

ISSUE 483

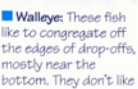
FISHING TIPS FROM BUCK

In Buck Wilder's "Small Fry Fishing Guide," Buck shares plenty of great advice on catching fish. Here are some tips from his book (\$15.95, Alexander & Smith Publishing) on a few of his favorite fish to catch:

■ **Bluegill:** They live in groups, so try two hooks on your line and double your chances!



■ **Sunfish:** They like to nibble at your bait and love to eat worms. They even like to chase small lures or spinners in the shallows.



■ **Walleye:** These fish like to congregate off the edges of drop-offs, mostly near the bottom. They don't like light very much, so fish for them down deep.



Tim Smith, known as Buck Wilder, gives the Yak some fishing tips when the Yak visited the Buck Wilder headquarters near Traverse City.

PHOTOS BY JOSH BIGGS



MEET THE REAL BUCK WILDER

Author Tim Smith fished up success



Tim Smith is hooked on fishing and writing. Tim is the author of the "Buck Wilder" book series that teaches kids about fishing and outdoor fun.

If you had told Tim he would be a popular author when he was a kid, he would have thought you were telling him a fish story. But this story is absolutely true.

Tim says when he wasn't a great student when he was growing up. He earned mostly C's. He loved fishing and doodling, two things that are now a big part of his style and success.

Tim has lived in Michigan most of his life. He graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in microbiology. After being drafted and serving in the Army, he went to work for a pharmaceutical company in Ohio.

Although he was successful, he wanted to open his own business. He had a hobby of making small stained glass windows. Eventually, he left his job and moved to Traverse City where he started a business based on his hobby.

Why Traverse City? It was a great spot for his other hobby, fishing. After a few years in the stained glass and furniture business, Tim decided to follow his other dream: to write a fishing book.

"My goal was to do a book and I picked the subject of fishing because it's dear to me. I know a lot about it because it's something I've been doing my whole life," he says.

Tim didn't think he'd be doing more than one book at first.

He just wanted to share his thoughts on fishing with young people. "I wanted to put fun into fishing. Fishing really has nothing to do with catching fish," says Tim. "It's going outside. It's catching frogs, jumping off the dock into the mud, it's catching turtles."

How did Tim become known as Buck Wilder? "I did a lot of dumb things, but the

smartest thing I did was not putting my face on the cover and calling the book "Tim Smith's Fishing Guide." The smartest thing I did was to use a fictitious character named Buck Wilder to tell kids about fishing."

If you haven't seen the Buck books, they are a lot of fun with crowded designs, doodling around the borders and a little character, Fuzzy the caterpillar, hidden on

the pages. When Tim started working on ideas for his first book in 1995, he owned a stained glass shop in Traverse City. One of his employees, Mark Henrick, a talented artist, came up with Buck's name and helped Tim bring the character and the design ideas for the book to life.

Tim sent the finished book to 12 publishers and guess what? "They were all very nice, and very polite, but they all rejected the book," Tim says. They gave Tim a long list of reasons why the book wouldn't be successful. So Tim decided to publish the book on his own.

Because he was already in business for himself, he decided to start a second business. He became a book publisher and distributor. "I'll never forget the day the truck pulled up. It scared us all to death," says Tim. There were boxes and boxes — they had ordered 10,000 copies of "Buck Wilder's Small Fry Guide to Fishing."

"I thought, 'What are we going to do with all these,'" Tim remembers. But he figured it out in a hurry. Because Tim was in the woodworking business, he made little stands to hold the books and he and his friends began taking the books to businesses around the area. By the

end of the first year, Tim had sold 100,000 books. By 1997, Tim decided to try his hand at a second book. He created "Buck Wilder's Small Twig Hiking & Camping Guide." In 2001, Tim published "Buck Wilder's Little Skipper Boating Guide."

Tim was busy visiting schools during the school year, but this summer he hopes to find time to work on two more Buck books. He's already started a sports guide for kids and he's also excited about a book on life skills. Will the book be out next year? Tim laughs, "That depends on how much fishing I do."

By Janis Campbell

Note: Books can be ordered through Tim's company at www.buckwilder.com. Tim offers to sign any books ordered by Yak's Corner readers and if an adult who orders buys two, he'll put in a third book for free.

CAPTION CONTEST

What is the Yak thinking as he fishes? Send us your most creative caption. We'll publish our favorites. Send the caption by August 1 to Yak's Fishing Caption, P.O. Box 170, Detroit, MI 48231.



PHOTO BY JOSH BIGGS

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SEND US YOUR ART

The Yak is inspired by Buck's love of the outdoors. We'd like to see your outdoor artwork. Send us your favorite outdoor scenes by August 15 to Yak's Outdoor Artwork, P.O. Box 170, Detroit, MI 48231. We'll select five winners at random to each receive a signed Buck Wilder book. And we'll be naming some of your great artwork throughout the fall, be sure to print your name, age and hometown clearly on the back of the art.



PASSPORT TO READING

Here is the seventh piece for your Passport to Reading!

JULY 24



Tim Smith works at his desk. Tim is working on a sports guide and a life skills book.



S'MORES FROM BUCK



PHOTO BY JANIS CAMPBELL

Tim Smith offers his own version of the popular snack s'mores. When we visited Tim, he served us some of these tasty treats. Here's his own recipe from his Buck Wilder program. He calls them Buck'mores. How many you make is up to you. You can decide by figuring out how many people will be sharing these tasty treats around the campfire.

WHAT YOU NEED

- sheets of graham crackers
- peanut butter
- Hershey's chocolate bars
- campfire-cooked marshmallows (large size) or marshmallow cream

WHAT YOU DO

1. Break a graham cracker sheet in half.
 2. Spread one side with peanut butter.
 3. Break a Hershey's bar in half, and put it on top of the peanut butter.
 4. Squish down one campfire-cooked marshmallow or spread on marshmallow cream.
 5. Add a graham cracker on top.
 6. Your s'more is ready.
- Buck says if you can't cook a marshmallow, then the marshmallow filling is a good substitute. We made indoor s'mores with marshmallow cream.