

Local pro offers tips on catching summer bass

BY PHILLIP CENTRY
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No stranger to summertime fishing in the south, Bassmaster Elite series angler Marty Robinson from Lyman is a big believer in fishing isolated cover and water inflows wherever he can find them to catch bass when the dog days of summer arrive.

Although steady days of rain are often hard to come by, afternoon thunderstorms may create surges of water coming into a lake, and following one of those events, Robinson will head back into a feeder creek to try to fool bass that are following baitfish to the run-off.

"They like the cooler water, which brings more oxygen, and so do baitfish, but I don't get too uptight if I don't mark baitfish in a feeder creek because there will always be bluegills or crawfish or something to feed on," he said.

Robinson targets any cover in the run-off area — isolated stumps, brush piles or even a lone boat dock as the bass will be drawn to the inflowing water, but still look for places to hide.

When fishing in incoming water flows, Robinson said targeting isolated cover is also a big plus when the weather is hot. It's like finding an oasis in the desert.

To Robinson, isolation means anything that sticks out in otherwise generic landscape. He's also going to look for deeper wa-



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BASS Elite pro Marty Robinson relies on three predictable patterns for catching bass during the heat of summer.

ter areas but that doesn't always mean he's going to fish deep.

"When I'm talking about an isolated piece of cover, that might be a lone brush pile where bass suspend in the top of it or it might be an old roadbed

escape or fall back to during the middle of the day.

Robinson said he's more likely to find the right combination of stained water and depth back in a creek off the main lake and those are also the most likely places to find old road beds; isolated brush piles and/or natural rock piles.

"In this situation I'm going to rely on my electronics a lot more than I would in the back of the creek or chasing schooling bass on the surface out in the lake," Robinson said. "If I can see something I like hanging on the edge of a channel, then it's time to go deep and work on them."

Robinson said a handful of lures is about all you need to find hot bass action during the heat of the summer.

August is well known for its dry conditions, which often create clear water conditions in even the dingiest of lakes.

"This sets up a good topwater bite.

In clear water conditions, Robinson will tailor his topwater baits to the amount of wind that is affecting the surface.

"On calm days, I'm gonna use a clear Spook or a clear topwater walking bait," he said. "Something they can't see too well but can hear and will come look for. The windier it gets, the whiter I want my bait to be and I'll switch over to shad-imitating patterns with a white bottom."

For fish suspended in the top of isolated cover, the pro will go to a crankbait to entice them to bite.

"I love to throw a medium running crankbait in the top of a brush pile that's off by itself," Robinson said. "My favorite is a Luck "E" Strike half-ounce crank bait and my best color is Marty's Party."

When targeting deeper depths of 8-20 feet, Robinson may use a topwater bait early in the day, but his two reliable baits are a Texas rigged Zoom Ol' Monster or a Buckeye half-ounce Mop-head jig paired with a Zoom Super Chunk trailer.

Both of these are big baits. The worm is 10 and a half inches and the jig and trailer are also a mouthful for bass.

These two would be his top picks in run-off area and because run-off water is more likely to be stained, his go-to worm color choice is Redbug. He likes a brown jig with a green pumpkin trailer.

He may also fish shallow run-off areas using a weightless worm or an unweighted fluke but drops back to the Mophead jig or the Ol' Monster worm if he's working deeper water or heavy cover.

PHILLIP CENTRY is the host of "Upstate Outdoors," broadcast from noon to 2 p.m. Saturdays on 106.3 WORD FM. This week's guest will be Erin Weeks, marine information coordinator for SCDNR. Contact Centry at pcentry6@bellsouth.net.