

Take The Bait

December 2005

Capt. Dan Brooks

Anglers' Wish List

Another holiday season is upon us and here we are shoveling sunshine instead of snow. For an angler there is no better place to be than Florida. Year round fishing and outdoor recreation are the norm for those of us lucky enough to call this paradise home. I'm sure that during the off-season Santa is an avid angler and wouldn't want to leave any fisherman without a few stocking stuffers and some nifty gifts. Here are a few helpful suggestions that should please anglers of all levels.

- **Polarized sunglasses** help protect your eyes from ultra violet light and remove the glare from the water that allows you to spot fish before they spot you. You get what you pay for when it comes to the quality of the lens and construction of the frames that hold up in a harsh environment. Costs may range from \$50.00 to \$150.00. Ocean Waves, H2O Optics and Costa Del Mar are some of the manufacturers that I would recommend.
- **Rain Gear** should be kept light, as you really don't need heavy foul weather gear; it is too hot and uncomfortable and takes up too much space. Frogg toggs, Columbia Sportswear Co. and RedHead make a quality product that is guaranteed to keep you dry. Costs range from \$50.00 to \$100.00 for a complete rain suit.
- **Gift Certificates** are a practical way for an angler to get what they really need and will use. With so many different types of rods, reels, lures and

other gadgets to choose from it's best to let the person that's doing the fishing make those decisions. I'm sure you would rather be fishing than standing in the return line exchanging a gift. I know I would!

- **Tide Calendars.** Saltwater fisherman know how important it is to plan their fishing trips according to the different stages of moving water to increase their chances of catching and not just fishing. A tide calendar provides detailed information and lists moon phases for the entire year. At about \$16.95 it is the most affordable and practical tool a fisherman could ask for.
- **Sport Fishing Charters.** Inshore, offshore or a party boat fishing trip makes a great gift that often provides memories for a lifetime. Gift certificates that can be used anytime during the year are available from a variety of fishing guides and charter services such as myself. Any angler can always benefit from the knowledge obtained when fishing with a professional. Remember the old saying "give a man a fish and you have fed him for the day or teach a man how to fish and he can feed himself for a lifetime."

Listed below are some local and mail order retail outlets that carry the products mentioned on the anglers' wish list.

Disston Optical-gotta hav' shades

3435 49th Street North, St Petersburg, Fl. 727-522-8423

West Marine

2000 34th Street U S 19 North, St Petersburg, Fl. 727-323-2495

Boaters World

4701 34th Street U S 19 South, St Petersburg, Fl. 727-867-9700

Bass Pro Shops, basspro.com, 1-800-227-7776

Tidelines, tidelines.com, 1-800-345-8524

Bays Best Charters, baysbestcharters.com, 727-867-7856

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