



FISHING FOR LIFE

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THE DEPTH FINDER

Luke 5:4—"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." - Jesus directs us if we listen.

VOLUME 7, APRIL

A Communication for Deep C's Members

APRIL 5, 2021

DEEP C'S DIRECTOR - STEVE CRUIKSHANK

Hello All,

Spring is right around the corner. The ice is off most lakes. The Robins are back. Baseball is here. I think you would agree all those things mean it springtime again in Minnesota. I for one will be incredibly happy to get my boat out of the garage and into the water. I am looking forward to finding some slab Crappie's. Every spring its always an adventure finding those big Crappies. Will they be in the shallows or will they be still out in the deeper water. I usually start in the shallows first and work my way out into the deeper water. I like to use a plain hook with the smallest minnow I can find. I also like to troll a small beetle spin just behind the boat over the weeds.

A Golden Rule for Springtime Crappies

By Sean Colter

Does finding the fish consume a better part of your day when on the water? Many anglers I see and talk to seem to play the "Hope Game", meaning they hit the water looking for a group of boats and hope they are catching fish. I have written down one of my golden rules for eliminating inactive water. By using this tactic, it may help take the hope game out of your tackle box.

Understanding where crappies stage:

During ice-out in Northern Minnesota, which normally occurs in mid-to-late April, crappies should be compared to a Yo-Yo. From one day to the next crappies will move from the shallows to the deep water on just a simple temperature drop making them hard to find daily. Knowing that one can eliminate some water, but there is still a lot of water to look over.

This is where the golden rule for crappies comes in. Most crappies spawn in shallow 1-4-foot areas, which have soft-dark bottoms such as bays, creeks, or pencil reed patches.

Once you have found the prime habitat for crappies spawning now one must locate the staging area. To find the staging area one must head straight out from the spawning area, and find the first initial drop-off to deeper water, this in most cases will be the staging area for those spawning crappies.

So now that you have found this, how do you pick the right depth to fish? Well, this is it, tie on a bright 1/4 oz. Jig and drop it over the side of the boat, keep your eye on it till it is gone, as you lose sight of it, stop the fall, and measure the distance from the top of the water to your jig. If you lose sight at six feet, eight feet, or two feet, add four feet to this number and this is where you want to start fishing for these staging crappies.

On murky lakes the hot depth seems to be the 6-7-foot range and for clearer lakes the 15-foot mark seem to work the best. Now this will help you with saving time searching for those fish, try working the edge in this depth and move in and out a few feet until locating the school, they are there, just be persistent.

Understanding the Spawn cycle:

Crappies have one of the largest water-spawning temperature ranges compared to most game fish in Northern MN. They have been found to start spawning activity in 55 degrees F. and have seen the spawn last until reaching water temperatures of 70 Degrees F.

Once the water temperatures hit that secret mark for the crappies, the males move in first and start making a nest. Once the nest is built to their liking, the females will slide into the nesting area to perform their spawning rituals.

From the time the females move into the nesting areas to the time they move back out, only 24 hours will lapse. Once the spawn is complete the males will guard the nest until the fry hatches and are ten days old, making the now hungry males more vulnerable to being caught.

Most days the when the water temperatures are around 55-60 degrees F. you will find crappies in the shallows, but this will be a noticeably short time period for you to catch those normally larger females. By understanding where the crappies will hold before' during and after the spawn you will increase your odds to filling those voids in your live-well and retreat from the hope game.

This year's theme verse is Lute 5:4 "Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch". That verse is part of one of my favorite stories in the bible. I want to focus on why Simon (soon to be called Peter) obeyed Jesus in that story. Consider three reasons why obedience is critical to the successful Christian life:

1. Obeying God in small matters is an essential step in receiving God's greatest blessings.

Suppose Peter said, "Look, I'm busy cleaning my nets now. I can't help you because I'm going fishing again tonight." Or he could have said, "Why don't you ask to use that other boat, over there?" Or "I've already been fishing today; it would be a waste of time to go again." If Peter had said anything other than yes, he would have missed the greatest fishing experience of his life. But because of Peter's obedience, the Lord arranged a miracle that he would never forget.

Often, God's greatest blessings come because of our willingness to do something that appears very insignificant. So, ask yourself, "Has God been challenging me to do something seemingly unimportant that I have not yet tried to accomplish? Is there anything I have rationalized by saying, 'It's too difficult,' 'I don't want to' or 'I have to pray about it first'?"

2. Our Obedience always benefits others.

Think of how many people were blessed by Peter's obedience. Not only could the crowd see the Lord and hear his lesson, but Jesus himself also benefited by preaching from the boat enabled him to sit down in comfort while he spoke (5:3). Then, of course, Peter's friends had a very profitable day as they took in two vessels so full of fish that both began to sink. More importantly, they had the opportunity to witness the Lord's supernatural provision.

God often rewards others and, those closest to us because of our obedience. For example, when a par-

ent obeys the Lord, the entire family reaps the reward of God's blessings. Likewise, a child's obedience will bless his or her parents. This does not mean that those who choose to disobey the Lord will escape his discipline because of someone else's godly walk. His call to obedience always demands our response.



However, when we live obedient lives, those who know and love us will sense the peace and joy he has given us. Instead of conflict, there will be contentment—and that is just one part of experiencing God's goodness.

3. When we obey God, we will never be disappointed.

Peter no doubt assumed that Jesus' fishing instructions would amount to a waste of time. But when he complied with the Lord's simple request, Christ brought about a miracle that gripped the disciple with amazement. Jesus turned an empty boat into a full one. We, like Peter, must recognize that obeying God is always the wisest course of action. He can also take our emptiness whether related to finances, relationships or career and change it into something splendid.

Perhaps you have hesitated to obey God because you fear the consequences of your decision. But the Lord's command is for you to fear him above all else. The same sovereign, omnipotent God who keeps your heart beating and the planets orbiting is more than able to handle the results of your obedience. When he tells you to do something and you know without a doubt it is his will, then you need to obey based solely on who is doing the talking.

When you choose to obey the Lord, he will bless you. This is because obedience always leads to blessing. I have always told people who say they do not understand why God is asking them to do a certain thing that if they obey him, he will reward them with a sense of peace and joy that compares to nothing this world has to offer. Therefore, set a goal to obey the Lord and watch him work in your life.

Article drawn from The Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Bible, 2nd Edition, NIV

Your brother in Christ,

Steve

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Men's Deep C's April :

- South - April 8 - Mercy Road
12156 Nicollet Ave, Burnsville, MN
- West - April 13 - Cabela's Rogers
- North - April 22 - Insurance Brokers
3351 Round Lk Blvd, Anoka
- East - April 27 - Fractional Toys

Speaker & Topic

At this time all speakers are TBD. Watch the email invite for more information.



Fishing For Life, founded in 2004, is a tax exempt charitable organization whose mission is to inspire a love of fishing and outdoor activities through Christ-centered programming.

Within Fishing For Life, there is a Christian ministry called Deep C's. There are five chapters active - West, South, East, North, and women's - each meeting once / month. The Deep C's meetings all begin at 6pm with a free supper. All are welcome .

2021 Theme

"Launch Out"

Luke 5:4, when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Cost for membership is \$20/ year collected in February.



Deep C's Leaders & Volunteers

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Deep C's Director | Steve Cruikshank |
| Depth Finder Editor | Daryle Hamlin |
| West Chapter - Rogers - 2nd Tuesday | |
| Spiritual Leader | Vaughn Blackburn |
| Chapter Coordinators | Kent Lillehaugen & Ron Buster |
| Food Coordinator | Perry Whitney |
| South Chapter -Burnsville-2nd Thursday | |
| Spiritual Leader | Daryle Hamlin |
| Chapter Coordinators | Andrew Vanhoozer Pat Adams |
| Food Coordinator | Shane Myrlie |
| East Chapter - Oakdale - 4th Tuesday | |
| Spiritual Leader | Dan Pilla |
| Chapter Coordinators | Randy Markey & Troy Sonnenfeld |
| Food Coordinator | Randy Markey |
| North Chapter - Blaine - 4th Thursday | |
| Spiritual Leader | Dan Pilla |
| Chapter Coordinators | Travis Busch & Ken Stahn |
| Food Coordinator | |

Deep C's is a Christian group that regularly gathers together to share in their knowledge of and love for the outdoors, and, most importantly, to fellowship with one another through faith in Jesus Christ. We desire to deepen our relationships with Him and with each other. There are currently five active groups across the Twin Cities. Four for men and one for women. All are welcome!

Depth Finder is a monthly publication for our Deep C's groups. Submissions should be emailed to the editor. All articles, testimonies, informational items, pictures, recipes, and items for sale or wanted are welcomed and encouraged. Please make submissions to Steve or editor - Daryle Hamlin dbhamlin@gmail.com.

Archie's Funnies



Break Line Fishing

Break Line Fishing is an amateur league based in St. Paul, Minnesota. BLFL is a multi-species fishing league that is enjoyed by anglers of all ages and all levels of fishing experience. It is intended to be both fun and educational.

For more information, contact Travis Busch
tbusch79@gmail.com, 763-269-0181

Can you please help with REI rod rebuilding? We have 2 dates and locations.

- Apr 16-17 at our Andover property - 14411 Round Lake Blvd - Andover, Mn
- May 14-15 at Westwood Church - 3121 Westwood Drive - Excelsior, MN
- Both are from 8am to 3pm - contact Steve if you can help.

Pro Fishing Tips

April 2021

by Dwight Nelson

Updates and Reminders:

If you have not purchased your new 2021 fishing license this is your last reminder from me to do so. I have already been checked by the DNR since getting my new license so I am glad I did not forget! I had a great time chatting with the COs though so it was a good experience.



Here is a tip for any of you that are over 65. Per the DNR regulations, you do not need to purchase a trout stamp. That will save you \$10 a year! Kids under 18 do not need one either to be legal. However, 16-17 year olds need a special \$5 fishing license (code 138r).

If you read my last column I mentioned Chris Ray's northern pike catch on Medicine Lake and included a picture. It turns out he *did* win the biggest northern category so again congrats Chris!

What's in season now?

My wife says "*something's always* in season". Well, it turns out she is correct. Now that maple tree tapping for syrup is over, I can get back to fishing! Stream trout in lakes outside of the BWCA closed today, March 31, but I took advantage of what turned out to be a very windy day yesterday to fish Cenaiko in Coon Rapids.



My battle with 20+ MPH winds was rewarded though with this 20" Rainbow Trout. It was a great way to conclude the trout ice fishing season. By the way I caught it

from the fishing pier dangling a small tube jig with two wax worms on the hook about 6' deep (over the railing no less).

So what *is* open now? Besides crappies and panfish, sturgeon is open until April 14. Lake trout is already open on Lake Superior. Stream trout is open in southeast MN for catch+release. That season ends April 16 and the regular season opens April 17. On Lake Superior Brook and Brown Trout and Splake will open

April 17. While Pool 2 of the Mississippi River is always open for walleye catch+release, pools 3 and 4 are open now for walleye (see regulations for border waters MN-WI). Some of my best walleye fishing has been in April on "the river". And as always follow the DNR regulations (download them to your phone!). They have gotten quite complex.

What's coming up?

If you are looking forward to walleye and northern opener like I am you have probably already checked the DNR web site and the calendar. That season opens May 15 this year. Remember too that WI usually opens a week earlier than MN so you can get a head start there. Muskie season does not open until June 5.

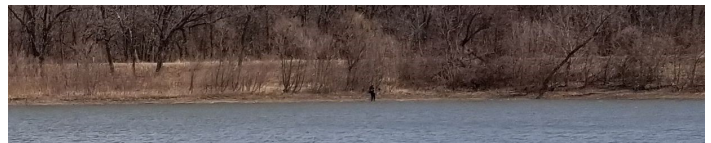
There are some "free" dates this summer. You can get mom out on the water license free on May 8-9 but as I read the regs you can only fish for what is open at that time (ie, no walleye!). You can also take kids on "Take a Kid Fishing" weekend June 11-13. But they already fish free, right?!

This just out:

The DNR just announced their plans for Lake Mille Lacs a couple of days ago. Per the press release we will be able to keep one walleye 21-23 inches long or one longer than 28 inches in the "early" season May 15-31 (6AM-10PM). From June 1-30 there will be a walleye catch+release season.

From Thursday, July 1, through Thursday, July 15 there will be a "closure" of 2 weeks to prevent high water temperature hooking mortality. Catch+release (for walleyes) will resume July 16, and continue through Wednesday, Sept. 15. Additional rules apply starting June 5 for muskie/northern pike fishing. The one-fish walleye limit is scheduled to resume Thursday, Sept. 16, through Tuesday, Nov. 30 but then you can fish until midnight. Got all that?!

The perfect place to fish:



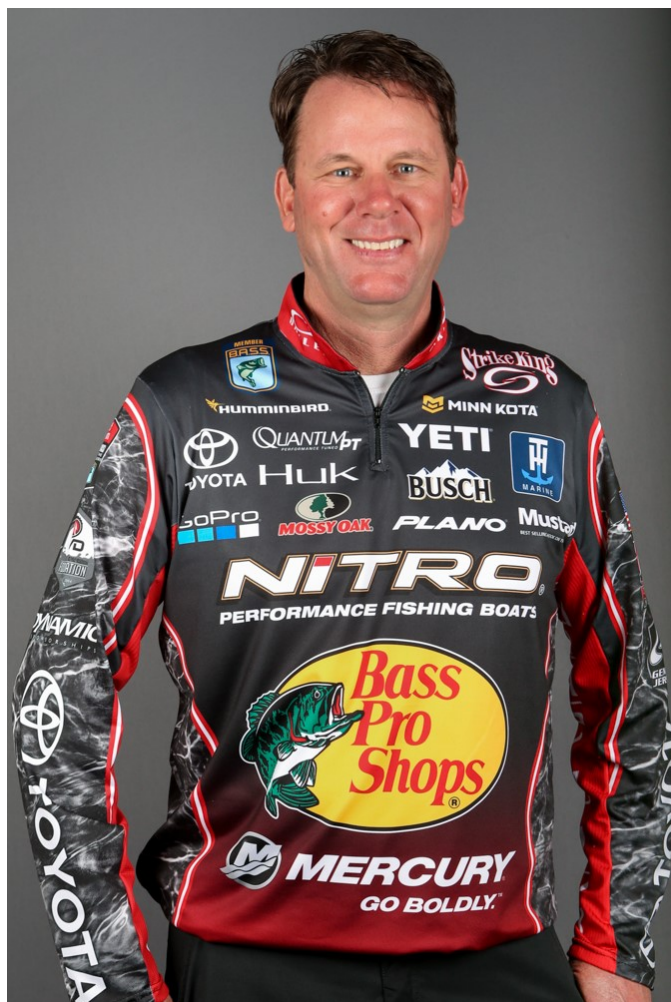
A deserted shoreline, no crowds. And come late April crappies coming in to sun-exposed wind-sheltered warmer water searching for minnows especially on northern shorelines. Watch for them by structure.

Blessings and Tight Lines!

Dwight Nelson (dpnelson50m@gmail.com)

April Special Needs Column

Greetings from the Directors Desk. I hope March was good to you its starting to get warmer and feel like spring so that helps. Last month we talked about Rick Clunn and learned about his story and accomplishments. This month we continue our study through the fishermen with a guy mentioned in March but talked about very little Kevin Van Dam. According to Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_VanDam) Kevin Van Dam or KVD for short was born on October 14th, 1967. He is the all-time money winner in professional bass fishing, having earned \$6,261,476 through September 2017. He has captured four Bassmaster Classic titles (2001, 2005, 2010, 2011), seven Toyota Tundra Angler of Year titles (1992, '96, '99, '08, '09, '10, '11) and was also the FLW Angler of the Year in 2001. VanDam has predominantly fished the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (BASS) Bassmasters tournament series during his career but was also a founding member of Major League Fishing. Van Dam began his career in 1990 at the young age of 23 years old and in 1992 he added to his resume by becoming the youngest person



to win the BASS Angler of the Year title, at age 25. He and Rick Clunn are the only anglers to have won four Bassmaster Classic titles. His 25 career BASS tournament series wins are the most career wins on the Bassmasters tournament trail. His win of the Bassmaster Elite at Grand Lake on April 29, 2018 marked his 25th Elite Series victory. Vandam also has 111 top 10 finishes, 173 top 20 finishes, and 214 top 30 finishes through July 23, 2017. VanDam was honored with the first-ever Outdoorsman of the Year ESPY Award by ESPN in 2002.



Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and graduated from Otsego High School, VanDam still resides there with his wife, Sherry, and sons Jackson and Nicholas. VanDam is sponsored on the BASS Bassmasters tournament trail by Busch Beer, Nitro, Mercury Marine, Toyota, Strike King, Mustad, Plano, MinnKota, Lew's, Bass Pro Shops, Humminbird, Oakley, D&R Sports, Hydrowave, and RMR Industries.

Here are some impressive stats to chew on.

- 3 Major League Fishing Cup
- 4 Bassmaster Classic Titles
- 8 Angler of the Year Titles (7 B.A.S.S. , 1 FLW)
- Career winnings: more than \$6,300,000 (B.A.S.S. and FLW)
- Career Top Ten finishes: 111
- Times in the BASSMASTER Classic: 26
- Tournaments Won: 25 (B.A.S.S.)
- Tournaments Runner-Up: 16

Lets see how much you know about him.

https://www.bassresource.com/bass_fishing_123/insidebass_0803_05.html

Enjoy the warm weather and I will visit with you in May.

Handicapped Director Tyler Pinor

Sauteed Crappie with Butter Sauce



This tasty sauteed crappie recipe works just as well with any type of fish that won't fall apart when you sauté it.

Tip: if your tomatoes are not home-grown, help them out by slicing them into thick slices and then seasoning with salt, pepper, sugar and a splash of balsamic vinegar.

Ingredients

8 3-ounce crappie fillets skin removed.
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon salt
1/2 teaspoon white pepper
1 tablespoon garlic powder
5 tablespoons butter chilled
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/4 cup dry white wine
1 lemon juice only
1/3 cup fresh basil leaves
8 slices tomato about 1/4-inch thick
1 avocado sliced into 8 thin slices.

Directions

Combine flour, salt, white pepper, and garlic powder in a small bowl. Dust fish with flour mixture.

Heat 2 tablespoons of the butter and the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add fish and brown on one side, about 3 – 4 minutes. Flip fish over and cook for 2 more minutes. Remove fish and keep warm.

Add wine and lemon juice and stir to loosen bits stuck to pan. Reduce liquid to just a few tablespoons. Stir in basil and remaining chilled butter, stirring until butter is melted. Remove from heat.

For each serving, arrange 1 slice of tomato on a plate. Top with 1 piece of fish and then avocado slices. Place tomato over avocado, then fish and then 2 more slices avocado. Drizzle butter sauce over and serve.

Wanted Running or Dead Outboards

Now buying old running or non running outboards, chainsaws and ice augers. Send me a text, call or email to let me know what you have. Also picking up (in the northern metro only) lawnmowers, snowblowers and other small engine equipment for a small recycling fee (\$ 5.00).

LeRoy Gruwell 612-619-0884 or recyclingroy@gmail.com

Check out Dan Pilla's recent article published by National Review re IRS growth.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/03/like-the-irs-then-youll-love-elizabeth-warrens-new-tax-bill/>

Here are Prayer & Praise submissions for March 2021.

March 2, 2021 - Compiled From FF Life Staff

- Prayer of blessing over Brian, Lee, Jeff & Gary who joined the men's retreat this weekend.
- Dave & Kate: continued prayers for Kate's healing.
- Prayers for Joe Sutton's family, who passed away March 1.
- Prayers for TJ.
- Prayers of thanks for Joy & the kids being able to get to the Dr. in person.
- Prayers for Steve's son, Ryan- job search, life direction..
- Gratitude for tough conversations with friends and family about God.
- Thankful for Brad Patterson and his involvement with FFL!
- Continued prayers for Sara's cousin who has stage 4 cancer- and her family!
- Praise for a great Marathon Man meeting last week! They've set the bar high for this years goal, and we are looking forward to it.

From March 9, 2021 - Compiled From FF Life Staff

- Prayer for Tom & his family leadership during vacation, knowing how to lead the energy & attitude of the family in wisdom by example!
- Vaughn: thankful for time with family in WI; Dedications of kids :)
- Steve: grateful for good conversations at winter retreat, conversations with Ryan about work/military possibility.
- Sara: continued prayers for her cousin battling cancer, starting chemo.
- Josh: thankful for feeling settled with where he's living right now, provision for girlfriend.
- Ang: so grateful for the place God has led self & son.... Continued prayers for doing all the new chapters of life.
- Prayers for Todd & Shawna Goetz- recovery from Covid.
- We are so thankful for a recent successful intervention, and the way Jeff continues to lead people to freedom.
- Grateful for Perry Whitney and the way he has served and provided so faithfully for FFL !
- Hedge of protection on FFL for current social & political climates.

From March 23, 2021- Compiled From FF Life Staff

- Grateful for the success at TPC with Ramy partnership last week.
- Vaughn: grateful for all the wonderful new contacts- men & women who want to step up and help with camps! We are already 50% staffed!
- We are all thankful for Caroline!
- Thankful for the new van we picked up - recently donat-

ed to FFL! A ginormous thank you to Brian Wilcox & John Hirsch (Cambridge motors)!

- ALL: thankful for the people God continues to bring into the fold of FFL, let us continue to be a blessing to them as much as they are to US.
- Vaughn: prayers for daughter, Victoria.
- Steve: prayers as he gets the vaccine at the VA this week... in prep for a trip.
- Steve: prayers for son, Ryan in his continued search for direction/ job!
- Sara: continued prayers for cousin battling cancer AND the family.
- Josh: thankful for new living situation for girlfriend.
- Josh: prayers to figure out summer work and living situation.
- Jen: prayers for overall spiritual care, provision of mentor ship, direction for allll her kids.
- Ang: grateful for God's sovereignty over EVERYTHING! God, give us the boldness to live & walk in the confidence of HIS provision.

From March 30, 2021 - Compiled From FF Life Staff

- Grateful for the new van we picked up last week!
- Prayer for wisdom (for the board) on social/political issues and statement of faith for FFL
- Grateful we have the staff we need for summer camps!
- Prayers for Steve's family & jobs
- Grateful for pheasant hunting with Rob Watlov
- Prayers for Josh for wisdom & diligence on leadership & spiritual preparation for camps this summer
- Sara: praise for a great success for recent fundraiser for cousin w/ cancer
- Grateful for a good board meeting last week
- Prayers for the "entrepreneurial operating system" of FFL as being set forth/being retooled by the board
- Prayers for preparation, protection, provision for upcoming turkey camp

Other requests:

- Prayer for our State & Country leaders & release of wisdom for making decisions that glorify God.
- Prayer for blessings on all volunteers & their families that make Fishing for Life a successful ministry.
- Prayer for all Fishing for Life ministries to impact & bring people to know & develop a relationship with Jesus.

Events:

- Prayer for planning & organization of the FF Life annual banquet & fundraiser.
- Praise for Deep Cs Men's groups as they continue to meet, fellowship & bind together.
- Prayer for growth of each of the FF Life ministries.

You can submit your Praise & Prayer requests &/or Praises to: PrayerPraise@fishingforlife.org

2021 Calendar

Events / Dates are subject to change or to being cancelled. FFL will update the online calendar as the events become confirmed / changed.

April

16- REI Cleanup
17-Firearms Safety Range Day
22 – Bob-106 Radiothon
23-25 –High C's Turkey Hunt
24-High C's Crappie Fishing w/MNTC Lakeside, North Rush Lake with Wayne Jacobson

May

1-Crappie Contest Fishing For Life-Special Invite
13-18-Governor's Fishing Opener
16- Westwood REI Cleanup
24-CPR/first aid training for guides

June

7-11-High C's Day Camp #1
10-High C's Disability Evening Camp-A, Medicine Lake
11-13(TBD)-Mille Lacs Boat Launch
14-18-High C's Day Camp #2
17-AFFFC at Lake Minnetonka
17-High C's Disability Evening Camp-B, Medicine Lake
20-25-High C's Fish Camp @Shore's of St. Andrew
28-Jul 2-High C's Fish Camp @Leech Lake

July

6-9-High C's Day Camp #3
10-Medicine Monster Lake Event
14-18-High C's Adult/Child Camp @ Miracle Bible Camp
17-St. Croix River Canoeing with Wayne Jacobson
19-22 – IMF Chaplains
26-30-High C's Fish Camp @ Camp House
27-Aug 1-High C's BWCA with Wayne Jacobson
29 – Military Chaplains Evening
31 –Lake Marion Lake Event

August

2-6-High C's Day Camp #4
4-IB Golf Tournament
6-Lake Event: CAST with the Anoka County Sheriff's Dept, Lake George
9-13-High C's Fish Camp @Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch
10-Pastor's Tournament with Jesus In The City
14-Rum River Canoeing
15-17 –High C's Catfish Camp
30-2-LOTW Pay it Forward Trip

September

1-6 – Trout Pond Elkhorn WI
10-11-Marathon Man
16-19-Deep C's Men's Fall Retreat

October

2-Forest Lake/High C's Trolling for Trophies
9-FFL Banquet
TBD-Muskie Mayhem Event

November

6-7-High C's Deer Camp
11- Veteran's Day
19- Give to the Max Day

December

TBD-FFL Christmas Party
11 (tentative)-High C's Tip Up Event
16- Dark House Spearing

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Fishing For Life Shirts:



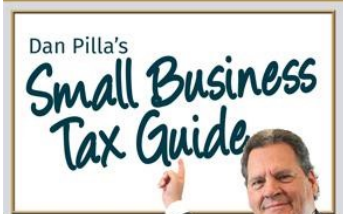
Several color patterns and styles to choose from. To order, visit:

<https://moveu.us/stores/fishingforlife>

You can also get a Deep Cs logo embroidered on a shirt of your choice - ask Steve.



Newsletters sponsored by **Cold Creek Construction**, a Twin Cities New Home Builder & Remodeler for 20 years. Check them out at www.coldcreek-construction.com. Paul Wagner, the owner of Cold Creek, is an avid fisherman, and active in Fishing For Life's ministries.



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www.taxhelponline.com

Deep C's hats available at all Deep C's meetings for \$10. Each chapter has their own color hat.



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