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# ONSHORE Magazine

May 7 2021



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## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

My own 65th trip around the sun has me in a contemplative mood and today I am thinking about motherhood in general and about my own dear mother in particular. Motherhood today is a bit different than it was when I was a kid. I don't mean that mothers have really changed, simply that I think that their job today can be much harder than it was in the 50's and 60's. I was blessed to have a Dad who had a good job, which allowed Mom to stay home and spend as much time as possible with me. I was a late life, only child, so I'm guessing that my appearance was a bit unexpected, nevertheless happy. Needless to say, I was extremely spoiled.

Mom grew up poor on a farm in South Carolina, but she had a rich family life and her Mother raised her right. She grew up and enlisted in the Army during WWII and ultimately became a Master Sergeant in the Signal Corps. For those who knew her, later in her life, picturing Miss Dottie as a tough Master Sergeant is nearly impossible and actually quite humorous. Can you picture a Master Sergeant who never ever used profanity? At any rate, the Army took her to New York City where she met a Master Sergeant from Pennsylvania who would later become my Dad. I owe my life to the Army since these two would never have met, married and had me, if not for the war and the Army. What a great loss that would have been, for me at least.

Some of you may be asking how all of this has any relationship to fishing. Since I grew up in Arkansas, the opportunities for fishing were limited to typical fresh water stuff. While my Mom was not a big fisherperson (sadly, few women were in those days), she knew that I loved bass fishing and she supported my addiction from an early age. As soon as I turned 14 years old and could get my learner's permit, she even trusted me to tow my Boston Whaler out to the nearest lake (around 30 miles from our home), launch it, disconnect the trailer and she would allow a friend and I to spend the day fishing while she took the car home and then returned in the evening to meet us. I would reconnect the trailer, pull the boat out of the water and drive home towing the boat. At the time, I didn't really think there was anything unusual about this, but looking back, I can't believe that she let me do this at the tender age of 14; times really have changed. The fact that she was willing to give up so much of her day so that I could do what I wanted, was also pretty special.

As a childless male, I am probably not well qualified to talk about motherhood, but I did have a great example in my own Mom. I would like to wish all of the mothers out there a big Happy Mother's Day and to suggest that you try fishing and boating with your family. Especially in these strange times, the outdoors can be a great place to make lasting memories and build strong relationships. Everybody love and appreciate your Mothers while they are here with you.

*Merle & Flip the Bird*





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## HOT BOAT OF THE MONTH!

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**ON THE COVER:** First cast fever for Maria of Tampa Bay! On a recent girls trip, Maria hit the ground running to be the first to cast her crawfish lure into the weeds, pulling out not only a chunky Bass, but also a huge smile! Way to go Maria.





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# TAMPA BAY ON FIRE!

by Captain John Rivers

**W**here do I start? The fishing has been outstanding for the past 6 weeks. Whether you fish for Redfish, Snook, Trout or you name it, the bite is definitely on fire in Tampa Bay!

So let's talk about bait. Bait has been very good on the markers and it should continue to be abundant in May. As the month progresses the bait will start to head out on to the flats.

Redfishing has been extremely good on the flats in the upper bay around Weedon Island and north of the Courtney Campbell Bridge. The "reds" have even been hot down along the South shore of Tampa Bay. And, the Redfish bite will even start to get better as we move into the year. My favorite months to fish for redfish are April, May, October and November.

Back to the Redfish for a minute, they seem to bite better when the water is a little cooler, so that's why I like the months listed. I also like an outgoing tide when fishing for "reds".



Snook fishing is phenomenal in the Tampa Bay area this time of year and you can typically catch the big ones. Live pilchards work great, but don't pass up putting out a piece of cut bait on a rod and stick it in a rod holder as you fish with live bait. You just might catch that trophy Snook on that chunk of cut bait, so keep that little tip in mind when you go out again.







I hope everyone stays safe and well. We will get through this. 🍷

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King Mackerel have shown up and are out along the channel and buoys and near the Skyway Bridge. Lastly, Spanish Mackerel are also showing up and they are fun to catch especially for families with kids and they are good fish for a fish fry.

And let's not forget about Trout fishing. May is another great month to target this species due to the water temps not being too hot yet.



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## GATOR BAIT?

by Tom Mohrbach

If you've read my previous articles, you are well aware of my lack of fishing prowess. I'm fairly new to the salt-water scene and I primarily fish from shore. As a transplanted Michigander I'm used to battling freshwater foes like Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass and Walleye. Salt-water fish such as Snook, Reds, Drum, Sea Trout, Mackerel and the myriad of other fish in the vast ocean still befuddle me, but I occasionally catch one of the ocean dwellers.

I decided recently to dust off my freshwater rod and reel and venture out to some of the many nearby ponds in pursuit of some Florida Bass. I figured the spring spawning season had to be close and perhaps it would offer up some hungry bass. As I was cruising my New Port Richey neighborhood, I spotted a tiny pond, only an acre in size, in a relatively new housing development. Fortunately, it didn't have a no trespassing or fishing sign, as so many ponds do.

I parked nearby and gave the area a quick scan for gators. Remember, I'm a Michigan boy and we don't do gators up there! Sure enough, there was a decent size one resting on the nearby bank. As I warily approached the pond, it spotted me and abruptly entered the water and swam to the middle of the pond where its head remained visible like a periscope keeping an eye on me.

I said to myself, "be brave, you're too big for him to eat." I noticed several round fish spawning beds just under the surface of the tea-colored water. The beds were huge. Perhaps, I would finally catch

some fish, I thought, as I let loose with a tentative cast towards the opposite bank.

On the second such cast, my small rubber spinner-bait was slammed with an aggressive bass strike. It took a second for it to register, as I hadn't hooked a fish in a while. I quickly overcame my shock and set the hook. The fight was on. I reveled in the feel of the multiple tugs, jerks, and jags the bass made in an effort to win its freedom, but for once I was victorious.

I was grinning like I landed a 5 pounder. In actuality, it was probably a tad under a pound. I warily kept an eye on Mr. Gator, who was still watching from the middle of the pond with a hungry eye. I release the fish and on my third cast after that hooked and landed another one. Three casts later, I hooked another one that promptly shot to the surface and danced across the pond on its tail before shaking the spinner-bait free and plunging back below. I swear the gator was now grinning at me.

It was a magical mid-afternoon as I landed two more bass and lost three others in this tiny one-acre pond just a couple miles from my home. The gator apparently had enough of me as he summoned assistance. I spotted a second gator now cruising the surface not too far away.



I know you native Floridians wouldn't be bothered by a gator or two, but this Michigander wasn't about to push his luck. The gators both disappeared under the water and I just knew they were plotting their attack. "Not today suckers!" I yelled as I quickly retreated to the safety of my vehicle, but only after having had a thoroughly enjoyable fishing experience.

Stay safe, fish hard, and maybe I'll see you at a fishing pier or pond bank soon. ☑

**Tom is a retired police officer. Since his retirement he has published three novels. His latest, "Northern Nightmare", was just released. All of his books are available on Amazon. See his website: [tommohrbach.com](http://tommohrbach.com) for additional information.**



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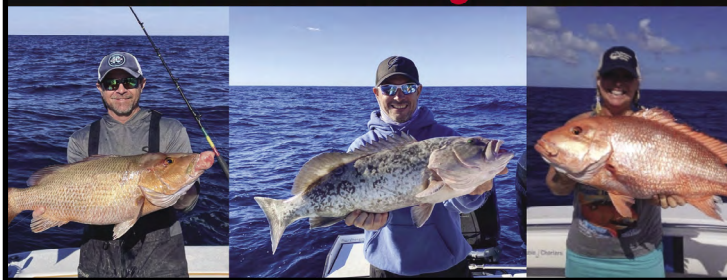
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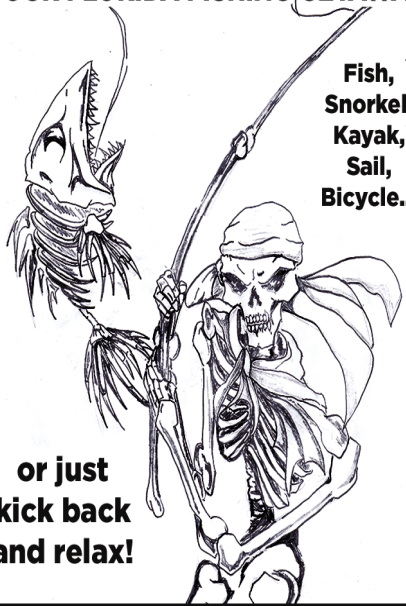
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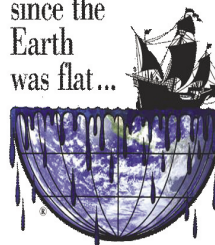
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The Channel 8 WFLA Outdoors Expo and Boat show is coming to Raymond James Stadium the weekend of May 14th and it will be hosting an All-Star lineup of Outdoor Personalities, Captains, tons of family entertainment and summertime giveaways. Among some of the featured personalities over the weekend is Misty Wells host of the TV and Radio show "Let's Take it Outside" airing on Fox Sports, World Fishing Network, Carbon TV, Hunt Channel and MOTV to over 38 million viewers. Misty is the 1st female host of an outdoor show on Fox Sports, an Outdoor Pro at Bass Pro shops and is paving the way for the next generation of female and youth outdoors enthusiasts. On "Let's Take it Outside" Misty takes you on adventures all around the globe from Wahoo fishing in the Cayman Islands, White Water Rafting Class V rapids in North Carolina, to Python Hunting in the Everglades. Make sure to stop by and see Misty, she will be giving away a "free offshore charter" for up to 6 anglers, on every day of the event.



Chasten Whitfield of "Chastention" will also be in attendance all weekend, doing what she does best, "interacting and teaching the next generation of anglers". Chastention was founded in 2015 by Chasten Whitfield. Chasten is a 19-year-old angler who proves "it's more than just fishing."

Her mission is to help kids of all ages, especially girls, become comfortable anglers while teaching positive life skills, thoughtfulness, doing what's right for the right reasons and choosing to stay active outdoors. It's not about what you look like or outside appearance, what matters is what's inside. Chasten promotes conservation and helping to teach kids and adults fishing seminars. Misty and Chasten are teaming up together to create an interactive kids area where they will learn to throw a cast net, cast a rod, knot tying, how to measure a fish and interactive species identification with prizes for the kids.



Attendees will also get to enjoy "Bass Tubs of Oklahoma" – a 10,000 gallon traveling bass fishing tank and get to watch bass fishing tank demonstrations with Chuck Deveraux. Capt. Ike of Tampa Bowfishing Charters will be hosting interactive Bow Fishing Demo's throughout the weekend at the show. Capt. Ike is "one of the best Bow Captains in the State of Florida", he will make Bow Fishing your new passion. Capt. Ike is also a Pro with Bass Pro Shops and teaches seminars monthly at the store and is ready to take you on the water.

Other Captains among the weekend up lineup is Capt. Mike Goodwine of Black-neck Adventures, based in Tampa Bay. Capt. Mike is known as one of the best inshore Captains to take you

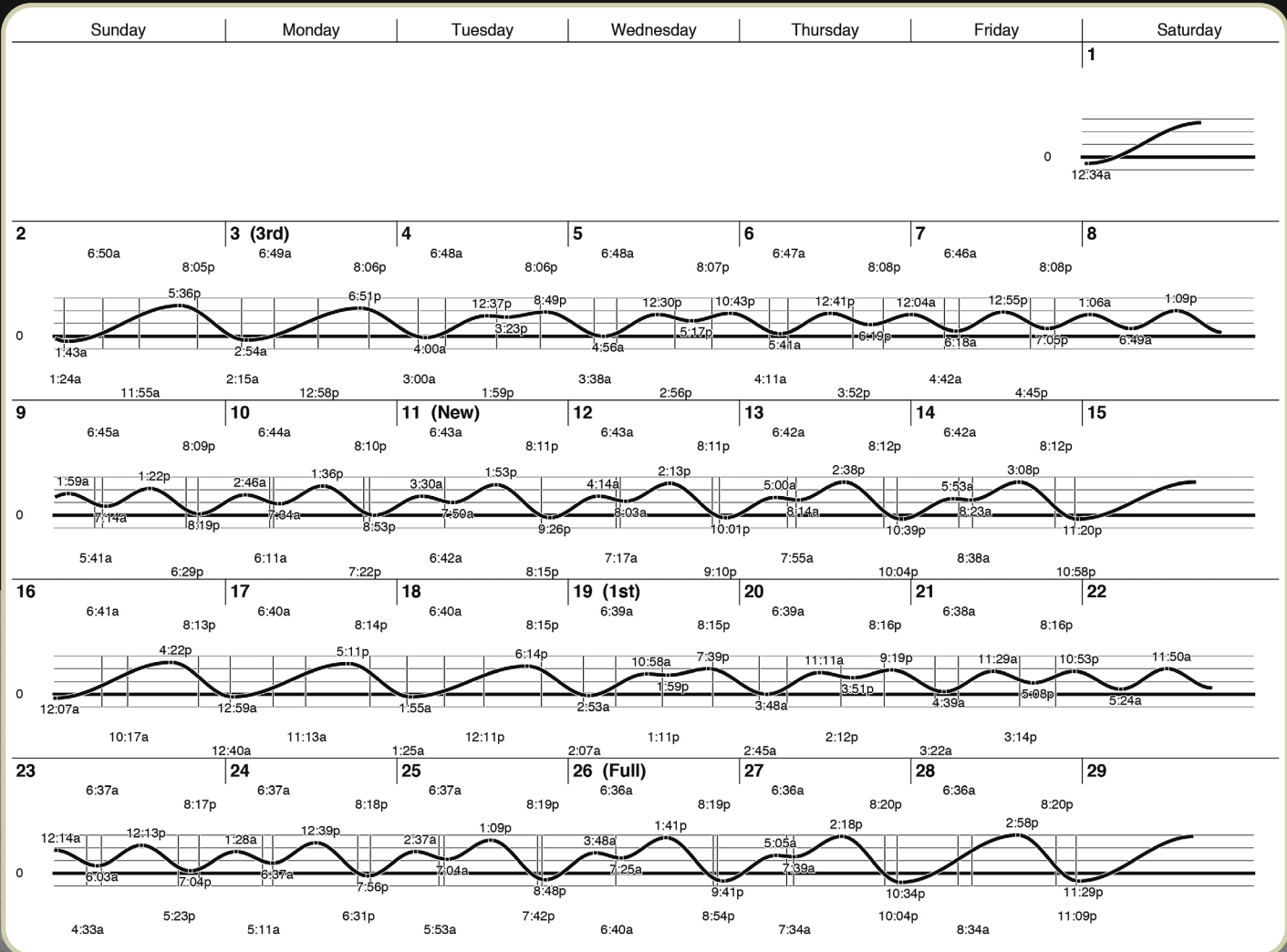


Snook, Redfish and Trout fishing in the area. Capt. Mike will be sharing tricks of the trade, tackle tips and how to find that monster snook in his seminars all weekend. Other featured Captains will be Capt. Ryan Rickard of the "Flats Mafia Fishing Team" and Capt. Joey Antonelli – talking about his YouTube Channel and how to make fish blogging exciting.

It's not all about fishing, Channel 8 will have an Axe Throwing trailer, Motorcycles, Slingshots, Boats and plenty of outdoor fun and giveaways. Parking and Friday's admission is free to everyone and Saturday and Sunday admission is only \$5 for adults, children 12 and under are free.

**We will see you, out on the field! 🎯**





Conversions are based off of the St. Petersburg Pier. They are published strictly for reference and are not designed for navigational aid. Onshore-Offshore assumes no responsibility for their accuracy.

Conversions for Clearwater Beach Area			Conversions for St. Marks River Area		
High	Low		High	Low	
-0:02	-0:10	Dunedin, St. Joseph Sound	+0:23	+1:18	Everglades City
-0:05	-0:15	Anclote Key, South End	-1:17	-1:03	Cape Romano
+0:42	+0:42	Tarpon Springs, Anclote River	-1:04	-1:08	Marco Island
-0:07	-0:03	North Anclote Key	-1:59	-2:04	Naples
+0:41	+0:39	Old Port Tampa	-0:46	-0:09	Indian Bay
+0:33	+0:53	Gulf Harbors	-0:59	-0:42	Bayport
+0:42	+1:05	Hwy 19 Bridge, Pithlachascotee River	-0:25	+0:23	Withlacoochee River
+0:50	+1:35	New Port Richey, Pithlachascotee River			
+0:36	+0:43	Hudson, Hudson Creek			



## Conversions for Tampa Bay Area

High	Low	
+0:49	+0:58	Gandy Bridge
+1:38	+1:55	Courtney Campbell Cswy.
+1:38	+1:55	Safety Harbor
+0:20	+0:22	Ballast Point
+0:07	+0:26	Hillsborough Bay
+0:21	+0:29	McKay Bay Entrance
+0:41	+0:39	Old Port Tampa
-2:27	-2:24	Egmont Key
-2:53	-2:46	Anna Maria, Bradenton Bch
-2:10	-2:19	Anna Maria, City Pier
-1:24	-0:55	Bradenton, Manatee River
-0:30	+0:14	Redfish Pt., Manatee River
-2:22	-1:58	Mullet Key Channel, Skyway
+0:08	+0:17	Shell Point
-0:22	-0:29	Point Pinellas
-1:34	-1:30	Pass-a-Grille Beach
-1:32	-1:05	Gulfport
-1:18	-0:44	St. Pete Beach Causeway
-2:14	-2:04	John's Pass
-1:40	-1:18	Madeira Beach Causeway
-2:00	-1:25	Cortez, Sarasota Bay
-1:38	-0:58	Sarasota Bay
-2:02	-1:38	Venice Inlet
-0:57	-0:40	Englewood, Lemon Bay
-1:27	-0:59	Placida, Gasparilla Sound
+1:38	+1:56	El Jobean, Myakka River
+1:52	+2:30	Shell Point, Peace River
+1:06	+1:27	Punta Gorda, Charlotte Hbr.
-1:12	-1:56	Boca Grande, Charlotte Hbr.
-0:19	+0:26	Pineland, Pine Island
+0:43	+1:28	Matlacha Pass
-0:55	-1:14	Redfish Pass, Captiva Is.
-0:46	-0:20	Captiva, Pine Island Sound
-2:20	-2:28	Captiva, Gulf Side
-0:25	+0:16	Galt Isle, Pine Island Sound
-0:30	-0:44	St. James City, Pine Island
+2:08	+2:44	Fort Myers
+1:15	+2:02	Cape Coral Bridge
+1:08	+1:40	Iona Shores
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# TAKING IT





# VIRTUAL!

by Rosemary J. White



## Have you heard of the International Women's Fishing Association?

The International Women's Fishing Association was established in 1955 to promote women's fishing in an arena primarily dominated by men. Over the years, it has become one of women's most prestigious fishing clubs, setting the standards for conservation and promoting angling competition among women. To help further one of its chartered objectives, the field of conservation, the IWFA established the IWFA Scholarship Trust to provide financial aid to marine science graduate students.



The IWFA adopted the International Game Fish Association species list in 2004 affording members worldwide an opportunity to compete in their own backyards. The IWFA Tournament schedule includes three or more release tournaments each year, with members traveling to destinations such as Louisiana, Guatemala, Mexico and the Florida Keys for the opportunity to compete against their fellow women anglers. All club tournaments are release-only.

Today you will find IWFA members fishing on piers, beaches, lakes and rivers from pangas, skiffs, sportfishing boats and most recently virtually. So what exactly is a virtual tournament? The IWFA introduced the "virtual funament" in 2020 as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Here is a quick deciphering of the tournament rules. Each team will consist of five (5) anglers. There are a total of ten (10) teams participating in the event. There are no restrictions on tackle or location for fishing, but all participants must follow the IWFA fishing rules.



You can fish anywhere and any time from April 1st to May 31st for this event. All fish must be logged in with an IWFA affidavit. Each IWFA approved fish caught and released alive will count as one (1) point for each team. For each angler, there is a limit of 100 maximum points per species for the month of April and 100 maximum points per species for the month of May.

Maria and I could not wait to get fishing! We previously agreed on a plan to go to Maria's "spots". I arrived at Maria's house and we eyed each other's hard lures, soft plastics and everything in between. In my arsenal were Yo-Zuri lures and Savage Gear soft plastics and swim baits.



We took a shot of Fireball and toasted to good luck for each of us. We set out on a Saturday morning, as we are both working grunts during the week, giving us a bit of a disadvantage against those ladies that are retired.

The fishing was a struggle as we had just come off of a cold front, but we were determined to gather points for our teams (keep in mind Maria and I are not on the same team).

We trudged from pond to pond, and slowly, but surely, we gathered our points. Maria caught the first Bass. As luck would have it, I heard her holler when I was about 5 miles (not really that far) away from her on the other side of the pond.

Photos are encouraged in this tournament so I dropped what I had and went running, the fanny pack around my waist, bibs and knee boots obviously not conducive to speed and agility.

My jaw dropped when I saw her first catch and I am woman enough to admit I was a little envious.



After a few "dinks" on my part I managed a decent one. Now if you know me personally, you know that you can usually hear me before you see me. That being said, I took a deep breath and bellowed for Maria to "get over here". I laughed because this time she was clear across the way and payback was hilarious as I watched her bumble over.

Twelve o'clock came and we decided on Sushi for lunch. I had used all my hooks and after sushi we set out to find the weighted screw lock hooks I needed for my Savage Gear Dragon Tail soft plastics.

Once we were full and again, locked and loaded, we decided to borrow a friend's boat and head out to his private lake. Needless to say, it was an impromptu decision and we were not prepared for the terrain in the least.

The comedy began as I closed my truck door on Maria's G-Loomis, oh yes and I certainly broke it. We finally launched the boat and the god awful wind and the thick lily pads made our rowing a perilous effort, we managed to get all of nowhere on the lake.



TAKING IT VIRTUAL

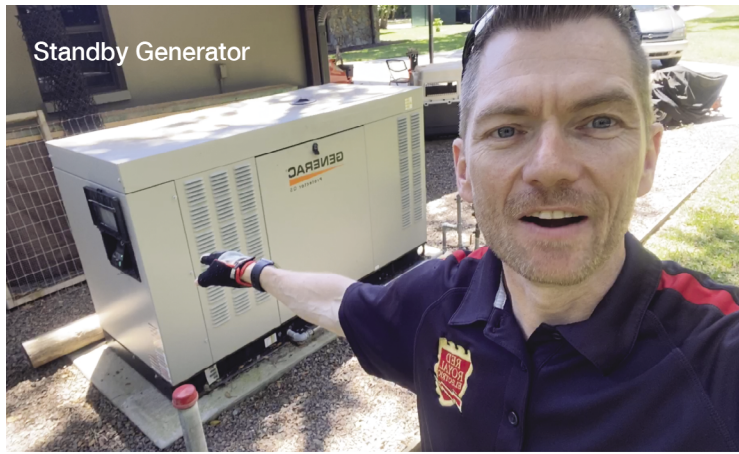
What we did get was so much laughter that we both about fell out of the boat. From wind knots, to missing huge Bass in the lilies, to being knee deep in mud, the day amounted to a few Bass and a "shit ton" of fun.

We each scored a few points for our respective IWFA teams and we were still alive. You can't beat that ladies. ☑

**- Rosemary J. White**



## Standby Generator



# Your Home Power Outage Plan?

By Michael Pasquino

We have received 100's of calls from home owners looking to get a home backup power solution in place. Planning ahead is the best thing you can do and the best advice I can give you. A few important things to consider is cost, timing, availability of generators, availability of fuel and availability of electricians and installation professionals. As many have experienced, when the demand skyrockets due to a storm heading our way – "Availability" can change very rapidly.

In the event of a power outage, what do you want to have power for? I hear customers tell me: to keep my refrigerator on, to run a small window unit air conditioner, to power the ceiling fans and lights, to run my homes AC, and some say they want to power everything.

Some of the most common questions we get are:

1. Should I get a portable or standby generator?
2. If Portable, should I get a gas or dual fuel generator?
3. I have Solar - Can I use it in a Power Outage?
4. How can I connect my portable to my home?

To start with, let's clear up a few terms:

**Standby Generator:** A generator like the one pictured above that is permanently installed at the home and ready for use in a Power Outage. Typically these units are installed with an Automatic Transfer Switch, which in the event of a Power Outage will signal the Generator to startup and transfer the home to Generator Power within seconds. These Generators usually use natural gas or propane.

**Portable Generator:** Any generator like the one in the photo to the right that supplies temporary power and is not permanently connected to the premises wiring.

**Dual Fuel:** Most portable generators run off of gasoline,

but what if there is no gas available or you just don't want to deal with getting, properly storing, and pouring



gasoline to keep your generator running? "Dual Fuel" is a generator that will run off either gasoline or propane. Some manufacturers like the one pictured now offer **Tri-Fuel** Portable Generators and this will run off of Gasoline, Propane, or Natural Gas.



While usually you will get more power and longer running time out of gasoline, propane is a great option to have especially if you can't find or get gas.

**Solar:** After Irma hit and many were without power for days we received a lot of calls asking "I have Solar, how can I power my home with it." Seems logical. You own your own power source, which generates power from the Sun – shouldn't you be able to power your home if the power goes out. Unfortunately, the answer is "No". At least not with a Solar system only. Thousands of Floridians have gotten Solar on their homes and standardly Solar relies on power from the power company in order to work properly. So by design when the power goes out so does your Solar.

**Time & Recommendations:** If you have the lead time for the installation and can afford it I recommend a home standby generator. If cost or timing is a factor then a portable generator will work to give you some power and comfort in the event of a power outage. Any power in a power outage will be very much appreciated!



**Generator Interlock Switch**

Interlock Switch as shown here allows your Portable Generator to power your existing Electrical Panel and ensures safe operation.



**Generator Power Inlet**

You don't need an Electrician or to do anything to your home to use a Portable Generator. Just be sure to have enough and long enough extension cords to reach the things you want to power.

I recommend to get your home set up with a Generator Power Inlet which will allow you to plug your portable generator into your home and through the Generator Interlock Switch will distribute back up power to your entire main breaker panel safely. Then you will be able to use any electric in your home up to the output of your portable generator.

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# REEL IN AWESOME IN CRYSTAL RIVER

**Cast your line in Citrus County, Florida for world-class fishing, year-round!**

by Christine Steele

**S**et on Florida's Nature Coast, just a short drive from Orlando, Tampa, Gainesville and Ocala, Discover Crystal River is a true sportsman's paradise. Three spring-fed rivers — the Homosassa, the Chassahowitzka and the Crystal — feed into the Gulf of Mexico and create a rich fishing habitat.

This combination of fresh and salt water fishing, along with the pristine untouched character of the landscape and easy, relaxed pace of life, make Citrus County a world-class fishing destination year-round.

## **GO COASTAL OR GO FRESH**

Homosassa Bay, with its mangrove shorelines, dense seagrass beds and network of islands, is known for its giant Redfish, but that isn't the only species that will give you reel-burning thrills in this authentic Old Florida destination. You'll also find an abundance of Spotted Seatrout, Cobia and Spanish Mackerel ready to challenge the best of light tackle anglers. The clear, pristine flats are perfect for drifting or trolling along and taking in the scenic beauty all around.

At the mouth of the Crystal River, reel in Tarpon, Cobia, Redfish, Seatrout or venture offshore to deeper waters for Snapper, Grouper and Amberjack. At the river's headwaters, you'll find Bass, Sheepshead, Mullet and Bluegill.

Off the coast, the 19,000-acre Tsala Apopka chain of lakes connect with the Inverness and Floral City pools in Citrus County that are prime for landing largemouth bass. Shellcracker and Bluegills also flourish throughout the chain, making this a quality, year-round freshwater fishing destination.

## **FISHING IS A WAY OF LIFE**

Fishing goes back generations in Citrus County. Guides with a lifetime of experience on the water can help you find the best honeyholes to access boatloads of fish, both inshore and offshore.

While visiting, be sure to spend some time swapping fish stories with the locals at unique spots like MacRae's or the Monkey Bar in Homosassa, or Peck's Old Port Cove in Ozello. Or, just sit back and watch the boats go by as you relax with a cold one after a successful day on the water.

During the summer months, Citrus County's famous scallop season is in full swing. The waters off Crystal River and Homosassa are two of only a handful of places in Florida where you can gather buckets of fresh, juicy scallops. Dive into this local tradition likened to an underwater easter egg hunt.

## **FROM FISH TO FORK**

After a fantastic day on the water, pull your boat up to shore and bring your buckets of crabs, cleaned scallops or fish to one of more than a dozen restaurants or seafood shacks where a local chef will cook your catch in this time-honored Florida tradition.

Call ahead and let them know you're coming, then have a seat and let them serve it up to you with all the fixin's, fresh from the water and onto your plate.

With so much to see and do, plan your next fishing trip to Citrus County and discover authentically awesome fishing and more in the soul of Florida.

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# STRUCTURE FISHING FOR SUCCESS

by Captain George Hastick

I'm sure if you have been fishing for any length of time you have heard anglers talking about fishing structure. Typically when someone mentions fishing structure, they are talking about the obvious structure like bridges, reefs, rock jetties and rock piles, which are all really good fish holding structures.

Besides the previously mentioned, fish will congregate on many more, sometimes less obvious types of structure. Structure can come in many different forms in shallow water to very deep. It can be something as simple as an oyster mound in the middle of a grass flat or something substantial like an artificial reef in the middle of a bay. Sometimes these areas can hold fish for many different reasons or all of them combined which makes a hot spot. Sometimes fish will congregate around structure for protection against predators like pesky Dolphin or Sharks.

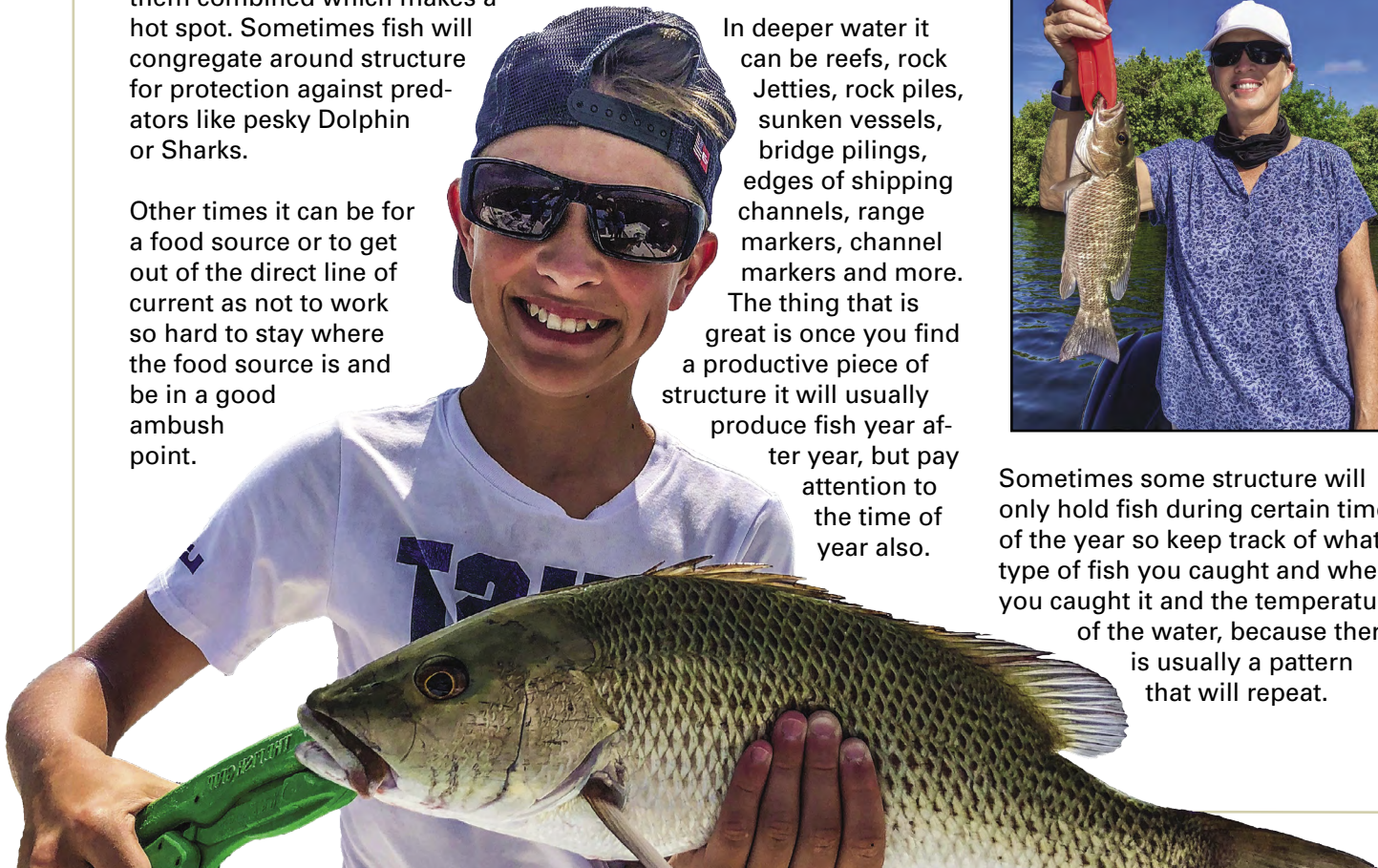
Other times it can be for a food source or to get out of the direct line of current as not to work so hard to stay where the food source is and be in a good ambush point.

Structure will almost always hold bait and if it allows the fish to get out of the direct current it turns into a feeding station.

Here are some of the different types of Structure that can hold fish in different areas. In the shallows mangroves, oysters, deep holes, grassy areas, drop offs, channel edges, sand holes, fallen trees, rocks, docks and smaller bridges to name a few.

In deeper water it can be reefs, rock Jetties, rock piles, sunken vessels, bridge pilings, edges of shipping channels, range markers, channel markers and more. The thing that is great is once you find a productive piece of structure it will usually produce fish year after year, but pay attention to the time of year also.

Sometimes some structure will only hold fish during certain times of the year so keep track of what type of fish you caught and when you caught it and the temperature of the water, because there is usually a pattern that will repeat.







Now on the flats there are a number of different species you typically can catch; Snook, Trout, Redfish, Sheepshead, Mangrove Snapper, Flounder, Black Drum and Cobia just to name a few.

Now in the deeper water like reefs and rock piles, for instance, you can catch many of the inshore fish that you might not expect to catch on a reef, like Flounder, Snook and Redfish can be found on reefs and it happens every year along with Grouper, Mangrove Snapper and Black Sea Bass that also inhabit reefs and similar structure. Even some of the near shore reefs can get loaded with large breeder Redfish and Snook while also



holding Flounder around the outside edges of rock piles and reefs with good sand around them.

One memorable day I had was fishing a rock pile with a friend, Ray Riske in 10 feet of water. It was in the Fall using Scaled Sardines and we caught 21 different species of fish and never moved once.

So, now that you have places that you may not have tried in the past, give some new structure a try you might be pleasantly surprised. ☑

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Long considered the "Grand-Daddy" of Kingfish tournaments, the GJKT is a Jacksonville staple. It is held each year in July (this year's event is going to be held the week of July 12th, culminating on the 17th with the awards. The GJKT has become a destination worth coming to. Predictable weather, beautiful state parks, long flat beaches and a deep and easily navigable inlet make this event the perfect choice for that family getaway, with a chance to claim the title to one of the most prestigious tournaments around.

With 56 ways to win, we have an expanded Ladies division where we will pay the top 10 Ladies, sponsored by Logan Diving & Salvage....we have a Single Engine division where we will also pay cash to the top 10 single engine boats (if you didn't place in the open class), and we have the open class, where we'll pay the top 10 big fish and the top 10 aggregate, sponsored by Custom tree Service. You can weigh 2 fish on Thursday and 2 fish on Friday; largest 2 weighed will be your aggregate!

Our tournament is unique in that you can find winning kingfish right outside of the inlet: within 10 miles of the inlet along the beaches, or out 40 or 50 miles. You just never know where the next big bite is going to come!

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See you in the weigh-in line,

**Glenn Morningstar**  
2021 Tournament Chairman



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# TAKE SOME T & M THIS MONTH

by Captain Sergio Atanes

**S**ome of the first things I learned from my uncle Manuel, at an early age, were his techniques and knowledge of fishing. At the age of five years and a few months, he took me under his wing like an angel and hooked me on fishing. He was only 18 years old at the time, but he had already acquired more knowledge about fishing in Tampa Bay than most anglers twice his age. About a year into my adventures with my uncle, he decided to expand the boundaries and that summer we started fishing Gasparilla Island.

Back in the 50's, there were no bridges to the island, only ferryboat service several times a day. I do remember the last ferryboat left at 8 PM on Friday nights. We missed it several times when the traffic on US 41, then a single lane highway, would backup for miles around Sarasota and then we had to spend the night fishing the old railroad bridge that

carried supplies to the island until the next ferryboat arrived at 8:00am. The bridge is still there today and it is a good fishing spot.



We would camp on the shoreline within sight of the old phosphate pier that extended into Boca Grande Pass. It was a beautiful sight at night, with its lights looking more like a great ship

gliding into the pass (all that is left of the pier now is the wooden pilings).

Fishing was not allowed on the pier, except on weekends. No ships docked there and at night the guards would let us fish till daybreak, in exchange for some of our catch or sometimes for a bottle of rum, and boy did we catch fish. We caught huge redfish, up to 40 inches long, snook (or soap fish, as they were called in the 50's) were considered trash fish, grouper, flounder and mangrove snapper were common catches during the winter months.

At any given time, you could hook up with a goliath grouper that would often exceed two hundred pounds. For goliaths we used 3/8-anchor line with a 20/0 hook and for sinkers we used old window sash weights with mullet for bait. The line was lowered to the bottom towards the end of the pier and





tied to the railing. When the railing shook you knew you had a big fish on the hook and all the guys would slowly walk the beast to the shore where it was cleaned, deboned and iced for the trip back home.



During the day we fished for mackerel, trout and redfish along the shoreline and island side of the railroad bridge. Part of the learning experience was not only fishing but also camping and cooking our catch. I remember a walkway on both sides of the pier with a conveyor belt that ran through the center. I don't remember a lot more than that, except that my uncle would tie old anchor line around my waist and the other end was tied to the railing. This gave me enough scope to let me work an area, but it was short enough that if I fell in the water only my feet would touch. The current there runs through the pass at a good clip and without the safety rope I would have been swept into the Gulf forever.



If my mother had ever known or found out some of my many experiences I had with my uncle, it would have ended my fishing career. In the winter of 1952 Uncle Manuel received an invitation

from his uncle (Uncle Sam), then known as the draft board, to spend some time in the Army. My adventures were put on hold until his return, but my love for fishing continues even today.

### MAY TAMPA BAY FISHING REPORT

**Snook** action is hot along the mangroves with the best bites in the early morning using top-water plugs or their favorite summer bait, live greenback sardines. Fishing with live bait I like to freeline the baits in morning and use a float like the four horsemen, which has a distinct noise. I find it draws a lot of attention in the afternoon.

**Redfish** will be roaming the flats and I suggest cut threadfin sardines on a 3/0 Kahle hook with a split shot about 3 inches from the hook. Pick a spot with salt and pepper bottom or close to some oyster bars and cast in the general area and let the baits sit on the bottom. It may take some time, but the reds will come, and chances are you will catch everyone's limit.

**Mackerel** will be everywhere where you have a strong running tide; range markers and artificial reefs are a good place to start.

**Black Drum** can be found under most bridges feeding on cut blue crabs or shrimp. Mangrove snapper will be in the same area, except they prefer shrimp or small greenback sardines on a 1/0 hook.

from his uncle (Uncle Sam), then known as the draft board, to spend some time in the Army. My adventures were put on hold until his return, but my love for fishing continues even today.

### You may ask what is T & M?

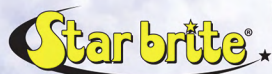
'T' is for the time you spend teaching to someone else what you learned about fishing and 'M' is for the memories you can't buy and for the memories you pass on.

Fishing takes no special skills and is one of the few sports that anyone can participate in from young to old, so why don't you start your own T and M this month with someone you care for and watch the memories grow.

Good fishing and tight lines! ☑

**Captain Sergio Atanes is host of Florida West Coast Fishing Report on Facebook and YouTube every Monday night 7-8 p.m. live. He is also host to Aventuras De Pesca USA on national TV and Radio Show. Email the captain at: atanes@msn.com, call 813-973-7132 or visit: reelfishing.com.**





# DITCH THE DISH SOAP

Professional Angler, Host of *George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing*, and boat cleaning guru, George Poveromo, only uses Star brite BOAT WASH to clean up after a day on the water.

## REASONS TO DITCH THE DISH

The grease cutters in dish soap can strip wax and polish. This leads to:

- ▶ Greater exposure to harmful UV.
- ▶ Greater chance of oxidation.
- ▶ Deterioration of gel coat.

## THE SOLUTION

All Star brite Boat Washes CLEAN your boat without stripping wax or polish. Your gelcoat doesn't become exposed to increased UV-radiation, and oxidation is less likely to occur...keeping your boat looking **BETTER** for **LONGER**.

**GEORGE'S FAVORITE**



[www.STARBRITE.COM](http://www.STARBRITE.COM)