

# NEW PRODUCTS FOR THE **HARDCORE**

By ANDY CRAWFORD — BASS Times Senior Writer

## Skeeter ZX250

The Skeeter ZX250, an upgrade of the popular i-Class Series, was introduced during the 2007 Bassmaster Classic. It features more storage, wider rear-deck access hatches, a newly designed dash with custom gauges and push-button controls, and dual tournament livewells. The 21-foot boat's 96-inch beam offers maximum fishing stability, and the bolstered full-flex seating provides comfort at high speeds even in rough water. The front deck offers a recessed area for a trolling motor's foot pedal, along with easy access to trim switches, and courtesy light and anchor light switches. Flush-mount electronics can be added to the dash and the bow panel. Four large bow storage compartments provide ample room for rods, tackle and accessories. The boat can be tweaked out with Lowrance, Humminbird and Minn Kota electronics. The ZX250 comes packaged with a Yamaha VZ250 outboard.

**retail: \$51,509 • phone: 903-984-0541 • www.skeeterboats.com**



## Nutri Shield Insect Repellent

The best fishing in the world can be ruined by a cloud of mosquitoes, gnats, no-see-ums or horseflies. Often the angler has to choose between getting eaten up or wearing greasy, smelly repellents that contaminate lures and result in fewer bites. Nutri Shield Insect Repellent, however, is made from all-natural ingredients so there's no unpleasant taste or smell to repel bass. It is DEET free, with the main active ingredients being garlic and peppermint oil. In fact, the spray can actually be used as an attractant. Anglers might not want to spray garlic on their skin, but there's actually no unpleasant smell. Instead, the only scent is of peppermint. **retail: \$9 for 7 ounces • phone: 205-674-1495 • www.nutritekinc.com**

## Columbia Tournament Shorts

It's hard to fish hard when the mercury rises, but Columbia Sportswear Co. offers shorts designed specifically for the comfort of anglers. The company's Tournament Shorts are made of lightweight, quick-drying Perfecta ripstop fabric and have elastic rear waist bands that allow freedom of movement. They also feature a convenient rear pliers pocket, two deep front pockets topped with additional pockets with Velcro flaps. Topping off the benefits are gusseted mesh vents along the inside hem and a UPF value of 15. The shorts come in three colors: fossil, sage and suede. **retail: \$45 • phone: 503-985-4000 • www.columbia.com**



## The Fish Grip

Many anglers don't think about the difficulties of handling fish until a flopping fish jams a treble hook into a hand or that double-digit trophy is wallowing around at the side of the boat. That's where The Fish Grip comes into play. The tool acts much like a Vise Grip, locking onto the lip of a fish with a quick squeeze and unlocking with a flip of the thumb. The Fish Grip's design prevents damage to the fish during handling, offering a flat gripping surface backed by an open area for the lip bones. It's made of plastic with stainless steel connectors, so it's durable and light. The tool even floats and comes in highly visible green, blue and red to prevent loss. And weighing a fish has never been easier: Just attach a scale to the slot in the handle and deduct 5 ounces.

**retail: \$14.95 • phone: 800-890-5113 • www.nortonbrassrattler.com**

## Booyah Bi-You Buzz

The folks at Booyah weren't satisfied with the standard buzzbait, so they went back to the drawing board. The result is the twin-armed Bi-You Buzz, which features counter-rotating blades that kick up a real splash while enhancing stability. The lure is anchored with a triangular head, which helps keep the lure on the water's surface and sheds most aquatic vegetation. The blade/head shape combination allows the lure to be retrieved very slowly, making it easier for fish to zero in on it. The lure also incorporates the Leverage flexible-hook system, so hooked bass have more difficulty shaking the bait. The lures have gold or silver blades, eyes and detailed scale-pattern paint jobs. The 55-strand Bio-flex silicone skirt adds life to the lure. **retail: \$8.99 • phone: 479-782-8971 • www.lurenet.com**



## Daiwa Procaster Rojo Baitcaster

Daiwa provides state-of-the-art features in an affordable package with its Procaster Rojo. The baitcaster features a one-piece aluminum frame, eight ball bearings and a roller bearing, and a flipping lever. A free-floating, perforated spool combines with Daiwa's Magforce anti-backlash control to provide long, trouble-free casts. The 6.3:1 ratio hauls in 28 feet of line per turn, and a pop-up cover makes it easy to access the spool and thread line through the titanium nitride-coated guide. It's offered in right- and left-handed versions.

**retail: \$89.95 • phone: 562-802-9589 • www.daiwa.com**

## Garmin GPSMAP 535s

The Garmin GPSMAP 535s provides the hardcore tournament angler with a wide array of benefits to help put more bass in the boat. The GPS side of the unit comes pre-loaded with highly detailed maps of more than 5,300 lakes. The dual-beam digital sonar allows for precise reading of the bottom and location of fish along contours. However, the unit also can be upgraded with Garmin's Inland Lakes Vision card (\$116), which provides satellite images and stunning above- and below-water 3-D topographical views of more than 300 of the most popular lakes in the country. The chip will even suggest best routes to destinations. Add the optional GXM antennae (\$249.99 plus monthly service charge) and receive XM satellite weather updates that can be overlaid on the GPS map. Information is displayed on a 5-inch color screen, and the unit is designed with only a few buttons for user-friendly function.

**retail: \$1,099.99 • phone: 800-800-1020 • www.garmin.com**



## NorCross Sonic-Laser Scale XP

This unit allows anglers to measure and weigh a bass at the same time. The solid-state digital scale features a stress-free grip to ensure a fish isn't injured, plus an ultrasound laser that measures from the lip to the ground. The trick is to weigh a fish, and then hold it upright with the tail just touching the deck of a boat or even the water's surface. The Sonic-Laser will automatically measure the fish. The Sonic-Laser Scale weighs up to 100 pounds in pounds, ounces or kilograms, and can calculate a fish's length from 5 to 60 inches. Each unit even provides a programmable memory bank to store minimum and maximum weights and lengths for up to 10 species, providing a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" display for any fish measured. The Sonic-Laser Scale weighs 13 ounces, and is compact enough to be stored in most tackle bags. A 9-volt battery powers the unit. **retail: \$99.99 • phone: 888-NORCROSS • www.norcrossmarine.com**