



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

August 2012



by Andy Davidson

LIZARDS: I have been fishing this lure for quite a while now. There are numerous ways to fish this lure. One of the methods is to Texas rig the bait with a bullet sinker and fish the edges of weed beds. Lizards are extremely effective in spring when the bass are getting ready to spawn. Another effective method is to fish the bait without weight over the top of weeds. When you get to a pocket, let the lizard drop into the opening. Also when fishing weightless, pause when you get to the edge of the weeds. Although this method is more effective on post spawn largemouth, it will also work on smallies early in the year. One time, I was fishing from my float tube in a small Waushara County lake and I landed over thirty largemouth in three hours.

PADDLETAILS: I must admit that I came to fishing this lure just last summer. I had a pack of paddletails that someone had given me a while ago, but I had just left them in my plastic (it weighs about 30 pounds) bag. Floating a river last August, I finally decided to give them a try. The smallies loved them and quickly demolished every one that I had. I bought more.

TUBES: Although I have been fishing tubes for quite a while, I was never too effective in hooking and landing fish. The tube is a great imitation of a crayfish and works great on all species of bass. The thing that I was doing wrong was to use hard sided tubes and fishing with too light a rod. In the last two years, I have been fishing soft sided tubes, skin hooking them and using a stiffer rod. If you are fishing a lake or river without many weeds, fishing a jig hook with the hook exposed should elicit quite a few strikes. Use colors that imitate the crayfish in the body of water that you are fishing. If the lake has rusty crayfish, use a brown tube with red flakes or simply use a brown tube and color dots on the body with a red permanent marker.

FROGS: This soft bait is more of a largemouth than smallmouth bait, but will work on a number of species. I was fishing the Flambeau River a few weeks ago with a hard body frog and had seven muskies hit the lure. Again, I missed all of these fish because I did not have enough stiffness in my rod to bury the hook. There are several types available, but make sure that you purchase baits with a hook slot in the top of the frog and soft legs that wiggle when you retrieve. The hook should be a light wire 5/0 EWG with the point of the hook in the slot but not skin hooked. Begin your retrieve as soon as the frog hits the water to make sure that it is right on top. The light wire hook allows you to keep the bait on top. This lure can be effectively fished in thick weeds.

HOLLOW FROGS: The one that I fish has two hooks protruding on each side out of the top of the frog. Because of this hook location, the frog is virtually weedless and can be cast into the

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heaviest of all lily pads that you can find. Work the frog across the top of the pads/weeds, and when it comes to an open spot or the edge of the weeds, pause and wait for a strike. There are several brands that are available, but the one that I fish is a Scum Frog. Although not technically a soft bait, there are some hard plastic spoons that will run over the top of the weeds. These lures have one upright hook to keep them very weed free.

GRUBS: Those of you who have seen presentations by Bill Schultz know how effective they can be on smallmouth bass. He touts the Kalin's products and without a doubt, these are possibly the most effective grub made. These lures should be fished on a light wire jig hook with the hook point exposed. As Bill says, fish the grub S L O W L Y. The smoke colors seem to work best in clear water

GULP ALIVE PRODUCTS: I must admit that I have not tried this product, but from all that I read it is one of the most effective soft baits made. The reason that I have not used them is cost because they are quite expensive. This does not mean that one should not try them, I have just not gotten to that point because there are so many other soft baits available. Possibly the most interesting thing about this product is the availability of shapes and colors. In reading some fishing posts, many of the guides use ALIVE to a great extent. Their desire is to put as many fish in the boat as possible for their clients. Probably the first of this that I will purchase is a leech since most game fish are tuned in to leeches.

IN CONCLUSION: If you are not using soft baits, you are missing a great opportunity. The last thing to remember is that what ever soft bait you are using, make sure that the body of the lure is straight. Poorly hooked lures are simply not effective. The last thing is Go Fishing!

Hi Guys,

We shot a Kalin's Grub river segemnt video. It's on [YouTube](#) under Fishing Kalin's Grubs for Smallmouth Bass and Kalin's River Smallies with Bill Schultz.

It's also on the front page of www.unclejosh.com. This really covers much of what I talk about in my talks related to the Kalin's for rivers.

Bill Schultz



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Articles, photos, and calendar events for the newsletter are encouraged and should be submitted by the 1st day of the month to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St. Madison, WI 53711. Send to: johnson7@tds.net, editor.

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Our Next Meeting:

**Tuesday
September 18th**

*Craig Amacher on
Wisconsin River Smallmouth*

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, September 18th 7:00 p.m.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland

WSA Monthly Meeting
Craig Amacher

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of each month. The Badger Fly Fishers meet on the fourth Monday.

Both groups meet at the Mapletree Restaurant on Highway 51, in McFarland, Wisconsin. Programs begin at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. **Visitors and guests are always welcome!**