

# Stan's Corner

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## Proven Ways To Be A Winner

### Part 3

For years I supplemented my income as a writer by giving casting exhibitions and lectures on the subject all around the United States and some foreign counties as well.

These appearances provided opportunity to talk to thousands of fishermen. I got to hear their comments and complaints. I had a chance to help solve some of the problems they asked me about.

I wish I had a couple of bucks for every time I've heard someone say, "Oh, I'm not interested in learning how to use that blasted level wind reel, I use only spinning tackle." If I didn't hear that specific comment, I might also hear from a guy who said he used only a level wind reel and thought spin fishing was for the birds.



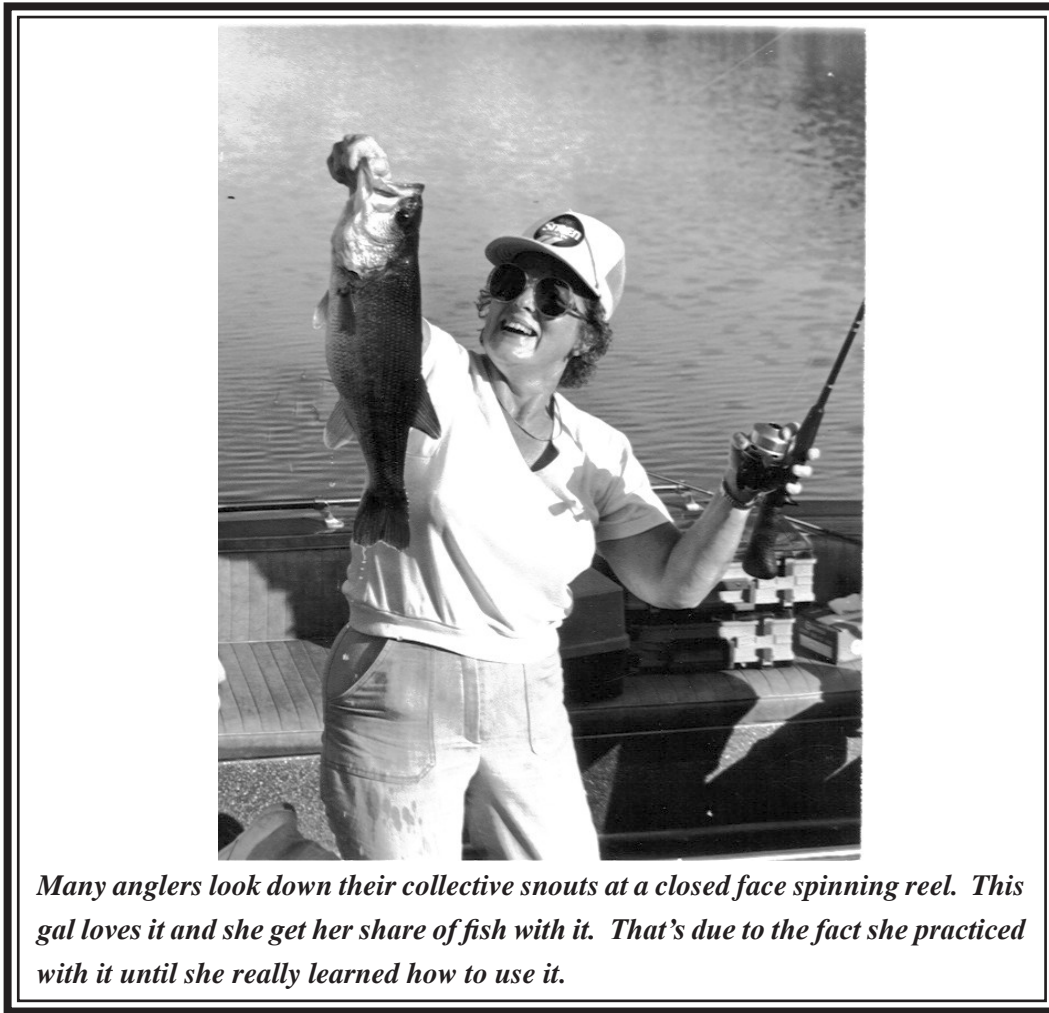
*You might have trouble learning how to use a level wind reel but you darn well better try. It's one of the best tools an angler can own.*

Some of the individuals who made those comments were supposedly serious fishermen. This boggles me. Why in the world would any angler choose to handicap himself by not taking advantage of the equipment available to him?

Can you imagine a carpenter who wouldn't learn how to use the different implements of the building trades? Consider the golfer again. How far would a golfer get if all he carried was a putter and a five iron?

Those comparisons aren't that farfetched. Fishing is no different in many respects. Show me the angler who has studied tackle, then taken the time to learn how to use it, and I'll show you someone who falls into that 10 per cent of anglers who get 90 per cent of the fish.

Speaking in public early on used to flat scare the fire out of me. Thank heavens I realized I'd have to do something about it. I did. I joined the Toastmaster organization and spent five years in that wonderful organization.



I've never realized a greater return on a selfish investment of time. I learned that preparation and practice are keys to putting your message across, whether your audience is one or one thousand.

Again, much the same applies to getting to know your gear and eventually catching more fish. The library in your city has a whole shelf full of books on fishing and the tackle and techniques the experts employ. There are fishing shows on television and how-to DVDs for sale or rent.

Outdoor shows all over the country feature demonstrations by the best anglers in the world. There are outdoor clubs that will welcome your membership. Many of their programs are instructive in nature. Guides make a living showing people how to properly use their tackle, besides showing them where to employ it. The list of learning possibilities is endless.





*These Mack's Lure Wally Pop lures have clobbered more than their share of fish. The same is true of many other Mack's Lures. But you've got to be able to present these lures in a fish-catching fashion. Having the right gear and learning how to use it will get the job done.*

Whenever someone complains to me about the poor luck they are having catching fish, I respond by asking a few questions of my own. My first question is what kind of rod and reel are you using and how much time have you spent practicing with it?

Nine times out of 10 I know what the answer is going to be. The complainer will be one of the types I've already mentioned, somebody who is handicapping himself needlessly by trying to use one outfit for everything from shad to salmon. It just doesn't work.

No reel offers the control required for lure manipulation that you can achieve and enjoy with a level wind reel. On the other hand, no level wind reel comes anywhere near handling really lightweight lures in a clear water situation where heavy cover isn't a factor as does light line spinning.



*Darn right the open faced spinning reel is a fine fishing tool. There are times, however, when a level wind reel is a better choice. Don't handicap yourself by refusing to learn how to use all of the tools available to you.*

The title of this piece says it all. The keys to becoming a really successful angler are practice, preparation and common sense. All the things you need to become an expert angler are out there for you, but you have to go get 'em. You do that through study, observation and practice.

At no time in history have you had a better opportunity to do all three than today. The sooner you realize it, the sooner you'll get your share of fish. And you'll also get the share of those knotheads who never do practice what I've just finished preaching!

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