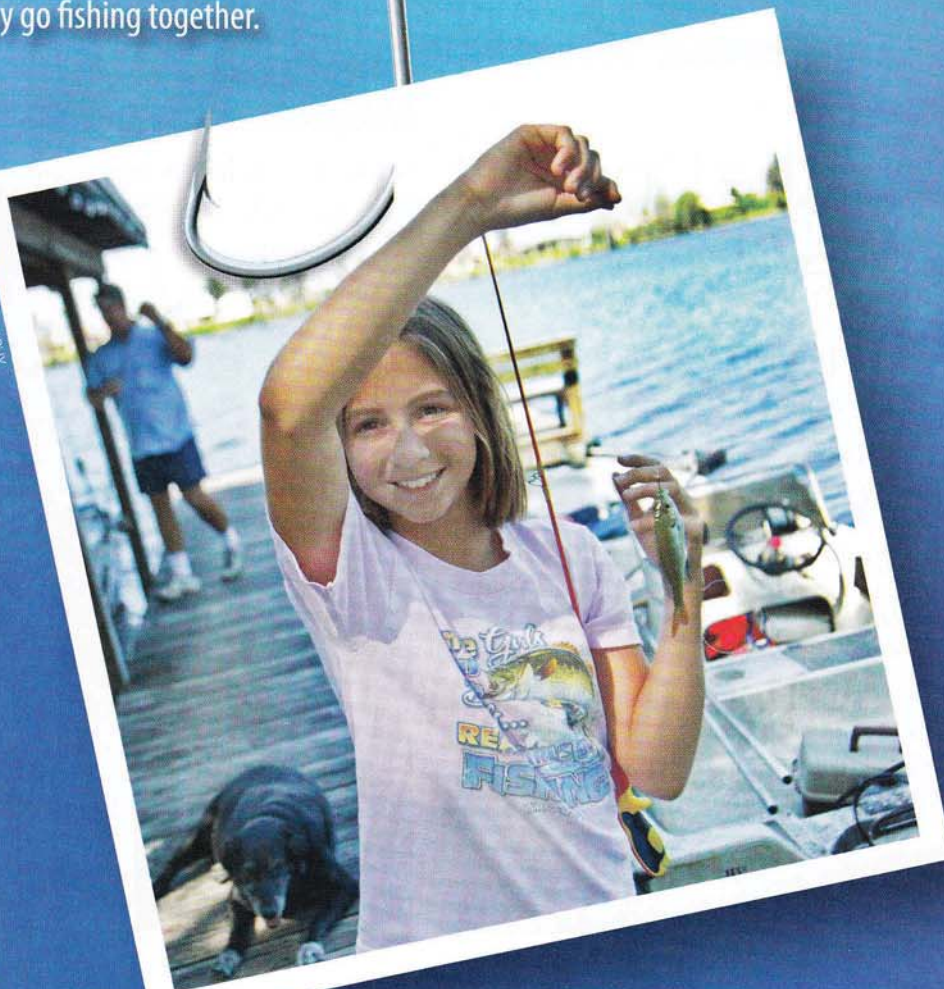




# Hooked on Fishing

The Flemings love the memories they create when they go fishing together.

JOE BROOKS PHOTOGRAPHY







Tricia and Robert with Christina, 8, Jake, 6, Nancy, 12 and Amanda, 10.



By Matt Bendell

With popular TV shows like “Deadliest Catch” that document how hard fishing can be, it might be hard to imagine fishing as a family affair. But for the Flemings of **Windermere** it’s something they couldn’t imagine being anything but relaxing and fun.

It doesn’t really matter where they go, they just love to fish together. **Robert** and **Tricia Fleming** along with their four children have been fishing as a family for a long time, and they each have their own unique reasons for why they love it so much.

### Extending the Tradition of Fishing

For Robert, he remembers fishing as a young boy with his father and wants to create similar memories with his own children. “I married the master fisherman” says Tricia, “And I’ve been fishing with him ever since!” When it comes to their love for fishing, the children seem to be in the same boat along with their parents.

When 6-year-old **Jake** saw his sisters fishing one day, he was determined to give it a try. For **Nancy**, **Christina** and **Amanda**, they each

have their own stories to tell too. The youngest of the girls in the family, Christina, says she learned how to fish from her older sisters. And when Nancy and Amanda first fished with their dad, they were instantly hooked.

### Saltwater Fishing

Although it might be more convenient to fish the freshwater lake just steps outside their back door, there’s something about saltwater fishing that seems to have a draw for Robert. “With saltwater, you just never know what you might catch,” says Robert. Many of the women in the family have the same opinion. “I like saltwater because it seems like there’s more fish,” says Christina. “And, there’s also a 2 percent chance of catching a shark.” Her sister Amanda agrees. “Saltwater fish seem to put up a stronger, more exciting fight!”

Taking their love of fishing on the road, the Flemings have fished off both coasts of Florida including Ft. Pierce Inlet and freshwater lakes around town. They’ve even taken a fishing trip together to Bermuda.

### Creating Lasting Memories

Each member of the Fleming family has distinct fishing memories and stories that

stand out in their minds. Tricia recalls catching a fish by baiting her hook with a piece of pizza. Amanda remembers a similar catch she made in Bermuda using table scraps. “I was fishing with a big chunk of chicken on my line,” says Amanda. “Suddenly an eagle ray swam by and then a remora fish took my line and I pulled it up.” Memories like these are the ones that can last a lifetime.

“The best part is our kids like going out fishing with their grandparents too. They can spot all kinds of birds and learn about nature while they are fishing.” Robert and Tricia also say that fishing has given their kids good life skills. “It’s taught them patience and it’s allowed us all to spend some quality time together away from the TV,” says Robert. “We all feel that fishing brings families closer together, even if we’re just sitting there not talking; the looks we give each other are priceless.” **L**

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