



Thursday, July 5, 2007

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Here's a lens that's clearly a great catch



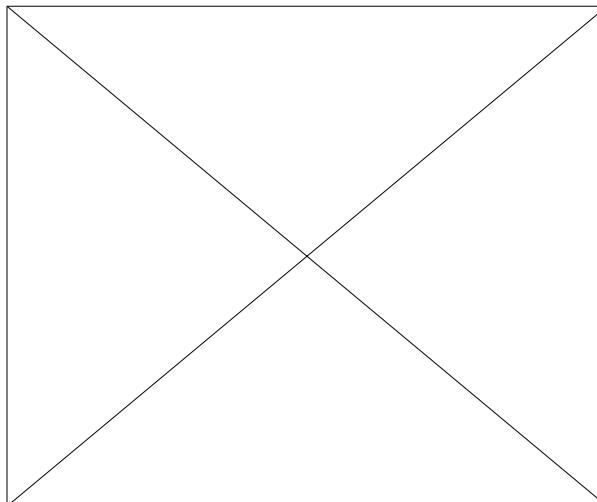
By **Mike Jackson**

Outdoors

Posted Thursday, July 05, 2007

If you're looking for a column about big fish being caught, this may not be for you — except, in all honesty, this week's writings are specifically for you.

It doesn't matter to me how much you've invested in your fishing boat, nor does it concern me how many dollars you had to take from your wallet to buy the rod and reel of your dreams. And I'm not impressed with the fancy fishing clothes anyone wears, because everyone has a unique way of expression.



What really matters to me is protecting my vulnerable skin and eyes when I am fishing and hunting.

For more than 10 years, scientists have been warning us about exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun. We've been told to use a high SPF sunscreen to help avoid skin cancer. Even some of the newer fishing shirts and pants have been manufactured with anti-UV cloth.

Along with protection for our face, hands, arms, legs, neck and bare feet, we also should pay attention to keeping our eyes shielded from the sun.

Thanks to my late father, I was always equipped with good, polarized sunglasses. Those early models of Ray Bann aviator glasses I wore used to be a status symbol, but now they're thought of as just great sunglasses.

I wear bifocal glasses all the time, and because I do a lot of sight fishing in freshwater and saltwater, I needed a pair of high-quality, inexpensive sunglasses that would slide over my bifocals.

Several years ago I spotted a company called Live Eyewear, which makes the Cocoon sun glasses that were exactly what I needed.

Prior to my discovery, I had visited my eye doctor and asked for a prescription set of sun glasses. The bill was nearly \$250! I was told that when my prescription changed, I would have to get a new pair. Ugh.

Naturally, it was no surprise that I jumped at my new find because the cost of a Cocoon lens was about \$40.

I took them to West Loon Lake and searched the weed growth on the west shoreline, where I was able to spot bass and panfish cruising in the heavy cover.

On Lake Geneva, I was able to see down to the bottom in 30 feet of water and spot smallmouth bass.

On the sand flats of the Florida Keys, I could pick out bonefish from bottom weed and grass patches. And the same was true while pike fishing on Manitoba's North Seal River.

I now own four pair because I leave one in my truck, in a jacket, one in my tackle box, and I have one spare.

One interesting aspect of these beauties is that you don't have to be an eyeglass wearer like me. You can use them like regular sunglasses when the need arises.

Cocoon lenses are fully covered with material that wards off UV rays, as well as ensuring that the sun's glare will be kept at bay through rugged polarized lenses.

If you're shopping for inexpensive eye protection, check their Web page at www.cocoonseyewear.com.

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