

Don't miss a monster bass: RESPOOL

By Ken Cook
Special to the Sun

MEERS, Oklahoma — Fishing experiences can range from both the pleasure that comes from catching a fish to the pain and frustration that comes when "the big one" gets away. For every successful fish story you might hear at the boat ramp, there are probably many more tales anglers left in disbelief as the fish of their dreams breaks their line — never to be seen again.

For those of you fishing for fun, the heartbreak is usually temporary. For those of us who fish for a living, that same heartbreak can also break the bank. One missed fish can be the difference between cashing a paycheck and going broke. That's why professionals — myself included — make every effort to minimize the chances of this happening to us. First and foremost, we start with our fishing line.

Your fishing line is the only connection between you and the fish. Fishing line, as it ages, comes into contact with many things that all work to break it down and make it weaker. The repeated stress and strain of fighting big fish, rubbing on rocks and timber, sunlight, water, even a fish's teeth can cause your line to become weak and more likely to break the next time you're fighting that big fish.

The best approach is a proactive approach. That's why I re-spool my reels after each day of competi-

tion. It takes some time and costs some money, but it's better to spend a few dollars on fishing line than those several thousand because I lost a fish. For those of you who aren't fishing every day, the best thing to do is carefully examine your line before each trip, look for cuts and abrasions. If your reels have been sitting in the garage for a long time or if they spend a lot of time in the sun, take the time to re-spool them. If you use colored line, check the colorfastness. If the color has faded, chances are that it is time to re-spool.

I prefer to keep bulk spools for re-spooling because it helps me save money and time. I keep them closed in a cabinet in a cool, dry place with the date of purchase written on each spool. It is important to store the line away from sunlight and moisture.

Today's technology means has brought us superior fluorocarbon line like Berkley Vanish[®] and superlines like Berkley Fireline[®], tools that give anglers the strong, manageable line they need to land big fish. But even the best line can wear down after prolonged use. Whether you fish for fun or for a paycheck, it's better to be safe than sorry. Re-spool often and avoid the heartbreak of a lost fish.

(ED. NOTE: Ken Cook is the 1991 Bassmaster Classic champion and a 14-time Classic qualifier. A former fisheries biologist, Cook lives on his ranch in Oklahoma.)



23-pounds wins wet Gilberttown Bass Open

On Saturday April 14th the Gilberttown Bass Club held its Spring Open Tournament amidst thunder storms and rain. Despite the weather, 32 boats participated with a total of 61 anglers. When the tournament concluded the winner was Gary Garrick with an amazing weight of 23 lbs. 14 oz. and the lunker weighing in at 8 lbs. 10.5 oz.

Garrick is pictured (middle) holding his 'BIG' catch with Gilberttown Bass Club President Ben Etheredge and Tyler Stephens.

Second place - George Kendrick and Russell Bullock with 13 lb. 3.5 oz. Third place - Robert Agerton and Jimmy Simmons with 12 lbs. 10 oz. Fourth Place - Kenny Jones and David Culppepper with 11 lbs 15.5 oz.

The next Gilberttown Bass Club open tournament is June 16th in Demopolis, Alabama.



Chandler's first turkey!

WIMBERLEY — Ten-year old Chandler Presley killed his first turkey on opening day with his uncle, Steve Presley on the Mid Star Hunting Club on Wimberley Road. The turkey weighed 12 pounds and had one-half inch spurs. It was a young jake.



Submitted photos

First gobbler for Evan!

GILBERTTOWN — Evan Retherford killed his first gobbler on April 8, 2007. The turkey sported a nine-inch beard and 1-1/8-inch spurs.

Common Fishing Knots

The Fisherman's Knot/Improved Clinch Knot

(A general purpose fishing knot)

The Uniknot

One of the best all purpose fishing knots!

Palomar Knot

The Palomar fishing knot is a general-purpose connection used in joining fishing line to swivels, snaps, hooks and artificial lures. The double wrap of the line through the eyelet provides a protective cushion for added fishing knot strength.

The Braid Knot

This special fishing knot has been proven to be one of the best for use with braided lines.

Arbor Knot

The Arbor Knot provides the angler with a quick, easy connection for attaching line to the reel spool.

The Blood Knot

This fishing knot is used for tying two pieces of monofilament together of relatively equal diameters.

(learn to tie these knots by logging on to bassresource.com/fish/knots.html)

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