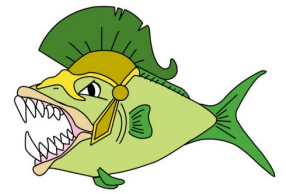




Spartan Fishing Team



For all the latest news and information on the Spartan Fishing Team, be sure to check out our teams [website!](#)

The best way to contact Coach Kuchyt is through email: ckuchyt@olchs.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fishing Scholarships	1
Muskie Honor Roll	3
Fishing Rod Rentals	3
Tampier Sectional Bass Tournament	4
State Bass Tournament Postponed	4
New Team Website & Video	4
D230 Tournament Series	5
Fish Facts-n-more!	6
Money Saving Offers from Our Sponsors	7-15

Fishing Scholarships & April Bass Tournaments

The Spartan Fishing Team, through the generous contributions of its sponsors, is proud to announce that it will award two scholarships to a junior or senior member of the 2010–2011 fishing team. [Happy Hyundai of Oak Lawn](#) and [Spitfire Automotive](#) have generously offered a \$250 scholarship to members of the team. In all, \$500 in scholarship money will be awarded to Spartan anglers during the spring award night to be held on May 11. Thank you to all the businesses which advertise in our newsletter for helping to make these outdoor experiences and scholarships possible.

April was a busy month for Spartan anglers. **Ben Masek** writes about the sectional bass tournament on Tampier on page 4 and **Omar Abdulla** writes about our experience at the Three Rivers Tournament page 5. The team has one more tourna-



Omar Abdulla with a gar he caught while fishing a bass tournament this spring.

ment this school year on May 21 on the Kankakee River.

In May, the Spartans will be planning their summer team fishing trips. **Any Oak Lawn students interested in being part of the team and fishing in bass tournaments**

next school year should meet Coach Kuchyt after school in room 372.

Tip of the Month

Bass don't all spawn at the same time. Even when the lake temperature reaches 80 degrees, take time to check shallow pockets near shore for bedding fish. Sometimes, the biggest bass are the last to spawn.

-Stephen Browning, Arkansas BASS Elite Series Pro

Spartans to Host Bass Tournament in October

The Spartan Fishing Team is in the preliminary stages of planning the second annual Spartan Bass Tournament to be held on the Kankakee/DesPlaines River at the [DesPlaines Conservation Area](#) on October 22, 2011. The team has partnered with Unique Bassmasters to host this event. Last years event drew 14 boats from eight schools.

Click [here](#) to view the results from the 2010 tournament.

Coaches or parents from any school who would like more information on this tournament should contact Coach Kuchyt at ckuchyt@olchs.org. More detailed information will be made available in the fall Spartan Fishing Team Newsletter.



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Young Anglers Eligible for Musky Honor Roll

Below is an article that was passed along to me by a Spartan angler. It was written by Chris Young of [Prairie State Outdoors](#) and can be found by clicking this [link](#).

The Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail has established a new youth program for 2011 – the Youth Honor Roll. The program seeks to recognize young anglers that catch a muskie in Illinois, and to promote conservation practices such as catch-and-release fishing. There is no cost to participate. Bob Kerans, founder of the **Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail**, says successful anglers will receive a wood plaque with an engraved plate, including the youth's name and the particulars of the catch.

Kerans says the IMTT has been trying to get kids involved in muskie fishing. "We tried three different tournaments around the state last year, and with school and everything going on, it didn't go that well," he says. "But we knew the kids were catching fish, and one day the idea came to me." Young anglers who catch a muskie should submit a picture and an entry form printed from the IMTT Website. "Have him or her send a picture of the muskie, the date caught, size, lake and very simple identifying information, and we will, in turn, make up a plaque in exchange," Kerans says. Catches must be made within the state of Illinois. Youth will be divided into two classifications including 10 years old and under and 11-18. All anglers that submit their information will be entered into a contest for a rod and reel to be awarded to the youth who catches the biggest muskie, and the youth who catches more than one fish during the year, measured in total inches. Deadline to submit entries is Nov. 1. For more information, call Bob Kerans at (217) 414-0093. Print out the entry form at: <http://www.illmuskie.com/youthtrail.shtml>.

Check Out a Fishing Rod Just Like a Book at the Oak Lawn Public Library

The Spartan Fishing Team has brought the "Access to Fishing" program to the Oak Lawn Public Library! *Access to Fishing* is a rod and reel loaner program where community members with an Oak Lawn Public Library Card can visit the library and "check out" a fishing rod just as they would a book. This offers a unique opportunity for children and adults who are interested in going fishing to do so without having to purchase equipment to try the sport. When a child or community member checks out a rod and reel, a tackle packet (containing hooks, sinkers, a bobber, etc.) and instructional fishing literature are given to the patron at no cost!

The program was established

in Illinois by the Department of Natural Resources in 1997 and has since been supported through federal and state grants. Currently, there are over 160 "Access to Fishing" fishing pole [loaner sites](#) in Illinois. The Spartan Fishing Team brought the program to Oak Lawn and the team will maintain the rods and reels to ensure that they are in great shape for people to enjoy. The rods are *Zebco Rhino* and the reels are *Zebco 20/20* spincast reels. Through this program, the team hopes to get more kids in Oak Lawn involved in fishing and the outdoors.

There are many fishing opportunities located with a few miles of Oak Lawn, including the [Stony Creek Pond](#) (103rd & Central) and the many [Cook County Forest Preserve Lakes](#). Start

planning now to check out a rod from the library and take a kid fishing this spring!



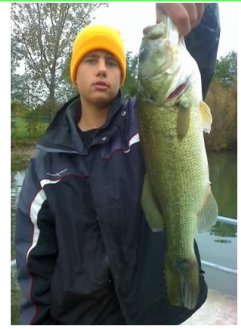
Mary Williams (Oak Lawn Public Library), Luis Garcia, and Ben Masek of the Spartan Fishing Team



Readers can follow up on all the latest Illinois fishing and hunting news by reading Don Dziedzina's outdoor [blog](#). You can also find a link for the Oak Lawn Spartan Fishing Team Newsletter on the blog. Thanks Don!

Tampier Sectional Bass Tournament

by Ben Masek (Grade 11)



On April 21, 2011, the Oak Lawn Fishing Team fished its third IHSA Sectional Bass Fishing tournament on Tampier Lake. Last spring, we placed sixth out of 23 teams at Wolf Lake and missed making it downstate by only a pound. We were looking to make it this year.

We had known from our first ever sectional tournament at Tampier the fishing was going to be a challenge and we knew that the winning boat might only need one fish or two fish in the live well to win it all. My dad, Omar Abdulla, and I arrive at the lake early in the morning waiting for my coach to arrive and help him launch the boat. I started to tie on all my lures and got ready to fish. After the coaches meeting we started our boat engines and we were ready to begin fishing.

We first hit one of the main points on the lake. Since the water was only 39 degrees, we were finesse fishing. After fishing the point for about 30 minutes we moved to the other end of the lake and started fishing overhangs, flooded timber, lay downs, and brush piles. Both my partner and I felt a few bites, but it was just probably little blue gill tapping at our bait.

We had heard that one boat had fish in the live well

so we new we still had a good chance of qualifying for State. Omar and I kept throwing finesse baits. As the afternoon went on, the water warmed to a high of 44 degrees and the wind picked up. Cast after cast, we came up with nothing but snags, but like the Elite Series Pro Mike Iaconelli always says "Never Give Up!" We didn't, but it seemed like the bass were giving up on biting. As the day went on we had no fish and it was time to switch fishermen on the boat. Matt Hentgen and Carlos Patino came on the boat and fished the afternoon shift. With that, Omar and I grabbed some bench and hoped Matt and Carlos would do better than we did. With no good news for our team, the tournament drew to an end and only three fish were caught during the tournament. The winning boat had one fish that weighed 2.03 pound and second place team caught a bass weighing 2.02 pounds!

With the cold rainy spring we had this year, fishing was evidently difficult across the state. When I looked at the sectional results from other lakes, it did not look like many fish were caught. It was cool to see that many kids caught muskies at other lakes. You can check out all the high school tournament results from across the state by clicking [here](#).

State Bass Tournament Postponed Due to Flooding At Carlyle Lake

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) announced on Thursday, April 28 that the 2011 IHSA Bass Fishing State Final Tournament, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 6-7 at Carlyle Lake in Carlyle, has been postponed due to dangerous water levels and will be rescheduled to unfold in Carlyle in May or June.

The IHSA Board of Directors made the decision after they met via conference call with members of the Carlyle Lake U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, one day after IHSA officials visited the lake to assess the situation. The Carlyle area has received 10 inches of rain in the past 10 days and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who operate the lake anticipate that it will crest 13 feet above its normal levels by the middle of next week.

You can read the rest of this article by clicking this link: <http://www.ihsa.org/announce/2010-11/2011-04-28.htm>

New Team Website & Video Created by Spartan Anglers!

Team Website

Sophomore fisherman **Matt Luzadder** has created a new Spartan Fishing Team website for the public to enjoy. The new site is full of team information and team pictures. Matt has done a great job to organize the website in a user friendly format that highlights team accomplishments and our sponsors. [To see the new website, please click here.](#)

Team Video

Sophomore **Ed Swies** has also taken the time to create a team video which highlights our outing to Horsetail Lake for the fall inland trout season. The team had a great time on this outing and you can share in our experience by watching this video. [Click here to check it out!](#) Members of the team are now eagerly anticipating the spring inland trout season which is scheduled for April.

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District 230 Bass Tournament Series

April 2 & April 9 - By Omar Abdulla

On April 2, 2011, the Oak Lawn fishing team attended a tournament at Big Basin Marina on the Des Plaines River. This tournament was hosted by District 230. This tournament was called "The Classic" because it is made up of three tournaments. If a school earned 30 points; they were allowed to fish on the third day of the event (May 21). Each school was allowed two boats, with four people on each boat. All together, there were 24 boats that fished the tournament on the first day. Our boat had Ben Masek, Omar Abdulla, and Carlos Patino as the anglers with Coach Kuchyt as the captain of the boat. The other Oak Lawn boat had Jamie Schuld, Alexis Kosek, and Ed Swies as the anglers with Mr. Schuld as the captain of the boat.

We were feeling lucky right from the start when we drew card number four, meaning we were going to be the fourth boat out of the marina. The other Oak Lawn boat's launch was 20. As our fishing started, things seemed to be going our way. About one hour into the tournament, I caught the first keeper bass. We ended up catching close to 10 more bass that day, but only one of them was a keeper. At the end of the day, we took 7th place which gave us 23 points on the day.

On April 9, 2011, we fished that same river. This time, there were other B.A.S.S clubs that were also fishing a tournament on the same day which was pretty cool. We took

advice from some of the members that had previously fished this river. As soon as we got there, there was a thunder storm that was right above us, which meant that there was going to be a rain delay. The delay lasted for around an hour and a half, but we went on to fishing as soon as it

stopped. We started off using the same lures we caught fish on the week before. We used a variety of rubber lures from [Draggin' Baits](#). We were catching some fish but not the right ones. This was a variety day. I caught a gar that was over 3 feet long on one of these baits! Ben Masek caught a nice crappie on a tube. At the end of the day, we didn't catch any keeper bass but we still qualified for the third day of the event because we were in the top 15 which gave us the extra points needed. We all had a great time fishing and we can't wait for May 21 to compete in the final tournament of the series!



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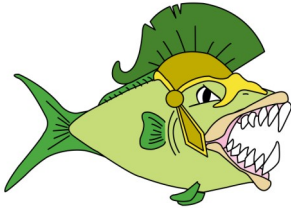
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About our logo...



The Spartan Fishing Team logo was created and designed by **Matt Jensen**. Matt graduated from Oak Lawn Community High School in 2010. Matt currently attend Dominican University where he plans to develop his artistic talent and study business.



Spartan Fishing Team Offers **Two \$250 Scholarships!**

The **Spartan Fishing Team**, through the generous contributions of its sponsors, is proud to announce that it will award **\$500 in scholarships** to a junior or senior member of the 2010–2011 fishing team. [Happy Hyundai of Oak Lawn](#) and [Spitfire Automotive](#) have generously offered a \$250 scholarship in each companies name to members of the team. Qualifications for these scholarships as well as an application can be obtained directly from Coach Kuchyt. Please patronize the establishments of our sponsors, because it is with their help that we are able to offer these scholarship and unique outdoor experiences to the kids. The team would like to thank these wonderful businesses who advertise with us and partnering fishing clubs for their help in this endeavor.

Fish Fact
Bass were originally found only east of the Mississippi and south of the Great Lakes.

Helpful Links

[Spartan Fishing Team](#)

[IHSA Bass](#)

[The Future Fishes Here](#)

[Illinois Fish Records](#)

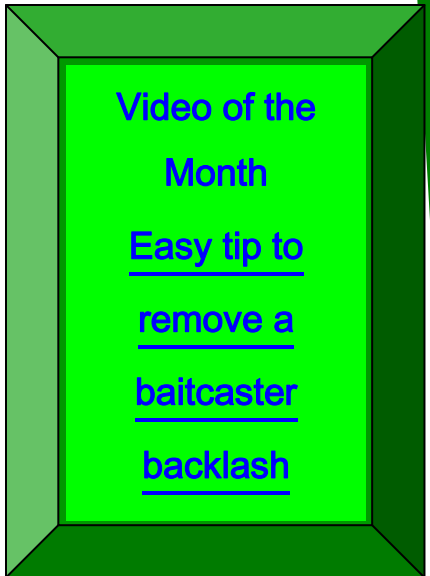
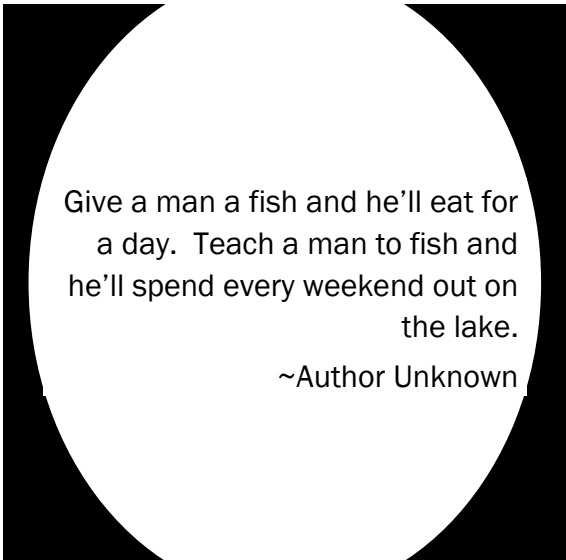
[Fish Tales Fishing Club](#)

[Animated Fishing Knots](#)

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Grassano's Pizza

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 - 13 Cookies & Cream
 - 14 Cookie Heath Crunch
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 - 16 Mint Oreo
 - 17 Turtle
 - 18 Red Raspberry
 - 19 Cookie Dough Craving
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 - 21 Really Reese's
 - 22 Boston Cream
 - 23 Mocha Chip
 - 24 Turtle
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Fish Tales Fishing Club consists of a group of individuals who love to fish. The goal of this family oriented group is to increase angler knowledge. Meetings with guest speakers to discuss fishing tips and techniques are held on the third Thursday of each month . The group meets at the Bremen Township Building located at 15350 South Oak Park Ave in Oak Forest.

For more information on *Fish Tales*, please visit their website at:
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