

by Samantha Ryan

The Catfish Derby and how it Changed my Life

Hi my name is Samantha Ryan every year John Vargo and his group have a few catfish derbies. I have been going to them for a few years now and they have changed my life. In the first year that I went to one of them I was in 4th grade and I won first place for catching a 14 inch catfish. That day was one of the best days of my life. It showed my that even a girl at the age of 8 could beat everyone on the Hudson River. That a girl can beat boys almost double her age at a sport that men usually conquer. But here everyone is able to compete no one is rejected. It doesn't matter the skill level of the amount of experience you have. For the contests they have bait for you and most of the time they will have poles set up for you to use. In the middle of the contest they bring out food like sliders and hot dogs for you to eat. All the people that run the derby are all loving and wonderful people. They love to see young people interested in the competition and come back year after year. There is usually an entry fee of 5 or 7 dollars to compete. All the money they make go to the cleaning and help the Hudson River. And it is just fun in general. You meet many new people and learn many skills that you use in everyday life. I hope to see you at the next catfish derby on the Hudson River.



Sam and Fresh water Drum



HRFA Team at Billy Joe's

GRANDPA CARL'S KID'S COLUMN

From the publisher: Carl Bruger has been a member of the Hudson River Fishermans Association for many years. He is totally devoted to fishing and especially teaching children the wonderful sport. Carl is usually at one of the many HRFA events held throughout the year on the Hudson River and else where.
John H. Vargo, Publisher

The first article hopefully of many more to come in a series for children and their families to enjoy.

by Carl Bruger

If they have demonstrated casting competence with such a rod feel free to move them up to spinning rods and reels as the next level of difficulty.

Really gifted and enthusiastic youngsters can eventually be taught to handle fly rods and reels including the casting techniques if they have a couple of years of solid casting wisdom under their belts and an enthusiastic elder guide to coach them in this awesome angling aspect.

With a new year and plenty of winter ahead to prepare for the spring and summer fishing seasons all of my readers have time to really get prepared to go fishing with the right fishing gear. Moms and Dads, Grandparents and other folks guiding the beginning youngsters will be have useful information in each article that will optimize the odds of a successful angling adventure.

This first sharing will cover what to take with you when you take a kid fishing. The article will be in two parts and so the April issue will complete the details of all the various needs in gear and equipment if you want to really do it right. Please understand that if you don't have every item you are not going to "fail" in Fishing 1A. You should never expect an angling adventure with a young child to go perfectly smoothly. The key is to roll with the challenges of tangles, skinned knees, wet clothes and mosquito bites to get to the unmitigated joys of that first fish caught or the really big fish landed that everyone remembers for a lifetime!

Let's start with the child's first fishing rod. It is best to introduce kids to casting with a push button spin cast reel on a rather short rod matched to their size, age and coordination.

The line you use on a push button reel is usually monofilament ranging from 4 to 12 pound test in fresh water and 10 to 30 pound test in salt water. The brine reels here on boat rods are conventional casting reels. (Picture the classic Penn reels we all know.) Hopefully they include a level wind feature to avoid line spool overlap because beginners don't think about line distribution.



Daiwa Goldcast Spincast ... Sportsman's Guide \$59.99



Pflueger President Spinning ... Walmart \$46.45



My own two grandsons, Miles and Harry, ages 8 and 6 as of this writing, are relatively capable spin casters based on a couple weeks of vacation time with grandpa each year, but they are excited about learning so much more and I will be thrilled to share the progress they make in future articles.

Adults have the option of carrying the gear for the kids in their own tackle box or get the child their very own small box that can teach them organization.



Flambeau 1002 Tuff Tainer...
Cabela's \$2.19



Cabela's \$8.99
Flambeau 0550



Team Catfish SUPER
CAT J Hooks... Bass Pro
Shopping

Sinkers are vital for holding bottom, distance casting, and line stability. They can range from split shot to pyramid, bell, coin, bank, cone and bullet shapes. Their weight can fluctuate from fractional ounces to pounds over deep sea drops.



Lindy No-Snagg Sinkers
Cabela's \$14.99



Plano Guide Series 3-Tray
Field & Stream \$29.99



Plano 3-Tray Tackle Box
Bass Pro Shopping \$14.99



Plano ProLatch
StowAway... Bass Pro
Shopping \$10.49



Mudville No-Roll
Sinker Walmart \$4.70



Ultra Steel 2000
Bullet Cabela's \$7.99



EAGLE CLAW Pocket Pack
Sinker... Cabela's \$3.99



Flambeau Super Max
Satchel DICK'S Sporting
Goods \$34.99



Flambeau Outdoors T5
Multi Sportsman's
Guide \$49.99



Anglers Advanced
Cabela's \$49.99



CatMaxx Bank ...
Bass Pro Shopping \$10.29



Hayward Fishing Rock
Cod... DICK'S Sporting
Goods \$11.49



Bullet Weights Trolling
Sinker... Walmart \$2.13

Lure selection, hook, bobber, sinker type etc. The business end of fishing, the hook, is quite a variable. The size of your quarry obviously helps determine its size. The tiniest hooks are for trout with a 22 midge hook microscopic and a size 10 to 4 popular for fresh water fish of all types. Trophy big fish can demand hooks as big as 3/0 to 4/0 in fresh water while ocean angling can require hooks for cod or other big mouthed species that can double that size, (8/0)! Depending on if you are eating or releasing the catch you might want to consider circle hooks or barbless hooks which both minimize the mortality rate of hooked fish. The best "hooking hook" for the money is an octopus model.



Owner SSW
Circle Hooks (6)...
Cabela's \$5.99



Bass Pro Shops CatMaxx
No Roll... \$11.39

Bobbers or floats are made of plastic or cork or Styrofoam and are used to suspend the chosen bait at a selected level. Their shape can range from round to cigar shaped and colors fluctuate from red and white to gaudy chartreuse.



Imprinted
Sport Balls \$1.59



Wing-It Quick Swap Bobbers. Cabela's \$1.99

In that tackle box should go a basic selection of lures. There should be at least a representative of each of these categories: Plastic worm, plastic grub, frog, popper, swimming minnow, spinner, spoon, jig, spinner bait, buzz bait and crank bait.

There are three "tools" that are a must in every tackle box when a first fish is caught that are all likely to be used: pliers, tape measure and nail clippers.

Next issue I will go into the extra "stuff" that really makes a fishing trip with a child successful. If you hang on to all these monthly articles, by the end of the year you should really be writing some super success stories in your fishing diaries and giving kids a lifetime of cherished memories.



Popper



Jig



Swimming Minnow



Grub



Spoons



Buzz Bait



Frog



Crank Bait



Nail Clippers

The 13th Annual Great Upstate Boat Show is March 2 - 4, 2018!

Some of the best memories are created on the water and if you've been thinking about buying a boat or trading up to a newer model, THIS is the show. The Great Upstate Boat Show is the biggest boating sales event between New York City and Montreal. 2017 marked another record year in both attendance and sales, as thousands of folks from all over New York and New England flocked to the event just north of the Lake George Region. Everyone loves a deal, and this show's organizers have

A True One-Stop Shopping Experience:

- New & Preowned Boats
- Service
- Storage
- Dockage
- Docks
- Boat Lifts
- Parts
- Accessories

created a wonderful event with a primary focus on saving attendees money on a wide variety of new and preowned boats, as well as a plethora of boating lifestyle accessories. The most reputable dealers and lifestyle boating vendors throughout the Capital and Adirondack regions of New York will be showcasing the latest technologies for the ultimate on-water experience. Boats being displayed include: Bowriders,

Deck Boats, Jet Boats, Ski Boats, Aluminum & Fiberglass Fishing Boats, Classic Wood Boats, Pontoons, Cuddy Cabins, and Cruisers. Personal Watercrafts, Docking Systems, and Engine Outboards will also be on display.

Boat dealers and lifestyle vendors traditionally have their largest selection ready in early March. It's key selling season at this time and they're eager to move inventory. A neat addition this year is that when folks purchase a boat, each will have the chance to "Crack The Vault" and win up to \$50,000.

Compare, Select & SAVE:

- Over 1500 New & Preowned boats available
- Over 175 Boats on display at the show
- Over 60 Top Boat Brands
- Over 20 Leading Upstate, NY Dealers
- Over 25 Boating Lifestyle Vendors

Discover Something New & Enter For A Chance To Win BIG:

- Daily Live Seminars
- Daily Contests & Giveaways

thegreatupstateboatshow.com

