



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 Gear for Soldiers	1
Salmon Fishing	3
Musky Fishing	5
Angler Profiles	7
Rayjus Outdoors – Oak Lawn Bass	8
Fish Fact, Scholarships-n-more!	9
Money Saving Offers from Our Sponsors	10-18

Spartan Freshmen Take 2nd at Bass Tournament!

The Spartan Fishing Team has had quite an exciting fall. The team hosted one of the largest fall fishing tournaments in northern Illinois. Over 120 high school anglers took part in the event. You can read more about the event on page 8. You can also check out our highlight video by clicking [here](#).

The team also had several guest speakers over the past few weeks. Mr. Jerry Flaherty of Fish Tales Fishing Club taught members how to catch salmon in the Chicago harbors. Read about the presentation and our outing to Burnham Harbor on page 3.

Our second guest speaker was Mr. Pat Glavin of Midwest Musky Club. He offered musky fishing tips which we then put into practice when we went out to Lake Shabbona. Using what he learned from Mr. Glavin, Carlos Patino caught his first musky, a 38 inch monster!



From left to right: Lauren Cappel, John Neubauer, and Andrew Jensen holding their second place fish at the 2011 Rayjus Outdoors—Oak Lawn High School Bass Tournament.

You can read his story and see the picture on page 5.

The fishing team will continue to meet over the winter months. Anyone interested in joining can visit Coach Kuchyt in room 372 for more information.

Tip of the Month

When casting, always look at the spots you want to hit, not to spots you want to miss!



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Spartans Gathering Fishing Gear for Soldiers by Mike Hentgen (grade 12)

The Spartan Fishing Team is starting a program to send fishing rods to members of the US military. We would like to send our troops these donated rods so they can have something fun to do and hopefully give them a chance to catch a fish in Iraq, Afghanistan or wherever they may be stationed.

Our fishing team has asked local fishing tackle and bait shops if we could use their stores as drop off points. This program will run through March 18, 2012. If you have a rod and reel that you would like to donate, please bring it to:

[JJ's Bait & Tackle](#)
7281 W. 87th Street
Bridgeview, IL 60455

[Anglers Outlet](#)
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Shoreline Salmon Fishing Tips by John Neubauer (grade 9)

On September 20, Mr. Jerry Flaherty from Fish Tales Fishing Club came to OLCHS and gave the Spartan Fishing Team tips on salmon fishing. First, he talked about the location. Each fall, these fish migrate into the Chicago harbors. The purpose of their migration is to spawn, then die. The King Salmon's life span is only about four years. Since salmon do not reproduce naturally in Lake Michigan, they migrate into the harbors that they were stocked into as small fish by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Next, he discussed lures. Spoons, crankbaits, and spawn sacks all work great. Nightcrawlers may work occasionally, but if you are going to fish with a bobber, spawn sacks are the way to go. When fishing with a bobber you do not need to cast it 50 feet out, you only need to cast these lures along the wall or within a few feet of the wall because these fish swim around the harbor following these walls. He then went on to explain that the fish are not eating your bait because they are hungry, but instead it is a reaction bite.

A medium action spinning rod and a spinning reel is

Burnham Harbor Trip

by Andrew Jensen (grade 9)

We arrived at Burnham Harbor after school on Friday, September 30 around 5:30pm. It was very windy out, so I was not sure if it would effect the fishing. Soon after we arrived, it began to rain. The rain only lasted for about five minutes.

Fishing at Burnham Harbor was tough. Fishermen were basically shoulder to shoulder. It seemed like a lot of people from across Chicago were trying to take advantage of the fall salmon run. This trip required parents to drive us and fish with us and there was a lot of kids who came with their parents.

There wasn't really any action while I was there, and water clarity wasn't very good. Even though the water in the harbor was flat calm, it was cloudy. I've been at Burnham to salmon fish before, and I remember seeing schools of huge salmon cruising through the water like torpedoes. It's a sight to see, but that wasn't the case on this particular night. We saw a couple of guys catch fish, but on this night, the Spartans ended up empty handed.

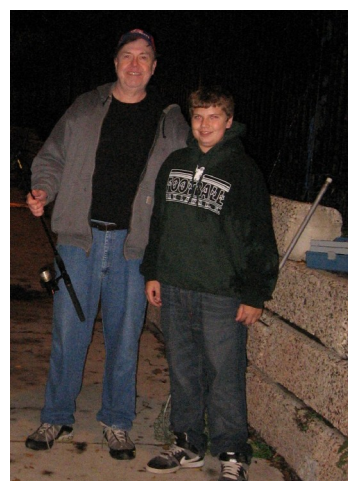
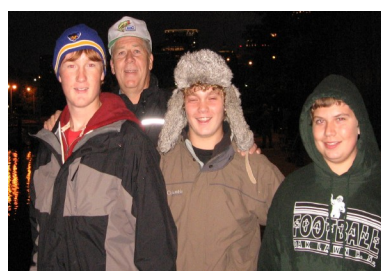
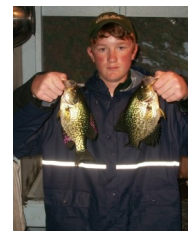
I was casting a variety of spoons, but I didn't get a single hit. Coach Kuchyt had a hit and he said he had a big salmon follow his lure up to the wall. We did see one guy who left with a nice 30-inch king from earlier in the day. I was talking with another group of guys who were using salmon sacks and they said that they were catching them in the early morning hours.

It's always a good time to get out on the water with your friends. It's even better when you can do it at night under the lights of the Chicago skyscrapers. Even without any fish, it was still a great time!

perfect for salmon. The longer the rod, the better. Also, because of the strength of these fish, Mr. Flaherty recommended 12lb test Berkley Trilene line. He advised not to set the hook like a bassmaster at the Classic. He said a slow steady pull will get the hook set in their boney mouths.

The last piece of advice he offered were the numerous fishing spots at Burnham Harbor. He said if there was a steady north wind, to fish near "the pipe." The pipe is in the very back of the harbor. The fish come in and out of that pipe and relate to the current. He said that if you cast into this area you are likely to get a bite.

It was great to have Mr. Flaherty come in and share his fishing tips. Hopefully we'll catch some fish using the tips he shared with us.



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Musky Fishing on Lake Shabbona by Carlos Patino

It was a GIANT! My first musky was about 38 inches in length and weighed about 11 pounds. On Saturday, October 8, 2011, the Spartan Fishing Team headed out to what some call the musky capitol of Illinois—Lake Shabbona. Our goal on this trip was to catch the fish of 10,000 casts.

A number of parents joined us on this trip. In all, the team rented eight boats. Team members whose parents could not join us fished from shore. Those kids who were fishing from shore caught smallmouth and largemouth bass.

The hunt for the big one started just before 8am. My dad and I had rented a boat for half the day. We fished all over the lake. The guy we rented the boat from suggested a number of spots on the map he gave us. Each spot on the map had a number. We fished from marker 5 to 14 and 18 to 23 with no luck. At that point, I was getting frustrated and I thought I wasn't going to catch a musky. I checked the time and noticed that we only had about an hour and a half left. I then asked my dad if he wanted to go back to the dock or keep fishing. He told me that he thought marker 18 was a good spot and we should give it a second chance. So we went back towards marker 18. Before we got there, we decided to stop at marker 14 which was a weedline. I casted the same bait I had been using for most of the day, a black and silver rattle trap. On the 6th or 7th cast I had one on! It was so strong that it forced me to bring my rod down and put it in the water. It took about a minute to get it close to the boat. Once it was about three feet from the boat I asked my dad to get ready to net it. Once I said the word "net" the fish spit the hook and swam away! It was a musky, only about 17" in length.

Not to be deterred and with a bit more motivation, I kept casting. On my second cast after the one I had lost came the GIANT ONE. I set the hook as hard as I could and the fight was on. I knew it was a giant because I didn't get to see any movement on top of the water for about 4 minutes I had to let it run for a little cause my rod was at the point of snapping. The fish went under the boat about two or three times and I had to walk all around the boat to keep the fish on. After five or six minutes of fighting it, it finally came close to the boat and we netted it.

Fishermen say that the musky is the fish of 10,000 casts because they are so hard to catch and it takes that many casts to catch one. I must have gotten lucky that day...



Carlos Patino's first musky, a 38 inch monster!



Pat Glavin of Midwest Musky Club offers tips and suggestions to Spartan Anglers before their fishing trip to Lake Shabbona.





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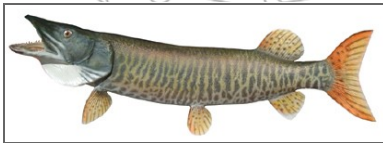





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Color	Blue & White	Blue/White	Blue
Fishing Spot	Lake of the Woods, Canada	Maple Lake and Bullfrog Lake	Tampier
Season to Fish	Fall	Spring	Fall
Time of Day	All Day	All Day	All Day
Fishing Style	Casting	Bobber	Bobber & Casting
Dream Fishing Trip	Lake of the Woods, Canada	Fishing the ocean off the Canadian coast	Deep Ocean Fishing

2011 Rayjus Outdoors—Oak Lawn High School Bass Tournament

Excitement was running high for over 120 high school anglers from across northern Illinois who assembled at the Des Plaines Conservation Area. [Rayjus Outdoors](#), [Unique Bassmasters](#) and [Spartan Fishing Team](#), partnered together to present the [2011 Rayjus Outdoors - Oak Lawn Community High School Bass Tournament](#) on the Kankakee/Des Plaines River at the Des Plaines Conservation Area. Twelve schools were represented in the tournament. Participating schools included Oak Lawn, Brother Rice, Minooka, Marist, Reavis, Lemont, Midland, Providence, Seneca, DeLaSalle, Downers Grove South, and Eureka High Schools. Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



Place	School	Anglers	Number of Fish	Live Fish	Big Bass	Total Weight
1	Seneca	Nick Kirkton/Nick Stuedemann	5	5	2.4	8.90
2	Oak Lawn	John Neubauer/Andrew Jensen	5	5	-	6.13
3	Lemont	Chris Walter/Luke Jasper/Paige Matijevich	3	3	2.4	5.38
4	Br. Rice	Joe Hayes/Brendan Moriarity	4	4	-	5.03
5	Lemont	Jake Lepczynski/Jim Divis/Mike Kurasz	2	2	2.8	2.81
6	Minooka	Kevin Hill	1	1	2.3	2.31
7	Oak Lawn	Ben Masek/Omar Adbulla	2	2	-	2.20
8	Br. Rice	Brian Lee/Mike Slakis	1	1	-	1.98
9	DeLaSalle	Nick Dycus/Chris Ludes/Robert Malloy/Sam Macias	1	1	-	1.42
10	DeLaSalle	Vince Scalise/Vince Ovalle/Bill Luce	1	1	-	1.34
11	Minooka	Dan DeGraaf/Chad Charland	1	1	-	1.32
12	Seneca	John Progress/Chris Trumble	1	1	-	1.24
13	Minooka	Dan Scott/Noah Arnold	1	1	-	1.11
14	Marist	Nick Engel/Nick Kushnerik	1	1	-	1.09
15	Oak Lawn	Carlos Patino/Francisco Patino/Dan Loya	1	1	-	1.01
Big Bass Winner – Chris Walter (Lemont H.S.) – 2.47lbs						
US Air Force Casting Champion – Robert Malloy (DeLaSalle High School)						



First place Seneca team
Nick Kirkton, Nick Stuedemann,
and coach Andy Jackson.

[Click here to view the tournament highlight video.](#)



Second place Oak Lawn team
Lauren Cappel, John Neubauer
and Andy Jensen.



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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
Fish were the first animals
to evolve backbones.

Click here to see the
Spartan Fishing Team
Newsletter Archives!

Spartan Fishing Team **Offers 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 2011–2012 fishing team. [Happy Hyundai of Oak Lawn](#), [Spitfire Automotive](#), [Stars & Stripes Chicago](#), and the [US Air Force](#) have generously offered scholarships in each organizations 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 scholarships and unique outdoor experiences to the kids. The team would like to thank these wonderful organizations and partnering fishing clubs for their help in this endeavor.

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](#)

Calling fishing a hobby is like
calling brain surgery a
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Mike Iaconelli
Fishing the
Moment



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- 9 Chocolate Raspberry
- 10 Just Drummy
- 11 Caramel Fudge Cookie Dough
- 12 M&M Swirl
- 13 Caramel Pecan
- 14 Strawberry Bon-Bon
- 15 Turtle
- 16 Cookies and Cream
- 17 Caramel Apple Cobbler
- 18 Double Marshmallow Oreo
- 19 Nestle Caramel Crunch
- 20 German Chocolate Fudge
- 21 Butter Brickle
- 22 Turtle
- 23 Pumpkin Pecan
- 24 Closed—Thanksgiving
- 25 Peanut Butter Cup
- 26 Chocolate Caramel Twist
- 27 Raspberry Cordial
- 28 Turtle Dove
- 29 Turtle Dove
- 30 Andes Mint Avalanche

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Fish Tales Fishing Club

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:

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

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

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

