

Do nothing, but catch bass

Several years ago, the "do nothing" stick bait took the bass fishing world by storm. These simple-looking, but highly effective baits immediately began accounting for impressive catches and led to many tournament dollars being won by anglers across the country.



Mike Frisch

jig-head and casting to the outside weed edges. This is a fairly simple method utilizing spinning rod-n-reel combinations. Not only is it a simple fishing technique, but it often stays productive throughout summer and into fall.

The traditional jig-worming bait has been a ribbon tail worm in the 4- to 7-inch size range. Several summers ago, however, a fellow "bass-head" alerted me to the jig-worming success he was having fishing 5-inch stick baits instead of the traditional ribbon worms. I gave the technique a try and quickly realized similar results.

Since then, clients and I have had so much success with sticks when jig-worming that they are now my bait of choice. Not only do we get just as many bites as when fishing ribbon worms, but it seems

bigger fish are caught with sticks.

Various jig-heads in the 3/32- and 1/8-ounce size work for fishing sticks. Last fall I had a chance to sample the new Gami UV Jig when jig-worming and was impressed. The jig features a strong, sharp Gamakatsu hook that also proved very durable.

As for particular stick bait, I have used a variety over the years and have settled on the Impulse Dip-Stick Worm. The scent of the Impulse formula triggers fish to bite and gets them to hang on to the bait allowing for successful hook sets. Not only that, but the baits come in all the right colors.

Jig-worming success in the summer is often found fishing traditional bass colors like green pumpkin, June bug, and watermelonseed. Another color

that I have really grown to like is the camo pattern.

As with any fishing sit-

uation, the best way to determine the "color of the day" is to experiment.

Mike Frisch is a western Minnesota fishing guide. Visit his website at www.fishinwithfrisch.com for more information.

Photo provided

The author and his daughter, Sarah Frisch, with a couple stick bait bass.

I Can Paddle! program is July 19 on OTR water trail

Daily Journal

Explore one of Minnesota's most scenic rivers by canoe with your family on a guided trip down a gentle stretch of the Otter Tail River State Water Trail July 19.

No prior paddling experience is necessary. Beginners will learn essential skills, from how to launch their canoe safely to the most effective paddling strokes.

Canoes, life jackets, paddles and shuttle service are provided, so participants need only bring their sense of adventure and love of the outdoors.

The I Can Paddle! program will take place from 10 a.m. to about 3 p.m. Participants must be at least age 8, and anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The program fee is \$25 per canoe, and canoes can accom-

mmodate up to three people (with two paddling and one sitting in the middle).

Advance registration is required. Reservations can be made online anytime at www.mndnr.gov/reservations or by phone at 866-857-2757, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, excluding holidays.

I Can Paddle! is part of a series of skill-building programs offered by the DNR's Division of Parks

and Trails. Other programs in the series introduce camping, fishing, rock-climbing and archery to beginners.

The "I Can!" programs are made possible with support from the Parks and Trails Fund, created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in November 2008. The Parks and Trails Fund receives 14.25 percent of the sales tax rev-

enue and may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

For more information about the "I Can Paddle!" or the other "I Can!" programs, visit www.mndnr.gov/icn or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 651-296-6157 (Twin Cities) or 888-646-6367 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Highly-anticipated Pelican Fest set for July 11 and 12

Yearly festival features turkey BBQ, parade, kids' games

ON THE ROAD

most, anticipated events in town each year.

Work on the festival began heating up in earnest in January and has stayed steady since, according to Ballard. There are several groups involved in the festival and organizing them all is a big administrative task.

"There is a lot of work and buildup to the event," Ballard said.

This will be the second year since the return of the turkey races, a part of the festival for many years until disappearing some years ago. The races are set for 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday.

Other popular parts of Pelican Fest include the Saturday parade and the

classic car show, which has been "growing by leaps and bounds" the last few years, according to Ballard.

This year will also mark the return of the Little Miss Pelican pageant and the helicopter rides, which were not available during last year's Pelican Fest. There are a few new events mostly aimed at children this year as well, including bouncy games and a paintball target.

Ballard can feel the excitement building around town, both from businesses and residents. Though the organizing work can be exhausting, it always seems to pay off.

Friday, July 11

- Arvig Summer Fun customer appreciation,

downtown parking lot next to Mercantile on Main, 1 to 4 p.m.

- Helicopter rides, Chauney-Martin Field, afternoon until dark
- Kids games at the pool, Sherin Park Pool, 2 to 4 p.m.
- Ice cream social, Pelican Valley Health Center, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Little Miss Pelican pageant, Trinity Lutheran Church, pageant begins at 6:30 p.m.
- Old-fashioned bingo, Pelican Valley Health Center, starting at 6 p.m.
- Jaycee's beer garden, West Mill, opens at 6 p.m.
- Jaycee's karaoke contest, West Mill, 8 p.m.

Saturday, July 12

- Pelican Pete 5K Stamped run/walk, Lake Region Electric, registration from 6:30 to 7:15 a.m., starts at 7:30 a.m.
- Pancake and sausage breakfast, Pelican Valley Health Center, 7:30 to 10 a.m.
- Bouncy games for kids and paint ball blaster, downtown parking lot next to Mercantile on Main, starts at 9 a.m.
- Used book sale, Trinity Lutheran parking lot, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Farmers market, downtown, all day
- Flea market, next to the city pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 16th annual Classic Car Show, Sherin Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Kiddy parade, Main Street, 9:45 a.m. sign-up, 10:15 a.m. parade
- Helicopter rides, Chauney-Martin Field, afternoon until dark
- Grand Parade, Main Street, 11 a.m.
- Rotary Turkey BBQ, E.L. Peterson Park, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Jaycee's beer garden, West Mill, opens at noon
- Pelican Rapids Fire Department Water Wars, by the old fire hall, 1 p.m.
- Jaycee's bean bag tournament, West Mill, registration at 1 p.m., starts at 3 p.m.
- VFW bingo, VFW, 3 p.m.
- Teen swim fun night, Sherin Park Pool, 4 to 7 p.m.
- Jaycee's street dance, music begins at 9 p.m.



The Pelican Rapids Fire Department holds Water Wars annually as part of Pelican Fest. This year it will be at 1 p.m. by the old fire hall.

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