

Fishing with Uncle Mullet

Deep Jigging with Uncle Mullet

By Uncle Mullet

Greetings once again my fellow anglers! The last glance at the ol' fish finder had the water temp right at 49 degrees. We all know what that means...the pre-spawn window is here. Mr. Bass is getting a little anxious if you know what I mean, and it's time to get your jigs in the water. Just before the lunkers start heading for a shallower spot, they can still be found down deep. Although the depth game can be a frustrating one, it still has the potential for some good early spring fishing. In this situation a jig is still a fine option, if not the best all around bait in your tackle box.

The *Booyah Bait Company* has a sweet line up of new jigs. The various weights provide ample choices for depth and clarity of the water you plan on fishing. The debate continues about deeper water applications and whether or not a faster falling heavy jig is best. As my Uncle Redfish used to say, "don't be in a hurry, Mullet, get there early, stay late, fish slow, and you'll be there when it happens". So I guess I tend to favor a lighter, slower falling jig since bass usually hit a bait on the fall to the

bottom.

Here's a tip that I won't take credit for, but I will endorse as a fish catching machine: Take a beat up, used plastic worm or grub that you would ordinarily toss in the hopper and clip the swirly tail off midway up the body. Attach this tail to the jig hook up in the skirt of the jig, so that the tail will provide some additional action to the bait. This way, when you hop it along the bottom, it'll kick up a bit more commotion and trigger a strike. This is a variation of the old 'pig and jig', which was, and still is, a skirted or buck tail jig with a pork trailer. Don't eat all the pork while sitting in the boat.

However you can get to the lake and put a bait in the water, is fine with me. I'm just an old geezer who loves to fish...and then talk about it to whoever will listen. Give an old man a break, try a curly tailed jig the next time you go fish'n and bring me a fish sandwich and a cold adult beverage, for teaching you all the tricks.

Until next time...keep your lines tight, your hooks baited, and the fishing magazines by the can, you'll be glad you did!

Frick

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and when ready, is applied to the garden."

They use ducks for their eggs, rather than chickens. The duck eggs taste better than chicken eggs, Ruppert told a *Transylvania Times* reporter.

In addition to the garden, the couple harvests honey and sugar from bee hives, trout from their trout pond, wine from their vineyard, and nuts from their orchard.

"Our last honey harvest yielded about 300 pounds—enough to last for several seasons. Some years are good, others are not," Frick said of the honey. "The trout is usually our Saturday night supper."

Their wine production is still in its infancy, Frick said. "We picked enough grapes to produce two bottles of wine this past season." They have recently introduced French-American hybrids that are now producing better yields.

When their son Fritz came into the picture, it came time to build a second

cabin, Frick said. "When we were trying to find a place for the new cabin, nothing seemed to compare to the site of the original cabin," she said.

After much debate over where to build the new cabin, Frick and Ruppert ended up buying a second house near Brevard.

When asked if their days of living off the land in Balsam Grove are over, Frick answered, "Not necessarily. We still want to continue all of our projects up there—we just have a second home now."

"Having a kid changes everything," she said of the decision to move.

The family still spends a significant amount of time at their cabin maintaining all their projects and enjoying the natural world around them.

Cycling

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assigned by the Director of Athletics."

As neither the NAIA or the NCAA recognize cycling as a collegiate sport, the team will compete in the National Collegiate Cycling Association, a group formed in 1985 and serves as a committee of USA Cycling.

USA Cycling is, according to the USA Cycling website, recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and is "responsible for identifying, training and selecting cyclists to represent the United States in international competitions."

Coach Payne said the goals for the program would be to "recruit quality students who can excel academically as well as athletically."