

outdoors

Right noise helps bass fishin'

By Lem Messe
outdoors writer

Fishing skill isn't something you learn from a book. It's usually passed by word of mouth, usually from father to son.

One notable exception is my my canoeing and bass-fishing companion, C.O. Jones. C.O., you'll recall, was one of those anglers interviewed in a state Department of Natural Resources survey which showed that most of them would rather catch a single four-pound bass than four one-pounders.

"Don't know I like being described as havin' a 'lunker mentality,'" C.O. wrote me after that column, "unless that means I'm trying to outsmart wizened fish rather than take advantage of children."

(How do you like that guy — referring to one-pounders as children?)

C.O. likes a bass's hearing to radar. "They kin pick up sounds in the water better'n our Navy. All of 'em get cautious when the sound through the water is foreign — like the bang or scratch of something'in' against the boat puts out."

"Near as I can tell, talkin' and other noise above the water don't bother 'em none."

Now here comes his advice: "A bass's sensitivity to noise kin be used to outsmart 'em. If they ain't alarmed and that noise is made to seem like food or an enemy they can bully, they'll often bust it."

"Lots of lures are meant to make attractive noise — blurring, whirring and rattling. Combine such noises with bubbles, and you've got old Mr. Bass

rarin' to strike. Good poppers . . . spinners alone or on plugs . . . some surface divin' plugs . . . some underwater plugs."

The bottom line seems to be, don't bang the boat, but it's OK to use a noisy lure.

It's also OK to talk. C.O. would say that. He likes to babble about politics. Most of his political opinions are nonsense. You can guess which political party he belongs to.

BEFORE YOU IT, the late summer salmon season will be upon us. And the Four Seasons Fishing Club will be ready.

Dan Gresham, captain of the charter boat "Rocky Barker" out of Manistee, will talk about Lake Michigan fishing when the club meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The club's meeting spot is a good jaunt off for many Oakland residents — the Whitman Center, at 32325 W. Chicago between Merriman and Farmington roads in Livonia. But Four Seasons, a family-oriented club, is the only group we know of putting on these kinds of educational programs.

Cap'n Gresham's appearance will be timely because the club is planning a salmon tournament at Manistee the weekend of Aug. 4-6.

THE SOUTHEASTERN chapter of the Michigan Botanical Club will take to the fields at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, at the 10th Annual Botanical Walk. \$20. W. Michigan Botanical Club and Liverworts.

Naturalist Charles R. Barnes will lead a tour of nature trails to see meadow flowers in bloom.

If the group sounds interesting, give a call to Beatrice Sibley at 532-6633.

County road workers get frozen wages

Some 266 hourly employees of the Oakland County Road Commission are at work under a new one-year contract which freezes wages and benefits.

"We hope next year we'll be able to make some money available to us, adding the 1.5 percent increase does," says Richard V. Vass, chairman of the three-member board. "It's no fun living with a freeze."

The pact was ratified by members of Local 92 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Truck drivers, skilled laborers and equipment operators will earn from \$9.92 to \$10.55 an hour.

The road commission cut 65 staff positions at the beginning of the year because state-retired gasoline and weight taxes have fallen.

The contract runs until the end of June. It stipulates that if rates of pay or fringes are increased for any other ORCR employees during the contract term, an increase will be granted the AFSCME members.

The Road Commission said it hopes the Local 92 contract will set the pattern for settlements with other union groups there. All nonunion employees' pay and fringes are currently frozen at 1981 levels.

Anti-nuke group

recalls A-bombings

The Detroit Area Nuclear Freeze Campaign will hold a memorial ceremony Sunday, marking the 27th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

The program will run 2-4 p.m. in Shepard Park on Woodward Avenue in Oak Park.

Participants will carry each a placard naming a place, person or thing he or she would hate to lose in a nuclear attack. They will also make origami (the art of Japanese paper folding) birds commemorating the victims of the bombings.

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