Oak Lawn Community High School

Spring 2013



Spartan Fishing Team



For all the latest news and information on the Spartan Fishing Team, be sure to check out our teams <u>website</u>! The best way to contact Coach Kuchyt is through email: **ckuchyt@olchs.org**



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Andy Jensen is the 2012 Ultimate Spartan Angler!

The Spartan Fishing Team had a busy winter season and members are eager to go fishing. This spring, we have at least three bass tournaments that members are preparing for. We will be fishing the District 230 tournament series on the Des Plaines River and our sectional tournament is set for Wolf Lake.

A special congratulations goes out to **Andy Jensen** (pictured right), who won the 2012 Ultimate Spartan Angler Challenge, which was judged by members of Fish Tales Fishing Club. You can read **John Neubauer's** article about the competition and what it took for Jensen to win this competition on page 6.

Also featured in this issue are some great articles written by students. **Sean Nugent** shares his experiences walleye fishing in Northern Minnesota and Canada on page 3 and **Ahmad Abdulla** investigates if bass really do remember on



page 15. **Mike Sutko** shares what he learned about the three types of fishing line on page 13. On page 11, **Ed Swies** talks about our teams experiences at the Tinley Park Fishing Show and the Schaumburg Outdoors Show. This issue also fearetired Newton High School principal **Bob Kerans** entitled "The Other Side of Education."

With so many great articles in this issue to read, grab some food from our sponsors, sit back, and enjoy what the students have written!

This issue also features a special article from

Spartans to Host 4th Annual Fall Bass Tournament

The Spartan Fishing Team is planning the fourth annual Spartan Bass Tournament to be held on the Kankakee/DesPlaines River at the DesPlaines Conservation Area on September 12, 2013. The team has partnered with Unique Bassmasters and Rayjus Outdoors to bring this event together. Over 170 high school anglers took part in the 2012 tournament, making this tournament one of the largest high school fall bass tournaments in Illinois. The 2012 tournament

details and results can be found <u>here</u> and you can check out the highlight video <u>here</u>.

The 2013 tournament will have a similar format to the 2012 tournament. Schools will again be able to enter as many boats as they would like with a \$40 entry fee per boat. The number of boats in the tournament, however, is limited to the number set forth by the DNR permit. Entries will be allowed on a first come, first serve basis and registration will begin August 15, 2013. More information on the tournament, along with registration forms, will be made available through the summer issue of the Spartan Fishing Team newsletter.

Tip of the Month

Always wet your knots with saliva as you pull them tight. This prevents damage to the line and allows the knot to pull tight.

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The Other Side of Education by Guest Columnist Bob Kerans (retired principal of Newton Community High School)

After 35 years in the education field, I retired (15 years ago) as the Principal of Newton Community High School in Newton, Illinois. It is obvious that those in the educational field would never be able to, nor would they want to, argue about the importance of academic success in the school setting. It is also widely accepted that without the good educational background many promising careers have been ended way too soon, sometimes before they even got started. Be sure to check out what some of the Bass Masters elite have to say about education background.

The discussion that I always looked forward to was the importance of the other half of the educational setting, the extra-curricular activities portion. We are all familiar with the "typical" extra-curricular activities, such as athletics, music, speech, drama, etc. The value of participating in this side of the educational setting is extremely valuable, not only while a student, but on a resume after graduation. Speaking from experience not only as a former school administrator, but as a former mayor as well, I always looked a resume over very carefully to see just what type of future employee I was thinking of hiring. I know the word "well-rounded" is probably over used, but this is the type of person I would be the most interested in. Give me the young man or young lady that had achieved not only in the classroom, but in the other half of education as well, and for the most part I knew we had a winner!

How very fortunate the students at Oak Lawn Community High School are to have an Illinois High School Association Fishing Team. If the Spartan Fishing Team is as impressive and successful as their newsletter indicates, this group of young sportsmen are going to do well and go far! Best of luck on the water, but I will confess, as a fisherman with over 65 years experience, success on the water or not, your involvement and participation will lead to greater success off the water.

Go Spartans!!!

Walleye Fishing in Northern Minnesota & Canada by Sean Nugent (grade 10)

My brother and I have been going to my aunt's cabin in Northern Minnesota since we were two years old. We started fishing up there when we were four, no hooks though, we kept complaining that that we wanted a fishing pole so our family just gave us a rod with no line to shut us up. Back in those days, we didn't catch much, (or anything at all), mainly due to our impatience (or no hook). Our attention span was short back in those day, we usually quit after as little as 20 minutes of "fishing". When we were older and started using hooks, we didn't really care what kind of fish we caught, so we would just catch rock bass and sunfish. We even competed in a quantitybased rock bass tournament, of which the winner caught over 100. But as we grew older, we started learning some of the tricks of the trade from our family members.

My first memory of the walleye is my uncle's prize catch, which has been displayed on the wall of the cabin as long as I can remember. It was over 12 pounds, and topped 30 inches if I remember correctly. I personally have never had luck like his, but I have made some decent catches. My personal best is around 21 inches, which I caught on a shiner, a type of minnow easily purchased up north.



Walleyes are important game fish for a number of reasons. The first being its meat, which is extremely tasty. Another is its fight, which is unrivaled in this area. Some different ways walleye can be cooked are on the grill, in the oven, and fried. We are very knowledgeable on the different ways walleye can be cooked because that is what we usually talk about when we are not catching anything. When this happens, we usually hang our heads



and complain about the weather or quality of the bait and send someone up to the local gas station called "The Outpost" to pick up the ingredients for Mac and Cheese, or pasta, also known as in our family as the *drive of shame*.

My favorite and most used setup for walleye is a medium/heavy-spinning combo, with light colored line. I usually use a black or green weighted hook and a metal leader in case I hook a pike, as I have had my line cut by fish numerous times. I use live bait about 75 percent of the time, and a red or white spinner bait the other 25 percent of the time. My favorite live baits are small minnows and shiners, which account for most of my big catches. I hook the minnows through the mouth and then through the gills; this preserves their health so they can swim around and increase the chance of getting a walleye. The minnow's ability to swim around is also its greatest drawback. They can be really expensive and die easily in the minnow bucket. When I am not using minnows I usually use leeches.

The best time to catch walleye is early morning and late evening, as with most other fish. My favorite locations are points, which I like to troll along to increase my chances of success. Another not so obvious location is relatively deep sandbars, where walleye like to congregate. Usually I troll over the sandbar so I can drag my bait on the drop off's on either side of the sandbar. This is how my uncle caught his 12-pound walleye. I have found this works better in early evening opposed to morning, but I cannot offer any explanation for this. 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.

Fishing Club

Fish Tales

For more information on *Fish Tales*, please visit their website at: <u>http://www.fishtalesfishingclub.com/</u>





2012 Ultimate Spartan Angler Challenge - By John Neubauer (grade 10)

On December 28th, 2012, the Spartan fishing team held their annual Ultimate Spartan Angler challenge at O.L.C.H.S. Members from <u>Fish Tales Fishing Club</u> where on hand to help judge the event. The competition consisted of tests in casting ability, knot tying, and a written portion. Each of these competitions proved to be challenging, especially the ones that were timed.

First came the knot tying challenge. We had to tie the palmer knot, improve clinch knot, Albright knot, and also properly tie a Carolina rig. Whoever had these knots tied properly in the least amount of time was the winner. After the knot tying challenge, we found out who could cast the furthest. Everyone was ready to make a statement on who could cast the farthest and everyone did pretty good at this. When it came to casting accuracy, guys who brought out there bait casters where more accurate at the bozo buckets challenge. When it came to the side casting challenge, only one Spartan was able to put it into the can for the second straight year!

At the end of the competition, sophomore angler Andrew Jensen came in first place for the boys and Alexis Kosek won for the girls. They were clutch performers. Both scored well on the written portion, they were strong and quick with their knot tying, and they did a good job with casting distance and accuracy challenges. Andy received a trophy and a big brand new top of the line Plano 797 tackle box full of lures. After the first place winner was announced, we all lined up by what place we took in the competition and we got to grab a variety of crank baits, jigs, plastics, tshirts, hats and much more from

the prize table. In the end, everyone had a great time and we can't wait for next year's challenge and a great big thank you for the guys from Fish Tales Fishing Club.







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www.midwestmuskyclub.com

Meetings: We meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30PM @ The Village Sportsman's Club (5201 W. 115th Street, Alsip, IL).

No admission fee; free food (although donations are appreciated); Great fishing speakers; Monthly raffle; Club fishing outings throughout the Midwest & one Canadian summer trip; Monthly newsletter; Reasonably priced membership fees (families are always welcomed to join).

It shall be the object of the Midwest Musky Club to:

Preserve and propagate Midwest musky fishing, Be involved in conservation efforts, Educate & refine the members' skill in the sport of musky fishing Practice good sportsmanship and safety afloat, Sponsor group activities related to the sport of fishing Observe the rules and regulations of the various Departments of Conservation and National Resources of the states in which members' fish.

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Feel free to attend one of our meetings (bring your family & friends along) & expand your fishing knowledge!

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2013 Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation High School Tournament Series

This year the Illinois Bass Nation (IBN) is sending two Junior Bassmasters to fish as co-anglers with the IBN state team competing in the B.A.S.S. Nation Northern Divisional Tournament. They will be fishing alongside one of the best 12 adult anglers in the state. The Jr. Bassmasters will be competing for the opportunity to go to the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship. At this event they can win a fully loaded Triton Bass boat along with college scholarships.

This year, the IBN is inviting the winners of each of the six high school tournaments to compete at the Jr. Bassmaster State Qualifier for the chance to compete with the State Divisional team. The top two places from the State Qualifier tournament will receive an expense paid trip to the B.A.S.S. Nation Northern Divisional for themselves and their family. This year the Northern Divisional will be held on Francis Case Reservoir in South Dakota.

There will be six high school tournaments this year. Tournaments will be held on East Fork, Lake Clinton, Lake Shelbyville, Lake Springfield, Pool 13, and the Des Plaines/ Kankakee River.

For more information click <u>HERE</u> to view the IBN website or contact IBN president Frank Labanowski at: franklabanowski@gmail.com.

Tinley Park Fishing Show & Schaumburg Outdoors Show By Ed Swies (grade 12)



This spring the OLCHS Spartan Fishing Team attended two outdoor shows. The team's first show was the Chicagoland Fishing Travel and Outdoor Expo in Schaumburg. This show provided a great opportunity for the members to listen to some pros. The first speaker we listened to was B.A.S.S. Pro Shaw Grigsby. The second speaker

was Al Linder from Angling Edge. This speaker talked about the ways of throwing umbrella rigs. He recommended to people what rod, reels, and line to use when throwing the <u>umbrella rig</u>. The last speaker was Mike laconelli. Mike talked about throwing baits that work the three different depths of the water column, surface, mid-depth, and on the bottom. He also about how to work the baits during different periods of the day during different seasons. The six of us who attended this show thought it was a great way learn new techniques that we could use to out fish our competition.

The second show that we attended was the <u>Tinley</u> <u>Park Fishing Show</u>. This is our favorite show of the year because we always seem to find some great deals on fishing gear. One of the coolest experiences we had was when I, along with my teammates Hubert and Lauren, had a long and interesting conversation with one of the owners from **Outdoor Adventure Lures**. We talked about their product and they explained to us why their bait was unique when compared to other baits on the market. It is a great softbait to use on the rivers and in the lakes. I purchased some of their great looking baits called Advantage Bug XT. I got it in green pumpkinseed with orange, I can't wait to use them at our next tournament at the Des Plaines River. One of my fellow teammates, Hubert also placed a special order for some softbaits that they did not have at the show so they said they would mail the



baits as soon as they were made. He got the same one I did but in a root beer and copper color.

The next vendor we went to go visit was the one and only Rick McCarty. This guy is a legend at what he does. He knows fishing from over 30 years of experience. Rick took the time to create his own tackle from just playing with different colors and spending weeks on the water testing and adjusting his river hooks. There isn't any other hook I would use other than his for any of my swimbaits and plastics. Jonathan, another one of my teammates, stocked up on baits from Draggin' Baits.

All and all, the team had a lot of fun during both trips just like we knew we would. We met tons of new people, learned some new techniques, and bought some new equipment to try out in the spring when the water finally

thaws. Hopefully this year will be a good year for the Spartans. My goal is to finish in the top five in each of the tournaments I fish in this year. I feel confident that the baits I bought at the **Tinley Park** Show will help me this tournament season.



Left: Mike laconelli speaking at Schaumburg. Right: Shaw Grigsby taking time to snap a photo with Spartan Fishing Team members.

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The Real Deal on Mono, Floro, and Braid by Mike Sutko (Grade 10)

These three kinds of line have advantages and disadvantages depending on what your fishing for or even what structure you plan on fishing. Mono has stretch, unlike braid. With braid, you can feel every little rock, bite, weed, etc. Braid has no stretch can sometimes make you feel like you have a bigger fish than you have on because of that no stretch. The advantage of braid is that it is better for ripping through weeds. You may also be able to catch a few more toothy fish with braid, but I would still recommend that you use a leader. The disadvantage is that braid is very visible underwater and you might have to tie a specific knot to make sure that the knot does not slip.

Moving onto fluorocarbon. This line is ideal when you want things to sink because that is what this line does. It is also "invisible" to fish under water, so that's an advantage. Mono is probably the most commonly used line because it is the least expensive. Some people don't like getting fancy or just works best for some people. This line is offered by a variety of companies and comes in mony different pound tests. Proid is probably t



many different pound tests. Braid is probably the most expensive because of its design.

Personally, I like braid the most because you can use it for anything, even pan fish. Say your fishing for pan fish and you're using a minnow. Your expecting a nice bluegill, crappie, perch, etc. but a big bass decides to grab it and you have 2 or 4 pound test on. When using braid, even with the two or four pound test, you will be able to take control of the fish and tire it out easier. That's why I prefer braid, but everyone has their own opinion.



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Do Bass Remember? By Ahmad Abdulla (grade 10)

This is a summary of an article from Berkley that will explain the memory of fish, to be more specific, the largemouth bass.

Fish are creatures that share many similarities regarding lifestyle and habits. However, there are also many differences that they possess. A similarity between all fish is their memory. Research has shown that fish can remember being caught and they tend to stay away from baits and lures that they have previously been hooked on. In a study, bass were allowed to strike freely on a minnow lure. After five minutes, the bass had slowed and eventually stopped striking the lure. After a 2 week interval, the same bass were presented with the same lure, and it surprised the scientists to see that the bass did not even bother. After two more months, the same bass were exposed again to the same minnow lure. They inspected and examined it, but bite the lure as much as they did when they first saw it because they knew that it would not satisfy their hunger. This study shows that bass remember lures and remember being caught. It is a smart idea for anglers to use different baits and lures in areas that are heavily fished, because the fish will not bite if anglers fish with the same bait. This research also explains why new baits are constantly being developed. If all anglers kept using the same baits, then the number of caught fish would decrease dramatically, because the bass would eventually catch on and stop biting.

In another study conducted to test a fish's memory, a fish was caught and tagged on a boat, and when the fish was released, it was followed by the boat and attempted to be hooked again. As soon as the bait hit the water near the fish, it swam 100 yards away as fast as possible. This study also helps to show that bass are capable of acquiring a distinct memory.

Bass function by memory. They form habits and territorial areas by remembering. If a bass was able to find food in a specific area, they will return to that area for more food, which is proof that they can remember things for a long time. They even seem to return to the same cool areas every summer to avoid



hot waters. The more fish that are caught and released, the more fish will remember to stay away from certain baits and lures.

If you are a serious angler and you are fishing an area where a certain lure is not getting any action, then try a new lure for



the bass in that area may not bite at that lure due to previous attempts of eating that bait.

Bass can remember, which is also accompanied by their great eyesight, hearing, sense of feeling or lateral line, and strength. A bass has great power, and can maneuver quickly in any area, even if the water is murky, clear, warm, cool, shallow, deep, and weedy. In conclusion, bass are a very distinct type of fish that can definitely remember things for days, weeks, and even months.

Summarized from: http://bassbuzz.outdoorsfanmedia.com/br_news_article.asp?thecat=2&ID=257



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Recipe of the Month: Silverfin Cakes

Bighead and silver carp have been a popular food fish in Asia for thousands of years. The are a good source of protein, low in mercury and other contaminants, and rich in omeg-3 fatty acids. The fillets are white, firm, and flaky, with a very mild taste. To learn more about Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species, visit the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant at the link above



Ingredients

1 pound Asian carp filets

- 8 Tb unsalted butter, melted
- 1 Tb Dijon Mustard
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 T lemon juice
- 2 T bread crumbs 1 cup seasoned flour
- 4 T vegetable oil

Poach or steam filets until fully cooked, then break into pieces and remove all bones. Place the meat into a mixing bowl. Add butter, mustard, half the egg and lemon juice; mix well. Add bread crumbs and season to taste. Form small cakes with the fish mixture. Coat with remaining egg and seasoned flour. Pan fry in cooking oil over medium-high heat 4-5 minutes or until golden brown.

Makes 4 servings

Source: http://www.iiseagrant.org/asiancarp/

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The Spartan Fishing Team logo was created and designed by **Matt Jensen**. Matt graduated from Oak Lawn Community High School in 2010.

<u>Fishing Fact</u> Sonar travels about 5,000 feet per second, a little over four time faster than in air.

A

Interesting Fishing Word—Ichthyology adverb—branch of zoology that deals with the study of fish

Spartan Fishing Team Scholarships

The **Spartan Fishing Team**, through the generous contributions of <u>Oak Lawn</u> <u>Happy Hyundai</u>, is proud to announce that it will award a **\$250** scholarship to a junior or senior member of the 2012–2013 fishing 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 scholarships and unique outdoor experiences to the kids. The team would like to thank **Oak Lawn Happy Hyundai** and our other sponsors for their support.

Fishing Quote

A good fishing partner is one who's always slightly worse than you!

Video of the Month Funny Fishing Videos

