

Carolina SPORTSMAN[®]

OCTOBER 2019



TACTICS FOR THE PRE-RUT

DON'T FORGET
GROUND
BLINDS

NEW 2019
BROADHEADS

TIPS FOR
FALL SLABS

TRY NC'S
SURF REDS

CRANK UP
LARGEMOUTHS

BEST BETS FOR
PAMLICO,
LOWCOUNTRY
SPECKS

OCTOBER:
TOPWATER TROUT

\$2.99 OCTOBER 2019



www.CarolinaSPORTSMAN.com

HYPER-LIFT® BAY

THE ORIGINAL #1 SELLING ALUMINUM BAY BOAT



Xpress Bay Boats are the SOLUTION. Built on the foundation of our Hyper-Lift® Hull, this dream craft packs performance, fishability, and comfort into one amazingly cost effective boat. Whether thin water or rough seas, you will not find a better solution. Our H20Bay is the #1 selling high performance pad hull aluminum bay boat in America, which speaks to the quality construction and high-level of performance that you will find in every one of the all-welded, all-aluminum boats we build. Whether this is your first bay boat or making the jump over from glass, Xpress Bay Boats satisfy the need! Why settle for anything less than Xpress? There is only one original in a sea of me to's.

SHALLOW WATER BAY
SW22B / SW20B / SW18B



Shown w/optional Appearance Pkg.

HYPER-LIFT® BAY
H24B / H22B / H20B / H18B



X-BAY
X23B / X21B



XPLORER CC
XP20CC / XP18CC / XP16CC



SKIFF
SKIFF18S



Shown w/optional Appearance Pkg.

Available option on all Xpress Bay Boats



If you are ready for Xcitement, than contact one of these authorized dealers in the Carolinas:

A.K. McCallum Co.
Fayetteville, NC
910-323-0947
www.akmccallum.com

Boats Unlimited NC (New Bern)
New Bern, NC
252-634-9600
www.ncboats.com

Marine Service Center
Murrells Inlet, SC
843-650-2628
www.scmarineservice.com

Wateree Marina
Camden, SC
803-475-1224
www.watereemarainc.com

Boat Sales of Lake Wylie
Lake Wylie, SC
803-631-5432
www.boatsofthewylie.com

Clemson Marina
Seneca, SC
864-653-6767
www.clemsonmarina.us

Marshall's Marine
Lake City, SC
843-394-1000
www.marshallsmarine.com

Wilmington Total Marine
Wilmington, NC
910-769-3100
www.wilmingtontotalmarine.com

Boats Unlimited NC (Greensboro)
Greensboro, NC
336-379-7000
www.ncboats.com

Low Country Marine, Inc.
Walterboro, SC
843-549-1234

Seels Outboard
Charleston, SC
843-556-2742
www.seelsoutboard.com

Wilson Marine
Newberry, SC
803-276-0809
www.wilsonmarine.net



xpress boats®
we build xcitement

Xpress Boats, Inc. 199 Extrusion Pl., Hot Springs, AR 71901



xpressboats.com



SEE THE 2020 MODEL PELAGIC 266

AT YOUR LOCAL

Pioneer BOATS
DEALER



- Length 26' 6" Beam 9' 2"
- Fuel Capacity 180 Gallons
- Livewell 50 Gallons



For more information, go to PioneerBoats.com
or call 843-538-6604
or like us on Facebook at Pioneer Boats
for the latest available information.



Avenger



Born on the
Bayou of Louisiana,
Raised in the
Lowcountry of
South Carolina



For more information, go to
AvengerBayBoats.com
or call 843-538-6604
or like us on
Facebook at
Avenger Bay Boats
for the latest available information.

From The
Back Water
To The
Blue Water



Bulls Bay 2000



For more information, go to
BullsBayBoats.com
or call
843-538-6604
or like us on
Facebook at Bulls Bay Boats
for the latest available information.



The Carolina's Largest Boat Dealer!

Over 300 Boats in Stock!

- On site test lake
- Over 70,000 sq ft of inside showrooms
- 9 full time sales and finance experts
- 8 factory trained service techs

**CALL US BEFORE YOU BUY...
WE WILL SAVE YOU MONEY!**

- **Huge selection to choose from!
All the best brands**



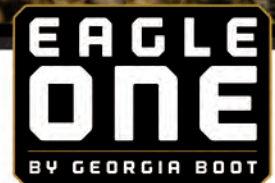
Sanford, NC
919-775-7259
chatleeboats.com

Powered by





YOU'LL DIG 'EM



GB00312 / GB00313

GB00314

GB00315



SHOVEL SHANK

GEORGIABOOT.COM



13

CHANGING ON THE FLY



Carolina CONTENTS

Volume 26 | Number 10 | October 2019

FEATURES:

13 CHANGING ON THE FLY cover story

Big bucks move through several patterns during the first part of deer season, from early season patterns to the pre-rut and to the rut — the peak of the breeding season. Here's how to keep up with them and stay on top of them.

>>>By Terry Madewell

19 GROUNDED IN SUCCESS

You don't have to climb a tree to kill a whitetail. Many Mississippi hunters ignore the opportunity to take deer from terra firma. Here are few tips for folks with a fear or heights.

>>>By John J. Woods

31 RIVER OF TROUT

North Carolina's Neuse River fills up with speckled trout when temperatures drop in the fall, with fish moving in to feed on a full buffet of shrimp and baitfish and offering anglers plenty of opportunities

>>>By Jeff Burleson

37 THE LOWCOUNTRY'S SPECIAL SPECKS

October begins several great months of trout action in the waters around Beaufort, S.C., as weather cools and fish move toward shallow water. Here's how not to miss it.

>>>By John Gribb



31

RIVER OF TROUT

51 FIVE OVERLOOKED FALL CRAPPIE SPOTS

Catch slabs in these kinds of places, and have fall success just like spring — except for the crowds.

>>>By Phillip Gentry

59 THE HUNT FOR REDS IN OCTOBER

Surf and inlets south of Cape Lookout provide plenty of great fall action for beach-bound anglers.

>>>By Craig Holt

FISHING HOTSPOTS:

- 50 Murrells Inlet trout
- 55 Jordan Lake crappie
- 56 Kerr Lake crappie
- 57 Clarks Hill crappie
- 74 Wando River reds
- 75 Hotspot/fish
- 76 Long Bay kings
- 77 Cape Lookout macks
- 78 Hotspot/fish
- 79 James smallmouths

A.K. McCALLUM CO.

AK has the largest selection of **ALWELD** COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC. boats in the U.S. that can be powered with a **YAMAHA** Outboard

715 Ramsey St., Fayetteville, NC
 Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm
 Saturday 8am - 1pm
1-800-682-2628
 www.akmccallum.com

74 YEARS IN BUSINESS

OVER 150 DIFFERENT MODELS IN STOCK



XPRESS
BOATS

2020
XP 20CC

AK'S PRICE
\$29,799⁰⁰

Powered by a Yamaha F115 SHO custom Helix 7 DF, 70 lb Minn Kota, stereo with 2 speakers, alum trailer, 3 batteries, rigging, floatation pods



ALWELD COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC. 16FT 1652VV MARSH



Side console LW, camo bench seats & 2 bass seats, F40 Yamaha, T&T rigging, battery & box, Load Rite galv drive-on trailer

AK'S PRICE
\$15,651⁹⁰
YAMAHA

JUST ARRIVED!

LOWE
BOATS

2019
MODELS

LOWE BIG JON DOUBLEWIDE
AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR JONS



14FT FLAT ... **\$2,299⁰⁰** 16FT FLAT ... **\$2,499⁰⁰**
 14FT MV ... **\$2,399⁰⁰** 16FT MV ... **\$2,599⁰⁰**

PROVEN!
AFFORDABLE!

LOWE
BOATS

**BIG JON
MV
16 FT**



F25 Yamaha w/T&T, Lights, bilge pump, seats, battery, tank & Load Right dlx galv. drive on trlr.

AK'S PRICE
\$9,967⁸⁵

NEW 2019!

ALWELD
COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC.

1960MXL DUAL CONSOLE

- Rated 115
- 100 Gauge
- 2 Camo Seats
- Aerated LW
- Rod Box
- Transducer Bracket
- Hydraulic Steering
- Built In Tank



AK'S PRICE
\$11,499⁰⁰

NEW 2019!

ALWELD
COMMERCIAL BOATS, INC.

**MARSH 1860
VCSC DROP
DECK**



w/side console, Live well, bilge pump, lights, trolling mtr mount, wiring & more. .100 gauge hull, Rated for 115hp.

AK'S PRICE
\$10,299⁰⁰

NEW 2019!

LOWE
BOATS

JUST ARRIVED!

ROUGHNECK BIG RIVER

16 to 20 ft. Heavy Duty .100 gauge, welded hull, flat bottom with alum floor. Excellent for commercial use, flounder giggering or fishing.

1655 **\$3,999⁰⁰** 1860 **\$5,299⁰⁰**
 1755 **\$4,699⁰⁰** 2070 **\$5,899⁰⁰**



AK'S PRICE STARTING
\$3,999⁰⁰

2018 IN STOCK!

SEARK
BOATS

**24 FT SEA ARK
WITH TREAD PLATE ALUM FLOOR**

- 72" beam
- 96" boat
- .125 gauge

AK'S PRICE
\$8,699⁰⁰



2019 MODEL **\$10,099⁰⁰**

SAVE ON THIS 2018!

ALUMA
Craft



MV1648 NCS AK'S PRICE
\$2,349⁰⁰
Rated 35hp.

2019!

ALUMA
Craft
**FLOUNDER GIGGER'S
SPECIAL**

16" Double Wide. Rated 35hp

AK'S PRICE
\$2,299⁰⁰



**DUCK HUNTERS
TOP CHOICE!**

STARTING AT **\$499⁰⁰**

Five Models



NEW 2019!

LOWE
BOATS

16 FT
BIG JON
w/Open
Interior &
Alum.
Floor



AK'S PRICE
\$2,799⁰⁰

NEW

LOWE
BOATS

MODEL 1040
Lgth 10"
Btm with 40"
Beam 57"
Wght 87lb
5hp rating



AK'S PRICE
\$749⁰⁰

ALUM LEANING POST
covered in heavy duty vinyl camo w/black trim
34"W
31"H
11" Deep



AK'S PRICE **\$399⁰⁰**

**TEMPRESS
ALL
WEATHER
HIGH BACK
CAMO
SEAT**



AK'S PRICE **\$99⁹⁹**

**LOWE ADJUSTED
SIDE
CONSOLE**



AK'S PRICE **\$239⁰⁰**

CAROLINA SKIFF SEAT

Factory original. White with silver inset
16.5"W x 21"H
Easily \$99.99 seat



AK'S PRICE **\$69⁹⁹**

MINN KOTA

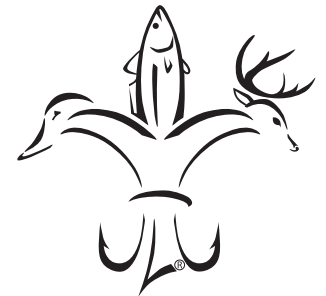
RIPTIDE
46 lb.
Thrust Bow
Mount
H & Control

AK'S PRICE **\$479⁰⁰**

FOLD DOWN BENCH SEAT
Special Purchase, gray or tan, 48" long, Reg. \$319.00



AK'S PRICE **\$219⁹⁹**



Carolina SPORTSMAN

www.CarolinaSPORTSMAN.com

PUBLISHER: Tony Taylor, tonytl@lasmag.com

MANAGING EDITOR: Dan Kibler
336.416.9631 / dank@carolinasportsman.com

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Jeff Caldwell

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Desiree P. Lewis

ART DIRECTOR: Kevin Orgeron

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:
Jeff Cashio, Alissa Zeringue

CONTROLLER: Juanita Guidry

SALES DIRECTOR: Jay Forrest
225.278.0258 / jayf@lasmag.com

NC ADVERTISING SALES REP: John Cain
919.601.6966, johnc@carolinasportsman.com

SC ADVERTISING SALES REP: Bret Holten
843.442.7250, breth@scsportsman.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
Asa Faulkner, Mark Boyd, Peter Church, Burton Angelle and Mark Hilzim (National Sales)

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR:
Ricky Naquin 985.859.7744 / rickyn@lasmag.com

CIRCULATION FIELD MANAGER:
Mitch Eby 919.602.3862 / mitchebync@gmail.com

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:
Jay Forrest, jayf@lasmag.com / 225.278.0258

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS OR SUBSCRIPTION ISSUES, CALL 1.855.224.1667

Monday thru Friday, 7 am to Midnight
Saturday & Sunday, 9 am - 6 pm EST

CAROLINA SPORTSMAN (USPS #012969) is published monthly by Carolina Publishing Inc., Allen J. Lottinger, President. 14236 Highway 90, P.O. Box 1199, Boutte, LA 70039. Mailed at periodicals postage rates and paid at Boutte, La., and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Carolina Sportsman, PO Box 433294, Palm Coast, FL 32143. All rights reserved. Reproduction of contents is strictly prohibited without permission of Carolina Sportsman. **EDITORIAL** information number is 336.376.5101. Editorial guidelines can be obtained by writing Carolina Sportsman, 433 Holinswood Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103. Carolina Sportsman is not responsible for the loss of queries, manuscripts or other materials.

P.O. Box 1199, Boutte, LA 70039-1199
800.538.4355

Volume 26 | No 10

OUTDOOR UPDATE:

10 NC FLOUNDER SEASON CLOSED FOR A YEAR

11 SC YOUTH WATERFOWL DRAW HUNTS

PLUS

11 BIG BUCK GALLERY

COLUMNS:

22 STICKS & STRINGS By Sammy Romano

24 GREENER PASTURES
By Jeff Burleson

42 SOUND & SEA By Brian Cope

44 SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY
By Phillip Gentry

48 SPECKLED TRUTH By Chris Bush

64 LUNKER LINES By David Fritts

66 COOKING ON THE WILD SIDE
By Capt. Jerry Dilsaver

68 SANTEE STRINGER
By Terry Madewell

70 HEAD FOR THE MOUNTAINS
By Robert Satterwhite

ON THE COVER:



Before whitetails hit their peak breeding season, aka the "rut" they go through several weeks of transition, and the hunter who can follow those moves could fill a trophy tag.

DEPARTMENTS:

58 SC Hunting Regulations

58 NC Hunting Regulations

73 Sportsman Showcase

78 Astro Tables

84 Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook

90 Classifieds

92 Advertiser Index

END OF THE SEASON BLOW OUT SALE!

FEATURING



BOATS!

ROCK *Outdoors*

TACKLE • CLOTHING • GEAR • KAYAKS

YOUR CONNECTION TO EVERYTHING OUTDOORS!



1600 STORM — WAS \$15,799 — NOW STARTING \$14,499



1700 STORM — WAS \$18,999 — NOW STARTING \$16,499



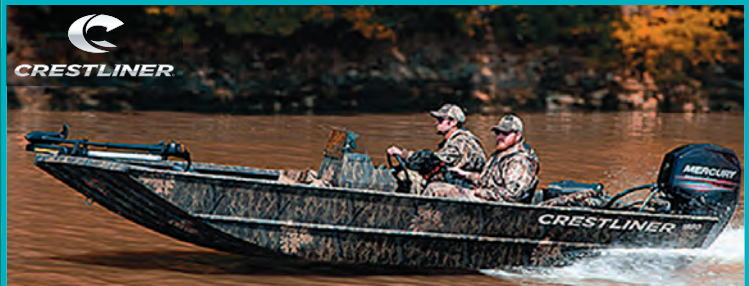
VT17 TOURNAMENT SPORT — WAS \$23,999 — NOW STARTING \$21,499



VT18 — WAS \$26,999 — NOW STARTING \$24,499



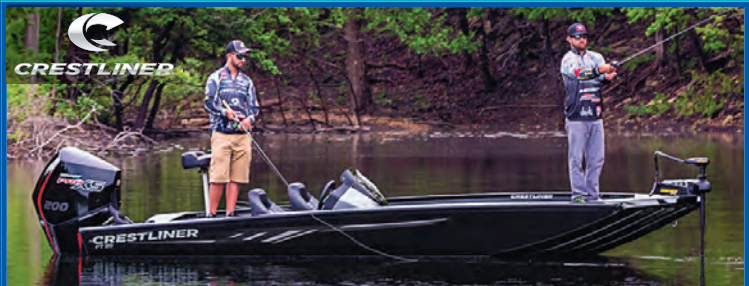
C17STM CRAPPIE — WAS \$18,799 — NOW STARTING \$16,999



C1860 — WAS \$24,399 — NOW STARTING \$21,999



PT-18 — WAS \$34,999 — NOW STARTING \$28,999



PT-20 — WAS \$38,999 — NOW STARTING \$32,999

7440 NC Hwy 8, Lexington, NC
(336) 793-4690 | rockoutdoors.com



HOURS
MONDAY - SATURDAY: 8:30AM – 6:00PM
SUNDAY: 10:00AM – 5:00PM



NC CLOSES DOWN FLOUNDER FISHING

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION VOTES ON MEASURES TO REBUILD FISHERY

It's official. North Carolina fishermen can't take home any flounder this fall. The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission voted 6-3 in late August to adopt the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2, which requires a reduction in harvest over the next two years of between 68% and 72% to end overfishing and begin the process of rebuilding the fishery.



Ty Flemming of Gastonia, N.C., caught this nice flounder this past June fishing with Butch Foster and Yeah Right Charters out of Southport, N.C.

Steven Murphey, the director of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, issued proclamations in early September closing the recreational and commercial seasons on Sept. 4. The commercial season reopened on Sept. 15 in waters north of Pamlico Sound and Oct. 1 in Pamlico Sound and other waters, for two or three weeks of fishing. The recreational season will not reopen in 2019 and may not reopen until mid-August 2020.

The move was forced because of plummeting landings in the southern flounder fishery over the past 15 years. Twice previously, the NCDMF had tried to restrict flounder harvest at lower levels but were blocked in both cases by commercial fishermen. Those two hiccups are the reason for measures that now seem a bit draconian. In addition, the Commission voted not to allow recreational fishermen to keep flounder caught in the ocean, even though a large percentage of those are a different subspecies: summer flounder. Commercial fishermen will

be allowed to harvest summer flounder in the ocean. When recreational seasons re-open, anglers will be bound by the regulations under which flounder were managed before the closure: a four-fish daily creel limit and a 15-inch size minimum.

In another decision that could have had a great, immediate impact on commercial fishermen, the Commission voted to deny a petition for rulemaking that would have designated all internal coastal waters not otherwise designated as nursery areas as Shrimp Trawl Management Areas, requiring additional gear and

Bag-A-Buck Contest underway



Don't forget to post photos of your bucks in the Carolina Sportsman Bag-A-Buck Contest to be eligible to win monthly prizes of great Sportsman swag from the online Sportsman Store.

Log onto <https://app.carolinasportsman.com/contest/index.php?event=26>

time restrictions. The Commission directed NCDMF to consider elements of the petition in an upcoming amendment to the N.C. Shrimp Fishery Management Plan, which will begin immediately. Some gear modifications are already in place. ■

SPORTSMAN'S BIG BUCK GALLERY

To read full stories about any of these trophy bucks, visit www.carolinasportsman.com and visit the deer-hunting section.



Andy Till of Orangeburg, S.C., took this 11-point, 167-inch buck on Aug. 17 in Orangeburg County.



Lori Shaffer killed this great 8-point buck in Aiken County S.C., on Aug. 20. It weighed 225 pounds and carried a rack that was 21 inches wide.



Megan Roland of Little Mountain, S.C., took this 12-point, 146½-inch buck on an Aug. 17 hunt in Calhoun County.



Thomas Gordy took this 10-point buck on Cowden Plantation in Aiken County, S.C., on Aug. 17. It had a 20½-inch spread.

SC WATERFOWL LOTTERY DEADLINE APPROACHING

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will accept applications for waterfowl lottery hunts on public lands through Oct. 15 at 5 p.m.

A non-refundable fee of \$20 is required of all applicants for the multi-site Waterfowl Lottery Hunt and \$5 per youth applicant for the youth multi-site Waterfowl Lottery Hunt. Youth must be 17 years of age or younger to apply for the youth hunt.

After the selection process occurs, only the primary applicant will receive email notification of the drawing's completion.

Applicants for both hunts also have the ability to opt-in for second-chance waterfowl hunting opportunities being offered by

private landowners. There is no additional cost, and SCDNR preference points are not affected by any second-chance draw hunt opportunity offered by the South Carolina Wildlife Partnership (SCWP) or the Pintail Partners (for youth hunters).

You must apply for the SCDNR waterfowl lottery hunt to participate in any second-chance hunt opportunity and complete the opt-in form so that your information can be sent for the second chance drawing. Selecting to purchase a preference point only will not enter you into the second chance hunt.

For info, visit <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/hunting/2019multisitewaterfowl.html>

CROSS TRAIL OUTFITTERS



THE YOUTH BIG BUCK CONTEST

This contest is open to all North Carolina youth residents ages 7-17
Please see Rules and Regulations for more details.

The top 12 highest scoring bucks will be final scored at the end of the 2019-2020 season.
Awards will be presented to winners after scoring is completed.

AWARDS

- ★★ **1st Place** Can Am Defender 4x4 UTV ★★
 - ★★ **2nd Place** Whitetail Trophy Hunt in South Dakota. ★★
 - ★★ **3rd Place** Weatherby Vanguard 7mm rifle with scope. ★★
- Top 3 will also receive a N.C. lifetime license.*

Freezer Queen Showdown

Send us a picture of your doe harvest from this year to be entered into a prize drawing. Send to ncbigbuck@teamcto.org

"AND THERE I WAS" VIDEO

We would love to hear from each hunter about their hunt! So we are asking you to furnish us with your "And There I Was" video. This video is as simple as it sounds, just share the story of your hunt on video with us!

Submit videos to ncbigbuck@teamcto.org

Cross Trail Outfitters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit youth hunting and fishing organization. Cross Trail Outfitters N.C. is a Christian youth hunting and fishing club under the national umbrella of Cross Trail Outfitters, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

registration available at teamcto.org/northcarolina or on Facebook @ ctnc



Terry Madewell

CHANGING ON THE FLY

BIG BUCKS MOVE THROUGH SEVERAL PATTERNS DURING THE FIRST PART OF DEER SEASON, FROM EARLY SEASON PATTERNS TO THE PRE-RUT AND TO THE RUT — THE PEAK OF THE BREEDING SEASON. HERE'S HOW TO KEEP UP WITH THEM AND STAY ON TOP OF THEM.

■ By Terry Madewell

Deer hunters pursue their quarry throughout the season, but many plan much of their hunting efforts around the period known as the “rut” — the time when does are most receptive for breeding in the greatest numbers, creating widespread deer movement by bucks and does.

Serious hunters dedicate many hours to putting the crosshairs on a big buck during the rut because it's the time when something other than self-preservation and food dictates his movements.

While propagation of the species puts big bucks in harm's way during the rut, simply sitting in a stand doesn't ensure success. Deer don't lose all their preservation instincts, and hunters with a good plan typically score consistently, while others often fail.

This window of opportunity for taking a big buck actually begins during the phase known as the “pre-rut” — immediately preceding the actual rut, when daytime buck activity begins to increase dramatically.

Trey Phillips of Summerton, S.C. is already a veteran deer hunter at age 36, having hunted with his dad since he was young; he now works as a professional guide. He is serious about hunting big bucks.

Along with his wife, Whitney, Phillips owns and manages the Clarendon Club, a 2,000-acre mecca for outdoor enthusiasts near South Carolina's Lake Marion. He serves as scout and guide for hunting on the property, and as such, he's worked out some solid techniques for hunting the pre-rut and the rut.

continues >

Proof of his success came last Oct. 13

when he killed a buck on his property that net-scored 150 4/8 Boone & Crockett points.

He had literally followed that buck since the previous year and learned some valuable lessons on that quest.

Phillips (803-460-9378) said one key to success is understanding that deer patterns change as the season progresses. Knowing when early season patterns morph into pre-rut — and when the pre-rut ends and the actual rut begins — enables him to move his hunting locations as deer move.

“To be consistently successful throughout the season, I have to hunt different areas during the seasonal progressions, because deer change locations,” he said. “The change is usually not significant in terms of distance, but it can be dramatic in terms of habitat and movement patterns. Often, the specific habitat is the key to the change.”

He said the pre-rut period begins when bucks break out of bachelor groups and begin checking for receptive does. The bucks are usually ready before most does, so they’re on the move, looking for the few early, receptive females. This changes a buck’s movements, because his purpose switches from eating and survival to propagation of the species.

“Although I’m extremely familiar with the property I hunt, land-management activities and even natural changes to a large tract of land can change deer patterns significantly from year to year,” he said. “You can’t rely on what deer did last year for this season. It’s a new game every year.”

Visual scouting from vehicles and ATVs, along with setting trail cameras across his property, are his preferred methods to track deer movements. He knows what he expects to see before the season but usually he experiences a couple of surprises.

“For example, I may be expecting to see deer move from an early season, food-source pattern to a specific pre-rut and rut territory used in previous years, but sometimes they never show up where I expect,” he said. “That’s where scouting, driving roads and scanning with optics and checking trail cameras combine to help me determine their movements.”

During the early season and pre-rut, he primarily tracks bucks, and many will be in bachelor groups in early season, although very large bucks may be loners. By October, Phillips said he watches for an individual buck trailing a doe and for areas with large concentrations of deer.

“I’ll know I’m in the right area if I’m seeing a lot of bucks and does,” he said. “That’s where patience is a key during both the pre-rut and rut if you’re targeting a trophy buck.”

Another highly successful hunter is Darrell Madden from Semora, N.C., a 57-year-old member of the Redhead Pro Staff at Bass Pro Shops. He said timing is crucial when hunting the pre-rut and the rut.

“First, these phases can be dramatically different from one location in the Carolinas to another,” he said. “You can’t go by a specific date; you must observe these changes and react immediately for best results.”

Madden said that while the rut is certainly a prime time, the pre-rut can be awesome as well.



BELOW: Stands that overlook food plots in areas with a high concentration of does will pay off, especially if you can see long distances.

“Pre-rut begins when bucks break out of the bachelor groups, begin seeking does and making scrapes,” he said. “I’ll regularly check the woods and will not see many scrapes until the pre-rut kicks in. It’s kicks in quickly, and I may see zero or few signs one day, and return a few days later to the same area, and it’s full of fresh scrapes. The increase in scrapes means an increase in deer activity, but not all of the deer checking scrapes are bucks. Actually, many of the bucks at first are smaller bucks, based on my personal observation and trail-camera photos over the years.”

But a big buck can filter in at any time he said, so the area near these scrapes are certainly worth hunting. Madden said activity increases as more does become receptive and more big bucks join the game.

Madden said it’s crucial to remember that big bucks are very sensitive to hunting pressure, and early season pressure often puts them into stealth mode. This makes them more nocturnal, but as the pre-rut continues, more of these big bucks are seen during the day.

continues >



Terry Madewell

**HUNTING
SEASON
IS HERE!**



Weekly Promotions!
Name Brand Products!
Something for Everyone!

**Hunting • Fishing • Archery
Feed • Seed • Hunting Carts
Clothing • Footwear • Knives
Wild Game Processing
And So Much More!**



**NOW
OPEN**

**(803) 327-0500
Processing One
Deer at a time!**

**COME SEE WHAT
YOU'RE MISSING!**

**1980 MT. HOLLY ROAD
ROCK HILL, S.C. 29730 • I-77, EXIT 73
(803) 328-9792
WWW.NICHOLSSTORE.COM**

Selecting stand sites to match changing deer movements is crucial, he said.

“I’ll consider multiple factors and locate nearby food sources, places where a lot of deer are being seen, and proximity to major trails in that area,” he said. “Ideally, I’ll find the right place where I can see all of the above. A place like this may not be hot for long, as deer patterns may change again as deer enter the actual rut phase where most of the breeding occurs. When you find a hotspot, set up and hunt the area as soon as you can. I found these small areas can be red-hot places to see lots of bucks for several days.”

When Phillips sees an increase in bucks chasing does, he’ll begin to target areas where lots of deer are feeding.

“An abundance of does in a specific area, even if the attraction is food-related, become areas for good buck-hunting opportunity during the rut,” he said. “Does feeding in fields or food plots will attract bucks, and if you’re patient and play the wind right, it’s an excellent time to see and take a big buck.”

Phillips agrees that the pre-rut and rut changes considerably across the Carolinas, but where he hunts now near South Carolina’s Santee Cooper lakes the pre-rut typically falls into the Sept. 15 to Oct. 3 range. After that, the breeding active becomes widespread, and the rut is on.

“I prefer morning hunting for pre-rut and rut; I’ll set up near fields such as beans, corn and peanuts and will hunt well-used travel corridors in the nearby woods that lead to bedding or breeding habitat,” he said. “If I set up on a field before dawn, my hunt will be brief, a few minutes at first light, because deer will leave these open areas early. But hunting in the woods, I’ll usually see a lot of deer movement, and deer will filter through at a much more relaxed pace. I’m willing to be patient, because seeing a doe is a very good sign; a buck may be following.”

Phillip said in afternoons, he prefers hunting stands around large fields, cutover areas and power lines where he has long-distance vision. Bucks in the rut will chase does through these type habitats.

“But at long distances, I scan the area constantly, using quality binoculars to help me see what is happening even several



Terry Madewell

A good game plan to keep up with deer movements can result in some great success when the wind is right and bucks are moving.

hundred yards away,” he said. “I’ve seen bucks chasing at long distances and lose contact only to see them again much closer — and often within range — a few minutes later. The rut provides a great opportunity, but hunters must be diligent.”

Despite bucks letting their guard being down a bit, Phillips never sacrifices any of the typical scent control and wind strategies that are essential the rest of the season.

“If I put in the work to be in the same area as a trophy buck during the rut, I’m not going to risk losing the opportunity because I didn’t play the wind correctly,” he said. “I have enough stands where I can hunt a safe wind direction. During the rut, a hunter can’t predict precisely where that buck will be; the buck’s following a doe is or with a doe. Where she goes is where he goes, so I’ll be in

SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE

\$10 OFF OF \$50

476 Piney Grove Road, Columbia, SC 29210 803 731-3000
3795 Clemson Blvd, Anderson, SC 29621 864 540-7100

EXP. 9/30/19

Not redeemable for cash, license or gift card. One certificate per customer per day. Must present at time of sale. Cannot be combined with any other discount.

4 00015 28112 6

Fresh scrapes and rubbed trees are signs of bucks using a particular area.

a stand as near his core rut area as possible. But when the wind is right, I'll be in the best stand for that deer based on my scouting and camera data."

Phillips said when baiting anytime during the season, including the rut, his boots never hit the ground. When he puts out corn, he never leaves his 4-wheeler and simply goes from spot to spot. Leaving no human scent can only enhance his odds of success.

Madden said vocalization and rattling are good tactics to employ during the pre-rut and rut phases.

"I'll grunt and bleat and imitate multiple deer in an area; that's usually tempting for a buck to check out," he said. "Grunts are good anytime in pre-rut and rut; however, rattling is one tactic I really like during the pre-rut. Bucks are establishing a pecking order of dominance, and by rattling, I'm simulating deer sparring, and that will usually attract other deer."

Hunting any stand requires the consideration of scent and wind in any situation, but Madden said when employing rattling and vocalization techniques, you're essentially inviting deer to come to your location, not just move through an area you're watching. Being

as scent-free as possible with the wind to your best advantage is crucial.

Madden said during the peak of the rut, hunting all day is some of the best advice he can give.

"Bucks will be focused on checking bedding areas, scrapes and even food sources, looking for a doe in estrus," he said. "If a big buck is with a doe, and they breed, he'll start looking for another. He'll work travel routes checking scents where deer move. These are prime areas to be hunting during the rut. Stand placement will vary, whether you're bow or gun hunting, but ascertain the prevailing wind directions for that area and time of year when selecting a stand site."

Madden and Phillips agree that following changing deer patterns, scent and wind control and patience are the core ingredients to successfully hunting during the rut. ■



Terry Madewell



Terry Madewell of Ridgeway, S.C., has been an outdoors writer for more than 30 years. He has a degree in wildlife and fisheries management and has a long career as a professional wildlife biologist/natural resources manager.

PATIENCE IS REWARDED >

HUNTING LAND FOR SALE



<p>CHIP CAMP Broker, Western NC (704) 473-3833</p>	<p>CHRIS WEAVER Agent, West Central NC (704) 692-6185</p>	<p>DOUG MOORE Agent, Central NC (919) 291-6390</p>	<p>SCOTT HICKS Agent, Eastern NC (919) 610-4796</p>
<p>JIMMY UNDERWOOD Agent, South Central NC (980) 734-8065</p>	<p>JOHN PEREZ Agent, Northeast NC (252) 325-4766</p>	<p>RAGGS RASCOE Agent, Northeast NC (252) 209-7875</p>	<p>TRACIE HICKS Agent, Eastern NC (919) 868-7592</p>

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAND SPECIALIST TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUYING AND SELLING HUNTING, RANCH, FARM AND TIMBERLAND



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE

HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER

WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM



Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC | dba Whitetail Properties | Nebraska & North Dakota DBA Whitetail Trophy Properties Real Estate LLC | Lic. in IL, MO, IA, KS, KY, NE & OK - Dan Perez, Broker | Lic. in AR, CO, GA, MN, ND, TN, SD & WI - Jeff Evans, Broker | Lic. in FL, OH, & PA - Jefferson Kirk Gilbert, Broker | Lic. in NM & TX - Joey Ballington, Broker | Lic. in IN - John Boyken, Broker | Lic. in LA, MS, GA & AL - Sybil Stewart, Broker | Lic. in TN - Chris Wakefield, Broker | Lic. in TN - Bobby Powers, Broker | Lic. in AR - Johnny Ball, Broker | Lic. in SC - Rick Elliot, Broker | Lic. in NC - Rich Baugh, Broker | Lic. in MI - Edmund Joel Nogaski, Broker



Trey Phillips took this 150-inch buck during the peak of the rut last season on South Carolina's Clarendon Club.



PATIENCE IS REWARDED DURING THE RUT

Veteran hunters Trey Phillips of Summerton, S.C., and Darrell Madden of Semora, N.C., make repeated use of the word "patience" when discussing hunting during the rut, and with good reason. While it's statistically the best time of the season to harvest a trophy buck, it's still not an easy task.

"I sit long hours in stands and pass a lot of smaller bucks waiting on the deer I'm targeting," Madden said. "But patience is often rewarded, not perhaps on a daily basis, but over the course of a season."

Such was the case for Phillips in 2018 when he took what is he researched to be the second-largest buck scored in Clarendon County, an 11-pointer that netted 150% Boone & Crockett.

"I actually saw this buck in 2017 when he was a solid 9-pointer, and I could tell by his age he had plenty of growth potential, so I passed on him twice," he said. "When the rut began in early October 2018, I picked him up on cameras during the daytime and was able to define his core area."

The actual hunt for the trophy began a week before Phillips killed the buck. He saw it on a trail camera that he checked remotely over his cell phone, and he hunted that stand hard for a few days, passing several excellent bucks. Then, he had trail-camera photos of the buck on a power line during daytime, and he immediately moved to that area.

"I hunted Friday and saw lots of deer and finally saw him at 1,200 yards, chasing a doe in the power line," he said. "Saturday morning I was back and saw him at 400 yards chasing a doe, but he never offered a good shot. I don't hunt on Sunday, so my next trip, I was back in the same stand very early. At first light I saw him at 100 yards, on the power line, facing me."

Phillips said he took the shot but felt he missed the deer.

"I was tempted to go check for a blood trail but I trusted my instinct to be patient in case I had missed," he said. "After two long hours, the 11-pointer walked back out into the power line and stood broadside at 200 yards, and I dropped him in his tracks. If I'd gotten down and started looking for a blood trail, I would have busted him out of the area and likely never seen him again — except on trail cameras." ■



AGRI SUPPLY

FARM • SHOP • HOME



**5' Landscape Rake
with Wheels for ATV 24 Tines**
#103789 **\$463.99**



**COSMO Model PL400 3-Point
Spreader with Poly Hopper**
#48701 **\$487.99**



**Deer Corn Shelled, 40 lb. Bag
In Stores Only**
#83042 **\$6.99**



**Hitch Mount Deer Hoist with
Swivel & Gambrel, 600 lb. Cap**
#102413 **\$112.99**

Garner, NC • Lumberton, NC • Greenville, NC • Florence, SC • Petersburg, VA • Statesboro, GA • Tifton, GA • Valdosta, GA

www.AgrSupply.com     **800-345-0169**



GROUNDING IN SUCCESS

You don't have to climb a tree to kill a whitetail. Many Carolina hunters ignore the opportunity to take deer from terra firma. Here are few tips for folks with a fear or heights.

By John J. Woods



Quite often, tactics used for deer hunting come around full circle over time. Thirty years ago, virtually no deer hunters had heard of factory-manufactured, lock-on tree stands, ladder stands or climbers, much less seen or used one.

A few hunters built elevated tree houses to hunt from, some fabricated pallet platforms up in a tree. Others more likely just wedged a 2x6 board into the Y-juncture of a split tree trunk. Still others with a little ingenuity built wooden ladder stands and posted them all over deer-hunting areas. Some of these old, rotted, abandoned stands can still be found in whitetail country as a visual reminder of what were early advancements in hunting tactics many seasons ago.

Before the advent of homemade stands, and well before assembly-line tree stands crafted of welded metal and padded fabric seats came on the scene, everyone basically hunted deer from the ground. In those days, a tree stand meant standing by one, not climbing up into it.

Now we have come full circle again, but with a significant twist. Many hunters are either abandoning their lofty perches altogether or at least splitting their time between tree stands and ground blinds. But today's ground blinds can be a much different affair.

BLIND BENEFITS

When deer hunting, being as unseen as possible is best. Being able to conceal or block careful movements to avoid detection is paramount. Having a position close to the deer

A "ghost" blind is one of the latest manufactured stands that hunters can use when hunting on the ground, years after tree stands of all kinds were coming off assembly lines all over the country.

continues >

**GROUNDING
IN SUCCESS**

action, yet well hidden, is important.

It is ideal to have placement where either a wide view of a whitetail haunt or a clear shot at a narrow travel lane or funnel, and either can be achieved with a well-planned setup on the ground.

A ground blind positioned where the hunter can slip into or out of it with little notice, disturbance or contamination makes for a perfect situation. With some judicious planning, preparation and an assessment of the surrounds, a ground blind can be set up to maximize nearly all the potential angles of vision.

Ground blinds offer not only an added measure of concealment but a great deal

A portable, pop-up blind gives hunters the opportunity to quickly set up and take down the hidey hole and move to a better spot.

of flexibility as well. Portable ground blinds can be collapsed in a matter of minutes and slipped into a backpack to be moved anywhere else to create a whole new set-up.

Containment-type blinds offer an extra degree of scent control, reducing the need to use extra scent-killer sprays, except for coming and going from the blind. They also offer some protection from the elements.

OPTIONS TO HIDE

Ground blinds come in two configurations. They are man-made, put together in the field or naturally formed by



All the
POWER of YAMAHA
ENGINEERED into a car



the All New
UMAX | **RALLY** 2+2



The new UMAX™ Rally™ 2+2 features a lifted suspension, 23" tires wrapped around 12" V-window wheels, and comes complete with a Yamaha Genuine front brush guard and fender flares. Whether it's for a day at the beach or a day of errands, the UMAX™ Rally™ 2+2 goes where no other Light Utility Vehicle can, making it yet another reason why Yamaha is The Easy Choice™



2530 US Hwy 70 W. • Goldsboro, NC
8:30-5:30 Mon-Fri. • 8:30-3:00 Sat.
919-734-1045
www.sassergolfcarsinc.com

Mother Nature, to which may be added extra supplemental natural or synthetic materials.

The store-bought types come in a wide variety of designs, from simple shielding screens to self-contained, tent-type blinds to hard-shell fiberglass, molded plastic or wooden hunting condos with roofs, floors, windows and a whole host of custom features.

A screen-type blind often used by turkey hunters can be improved for a long, deer-hunting sit by adding a few limbs or greener to break the outline. Hunters can sit on a comfortable cushion or low-profile seat. Gear can be laid out behind the barrier, and shooting sticks or a bi-pod are options. Hunters can leave such a blind in the woods for several weeks, or it can be packed up and moved whenever the wind changes.

Every deer hunter can locate a number of decent ground blinds created by nature. Just add a seat, maybe some camouflage fabric or cover up any exposed holes with fresh cedar or pine cuttings. Create a triangle shape or so you can see in all directions. Ideally, the terrain behind a setup like this would be the least-likely direction deer would come.

Deer-hunting “condos” have become more popular among hunters for their comfort and resistance to weather.



Pop-up blinds are in vogue these days. Basically, they are a small version of a camping tent, with fabric walls and supports. Some are created for one hunter, but others can easily accommodate two or more. Some are even designed for bowhunters with shoot-through, screened windows. Some quick ground clearing might be needed before setting one up.

Fabric blinds add an extra dimension of concealment as well as protection from the weather. The greater the hunter-comfort quotient, the longer the hunter is likely to stay engaged while waiting for a big buck to appear.

An extension of sewn-fabric, tent-type blinds are more permanent structures often referred to as “condos.” These are heavy-duty molded or assembled-panel blinds, and are the ultimate when it comes to terra-firma hunting stands. They offer 360-degree visibility with total protection from the elements. See-through windows can be opened for air flow or locked closed to keep the wind and rain out. Some models can be towed by ATVs or attachable wheels for ease of movement, and they are large or small enough to accommodate one to four hunters.

SETUP TACTICS

Location, location, location. There are subtle differences in setup tactics between hunters in trees and on the ground. After a prime area has been identified and scouted, the next step is to locate an ideal place to position a ground blind. Foremost is a spot that allows open vision of the area. Better also is a spot that permits easy access with minimal exposure to the hunting area. Avoid setups that require crossing a huge open area or even traversing a long way around edge habitat.

Factory blinds should be blended into the surroundings using brush or other natural cover. Placing limbs around the blind in irregular patterns will help further break up the outline of the blind, but make certain vision is not blocked. Once set up, get things organized inside. Make sure weapons can be easily maneuvered and mounted for a shot. ■

*Tried and true
for 70 years*

CLENZOIL
PROTECTING SINCE 1948

- SAFE ON ALL FINISHES
- EFFECTIVELY REMOVES OILS, DIRT, COPPER, LEAD, PLASTIC WAD AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS
- PROVIDES A THIN, NON-GREASY COATING THAT PREVENTS RUST AND LUBRICATES ALL MOVING PARTS OF FIREARMS
- WILL NOT HARM GUN BLUING, CASE-COLORING, GOLD INLAYS, CAMO-COATINGS, SYNTHETICS OR WOOD STOCKS
- REPELS DEBRIS AND GRIME BUILD UP
- PERFORM IN ALL CONDITIONS
- MADE PROUDLY IN THE UNITED STATES

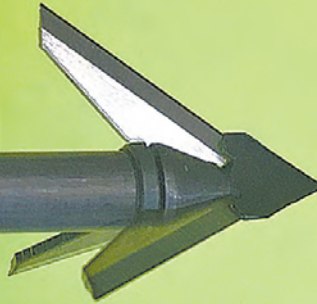
AVAILABLE AT FINER SPORTING GOODS STORES

CALL CLENZOIL FOR FREE SAMPLE
WWW.CLENZOIL.COM

VETERAN OWNED



QAD's Exodus broadhead feature blades that sweep back over the arrow shaft, resulting in a short, compact head and improved arrow flight.



WHAT'S NEW IN BROADHEADS?

DETERMINE THE STYLE THAT BEST FITS YOUR PURPOSES, THEN CHECK THESE OUT

Like many things in today's world, modern broadheads are available in a mind-blowing array of different brands and designs. This can make choosing which to carry in your quiver this year seem nearly impossible.

If you want to start a heated argument amongst a group of bowhunters, just ask which broadheads they prefer. Bowhunters tend to be strongly opinionated when it comes to broadhead selection. The fact of the matter is, all of them will work. There is not a broadhead on the market that won't quickly dispatch an animal with proper shot placement.

By the same token, however, none of them will get the job done efficiently with a marginal hit. The key is to make the best selection for your style of hunting and the game you will be pursuing.

WHICH SUITS YOU?

The first major consideration is design. Do you want to shoot mechanical or fixed-blade heads? Which cutting diameter will work best? How many blades should your broadhead have? All of these are important considerations when choosing a broadhead.

Fixed-blade broadheads generally penetrate better than mechanicals due to the fact that they don't use any kinetic-energy

deploying blades. This makes them a better choice for larger game such as elk, bear or moose. Their drawback is they are less forgiving of tuning issues and sloppy form. Either problem can cause their point of impact to vary drastically.

Mechanical heads often offer field tip-like accuracy and larger cutting diameters, but the trade-off can be reduced penetration.

The number of blades is a personal preference. More blades mean more cutting surface, but the trade-off again is reduced penetration. A good rule of thumb is that as the size of the animal being hunted increases, the number of blades should decrease.

The next major consideration is brand choice. Choose a brand that is reputable and known for producing sharp, durable blades. This is no place to cut corners, since your broadhead is the product that is ultimately killing the game you are targeting. Although some designs are unique to one brand, you often have a choice of several brands when making a purchase. Choose a brand that you have confidence in. Here are but a few of the many notable broadheads on the market this year.

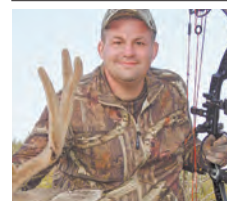
MUZZY

The folks at Muzzy have been producing quality broadheads since 1984, and

they have unveiled a new design this year with the MUZZY ONE. This fixed, 3-blade broadhead is machined from a solid piece of stainless steel. It is available in 100-grain only and features a 1½-inch cutting diameter. This follows a shift across the market in recent years to simplistic, one-piece heads but adds Muzzy's notorious sharpness.

TROPHY RIDGE

Trophy Ridge has long been known for its high-quality, mechanical broadheads, and its newest offering under the SIK brand builds on that tradition. The SIK SK2 rear-deploy broadhead features one-of-a-kind, 2.1-inch offset blades. This results in an oval-shaped, 2.1-inch entry wound for devastating damage and massive blood trails. This wound is also much less likely to clot in the event of a marginal hit. The SK2 is available in 100-grain only. It offers new Fliteloc technology and is also rated for crossbows up to 410 feet per second.



Sammy Romano is a life-long hunter who has worked in the archery industry for more than 24 years. His expertise includes compounds and crossbows. He can be reached at samboka31@aol.com.

New broadheads for 2019 include (clockwise from top left): the MUZZY ONE, Grim Reaper's Carni-Four, QAD's Exodus, SK2 from Trophy Ridge and Rage Hypodermic.



QUALITY ARCHERY DESIGNS

QAD has long been known for their award-winning arrow rests, but in recent years, its Exodus broadheads have been gaining notoriety. These offer the unique Blade Over Shaft Technology where the blades sweep back over the arrow shaft, creating a short, compact head. This results in better arrow flight, while maintaining extreme penetration and a large cutting diameter. With a cutting diameter of 1¼ inches and .040-inch thick blades, this broadhead is a solid offering. Blades are also fully replaceable. These broadheads are offered in both a solid and swept blade.

GRIM REAPER

The folks at Grim Reaper manufacture a huge array of different designs, but they are perhaps best known for their over-the-top mechanical broadheads. A few years ago, they debuted a new, 4-blade design with the Carni-Four broadhead. This design results in a huge, square wound channel that leads to massive blood trails and resists clotting. This year, they have expanded the technology to include the Whitetail Extreme, a 125-grain head that offers an even larger cutting diameter. The Pro-Series broadheads, which includes the Carni-Four and Whitetail Extreme, feature extended tips to prevent deflection on angled shots. I have personally hunted with the Carni-Four and can attest that it is lethal.

RAGE

Rage revolutionized the broadhead market many years ago by bringing slip-cam technology to the forefront. Their newest broadheads are the Rage Hypodermic NC (No Collar) and Hypodermic NC Crossbow. These new designs do not require a shock collar to retain the blades. This makes installing them on your arrows easier. The rear-deploy design limits the amount of penetration lost to blade deployment.

SUMMARY

As you can see there, is no shortage of quality broadheads on today's market. There is a design for nearly any hunting situation you can imagine. Stop by your local bow shop today and check out some of these products. ■

252-492-9770
 537 Cross Creek Rd. • Henderson, NC 27536

CROSS CREEK OUTDOOR SUPPLIES

THE HUNT ENDS HERE FOR ALL YOUR

<h3>-Safes-</h3>	<h3>-Firearms-</h3>	<h3>-Clothing-</h3>
------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Over 5000 sq. ft. of Outdoor Supplies!

www.crosscreekoutdoorsupply.com

find us on

Don't expect sunflowers planted in the fall to reach full maturity. The deer will mow them down as soon as they break through the ground.

PLANT SUNFLOWERS IN SMALL DEER PLOTS

TRY THIS IF YOU'VE GOT A SMALL FOOD-PLOT SPOT AVAILABLE

Plant sunflowers for deer? What!?! Yes, sunflowers have a 90- to 120-day maturation period and are usually planted in the late spring for a September dove field. But anybody who has ever tried to plant sunflowers for doves knows how much deer like sunflowers. They absolutely love sunflower plants when they are young and tender. As soon as the little green shoots peak out of the soil, deer show up and start to terrorize them.

Sunflower plants are very tasty to deer and offer an excellent source of nutrition when available. They are something that deer rarely get in the wild, and they will go out of their way to feast on these tender shoots and leaves. And deer will begin to use sunflower food plots as soon as they come out of the ground. It's the perfect early season food plot to coincide with the opening of deer season in many counties in the Carolinas.

But, don't expect it to last long. Sunflowers don't resist aggressive browsing and will generally die after heavy browsing or during the first night of freezing temperatures. For the hunter looking for a seed to plant in a small,

remote plot for October hunting, a heavily stocked field of sunflowers is a good way to go. Just be ready when the field is planted, because the deer will come to it like a Sunday buffet as soon as it erupts.

This is one case where planting-density recommendations can be ignored, because carrying this planting out to full maturation is never going to be part of the plan. If the typical seeding rate may be 20 pounds per acre drilled and 25 pounds per acre broadcast, land managers can increase the seeding rate by 50 percent to encourage a dense plot and a heavy browsing site.

Just don't buy the most expensive seed around. The sunflower plot will be short-lived, but the feeding frenzy will be fast and furious and a great place to pull in a giant.

After the field has been destroyed by deer and several wall-hangers have gone to the taxidermist, these plots should be re-plowed and planted with oats or rye for a longer-lasting winter crop.

DON'T OVER-POPULATE PLOT!

With the fall planting season in full swing, there is a long list of variables one must consider before burying the first

seed; one of the most-important considerations is the seed population.

The seeds themselves don't really need a ton of room to germinate in their infant stages, but as they grow on the road towards maturity, they utilize more resources and require more room. Seeding rates will directly affect the plot's performance.

Planting rates are primarily determined by the size and requirements of the mature versions of plants. Some seeds can be planted very close together, and others need significant space to grow vigorously and produce the most forage.

Some seeds, like pine tree seedlings, are planted relatively close together, on purpose, to encourage vertical growth and to discourage lateral growth as much as possible when juvenile. Plants will grow towards the light, and when the only

continues >



Jeff Burleson is a native of Lumberton, N.C., who lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He graduated from N.C. State University and is a certified biologist and professional forester for Southern Palmetto Environmental Consulting.



Jeff Burleson

PRE-INOCULATED LEGUMES:

Legumes are one of Mother Nature's wonderful plants that provide excellent nutrition for wildlife, while at the same time improving soil conditions. They are typically a palatable source of protein and rich, green browse that deer will gravitate to on any property. Legumes include clovers, peas, beans, lespedeza, peanuts and alfalfa. They have a symbiotic relationship with soil bacteria where soluble nitrogen is produced and usable to the plants. Nitrogen is one of the top three soil nutrients critical to life.

The nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the soil is somewhat available naturally, but planters can kick-start the nitrogen generator in the soil through inoculation. Essentially, inoculation is the introduction of live nitrogen-fixing bacteria to the seeds. It can be added to the seeds before planting, but some suppliers offer seeds pre-inoculated in the bag.

Applying inoculant isn't a tough task, but it adds a few extra steps to the process that will delay planting, because the seeds must be coated with a wet solution and then dried enough to function in row planters and broadcast seeders. Purchasing pre-inoculated seed can eliminate these steps and make planting a little more streamlined when the planting window is wide open. But, never avoid using inoculated seed if purchased that way or inoculating bare manually. Inoculated legume seed will get the food plot off and into production right away.

CZ-USA
PROTECT • HUNT • COMPETE

FIRE FOR EFFECT

CZ 1012 BRONZE

- GAS-LESS INERTIA OPERATING SYSTEM
- 28 INCH BARREL
- OVERSIZED AMBIDEXTROUS CONTROLS
- 4 + 1 CAPACITY
- 5 EXTRA LONG CHOKES

RUNS A WIDE VARIETY OF SHELLS

CZ-USA.COM

GREENER PASTURES

continued

light is directly above, plants will grow upwards towards the sun. Large, living branches flourishing along the trunk create knots and poor-quality lumber. As the timber grows towards the sun and gets larger, trees are selectively harvested through thinning to allow residual trees to access all available nutrients and to encourage lateral growth with only a limited coverage of living limbs present on the lower portion of the tree.

Nevertheless, growing food plots is much different than growing pine trees, where significant vertical growth is not required, nor warranted. In fact, food-plot plant species need room to spread out and produce as much green foliage as possible. Green foliage is covered in photo receptors, and every receptor allows plants to convert the sun's rays into viable energy.

Seeding rate will also change by planting method. Since broadcast seed has a poorer germination rate, it will need a higher application rate than when planted with a seed drill or machine planter. Mechanized seed drills and planters are precise devices, and the seed density and planting depth can be controlled accurately. When using row planters and seed drills, the seeding rate is generally half of the broadcast rate.

Seeding rates are listed in pounds per acre. Plots must be measured accurately to determine the true area, based on what percentage of 43,560 square feet — an acre — is to be planted. Only then can you prescribe the amount of seed to be used for the area to be planted.

Different seed types require different seeding rates, and some seeds will weigh more than others, so the seeding rate in pounds per acre will vary by seed type and variety. For example, grain sorghum and sunflowers generally require a broadcast seeding rate of around 8 pounds per acre. Wheat and oats are usually broadcast planted at around 50 pounds per acre. Always check the label to make the proper seeding rate.

Lastly, seeding rates should always be reduced when creating planting blends. For the best results, the seed with the higher seeding rate per pound should be used as a base and adjusted from there.

When in doubt, always err on the side of caution when determining seeding rates, and lower the seeding rate to make sure the plants aren't overstocked. Overplanting a site will produce less than desired result. ■

Improve the health and appearance of your hunting acreage, residential, or agricultural property.



Licensed & Insured

Irmo, SC 



ABSOLUTE.
PREMIUM.
PROTECTION.™

WX DETECTION



WILEY X AUTHORIZED DEALERS

North Carolina	South Carolina
General Jacksons	U.S. Patriot
Fuquay Gun & Gold Inc.	Palmetto State Armory
Gander Outdoors	Gander Outdoors
Academy Sports & Outdoors	Academy Sports & Outdoors

Visit wileyx.com for more locations



ABSOLUTE.
PREMIUM.
PROTECTION.™

WX DETECTION

LOCKED AND LOADED LENSES



INTERCHANGEABLE LENS SHOOTING KIT



DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD CHAMPION SHOOTERS, OLYMPIC MEDAL WINNERS AND PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS.

WX Detection is a premium shooting glass designed with multiple adjustment points at the nose bridge and temples to provide distortion-free and pinpoint accuracy. Built 25% lighter for extended-wear comfort, the WX Detection interchangeable lens system delivers ANSI Z87.1 rated, EN 166 certified shatterproof protection, and superior visual clarity. The spectrum of five interchangeable lens tints filter and shift wavelength to accentuate your target in all lighting conditions, in the field and at the range.

WILEYX.COM

SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR SPECIALS OFFERED BY



ANGLER'S MARINE
842 OCEAN HWY WEST
SUPPLY, NC 28462
910-755-7900
anglersmarinenc.com

BAY RACER MARINE
213 US HIGHWAY 70 WEST
HAVELOCK, NC 28532
252-447-2277
bayracermarine.com

BERKELEY OUTDOORS
2955 S. LIVE OAK DR
MONCK'S CORNER, SC 29461
843-761-2628
803-333-9992
803-505-8727
berkeleyoutdoors.com

BRAZDA MARINE
2645 Highway 24
Newport, NC 28570
252-240-1600
brazdamarine.net

BROAD CREEK MARINA
18 SIMMONS ROAD
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC. 29926
843-681-3625
broadcreekmarinahn.com

BROWN'S MARINE INC
1825 ANTHONY RD
BURLINGTON, NC 27215
336-229-5784
brownsmarine.net

**CAROLINA BOATWORKS
OF COLUMBIA, LLC**
181 PONTIAC BUSINESS CENTER DR
ELGIN, SC 29045
803-736-0035
cbwofcolumbia.com

CAROLINA COACH & MARINE
I-40, EXIT 135
CLAREMONT, NC 28610
800-305-9045
carolinacoach.com

CAROLINA INBOARD
1225 BICKLEY ROAD
IRMO, SC 29063
803-781-1024
carolinainboard.com

**CAROLINA WATERSPORTS
AND MARINE**
114 DAYS INN DR.
MOORESVILLE, NC 28117
704-663-4500
carolinawatersportsmarine.com

CHATLEE BOAT & MARINE
2615 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY.
SANFORD, NC 27330
919-775-7259
chatleeboats.com

COASTLINE RV & MARINE
2340 S. HIGHWAY 17
MURRELLS INLET, SC 29576
843-458-3999
coastlinervrentals.com

COLLINS INC.
4620 US 70 Bus Hwy East
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-934-3143
Collinsboating.com

COVE 2 COAST MARINE
1821 LAKE MURRAY BLVD.
COLUMBIA, SC 29212
803-814-1514
cove2coastmarine.com

COVE 2 COAST MARINE
2476 SAVANNAH HWY.
CHARLESTON, SC 29407
843-212-3915
cove2coastmarine.com

DOSS MARINE
1720 CHAPIN ROAD
CHAPIN, SC 29036
803-345-1001
dossmarine.com

DOWN EAST MARINE
455 HIGHWAY 70 OTWAY
BEAUFORT, NC 28516
252-728-5817
downeastmarine.com

EAST COAST MARINE
3372 FREEDOM WAY
HUBERT, NC 28539
910-548-1240

ED WATKINS MARINE
3333 HWY 16N
DENVER NC 28037
704.483.2628
www.edwatkinsmarine.com

FORT MACON MARINA INC
417 E FT MACON RD POB 370
ATLANTIC BEACH, NC 28512
252-726-2055
fortmaconmarina.com

FOUR SONS MARINE
855 CAUSEY RD
FAIR BLUFF, NC 28439
910-649-5755
foursonsmarine.com

GRAHAM MARINE
318 W HARDEN ST
GRAHAM, NC 27253
336-227-8711
grahammarinesales.net

GREG'S OUTBOARD CTR INC
1105 E OCEAN RD
HOLLY RIDGE, NC 28445
910-329-0040
gregsoutboard.com

GUNNELLS MARINE
102 Rock Church Rd NW
Greenwood, SC 29649
864-223-2275
gunnellsmarine.com

HUNTLEY MARINE
307 N POLK ST
PINEVILLE, NC 28134
704-889-2111
huntleymarine.com

J & J MARINE
2530 BADIN ROAD
ALBEMARLE NC 28001
704-983-867
jandjmarinesales.com

**JET JOE'S MARINE
SALES AND SERVICE**
565 SATTERWHITE POINT RD.
HENDERSON, NC 27537
Phone: 252-430-6209
jetjoesmarine.com

JIMMY'S MARINE
6685 BEACH DRIVE SW
OCEAN ISLE BEACH, NC 28469
910-575-3600
jimmysmarine.com

JOHNSON'S MARINE
814 HOUSER ST
ORANGEBURG, SC 29115-6325
803-531-1655 • Fax 803-531-1626
johnsonsmarinesc.com

LONG'S FISHING & MARINE
5401 HWY 24
ANDERSON, SC 29625-6020
864-287-9064 • FAX 864-287-2965

LONG ISLAND MARINA
8400 LONG ISLAND ROAD
CATAWBA, NC 28609
828-241-4877
longislandmarina.com

MARINE 360
1925 JOHNSON MARINA RD
CHAPIN, SC 29036
803-749-2360
marine360sc.com

MARINE WAREHOUSE
6921 MARKET ST
WILMINGTON, NC 28411
910-799-1277
marinewarehousecenter.com

MARINE WAREHOUSE CENTER
3881 SAVANNAH HIGHWAY
JOHNS ISLAND, SC 29455
843-974-5353
marinewarehousecenter.com

MARTIN'S PERFORMANCE BOATING
9345 MACEDONIA CHURCH RD
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
803-364-2162
martinsmarine.com

MARINE SERVICE PRO, INC.
8210 RIVER ROAD SE
SOUTHPORT, NC 28461
910-363-4725
marineservicepro8210@gmail.com

MERRITT MARINE
1804 NC-86
HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278
919-732-7377
merrittmarine.com

MIRAMAR BOATS LLC
209 ARENDELL ST
MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28557
252-726-7678
portsidemarina.com

MUDDY BAY MARINE
13803 C. R. KOON HWY.
NEWBERRY, SC 29108
803-321-1900
muddybay.com

NORTH POINT WATERSPORTS
112 DOOLIE RD.
MOORESVILLE, NC
704-799-1994
northpointwatersports.com
info@npwatersports.com

PALMETTO RV & MARINE
108-B SOUTH US 52 B
MONCK'S CORNER, SC 29461
843-719-2001
palmettorv.com

PERFORMANCE EAST
604 CORPORATE DRIVE
GOLDSBORO, NC 27530
888-503-8900
ncpowersports.com

PRECISION MARINE INC
5201 US HWY 70 E
GOLDSBORO, NC 27534
919-751-1199
precisionmarineinc.com

RADCLIFFE MARINE INC.
865 US 264 BYPASS
BELHAVEN, NC 27810
252-943-3923
radcliffemarine.com

ROCK OUTDOORS
7440 NC HWY 8
LEXINGTON, NC 27292
336-793-8710
rockoutdoors.com

**ROGUE MOTION BOAT
SALES & STORAGE**
65 SYCAMORE AVE UNIT 1
CHARLESTON, SC 29407
TOLL-FREE 888-341-9460
roguemotion.com

SALTWATER MARINE
6130 CAROLINA BEACH ROAD
WILMINGTON NC 28412
910-392-7488
saltwatermarine.net

SEA ISLAND MARINE
1105 RODGERS STREET
BEAUFORT, SC 29902
843-524-7272
seaislandmarinebeaufort.com

SOUTHPORT MARINE MART
4711 LONG BEACH RD
SOUTHPORT, NC
910-457-6350
marinemartnc.com

SOUTHPORT WATERSPORTS
4888 Coastal Drive
Southport, NC 28461
910-477-6681
southportwatersports.com

SOUTHSIDE OUTDOORS
2304 CLAUSSEN RD
FLORENCE, SC 29505
(843) 292-1195
southsideoutdoors.com

STRICKLAND MARINE CENTER
4520 HWY 24
ANDERSON, SC 29626
864-225-0145
stricklandmarine.com

STROUD AND SON MARINE SALES
1897 OCEAN HWY
EDENTON, NC 27932
252-482-8938
stroudandson.com

SUTTON MARINE
914 PARK AVENUE SOUTHEAST
AIKEN, SC 29801
803-648-6141
suttonmarine.com

THE GREAT OUTDOORS
112 A NORTH CHERRY ST.
CHERRYVILLE, NC 28021
704-445-8848
teamgreatoutdoors.com

TRI-COUNTY MARINE
1203 PREMIER ROAD
GRANITE FALLS, NC 28630
828-728-4845
tricityboats.com

TWIN LAKES MARINE, INC
265 SATTERWHITE POINT RD
HENDERSON, N.C. 27537
252-431-0416
twinlakesmarinenc.com

UNIVERSAL MARINE
144-A Wayne Drive
Morehead City, NC 28557
252-723-1577
universalmarinenc.com

WACCA WACHE MARINA
1950 WACHESAW ROAD
MURRELLS INLET, SC 29576
843-651-2994
waccawachemarina.com

WEBSTERS MARINE INC
5974 N OKATIE HWY
RIDGELAND, SC 29936-8248
843-987-6663 • Fax 843-379-2628
webstersmarine.com

YOPP BROTHERS INC
883 HWY 210 W POB 849
SNEADS FERRY, NC 28460
910-327-2831
yoppbrothersmarine.com

Not all North Carolina and South Carolina American Suzuki Motor of America Inc. marine dealers are represented in this advertisement.



THE **ULTIMATE**[™]
OUTBOARD MOTOR

FANTASTIC FALL SAVINGS

There's plenty of fish to pull in this fall season and your Suzuki Marine Dealer has exceptional deals to get you out on the water. See your local Suzuki Marine Dealer for all the details!



SIX YEARS OF PROTECTION

3 YEARS LIMITED WARRANTY +
3 YEARS EXTENDED PROTECTION
NO EXTRA CHARGE.



INSTANT SAVINGS

INSTANT SAVINGS ON SELECT MODELS WHEN
YOU BUY A NEW SUZUKI OUTBOARD.
SEE YOUR DEALER FOR DETAILS.



REPOWER FINANCE

RATES AS LOW AS 5.99%
ON NEW SUZUKI OUTBOARDS ON
APPROVED CREDIT.* [60 MONTHS]



THE **ULTIMATE**[™]
OUTBOARD MOTOR

Gimme Six Extended Protection promo is applicable to new Suzuki Outboard Motors from 25 to 350 HP in inventory which are sold and delivered to buyer between 10/01/19 and 12/31/19 in accordance with the promotion by a Participating Authorized Suzuki Marine dealer in the continental US or Alaska to a purchasing customer who resides in the continental US or Alaska. Customer should expect to receive an acknowledgement letter and full copy of contract including terms, conditions and wallet card from Suzuki Extended Protection within 90 days of purchase. If an acknowledgement letter is not received in time period stated, contact Suzuki Motor of America, Inc. - Marine Marketing via email: marinepromo@suz.com. The Gimme Six Promotion is available for pleasure use only, and is not redeemable for cash. Instant Savings apply to qualifying purchases of select Suzuki Outboard Motors made between 10/01/19 and 12/31/19. For list of designated models, see participating Dealer or visit www.suzukimarine.com. Instant Savings must be applied against the agreed-upon selling price of the outboard motor and reflected in the bill of sale. (Suzuki will, in turn, credit Dealer's parts account.) There are no model substitutions, benefit substitutions, rain checks, or extensions. Suzuki reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without notice or obligation. * Financing offers available through Synchrony Retail Finance. As low as 5.99% APR financing for 60 months on new and unregistered Suzuki Outboard Motors. Subject to credit approval. Not all buyers will qualify. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. \$19.99/month per \$1,000 financed for 60 months is based on 5.99% APR. Hypothetical figures used in calculation; your actual monthly payment may differ based on financing terms, credit tier qualification, accessories or other factors such as down payment and fees. Offer effective on new, unregistered Suzuki Outboard Motors purchased from a participating authorized Suzuki dealer between 10/01/19 and 12/31/19. "Gimme Six", the Suzuki "S" and model names are Suzuki trademarks or ©. Don't drink and drive. Always wear a USCG-approved life jacket and read your owner's manual. © 2019 Suzuki Motor of America, Inc.

PRE-DAWN POWER

LIGHT YOUR PATH IN ANY TERRAIN –
WITH COAST'S G32 FLASHLIGHT

COAST

TRUSTED TOUGH.™

G32
FOCUSING
Flashlight



COASTPORTLAND.COM



We Have Over 20

HAVOC BOATS
Wreckin Havoc

In-Stock...

Including The

NEW VJ!!!



**SOUTHSIDE
OUTDOORS
LLC**

Come Get One While They Last...
Several 15', 16' & 17'



**CALL US
TODAY!!**

**Havoc 1550 VJ,
Camo Liner, 40 HP Tohatsu,
Galv. Magic Tilt trailer,
including Taxes & Rigging
\$12,000 Out The Door!!!**

HAVOC BOATS
Wreckin Havoc

TOHATSU
Feel the Wind™

SUZUKI
MARINE

TOHATSU
Feel the Wind™

MERCURY

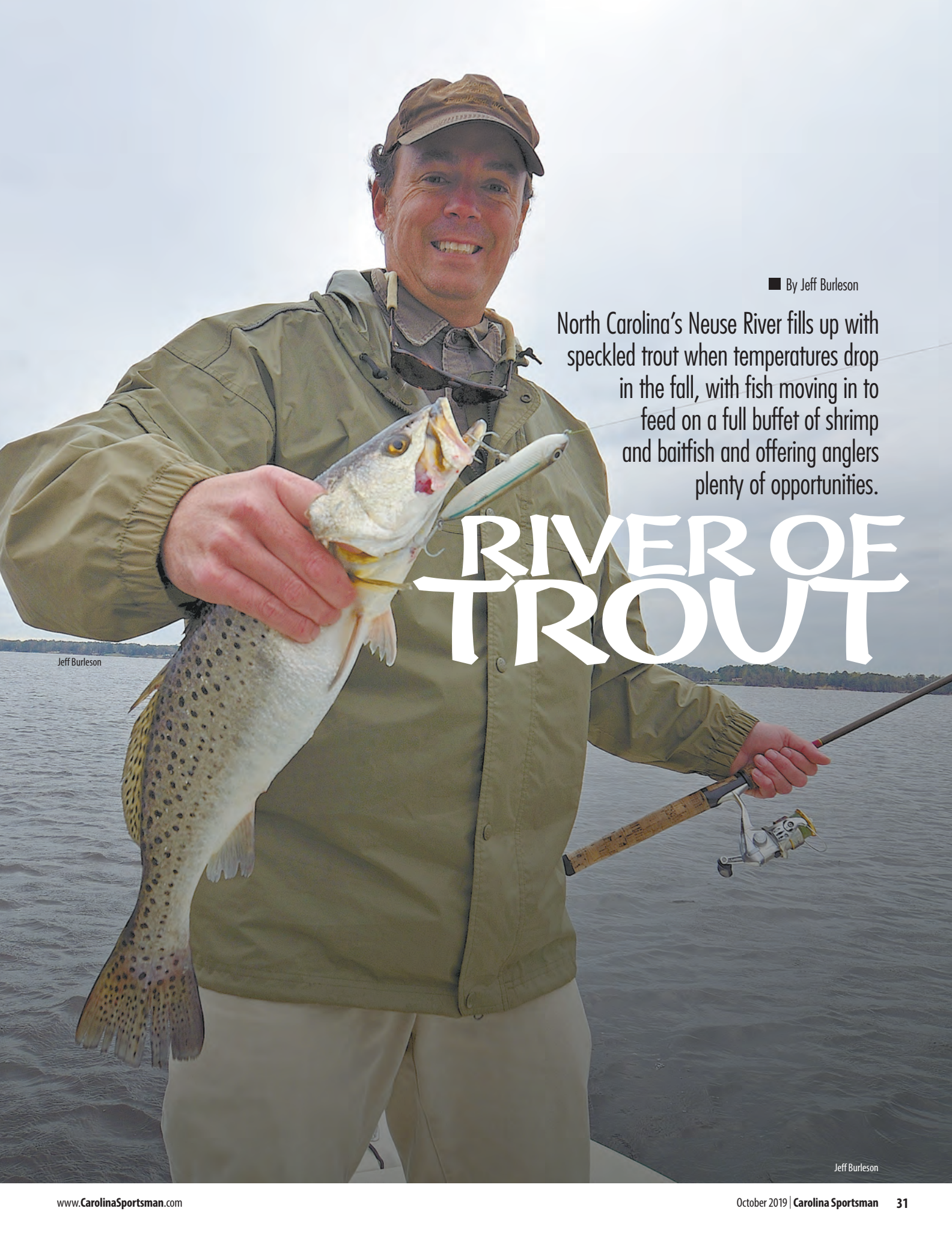
843-292-1195

2304 Claussen Road • Florence, SC

See Our Inventory Showroom at

SOUTHSIDEOUTDOORS.com





■ By Jeff Burleson

North Carolina's Neuse River fills up with speckled trout when temperatures drop in the fall, with fish moving in to feed on a full buffet of shrimp and baitfish and offering anglers plenty of opportunities.

RIVER OF TROUT

Jeff Burleson

Jeff Burleson

THE SWELTERING SUMMER HEAT HAS ENDED,

and the fall fishing frenzy is finally here, bringing cool weather and big smiles to diehard speckled trout followers. And the waters of the Neuse River are an ideal place to set up camp for consistent fall action.

The Neuse is one of the primary arteries dumping nutrient-rich waters into the 3,000-square mile Albemarle-Pamlico Sound system, the nation's second-largest inland estuary, behind only the Chesapeake Bay.

Out of the 17 river basins in North Carolina, the Neuse is the longest that begins and ends within the state's borders. It empties into the Pamlico Sound just east of Oriental, but prime speckled trout waters continue well upriver, as far inland to where the river shrinks along its banks near New Bern.

Dave Stewart of Knee Deep Custom Charters is based out of Minnesott Beach on the river's northern shore, halfway between New Bern and the Pamlico Sound. October is the beginning of his best speck fishing of the year, when water temperatures drop and fish begin to move up the river as part of their annual cycle.

"Most of the speckled trout in our waters are resident fish; they don't seem to migrate like many of the other speckled trout fisheries up and down the eastern seaboard," Stewart said. "These fish don't migrate per se; they make a big loop inside. They spawn on the rocks in the Pamlico Sound during the summer and overwinter up the river and in the inland creeks in deep water."

Water temperature is the major driving factor for fish movement. It affects both movement of bait and of speckled trout themselves. Specks begin to move out of

the sound and head up the river toward their wintering grounds when the fall cool-down begins.

"The inland creeks may be their future destination, but they take their time getting to their wintering holes and stage up, concentrating in schools along the river's edge and in the creek mouths," he said.

Stewart will concentrate on any of the creeks between Minnesott Beach and New Bern: Slocum, Northwest, Upper Broad and Baird, plus the South River. Places with deeper water and structure along the river and inside the creeks offer the best options to find a school of fish. The areas with the most bait will be key.

"Trout congregate around places abundant with bait," Stewart said. "Go to the shorelines near the creek mouths and into the creeks to look for bait. Most of the trout will not be in the backs of the creeks yet, but there will be a steady flow of fish coming into the creeks to feed this time of year. Work the cuts and coves near the mouth, and places with structure will almost always have some fish in the fall."

Structure along the river isn't as common as in many tidal regions along the oceanfront communities. But any docks and wooded shorelines with more than 3 feet of water present a prime opportunity to find a school of fall specks.

Since trout are moving in schools and exhibiting staging behavior, creek channels can also be good options to find them.

.....
The Neuse River provides quite a buffet for speckled trout in the fall, keeping them moving and feeding for the better part of 3 months.



Dave Stewart

DESTINATION INFORMATION

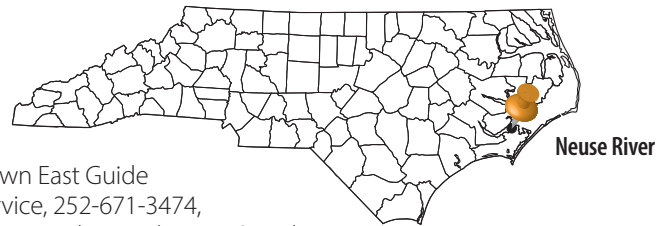
HOW TO GET THERE — Boat ramps on the Neuse are scattered throughout the region, off tributaries and on the river itself. Three popular public ramps are Oriental's Green Creek Landing near the mouth of the river, Dawson Creek on the north shore and Hancock Creek along the south shore. For a complete list, visit www.ncwildlife.org/Boating_Waterways/Boating_Maps_Locations.htm

WHEN TO GO — The fall topwater trout bite begins in September and lasts until the water temperature falls into the 50s.

BEST TECHNIQUES — Artificial lures that imitate shrimp, mullet or menhaden are great choices for fall trout. Most fish will be near the bottom or in the lower half of the water column. Retrieve lures slowly, a few feet off the bottom, using a stop-and-go cadence. Jigheads dressed with 3- to 4-inch DOA shrimp, shadtails and jerk shad/soft-plastic combos work, as do suspending MirrOlures and topwaters. Since the Neuse's waters are tea-colored, reds, golds and yellows are preferred lure colors. Fish 14- to 20-pound with a 20-pound fluoro-carbon leader on a 6½- to 7-foot, medium to medium-light spinning outfit,

FISHING INFO/GUIDES

— Dave Stewart, Knee Deep Custom Charters, 252-249-1786, www.pamlicotackle.com; George Beckwith,



Neuse River

Down East Guide Service, 252-671-3474, www.pamlicoguide.com. See also Guides & Charters in Classifieds.

ACCOMMODATIONS — Visit Oriental, www.visitoriental.com; Visit NC, www.visitnc.com; Terri McManus Vacation Rentals, www.vrbo.com/245297.

MAPS — Capt. Segull's Nautical Charts, 888-473-4855, www.captainsegullcharts.com; The Salty Southeast Cruising Guide (www.cruisersnet.net/cruisersnet-marine-map/?l=35.5593,-76.4663&z=14); N.C.'s Coastal Boating Guide (www.ncwildlife.org/Boating_Waterways/documents/NCCoastaBoatingGuideMap.pdf)

REMOVABLE SAND BAG WEIGHTS AVAILABLE

ON A TRAILER OR LIFT... WE KEEP YOU COVERED!

O'BRIAN
CUSTOM BOAT COVERS

1-800-334-8277
2330 Womble-Brooks Rd.
Wilson, NC 27893

SAFETY FIRST

ATTENTION INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

Customized training plans, hearing conservation and safety programs

- HAZMAT Training
- Hearing Conservation Services
- Respiratory Protection
- FIT Testing

SAFETY FIRST



SAFETY FIRST



PALMETTO STATE TRAINING
843-569-6872
 When You Need it...Where You Need it.
www.PalmettoStateTraining.com

“Don’t just beat the banks and shorelines; check out the center of these channels,” Stewart said. “We often get on a solid bite right in the center of the creeks, in the deepest parts.”

The menu is full for specks in October and November, with the year-round menhaden being joined by mullet and shrimp. With a variety of forage options available, few lures will fail to get the job done, but some options are better than others.

Stewart typically matches the hatch, using lures that produce solid results when he encounters a school of hungry specks.

“My first choice is always going to be a light jig with a 3- or 4-inch D.O.A shadtail or the 2¾-inch D.O.A. shrimp,” he said. “These baits are going to trigger a strike, can imitate all of our forage in the area and can be fished in a variety of water conditions.”



Since this part of the estuary lacks current, heavy jigheads aren’t required. Stewart will typically use a ½- or ¾-ounce model. He’ll use shrimp imitations through the fall and early winter, then use jigs with other trailers all winter to imitate the bait available in the area.

“I fish both jigs and shrimp close to the bottom, twitching them along,” he said.

Speckled trout rely on their keen eyesight for foraging. Since the Neuse and its tributaries are tannic, with tea-colored waters, the preferred color palate may differ significantly than in places with clear, green water. Lure color is important to increase visibility and certain colors are more discernible than others in the tea-colored waters of the Neuse River estuary.

“As a general rule, a mixture of gold and red is the best choice,” Stewart said. “But one of my new favorites is candy corn. It’s orange and yellow, and the fish love it around here.” ■



TARGET STUMP FIELDS >

WILSON MARINE NEWBERRY, SC

THE CAROLINA'S NEWEST **Xpress boats** DEALER!



Xpress boats

POWERED BY: **YAMAHA**

FROM REDFISH TO WATERFOWL, NOW IN STOCK!

SALES, SERVICE, PARTS & ACCESSORIES
 743 WILSON RD • NEWBERRY, SC
 803.276.0809 • WilsonMarine.net

OH THE PLACES WE'LL GO



BLUE WAVE

405.382.0349

www.bluewaveboats.com

*Building legendary bay boats from 19' to 28'.
To take our Ride the Wave challenge
visit us online to find your closest dealer.*

TARGET STUMP FIELDS

Typical speckled trout habitat usually includes oyster beds, sandbars, jetties and maybe a few docks in the mix, but there are places in coastal North Carolina where those preferred habitats don't exist.

But where those habitats are not available, it doesn't mean speckled trout don't live there. Specks seek out any type of habitat that offers places to hide from predators and ambush their next meal.

Along the Neuse and its tributaries, shorelines that were formerly forested are prime places to tackle a big trout and often, plenty of them.

The old stump fields are a solid opportunity for Dave Stewart of Knee Deep Charters in Minnesot Beach.

"The stump fields near New Bern — we call them the Live Oak Point area — are typically fished heavily for rockfish in the fall, but some big trout will hold in these areas, too, because the abundance of bait," Stewart said. "It's not uncommon to be fishing for rockfish in October and find some 4- to 5-pound trout mixed in."



Jeff Burleson



Submerged stump fields along the banks of the Neuse River will hold plenty of fall speckled trout.

These stump fields are rather extensive, with stumps in 4- to 7-foot depths; weedless lure options are preferred in these areas. Stewart likes to use the D.O.A Deadly Combo with a jig or 2¾-inch shrimp suspended right in the middle of the stumps. He will also use a 5/0 screw-lock hook with a pinch weight and 4-inch jerk shad to work the bottom.

Finally, a topwater option can be very deadly in this habitat. "You can use the topwater of your choice, and you can find some bigger fish this way too," he said. ■

CUSTOM DESIGNS AND FEATURES AT PRODUCTION BOAT PRICES... WE DO THAT!



MITZI SKIFFS
www.MitziSkiffs.com



www.MitziSkiffs.com www.CHawkBoats.net

252-235-2461

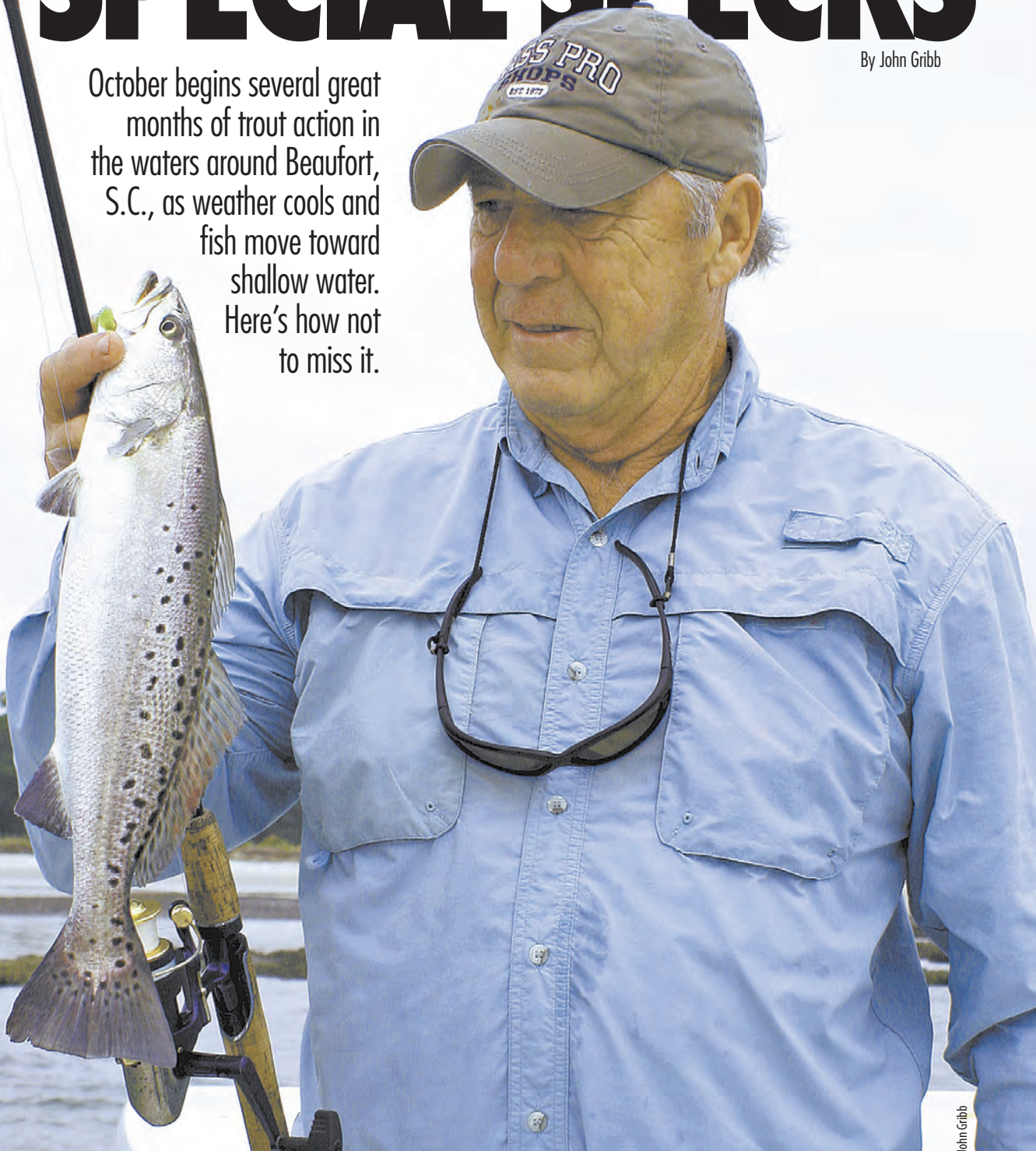


THE LOWCOUNTRY'S

SPECIAL SPECKS

By John Gribb

October begins several great months of trout action in the waters around Beaufort, S.C., as weather cools and fish move toward shallow water. Here's how not to miss it.



John Gribb

Catching speckled trout,

with their slashing strikes and pulsating runs, is thrilling any time of year, but now, it is actually easy. As the weather cools, specks move closer to shoreline grass and oyster banks during moving tides, both in and out, and feed throughout the day. Most-often schooling in 2 to 4 feet of water, they aggressively jump on a jig and plastic trailer cast toward grass banks and retrieved slowly, or a shrimp under a cork drifted a few feet from shore.

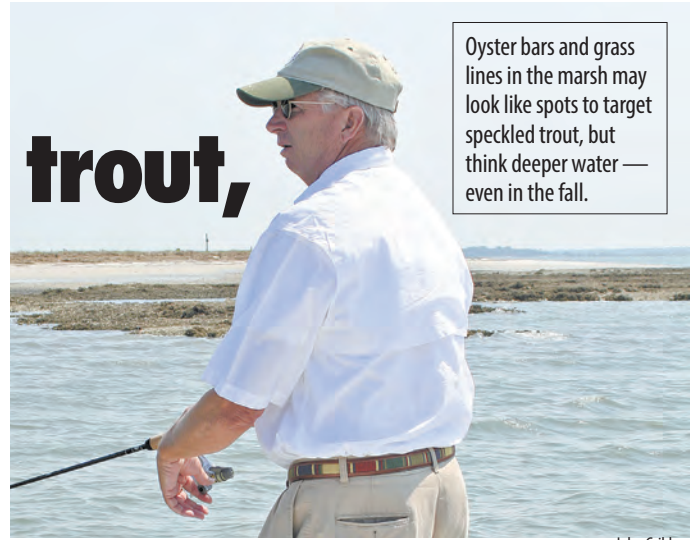
Owen Plair of Beaufort (S.C.) Fishing Charters, who guides light tackle and fly anglers for all the popular Lowcountry inshore fish, loves trout because of how aggressive they are in so many different situations.

"Many times you will see a trout eat a baitfish that's almost half its size," he said, "and rarely do they miss a prey with their big mouth full of sharp teeth."

Autumn is absolutely the best time of the year for Lowcountry speckled trout, and while they sometimes venture into very shallow water and over oyster bars chasing bait, most often, they congregate in slightly deeper water. The period from October through early December features the best fishing of the year.

One of Plair's favorite tactics for catching trout is to fish a live shrimp under a popping cork. He uses a Cajun Thunder cork above 18 to 24 inches of 20-pound fluorocarbon leader, with a small split shot crimped on the middle of the leader to hold the shrimp — impaled on a 2/0 circle hook — in the strike zone.

"Some people like to hook the live shrimp through



John Gribb

Oyster bars and grass lines in the marsh may look like spots to target speckled trout, but think deeper water — even in the fall.

its horn, but my favorite way is to hook it through the hardest area right above the tail so that it can still swim freely with lots of action from its legs," said Plair, who likes to give the cork a slight pop about every 45 second so the sound, which resembles the popping sound shrimp make underwater, attracts fish.

Trout have very large but delicate mouths, and he feels that the tension from the large cork helps hook a trout that hits the circle hook. When he fishes jigs, standard J-hooks or popular Kahle hooks, hooksets should be quick but smooth, not nearly as aggressive as you are when you hit a spot-tail bass, aka redbfish.

Plair also targets trout with artificial lures, including soft-plastic baits on jigheads, hard-plastic lures and even topwater baits. One of the most-productive fall lures, Plair said, is a 3-inch Gulp! shrimp in new penny color, fished on a ¼- or ⅜-ounce jighead. Most times, a slow retrieve works best. Plair blind-casts to grass edges and creek mouths to find fish, and when he gets a bite, most of the time, more fish are in the same area.



PRODUCTIVE SPOTS INCLUDE SHORELINES, LANDINGS

For most of the year, catching a trout from the shore, a public pier or boat landing where fishing is permitted is challenging, to say the least. But in October through December, it can be different.

In fact, some shoreline spots hold schools of legal-sized trout within easy casting range, including one near Sam's Point Landing. The Broad River Bridge fishing pier and the shoreline on the south side of the bridge are also productive, along with the area around the Chechessee River Landing. Remember, when you fish around public boat ramps, boats being launched have priority.

For anglers with boats in the Port Royal Sound area, the area south of the Chechessee Bridge, the northern shorelines of Rose and Daws Island and farther south in the Colleton River are good spots. In the Broad River, the shoreline from Boyd Creek down past Hazzard Creek has expansive flats with numerous oyster out-croppings that can be great. Farther up the Broad are some shell banks by Clarendon Plantation and around Corn Island and Habersham Point flats. Downriver from the Broad River Bridge are various creek mouths along the south shoreline and the Blue Coat edge above Archers Creek.

In the St. Helena Sound area, a shoreline just to the left of Eddings Point Landing is a good trout spot. Also, check out the Morgan River shoreline across from the Dataw Island Marina. In the Sam's Point Landing area, try the mouth of Fish Creek across the Coosaw River. From Station Creek Landing on St. Helena Island, good flats are on either side of where the Story River meets Trenchards Inlet. ■

Trout will hold on the edge of a flooded grass line on a rising tide. Plenty of these kinds of areas are available in the waters around Beaufort.

John Gribb

Precision Marine Inc.

2020's NOW IN STOCK!

WAR EAGLE BOATS SEAARK BOATS LOWE BOATS



1860 CC IN STOCK ALSO

STARTING AT \$215/mo*

Lowe Roughneck 2070 SC or CC, 90hp & galvanized trailer.



961 BLACKHAWKS ALSO IN STOCK!

AS LOW AS \$265/mo*

2170 Blackhawk w/115 4stroke & aluminum tandem axle trailer



STARTING AT \$275/mo*

BIGGEST SELECTION OF SEA ARK BOATS IN NC!

Bay Extreme BX 220 w/F-175, Hyd Steering & tandem aluminum trailer.

Powered by



WE SELL & INSTALL



FIND US OFF HWY 70 BYPASS AT EXIT #369 FROM RALEIGH/EXIT #370 FROM KINSTON!

919-751-1199

* with approved credit

8:00 - 5:00 Monday - Friday
After hours by appointment



WHERE GREAT SERVICE GOES ALONG WITH THE SALE!

WWW.PRECISIONMARINEINC.COM

Soft-plastic paddletails fished on light jigheads are favorites among speckled trout fishermen in the fall.

When the water temperature drops and trout school in slightly deeper water, Plair likes to search for trout by trolling a couple of soft-plastic paddletails on 3/8-ounce jigheads. When a fish is hooked, turn around and fish the area again.

Trout often hang out along the edge of structure. Whether it's a big oyster bed a few feet under the water, a fallen tree or even dock pilings, trout like structure because that's where the bait is. Moving water is important, too, so try to work live bait or artificial lures with the current flow along the edge of these areas to create a more realistic presentation.

Topwater action for those who love casting plugs is best early in the morning before the sun gets too high or when it's overcast and cloudy. Walking the dog with classic topwater plugs, like black/chartreuse or red/white Zara Spooks works great. Remember, when fishing topwater lures, keep the bait moving even if a fish strikes and misses, since most times, a trout will come back and strike again.

Other places trout hang out are around boat docks, in deeper holes in creeks, in depressions in the middle of creeks and at times, just outside of redfish flats where the bottom drops off. Cast also near oysters on points, stand-alone oyster bars with current, uptide and downtide sides of creek mouths and grass-line edges, especially where oysters break the current flow.

If you want to find your own "trout drops," do some low-tide research along shorelines. Motor slowly along at low tide and make a mental note — or even enter GPS waypoints — of oys-



John Gribb

ter shell outcroppings. These will be the likely holding spots for trout when the water covers them. Then, return with the rising tide and float a cork over the shells with the bait almost touching the bottom.

According to Joey Ballenger, a marine scientist with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, the 2018 winter freeze did some damage to trout stocks, but last summer's voluntary catch-and-release program worked well, and the spawn was excellent. Stocks of just-legal sized fish should be plentiful, and larger fish will still be around. Go out and catch them and keep a few if you enjoy eating good fish but release the rest to fight again. ■



John Gribb is a licensed charterboat captain, upland hunting guide and former Orvis endorsed saltwater fly-fishing guide who lives in the Lowcountry. A freelance writer for more than 25 years, he specializes in small game and waterfowl hunting, freshwater and inshore saltwater fishing and sporting dogs.



Atlantic Beach, NC
INSHORE • OFFSHORE • PIERS • SURF
Your One Stop for All Your Saltwater Bait & Tackle Needs



12th Annual Speckled TROUT CHALLENGE
 SEPTEMBER 1ST - JANUARY 31ST
 No Deadline to Sign-Up

1ST - \$1,000 GUARANTEED +\$3,000
 SPECKLED TROUT REPLICA / STAR VPR ROD / SHIMANO STRADIC

2ND - \$1000 GUARANTEED +\$1,500
 STAR PLASMA / SHIMANO STRADIC / CALCUTTA COOLER

3RD - \$1,000 GUARANTEED +\$500
 STAR SEQUENCE ROD / SHIMANO REEL

4TH - \$750 GUARANTEED

5TH - \$500 GUARANTEED

6TH - 10TH REELS / TACKLE BAGS / TACKLE PACKAGES

MONTHLY WILD CARD
 FISH CLOSEST TO THE SELECTED WEIGHT WINS:
 KUNNAN ROD & REEL COMBO
 EACH MONTH!

Support our Sponsors: 

Register at:
 CHASIN' TAILS OUTDOORS
 709 Atlantic Beach Cswy.
 252-240-FISH



Live Mud Minnows

HUGE SELECTION OF NEW CUSTOM



Mirrolure



Live Shrimp





GET YOUR WEEKLY FISHING REPORT AT www.chasintailsoutdoors.com

Follow Us @ 

252-240-3474

709 Atlantic Beach Causeway, Atlantic Beach, NC

Fresh Local Shrimp

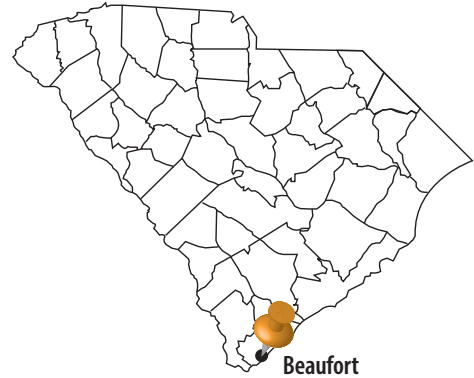
DESTINATION INFORMATION

WHERE TO GO/HOW TO GET THERE — The waters around Beaufort are teeming with fish as fall arrives. South of the Broad River, anglers have good access at the Chechessee River and Broad River landings, both on SC 170. Beaufort anglers have easy access from the landing on Lady's Island and on Sam's Point Road. Eddings Point Landing on St. Helena Island and Station Creek Landing are also good.

WHEN TO GO — Trout are very active for the next couple of months. The top half of the tide, either rising or falling, is often considered most productive. Trout bag limits this year are 10 fish daily with a 14-inch size minimum.

BEST TECHNIQUES — Fish live shrimp under a popping cork, soft plastics on a jighead or topwater baits close to marsh grass. Troll soft-plastic paddletails in slightly deeper water when searching for fish. Moving water is a key.

FISHING INFO/GUIDES — Capt. Owen Plair, 843-812-3656, www.beaufortscfishingcharters.com; Captain Tuck Scott, 843-271-5406; Capt. Shannon O'Quinn, 843-368-1558; Capt. Dan Rourke, 843-263-3863; Bay Street Outfitters, Beaufort, 843-



524-5250; Grayco Hardware, Lady's Island, 843-521-8060; Boat and Dock Supply, Port Royal, 843-986-0552. See also Guides & Charters in Classifieds.

ACCOMMODATIONS — Beaufort Area Chamber of Commerce, 843-986-5400, www.beaufortsc.org.

MAPS — Top Spot waterproof map No. N233, available from most local tackle shops.

Prothro Chevrolet

Your *Family Owned*
Hometown Dealer for
90 years!

www.prothrochevy.com
452 N. Brooks St. • Manning SC • 803-433-2535 • 1-800-968-9934

CHEVROLET BUICK GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

Fall brings with it a topwater bite on speckled trout that's not restricted to dawn, dusk and cloudy days.



Brian Cope

TOP OUT ON TROUT

FALL BRINGS ON A GREAT TOPWATER BITE FOR SPECKLED TROUT; HERE ARE SOME TIPS

It's time to tie on a topwater lure and bust some speckled trout on the surface. The trout bite has been consistent all year across the Carolinas, but something about October's cooling weather really puts these fish in a heightened feeding mood.

Many anglers view the early morning and late evening as prime topwater times, and that's certainly not a bad outlook. But this time of year, especially when any cloud cover is present, it's always a good idea to keep a topwater lure at the ready. Some anglers will fish one all day, so if you're going to throw away conventional wisdom, October is the time to do it.

A few years ago, a friend and I were fishing around the border between North Carolina and South Carolina. We went into a small, but still good-sized creek off of the main waterway. After dropping his trolling motor at the first sign of a very long, oyster-shell bank, my buddy said we'd try it there for a few minutes and then move on to some other spots he knew. We never left that shell bank, and

we threw nothing but topwaters all day. The speck bite was absolutely on fire.

We caught them on the rising tide; we caught them at high tide, and we caught them on the falling tide. All we did was move back and forth, covering about 75 yards of oyster bank over and over.

It was a perfect October day. The air was warm but not uncomfortably hot, and the water was quite a bit cooler than it had been a month earlier. We had periods of bright sun, but we also had some occasional cloud cover. The bite seemed to pick up a little when the clouds covered the sun, but even in the bright sun, we caught enough fish to keep at it.

SWITCH THINGS UP

On occasion, the bite would slow a little, but rather than pulling the trolling motor up and moving, we would switch lures. We stayed with topwaters the whole time but went from walk-the-dog lures to popping lures to buzzing lures. Sometimes, we kept the same type of lure but changed either the size, color or both. Each time we changed, the bite

would pick up right away.

The main lures we used were Zara Spooks and Zara Spook Jrs., Whopper Ploppers and Pop-Rs, and we used each in a variety of colors. Black/chartreuse was one good combination, bone was a big producer, and clear lures also worked well. A variety of gray or silver patterns also caught their share of fish.

One thing we learned, kind of by accident, was that these fish would bite in a big range of depths. We tried staying a consistent distance from shore, but the tide or the occasional breeze would sometimes push us farther away. On those occasions, we would be over water as deep as 12 feet, and trout were still slamming our surface lures. And we continued catching them in water less a foot deep closer to the bank.



Brian Cope of Edisto Island, S.C., is a retired Air Force combat communications technician. He has a B.A. in English Literature from the University of South Carolina and has been writing about the outdoors since 2006. He's spent half his life hunting and fishing. The rest, he said, has been wasted.

The author admires four big speckled trout caught one October day on topwater baits.

Brian Cope



MAKE ADJUSTMENTS

When “walking the dog” with a Zara Spook, we would give the rod two quick twitches, reel in only the slack, then give two quick twitches. The fish would often hit on the pause as we reeled in the slack. When the fish appeared to shut down, we would adjust the speed of our twitches, change colors or pick up a different lure.

With the Pop-Rs, we twitched the rod tip, reeled in the slack, then repeated. The fisherman never paused, but the lure paused every time the angler reeled in the slack line. Be ready during that pause. If you’re not getting bit, adjust how much you move the lure each time you twitch the rod. And don’t be afraid to change colors of the same lure, especially if the bite slows.

The Whopper Plopper was extremely versatile. Sometimes we reeled it steady, keeping it moving and buzzing it the whole way back to the boat. Other times, we would twitch the rod, moving the lure slightly so it would make its buzzing sound, then pause. Unlike conventional buzzbaits, the Whopper Plopper stays on the surface, even on the pause. For a while, one method would work better than the other, but when the bite slowed, we would switch it up.

That was an exceptional day, and I think one reason it was so much fun and productive is because we committed to using nothing but topwaters all day. And any time the bite seemed to stop, we would simply change lures, colors or our method of retrieval. ■

“SUPER MirrOdine®...The XXL Suspending Twitchbait!”

Looking for BIG FISH?

The NEW SUPER MirrOdine® XXL fits the profile. Weighs 1 oz., features bright, reflective foil inserts, “fish-calling” rattles and natural 3-D eyes to enhance their realism, plus extra-strong hooks. This NEW heavy weight, darts from side-to-side, mimicking a wounded baitfish. BIG Trout, Redfish, Snook, Striped Bass and Tarpon find the MirrOdines® to be irresistible. Available in 16 colors.



MirrOdine® XXL
37MR-EC
3-7/8" Long, 1 Oz.

Turn On The Bite Anytime® ...
Tie On A MirrOlure®!

ORIGINAL
MirrOlure®

L&S Bait Company
1415 East Bay Drive • Largo, Florida 33771
Tel 727-584-7691 • www.mirrrolure.com

LOW-FREQUENCY

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

Phillip Gentry

Trout, the saltwater speckled version or mountain rainbows (inset), are perfect targets for kayak anglers in the Carolinas.

MOUNTAINS TO SEA FISHING FOR TROUT

COLDWATER OR SALTWATER, CAROLINAS ARE FULL OF TROUT



Phillip Gentry

Regardless of where you launch your kayak, there's a pretty good chance that a trout could be on the hit list this month.

Although located on opposite ends of the Carolinas, and not even related, the late summer heat of September cooling into October is a great time to be paddling a cold, mountain lake, looking for rising salmonids or a coastal marsh casting something a popping cork in hopes of beating a drum.

Although the Carolinas are blessed with abundant, wadable trout streams, most paddling fans who choose to pursue a coldwater trout do so in one of the deep, clear reservoirs that dot the southern Appalachians. South Carolina's standalone public trout reservoir is Lake Jocassee, a 7,500-acre reservoir whose tributaries spill over into North Carolina but is only accessible from Devil's Fork State Park in South Carolina.

North Carolina's premier trout lakes include Fontana, Santeetlah, Glenville, Bear Creek, Cedar Cliff, Nantahala, Hiwassee, Lake Chatuge and Apalachia. These lakes have natural populations

of reproducing trout. The list of hatchery supported lakes includes Cheoah, Tanasee Creek, Bear Creek and Wolf Creek, Calderwood Lake, Queens Creek, Cliffside, Balsam, Powhatan and Max Patch Pond.

North Carolina's trout populations include mostly rainbows, with brown trout second and stocked brook trout third. Jocassee and a smattering of state-park lakes in the northern Oconee, Pickens and Greenville counties hold mostly rainbow and brown trout.

SALTWATER VERSION

A member of the drum family, spotted seatrout, aka specks, are closer related to redfish but bear a striking resemblance to freshwater trout. Speckled trout can be found in marshes, tidal creeks and inshore/nearshore waters from the mouth of the Savannah River in South Carolina to the northern edge of Corolla on North Carolina's Outer Banks

Speckled trout stocks in both Carolinas have taken hits over the years from extended cold weather during the winter, but they have made or are making

remarkable recoveries in both states.

Quite willing to take a topwater bait, trout are also notorious schooling fish that may feed and school in one specific area so profusely during the fall that kayak anglers can anchor up or use a stakeout pole and never have to move again once a large school is located. ■



Phillip Gentry of Greenville, S.C., is host of "Upstate Outdoors," a weekly radio show that can be heard on Saturdays at noon on WORD 106.3 FM.



MOUNTAINS TO COAST

Stories are told of kayaks allowing anglers to put in almost anywhere a road meets water deep enough to float a boat.

One such excursion was the trout trip two buddies and I took nearly 10 years ago. A multi-stop tour across South Carolina started at daylight at Pleasant Ridge State Park Lake in Greenville County the day after the lake was stocked. The fourth cast of a Mepps Aglia No. 1 gold blade produced a freshly stocked, 9½-inch rainbow trout for one of our group. The fish was released, the kayaks were loaded and a short run down SC 11 landed us on I-26 headed east.

There was some brief discussion about whether the next stop would include the tailwaters of Lake Hartwell in Lake Russell or the Saluda River below Lake Murray — or both. The discussion also included whether the goal was for each of us to catch a trout at each stop or just one of us, since only two of us had landed a trout at our first stop.

The decision was to sample only one of the coldwater trout-fishing venues below a reservoir in the same day, so we put in 2 hours and change later at Saluda Shoals Park in Richland County on the Lower Saluda.

Stop No. 2 was designed as a short float trip that ended up costing us more time dropping cars, because no sooner had we rounded the second bend than one of my buddies hooked a decent rainbow on a Rebel floating minnow. Fortunately, we all hooked up on the run to Gardendale, a designated takeout spot a few miles above the I-20 bridge.

The next stop was Bushy Park Boat Ramp in Goose Creek. We put in on the Cooper River side, and unfortunately, we hit it at dead high tide. Another two hours was spent, putting the group into late afternoon before I managed an undersized speckled trout on a D.O.A. shrimp fished under a popping cork. No one argued about only one trout coming from Bushy Park.

The last stop, after wading through metro Charleston traffic, was at Paradise Landing near Awendaw. Not far, as the crow flies, from Bushy Park, but time in the truck seemed to make it seem like a long distance apart.

We had a hour before dark and a fast-moving falling tide, but all three of us had “insider information” from local kayak anglers on where to catch a speckled trout, and the day was ended with at least one speckled trout for each of us. ■

FEELFREE LURE 13.5 OVERDRIVE

From Feelfree Kayaks based in Swannanoa, N.C., the Lure 13.5 Overdrive features the modern evolution of pedal-powered kayak propulsion offering effortless speed, ease of use and adaptability. The Overdrive unit is the only 2-in-1 system that offers forward and reverse pedal- or power-driven capabilities in a single unit when paired with the Motordrive. It features a one-handed rudder-steering lever control and Gravity Seat adjuster for accessibility and comfort. The system is manufactured using cast aluminum and finished off with heavy-duty components.

The 13.5 version is a longer, faster, extremely stable and capable, bigger-water version of the Lure 11.5 and 10. It features a front multi-use console directly behind the bow hatch. The console lid features an inlaid cutting board. The kayak also comes with a variety of unique comfort features from the Lure series, including the removable, multi-height adjustable Gravity Seat, Wheel in the Keel and sturdy molded in handles.

Like most Feelfree kayaks, the Lure 13.5 comes with the Uni-Track system for unlimited outfitting configurations, flush-mounted rod holders and a large tankwell to store your gear or a cooler. The super-stable, 34-inch wide hull paired with an extra-large, padded standing platform gives you the option to paddle or cast in either the sitting or standing position whether fishing inland waters or wide open oceans — this kayak fears no water.

MSRP is \$2039.

Visit feelfreeus.com.

continues >



SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

continued

BEST BETS

NORTH CAROLINA

WHAT — Rainbow, brown trout.

WHERE — Cheoha Lake, Forney Creek

HOW — Casting artificial lures such as in-line spinners or small, minnow-imitating lures, as well as fly fishing.

LAUNCH — Llewellan Branch, at the upstream end of Cheoah, just below Fontana Dam

INSIDER TIP — Trout tend to move up and down the lake, depending on the weather and season. Mountain trout are not particularly known to school, but several fish may hold in the same general area because of water conditions and temperatures.

SOUTH CAROLINA

WHAT — Speckled trout

WHERE — Murrells Inlet

HOW — Target trout in backwater estuaries, large bays and inlets opening to the Atlantic Ocean. Try casting live or shrimp-imitating lures to grass or shell banks. Trout also favor water along shell banks that reach out from points, especially around creek mouths.

LAUNCH — Murrells Inlet's public boat-access area is on US 17 Business, Morse Park Landing.

INSIDER TIP — It's hard to beat fishing live shrimp under a popping cork, but if the fish finicky, try using a split-shot rig without a cork.

ST. CROIX IMPERIAL USA FLY RODS

These fly rods delivers elevated performance at a decidedly down-to-earth price. Handcrafted in the U.S.A., they are without equal in performance and value.

Imperial USA

Fly rods feature a blend of high-modulus/high-strain SCIV graphite and

premium quality SCII graphite, slim-profile ferrules, Kigan Master Hand 3D stripper guides with aluminum-oxide rings and black frames, and Sea Guide® snake guides with black PVD coating for extra hardness and increased smoothness.

You'll have a choice of an uplocking, machined-aluminum reel seat with wood insert on most 2- to 6-weight models or a uplocking, machined-aluminum reel seat on 7- to 10-weight models. Both styles come with a premium-grade cork handle and Kigan hook-keeper.

The rods are sold with a rugged rod case and divided polypropylene liner and a 15-year transferable warranty.

MSRP is \$250.

Available at stcroixrods.com.



FACTORY AUTHORIZED CLEARANCE ON ALL 2017-2018 MODELS

ARGO XTV

GO
ANYWHERE

Come in now to discover an ARGO XTV
Don't miss out on all of the great deals going on right now. Experience an Argo and go places where other can't.

FINANCING AS LOW AS **6.99%** FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON ALL REMAINING 2017-2018 MODELS

PLUS

3 YEAR

LIMITED WARRANTY

AND

\$1,500

IN REBATES

BOST TUNE UP & ARGO ATV SALES, LLC

6540 Highway 152 E,
Rockwell, NC 28138

(704) 279-5736
www.atvargo.com



GEAR UP FOR EARLY SEASON HUNTING

WITH SPORTSMAN COOL BREEZE CAMO, THE PERFECT LIGHTWEIGHT CAMOUFLAGE FOR THE EARLY SEASON PURSUIT.



SPORTSMAN

www.SPORTSMANGear.com

SPECKLED TRUTH

Chris Bush

The author caught this spectacular, 30-inch speckled trout on a Sept. 1 trip. **BELOW:** Sharing his big trout with his son, Ramsey, was as special as catching the beast.



Chris Bush

A 'DIRTY 30' SPECK FOR MY SON AND I

SURPRISE LUNKER TROUT BECAME A LIFETIME MEMORY FOR AUTHOR AND HIS 10-YEAR-OLD

"See, I told you that trout was 30 inches... she's beautiful!" My 10-year-old son said those words on a recent wade-fishing trip to Corpus Christi, Tex.

The trout he was referring to was a completely unexpected, 30-inch giant, but the expression afterwards was, for lack of a better term, inspiring.

Like most stories, this one started off fairly uneventful. Donuts and coffee broke up the monotony during the 2½-hour drive down I-37 — a nice treat, especially after a 3 a.m. wake-up call.

Unfortunately, the complacency continued once we set foot on our flat. Mosquitos buzzed in the humid, salty air, acknowledging their freedom from the area's typical, fierce wind. Aside from it being calm, bait and other birds of prey remained perched and lazy, complying with the Labor Day weekend vibe. Simply put, conditions were ideal, but the fishing was not.

Truth be told, the fishing remained tough until 10 a.m. when a mid-morning shower formed over Corpus Christi Bay. Clouds and distant thunder covered the area, but the 20-knot wind gave us relief from an already scorching sun and, better yet, terrible fishing.

As we continued down our flat, we focused our efforts by casting to a secondary ledge in about 4 to 6 feet of water. For the most part, this ledge followed the contour of the primary grass line, with some areas having more diversity in texture. Additionally, a small break between two spoil islands gave us some much needed water flow.

THE ADJUSTMENT

Seeing this, I decided to make an adjustment and power-finesse a Ned rig. I chose a ¼-ounce, ZMan Ned LockZ jighead and a deal-colored ZMan Finesse TRD. For my son, I chose a slightly heavier weight, ½-ounce, with the same tail so he could still cast easily.

Shortly after making the adjustment, we were both greeted with barely legal,



15-inch trout, and my son caught a beautiful, 19-inch flounder. After making his mama happy with the flounder, he caught another half-dozen smaller fish, and I started to dial up a consistent bite with a trout from 15 to 17 inches on every tenth cast or so. Content with



Chris Bush is a U.S. Air Force officer and a licensed charter captain. He spends his time targeting big speckled trout and sharing knowledge on his website, *Speckled Truth*.

some action, we talked less about fishing and more about life.

As a military child — and the oldest of three — he's borne the brunt of an Air Force officer's life. In his 10 years, he's attended 6 different schools and moved almost as many times. Despite all of that, he's been perpetually optimistic.

Additionally, as the oldest, he's witnessed my passion for trophy trout and my efforts to share that passion with others through Speckled Truth. He knows about the Dirty 30 trout citation program and often hears me talk about anglers who participate. Instead of traditional "chores" like taking out the trash, he helps me pack boxes filled with Dirty 30 "rewards" and bring them to the post office.

Which is why, when I set the hook on a big trout, he saw the unmistakable thrash of a violent head shake. Less than 10 feet separated us, and he could hear the shakiness of my voice when I gave him a command. I was nervous, and he was nervous for me.

He kept shouting, "Dad, that's a Dirty 30!"

As I tried not to lose focus on fighting the fish, I answered, "No way, and please don't say it again, son!"

But he continued. "Oh my gosh, Dad! That trout is huge! I think that's a 30!"

THE TAPE DOESN'T LIE

Finally, I landed the fish, beaching her on a nearby shore, and right by my side, my son stood, encouraging me. I quickly got out my seamstress tape to get a few measurements, and as luck would have it, the third 30-inch trout of my angling career looked us both in the eyes.

Bringing humor to the situation, Ramsey, with perfect, comedic-like timing, said softly, "See, I told you that trout was 30 inches," then grinned sheepishly.

Reflecting days later, there was absolutely no reason that trout should've been there, let alone eaten my offering. After years of personal study, from Solunar influence to angling technique, catch-data analytics and moon phase, if I were to cherry pick a day NOT to go catch a big trout, Sept. 1 would have met all of that criteria.

MAKE A MEMORY

However, ALL of the criteria lined up for a father and son looking to bond. Why? Because it was when we could go. Trout, in all honesty, were the last thing that defined the day's success, but in a twist of fate, they forged it forever as a life-long memory. The untimely death of popular Louisiana guide Theophile Bourgeois was tragic, but if we've learned anything from the surrounding events, we need to enjoy the things we love with the people we love. This was one of those days.

Before the long walk back to the truck, my son walked alongside my 30-inch trout all the way until she hit deeper water. I watched in the shade of the mangrove bank and as he drew near, he finished his quote from my opening line in this article.

He said, "She's beautiful!" ■

DossMarine.com
Sales Service
Chapin, SC 803.345.1001

#1 SUZUKI

Re-Power Dealer in the Carolina's

BLUE WAVE

SEAARK BOATS

SILVER WAVE PONTOONS

YOUR SUZUKI REPOWER CENTER

50th Anniversary

REPOWER FINANCE

SUZUKI MARINE

803-345-1001
1720 Chapin Rd • Chapin, SC
dossmarine.com

HUNTING LAND FOR SALE

• **Featured Listing: Halifax Co. – 307 acres**, Fantastic opportunity to purchase well established hunting land. Turnkey hunting property with gated entrance, 6+ acres of food plots, 22 existing box blinds & ladder stands, shooting lanes, internal road system. Bear Swamp borders property. Bear, deer, turkey and ducks! Well managed timber with merchantable hardwood and pine sawtimber. White oaks left to benefit wildlife. Pine plantations can be thinned in a few years. Small cabin and pole barn for equipment storage. - \$710,000

• **Camden Co. - 320 ac** Waterfront property with 4,000+ feet of frontage on Hwy 158 (Camden Causeway) and 1.25 miles waterfront on Pasquotank River. Wildlife, hunting, recreational property. Billboards produce additional annual income. - \$112,000

• **Pasquotank Co. NC – 611 ac** Elizabeth City, wildlife, recreational property. Excellent hunting for deer, bear and ducks. Gated entrance, approximately 1.7 miles internal roads, 1.9 miles waterfront on Pasquotank River. - \$306,000

• **Montgomery Co. – 109 acres**, Fantastic opportunity to purchase well established hunting land. Turnkey hunting property with gated entrance, open land for food plots, good internal road network, shooting lanes, extensive public road frontage. - \$218,000 PENDING



TMM Real Estate, LLC

Additional properties available on our website

www.TMMRealEstate.com
or call 919-846-7520

VOYAGER Deep Sea Fishing & Sport Fishing Charters

The Largest & Finest Fleet in The Carolinas!



- 100' Super Voyager III
- 100' Continental Shelf
- Area's top producer for Gulf Stream Fishing
- 12-13 Hour Gulf Stream Special - \$95
- 22 Hour Trips - \$195
- Private Sport Fishing Charters up to 20 Passengers
- Large Group Charters up to 125 Passengers
- Fast, Clean Boats
- Excellent Crew #1 In Customer Service



1525 13th Ave N. North Myrtle Beach, SC
843-626-9500 • 910-575-5978
SuperVoyagerDeepSeaFishing.com



TROUT HOTSPOTS

HUNGRY FALL SPECKS invade Murrells Inlet's comfortable waters

T rue fall weather arrives in October, along with the deer rut and, more important, great fishing on the Carolina coast. In South Carolina's Murrells Inlet, that means speckled trout.

With most of the tourist traffic on a steady decline, Murrells Inlet anglers can have the inlet to themselves as best fishing of the year begins.

Dan Connelly of O-Fish-AI Expeditions, an inshore guide from the Murrells Inlet area, welcomes the arrival of fall weather.

"October is a fantastic time to target trout in Murrells Inlet," said Connelly (843-241-7022). "Our migratory population starts showing up in October, and the faster it cools off, the better it gets."

The majority of speckled trout caught in the fall and winter have migrated into Murrells Inlet waters from northerly reaches. Generally, speckled trout prefer cooler water temperatures, and the migratory population will arrive when the water temperatures drop into the 60s, which is right when Connelly starts catching big numbers of trout.



Murrells Inlet fills up with hungry speckled trout in August, many of the migratory fish who run into plenty of shrimp and mullet on which to feed.

Dan Connelly

When fish arrive, they are hungry and ready to eat. Fortunately, there is an ample supply of bait in October, with shrimp and finger mullet comprising the main courses. Trout are sight feeders, and the clear waters of Murrells Inlet can make fishing fast and furious when anglers have the right lure on the end of their line.

Soft plastics are Connelly's go-to lures for fall specks.

"There are lots of mullet still around, and a Z-Man Diesel Minnowz perfectly mimics finger mullet," he said.

Connelly uses a variety of colors but will always have opening night and white in his arsenal.

"You can catch fish on these colors any day," he said.

Since the water is still relatively warm, the speckled trout will remain shallow and feed in shallower places around the inlet. They are focusing on mullet and most finger mullet are running the shorelines adjacent to grass, oyster bars and other structure.

"I concentrate in shallow areas around grass edges at high tide, oyster beds, and places where fast moving water meets slower moving water or eddy waters. These areas are perfect places for trout to ambush mullet and are excellent places to cast a paddle-tail grub," he said. ■

— Jeff Bursleson

To say a particular fishing spot or pattern is “overlooked” assumes that other folks are fishing, just not in the right places. Crappie fishing in the fall, however, generally means the entire lake is overlooked, since most folks are out sitting in a tree, a football stadium or in front of the television.

Nonetheless, there are particular areas that hold respectable numbers of

crappie that other anglers simply either don't fish or aren't aware of their fish-holding potential.

One thing these places have in common is they find favor to crappie that are seeking asylum from the fall turnover and/or are an easy stop between the fall migration from deeper water to shallow.

Here's a look at five of them:

BRIDGES >

By Philip Gentry

5 OVERLOOKED FALL CRAPPIE SPOTS

CATCH SLABS IN THESE KINDS OF PLACES, AND HAVE FALL SUCCESS JUST LIKE SPRING — EXCEPT FOR THE CROWDS.

1 BRIDGES

Tom Mundy, the owner of Fish Stalker Lures, said fishing bridges is a lot like fishing a vertical brush pile that comes all the way out of the water. In fact, most of the sweet spots he likes to fish under a bridge are where brush has been placed intentionally or collected naturally.

“It took me a long time to distinguish between a bite and the jig bouncing off a limb,” said Mundy, who is from Laurens, S.C. “The secret is watching the rod tip. When a crappie sucks the jig in, the rod will go from a limber bounce to a stiff look; that’s when it’s time to set the hook.

“You can also watch the line,” he said. “The line will twitch long before you feel it with the rod or it will start piling up in the water, which says the crappie sucked it in and is holding still while the line’s still sinking.”



Phillip Gentry

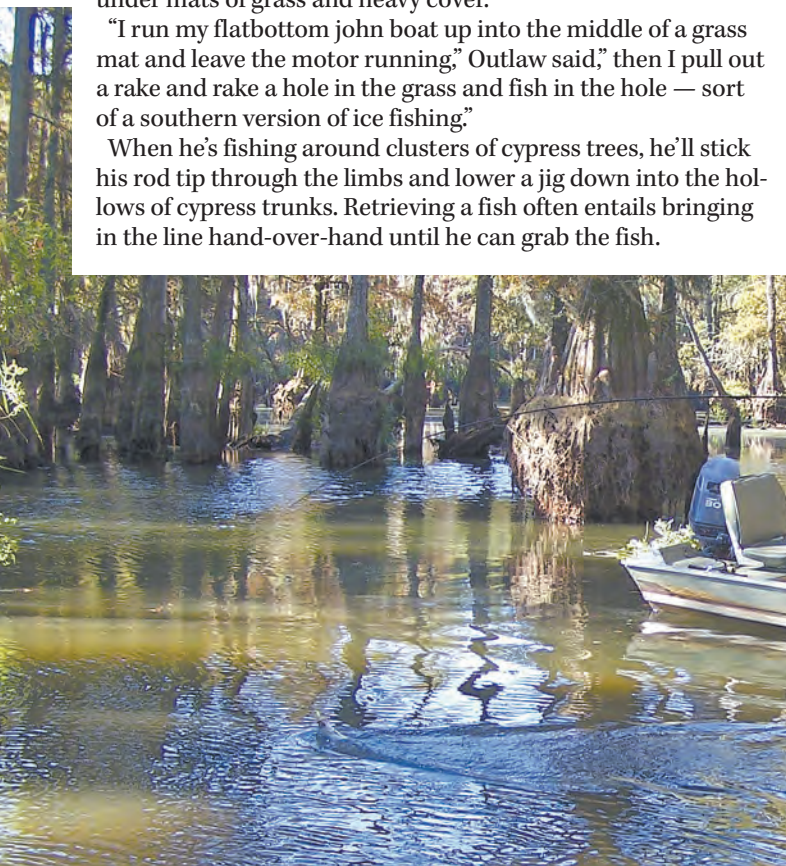
2 SWAMPS

Pro crappie angler Whitey Outlaw of St. Matthews, S.C., grew up fishing in the Santee swamps, and he said they are the only places that are guaranteed to produce a limit of fish every time he fishes there. Cold fronts, wind, barometric spikes—nothing disturbs the crappie fishing because the fish are insulated under mats of grass and heavy cover.

“I run my flatbottom john boat up into the middle of a grass mat and leave the motor running,” Outlaw said, “then I pull out a rake and rake a hole in the grass and fish in the hole — sort of a southern version of ice fishing.”

When he’s fishing around clusters of cypress trees, he’ll stick his rod tip through the limbs and lower a jig down into the hollows of cypress trunks. Retrieving a fish often entails bringing in the line hand-over-hand until he can grab the fish.

ABOVE: Far too many anglers pass under bridges and never take the time to check them for crappie. **BELOW:** Santee angler Whitey Outlaw gets up close and personal when crappie fishing in swamps.



Phillip Gentry

Phillip Gentry

Marina docks provide a good crappie environment year round.



Phillip Gentry

3 MARINAS

Mike Parrott of Charlotte, N.C., a former Crappie Masters national champion, loves to target deep-water boat docks any time of year. He said that crappie will relate to docks in marinas as a current break as well as providing security and an ambush point for feeding on baitfish. Parrott believes that a particular segment of crappie will take up year-round residence around larger residential and commercial boat docks.

“Everything these fish need can be found around big boat docks: depth, food and cover,” Parrott said, “All they have to do is move from shallower to deeper as the season dictates.”

In order to target crappie hiding under the boats and floats that make up a large dock complex, Parrott employs the tactic

of “shooting” docks — holding the jig by hand and bending the rod tip before letting go and slinging the jig well back under the platform. The slow fall of a semi-buoyant jig is often more than the fish can stand.

4 SHALLOW, OPEN WATER

For most of the year, veteran crappie fisherman Stokes McClellan of Huntersville, N.C., prefers to long-line troll for crappie, but especially during the fall when slabs are scattered and in the backs of creeks following schools of baitfish.

“Before I set down to fish, I’m going to pass over the area and look for bait,” he said. “Finding fish is good, but I’m looking for bait first; the fish will be there if the bait is there.”

The lion’s share of McClellan’s trolling runs will be parallel to or over the top of a channel edge. Channel edges typically encompass prime crappie-holding structure: stumps, brush and breaks in the terrain. Since structure is almost a given and the presence of fish is a plus, finding bait in proposed trolling run signals to the pro it’s time to set out the rods.

5 STANDING TIMBER

According to veteran crappie pro Rod Wall of Ninety Six, S.C., finding and catching crappie in the fall is very similar to finding and catching crappie in the spring — only in reverse. The biggest difference is that fall crappie are not interested in spawning but are moving from deep water to medium depths and shallow water to find favorable water temperatures, better oxygen content and food.

One of Wall’s favorite ways to intercept reverse-migrating crappie in the fall is to find them holding in and around natural standing timber. In lakes where standing timber is an option, he will use a single pole to jig around the cover.

“I’m not looking for the big stands of timber,” he said. “My favorite is to fish the points of timber or that isolated tree on the edge.

“When you’re in a stand of timber, it’s tough to use sonar,” Wall said. “I’d rather fish a cluster of trees that might be on the tip of a field of timber versus going into the really thick cover. My opinion is the fish stay close to the river channel. Any time you can get on a creek or a river channel that’s got any kind of different topography, you’ll almost always find some decent fish.” ■



Phillip Gentry of Simpsonville, S.C., is host of “Upstate Outdoors,” a weekly radio show that can be heard on Saturdays at noon on WORD 106.3 FM.

**MORE OXYGEN =
MORE CRAPPIE >**

Island Tackle & Hardware
True Value

“Your Fishing Tackle & Bait Headquarters”

Open 7 Days

801 N. Lake Park Blvd.
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

- Fishing Charters
- Official Weigh Station
- Live Bait
- Propane
- Custom Made Tackle
- Clothing and Accessories
- General Hardware











(910) 458-3049 • www.islandtacklehardware.com

Cleans Cushions, Canvas, Decks



ProClean MARINE™

PROFESSIONAL GRADE CLEANER

ProcleanMarine.com

MADE IN THE USA SAVE \$5 on-line Use Code SAVE5



Crappie pro Steve Coleman said flowing water is a great place to look for turnover-weary crappie.

Phillip Gentry

MORE OXYGEN = MORE CRAPPIE

Steve Coleman, who has won eight national crappie-fishing championships — so far — said the best way to combat low oxygen levels that often occur during the fall is to find areas that provide more oxygen.

“Look for moving water,” said Coleman, pointing to the headwaters of a creek. “Any time you have current, either from dropping lake levels for winter pool or where you’ve got water coming into a lake, you’ll have better water quality. That moving water, especially if it tumbles coming into the lake, will have more oxygen, and crappie will always gravitate to the better water quality during the fall.”

Coleman, from Tiptonville, Tenn., said you can tell when a lake is turning over in areas that are calm and still. The water will have a dark or murky look, and you’ll often see dead shad on the surface. Moving water keeps the water stirred and doesn’t affect the fishing.

He scoffs when anglers say they’ve never caught crappie in water with current. “Crappie don’t like having to fight the current, but they do like to eat, and that’s another reason they’ll head to moving water,” he said. “This time of year, baitfish migrate into the backs of creeks; they’re also looking for better water quality.”

“Crappie won’t spend much time in fast moving water,” Coleman said. “Typically they like to hide behind a current break and dart out there and eat baitfish that are swept by.”



**Pig Cookers, Patio Grills,
Smokers
Customized BBQ Trailers**



For More Info **1-252-236-4464**
www.BQGRILLS.com
6043 Hwy 301N, Elm City, NC



Jordan Lake's crappie will begin moving into creeks following shad.



Freddie Sinclair

JORDAN SLABS MOVE

into creeks on upper end of NC lake

As September's summer-fall indecision erodes into the unmistakably fall-like feeling of October, the crappie in North Carolina's Jordan Lake will breathe a sigh of relief as they fall in line with the shad leaving the main lake and filling the creeks. Guide Freddie Sinclair of Clayton, N.C., will be plumb-ing the depths with a tight-line spread featuring a crappie fisherman's best friend — minnows.

"In October, the nights are getting cooler, the water temperature is cooling down, and the daylight hours are getting shorter," said Sinclair, of Sinclair's Guide Service. "The crappie are starting to feed up a little heavy, concentrating on fattening up for the winter. There will be some fish caught shallow — following the shad into the backs of the coves — but the majority of fish will be in the deeper creek channels."

Sinclair (919-219-2804) prefers creeks on the upper end of Jordan in October, noting that the area around the US 64 bridge at mid-lake doesn't turn on until November, and that the lower end is best reserved for lower temperatures. Depths in the 16- to 22-foot range are typically the most profitable, but fish can be caught much shallower in the early morning. Starting in the mouth of a creek, Sinclair hawks his sonar as he follows the channel, hoping for a promising return. If a crappie's markings are absent — that's okay — he's looking for baitfish just as much. Once you find the bait, you'll find the crappie.

"The mouths of the coves in the creek channel are good places to concentrate," Sinclair said. "I like to vertically tight-line over these areas. A slower presentation is what I like to do — anything from sitting still to a half-mile an hour at the most. I still use artificial bait, but I use a lot of live bait at this time. A No. 2 gold or red hook tipped with a minnow or a 1/2- to 1/6-ounce jighead tipped with a minnow. If the water is stained or muddy, I like black, orange, chartreuse or pink jigheads. If it's clear to stained, chartreuse or red work good."

To fish vertically and/or offset windy conditions, Sinclair hangs a 1/4- to a 3/4-ounce egg sinker 14 to 16 inches above the bait, resting on a barrel swivel. In tournament situations, he ties a dropper loop 12 inches above the sinker and attaches a second hook and minnow. Sinclair runs a spider rig of eight rods from the bow, using rods from 14 to 16 feet long. ■

— Dusty Wilson



WORK HARD

HUNT HARDER

STARTING AT
\$79⁹⁹

V1 WHITETAIL MIDWEIGHT SERIES

Mother Nature is often unpredictable. Thankfully, THIESENS apparel is not. Engineered for comfort, stealth & mobility, the Midweight Series is designed to keep you in the hunt.

- Windproof construction and water-resistant finish
- Moisture-wicking, anti-odor treated lining
- Incredible warmth-to-weight ratio

FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$99*
*SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS






EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE @ THIESENS.COM

Guide Keith Wray likes Kerr Lake's water level to be a few feet below normal for the best fall crappie fishing.

LOW WATER HELPS Kerr Lake's fall crappie fishermen

Guide Keith Wray, aka "The Fish Doc," said October is one of the best months to catch big crappie at Kerr Lake along the North Carolina-Virginia line.

"Most fish run from 1 to 1¼ pounds, but there's a good chance of hooking a 3-pound slab," said Wray, who believes the water level is the key factor in the fall.

"The best fishing occurs with the lake level from 294 to 296 feet," said Wray (336-589-9025). "That's about 4 to 6 feet down, which is the typical drawdown during the fall. But if the lake exceeds that level, the high water spreads the fish out, and there's so much cover, they're hard to catch. Last fall was one of the worst for fishing, with the lake about 10 feet above normal because of all of the rain we had."

Wray said once the water temperature drops into the 60s, crappie move back into the creeks in brush piles in 15 to 30 feet of water. Productive creeks include Butcher, Grassy, Carter and Panhandle.

"Each year, I spend four or five days idling about the creeks to find brush piles," said Wray. "Finding brush is work. The best brush rises 5 to 10 feet beneath the surface."

Wray casts ¼-, ⅜- or ¾-ounce bucktail jigs on an ultralight spinning rod paired with a 2500 class reel filled with 4-pound



**Call Now to Schedule
Your Trailer Maintenance... Don't Wait!**

Capp's
TRAILERS.com
Parts • Sales • Service

Boat • Dump • Enclosed
Equipment • Utility

Hwy. 70E, Dover (5 miles east of Kinston), NC • 252-523-1038

Now Offering **ALUMA**

All Aluminum Construction, Lightweight,
Maintenance Free, Torsion Axles, LED Lighting
Trailers for ATV, Equipment, Car Hauler,
Utility, Jet Skis and so much More

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Bearings and Hub Repair, DOT Compliance (lighting, brake-away kit)
Brake Repair, Flat Tires, Fuel Delivery, Towing of trailer



**Your Eastern NC
Trailer Headquarters!**

monofilament.

"Some fishermen are afraid to use line that small, but I've caught huge fish, and not just crappie, with 6-pound line," Wray said. "You've got to learn how to play a fish."

Wray hand-ties his own bucktail crappie jigs and holds classes on making the jigs.

"I don't sell the jigs; I just enjoy catching crappie on baits that I've made," he said.

His color choices for Kerr crappie include white, ice blue, John Deere green and baby shad.

If brush piles don't produce, Wray samples docks in 15 to 25 feet of water.

"Crappie suspend at the docks in about 8 feet of water," said Wray. "Not all docks hold fish, but you'll find the crappie stacked at the ones that do."

Wray prefers fishing in fairly clear water; if the water is being pulled, he said that really triggers the bite.

"If you go online, the (U.S. Army) Corps of Engineers has a power schedule that tells you when the lake is being pulled and the lake level," he said. ■

— Tony Garitta

CLARKS HILL SLABS

leave summer spots, head for fall haunts

Crappie fishing on South Carolina's Clarks Hill Lake this month depends on whether the month is a "summertime October" or a "fall October," according to veteran guide Brad Sasser.

"October is kind of like a transition month," Sasser said. "Typically, the crappie will be in 25 feet of water in the backs of the coves concentrating on brush piles, if the weather is warmer. The bait is back in the coves and the water quality is good there, so it is a perfect scenario for the crappie."

But, he said, if the weather turns really cold, the crappie will move out into deeper water near the channel. Most Octobers start out in more of a summer pattern, but as temperatures drop, the migration to deeper water may take place by late October and the fish will transition into more of a colder weather pattern.

"On Clarks Hill, when they move to the deeper water, they will still hold on or near protective structure," said Sasser (706-589-5468), "especially now that the spotted bass population is growing. Spotted bass will eat anything."

Most of the fish are caught by dropping live minnows down around the structure, both back in the coves and out in the deeper water, he said.

"You can also catch them by dropping a small jig down into the treetops. Blue or chartreuse work really well for jigs on Clarks Hill."

Once they establish in the deeper

Crappie in South Carolina's Clarks Hill Lake will be moving out of summer patterns into a fall pattern and toward their winter homes in October.

water, they will stay there until time to move back shallow to spawn in the spring, he said. Meantime, they are feeding and growing into slabs.

"You will see some of the better slabs from then all the way to the end of weather," Sasser said. "Those fish are getting fat and their meat gets more firm that time of year."

It is also a great time to fill a cooler for a fish fry, he said.

"October all through November are two of my favorite months of the year to fish for crappie, by far. I usually start no earlier than 8 o'clock and am wrapped up with limits by 11 o'clock or noon at the latest," said Sasser who is the third generation of his family to fish Clarks Hill. He guides for William Sasser Fishing Charters, and between them, he and his father, William, have a total of more than 80 years of fishing on the lake. ■

— Pat Robertson

Pat Robertson



CALLING ALL DUCKS



Summerton, SC

Saturday, Oct. 5th Event

DUCKFEST FALL OPEN TEAM BASS TOURNAMENT



McELVEEN TruCarts



1st Place Guaranteed \$5,000.00

Saturday, Oct. 12th Events

ULTIMATE AIR DOGS



Sponsored by



SWAMP FOX REGIONAL DUCK CALLING CONTEST

Sponsored by



DUCKFEST COOK-OFF! LIVE BAND VENDORS PARADE CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT AND MORE!

Contact Us For Vendor Space/Sponsorships
(803) 410-1067 • duckfestfun@gmail.com

Follow Us @SummertonDuckfest

Festival Sponsor: **FTC**

www.duckfestfun.com

**2019-2020
SOUTH CAROLINA
HUNTING REGULATIONS**

Not an official document.
Please refer to SCDNR's
Rules & Regulations Digest.

THE REEL OUTDOORS
EMERALD ISLE, NC / 252 354-6692

• BAIT & TACKLE • MARINE SUPPLIES • ROD & REEL REPAIRS

Greg Dennis
www.thereeloutdoors.com

Trusted By Sportsman For 29 Years

**Sarah Judy's
INSURANCE AGENCY**

Homeowner • Mobile Homes • Auto • Boats • Motorcycles • ATVs
Personal Service Guaranteed

3090 Jefferies Hwy • Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone (843) 538-5856 • Fax (843) 538-5282
www.sarahjudysinsurance.com

HELP WANTED

We are looking for drivers to deliver the Carolina SPORTSMAN Magazine in both North and South Carolina.

If You Love to Fish, Hunt and Meet People You Qualify!

Circulation experience helpful but not necessary. Dependable vehicle with insurance & a valid NC and / or SC drivers license a must. If you have 2-3 days a month to help spread the word I would like to hear from you!

Please Contact: Mitch Eby,
Circulation Manager @ 919-602-3862 -or- mitchebync@gmail.com

Carolina
SPORTSMAN®

HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	SEASON DATES (PRIVATE LAND)	BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Doves	Sept. 2-7, Sept. 8-Oct. 12 Nov. 16-30, Dec. 28-Jan. 30, 2020	15	45
Crow	Nov. 1-March 1, 2020	No limits	
Quail	Nov. 20-March 1, 2020	12	36
Rabbit	Nov. 23-March 1, 2020	5	15
Squirrel	Oct. 1-March 1, 2020	10	30
Fox	Nov. 23-March 1, 2020	No limits	
Grouse	Nov. 23-March 1, 2020 (Game Zone 1 only)	3	9
Raccoon/ Opossum	Sept. 15-March 15, 2020 (statewide) Sept. 15-March 15, 2020 (Game Zones 3, 6)	3 raccoons per party No limits	
Other furbearers	Nov. 26-March 1, 2020 (bobcat, otter, weasel, mink, muskrat, skunk)	No limits	
Bear	Oct. 17-23 (still hunting only) (Game Zone 1 only) Oct. 24-30 (dogs), (Game Zone 1 only) Oct. 17-30 (Horry, Georgetown, Marion, Williamsburg counties)	1 5 per party 1	
Rails	Sept. 27-Oct. 2, Oct. 10-Dec. 12		
King & Clapper		15	45
Sora & Virginia		25	75
Gallinules (common/purple)		15	45
Snipe	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28, 2020	8	24
Woodcock	Dec. 18 - Jan. 31, 2020	3	9
Wild Turkey	March 22-April 30, 2020 (Game Zones 3&4) April 1-May 10, 2020 (Game Zones 1&2)	3 3	

DEER SEASON

ZONE	ARCHERY	PRIM WEAPON	GUNS
1		Oct. 1-10	Oct. 11-Jan. 1, 2020
2	Sept. 15-30	Oct. 1-10	Oct. 11-Jan. 1, 2020
3			Aug. 15-Jan. 1, 2020
4	Aug 15-31		Sept. 1-Jan. 1, 2020
Youth Day			Jan. 6, 2020

WATERFOWL SEASONS

SPECIES	DATES	BAG LIMIT
Duck	Teal only: Sept. 13-28 Nov. 23-30, Dec. 12-Jan. 31, 2020	6 6
Canada geese	Sept. 1-30, Nov. 23-30, Dec. 12-Jan. 31, 2020, Feb. 14-29, 2020	15
Blue/snow (light) geese	Nov. 23-30, Dec. 12-Jan. 31, 2020, Feb. 14-29, 2020	25
Brant	Jan. 2-31, 2020	2
Sea ducks	Nov. 23-30, Dec. 12-Jan. 31, 2020	6
Mergansers	Nov. 23-30, Dec. 12-Jan. 31, 2020	5 (1 hooded)
Coots	Nov. 23-30, Dec. 12-Jan. 31, 2020	15

THE HUNT FOR REDS IN OCTOBER



By Craig Holt

IF you ask saltwater anglers to choose the best month for fishing along North Carolina's coast, half or more will pick October.

Fall weather changes the behavior of many saltwater fish, as cooling waters trigger an urge to leave the safety of creeks, marshes and sounds. Baitfish swim through coastal inlets and turn right when they hit the ocean, an annual procession that may begin in September but hits its peak during October.

And the baitfish parade isn't alone.

Mullet, menhaden, herring, killifish, silversides and mud minnows provide summer food for gamefish, but fall's first nor'easter, aka mullet blow, triggers an urge to swim south — except for mud minnows, which overwinter in the marsh.

Red drum, speckled trout and flounder follow this moveable feast, which may last through November. Knowledgeable surf anglers know about fall concentrations of bait and gamefish.

One of the most-popular target species is red drum. Of course, effective baits or lures are important if an angler aims to battle reds. Luckily, they're identical to those that worked during spring and summer, but an important key to fall success is knowing where to find concentrations of reds.

THE SURF AND INLETS SOUTH OF CAPE LOOKOUT PROVIDE PLENTY OF GREAT FALL ACTION FOR BEACH-BOUND ANGLERS.

Along the Outer Banks, surf fishermen use long rods to heave cut bait as far as they can beyond distant, breaking waves. Fishing outside the breakers from a boat isn't recommended because of rough water; from Cape Lookout north, the exposure of barrier islands to northeast winds makes sure footing in a small, bouncing boat a dicey proposition.

Surf fishing can be fabulous from those barrier islands: Bodie, Hatteras and Ocracoke, as well as the Core Banks. Every year, big red drum, sometimes 50-pound fish, are caught.

To the south, a choice exists.

Anglers who soak baits need the ability to read the surf and find productive sloughs, have decent equipment and know just where to cast their baits. This type of fishing often results in hours of scenery watching, broken by re-baiting hooks — and occasional catches of redfish.

But if anglers want faster action and don't mind walking, another technique is available.



GUIDE DAVID TOWLER OF SWANSBORO'S TOWLER TIME CHARTERS FISHES FOR REDS NEAR THE INLETS THAT DOT ONSLOW BAY —

the area between Cape Lookout and Cape Fear — and he mostly uses artificial lures.

Towler (910-554-4742) will beach his boat on the mainland side of a barrier island, within walking distance of the surf, and he'll cast until he finds red drum — sometimes big numbers of reds.

"When I was younger, I did a lot of drum fishing from a boat," Towler said. "Now, I'd rather land the boat behind (an) island, walk to the ocean and fish the surf. It's easy to cover a lot of water, and I don't have to worry about (waves) tipping me or my passengers off balance in a boat."

South of Cape Lookout's shoals, beach contours recede to the southwest and don't receive the brunt of waves driven by northeast winds. And the mainland and sand dunes block fall winds, except for an occasional tropical storm or hurricanes. That helps keep waves smaller, so it's easier to fish the suds.

"We don't catch as many big drum as they do at the Outer Banks, but every once in a while, somebody will land a big one," Towler said.



David Towler

Larger, older redfish mostly prefer deeper water behind the breakers, farther out than Towler fishes, plus, they like live or cut baits. Towler would rather cast lures popular with fishermen who target largemouth or striped bass, so he doesn't need a 12-foot rod, heavy bottom rig and sand spike. He fishes like a bass angler working the world's largest pond, except that his line is a little stronger to accommodate the sizes of fish he chases.

"I use the same tackle I use fishing bays, creeks and marsh islands from a boat," said Towler, whose equipment includes 7-foot, medium-action rods and 2500 Series spinning reels spooled with 15- to 20-pound braid tied to 2 feet of 25-pound fluorocarbon leader.

He uses three types of artificial lures: topwaters, spoons and soft-plastic lures that imitate minnows.

Red drum will attack soft-plastic lures, topwater lures and spoons in water that's 2- to 4-feet deep and filled with baitfish. LEFT: Guide David Towler show off a pretty, slot-sized redfish caught in the surf from one of North Carolina's barrier islands.



David Towler



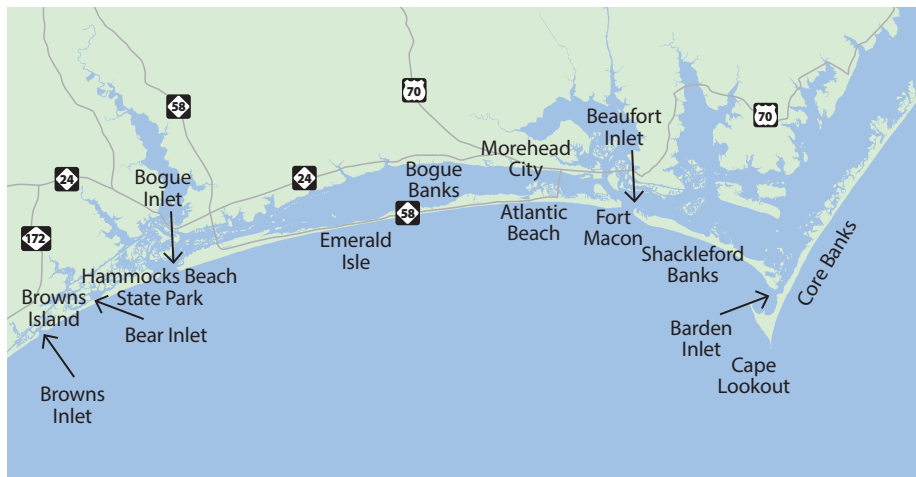
ONslow BAY HAS MANY RED DRUM SURF BEACHES

Although he usually sticks close to home when surf fishing for red drum, David Towler may visit several barrier-island beaches and inlets from Cape Lookout to the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

Towler's favorite spots are southeast of his home in Hubert, N.C., and include Bogue Inlet, Bear Island, Bear Inlet and Browns Inlet — the latter when access isn't restricted.

Browns Island's shoreline isn't fishable because the island is a Camp LeJeune target range, but anglers in boats can fish around the island and Browns Inlet — if the Marines aren't holding target practice.

The first good Onslow Bay spot for surf fishing is Cape Lookout at the southern tip of Core Banks. Wind and currents sweep baitfish around its corner toward Barden Inlet and the Cape Lookout rock jetty, where redfish and spotted seatrout lie in wait each fall.



Across Beaufort Inlet, the Fort Macon rock jetty also is a waypoint for baitfish and gamefish.

Bogue Inlet, 21½ miles southwest of Beaufort Inlet, is the next good fall redfish spot. Bear Island (the site of Hammocks Beach State Park) is the boundary on the southern side of Bogue Inlet. It's a popular drum-fishing area, as is Bear Inlet at the island's southern tip.

New River Inlet to the south also has excellent fishing for fall redfish. ■

An advertisement for SeaArk Boats. The top left features the SeaArk logo with two fish and the text "SEAARK BOATS" and "Boats Built for a Lifetime". The main image shows a person in camouflage gear sitting in a dark-colored SeaArk boat on a swampy, wooded area. The boat has "SEAARK" and "DXS 1548-SLD" written on its side. At the bottom, there is a call to action: "To learn more or find your nearest dealer visit: www.seaarkboats.com #YourStoryYourBoat #BoatsBuiltforaLifetime". Social media icons for Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube are located in the bottom right corner.

THE HUNT FOR REDS IN OCTOBER

Maria Towler of Hubert, N.C., puts the strength of her fishing rod to work on a redfish in the October surf.

I don't wade out far because I don't throw beyond the bars," Towler said. "A lot of people throw over the fish. I think they're copying the popular way to fish for drum like people do at Hatteras.

"I'll walk into 2 or 3 feet of water where it's calm. When you can see live mullets right under your feet, that's where you want to fish."

The best surf-fishing spots are at the northern corners of inlets, he said. Currents and waves scour out slightly deeper bottom features and provide resting and hiding places for bait-fish as well as the crustaceans redfish like to eat. As a rule, the southern sides of inlets get filled in by sand migration, making them too shallow to attract gamefish.

When Towler casts soft-plastic lures around inlets, tidal currents move them down the beach. Slot (18 to 27 inches) and over-slot redfish prefer such spots at depths huge, old drum typically avoid.

By walking and casting, anglers can find multiple reds. Once a person discovers a hot hole, the bite may continue for an hour — or longer. With medium-action rods, reds in the 3- to 15-pound range provide enjoyable action.

"I like to throw a 4- or 5-inch Z-Man paddletail or Z-Man Diesel MinnowZ," Towler said. "They're a little bigger than normal, soft-plastic lures, but they've got a bigger profile in the surf."



David Towler

DX22HP - DF140 and Tandem Aluminum Trailer

Starting at **\$295/mo***

Great Selection of Hull Colors in stock!

B20CCR - 115 HP and Aluminum Trailer

DX20HP - DF115 HP 4-Stroke and Aluminum Trailer

Lots of Hull Colors In Stock!

As Low As **\$295/mo***

SUNDANCE

WHERE GREAT SERVICE GOES ALONG WITH THE SALE!

FINANCING @ GREAT RATES AVAILABLE!

CUSTOM ELECTRONICS & TROLLING MOTOR INSTALLATION

Precision Marine Inc.

HWY 70E • GOLDSBORO • 919-751-1199

(Off Hwy 70 Bypass at Exit #369 from Raleigh/Exit #370 from Kinston)

www.precisionmarineinc.com



8:00-5:00 M-F

After hours by appointment

*with approved credit

POWERED BY



The fall baitfish migration out of marshes and into the ocean, then south, draws predators like redfish and plenty of anglers.

When the surf is calm, his favorite hard-plastic lures include “a great big” Top Pup or big Zara Spook, walk-the-dog lures. When the surface is choppy, it’s difficult to work topwater lures properly, so Towler casts and retrieves a shiny, ½- to ¾-ounce gold Johnson spoon.

“If I’m using the Spook, I want a silver side and white belly,” he said. “Reds will crush a big topwater lure when conditions are right. But if it’s too rough and topwaters don’t work as well, I’ll switch to a spoon or soft-plastic baits. If the water’s a little wavy and dingy, I’ll use soft-plastics,” Towler said.

When retrieved properly, topwater lures and flashy spoons resemble a large, wounded menhaden.

Air and water temperatures, especially from early to mid-October, usually are mild to warm, so anglers can wear shorts.

“You can get some cool snaps where light waders are comfortable, but I usually don’t start wearing waders until November,” he said. ■



Craig Holt of Snow Camp, N.C., has been an outdoor writer for almost 40 years, working for several newspapers, then serving as managing editor for *North Carolina Sportsman* and *South Carolina Sportsman* before becoming a full-time free-lancer in 2009.



David Towler

Faster. Smoother. Drier.



For a world-class, center-console bay boat, look no further than BlackJack Boats. From design to construction, each and every boat is hand-crafted with precision, creating one of the fastest bay boats on the market. With BlackJack, you get quality, show-stopping design plus a performance like no other!

Go to blackjackboats.com to learn more or find a dealer near you!

BlackJack

POWERED BY  **YAMAHA**



ALL CRANKED UP FOR OCTOBER

CRANKBAITS ARE THE TICKET TO GREAT FALL BASS

Ah, October. I've been waiting for Halloween to come over the horizon for months. It's probably my second-favorite month to fish for bass, trailing only June, because the way bass act fits perfectly into the way I like to fish: crankbaits on channel drops and ledges back in creeks.

One thing I love is, a lot of people are in the woods deer-hunting, and there are a lot fewer bass boats on the water. That's always good. And you can catch different kinds of bass in the same places: large-mouths, stripers, hybrids where they're available. Usually by September, they're starting to move into the creeks, following bait, and in October, they should be back in the creeks real good. Some might stay on the main lake, but most of the concentrations will be in the creeks.

Bass can be suspended pretty good, depending on what part of the month it is, or they could be shallow, but what I really like to fish are straight-up drops, long points, roadbeds — anything where bass can stage up on and feed. At the first of the month, unless it's already gotten cool, they can still be in 15 feet of water, and then they can be in 8 to 12 feet. Later in the month, they'll be farther back in creeks and in shallower water.

I can remember one time at Buggs Island in the fall, I caught 'em pretty good on isolated stumps. The water was down, and it was real clear, and I could see the tops of stumps that were right on the edge where the water dropped into 15 feet.

ALL ABOUT WOOD

October is really when all the work you did during the winter pays off. If you put brush in a lake, October and November

are months when bass really get on wood: either stumps or brush, especially if there are rocks around.

You can miss 'em in the fall; it's harder to see them on your electronics, because they'll be tight to the bottom, tight to stumps, tight to brush where you can't tell them apart from crappie. So you just need to put your bait in the water.

Fish can be in a variety of depths. If they are deep, a Berkley Dredger is best, but a Digger can be real good, because it's got that harder, crawdad action. Bass start to want a tight action in September. That's



David Fritts is a 62-year-old pro bass fisherman from Lexington, N.C. He won the 1993 Bassmasters Classic championship and the 1997 FLW Tour Championship, and he was the 1994 BASS Angler of the Year. He is sponsored by Ranger boats, Evinrude outboards, Lews, Minnkota, Lowrance and Berkley.

Bass will key on wooden cover — stumps, brushpiles, sunken logs — in October, especially when they get back in creeks.

going to be shad in the creeks, and they'll be moving. You want to fish the edges of the channel breaks, the ends of the flats.

OCTOBER'S COLORS

The old color we called "carp" was a great color this time of year. Now, I think we've got three or four great colors for our Berkley crankbaits that are made for October: cream pie, honey shad, spicy mustard and rubbertail. These are all great colors in the fall when bass are keying on shad.

The only time I need to use a really long rod, like my Lews 7-foot-6 cranking rod, is when they're out around 15 feet deep. Normally, I'll be throwing the 6-foot-8 and 7-foot versions, with the 5.1-to-1 retrieve ratio BB1 reel. I like to fish 10-pound diameter Sensation line. You can go up to 12-pound, but your bait loses a little bit of action.

One thing I like to do, when I find a spot holding fish and catch a few, and then they stop biting, is change baits so I'm throwing a bait with a different action, or I'll change colors in the bait I'm throwing. I'm probably not going to throw any soft-plastic baits, because they're not as good as crankbaits in October. I might also go with a drop bait like a War Pig and hop it off the bottom. If I've found a place in practice before a tournament and caught some fish, if I pull up on it in a tournament and don't catch any, that's when I'm going to drop a War Pig down and try get them triggered, because they can get a little moody.

So, tie on a handful of your favorite crankbaits this month, get back in a creek and locate the drops along the channel edges and get your bait in the water. You might wind up with a catch to remember. ■

also why flat-sided baits like my Frittsides work so well in the fall; they act more like a shad in cooler water than at any time of year, so I've always got one tied on, the size depending on the depth of the water.

The thing is, when you find 'em, they'll be ganged up, but they've got to be ready to feed. You can pull up on a place that's holding a 25-pound stringer, but they might not be in a feeding mood, and you've got to get one of them to trigger. If you do, you can get them all coming to you.

A perfect example is the 1999 Hungry Fisherman championship I won on Alabama's Lake Guntersville. I caught my limits both days on a mussel bed that was no bigger than the hood of my pickup truck. They were really ganged up, and I got them going with a crankbait.

Most of the time, I'm going to approach a drop or a set of stumps right on a drop by sitting deep, casting shallow and bringing the bait back that way. Sometimes, you need to parallel the drop, and I can remember one time having to throw deep and bring it back up the drop, digging all the way.

I am going to start this month by looking for fish halfway back in creeks. In October, you can have fish all the way back when you find a creek with good water depths. There are



CHEROKEE RUN
Hunting Lodge
Hunt deer, wild boar and turkey
in the wilds of South Carolina

**Trophy Managed Whitetail
on the Great Pee Dee River**

**Trophy Wild Boar
in the SC Swamps**

NIGHT Hog: March 1 - July 1
SC Rifle Deer: Sept 1 - Jan 1
SC Wild Boar: Year' round Season
SC Turkey: April 1 - May 1
Dear/Boar or Turkey/Boar Combos

Located on the border in beautiful
Chesterfield County SC, one hour from Charlotte, NC.
Comfortable lodging including satellite TV,
pool table, bass ponds, rifle & 3-D archery range.

(704) 301-7950
eatsleephunt.com



**BLACK'S
CAMP**

Deluxe Lodging
on the
Santee Cooper Lake System

**THE STRIPERS
ARE
SCHOOLING!!!**

**GREAT
DINING
GUIDE
SERVICE**

Cross, South Carolina 29436
(843) 753-2231
www.blackscamp.com

COOKING ON THE WILD SIDE

Jerry Dilsaver

TACHOO & TORTILLA DUMPLINGS

CELEBRATE THE COMING OF FALL WITH THIS NEAT MEAL

Substituting tortillas cut into pieces for dumplings is a key to this unique recipe. **INSET:** Sauté the wahoo and onions lightly before adding broth and transferring to a larger pot.



Fall has eased back in for sportsmen in the in the Carolinas. Mother Nature hasn't fully recognized the change yet and is still throwing plenty of warm days, but fall arrived on Sept. 23. Cooler days should become more prominent and begin to come in groups of three to a week instead of one.

Fall means different things to different sportsmen, but all are ready to see it arrive. Some have been waiting to get a whiff of burned gunpowder and have been living for the fall. Others are already engaged in hunting deer using archery equipment.

This is a great time, when days are still warm but begin and end with cooler temperatures. Sportsmen live to be outdoors, and fall is the time when conditions are most comfortable. It's also the time when game and fish are most abundant. Take advantage of that and make an offshore trip to

get the wahoo fillets that highlight this recipe. There will be plenty left over to enjoy otherwise also.

At first glance, this month's recipe appears to be for sportsmen who enjoy excellent fall fishing, especially those who enjoy plying the cobalt waters of the Gulf Stream. However, this is a great meal to carry in a wide-mouth thermos or take to the hunting club for a good warm-up meal. Just because you're hunting doesn't mean you can't enjoy good meals.

This recipe combines parts of two foods most sportsmen like. The pan-searing is a favorite way to prepare fish for many folks. Dumplings are a staple for most southern cooks; they're just typically thought of as more for chicken. This recipe combines fish with dumplings for a treat that's going to taste even better than most folks imagine. ■

TACHOO & TORTILLA DUMPLINGS

Okay, I know you're wondering what this is all about. It's simple, really. This is my take on chicken and dumplings, using wahoo instead of chicken and flour tortillas for the dumplings. I don't really remember where the idea of using taco seasoning came from, but I expect it was having flour tortillas for dumplings. It's a simple recipe I think you'll enjoy. You may even decide to experiment using other meats as the base.

I usually use a salt-free taco seasoning my wife makes, and several will come up if you Google "salt-free taco seasoning." I wanted this to be as easy as possible, so I looked through the taco seasonings at the grocery store and found some Old El Paso taco seasoning with 25% less sodium. I use about half the package. If you like more taco flavor, simply use more, and if taco seasoning is a little strong for your tastes, or if you don't care for it, this also can be done using fajita seasoning.

I use a little liquid smoke in this, and it's just enough to notice it. I encourage experimentation with recipes, but I need to offer some caution about liquid smoke. If you want to enhance the smoke flavor, be careful and don't get carried away adding it. A little goes a long way.

The tortilla pieces make really good dumplings and are so easy to use. I credit using them to a tip a friend gave me more than 20 years ago. He stumbled across it one day while waiting on his girlfriend, and women's magazines were all he had to read to pass the time. However it happened, I appreciate the tip.

PREPARATION:

Cut the wahoo into bite-size pieces. Chop the onion and celery. Cut 4 or 5 tortillas into pieces approximately 2 by 2 inches. Sprinkle the wahoo with taco sauce.

Spray a frying pan with the non-stick cooking spray. Lightly sauté the wahoo and onion. Add a cup of broth and simmer for 2 minutes, stirring often. Remove the wahoo and onions from the broth and pour the broth into a large pot. Add the remaining broth, cream of celery soup, celery, liquid smoke, 2 teaspoons of Sabor, salt and pepper (to taste) to the pot and bring it to a boil. Stir in the tortilla pieces while the water boils.

Simmer for 4 to 6 minutes, stirring often, until the tortilla pieces have swollen into dumplings. Reduce the heat to simmer and stir in the wahoo and onions.

Tortillas typically come in 16-ounce packages, which usually contain eight to 12 tortillas; I use four or five. Cut them into pieces that will blend with the meat and be easy to pick up with a fork or spoon. I like them in 2-inch squares, but they can be longer and thinner. Just keep them small enough the broth penetrates them throughout in just a couple of minutes of cooking.

The Texas Pete Sabor Mexican hot sauce, or something similar, is a must. This does not have a vinegar base like regular Texas Pete and many other hot sauces, and that is important when mixing with this. The vinegar-based hot sauces just don't taste right. This does; give it a try.

I believe this is a lot like spaghetti in that it tastes better after it cools and is warmed again. You can definitely tell the difference in flavor, especially in the dumplings.

This recipe makes enough for a meal for a few people. You can double the ingredients and be sure you have some to refrigerate and enjoy later. It's good enough I don't have the will power and patience to cook a batch and let it cool to reheat before eating. Give it a try; I believe you'll prepare it again. Enjoy! ■

Simmer for 4 minutes. Remove from heat and serve.

I'm a salad guy and would begin this meal with a green salad or lettuce wedge. Corn on the cob goes well with the meal and, even with the dumplings, there must be bread to sop up the last of the broth. A slice of key lime pie, with a big dollop of whipped cream, is an excellent way to finish this meal. The Texas Pete Sabor Mexican hot sauce must be on the table for those who like a bit more spice. ■

INGREDIENTS:

1½-pound wahoo fillet
1 medium sweet onion
1 pack baby bell peppers, assorted colors
1 packs fresh mushrooms
2 zucchini squash
2 yellow squash
1 2-liter Dr. Pepper. (You won't use it all, but a smaller container often isn't enough.)
Coarse ground black pepper
Chipotle chili pepper powder (salt may be substituted)
Texas Pete Sabor Mexican hot sauce
Buttery flavor non-stick cooking spray.



Jerry Dilsaver



Jerry Dilsaver of Oak Island, N.C., is a freelance writer, as well as a former national king mackerel champion fisherman. Readers are encouraged to send their favorite recipes and a photo of the completed dish to possibly be used in a future issue of the magazine. E-mail the recipes and photos to Jerry Dilsaver at captainjerry@captainjerry.com.

SANTEE STRINGER

Terry Madewell

Mouse Witherell has a passion for fishing; it shows, and it adds a level of dedication to her charters.



Terry Madewell

MOUSE BUILDS A BETTER 'FISH TRAP'

VETERAN GUIDE'S OCTOBER TACTICS MIX STRIPERS, CATFISH

October creates a delightful problem for many Santee Cooper fishermen, a simple situation of too many options for great fishing.

One high-octane option is striper fishing, with the keeper season opening Oct. 1 after a 3½-month closure. The second is catfishing, with awesome action for numbers of fish, plus, the potential for trophy catfish explodes exponentially in October.

And leave it someone named "Mouse" to build a better "fish trap."

Barbara "Mouse" Witherell, the only female guide on the Santee Cooper lakes, has plotted a process to catch both species without diminishing the potential of catching either.

MOUSE, A GUIDE?

Witherell has been guiding on Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie since 1998; she said the decision to begin guiding

was a natural and logical one.

"I loved to fish and was fishing all the time since my husband, Boudreaux, was traveling a lot for work," she said. "Boudreaux said my fishing hobby was getting too expensive, and I needed to make some money at it, so I did."

Witherell said when she first began guiding, other fishing guides formed a betting pool on how long she would last.

"The longest bet was 18 months," she said. "That was 20 years ago. Funny, many of them don't guide anymore."

She got the moniker "Mouse" for good reasons too.

"When I was old enough to start dating, I was so small, I wore size 3 shoes, and people also said I had mousy ears and attitude," she said. "And the name just fit."

She was the catalyst for creation of the Cajun Guide Service that she now shares with Boudreaux.

"By 2005, he had grown tired of the road

and wanted to start guiding," she said, "so I hired him. We fished for catfish a lot at the beginning; we were targeting catfish before catfishing became cool."

She said with the striper population booming in recent years, working that hard-fighting species into her fishing scheme was crucial.

"With the new creel and slot limit, stripers are a great species to target," she said. "During October, it's especially exciting, because we can effectively target both catfish and stripers."



Terry Madewell, of Ridgeway, S.C., has been an outdoors writer for more than 30 years. He has a degree in wildlife and fisheries management and has a long career as a professional wildlife biologist/natural resources manager.

PAIR THEM UP

Witherell said a lot of effort goes into finding areas holding large concentrations of both species, but they share a strong similarity, and she describes both as eating machines.

“Find the favorite food of a fish, and you’ll find that fish,” she said. “Then figure out the best way to catch it.”

Witherell said both stripers and catfish have shad at the top of their gourmet forage list, so that’s the common denominator.

“With a little effort, fishermen can find areas where both species are present and foraging,” she said.

“We’ve learned that fishing along deeper channels and drifting over humps and drops are prime targets for both species.”

She uses the wind to keep the boat on a predetermined course, and she’ll pull catfish rods off the front as the pontoon boat drifts backwards with the wind, using sea anchors as needed to govern the speed. She employ multiple down-rods rigged for stripers.

Witherell said that, although she’s covering the same surface water, catfish and stripers are found at different levels in the water column, so the different rigs cause no interference.

PATTERNS AND RIGS

Witherell prefers to start the day early and hope to have fished hooked by sunrise.

“It’s not always critical to be fishing at dawn, but the early morning can produce a strong striper bite, and big catfish are likely to bite anytime,” she said. “I want to be on the water early, just in case.”

Witherell will fish several rods with the standard Santee rig system — a Carolina rig with a small crappie float threaded onto the leader — to target catfish.

“These rigs bump the bottom, and I’ll use white perch, gizzard shad and blueback herring, cut or whole baits,” she said. “And I change baits regularly. For stripers, I’ll fish vertically at various depths with live blueback herring. I’ll watch my graph to see the depth stripers are holding, and I usually fish between 12 to 20 feet deep until I determine a depth pattern for the day. Fresh, lively bait is crucial for stripers.”

Stripers are schooling fish and often bite in bunches, while catfish are usually caught on a steady bite.

“But having both hooked at the same time is not uncommon,” she said.

“It takes more effort to use this system, but I love it,” she said. “I wake up every day excited to go fishing, and I believe to be a successful guide a passion for fishing is crucial. If we’re enjoying the day so will everyone on the boat.” ■



Terry Madewell

THE EARLY MOUSE....

Mouse Witherell wants to start her charter fishing trips on the Santee Cooper lakes well before dawn in the fall, because the striped bass bite tends to start early, whereas catfish can be caught throughout the day.

SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY

SC'S FINEST FISHING & RECREATION IS ON LAKES MARION & MOULTRIE

Across Berkeley, Clarendon, Calhoun, Orangeburg, & Sumter counties
(803) 854-2131
fishsanteecoopercountry.com

HEAD FOR THE MOUNTAINS

Robert Satterwhite

To consistently come up with nice catches of mountain trout, be ready to switch up flies between dries, wets, nymphs and streamers.

DON'T GET STUCK ON ONE TROUT FLY

USING A VARIETY OF FLIES WILL ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL TROUT-FISHING TRIP

Robert Satterwhite

If an angler presents an artificial fly that looks like real food and drops it on the water as naturally as possible, a trout will grab it. The catch, however, is that the angler must react quickly before the trout spits out the concoction of feathers, fur, thread and metal once it realizes it isn't real food.

Fishers have been fooling trout into taking artificial flies since the days of ancient Macedonia, and probably much earlier. They utilize different types, designed to imitate an insect, a phase of an insect's life, or a type of aquatic life.

Basic types of flies are dry, wet, nymph, streamer.

KEEP IT DRY

Dry-fly fishing is the most exciting because it is more visual than other methods. You can see a trout rise to an insect, and you can see a trout rise to an artificial dry fly. Hook a rising trout on a dry fly, and if that doesn't get your adrenalin pumping, take up golf.

A dry fly is constructed so that it settles

delicately and naturally on the surface of a stream and floats into the view of a trout. Basic components are hackle, wing, body and tail. Hackle, made from the long, slender feathers of a gamecock, gives the fly its floating qualities. It is wound in a full circle around the hook just behind the eye. The stiffness of the hackle allows the fly to sit on the surface.

In addition to helping the fly float, hackle also simulates the wings, legs, and tail of an insect. Dubbing, usually made of animal fur and secured with thread, forms the body of the fly. Various other materials such as tinsel, floss and peacock herl are designed to give the fly a realistic appearance.

Common dry-fly patterns used in mountain streams are Adams (male and female), Blue-Winged Olive, Royal Wulff, Royal Coachman, Caddis, May Fly, Thunder Head, Quill Gordon, Hendrickson, Cahill, Midge, Gnat and Stone.

GET WET, GET TROUT

A wet fly looks very much like a dry fly except that it doesn't float on the surface.

It imitates a drowned surface insect, an emerging nymph or an adult female that goes beneath the surface to lay its eggs. The basic components are about the same, only the fly is usually tied with soft hen hackle instead of stiff gamecock hackle to make it more absorbent. A wet fly imitates the emerging stage of an insect, and the fly is fished beneath the surface and given occasional tugs to simulate a swimming insect.

Common wet fly patterns are Black Spider, Coachman, March Brown, Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear and Zulu.

Neither wet flies nor dry flies must be exact imitations of an insect, merely a reasonable approximation. Looking up to the surface, a trout has a distorted view of a floating dry fly. A wet fly usually is fished in fast water, and a hungry trout doesn't have time to scrutinize it.



Bob Satterwhite has been writing about the outdoors, particularly trout fishing, for more than 25 years. A native of Morganton, N.C., he lives in Cullowhee, N.C., close to the Tuckasee River, Caney Fork, Moses Creek, and several other prime trout streams.



Robert Satterwhite

Really big brown trout are more likely to be caught on streamers, which imitate minnows or other tiny stream fish.

STREAMING LIVE

Streamers are the flies fishers use when they want to catch big browns and rainbows. Streamers imitate swimming aquatic life such as minnows, dace and sculpin. They are usually stripped through the water to simulate the darting, swimming patterns of small fish. Streamers come in large patterns, anywhere from a No. 10 to a No. 4.

Common streamers are Muddler Minnow, Woolly Bugger, Black Nose Dace, Shiner and sculpin patterns.

Veteran fly fishers carry an assortment of flies in various sizes. If one type of fly or size doesn't work, try another pattern in a smaller or larger size. If you're persistent, you'll eventually discover the right combination. ■

NYMPHING ROCKS

Nymphs, however, must be close duplications of the real thing because they represent the larval stage of an insect when the insect has very little swimming power. Nymphs tumble along the bottom or lie on it. Since there is little distortion beneath the surface, a trout has plenty of time to examine the fly. If the fly doesn't look like the real thing, the trout will go elsewhere to eat. In still water, nymphs make up about 90% of a trout's diet, and nymphs are available food year-round.

Nymphs are cast upstream above feeding trout and allowed to tumble naturally down to them. Nymph-fishing requires time and patience to master because you must learn to detect a strike, which, sometimes, can be as subtle as a slight pause in the drift of the leader.

Common nymph patterns are: Stick Bait, Hare's Ear, Tellico, Pink Lady, Secret Weapon, Pheasant Tail, Prince and Zug Bug.



Fueling Outdoor Passions
Since 1995



NEW

PRE-OWNED

FINANCING



ATVS • Utility Vehicles • Personal Watercraft • Boats
 • Slingshot • Spyder • Motorcycles • Power Equipment • Gem Cars






604 Corporate Dr.
Goldsboro, NC
888-503-8900

COMING SOON!
1037 Cedar Point Blvd
Cedar Point, NC 28584

Check out all our inventory at
www.PerformanceEast.com





Fourth Generation Outfitters



NOW BOOKING!

LAYOUT BOAT HUNTS ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOR CANVASBACKS AND SEA DUCKS. NC SNOW GOOSE HUNTS.

CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR DAYS!

GUARANTEED SWAN HUNTS



Call Aaron Mathews at 252-619-2880 or visit www.quackkills.com

Drake



Safe Co.

CUSTOM BUILT GUN SAFES

We can build any size to fit your needs!



- 100% 1/4" Steel Plate Construction
- Firelined
- 12 Standard Sizes

Happy Birthday Jim Drake!

Dryes Gun Shop
Bahama, NC
919-251-9935

Greg Drake
747 Leasburg Road
Roxboro, NC 27573
Shop: 336-597-5059

Pa Paw's Pawn
High Point, NC
336-889-7296

877-677-SAFE
(7233)

HUNTING SEASONS

DEER

Region	Method	Season
Western	Bowhunting	Sept. 7-29 Oct. 13-Nov. 24 Dec. 15-Jan. 1, 2020 (bucks only)
	Muzzleloader	Sept. 30-Oct. 13
	Gun	Nov. 25-Dec. 14
Northwestern	Bowhunting	Sept. 7-Nov. 8
	Muzzleloader	Nov. 9-22
	Gun	Nov. 23-Jan. 1, 2020
Central	Bowhunting	Sept. 7-Nov. 1
	Muzzleloader	Nov. 2-15
	Gun	Nov. 16-Jan. 1, 2020
Northeastern/ Southeastern	Bowhunting	Sept. 7-27
	Muzzleloader	Sept. 28-Oct. 11
	Gun	Oct. 12-Jan. 1, 2020

BEAR

Oct. 14-Nov. 23 & Dec. 16-Jan. 1, 2020:	In and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke and Cleveland counties
Nov. 16-Jan. 1, 2020:	Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union counties
Oct. 12-Jan. 1, 2020:	Franklin, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Vance, Warren, Wake counties
Nov. 23-Jan. 1, 2020:	Alexander, Catawba, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Stokes, Yadkin counties
Nov. 12-Jan. 1, 2019:	Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Robeson, Sampson counties
Nov. 9-24, Dec. 14-29:	Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell counties
Nov. 9-17, Dec. 14-29:	Camden, Chowan, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, Washington counties
Nov. 17-Dec. 16:	Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, Wilson counties
Nov. 11-Jan. 1, 2020:	Edgecombe, Bladen, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Roberson, Sampson counties

SQUIRREL

Oct. 14-Feb. 29, 2020 (gray & red)
Oct. 14-Jan. 31, 2020 (fox) in Alleghany, Edgecombe, Moore, Scotland, Anson, Greene, New Hanover, Stokes, Ashe, Harnett, Onslow, Surry, Bladen, Hoke, Pender, Watauga, Brunswick, Johnston, Pitt, Wayne, Cumberland, Jones, Richmond, Wilkes, Duplin, Lenoir, Sampson

RABBIT

Oct. 14-Feb. 28, 2020

QUAIL

Nov. 23, 2019-Feb. 29, 2020

GROUSE

Oct. 14-Feb. 29, 2020

RAILS

(KING, SORA, VIRGINIA, CLAPPER)
(GALLINULES, MOORHENS)

Sept. 7-Nov. 27
Sept. 7-Nov. 27

CANADA GEESE

Resident zone, Oct. 2-12, Nov. 16-Dec. 7,
Dec. 14-Feb. 8.
Statewide: Sept. 2-30; NE Zone, Jan. 16-31, permit only

SNOW, BLUE, ROSS GEESE

Oct. 8-Feb. 8, 2020, Feb. 10-March 31, 2020 (permit)

DUCKS

Oct. 3-5, Nov. 16-Dec. 2 Dec. 14-Jan. 31, 2020

EARLY TEAL

Sept. 12-30 (east of US 17 only)

SEA DUCKS

Nov. 23-Jan. 31, 2020

BRANT

Dec. 28-Jan. 31, 2020

DOVE

Sept. 2-Oct. 5, Nov. 16-30, Dec. 9-Jan. 31, 2020

TUNDRA SWAN

Nov. 9-Jan. 31, 2020. Bag limit 1, by permit only.

RACCOON, OPOSSUM

Oct. 14-Feb. 29, 2020

WOODCOCK

Dec. 7-Jan. 28, 2020

SHIMANO STRADIC FL

Before they even reached store shelves several weeks ago, Shimano's newly designed Stradic FL spinning reels attracted plenty of attention, winning "Best Saltwater Reel" at the ICAST tackle-trade show this past July.

The Stradic FL comes in sizes from 1000 to 5000, good for seatrout all the way to tuna and tarpon, with plenty of new technology included. The MicroModule II gear system has teeth designed to reduce vibration, its Long Stroke Spool allows anglers to cover more water, and its durable cross-carbon drag (on C3000, 4000XG

and C5000 models) is made for tough, saltwater battles. The 1000 and 2500 class reels have a 6.0:1 get ratio, the C3000 has a 6.4:1 ratio, and the 4000 class reel has a 6.2:1 gear ratio.

The FL's external design prevents saltwater intrusion, but there's no sacrificing the smooth feel when you turn the reel handle. Also, there's no anti-reverse switch, a spot where saltwater intrusion can be a problem.

Suggested retail prices are \$199-\$229.

For more info, visit: fish.shimano.com



THIESSEN'S V1 WHITETAIL CLOTHING

Thiessen's Authentic Pursuit Equipment enters the outdoor clothing market this month with gear designed primarily for deer hunters.

The new company's V1 Whitetail Clothing includes base-layer garments, lightweight, midweight and heavyweight offerings, plus rainware and accessories, targeted at hunters who want quality hunting wear at a reasonable price.

Offered in Realtree EDGE camo, the Lightweight Series

offers a button-up shirt, long-sleeve and short-sleeve T-shirts and pants. The Midweight Series offers pants, hoodie, vest and jacket. The Heavyweight Series offers pants, parka and bibs. Other features include, moisture-wicking, anti-odor treatments, WIND-DEFENSE technology and water-resistant outer shells.

Suggested retail prices are \$39.99 for Baselayer gear, \$19.99 to \$59.99 for Lightweight Series gear, \$49.99 to \$79.99 for Midweight Series gear, \$169.99-\$199.99 for Heavyweight Series gear, \$89.99-\$109.99 for rain gear and \$11.99 to \$39.99 for accessories such as beanies, caps, gloves, facemasks, gnomits and handwarmer muffs.

For more info, visit: thiessens.com



SKEETER'S SX2550 BAY BOAT

If you're in the market for a serious fishing boat, as well as a great boat for the family, Skeeter's new SX2550 might be just what you're looking for.

The brand new, 24½-foot model is actually available in two versions: with a robust fishing package, or a family package that comes standard with front deck cushions and a rear bench seat above the livewell for additional passenger room.

An oversized console comes standard in both versions and features a full-sized side entry door large enough to add a portable toilet, or serve as a changing room. And the bow features a 145-quart fish box with macerator,

along with a 43-gallon rear livewell. Fuel capacity for the SX2550 is 76 gallons.

For more information or to locate the Skeeter dealer near you, visit: skeeterboats.com



Shane Flannigan targets reds around Wando River docks. **BELOW:** Hooking a crab chunk properly is a key to bait presentation.

Sportsman FISHING HOTSPOTS

GET CRABBY WITH WANDO RIVER REDS

Brian Cope

Docks holding plenty of redfish in SC Lowcountry; tempt them with crab chunks

Anglers in South Carolina's Lowcountry have plenty of fish to choose from in October, and redfish are one of the most willing to bite, especially on chunks of blue crab.

Shane Flannigan of Mt. Pleasant's Reel Deal Charters said as long as anglers can put their baits under docks on the Wando River, they'll stay busy reeling in redfish of various sizes. He said the keys are using the right bait, watching your line closely and putting the right amount of pressure on the fish once you're hooked up.

"You really can't beat quartered chunks of blue crab for redfish under docks this time of year," said Flannigan (843-388-5093). "You want to set up on the upcurrent side of a dock so that your line will stay tight once your bait is in place. You can put your rod in a rod holder, but you have to keep a close watch. Once a redfish picks up your bait, it can wrap you all around the pilings if you don't pull it from under the dock fairly quickly."

The hardest part for many anglers, he said, is hooking the bait correctly. Flannigan takes a whole blue crab and cuts



the legs off, but leaves the knuckles — the joints where the legs connect to the crab's body. Then he removes the shell by holding the bottom of the crab's body in one hand, then twisting the top with the other hand. Next, he cuts the body into four parts.

"The only way to keep the bait on is to run the hook through one of the knuckles. And each of the four parts has knuckles on them if you cut the crab properly. That knuckle will hold on the hook securely," he said.

With a medium-heavy spinning rod and a 2500 series reel spooled with 15- to 20-pound line, a 1-ounce weight, a barrel swivel, a fluorocarbon leader, and the crab chunk on a 2/0 hook, Flannigan casts under the dock. He likes to use two rods at a time.

"I put those two rods in rod holders, and then it's just time to wait," he said.

But anglers shouldn't get too comfortable.

"If the fish are under that dock, it won't take long for you to know it. They will bite it right quick, and when they do, you can't be scared to put pressure on them. You need to turn them away from those pilings to keep them from wrapping you up," he said.

Flannigan said if you don't get at least a bite within about 15 minutes, reel in and find another dock.

"This area is full of redfish right now, and they love hanging out under docks. If you aren't having any luck, move to another dock. It's good to have some patience, but don't waste time," he said. ■

— Brian Cope

Long casts are required to get hooked up with a schooling spotted bass on Lake Keowee in the fall.

FIND BAIT AND SPOTS

for October action on Lake Keowee

Two keys to catching Lake Keowee's spotted bass in October, according to pro angler and guide Todd Goade of Suwanee, Ga., are finding bait and targeting schooling fish.

"If you find the bait, the spotted bass will be out there roaming, chasing the bait, not even on structure," he said. "You can catch fishing schooling in 100 feet of water in Keowee."

Finding the bait depends on being aware of your surroundings, said Goade (470-266-9661).

"Look for birds, because they will give the bait away. And usually, that time of year, a good population of loons will show up on the lake. If you see loons, there will be bait around."

The second key involves not getting too close to schooling fish.

"When the fish are schooling, you have to have the ability to make really long casts," he said.

Goade's go-to lure is a Zoom Super Fluke.

"I cast it on 10-pound fluorocarbon with a barrel swivel and a 16-inch, 15-pound leader," he said. "That gives me some more beef when I set the hook, but the 10-pound line lets me cast a really long way. When they come up, you have to make that cast and land it while they are still up or you are not going to catch them."

Goade said he has several other lures that work really well on Keowee this time of year: topwaters like a Sammie or a Lucky Craft Gunfish and a spybait, a long, slender lure with small propeller blades fore and aft that is retrieved at a very slow speed.

"I rig the spybait on a spinning rod so I can make really long casts," he said. "I like to use 10-pound Fitzgerald Vursa braid with 8-pound Seguar fluorocarbon for a leader. The braid is very soft but has great strength, and it has great casting ability."

In addition to schooling spots, Goade said Keowee always has a dock pattern at that time of year.

"If you can find docks midway back in a pocket or creek that has



deep water close to them, those are the docks that work best," he said. "My favorite bait for the docks is a Zoom Beatdown; I throw it on the same spinning rod with the 10-pound braid and 8-pound fluorocarbon." ■

— Pat Robertson

FALL KING RUN SOON

Nearshore Long Bay spots are super productive

Long Bay, between Cape Fear and the North Carolina/South Carolina state line, is home to two of the best king mackerel runs in the country: one in the spring and another in the fall that is about to really get rolling. The fall run sometimes begins in September and lasts into November, but it centers on October.

This is a time when big kings roam from the ends of pier out to 80 feet of water. While kings, particularly those 40- to 50-pound tournament winners, might be caught anywhere in Long Bay, they seem to prefer being within sight of the beaches between Shallotte Inlet and Frying Pan Shoals. This puts them within range of a multitude of fishermen, and both the kings and fishermen do their part to make fishing spectacular.

This abundance of kings isn't a surprise. Schools of menhaden are just off the beaches, along with plenty of bluefish. Menhaden are the No. 1 forage fish for kings, and bluefish grab them by their sweet tooth. Kings are hungry and feeding, stocking up fat for the coming winter, and the action is as good as it gets.

The run begins with kings moving close to the beach to feed on the huge schools of menhaden. As the water cools, some kings head south, but many slowly move offshore while feasting on a variety of baitfish. As long as the water is warm enough for baitfish, there will be kings.

Dieter Cardwell of Clemmons, N.C., has led the Tide Line Fishing Team to two of wins in the prestigious U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament, held the first weekend of October out of Southport. He said this is his favorite time and place to fish; he uses a rig made of 44-pound wire, with two No. 4 treble hooks as his standard rig and slow-trolls menhaden and bluefish. The lead hook is inserted side to side in the bait's nasal opening, with the rear trailing hook tagged near the anus. If a baitfish is large, he adds a third hook between the two.

Cardwell said kings also often gather around nearshore artificial reefs and hardbottom areas. Yaupon Reef (AR 425), only 1½ miles off Oak Island, is arguably the most-popular artificial reef in North Carolina waters. The Tom McGlammy Reef (AR 420) is another mile or so offshore, with the Jim Knight Reef (AR 430) several miles to the west and the WOFES several miles to the east. The Cape Fear Sea Buoy is several miles offshore, and all have great reputations for producing October kings. ■

— Jerry Dilsaver



Summer Herring and her mother, Kara Herring, show off a big Long Bay king mackerel.

Jerry Dilsaver

SPEAK SPANISH

this month around Cape Lookout

Guide Noah Lynk of Harkers Island expects the fall of 2019 to provide good-to-excellent fishing anglers in nearshore waters around North Carolina's Crystal Coast. "The Spanish mackerel will be fat, and 4- to 6-pounders will be in the mix," said Lynk, of Noah's Ark Fishing Charters, who fishes the waters off Cape Lookout.

Lynk (252-342-6911), said an early mullet run that began in late August pulled Spanish mackerel inshore this year.

"When ... October gets here, they'll be thick around the inlets and shoals," he said. "They'll start feeding up for winter. And they can be in shallow water, sometimes just a couple of feet (deep)."

However, he'll mostly chase them in deeper water at places such as the Cape Lookout rock jetty, Atlantic Beach or Shackelford Banks, if the wind's from the northeast and waves are small.

Lynk also looks for false albacore feeding in schools because they'll mix with Spanish and hit the same lures. To find Spanish or albacore, he looks for diving birds attacking silversides or anchovies — king mackerel and big bluefish may also join the mix.

With a southeast wind, the east side of Cape Lookout's shoals "will be rockin', if you don't mind getting there," Lynk said. "But after (recent) hurricanes, it's got 12-foot (deep) sloughs across the shoals, so you can cross at those places. I don't understand why some people go all the way to the end of the shoals now."

With relatively calm water, Lynk may troll or cast to feeding fish.

"It's hard to beat trolled 5- or 6-inch Yo-Zuris for Spanish," said Lynk, who trolls two lures from rods and sometimes adds two more handlines on planers. "They'll also draw king strikes."

"You also can cast Yo-Zuris, but I like to throw Halco jigs at 'em," Lynk said, especially a new model that includes a 2- or 3-inch Twisty, a flashy jig that can be cast a long way.

Noah Lynk



Guide Noah Lynk said big Spanish mackerel should highlight great fall fishing in the waters off Cape Lookout.

"They work well because you don't have to get right up on (a school of fish)," Lynk said. "If you ride up to a school, you'll make 'em dive."

Lynk's equipment includes a 7-foot, light-medium Star Rod, a 2500 or 3000 series spinning reel, 12-pound braid and 2 to 3 feet of fluorocarbon leader. ■

— Craig Holt

The Archery Shop

Area's Oldest Dealer!

ELITE & MISSION In Stock

FULL LINE OF ARCHERY ACCESSORIES BY:

Rage Muzzy GOLD TIP Zebra PRIMOS

COME SHOOT OUR INDOOR ARCHERY RANGE!

328 Industrial Dr • Summerville SC • 843-875-9613
budsarcheryshop.com

PINEY ISLAND CLUB

- Membership Available -

Currituck County, NC

Serious Inquiries contact Warren B. Watkins wbw31961@gmail.com

Duck Hunting & Fishing at #pineyislandduckclub

www.pineyislandclub.com

FLOUNDER, MULLET

on courses for a big collision at Little River

Fishing for southern flounder ended in North Carolina last month, leaving those anglers with a love for flounder out in the cold. While the season closure will give an opportunity for North Carolina flounder stocks to recover, South Carolina anglers are in for a treat, because doormats come out of the woodwork this month, and Little River is a top-drawer area.

With the mullet run winding down and water temperatures dropping, flounder are beginning to look towards the ocean for escape. That happens when the massive schools of mullet are still flowing in and out of the inlets, ringing the dinner bell for flounder with big appetites.

Tom Cushman of Captain Cushman Calmwater Fishing Charters out of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., targets big flounder this time of year and is very successful at it. From docks along the waterway to the jetties and nearshore reefs, Cushman rigs with

jumbo finger mullet and a carbon-fiber drag system ready for action.

"The mullet run is winding down in October, but it has brought in a lot of predators, including the biggest flounder we see all year," said Cushman (843-997-5850). "It's a big-fish time of year, and we generally use bigger baits to attract those bigger fish."

Even though big mullet are generally located near and along the oceanfront, plenty of the big baits are inshore.

"In the fall, we catch big flounder all over, from the docks on the waterway to the jetties, and we even catch them in the middle of the channel on sandy bottoms," he said. "They can be about anywhere, but the jetties are excellent places to target the bigger ones specifically. We often catch several doormats while drifting for bull reds in the inlet in October."

Cushman uses Carolina rigs with

Big flounder headed to the ocean through Little River run into big schools of mullet heading south. That makes for a month of great fishing.



Jeff Burleson

oversized hooks on the bottom or large, scented-soft plastics in the 5- to 6-inch range. In areas with heavy current and structure, large bucktails with a Gulp! trailer are deadly for doormat flounder. Not only can these fish detect the fishy odor from the Gulp! bait, it is a large presentation that gives the angler an edge. ■

— Jeff Burleson

ASTRO TABLES

Astro Tables is far more effective than "moon tables," because it takes into account critical solar energies as well as lunar.

- The "Best Days" column is based on the ever-changing positions of the sun and the moon, rating each day on a scale of 0 to 100. The higher the number, the more solar/lunar influence that day is experiencing (see "Value" column or corresponding black bars).
- The two Primary periods (Moon Overhead and Moon Underfoot) vary in length from one hour to three-and-one-half hours, depending on a number of important lunar cycles, such as how close the moon is to the earth that day and how high its orbit is. The solar symbols alert you to when a Primary period overlaps a major solar period (eg: Dawn, High-Noon, and Dusk). The secondary periods of Moonrise and Moonset last about one hour each... 30 minutes before and after the listed time. (See key at bottom of each month for more detail.)

- Astro Tables is a quick-reference version of its parent publication, the PrimeTimes Wall Calendar, which is recommended for those wishing more complete data on the best days and times to go fishing and hunting for the entire year (see "Available Products" below).

- PrimeTimes forecasts are based on solar/lunar research at a leading college of astrophysics and our own research pond/wildlife area. Annual data is supplied by the U.S. Naval Observatory. All times are adjusted to the center of your time zone and for Daylight Saving Time.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS:
The 2019 PrimeTimes Wall Calendar. \$13.95 (plus \$4 s&h). Know the best days, best times, and their relative strengths for all of 2019 with this information-packed, full-color, 11-inch by 17-inch, graphic peaks

and-valleys forecaster. Includes rise and set times for the sun and moon, space to log your catches, "Timely Tips," plus fish and game symbols showing you each month's don't-miss periods. Also includes exclusive summary charts revealing the best and worst days of 2019, the year's best periods, a look ahead at 2020, and more. Comes with FREE 2019 Astro Tables pocket calendar, which sells separately for \$8.95, plus \$3 s&h.
Book: "How to Know When to Go" by Rick Taylor. \$14.95 (plus \$4 s&h). 100 pages, 43 illustrations. A comprehensive look at the main factors influencing fish and game activity periods, plus how to devise an effective when-to-go game plan using any year's PrimeTimes calendars. Individual assessments of bass, panfish, deer, turkey, and more.

2019 Ultimate PrimeTimes software for PCs. \$29.95 (plus \$3 s&h, or no s&h if downloaded from web). The world's best forecaster allows you to fine-tune the peak times to your exact location, quarry, and even weather. Too many features to list here, including making your own App. For more details, please call us or visit our web site (see below).

SPECIAL PACKAGE OFFERS:
#1: **Wall Calendar, Astro Tables and "How to Know..." book...** \$19.95 (plus \$5 s&h).
#2: **Same as #1, plus Software...** \$47.95 (plus \$6 s&h).
#3: **Same as #2, minus book...** \$38.95 (plus \$5 s&h).

Send to: PrimeTimes 2019 - Dept. L5 - 2487 NW 75th Ave., Ste. 100 - Ankeny, IA 50023

For credit/debit card orders, call 515-964-5516, or go online to primetimes2.com and click **Catalog**.

2019 OCT	BEST DAYS				VALUE
	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL	
Tue 1					35
Wed 2					26
Thu 3					24
Fri 4					27
Sat 5					36

Sun 6					25
Mon 7					20
Tue 8					21
Wed 9					21
Thu 10					32
Fri 11					44
Sat 12					56

Sun 13					62
Mon 14					54
Tue 15					46
Wed 16					37
Thu 17					35
Fri 18					36
Sat 19					37

Sun 20					42
Mon 21					52
Tue 22					41
Wed 23					33
Thu 24					40
Fri 25					47
Sat 26					54

Sun 27					56
Mon 28					43
Tue 29					31
Wed 30					18
Thu 31					12

25 50 75
AVERAGE

For more, visit primetimes2.com

MOON RISE	LUNAR PERIODS		MOON SET	MOON UNDERFOOT	
	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT			
10:17 am	3:08 pm - 4:34 pm		9:18 pm	2:31 am - 4:13 am	☉
11:25 am	4:08 pm - 5:20 pm		9:59 pm	3:33 am - 4:59 am	☉
12:29 pm	5:07 pm - 6:09 pm		10:45 pm	4:33 am - 5:45 am	☉
1:29 pm	6:04 pm - 7:00 pm ☀		11:34 pm	5:32 am - 6:34 am	☉ LOW
2:23 pm	6:56 pm - 7:52 pm ☀			6:29 am - 7:25 am ☀	☉ HALF

3:11 pm	7:46 pm - 8:44 pm	12:26 am	7:21 am - 8:17 am ☀	☉
3:54 pm	8:31 pm - 9:37 pm	1:21 am	8:11 am - 9:09 am	☉
4:32 pm	9:12 pm - 10:28 pm	2:17 am	8:56 am - 10:02 am	☉
5:05 pm	9:50 pm - 11:18 pm	3:13 am	9:37 am - 10:53 am	☉
5:36 pm	10:26 pm - 12:08 am	4:08 am	10:15 am - 11:43 am	☉ Apogee
6:04 pm	10:59 pm - 12:57 am	5:04 am	10:51 am - 12:33 pm	☉
6:32 pm	11:32 pm - Midnight	5:59 am	11:24 am - 1:22 pm ☀	☉

7:00 pm	Midnight - 1:48 am	6:54 am	11:57 am - 2:13 pm ☀	☉ FULL
7:29 pm	12:06 am - 2:36 am	7:50 am	12:31 pm - 3:01 pm ☀	☉
8:00 pm	12:41 am - 3:27 am	8:47 am	1:06 pm - 3:52 pm	☉
8:35 pm	1:19 am - 4:19 am	9:46 am	1:44 pm - 4:44 pm	☉
9:14 pm	2:01 am - 5:13 am	10:45 am	2:26 pm - 5:38 pm	☉
10:00 pm	2:46 am - 6:08 am	11:45 am	3:11 pm - 6:32 pm	☉
10:51 pm	3:36 am - 7:06 am	12:45 pm	4:01 pm - 7:31 pm ☀	☉ HIGH

11:50 pm	4:31 am - 8:01 am	1:41 pm	4:56 pm - 8:26 pm ☀	☉
	5:28 am - 8:58 am ☀	2:33 pm	5:53 pm - 9:23 pm	☉ HALF
12:54 am	6:30 am - 9:50 am ☀	3:21 pm	6:55 pm - 10:15 pm	☉
2:01 am	7:33 am - 10:39 am ☀	4:03 pm	7:58 pm - 11:04 pm	☉
3:11 am	8:36 am - 11:26 am	4:42 pm	9:01 pm - 11:51 pm	☉
4:21 am	9:39 am - 12:11 pm	5:19 pm	10:04 pm - 12:36 am	☉
5:32 am	10:42 am - 12:54 pm	5:55 pm	11:07 pm - Midnight	☉ Perigee

6:43 am	11:45 am - 1:37 pm ☀	6:31 pm	Midnight - 1:19 am	☉ NEW
7:53 am	12:48 pm - 2:20 pm ☀	7:09 pm	12:10 am - 2:02 am	☉
9:03 am	1:51 pm - 3:07 pm	7:49 pm	1:13 am - 2:45 am	☉
10:11 am	2:51 pm - 3:57 pm	8:34 pm	2:16 am - 3:32 am	☉
11:15 am	3:51 pm - 4:49 pm	9:23 pm	3:16 am - 4:22 am	☉

ANY LUNAR PERIOD IS ENHANCED WHEN IT OVERLAPS A KEY SOLAR PERIOD. THE BEST OF THESE OVERLAPS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE SUN SYMBOLS:
☀ = DAWN ☀ = HIGH NOON ☀ = DUSK
☀ = DAWN ☀ = HIGH NOON ☀ = DUSK
WHILE THE LESSER MOONRISE AND -SET OVERLAPS (ABOUT 30 MIN. BEFORE AND AFTER THE LISTED TIME) ARE DESIGNATED BY BOLD BLACK TYPE.



SMALLMOUTH ACTION

cranks up on Lake James in NC mountains

Smallmouth bass will start to feed heavily when Lake James' water temperature drops into the low 70s, normally this month.

Fishing at North Carolina's Lake James this month can be "one of the best of the year," according to guide Colt Bass of Colt Bass Fishing. "After being so hot all summer, everything starts to cool again. As that happens, the smallmouth bass come back to life."

When the water temperature falls into the lower 70s, good things begin to happen. Fish that were once 30 to 40 feet deep move into the shallows to feed before the coming of winter. The fishing continues to improve until the water temperature drops below 59 degrees.

Topwater action can be explosive but short-lived. Surprisingly, it often occurs during mid-day after the sun has warmed the water, activating the shad.

Long casts with a Spook Jr. or Pop-R are needed to reach the fish and to avoid spooking them. The baits should already be tied on so they can be cast immediately into the schooling fish.

If Bass has clients with limited casting skills, he fishes the surface with live bait using clear planer boards. The clear board are critical because of the mountain lake's clear water.

For non-schooling fish, Bass slow-trolls, using live shad on a Carolina rig. He fishes several rods paired with Ambassadeur 6500 reels housing 10- to 12-pound line. Shad are impaled upon No. 2/0 circle hooks to do as little damage to the fish as possible

for a good release.

"I fish a few rods at different depths until I find a pattern to key in on," Bass said. "Then, I will usually fine-tune the rods to a specific depth that's working on that particular day."

Bass said he focuses upon bait and structure in his search for October bass.

"As far as structure goes, I'll be looking for ledges, humps and shoals that offer a quick shallow- to deep-water access," he said. "Throw some big pods of forage into any of these, and you've got one heck of a day of fishing."

Bass said current has little effect on his approach to fishing.

"Occasionally, a wind will set up fish on one side of a point or shoal, but other than that, current has little effect," said Bass.

Fishermen used to favor the Linville River arm of with its clearer, cooler water over the turbid Catawba River arm. But smallmouth bass have become about evenly distributed throughout the lake's 6,500 acres.

"Fish will be everywhere on the lake," Bass said.

While most of the smallmouth bass at James weigh under 2 pounds, the lake holds some hefty bronzesbacks weighing 4 to 5 pounds. ■

— Tony Garitta

Properly sighting-in your rifle scope can be the difference between meat in the freezer and going home empty-handed.

SIGHT-IN YOUR RIFLE THE EASY WAY

REDNECK BORE SIGHTING REDUCES RANGE TIME

There was a time when a buddy of mine and I shot our hunting rifles pretty much year-round, so we didn't care how long it took or how many rounds we expended ensuring that our scopes were dead on.

But when our families began growing and life got in the way of our shooting time, we would inevitably find ourselves on the range the week before the season, trying to fit in a quick sight-in session.

Usually, our twin Remington 700 7mm Mags were dead on, but on those occasions when they weren't — or we decided to try out a new round — we would run round after round through our barrels until we were satisfied.

No, we weren't smart enough to buy a bore-sighting kit. Or maybe we were just too cheap. Probably the latter.

And then one of us — I honestly don't remember who — discovered an easy way to adjust the scope that provided 2- to 3-shot sight-ins.

It only works for bolt-actions, but it couldn't be easier.

First, place the rifle on sandbags or in a shooting vice and place a target at 25 yards or so.

Pull the bolt out of the rifle, look through the barrel and adjust the rifle's position until the center of the target is as close to the

center of barrel as possible.

Now, without moving the rifle — that's vitally important — look through the scope and see where your crosshairs are placed. If they're not sitting on the center of the target — in other words, right where you pointed the barrel — adjust them until the aim point matches the barrel's aim point.

Now, take a shot. It should be pretty much dead on.

Make any adjustments necessary, move the target to 100 yards and squeeze off another round.

You still should be pretty much dead on — all you have to do is adjust the reticles appropriately to accommodate the distance.

Send one more round downrange to double-check your impact point.

Normally, I would move the crosshairs to an inch high at 100 yards and let it ride.

I'll be set for shots out to 300 yards after burning only two or three rounds. ■

NON-SLIP LOOP KNOT

IDEAL FOR LURES REQUIRING REALISTIC MOVEMENT

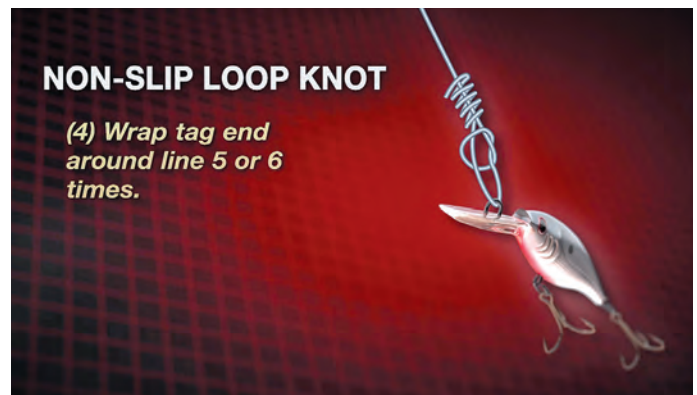
If you want your crankbait or topwater bait to have lots of side-to-side action, the non-slip loop knot can make it happen.

The loop prevents the line from binding down on the lure's eyelet, allowing plenty freedom of movement and more realistic lure action.

When you wrap the tag end around the main line five to six times, try to prevent the twists from overlapping and remember to always moisten your line before pulling it tight. ■

WATCH ONLINE!

Watch a step-by-step video showing how to tie a non-slip loop knot by going to LouisianaSportsman.com/nonslip-loop-knot



TOP 5 SIGHT-FISHING TIPS FOR REDS

By Patrick Bonin

GUIDE EXPLAINS TIDES, LURES AND CASTING STRATEGIES

Watching Curtis LeNormand sight-cast for redfish in the marsh is kind of like watching NFL quarterbacks tear apart an opponent's secondary, deftly placing the ball into receivers' hands in stride.

It didn't matter if they were throwing a middle route over the pond, tossing a screen pass left or right along the edge of the marsh or going deep with a Hail Mary toss to a redfish trying to make a break for it — LeNormand's baitcasting outfit consistently delivered his lure within a few feet of the fish's head.

LeNormand has been sight-fishing since he was a kid, and it shows.

Here are some of his top tips to help you connect with more reds in the marsh:

FISH THE TIDES

"In the ponds, you definitely want a little more water. But you don't want it super high, because then the fish could be everywhere," said LeNormand. "You want a mid-range tide. That way, you can still get across the shallow ponds, but the fish can't get way back in the marsh."

If the tides don't cooperate on your a fishing day, LeNormand moves to Plan B.

"If you can't get in the ponds, find a (ditch) where the bait is coming out, and you know the fish have to come out at that exit point. Set up right there," he said. "Stay the end-of-your-casting-distance away from the mouth of that cut. And just wait for those fish — sometimes you might see them, sometimes you might not."

"If you can't get them to bite and it's dirty, maybe try a cork and shrimp. Just stay in the mouth of the cut a good-enough ways away so you won't spook them."

MATCH LURES TO CONDITIONS

Depending on how fish are reacting on a particular day, don't just assume your favorite setup will automatically work again.

"The thing with spinnerbaits in that shallow water is that it sometimes makes them a little skittish," he said. "It can almost be a little too aggressive and spook them more than anything."

When less is more, LeNormand switches to a Z-Man Chatterbait or a straight H&H cocahoe on either a ¼- or ⅛-ounce jighead.

"Eighth-ounce would probably be better as far as presentation when it hits the water, but you can't cast as far," he said. "In darker water, I use darker baits. For clear water, you want some kind of sparkle, like purple/chartreuse with glitter in it — any kind of see-through bait with glitter.

"In murky water, you want to throw purple, or black/chartreuse and white/chartreuse — a solid color. And when it's tough and the fish are finicky, you should switch to Gulp! because of the scent, especially in murky water."

PRACTICE-CASTING SCENARIOS

"For a redfish moving left to right, you want to try to get at least a foot in front of him. Always throw past him and work it back right in front of his face and just kind of bounce it," LeNormand said. "A fish coming straight to you is the hardest one. You don't want to throw over his back. If you touch him in any way, you're not going to get him unless they're feeding in schools competing."

"If he's veering slightly left, throw on the left side. If you can, throw it about 3 feet in front of him and let it sit. When he gets to it, twitch it."

The key is to make your lure appear that it's reacting to the presence of the redfish, just like a real baitfish would do, he said.

"Anytime they're finicky, you definitely want to give them at least a foot, and sometimes maybe even 4 or 5 feet. Pull it out the mud and let it set, and let him come to your bait," he said. "Right when it gets there, twitch it. That way, the fish feels like he spooked the bait, instead of the bait looking like it's just going past."

LeNormand fishes with 20- to 30-pound Fins WindTamer braid and a 30-pound fluorocarbon leader when he's targeting reds in the marsh.

FILL 'ER UP, NOT TOO FULL

Depending on how much water your boat draws, extra, unnecessary weight could be the difference in being able to make it to a back pond in the marsh stacked with tailing reds.

"If you're going sight-fishing, definitely keep only 10 or 15 gallons more than you think you'll need," LeNormand said. "Don't fill up your boat. More than likely, you'll be in some skinny water. You don't want too much fuel."

LEARN REDFISH WAKES

A pond will hopefully be teeming with activity from redfish, mullet, shrimp, pogeys and any variety of bait. As you're moving through the ponds, you have to be able to distinguish redfish and cast to them.

"Most of the time, a big — like 2 or 3 pounds — they'll push a wake like a small redfish; they can definitely trick anybody, and I've been guiding 13 years," LeNormand said. "But a redfish over 22 inches will usually push a good 'V' that you won't mistake for anything else."

"When you see a mullet and a redfish side-by-side, you'll see the difference. A redfish looks like a submarine underwater — he'll push a pretty good wake."

The speed of the wake can help you pick out redfish as well, he said.

"Mullet will usually run a little faster. They have a sporadic run, here and there, and don't stay at a steady pace," he said. "When a redfish is pushing, it's going to be a steady pace the whole time. If you see a spurt from a red, he's spooked and gone. You're probably not going to get him." ■



Hunting/Fishing
SCRAPBOOK



Tripp Blalock

Tripp Blalock, 5, caught his first crappie this past April on North Carolina's Lake Tillery.



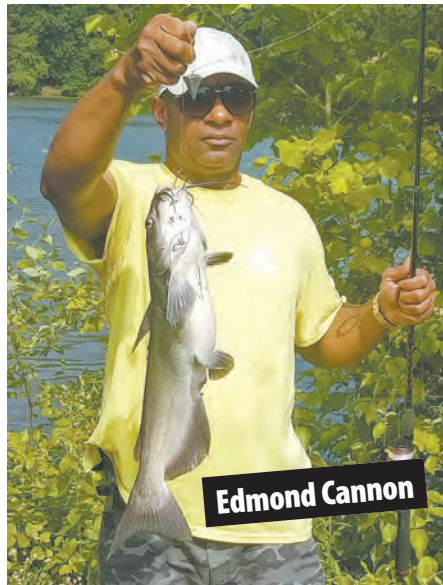
Eric Mills

Eric Mills killed this double-bearded bird in Cabarrus County, N.C., on April 29, 2019.



Gray Core

Gray Core took this 146-inch buck on Nov 21, 2018, in Martin County, near the town of Hamilton, N.C.



Edmond Cannon

Edmond Cannon of New London, N.C., caught this blue catfish, from Badin Lake on Memorial Day 2019.



Lyric Littlejohn

Lyric Littlejohn caught this 15.10-pound flathead catfish in a pond near her Murrells Inlet, S.C., home on a live bluegill.

**GOT PHOTOS?
WE WANT 'EM**

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of Carolina Sportsman magazine. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, doves, etc. to

**Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook,
433 Hollinswood Ave.,
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103
or to images@carolinasportsman.com**

Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



Selby Bass

Selby Bass killed this great, heavy-beamed buck in Wilson County, N.C., in 2018.



Charlie Hale

Charlie Hale, 5, from Oak City, N.C., killed this nice buck in December 2018 in Halifax County.



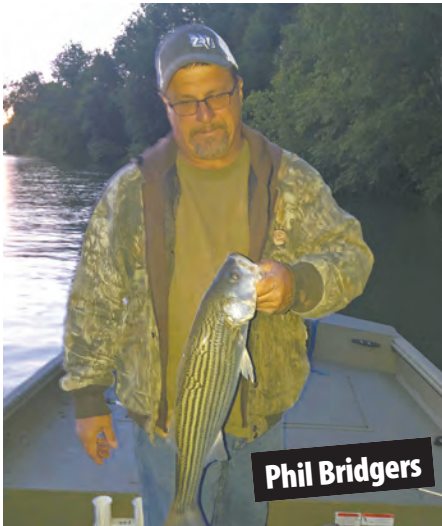
Cory Cunningham

Cory Cunningham, 15, killed this 8-point, 20-inch buck on Dec 12, 2018, in Granville County, N.C.



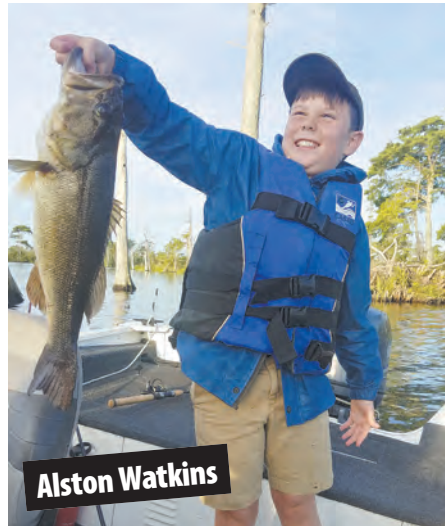
Oliver McClelland

Oliver McClelland of Chapin, S.C., caught this 40-pound king mackerel out of Murrells Inlet.



Phil Bridgers

Phil Bridgers of Whitakers, N.C., caught this nice striped bass in Roanoke Rapids Lake, this past spring.



Alston Watkins

Alston Watkins caught this 7-pound largemouth in the North River in Currituck County, N.C., on June 14, 2019.



Clark Silvers

Clark Silvers of Morehead City caught this 25-inch puppy drum in the surf a Pine Knoll Shores on May 13, 2019.



Stephen Griffin

Stephen Griffin caught his first citation-sized speckled trout on the Bay River on May 28, 2019, on a DOA paddletail.



Rita Beard

Rita Beard of Maiden, N.C., boated these two nice flounder at Harker's Island.



Brian Helms, Tommy Preslar, Brandon Robertson

Cherry Grove, S.C. gave up these nice flounder and reds to Brian Helms, Tommy Preslar and Brandon Robertson.

Hunting/Fishing
SCRAPBOOK



Chuck Chavis

Chuck Chavis tagged this 176-pound, 8-point buck near Neeses, S.C., on Dec. 1, 2018.



Matthew Sewell

Matthew Sewell boated this 3-pound speckled trip on a May 25 trip out of Bayboro, N.C., with American Veteran Outdoors.



Kable Clark

Kable Clark, 6, caught his first crappie this past April fishing on North Carolina's Badin Lake.



Seth Stegall

Seth Stegall, 13, of Indian Trail, N.C., caught this 7-pound bass in his family's pond.



McLaurin & grandsons

Hugh McLaurin of Elloree, S.C., and grandsons Mack and Luke Fowler, Alex and Stuart Miller, all of Cameron, S.C., took these tundra swans on a hunt in Hyde County, N.C.

**GOT PHOTOS?
WE WANT 'EM**

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of Carolina Sportsman magazine. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, doves, etc. to

**Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook,
433 Hollinswood Ave.,
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103
or to images@carolinasportsman.com**

Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



Abby Garner

Abby Garner of Jonesville, S.C., caught this nice catfish on Lake Wateree, fishing with her father on July 5, 2019.



Tara Hughes

Tara Hughes, 24, of Kinston, N.C., killed her first tundra swan on Jan. 14, 2019, in Currituck County.



Christian Basulto

Christian Basulto of Waynesville, N.C., caught this spotted bass fishing with his father at Fontana Lake in June 2019.



Charlie Davis

Charlie Davis was trolling a live menhaden and pink lure when he caught this 26-pound king mackerel off Oak Island, N.C.



Coleby Dean

Coleby Dean caught these 2 bass at once on a Whopper Plopper in a pond near Fork, S.C., They weighed 7 and 3 pounds.



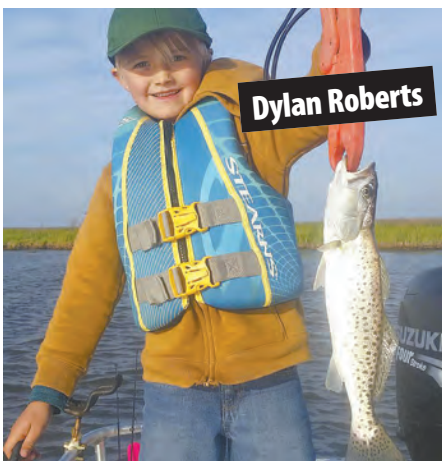
Mason Betts

Mason Betts killed his first turkey on opening day of the 2018 season in Harnett County, N.C.



Griffin Clark

Griffin Clark of Hurdle Mills, N.C., dropped this 9-point buck with a .243 on Dec. 1, 2018, in Orange County.



Dylan Roberts

Dylan Roberts, 6, from Sneads Ferry, N.C., caught his first speckled trout on May 18, 2019, out of Swan Quarter.



Jim Rodriguez

Jim Rodriguez boated this 8-pound bass on April 25, 2019, fishing in Wiggins Mill Reservoir in Wilson, N.C.



Matthew Pruitt

Matthew Pruitt killed this 22¼-pound gobbler on private land in Inman, S.C., on March 28. It sported a 10½-inch beard.

Hunting/Fishing
SCRAPBOOK



Ameron Betts

Ameron Betts caught this 5-pound flounder in early June 2019 at Topsail Beach, N.C.



Bransyn Whitman

Bransyn Whitman, 7, killed this Rockingham County, N.C., buck on Nov. 16, 2018, hunting with his father.



Codie Wigglesworth

Codie Wigglesworth, 15, shot this 190-pound boar in March 2018 on the Neuse River in Johnston County, N.C.



Jaxon Raynor

Jaxon Raynor, 15, of Wake Forest, N.C. caught this 43-pound cobia fishing with his grandfather, Grady Raynor.



D.J. Lane

D.J. Lane II of Garner, N.C., caught this 49-inch drum out of Oriental, the same day he caught a 50-inch fish.

**GOT PHOTOS?
WE WANT 'EM**

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of Carolina Sportsman magazine. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, doves, etc. to

**Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook,
433 Hollinswood Ave.,
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103
or to images@carolinasportsman.com**

Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



Matt, Jordan Hauser

Matt and Jordan Hauser of Burlington, N.C., caught these dolphin with Diamond Girl Charters out of Atlantic Beach.



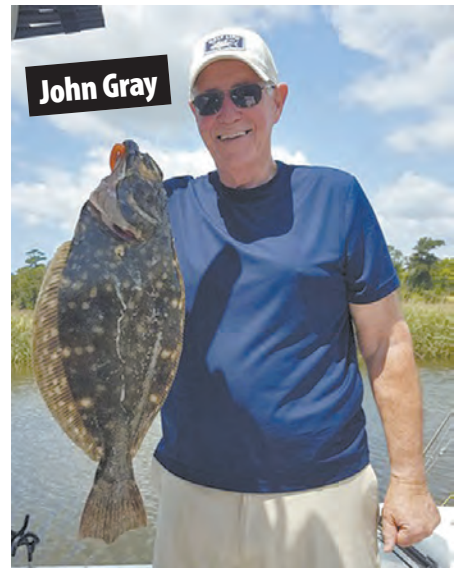
Davis Myers

Davis Myers, 13, of Rockwell, N.C., caught this 30-inch red drum in the backwaters behind Oak Island on July 18.



Chuck Stewart, Carlos Bundick

Chuck Stewart and Carlos Bundick of Stem, N.C., caught this great mess of white bass at Falls of Neuse Reservoir last October.



John Gray

John Gray from Pinehurst, N.C., decked this nice flounder fishing with Yeah Right Charters on May 23.



Bryan Buckner

Bryan Buckner of Saluda, N.C., boated this nice striper out of Lake Hartwell on June 18, on ultralight tackle.



Stephen Stone

Stephen Stone of Jamesville, N.C., caught these bass, 7 and 8 pounds, at Shearon Harris Reservoir on April 3.



Jacob Elmore

Jacob Elmore caught this 9.2-pound bass in a pond in Lincoln County, N.C.



Gladden Hill

Gladden Hill harvested this once-in-a-lifetime 10-point buck in Rutherford County, N.C., on Dec. 20, 2018.



Kayo Auge

Kayo Auge, 9, of Maysville N.C., caught this sheepshead in Swansboro on June 28, 2019.



Brandon Godwin

Brandon Godwin of Goldsboro, N.C., caught this 28½-pound flathead catfish.

Guides & Charters

Display Ads

1/16 Page BW\$70/mn*

1/8 Page BW\$120/mn*

*Based on Pre-Paid 12 Month Contract

To place an ad in Guides & Charters

Ron (NC) - 252.299.2138
or rond@carolinasportsman.com

Bret (SC) - 843.442.7250
or breth@carolinasportsman.com

FRESHWATER



Bob's Guide Service Encore

Fishing the Santee Cooper Lakes

Cell 843-709-0626
Office 843-753-3343
www.bobsguideserviceencore.com

Like us on 

Black's Camp
on the Santee Cooper Lake System



Deluxe Lodging




Restaurant



Guide Service


Cross, South Carolina 29436
(843) 753-2231
www.blackscamp.com

INSHORE



Noah's Ark CHARTERS
Cape Lookout, NC
252-342-6911

Custom Inshore Fishing and Tour Charters Designed just for you!

Capt. Noah Lynk 

www.noahsarkfishingcharters.com

Highlander Charters, Inc

Capt. Ron McPherson • Atlantic Beach, NC



25' Parker CC w/225hp 4-Stroke Yamaha

Let's Go Fishing

1/4 Day (2.5 hrs) • Tours • Ponies, Birds, Dolphins, etc.
1/2 day (5 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore
3/4 day (7 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore, Up to 8 miles out
Full Day (9 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore, Up to 8 miles out

This includes tackle, bait, ice, and fishing license. Party size is 1 - 6. Ladies & children are welcome. Call for prices.

mcp221ab@earthlink.net
www.highlanderchartersinc.com
252-723-8616

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE



Call Capt. George Beckwith, Jr



PAMLICO SOUND / ORIENTAL

- Tarpon • Giant Red Drum
- Trout, Drum, Flounder

CAPE LOOKOUT/ ATLANTIC BEACH

- Cobia • Albies

ROANOKE & NEUSE RIVER STRIPERS

Also: Costa Rica Sailfish, Tarpon and Roosterfish.
Argentina Duck and Dove Hunts.

1907 Paulette Rd • Morehead City, NC
252-671-3474
info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com

OFFSHORE



DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE

Your Costa Rica Connection



Special Discounts May-September



42' Maverick, the Dragon Fly
Not just fishing trips! Packages include a variety of hotels and condo options, all ground transportation, guides, tours and fishing.

1907 Paulette Rd • Morehead City, NC
252-671-3474
info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com

HUNTING

CHEROKEE RUN
Hunting Lodge

Hunt deer, wild boar and turkey in the wilds of South Carolina



Trophy Managed Whitetail on the Great Pee Dee River



Trophy Wild Boar in the SC Swamps

NIGHT Hog: March 1 - July 1
SC Rifle Deer: Sept 1 - Jan 1
SC Wild Boar: Year' round Season
SC Turkey: April 1 - May 1
Deer/Boar or Turkey/Boar Combos

Located on the border in beautiful Chesterfield County SC, one hour from Charlotte, NC. Comfortable lodging including satellite TV, pool table, bass ponds, rifle & 3-D archery range.

(704) 301-7950
eatsleephunt.com

HUNTING

Hunt Argentina



Kids Dove Hunt FREE*

All inclusive packages for dove and duck hunting in Argentina. Limit of 50 ducks/person/day

No Limit Doves

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE



1907 Paulette Rd.
Morehead City, NC 28557

info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com
252-671-3474
*With 4 adult full fare hunts

Peel & Stick



SPORTSMANGear.com



Carolina **HUNTING HANDBOOK**

Subscribe today for the best:

- HUNTING TACTICS
- PUBLIC-LAND HOTSPOTS
- LATEST MUST-HAVE GEAR
- EXPERT ADVICE



\$19.99
12 issues



Toll-free

1-855-224-1667

or for faster service visit

CarolinaSportsman.com/subscribe

Carolina **SPORTSMAN**

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue

ADVERTISERS INDEX

A.K. MCCALLUM CO.....	7	DOSS MARINE	49	SEA ARK BOATS	61
AGRI SUPPLY COMPANY.....	18	DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE.....	90	SOUTHSIDE OUTDOORS, LLC.....	30
BLACK'S CAMP	65, 90	DRAKE SAFE COMPANY	72	SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE.....	16
BLUE WAVE BOATS	35	FOURTH GENERATION OUTFITTERS	72	SUMMERTON REVITALIZATION COMMISSON	57
BOB'S GUIDE SERVICE ENCHORE.....	90	HIGHLANDER CHARTERS	90	SUZUKI MOTOR OF AMERICA, INC.....	28, 29
BOST ARGO.....	46	ISLAND TACKLE AND HARDWARE	53	THE ARCHERY SHOP	77
BQ GRILLS	54	K2 MARINE	63	THE REEL OUTDOORS	58
BULL DOG FORESTRY MULCHING	26	L & S BAIT COMPANY.....	43	THIESENS.....	55
C HAWK BOATS.....	36	NICHOLS STORE, INC.	15	TMM REAL ESTATE, LLC.....	50
CAPPS TRAILERS	56	NOAH'S ARK FISHING CHARTERS.....	90	VOYAGER FISHING FLEET	50
CAROLINA COMPOSITES, LLC.....	3	O'BRIAN TARPING SYSTEMS	33	WHITETAIL PROPERTIES	17
CARSWELL DISTRIBUTING CO.....	93	PALMETTO STATE TRAINING.....	34	WILEY X.....	26, 27
CHASIN' TAILS.....	40	PERFORMANCE EAST	71	WILSON MARINE.....	34
CHATLEE BOAT AND MARINE	4, 92	PINEY ISLAND GUN CLUB.....	77	XPRESS BY ALUMA-WELD, INC.	2
CHEROKEE RUN HUNTING LODGE	65, 90	PRECISION MARINE, INC.....	39, 62		
CLENZOIL.....	21	PROTHRO CHEVY- BUICK-GMC.....	41		
COAST.....	30	REALTREE OUTDOOR PRODUCTS	95		
COLLINS INC.....	96	ROCK OUTDOORS	9		
CROSS CREEK OUTDOOR SUPPLIES, LLC	23	ROCKY BRANDS.....	5		
CROSS TRAIL OUTFITTERS.....	12	SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY	69		
CWP PROSERIES.....	53	SARAH JUDY'S INSURANCE AGENCY	58		
CZ-USA	25	SASSER GOLF CARS	20		

Get decked out in the latest from the **SPORTSMAN** Store 47, 94

Subscribe Today and SAVE 91

NEED CASH FAST?

Prefer 15' - 24' and 2005 Year Model or Newer
**SKIFF • PONTOON • BAY BOAT
 DECK BOAT • RUNABOUT
 FISH & SKI • CENTER CONSOLE
 ALUMINUM BASS BOAT**

Call for an Immediate Quote!

We Will Buy Your Boat!

CALL ROBBIE!
919-775-7259
www.chatleeboats.com

Powered by
SUZUKI MARINE

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS...

INDUSTRY
LEADING
WARRANTY

STARTING A LAWN CARE BUSINESS?
THIS IS YOUR MOWER!

XRZ-PRO
RS



At BOB-CAT®, we've been building rugged, durable equipment since the 1950s. Nothing more, nothing less. We've paired the industry's best engineers with an unparalleled dealer and distributor sales force for one reason: to help you achieve a cut and finish that meets your high standards—on every cut.

FIND YOUR DEALER AT
BOB-CATTURF.COM



AVAILABLE NOW

THE SPORTSMAN

SPOOLER & REAPER

THE ULTIMATE IN FISHING & LIFESTYLE COMFORT
— CRAFTED BY ANGLERS, FOR ANGLERS



SPORTSMAN

www.SPORTSMANGear.com



ALTRIEE

ALTRIEE

CONCEALMENT IS OUR EDGE

©2018 Jordan Outdoor Enterprises, Ltd. 1820-18K

#HUNTWITHANEDGE



EFFECTIVELY DOMINATE GEOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS

EDGE.REALTREE.COM | @REALTREEOUTDOORS





**New 2670E
In Stock!!**



Masters Bay Boats
*Shallow water
performance
with family smarts
and comfort.*



SPORTSMAN



Hwy. 70, Exit 337 • Smithfield, NC
919-934-3143

COLLINSBOATING.COM