

End of year thoughts

Geoff Gonella, B.A.S.S. catch recorder, reflects on the year and looks at what bass anglers will be up to this winter. And with Christmas looming he offers a few cracking seasonal gift ideas

That's another bass season nearly over. I actually did what I intended this year - fished more sessions than last year. Perhaps we all share that New Year's resolution.

Thanks to cold seas in the early part of the year, and dirty water on my part of the coast after that, it was a case of have rod will travel, with visits to the society's fish-ins in North Wales and South Devon, and two trips to Ireland to meet up with some members. This is by no means excessive, with some other members going as far afield as Cape Cod for the striped bass fishing, and there's a hardy

Treat yourself or someone else to a copy of 'Bass and B.A.S.S.' or the handy tape or lure box

group that meets in south-west Ireland over Christmas.

For me it is now a time for reflecting on the year and looking forward to the next, which for most of us will start around Easter when the seas start to warm.

The society does not hibernate during the winter, with the members-only forum buzzing with news and opinions on tackle and methods, conservation and sea angling politics - all due, no doubt, to an attack of cabin fever. There will be the winter issue of the members' magazine, plus the annual general meeting in March, which nowadays is more like a conference.

Cracking Christmas ideas

Some people will pass their time reading about bass fishing, for which the book 'Bass and B.A.S.S.' is the perfect antidote to itchy feet.

This is a high-quality hardback book packed with information, guidance and stories,

making a fine Christmas present whatever your level of

fishing skill.

Here's a quote from Henry Gilbey: "I take my hat off to the guys at the Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society for bringing this outstanding publication out... this book is a mine of information and enjoyment. It is impossible to come away from reading this book and not feel inspired, and I can't personally think of a bigger compliment to give it."

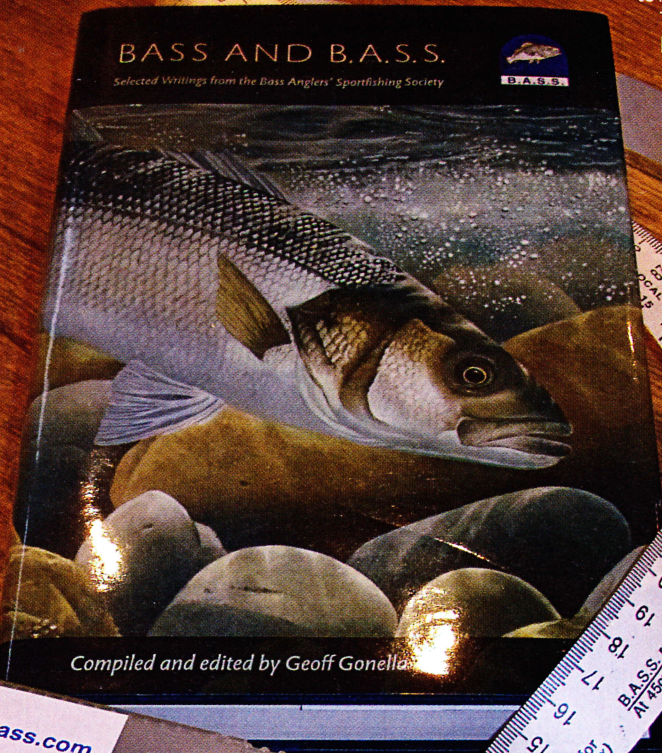
Another seasonal idea is to give or receive a year's membership of B.A.S.S. Cracking value at £20 for adult, and special rates for OAP, junior and family membership. Why not treat yourself or drop a hint to someone?

Then there's the B.A.S.S. Tape, for measuring the length of the bass and reading off the probable weight. It is quick and simple to use, especially on a rocking boat or in bad conditions where zeroing scales and fiddling with weigh slings is out of the question - a great stocking filler at just £2 each.

Also available from the society are individual lure boxes, a superb way of keeping lures apart once the original packaging has gone. Made of square tube and adjustable in length, they stack nicely at home on shelves and in drawers, and during a session they stop lures from tangling. There is less chance of spiking yourself on a treble when rummaging around in coat pockets and tackle bags. Superb value at £1.50 each.

For details and to place orders, go to www.ukbass.com or contact Lee Campbell, tel: 01446 741783 or email: campbell@cf.ac.uk

Oh, and I nearly forgot, I was so busy selling the society... a Merry Christmas, and may your bass dreams come true in 2011. **SA**



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