

Join M•A•Y Club

MONTANA ANGLING YOUTH

- Anyone preschool through elementary can join!
- No meetings to attend, just get great stuff by mail!
- Receive fun newsletters at your home filled with information, tips, & games!
- Learn about fishing and the water environment!
- Write us and share your fishing tips, fishing photos, and fish stories with kids around Montana. (Please write and draw in pen or in VERY DARK pencil.

Mail or drop off your letters or registration to:
M•A•Y Club
 MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 490 North Meridian Road
 Kalispell, Montana 59901

KIDS:
 If you are getting this newsletter, you are already a member, so share this registration form with a friend who might want to join!

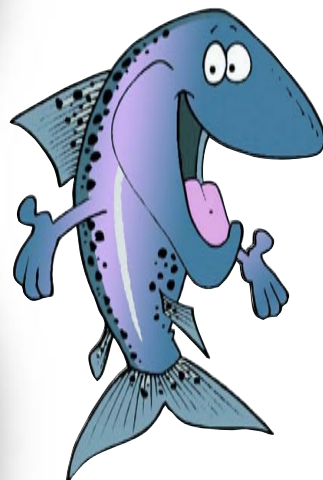
Registration Form

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

M•A•Y Club
NEWSLETTER
 is published by



M•A•Y Club
 490 North Meridian Road
 Kalispell, Montana 59901-3854

(Or current resident)

Crappie

continued from front

very well sometimes. Small plastic jigs are a favorite bait too. You never know what colors the crappies will think looks best on a day, so it's a good idea to have a couple colors in your tackle box. Crappies are known for suspending themselves in the water. That means they may not be right next to the bottom, but they may not be right below the surface either. So sometimes you have to look for a little while before you find them.

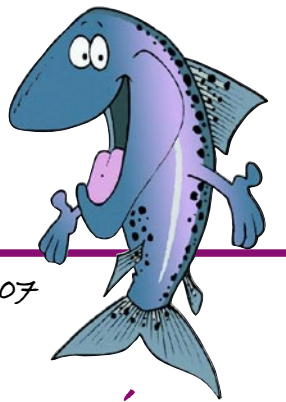
But once you find them, fishing for crappies can be very good. Because they travel in large groups, or schools, once you find a crappie it is likely that there are others nearby. If you find a school, and they are hungry, you can catch a lot of them in a short time. What fun! Crappies are also good to eat, so you may decide to keep enough for a meal. Hopefully your Mom or Dad remembered to bring the frying pan along, because you can cook up your catch and have a meal before you even leave the lake. Fillet the crappies, dust the meat with some eggs and breadcrumbs, and fry them up right on the shore of the lake where you caught them. You may never eat fish that tastes better than freshly caught crappies.

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M•A•Y Club

MONTANA ANGLING YOUTH

Fall 2007



You are now
 one of **4,000**
M•A•Y Club
 Members!!

May Club Feature Fish - Crappie

Have you ever heard the saying that "things aren't always just black and white"? Well, that saying may be true when it comes to some things in the world, but its not very accurate when describing this months feature fish: the Black Crappie and the White Crappie.

Yes, that's right- we actually have two feature fish in this months M*A*Y Club. Black and white crappies are similar enough that we thought we'd tell you about them both at the same time.



White Crappie

Both black and white crappies are members of the sunfish family. We've talked about other sunfish before in the M*A*Y Club, including species like the bass, bluegill, and pumpkinseed. Crappies don't get quite as big as bass, or quite as colorful as pumpkinseeds, but kids in Montana love fishing for them anyways, mainly because when the crappies start biting, you can catch LOTS of them. Sometimes you can catch more than 100 crappies in just a couple hours.



Black Crappie

Black and white crappies like to live in warm water. Their favorite habitat seems to be around brush, dead trees, and branches that are in the water. They are predators, and eat smaller fish, but bigger fish like northern pike will eat crappies, so they want to have a place to hide too, and the bushy limbs in the water provide very good cover.

Most of Montana's crappie waters are in the eastern part of the state. Tongue River Reservoir is one of the very best places in the state to catch crappies, and it is located southeast of Billings. We told you that crappies don't grow to huge sizes, but many crappies are larger than an adult's hand. They are even shaped a little bit like a person's hand too- sort of round and flat, but very thin. This is a shape that lots of other types of sunfish have too.

Like other sunfish, crappies spawn or lay their eggs in the spring or early summer. They rely on water temperature to let them know when the time is right to move into the shallow water and lay their eggs. Its also during the early summer when fishing for crappies is at its best.

Since they eat smaller fish, many people use small minnows for bait when fishing for them. But worms can work

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Look Here!

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Hooked ON FISHING



Outdoors just for kids: Make it easy on yourself in fly fishing

By MARK HENCKEL
Billings Gazette outdoor editor

People sometimes ask me, "How do you get to be a better fisherman?"

The short answer is that you can do it the easy way, or you can do it the hard way. I speak from experience.

When I decided to start fly fishing, I reasoned that a short fly rod would be easiest to handle for a beginner and an automatic fly reel was an improvement over a hand-crank model. I learned to fly fish. I learned the hard way.

I battled that fly fishing setup all summer long. It took me a long, long time to become a decent caster. I went the whole summer catching just a handful of fish.

The truth is that a somewhat longer fly rod is easier to cast with than a short one. Also, a hand-crank reel is far more reliable than an automatic one. About the only thing I did right was to make sure the weight of my fly line matched up well with the fly rod.

A far easier way to learn is to talk to an expert about the sport first. That expert might be someone you know who fly fishes a lot. It might be a member of a local fishing club. It might be someone knowledgeable in a local fly shop.

Taking the time to talk to them and perhaps study things a bit on the internet or in books or videos, you'll have a much shorter learning curve in getting started as a fly fisherman. And you'll be amazed at how many people are ready and willing to help you.

You'll get the right equipment to suit your needs and budget. They can teach you how to cast, instead of learning it yourself by trial and error on the stream. They can advise you on fly selections and tactics to help you catch more than a handful of fish.

Of course, you can do it the hard way, like me. But having done it that way, my advice is to make things as easy as possible on yourself. You'll be having fun fly fishing much quicker that way.

EASY YELLOW PERCH

Perch Fillets (No Bones)
1 cup flour
2 Tbsp. seasoning salt (or to taste)
2 Tbsp. lemon pepper (or to taste)
1 tsp. garlic powder or granulated garlic
3 to 4 cups canola oil

Mix flour, salt, garlic, and pepper in medium bowl. Heat oil in medium pot or wok to deep fry temperature. Cut fillets into 1 to 2 inch squares or strips. Rinse fish, pat dry, put fish into flour mixture, making sure all surfaces are coated. When oil is hot, gently drop fish in and cook until done. (About 3 to 5 minutes)

Fish Recipe from expert fisherman, Hooked on Fishing Instructor, and chef, John Cloniger.

M.A.Y Club

MONTANA ANGLING YOUTH

Fishing Journals

Sometimes it's easy to catch fish. Sometimes it's a little more difficult. When the fishing gets REALLY tough, it takes special skills to be able to catch fish.

One of the best skills an angler can have is to be observant, or good at paying attention and watching carefully what is going on around them. By closely watching what is happening nearby, you may get clues as to what the fish are doing. For example, if you are out fishing for trout on your favorite lake, and you see lots of small ripples and waves in the water, it may mean that the trout are feeding upon small insects and you should use an artificial fly.

But when you are planning a trip, how can you remember what was happening at your favorite fishing spot last week, last month, or even last year? One thing that many good anglers use is a fishing journal.

You may already keep a journal at school, or you may keep one at home. If you want to catch more fish, maybe you should keep a fishing journal and record your fishing trips. You don't have to be very fussy about



what you use. A regular old notebook works just fine. Each time you go fishing, write down where you went,

what the date was, what time you fished, what type and how many fish you caught, and what lures or bait you used to catch them. You might also like to write down anything interesting, funny, or unusual that happened on your trip. Some anglers keep very detailed journals and also write about what they saw, heard, and felt while fishing.

At first, your journal may not look like much. But if you keep at it and don't stop writing, you may be surprised at just how much information you have in just a few years. All that information will come in handy when you plan trips. You will also have lots of fun when you look back at all your fishing trips from when you were young.

SMALL KOKANEE SALMON ON THE GRILL

Kokanee Salmon
2 Tbsp. seasoning salt (or to taste)
2 Tbsp. lemon pepper (or to taste)
1 tsp. garlic powder
2 Tbsp. butter
Aluminum Foil (enough to wrap 4 fish together)
Lemon wedges or lime wedges

Place fish on foil. Season fish with all of the seasonings (either mixed or separate). Place butter on top of fish and wrap fish in the foil... Heat grill on High till ready (400 degrees). Place fish on rack. Cook on each side for 5 minutes. Either place on plate whole or boned with lemon and/or lime wedges. (Trout can also be used in place of the salmon).

Fish Recipe from expert fisherman, Hooked on Fishing Instructor, and chef, John Cloniger.