

Legendary Largemouth

BY JOHN ANDREW

Summertime bass fishing is a fun time of the year. The largemouth bass are willing to bite during the early morning hours, daytime, and evenings. For the thrill seeker, a nighttime bass exploding on a top-water lure is like no other experience.

The largemouth bass is constantly feeding during the right conditions and these conditions can be several times during any 24-hour period, at this time of year.

Dock fishing is always a good option when using the spinner bait during windy conditions. This method always pays off for my clients, but let's not forget the jig and pig as many, many fishermen do very well with this bait also. When fishing during twilight or in the dark around docks, the top-water lures provide an exciting strike since the bass will leave the cover of the dock to chase down your bait. Even in this warm water period, the largemouth will feed if you present your bait to their holding locations.

Long extended weed bars off of a shoreline point, or an extended flat that drops to deeper water away from shore with weed growth, is a prime summertime location. These types of locations are very good for summer bass fishing. Why? Because the wind keeps these long bars active with small, young-of-the-year fish and the weed growth is perfect cover and provides a higher than average oxygen level away from the shoreline. This location also has access to cooler water with the surrounding depths and drop offs provided from the sides and point of these bars. Working these weedy areas can be best done on a windy day with a flashy spinner bait or small shallow crankbait. The color of this small crankbait should be a bright color on a windy day. Remember, these are lakes that have a three- to ten-foot visibility. Not to say these techniques will not work with less visibility through the water, because they will; but you may have to slow down your presentation and experiment which color and time of day that is best for a high level of activity.

Dark colored water or very foggy water from a moderately clear lake that only has one to three feet visibility may produce best from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. You will need to experiment on best times.

When several types of locations and feeding areas are present, understanding what type of lure will work best for each location is very important. Casting to suspended bass that are out in the open water maybe best done with shiny spoons. Jigging these baits up and down, or casting and ripping them back to the boat is productive. Most of the time these suspended fish are relating to a drop off, creek channel, underwater hump, bar or some other type of structure.

Also, using a slowly falling, lightly



This happy angler caught this 21-inch largemouth bass while fishing with John Andrew this summer.

weighted plastic worm cast a long distance to where you have identified suspended bass is a deadly technique. Using a super line to detect the subtle tick or tap is very helpful, also in setting the hook on a long 100- to 130-foot cast away from the boat.

When casting deep-diving crankbaits over the top of deep structure, whether it is deep weeds, a creek channel ledge, a small rise in the bottom of a large flat or a deep hump, your speed of retrieve is very critical. You need to get it down to where the fish are by reeling quickly to start with, but then slow it down and glide the bait back to the boat. Gliding the bait is done by reeling at a steady, uninterrupted retrieve—not fast—almost at a slow to medium speed. Working this pattern is very effective and produces very well.

Working a large, shallow bay with some isolated humps that top off four to eight feet from the surface is another great location for a lake that has a high population of bass. Dragging a pre-weighted lizard or a Texas-rigged worm around or over these shallow humps can be very effective. On a windy day, we would cast spinner baits with willow leaf blades, representing small minnows and using top water baits when we have calmer conditions.

Let's not forget the several types of rattle baits on the market. If worked correctly, these baits produce very well and can be cast a very long distance. Choosing the right color is the critical



Grandfather and boys enjoyed their day with John Andrew catching these bass on spinnerbaits this summer.



The young children and their parents also enjoy catching summertime bass with the John Andrew.



Three generations of this family enjoyed this summer outing with the author catching bass.

concept for consistent success.

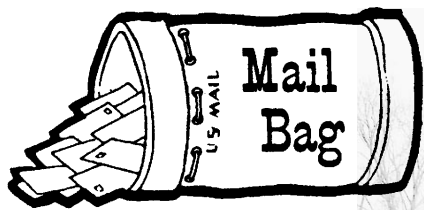
When fishing in a windy section of the lake, we prefer to cast the windy shoreline with large, shallow crankbaits, spinner baits and large 12-inch worms. These baits work with the windy conditions.

Casting small crankbaits along the long sections of riprap also produces very well, although, I instruct my clients to gently tick or bump the rocks about four to ten feet deep. This truly is the critical concept to producing the most strikes. By

adding parallel casts, a long distance down the rocks, excels this technique even more.

These described locations, methods and techniques produce some of the best catches of the year.

Good luck and good fishing.
The author, John Andrew, owner/operator of the AnglersChoiceGuideService.com is a two-time world record holder. He can be reached at 715-892-3020. John Andrew is a fulltime resident and fulltime, year 'round tour guide for fishing and hunting in the state of Wisconsin, specializing in Vilas, Iron, and Oneida counties.



Our Readers Write

Jerry Kriss of Cudahy, Wis., caught and released this nice small-mouth bass from the Peshtigo River in Wisconsin. The fish was 22.75 inches long and weighed six pounds, eight ounces.



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