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FISHING

For Pleasure and Relaxation

By George Boole

One of the best ways know to prevent your fishing equipment from rusting and corroding is to keep it in the water. Don't put it away for the winter.

A lot of fishing can be done during the winter months on those warming up days. Usually from 10 until 3 p.m., quite a few fish can be caught.

On a December day when the temperature was on the rise a I treated my painting crew to a fishing trip down to Dixie Shores on Badin Lake. We fished with artificial lures, mostly home-tied small streamers, and caught crap-

pies in the grasses along the banks.

On that particular fishing trip I remember having tied one streamer using the hair from a buff colored puppy that I owned. I'll have you know that those crappies wore that streamer ragged with strikes. I was hanging them just as fast as I could drag that lure through the grasses.

I do not remember what prompted me to use that puppy's hair, but that lure sure paid off. I had never been so successful with a streamer before. I believe the odor of the hair, when wet, was

responsible for the attraction the streamer possessed.

Crappies are the most accomodating fish known. They have been known to strike an empty moving hook, even a piece of paper impaled on a hook. Minnows and cut bait will never fail and if you are caught without either, hang a bit of white cigarette filter on and you are in for a real surprise.

Start looking for a quiet sunny cove and you will find fishing during the winter can be much more pleasure than you would suspect.

When crappie fishing refrain from snatching your fish out of the water. The crappie has a mouth as thin as paper and if you are too rough the hook will be torn from the fish's mouth.

It is necessary to reel with a tight line so you can have the fish under control at all times. For the most pleasure, play your fish until it is exhausted, then bring it in. A sharp hook is a must for any type of fishing. Keep an ignition file on hand, or a small whetstone in your tackle box. Check your hooks before and after fishing.

When using minnows for crappie fishing I hook the minnow half-way between the dorsal fin and the tail, never at the dorsal fin. I catch more fish with this method because there is very little chance of the crappie taking the minnow without getting a mouth full of hook.

With this method of hooking the bait fish, you do not have to allow the fish to run too long. If I use cut bait I cut a strip from the white belly of a crappie and remove two thirds of the flesh, then I place the small hunk that is left, with the skin trailing, on a number 4 hook. The trailing skin looks like a minnow in action. With cut bait you have the action and the odor of fresh fish working for you.

Do yourself a favor, don't let that fishing gear get rusty, use it, get out there and do some late fall fishing.

JOSH BILLINGS Sez ...



Hope is a hen that lays more eggs than she can hatch out.

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