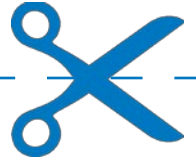


HANDMADE



Mike Vosler: Buzzerbaits Jackson, GA

I started fishing when I was 4 years old and have been in love with the sport ever since. I began fishing in California and moved to Georgia in 1993. I started fishing in tournaments in 1995 with Lil' Water Bassin' fishing club of Griffin and continue to participate in this club as well as other local groups.

My favorite bass fishing lure has always been a buzzbait. Over the years, I developed an idea for a new type of buzzbait. I envisioned a buzzbait with a longer wire, which would make the hook set farther back from the propeller. This would allow for a better hook set when the fish hits it, thereby increasing the chances of actually catching the fish. This was not available on the market and so I started making my own. I

had been nicknamed "Buzzer" by a fellow angler for many years and decided to launch a new company called Buzzerbaits Co.

We started making buzzbaits out of our home in Jackson in 2007 and expanded to include spinnerbaits in 2008. Our lures are handcrafted by first melting lead, inserting the wire form and hook, pouring the melted lead into a mold, and then filing off the rough edges. The next step is to apply three coats of paint, plus two clear coats to harden the paint. Buzzbaits are then formed with a hand wire bender to their specific shape. Other components such as the propeller, beads, rivet, and clacker are added. The finishing touch is to add a silicone skirt, which come in a variety of colors.

Spinnerbaits are made in a similar fashion. In addition to painted lures, we also offer unpainted versions. All of our spinnerbaits

come with two 3D red and black eyes and willow leaf blades (either smooth or fluted) available in gold or nickel. We offer quarter-ounce, three-eighths of an ounce, and half-ounce sizes.

We have just started a partnership with High Falls State Park and Jackson High School. All proceeds from the sales of our fishing lures at the state park will be used to purchase materials for birdhouses. Students at the high school will be building these birdhouses in their woodshop class and then donating them to the state park in an effort to attract and keep birds in the area. -- Mike Vosler

For more information or to purchase Buzzerbaits products, visit www.buzzerbaits.com or call Mike at 404-627-2121.



For many hobbyist crafters, artists and artisans who also work a 9-to-5, getting the word out about their art can seem daunting. The Georgia Tourism Foundation has recognized that Georgia has many of these "art-centric" small businesses that could attract tourists as well as tourist money. With that in mind, they have launched a state Creative Economies Initiative, which includes a website called gamadegagrown.org. This site serves as a searchable web registry of anything made or grown in Georgia, including "local artists, entertainers, agribusinesses, craft enthusiasts and related business owners/operators." The

website features three categories: people, places and things. Festivals and craft fairs can also register their events under the category of "things."

The website provides a keyword search, so a person could type "painting" or "Griffin" or an artist's name and the search would return all related entries. Though the website is not a marketplace, up to five pictures can be uploaded and links to websites and email addresses can be listed. This means if someone comes across a page and likes what he or she sees the artist can be contacted.

Registering is free, and signing up is quick

and easy. Gamadegagrown.org is a great step for Georgia in regards to supporting its artists.

