

OUTDOORS

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Charles Johnson/The Anniston Star

BASS pro and Vicious Fishing team angler Jeff Reynolds, left and his co-angler Collin Moore work a strike in the 4-pound test line tournament this past weekend sponsored by Pell City-based Vicious Fishing.

VICIOUS FISHING

Pell City-based Vicious Fishing making a name for itself in outdoors market

Nestled among the hills in northern St. Clair County is a winding lake approximately 40 acres.



Charles Johnson

Outdoors Editor

The two anglers in each boat make repeated casters to the shoreline cover and swirls on the surface with only two hours remaining in the bass tournament.

While the hurrying anglers — and the tournament for that matter — might not seem out of the ordinary for most folks, there is something different going on here.

First, there are only six boats, all decorated in the collage of sponsor decals. And in those boats the anglers who are using only 4-pound test line.

For the fish that lie under the water, it's a vicious test line that can withstand their power. Vicious as in Vicious Fishing brand line, manufactured by JBS Fishing of Pell City.

Big-name anglers

The anglers in the front of each boat are well-known BASS Elite anglers: Jason Quinn, Jeff Reynolds, Pete Ponds, Russ Lane and Boyd Duckett. Also in the mix is Peter Savoia of Ontario, Canada, who won the Canadian Fishing Tour Classic in 2003, which is equivalent to our Bassmaster Classic.

The pro anglers and their outdoor writer co-anglers were the guests of Jeff Martin, one of the co-owners of Vicious Fishing. The 4-pound test tournament was designed for the anglers to have fun and, more importantly, to show the capabilities of Vicious line, even at the 4-pound range.

"There is some cash for the winners," said Martin. "One hundred dollars to the largest bass, one hundred to the best five bass and one hundred for the most fish caught."

With money on the line (no pun intended), the pro anglers were ready for

competition. Even with without any cash incentives, these guys are always competitive.

Former Classic champion Duckett was serious about catching some bass, and the light line didn't phase his approach. Duckett, of Demopolis, and Lane, a Prattsville resident, were accused of "hole jumping" by South Carolina angler Quinn.

Late in the afternoon, when a fish swirled on the surface, there were more than two or three lures heading in that direction. Quinn somehow caught a keeper bass among the smash-mouth jibs and casts across his bow.

"I can't believe I caught one with everything going on," Quinn said.

During the tournament, Savoia said that the weather was little warmer than he was accustomed to back home. At about 85 degrees, it didn't seem that hot to the rest of us. We all suggested he come back around August to experience the real hot weather in Alabama.

Just the right comment for this tournament — one that was all in fun, a chance for the pros to relax before heading out to this week's Southern Challenge Elite event on Lake Wheeler.

It also gave the writers an opportunity to see a less serious side of some of the world's top bass anglers.

A Vicious start

Martin's roommate in college had connections with a company that spooled line for Stren. Several years ago, Stren sold out to different companies.

That movement in the market opened the door for Martin and his family to begin spooling line in 2005 under the Mossy Oak Brand at a plant in Dora, which had been spooling and making line for various companies for many years.

Vicious Fishing has become very aggressive in the industry and offers more than just line. They also have licensing agreements with soft- and hard-bait companies to make lures under the Vicious label. There's also fishing acces-

sories and apparel marketed under the Vicious brand logo.

"We want our name to stand out," said Glenn Cunningham, Vicious Sales Director. "When people see our product in stores, it will be one they recognize."

Vicious already has some great fishing lines on the market today. Four lines top the selections for various fishing needs. Vicious offers lines under trade names such as Fluorocarbon, Ultimate, a small diameter co-polymer line, offshore and Pan fish.

Coming sometime around November this year, Vicious will release a new braided line featuring a small diameter and super strength. Martin says it will be different for other braided lines already on the market.

Tournament winners

After the 4-pound test tournament was done, the anglers had their fish counted and weighed. As you could expect, there were some protests to the weigh-in official, but he had the final say.

Lane took the win in the most fish category with 20 bass, while Duckett came in a close second with 19. Lane commented on the toughness of the Vicious 4-pound test line.

"Today I caught 18 bass on this 4-pound line without re-tying," Lane said.

Not to be outdone, Duckett saved face by catching the largest bass at 1.6 pounds; his best five fish topped the scales at 6.1 pounds.

As the sun began to set, the anglers and writers discussed the events of the afternoon and traded a few barbs in jest. Some still complained about the hole jumping, wave making and scale calibration, but in the end everyone had fun.

"Whether it is for a dollar or \$100,000, these guys are gonna' be competitive," said Ponds.

When you get this caliber of pro anglers on any lake, you know the fishing will be vicious.

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Anglers head for the weigh-in during the 4-pound test Vicious Line tournament. Vicious Fishing is headquartered in Pell City, with a fishing line manufacturing plant in Dora.

INSIDE THE OUTDOORS

• ALABAMA'S ALLIGATOR SEASON REGISTRATION UNDERWAY: The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced that Alabama's third regulated alligator hunting season will be held Aug. 15-18 and Aug. 22-25 in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and again at Lake Eufaula on Aug. 21-24. Online registration will be accepted until July 14 at www.outdooralabama.com.

Hunters will be randomly chosen by computer to receive one Alligator Possession Tag. The cost is \$6 to apply and individuals may register multiple times. Only Alabama residents age 16 years or older may apply for an Alligator Possession Tag. Permits are non-transferable. Selected hunters will be notified by e-mail after the registration deadline on July 14. Once notified, selected hunters must confirm their hunt participation by July 16 at 5 p.m. Selected hunters and their assistants are required to have in their possession a valid 2007-08 hunting license.

• MOBILE COUNTY MAN ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF WILDLIFE: Michael Paul Solomon, 32, was arrested by Conservation Enforcement Officers at his residence in Mobile County for illegally possessing non-indigenous venomous reptiles and American alligators. The officers obtained a search warrant for the residence after learning Solomon was keeping a monocled cobra, two rhinoceros vipers, two tentacle water snakes and two alligators in his home.

Solomon told the officers he purchased all of the reptiles on the Internet from companies in other states. Agents with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assisted with the execution of the search warrant and subsequent arrest because it could also be a violation of the Federal Lacey Act for obtaining the illegal wildlife in interstate commerce. It is unlawful for any person to possess, sell, offer for sale, import, or release any non-indigenous venomous reptile in or into the state of Alabama without a permit.

"The illegal commercialization of wildlife and the introduction of injurious species are two of the greatest threats to our natural resources, and in this case public safety," said Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Enforcement Chief Allan Andress.

— From Staff Reports

TROPHY CORNER



Photos special to The Star

The Southern Outcast Bass Club conducted a Casting Kids event sponsored by Shotgun Sports Supply and Alfa of Saks. The winner of the 7-10 year old division was 8 year old Matthew Bentley (above), of Oxford, and the winner of the 11-14 year old division was Matthew Cleghorn, of Saks.



LUNAR TABLE

From today until June 22

This table lists top fishing times and days for the coming weeks. For best results, begin fishing one hour before and continue one hour after the times given. Times apply to all time zones (X indicates best days).

X-Today	5:55 p.m.	6:15 a.m.
X-Monday	6:40 p.m.	7:00 a.m.
X-Tuesday	7:25 p.m.	7:45 a.m.
Wednesday	8:05 p.m.	8:30 a.m.
Thursday	8:50 p.m.	9:10 a.m.
Friday	9:30 p.m.	9:50 a.m.
Saturday	10:15 p.m.	10:35 a.m.
Sunday	11:00 p.m.	11:25 a.m.
Monday	11:50 p.m.	
Tuesday	12:15 a.m.	
Wednesday	12:45 a.m.	1:10 p.m.
Thursday	1:35 a.m.	2 p.m.
Friday	2:25 a.m.	2:50 p.m.
Saturday	3:15 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Sunday	4:00 a.m.	4:20 p.m.

— Source: U.S. Naval Observatory