



# Angler's Notebook

by Jerry Bush



photo-Jerry Bush

One of the most solid tactics for targeting walleyes is to troll. Flat-lining (simple trolling with a lure behind the boat) will often turn the trick, but the most effective trolling methods include the use of downriggers, planer boards and Dipsy-Diver discs, which help assure the lures travel through various depths and distances from the boat.

Catching fish with sharp, spiny teeth requires a bit of planning and special tactics including the use of a wire leader, which is literally a length of metal fishing line. Most wire leaders are manufactured with thin strands of braided wire. They are available in lengths of 6 to 24 inches, so a little bit of thought is required to consider how it will affect the specific lures being used. The wire leader is tied to the business end of standard fishing lines. More often than not, a toothy critter will cut and break free from nylon or monofilament fishing lines if a lure is not attached to a metal leader.

Rocks are among one of the best structures attractive to smallmouth bass. A great tactic is to bounce bait-tipped jigs around the stony structure and hold on. Of course, plan to

lose a few jigs. But, as a friend of mine is fond of saying, if you are never losing lures, you are probably not catching fish.

Adult anglers who are experiencing a slump can sometimes turn things around quickly by taking advantage of opportunities to catch a large quantity of panfish. Panfish are cooperative and easy to catch. An afternoon spent catching bluegills is a great way for struggling anglers to get back on track.

A comfortable, relaxed angler is a happy angler. Propping the rod and reel is one of the simplest tricks used by shore anglers who want to enjoy a relaxing experience while fishing. Propping the rod is simply a matter of standing the rod in or against a support, so the rod tip is pointed upwards and strikes are easily recognized. Several manufacturers offer simple stands that are pointed on one end to be stabbed into the earth. The great news is that every angler can afford to take advantage of this little trick. Simply find a tree branch, break off limbs so only a "Y" is left, sharpen the limb end and stab it into the ground.

## Fishin' from the Kitchen

# Roasted Pike with a Savory Topping

by Wayne Phillips

This hearty dish of roasted pike topped with a savory topping over a bed of beans will drive the chill out of any fall day.

*Ingredients for four servings:*

- 4 six-ounce boneless, skinless pike fillets
- 1 large yellow onion, coarsely chopped
- 4 slices smoked bacon, coarsely sliced
- 1 cup grape tomatoes
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- Salt and black pepper to taste

### Procedure

In a roasting pan, place olive oil, bacon, onion, garlic and grape tomatoes. Sauté for five minutes until the bacon begins to render its fat. Place the pike fillets on top of this mixture. Spoon some of the ingredients on top of the fish. Bake in a 350-degree oven until the pike is cooked through, approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Drizzle vinegar over the fish when it comes out of the oven.

### Serve

This pairs well with pinto or Romano beans. Place the pike on a bed of beans. Spoon the savory topping over the fish and beans.



photo-Wayne Phillips

### Hints

Roasting pike on a bed of topping adds flavor. Pike is a wonderful fish to eat, but many people avoid eating them because of the Y bones. To remove the Y bones, lay a cleaned fillet on a board and feel the Y bones along the center. Using your knife tip, cut into the flesh, and move the knife along the row of bones. Repeat this on the other side of the Y bones. Then, the strip of flesh with the bones can be removed.