The Best Laid Plans...Yada, Yada

Last month Brian Liles and I took a trip to Lake Texoma in order to learn something about the lake ahead of a tournament in October. Labor Day weekend was not the best time to go, but it was convenient and we didn’t expect to catch a boat load never having been on the lake before. However, we never dreamed it would be a test of our patience and perseverance.

A front had come through a couple of days before and shut the bass down hard. On Friday afternoon we caught 2 keepers, Saturday, after fishing 10 1/2 hours, we had 4 keepers to show for our efforts and only had one bite after 9:30 am. Sunday morning 2 keepers had decided to take pity on us.

What did we learn after it was all over? Well, Lake Texoma sucks in the summer. There is a reason you don’t hear of it as a “hotbed” of bass fishing -- no grass, no brush, no timber. The only structure on the Texas side is ROCKS -- big rocks and small rocks -- and on the Oklahoma side there is sand, dirt, and dirt and sand. What Lake Texoma has a lot of is pleasure craft, real big boats which will push a 4 ft wake with no problem and for the most part have idiots driving them. There would be one a mile away in the open water who would turn, come right to us and run 50 ft by us, wave at us, then turn back to the middle of the lake.

The other thing it has is what it’s famous for -- Stripers which are everywhere. We caught 10-15 Friday afternoon out of a 2 acre school of fish. Our plan had been to go over, learn a little about the lake, get a pattern started, catch a few bass, gain some confidence and go home. What actually happened was that we learned where there were no fish, there was no real pattern, and we were left scratching our heads on the way home. This lake has all the makings of a tough tournament... just the way I like it.

The Lighter Side

What are the real definitions of:

A fisherman’s thumb - A temporary hook holder.
Live bait - The biggest fish you will handle all day.
A treble hook - A hook that trebles your odds of catching a fish but quadruples the odds of catching you.
Line 1 - Something you give your buddies on Monday, when they ask how your fishing trip went.
Point - What everyone at the ramp does when you forget to put your plug in.
Finesse fishing - Talking your wife into letting you go.
Line 2 - What you give your wife when you come back late from fishing.
Backlash - What you get from your wife after you give her your line.
Bed - Where you will not sleep if she does not buy your line.