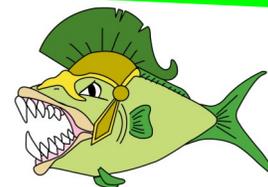




# Spartan Fishing Team



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](mailto:ckuchyt@olchs.org)

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## Spartan Fishing Team Awards \$1,750 in Scholarships!

The **Spartan Fishing Team**, through the generous contributions of [Happy Hyundai of Oak Lawn](#), [Spitfire Automotive](#), [Stars & Stripes Chicago](#), and the [US Air Force](#) has awarded \$1,750 in scholarships to team members. This year's winners were Matt Hentgen, Dan Loya, Ben Masek, and Mike Hentgen. Ben Masek was also this year's MVP and Mike Hentgen won this year's Sportsmanship award.

The team was also chosen as this year's first runner-up as Illinois High School fishing team of the year, sponsored by the [Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show](#) and the [Frabill Company](#).

Read about the event on page 5.

In other news, the 2012 **Oak Lawn High School Bass Tournament** date is set for October 13, 2012. Information on the tournament can be found on page 4.

Last but not least, our teams summer and fall team



Scholarship award recipients (from left to right) Matt Hentgen, Dan Loya, Coach Kuchyt, Ben Masek, Mike Hentgen.

fishing schedule is set. If you are a student who would like to join the Spartan Fishing Team and fish for everything from bass to perch to musky, please contact Coach Kuchyt in room 372 for more information. Also, if you are interested in being part of the tour-

namment team, this is the time of year to show us your skills!

### Tip of the Month

You can go fishing in Illinois without a fishing license during Illinois Free Fishing Days, June 8-11.



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## Spartans Donate Fishing Gear to Wounded Veterans

by Mike Hentgen (grade 12)

Earlier this school year, members of the Spartan Fishing Team researched ways to help members of our military enjoy the outdoors. We decided to the [Disabled Veterans Fishing Program](#) was the cause we wanted to help.

The Disabled Veterans Fishing Program is part of the nonprofit organization: New England Disabled

Sports and is run by Todd Rohr. "Our goal is to provide disabled veterans and their care givers an opportunity for maritime adventure that they may not have had the opportunity for otherwise. Putting them out on the water with other veterans is a great opportunity to network and socialize," he stated. Because the program is fairly new, they are in need of help to ensure

its success, both in spreading awareness to reach veterans who could benefit from this program and find volunteers and raise funds and donations.

As a team, we reached out to our community and alumni and received some great fishing rod and reels to donate. A great article about the program can be found by clicking [here](#).

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## A Lesson Learned While Fishing By Michael Pajor (Grade 9)

Mike was asked by his English teacher to write a paper about a lesson he once learned. This is what he wrote...

It was a chilly summer morning in Wisconsin with me, my friend, and our dads. The moist air coming from the cold river woke us all up. It was 5:30 in the morning and we all sat down for breakfast. I was very eager to catch a fish, so I grabbed my pole and went down to the dock. I waited a few minutes until my friend came and then we went to the bait store. The bait store was a mile away. It was worth the walk because I was very excited about going fishing. We hurried to the bait shop.

The bait shop was very small and by the river. When we came up to the door it was locked and nobody was there. There was a note on the door that said to call a phone number. We called the number and the person who answered said the store was opening in an hour. We had to walk all the way back to the house. The whole time we were walking, we felt very disappointed so we went by the water. We started throwing rocks in the water. After a while, we got cold, so we walked back to the house. The walk seemed a lot longer to get back to the house.

When we got back we saw our parents fishing. They had

already caught four medium sized fish. I asked my Dad, "Where did you get the bait?" He answered, "I bought it last night." I then asked, "Why didn't you tell us you had bought bait?" They answered, "Because you didn't eat breakfast when we told you to." We apologized, "We're sorry we will wait next time." Everyone laughed together.

Afterward we all started fishing. It was a clear cool day. We casted our poles and were catching a lot of fish. Some fish were caught in twenty minutes, some in ten minutes, and some were even caught in less than five minutes. We were very surprised on how many fish we had caught. Since we had a special fishing rig we could catch two fish at a time. In fact, I had caught two fish multiple times! There were tons of very large fish caught as well. We continued to fish for ten hours. When the day was over we had caught over forty-five fish.

The lesson I learned from this fishing trip is to be patient. It took over ten hours to catch the fish and it was a waste of time trying to buy bait. Most of all, I learned to listen to my parents.



## A Fish Report Card

A laboratory test in the mid 1980s showed the learning curves of popular game fish. In the experiment, researchers measured how long it took for specific species to learn to avoid an electrical shock. Here are some of the highlights:

- A** The **striped bass** was the class brain, ranking at the top in tests.
- A-** The lowly **carp** also got good grades. It ranked second to the striped bass,
- B** **Channel catfish** wasn't far behind the striped bass and carp. A pretty good learner.
- C** **Largemouth** rated worst among bass. **Smallmouth** was first followed by the spotted or **Kentucky bass**.
- D** And you wondered why the **bluegill** bites so readily. It came close to flunking out.
- D** The **northern pike**, for all its aggressive tendencies, doesn't learn from its mistakes.
- F** The **yellow perch** was the class dunce, ranking dead last. Researchers deemed the perch "untrainable."

Information from the study "Comparative Learning Ability of Selected Fishes" by D.W. Coble from "Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences"

**Source:** <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/03/17/3498052/dissecting-bass-behavior.html>

## Spartan Fishing Team to Host Fall High School Bass Tournament

The Spartan Fishing Team is planning the third annual Spartan Bass Tournament to be held on the Kankakee/DesPlaines River at the [DesPlaines Conservation Area](#) on **October 13, 2012**. The team has partnered with **Unique Bassmasters** and [Rayjus Outdoors](#) to bring this event together. Over 120 high school anglers and 42 boats took part in the 2011 tournament, making this tournament one of the largest high school fall bass tournaments in Illinois. Last year's tournament details and results can be found [here](#).

The 2012 tournament will have a similar format to the 2011 tournament. Schools will be allowed to enter as many boats as they can get on the water with up to four kids per boat roster. This gives an opportunity for freshmen and sophomores or more novice anglers to take part in a bass tournament. A shoreline creature tournament is also held for the kids who are waiting for their turn on the boat or are not on a 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. More information on the tournament, along with registration forms, will be made available mid-August 2012.

Click on the YouTube icon below to view the 2011 Rayjus Outdoors—Oak Lawn High School Bass Tournament highlight video.



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## Mono vs. Fluoro vs. Braid...Which is Best? By Emmet Nugent (Grade 9)

When talking about fishing line, there are many things to consider. The main thing is what you are going to be fishing for and what bait you are using. There are three main types of fishing line—monofilament, fluorocarbon, and braid.

**Monofilament** line stretches and is effected by UV rays, which means you will need to change the line on your reel at least once a year. It also floats, which makes it ideal for top water lures. **Fluorocarbon** stretches very little and it sinks in the water, which is why a lot of anglers like to use it when crankbait fishing. Because it reflects light at the same angle water does, fluorocarbon is less visible to fish. **Braid** does not stretch and it is very visible to fish. It is the strongest type of line, made out of several different strands that are fused together. It is the strongest of the three types of lines, but does knots tend to slip when using this type of line.

The best choice of line for you depends on what you will be fishing for and how you are fishing. If you are using crankbaits, it depends on the lip. For crankbaits with a longer or deep diving lip, the best choice would be fluorocarbon as it is less buoyant. For crankbaits without lips, the best choice would be braid. It offers no stretch and enable the bait to be

ripped through the weeds. For jigs being dragged on the bottom, the best choice would also be fluorocarbon due to its lack of buoyancy. For spinnerbaits, mono would be your best choice, because if you have ever caught a bass on a spinnerbait you need the hook as deep as possible in as the tendency to lose a lightly hooked fish on a spinnerbait is much greater. When using a heavy swimbait, you would want to use a heavier test monofilament because the bait weights a lot and you want a more stretchy tendency for hooking a larger fish. For topwater lures, mono is best. This all seems like a lot to remember, but [BassMinder](#) has a great "[line selection guide](#)" that you can stick on your tackle box.

As for price, the least expensive would be monofilament and the most expensive is braid. Almost always, the stronger the line, the higher the price. When choosing line, it depends on you and your style of fishing. My recommendation to you is to have multiple rods with various lines so that you can always have the right tool for whatever fishing situation you are in. More information on this topic can be found [here](#).

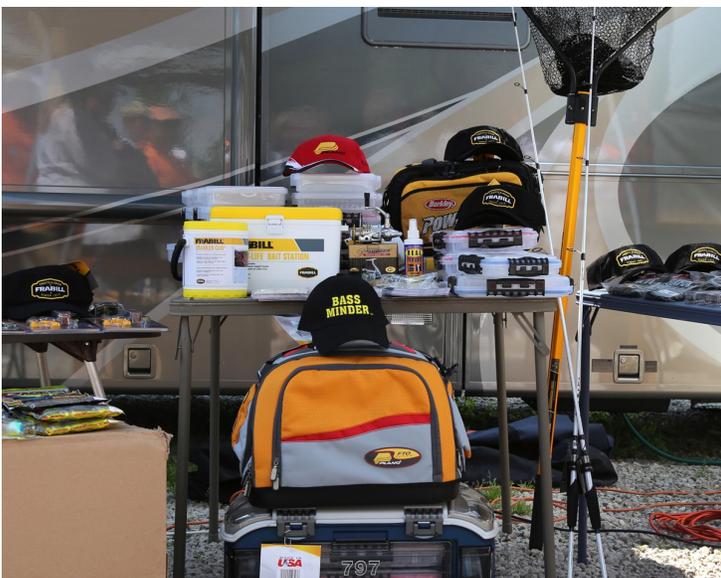
## Spartan Fishing Team Takes Runner-Up Award in the Fishing & Outdoor Radio contest FRABILL'S Illinois High Schools Fish Here!

At the final tournament of this years District 230 Bass Tournament Series on the Des Plaines River, the Spartan Fishing Team was recognized as first runner-up in this year's [FRABILL's Illinois High Schools Fish Here](#) contest, hosted by the [Fishing & Outdoor Radio Show](#).

The team received a prize package valued at over \$1,000 from Frabill, Bolingbrook's Bass Pro Shops, TTI-Blakemore, Plano, XPoint, TruTurn Hooks, StandOut Hooks, Daiichi, Real Magic, Berkley, War Eagle, Bass Minder, Abu Garcia, Pflueger, Berkley PowerBait, Strike King, Rayjus Outdoors and Evon's Trophies (Tinley Park). The Spartan anglers would like to thank Frabill and all the other wonderful companies that sponsored this contest and are helping to promote the high school fishing program.



Above: Host Don Dziedzina, Spartan Angler Matt Hentgen, OL Superintendent Mike Riordan, Head Coach Chris Kuchyt, Spartan Angler Ed Swies, DNR Director Marc Miller, and Host Jim DaRosa.



Above: Runner-up prize table that was awarded to the Spartan Fishing Team.



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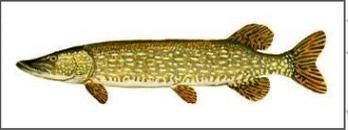
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# Spartan Angler Profiles

<p><b>What is your favorite:</b></p>	<p>Mike Pajor</p> 	<p>Shannon Wiltzius</p> 	<p>Dan Kalinin</p> 
<p><b>Fish to Catch</b></p>	<p>Catfish</p> 	<p>Largemouth Bass</p> 	<p>Northern Pike</p> 
<p><b>Lure</b></p>	<p>Spinnerbait</p> 	<p>Mepps #5</p> 	<p>Little Cleo Spoon</p> 
<p><b>Color</b></p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>Black/Orange</p>	<p>Neon blue</p>
<p><b>Fishing Spot</b></p>	<p>Wisconsin</p>	<p>Lake Katherine, WI</p>	<p>Sheboygan, WI</p>
<p><b>Season to Fish</b></p>	<p>Summer</p>	<p>Summer</p>	<p>Fall</p>
<p><b>Time of Day</b></p>	<p>Morning</p>	<p>Night</p>	<p>Morning/Night</p>
<p><b>Fishing Style</b></p>	<p>Bottom Fishing</p>	<p>Bobber</p>	<p>Casting</p>
<p><b>Dream Fishing Trip</b></p>	<p>Alaska</p>	<p>Fishing the ocean off the Australian Coast</p>	<p>Salmon fishing in Alaska</p>

## Recipe of the Month: Baked Perch

- 1 lb of perch fillets (substitutable with other types)
- Cooking spray
- 2 Tbsp Italian style bread crumbs
- 1 tsp. parsley
- 1½ cup parmesan cheese
- ½ stick of melted butter

Preheat oven at 450° F. Spray baking pan with cooking spray. Create one layer of fillets on bottom of pan, covering the entire bottom. For the topping, mix bread crumbs, parsley, and parmesan cheese. Using a basting brush, spread melted butter on top of fish, and then spread topping covering all of the fillets. Bake fish for 12-15 minutes, depending on the size of the fillets; fish are done when they are white and flakey when tested with a fork.



**Above:** Lauren Cappel with a nice largemouth she caught this spring from Fox Lake.



### Do Bass Remember? By Dane Loya (Grade 11)

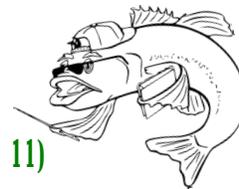
Do Bass remember? What is your take on this question? Based on my research, it looks like they do! According to the Berkley Research Center, bass use many different thinking techniques to learn. A well know bass expert named Keith Jones states that "Bass learn in several different ways." Bass use four special techniques to remember things.

The first type of learning technique bass use is called **associative** learning. This is the same type of learning that we use, commonly known as trial and error. Dr. Jones writes in his book, *The Scientific Approach to Catching More Fish*, "the animal is taught to link two types of stimuli, such as a certain-colored light with an ensuing electric shock. Bass readily learn these associations, both in the lab and in the field, although not as fast as some other species."

The second type of learning is called **habituation**. This means that bass become less scared of things after experiences. An example is when bass hear the boat motor for the first time they would get scared and swim away. When they keep hearing a boat motor almost every day they won't get scared anymore and stay put.

The third type of learning technique that bass use is called **spatial** learning. Spatial learning is the most important learning technique for bass. Bass learn how to move around their environment using spatial learning. According to a Dr. Jones study, bass in his lab have been tested to swim in an underwater maze and are able to reach a specific point. They are able to accomplish this task by using the spatial learning technique.

The fourth and final way bass learn is called **prey images**. This allows the bass to have the ability to develop and recognize their prey. This is how bass identify shad and crawfish as their prey. Dr. Keith Jones states "Given enough positive experience with a certain prey type, a bass will gradually come to actively seek out that specific prey. Prey species, for their part, often counter the bass's efforts by changing their signature stimuli, often through the use of camouflage." This statement shows that bass do remember and they use their intelligence to



hunt for prey they find easiest to hunt.

Although bass remember things, it does not mean that all bass remember everything at the same rate. Just like humans, some of us learn things quickly and some learn slowly. Some bass are smarter than other bass and vice versa. Dr. Jones conducted a four year study in Illinois that had to do with the capture rate of largemouth bass. The average bass was caught twice a season, but some bass were caught up to sixteen times in a single season! In conclusion bass do remember things but not all of them remember things the same rate as others do.



**Summarized from:** [http://bassbuzz.outdoorsfanmedia.com/br\\_news\\_article.asp?thecat=2&ID=257](http://bassbuzz.outdoorsfanmedia.com/br_news_article.asp?thecat=2&ID=257)



## An Exciting 2012 Tournament Season!

The team took part in four bass tournaments this spring. We fished three district 230 bass tournaments on the Des Plaines River. **Matt Hentgen** and **Ed Swies** had the most luck, even qualifying for the Classic tournament on May 19. **Jon Metelski** caught a nice keeper at the April 14 tournament. Many more bass were caught throughout the three tournament days, but most of them were a bit too short to keep.

The team also fished the IHSA sectional bass tournament on Wolf Lake, where **Matt Hentgen** and **Ed Swies** caught three nice bass. As with fishing, you never know what your going to catch. While bass fishing at the sectional tournament, **Mike Hentgen** caught his first ever northern pike, a 24 inch beauty!

Each tournament was a unique experience. We fished through 40 degree, 30mph wind and rain at the sectional tournament to a blistery 90 degree day in the span of one month! Team members changed their techniques and presentations to match the conditions to perform well.



## Congratulations to Our Four Senior Anglers Who Have Graduated This Year!

Dear Seniors—

We hope your Spartan Fishing Team memories have been great ones that you will remember for the rest of your lives! You are the envy of every older fisherman who never had the opportunity to take part in the high school fishing program. We wish you the best and hope that someday, you'll return to help mentor future generations of Spartan anglers!

Sincerely,  
Your Teammates

Omar Abdulla as a sophomore fisherman



Omar as a MASTER ANGLER!



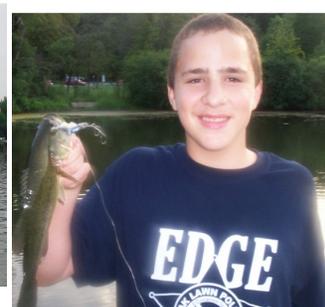
Ben Masek as a freshmen fisherman



Ben as a MASTER ANGLER!



Matt Hentgen as a freshmen fisherman



Matt as a MASTER ANGLER!



Mike Hentgen as a freshmen fisherman



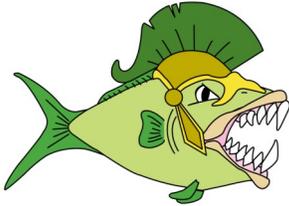
Mike as a MASTER ANGLER!



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.



## 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.

### Fish Fact

Largemouth bass vary in color, depending on the type of water they are in. Bass found in murky water are pale, while those from clear waters are darker.

## 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](#)

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

~John Buchan

[Video of the  
Month:  
Tournament  
Prep with  
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June 2012

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- 5 Turtle
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- 7 Andes Mint Avalanche
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- 9 Really Reese's
- 10 Cherry Cheesecake
- 11 M&M's Swirl
- 12 Turtle
- 13 Double Strawberry
- 14 Caramel Cashew
- 15 Chocolate Dream
- 16 Chocolate Caramel Twist
- 17 Butter Pecan
- 18 Bonfire S'mores
- 19 Turtle
- 20 Chocolate Raspberry
- 21 Orange Creamsicle
- 22 Butterfinger Pecan
- 23 Caramel Fudge Cookie Dough
- 24 Chocolate Éclair
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- 26 Turtle
- 27 Just Drummy
- 28 Key Lime Custard Pie
- 29 Oreo Overload
- 30 Brownie Thunder

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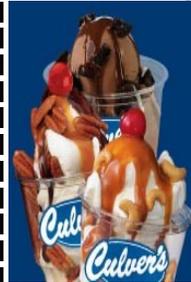
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# Fish Tales Fishing Club

***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 115<sup>th</sup> Street*

*Alsip, IL 60655*

[www.midwestmuskyclub.com](http://www.midwestmuskyclub.com)

**Meetings:** We meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30PM  
@ The Village Sportsman's Club (5201 W. 115<sup>th</sup> 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:

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!





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