

Backlashes

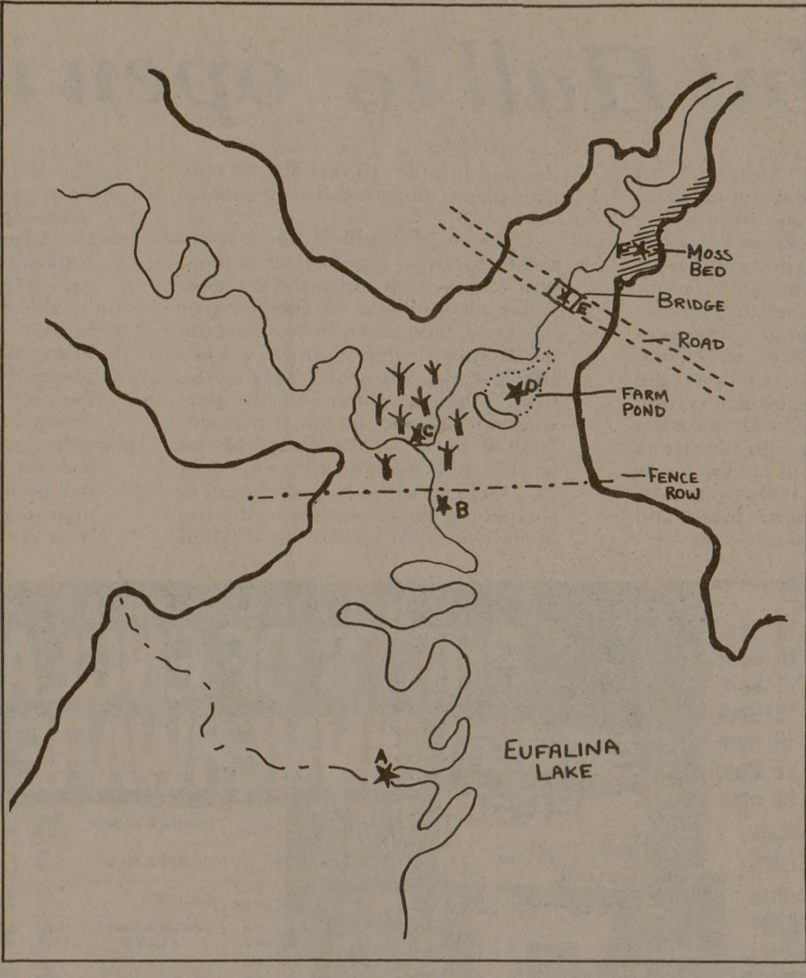
By BRUCE SUBLETT
Battalion Staff Writer



It has been said that 10 per cent of fishermen catch 90 per cent of the fish, and that's about right. The reason is because 10 per cent have the right bait, but that they fish in the right place at the right time. Bryan Lockamy, Bryan Bassmaster last week that if you're casting on the shoreline, 90 per cent of the fish are behind you. Lockamy, like successful tournament fishermen, concentrates on deep-water structure. Structure, simply defined, is any structure in the normal bottom contour. These bass are completely object oriented. They will always be around a certain kind of structure. A bass' idea of structure is something different from a fisherman's. Fishermen tend to think of structure as a sharp rise or drop under a tree stump, a six-inch-deep ditch or an old fence row. Structure to a fish is

Lockamy said the key to successful structure fishing is to keep a close watch on the depthfinder. His system is to study contour maps, pick a certain area, then fish it until he catches one. If he doesn't catch another fish there quickly, he goes over and finds out exactly how deep the first fish was. He then tries the same depth water all the way around the particular structure. If he still hasn't found a concentration, he tries the same thing around similar structure in another area. What he looks for is a pattern. The reason you catch a few fish in one place and then don't catch any more, Lockamy explained, is that the fish have moved, not that they have quit feeding. He compensates for moving fish by fishing the migration routes. A migration route can be a contour line, a creek channel or an old fence

row. When the moving fish reach a break in the migration route, they will usually stop again. Pattern-fishing structure the way Lockamy does is the systematic way to find concentrations of fish. You may pick up scattered fish beating the shoreline to death with a spinnerbait, but the real payoffs come from establishing a pattern and sticking to it. The requirement for structure fishing is a good depthfinder. These little gadgets, which work like SONAR, have revolutionized bass fishing. Once you've fished using one, you won't understand how you ever got along without it. They cost from \$50 to \$500, but you can pick up a pretty good one for about \$100. Besides physical structure, oxygen structure is getting recognized as a big factor in finding fish. The bottom structure might be great but if there's no oxygen, there won't be any fish. An oxygen monitor costs about the same as a depthfinder and is a useful tool. By correlating good bottom structure you locate with the depthfinder with a 6 to 12 parts per million (ppm) oxygen reading, you have found the ideal place for fish. In addition to depthfinders and oxygen meters, there are instant readout thermometers and light intensity meters on the market. By the time you've correlated the data from the depthfinder, the oxygen meter, the thermometer and the light intensity meter, you have a PhD. in Environmental Engineering and have found the one cubic foot of water in the lake with all the fish in it. The point is, the conditions don't have to be perfect. Sure, we'd all like to find an area with a roadbed that runs into a farm pond next to a creek channel with 8 ppm of oxygen at 72 degrees and a light intensity of .05. We'd also like to have free beer waiting at the dock. Fish are going to be in the area that comes closest to being perfect. That doesn't mean that fish in the jungle at Livingston are going to move to the dam because the water is five degrees cooler there. They're going to make do with what they have. My system is to pick an area, then look it over to find the places that come closest to being perfect. Then I work them hard. I won't give up on a good-looking area just because I didn't catch any the first pass. I'll change baits or colors and try it again and again. Then I quit. There's no sense being a damn fool about it. Scientific fishing is based on one principle and one principle only: fish are cold-blooded beasts governed entirely by their environment. Remember that and you'll catch more of those "smart" bass.



If the concentration of fish is at point A and they want to get to the feeding grounds at point F, they have several possible migration routes. They can follow the creek channel all the way up, stopping at points B, C, D and E. They can go from A to B, then follow the fence line to the shoreline and up to the moss beds, or they can just cut across the flats from A to F. They're most likely to follow the creek, so you should concentrate your efforts on points A, B, C, D, E and F, moving from one to the next as the fish move.

Baseball men in negotiations

Associated Press
NEW YORK — The baseball owners, once calling for fastballs but now signaling for the slow stuff, get back to the bargaining table Wednesday with the Players Association. It's the 34th negotiating session between the two sides. The bargaining for a new contract has been in limbo for the past week since the owners had turned their attentions toward an internal matter-expansion. During the one-week layoff, the Players Association said it was willing and able to meet every day, but the owners' minds apparently were elsewhere. Both the American League and National league were racing to get an expansion team into Toronto. The American League got there first, but the official results haven't been posted yet because, on Monday, the National League appealed to the chief steward, Commissioner Bowie Kuhn.

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Batt sports

Fans vote Sonny Parker to elite team

By MARLA GAMMON
Basketball fans nationwide probably know a good player when they see one when Texas A&M's Sonny Parker was selected to play in the annual Pizza Hut Basketball Invitational. Parker, a senior at Texas A&M, led the Aggies to two consecutive SWC crowns during his stay at A&M. He was twice voted All-SWC and was named the Most Valuable Player in the conference both years. He attended Mineral Area Junior College in Flatonia, Mo., where he was All-America and Player of the Year two years. He was also the leading scorer in junior college Region 16. Sonny P. was the Aggies' leading scorer this year with a 20.8 game average. He was the mainstay of a team that fought back after the suspension of two starters to win the SWC crown. For his efforts he was named Most Valuable Player of District 6 for the 1976 season. Aggie assistant coach Norman Reuther was pleased with the fans selection of Parker. "We're tickled to death about it," he said. "I feel like anyone who pulled that many votes nationwide has got to be of all-America standing in the fans' point of view. "I'm glad he's representing the conference along with Rick Bullock. He won't be just a filler. He'll be one of the best ones there." Sonny P. plans to play pro ball and has already been contacted by several pro scouts. "I'm letting my lawyer friend take care of that," he said, "so I can concentrate on getting out of school." Touted by Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf throughout the year as "the best player I've seen in the conference in my 18 years here," Sonny P. will be missed by the Aggies next year. He proved he's a good one, and the fans know it.

Parker and Rick Bullock from Texas Tech will represent the West Conference at the game. They will be joined by Willie Smith from Missouri, Ed Smith from Utah State, Barry Sabas from Colorado State, Jim Hearn from Marymount, Terry Bailey from Texas State, and Ron Lee from Texas Tech.

Texas Relays Opens

Associated Press
AUSTIN — Eleven Olympic hopefuls, including some college performers, opened the annual Texas Relays today with a revised format. Traditionally open only to collegians and schoolboys, the meet for the first time will include individual performers from college to give them a chance to qualify for the Olympic tryouts. The decathlon was split into five events today and Thursday. The 100-meter run also will be held today, with other events Friday and Saturday.

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