



The  
**CRAYFISH TALE**  
By TRAPPER ARNE

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**INTRODUCING THE CRAY SHACK TRAP**

The latest addition to the Trapper Arne trap selection is the funny looking trap we call the Cray Shack. In Sweden they are called the kräftstuga which means, not surprisingly, cray shack. I have already tested this little variant in some of the Arizona crayfish lakes, and found that it really catches the crays. The only difference from the other traps is that it has a flat bottom. It is therefore better to choose a flat surface of the lake to place the trap for best production. Although November is not the prime crayfish month, a surprising amount of traps have gone out to several states in our country.

**MAKING YOUR OWN CRAYFISH TRAP?**

Not long after starting to sell crayfish traps to the crayfish public, I began toying with the idea of making a trap kit for do-it-yourselfers. After all, I had made my own crayfish traps, and quite successfully, so why wouldn't other crayfish devotees like me want to do the same? Why not offer a trap kit at a price so low no one could resist it?

After sitting on that idea for quite some time while busy making ready-made traps for resale, I found that my mentor Terry was on the same track. He offered a crayfish trap kit at a price that was tempting, and I began looking closer at it. I was almost ready to order a kit when I realized that, while the kit included most everything you needed to make a trap, it did not include the hardware mesh that made up the main body of the trap. As soon as I realized that, my interest waned. That is the most important part of the trap, and he was using a wire mesh that was very difficult to find on the market – unless you wanted to buy a truck load!

Apparently other potential customers had the same hesitation about the kit when realizing the difficulty of finding the mesh. After a while he dropped the kit idea.

But the hardware cloth I am using is, on the other hand, readily available in many stores and in quantities that are easily handled by the average handy man with a work bench. So why not make a kit with this available hardware cloth for those who are looking for a kit to make their own crayfish trap?

So I started analyzing the kit idea. I made a list of all the parts included in making a trap and how much they would cost, also including the wire mesh to make the cylinder for the trap. The most difficult cost estimate was figuring the cost of the net funnels leading into the trap. As I had purchased netting in large quantities, enough to cover my front room a couple of times, I had to try to figure out the cost of two pieces of netting the size of about 3" by 19". The same with the J-clips that tie the mesh and funnels together. And the strings inside the trap holding the two funnels taught. Also the wire rings at the ends and the bait hook wire in the middle. And at last the cost of the shipping box. What about the crimping tool?

When I added it all together, I found that the total was much too close to the price I asked for a ready made trap. Disappointed and irritated I gave up the idea. At least for a while.

Some time later I started importing the Trappy, the new clever plastic crayfish trap from Sweden which now has out-sold the other traps 2 to 1. But instead of net funnels, the Trappy comes with two separate removable and sturdy funnels for each end. And these trap funnels could be purchased separately from the manufacturer at a reasonable price. I asked myself, how about using these plastic funnels instead and attach them to the vinyl covered hardware cloth I was using for the Trapper crayfish trap?

Taking one of the hardware mesh cylinders I had prepared for a Trapper, I reduced the circumference by just a few squares, and the mesh cylinder and the plastic funnel matched perfectly. Now I had the start of a crayfish trap at about half the time it took to make a Trapper. All I had to do now was to cut a hole in the side for baiting and emptying the trap, and I was practically done.

I sat looking at this new crayfish trap in amazement, and almost immediately it struck me that maybe this was the better way to make a crayfish trap kit. With two Trappy funnels and a piece of hardware cloth I bought at Ace hardware or Home Depot. And this trap, with sturdy plastic funnels solidly anchored to the mesh cylinder, did not need strings or bungees to hold up funnels made with netting. The size of this creation was the same length as a Trapper or Jackpot, just a tiny bit slenderer as the cylinder diameter was a few squares less. A perfect crayfish trap.

But the price? To crimp the j-clips while shaping the hardware cloth into a cylinder you need a special crimping tool. That's at least a \$12 expense. Add to that the cost of the other parts, and the kit will cost more than a ready-made trap. I might as well not bother.

Or should I?

#### **THE TRAPPER ARNE SLIDE SHOW**

Take a look at my VIDEO page on the web site. I have added a little slide show of pictures I have gathered over the years. Let me know if you have any problem viewing it. I know it works with Microsoft Explorer and Power Point. Others may have trouble. Please let me know.

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