

# Picking Night Crawlers, (Earthworms) in April... at Night



by John H. Vargo, Publisher

I have been picking night crawlers at night all my life. Nothing makes my backache as much as bending over and trying to grab a night crawler before it zips back into its hole!

To many, going out in April, with snow still under the evergreens, the peepers peeping, and the air temperature 60 degrees and a damp night is a ritual not to be missed.

It has taken me a long time to catch on to the most important part of this activity, but now I have the secret to my aching back.

It is a 6 year old who has not yet caught on to the fact that snatching night crawlers off the lawn is not fun. The mysteries of the universe still fill his young mind, and he can easily be talked into picking night crawlers. It is good for at least an hour of his time!

He is close to the ground, and, if he is the inquisitive type, a bond will soon develop between grandpas, the worms and the light that grandpa is using just in front of the 6 year old. As soon as he grabs his first night crawler that is half out of his worm hole he will realize that pulling on the worm too hard will only break it in half, but grabbing it and holding on to it the worm will relax and can be put into the can that grandpa is holding. In this manner both the 6 year olds hands are working the lawn, your back is not breaking, and the young man is getting a good lesson in picking Night Crawlers.

Night crawlers are one of the best baits you can possibly get for all types of fishing. From large mouth bass, small mouth bass, sunfish to perch and beyond, night crawlers, especially free night crawlers are the best.

Beside the 6 year old that is really going to do the picking while you stand up straight and instruct him is a light. The light and the way you hold it is very important, as to bright and the night crawler will disappear down his hole before even a 6 year old can grab it. So holding the flashlight with your fingers over the lens, which breaks up the direct light, and by casting the light just ahead of the 6 year olds hands you enable him to see the night crawler without scaring the worm down the hole before he can grab it. The night crawler feels vibrations; both from your voice and your feet stepping on the ground. Training the 6 year old to this fact makes it much easier for him to see the worm. Another secret is to walk on the sidewalk and cast the light onto the grass just in front of the 6 year old. Once he catches his first night crawler it is game on. How many can he catch and how fast.

Even better is to have another 6 year old competing with the first one. Now the two of them are totally unaware that grandpa's back is being saved by this little con.

Done right, this operation will provide plenty of bait for future fishing trips. If a large box with black dirt and leaves is kept in a cool dark place the night crawlers will live a long time.

I can assure you that the 6 year old will never forget the experience for the rest of his life.