

A Day On The Water Bassin'

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The Circle Goes unbroken

A few years ago I left San Jose, California around 6:30 p.m., and drove back up to Roseville thinking man he was only fifty-five years old, I am 53 years old. I was listening to the Pastor talk about Tuck leaving this earth. We all know earth is a temporary place for us. I started to think, "man life is short". I have known Tuck for over forty-five years. Tuck didn't fish for bass. He had other passions, mostly his family and his work. I was thinking as I looked around the room there must be three hundred or maybe four hundred people sitting, listening to the pastor. Tucker was loved and respected by everyone he met. I started to reflect on what the pastor was saying. He was talking about leaving this earth and that where we go next will be forever.

I started thinking; I wonder when I die, if there would be anyone at my funeral? Will anyone there say good things about me? Will anyone remember me? Did I have an impact on anyone's life? Tucker had an impact on many lives that he encountered. He was a great carpenter; a builder and he taught so many young people to be good at their trade.

Lately, I have been thinking about the changes in bass anglers over the years. The differences between my generation of bass fishermen and this new generation of bass anglers, and now female bass anglers or Bassin' gals to be somewhat correct. I have been thinking about the new generation and how they have changed our sport of bass fishing faster than any other sport I know. I wonder who is teaching these young guns and how they learn so fast. Are

old guys like me teaching them? I can only imagine the bags of fish I could have brought to the scales if I had known the secret of the swim bait forty years ago.

I remember the older guys that had an impact on me as I grew in the sport. I remember fishing tournaments in the late 60's when I was a sophomore in high school. The first president of the Santa Clara Bass Busters was Tom Server. Tom was a great guy, who used to take me fishing all the time. If I remember right; he had a son or two. His boys didn't want to go fishing with him so he would ask me if I wanted to join him. I fished a lot with Tom, as well as some of the other guys that were older than me in the club. My friend Ken was the sales rep for Pedigo spinner baits and pork back in the early 70's. He was at least 15 years older than me. He taught me how to throw

spinner baits and work the pig and jig. Ken really was a great angler who got me into tournament fishing. He always encouraged me to keep fishing; he said that some day I would be a pretty good angler. My friend Jerry Travis was a great angler who was twelve years older than me. It seems like all the guys I learned from in the beginning were older than me. I remember fishing against Dee Thomas and Dave Giebe back then using aluminum boats and thinking, man those guys are tough to beat. What an impact those two have had on our sport and on me. I wanted to be great like them. I wanted to win just like them. What an impression those two have left with me. They too were both older than me and to this day they, as you all would agree, are still great anglers.

A couple of weeks ago I took a friend out fishing in celebration of his 20th birthday. He and I have been fishing together, when our schedules don't conflict for about four years. We had some strong winds out on the Delta but managed to pick up some good fish. Including a nine- pound beauty. We were discussing how that fish was caught and why that fish was there. At that time I realized our difference in age never came into play. We were on the same page, the same playing field, we could really relate to how that fish was caught. Here we are thirty-six years apart in age and we can relate. I started to think back when I was twenty years old and how I could relate to the guys I used to fish with. I have so many great memories fishing with these guys. The sport of bass fishing brings everyone close together.

The anglers who have been donating their time for the Pro Teen event on the California Delta, or to CBAF (Christian Bass Angler Fellowship) kids camp at Collins lake, or those of you who are just like my old friends taking a young person out fishing to share this great



sport, know what I am talking about. This fishing thread forms a circle and we must not break. The future of this sport depends on the next generation of anglers.

My sponsors: G Loomis, P Line, Spro, and Coastal Del Mar are like many other manufactures in this sport who recognize that the young guns are the future of bass angling. The latest generation is learning faster than the past couple of generations. Example; I was fishing with the same young gun on the lake here where I live. We were both on the front deck and looking at the Lowrance sonar unit of my boat. I commented that the Lowrance was showing a lot of weeds on the bottom in ten feet of water. My young friend replied "no that's not weeds that you are looking at, that is interference from your other unit". I guess, as you get older you think there isn't much these young guns can teach you about bass fishing. I mean after all, I have been fishing for bass for over forty years. But then I decided to see if he was right. I turned the back sonar unit off and the weeds on the front graph disappeared. There was that full circle thing again; only it

was the young teaching the old. In hindsight, I wonder if I taught him anything that day. If you get the chance to take a young person fishing offer him or her an opportunity to see the sunrise or the sunset. Be a mentor and offer the fishing knowledge you have accumulated over the years and be an example of what a good person is all about. Share with these young people this great sport and leave them with great memories. Remember they can teach you some things as well; but only if you give them a chance.

See you on the Water,
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Jerry Fournier is a licensed guide fishing northern California waters. Jerry Fournier's Sponsors are: G Loomis, P Line, Spro, Coastal Del Mar, Promar, Rod Strainer, Pro Swimbaits, Prop Cover, Coyote Bait and Tackle.

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