

# **CATFISH NOW!**

**DIGITAL MAGAZINE**

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# **Cat Women**



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by Ron Presley

Jessica Little-Oakley and Reesha Little-Oakley have grown the love they have for their brother, Grant, into a passion for catfishing. It has them travelling the county in search of the whiskered fish and promoting the sport they love.



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by Keith "Catfish" Sutton

This genteel lady from Ashdown, Arkansas, has her sights set on catching a new world-record catfish.



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by John N. Felsher

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by Ron Presley

Callie Bowman would be considered by most, to be a newbie catfish angler. You couldn't tell it by her enthusiasm for the sport and her dedication to preserving it.



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**Front Cover:**  
Jill Ellis-Belk Couick with a nice Santee-Cooper blue cat.  
Ron Presley Photo

Recently I attended the 2017 ASA ICAST conference in Orlando Florida. This yearly event showcases new products for the upcoming fishing season for all species of fish. This year was not a disappointment. There is new gear for all species of fish, including catfish products.

New capabilities in electronics, to include better and better clearly defined images on the screens to depict fish both in open water and in and around structure, never cease to amaze me. The new Garmin PanOptix with its "live" images is a must have for sure. All other brands are history images. You can actually see the fish's movements and reactions to presentations.

Keep an eye out for the new fishing lines entering the market by both Vicious and by Berkley. The new braids are being developed with catfishing in mind, especially for the big mature fish.

B'n'M has come out with a new and improved Magnum Catfish Rod which should handle any catfish you target. All the changes came from fishermen inputs and requests.

PowerPole has a new battery management system that any fisherman will desire. With all the electronics and support equipment we require, this system will level out battery usage between batteries automatically and provide information on battery levels and drains. It will also divert engine charging to the batteries most requiring the charge. They also debuted a new "Vision" system that will allow anglers to hook all accessories to it and to the NMEA engine readouts to create IPAD like user screens whereby you can control light on, off, and fades based on time, livewell infinite controls, electronics and engine performance, etc., etc. These are due to release around the first of the year.

Yes, high tech is here to stay, and as a pro, I know without it we will be left in the dust.

The fish are really biting right now, so go out and catch some for show, food and fun.

God Bless,  
Dan Dannenmueller Sr.  
Publisher



*Catfish Sisters*  
by Ron Presley

# BELOW THE SURFACE

*Fishing for Brother Bear*



**W**hen boat number seven (7) launched at the 2016 Monsters on the Ohio, it marked the first time in history that an all women team had fished the event. Tournament teams are frequently brothers, fathers and sons, husband and wife, or some other combination of family members, but not until that day had Aaron Wheatley had a team made up of two sisters.

Jessica Little-Oakley and Reesha Little-

Big fish or small, these sisters just want to have fun. They do admit, it's more fun when they are big like this one.

Oakley fish under the team name of GTO Fishing. "We have always fished and hunted since we were very young," said Jessica. "The outdoors has always been a passion and a lifestyle. We grew up learning to hunt, fish,





camp, and ride four wheelers and horses. We have been blessed to grow up with people close to us that supported us in our outdoor activities.”

“Fishing has always been a favorite,” added Reesha. “We learned to fish in ponds and small rivers as children and as we got older we began to hunt and fish in different areas for different species.”

The sisters attended Morehead State University, which is close to Cave Run Lake. “We spent countless weekends and evenings camping and fishing for catfish, muskie, crappie, and bass. During our time in college we also started bowfishing for carp and gar at Cave Run Lake. We could not afford to travel a lot, so we primarily spent our time in the KY water systems closer to home.”

Once they graduated from Morehead and their work/life balance became easier, they started hunting and fishing together again. Jessica is an FMD/MSD teacher for Garrard County Schools. Reesha works at Jeff Jones Marine in operations and sales.

Hard work has paid off for Jessica as she has focused her attention on learning more about catching trophy catfish like the one she’s holding here.

Both were born in Mt. Sterling, KY, they now live in Jeffersonville, KY.

When asked where the GTO Fishing name came from Jessica and Reesha revealed a heart-felt story of personal loss. “We lost our baby brother,” disclosed Jessica. “His name was Grant Thomas Oakley, thus the GTO. He loved to hunt and fish. He was killed at work on November 3, 2015.”

Grant was only 17-years-old and was an avid outdoorsman. He loved spending time with his sisters and loved everything about the outdoors. They nicknamed him, affectionately, “Brother Bear.”

“He was amazing at all of it,” said Jessica. “He was a natural. We took him with us and taught him how to fish and hunt, but



his favorite was catfishing. After his death, we decided we wanted to do something to benefit women and children in the outdoors.”

“We just didn’t know what that was going to be,” offered Reesha. “We started fishing more for catfish and started learning about different methods for different areas. It was really about the challenge.”

*“...we want to give it our all and just enjoy it...”*

“Last year we were offered an opportunity to help support a growing industry,” added Jessica. “We were presented with the possibility of competing at the tournament level for catfish at the Monsters on the Ohio tournament. It was something we never expected to happen. We would be one of the first all-women’s catfishing teams. We were both nervous and excited, but felt more privileged than anything, to be able to help promote women anglers as well as the growth of the sport we love.”

“Now we travel almost every weekend to a new fishing destination,” revealed Reesha. “We have met many people along the way. The majority of the time, we fish alone. We just pick a new body of water and try to learn what we can while we are fishing. We have spent a little time with other anglers who showed us different methods that work for them, both on and off the water. Talking to different people and sharing advice has taught us so much more than we could ever learn on our own.”

“So, not only is tournament fishing something we enjoy immensely, we get to continue in our brother’s name and it seems almost like fate. We get to do what we love and we get to honor our brother and his memory.”

Team GTO Fishing’s next big tournament is the Mississippi River Monsters (MRM) tournament out of Memphis. Just like every tournament they fish, the sisters have one goal in mind. “Our goal is to enjoy it,” stated Jessica. “We want to have fun and help others have fun. Do we want to catch some fish? Absolutely! We always want to catch fish, but

above all we want to give it our all and just enjoy it. We do it for fun, because fishing is something we love.”

It is at least possible that being sisters makes it easier to also be a catfishing team. “It is exciting to be an all-women’s team,” commented Jessica. “Especially with my sister as a partner. Whether we fish a tournament or somewhere new just for fun we work well together and we always have a great time. We are very fortunate to be able to participate in tournament fishing, and grateful for the opportunity.”

For those catfish anglers keeping tabs on the upcoming Mississippi River Monsters tournament, you have probably noticed that Jessica and Reesha are headlining the Angler Round Up event with Bill Dance, the Mud Bums, and several other well-known catfishing personalities. They will be on hand to visit and talk catfish with any and all that attend.

“We will be at the MRM not only to fish the tournament, but to help promote the sport of catfishing,” said Reesha. “The tournament will give us the opportunity to talk to many fellow anglers and share some fishing experiences. We are new to the competitive side of catfishing and hope to learn and share as much as possible from the people we meet while we are there.”

It looks like pre-fishing the Big Muddy will be part of the sister’s itinerary in Memphis. “We have been doing some research on the Mississippi River in the Memphis area,” added Jessica. “We want to get an idea of the way that river system is laid out. We are planning to go down a few days prior to the tournament to learn more about the river and get used to that body of water.”

The sister team is already collecting information from other anglers that are familiar with the Mississippi River. “Ben Goebel has offered quite a bit of advice,” offered Jessica. “So has John Allen and a few other anglers familiar with the region. We all enjoy talking about fishing and the different methods for different locations.”

Jessica and Reesha look at each new tournament as an opportunity to learn something new about catfishing. One thing





they are adamant about relates to respect. “The most important thing we have learned while traveling to different bodies of water, whether it be for a tournament or fishing for pleasure, is to behave with respect,” said Jessica. “You should always respect the body of water you are on; you should respect the fish; and you should respect the people around you.”

The Mississippi River will be a new experience for Team GTO. “We have never been to the Mississippi River,” added Reesha. “We are very excited to attend the tournament and fish the river. We love going to new areas and learning different techniques. Since it is new to us we are a little nervous as well as excited.”

“We feel very honored to be a part of this event,” added Jessica. “As an all-female team, we are extremely grateful for everyone in the catfishing community for being so receptive and supportive of us joining in. Overall, we have had more support than not. We are

The sisters fish under the team name of GTO Fishing in memory of their younger brother, Grant Thomas Oakley – GTO

very excited and anxious to compete in the Mississippi River Monsters tournament, as well as to be one of the only all-female teams, win or lose.”

“Being women, as well as being new to the catfishing community, there has been some skepticism over the last year,” stated Reesha. “That was not unexpected. There have been derogatory comments made, and unfortunately, we don’t foresee that changing any time soon. This sport, as any other, requires a lot of work, passion, and dedication. Man, woman, or child, it is still a team effort. All parties of the team must work together.”

“We want to see more women involved in this industry, and we want to see it grow,” agreed Jessica and Reesha. “There is always



going to be competition, however being respectful and professional is what we want to help promote. Everyone in this community loves to fish, and puts in a lot of hard work and time in doing so. We want to show young girls that just because there is negativity around them, doesn't mean they cannot succeed."

Team GTO has been very fortunate to work with so many great people and great companies. We want to thank them for their support. They include: Catch the Fever, Bluewater LED, Katfish Clothing, Jeff Jones Marine, Seaark Boats, Suzuki Marine, B'n'M Fishing, Slimeline, Madcatter Hooks, Fishbite Rodholders and Hurricane Anchors. – Jessica and Reesha Little-Oakley



### ***Mississippi River Monsters Tournament***

Jessica and Reesha Little-Oakley are appearing as one of the headlining hosts at the Second Annual Mississippi River Monsters (MRM) tournament in Memphis, TN. Catfish anglers and enthusiasts are invited to come by on Friday, September 15 to meet the catfishing sisters and talk catfishing. Team GTO Fishing will launch on Saturday as Boat #61 to compete in the tournament.

The crazy antics of the Mud Bum boys will also be on display at the event. They are self-described all-American Iowa boys who love hunting, fishing, camping and anything that gets them outdoors. They will be filming during the event for one of their popular reality TV shows that air on the Pursuit Channel.

Another popular catfish fanatic, Bill Dance will be on hand. Dance was heavily involved in the inaugural event last year that drew more than 180 boats. This year is no different. Dance will be roaming the isles at Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid signing autographs and taking selfies. On Saturday, he will likely be found hanging around the weigh-in, telling tales and spinning yarns.

There is also a whole slate of catfish seminars schedule on Friday, starting at noon. Here's the lineup:

Noon: Brooke Wilbanks and David Shipman

12:45: James "Big Cat" Patterson

1:45: Jeff "Big Daddy" Dodd

2:15: Glenn Flowers

3:00: Masingale Brothers (Last year's winners)

All seminars will be inside the Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid on Friday. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the live weigh-in at Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid on Saturday. There are bound to be some big catfish weighed in.





## Catfish Basics #021

## Head Hooking - Cindy Herndon

The head portion of any baitfish is usually most folks favorite. It is very durable so it can take multiple strikes. When cut properly, just behind the gill plate, it will retain quite a bit of blood and connective tissues that will last much longer than other select cuts before being washed out and rendered useless. You can avoid a costly mistake of missing a fish by hooking your bait correctly.



My boat is circle hook only and when using the head portion of the bait I like to spread the gill plates and bring the point of the hook up from the bottom and out the head in the thickest part of the skull near the eyes. How deep you hook it depends on the size of the fish head. You want the nose of the bait to be just below the hook gap leaving it open to do its work and turn when the fish runs.



Hooking this cut of bait this way serves two purposes. It keeps the bait from being able to flip around and foul hook itself and cover the hook point. It really stays put this way. Second it will keep the mouth of the bait closed in heavy current. There is nothing worse than the mouth of a half-pound skipjack head coming open causing so much drag that it floats the bait way past the hole where you were trying to stick it.



# CATFISH "SPEAK"

## Baby Smilies:

An expression that describes a small catfish. It was created on Lori's boat when she had kids aboard and they caught a small catfish. To the kids it looked like the fish were smiling, so we call them Baby Smilies

Lori Dorschner



## CatfishSpeak - The Language of Catfishing

Like any other sport, catfishing has a verbiage of its own. From catfish slang to useful phrases, catfish anglers communicate in a special language. CatfishNow plans to keep you up to date with this angler blending of the English language and catfish jargon that we will call CatfishSpeak. Send us your favorite.







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# CATFISH KAY

by Keith "Catfish" Sutton

Hardcore catfish anglers aren't all men; some women are out there chasing big cats, too.

**H**er friends call her Catfish Kay. Her address is 148 Catfish Cove, Ashdown, Arkansas—a two-minute walk from Lake Millwood. Catfishing, as you might expect, is her passion.

I met Kay Emmons—aka Catfish Kay—at the Catfish 2000 symposium in Iowa. She seemed out of place among the throngs of hard-core catfishermen and catfish researchers—almost all men—but appearances can be deceiving. As I came to learn, no one at that gathering was more familiar with the ways of catfish than this warm, genteel lady. She attended the symposium to learn more about her favorite gamefish and was studiously taking notes at every seminar. I felt fortunate to make her acquaintance, and have wanted, ever since, to share her story with others.

When I tried to contact Kay for an interview, I determined that was easier said than done. I phoned at all hours, day and night, and always got her answering machine. "I'm out on the river fishing," the message said. "Leave your name and phone number and I'll call you back."

I left my name but no number, telling her I'd call back. But after the umpteenth call with no contact, I started to fret. "Perhaps something happened to her out on the river," I told my wife. "I'll leave a number and see if she calls back. I'm getting worried."

She called at 11:30 that night. "I just got in," she said. "I fished the river all day but the catfish weren't biting, so I went to the pier on the lake and fished some more."

I tallied the hours. My first call that day was at 7:30 a.m. Kay's outing lasted 16 hours.

"I fish every day I can," Kay told

me. "And I really love night fishing, so I fish at night sometimes, too. I just love being on the water." A masterpiece of understatement.

Kay is an extraordinary woman with an extraordinary past. She became a fishing guide in 1966 at age 27 on the Allegheny River in New York and Pennsylvania. She moved to Tennessee in 1972 and guided catfishermen on the Cumberland River. From 1979 through 1997, she lived in Texas, guiding bass anglers on Lake Fork, and catfish and crappie anglers on Cooper Lake. She's been a writer, had her own radio show, fished the Bassin' Gal circuit, was a member of the Coast Guard, and worked

**"I'm always fishing for the big ones."**

as a part-time medical technologist.

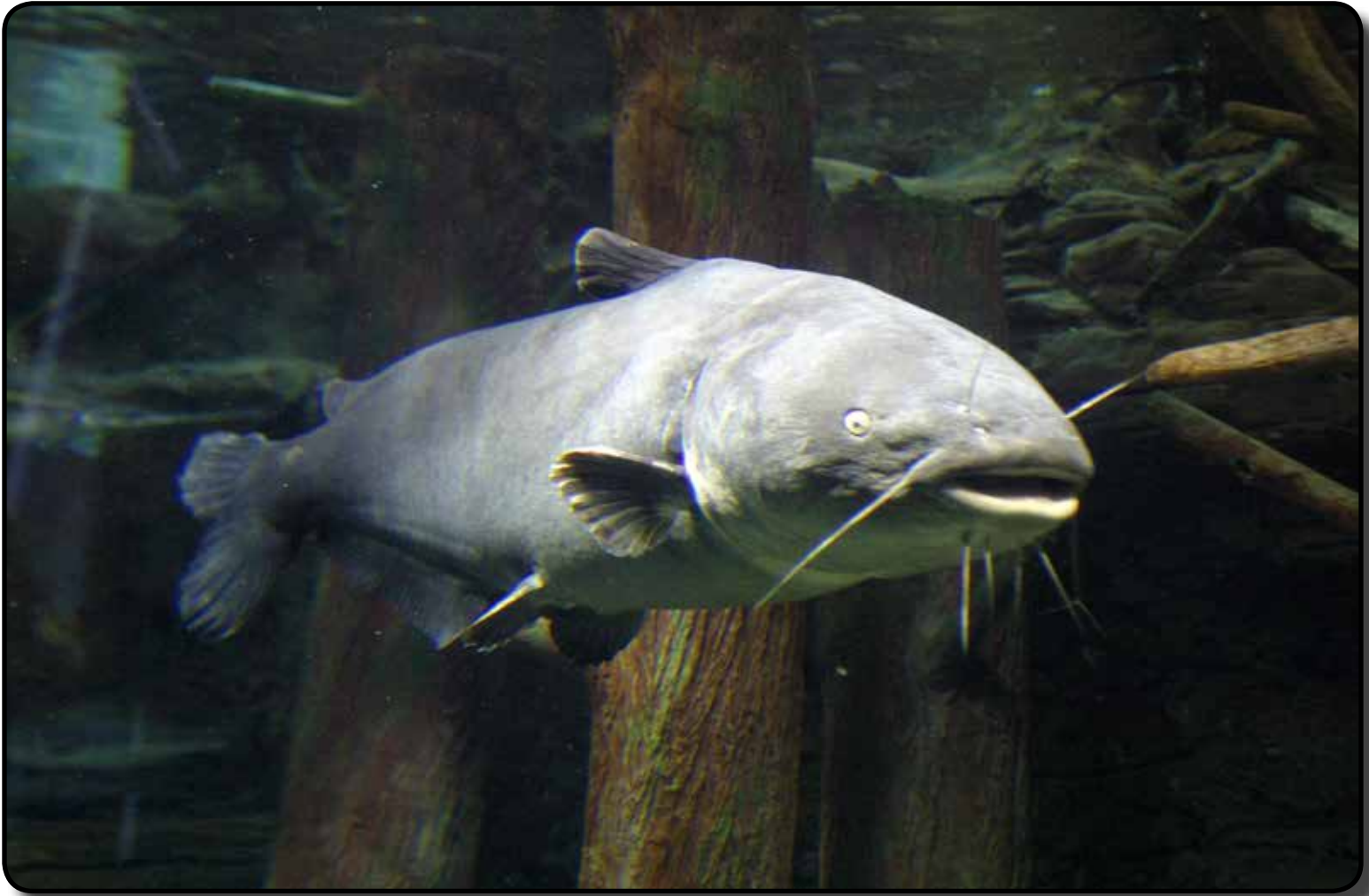
Retired now on Lake Millwood, her goal is to catch a world-record catfish.

"I'm always fishing for the big ones," she related. "There's a lot of potential in Lake Millwood and the rivers that feed it. Big cats turn up on trotlines all the time. Below the dam, they caught a 100-pound-plus blue cat a few years back. Last week there was a 57-pound flathead caught. I think this area could produce the next world record on rod and reel, and I'm hoping I'm the one that gets it."

Kay's biggest cat to date was an 82-pound Cumberland River blue, but she's hooked some bigger in her new home waters.

"I hooked a flathead last year





using a heavy surf rod with a Penn reel and 120-pound-test braid,” she told me. “My tackle held up fine, but that fish—a flathead, I’m sure—straightened out a 7/0 hook. It was huge.”

From a lakeside pier near her house, Kay has taken cats up to 37 pounds. Now she mostly fishes the rivers—the Little River and Saline—above Lake Millwood.

“I like to float (bobber) fish,” she said. “I’ve found that catfish feed up, as well as on the bottom, and I’d rather let my rig float than put it on the bottom.”

“I use an 8-inch long, weighted float above a 6/0 octopus hook or an 8/0 Kahle. About 15-20 feet above the hook I have a bobber stopper. I put two or three split shot right above my hook, but no other weight is used.”

After anchoring her boat, Kay sets the rig adrift.

“I keep an eye on my float and let

Catfish Kay Emmons hopes to land a world-record-class blue cat in the waters of Lake Millwood or adjacent rivers—one bigger than, say, Splash, a 121.5-pounder caught by Cody Mullennix in Lake Texoma, not far from Millwood. (Texas Parks & Wildlife photo)

my line go free,” she noted. “When it gets 100-150 yards down the river, I stop it and just let it ride there. That way I’m not on top of my hole spooking fish.”

Kay usually fishes with five outfits—two heavy-action, 7-foot surf rods paired with Penn baitcasting reels and 120-pound braid, and three 7-foot, medium-heavy graphite rods paired with Shimano baitcasters and 75-pound braid. The rods are placed in holders on her boat—two for trophy-class cats, three for smaller fish.





“I use shad gizzards to bait the biggies,” she said. “They’re natural forage, and because you can smell them two miles down the river, they draw catfish in.”

“I catch shad below the dam, bring them home and take the gizzards out. I cut the rest up, put it in pint jars and freeze it for cut bait. But the gizzards are the gourmet meal. They don’t work as good for channel cats, which prefer Canadian night crawlers. But the blues and flatheads love them. Despite what you may have heard, you don’t need live bait for flatheads. I’ve proven that wrong lots of times. I catch more big flatheads on shad gizzards than I do on goldfish or minnows.”

Patience, says Kay, is the virtue that will help her catch a new world record.

“Catfishing is not instantaneous

The water’s of Arkansas’ Lake Millwood and its tributaries harbor thriving numbers of monster flatheads, which also are targets for Catfish Kay. (Keith Sutton photo)

catching,” she said. “Patience is the key to catching big fish, and I have the patience of Job. So many people, if they don’t get a bite, they’re ready to go. Not me. I’m one of these people who can sit all day and never get a bite and still enjoy it. I just enjoy being out there, taking in the solitude and the beauty of nature. And that gives me an edge over folks who have no patience at all.”

Kay is a proponent of restrictive harvest.

“I eat catfish three times a week,”



she said. “But I don’t keep anything over 5 pounds. I believe we must release the larger fish to protect them for younger generations. If we don’t, the kids growing up now won’t have a chance to catch big catfish like we do. And that would surely be a tragedy.”

And that world-record catfish? What will she do if she catches it?

“I’ll wrap it in a wet burlap bag, run to the nearest bait shop to get it weighed, shoot some quick photos, then release it. Nothing would make me happier than knowing my record had been broken by someone who caught the same fish later—the fish I released. Wouldn’t that be something?”



- Keith “Catfish” Sutton



Catfish Kay Emmons often fishes the waters of the Little River. Sometimes she fishes the river above Lake Millwood, and sometimes the tailwater and river below Millwood Dam. (Keith Sutton photo)

## Lake Millwood Info

Lake Millwood lies in the extreme southwest corner of Arkansas near the town of Ashdown.

Channel cats up to 20 pounds are so abundant in this shallow 29,200-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment, anglers are allowed to keep 20 per day, twice the regular statewide limit. Trophy-class blues and flatheads thrive here, too, with many in the 50- to 75-pound class. Hundred-pounders are possible, perhaps even a world-record-class fish.

It’s the two rivers that feed the lake, however—Little River and Saline River—and the Little River tailwater below Millwood, that have the most potential for producing trophy-class cats. A 100-pound-plus blue cat fell to trotliner in the Little River tailwater in 1994. Huge flatheads and channel cats also thrive here.

For more information, visit [www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/Millwood-Lake/](http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/Millwood-Lake/).

# Catfish Profiles

## in Passion: Vicky Mathenia

by Ron Presley

### *A legacy of catfishing*



**V**icky Mathenia's love for, and experience with, fishing dates back for as long as she can remember. It started when she was only two-weeks-old. Her parents put her in a wicker basket and took her with them, on a boat, to go fishing. She has had a passion for fishing ever since. She describes fishing as something that is "hard-wired" into her DNA.

When it comes to everyday fishing her father was her biggest influence. Their early fishing was on the Mississippi River and small farm ponds around Jerseyville, IL where she grew up. "When I turned eight, my dad started taking me to the river to run trot lines," said Vicky. "I would run the boat and daddy would run the lines."

"I was only ten years old when

Big fish like this have led to Vicky's nickname, "Queen of the Mississippi." Lyle Stokes is responsible for the moniker and he memorialized it on a Blackhorse Custom Rod that he made and presented to Vicky at last year's Mississippi River Monsters tournament.

daddy took us to an Olin Brass Company picnic," recalled Vicky. "I won a Zebco rod and reel that day. It was my first fishing pole that was my very own. I made sure that I took that pole every time daddy and I went fishing. He taught me how to rig my fishing pole, tie my hooks, bait my poles, and how to catch bait. For as long as I can remember, I was his fishing buddy."

Later in life, Vicky caught the fever





for tournament catfishing with her son, the second most influential person in her fishing endeavors. “Jason ‘Big Cat’ Mathenia, and his old fishing partner, Rex, used to fish tournaments,” recalled Vicky. “I would go to some of their weigh-ins. I could see the passion for catfishing in Jason’s eyes and the enjoyment that catfishing brought to him. When his partner passed away, Jason and I teamed up, and we have been sharing a passion for catfish tournaments ever since.”

She is now a well-known participant on numerous catfish trails. Tournament

**“We ate everything we kept and made sure we threw the bigger ones back.”**

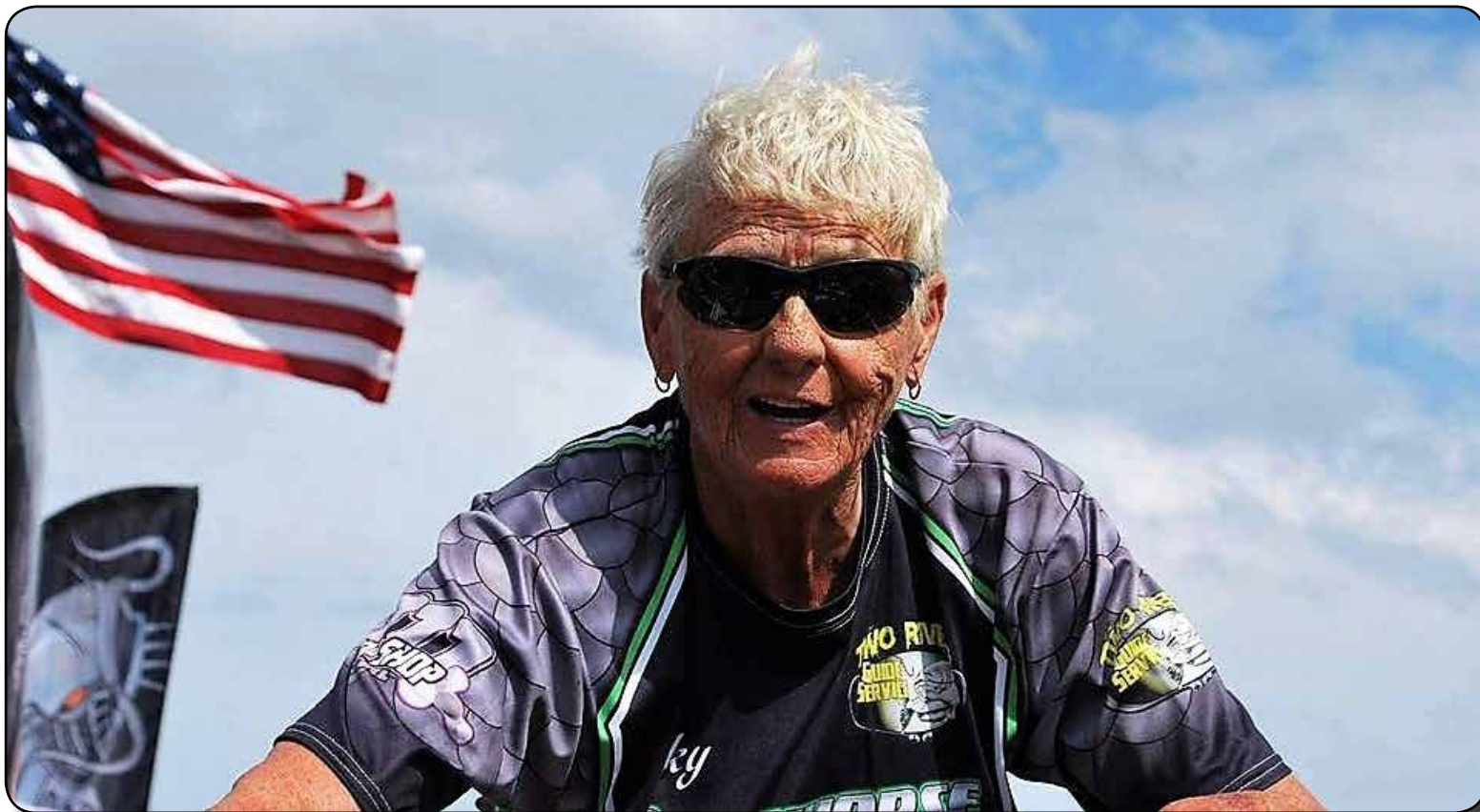
Vicky’s tournament fishing has given her the opportunity to rub elbows with other catfish anglers like George Young, Jr and Bill Dance. She loves to talk catfishing.

fishing has provided her the opportunity to travel all over the United States. “I have fished from the James River in Virginia to the Missouri River near Kansas and just about every major body of water and tributary between them,” declared Vicky.

All those fishing trips to all those locations gave Vicky and Big Cat many memorable occasions on the water. One that stands out in her mind was a pre-fishing day at Cabela’s King Kat event out of Crystal City, MO.

“Our five biggest fish went over 300 pounds,” recalled Vicky. “Our big fish was 72 pounds. We never went





over the same school of fish twice. I just remember all the fish being piled in like cordwood. The fishing was on fire, but we didn't want to beat the fish up too bad. There is no telling what we could have caught if we hadn't been pre-fishing."

Vicky's belief that they should not "beat the fish up too bad" is reflective of a long-held belief about conservation. "I have been fishing the Mississippi River with my dad since I was a little girl," said Vicky. "He made me conservation minded. I am a huge advocate of CPR and the use of circle hooks. Fish are less likely to swallow a circle hook and therefore less likely to get super stressed or injured."

Vicky has seen firsthand the decline in fish numbers. "I can still remember my father telling me the importance of not overharvesting fish. We ate everything we kept and made sure we threw the bigger ones back."

"The bait numbers have really been hit too," continued Vicky. "I'm not sure if the introduction of big head carp has anything to do with declining

Vicky has no plans to stop fishing soon. You will find her travelling to tournaments across the land promoting the sport of catfishing.

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numbers, but if you don't have bait fish then you don't have the fish that eat them. I truly believe that if we don't do something about the bait population then we will continue to see a decline in fish numbers in the future."

Vicky names kids as an important part of fishing's future. "I think it's important to get today's youth involved in fishing and conservation. The kids are our future. Fishing with kids should be fun and at the same time educational. They should be taught the importance of respecting nature. Also, take plenty of food just in case they get hungry," joked Vicky.

Today you will find Vicky where it all started—fishing on the Mississippi River near Alton, IL. "My intense love for fishing is one of the things that keeps me going," offered Vicky. "It drives me to do better and to be better. I think about fishing all the time, from the gear, to the

Vicky loves catfishing and has no plans to quit fishing anytime soon.

bait, and how to present it all to the fish. Sometimes ideas come to me in the light of day and sometimes in a dream. I'm always up for trying new things."

"Fishing for me is more than just a hobby. It has become a way of life. There is nothing better than being outdoors, on the water with family and friends, enjoying God's creations."

"I don't have any quit in me," concluded Vicky. "I don't see myself not fishing any time soon. As long as I can get to a body of water and hold a fishing pole, I will continue to fish. I love the competition of woman verses fish, verses man."



# CATFISH CONSERVATION

Trophy Catfish for the Future

by Ron Presley

## *Livewells and Healthy Fish*



**A**s the sport of catfishing grows the importance of adequate livewells grows with it. When catfish are heading for the dinner table it's no big deal to put them on a stringer or throw them in a cooler. However, the growing movement of selective harvest and Catch-Photo-Release (CPR) anglers have a good tool at their disposal to practice catfish conservation.

Brooke and David constructed their own livewell, to their own specifications, on David's Pathfinder. They wanted it to be big enough and they wanted it to have oxygen.

As Americans, we have grown up with a tradition of catching and eating fish, but doing it wisely will contribute to future populations of fish. The





Brooke and David won the World Championship of Catfishing in 2015. They are big proponents of proper fish handling and care.

notion of selective harvest means—take only what you need for dinner and let the rest go back to the water.

CPR is a growing trend among catfish anglers with an interest in saving trophy catfish.

The unwritten rule of thumb is to return any fish above 10 to 15 pounds to the water. Catfish anglers believe that this is one thing they can do as individuals to be sure that our kids and grandkids have the opportunity to catch wild trophy cats.

Everyday anglers seek trophy cats for the recreational enjoyment. More and more, these days, they return them to the water. Tournament

anglers are catching trophy cats in the spirit of competition. Those cats too, are normally returned to the water, but they are held alive to be presented at the weigh-in. For these anglers, an adequate livewell is of the utmost importance.

Brooke Wilbanks is a tournament angler that has always promoted adequate livewells when holding big catfish. Brooke tournament fishes with David Shipman. As tournament partners, they have tallied many tournament victories and have always understood the importance of keeping fish alive.

Fish use their gills

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to take oxygen from water just as we use our lungs to take oxygen from the air. It is dissolved oxygen, in the case of fish, that moves into the blood and travels to the fish's cells to keep them healthy.

"I strongly promote the importance of having a good livewell," reported Wilbanks. "Nothing fancy, it just needs to be equipped with the right stuff. The main components are an aerator for circulation, oxygen for the blood stream, and clean water for the gills."

Size definitely matters when it comes to livewells. Big fish need more room than small fish so livewells should relate to the size of the fish that anglers target. Channel cat anglers can get by with less than blue and flathead anglers can.

"To have a good livewell, it needs to be big enough," advises Wilbanks. "A 45-pound plus fish shouldn't be stuffed into a small livewell. It needs to be able to lay straight and not curl its tail. It will only stress the fish more if it

Fish like this blue catfish, caught from the Mississippi River near Memphis, is why Brooke puts such emphasis on adequate livewells. They need to accommodate the size of the fish you target.

is crowded. The livewell also needs to hold enough water to cover the fish."

"A livewell needs good circulation going at all times, so a pump and aerator system is needed," added Wilbanks. "Again, it does not have to be fancy, it just needs to get the job done."

"To me, the main ingredient is oxygen," declared Wilbanks. "It is a simple fact that fish need oxygen to stay alive. Once they get put in a

***"A 45-pound plus fish shouldn't be stuffed into a small livewell."***



livewell they aren't getting the oxygen they need from the river. I prefer a Keep Alive system, but there are others that will work. The finer the stone and the smaller the bubbles it produces, the better it is."

Wilbanks suggests being stingy with the oxygen. "Run the oxygen as low as you can get by with. The key to getting it just right is to observe it when it is coming out of the stone. When it looks like smoke instead of bubbles you know you've got it going good."

Ninety percent of the time, after keeping fish in a livewell with oxygen and circulating water, the fish go back into the water healthier than they came out. That is always a good thing and should be the goal. Having a good livewell can also help achieve successful live releases for any fish that is intended for CPR. If you have a good livewell you can place fish that are weary from the fight into the livewell to resuscitate before releasing.

The final point Wilbanks made related to clean water. "Some places where we fish the water is nasty. It's a good idea to pump out the old water and dump in fresh every couple hours or so."

The key to having a great livewell, according to Wilbanks, is to have a system that will aerate the water, keep it circulating, add oxygen, and keep the water fresh. Wilbanks and Shipman accomplished this with a pump system to take out the old water and replace it with fresh.

An alternative method to keep the livewell water fresh is to use a relatively new product called, the Survivor Live Well Water Intake System. The product is simple to install on any boat and it picks up fresh water and delivers it to the livewell, while moving the boat through the water. This product eliminates the need to pump water out and replace it.

"It's important to keep the fish

healthy," concluded Wilbanks. "Healthy fish are not only for our generation, but those that follow us. Our kids and grandkids should get a chance to see and catch these fish. It takes years for big catfish to get as big as they do. It would be a shame to let them die in a livewell."



- Ron Presley

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# Sandy Flowers: Experiencing the Outdoors

by John N. Felsher

## *Get on the water and have some fun*

**B**orn and raised in Milton, FL, Sandy Flowers worked in marketing and modeling since 2007. She appeared on numerous magazine covers and pages. She also appeared at shows, special events and in advertisements. However, she always returned to her passion—the outdoors. She lives in Pensacola FL. with her husband, Glenn Flowers. CatfishNow caught up with Sandy recently on a hot night in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta near Mobile, AL.

CN: How did you get started fishing?

SF: I have a passion for being in the outdoors. I enjoy hobbies that help me experience the outdoors in a more intimate way. Whether it's kayaking, hiking, scuba diving, freshwater or saltwater fishing, I'm ready for the challenge. I started catfishing when I was a young girl, maybe four or five years old. I fished in ponds for channel cats and bream with my grandfather.

Also, my dad was big into saltwater fishing, scuba diving and snorkeling. Sometimes, we would venture out into the Gulf of Mexico to catch snapper, amberjack and redfish.

My earliest fishing memory was a day spent at my grandfather's friend's pond where I caught my first channel cat. We had fished that pond many times together, but this trip was different. I knew I had something on the line much bigger than any bream I had caught. I fought that fish with all my 6-year-old arms could handle -- a heck of a battle for someone my size! As the fish came to the bank, I remember

barely containing my excitement seeing the "monster fish" I had just caught. Just like the fish, I was hooked. That 21-inch channel cat was a true trophy in my eyes!

CN: If you could fish anywhere you wanted, where would you go?

SF: I try to fish my home waters, the Escambia, Alabama and Yellow rivers, as often as I can. During the past 10 years, I have fished across the Southeast, but would like an opportunity to visit Ohio and fish new areas for different experiences.

My husband and I have always talked about going to Europe to fish for monster wels catfish, which can weigh several hundred pounds. The opportunity to catch such a giant in fresh water sounds like a thrill and experience in itself, but having the chance to visit another country in search of such an animal would be an amazing opportunity.

***he doubted that I would enjoy the type of fishing he was doing..."***

CN: What is your biggest catfish so far?

SF: The biggest flathead I ever caught was a 42-pounder, caught on July 4 on the





Alabama River during a new-moon phase. When he took the bait, he hit like a train, hard and fast. I was barely able to pull the rod from the holder. He immediately tangled the line on some submerged timber below the boat. Luckily, I had heavy braided line and a solid hookset. After some maneuvering and fighting, I was able to untangle him and get him in the boat. All the while, my husband was standing with his arms crossed on the bow of the boat coaching me. After taking a few photos and when my heart stopped racing, I released him back into the river.

CN: What are the biggest influences on how you fish?

SF: My biggest influence regarding

Sandy Flowers holds a blue catfish she caught while night fishing on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta near Mobile, AL. (Photo by John N. Felsher)

catfishing has definitely been my husband, Capt. Glenn Flowers. He's a licensed fishing guide (850-418-9280/cathunters.net). We met about 10 years ago and have been fishing partners ever since. His passion for the sport and dedication to the industry is inspiring.

In the beginning, he doubted that I would enjoy the type of fishing he was doing, but one day, I talked him into taking me. He could really see I wasn't some girly girl. I was setting the anchor, grabbing bait from the livewell and tying on hooks. He





has shown me new methods and so many other skills needed to be a great angler. He has years of experience on the water and has dedicated his time to spreading that knowledge to other anglers to build a new generation of catfishing.

CN: Do you always fish with your husband?

SF: Although I mostly fish with my husband, I do go offshore fishing with other friends, mostly searching for snapper, cobia or amberjack. I also like to fish some smaller creeks and ponds for bream or bass. Fishing alone does have some advantages and disadvantages. When I go alone, it's quiet and peaceful. When my husband and I go, it's an opportunity to make memories together and catch twice as many fish.

When the idea of a guide service first

This nice blue was the result of one of Glenn and Sandy Flowers' frequent night fishing adventures. (Photo by John N. Felsher)

came up, it was just an idea and a short conversation at the dinner table. After a few years of talking and repeated requests from other anglers to take them fishing, the guide service felt like a great opportunity to do something we truly loved while having a chance to teach others about the sport.

CN: What different challenges to you experience as a woman angler?

SF: The challenges of being an angler are pretty much the same for men and women. As a female angler, however, we face a few obstacles that men usually don't



need to worry about such as the wonderful experience of hanging your backside off the boat to relieve yourself. Until you've had to do it, it's not normally an area you remember to coat with insect repellent until it's too late!

Women also battle stereotypes and false accusations of "there's no way she caught that fish" or "she's just there to look pretty and hold the fish for a photo." How many photos of female anglers holding fish have you seen with a comment like "What fish?" or "Where's the fish?"

The women anglers I know are truly skilled and know their stuff when it comes to fishing. We put in the work. We sometimes miss huge fish and get disappointed when



Sandy and Glenn both believe that nighttime is the right time for flatheads. (Photo courtesy of Sandy Flowers)



More times than not, Sandy is searching for flatheads. (Photo by John N. Felsher)

we come home with nothing to show after a long day on the water—just like the men.

CN: What advice can you give other women who want to fish with their significant others?

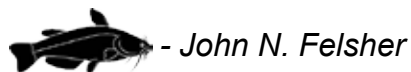
SF: My advice to any women who want to learn about fishing is to just go. Even if all you get to do is go for a boat ride, being on the water can be relaxing and fun. Also, be patient and try to learn as much as possible. Remember, it will be a learning experience for your spouse also. Remind him to slow down and show you how versus doing it all for you.



CN: Any final thoughts?

SF: Get out there. Get on the water and have fun. Try a new fishing spot or a new kind of bait and experiment with new techniques. Catfishing, for me, is about learning something new every time I get on the water. Some nights, I come home freezing, soaking wet and tired, only to end up empty handed. I am convinced there is still a monster waiting to be caught by me and that giant is what keeps me coming back every time.

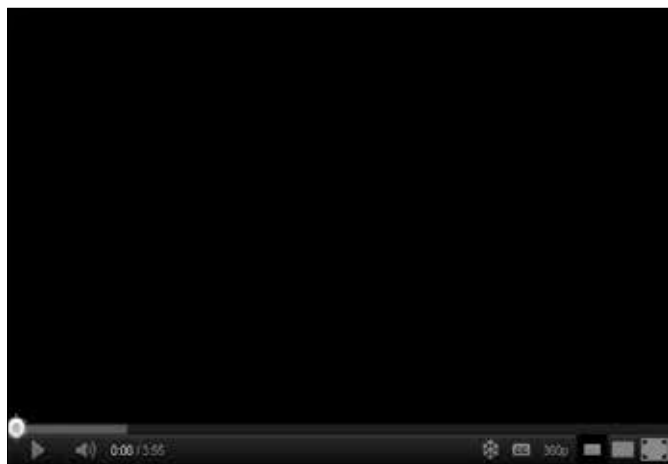
Fans can keep up with the adventures of Glenn and Sandy through their Facebook pages.



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## HOW TO?



CFN HOW TO  
Keep Your Bait Fresh  
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## Catfish Basics #022

## Leader Size – Brandy Brooks



Brandy primarily fishes the Chattahoochee River, Coosa River, and more recently the Mississippi River for major tournaments. Her tournament partner is Jody Atkins and they fish under the team name of Killer B's.

“We use nothing but 40-pound braid for our mainline,” explained Brandy. “We add a 40-pound mono leader and a 5/0 circle hook on all our light weight spinning rods. This system allows us to fish for the under 34-inch fish and still be able to handle bigger fish if needed.”

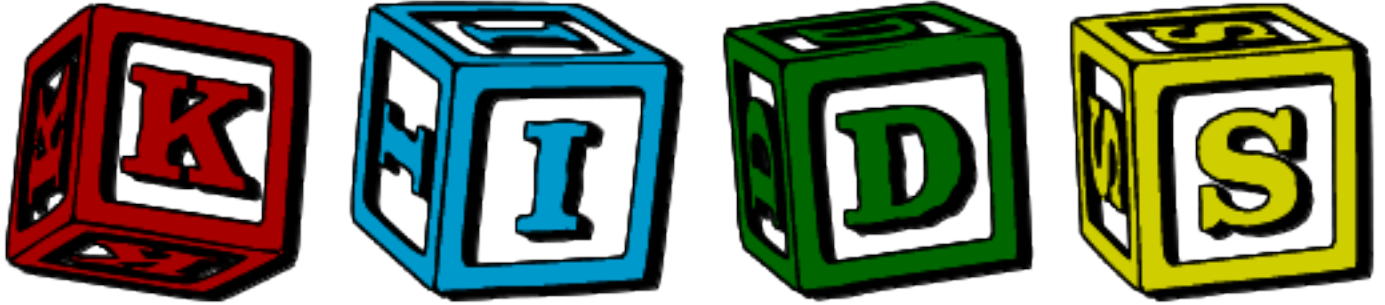
“We upsize our big rods to 50- to 60-pound mono and 8/0 circle hooks. The heavier leader is to target really big fish with rather large baits.”

This is a screenshot of the NPAA website. At the top left is the NPAA logo, which features the letters 'NPAA' in a stylized font next to a silhouette of a fisherman. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Member Benefits', 'Members', 'About', 'News', 'NPAA Partners', 'Testimonials', 'NPAA Conference', and 'Contact Us'. On the right side of the navigation bar are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with a 'Home' button and a 'Become a Member! JOIN NOW' button. The main content area features a large photograph of two anglers in red gear on a boat on a lake. Below the photo is a mission statement: "Our mission is to increase the professionalism – and the earnings – of our members as we work with the industry to grow and protect sportfishing."

## NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

**Our mission is to increase the professionalism of our members as we work to grow and protect sportfishing.**

# CATFISH



by Ron Presley

*Team work and learning together*



**M**adison Atkins is a relative newcomer to catfishing, but you sure wouldn't know it by looking at her accomplishments. Her mom, Jennifer Blackwell and her stepdad, Paul Blackwell are very proud of what she has accomplished in such a short period of time.

Madison is shown here with her personal best blue catfish. The big blue weighed 59 pounds.

"I started catfishing in 2016," recalls Madison. "I got started by prefishing for tournaments with



my stepdad Paul. Then I fished my first tournament with him on Lake Greenwood." It was at the Bass Pro Shops Big Cat Quest."

"There is lots of hard work to do the night before a tournament," said Madison. "We started by checking the boat over. Batteries, bait, rods, line, hooks, and weather all had to be checked in just a few hours. My favorite part about tournament fishing is not knowing who will win and having the extra strength to put in more effort. We won third place in the tournament."

Eleven-year-old Madison quickly recognized what catfish anglers worldwide revel at. "Catfish are the biggest fish in fresh water and it's very fun and exciting to see the rod bow over with a huge fish. Also, you

*"...it's really fun trying to beat my personal best ..."*

get to relax and have fun while doing it. Fishing is fun as you sit and wait for the fish to bite. I get to cut bait, reel in fish, help put the sinkers on, net fish and a lot more."

Madison's experience and success grew from those early days and she developed a real love for the sport. "Some of my favorite things about catfishing is not knowing what size fish you're going to catch" offered Madison. "Also, not knowing if your even gonna' catch a fish. I love knowing that the fish is still on the hook when we get the net out."

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Now, with less than one year on the catfish trail Madison claims a personal best blue of 59 pounds and a best flathead of 38 pounds.

"I remember when I caught the 59-pound blue," reported Madison. "Paul, my stepsister, Trin, and myself all broke our personal best that night."

"The most memorable part of catching the 38-pound flathead was that it was our first tournament win. We also caught a 45-pound flathead that night. In my opinion catching flatheads is more fun because they are harder to catch and land. Flatheads like to hug the bottom and they are harder to get to the top of the water. They also have a stronger pull."

Madison also developed a love of the challenge that most catfish anglers have. "I think it's really fun trying to beat my personal best," said Madison. "One day my goal is to beat my stepdad Paul's personal best, but that will be hard at 83 pounds. All together I love catfishing!"

Madison and Paul are partners, taking on the tournaments and big cats together.

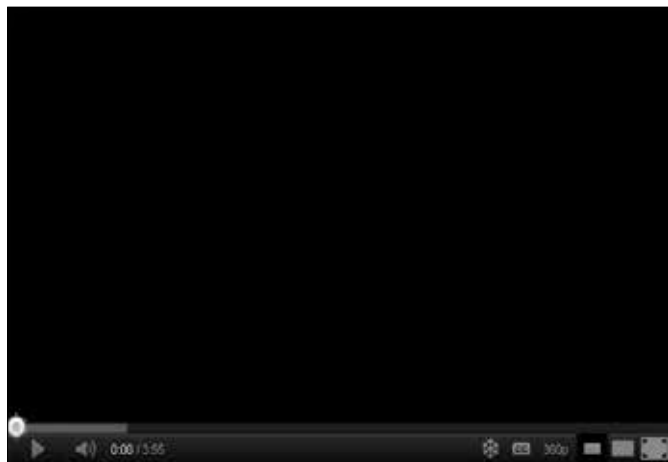
Madison's catfishing experiences have also taught her lessons for life. "I think you learn to have patience," said Madison. "And catfishing teaches you that it is important, even if you don't win to keep trying. Catfishing teaches you to be humble too."

"Paul and I are a team," concluded Madison. "I don't want to let him down and he doesn't want to let me down. We talk about the plan together and come up with what we think is best. I'm learning how to help him find fish and learning what to look for. We are learning together."



- Ron Presley





CFN HOW TO  
Rig Terminal Tackle for Success  
with Tabitha Linville  
The Catfish Duo Guide Service



by Ron Presley

### ***There is more catfishing in her future***

**Editor's note:** *The RigRap Wheel on Catfish Weekly has been the source of many prizes for lucky catfish anglers. When Lyle Stokes spun the wheel on June 12, 2017 the needle landed on the CatfishNow logo and Callie Bowman became the first catfish angler to win "her story" in CatfishNow Magazine. We are pleased to share her story in this issue that is dedicated to lady catfish anglers.*

**T**he Pee Dee River and Blewitt Falls Lake served as ground zero for Callie Bowman's introduction to catfishing. She became a catfishing enthusiast after sharing a fishing trip with her boyfriend, Jeremy Cottingham. It appears the 23-year-old North Carolinian has caught the catfish fever.

"When I was younger I used to fish for bream, but never anything big," recalled Bowman. "I never fished for a catfish until I met my boyfriend, Jeremy. He and I have been fishing together for about three years now, going on four."

In those few years, Bowman has become passionate about catfishing for the thrill that it provides. At the same time, she has developed a healthy philosophy toward catfish conservation.

Callie includes gars and turtles on the list of things she has caught while pursuing catfish. "I like to catfish because it's fun," declared Bowman. "You go out there fishing and you never know what you're going to catch that day. My biggest catfish was a blue that weighed 51 pounds. We put him back and made sure he swam off. We wanted to give someone else the chance to catch their personal best."

So far Callie has fished two tournaments in her fishing career. "We fished a Mastercatters Tournament three years ago and came in second place," recalled Callie.



Callie never fished for a catfish until she met Jeremy. They are shown here with a nice blue cat.

"We missed Big Fish by half a pound. We fished a local tournament last month and didn't place because our biggest fish ended up biting at daylight the next day and I didn't get him in the net quick enough."

Catfishing is the same for Callie as it is for most sportfishing anglers. The real fun is



in the catching.

"I have never caught a fish during a tournament," offered Callie. "So, I would rather fish just for the fun of fishing, but it doesn't hurt to fish a tournament every now and again. I will like it better when I finally catch something instead of just sitting there cutting bait and reeling in poles."

"Some people say you can tell if the fish is big by the way he will bend the rod," continued Callie. "But to me, I've had the little ones hit the poles so hard they double over. You really don't know what you got on until you start reeling, or when you set the hook and start reeling down on that fish and he starts pulling back and taking out line."

"The fight of big catfish is something you don't get with any other fish that I have fished for," stated Callie. "The thrill of seeing that rod bend down, and fighting with that fish to bring it in the boat, is a real passion of mine and it always will be."

"When you are fighting the fish, you have to tighten the drag and then loosen the drag so the fish doesn't break your line. Then you have to tighten the drag back up and the whole time you are having to reel to keep the fish from going down and wrapping you around a log or something."

***"We always put our big fish back..."***

"Fighting a log or a rock is no fun! Jeremy had a flathead once that wrapped him around a log and we had to pull anchors. We pulled it in, fish and all. The flathead ended up being about 30 pounds, without the log," joked Callie.

Callie understands the importance of selective harvest. "We always put our big fish back," said Callie. "Anything over 15 pounds we release so they can get bigger. There are always plenty of little 5- to 10-pound catfish swimming around that you can catch all day long to eat, but there isn't enough 50- to 70-pound catfish here and I think that is because so many people keep the big ones. I wish they didn't."



Callie believes strongly in CPR for big fish so that others will have a chance to catch them.

Jeremy recalls that first fishing trip with pride. "She was excited to go," said Jeremy. "I threw the poles out and told her that when the fish doubles the rod over to pick it up and reel down. We ended up catching a few decent blues in the lake. Now when we go she cuts up the bait and even helps me catch it for tournaments. She caught on quick."

The Tar Heel state is known for good catfishing and good catfish anglers. With Callie Bowman, North Carolina has produced another dedicated and passionate angler that will do her part in conserving the precious catfish resource.

"Catfishing will definitely play a role in my future," concluded Callie. "I will catfish up until the day the good lord decides it fit that I can't no more. I like to catfish and I like the excitement of catfishing. If we could get some rules put in place for our lake and river, then I think future generations would have a better opportunity to experience the thrill of catfishing too."

# Why We Catfish

A Guest Editorial by Teresa Owenby

**Editor's note:** Teresa and Tim Owenby have a passion for catfishing that grew over time and included a conversion for Tim. Now, for the last 12 years, they are catfish tournament partners, fishing tournaments under the name of Catbusters.



Tim Owenby was a bass fishermen and he was pretty good at it. He fished a few local tournaments. He tried to get me to go, but I didn't really care for it. We lived on a farm that had a pond stocked with bass and brim. Tim and the boys fished on a regular basis and sometimes I would watch them.

On Mother's Day, about 13 years ago, Tim bought me an open face rod and reel. That actually didn't go over very well, because I thought Tim had bought that for himself, because I only knew how to cast a push button reel.

Not long after that Tim had something go wrong with his boat and carried it to a repair shop. While at the shop he saw

Team Catbusters is shown here at a BCQ tournament in Memphis after a day on the Mississippi River.

an advertisement for the Hilljack Catfish Tournament. He came home and asked if I would like to fish it with him. To his surprise I said yes.

So off to Wal-Mart we went to get the latest catfishing gear (so we thought). You know like the Zebco 808, the biggest J-hook we could find, and of course 3/4-ounce weights. For bait, we relied on advice from a friend of Tim's who told him to use mullet gut. The friend said it was the best.

When we got to our first tournament





we didn't see anyone else with tubs of mullet gut. We just figured they had worms and livers. We were sure we had the winning ticket. LOL.

I don't know how, but we pulled off a third-place finish and the Catbusters tournament team was born! We realized it was a lot of fun spending time together fishing and we met an awesome group of people. Today we are still good friends with the same people that we met on that first tournament day.

Along the way we have made new friends across the U.S because of this sport. The catfishing world is a group of people like no other. They go out of their way to help one another and to educate and support each other in good times and bad. You'll get slapped on the back and congratulated on the good times and the

The Catbusters team is proud to wear the Bottom Dwellers jerseys as they travel to different tournaments seeing old friends and making new ones.

community will often come together with a benefit tournament in times of need.

The sport of catfishing still has a long way to go, and so do we. I look back and see how far we have grown from not knowing what bait to use and trying to catch that Volkswagen catfish at the Dam. Now we are drifting, dragging and bouncing. We learn something new all the time. Our idea is that even if we don't place, but we learn something, we still come out a winner.







Our venture into catfishing has been an amazing trip. We went from Tim buying me a fishing pole that I didn't know how to use, other than to whip him with (LOL), to being sponsored by Bottom Dwellers Tackle and Driftmaster Rod Holders.

It is exciting to plan our next trip, stock up on supplies and catch bait (which I do enjoy doing). More than catching bait, my favorite thing is reeling in a monster cat. It's a feeling like no other. We have been married for 32 years and we are closer now than we have ever been, thanks to catfishing.

We hope to fish as many future tournaments as possible, but fishing for fun will always be a part of our passion. We look forward to growing with the sport. Catfishing is a part of us and we are a part of catfishing.



- Teresa Owenby

Teresa's dad, Russel Richards, joined the Catbusters team in Memphis to pull in this 72-pound Mississippi River blue catfish. The fish won the Big Fish competition at the inaugural Mississippi River Monsters tournament in 2016.

### Why We Catfish Guest Editorial

This column is provided for reader submitted editorials on Why We Catfish. If you have a short story related to why you catfish, you may submit it for consideration and publication in a future issue of CatfishNow. Send submissions of 500 words or less and one or two photos to Ron Presley at [presleyr@bellsouth.net](mailto:presleyr@bellsouth.net).



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BIG SIOUX CAT ANGLERS	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	DICK HINRICHSEN
CABELA'SKING KAT TOURNAMENT TRAIL	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	JEREMY COE
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CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	MATT SANDERS
CENTRAL TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	JERRY DILLARD
CHATAHOOCHEE HILLJACK CATFISHING	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	HUNTER LIVINGSTON
EXTREME CATFISHING	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	CHAD WAUGH
FISHIN BLUES	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	TIM ORR
FLATHEAD BLUES ON CHANNEL 2	<a href="#">Website</a>	AMANDA JOHNSON
GETNHOOKED	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	MICHAEL PRICE
HOLD'EM HOOK CATFISH TRAIL	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	STEVE DOBBS
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J.K.V. CATFISHING TOURNAMENT TRAIL	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	JOSH VANOVER
KANAWHA RIVER CATFISH CLUB	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	NEAL CRAIG /JUSTIN VAUGHT
KANSAS CITY CATFISH	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	BARD KILPATRICK
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TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOCIATION	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	TOMMY WALSH
TUG "N" JUGS	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	MICHAEL PRICE
TWISTED CAT OUTDOORS	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	ALEX NAGY
WEST TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	CHUCK MCCOY
WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	JUSTIN RUSSELL
WHISKY CITY CATFISH CLUB	<a href="#">FaceBook</a>	RAY HERALD

## TWISTED CAT OUTDOORS

WARSAW

### JULY 9th

1. Josh Swan/Cliff Miller/Caleb Shephard	95.61
2. Calvin Meyer/Annie Myer	73.49
3. Hans Fahnestock/Adam Reinken	43.08
4. Vince Weigand/Daniel Meyer	38.66
5. Ron King/Craig Similar/Buddy	36.62

### BIG FISH

1. Josh Swan/Cliff Miller/Caleb Shephard	39.42
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## RED RIVER VALLEY

LAFAVE PARK

### JULY 9th

1. Brodeur/Novacek	29
2. Snoble/Howard	26.6
3. Kalt/Jeffrey	26.2

## CATFISH CHASERS

ST JOSEPH/MISSOURI RIVER

### JULY 15th

1. Carnes/Morgan	137.25
2. Baker Adams	133.4
3. Gerloff/Gerloff	119.35
4. Hayley/Asher	117.1
5. Garton/Garton	97

### BIG FISH

1. Hayley/Asher	90.15
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## CATFISH MAFIA

CONAWINGO

### JULY 15th

1. Jayson Wilt/Cody	69.8
2. Mike Killien/Don	66.5
3. Jimmy/Birdie	59.4

### BIG FISH

1. Jayson Wilt/Cody	34.1
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## INDIANA CATFISH ASSOCIATION

ANGEL MOUND

### JULY 15th

1. James Holcomb/RachelHolcomb	84.3
2. Mark Robbins/Don/Andy	67.6
3. Andy Williams/Steven Hire/Jeremiah Keen	52.6
4. Chase Clark/Joe Napariv	50.7
5. Lloyd Tanner/Rob	50.6



## BIG FISH

1. James Holcomb/RachelHolcomb 34.3

## TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOCIATION

PEKIN

### JULY 15th

1. Mike Duffy/Jeremie Barton 48.7  
 2. Ryan Vecchia/Dave Bogatitus 42.45  
 3. Mark farrow/Brenda Bettis 42.15  
 4. Shawn Kelly/Ray Eutis 39  
 5. Tom Walsj/Tim Walsh 38.8

## BIG FISH

1. Jeremy Yeakey/Joe Solomon 15

## RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE

NORTH LANDING

### JULY 19th

1. Greene/Bancroft 28.6  
 2. Gregorie/Thompson 23.8

## BIG FISH

1. Luney/Reller 3.8

## CATHUNTERS ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH

ESCAMBIA RIVER

### JULY 22nd

1. david Spann/Craige Smitherman 18.8  
 2. Louis Kent/Timothy Sours 14.5  
 3. Chris Brewer 9.7  
 4. Allen Shephard/Jamie Lee 9.6  
 5. Trent Ward 3.6

## BIG FISH

1. david Spann/Craige Smitherman 14.4

## SOUTHWEST OHIO CATFISH CLUB

BRUSH CREEK

### JULY 22nd

1. Vic Shepherd/Matt Bechdoit 105.6  
 2. Richard Roy/Tom Kaucher 36.3  
 3. Dave Hart/Teresa Shelplan 34.6  
 4. Willie Smith/Nick Anderson 29.1  
 5. Greg Defosse/Dusty Faul 27.9

## BIG FISH

1. Vic Shepherd/Matt Bechdoit 41.7



# Tournament Results

## TRI-STATE CATS

HAMILTON BLVD BOAT RAMP

**JULY 22nd**

- |                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Cory Gagnon/Cody Gagnon     | 30.04 |
| 2. Aaron Post/Chrissie Stabile | 27.26 |
| 3. Brian Coan/Bubba Coan       | 20.56 |

### **BIG FISH**

- |                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Cory Gagnon/Cody Gagnon | 20.56 |
| 2. Brian Coan/Bubba Coan   | 20.56 |

## TWISTED CAT OUTDOORS

DAVENPORT

**JULY 22nd**

- |                                         |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Mike Kuehl/Ray Sanders               | 60.69 |
| 2. Ron King/Jan King/Buddy Weisenburger | 59.86 |
| 3. Jim Gillenwater/Paul McIntosh        | 37.31 |
| 4. Scott Wadsworth/Bob Julson           | 35.44 |
| 5. Mark Farrow/Luke Steen               | 34.75 |

### **BIG FISH**

- |                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Mike Kuehl/Ray Sanders | 33.83 |
|---------------------------|-------|

## BIG CAT QUEST

COOSA RIVER BASIN

**JULY 22nd - 23rd**

- |                                               |       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Aaron Churchwell/Jake Hermon/Steve Lyon    | 88.75 |
| 2. Lonnie Fountain/Dawn Fountain/Eddie Walker | 86.1  |
| 3. Brad Gray/Aaron Stevenson                  | 78.3  |
| 4. Ronnie Croucher/David Turnbow              | 77.8  |
| 5. Chasity Hales                              | 75.45 |

### **BIG FISH**

- |                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Ronnie Croucher/David Turnbow | 40.7 |
|----------------------------------|------|

## GETNHOOKED

SOONER LAKE

**JULY 22nd - 23rd**

- |                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Andrew Melendy/Cody Forshee | 62.44 |
| 2. Team Catch and Release      | 47.02 |
| 3. Garcia/Herman/Loos          | 29.94 |

### **BIG FISH**

- |                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Andrew Melendy/Cody Forshee | 19.62 |
|--------------------------------|-------|



## ICATS

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

### JULY 23rd

1. Levi Wadsworth/Dylan Lawson	36.6
2. Scott Beadle/Scott Wadsworth	29.6
3. Jeff Beadle/Dillon Beadle	27.2
4. Mike Salazar/Floyd Manley	27
5. Kevin Niemer/Ben Niemer	19.4

### BIG FISH

1. Mike Salazar/Floyd Manley	15
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## RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE

LAFAYE PARK

### JULY 26th

1. Weber/Kuhl	27.8
1. Lunski/Fhelling	27.8
2. Sandbeck/Sandbeck	23.4

## CATFISH CHASERS

MILFORD

### JULY 29th

1. Parks/Fischer	122.65
2. Bayes/Davell	115.6
3. Wehling/Wehling	104.35
4. Jordan/Munger	94.75
5. Smith/James	45.6

### BIG FISH

1. Smith/James	45.6
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## CATFISH COUNTRY

ABERDEEN

### JULY 29th

1. Dotson/Baker/Blauvelt	45.7
2. DeFosse/Faul	24.85
3. Brock/McDonald	24.55

### BIG FISH

1. Darnell/George	17.15
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## FLATHEAD BLUES

HOOVER

### JULY 29th

1. Robert Kilkenny/Bill Taylor	57.5
2. Joe Hatfield/Kyle Gibney	47.2
3. Ron Hughes/David Funk	31.1
4. Mike Anderson/Jerry Hite	29.9
5. Daniel Vance/Dana Vance	29.7



# Tournament Results

## **BIG FISH**

1. Robert Kilkenny/Bill Taylor 20.9

## **JULY 29th - 30th**

1. Joel Roberts/Jack Van Leer 111.3

2. Kory McKnight/Ross Fiene 87.8

3. Jason Grismore/Charlie Harris 87.3

4. Chris Quigley/Christian Graham 83.9

5. Joe Burkhardt/Adam Burkhardt 78.7

## **BIG FISH**

1. Kery McKnight/Ross Fiene 78.4

## **CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS**

WAVERLY

## **RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH LEAGUE**

NORTH LANDING

## **AUGUST 2nd**

1. Taylor/Murray 25

2. Lunski/Gudajtes 23.4

## **BIG FISH**

1. Snob/Howard 5.2

## **INDIANA CATFISH ASSOCIATION**

BROADRIPPLE

## **AUGUST 5th**

1. Ron/George 45

2. Casey/Andrew 33

3. Phil/Victor 26.1

4. Chuck/James 19.7

5. R.L. Ramsey/Brent 15.7

## **BIG FISH**

1. Ron/George 12.1

## **TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOCIATION**

CHILLICOTHE

## **AUGUST 5th**

1. Pete Moreland/Mike Flaherty 52.85

2. Ron King/Buddy W./Craig Simler 50.4

3. Tom Walsh/Tim Walsh 45.2

4. Shaun Kelly/Ray Eutis 45.15

5. Tony Hunt/Tom Luttrell 43.35

## **BIG FISH**

1. Pete Moreland/Mike Flaherty 21.25



**SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB**

LAKE WATEREE

**AUGUST 5th**

1. Jeff Outz/Kenny Sudderht	83.25
2. John Jerry/Jason Knight	79.6
3. Ray Waldrop/Tracey Waldrop/Grayson Waldrop	66.7
4. Lee Hardee/Joshua Coggins/Tim Coggins	66.5
5. Jeff Manning/Michael Pacicco	63.2

**BIG FISH**

1. Jeff Outz/Kenny Sudderht	33.2
2. John Jerry/Jason Knight	33.2

**CENTRAL OHIO CATFISH**

DELEWARE LAKE

**AUGUST 5th**

1. Mark Blauvelt/Amanda Johnson	29.28
2. Shawn Dauphin/Amber Curry	24.22
3. Ron Hughes/Irvin Perry	21.18
4. Hite/Anderson	18.62
5. Robert Kilkenny/Bill Taylor	18.08

**BIG FISH**

1. Michael Thompson/Allen Thompson	10.16
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**TRI-STATE CATS**

HAMILTON BOAT RAMP

**AUGUST 5th**

1. Johnny Johnson	30.02
2. Jerry Limoges/Jerry Limoges Jr	17.96

**BIG FISH**

1. Jerry Limoges/Jerry Limoges JR	17.96
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**TWISTED CAT OUTDOORS**

BRUNSWICK

**AUGUST 5th**

1. Cody Thompson/Mike Suttner	119.08
2. Justin Thornton/Duane Buckridge	104.87
3. Gary Ryan/Justin Cook	81.55
4. Clint Gesling/Marty Darrah	70.94
5. Roger Gerloff/Marty Gerloff	58.29

**BIG FISH**

1. Cody Thompson/Mike Suttner	70.71
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# Tournament Results

## RED RIVER VALLEY CATFISH CLUB

LAFAYE PARK

### AUGUST 9th

1. Rood/Olson	38.6
2. Srnsky/Gutierrez	28
3. Lunks/Gudajtes	23.8

### 2017 FAT CAT OF THE YEAR

Chris Taylor	24.4
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### 2017 MYSTERY PARTNER

Chris Taylor

### 2017 STRAY CAT

Bill Murray/Chris Taylor

### 2017 ANGLER OF THE YEAR

Bill Murray/Chris Taylor

## CATFISH CALENDAR

Aug 19th	CABELA'S KING KAT	MISSISSIPPI RIVER	CLUB
Aug 19th	CATFISH NATION OUTDOORS	FORT WASHINGTON	CLUB
Aug 19th	MADISON CATFISH ANGLERS	RISING SUN	CLUB
Aug 19th	OHIO VALLEY CATFISHING	NEWBURG LANDING	SUMMER SLAM
Aug 19th	SOUTHWEST OHIO CATFISH	TANNERS CREEK	OPEN
Aug 19th	TRI STATE KATS	S HAMILTON BLVD BOAT RAMP	CLUB
Aug 20th	ICATS	MISSOURI RIVER	CLUB
Aug 25th - 26th	CABELA'S KING KAT	OHIO RIVER	SUPER
Aug 26th	BIG SIOUX CAT ANGLERS	SNYDER BEND	CLUB
Aug 26th	CATFISH COUNTRY	TANNERS CREEK	CLUB
Aug 26th	CATFISH MAFIA	LAKE ALDRED	SHOOTOUT/BIG MONEY
Aug 26rd	CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS	HERMANN RIVERFRONT	CLUB/NIGHT
Aug 26th	HOLD'EM HOOK	DITTO LANDING	CLUB
Aug 26th	KANAWHA RIVER	NITRO	CLUB
Aug 26th	OLD DOMINION	HOPEWELL MARINA	CLUB
Aug 26th	FLATHEAD BLUES	HOOVER RESERVOIR	CLUB
Aug 26th	WEST TN CATFISH ANGLERS	ED JONES	CARL PERKINS FUNDRAISER
Aug 26th	JKV CATFISHING	SHAWNEE TOWN	CLUB
Aug 26th - 27th	CATFISH CHASERS	CALAMUS	CLASSIC
Sept 2nd	BIG CAT QUEST	MISSISSIPPI RIVER	CLUB
Sept 2nd	FLATHEAD BLUES	HOOVER RESERVOIR-Olivaris-Furcatus classic	
Sept 2nd	TRI STATE KATS	S HAMILTON BLVD BOAT RAMP	CLUB
Sept 2nd	WHISKEY CITY	RISING SUN	CLUB
Sept 8th - 10th	TUGNJUGS	KAW LAKE/SARGE CREEK	CLUB
Sept 9th	BIG CAT QUEST	RED RIVER/LAKE TEXOMA	CLUB



Sept 9th	BIG SIOUX CAT ANGLERS	MISSOURI RIVER	CLUB
Sept 9th	CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLJACKS	ROTARY PARK	ALL NIGHT CAT FIGHT
Sept 9th	GETNHOOKED	KAW LAKE/SARGE CREEK	CLUB
Sept 9th	KANAWHA RIVER	BUFFALO	CLUB
Sept 9th	SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB	LAKE WATEREE	CLUB
Sept 9th	TRI-COUNTY CATFISH ASSOC.	CREVE COEUR-KUTCHIE'S	CLUB
Sept 9th - 10th	CATFISH CHASERS	MILFORD/STATE PARK	CLUB
Sept 9th - 10th	OHIO VALLEY RIVER CATS	OHIO RIVER	CLUB
Sept 15th - 16th	MISSISSIPPI RIVER MONSTERS	MEMPHIS	OPEN
Sept 16th	CENTRAL OHIO CATFISH	ALUM CREEK	CLUB
Sept 16th	INDIANA CATFISH ASSOC	ANGEL MOUNDS	CLUB
Sept 22nd - 23rd	CABELA'S KING KAT	CUMBERLAND(Old Hickory lake)	NORHTERN CHAMP.
Sept 23rd	CATFISH CHASERS	ATCHISON/MISSOURI RIVER	CLUB
Sept 23rd	CATFISH MAFIA	LAKE ALDRED	CLUB
Sept 23rd	CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS	COOLEY LAKE	CLUB/NIGHT
Sept 23rd	HOLD'EM HOOK	GUNTERSVILLE	CLUB
Sept 23rd	JKV CATFISHING	3RD ANNUAL BURCE MIDKIFF MEMORIAL	CLUB
Sept 23rd	KANAWHA RIVER	RAVENSWOOD	CLUB
Sept 23rd	MADISON CATFISH ANGLERS	MADISON	CLUB
Sept 23rd	OHIO VALLEY CATFISHING	NEWBURG LANDING	BIG CAT TROPHY
Sept 23rd - 24th	ICATS	KNOXVILLE LAKE/LAKE RED ROCK	CHAMPOINSHIP
Sept 24th	WICKED WHISKER	BELLEVUE OR PORTSMOUTH	CLUB/DAY
Sept 29th - 1st	TUGNJUGS	SKIATOOK	CLUB
Sept 30th	OLD DOMINION	HOPEWELL MARINA	CLUB
Sept 30th	SOUTHWEST OHIO CATFISH	RIVERSIDE	OPEN
Sept 30th -Oct.1st	TWISTED CAT OUTDOORS	QUINCY	SHOOTOUT



# ***Cat Women Rock!***

