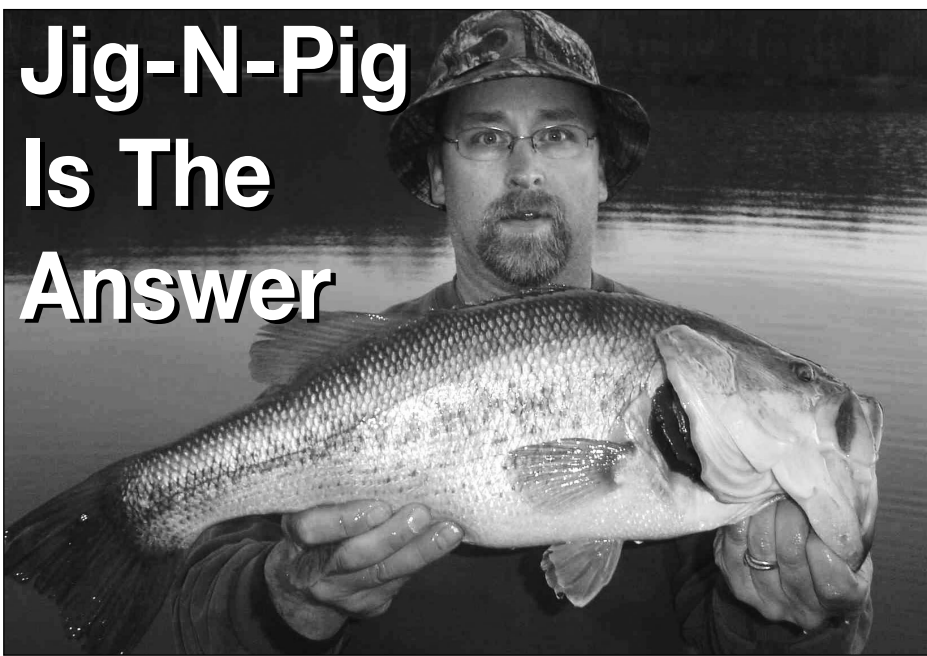


Jig-N-Pig Is The Answer



A six-pounder caught on a jig-n-pig.

BY GREG KEEFER

Have you ever wondered how to get big largemouth bass to hit once the temperatures start going south? You've heard about the fall feeding frenzy and that bass are starting to beef up for the long winter months ahead. You also know that the big females are putting on weight to begin working on egg development for next spring. The big bass are busy and hungry in the fall and it's up to you to take advantage of it.

Until, it seems, you hit the water. Then there's nothing. Not a lily pad moves and your casting arm doesn't get a break. You can beat the water and pick up a bass or two, but at the end of the day, you don't have a lot to show for it. So what should you do?

Jig-N-Pig is the answer.

Jeff Tipple is one of Ohio's only inland waters bass guides and an accomplished angler. He's caught five-pound bass on more Ohio lakes than most of us will ever fish. When it comes to fall fishing, the jig-n-pig is the first bait out of Tipple's tackle box.

"By far the best bait for giant largemouth bass in the fall is the good ole' jig-n-pig," says Tipple. "When the water

starts to cool down past 55 degrees, throw the jig-n-pig. This bait will catch fish until the water freezes up."

Tipple's preference is a 1/4-ounce jig that he customizes with four skirts. He hooks a number 11 Uncle Josh pork frog trailer onto the jig and he's in business. This smaller jig-n-pig falls fairly slowly in the cold water to allow the bass a chance to check it out. As the temperatures nosedive in the late fall and early winter, these fish have slowed down themselves and are most interested in a tantalizingly slow bait.

"This lightweight jig-n-pig combination has a bulky appearance and takes its time falling through the water column," says Tipple. "Denny Braur anchored his career pitching the jig-n-pig. Kevin VanDam says that if you're pitching a jig-n-pig, you're on solid ground. Timmy Horton says that if you want to catch the bigger bag, this is the bait to throw. These folks have won millions of dollars bass fishing and it sounds like a good idea to listen to what they have to say."

Tipple has caught some impressive coldwater bass himself using a jig-n-pig. Some of these brutes have topped five and six pounds.

Keeping the colors simple is a key to the bait's success. In dark or muddy water, toss a black or blue bait or one in a combination of these colors. In clear water, go with a smoke or green pumpkin color, or even a bait that includes both.

Fall fishing means a change of tactics for most of us. In the summer, the bigger females head for the depths where they're tough to find and hard to catch. The warm months mean targeting the deep bluffs, dropping points, deep creek channel arms, or the deepest side of a weedline. When the water cools, start up in the shallow coves and pitch to shallow cover.

Ohio is blessed with tremendous bass angling opportunities. The jig-n-pig is productive throughout the fall and into the winter months in any number of lakes, ponds, and rivers. But if an angler wants to consistently catch fish, he has to understand how the weather and the temperature interrelate and then take his cue from the conditions to choose the most productive water.

In the fall, the smaller bodies of water cool down first and the larger, deeper lakes cool down later, according to Tipple.

The late fall fishing season means chasing bass in the smaller ponds and lakes because the temperature is cooling and the fish are feeding. As lakes under 200 acres cool off, move onto these. Once the big lakes cool down and the bass are aggressively feeding, cast a jig-n-pig to take advantage of the seasonal trend. If you chase the water temperatures, you'll find yourself chasing the bass.

No matter what body of water you're on, the difference between fishing the low-light morning and evening hours and hitting water mid-day lessens as the weeks go by. Lower water temperatures find the bass less sensitive to the time of day they're feeding.

Tie on a jig-n-pig and hit the water for big fall bass in Ohio. Once you're on the right lake with the right bait, just hold on. The next bass could be a big one.

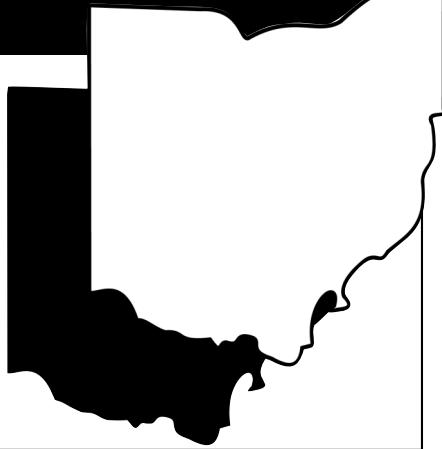
To book a trip for fall bass contact Jeff



A six-pound largemouth bass along with a few others taken during the same evening on a jig-n-pig.

Tipple at (740) 215-3484 or visit online at www.JignPig.net.

OHIO SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR



EVENTS

October 10

Pink Ribbon Cast & Blast—The first annual Pink Ribbon Cast & Blast will take place at Elk Creek winery in Sparta Ky. This ladies only event is to help raise

funds for breast cancer research. Bass Pro Shops Cincinnati will be on hand to teach the fly casting portion of the event. For more information, please go to www.ihavewings.org.

EDUCATION

Ongoing

GPS: Navigating Your Way through New Technology Seminar at the Bass Pro Shop in Cincinnati. Come check out the GPS course offered the first Monday of each month. It covers the basics to get your GPS unit out of the box and running, and then take it a step further and explain how to better use it to find fish, not get lost and navigate both the water and the field, as you take your outdoor experience to the next level. Class time: 7 p.m. in the conference room. *In the event of a holiday, the class will be moved to the following Monday night.

Ongoing

Finesse Fishing: Lure Presentation Techniques at the Bass Pro Shop in Cincinnati. Each Tuesday night features a different, exciting topic in the world of fishing. Each class is taught by either one of their expert fishing department associates or a special guest instructor from the Tri-State. Time: 7pm in the conference room. Free and no advance reservations are required. For further information call 513-826-5200.

Ongoing

SONAR 101: Using Fish Finders. Catch this new and exciting class the third Monday of every month at the Bass Pro Shops in Cincinnati from 7-9:30 p.m. in the conference room. Learn how a sonar operates; Understand terms that describe sonars (i.e. hertz, cone angle, peak to peak, rating, RMS, pixels, etc...);

Learn how to interpret what you see on the screen; Discuss and see the latest technology available, like side scan sonar, broadband sonar and more! For further information call 513-826-5200.

Ongoing

Junior Archery Class—Bass Pro Shops in Rossford, Ohio is proud to announce their Junior Archery classes for kids from 7 - 15 years of age. All the equipment is supplied by Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World. Class times are every other Thursday 7 - 8 p.m. For further information call 419-891-3900.

Now Through - December 31, 2009

Hunter Safety Class - Home Study Course Only. Bass Pro Shops of Rossford and the ODNR are proud to offer a 5 hour Hunter Safety Course for Home Study students! This course is for hunting enthusiasts that wish to study at home and then attend a final completion session/certification test here at our store. Completion of the Ohio Hunter Education Manual is required prior to the scheduled class date. Ohio residents only. Please visit the ODNR website at: www.wildohio.com for more details. Click Hunter/Trapping Tab, Hunter Education, and then click Home Study link to print off a Acrobat PDF manual or please feel free to pick one up at our store office. Please call 419-891-3900 to register with our operators. Class limit is 20 students. Classes are free and are held in our Conservation Room.

Non-profit conservation organizations, women in the outdoors, fishing, and shooting clubs, share the word about your upcoming events and tournament information in MidWest Outdoors.

Free Listing For Your Upcoming Event!

Send To: MidWest Outdoors, Ohio Section Outdoor Calendar, 111 Shore Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, Fax: (630) 887-1958, e-mail: info@midwestoutdoors.com (Please Allow 6 Weeks).

Rainbow Trout To Be Released In Ohio Waterways

Approximately 25,000 rainbow trout, measuring 10 to 13 inches in length, will be released into 25 Ohio waterways this month, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

"This annual stocking provides excellent opportunities for anglers to continue fishing through the fall all across Ohio," said Elmer Heyob, hatcheries program administrator with the Division of Wildlife.

The trout stocking program targets small inland waters, including state and community park lakes, as well as other easy-access lakes throughout the state. Anglers age 16 and older must have an Ohio fishing license. Fishing licenses can

be purchased online at wildohio.com and at any of the many license vendors around the state. Ohio residents who were born on or before December 31, 1937 may obtain a free license from any license vendor or from the division's Web site.

The 2009 annual resident fishing license costs \$19 and is valid through February 28, 2010. A one-day fishing license may be purchased for \$11. The one-day license may also be redeemed for credit toward purchase of an annual fishing license during the same license year.

Additional information about fall trout releases is available from Division of Wildlife district offices in Akron, Athens, Columbus, Findlay, and Xenia; or by calling toll free 1-800-WILDLIFE.