Fall 2011



Oak Lawn Community High School

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

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Tip of the Month

Check your minnow bucket on a regular basis and remove any dead ones. They can taint the water and kill the live minnows.



www.MyHappyHyundai.com per boat with no limit on the

The Spartan Fishing Team has been busy since our last publication in early May. Through the generous contributions of SpitFire Automotive and Happy Hyundai, Carlos Patino was awarded a \$500 fishing scholarship at the Spring Sports Awards Night. Carlos has been a member of the fishing team for four years and is a very deserving scholarship recipient

The team also placed second in the District 230 Bass Tournament which was held on the Kankakee River. You can read about the tournament in Ben Masek's article on page 6.

In June, the team took two outings to Lake Shabbona and caught many fish. Mike Hentgen shares the techniques we used to catch the fish in his article on page 4. On page three, Nick Meyer shares his favorite tips



From left to right: Omar Abdulla, Ben Masek, and Carlos Patino holding up their five bass which earned them a second place finish at the District 230 tournament in late May.

for catching northern pike.

Fishing Scholarships & April Bass Tournaments

This issue of the Spartan Fishing Team newsletter also features information on the second annual Rayjus Outdoors-Oak Lawn High School Bass Tournament.



Spartans to Host Bass Tournament in October

The Spartan Fishing Team along with Rayius Outdoors and Unique Bassmasters will host the Ravius Outdoors-Oak Lawn High School Bass Tournament on the Kankakee/DesPlaines River at the **DesPlaines Con**servation Area on October 22, 2011.

Cost of entry is \$30

number of boats entered per school. The goal of this tournament is to enable kids who may not participate in the sectional tournament the opportunity to fish in a high school tournament. Coaches or parents from any school who would like more information on this tournament can visit the tournament rules sheet here or can contact

Coach Kuchyt at ckuchyt@olchs.org for more information.

Click here to view the results from the 2010 tournament.



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Tips for Pike by Nick Meyer

In areas where northern pike are abundant, they can be a thrilling species to catch. They are aggressive enough to bite often, they put up a fight, and they make for good eating.

Northern pike are one of the more aggressive species of fish, meaning they will usually take just about anything you throw in the water, but a few lures remain favorites among pike anglers. One popular bait is an in-line spinner, also known as a bucktail, which comes in thousands of different colors, sizes, and types. One of my favorite spinners to use for pike is a Mepps Black Fury in size 4 with a tail attached, orange blade and black bucktail. It not only contrasts itself with different



spinner, also known as a

bucktail.

environments, but the spinning blade is made to contrast with the body of the lure, making it more visible to pike, meaning more bites.

Another popular lure type, is a spoon. I have not had much experience with spoons, though I've heard Pictured above is an in-line that a "Five of Diamonds" Daredevil is effective and can be used in several configurations. I have personally had success using crankbaits, though I

must say I have been much more lucky with bucktails. My favorite crankbait right now is a Mann's Baby minus 1, for when the pike are close to the surface or there is a weedbed just under the water. It definitely gets their attention, and it's just cool to be able to see the commotion on the surface when the fish strikes!

Usually, when someone gets their first pike up to the boat. they don't know exactly what to do next. First of all, you cannot lip it like a bass (because pike have hundreds of needle sharp teeth) and you cannot just lift it up by the line like a bluegill. Trying to do so is a good way to lose the fish because the line can either snap or the fish can throw the hook. It is best to use a net. Pike can be landed by hand, just slide your hand under the bony flaps that protect the gills (being careful not to damage the gills), supporting



Nick Meyer with a 20 inch walleye he caught near Hayward, Wisconsin.

the belly for bigger fish, and lifting it out of the water. The reason for putting your hand under the bony flaps is that pike are very slippery and this gives you some extra grip. It is good to have some muscle when doing this, because you can be sure the fish does. When removing the hook, you should do this with pliers or a fish-hook remover, and absolutely keep your fingers clear of the teeth, if you like them. It's really not that dangerous if you use the proper tools, but those teeth are sharp and curved inward to prevent prey from escaping, so be careful.

After you have landed and removed the hook from the fish, you have a couple of options. The idea of catch, photo, and release is simple enough, but I enjoy the idea of a Cajun-grilled northern pike fillet; pike are very good eating fish.

About the Spartan Fishing Newsletter...

The Spartan Fishing Newsletter serves as a fundraising publication for the team. Thanks to the generous businesses that advertise with us, the team is able to raise funds and provide fishing scholarships to its participants. The best way to support this team is by supporting its business partners. Please print the ad's and coupons in the newsletter and use them often!

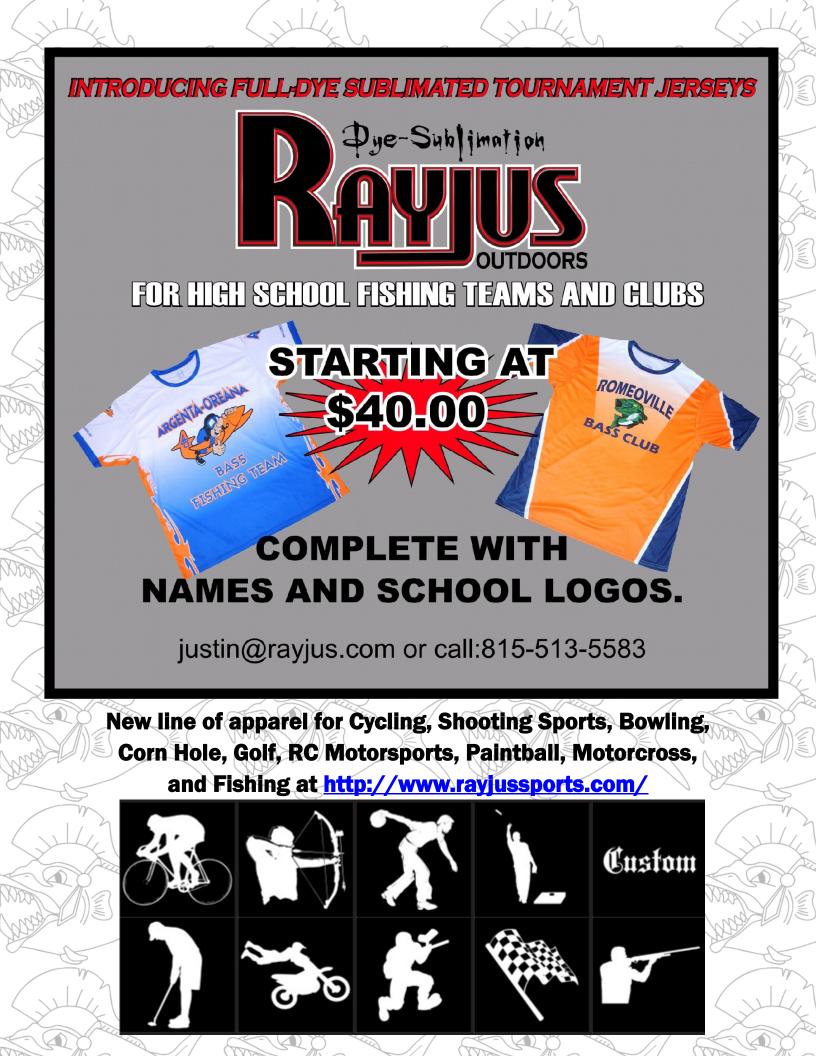
The articles in the newsletter are written by students about their experiences in the outdoors. Some students have chosen to write about outdoor topics of interest to them while others have written about their experiences

fishing. This offers a great opportunity for them to refine their writing skills while sharing their experiences with the community.

The newsletter is released on a quarterly basis via the Oak Leaflet (our high school's weekly e-correspondence with parents), the teams website, or by searching "Spartan Fishing Team" on the internet. There will be a fall, winter, spring, and summer. We hope you will look forward to our newsletter and be sure to use the coupons inside.



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!





Mike Hentgen with a big bass he caught at a forest preserve lake.

Anglers having a good time, as we had Spartan guests join us on these trips, which include friends and family of fellow Spartans.

When we first got to Lake Shabbona on June 3, Coach Kuchyt and Ben Masek started catching bass right away from shore. The team decided to rent a boat and team members rotated fishing from the boat. Mr. Cappel also brought his boat to the lake and he took some team members out as well. As the day progressed more and more Spartans caught fish. Because it was windy, the better fishing happened from shore on this day. Most of the fish caught were bluegill but there was also a lot of bass caught and one walleye. The bass were mainly caught with a weightless wully bully. Some were caught on topwater baits like buzz baits. The bluegills were caught bobber fishing with worms from shore. The walleye was caught by our team captain Ben a couple minutes after he got off the bus. Most of the fish were caught in the area where the boats are docked. The other spot where a lot of fish were caught is right off the point next to the restaurant. The best fishing we had was within the first four hours of getting off the bus. The whole team got take turns fishing on the boats . After hours of successful fishing, we all met up to dine on some of the best hotdogs known to man. We pulled out the portable grill and feasted on hot dogs, chips, and cookies.

The second trip (June 30) was as great as the first one . Almost every one caught fish. The fishing on this trip was a little better than our first trip and the way we caught fish on this trip was a lot different than our first one. On the first trip, we caught a lot of our fish in shallow water. On this trip, most of the fish were in deep water. There were more

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. <u>To see the new</u> website, please click here.

<u>Team Video</u>

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. <u>Click here</u> <u>to check it out!</u> Members of the team are now eagerly anticipating the spring inland trout season which is scheduled for April.

Summer Fishing at Shabbona by Mike Hentgen (Grade 12)

bass caught, some walleve and a fat catfish. I caught three

the Spartans had a good four pound catfish. We also had a

guest named Chuck Cook from the Fish Tales Fishing Club

join us. He caught a two pound bass and two walleyes. We

spots. Everybody had a great time and a great fishing experi-

ence. As always, after fishing all morning, we grilled up some

also explored around the lake to find more good fishing

hot dogs and headed home afterwards.

smallmouth on this trip, most were about 12 inches. Many of

good sized bass myself. Team members also caught six

The Spartan Fishing team went fishing at Lake Shabbona on June 3 and June 30, 2011. Both the outings were very bountiful with every member catching fish. The trips were excellent with good weather, good food, and an overall good time. Lake Shabbona never lets the Spartans down. There were more than Spartan

Ide friendsLake Shabbona never lets the Spartan Fishing
Team down. It is a great lake to fish. Everyone on the team
loves the lake. Every time we go out there we do very well.June 3,
ass right





Above: Pat Hughes with a four pound catfish. Left: Matt Hentgen with a nice largemouth bass.



Left: Tavon Jacobs holding his first bass caught on an artificial lure.

Right: Ed Swies with a quality bass.

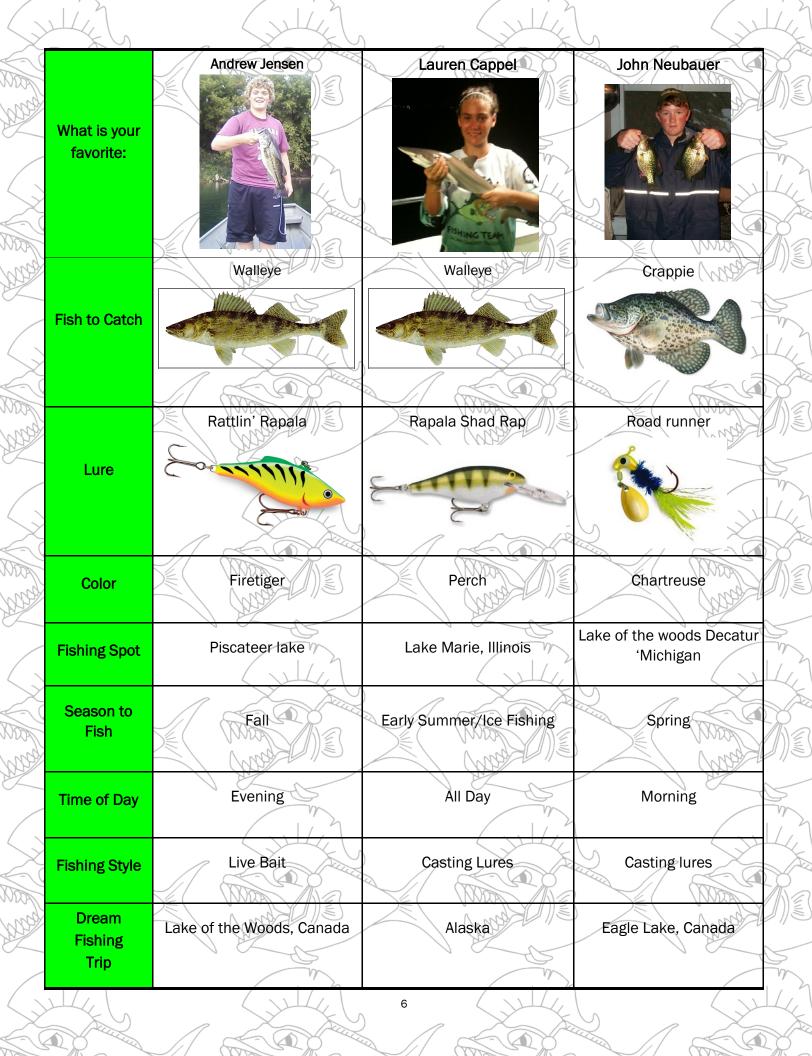








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District 230 Bass Tournament Series May 22, 2011 - By Ben Masek (Grade 12)

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.

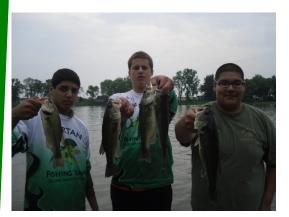
We were feeling lucky right from the start when we drew card number four, meaning we were going to be the fourth boat out of the marina. The other Oak Lawn boat's launch was 20. As our fishing started, things seemed to be going our way. About one hour into the tournament, I caught the first keeper bass. 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 and 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!



Omar Abdulla, Ben Masek, Carlos Patino proudly displaying their trophy.







Dragin Baie (Company

www.Draginbaits.com

Oak Lawn Community High School Spartan Fishing Team c/o Chris Kuchyt 9400 Southwest Hwy. Oak Lawn, IL 60453

E-mail: ckuchyt@olchs.org

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.

Fish Fact Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.

Spartan Fishing Team Offers Two \$250 Scholarships!

Click here to see the

Spartan Fishing Team

Newsletter Archives!

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.

Video of the

Month

Removing Line

Twists on a

Spinning Rod

Helpful Links

Spartan Fishing Team

IHSA Bass

The Future Fishes Here

Illinois Fish Records

Fish Tales Fishing Club

Animated Fishing Knots

Cook County Forest Preserve Fishing Booklet

Illinois Game & Fish Magazine

When fish are in schools. they sometimes take debate. ~Author Unknown

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Grassano's Pizza 5651 W. 87th St.-708-424-8000 Limited Time Only. Tax and delivery not included. Carry-out and delivery only. Offer expires 10/31/11 Thank you for supporting the Spartan Fishing Team!

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888.706.0600 WWW.STARSANDSTRIPESCHICAGO.COM 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: http://fishtalesfishingclub.homestead.com/index.html



Midwest Musky Club

5201 West 115th Street

Alsip, IL 60655

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.

18

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

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