

Required Reading For "Reel" Anglers

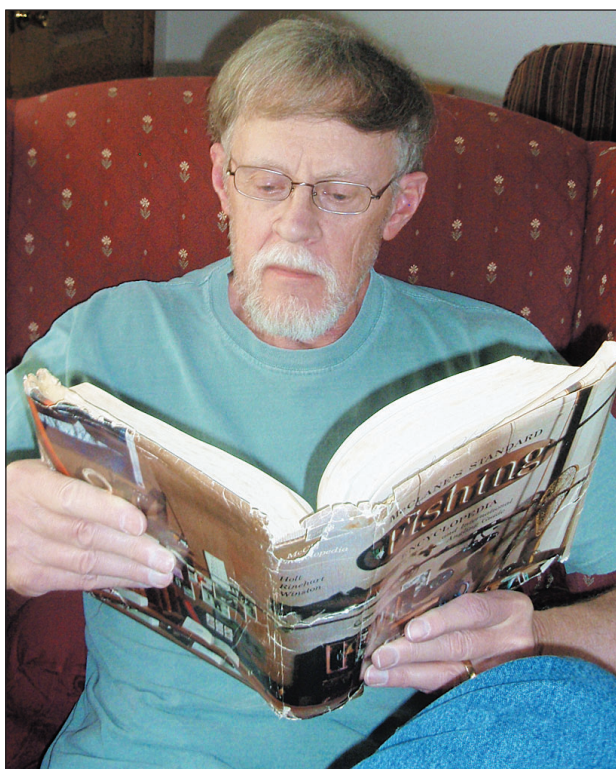
BY JOHN BENNETT

On one occasion at the Indianapolis, Indiana Sports Show I had the pleasure of meeting the late, great lure maker and pro fisherman Tom Mann. During an informal conversation he remarked that "...the best way to learn bass fishing is to go fishing whenever you can." Truer words were never spoken, and while I agree that there is no substitute for experience, sometimes drawing upon the experiences of others through the printed word can lead to an even greater expansion of knowledge about the complex world of sport angling.

Even though we might like to try, most of us cannot go fishing every day of the summer and fall seasons, yet we still have the desire to learn more about one of our favorite sports. If you are one of the many who not only are avid anglers, but also are avid readers, or if you are only an occasional reader, I have some recommendations for books and magazines that not only are informative but are very interesting as well. On those days when we don't fish or for some reason can't fish, spending a few minutes or hours with a good book is a great way to pass the time. (Sure beats watching television.)

1. Bass Wisdom by Homer Circle. The title certainly is appropriate. "Uncle Homer," past fishing editor of Sports Afield magazine and the dean of fishing writers draws upon a lifetime of fishing experiences in this wonderful little paperback volume. Contained in the 230-some pages is a wealth of information on the species, where the monsters live, how they react to stimuli, how to catch them with live bait, how to catch them with a myriad of artificials, and much more. Uncle Homer now fishes in that great bass lake in the sky, so I'm very glad that I sent for my personally autographed copy of this gem of literature prior to his passing. The Lyons Press, Guilford Conn. 2000.

2. Gone Fishin' by Charles Elliott. Charlie Elliott spent many years as a



The author reading up on lake trout in McClane's *Standard Fishing Encyclopedia*.

field editor for Outdoor Life magazine. During his years on earth he experienced more outdoor adventures than a dozen of us ever will and he wrote about them eloquently, yet in a down home style that makes this a great book to pick up on a rainy day. Have you ever heard the language of the river, thought about the best fishin' partner you ever could have, the best lures for wilderness fishing, the true meaning of sportsmanship, or the enjoyment of solitude? Charlie thought about all of these concepts and more and he wrote about them in a manner that makes him seem like an old friend. Brew some coffee or tea, sit back in a comfortable chair in a warm house and read this book. You won't be sorry. Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa. 1953.

3. Anything by Kevin VanDam.

The "Kalamazoo Kid" is the greatest bass fisherman on the planet. Period. He knows whereof he speaks.

4. Anything in MidWest Outdoors.

5. Hunting For The Pot, Fishing For The Pan by Byron W. Dalrymple. The late Byron D., from Texas, was the consummate hunter and fisherman. He did it all and wrote about most of it as an editor for Outdoor Life magazine. This 300-plus page tome covers hunting in its first section and in the fishing section includes such topics as both saltwater and freshwater fish that are good to eat and how and where to catch them, as well as, the best time of day and night to fish. A practical, no-nonsense volume on how to catch fish to eat. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pa. 1981.

6. Where The Pools Are Bright And Deep by Dana S. Lamb. Lamb was a fly fisherman, a hunter, total outdoorsman and a writer, and just about in that order. This is a book about trout fishing, not the how-to, or the-which-fly-to-use-during-the-mayfly-hatch, but about the essence of fishing and being a fisherman. With chapters such as Pride Goeth Before A Waterfall, Perchance To Dream, and Season's End, the author takes the reader along into a world of angling adventures that many will never experience except within the pages of this work of literature. Winchester Press, 460 Park Ave. N.Y., N.Y. 1973.

7. McClane's Standard Fishing Encyclopedia by A.J. McClane. Not for reading, but for referencing almost anything you possibly could want to know about fishing anywhere in the

world. A.J. McClane was an internationally known angler, cook, author and all-around sportsman who was as much at home in the wilds of Labrador as he was in the finest restaurants in New York. I have the original issue of this book, and though it has been updated at least once, I treasure my copy and refer to it frequently. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York. 1965.

8. Year 'Round Walleyes—Fishing The Four Seasons by Mark Martin. Everything you need to know to catch walleye—period. I have fished with Mark and can testify that he is the real deal when it comes to finding and catching walleye. Whether it is in warm water, through the ice, before the spawn, during or after the spawn, or at night, he tells you where to find the fish and how to get them to bite when they are in a reluctant mood. To order this book or some DVDs go to markmartins.net.

9. The Old Man And The Sea by Ernest Hemingway. This not only is my favorite fish story, it also is my favorite book of any genre. Based on a true incident, Hemingway weaves the tale of an old fisherman who battles not only a monster fish, but marauding sharks, as well as, the forces of the sea itself. It truly is a modern-day epic. MacMillan Publishing N.Y., N.Y. 1952.

Most of these books can be found at amazon.com or at halfprice.com.

Sit back, enjoy your favorite drink, put your feet up and delight in some great reading this summer, fall, winter and spring.

Measuring Your Catch Will Never Be The Same

One out of every five fish caught this season will not survive due to prolonged out-of-water exposure and poor handling by anglers. Inventor Andrew Noteman, who is also an avid outdoorsman, has a vested interest to sustain fish populations and make sure they thrive for generations of fishermen to come. Taking the matter to heart, Andrew developed a simple yet effective product for this all too common problem.

While fishing Lake Norfolk (Ozarks, Ark.) just last spring, Andrew and his father-in-law, Art Scaccia, distracted by the thrill of the catch, failed to measure their "keeper" before throwing it into the live well. Well aware of their mistake, for it hadn't been the first, Andrew began brainstorming solutions and eventually, the concept was born. Andrew spent the next six to nine months thereafter perfecting the very first underwater fish-measuring decal—Hawg Tape.

With Hawg Tape's custom measuring decal, measuring your catch will never be the same! This premium product was designed to go underwater without the fear of peeling or fading. In the bottom of live wells, when Hawg Tape is positioned near the aerating machine, fish will naturally gravitate towards their oxygen supply, allowing for a quick and easy measurement. This limits the out-of-water exposure that fish typically experience while being measured.

Hawg Tape is extremely versatile—a must have for every fisherman! Using a patent pending process, Hawg Tape allows anglers to measure their "keepers" not only in live wells, but also on lid covers, coolers, side of kayaks, and any other surfaces you may use to measure. Further, with both front and back measuring features, fishermen can measure their catch regardless of how it is placed on the measuring decal. And with a variety of designs and sizes available, Hawg Tape allows you to personalize the measurement of your fish. Start the summer of right and get yours today!

For the full line of Hawg Tape decals and installation instructions, visit fhdecals.com. Hunting decals coming soon!

F & H DECALS

Introducing
Hawg Tape™

Sizing up your catch has never been easier using our customizable measurement decals.

Premium Fishing Decals
Measuring your catch will never be the same!



Individual fish decals also available. Easily applied to boats, coolers, and much more!

For more info, visit us at:
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