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Mack Attack

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Spinnerbaits for Pike

by *Bernie Barringer*

When you talk about fishing lures for northern pike, a spinnerbait is most likely not the first bait that comes to mind. If not, you should give it some more consideration. Spinnerbaits are great for fishing in submerged vegetation, the kind of stuff where pike like to hang out. Spinnerbaits are nearly weed-less, and offer a good hooking percentage. Plus, they are rarely bit off by the toothy critters, since the wire arm protects the line from the pike's nasty sharp teeth.



In the spring, you will find pike shallow. They will often be in cover less than two to three feet deep depending on water clarity. This is the perfect place to cast spinnerbaits. Spinnerbaits work through the weeds and offer a presentation that the pike have a hard time refusing.

As spring wears on into summer, northerns often set up in ambush positions on the deep edges of the weedlines. The best weeds are cabbage and coontail, but at times, milfoil and other weeds will hold pike.

This is the time for running a spinnerbait deep parallel to the edge of the weeds and dropping a bait into the holes in thick cover. The Mack's Lure Stan's Spin is a spinnerbait that is tailor made for this type of presentation. When you let the bait free-fall, the blades helicopter tantalizingly, and the northern pike simply cannot say no to it. This is one of many areas where the Stan's Spin out performs regular spinnerbaits because of the unique action and vibration the blades give off.

Choose colors that imitate the natural prey of the northern pike in that area. In northern natural lakes, that is generally perch, and in the more southern areas of the pike's

Tip of the Month

Trailer Hooks with Spinnerbaits

Bass and pike often strike short at spinnerbaits. You can catch these short-strikers by adding a trailer hook to the back. Several hook companies make special hooks with a large eye that will fit over the main hook. Then tip the trailer with a piece of plastic like a Berkley PowerBait or Gulp twister tail.

You may be surprised how many fish you will catch on the trailer hook, these are fish that you would have otherwise missed.

range it might be shad. Look toward bright colors like fire tiger in darker, stained water and more natural colors in clear water.

Next time you are on a lake with northern pike, reach for a Stan's Spin and make sure your shoes are tied on tight! You are in for a real fight.



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Mack's Lure Continues Winning Ways



Father and son team Charlie and Tony Glynn of Michigan fished the Wonderland Marine West Owners Tournament on Lake St. Clair, and brought home their first tournament win. "My dad and I used Mack's Lure Smile Blades at a speed of about .9 to 1.0 to capture the win, we started using Colorado blades but quickly found out they were too heavy for the shallow weedy bay we were fishing.," Tony explained. "Once all lines were converted to Smile Blades we had two nice fish within twenty minutes and continued to put fish in the boat the rest of the day. I really don't think my dad will ever want to use Colorado blades again."



Mack's Lure Pro-staffer David Lampe won the coveted Mercury Sportsman of the Year Award on the Iowa Organization of Walleye Anglers tournament trail. He took home a Mercury outboard for being voted as the top sportsman by his peers.

Cookin' Your Catch

Walleye Parmesan

Put a layer of spaghetti sauce on the bottom of a glass baking dish and lay the walleye filets on top of the sauce. Season with Italian seasonings, then add more sauce on top of the walleye filets. Sprinkle parmesan cheese generously on top and add some basil and oregano to taste. The cover with a layer of grated mozzarella cheese.

Bake this at 375 degrees until the cheese starts to turn brown.

This is soooo good and it is also great as leftovers warmed over in the microwave. Try it with other white-fleshed fish like crappies, bass, bluegills or perch.



Mack's Lure pro-staff members Randy Wihlidal and Darryl Ward of Saskatchewan finished the last event of the Saskatchewan Walleye Trail on Last Mountain Lake in style. They hit the **Grand Slam**, winning the **Fall Classic**, by doing so they also captured the **Team of the Year** title, and won the **Pro Challenge** (the top 50 anglers fish for a boat, motor, trailer), and were also named **King of the Mountain**, which is the top weight from the spring and fall tournament on Last Mountain combined! "I must say it was a pretty good weekend." said Randy.

Mack's Lure Blades Win Big for Pennsylvania Duo

Part 1 of three

The Smile Blades marketed by Mack's Lure are appropriately named.

Why? Because if you hang these easy-turning spinner blades on your fishing line they just might have you grinning all the way to the bank! If you doubt that, you probably haven't crossed paths with a couple of brothers from Pennsylvania. They are Mark and Richard Fike, of Farmington.

The Fike brothers, you see, won the 2006 Cabela's National Team Walleye Fishing Championship. This year's contest was staged was on South Dakota's Lake Sharpe in late June. The hard fishing Pennsylvania pair will tell you they wouldn't have won the event if they hadn't had Mack's Lure Smile Blades to work with.

And I'm not kidding about that old business of smiling when they were on the way to the bank. For their win the brothers went back to Pennsylvania with a sparkling new Ranger 618VC boat powered by a Yamaha 150 h.p. VMax motor and \$25,000 in cash.

Saying that Mark and Richard won the Cabela's championship is one thing; telling how they managed to do it is another. That's why I talked to both in an endeavor to come up with information that's a cinch to be of interest to anglers who want to put more walleyes into their own boats. Mark Fike is 35 years old. Richard has been around for 38. Both say they

were constantly encouraged by their mother in their fishing endeavors. The two feel they wouldn't have enjoyed the success they've had as tournament anglers without her constant support and interest.

"I started using Smile Blades six years ago," Mark says. "I won some at a walleye tournament in 2000. I put them in my tackle box. Then the following year I was involved in a late spring team tournament. The fishing was really slow and the fish were inactive. I'd heard Smile Blades could be fished at slow speeds. We put some on and wound up winning third place in the tournament."

That was the beginning of things for Mark Fike where Smile Blades are concerned. Richard's experience with them has followed similar lines. "I discovered how effective Smile Blades can be about three years ago," Richard says. "I was at a tournament in Kansas and talked to a friend who was using them. Smile Blades have provided me with a whole new concept where bottom bouncing for walleyes is concerned."

Talk to these walleye-fishing specialists and you'll soon discover they avoid going into a tournament with "fixed" ideas. They stay loose

in their approach and vary techniques until they get a handle on how the fish they're after are reacting.

This flexibility in approach played a major role in their walking away with top money in the 2006 Cabela's Team Championship. "The area where we caught most of our fish was so snaggy nobody else would fish it," Mark says. "We stayed in tight and followed the contours while using a 2-ounce bottom bouncer."

As experienced anglers can imagine, running through snag filled cover presented its share of problems. Mark and Richard found a way around some of them. "In the beginning," Mark says, "it seemed like we were constantly hanging up. We lost a lot of Smile Blades in the process. Finally we came up with an approach that really helped."

What that approach amounted to was switching to lighter hooks tied onto heavier lines and leaders. "We found," Mark says, "that we didn't have to break off after we switched to the heavier line and lighter hooks. We discovered that by simply stopping and using a steady pull we could straighten out the snagged hooks and pull free. Once we got our hooks in we could simply bend them





Smile Blades come in a wide variety of colors, shapes and patterns

Mark and Richard used behind their Smile Blades “We used a double hook set up for our worm rigs,” Mark says. “We buried the front hook in the nose of the ‘crawler and left a couple of inches to trail out behind the rear hook.”

I’ve talked mostly about my interview with Mark Fike. Richard has done even more tournament fishing than his younger brother. In fact, Richard won a second walleye tournament since taking the Cabela’s championship. He used both Mack’s Lure Smile Blades along with Mack’s Lure Hot Wings to do it.

I’ll get into the details of Richard Fike’s accomplishments as an award-winning walleye angler in my next column.

back into shape and continue fishing. We didn’t lose any gear using this procedure.”

Mark remembers something else he and Richard discovered in Lake’s Sharpe’s snaggy waters. “We found we were able to see some of the

underwater snags on our boat’s fish finding gear,” he says. “It soon became obvious that hits often came when our baits trailing along behind the Smiles Blades bumped off the cover.”

Nightcrawlers were the baits

Photo of the Month

We want your photos! Send your photos to bernie@mackslure.com.



Mack’s Lure products work for panfish too! This nice bluegill and a bucketful more like it were caught by Iowa’s Steve Weisman. Steve likes to use tiny jigs and glow hooks below a float for big ‘gills.

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