

by Richard DeVries

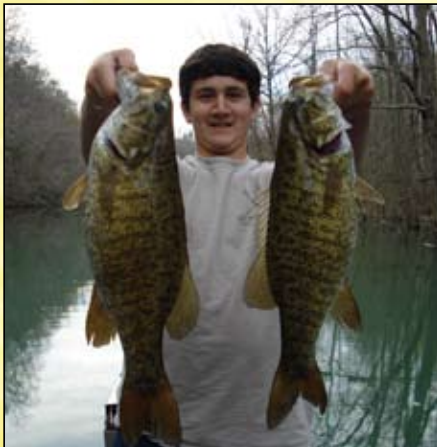
Okay. Let's talk fishing. I own a marina and so I should know all about fishing? Not true, I lack the desire and the ability to catch fish most of the time. I am a lazy fisherman.... put out a cheap fishing pole and then drink and talk until something bites... if nothing bites.... who cares.

Some of our customers expect good information when they ask about the fishing on Dale Hollow Lake. So I do the next best thing. I have family and friends do the talking when fishing comes up around the dock. My brother, Ross, and nephew, Austin, have really picked up some fishing skills over the last few years.... even learned where the great secret fishing spots are.... so the customers get good information and most catch fish. It should be noted that they don't always share the fishing spots with me! I guess it must be some bass fishermen code of conduct rule.

Sure you have the fishermen that will use any type of bait.... tackle they were given by grandpa or found at a flea market or garage sale.... and a boat so old and ugly that you wonder how it even floats. They fish for crappie, catfish, and bluegill. Live bait is what they use. I bet there are not any fish mounted on the walls at home because they eat the fish for dinner. I love to talk to these guys.

One day, I was telling a customer a story about how my son, Nathan, and I went to the Percy Priest Lake a few years ago to fish off the dock for a few hours. Right away, we started catching fish.... almost every

time we dropped our hook in the water we caught a fish. After about ten minutes or so, a dad came walking up.... a bit confused. He said he had bought minnows, worms, crickets, and tried everything in his power to help his kids catch fish. They had been there for hours.... caught nothing!! He was very frustrated and asked "what in the world are you using for bait?" I was honest.... "Hotdog buns".



"OK OK OK...for these big boys, Austin used live shiners...hot dog buns were the back up plan!"

I know Ross overheard the story. I heard him snicker. He is mostly a bass fisherman. So if I was to say that "hotdog buns" are the best bait I have ever tried.... You can bet that Ross and all those other die hard bass fishermen would be laughing hysterically.

That evening, I got out my \$19.99 fishing pole with a #2 gold hook and rolled up a hot dog bun dough ball and dropped it in the water at East Port Marina. I reeled in fish after fish. Ross laughed a little for the first few.... guess he thought it was luck. I still don't feel like I have earned his respect when it comes to fishing.... honestly that will never happen. But it sure did feel good the next night, when I walked out on the dock and saw Ross, the bass fisherman, with a hot dog bun catching his share of the bluegill off the dock.

So the next time you come to East Port Marina and ask what kind of bait we sell.... don't laugh when you hear "hot dog buns".... because it works!!!



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