

## WAVES

# ULTIMATE angler Christmas picks

By Capt. John "GiddyUp" Bunch

You want know what really ticks me off about Christmas? Retailers who play Christmas music before Thanksgiving. For some reason, this drives me up the wall and back down. Thanksgiving (in my opinion) is what it is all about. Giving thanks for our blessings. GiddyUp!

Now that turkey day has come and gone, it is time to get ready for Santa "The Fishing Fool" Claus. Upon calling the North Pole and speaking with the Round Man himself, such is the inspiration for my article. The Claus gave me his picks, but to be quite honest, he should probably stick to being merry and delivering gifts.

Here are my picks for this Christmas:

## Pick No. 10

The Bagley White Bucktail (\$2.59-\$3): When you can't find bait, don't know how to find bait, or don't wish to bother (lazy), fish this classic lure. Let me say this about gift idea No. 10. It might be the least expensive but nothing (save live bait) is as effective as this simple classic lure. For less than 10 bucks, you could please me about as much as warm oatmeal raisin cookies. Buy 3 of them. 1/8oz, 1/4oz, and 1/2oz. Write a note inside with this tip. "Work this lure with the rod tip Grasshopper."

## Pick No. 9

A 3 Pack of DOA Shrimp (Less than \$10): What color? Go to the nearest bait shop and check out what is swimming around in the tank (this lends perspective on how to fish DOA Shrimp—very slow) and match the color of the live shrimp to the color of the DOA Shrimp. Same message. "Work this DOA slow and concentrate on applying action with the rod tip. How about catch something for a change!"

## Pick No. 8

The Bagley Gold Spoon (Less than \$10): Classic. Redfish inhale them. Gold Spoons are made by seemingly everyone but I like the Bagley. Why? I don't know and wish I did. It just works better for me. Note: I am not Bagley Pro Staff. If Joe Salesman says "a gold spoon is a gold spoon" don't buy it. Julia Roberts and Rosie O'Donnell are not created equal, in my opinion. Insist on Bagley Gold Spoon. Redfish and Snook love them.

## Pick No. 7

Yo-Zuri H. D. CARBON LEADER (100% Fluorocarbon) in Light Pink (Less than \$30): This great gift will change the luck of any angler.

Your favorite angler will be cooking with gas when he fishes this great product. Fish simply can't see it. Yo-Zuri Leader is the No. 1 enemy of snook, permit, and mangrove snapper. No three fish are more leader shy than this trio. Oh, one last thing. The packaging is pure genius. It fits right into your pocket. As well, buy some Yo-Zuri Hybrid Invisible line. This line is so good it can be used as Leader! Visit: <http://yo-zuri.com/Products/ProdLine/HDCarbonFluoro.htm>



## Pick No. 6

The Calusa Hibernet Retractable Net Model 58 (\$89.99): For less than \$100, few gifts are as slick. As we all know, Calusa Cast Nets are the easiest nets to throw in the world, but their new landing net is the talk of the fishing community. So easy to use, store, and operate. You must see it to believe it. Storing a big landing net on a small boat is a nightmare. Not any more. This net easily stores in your rod locker or in most rod holders. Trust me. This is a great gift. Visit [www.calusa.com](http://www.calusa.com) 1-888-5-CALUSA



## Pick No. 5

Costa Del Mar Hammerhead Sunglasses with early AM Sunrise Lens (CR39) (\$149): If you are still fishing in the early AM without light enhancing sunglasses, you are in the dark in more ways than one. Maybe you should consider allowing technology to give you an unfair advantage. What if the weather babe (Sabrina) or dude calls for sunny skies and it turns cloudy? How anyone goes fishing with one pair of sunglasses baffles me. Order these shades with the CR 39 Sunrise Lens. You will love for these shades. [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com)

## Pick No. 4

The Rogue Rod Red Dawg Spinning Rod 7'0" (\$196): As the name implies, this rod was designed for redfish. On a recent GiddyUp Fishing Charter, UK visitor Jonathan Tipples landed a 218 lb. Tarpon on this very rod. It is my choice for docks, small tarpon, and bigger redfish, King Mackerel, permit, and cobia. In my opinion, it might be the best all-around fishing rod I've ever used. [www.roguerods.com](http://www.roguerods.com) or call 877-352-7624 Toll Free in USA. One last thing about Rogue Rods. These great rods are handmade in Oregon. All rod components are first class and will not rust. The exact model number is TF705S. This rod is the bomb!

The new upscale tackle shop in St. James City will soon be carrying Rogue Rods. They are two buildings short of the Hog Fish Restaurant (a great place to eat inside and out).

## Pick No. 3

The 8 ft. Power Pole Shallow Water Anchor with remote. The price depends on who installs it. This device from JR Marine in Tampa has done more to change fishing than any other product in recent history. If you are sitting there screaming, "Hey, what about the remote control trolling motor?"... spare me!

Give me no more throwing out and pulling up anchors in shallow water forever.

The Power Pole slips into the water like a thief in the night. I defy anyone who says they can hear it enter the water especially with a baitwell running. Think of how cool it would be to have brakes on your boat when you are in the shallows looking for fish. Suddenly you see five big redfish floating lazily in a pothole!

You are drifting so fast you find yourself on top of them. Not anymore. With great stealth this baby engages the bottom and locks you down fast.



## Pick No. 2

A Chartered Fishing Trip: This is a great pick and my request of you is as follows: Go to [www.operationopenarms.com](http://www.operationopenarms.com) and click on "Fishing and Charters" on the right side of the Website page. As the founder of Operation Open Arms, I am so proud of my OOA Guide Staff. They take Our Troops on combat leave from Iraq and all over the world, fishing for free. The men and women on this page, all Licensed and Insured Professional. Why not treat yourself to a guided fishing trip with one of our outstanding guides and involve yourself with this great program? If not a fishing trip for yourself, give one of our Troops a gift card to your favorite restaurant. OOA is void of politics, religion and profit. We are 100 percent volunteer and our Troops deserve the best Christmas possible.