

CRAPPIE FISHING

for the fun of it

Story and Photos By Michael Curtis Carter

Hi everybody. I am Michael Curtis Carter known as Shipahoy41 on the internet. This is a story about just going back to the reason why I started Crappie fishing in the first place. When I look back over these last 69 years and I think things over, some of my most cherished memories were when I was fishing because it was just plain fun. I suspect many of you felt the same way many years ago. This is not an article about any tournament fishing. This is not an article about anything else except the reason why I enjoy fishing.

Crappie fishing is a life altering event. There is a saying which basically says that if you give a man a fish you will feed him for a day but if you teach a man to fish he can feed himself for a lifetime. That is one of many reasons why I love to log in to www.crappie.com because I truly believe it is the best site on the internet that teaches people of all ages how to fish. I thought I pretty much knew how to fish from listening when my dad was trying to teach me things. Sure I knew how to cast, bait a hook and even ties a simple knot. I would use worms, maggots and crickets and enjoy catching a mess of Bluegills. There is something magical about seeing a bobber go down and having something tugging on your line. Part of the thrill was that you did not even know what was tugging. It could be a Rock Bass, turtle, Crappie, Bluegill or even a Catfish on the end of the line. You really did not care. I was just happy that something bit the bait.

The good book states "Train up a child in the way they should go...." To me that also includes giving them some fishing skills. Take your children and your grandchildren fishing and they will remember that the rest of their life. I started teaching my grandchildren how to hit the bucket when practicing. They did not know they were learning a usable skill. They were just having fun. It is all about creating memories for them as well as for yourself. We all want to provide our family with awesome memories. I do know there is a magic about fishing that makes your heart want to remember it forever. Fishing is a time to bond between fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. Fishing is one of the most enjoyable activities for those who truly love being outdoors. You need to have patience with the youth and you need to practice with them to make it fun for them.

We have got to remind ourselves that we are out to have fun and relax and just enjoy each other's company. It does not matter now who catches the most or the biggest fish. What matters is that fishing is the greatest skill you can teach your children. Fishing is an outdoor sport where anyone can be good at by spending time on the water and practicing the techniques you were shown as a youth.

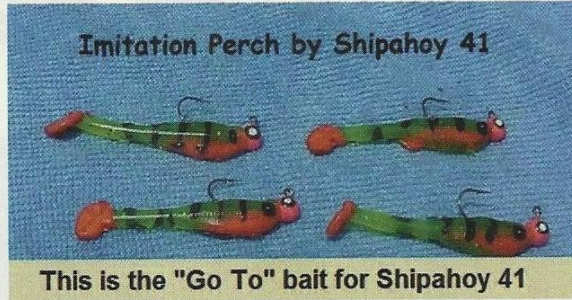


There is nothing like having the family all together. We have all heard talk about the "generation gap" and there has probably never been a larger gap than there is today. Think about how everything has changed from the time when many of us were young. The music has changed. We have gone from the "The Temptations and Smokey Robinson" to "Gangsta Rap." Dress has changed. When I was a boy we used to patch holes in blue jeans. Kids now want to cut holes out of blue jeans. They want to "droop" their pants. Fashion has changed. Women are not the only gender who are wearing earrings. Now everything is pierced from the nose, the tongue, the lip, to the belly button. Let's face it. We have teenagers who are out of control, and kids in elementary school who are already committing violence without feeling anything in their consciences. F.A.M.I.L.Y. = Father And Mother I Love You. Regardless of who we are today, or what status we might have achieved in life, it is because we are standing on the shoulders of our family. It is their blood, their sweat, their prayers and their tears who have birthed us.

...

...continued on page 44

There's an abundance of materials available in your house already or at the flea markets and thrift stores. Just do it, and see for yourself that it works. Then go catch a fish on this basic jig. After I got the hang of tying jigs I wanted to try and learn a new skill for the fun of it. An individual by the name of Bob Hinkle convinced me to try and a try. I was petrified at the that. A feeding crappie will presented soft plastic lure 1/16th hook. Imitations of readily gulped up by them. make my own soft plastic fun. Through a lot of trial up with my "Go to" soft would fish this minnow bridge or weed bed that I could find. Most of the time I am using a slip float set at a depth of around four to five feet. I will fish around the bridges and through the vegetation until I found some fish who were willing eaters. If that did not work then I would move to find wood or other structure. The trick to catching Crappie is to methodically work whatever cover or structure there is. I always fish the shady side of everything. It does not matter if it is a dock, bridge piling, pier, lily pad or other structure. Fish in the shade. You will be more comfortable and you will find some fish there. Think about it. How many times have you seen a fish wearing sunglasses? They do not like looking up into the bright sun any more than you do. Keep it simple and keep it fun.



give making soft plastic baits thought of even trying to do seldom ignore a properly when rigged on a 1/32nd or larvae or minnows are You guessed it. I started to baits and again I was having and error I eventually ended plastic imitation perch lure. I around and boat dock,



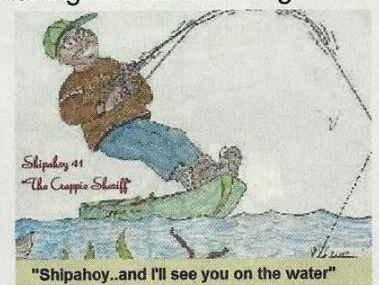
Many times I like to go out and just fish from the shore for Crappie. I still use a slip float technique and a double rig setup. Jig and soft plastic on top and a hook and minnow below. I can change up my depth and speed control easily. Crappies feed up so start at about 4 feet and keep adjusting until you get activity. I fish wherever there is shaded bank. The best times are early morning or even some night fishing. At the age of sixty nine I do not walk the bank as much as I did before. I believe some of you know what I am talking about. You just want to relax and to have some fun. I figured out a way to add a PVC fishing rod holder to me favorite chair and to make some

containers for my wax worms or red worms so they will always be ready to put on the hook. When you are bank fishing you need to be mobile. I may spent fifteen minutes at one spot and if Crappies don't appear I might move to another location. That means limit the gear you carry. For me, my fishing chair and rod



along with some bait and a bucket for the fish I catch is sufficient. Your presentation must be slow and deliberate. When you think you are fishing slow, then slow it down some more. A Crappie loves to study the lure before inhaling it. Cast to the fish using a slow moving jig or a minnow / slip float combination for best results.

Now you know why I like Crappie fishing for the fun of it. I love the excitement of fighting the fish. I love the peace, quiet and soft breezes from being outdoors. I love teaching and mentoring the youth about fishing. I especially love making and handcrafting items that make fishing fun for me. I love seeing a fish bite on something that I made. Fishing is not just about fish. During a fishing trip, families and friends relax together as they enjoy being outdoors and learning new skills. I can't wait to get on the water



and try to pit my skills against those of the fish. God bless you and have some fun fishing. This is Shipahoy 41 and I'll see you somewhere on the water.