

*Dedicated to the Memory of Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.*

# PLAY



Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

SUMMER 2003

## The Sunfish Family

**W**as the first fish you caught a "sunny"? Sunfish are plentiful in Pennsylvania, living in farm ponds, lakes and rivers. This issue of PLAY focuses on the sunfish family. Scientists call them the Centrarchidae family. Don't worry about the big word-if you read this issue you will learn more about Centrarchidae.

First learn about the sunfish family tree. Did you know that bass and bluegills are in the same family? That is just one of many facts you will learn by reading the article about the life cycle of the sunfish family members.

Do you understand why there is a "no-harvest" time for bass from mid-April to mid-June? Can you really tell the difference between a smallmouth bass and a largemouth bass? Be honest! Read this issue and learn the differences. Try the technique described in this issue to catch more sunfish and learn how to take care of your catch. Reading this issue of PLAY will help you have more fun fishing this summer and will put more fish in your skillet.

When you are done with this issue of PLAY, pass it on. Remember that subscriptions to the PLAY newsletter are free to kids ages 8 to 12. Teachers and youth group leaders can also get PLAY newsletters. Contact the Fish & Boat Commission for more details on this program. Don't forget to check out the Commission's web site, [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us). The site is loaded with information on reptiles, amphibians, fish, fishing, boating and water safety.

