

# Top picks from ICAST

By **ANDY CRAWFORD**  
BASS Times Senior Writer

LAS VEGAS — ICAST is the fishing industry's annual coming-out party for the latest and greatest prod-

ucts for the recreational fishing market. This year's show in July met all expectations.

"It's the only place where we can visit with all our sales reps in one area and see all the major buyers and ven-

dors," Top Brass Tackle's Eric Cosby told *BASS Times*.

"It's the event where you can see all the people in the industry," said Cosby. "You can get the feel for what's happening in the industry."

And Cosby said the trade show had a positive buzz, despite the current economic slump. The show featured 431 exhibitors who booked 1,350 booth spaces in the Las Vegas Convention Center.

"I was pleased with the mood of the show," Cosby said. "Everybody was upbeat and positive, even in spite of gas prices and the economy."

Vendors showcased new rods, reels,

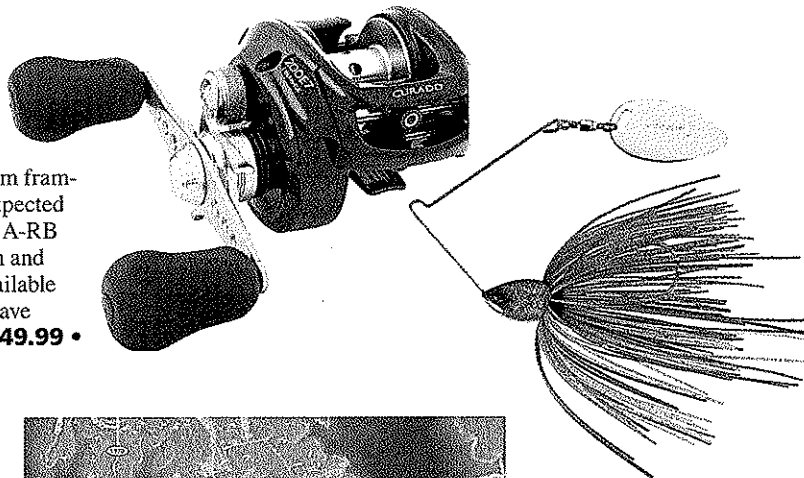
fishing line, terminal tackle and accessories that will be offered for the 2009 year.

*BASS Times* staff members were among the hundreds of media representatives and industry buyers wandering the 350,000 square feet of exhibit space.

Below, in no particular order, are the Top 10 items that *BASS Times* believes warranted mention.

## Shimano Curado E Series

The venerable Curado has been redesigned around a frame smaller than the old 100D. However, the reels in the new Curado E Series still hold the same amount of line as the larger 200DHSV series. Featuring aluminum framing, the Curado 200E and 300E have all the amenities expected from Shimano reels: dartanium drag, seven bearings, an A-RB roller clutch bearing, the patented Variable Brake System and Super Stopper II anti-reverse. The Curado E Series is available in gear ratios ranging from 5:1 to 7:1, and most models have right- and left-handed versions. **retail: \$179.99 to \$249.99 • phone: 877-577-0600 • fish.shimano.com**

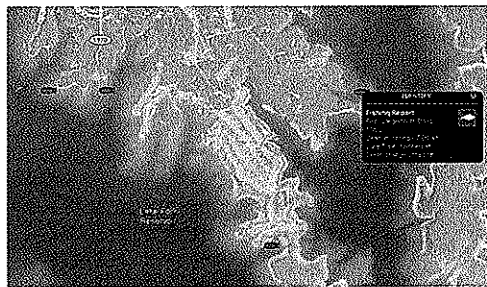


## Lucky Craft Reese's Redemption

The company known for high-quality hard baits has finally jumped into a new lure category with Skeet Reese's signature spinnerbait called the Redemption. Available this fall, this lure features high-performance tungsten components, translucent head paint, customized hybrid blades and body shapes designed to mirror the company's crankbaits. Another innovation is a rattle chamber inside the head, which has dual beads. The spinnerbait will come in six colors and five weights. **retail: \$17.99 • phone: 714-241-8484 • www.luckycraft.com**

## Angling Technologies

A new online tool gives anglers the ability to begin scouting a new lake long before their arrival. Angling Technologies offers maps of lakes across the country, but the real hook is that anglers can overlay such aids as depth contours, NOAA charts and topo maps. One function overlays "depth profiles," which uses different colors to show features such as ledges, points and creek channels to more clearly denote depth changes. Anglers can download waypoints to most major GPS units so they're available on the water. Waypoints can be marked public so other anglers can benefit — or private to be viewed only by the angler placing them. **retail: free • phone: 571-271-1343 • www.findyourwater.com**



## Green Marine

Hydraulic fluid is a must for anglers, powering Power-Poles, outboard trims, jackplates and trim tabs, but a leak often results in dumping pollutants into the environment. That's no longer a problem with Green Marine, a biodegradable hydraulic fluid manufactured by the Power-Pole folks. Formulated from natural American-grown oil seeds, the fluid resists moisture, oxidation and rust in freshwater and saltwater conditions. Green Marine's performance is reported to exceed synthetics and increase load capacity through improved thermal shear stability, but it will completely degrade within 28 days in the event of a spill or leak. **retail: \$12.95 (per quart); free with Power-Poles • phone: 813-689-9932 • www.greenyourboat.com**



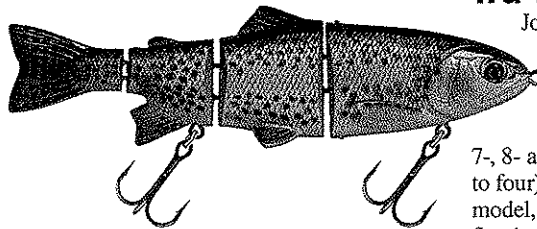
## Lunkerhunt Spicy Bites

Most fishing scent is sprayed onto the surface of lures, but capsules called Spicy Bites release Lunkerhunt's spicy garlic formula from inside hollow lures. The biodegradable gel caps slip into lure cavities, providing up to 20 minutes of fish-attracting scent. To release the scent, insert a capsule into a lure and use the hook to create at least one puncture. Also, the red color creates a "blood trail" that fish can follow. The pills come in 50-capsule bottles. **retail: \$5.99 • phone: 905-665-7286 • www.lunkerhunt.com**



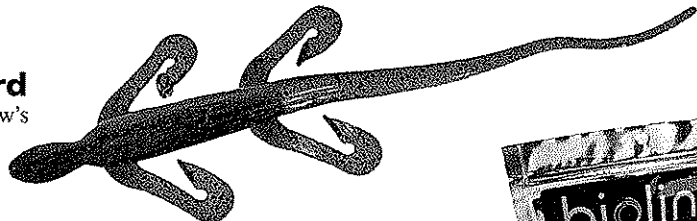
## Tru-Tungsten's Tru-Life Swimbaits

Jointed swimbaits provide realistic baitfish imitations and have become known for producing big bites. Tru-Tungsten's Tru-Life Series provides four size options to cover all possibilities. The baits can be modified by adding or removing small tungsten balls. On the 7-, 8- and 9-inch versions, anglers can add rattles or balls (up to four) to change a lure from a floater to a sinker. The 4-inch model, which will be available early next year, will come in floating and sinking versions. The lure is so small that enough weight can't be added to affect the lure's buoyancy, so the balls are used only to add sound. **retail: \$24.99 to \$73.49 • phone: 724-349-2260 • www.tru-tungsten.com**



## Gene Larew Biffle-O Lizard

If big lures produce big bass, Gene Larew's Biffle-O Lizard should be responsible for a lot of trophy bass. The 8 1/2-inch soft plastic lure features the company's patent-pending Biffle-O design, which consists of a hollow, tube-type body and a long, flexible, cup-shaped tail that moves constantly. The legs are broad at the shoulders to provide stability but thin at the ends for added action. "Feet" add even more movement while helping the lure swim realistically through the water. The hollow body increases hook set ratios and allows for insertion of small pieces of foam to make the lure float when used on Carolina rigs. The Biffle-O comes six to a package. **retail: \$5.49 • phone: 918-949-6291 • www.genelarewlures.com**



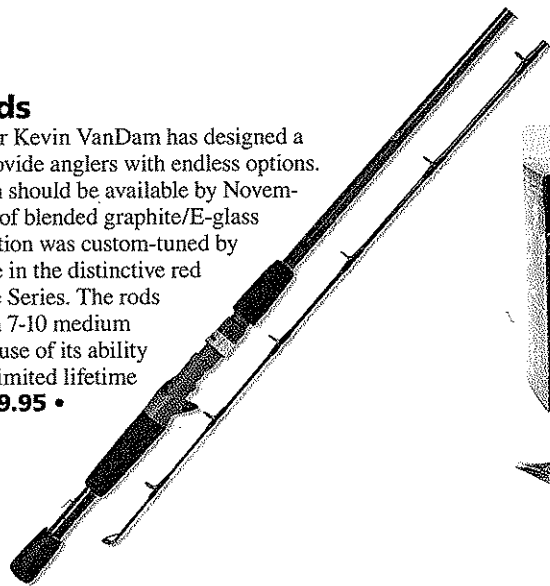
## Bioline Biofilament

Traditional fishing line, when discarded, remains in the environment for decades. But Bioline disappears in a few years, according to the manufacturer. The line holds tensile strength for 10 to 12 months on a reel, but it has a five-year shelf life while still packaged. Once spooled, Bioline will be reduced to minimal carbon dioxide and water within five years. The line won't absorb water, provides excellent knot strength, and is highly UV and abrasion resistant. Bioline also exhibits underwater visibility characteristics that are similar to fluorocarbon. It is available in pound tests from 4 to 12, with more options in the works. **retail: \$16 for a 210-yard spool • phone: 503-517-8001 • www.biolinefishing.com**



## Quantum Tour KVD Rods

Two-time Bassmaster Classic winner Kevin VanDam has designed a signature series of crankbait rods to provide anglers with endless options. The Quantum Tour KVD Series, which should be available by November, consists of six models constructed of blended graphite/E-glass for light weight and durability. Each action was custom-tuned by VanDam personally, and the rods come in the distinctive red he's been using on the Bassmaster Elite Series. The rods range from a 6-6 medium-light rod to a 7-10 medium model he's dubbed his "launcher" because of its ability to cast crankbaits extreme distances. Limited lifetime warranties back the rods. **retail: \$149.95 • phone: 918-836-5581 • www.quantumfishing.com**



## ZipVac

Vacuum sealing saves space, maintains the freshness of fish fillets and keeps maps, cell phones and other gear dry. Most models require bags that are thermally sealed and can't be reused. The ZipVac, however, uses resealable, patented Triplelayer zipper bags equipped with a vacuum valve. The compact, rechargeable home unit vacuums more than 150 bags on a single charge, and a manual pump can be used at the camp or in the boat. Simply place items in a bag, open the vacuum valve and attach the unit's nozzle to remove air. Each ZipVac comes with five vacuum bags (two one-gallon and three one-quart bags), and additional bags can be purchased. **retail: \$40 • phone: 866-382-1707 • www.zip-vac.com**

