



ANGLER BLOG

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Anglers share their stories for "The Road to Success"

Pam Martin-Wells, 2016 Pro-Angler of the Year

Noella McLaurin, 2016 Co-Angler of the Year

Angela Mayo, 2016 Rookie of the Year

Cheryl Bowden, 2016 Classic - Pro winner

DeAnna Lovvorn, 2016 Classic - Co winner



Pam Martin-Wells, Pro Angler

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Pam Martin-Wells

2016 Pro-Angler of the Year

Prior to any event, I do as much research as I can about the certain body of water we will be fishing. I have, but don't necessarily get spot information. Rather I am more interested in a pattern. I learned years ago that I can't fish someone else's game. I never listen to dock talk or facebook talk. You can't control what another person is doing,

you can only control your efforts. So if I can learn the habits of a fishery and add the seasonal pattern to that it gives a starting point. Then once I arrive at the lake, I let the weather dictate whether I stick to my game plan or make adjustments.

I always try to organize my tackle according to the lake, that way I spend less time trying to find a particular bait. **Confidence in what I am doing is a big key.** "If you think you can, you can, if you think it will never work, it probably will not." Having said that, you have to keep an open mind and be willing to change your entire game plan. Having the confidence to execute whatever plan comes along.

I do a lot of map study. With the electronics today and the mapping on the Lowrance units, it is easy to get away from traditional maps and solely depend on the electronics.

Once I arrive at the lake I try to be totally focused on the task at hand. It's not a fishing vacation for me. I have a job to do. This approach doesn't allow me to be very social, but I find it important for me to keep my focus.

All my life I have given 110% to everything I have tried to do. If I give any less, I have not done my best. I was taught to do the very best of my ability in all aspects. It's easy to become distracted by one thing or another (equipment failures, fish not biting, etc) but you must maintain a positive attitude. Through prayer it's a lot easier to deal with issues that may arise. I turn it over to God, knowing that He is in control.

I couldn't do what I do without the support of my wonderful husband and family and also some of the greatest sponsors in the industry, Bainbridge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Bass Boat Saver, Power Pole, Lowrance, Castaway Rods, Gamma Line, Linda Howard/author, and Behemoth tungsten.



Noella McLaurin

2016 Co-Angler of the Year

Winning Co -Angler of the year was one of the proudest moments of my life, especially considering the high level of competition I faced in each tournament. Preparation for each and every tournament I fish begins with prayer! Prayer for wisdom, guidance, knowledge, insight, and direction, trusting that He is working through me in every aspect of this great sport. Going as a co-angler can be tough because you don't really know what to expect each day. What my boater does on the first day may be completely opposite of what my boater does on the second day. Knowing this, I read articles in magazines and on the web to see what lures are being used on each particular lake at the time of year we will be there. I make sure the line on my rods is appropriate for the water conditions expected, then I bring my entire array of

tackle/equipment so I can make the adjustments that are inevitably required! Keeping an eye on the weather is also part of my game plan. Almost as important as preparing my rods is choosing the appropriate clothing. Being too hot or too cold on the water can be dangerous and miserable, distracting me from fishing. I think the most effective way to be successful, however, is time on the water. Pre-fishing for each tournament helps me get an idea of water temperature and clarity, the structure on the lake and what the fish are doing. When I step in the boat, I take all that I know with me, but I always remain teachable. These ladies have been so gracious with sharing their knowledge with me. Add all of this together and it made for a successful 2016 season with the some of the finest ladies out there, the LBAA!



Angela Mayo

2016 Rookie of the Year

2016 was a challenging year for me. The mental aspect of making the transition from co-angler to boater was the hardest part to overcome. I questioned whether I really needed to be a boater since I had only fished 2 tournaments as a boater prior to 2016 and they were both on my home lake. I knew I had a lot to learn and really started thinking about how I fish. I realized that I was a creature of habit and found myself only using my “go to baits” in practice and I also realized that I needed to learn to practice! I had some great advice from some of the seasoned pros and worked hard to keep that advice in mind at subsequent tournaments. At Caddo Lake, I purposely pushed myself out of my comfort zone. I tried to keep an open mind and look for as

many different patterns as I could. Fortunately for me, the fish cooperated and my strongest pattern turned out to be exactly the way I like to fish! The win at Caddo gave me the needed confidence and desire to continue the journey as a pro.

There are so many people that have helped me along the way that I would like to thank - DeAnna and Roger for putting us up at Casa Lovvorn more nights that I can count; FishStyx, Angler's Choice, UPS of Hickory, Mercury Marine, Davis Brothers Automotive and Adventive Graphics for their continued support; each and every one of the ladies (and the men) of the LBAA because without you, there is no Lady Bass Angler's Association; and lastly, my husband and family for being supportive and encouraging from the beginning!

Although there were many highs and lows this season, the hard work payed off and I am honored to be the 2016 Rookie of the Year.



Cheryl Bowden

2016 Classic - Pro Winner

As I prepare for an upcoming season, so many things run through my mind. I always pack way more than I will ever need for one event. That being said, the first thing I do is secure one or two versions of lake maps. Maps always have different points of emphasis and each of us have certain layouts that appeal to us more than others. I also do virtual reviews of the lake through various online map sites. They at least give me a lay of the land per say. I try to find fishing forums and reports to get some ideas. Let's face it. Most of those are so generic they could be used to describe dozens of bodies of water. I take them as just another piece of information. If I know a local or have a contact for the area, I get input

prior to cut off. It all adds up to something. The question is can I put the puzzle together in time. As to the success of the season, I have a great support system of friends, family and sponsors! My sponsors are: Bass Pro Shops (Garland, TX), DEKA Batteries, Rockwall Marine, Gambler Lures, Costa, Santone Lures, Kick'n Bass, Rod Armorz, Save Phace, and FINS.

To break things down to the particulars, here were my keys to success:

- 1) Planning and doing as much advanced homework as possible.
- 2) Upkeep and maintenance of my gear, boat and truck
- 3) Time on the water. I can do all the planning in the world, but once on the water, I have to read and adjust to the conditions.
- 4) Fishing my strengths when possible and learning something new if needed and time permits.
- 5) Paying attention to the subtle things during the day each day; wind, clouds, traffic, baitfish, birds and changes and listening to that little voice in my head.
- 6) Make as few mistakes as possible and when I do, move past and not get bogged down by them.

There were events in 2016 where, I had a pattern early in practice and I could focus on finding similar places to repeat the success. There were other times when I did not find what I thought was a consistent pattern until the end of the last day of practice. At the 2016 Lady Bass Classic, I didn't think I had a viable pattern at all during practice. The only thing I could catch fish on was a Lucky Craft 2.5 in Ghost Shad! What worked for me was staying with it; taking advantage of a simple observation; a gut feeling that I listened to and it paid off with the big fish of the event and the difference between first and second.



DeAnna Lovvorn *2016 Classic - Co Winner*

The road of success for DeAnna Lovvorn began in 2013 with an individual who took up fishing as a means of spending time with the love of her life, Roger Lovvorn! At first, she fit the norm for what many experience on the water. What she didn't realize was that she was one hookset away from catching "the bug". Early on, when fishing she would just go along and try for a bit, give up and read a book or take a nap. Then it happened, on a trip to Lake Guntersville, Alabama, she caught a true Guntersville lunker! Whether by luck or fate, she had caught "the bug"! From there, more trips, more memories, more experience, more desire and more encouragement were the norm.

Tournaments are an experience all to themselves. For as many bodies of water that there are, there can be that many conditions and style of fishing. Ultimately DeAnna contributes her success to her husband Roger, who told her you must **"IMPROVISE, ADAPT & OVERCOME"**. As a reminder, DeAnna has this written on her sleeve along with the understanding that as a co-angler, you must adapt to your boater. "You are at their mercy."

DeAnna takes each time on the water as an opportunity to watch and learn! There are some fishing situations that DeAnna is not a fan of, such as Lilly pads and ledges. To her credit, these are not stopping

blocks, but opportunities. In the short time she has been fishing, she has grown to understand her strengths and “go to” baits and keeps an open mind. She accepts the following: “What you know and how you do something and how your boater fishes are almost always two different ways.” Fishing your strengths is critical just as being flexible and adaptable.

Part of the success story tied to strengths is the equipment and support system and an angler’s belief in those things. Securing sponsors is, always a goal of anglers. It starts with finding and maintaining good equipment and surrounding yourself with quality people. Support and promote the stuff you use. DeAnna uses Poppy’s jigs, Fish On TN Custom Rods, Backlash Lures, and is supported by Women Fish Too, CalCoast Fishing, MC Jersey Nation, Bass Militia, Adient of Murfreesboro, JCL Bass Club, a host of friends, co-workers and family including Roger, three children and four grandchildren.

