



Merry Christmas from

CATFISH NOW!

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The Future is in our Youth

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by Keith "Catfish" Sutton

Making memories with your kids may be the best thing to result from your next fishing trip together.



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by Jeffrey Miller

Dip baits are an excellent technique to get kids catching catfish. Not only can they catch fish for the pan, but also have a chance at a big one!



Our Son, The Catman....20

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This is the story of how a teenager from Montana came to be known and recognized by some of the best in the catfish industry.



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Catfish Connections – Youthful Passion

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With the holidays upon us, happy thoughts turn to family, friends, and children. Of course, in many of our social events, we get to be with our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren even more. As anglers, fishing is always discussed, especially concerning our children. Many of us hope to provide them opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and of course, fishing.

Personally, as a boy, I was taken fishing frequently by my dad and grandmother. Reflecting on those experiences now brings back a flood of happy memories and so many funny stories. I believe this helped me to become someone who passionately desires to pass this warm feeling to others about a sport I grew up adoring even while serving 25 years in the military. One positive experience can change a lifetime of events and relationships both within and outside of families and their children.

I remember the very first fish I caught. It was a catfish and I thought it was a monster. It really wasn't, but it hooked me on fishing because my dad and grandma made such a big splash about it and I felt accomplishment. After that fish, I caught almost everything that swims and most of the time we cleaned them and ate them.

Recently, I had the opportunity of a lifetime. I was asked to be part of a production financed by a grant to help show children how to fish for crappie. We caught crappie, catfish, bass and even a gar. This production is now showing across the nation and Canada on public television and will be on key websites soon. We demonstrated how to rig, choose fishing locations, regulations, safety, cleaning, cooking fish, etc. Our goal is to show everyone, everywhere how to blend children into fishing and the great outdoors. Be sure to check this out.

If we all take a child fishing, we turn on one light that will spread to many and I believe it will bring us all together now and in the future no matter our age, demographics, etc. Learning to fish in our childhood, I believe, will build a better world for the future.

Promise me to take a child fishing in 2020 and have a wonderful holiday season!

God Bless,

Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher

Front Cover:

Sawyer Goebel came by his enthusiasm for catfish naturally. He is the son of Ben and Amanda Goebel.

Ben owns and operates RiverCity Catfishing Guide Service out of Mount Vernon, Indiana. (Shannelle Everman Kline Photo)

The Survival Trip

by Keith "Catfish" Sutton

It's time to plan an unforgettable adventure with your kids.



From the start, it was a trip for my sons— Matthew, 12, Shaun, 11, and Jared, 10. While they were still young, I wanted to plan an outdoor adventure they would never forget. So, I came up with the idea of a 60-mile floating/camping trip on the lower Arkansas and Mississippi rivers. The boys dubbed it "The Survival Trip" and invited three friends to join us for our fun get-away: our family friend "Uncle Bill" Hailey, my best friend Lewis Peeler and Lew's 14-year-old son, Justin.

After months of planning, we began our float below Wilbur Mills Dam in southeast

On a backcountry river float and camping trip, the author and his sons created special memories of time spent together outdoors.

You and your children can do it, too.

(Photo: Keith Sutton)

Arkansas, casting off in a canoe and two johnboats. Camping gear we had, but other than sandwich fixings, we agreed our food would come from the river. No fish, no supper. Hand-held games, radios and other modern conveniences were banned.

Rules were banned as well. The boys



could do as they pleased as long as they wore life jackets when swimming and boating. Their fun, I decided, shouldn't be encumbered by unnecessary restrictions.

We allotted three days for our journey. Day One would take us 15 miles downriver. On Day Two, we'd make camp at the mouth of the Arkansas, 25 miles farther on. Day Three would find us at our takeout point, a 20-mile float down the mighty Mississippi.

Our first stop was the old Yancopin Railroad Bridge, three miles below the dam. The tracks have gone unused for decades, and the bridge's steel framework looked rusty and old. Two outer spans were raised as if someone were waiting for a steamboat to pass.

We stopped for a while—swimming, fishing, exploring—then moved on.

Except for a lone deer camp halfway down, the Yancopin Bridge is the last bit of civilization on the lower Arkansas.

After a rainstorm the second day, the sun illuminated distant thunderheads while camp was made. (Photo: Keith Sutton)

Downstream there is only the river and the big woods around it—and on this day, four boys eager to make camp and start their fun.

We pitched our tents on Melinda Bar, a high, mile-long sandbar that has long been a landmark for river travelers. When camp was ready, the boys went off to explore. Lew and I paddled out and set trotlines.

Justin fished and caught a nice bass, dinner for two. Several catfish caught by the boys soon joined it on a stringer. We feasted on them that night, then retired to the tents away from the mosquitoes. We had survived Day One.

I arose at dawn. The boats were gone. The river, shrouded in fog, had risen six feet



Fishing for supper: Shaun, Matt and Jared Sutton wading at the mouth of the Arkansas River. (Photo: Keith Sutton)



overnight.

I awakened the others and, after some discussion, decided to cast off on an air mattress I slept on that night.

“What if you don’t find the boats, Dad?” the boys asked.

“Then I’ll see you in New Orleans next week.”

I found the canoe a few miles downstream. The johnboats were farther on. With sighs of relief, we rounded them up, broke camp and soon were motoring downstream again.

White sandbars stretched to the horizon, cleaner and prettier than Florida beaches. We stopped now and then to swim and fish, but mostly we floated, watching as the scenery unfolded. We agreed that none of us ever felt so far from civilization as we did on that day. What a wonderful feeling it was.

Lewis and I caught some crappie in a small oxbow. We ate them that evening beneath a painted sky at the mouth of the great river. A rain shower drenched us as we made camp, but the clouds soon broke, and as the sun set, it bathed distant thunderheads in salmon-colored light. The boys waded out to swim and fish in the first currents of the Mississippi River.

We survived Day Two.

The Mississippi swallowed us. “It’s huge!” said Matt. “It’s gigantic!” shouted Shaun. Indeed, we felt small on the Father of Waters.

Civilization rejoined us here. Loggers worked the big timber just down from the Arkansas’ mouth, the first people we’d encountered since leaving the dam. Homes could be seen. A grainery. Roads. Power lines. Buoys. Barges. Litter. We left the wilderness behind.

“Imagine what it must have been like a long time ago,” I told Shaun and Jared as we made our way downstream. “Have you heard of Hernando DeSoto?”

“Yes,” the boys said. They learned of him in school.

“He landed at the place where we camped last night in 1542.”

“Wow!” the boys said.

“How ‘bout Marquette and Joliet? And La

“Rules were banned ... The boys could do as they pleased as long as they wore life jackets when swimming and boating.”

Salle? Have you heard of them, too?

“Yes,” they responded.

“They camped there, too, with a great tribe of Indians, way back in the 1600s. La Salle and his men built a great cross and raised it there. He claimed these lands for the king of France. Mark Twain came by here many times, and John James Audubon, the great painter.”

They turned and looked at each other with eyes opened wide. History was never so fun.

We floated several hours, absorbing the river’s majesty. All of us felt exhilarated. No one wanted to see the takeout.

Unfortunately, all good things must end. At four that afternoon, our float trip ended.

During each of the next three summers, we did it again. On the last trip, I went out when everyone was asleep and sat by the water. It was cool; the mosquitoes were gone. The stars shone brighter than I remembered.

As I sat there, I found myself overwhelmed by a feeling of great awe. And I was thankful I could share the wonders of the rivers with my sons.

Perhaps you will never float the Arkansas and Mississippi with your kids. But somewhere near your home is a wild river or a little lake or a back-forty pond on a neighbor’s farm where you can enjoy a special trip together. All it takes is time.

Plan it now. Keep it simple. Leave the rules at home. Open the door to the great outdoors and step inside with your children.

Disney World and Six Flags were never so good.



- Keith Sutton

Catfish Basics #077**Send the Bait to the Fish –
Ryan Berglund, Lawrence, KS**

Walking baits, also known as bumping baits, sends the bait to the fish instead of the fish coming to your bait. This is an effective way of fishing in faster moving waters.

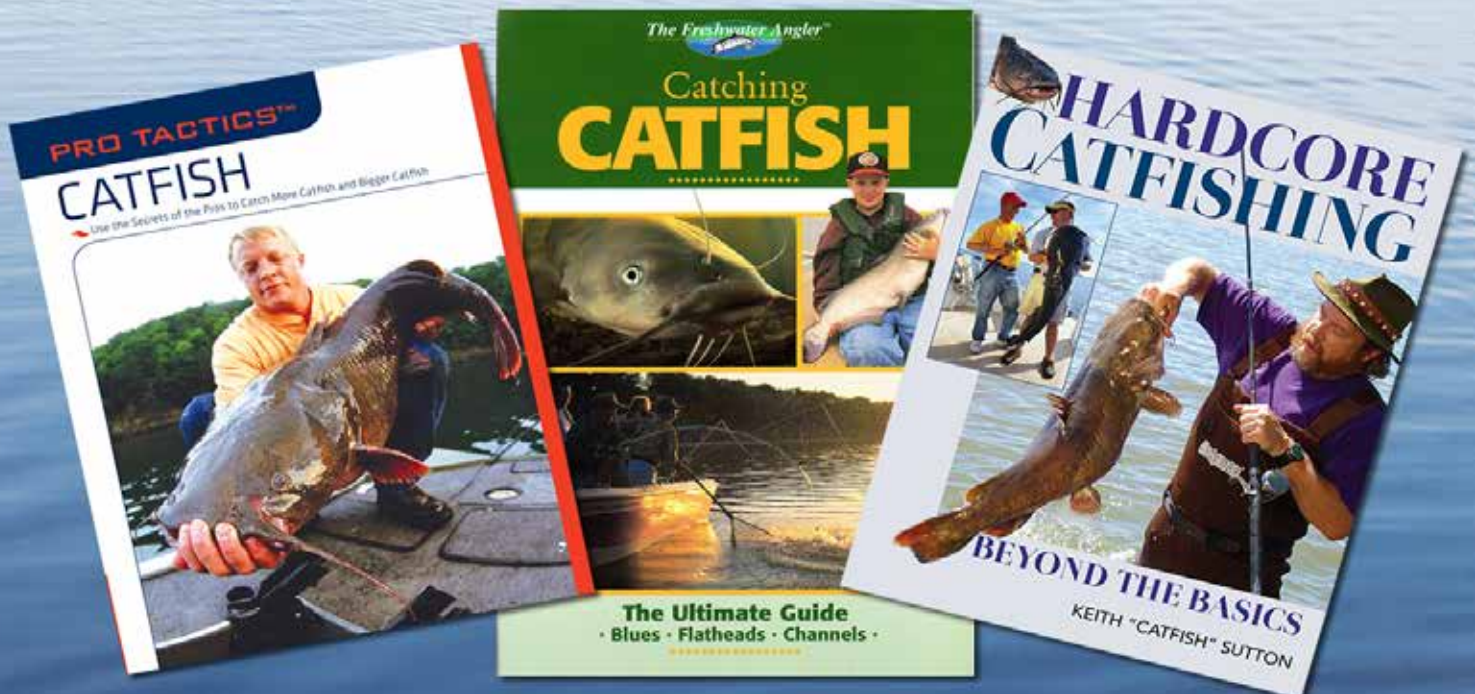
This method is hard work and can take a fair amount of time to perfect, but could mean the difference between weighing and skunking on tournament day. Sometimes bumping produces quantity more than quality, but a decent bag of fish can find you in the winner's circle.

When heading out to bump, make sure you bring a well-rested arm and snacks that you can eat one-handed (or no-handed when that fish decides to hit).



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CATFISH GEAR

Catfish Gear #023 —King Kat Tournament Trail Kids



The Catfish Gear column is normally reserved for one of our sponsors that provides anglers with gear of some sort. This month it is dedicated to another CatfishNOW sponsor, Bass Pro Cabela's King Kat Tournament Trail, because of their dedication to youth fishing.

Last year the King Kat trail conducted about 21 tournaments. Most of them held a Kid's Rodeo on Saturday morning of the tournament. They make it as simple as they can. Their pre-tournament publicity

There is nothing like a kid with a catfish to produce a smile.

announces a location where families can show up and register.

The events are free of charge and open to all youth 12 years old and younger when accompanied by an adult. Sign up is from 8:00 am until 9:00 am with fishing



from 9:00 am until 11:00 am.

The Fishing Rodeos are a chance for children of the area to get out and enjoy nature, do a little fishing, and win some prizes. Additionally, all participants are eligible for a chance to win one of several \$1,000 scholarships presented annually.

In addition to rodeo participation, any youth who fish in regularly scheduled trail events are also eligible for scholarships.

The scholarships are managed by Outdoor Promotions, a nonprofit organization. Money is raised at the tournaments through raffles supported by King Kat sponsors. Participating anglers have contributed more than \$372,000.00 to youth scholarships since 1997.

"We are very proud to be a part of the education process for the youngsters who participate in the tournaments as adult/youth teams and those who fish

The kids are often greeted by King Kat, the tournament mascot. It makes a great photo op and gives the kids something special to remember.

in the Outdoor Promotions Kids Fishing Rodeos," said Darrell Van Vactor, operations manager.

Note: If you see a King Kat tournament in your area you are invited to bring your kids out to the Kid's Rodeo on Saturday of the tournament. You can check the 2020 King Kat schedule on their website at <https://www.kingkatusa.com/>. If your town is on their schedule you are welcome to attend the Kid's Rodeo.

Dippin' Bait with the Miller Girls

by Jeffrey Miller

Kids and dip baits go together like peanut butter and jelly.



The channel catfish that inhabit the small prairie river near my home thrill and excite even seasoned veterans of the bewhiskered fish. To up the ante, I often take my 3 daughters, Naomi, Maia, and Ivy along to reel in the big ones. They have learned not to wrinkle their nose too much when they smell the odoriferous scent of a prime dip bait wafting in the boat, as they know it means they will be reeling the fish in soon!

Pushing Off

Of course, the very first thing that kids need, before they step into the boat, are personal

Four-year-old Ivy Miller caught this 31-inch cat using Premo Blood Bait. She used all her muscles to get the fish to the net.

floatation devices. Even the slowest looking river can be dangerous, and my girls wear their PFD's before they even set foot on the river bank. Kids are our most precious cargo in the boat, and they can never be too safe. Care also must be taken navigating around the wet, slick mud of the river. A kid mired in the mud isn't a happy kid!



We fish out of my old 10-foot aluminum Ouachita Jon boat, which I have named "Whisker and Barbel." With a boat that small, it helps that my girls are ages 10, 9, and 5. It takes a few minutes to get everyone situated and comfortable. Once the girls are safely loaded and ready, we push off the bank and into the current.

Lines in the Water

When fishing with kids, it's important to remember that the journey is as important as the destination. Our boat is powered by a transom-mounted trolling motor and running upriver is not a quick endeavor. Rather than allow the kids to become bored, I will run near the bank or fallen trees. We will try to spot raccoon, mink or other critters tracks in the wet mud, and listen to the gurgle of the water running over logs and branches.

We also keep our eyes peeled around every bend and try to be the first to spot birds flushing off the slack water. They aren't even surprised anymore to spot deer on the banks or beaver swimming in the dark water. It's very important to make the outing a totally

Ten-year-old Naomi Miller with a 30-inch cat. She thought she was snagged, but after a tussle, she boated this beauty.

immersive experience, and not just a fishing trip. Riparian ecosystems are amazingly diverse, and a trip can be a great educational experience as well.

Once we find a likely looking snag or hole, out comes the dip baits. We have successfully used a variety of different dip baits, from Sonny's to Magic Bait to Junnie's. If it's a dip bait, we've tried it. Dip baits work great for kids because they appeal to all sizes of catfish, and





don't require extra time to procure baitfish for cut bait.

My youngest, Ivy, loves to stir the concoction to a soupy consistency. In go the dip worms, and after a healthy dunk I lob the baits up near debris. To add some extra excitement, after getting the rods in the rod holders I will attach bells to the end. Besides watching for the tell-tale bobbing of a frisky fish pulling the bait, the clear tone of the bell gets everyone excited to start reeling.

Time for Battle!

My youngest daughter Ivy and I had gotten off to a slow start on a beautiful afternoon in August. Her sisters had decided to stay at home, and we were trying to catch a few fish for the pan. I was adding an eater-sized fish to the basket when the rod in the holder slammed down. Quickly removing the rod, I placed it in her hands and the battle was on!

It was immediately apparent that this wasn't a pan-sized fish. Had blue water replaced the brown river water, it would have appeared that Ivy was fighting a marlin, as she strained

Eight-year-old Maia Miller with a 26-inch cat caught on a morning trip. Paying attention to the rod holder paid off.

against the rod. Her small hands cranked on the reel as the line wove a crazy pattern through the current. Her face was a mask of determination, and slowly but surely the fish was brought closer and closer to the boat. The sinker had just popped out of the water when the fish made a surge back to the bottom, its forked tail breaking the surface before disappearing.

"It's a big one!" I exclaimed, and Ivy's face broke into a determined smile. Continuing to crank on the Diawa reel, she brought the fish back. A stab in the water with the net brought the big cat aboard.

I was shocked. We consider anything over 30 inches a trophy on my home water, and Ivy's cat fit the bill. The big cat measured just under 31 inches. We high-fived and marveled

"... the memories of dip bait and catfish will be a thread that will connect us forever."

at her trophy before releasing it back into the depths. The smile on her face was worth the price of admission. That night at bedtime, she watched Youtube videos of monster cats as she fell asleep.

Sister Act

Ivy's big fish came on a solo daddy and daughter trip, but quite often the whole crew hits the river. Taking a cue from fishing trips with friend and master Red River fishing guide Brad Durick, the girls play rock paper scissors for the order of fish. The winner gets the first fish, second place gets second fish, and so

on. The girls are always reminded that first fish isn't necessarily the biggest.

With more little hands in the boat, each girl has a job. Ivy stirs and preps the dip bait, Naomi mans the fish basket, and Maia is the photographer. After the lines are out, the active wait begins.

Kids today have a fast-paced life. Cell phones, Youtube, electronics, and other daily distractions have kids wired to get what they want immediately. When I started them catfishing, they would quickly become bored if the action wasn't fast and furious. However, they learned with more experience that active waiting has a beauty all its own. Knowing that a fish can grab the bait at any second, the girls sit attentively, watching and waiting. No electronic device can provide the excitement of a bent rod.

We had anchored upriver of a big snag. Among the first fish to hit was another good



2020 Schedule

- 2/08/20 Cross (Santee Cooper), SC
- 2/14&15/20 Lake Ray Hubbard, TX
- 3/07/20 Lake Tawakoni, TX
- 3/14/20 Wheeler Lake, AL
- 3/28/20 Milford Lake, KS
- 4/04/20 Old Hickory Lake, TN
- 4/11/20 Lake Wateree, SC
- 4/18/20 Lakes Piquette/Wilson, AL
- 4/18/20 Turtle Creek Lake, KS
- 4/25/20 Lake Wylie, NC
- 5/02/20 Watts Barr Lake, TN
- 5/09/20 Gallipolis (Ohio/Kanawha Rivers), OH
- 5/16/20 Truman Lake, MO
- 6/13/20 Carlyle Lake, IL
- 8/01/20 Dixon (Rock River), IL
- 8/08/20 Helena (Mississippi River), AR
- 9/12/20 Pekin (Illinois River), IL
- 9/19/20 Jeffersonville (Ohio River), IN
- 9/26/20 Grand Rivers (TN/Cumberland Rivers-KY/BKLY Lakes), KY
- 10/03/20 Grafton (Mississippi/Illinois Rivers), IL
- 10/10/20 Williamsburg (James River), VA
- 10/17/20 Caruthersville (Mississippi River), MO

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one. My middle daughter Maia was on the rod this time and fought the channel cat in the current for some time before she was able to wrestle it close enough to be netted. The pale chunky cat measured a touch over 27 inches. Much too big for the pan, the cat gave us a splash as it was released. The cool water felt good on the hot day, and we all got a laugh as water dripped down our faces.

Daddy and Daughter Double

Even when the action is on, kid's attention spans don't permit long hours in the boat, with the sun beating down and glaring off the water. I don't plan long river outings, trying to keep a fishing trip to an hour or two. In some cases, we hook up a nice fish or two rather quickly, and call it a trip, while the girls still have the warm glow of success.

Last year my oldest Naomi and I hit the water together. The boat had only drifted 50 yards from the put-in point when I anchored up, intending to fish a deep outside bed. Naomi flung her bait up near the shore, while

Ivy Miller stirs the dip while Maia Miller wrinkles her nose. She knows the cats love it though.

I cast mine into the deeper water, right on the current seam. She is the most introverted of my girls but opens up and loves to talk when we are fishing. She was describing the latest Harry Potter book she was reading when my rod got a jolt. Immediately I knew I had latched onto a nice fish, and it took some work to lift him off the bottom and into the current. With a big swirl near the boat, he was in the net.

We admired my 28-inch fish, snapping a few pictures before I returned him to the swift current. The sinker was wrapped up in the net, and I was working on unsnarling it when Naomi thought she had a hit on her pole. Pulling hard, it didn't move. Sighing heavily, she reasoned it was a snag, and handed me the rod to extricate it. Giving the line a hard

yank, I felt it give. Handing it back to her, I told her to reel the snag in. Reeling what we thought was a tree limb, we were shocked when the line began sizzling off the reel.

We were in quite the quandary. The net was out of commission, and I scrambled to free it. Displaying an amazing show of composure, Naomi slowly but surely brought the fish to the boat. Having no other option, my hand disappeared in the murky water, and I got a firm grip on the bottom jaw of the cat. With a heave, it was aboard.

Her fish was a monster, measuring a touch over 30 inches. Even though we had been on the water for less than an hour, there was no way to improve upon the day. I turned the boat for home, with a beaming young lady at the helm.

What Matters in the End

My girls love to catch catfish. However, as time goes on, it's not the size or number of fish that are remembered. It's the cool summer breeze on the river, the gentle burble of the water, and quality time spent in an ever-changing world that we remember. In the blink of an eye, they will be off to college and their own lives, and the memories of dip bait and catfish will be a thread that will connect us forever.



- Jeffrey Miller

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Catfish Basics #078

Use the Rod Holder – Case Daly, TN

Rod control is very important to successfully land a big catfish. The bigger the fish and the younger the angler the tougher it is to maintain good rod control and land the fish.

Case Daly solves this problem by leaving his B'n'M rod in the Driftmaster Rod holder after a take-down. The initial response is to reel down on the fish to ensure a solid hook up.

Where it is normal to remove the rod from the rod holder after the hook-up, Case continues to fight the fish with the rod in the holder. This allows him to reel the big cat to the boat without worrying about rod control.

Once the cat reaches the surface, Case picks up the rod and guides the fish to the net. This method allowed him to successfully land his personal best 56-pound blue catfish on Wheeler Lake in Alabama.



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Our Son, The Catman

by Ann White

Turning a teenager from Montana into a nationally recognized tournament angler.

You might expect Spencer White to be moody, a little spoiled, and possibly a little irritating to talk to, he is, after all, a teenager. However, this young man from Montana will walk up to you, stick out his hand to shake yours, and introduce himself, surprising everyone he meets with his maturity and good manners. Yet Spencer is always surprised when the “Big Names” in catfishing already recognize him. So how did this well-spoken teenager from Montana become a well-known angler in the catfishing world?

Spencer is the youngest child in a family of four. With a considerable gap between him and his next eldest sibling, Spencer has spent the majority of his life hanging out with adults. He began fishing at a pretty young age. Crappie, bass, trout, catfish. He never cared what he fished for, he just liked fishing, and it was quickly apparent to us that he was a natural. His personal best smallmouth bass was caught at 8 years old, on a lure he picked out, tied on and cast by himself in the Yellowstone River. He knows the names and characteristics of every fish we have in Montana, often tossing out random facts in casual conversation. He has his own rods, his own tackle, and his own technique.

When we first began to fish competitively, we often had to leave Spencer home. However soon the rules changed and he was able to join us on the water as a youth angler. Spencer quickly proved to be a valuable asset to our team. Often his suggestions have been the key to a tournament win for our family. He sees the river with a different set of eyes. Where his dad and I often fall back to old patterns and



Spencer White with a large channel cat caught on the Red River of the North during a tournament in June of 2018.

habits (same technique, same location, same bait), to Spencer, everything is new. He is seeing the water with a fresh set of eyes and we have learned to take his advice very seriously. Spencer has two State Championship titles, as well as two Youth Angler of the Year awards here in Montana, and a growing collection of awards from



across the country.

Now a seasoned angler, Spencer is entering his 5th year of tournament fishing. So far in 2019, he has visited 27 states, fished in 4 local tournaments and 7 national ones. He caught his personal best blue cat on Wheeler Lake in Alabama in April, his personal best flathead in California in August, and fished the nation's largest, highest-paying tournament in Texas in October. He attended Catfish Conference in Kentucky in February and got to meet Bill Dance at the Bass Pro Pyramid in Memphis in September. Any one of these events might be a lifetime goal for the average angler. But for Spencer, this is just another year in his life. Now, back home in Montana for the winter, he gets just as excited about a day on the water catching channel cats.

So, what does the future hold for Spencer? He has recently taken a great interest in video production. He saved up his tournament winnings from this summer and bought himself a professional-grade video

“He sees the river with a different set of eyes.”

Spencer White looks like your typical teenager but his passion for catfishing is what really defines him.

camera. While in Memphis for Mississippi River Monsters, Spencer was asked to help with a “few things.” Under the guidance of Glen Thomas from RigRap, Spencer helped with everything from the daily big fish live feeds, the seminar videos, the captains meeting, and the live weigh-ins. He was running back and forth, adjusting camera angles, testing connections speeds, and sound quality. Not only was he helping with all of that, he was fishing in the tournament. Up early, fishing hard all day, and helping until the end. When everything was all over, and the stage was coming down, Spencer was found helping load boxes into trucks and rolling up banners. He had been up since 3:30 that morning. He more than earned his personalized, signed hat from Mr. Dance himself.

However, he is still a typical teenage boy. While he can spend upwards of 10-12 hours on a boat, often in less than ideal conditions, without a single complaint, he





Spencer recently met legend Bill Dance in Memphis, TN while fishing the Mississippi River Monsters Tournament.


can still be very easily distracted and will do something that reminds us he is still a kid. We recently reviewed some video from a quick trip to the river, and rather than fishing footage we could use, we found a great video of a spider making a web on a branch.

We know we only have a few years left to fish together as a family. Once he turns 16 and no longer qualifies as a youth angler, we may be left with the difficult decision of how to split up the family team. Or he may discover something that interests him more than fishing has and will pursue that with the same passion. But until then, we will continue to fish with him, our son, The Catman.



- Ann White

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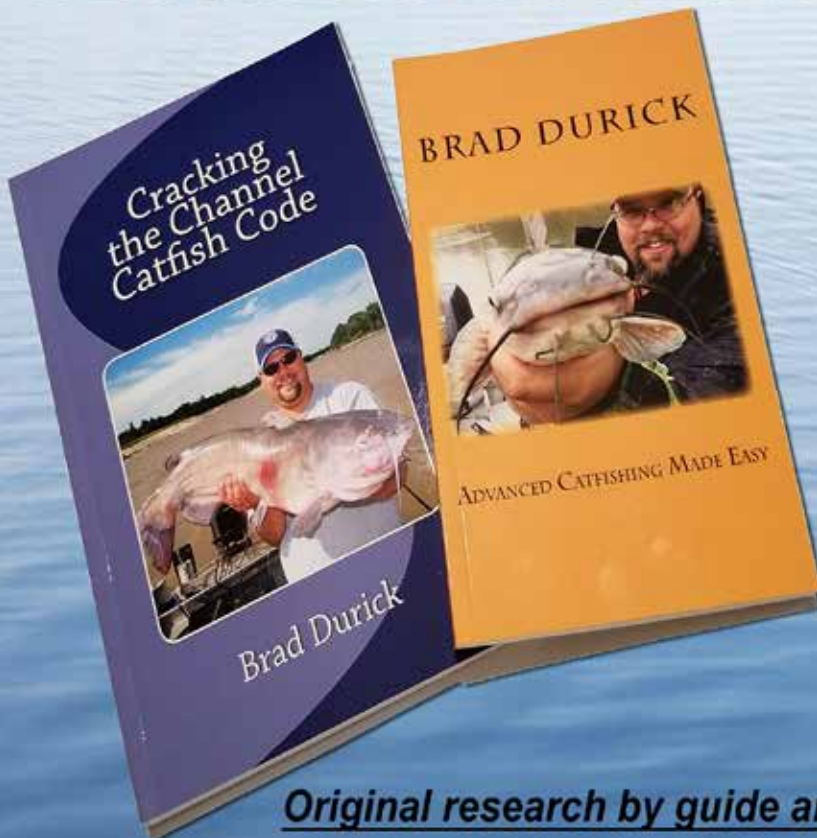


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CATFISH CONSERVATION

3 Conservation Tips to Teach Young Anglers

by Ron Presley

The best way to teach kids about conservation is to have them do it. Whatever the action is, if you can make it habitual the kids are more likely to continue the practice. Here are three things to teach your kids while you fish with them.

1. CPR: When you catch a fish let them be the one to put it back into the water. This will let them know that Catch-Photo-Release (CPR) is something you believe in. You can also explain why you do it. They are more likely to continue the practice as they grow older and fish by themselves if they do it regularly on fishing trips as youth.

2. FISHING LINE DISPOSAL: When you re-spool a reel with new monofilament or braided line let them help you and then ask them to dispose of it for you. Explain the problem that exists when fishing line is not disposed of correctly. It can endanger wildlife. Birds and other animals can be entangled in the line or even swallow it and die from starvation or suffer really bad cuts. A short explanation to your child gives them a simple and understandable reason to practice safe disposal of fishing line.

3. FISH HANDLING: Teach your kids good fish handling techniques by using photo opportunities. Regardless of the size of the fish, you can instruct your kids on how to hold them in the proper manner to get a good photo. Explain that supporting the fish while taking pictures, or anytime you handle them, is better for their survival. This hands-on activity sends a strong signal on the importance of proper fish handling.



Six-year-old Perry (left) and four-year-old Knox (right) fish almost every weekend with their dad Jeremy. They get plenty of opportunities to learn conservation skills.

Remember, the goal of practicing these three simple but recurring activities while fishing with youth are to make them habitual. Engage the kids in the activity as often as you can. It is the repetition that solidifies the practice for the youth. If you are successful, their new habits will be passed on to others and they will make their own contribution to the future of the sport of fishing.



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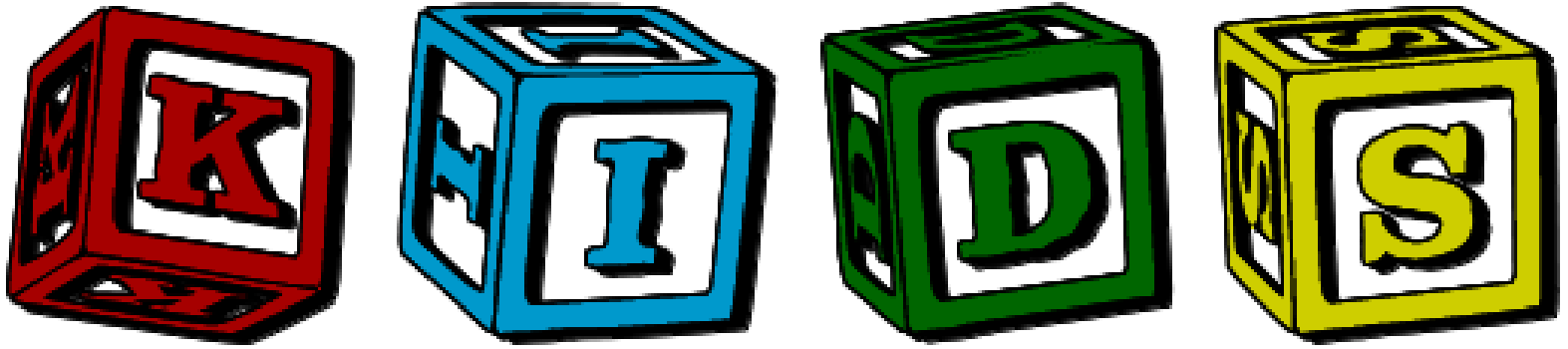
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CATFISH



by Richard Simms

Kid Battles Monster Catfish



Scenic City Fishing Guide Capt. Richard Simms was delighted to have 6-year-old Noah on board when he hooked into a massive 45-pound blue catfish. Forty-eight-pound Noah was nearly matched in weight by his adversary but was up to the task and carried most of the load himself. He did seek a little help from his grandfather, Troy, as he battled

the beast on a rod from B'n'M Poles and a hook from Team Catfish Tackle.

Noah's family told Capt. Simms that Noah loved fishing, and he was quite accomplished. He verified his skills later in the day when he and his grandfather doubled up on a couple of nice blues. This time Noah had a 28-pounder.

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

JAN	1st	REEL DEAL EXTREME CATFISHING	TANNERS CREEK	MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT
JAN	4th	OLD DOMINION CATFISH CLUB	HOPEWELL MARINA	CLUB
JAN	11th	CENTRAL TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL	LAKE WHITNEY	TRAIL
JAN	11th	SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB	LAKE WATEREE	CLUB
JAN	25th	M&J CATFISH WAR	FLORENCE MARINA STATE PARK	TRAIL
FEB	1st	OLD DOMINION CATFISH CLUB	HOPEWELL MARINA	CLUB
FEB	1st	SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB	LAKE WYLIE	CLUB
FEB	6th	CABELA'S KING KAT TOURNAMENT TRAIL	SANTEE COOPER	TRAIL
FEB	14th - 15th	CABELA'S KING KAT TOURNAMENT TRAIL	LAKE RAY HUBBARD	SUPER EVENT
FEB	15th	M&J CATFISH WAR	GORDON BOAT RAMP	TRAIL





Kids love fishing, but they enjoy nature too.