

CATFISH **NOW!**

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

June 2018 - Issue #20



Outside the Box



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by Ron Presley

When the rains come and the reservoirs fill up there is likely to be some fast-moving water below the dams on the Tennessee River. Treat it with respect and caution, but don't let it scare you. The catfish are there.



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by Ron Presley

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by Glenn Flowers

Floats are not new to fishing, but they have not been used that much for flatheads. Glenn Flowers reveals how and why he uses them to catch flatheads.



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Summer 2018 is upon us and with it has come major weather impacts, setting new levels of flooding, destructive winds, etc. Weather, however, is not the only major impact to our lives and our fishing. Invasive species are impacting our major waterways, lakes and rivers.

The list of invasive species includes nonnative water grasses, fish, mussels, etc. When these are introduced into our environments it upsets the balance nature has developed over millions of years in that area. The impacts can be devastating to existing plants and living things.

Two invasive species that I believe we need to tackle together, in unity between states and fishing types (i.e., catfish, crappie, bass, brim, etc.), is the Asian carp and zebra mussel explosion. Experts are struggling to find solutions not only for specific lakes, streams etc., but waters that span many states. Fixing part of the problem for one state on the Mississippi River for example and not for the other states will not really fix it. It is going to take a joint effort to resolve it!

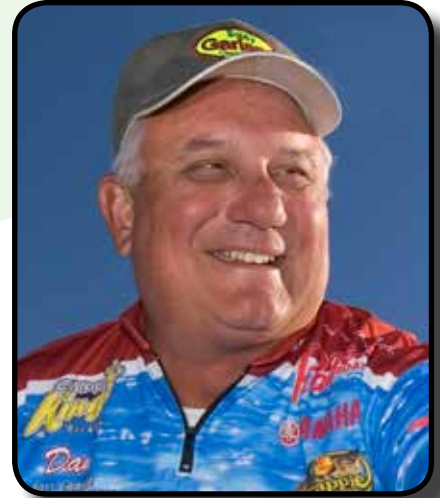
Many areas along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers are seeing gamefish, to include catfish, starving and disappearing in numbers. The Asian carp compete for the same food as the shad. The carp are able to outnumber and out eat other species. The shad are disappearing and that takes away the food base for the catfish and game fish.

I don't have the answers either but I ask that you join us in writing and calling your representatives, state DNR offices and the Corp of Engineers to ask that they form pacts between our states, so policies can be formed that benefit all and resources can be combined to fight this major blight.

Don't forget, take a child fishing and let them enjoy our wonderful outdoors.

God bless and good fishing,

Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher



Front Cover:

Commando tactics in flood water conditions produced this nice flathead for the author. It was caught in the tailrace of a Tennessee River Dam. Ty Konkle Photo

Floodwater Flatties

by Ron Presley

Approach with caution, but seize the opportunity



Ty Konkle is no stranger to flathead fishing. Every year he waits with great anticipation for the spring flathead bite. This year, 2018, was a little different than most. Heavy rains pounded the Tennessee River watershed for weeks and the lakes were mostly at flood stage in mid to late April. Facebook post after Facebook post showed photos of dams along the Tennessee River with water flowing dramatically through the

The author is shown here with his first floodwater flattie.

flood gates filling the tailrace below with fast moving and turbulent water.

For Konkle it was an opportunity to try something a little different at one of his favorite spots. He has started many guided catfish trips below Nickajack Dam.



He would stroll into the tailwaters, cast a few Foley Spoons for skippies, and move downriver in search of whiskered critters. Occasionally he would linger in the tailrace and suspend some bait to see if his favored flatheads were there.

That leisurely approach he normally took to the waters below the dam was interrupted by the flood stage conditions of the river in 2018. The rushing water and the accompanying debris swept down the river changing fishing conditions considerably.

With the water moving like it was, a different approach was going to be needed. Konkle put on his thinking cap as he looked at the ravaging water coming out of both sides of the dam. Between the floodgate side and the generating side was an abutment that separated the two torrent

If it was alive and legal it was good enough to tempt a cunning flathead. We had no live bait left after a couple hours of fishing the floodwater conditions.

flows of water. When the currents from each side bumped heads at the end of the abutment a small eddy was formed. Could that create an ambush point for hungry flatheads? Konkle thought it might.

The first thing he wanted was some live bait. The skipjack that were abundant a few days ago seemed to be gone now that the water was supercharged and flowing hard. A few casts with no luck turned Konkle to another source of bait. He was still thinking about flatheads. There is an old lock on the other side of the floodgates



with some concrete structure where Konkle often catches bluegill for bait.

He moved over to the old lock and baited his B'n'M Duck Commander Ultralight Combos with red worms. After sorting through some small channel cats that also liked the worms, we caught enough bluegill to head back to the swift water and the abutment that separated the gates. Konkle catches plenty of big flatheads on cut bait too, but live bluegills are known flathead candy and we expected them to do the trick.

“...the boat was constantly being pushed up against the wall...”

Konkle's strategy was to fish the short eddy and the current seam that formed at the end of the wing wall as the two sides of the dam spit out their independent flows of water. His plan was to suspend fish, but he worried about boat control. The trolling motor was sure to struggle trying to hold the boat in the fast-moving current and anchoring was not really an option.

As luck would have it there was a short piece of rope fastened to the cement wall, obviously left by another angler when conditions were much calmer. It had been fastened to the floodgate side of the abutment wall. The rope was barely long enough, but Konkle managed to fasten it to a cleat on the front starboard side of the boat. This procedure left about a third of the boat alongside the wall and the other two-thirds right at the eddy at the end of the structure which was only about three feet wide.

“I wish I had brought my bumpers,” said Konkle as the boat was constantly being pushed up against the wall by the rushing water. “Boat protection against the structure is our biggest concern. We are pushing the limit of what we can do. Any more current and turbulence than this and

I would not even try it.”

“As long as there is a calmer spot to ambush from, flatheads don't mind how fast the water is next to it,” instructed Konkle. “I will steady the boat as you drop the bait straight down in front of the end of the structure.”

Konkle had rigged his 7-foot 6-inch Silver Cat rods with a Carolina rig. The B'n'M rods were perfect for the close-quarter combat we were about to engage in. The shorter length and stiffer backbone helped control the fish in the faster-than-normal water coming down along the wing wall. The Carolina rig featured a larger than normal weight, obviously needed in the swift moving water.

“If your rig keeps getting blown out of the spot your trying to fish, It's too much current,” continued Konkle. “The way the water looks on the top isn't always what its doing on the bottom. We won't know until we drop a bait in there.”

It did not take long to verify that the area below the wing wall created enough of an ambush spot to hold some flatties. Teenagers were all we caught that day, but in that fast water it was great sport and an experience I will never forget. We caught fish as long as we had live bait.

This was my first opportunity to experience fighting fish in heavy current and each time I thought the fish were much bigger than they were. Flatheads have always struck me as the best fighters among the catfish, but in the flood stage currents they were simply tiring. It did not take long for the muscle burn to begin.

We caught a variety of flatties and blues. It was definitely an “outside the box” kind of fishing. The boat was constantly in motion as it swung away from and then back towards the wall. Konkle was kept busy steadying the boat as best he could. It was definitely a two-man operation and only one person could fish at a time.

The target area was small and when the bait blew out of the eddy you had to reel in and drop down again. If we had not



been tied to the wall I don't believe we could have done it on the trolling motor only.

"Safety is the main thing under these conditions," concluded Konkle. "Only season boaters should venture anywhere near fast water. Always have a partner along, and when in doubt just don't do it!"

Epilogue:

Konkle offers guided catfish trips on the Tennessee River near Chattanooga, TN. He can be reached at 423-307-2983. You can check out his website at www.fv-catfish.com and view his videos on his YouTube channel.

The further we got from the gates the calmer the water become. This photo does not tell it true. The current was still ripping pretty good.



 - Ron Presley

Catfish Basics #041

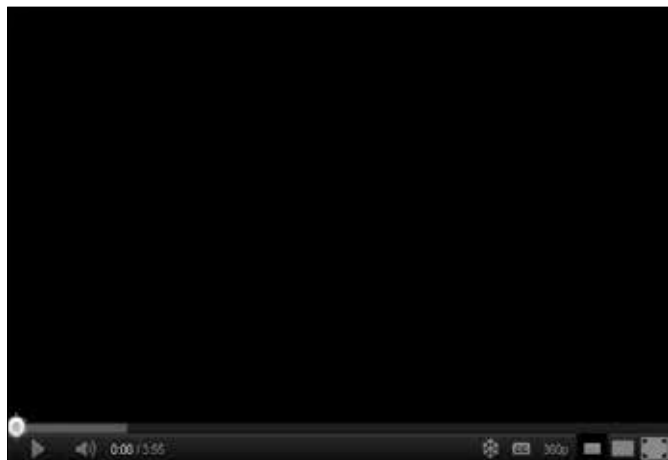
Speed up the Drift
David Magness, B'n'M Poles

Sometimes when the Mississippi River gets high the bottom current will be fairly fast, but the current on top will be slow. That stronger bottom current will carry your weight and bait on down the river and you need to go with it.

My solution is to drop a drift sock off each back corner of the boat. The drift sock will open up with the current that is available and pull me downriver a little faster than without them. If you are bumping and don't do that, even with a 5- or 6-ounce weight, your bait will fly on you. It will get away from you because the bottom current is a lot faster than the top current. Sometimes the top current can be slim to none.

Rusty Jackson and I won a tournament doing this. We will do what we have to do to follow the bait.





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Catfish Profiles

in Passion: Jeff Williams

by Ron Presley

The Team Catfish Guy

For Jeff Williams fishing is simply part of an outdoors obsession. In fact, just about anything that gets him outdoors and in touch with Mother Nature makes him happy.

"I'm not sure why," expressed Williams. "I think I was just born with the desire to go fishing. I love being outside. Hunting, fishing, camping, and boating/rafting are all avenues that I love and they connect me with the outdoors."

Williams loves all kinds of fishing, but catfishing is at the top of his list. The species of catfish doesn't necessarily matter to him. In fact, the variety of having three species to fish for is a bonus.

"I like all kinds of catfishing," offered Williams. "From channel cats with dip bait to targeting monster cats in huge lakes

blue catfish on rod and reel.

"Blue Catfish are historically a river species," explained Williams. "They have been transplanted into reservoirs all over the country. A lot of these state stockings came in the early 90's. In Oklahoma, blue catfish are native to the Arkansas River, but were not impounded in the Grand River arm because it was too far North."

"We did not see blue catfish really emerging here until the late 80's and early 90's," continued Williams. "The population exploded in the 90's but no one really knew how to target them with rod and reel methods. I figured out how to target them on deep channel ledges in the winter months and discovered that some of the active blues moved extremely shallow in the late winter and early spring to feed on winter-kill shad that wash up in the shallow flats."

Williams's acquired knowledge allowed him to run a year-round guide service, almost exclusively, for blue catfish. He averaged 220 trips per year.

"I figured out that blue catfish, just like any other species, was targetable and used the same feeding patterns from season to season," offered Williams who was also on the Lowrance prostaff during those years. "I figured out how to use the GPS mapping technology along with a new high-end sonar to pattern fish in reservoirs. Once the patterns were in place it was just a matter of looking for fish then stopping and trying to catch them."

Williams started fishing on Grand Lake and the Neosho River, both in NE Oklahoma. He lives on Grand Lake so he spends most of his fishing time there. Nevertheless, he likes to travel and fish too.

"Catfish anglers needed... serious tackle, just for them."

and reservoirs. It's all good for me. I like to eat smaller catfish but like to target and release big cats. I'm not really sure why I like catfishing so much. I grew up catfishing and continued doing it. I think that learning how to target all three species, plus having small cats and big cats to fish for, keeps it very interesting. Catfishing also offers anglers something to target year around."

In years gone by Williams was well known for his ability to catch big blues in large lakes. He was targeting them 20 years ago when there were not that many anglers that knew how to catch reservoir



"I spend most of my time on Grand Lake," revealed Williams. "But I like to travel and fish. The Mississippi River, Lake Texoma and Wheeler Lake are three of my favorite destinations."

Regardless of where he fishes he has a deep respect for the environment and a working understanding of conservation.

"I like to keep things in the environment as I found them or a little better," said Williams. "I'm a firm believer in selective harvest. I believe fish are a resource and should be managed like one. I spent time working with the Oklahoma Wildlife Dept on their catfish study a few years ago and learned a lot about age and growth data. Essentially here in Oklahoma

Jeff Williams's love for big catfish led him to create products that help anglers catch more fish.

we need anglers harvesting a lot of fish under 30 inches to make room for slower growing mature fish. Too many little ones and everything suffers."

Williams was a tournament angler at one time, but currently he has plenty to do without that drain on his time and energy. That was especially true once he decided to venture into the supply side of the fishing industry.

"I don't enjoy the stress of competition when I just want to go fishing," offered



Jeff's Favorite Fishing Holes

Jeff Williams has a long history of catching plenty of big blues in his home state of Oklahoma. He pioneered catching big blues in reservoirs and ran a successful guide service in his younger years, long before the national catfish craze hit. He contributed to the rise in popularity that catfishing enjoys today by doing his share of TV and newspaper articles in the early 90's and with his how-to videos today.

Williams's passion for catfish remains. He still enjoys experiencing other area's fishing opportunities. In addition to his home waters on Grand Lake he names the Mississippi River, Lake Texoma and Wheeler Lake as some his favorite destinations.

"Grand Lake is a fish factory," said Williams. "There are not a lot of giant cats but there are a lot of numbers that keep things interesting. It holds a large population of blues and flatheads."

"The Mississippi River has monster cats on every corner and there is always current. I like the challenge of targeting cats in current since we mostly only have still or very slow water to fish here in Oklahoma."

"Lake Texoma, and that part of the state, has a biomass and mineral composition that historically produces large fish of all species including some monster catfish! Texoma is far enough south that it rarely experiences a large shad kill. That means that the forage is there to keep the blue catfish munching down all winter."

"Finally, Wheeler Lake has a thriving monster catfish population that seems to be fairly easy to target. You can fish a river in the upper lake and/or still water in the lower lake. It offers a great variety of ways to target huge blues."



Williams is shown here on his pontoon boat with a big blue on Wheeler Lake, one of his favorite fishing holes.



Williams. "And, the tackle business is very time consuming. Once you start in the tackle business, and it becomes your livelihood, the desire to stay hooked up is very real. Turning your passion into a full-time job sounds wonderful, but people need to realize it's all still a business that needs to be profitable. For me, feeding my family is the only motivation I needed."

Williams got into the tackle business because he thought catfish anglers needed a better quality, more well-rounded assortment of catfishing tackle. In 2006 Team Catfish was founded on that theory. Williams was a pioneer in providing catfish anglers with catfish tackle. If you look around the market today you will see that other companies are beginning to see the need that he recognized years ago.

"I wanted something that spoke for the angler," said Williams. "I wanted it to say, 'We are proud to be catfish anglers and we deserve the best equipment we can get.' Up until Team Catfish came along anglers were buying rods and reels from typical rod and reel manufacturers, or anglers were buying other products and trying to make

Family fishing is a popular activity with Williams. He is shown here with his son.

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them work for catfishing. Catfish anglers needed a brand of high quality, serious tackle, just for them. Something that looked nice. A brand that was appealing with trademark names that anglers could trust. I started building a brand that has a lot of these essential items in a catfish only assortment."

Williams looks to the future with a goal of continuing to build great products that help anglers catch more catfish.

"I like to listen to my customers suggestions and create items that fill a hole in the marketplace," said Williams. "I think that catfishing is growing and I'm glad I have a brand growing with it."

He contributes to the growth of the industry by creating how-to videos and posting them on the Team Catfish YouTube channel.

"I really enjoy doing the how to videos on our YouTube Channel. We have great customers that appreciate the help, tips and tricks that make landing a whiskerfish easier."

Williams has been fishing his whole life. That's about 48 years now. And, he is not worried about longevity because he

The yellow fish grip is one of the easily recognized Team Catfish products that Williams provides to catfish anglers.

enjoys fishing in ways that will allow him to fish for a long time to come.

"I will fish until I can't fish anymore," speculated Williams. "I really enjoy dock fishing and bank fishing just about as much as being on the boat. My enjoyment of these simple techniques will allow me to fish for many, many years to come."

"I would like to be remembered as a great father and husband first and foremost," offered Williams. "I love spending time outdoors with my wife and boys. I guess however history judges me professionally will be up to the folks that are interested in what I've created."

"My main goal in life was to get everything I could out of the time I have here," philosophized Williams. "Time is probably the most precious thing anyone of us have."



- Ron Presley



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For those of you with larger boats the 24-pound, plain powder coated, models sell for \$75 or \$115 for the customized types. Shipping runs around \$20 to \$30, depending on where you live.

"I was one of the first to start using them," said catfish guide and tournament angler, Paul Blackwell. "It was a couple of years ago when they first went public. Hurricane Anchors hold really good, regardless of the lake bottom."

For more information visit and like their Facebook page or call Chris Gaines at 864-617-5929.

Woods Fishing: Tactic Still Ca

by Keith "Catfish" Sutton

High water in spring and early summer brings a bounty of great catfishing.



This spring marks 30 years since I saw my first "crawfish run," but I still remember it like it was yesterday.

It was June, and floodwaters were receding along Arkansas' lower White River. When the river fell to the right level, my friend Jim Spencer phoned.

"We need to go tomorrow," he said, "or they'll be gone. I'll pick you up at 5 a.m."

Many catfish caught in flooded woods are literally stuffed to the gills with crawfish. Keith Sutton Photo

We met at the appointed time—Jim, me and my son Josh—and drove to the river. After motoring a few miles downstream in a

Old-Fashioned Catches Catfish

johnboat, we tied the craft to some cypress steps on the river bank then walked to a nearby oxbow lake. Some water still flowed through the run-outs connecting the river and oxbow, but in a day or so, as the water continued falling, the connection between river and lake would be severed.

Only days before, the woods around the lake had been inundated beneath 12 to 18 inches of water. As the White River dropped, however, the water was pulled out, leaving behind wet, muddy, leaf-strewn ground. Even then, with the water gone, the ground was hard to see, for thousands upon thousands of crayfish covered the damp earth. You couldn't step without mashing them beneath your feet—huge rusty-red crustaceans with pincers like Maine lobsters.

"Look, Dad!" Josh exclaimed. "They're everywhere! There must be a million of them!"

We had toted a 100-quart cooler to the lake's edge, and each of us carried a wire fish basket in which to place our catch. Walking through the woods, we gathered crawfish, and when our basket was full, we returned to the cooler and dumped the catch in. Little yelps emanated from the collection crew whenever a crawfish found its mark with those big pincers, but in less than an hour, the cooler was overflowing.

"This is the best of two worlds," Jim said. "We've got catfish bait and dinner, too, all in one cooler."

The catfish liked the crawfish almost as much as we did. That night, fishing with crawfish tail baits, each of us caught a dozen cats, and before the sun rose, the three of us had polished off several pounds of spicy, fresh-boiled crawfish apiece. I decided then and there that catfish,

crawdads and bottomland rivers form a minor trinity.

I had known for years that catfish migrate into flooded spring woods to eat crawfish. As a youngster, I often accompanied uncles on woods fishing junkets, tying yo-yos and limb-lines to green branches along the edges of inundated forests and baiting them with the tails of crawfish we caught ourselves. As we'd paddle through the woods making our sets, big cats would shoot this way and that, spooked by our approach. We'd see their wakes as they scurried away through

"I decided then and there that catfish, crawdads and bottomland rivers form a minor trinity."

shallow water. By that sign, we knew our timing was right. Cats were in the woods gorging on the annual banquet nature provided, and by morning, we'd be weary from catching and cleaning fish.

There was no doubt about the inspiration for this catfish celebration. The catfish we caught—blues, channels and flatheads—were literally stuffed to the gills with crawfish. Often, a fish would take our bait even though several crawfish could be seen protruding from its gullet. Their stomachs were distended like beer bellies with dozens and dozens of crawfish. Eating more was impossible, but still they tried.

Woods fishing is one of the oldest yet most obscure forms of catfishing. Few cat fans are familiar with the tactic today, but





earlier this century, it was widely practiced in the Mississippi River Valley. D.S. Jordan and B.W. Evermann wrote about this unique sport in their 1923 book, *American Food and Game Fishes*.

“During the spring rise in the Mississippi, hundreds of square miles of the adjacent country become flooded, and then the catfish leave the rivers, lakes and bayous, and ‘take to the woods,’” they said. “Here the fishermen follow them, and ‘woods’ or ‘swamp’ fishing is resorted to. Short ‘brush’ lines with single hooks are tied to limbs of trees here and there through the forest, in such a way as to allow the hook to hang about six inches under water. The trees selected are usually those along the edges of the ‘float’ roads, and, that he may readily find his lines again, the fisherman ties a white rag to each tree to which he has attached a line.”

When big-river floodplains are inundated with high water, thousands upon thousands of terrestrial crayfish provide food for catfish ... and fishermen. Keith Sutton Photo

Because the ground in a river floodplain is low and flat, a rise in river level of only a few inches can flood thousands of acres of land. As the water rises and woodlands become flooded, a new food source—terrestrial crayfish—becomes available to catfish.

Crayfish are abundant in most bottomland hardwood forests, but during most of the year, they live on land and are inaccessible to catfish. During overflow periods, however, the crayfish are forced to live in an aquatic environment, and catfish are drawn to them like kids to a candy store. Flatheads, blues and channel cats all join

the feeding frenzy, moving from rivers, lakes, bayous and sloughs into the shallow water that now inundates acres of bottoms. They will feed here as long as the water is high enough to swim in, sometimes for several months.

It would seem with so many actively feeding fish gathered in shallow water, it would be easy to catch them. But that is not the case. Fishing in flooded woods is difficult in the best of circumstances, and because the catfish are widely scattered and have an enormous supply of natural food, catching them on rod and reel is iffy.

Catching them with set-lines is another story. This is the limb-liners' season, and as soon as the bottoms are inundated, their period of fun begins. Set-lines hung from low branches produce extraordinary numbers of catfish.

The popularity of woods fishing has declined in recent decades, but this is still a topnotch tactic for catching lots of catfish, big and small. If you like to fish big bottomland rivers, you can probably give woods fishing a try right now while many streams are at spring flood stage.

Then, when the flood waters recede, return to the woods you fished for a different kind of fun. The catfish do their best to eat every crawfish in the bottoms, but they cannot. Millions remain, so the fishermen, too, can catch and eat them.

Golden fried catfish with a side of spicy boiled crawfish, cooked fresh over a campfire and served by a big beautiful river. Friends, it just doesn't get any better than that.

Editor's note: Keith "Catfish" Sutton's newest book, *Hardcore Catfishing*, has hundreds of great tips that can help you catch more catfish. To order an autographed copy, send a check or money order for \$23 (includes shipping) to C&C Outdoor Productions, 15601 Mountain Dr., Alexander AR 72002.



When rivers flood, anglers often use limb-lines to catch catfish feeding in inundated woodlands. Keith Sutton Photo



- Keith Sutton

SeaArk Owners Invitational

by Ron Presley

How They Fished



Catfish anglers are a special breed. They take great pride in their equipment and they like to show it off. Ingalls Harbor in Decatur, AL recently had more than 350 anglers from 22 states showing off and enjoying their SeaArk boats. The occasion was the 8th Annual SeaArk Boats Owner's Invitational Tournament.

The streets, gas stations, restaurant parking lots and the motels of Decatur were filled with SeaArk boats in the days preceding the tournament. It was rare to travel anywhere and not see a SeaArk boat. One of those lucky anglers, Stephen Higgins of Nashville, TN, won a \$500 drawing donated by Decatur Morgan County Tourism just for staying in Decatur.

The event kicked off on Friday night

John and Corey Rath with 93.22- and 71.89-pound blue cats that helped them win the 2018 SeaArk Owners Invitational on Wheeler Lake.

with a BBQ dinner and captains meeting. Tournament day was Saturday, April 28 with the competition taking place on Lake Wheeler out of Ingalls Harbor in Decatur. While the anglers were fishing the SeaArk staff teamed up with Pond Hopper Nation to get the kids involved. A "Teach A Child to Fish" event provided free fishing poles and instructions from the SeaArk Staff to the kids who came to the event.

The anglers were there, not only to show off their rigs, but to compete for more than \$85,000 in cash and prizes. The big



prize was a new SeaArk ProCat 200 with Suzuki DF200ATX, Marine Master Trailer and American Canvas Cover valued at \$50,000. The winner was declared by a random drawing that named the team of James Bardsley, from Perry, AR and Jim McCabe, from Mountainburg, AR as the proud new owners.

The only requirement for the drawing was to be registered for the tournament and check in one legal catfish through the weigh-in line or at the dock on their return from fishing.

***“Never give up. Try everything.
Don’t quit.”***

“We had a team member on the dock for people who caught a fish but didn’t feel like going through the weigh-in line,” explained Racheal Rooft, Marketing Coordinator at

Catfish anglers came from 22 states to enjoy the family fun of the SeaArk Owners Invitational tournament. Family was often involved.

SeaArk Boats. “Anglers either decide they can’t compete with the weights or just have one fish. Checking them at the dock helps us have fewer boats coming through the weigh-in line and at the same time, take better care of the fish.”

At the end of the day 441 catfish, totaling 7,780.27 pounds, were weighed and released. A Fat Cat Chute was used to safely return all the fish to the water with no fatalities. All those catfish are swimming free so some lucky angler can catch them on another day.

How They Fished

When the catfish were weighed, and the





results tallied it was the team of John Rath of Athens, IL, and Corey Rath from Sherman, IL that took the first-place check for \$6,600. The father/son team weighed in 185.58 pounds in a bag that included a 93.22-pound monster blue to also earn big cat honors and an additional \$2,500.

As a side note, the team from IL also had a 50-pound blue that they had to release. Anglers fishing in Alabama are allowed one fish per person over 34 inches and John had to release his biggest fish of the day because Corey caught a 71.89-pounder to go with his big fish. Corey reported that those two big fish came pretty close to each other.

John and Corey started their day as they normally would, but circumstances caused them to change their strategy.

"We were on track with our strategy until today," explained John. "We are catfisherman and we catch catfish all the time. We tried everything during the week, and we caught some fish, but we didn't really go by our game plan today. It totally changed, especially with the trolling motor quitting on us. Not having

SeaArk boats of every size and configuration left the outstanding facilities of Ingalls Harbor in Decatur, AL on tournament day.

the trolling motor made us switch up a lot of things that we did."

"We were dragging bait all day until the battery on the trolling motor went out," reported Corey. "We had about 3 hours of fishing left. We finished drifting the run we were on and then just started marking spots and throwing out the anchor. It was a lot more work, but we were able to get some unders."

"We downsized our baits today," said Corey. "We also checked out other water depths than where we found them prefishing and adjusted rigs by taking off the floats and using different weights. We were kinda' going for the smaller ones but kept getting the big ones. Man, it was fun!"

When asked what the secret of their success was, Corey outlined their overall strategy for catfishing.



"My first strategy is to always leave it up to the fish," instructed Corey. "It's up to me to put in the work to see what they want and how they want it. I always try a few different things and then go with what's working best. Second, prefishing is key to catching fish on tournament day. Just remember, it can also be a bad thing if done too much in the same area. I have learned to keep fishing other areas or just keep moving and marking fish. It helps to see where they are going and what they are eating. Prefishing is especially important during times of changing weather conditions."

"Staying focused is a must when fishing," added Corey. "Especially when problems occur. Never give up. Try everything. Don't quit."

John and Corey praised their Tangling with Catfish Rods, saying they had no problem landing the big blues with them. They did, however, have an anxious moment at the boat.

At weigh-in it is the fish that are the stars, and there were plenty of big fish for spectators and fans to see.

"That big fish came up and I missed him on the first try," said John. "My son was shaking so I figured I better hit him on the second try and not knock him off the hook."

"We had to throw that 50 back," joked John. "It was horrible, it was the one I caught. But it was awesome fishing and winning with my oldest son. He caught his two personal bests today, within 20 minutes of each other. It was a pretty awesome experience."

Other Winners

Second place
J. Linscott and J .Diehl - 160.27 pounds





Third place

J. Neece and B. Riddle - 149.68 pounds.

Fourth place

G. Taylor, Jason and Vicky Mathenia - 142.23 pounds

Fifth place

Jerry and Noah Ishcomer, Wallace Sams - 134.52 pounds

The Goose Egg Award (no weight)

Ken and Thomas Luttrell

The Little Cat Award (youngest participant)

Jon Reeder Cooksey

More photos and standings can be viewed on the SeaArk Facebook page.

Steve Henderson, President of SeaArk Boats, summed up the event saying, "The Owner's Tournament is one of our favorite events we conduct each year. We get to see old friends, make new friends, get valued input for improving our product, see large fish, and most of all, we get to see the joy in people's faces when they weigh a fish or win a prize. This segment of the industry continues to grow and we are very proud to be a part of it. The catfishing community includes some of the best people that you could ever meet."

Epilogue:

Sponsors for the event include Suzuki Marine,

Most of the big fish were blues, but there were big flatheads too.

Marine Master Trailers, Whisker Seeker Tackle, LINE-X®, Monsters on the Ohio, Welsco®, American Canvas Products and the Decatur Morgan County Tourism.

About SeaArk Boats: With over 59 years of experience in boat building, SeaArk Boats (owned by Correct Craft) is the industry's premier aluminum fishing boat known for outstanding product quality and excellent customer service. Mostly known for heavy-duty aluminum boats built specifically for catfishing, SeaArk also builds bass- and crappie-fishing boats, jon boats, duck boats, and bay boats, offering a wide variety of tunnel and jet tunnel hulls. For more information visit www.seaarkboats.com.

About Decatur-Morgan Tourism: The Decatur-Morgan County Tourism is a not-for-profit organization promoting tourism and economic growth in Morgan County. For information on special events and attractions throughout Morgan County, contact the DMCT at 800.524.6181 or 256.350.2028; or visit its website at www.decaturovcv.org.

Catfish Basics #042

Handle with Care
Jimmy Holbrook, Warrior Cat Rods

All of us catfish anglers need to educate others on the importance of putting the big fish back and letting them get bigger. You have to handle them carefully too. I like to put mine back in the net and lower them back into the water.

People say catfish are tough, they can live through about anything, and maybe they can. We humans can live through a lot we don't want to go through. We live through car crashes and everything else, but we don't want to.

I see a lot of people do a lot of different things. Some people just throw their fish back and others treat them like they have a baby in their arms. They handle them so gently. It has got to be better on the fish to just lower them in there slowly. Ease them back in and be as gentle as you can. And, teach others to do it. Handle with care and it will pay off in the future.



2018 Schedule

Columbus, MS	2/03/18
W. Tawakoni, TX	2/17/18
Cross, SC	3/10/18
Decatur, AL	3/17/18
Sunrise Beach, MO	3/24/18
Gallatin, TN	3/30/18 - 3/31/18
Loudon, TN	4/13/18 - 4/14/18
Chester, PA	4/21/18
Camden, SC	4/28/18
Hillsboro, OH	5/05/18
Gallipolis, OH	5/12/18
Mt. Vernon, IN	5/19/18
Dixon, IL	6/02/18
Carlyle, IL	6/09/18
Pekin, IL	6/16/18
Tell City, IN	8/04/18
Huntington, WV	8/11/18
Helena-W. Helena, AR	8/17/18 - 8/18/18
Paducah, KY	8/24/18 - 8/25/18

Cabela's King Kat Classic
Jeffersonville, IN - 9/14/18 - 9/15/18

The 2018 schedule is complete and all events have met final approval. Please visit our website for pertinent updates and news. Also follow us on Facebook...

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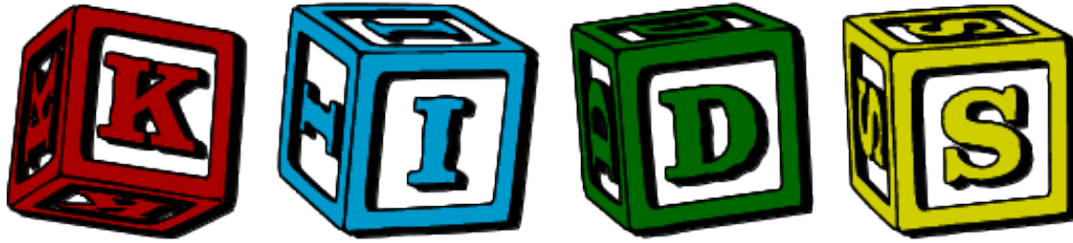
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CATFISH



by Ron Presley

Nick Lyon's Birthday Adventure

The catfish birthday bash conspiracy.



It all started for Nick as a casual conversation between him and his mom, Megan. They decided it would be fun to go bowling and go out to eat dinner on his birthday. When the date rolled around Megan woke Nick at 8:00 am with the pretense of running some errands with his sister.

Nick got a bit suspicious when Megan engaged the GPS in town, but it led to the turnpike and indicated that there was quite a few miles left to go. Those errands were a long way from home.

The highlight of Nick's birthday bash was his personal best 72-pound blue catfish.

"I was thinking, like where are we going," reported Nick later. "We drove for hours and ended up at a big building. I didn't know what it was until we got inside, and mom tells me that we were at the fishing expo in Virginia. Mom asked me and my sister to stay put."

Megan returned after a brief absence and the threesome began walking around



the expo with Megan deliberately avoiding the Katfish Clothing booth. Finally, they approached the booth.

"Is that who I think it is," asked Nick. "So, I walk up and standing there is Dale Lowe and Matthew Miles. Dale puts his hand on my shoulder and says, 'You will be fishing with me the next 3 days.' I said, 'What? Really? —Seriously? I had no idea what to think. I was so happy! We went out in the parking lot with Dale and talked for a little bit before my mom and sister left to go home while me and Dale went on our adventure.'"

The Adventure Begins

"I had a goal to take a child fishing that loved to fish and had passion for the sport," offered Dale Russell Lowe, Jr. "I kept an eye on kids that followed my page and choose one of them. My intent was to find a kid that didn't have the means to go after the big fish like we have in Virginia."

"I have loved to fish ever since I could walk and would of fell over for a

The adventure included a visit to a Bass Pro Shops aquarium to view a state record blue cat.

chance to go out with someone I looked up to," continued Lowe. "So, I thought it would be awesome to surprise a child with a free trip to go after trophy fish."

As Lowe continued to monitor the kids who followed his page, he decided it would be Nick that he would invite. He contacted Megan Lyon with his offer and she was all for it. Her role in the adventure would be to get Nick to Virginia and Lowe would take it from there. The whole escapade was kept from Nick so that it would be a surprise. And, as luck would have it, the date they choose was Nick's 13th birthday.

"The meeting place was set for the fishing expo in Richmond, VA," reported Lowe. "We would meet at the Katfish Clothing booth with Mathew Miles. Since





they arrived before I did Megan had to avoid the booth until I arrived. When I got there she brought Nick over and he walked right up to Mathew and me and shook our hands. That's when I told him of our plan. His face was priceless. He was shocked."

Miles gave Nick a Katfish shirt and they visited for a while. Then the new fishing partners headed for the Bass Pro Shops in Ashland, VA to view the old VA state record blue cat of 109 pounds that swims there in their tank. Dinner in the Bass Pro facility preceded the real adventure.

"I asked Nick if he want to camp on the boat or get a hotel and head out early in the morning," explained Lowe. "He told me he was ready to fish, so we headed to the river. We put the boat in at Jordan Point and went out to catch some gizzard shad."

Lowe showed Nick how to drive the boat and help with gathering bait. Nick

On a fishing trip that included a lot of big fish, Nick added a 67 pounder.

worked the steering wheel while Lowe threw the net. It wasn't long until they had plenty of bait.

"In the first spot we fished we only caught 1 fish, about 3 pounds," said Lowe. "So we moved on to a shallow flat about 6 foot deep with some structure on it. It was a big fish spot and safe out of the channel so we could sleep. Before I threw all the rods out one of the Big Cat Fever M/H rods doubled over. I grabbed it out of the rod holder and handed it to Nick. He knew right away it was the biggest fish he had ever had on a line."

"We went on the James River and fished for a little bit," recalled Nick. "Then we moved to a calmer spot where we could stay for the night. We were sitting

there and one of the rods folded. I got so excited I jumped up reeled him in and that was my first big blue cat. It was 59 pounds!

"From there we fell asleep. In the middle of the night we woke up to a 30 pounder. He was a warm up before we woke up again in the morning to a rod twisted up the side of the boat. The line was going up the front of the boat. Dale hooked him, woke me up, and gave me the rod. That was when we pulled up a 67 pounder."

Lowe said the fish put up a good fight, but Nick showed him who was boss. It didn't take Nick long to get it in the net. The fish was yet another personal best for Nick. The new fishing partners had no idea that it would not be the last.

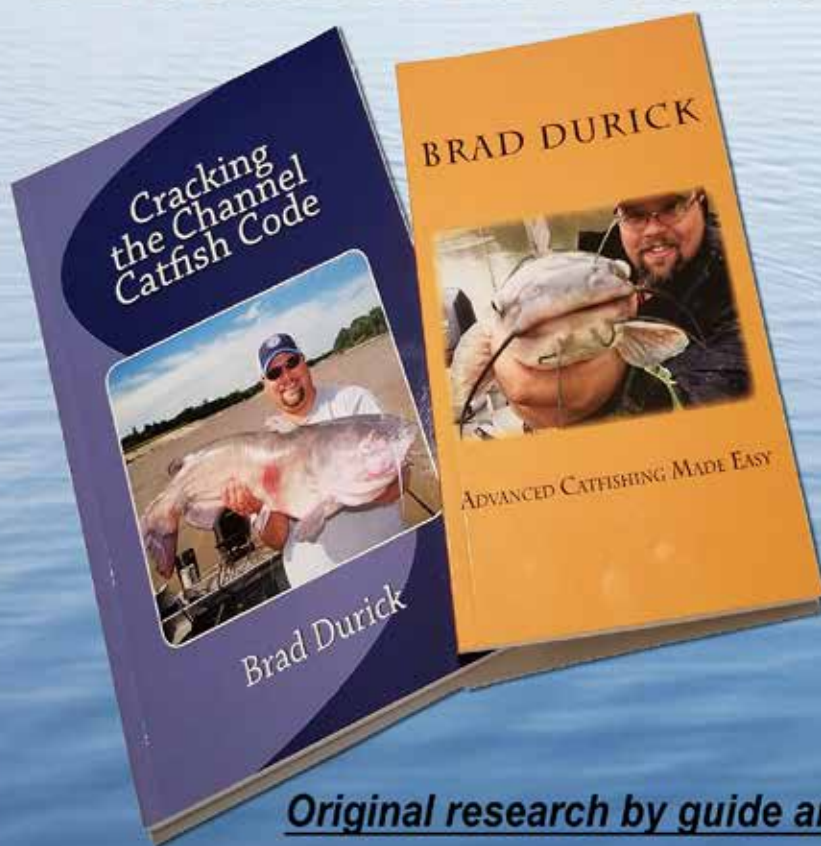
"...my best birthday ever."

The pair then met up with Kaleb Page, so Nick could meet him. They wanted to take some photos and video releasing the 59- and 67-pound fish. In addition to meeting another catfish hero Nick learned that Page would be sending him three BCF rods and a hoodie. They left happy, heading towards some deeper water to fish.

"We left Kaleb thinking the day couldn't get any better," recalled Lowe. "We were wrong. It wasn't long until Nick caught a nice 42 pounder. I was so happy



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Original research by guide and educator, Captain Brad Durick



for Nick. Then, down went another rod. Nick struggled with this one, but handled it like a pro. We knew it was going to be another personal best.

"After meeting with Kaleb Page, we headed out again," explained Nick. "We got setup at a 100-foot deep spot. Within 5 minutes I hooked up with a 42 pounder and it was a great fight. In that same spot, about 20 minutes later, another rod buried over. I couldn't take this one out of the rod holder. Dale got it out and gave it to me. I was in for a big fight with this one. This fish was big and he surfaced a pretty long ways away from the boat. It took me a little over 5 minutes to reel him in. The fish weighed 72 pounds. It was my personal best blue catfish. Then I did another video with Kaleb Page to end my best birthday ever!"

"When we landed the big blue, I don't know who was more wore out, Nick or the fish," said Lowe. "It was a beast

It was all smiles for Nick who is shown here with a little 59-pound blue.

and it gave Nick another PB."

"A lot of kids look up to us and follow our pages," concluded Lowe. "To be able to pick one and surprise them with a fishing trip was a great feeling. I will be picking and inviting another child soon. It turned out to be an awesome trip. Nick is a great kid with a bright future ahead of him."

 - Ron Presley

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Floats for Flatties

by Glenn Flowers

Step outside the box and try a float rig for flatheads.



The number of ways to target flatheads on rod and reel are finite. Lures are making their way into the flathead community but we are still basically left with bottom fishing rigs. They include Carolina rigs, Texas rigs, three-way rigs, knocker rigs, and so on.

Up until a few years ago, even float fishing was rather limited, but today there are many floats on the market that can increase your flathead catch ratio tremendously. Float fishing for flatheads is not new, it's been around for years, however, I would like to think some of the tactics used today has evolved in many ways.

While fishing a tournament a while back a man by the name of Chad Lippoldt

The author, Capt. Glenn Flowers, demonstrated the effectiveness of floats for flatties with this Florida flathead.

gave me a few of his homemade floats to try. They were basically pool noodles with end caps glued on and a tiny hole to your line to run through. I was intrigued by this design. I could easily see how this float could tackle some of the issues that I ran into in the past.

In my mind, the idea of floats for flathead fishing is not necessary to keep the bait far above the bottom. It is very much the opposite. I pictured keeping the bait as close to the bottom as I could while using the float as a vessel to keep

my bait moving, covering ground, while intercepting active flatheads.

The floats that Chad had made were perfect for this application. They were big enough to keep a substantial amount of weight afloat, yet light enough to not feel over bulky when trying to strategically place baits.

The floats were a success. I mentioned little of the floats publicly. Selfishly I wanted all the action to myself, or at least until I perfected this method of bait presentation. I'm here to tell you, that just like with floats for bullheads, floats for flatheads absolutely do work, and they work well.

I rig my floats based on current speed and bait size. The idea is to find a flat where flatheads will be actively feeding, preferably with little current. Also, I use them in an area that has some sort of eddy or backwash.

Using a Team Catfish Mighty Wide Hook, I snell it to an 80-pound leader tied to a 2/0 swivel. The Mighty Wide hooks are similar in appearance to Kahle hooks which are basically a live bait hook. They have a wide gap that's needed for increased hookups when live-bait fishing, especially when your bait is many yards behind the boat.

Above my swivel I use a sinker slide. The slide keeps my weight from scratching up my main line which consists of 80-pound Tug-o-War Line. My weights will range from 1/0 to 4/0. If I need anything more than that the current is too swift. Before setting up I determine the depth in which I'll be working my floats. I use a bobber stopper to set my float to position the bait just inches off the bottom. This will allow for a sweeping action as the current consistently moves my bait around.

Another key to rigging up the float for flatheads adapts it to day or night fishing. This method can and will work during the day, but more often than not I'm flathead fishing at night. So, I attach a small glow tip atop the



Flowers was given the float he uses by Chad Lippoldt who makes the floats himself. Several versions are available in the marketplace.

float. That light insures clear visibility at great distances. There is something very special about working that bait through a fishing hole and seeing that glow stick vanish beneath the surface of the water. It's very exhilarating to witness.

I prefer bluegills or some other type of sunfish when fishing floats for flatheads. Call me old school, but I'm a believer in the gills. While many baits work well for flatheads, few produce consistently like gills. I have tried bullheads, large shiners, and shad with success. Bottom line, if it's all you got, and it's alive and kicking, run em'.

I have not tried fishing with floats in lakes. I'm certain, without a doubt,





not only will it work, but it would and could possibly out fish other types of bottom fishing methods for flatheads.

Another tip is to avoid the timber. I know, this sounds unlike anything a flathead fishermen would say, right? But it's true. Fallen timber will be detrimental to your float fishing success. The current, amplified by the kicking of your bait, will not end well. Your rig will find every snag laying on the bottom and it won't be long before you are out

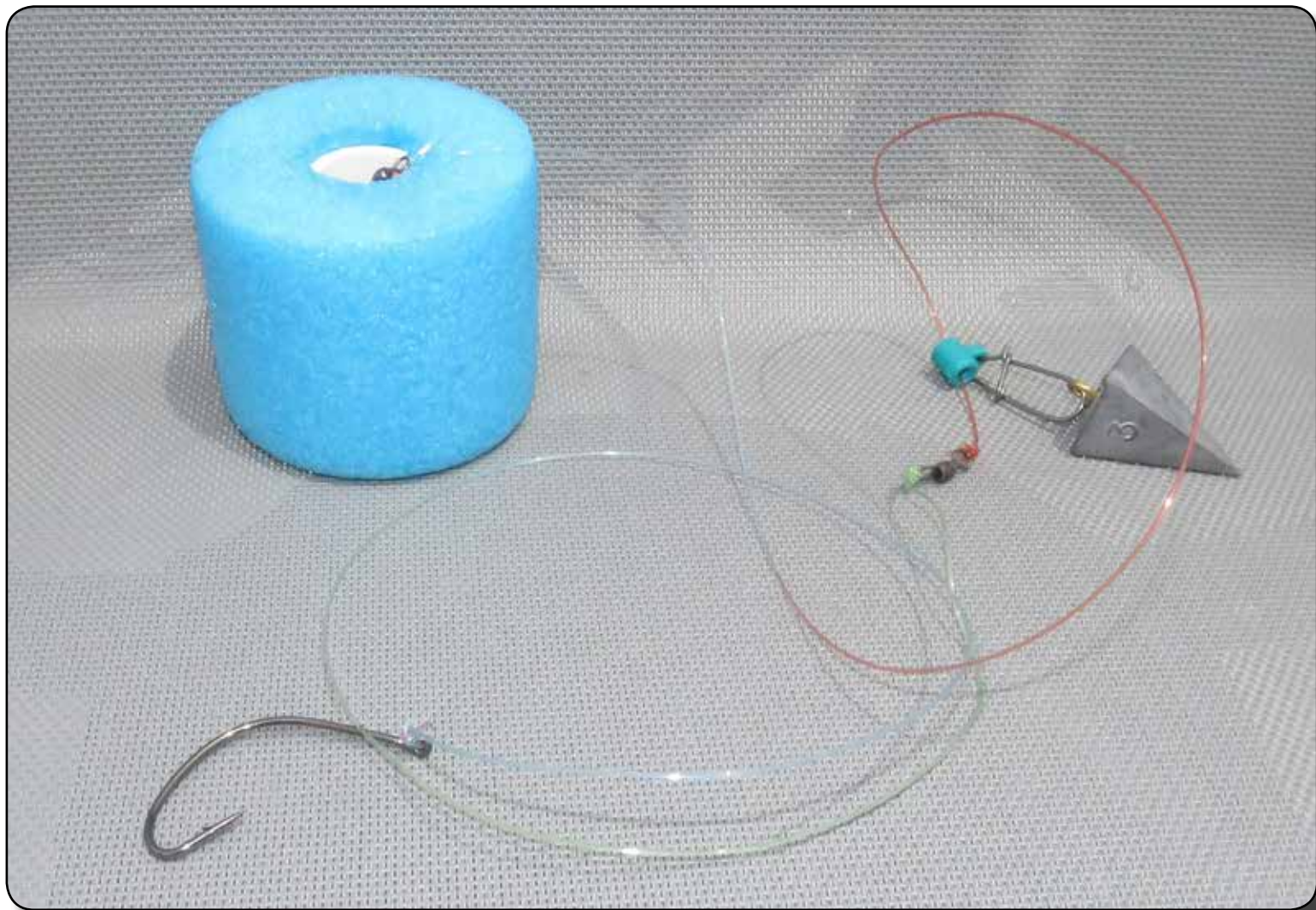
Anglers taking the time to learn proper float techniques can be rewarded with a flathead like this. The key, according to Flowers is to keep the bait moving.

"...floats for flatheads absolutely do work..."

of floats.

Anglers should spend a considerable amount of time finding and avoiding the flats, creek mouths, and eddies that have snags where your floats will be working. It's okay to have piles of timber just behind the drift zones because the flatheads will leave those snags and start to work the flat in search of prey.

Catfish floats are available anywhere online or you can make



your own. Make sure to keep them in your tackle box, and just like with your favorite lure, they will require practice. I won't sit here and tell you that you will go out and slay flatheads with floats immediately. You must practice not only where you fish with the floats but how to work the floats properly.

I no longer go to the water without floats rigged on my rods for flatheads. In years past I would fish up to 12 rods at one time. Today, I actively fish fewer rods. By actively fishing, I mean holding the rod and working the bait. I'll set my bottom rig out and then pick up my float rig (If the location calls for it). I'll work the bait through the hole I'm fishing.

Using floats in this way has proven to be extremely effective on flatheads. Proper use of floats produces high numbers of fish and

Flowers uses a Team Catfish Mighty Wide hook and a sinker slide to tie up his float rig. His weight is selected based on current and all his line is 80-pound test.

makes some very memorable flathead fishing experiences. Once mastered, you will have all of your fishing buddies asking how you are catching so many flatheads.

Good luck, and if you have any questions, find me on Facebook. I'll be more than willing to help answer any that you may have.

 - Glenn Flowers

Catfish are my real passion.

Growing up in Gaston County North Carolina, a blue collar textile community in the south, my first experiences fishing were along the banks of the Catawba River. The mill my parents worked for owned a piece of property where the workers were allowed to go fishing, picnic and camp. On the weekends we would go fish there at night.

Sitting on the sandy shore, a Coleman gas lantern burning, and listening to country music on a battery powered a.m. radio, these trips are imprinted in my mind. Every trip was an adventure in pursuit of that elusive monster catfish that was rumored to lurk in the waters. Even then, back in the 70's, we had heard the stories of the diver that worked on the bridge, seeing a catfish so big in the murky depths that he vowed he would never dive again!

My father passed away right before I turned ten years-old, but the trips we shared along those river banks are still with me. I wish we had more time together so that he could share more of his knowledge and love of the outdoors. His legacy was instilling in me a love, appreciation and respect for the outdoors, and that is the legacy I hope to leave behind for my children and others who I am able to reach.

Today my passion is for catfish, both big and small. I love saltwater fishing, especially for sharks, and I also chase stripers in freshwater, but catfish are my real passion. They are abundant and widespread across almost every waterway here in the south, they can be caught by various means on any kind of tackle, the fishing is relatively affordable, and they get big, REAL BIG!



Dieter Melhorn believes that giving catfish anglers the confidence they need to catch big fish will result in the likelihood that they will be willing to let the trophy fish go back to the water.

Like most catfish fishermen I started out wanting to catch fish and master my craft. I learned to anchor, drift, tie different catfish rigs and catch bait. I was lucky to have mentors early on like Capt. Rodger Taylor and Mac Byrum, both legendary guides on the Catawba River chain of lakes. They all helped me along with way by sharing their knowledge of the whiskered beast.

Soon I moved on to fishing catfish tournaments, and even winning a few along the way. Catfish tournaments were simpler then, lower entry fees,



fewer boats, and everyone knew each other. Anyone that showed up in a fiberglass boat was a “rich guy”, as most boats were small jon-boats or beat up and re-purposed pontoon boats.

I can remember when a 35-pound stringer of five catfish on Lake Wylie would win any tournament. Today, it takes 70-plus pounds in three fish to win on this lake. The fish and the anglers have changed a lot over the years.

Around 2006 I became president of

Dieter identifies 4 stages that fishermen go through. Stage 3 includes the desire to catch the biggest ones you can.

the Carolina Catfish Club at the urging of Mac Byrum. At the time the club was totally tournament oriented and I told him that if I took over we would focus our efforts and resources on conservation of the catfish resources. I also told him we would lose half our members





Spending time on the water will help any angler catch nice fish and Dieter has paid his dues. His focus now is more towards helping others catch fish than catching them himself.

in the process because most were old school fishermen and only interested in tournament fishing.

Well, we did lose half the members after I took over. However, we gained back three times as many over the next several years. The club focused on getting the first ever catfish laws in place on Lake Norman and Badin Lake. This law allowed only one 32-inch blue cat to be harvested. A few years later we followed up and got that same rule applied to four other lakes, and last year it was put in place on several bodies of water in the eastern part of North Carolina.

Today my focus is on creating fishing videos for Dieter Melhorn Fishing on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. My goal is to educate anglers on how to catch catfish and have the confidence in their fishing abilities so that they feel good about putting a fish back so they can go catch it again one day. I think the best way to promote catch and release of trophy catfish is through educating anglers. I believe giving them the confidence to catch trophy catfish will make them more likely to let that fish go.

The YouTube channel has opened my eyes to how widespread and loved catfishing is throughout the country. I've been really blessed to meet a lot of people, both in person and online, that watch the channel and love the sport of chasing Mr. Whiskers.

Most of my fishing today is done on the Catawba River chain of lakes; Wylie, Norman and Wateree. These lakes have produced several blues in the 60-pound range for me, and multiple flatheads in

the low 50's. I also really enjoy fishing Ft. Loudoun and Watts Bar in eastern Tennessee for their monster blues and flatheads.

I'm often asked if I guide, and so far that answer has been no. Recently I've been putting together a business plan for a guide business, so don't be surprised if you see "Captain" in front of my name one day! For now, I am enjoying pursuing catfish on my own schedule.

They say every fisherman goes through four phases. First, you just want to catch one, anything, any size. Second, you want to catch a limit, a lot of fish, all the fish you can. Third, you want to catch the biggest, win a tournament, be the best. Last, in the final stage you just want to fish how, where, and when, you want to fish.

That last phase, Shangri-La as I call it, is where I am at. It's a good place to be. It's an enjoyable place to be. I hope everyone lives long enough, and fishes long enough, to get to fishing's Shangri-La.



- Dieter Melhorn

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 CALENDAR

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

JUNE 16th	FISHIN BLUES	ELLSWORTH	KIDS TOURNAMENT
JUNE 16th	FLATHEAD BLUES ON CHANNEL2	HOOVER RESERVOIR	CLUB
JUNE 16th	KANAWHA RIVER CATFISH CLUB	POINT PLEASANT	CLUB
JUNE 16th	KERR LAKE MADKATTERS	STAUNTON VIEW BOAT RAMP	CLUB/NIGHT
JUNE 16th	WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS	TUNICA-RIVERPARK	CLUB
JUNE 21st	TRI-STATE KATS	SIOUX CITY	CLUB
JUNE 23rd	HOLD'EM HOOK	DITTO LANDING	CLUB
JUNE 23rd	INDIANA CATFISH	GLENDALE	CLUB
JUNE 23rd	TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOCIATION	HENRY	CLUB/NIGHT
JUNE 23rd - 24th	MICHIGAN CATFISH ANGLERS TRAIL	MUSKEGON RIVER	TRAIL/EVENT #6
JUNE 23rd - 24th	SCHEELS BOUNDRY BATTLE	RED RIVER	CLUB
JUNE 24th	CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS	TBD	CLUB
JUNE 24th	SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA MO RIVER CLUB	BROWNVILLE	CLUB
JUNE 24th	SOUTHWEST OHIO CATFISH CLUB	RIVERSIDE BOAT RAMP	CLUB #4
JUNE 27th	RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE	NORTH LANDING	CLUB
JUNE 30th	BIG SIOUX CAT ANGLERS	BIG SIOUX	CLUB
JUNE 30th	CATFISH COUNTRY	MANCHESTER	CLUB
JUNE 30th	KANAWHA RIVER CATFISH CLUB	NITRO	CLUB
JUNE 30th-1st July	ICATS	SAYLORVILLE	CLUB/NIGHT
JULY 7th	CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS	BRUNSWICK	CLUB/NIGHT
JULY 7th	SOUTHWEST OHIO CATFISH CLUB	CEASAR'S CREEK	CLUB #5
JULY 8th	SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA MO RIVER CLUB	NEBRASKA CITY	CLUB
JULY 11th	RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE	LAFAVE PARK	CLUB
JULY 14th	BIG SIOUX CAT ANGLERS	SKILLY SLAM	CLUB
JULY 14th	CATFISH CHASERS TOURNAMENT SERIES	ST JOSEPH MO/MO RIVER	CLUB
JULY 14th	CATFISH COUNTRY	AUGUSTA	CLUB
JULY 14th	CATFISH MAFIA	CONOWINGO	CLUB/NIGHT
JULY 14th	FISHIN BLUES	ELLSWORTH	CLUB/NIGHT
JULY 14th	INDIANA CATFISH	CATERACT	CLUB
JULY 14th	TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOCIATION	KEOKUK IA	CLUB
JULY 14th	WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS	RIPLEY	CLUB
JULY 14th - 15th	MICHIGAN CATFISH ANGLERS TRAIL	MAPLE RIVER	TRAIL/ED PARKINSON MEMORIAL

CLUB	FACEBOOK
BIG CAT QUEST	FACEBOOK
BIG SIOUX CAT ANGLERS	FACEBOOK
CABELA'SKING KAT TOURNAMENT TRAIL	FACEBOOK
CAROLINA ANGLERS TEAM TRAIL C.A.T.T	FACEBOOK
CATFISH CHASERS TOURNAMENT SERIES	FACEBOOK
CATFISH CONFERENCE	FACEBOOK
CATFISH COUNTRY	FACEBOOK
CATFISH NATION OUTDOORS	FACEBOOK
CATFISH MAFIA	FACEBOOK
CATHUNTERS ASSOC. OF THE SOUTH C.A.T.S.	FACEBOOK
CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS	FACEBOOK
CENTRAL TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL	FACEBOOK
CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLJACK CATFISHING	FACEBOOK
FISHIN BLUES	FACEBOOK
FLATHEAD BLUES ON CHANNEL 2	FACEBOOK
GET-N-HOOKED	FACEBOOK
HOLD'EM HOOK CATFISH TRAIL	FACEBOOK
ICATS	FACEBOOK
INDIANA CATFISH	FACEBOOK
J.K.V. CATFISHING TOURNAMENT TRAIL	FACEBOOK
KANAWHA RIVER CATFISH CLUB	FACEBOOK
MICHIGAN CATFISH ANGLERS TRAIL	FACEBOOK
MISSISSIPPI CATFISH TRAIL	FACEBOOK
MISSISSIPPI RIVER MONSTERS	FACEBOOK
MONSTERS ON THE OHIO	FACEBOOK
OHIO VALLEY CATFISHING	FACEBOOK
OHIO VALLEY RIVER CATS	FACEBOOK
OLD DOMINION CATFISH CLUB	FACEBOOK
RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE	FACEBOOK
SCHEELS BOUNDARY BATTLE CATFISH TOURNAMENT	FACEBOOK
SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB	FACEBOOK
SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA MO RIVER CATFISH CLUB	FACEBOOK
SOUTHWEST OHIO CATFISH CLUB	FACEBOOK
TRI STATE KATS	FACEBOOK
TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOCIATION	FACEBOOK
TUG-N-JUGS	FACEBOOK
TWISTED CAT OUTDOORS	FACEBOOK
WEST TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL	FACEBOOK
WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS	FACEBOOK
WHISKY CITY CATFISH CLUB	FACEBOOK
WICKED WHISKER TOURNAMENT TRAIL	FACEBOOK

SOUTH WEST OHIO CATFISH CLUB

LAKE ABERDEEN

APRIL 29th

1. Shannon Dotson/John Baker/Dad	54.5
2. Daniel Bell/Bryce Bell	50.4
3. Willie Smith/Stacie Smith	34.1
4. Cory Copis/Alyssa Householder/Ty Householder	20
5. Vic Shepherd/Chris Debow	19.8

BIG FISH

1. Daniel Bell/Bryce Bell	37.6
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BIG SOUX CAT ANGLERS

BIG SOUX

MAY 5th

1. Ethan Evink	26.06
2. Ertman	9.12
3. Logan Miller	9.12
4. Jory Fink/Rogelio Cancino	7.03
5. Matt Anderson/Cody Herrboldt	4.13

BIG FISH

1. Ethan Evink	10.14
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CABELA'S KING KAT

ROCKY FORK LAKE

MAY 5th

1. Daniel Shirey/Craig Shirey	54.24
2. Daniel Yoder/Michael Thompson	51
3. Shawn Dauphin/Craig Williams	50.9
4. James Fox/Janet Fox	49.9
5. Jerry Hite/Michael Anderson	44.76

BIG FISH

1. James Fox/Janet Fox	15.12
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CATFISH COUNTRY

BIG BONE

MAY 5th

1. Darrin Wright/Diane Wright	66.7
2. Adam Dehner/Clyde Caldwell	61.95
3. Michael Brock/Jason Painter	26.35

BIG FISH

1. Adam Dehner/Clyde Caldwell	32.2
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GETNHOOKED

FORT GIBSON

MAY 5th

1. Catch and Release	65.42
2. Thomas/Sipes	39.6
3. Sleeping Dawg	32.32
4. F-M-F	30.02
5. Cat Nappers	27.18

BIG FISH

1. Catch and Release	29.1
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INDIANA CATFISH ASSOCIATION

LAKE MONROE

MAY 5th

1. Merrill King/Jerry Shepherd	38.7
2. Terry Holding/MJ Wood	38.5
3. Justin Arthur/Kevin Childress	9.2
4. James Holcomb/Jeff Mitchner/Jessica Peaslee	4.4
5. Curt Kleeman/Joe Cox	2.8

BIG FISH

1. Terry Holding/MJ Wood	38.5
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JKV CATFISHING

OHIO RIVER

MAY 5th

1. Tom Patrowski/Henry Neafus	87.35
2. Jason Geary/Cage Dean	45.65
3. Casey Tutorrow/Andrew Haun	39.2
4. Adam/Kelly	35.25
5. Justin Hedges/Gerald Hedges/Don Elder	30.35

BIG FISH

1. Tom Patrowski/Henry Neafus	36.7
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SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB

LAKE WYLIE

MAY 5th

1. Aaron Buchanan/Matt Hall	105.65
2. Jeff Manning/Michael Paciocco	99.45
3. Richard Warskow/Chris Lunsford	98.1
4. David Faulkenberry/Reece Holley	96.05
5. Steve Whitley/Shane Owenby	92.5

BIG FISH

1. Steve Whitley/Shane Owenby	48.55
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Tournament Results

ICATS

CORALVILLE

MAY 6th

1. Alicia Ennor/Martin Ennor	30
2. Tyler Vorwald/Chris Urmie/Greg Allen	29
3. Ross Merritt/Rodney Robertson	26.4
4. Eric Schwenn/Dave Melchert	24.8
5. Jacob Hagouman/Kyle Hagouman	23.8

TUG-N-JUGS

FORT GIBSON

MAY 6th

1. Whisker Warriors	118.5
2. Big Studs	66.72
3. Koolcats	57.38
4. Jug Life	55.88
5. Big Whiskers	51.9

BIG FISH

1. Whisker Warriors	34.38
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RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE

NORTH LANDING

MAY 9th

1. Lunski/Lunski	35.86
2. Murray/Taylor	34.12
3. Srnsky/Stewart	31.09

BIG FISH

1. Lunski/Lunski	18.56
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CABELS'A KING KAT

OHIO/KANAWHA

MAY 12th

1. Chris Souders/Nick Conaway	106.6
2. Willie Smith/Nick Anderson	106.48
3. Chris Rhodes/Chris Hatfield	103.06
4. Anthony Murphy/Michael Snyder	79.1
5. David Hart/Teresa Shelpman	78.62

BIG FISH

1. Burt Hunt/Jacob Hunt	49.24
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TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOCIATION

PEKIN

MAY 12th

1. Tom Luttrell/Hunter Lutrell	60.4
2. Mike Flaherty/Pete Moreland	55.25
3. Ray Eutis/John Liles	54.05
4. Ken Luttrell/Bryan Espy	53
5. Adam Hart/Chris Hart	51.45

BIG FISH

1. Tom Luttrell/Hunter Lutrell	25.05
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TR-STATE KATS

SIOUX CITY

MAY 12th

1. Johnny Johnson/Ron Siebold	19.66
2. Jerry Limoges/Jerry Limoges JR	17.1
3. Kelvin Horn/Missy Horn	5.48
4. Clayton Leibrich/Jessica Grause	1.1

BIG FISH

1. Johnny Johnson/Ron Siebold	11.58
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MICHIGAN CATFISH ANGLERS TRAIL

SAGINAW RIVER

MAY 12th - 13th

1. Adam Weigold/George Didden/George JR	38
2. Team Whisker Ticklers	31.9
3. Lloyd Jancaric/Rob Janncaric/Tony Borowski	30.4
4. Zack Allen/Todd Labar	29.6
5. Jason Farmer/Noah Keel/Kyle Hutek	29

BIG FISH

1. Adam Weigold/George Didden/George JR	13.4
2. Jason Farmer/Noah Keel/Kyle Hutek	13.4

RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH
LEAGUE

LAFAYETTE PARK

MAY 16th

1. Lunski/Gudajtes	30.78
2. Snobl/Snobl	29.27
3. Srnsky/Stewart	26.05

BIG FISH

1. Lunski/Gudajtes	18.44
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CABELA'S KING KAT

OHIO/WABASH RIVERS

MAY 19th

1. Dale Kerns/Greg Edwards	131.3
2. Zed Moore/Josh Moore/Les Moore	126.14
3. Scott Cress/Carl Crone	78.96
4. Audie/Hammond/Paul Stokes	66.5
5. Anthony Murphy/Michael Snyder	62.6

BIG FISH

1. Zed Moore/Josh Moore/Les Moore	48.5
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CATFISH MAFIA

MAY 19th

1. Jimmy Ewing	82.1
2. Craig Pryor	71.3
3. James Mclaughlin	64.6
4. Shaw Sipes	60.3
5. Glen Orr	60.2

BIG FISH

1. Andrew Lentz	11.9
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CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLJACKS

BLUFF CREEK

MAY 19th

1. Killer B's	49.5
2. Hook'em Up	47.3
3. Team Livingston	42.35

BIG FISH

1. Livers & Gizzards	14.75
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CENTRAL TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL

LAKE BUCHANAN

MAY 19th

1. DRTW	34.95
2. Town Creek Outfitters	32.83
3. Houston Guide Service	14.56
4. Mojo	11.03
5. Pezsimistic	9.65

BIG FISH

1. DRTW	18.7
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GET-N-HOOKED

KAW LAKE

MAY 19th

1. Catch and Release	62.74
2. Predator	50.82
3. FMF	47.58
4. Whisker Tickler	45.52
5. Catfish Addiction	40.42

BIG FISH

1. Catch and Release	15.74
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INDIANA CATFISH ASSOCIATION

LAKE VINCENNES

MAY 19th

1. Leroy Stoll/Jason Wagner/Joseph Wagner	79.1
2. James Holcomb/Jeff Mitchner	65.5
3. Terry Yoder/Anthony Raber	29.3
4. James Knepp/Jeffery Yoder/Bradley Wagler	27.5
5. Ron Streeter/George Lemaster	24.6

BIG FISH

1. Leroy Stoll/Jason Wagner/Joseph Wagner	69.9
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KANAWHA RIVER CATFISH CLUB**MAY 19th**

1. Adam Scott/Cody Williams/Justin Vaught	97.95
2. Daniel Yoder/Michael Thompson	57.75
3. John Gibson/Terry Legg	52.35

BIG FISH

1. Adam Scott/Cody Williams/Justin Vaught	39.25
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WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS

CARUTHERS LAKE

MAY 19th

1. Scott Mathis/James R Hemby	108.99
2. Jeff Dodd/Cedric Poyner	79.3
3. Clint Tanner/Gray Palmer	53.3
4. Chris Peyton/Mike Conrad	51.75
5. Jeff Kirkpatrick/Justin Russell	40.04

BIG FISH

1. Scott Mathis/James R Hemby	56.81
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RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE

NORTH LANDING

MAY 23rd

1. Kallock/Kallock	34.77
2. Weber/Anderson	33.24
3. Raymond/Messelt	32.61

BIG FISH

1. Lunski/Gudajtes	20.17
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FLATHEAD BLUES ON CHANNEL 2

HOOVER RESERVOIR

MAY 26TH

1. Joe Hatfield/Marc Elwell	40.8
2. Ron Hughes/Don Hughes	33.2
3. Shawn Dauphin/Craig Williams	30.6
4. Jerry Hite/Joey Perez	26.8
5. David Funk/Chris Macri	23.4

BIG FISH

1. Joe Hatfield/Marc Elwell	22.6
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HOLD'EM HOOK CATFISH TRAIL

JOE WHEELER

MAY 26th

1. Wayne Reed	72.1
2. Edmond Crowdon	49.6
3. Steve Dobbs	42
4. Ryan Lee	37
5. Scott Lovelace	33.3

BIG FISH

1. Wayne Reed	49.1
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SOUTH WEST OHIO CATFISH CLUB

CHILO

MAY 26th

1. Dave Opbroek	44
2. Joey Meadows/Andrew Meadows	37.5
3. Willie Smith/Nick Anderson	31.8
4. Greg Defosse/Bruce Chrome/Russ Stittner	24
5. Vic Shepherd/Matt Bechdolt	23.1

TRI STATE KATS

SIOUX CITY

MAY 26th

1. Jery Limoges/Jerry Limoges JR	21.32
2. Johnny Johnson/Ron Siebold	9.56
3. Kelvin Horn/Missy Horn	7.52
4. Ryan McFarland/Taylor Crippen	2.35

BIG FISH

1. Jery Limoges/Jerry Limoges JR	9.5
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**RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH
LEAGUE**

LAFAVE PARK

MAY 30th

1. Kostrzewski/Kostrzewski	25.24
2. Raymond/Messelt	23.56
3. Murray/Taylor	18.06

BIG FISH

1. Lucas Kostrzewski	17.01
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TUG-N-JUGS

KEYSTONE

JUNE 1st -3rd

1. Whisker Warriors	101.32
2. Jug Life	66.06
3. Bring It On	62.12
4. Cat Daddy's	57.88
5. Big Whiskers	56.64

BIG FISH

1. Whisker Warriors	24.8
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BIG SIOUX CAT ANGLERS

BROWNS LAKE

JUNE 2nd

1. Kirk McInnis	15.11
2. Benjamin Schlumbohm/Daniel Murphy	14.01
3. Mike Gray/Alexis Gray	14
4. Daniel Black/Adam Barcus	13.09
5. Dick/Jeremy	12.15

BIG FISH

1. Kirk McInnis	8
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CABELA'S KING KAT

ROCK RIVER

JUNE 2nd

1. Mike Kuehl/Kassi Kuehl	49.24
2. Kevin Hoffman/Lisa Arevalo	40.4
3. Brandon Heckert/Trent Burtlow	38.58
4. Shane Ferguson/Jason Springer	35
5. Tyler Richards/Matt Dennison	32.82

BIG FISH

1. Mike Kuehl/Kassi Kuehl	28.66
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CATFISH MAFIA

LAKE ALDRED

JUNE 2nd

1. Chris Wolfe	110
2. Mike Hoover	96
3. Glen Orr	79.4
4. Shawn Sipes	78
5. Keith Rippeon	67.8

BIG FISH

1. Chris Wolfe	39.8
2. Glen Orr	39.8

GET-N-HOOKED

KEYSTONE

JUNE 3rd

1. Catch And release	53.82
2. Predator	28.02
3. Kat-Astrophe	6.54
4. Catnado	6.4
5. Catfish Addiction	4.54

BIG FISH

1. Predator	22.04
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JKV CATFISHING TOURNAMENT TRAIL

SHAWNETOWN

JUNE 2nd

1. Wayne King/Conner King	120.6
2. Andy Williams/Jeremiah Keen/Cassie Castlen	72.8
3. Casey Tottorow/Andrew Haun	57.05
4. Adam Winder/Kelly Krielse	53.95
5. Jash Vanover/Tony Weathers	50.12

BIG FISH

1. Wayne King/Conner King	48.2
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ICATS

RED ROCK

JUNE 3rd

1. Andy Jennings/Travis Tullis/Matt White	37.8
2. Troy Hanson/Ken Miller	37.6
3. Raymond Harris	35.6
4. Cody Keyes/Clint Crawford	35.4
5. Ryan Norris/Calvin Barber/Cody Mann (Tied 5th) Eric Houseman/Austin Richmond/Jami	35.2

RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE

NORTH LANDING

JUNE 6th

1. Dustin L/Jamie G	21.89
2. Chris T/Bill M.	18.68
3. Elise S/Jason K	16.58

BIG FISH

1. Dustin L/Jamie G	17.13
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Tight lines 'till next time

