



The natural beauty of Lake Nona is the perfect backdrop for the Dunnivant family to cast a line and fish.



Fishing has become a family affair for the Dunnavants, even 3-year-old Devon and 6-year-old Nathan have come to enjoy it.

By Matt Bendell

**P**icture a tall, slender slash of pines and burly live oaks, dripping with Spanish moss. Add in the soft croaking of bullfrogs in the background, rippling water and occasionally the sound of fish leaping from the water. It seems like the perfect setting to drop a line and fish -- a regular fisherman's paradise. For the Dunnivant family of Northlake Park, this little dream is a reality when they go fishing together.

**No Stranger to Fishing**

**C.R. Dunnivant** is no stranger to fishing. Growing up in the South, he definitely knows how to catch some fish. "Some of my earliest memories are of me and my dad fishing," says Dunnivant "I also fished with my wife [**Deidre**] before we had kids." For Dunnivant, perhaps the best part about fishing is the time it allows him to spend with his children, **Nathan**, 6, and daughter **Devon**, 3.

Whether it's the stocked pond in their neighborhood or in **Lake Nona**, it's the memories made that matter the most to him. "Sometimes we just stand on the edge of the pond. That's where my son caught his

first bass," says Dunnivant. "He's convinced that we catch the same fish over and over."

**Enjoying Nature**

Enjoying the natural setting of their neighborhood is important to the Dunnavants. "I want my children to grow up enjoying what nature has to offer, just like in the 'good ole days' of my childhood," says Dunnivant. "We see so many amazing sights when we are out on the lake. We've seen flying squirrels, hawks and many cranes. We were even fortunate enough to observe an eagle swoop down and catch a fish in Lake Nona."

Dunnivant's love of the outdoors and fishing has rubbed off on his young daughter as well. "Devon just caught her first fish with her princess fishing rod," says Dunnivant. "She caught a bluegill, which she affectionately calls a 'baby' fish."

**Family Bonding**

For Dunnivant, fishing is a great way to bond with his kids. "My son and I like to slip out in the early morning and get half a dozen donuts on our way to the Narcoossee Hardware Shop to get bait." says Dunna-



vant. "I eat two and so does Nathan and the other two we share with the old fella at the shop. That way, he'll throw in a couple of extra shiners for us." Nathan's favorite fishing pastime is putting his hand in the shiner bucket and playing with the shiners. Dunnivant also lets him steer the boat sometimes. It makes him feel special. "These are the memories that I want to create with my children," Dunnivant says.

According to the Dunnavants, fishing is inexpensive and it provides time to spend with family, in the great outdoors. **1**

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