids to a boat, and leave a spot for a deck hand."

"My son Hunter has come along as a chaperone," explained Fussell. "It all depends on the kids and their abilities. If we have the need we will put two chaperones on the boat. It is always helpful to have another adult on board."

The organization plans their catfishing trips based on how many people they can accommodate at Camp Duke. That is the only limiting factor.

"We bring em' out on Friday night and camp out at Camp Duke. We have a fire pit and have things for the kids to do. They play together and have fun together. We feed em' breakfast supper and dinner."

As more people see what the organization is doing, more volunteer to help.

"We could get more boats," offered Chambers. "But I would rather not put one kid on one boat. I think they have more fun when they are with other kids. Our trips are not about a catfishing tournament between boats. The event is about the kids enjoying their time on the water and learning about catfishing."





The catfish trips have been going on for three years. They include a little competition between the kids — like who caught the biggest fish and the littlest fish. It is a way to make the adventure a little more fun.

"This past season we had three nice fish caught," said Chambers. "When you have a 10-year-old kid that has cancer or some other illness, you know that fish doesn't have to be too big to be a monster!"

The fishing program is growing too. It went from 8 kids the first year to 23 last year. The first catfishing adventure was on Santee Cooper at Canal Lakes Fish Camp. They started out with one Capt. Now, this past year there were 7 boats participating. Jimmy Holbrook, a well know angler on Santee Cooper is one of the latest to come aboard.

Chambers told one memorable story of a small boat and some big catfish.

"We had a 17-foot boat that took out two kids and a dad," reminisced Chambers. "They came in and one of those kids had caught a 22 pounder and the other caught a 23 pounder."

"They came back to the dock with a little bit of the big head," joked Chambers. "They done thought they had the big fish. Then the other boat came in and had a 28 pounder that a kid had caught."

"The catfishing is a night trip," added Fussell. "We start at 6:00 in the afternoon and have them back at midnight. We caught 78 fish last year and 68 this year. It is just one heck of an adventure for the volunteers and the kids."

"It is actually hard to get the kids," said Chambers. "It is because of the privacy laws and such. There are a lot of hoops to jump through."

For Low Country Field of Dreams, no hoops are too difficult. And, they believe they can accommodate almost any child. They lease Camp Duke annually, so they can use the facilities any time they need to.

None of what they do is for personal recognition, it is all about the kids.

"The reaction of these kids is priceless," said Fussell. "Just priceless. There is no way to describe it."

"My kids and Terry's kids get to fish and hunt all the time," concluded Chambers. "We don't target kids like that. We want kids that have some kind of illness, some kind of disability. We want those children that don't have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors like others do."

Epilogue: How you can help

Low Country Field of Dreams conducts their own banquets and raises their own money. And, they can always use more volunteers and support.

"It used to a bunch of old county rednecks," joked Chambers. "After about the fourth year we started getting other people wanting to help. Now we get interested people calling us all the time offering to help."

"We need more sponsors," said Chambers. "It would be nice to get some new sponsors to help us with what we do. We welcome new sponsors and new volunteers that want to come and help out."

The kids that participate in the programs come from private referrals. Anyone knowing of a child with a serious illness or disability that might benefit from the Low Country Field of Dreams programs can contact Chambers directly at 843-908-3874.

The organization raffles off 28 guns every February. That's one a day. If you want to support them go to http://www.lowcountryfieldofdreams.com/february-gun-draw.html and buy a $35 raffle ticket for your chance to win one of a large selection. The proceeds help them fund their outdoor activities for the children.

More information can be found on their Facebook page or on their website at http://www.lowcountryfieldofdreams.com.

- Ron Presley



THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING KIDS FISHING

by Joseph D. Schmitt

Take a kid fishing, the future of the sport may depend on it!



Size usually doesn't matter when fishing with kids, but it doesn't hurt. This young man will remember this catch for a long time to come.

Our digital culture

We live in a digital era. We are constantly distracted by thousands of TV channels, Netflix, video games, Facebook, and YouTube. Instead of playing backyard baseball or going fishing in a nearby creek, today's children are constantly indoors, enslaved by their tablets, cell phones, computers, and PlayStations.

This trend toward a digital culture has serious consequences. Obesity, type II diabetes, and depression have reached epidemic levels in children and adolescents, driven by their inactive lifestyles. Many of us fondly remember simpler times, when the outdoors were part of our daily lives.

Fond memories of a simpler time

My dad introduced me to fishing when I was four, by taking me "worm 'n bobber" fishing for bluegill. The action was non-stop, and I was immediately hooked. I even

remember the first largemouth I caught without my dad's help, a little 2-pound fish that smoked a 3-inch Sassy Shad right at my feet as I lifted the bait out of the water. It's seemingly insignificant catches like these that can influence children to become lifelong anglers.

My passion continued to grow, and as a teenager I would grab my rod and walk to a local pond nearly every day after school. Whether I was tossing a Hula Popper during the warm months or hopping a jig-n-pig during the cooler months, I always seemed to manage a few largemouth, further fueling my love for fishing.

I truly believe that we all have an intrinsic desire to hunt, fish, and be in the outdoors, but someone needs to expose us to these activities at a young age.

Is fishing a dying sport?

Across the U.S., fishing and hunting license sales have declined in almost every state. It is a pattern which will have serious ramifications if it continues unchecked. The revenue generated is commonly used to protect threatened species, to enforce wildlife laws, and to stock fish.

In states where fishing license sales have stayed constant, surveys have revealed that fewer young people are going fishing. There are several dangers associated with these trends. First, fisheries management will suffer, and your favorite sport fish may no longer be stocked or protected from overharvest. Second, as future generations succumb to the digital age, we may lose ground to radical groups like PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), who openly claim that fishing is unethical and should be outlawed. Finally, there are obvious physical and mental ramifications for a generation that stays inside.



Memories are made by catching fish like this, but the key for most young anglers is getting the opportunity.

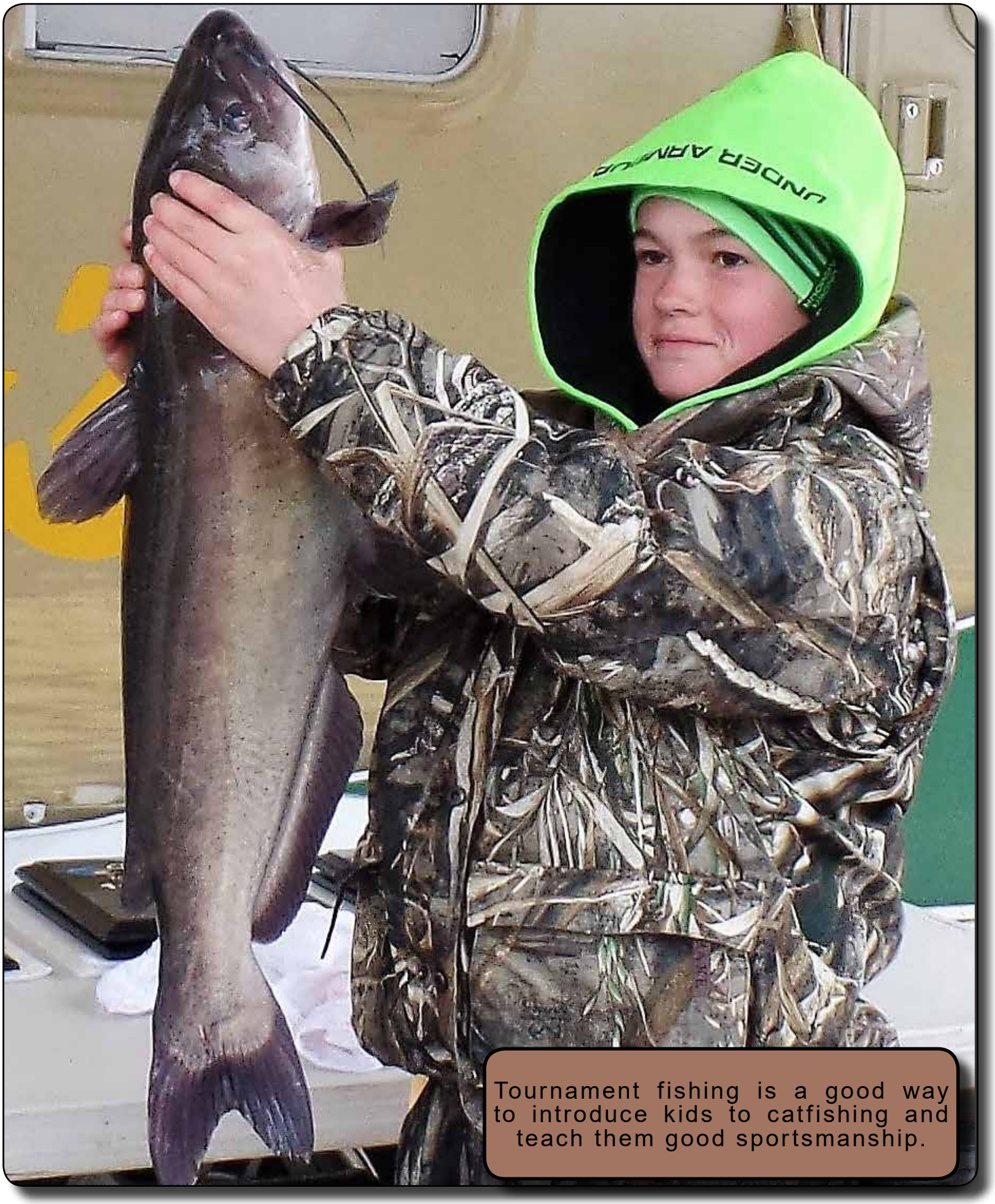
As youth abandon outdoor recreation, I suspect childhood depression and obesity will continue to increase. It is imperative that we teach our children how to fish, and that we make their first experience as memorable as possible.

"…we all have an intrinsic desire to hunt, fish, and be in the outdoors, but someone needs to expose us to these activities…"

"Boring" fishing

A common misconception is that fishing is "boring". Anyone who has experienced a musky explode on topwater or has felt the head shakes of a 90-pound catfish would argue that fishing is anything BUT boring.

I've had many experiences where my hand was shaking uncontrollably from the adrenaline of a big catch, but it's hard to explain this excitement to a non-fisher. This is something that must be experienced firsthand. This is why I believe that it is crucial for a child's first fishing experience to be action packed, but "trophy" fish are



Tournament fishing is a good way to introduce kids to catfishing and teach them good sportsmanship.

not necessary. Planning is key, and simple fishing tactics are usually best.

Keep it simple and be opportunistic

Given their attention span, quantity over quality is a good rule for youngsters. It is also good to be opportunistic. A good example of this occurred several years ago when I took a group of kids bluegill fishing at a friend's pond in Oklahoma. The action was non-stop, and I went from kid to kid constantly unhooking bluegill, rebaiting hooks, fixing tangles, and casting. Just watching their eyes light up with excitement was one of the most rewarding things I've experienced.

About an hour into the adventure I noticed that the youngest boy had a bluegill hooked, but didn't realize it. As the bluegill struggled against the float, a shadow emerged from the depths. In an instant, a 10-pound channel catfish inhaled the bluegill and immediately took off, nearly yanking the rod out of the boy's hand. He shouted for help, but by the time I reached him the catfish had already spit the bluegill.

I recognized that this was the perfect opportunity to upgrade this fishing experience from "memorable" to "unforgettable". Fortunately, I had a few heavy catfish rods in my truck, and I quickly grabbed one rigged with an 8/0 circle hook. I livelined a bluegill in the spot where we last saw the channel catfish. It only took about 10 seconds for the clicker to go off. I let the fish run for 30 seconds, handed the rod to the little boy, and told him to reel as fast as he possibly could.

The rod doubled over and the catfish immediately started thrashing around on the surface, and the little boy's face lit up with wonder. With my help, he landed that 10-pound channel cat, and each kid ended up catching nice-sized channel catfish using the same tactic. To these kids these fish were "huge", and I bet they still talk about that experience.

Planning that first trip

Any sunfish species is a great option for the first trip, as they are abundant, easy to catch, and put up a good fight for their size. Catfish also have several advantages. They are relatively simple to catch, grow large, and are abundant across the lower 48.

While trophy catfishing is challenging, a child's first fish does not have to be a 50-pound cat; even a 5-pound catfish will seem huge to them. You can do all of the casting and rigging for them, and they can focus on reeling in the fish once that rod goes down.

If you live in an area where flatheads are plentiful, bring a few heavy rods while you fish for bluegill. Throw a few live baits out on heavy gear, and maybe a big cat will cruise by.

A few other things to consider when taking kids fishing are:

1. Safety first. Always bring the appropriate safety gear like children's life jackets, sunscreen, etc.
2. Keep them comfortable. If it's winter make sure they are dressed warmly. If it's 35 degrees and blowing 30 mph, stay home.
3. Bring plenty to eat and drink. A hungry child is a cranky child.
4. Know when to throw in the towel. If you've been on the water for an hour or two and nothing is happening, go home. Children don't have the drive, focus, or patience of adults.

Ultimately, you want your kids to be comfortable and have fun fishing. Hopefully you can create a magical experience that will transform them into lifelong anglers. Surveys show that fishing is slowly dying, particularly with younger generations. The best solution is to take kids fishing; the future of the sport depends on it!



- Joe Schmitt

River Rumors

Personal Best
Conner King

by Ron Presley

The enthusiasm of youth



Like most anglers do, 13-year-old Conner King reminisces about his personal best (PB) catfish. Also, like most catfish anglers, he looks forward to breaking it.

Conner comes from a catfish family, so it's no mystery that he would have a passion for catfishing. His mom, Jennifer, and dad, Wayne, are long-time members of the catfishing community. The King family lives in Mr. Vernon, Indiana and the Ohio River is their main fishing destination.

Conner's personal best 50-pound blue cat came from the Ohio River. He was eleven years old.

"He fishes pretty much every day," reported Jennifer. "After school on weekdays he fishes for bass, blue gill, and crappie in a pond in his backyard. On weekends, he catfishes for fun on the Ohio River with his dad."



In fact, when it comes to his catfish knowledge, Connor looks up to his dad. "He has taught me everything I know," said Connor.

In 2016 Conner won the AOY honors in the Junior Angler Division. The honor was awarded at the Cabela's King Kat Classic in Henderson, KY.

Conner's Personal Best

Conner's current PB is a 50-pound blue cat that he caught when he was 11 years old. Before that his PB was 42-pounds. Both were caught on the Ohio River.

"I was fishing the Ohio River with my dad," explained Conner. "We were dragging upriver because there was little to no current."

He remembers his dad saying, "Oh, wow - that is a lot bigger than I thought it was going to be." And big it was. That fish turned out to be Conner's new PB.

"When I got back to the dock everybody was there to take pictures of my fish," recalled Conner. "It was pretty cool. My mom, sister, grandma and my biggest fan, grandpa, were all there."

"The River Days Festival was going on in my town," recalled Conner. "You could hear the music from the boat because it was right on the river. A lot of people saw my fish."

Conner put the icing on the cake by releasing the blue after taking some pictures.

"The CPR went great. It swam off just fine, thanks to our we'll oxygenated livewell. A good livewell is a must for professional tournament catfishing fishing," Conner advised."

Conner knows where he would like to go to catch his next personal best. Not surprisingly, he chooses the Big Muddy.

"...that is a lot bigger than I thought..."



Conner participates in tournament catfishing with his family.

"I would go to the Mississippi River," offered Conner. "I would use a cut skipjack head and I would be bumping with my Blackhorse custom bumping rod."

Conner's enthusiasm and skills related to catfishing has also garnered some well-deserved recognition in the sport. In 2016 he earned Cabela's King Kat Angler of the Year Award in the Youth Division.

"I was pretty ecstatic when I heard that I was Cabela's King Kat Junior Angler of the Year," offered Conner. "I never thought it was going to happen, but my parents knew for a while that I was getting it. But I never did."

When asked which was better, the AOY or the PB he responded, "Catching my PB was probably cooler than getting Angler of the Year, because it is awesome to catch a big fish and to be able to see it swim away and let another person catch that same fish."

- Ron Presley



Got a Goodun':

The phrase that eleven-year-old Ethan Carlile uses when he reels a big catfish to the boat. **(Ethan is the son of Howard and Kerrie Carlile and the grandson of Santee Cooper regular, Monte Hill.)**



Ethan Carlile

CatfishSpeak - The Language of Catfishing

Like any other sport, catfishing has a verbiage of its own. From catfish slang to useful phrases, catfish anglers communicate in a special language. CatfishNow plans to keep you up to date with this angler blending of the English language and catfish jargon that we will call CatfishSpeak. Send us your favorite.

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fishing's future

Why We Catfish

Editor's note: *In this special issue of CatfishNow, dedicated to catfish youth, we ask two tournament catfishing youth why they catfish. Their answers are recorded below. It is our hope at Catfishnow that more young anglers like these two will join the sport of catfishing. It is dedicated and passionate youth like these two that will help the catfish community grow.*

A Guest Editorial
with Madison Atkins and Christopher Grose

The future of the sport



Chris tournament fishes with his dad Mike. They travel all over making memories and catching catfish.

Christopher Grose started catfishing around the age of three or four. Like many other serious cat men, it all started with a family member taking him fishing. Chris started off with a bang on Santee Cooper.

"The first catfish that I ever caught was a 35-pound flathead," recalled Chris. "I was fishing with my grandfather on Lake Marion in Manning, South Carolina. When it was pulled out of the water I will never forget how big it was in comparison to me. I would say that was when I got hooked on the sport of catfishing. Ever since that day I spend about every weekend on the water fishing."

Catfishing is more than just the fishing for Chris. In addition to the thrill of catching a big catfish, it is about the experience, nature, memories, friends and family.

"I like to catfish mainly for the



Madison tournament fishes with her stepdad, Paul Blackwell. They started tournament fishing as partners in 2017.

memories I make while doing it," explained Chris. "In the last two years my father and I have traveled to many different states and places. I have made memories in those places, that if it were not for catfishing, I would never have made."

"Those memories include seeing the sun set over the Cyprus trees in Lake Marion," continued Chris. "And, watching the tugboats work along with the never-ending barges on the Ohio River."

"And best of all, pre-fishing tournaments with my father," concluded Chris. "We love trying to figure out where the monster will be lurking, an activity that would be nonexistent if it weren't for the sport of catfishing."

"The memories I make while fishing for catfish are why I catfish."

Madison Atkins is a product of a supportive family. Paul and Jennifer Blackwell have supported and encouraged Madison to follow her interest in fishing. She is relatively new at it, having started just last year.

"I started catfishing in 2016," recalls Madison. "I got started by prefishing for tournaments with my stepdad Paul. "Then I fished my first tournament with him on Lake Greenwood."

She took to tournament fishing pretty quickly. She describes it as a lot of hard work, but a natural competitive spirit helped her enjoy the sport. Winning third

place in that first attempt at tournament fishing provided some early reward.

"My favorite part about tournament fishing is not knowing who will win and having the extra strength to put in more effort. I think the main reason I love to tournament fish is the competition and the effort to push harder."

Madison's experience and success grew from those early days as her love for the sport grew. In her short but admirable catfish career Madison claims a personal best blue cat of 59 pounds and a personal best flathead of 38 pounds. Those are numbers any catfisher could be proud of.

"Some of my favorite things about catfishing is not knowing what size fish you're going to catch" offered Madison. "And, not knowing if your even gonna' catch a fish. I love knowing that the fish is still on the hook when we get the net out."

"I like to catfish for many reasons," concluded Madison. "It takes a lot of patience and skill to consistently catch big fish; they are the biggest predator of all the fresh water fish; and you never know what you'll catch, from a 10-pound dink to a hog. The final thing I like about catfishing is just being on the water."

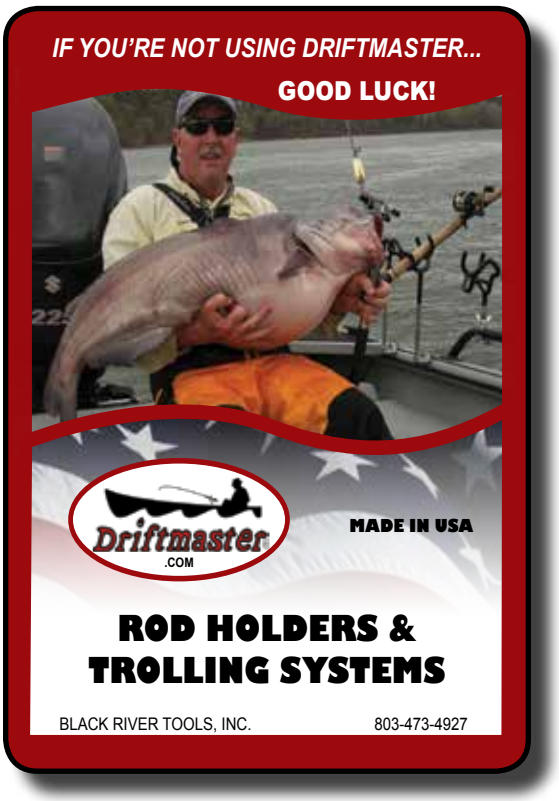


- Madison Atkins and Christopher Grose

Why We Catfish Guest Editorial

This column is provided for reader submitted editorials on Why We Catfish. If you have a short story related to why you catfish, you may submit it for consideration and publication in a future issue of CatfishNow. Send submissions of 500 words or less and one or two photos to Ron Presley at presleyr@bellsouth.net.

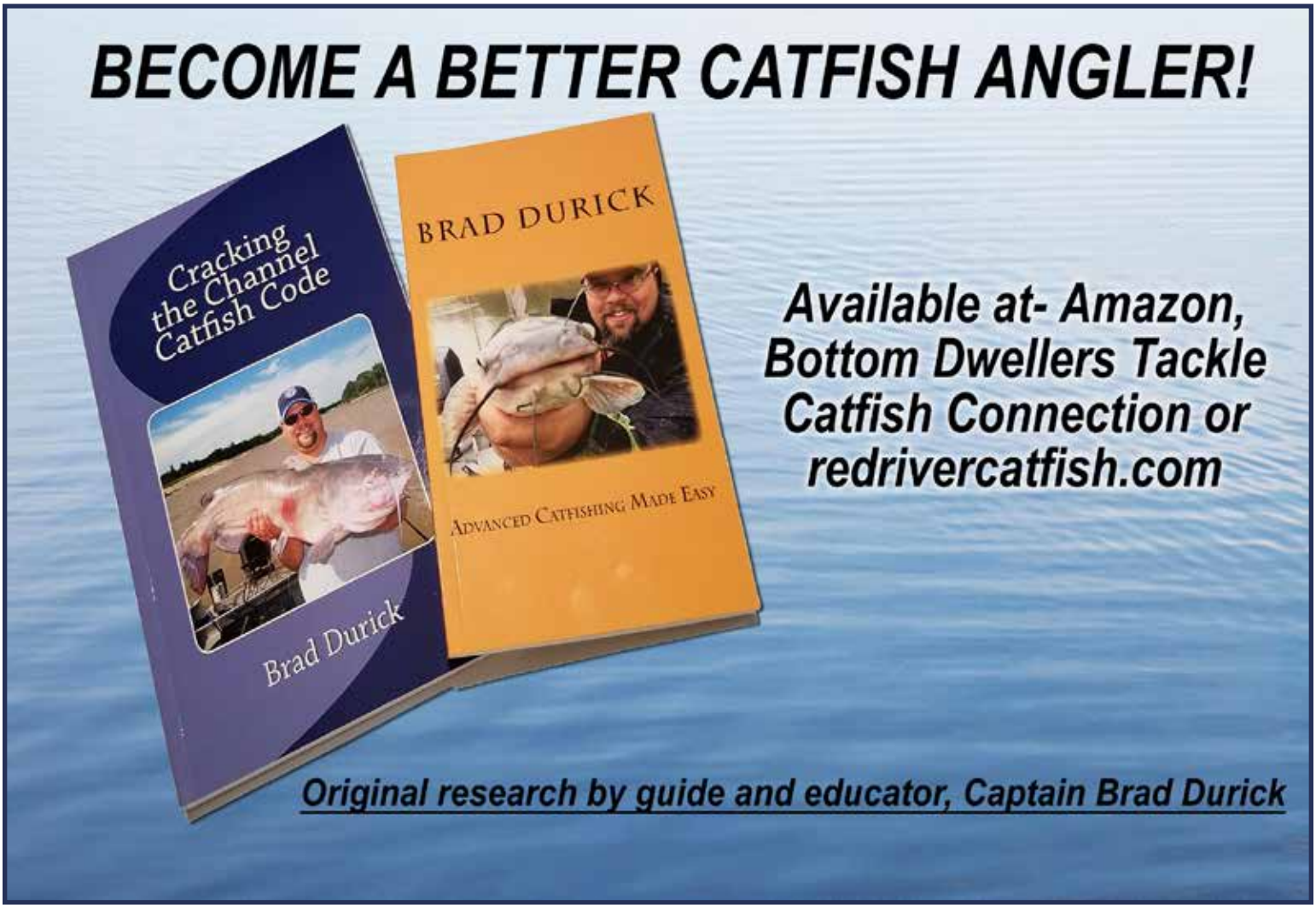
CATFISH CONFERENCE





(Fishermen, check with club/association for exact dates, changes, cancellations and rules.)

DEC	16th	CATFISH MAFIA	LOWER POTOMAC	CLUB
JAN	6TH	SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB	LAKE WYLIE	CLUB
JAN	20th	CATFISH MAFIA	LOWER POTOMAC	CLUB
JAN	20th	FISHIN BLUES	ELLSWORTH	SHOOTOUT
JAN	27th	JKV CATFISHING	GREEN RIVER	CLUB
FEB	3rd	CABELA'S KING KAT	TENN/TOM WATERWAY	CLUB
FEB	3rd	SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB	LAKE WATEREE	CLUB
FEB	10th	WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS	MEMPHIS	CLUB
FEB	17th	CABELA'S KING KAT	LAKE TAWAKONI	CLUB
FEB	17th	CATFISH MAFIA	LOWER POTOMAC	CLUB
FEB	17th	GET-N-HOOKED	THUNDERBIRD	CLUB
FEB	17th	JKV CATFISHING	CUMBERLAND RIVER	CLUB
FEB	24th	FISHIN BLUES	WAURIKA	CLUB
FEB	24th - 25th	CATFISH CONFERENCE	ELIZABETHTOWN KY	2 DAY EVENT



BIG CAT QUEST	FaceBook	KEN FREEMAN
BIG SIOUX CAT ANGLERS	FaceBook	DICK HINRICHSEN
CABELA'SKING KAT TOURNAMENT TRAIL	FaceBook	JEREMY COE
CAROLINA ANGLERS TEAM TRAIL C.A.T.T	FaceBook	BRETT COLLINS
CATFISH CHASERS TOURNAMENT SERIES	FaceBook	DAVID STUDABAKER
CATFISH CONFERENCE	FaceBook	STEVE DOUGLAS
CATFISH COUNTRY	FaceBook	SCOTT WILSON
CATFISH MAFIA	FaceBook	GLEN ORR
CATFISH NATION OUTDOORS	FaceBook	KEN HAGEN
CATHUNTERS ASSOC. OF THE SOUTH C.A.T.S.	FaceBook	GLENN FLOWERS
CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS	FaceBook	MATT SANDERS
CENTRAL TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL	FaceBook	JERRY DILLARD
CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLJACK CATFISHING	FaceBook	HUNTER LIVINGSTON
EXTREME CATFISHING	FaceBook	CHAD WAUGH
FISHIN BLUES	FaceBook	TIM ORR
FLATHEAD BLUES ON CHANNEL 2	Website	AMANDA JOHNSON
GETNHOOKED	FaceBook	MICHAEL PRICE
HOLD'EM HOOK CATFISH TRAIL	FaceBook	STEVE DOBBS
ICATS	FaceBook	JOHNNY COLEMAN/BOBBY MILLER
INDIANA CATFISH	FaceBook	CHRIS WALLACE
J.K.V. CATFISHING TOURNAMENT TRAIL	FaceBook	JOSH VANOVER
KANAWHA RIVER CATFISH CLUB	FaceBook	NEAL CRAIG /JUSTIN VAUGHT
KANSAS CITY CATFISH	FaceBook	BARD KILPATRICK
MADISON CATFISH ANGLERS	FaceBook	DARRYL MILLER
MISSISSIPPI CATFISH TRAIL	FaceBook	HUGH THOMPSON
MISSISSIPPI RIVER MONSTERS	FaceBook	GEORGE YOUNG
MONSTERS ON THE OHIO	FaceBook	AARON WHEATLEY
OHIO VALLEY CATFISHING	FaceBook	MARK BARILLA
OHIO VALLEY RIVER CATS	FaceBook	FRANK
OLD DOMINION CATFISH CLUB	FaceBook	BRUCE CONNER
RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE	FaceBook	BRAD DURICK
SCHEELS BOUNDRY BATTLE CATFISH TOURNAMENT	FaceBook	BRAD DURICK
SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA MO RIVER CATFISH CLUB	FaceBook	LORI
SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB	FaceBook	BRIAN SNIPES JOSHUA COGGINS
SOUTHWEST OHIO CATFISH CLUB	FaceBook	VANCE NADOSKY (513)379-2655
TRI STATE KATS	FaceBook	KELVIN HORN
TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOCIATION	FaceBook	TOMMY WALSH
TUG "N" JUGS	FaceBook	MICHAEL PRICE
TWISTED CAT OUTDOORS	FaceBook	ALEX NAGY
WEST TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL	FaceBook	CHUCK MCCOY
WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS	FaceBook	JUSTIN RUSSELL
WHISKY CITY CATFISH CLUB	FaceBook	RAY HERALD

TUG N JUGS

NOVEMBER 10th - 12th KEYSTONE

1. West Side Boys	122.16
2. Whisker Warriors	83.42
3. Koolcats	49.38
4. Jugger Knots	40.54
5. Bring It On	17.52

BIG FISH

1. West Side Boys	34.96

CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLJACKS

NOVEMBER 11TH WHEELER LAKE

1. Killer B's	144.15
2. Daly/Lawrence	99.25
3. No-Fishing Polywog	80.6
4. Shane Holz	78.7
5. Bait Bandits	70.45

BIG FISH

1. Killer B's	85.2

GET N HOOKED

NOVEMBER 11th KEYSTONE

1. Melendy/Forshee	83.14
2. Goss/Melendy	79.08
3. Albert/Hirzel	63.28
4. Baldwin/Shirver	61.92
5. Catch And Release	59.06

BIG FISH

1. Melendy/Forshee	28.62

CATFISH MAFIA

NOVEMBER 18th LOWER POTOMAC

1. Chris/Dan	97
2. Joe/Ernie	83
3. Keith/Kaylie	81.8

OLD DOMINOIN

NOVEMBER 18th — HOPEWELL MARINA

1. Jonathan Penny/Anthony Penny	139.1
2. Chandler Puryear/Chris Eberwein	127.65
3. George Dehner/Petey Borne	111.45
4. Ryan Smiley/Leo Smiley	111.25
5. Fred Draine/DJ Ratcliff	108.25

BIG FISH

1. Jonathan Penny/Anthony Penny	81.9

WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS

NOVEMBER 18th — MEMPHIS

1. Scott Mathis/James Hemby	57.87
2. Ronnie Strickland/Chad Strickland	57.85
3. Allen Houston	54.78
4. David Magness/Rusty Jackson	51.11
5. Justin Russell/Jeff Kirkpatrick	44.55

BIG FISH

1. Justin Russell/Jeff Kirkpatrick	30.96

CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS

NOVEMBER 26th — GLASGO

1. Ol' Willie/Boomer Wilson/Brian Saunders	100.7
2. Gary Taylor/Jason Mathenia/Vicky Mathenia	99.4
3. Danny McGraw	70.3

JKV CATFISHING

DECEMBER 2nd — LAKE WHEELER

1. Edmond Crowden/John Nugent	122.65
2. Justin Hedges/Jamie Shields/Cameron Shields	107
3. Mike Mitchell/Rick Sexton	105.05
4. Dale Kerns/Ken Gatlin	103.65
5. Dennis Gibson/Ed Bennett	100.5

BIG FISH

1. Justin Browning/Denessa Dehart	60.25

SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB

DECEMBER 2nd LAKE WATEREE

1. Brian Crook/Dillan Crook/Matt Bass	77.94
2. John Terry/Jason Knight	69.45
3. Alan Long/Lynn Long	68.53
4. Jeff Manning/Michael Paciocco	68.07
5. Dean Birch	66.91

BIG FISH

1. Brian Crook/Dillan Crook/Matt Bass	38.13

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