

Bream anglers will get

BY PHILLIP GENTRY
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For prospective bream anglers who missed the full moon in May hoping to get in on some bedding bream action, reports have been coming in that you didn't miss much. The late spring cold fronts in May cooled area water temperatures off considerably and the spawn has been reported as having been delayed.

With the approaching full moon this weekend and the new moons on June 24, bream anglers will get another shot at some feisty panfish this month.

Locating bream beds requires the use of at least three of the five senses. Look for visual signs of bedding such as saucer-like depressions in the bottom in clear water or telltale wakes of bream swimming in shallow water. Foamy, bubbles may also be present in backwater eddies from bream fanning as well as stirred up, muddy water. Bedding bream put off a distinctive sweet, "fishy" smell when spawning and anglers who approach from down wind



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The cooler nights in May delayed the bedding bream bite this spring leaving panfish anglers looking forward to the full moon in June which happens this week-end.

can often nose their way into the right vicinity. If all else fails, feel your way to the local bream bed by fan casting into likely looking areas or down a shallow, tree studded bank in the hopes of catching that one fish that will give away the bed.

Once located, stay off the bed and flip or cast live baits into

the bed — crickets are at the top of the list. When using live bait, rig a cricket on a No. 4 bream hook approximately a foot to eighteen inches off the bottom. A tiny cork, just enough to float the hook and a split shot weight, will let you know when you have a bite.

For those looking to avoid the

tainly artificial baits that are capable of filling a livewell just as quickly as live bait, without the mess and hassle. One of the best artificial baits is Accardo's Ligon Bream Killer.

Some years ago, the Accardo Tackle Company acquired the rights to the Ligon Bream Killer and has been producing the slow sinking, wet fly ever since. Don Davis is a major distributor of Accardo products and operates Chesterfield, Missouri-based breamebugs.com, an internet shop for all manner of bream catching artificial baits.

"The Bream Killer is our best-selling fly and is number 2 in sales of all of our baits behind the Accardo Miss Prissy," Davis said.

The bream Killer is hand-tied on a number 8 hook with soft chenille topped with squirrel hair trim and white rubber legs. The slow sinking action of the fly is more than big bream can resist. The bream killer is best fished with fly tackle but easily converts to spinning tackle with the use of a small popping cork or strike indicator to give the fly

Davis also suggests using the Break Killer in a Popper-Dropper rig and provided instructions on how to tie the rig

"Personally I like to use a six-pound test leader tippet about five feet long and add whatever cork body popper you like," he said. "The bug becomes your strike indicator and can also catch fish.

To this I add another four-pound test leader tippet about 4 feet long with a Bream Killer as the dropper. I simply tie the second tippet by sliding the line through the hook eye of the popper and tie it tight."

Bream anglers may want to experiment and vary the length and size of the secondary tippet to suit your dropper fly, cast and delivery. Seldom do the two lines entangle and when the bite is on, you will often catch two bluegill at the same time.

PHILLIP GENTRY is the host of "Upstate Outdoors," noon to 2 p.m. Saturdays on 106.3 WORD FM. This week's guest is Mark Davis from The Outdoor Channel's Big Water Adventures. Contact Gentry at pgentry6@bellsouth.net.

another shot in June