



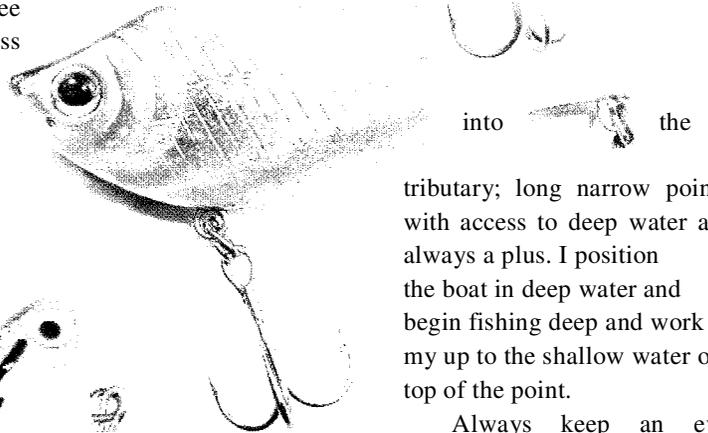
## fishing

# The lipless crankbait

By Monty McGuffin

The passing of Labor Day weekend is the signpost for those of us that love to fish. A long-awaited calmness begins to take over the lakes. Shorter days also mean the cooling off of the waters of our three main Upstate lakes: Jocassee, Keowee and Hartwell. Best of all, fish are becoming more active; they're on

signed to mimic the size, shape and action of these two bait fish, prevalent in all three lakes. A lipless crankbait is compact, emits a lot of vibration, is highly visible, can be cast extreme



tributary; long narrow points with access to deep water are always a plus. I position the boat in deep water and begin fishing deep and work my way up to the shallow water on top of the point.

Always keep an eye looking for surface activity; remember the fish are moving and it's common to find fish feeding on the surface this time of year. Make a long cast over the schooling fish and hold on to your rod. This is when you really want to crank the lure pretty fast. When they bite, they're hooked.

As the days grow shorter and the water continues to cool, the bait fish continue to move upstream, and the big fish follow. With the influx of predator fish, the schools of bait fish start to diminish. This is a plus for the angler; less competition from Mother Nature means more fish in the boat. By late October it is common to find fish so far back in the creeks that you cannot reach them by boat, literally in a foot of water feeding vigorously.

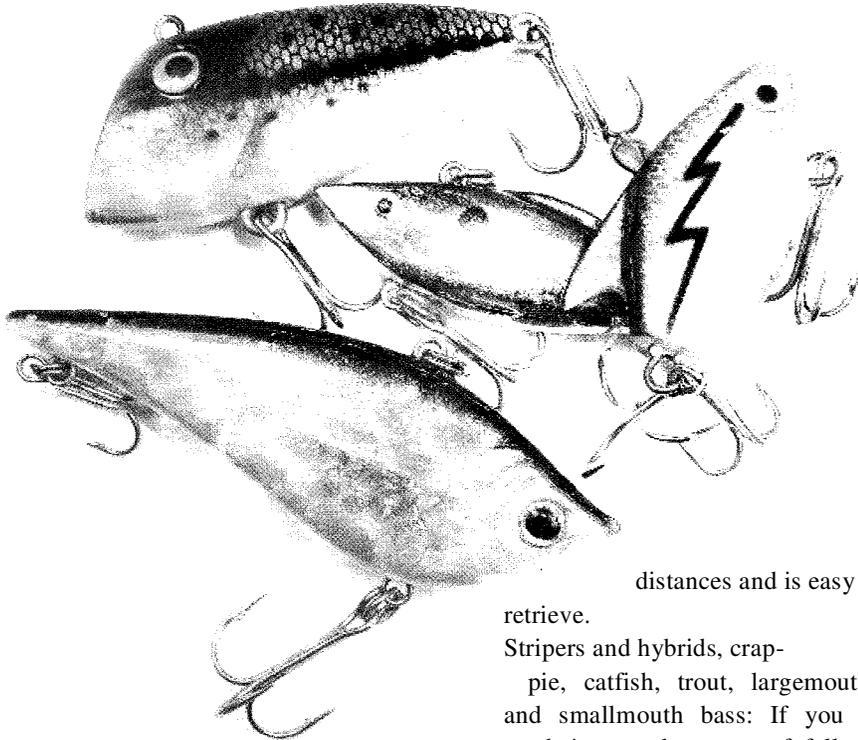
I can't tell you which manufacturer makes the best lipless crankbait. I will say this. I primarily use two sizes: 3/8 and 1/2 ounce, I use monofilament line 8- to 12-pound test and I always have one on a spinning reel and one on a casting reel, each on seven foot rods. I select natural colors.

Want to enjoy some easy catch'n'? Sling the "Lipless Crankbait."

distances and is easy to retrieve.

Stripers and hybrids, crappie, catfish, trout, largemouth, spots and smallmouth bass: If you want to catch 'em at the onset of fall, tie on a lipless crankbait and start fishing. For the most part, the method is simple. Make a long cast and begin a steady retrieve. There are only a few variations for type of retrieve: 1) Burn it just below the surface, slow and steady, the slower you go the deeper it runs, the stop and go, lets it briefly sink, and 2) The rip - let it sink a few feet or to the bottom, then sweep the rod hard making the lure swim up quickly for a few feet. The latter draws what is called a reaction bite, i.e. "get it before it gets away."

Since the fish are moving up tributaries, finding the place to fish is fairly simple. Through the process of elimination, start on the primary points that extend



the move looking for fresh, cooler waters and prime feeding grounds.

Regardless of which species of fish you pursue, there is a high possibility that your favorite fish will eat a lipless crankbait. The lipless crankbait is one of the easiest to use, fish catching lures on the market today. Available in a handful of sizes and endless offering of color schemes, this lure stands out this time of year.

With practically every fish species moving up tributaries on the lakes, they are searching for threadfin shad and blueback herring. Lipless crankbaits are de-