

Crappie Corner - Summer Jigging for Crappie

Written by Tim Huffman

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Summertime crappie can be tricky. The big fish often become lethargic and very difficult to catch. One summer method that doesn't go out of style on lakes with stumps, brush and snags is vertical jigging. If you pick the right lake your summertime fishing can be good.

Vertical jigging is Rick Fajen's favorite way to fish for crappie. He grew up on Truman Lake in Missouri where jigging is the top method for pulling fish from the wood cover. I joined him while he was pre-fishing for a tournament at Truman. "Today we're targeting hardwood cover. The lake is 12 feet high so much of the cover is underwater and difficult to find. We're searching for an area with big fish so we'll just fish some of the more dense spots and keep moving up the lake until we find bigger fish."

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Rick Fajen vertical fishing jigs. He prefers hardwoods but here is dropping into flooded willow trees (lake was 12 feet high on this trip).

Tip of the Month

Use a jig with a weedguard when vertical jigging. If the guard is too stiff, cut away some of the strands leaving just enough to prevent hang-ups but soft enough to easily hook a crappie when you set the hook.