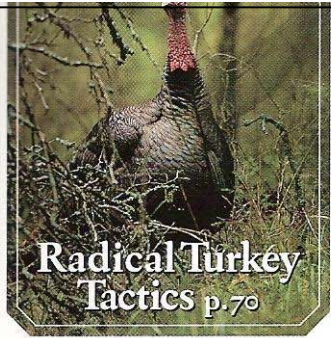


THE HOW-TO ISSUE

# FIELD & STREAM



Radical Turkey Tactics p. 70

APRIL 2006 /// THE WORLD'S LEADING OUTDOOR MAGAZINE

## 50 BEST LURES OF ALL TIME

AND HOW TO FISH THEM

BY JOHN MERWIN

PLUS A SHAD FISHING ADVENTURE WITH JOHN MCPHEE

#2 DARDEVLE SPINNIE: The world's most recognized fishing lure is deadly as ever.

**BASS**  
SECRETS OF THE SPAWN

**TROUT**  
HOW TO CATCH THEM IN APRIL

**WALLEYES**  
3 PROS TELL ALL

**FLYFISHING**  
10 SKILLS YOU SHOULD KNOW

+ FIELD-TESTED GEAR +  
BASS BOATS, TURKEY VESTS, WADERS, AND THE NEW BROWNING A-BOLT

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FIELD & STREAM'S FISHING EDITOR HAS SPENT 50 YEARS ASSEMBLING THE PERFECT TACKLE BOX. THESE ARE THE LURES THAT CONSISTENTLY CATCH THE MOST FISH. HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE?

FIELD  
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STREAM

# 3 49 50 51 52

## GREATEST LURES OF ALL TIME

(IN ORDER)



**All fishermen are experts;** just ask any one of them. Or so the saying goes. So in naming the world's 50 best fishing lures, I know we're asking for a fight.

But check the choices thoughtfully. Whether you target bass or walleyes, trout or stripers and more, these are lures that actually work. Some selections are lures your granddad fished. Others are so new you might not have seen them yet. In all cases, though, you'll find a lure that catches fish, specified right down to size and color, along with just what to do when you're on the water.

Picking the perfect lure for a given situation is hard work, so I'll confess to a dirty trick. Before returning to a marina dock or my truck, I take the day's hot lures off my rods and put them away. To the same rods, I then attach lures that didn't work. That means the prying eyes of other anglers in the parking lot will be led astray, and I'll keep a secret to myself just a little longer.

Not this time, though. The lures on these pages are, indeed, the ones I use myself—a core collection distilled through 50 years on the water. They'll work for you, too.

BY JOHN MERWIN

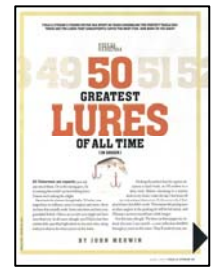




**27 FOODSOURCE MINNOW** These lures might be the future of fishing. A minnow-imitating, soft jerkbait that leaves a great scent trail, it's rigged and fished similar to a Slug-Go. All FoodSource models are molded out of real fish food and—unlike common soft plastics—are fully biodegradable. Numerous angling cretins toss used soft-plastic lures in the shoreline weeds or water, where they become an environmental hazard because they don't decay or break down. FoodSource lures are environmentally friendly—and they catch fish.

fslures.com

**SPECIES:** ● ● ● ●



## THE LOGIC BEHIND THE RANKINGS

Versatility was the key in rating these lures as to their overall importance. Simply put, some lure designs work better for a greater variety of gamefish than others. I'll use tiny Curly Tail grubs for panfish and trout, midsize grubs for bass and walleyes, and gigantic 8-inch versions of the same lure for monster stripers or pike. It's truly an all-around performer.

That's why some popular largemouth bass lures rank near the bottom of my list. They're great for bass but not much else. Before you send me a snotty letter, remember that this list isn't based on the best lures for bass or for trout or for any other fish. It's a ranking of the best lures, period.

—J.M.