

Ray Scott Outdoors, Inc.



News Release

Fishing icon Ray Scott sells invention to Kasco Marine

PINTLALA, AL — You can add inventor to Ray Scott's list of accomplishments.

Noted conservationist and founder of the half-million-member BASS sport fishing organization, Scott has inked a deal to sell his own Lake Life Pump design to Kasco Marine of Prescott Wisconsin. (www.kascomarine.com) According to Scott, it was a tragedy that prompted his invention.

"They say necessity is the mother of invention," says Scott. "I think about that every time I look out at the peaceful trophy bass lake in my back yard in Alabama. It didn't look that way 35 years ago when I had a fish kill on another prize lake. I looked out my window that morning and there they were – all my fish – belly up. My big bass, bream, crappie, everything. It was a horrible sight and I vowed it would never, never happen again."

That's when necessity – and fear – drove him to invent the water-circulating and aerating device he invented and called the Lake Life Pump.

"I knew exactly what had happened," recalls Scott. "We had had several days of hot, still, cloudy weather. The bass were all hemmed up in a couple of feet of top water where the oxygen was. Then an unseasonable cold wind swept in and churned up the oxygen-rich top layer with the deep zero-oxygen water. After all the mixing, what was left was water without enough oxygen to sustain fish life. Everything died. Even the turtles climbed out."

When Scott consulted with fisheries biologists he found there were actually any number of common causes for oxygen depletion, including over fertilization, but that it was most often a natural phenomenon like his – one that lake and pond owners dreaded every year, never knowing when a fish kill could strike.

Scott figured his mission was clear: he needed to invent a device of some sort that could mix the water so that oxygen levels would remain adequate throughout the lake to sustain the life of his fish.

"I'm no engineer," says Scott, "but I do understand basic physics. I concocted an electrical fan, called an axial flow pump that would circulate pond and lake water to increase oxygen content and to prevent the layering or stratification I had

experienced. It worked great and really increased my usable fish habitat. Fishing was notably better at all depths.

“I like to compare my invention to a heart. It pumps life-giving oxygen to the whole body – in this case the lake. That’s why I always referred to it as the Lake Life Pump.

According to Scott, his first prototype was crude, but it worked. “I spent the next 30 years improving and modifying it when I had the chance and using it on my lakes of course. I’ve never had an oxygen kill since and biologists and professional lake managers who saw it, said it worked better than any device known to them. I applied for a patent, just in case.

“In the back of my brain, I always had a dream of making it available to other small water managers. But like I said, I am no engineer and know nothing about manufacturing. By happy coincidence I was shopping for a decorative floating fountain for my lake and was directed to Kasco Marine in Prescott, Wisconsin. I was told they were the best. I saw they also manufactured a whole range of lake and pond products including aerators, water circulators and De-Icers.

“That’s when the light went on. These were the people who could manufacture my Lake Life Pump. I approached them; they liked what they saw; and the rest is history.

Their engineers took my pump, refined it further and tested and re-tested it. It looks great now and works better than ever. They’re a first-rate company.”

Scott explains the new pump unit, powered by a one-horsepower motor, is now contained in a floating fiberglass cylinder that surrounds a fan which pushes oxygenated water through the propeller blades down to the depths, creating a current pattern that mixes the entire volume of lake water top to bottom. The temperature and the dissolved oxygen is virtually the same at all depths.

Speaking for Kasco, Bob Robinson says, “We’re delighted to be working with Ray on his Lake Life Pump. His theory and basic design were absolutely sound and we look forward to putting Lake Life Pumps in ponds and lakes around the country through our distributors.

“It’s interesting to me that we both got our start at almost the same time four decades ago. Ray’s BASS organization is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so is Kasco. Ironically, we were both on parallel paths to improve fishing in our own way. It’s a natural partnership.”

Scott is anxious to get his invention out to the public. “It’s a win-win for everyone,” he says, “especially for the tens of thousands of pond and lake managers across this country who deal with fish kills or potential fish kills every year. It’s an ever-present threat.

“I don’t want anyone to have to experience what I did 35 years ago.”



CAPTION:

Scott displays the newly manufactured version of the Lake Life Pump he invented 35 years after a massive fish kill on his private trophy bass lake. He recently sold his design to Kasco Marine of Prescott, WI.

Scott uses his Lake Life Pump invention to manage for big bass and better habitat in his private lake in Alabama. In 2007 he caught his personal best – a 12 lb. 9 oz. largemouth.