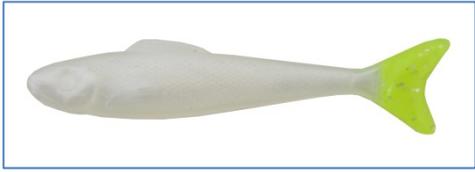


Something New In Soft Plastics – The Wedgetail

By Bernard Williams, Magnolia Crappie Club



If you've read any of my articles on long-line trolling, you know I primarily use road-runners, lead-head jigs and soft plastics; Southern Pro Curly Tails, Bobby Garland Stroll-R's and Lake Fork's Baby Shad. Well I've found another product that ranks near if not at the top of the list. It's called a Wedgetail Crappie Minnow.

They're sold on the internet at Egret Baits (www.egretbaits.com).

It's a known fact that crappie love minnows; nothing comes close to imitating a live minnow or shad better than the 2" Wedgetail Crappie Minnow. Its vortex tail vibrates as you swim or jig the minnow. The tail generates an injured minnow distress pattern. I use them on a road-runner or a straight lead-head jig in sizes from 1/32nd to 1/4th ounce.

The Magnolia Crappie Club held its Club Championship Tournament May 30th – 31st at Sardis Lake one day and Enid Lake one day. Members had to fish 7 of the 9 tournaments in order to qualify for the championship and I had fished all 9 tournaments. This is one tournament that I love fishing; it's during the time of year that my favorite technique (long-line trolling) becomes the method of choice. I arrived at Sardis two days early in order to get a few days practice; the word was out that the fish had turned off from a hot streak they had been on the prior couple of weeks. Some of my fellow club members were very disappointed in their daily catches from early that week.



My partner and I started out around 6:30am that Thursday morning on the south side of the lake; about two miles up the lake. We unloaded and ran the engine long enough to move the boat out to open water about 100 yards from the landing. Sardis has an 11" minimum fish, 3 poles per person and 15 fish per

person. We could see schools of shad on the depth-finder from the surface down to about 10'; that's perfect for longlining. We use 6# test hi-vis line with two jigs per pole. We tie the jigs about 4' apart. I started using Bobby Garland Stroll-R's on all but one pole. I'd picked up some Wedgetails from the local bait shop just to see if they would work; heck, they looked like something crappie would hit. Over the next hour or so I ended up changing all the baits to Wedgetails. We caught at least 40 or more keeper fish; we only kept 25.

I thought it must be a fluke; these fish will not hit anything else as consistent. We caught fish on other baits; but the Wedgetails caught them at least 2 to 1; sometimes even better. It was the same results for the next three days; fish after fish; sometimes doubles. It was tournament time and we had to keep the Wedgetails a secret for the next few days; some of my friends even looked in the boat at the rods to see what we were having out success on; most would say they never seen nothing like the Wedgetails. I didn't tell them; but I've never seen a soft plastic out fish some of the market leaders neither.

The Wedgetails are not very expensive; \$3.99 for a 15 pack is not bad; they comes in 10 different colors. They don't tear up as fast as some of the softer plastics. I hear they're made right there in Grenada. Wow, guess that will be my next testing ground; Grenada Lake. Stay tuned for more on my new long-lining weapon. **Bernard....**