

Fishing

By



"The Crappie Catcher"

It is a major part of Nature's functions to provide fish, as well as all other forms of animal life, with instincts designed to preserve the species. Consequently, when fish spawn in lakes, they move into shallow water where there is plenty of brush to protect the hatch from being devoured by other fish.

Until such time as it takes to hatch the eggs and for the new hatch to make it to the protective cover of thick weeds and bushes, the adult fish school up to protect their spawn from predators. They will hit just about anything that invades their breeding grounds.

The Crappie Catcher has three tips on how to get your bait, or lure, into the fish without getting fouled by the protective weeds and other potential snags. In all three methods it is important to use very light line of 8 pound test as the absolute maximum. When heavier line is used, you cannot cast the light bait into the fish.

Always anchor up-wind or up-current from the spawning fish.

Tip #1 is to use very light weedless lures or weedless hooks if you are using live bait. Pinch one small split shot lead on your line, about a foot above your hook. Try to pick an open path of water if you can, and cast through the opening into the fish. The moment your line hits the water, start your retrieve. If you hesitate too long, your lure is likely to settle into a fork in the brush and foul your line. Retrieve slowly with a very light jerky motion, hesitating for a split second, lifting the rod tip with a very light but quick wrist motion. Pause a second after each such jerk, then wind very slowly for 2 or 3 complete revolutions and jerk lightly again. The fish are motivated by instinct to strike. You may not hook your fish on every strike, but you can improve your batting average by sharpening your reflexes to hook your fish the moment he strikes.

Tip #2. Use a floating weight 12 inches above your hook. A floating weight, is a clear plastic bubble into which you can add water to increase the weight. Cast through the most likely clearing and let your bait settle. It can't sink more than the distance between the hook and the floating weight. Take up your slack and wait. If you do not get a strike within a minute, give your rod a very gentle lift to barely make the float move. Take up your slack again, and repeat until you get a strike. The moment the fish strikes, start lifting your rod just enough to keep the line-tight. When the rod tip bends down, then set the hook.

Tip #3. Using either live bait or floating lure, like a Popper, and absolutely no weight on the line, float your lure on a piece of wood, or cardboard (or anything you have which floats) right at your boat. Let the wind or current carry the floated lure into the fish. When the float is where you want it, gently jerk your lure off the float.

JO MACKEY 6TH GRADERS STUDY "FLIGHT"



Room 29 of Jo Mackey Elementary School was excitingly transformed to a colorful location "Somewhere in New Mexico" when Mrs. I. W. Wilson's sixth grade class presented an imaginative program culminating the class's study unit on New Mexico... Refreshments in tradition with the subject matter of the program were thoroughly enjoyed--Like an authentic Mexican Dinner to climax the entertainment portion of the program highlighted by Mexican songs and dances.


Members of the "cast" who shouldered responsibility of the class's depiction of the New Mexico unit study in art form are (from left) Ronald Johnson, pilot; Captain Burrell, Stewardesses Marilyn McIntyre, Cynthia Green, and Linda Jones; Maria McDonald, "Miss New Mexico", capable Mistress of Ceremonies; Charles Banks, co-pilot; and Marion Scott, charming "welcoming hostess"... In rear of student performers are Mrs. Gladys Turner and Mrs. Mildred Bagget. (That is little Miss Annett Turner in the capable care of Stewardess Marilyn McIntyre.



APPLAUDING AUDIENCE MEMBERS of Jo Mackey Sixth Grader's imaginative jaunt to New Mexico included distinguished guests pictured (from left) James Williams, Rancho Zone Director; Rev. J. L. Simmons, Pastor, St. James Baptist Church; Dr. James I. Mason, Superintendent Clark County School District; Mrs. Wilson, sixth grade teacher; Dr. Kenneth Seifert, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Mason, and Rev. I. W. Wilson, Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church.

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