

NEW CASCADE LAKES DRY FLY FLOATANT



- New silicone resin formulation for best floatation and performance.
- Drying agent added.
- Non-aerosol spray container — economical.
- \$1.95 postpaid

For more information on all Cascade Lakes Products, Write:

**CASCADE LAKES
TACKLE** 3 Mill Road
Ballston Lake, NY 12019
DEALER INQUIRIES ENCOURAGED.

DELUXE FISHER GRAPHITE

We are producers of high-quality BLANKS, KITS and RODS for the international fishing tackle industry: fine retailers, wholesalers, catalog houses, custom rod makers and fishing rod manufacturers.

Deluxe and custom models for FLY • BASS • SPIN • SURF • BIG GAME • PACK



Write for catalog!

Ask for wholesale and quantity discounts on your letterhead.

Since 1922

J. Kennedy Fisher, Inc.
6701—11th Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90043
Phone 213-758-4149

DELUXE FISHER FIBERGLASS

Snake River Smallmouth



The author with a Snake River bass.
Photos by the author.

*There's just no way
you can stop a
riffle-rampaging
smallmouth!*

WARREN SHEPARD



Smallmouth bass water along on the Snake River in Idaho.

THE BASS had been off their feed. Cantankerous to the core, they refused almost all of my offerings. For two days I had been dredging up a few bass with weighted Muddlers and "leaded" leaders by creeping that drab deceiver along the bedrock bottom and through the craggy crevices in the slack-water eddies below the riffles. A few smallmouths, enraged by the bottom-crawling Muddler, snapped at it and were hooked. But by and large, I had left more flies garnishing the subaqueous ledges than I had brought smallmouths to net.

Late one afternoon, however, as the sun began to flare over the edge of the towering canyon rim, throwing ghostly stars and halos into every highlight, the bass came alive. They left their rocky retreats in deep water and began chasing minnows in the shallow riffles and runs. I first noticed the change when a two-pound bass darted near my leg while I stood in a riffle and fished the pool below. That bass startled me out of my waders, but I quickly realized a feeding spree was on. I knew enough from previous experiences to remove my high-density fly line and substitute a sinking-tip floater. I put on a #6 Black Marabou Streamer and flipped it

out into the riffle. The wispy marabou began to pulsate as the current grabbed the fly. I had a smashing strike, but leaned back too hard—conditioned to setting the hook on deep fish that seemed to have a toehold in the rocks. This free-swimming bass, a big one, smashed the tippet with ease.

I tied on another marabou and flipped it out into the same spot. I had another hit, and this time I merely tightened up with the line hand and let the fish hook itself. A blazing run ensued, and the smallmouth, like an enraged steelhead, streaked away to mid-river. All I could do was hang on and hope the tackle would hold as that bass turned every way but loose. He was the meanest, toughest customer I had ever run into. Line peeled off the reel, but I held in there, pumping the rod and cranking precious line back onto the spool. That bass would just tear line off again, and I would lose everything I had just won. There's no way you can manhandle a big, angry, riffle-rampaging smallmouth.

THE SNAKE RIVER at Lewiston, Idaho, and 80 miles upstream is a lovely stretch of clear water where a man can explore

at length for smallmouth bass. Fish of five to eight pounds are taken there; three- to four-pounders are common. The water in August and September is shallow and wadable—ideal for fly-fishing. The smallmouths here (or elsewhere, for that matter) are hot fish on a fly rod, probably the hottest. Pound for pound, they can out-run a bonefish, out-jump a rainbow and outlast even that pugnacious puller, the jack crevalle. For his size, the river smallmouth is the toughest, meanest and gamest fish I have ever hooked on a fly. I have had three-pounders clean my spool; four-pounders pop a heavy 9/5 tippet at the strike.

The easiest way to get to the bass water on the Snake is via US 12 to Lewiston, Idaho, or Clarkston, Washington. I like to go to Clarkston, then drive south up the Snake, passing through the quaint town of Asotin, to the mouth of the Grande Ronde River. There are about 30 miles of public water next to the road; watch out though, the last 12 miles are a dirt road—rough, narrow and winding. At the junction of the Ronde there is a free public campground, a boat-launching area, and Heller's Bar resort where you can get supplies, guides and use of a

dock. On one trip we hired a jet boat at Heller's to haul us, our gear and a rubber raft upstream to the mouth of the Salmon River. Then we floated back down, bouncing the little raft through some monstrous rapids, but also finding lots of lovely pools where we caught plenty of smallmouth. The float takes two days if you fish fairly carefully. Novice boaters should hire a guide.

A 7½- or 8-foot graphite fly rod is just about ideal for these Snake River bass. Such a rod has plenty of power for occasional long casts, yet is still light enough to be comfortable during long days of casting. I like a three-inch single-action reel with three interchangeable spools—for high-density, sinking-tip and weight-forward floating lines. The leader should be 6 to 8 feet and tapered to about 1x. The best flies are the conventional Muddler and the White Marabou Muddler, Black Marabou Streamer and a few cork bugs and hairwing dry flies for surface fishing.

If you need help in planning your trip, contact the Clarkston/Asotin, Washington, Chamber of Commerce, or Don R. Steele, Wildlife Agent, 2134 20th St., Clarkston, Washington 99403.

L.L.Bean[™] Zipper Duffle Bag



The most popular bag we make. Sturdily constructed of rugged 12 oz. army duck. Water repellent, mildew resistant. Comfortable round leather handles bottom reinforced with vinyl coated fabric. Heavy duty zipper runs full length of bag for easy access. Two sizes: Small 21" long x 11" dia. Large, 27" long x 16-1/2" dia. Color: Dark Brown.

☐ Please send FREE 128-page Spring 1977 Catalog.

Please Ship Postpaid

Small Zipper Duffle Bag \$16.00
Large Zipper Duffle Bag \$22.00

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Master Charge
☐ BankAmericard ☐ American Express

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Outdoor Sporting Specialties

L.L. Bean, Inc.

977 Main St., Freeport, Maine 04033

NEW SCULPTURED BUCKLES & PLAQUES



Buckles and Plaques, in bold, detailed relief by S. L. Knight. These are newly sculpted and made available in the very finest of detail, mirror polish and rich patina. Above patterns are in larger plaque size for den, office or home, or in buckle form. Each piece is meticulously hand finished. We feel these are the finest quality available at any price and we allow a full refund within 30 days if you are not completely satisfied. Prompt delivery.

Also available—12 N. Amer. Big Game. Now cast by the lost wax method and hand finished, our quality patina, mirror polish and strong detail make these buckles a discriminating gift for any outdoorsman (Ram pictured is similar in style, not size, to these 12 note the coupon). Species: Ram, Grizzly, Moose, Elk, Mule Deer, White Tail, Wolf, Min. Goat, Mtn. Lion, Buffalo, Antelope, Caribou.

Enclosed check or money order

Send to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Buckle Name(s) _____

Plaque Name(s) _____

☐ Solid Bronze Buckle (as shown)

3½" x 2½"-2" belt or less \$14.95

p.p.d.

☐ Any 8 Buckles (as shown)

\$105.00 p.p.d.

☐ Solid Bronze Plaque (as shown)

5½" x 4½" wall or desk top

\$29.95 p.p.d.

☐ Solid Bronze Buckle (big game)

2½" x 2½"-1½" belt or less

\$14.95 p.p.d.

☐ Matched Set (12 big game)

\$159.50 p.p.d.

☐ Solid Silver Buckle \$125.00 p.p.d.



S.L. Knight Enterprises
P.O. Box 20128 - FF
3141 South 4500 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84120

Custom, Dealer,
Distributor Inquiries
Welcome

LATE SEASON • 1977 | 36562 IND
\$1.50

FLY FISHERMAN

