



### FROM THE EDITORS

In case you haven't noticed, our sole purpose is to bring to you the very best of the people, places, and products in the bass fishing industry in Louisiana. The State is blessed with so many natural resources and waterbodies, it's no wonder the people and products are second to none. This month we have traveled over 300 miles in pursuit of the articles, products, and stories between these pages. And while the fishing has been fun, the stories and experiences are topped only by the people we have met. Follow along on our journey and check out the other doers in the industry. Maybe, just maybe there's a product or company you haven't seen, a water body you haven't fished, or a story of some great folks you haven't met, just waiting for your discovery. Heck, there may even be a new boat in your future after you finish with this edition! #GeauxBassin

-Bassin' In The Boot

- Charles Anderson & Jeffery Anderson



### **PUBLISHER**

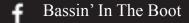
Bassin' In The Boot

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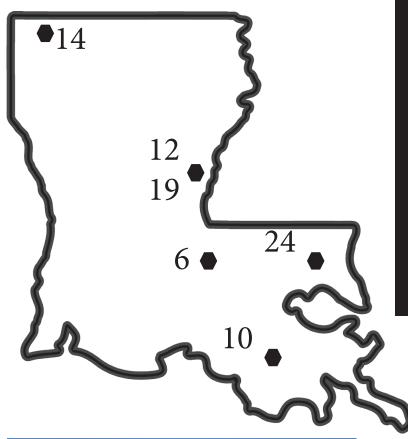




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August 2019 Volume 104



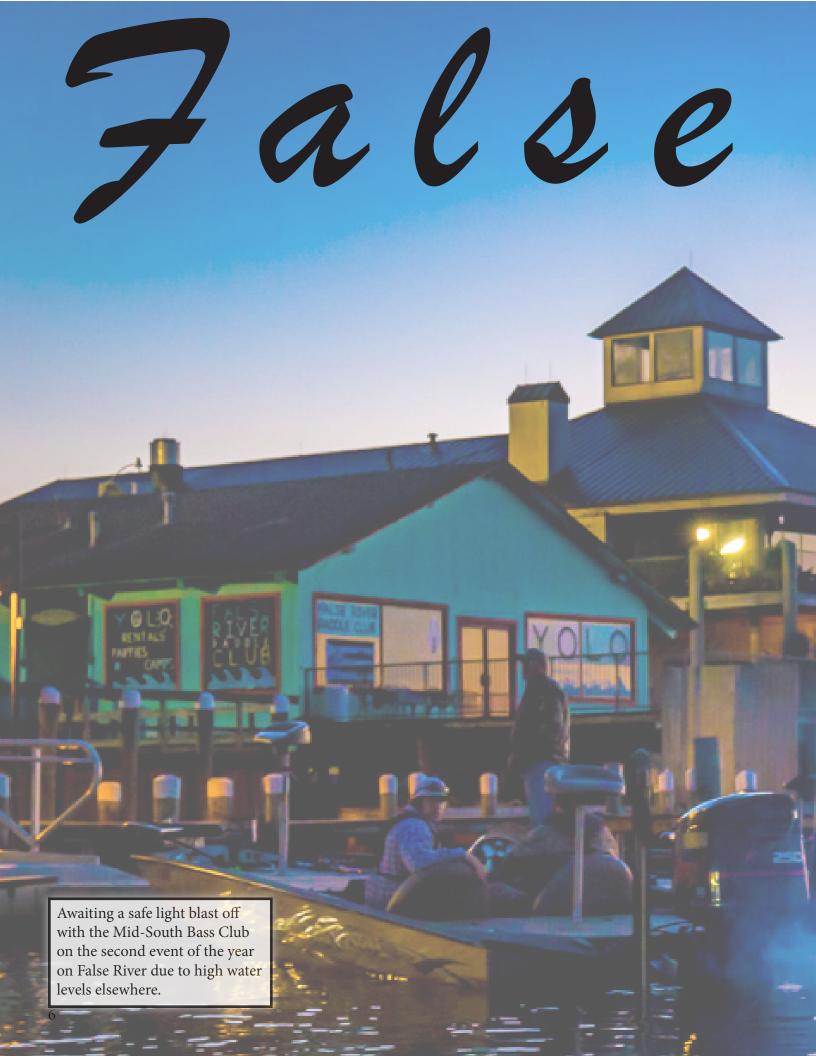
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he 22 miles of shoreline along False acres of water surface, accessible by no less than hindered in the adjoining canals with vegeta-7 boat launches. The "river" is actually an inaction. Even still, this is minimal and is constanttive oxbow of the Mississippi River, created nat-ly kept in check with various means of control. urally as the result of flooding in the early 1700's The primary problematic species of vegetation poundment being a natural waterbody is owned duckweed. Considered beneficial, the lake has by the State of Louisiana, and is regulated by the approximately 20 acres of coontail and fanwort Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the adjoining bayous and canals. (LDWF) and managed under the authority of Aside from vegetation, the lake offers a wide the False River Watershed Council as a commit-berth of fishable structure and cover. Shoreline tee under the jurisdiction of the Pointe Coupee structure is variable and includes everything Police Jury.

A popular destination for both fishing and recreational boating, the lake was once considered Over the recent decades there have also been a "trophy lake." As a part of this designation, the lake used to require a 15-19' slot, but now requires only a minimum size limit of 14" and reps a smaller daily creel limit of 5 black bass daily. In addition to fishing and boating, historically the lake has also seen a fair amount of duck hunting on the south flats.

The lake boasts an impressive depth profile with public landing, Bergeron pecans, hospital, pubmaximum depths reaching around 65 feet deep, lic landing. and an average depth of 21 feet. The water level The lake is fed from a watershed of approxiis maintained seasonally by the low water sill (constructed in 1947) and the Lighthouse Canal. This has both aided and hindered in the lake's battles with aquatic vegetation.

With the expansive open water, much of the River encompass approximately 3,212 lake is free from nuisance vegetation, but is shifting the path of the "great river". The im- include: water hyacinth, common Salvinia, and

from undeveloped natural shoreline in small areas, to docks, sea walls, and riprap shores. introduction of artificial cover, predominantly by private fisherman. However, the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury did import over 60 tons of gravel for the creation of seven spawning beds, constructed by LDWF. Gravel beds are described as being located as: island side north, across from hospital, island queen, across from

mately 34,000 acres, with two primary tributaries into the lake. On the north end Patin Dyke provides an inflow of approximately 25% of the watershed flow into the lake, while Discharge Bayou on the south end accounts for most of the remaining 75% of inflow. The pool stage of the lake is approximately 16' MSL, with drawdown capability of the spillway to approximately 9.5' MSL. The three 8'x8' conduits and gates provide a maximum drawdown potential to 10' MSL.

The earliest stockings recorded began in the mid 1970's with striped bass. Beginning in 1984 the lake was stocked with Florida black bass. In 1991 a largemouth bass management plan was implemented with slot limits of 15"-19", and a daily limit of 8 bass. This lead to a designation as a "trophy lake." However, due to a declining bass population, LDWF moved for a 14" minimum, and creel limit of 5 bass daily, after results of the 1998 survey. Since first being stocked, the waterbody has had regular stocking by various entities of various species and ages.

The bass fishing on false river is consistently above average. Based on surveys and stocking history the bass population continues to thrive in False River. There have been no major fish kills documented in false river in recent times. There was a minor fish kill restricted to bass in the summer of 2000 that was suspected, and later confirmed to be, the result of an outbreak of LMBV (largemouth bass virus).



Repeated testing has shown the lake to be of high water quality. This has been aided by watershed management practices. Additionally the properties surrounding the lake have all been inspected and much if not all of the sewage discharge to the lake was eliminated in the early 2000's and water quality has continued to improve on the lake, making the lake one of the most popular fishing and recreational destinations in that part of the state.

While we have fished False River several times, and never gotten skunked, the fishing can be challenging. We asked a few old timers around the area about the fishing. They affirmed our belief that the lake is one of the premier fishing spots in Louisiana, once you learn how to fish it. This time of the year, we are told the bass are on the "40 docks" (docks about 40' out from the

shoreline) with transitions in about 6'-16' of water, and can be targeted with a junebug worm.

Next time you are out in this part of the state looking to wet a line, make sure you check out False River, and bring some business to the many fine establishments along its shores. I can assure you there are great people, great food, and great times to be had on False River. As always, Geaux Bassin' In The Boot!





Top left: Members of Mid-South awaiting the blastoff at Morel's Landin with the iconic St. Mary of False River overlooking the launch.

Top right: The blastoff signal at safe light to Geaux Bassin!

Bottom: Sunrise over Discharge Bayou

with slight fog; perfect scenery for a first cast.



Voodoo Series No Chip Tungsten Weights (Flipping, Worm, and Barrel Weights) Tungsten Nail Weights Hand Tied Jigs Parker Bait Co.





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Few things are more Louisiana than the bayou, alligators, bass fishing and anything with the word "geaux" in it. Now just putting the word "geaux" in your name doesn't make you a Louisianan any more than wearing white rubber boots entitles you to cook up a roux and make gumbo. However, at Landry's Reel and Geaux you have two true Louisianans who are serving the tackle and bait industry out of Houma. Devin and his wife Staci have opened their shop at 1155 St. Charles St with the fishing industry at the center of their focus.

Devin has a career in the oil and gas industry, but he can be found at the shop on the days his feet are on dry land. When he is out on the iron islands Staci takes the reins alone and keeps the shop running smoothly. With a dedication to their customers, the Landry's strive to have the best products and tackle available. Many times that means providing Louisiana based bait, tackle, and products to the fishing industry. At Landry's Reel and Geaux you can find numerous Louisiana companies such as Legacy Custom Tackle, The Crappie Psychic, Hall's HD Spinnerbaits, Blackjack Lures, C and B Products, Matrix Shad, Anything Outdoors, Lazyman Hooks, G&J Custom Lead Head Jigs, Humdinger Spinnerbaits and they are constantly adding products. Soon they will carry Four Horsemen Tackle and Cajun Boat Balm for your convenience. Devin has the right perspective in mind when he told us, "Living in South Louisiana, down on the bayou, fishing is a way of life." What better way to sum up a unique part of the culture and heritage that is the Louisiana life we all love. Being close to numerous bodies of water Landry's will provide the bass angler with all the necessary bait and tackle to have a successful trip to Bayou Black, Bayou Blue or any other fisheries close by.

If you're down in the Houma area stop in and say hi to Devin and Staci. They are simply, "a mom and pop shop serving our customers by selling products from other mom and pop businesses." I don't think the Landry's would have it any other way.

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### Fishing With Pop

Memories on the water with Bernie Cooley

Living in Louisiana growing up was the most wonderful thing in the world for me as a kid, and still is today. We are surrounded by water every way you look and in all parts of the state. For me growing up, it was the Mighty Mississippi River and the bar pits created to build a levee to hold the river at bay. This is where I came to love fishing for bass.

My dad was, to me, a great man. He was an avid outdoorsman, hunting and fishing all during the year, and it was him who was instrumental in fostering my passion for fishing. There were three of us boys at home, and all of us wanted to take part in the outdoor adventures Pop was constantly undertaking. Each of us developed different passions through those experiences and they have stayed with us even today.

One of the biggest lessons I learned from my experiences with Pop is that it is up to us to show our kids and other young people the wonders of the great outdoors. My Pop took me fishing and hunting, and that has helped me develop a passion for the outdoors. I would love to tell you that all the times we were hunting or fishing, Pop was patient and helpful, but I would be lying. The big thing was, he took the time to take me and kept on taking me, and every time I was hung up (in the spot he wanted to cast) or backlashed when the fish were biting never made him not want to bring me fishing.

I have many memories from the days of my youth when we would go fishing, but the trip that got me hooked on fishing was a time when we were fishing in the backwaters of the Mississippi River. The river was falling and Pop had found a run out that the bass were bunched up around. I was nine years old and we were fishing out of an old 15 foot stick steer pan fishing boat. Every time Pop would cast, it seemed like he was catching a fish. The only problem was, every time I cast, I would get hung up. At nine, my cast was high and arcing, and by the time I could reel in the slack, I would be hung on the bottom. After several times of getting hung up, Pop finally decided to put a crankbait on my line that floated until you began to reel. That seemed to do the trick, and not only did I not get hung on the bottom anymore; I caught fish. This trip sealed my fate, and I was hooked on fishing from then on.

My message to you is simple. Take a kid fishing. You may be the person who gets them interested in the greatest pastime around. I now take my kids fishing any opportunity that I can and I am also the sponsor of a fishing club at the school that I work. Our kids need positive, healthy activities and role models; and you can't get any better activity than fishing. The memories and the lessons that I learned while bass fishing with Pop stay with me in everything that I do.



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### Fast Friendly Service



On a quiet stretch of LA Hwy 3, about 5 miles north of Benton, LA, sits the birthplace of many a gator. Mr. Leroy Moore has been building Pro Gator Boats for over 50 years, and has been cranking them out of his shop on Hwy 3 since the 1980's. Mr. Moore got his start in the late 1950's laying fiberglass over wooden boats. Originally it was reinforcing old wooden pirogues, and then forming the pirogues themselves of fiberglass. Over the next decade or so, as fiberglass technology came along further, and as the hobby intensified, Mr. Moore began to branch out with his glass laying. By 1960 there had been years of R&D on drafts, angles, hydraulics, and plenty of practice with the glass, and around the 1961-1962 time frame, Pro Gator Boats launched their first fiberglass bass boat. You read that right; their first all fiberglass bass boat

was in the early 1960's. To put that into context, Ranger built their first bass boat in 1968; Bass Cat -1971; Stratos - 1983; Nitro in the late 1980's; Phoenix Boats in the 2000's. The only big name boat manufacturer that has consistently produced glass boats as long as Pro Gator Boats is Skeeter, who just edged out Pro Gator by a couple of years to produce the first glass bass boat in Shreveport,

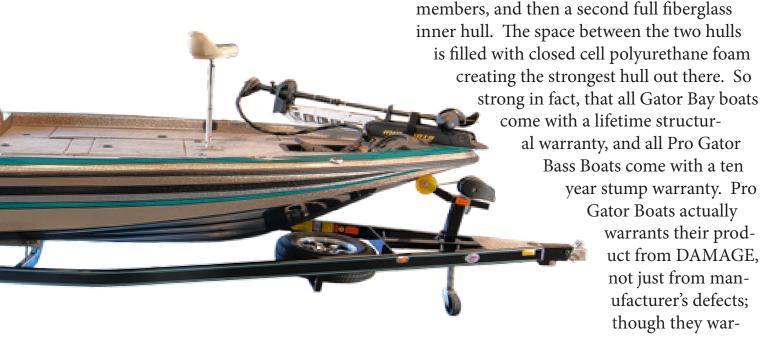
For Mr. Moore, building glass boats is beyond a passion; it is and has been his way of life for about 60 years. It is easy to see in his face the joy he gets just talking about a glass boat. You should see him light up walking through his production facility pointing out the key steps in the process, and giving a full-on history lesson like no other. Given his passion, it is easy to understand why he has continued to redesign, improve, remake, and perfect every model of boat he makes. That process began early, and after less than 10 years of manufacturing bass boats, Mr. Moore patented his double hull design. You see, every Pro Gator Boat is actually two boats in one. Originally the double hull design was just two layers of hulls, but over time that improved to provide spacing for spray foam floatation in between the hulls and all the way up the gunnels; another first for





bass boats (the USCG did not require positive foam floatation in the gunnels until 1979, several years after Pro Gator set that as their standard). Now each double hull boat has a full fiberglass outer hull, with a space created by the stringers and other structural

All Pro Gator Bass Boats Come with A 10 Year Stump Warranty



rant those too! The boats fully live up to the toughness of their Pro Gator name. In fact, since Mr. Leroy began offering his stump warranty around 1972-1973 there have only been a couple dozen, if that many, that have ever been damaged enough to actually cause the hulls to leak water. Those that were damaged to that extent were repaired and returned to the water; warranty fully honored.

There have been many stories over the years about just how tough these boats are. While only a few required repair, the vast majority

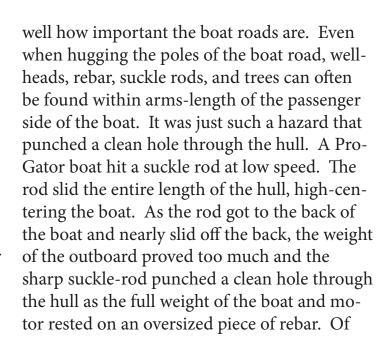
that have been "damaged" were barely scratched or only cosmetically damaged. Mr. Leroy says his boats are tough because "if you make the glass rigid enough with that foam backing, the impact just bounces the boat instead of damaging it." In addition to just being tough, the foam flotation makes the boat nearly unsinkable.

Mr. Leroy reflected on a load test they did where "we had 13 grown men in that boat trying to get it to take on water; they were covering the whole boat, you couldn't fit anybody else in there and it just sat right there on top of the water." To back up his claims, he told us about a few real damages. The first story we heard was about a major accident in a ProGator boat in a tournament on the Red River in 2015 or 2016. An angler a little unfamiliar with the river was in a Pro Gator boat running pretty good, around 40 mph. Unfortunately for the angler it was an extremely foggy morning. Making a turn a little early for the marina he was headed into, he missed the channel and run right onto a rock jetty wall. The boat hull cleared the incline of the rocks

and landed on the downward slope of the other side of the jetty wall. The only significant damage to the boat was the lower unit of the motor that was ripped completely off the motor. The hull? Well it had a few scratches on it. NO STRUCTURAL DAMAGE and the boat was still water tight. Unbelievable. In fact, the only truly memorable "hole" in one of the hulls that Mr. Moore could recall occurred on Caddo Lake.

For those that have fished Caddo Lake, you know all

too



course the hull was repaired and the boat sent back on its way, courtesy of Mr. Moore at Pro-Gator Boats. Now that is standing behind your product!

With products and service like that you would think ProGator boats would be a household name. They are still a fairly modest operation at present, producing a few boats a month. At their peak, they were producing about five boats a week. They were sold in dealerships from Oklahoma to the Gulf. But as all Louisianans know, Hurricane Katrina sucked the life-blood out of many businesses. While the ProGator production facility was in northwest

Louisiana



out of the path of the storm, many of the dealerships that moved ProGator boats along the gulf were decimated. Most lost nearly all of their inventories. In the years that followed, many dealerships failed to bounce back. Much of the demand for ProGator was lost with the reputable dealers that lost everything. Shortly after Katrina, in the rebound years, the industry was again hit hard; this time by the Great Recession. When the financial downturn hit, the demand for boats took a sharp decline.

Through the recession, it was the passion of

the Moore Family, and the exceptional quality of their products that kept their boat manufacturing going. As the recession worsened, it didn't just affect the boat demand, it affected the entire supply chain for boat production. When you are building a custom product, as most ProGator boats are completely customized to the desires of the customer, you have to run the gamut of supply chain logistics. As a small custom shop they are not always in control of the components used to build the boats. As simple as a boat may seem, nearly all models require the coordination of parts from over 200 vendors and partners. The more complicated builds can require components from upwards of 250 different, individual vendors. This is obviously no small task, as any single item can delay production of the boat. A perfect example of this is boat seats. Sure

> ny out there. But when you have exacting standards and customizable upholstery options, you become reliant on the companies that have your patterns and your signature upholsteries. In the customiza-

any watersports or fishing compa-

tion world, that means waiting in line as your suppliers fill orders for all their customers. Something as seemingly simple as a boat seat has to be coordinated at the very beginning of the build to ensure it is ready when the boat is. With the lessons many manufacturing companies learned and unfortunately now adhere to, most of their production is on demand with little stock or inventory on the shelf just awaiting order. This means working with your partners to expedite production; a difficult task for a smaller operation with lower volumes. Fortunately, the partnerships the Moore's have made through the years remain strong and

while there may be the occasional delay, they can always get what they need to meet your custom needs.

A somewhat self-inflicted blow to their business is unfortunately their extremely high quality. While many of ProGator customers remain customers for life, when your product last 20-25 years, or quite often longer, repeat customers are often limited by your high quality. This is evident in a recent wave of repeat customers ProGator has had. While much of their business is production, they also run a repair shop out of their production facility. So with the customer service they are known for, when customers need service they happily return to the site of production to ensure the greatest care is taken with their boats. With that pattern, many ProGator customers from the 1980's and 1990's are now lining up to have their motors replaced and electronics upgraded, but not to get a new hull. When inquiring with one customer in particular about boat servicing, Mr. Moore asked a 20 year boat owner wanting servicing about maybe looking at a whole new rig. The owner replied: "Mine still looks good, fishes as good as a new one, why would I get a new one? I just want to get a new motor."

Mr. Moore, now into his golden years has found new blood for his beloved ProGator Boats. He spent many years vetting buyers and looking for someone as dedicated to remaining true to his brand and dedicated to his current customers as he was. Looking to enjoy his retirement Mr. Moore is in the process of working out all the details to sell the company with the least amount of fanfare as possible. And while there are exciting changes coming for ProGator Boats, Mr. Moore and the soon to be new owner has assured us, the quality, commitment, and dedication to ProGator Boats

while there may be the occasional delay, they can always get what they need to meet your custom needs.

and their customers will live on with the brand.

Check back next month for a follow up with the future owner of ProGator Boats as we look at the direction the company looks to grow in.

Pictured on page 14-15: Pro Gator 210Xtreme. The 210 is a 21' long 98" beam bass boat with unlimited horsepower rating at a 5 person occupancy, weighing in at approximately 1,550 pounds.

Pictured on page 16-17: Gator Bay 2410. The 24'-10" long 102" beam bay boat with a 300 H.P. or twin 150 H.P. rating at 8 person occupancy, weighing in at approximately 2,240 pounds.

Interested in owning a Pro Gator, or want to learn more? Check out Pro Gator on the web at:

### www.progator.com

The website is currently under maintenance to usher in some of the exciting things coming that we will be discussing next month!

Pro Gator is also on social media:

@progatorboats on Facebook and Instagram.





### Bassin' in the Boot Big Bass Monday Classic

The Bassin' in the Boot Big Bass Monday Tournaments are coming to an end for the year with only ten left before the classic. For those of you unfamiliar with our Big Bass Monday tournaments the rules are simple. Biggest bass of the day wins 80% of the pot. We have given away as little as \$40 and as much as \$500 depending on participation this year. We hope to see the event grow and continue for years to come.

There's always a good group of guys fishing the weekly tournaments and several have fished 5 or more. We launch at 4:30 but you can launch anytime afterwards just be back at 8:00 for the weigh in. Sometimes a 1.9# bass wins the prize and other times you need a four pounder to best the other anglers. You just never know with the talented sticks we have in the area.

If you are planning to join us there's really no better time to jump aboard than now. We have several special Mondays coming up. On August 19th we will be drawing after the tournament for a custom built rod from Bayou Built Rods out of Addis (Baton Rouge), Louisiana. For pictures and videos of Bayou Built Rods check Mark out at http://www.bayoubuiltcustomrods.com.

The last tournament, the Classic so to speak, will be held October 14th on Lake Concordia launching as always out of Lakeview Lodge. To be eligible for the Bassin' in the Boot Big Bass Classic you must have fished at least 3 of the Monday tournaments. Entry fee: ZERO, absolutely nothing to enter and the winner will take home \$500 and a whole lot of bragging rights! #geaux-bassin #BassinintheBoot





# Mass Production or Custom Quality?



n the bass fishing industry there is no shortage of places to buy gear. Whether you are looking for crankbaits, bladed jigs, spinnerbaits, rods, reels, jigs or even boats you can find a large selection of vendors with brick and mortar storefronts, big box stores and national chains and then there is the guys that offer custom gear.

As an avid bass angler, avid not good, I find myself buying from a multitude of vendors. I have of course like most gone to the Walmart shelf and picked up a few supplies before hitting the water. I have made the couple hour drive to Cabela's or Bass Pro to enter the gates of bass fishing heaven. Occasionally, I will order from an online vendor like Tackle Warehouse or Tackle Direct. I am usually most pleased however when I buy from a guy selling out of his garage, shop in the backyard, or off his dining room table.

I choose to buy custom, select, or homemade for a few different reasons. First, if I have something no one else or few anglers have I could possibly have an advantage on the water. I have seen where just a strand or two of a certain color in a spinnerbait makes all the difference in boating fish. So how much of a difference having something few others have can make in a tournament or day fishing with your favorite co-angler. After all if we are honest most of us bass fish for the bragging rights over our buddies, club members or co-competitors in other tournaments.

Secondly, I like to buy from the guys who are passionate about the products they produce. Yes I know the folks at Yum, Zoom or [your favorite brand here] have a great desire to turn out a great product but once you've made 5.9 million baby brush hogs are you as passionate about number 5,900,001? The guy sitting at his kitchen table is I assure you. You see he's still a kid at heart. He gets the same satisfaction from making the bag of tequila sunrise colored worms you ordered as he did catching his first fish. The enthusiasm is there. The love of the sport and the thrill of satisfying a loyal customer keep him striving to be better, to produce better products constantly.

Lastly, I buy custom or local to support the families of our communities financially. As proud Louisiana residents, my brother and I started Bassin' in the Boot to showcase Louisiana based companies and individuals contributing to the Louisiana Bass Fishing Industry. Paying an extra fifty cents for a bag of plastics, a dollar more for a quality jig or spinnerbait is worth it to me to know I am keeping my money circulating here at home.

With companies on the national level that offer next day shipping and selections that overwhelm you, I understand how easy it is to get caught up with the ease of ordering with a single click. When you buy local, you are buying baits, lures, and rods that will have a lasting effect on the seller as well as you the buyer. You're helping to keep the passion of bass fish-

ing alive in others.

So the next time you get ready to buy some tackle or a new rod, give a Louisiana based company a try. If you aren't sure how to buy Louisiana, you can start on our partners page of the Bassin' in the Boot website for some great companies. There are so many great companies in Louisiana offering everything from terminal tackle and tungsten (Rougarou Tackle), jigs and baits (Bryant's Custom Jigs), plastics (Parker Bait Co) to custom rods (Tangi Fishing Rods, Sinister Fishing, Kajun Limbs) all the way up to bass boats from ProGator Boats. GEAUX BASSIN' and buy Louisiana!

















Do you or someone you know have a product or service contributing to the Louisina Bass Fishing Industry? If so we would love to talk to you about a feature article to introduce your Louisiana company to our subscribers. Since our business is promoting the bass industry in Louisiana these articles are risk free and enable you to join our growing list of partners across the state. Like what you see? If you are interested in targeted advertisement, let us know and we can discuss getting your message delivered directly to your target audience, the Bassin' in the Boot Community, across various media forums. Shoot us an email at <a href="mailto:bassinintheboot@gmail.com">bassinintheboot@gmail.com</a>

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There's an old joke that goes something like this.......two preachers had invited a third to go fishing with them. After a few hours the 1st preacher gets up, steps out the boat and takes off running across the water and back. Without hesitation the 2nd followed suit and immediately took off running across the lake and back to the boat. The third not wanting his faith to be doubted by his fellow clergymen decided he would give it a try. First step out of the boat he sank like a rock. The first preacher turned to the second and asked "Should we show him where the stones are?" Trenton Pittman is that third fisherman. The difference is the other two guys have coached him, talked to him, and prepared him for his run. From the time he was a young kid he's been receiving the information he needs to figuratively run across the lake. His run however will be across many stages holding up his latest catch in 5 bass limits at bigger and bigger tournaments until his goals are accomplished. Trenton is not in the boat with two strangers, strangers neither to him nor to us. Trenton is with his dad and grandfather.

Trenton's dad, Jason Pittman is no stranger to the Bass Fishing World. He began his professional fishing career in 1996. Fishing on the Bassmaster's Tournament Trails, FLW (Fishing League Worldwide) tours, and other trails, Jason Pittman has left his mark on the bass fishing world. Growing up fishing the lakes of Central Louisiana, Jason learned quickly bass fishing was a passion, at which he was very good. With numerous tournament wins under his belt and a career spanning over 20 years the knowledge he

## ITTMAN'S

## RIDE

possesses to pass on to Trenton is invaluable. His love for bass fishing is great and perhaps only second to his love of the outdoors, especially sharing the outdoors and bass fishing with his dad and son. Jason is on the ProStaff for Kysek Coolers and his profile states he "backed off

of the national scene to spend more time fishing in tournaments at home with his dad at both state and local levels. Jason believes that sharing his passion for the sport with his dad and close friends is more valuable than any tournament win he has achieved thus far in his life." That passion and desire to share his love with family and friends is why he passes that knowledge down to Trenton, that same bass knowledge that was passed down to him from his father, Floyd Pittman.

Floyd Pittman, Jason's father and Trenton's grandfather has worked hard his whole life to give his family everything they needed. Working for CLECO Power Company in Pineville, La provided a living for Floyd but it also provided access to great fishing on Lake Rodermaker, also known as CLECO Lake because employees



Opposite page: Trenton Pittman lipping a nice bass.

This page: Three generations of Pittmans. Floyd Pittman, Jason Pittman, and Trenton Pittman (left to right).

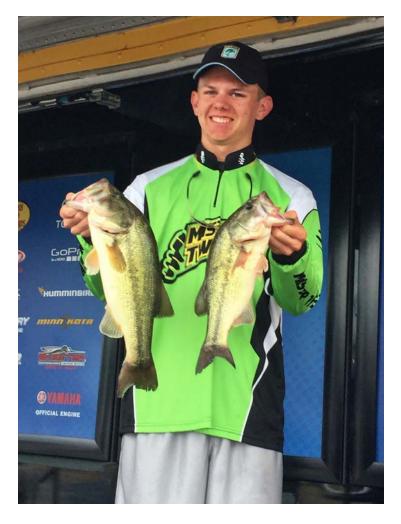
of the power company had a private ramp with access to the lake. Fishing was a passion as he competed locally in tournaments as well as in the Bassmaster's Opens and other tournament trails. Floyd passed his love of fishing but especially bass fishing down to his son, Jason. Fishing the impounded lakes of Central Louisiana including Toledo Bend, Floyd instilled in Jason a love and desire to be the best angler he could be. This passion has served the Pittman Family well.

Trenton was born in Covington, La in March of 1999 and he grew up fishing the

rivers and bayous of Southeastern Louisiana. Around age 10 he became seriously invested in fishing as a junior angler with his dad in area tournaments. The more he fished the more he wanted to compete. Trenton's first tournament win came with dad as a partner in the Liars and Lunkers event held at the Lock #1 on the Pearl River. That was a great win but not nearly as great as the team tournament Trenton won without help from Jason. In fact Jason was unable to attend due to business obligations and Trenton fished the Florida Parish Bass Angler's Club Tournament in August 2015 alone. The team had prefished earlier and as soon as Trenton blasted off he headed to an area where they had found fish. Soon Trenton was finding fish too. Not only finding fish but culling by noon and all the while keeping in touch with his dad for advice throughout the day. By weigh in time Trenton had culled to a near 9 pounds. After weighing his fish and all others it was determined that Trenton's 8.98# bag had won the tournament. Trenton said in describing the event in an article from Northshore Bass Series Spotlight, "I called my dad on the way home and he asked me what the winning weight was. I told him 8.98 lbs. Then he asked what I had and I replied - 8.98 lbs," no doubt one proud bass angler.

Today Trenton is focused on continuing to fish the local tournaments with Liars and Lunkers in the Pearl River Region and with the Florida Parish Bass Anglers Club. These tournaments he fishes with friend and co-angler, Chase Damare' but mostly with Dad, Jason. Trenton told me there are many more learning opportunities to fishing with an angler like his dad and other pros. He has learned to watch where they throw bait, picking spots, and







Top Left: Floyd Pittman with a 9 pounder caught on a Rat-L-Trap from a private pond near Toledo Bend.

Top Right: Father and Son duo Jason (right) and Trenton (left) showing off a 16 pound bag the two boated on the Tchefuncte River in February of 2019.

Bottom Left: Trenton Pittman showing off part of his bag at the 2016 BASS Central Open in Oklahoma. Trenton fished the event as a non-boater while traveling with elite angler and now MLF Pro Angler Cliff Crochet.

just their all-around approach from the rear of the boat. Admittedly there is a big disadvantage "He's going to hit every spot and not leave much you for you to fish." This improves the mental aspect as you're always looking for that spot they may have missed or overlooked.

Being sponsored by top brands like Mister Twister, Kysek Coolers, Ardent Rod and Reels, Trapper Tackle, and TH Marine allows Trenton to focus on the fishing. Moving to the front of the boat and competing as a boater will allow Trenton to prove himself. "I am looking to "Make a Statement" so to speak. I want to show that I can make decisions and fish at a higher level." Fishing at that higher level requires you to fish outside your comfort zone occasionally and Trenton says offshore fishing is one area he works on to improve. When asked about the transi-

tion from fishing Southeastern Louisiana to a different area such as Toledo Bend he said, "First I look for areas that suit my style of fishing as developed in the river and bayous of South Louisiana but occasionally you have to go where fish are and sometimes that's out deep." Looking to improve always, the junior Pittman says he works on becoming a more "diverse" angler.

I asked the young angler about the different formats of the professional tours and what he thought about where the sport is headed. "Being all for the catch and release of the fish I can see the attraction of the MLF format. However, at the same time, growing up fishing with my dad I'm more impressed with 5 fish weighting 20 plus pounds than 20 fish weighing a pound each." An angler's ability to catch quality fish over numbers wins

out. The thing the new formats and the rise of professionals on social media have led to a greater following especially in the younger age groups. Although Trenton at this time is concentrating on the fishing side of the sport more so than the social media he understands the importance of the business side and gaining fans. Now he says he's just glad kids are getting into fishing, "whether they are walking around a pond fishing from the bank or in a 12 foot Jon boat, being out and enjoying the outdoors is what's important." You can expect more winnings from Trenton Pittman, whether it's local in area based single and team tournaments or on the national stage as he chases his dream of fishing. He has no choice; bass fishing is in his blood. He has the full support of his family, obvious from talking with Jason on the phone. You can hear in his voice the change of excitement when Trenton's name comes up. He goes from professional bass angler, businessman, and well respected bass guru to a proud dad. A

proud dad that wants more for his son in

every aspect of life just as his dad wants

for him.



Trenton Pittman holding up another couple of nice bass. In addition to collecting nice bass bags, Trenton has collected quite the list of some of the biggest names in fishing sponsoring him, including: Mister Twister, Kysek Coolers, Ardent Rod and Reels, Trapper Tackle, and TH Marine.





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