

OSWEGOLAND FISHIN' FOOLS



FISHIN' LINE

**September/October
2020**

The Oswegoland Fishin' Fools is a multi-species fishing club. We meet the 1st Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Oswego Police Department located at 3355 Woolley Road in Oswego. The Community Room.

Visit us on the Web at: <http://www.fishinfools.org>

President's Ponderings By Danny Cossich



I was recently at the Doctors office for a checkup and we were discussing how dangerous COVID19 is and how we can't understand why some people don't take it seriously to the point that even at their own

establishments they don't require their workers to wear masks. Do these establishments think that only local residents will patronize and that these locals never travel anywhere? This made me think about social distancing and fishing. Yes, fishing is safe, but with some exceptions. Not everyone is practicing social distancing, just go to the docks and observe and I guarantee that not everyone you see fishing together live in the same household. I decided to look up guidelines from the CDC on COVID-19 and fishing. Here are some basic guidelines for safe fishing during this Pandemic. 1) Stay home if you are sick, showing or feeling any COVID-19 symptoms; 2) Practice social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet of distance between you and your partner. A good way to measure is with your fishing

pole; 3) Follow CDC guidelines, such as wearing a mask; 4) Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; 5) Wash hands often or use an alcohol-based sanitizer; 6) Drive to your fishing spots only with immediate family members and only if everyone is feeling well; 8) Don't share fishing gear with others. Each angler should have their own fishing gear (rod and reel, bait, lures, towels, pliers, net and other personal items); and 9) Follow any other guidelines that may be developed by the CDC and if you travel, make sure you are following that State's guidelines as well. If you are not concerned about yourself, at least be considered to others. You just don't know about others health issues and what you may be carrying. **BE SAFE!**

Got a great fish photo or story? Share it in our newsletter. Send photos and/or stories to the newsletter in care of Jeff Nieland at: jjnieland@gmail.com



FISH OF THE MONTH

June

Jeff Nieland



25" Drum Caught: Lake Winnebago on a jig and nightcrawler Date: June 26, 2020

If you have a favorite place to fish, please share your spot and write a little synopsis of what makes it special. Send it to jjnieland@gmail.com



FISH OF THE MONTH

July

Mark Lutz



16" Smallmouth Bass Caught: DuPage River

Bait: Gurgler Fly Date: July 2, 2020

Your donation of aluminum cans and batteries helps our club pay for speakers and programs that benefit YOU! Please be generous and DONATE!

Crab Orchard Lake has fabulous crappie

by Lee Keck in Riverbender.com

Every once-in-awhile, I'll recall one of my more memorable fishing trips. And, this particular outing with the so-called Fatman was one of those golden memories.

As I recall, we hadn't been on the water more than ten minutes when Larry "Fatman" Fitch set his hook into one of Crab Orchard Lake's monster crappie. Measuring somewhere between 14- and 15-inches in length, this fish was one of the largest I'd seen this year.

"These Crab Orchard fish are definitely some of the nicest crappie you'll find in Illinois," Fitch said. "And, it seems like this lake holds plenty of these big crappie every year."

Fitch, like most folks in our state's southern reaches, has been blessed with a nickname. In his particular case, most folks refer to him as the Fatman. Though most folks in this area might disagree, I find this name a bit odd since he really is not particularly heavy.

"Folks here have called me Fatman ever since I was very young," he explained. "In fact, most people

around these parts wouldn't know who you were talking about if you referred to me by my real name."

Furthermore, his son is called Fatboy and, after his birth, his grandson was nicknamed Fatbaby. His telephone answering machine even answers phone calls with a recording something like, "This is the Fatman, leave a message after the beep."

Still, nickname or not, Fatman knows how to catch these Crab Orchard Lake crappie. Even on a very slow fishing day, he always managed to put together a respectable catch of quality crappie within only a few hours.

While other crappie anglers on the very same lake were complaining that the fishing had slowed to a mere crawl, the Fatman was hauling in the big slabs.

"The water temperatures in this lake are still in the low- to mid-sixties," he explained. "Once they cool down into the fifties, we'll likely see this crappie bite explode."

Like most of Crab Orchard's regular crappie anglers, Fatman plays a major role each year in the building and sinking special fish attractors. There are now literally hundreds of these stakebeds, as most locals refer

to these attractors, placed throughout the lake.

The fish seem to use them just much, if not more, than the brushpiles we used to place in this lake," he explained. "Best of all, these stakebeds are much easier to fish and we lose fewer lures and hooks in them."

During these slow fishing times, Fatman's technique was to go from stakebed to stakebed, catching an occasional fish or two from these locations.

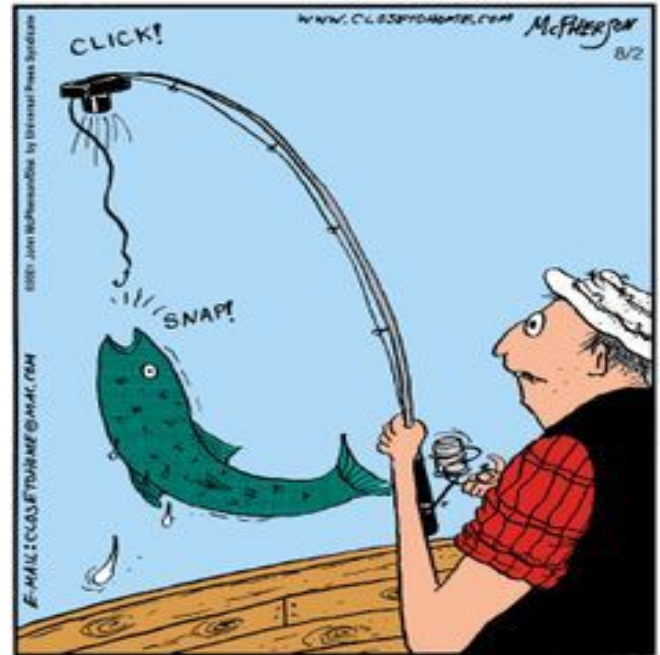
"It currently seems like the stakebeds located in deeper water are the best producers," he explained. "As these waters continue to cool, crappie will start swarming to nearly all the attractors and the fishing will be much better."

With the warmer than average temperatures experienced in recent years, anglers at this lake enjoyed good fishing from January through early spring.

"Right now, I look for the bite to really turn on during November and December," he explained. "And the way things look, this could be a particularly good winter for catching really big crappie from this lake."

Fish Attractor Location maps can be found for crab orchard and other lakes on Illinois DNR website:

www.ifishillinois.org



To help fishermen substantiate the one that got away, Nikon introduces its new Fish-Cam 2000.



"That settles it. We either get a bigger boat, or cut back on the fishing equipment."