

# Arlington Anglers

## *Build Confidence and Catch More*



### Bob Diebold

Too many fishermen hit a fishing mindset overload with the barrage of fishing television programs, magazine articles, and web sites. The media explosion has allowed us to experience every fishing tournament in the country with the elite tournament fishermen on the most prolific lakes using the best electronics and guides available. The next step is to visit Cabela's and come home with a custom signature rod, the newest 45:1 bait casting reel able to winch huge fish out of a redwood forest using super-duper braided shark line, and a boatload of the newest lures guaranteed never to catch a fish. The first couple of spring fishing trips roll around and you can't figure out why you have not caught a fish.

There are a lot of variables that could support that unsatisfactory outcome, but Bob Bobich at the May Arlington Anglers Meeting laid out some basic techniques that can be mastered by all fishermen that increase your fishing confidence and thereby increase your fishing success. Learn how to slow down your presentations and use some very effective Finesse Rigs to put more fish in the boat.

In weedy situations, **Wacky rigged** plastic worms are effective. Using no more than 12-14# test line, insert the point of the 1/0 hook just to the rear of the egg sack on the plastic worm. Continue down the center and exit on the same side of the egg sack, with the point of the hook and the shank end both lined up parallel to the worm. Adding a weed guard to the hook results in a kill-

er bass lure that floats slowly down thru vegetation.

The **Mojo Rig** is similar to a Carolina Rig but less weight. Put a small cylindrical sinker (1/8 to 1/4 oz.) at least 18" above the light wire offset shank wide gap hook. Use any plastic bait, 10" worm down to a smaller finesse worm. By using less weight, the fish feel less resistance when they pick it up and will hold it longer.



Fishing Coach and Tourney Fisherman, Bob Bobich, helps out with the raffle at the May Meeting. PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

Learn how to tie and work a **Drop-Shot** rig that works consistently for most species, all depths, and all kinds of conditions. Using a Palomar knot and 12-14# line, tie on a 1/0 wire hook leaving a long tag. A simple small bell sinker (or a more expensive drop-shot weight) is tied to the end of the tag, adjusting the length depending on the weed height or suspension height of the fish. Cast it out and let it sink. Keep a tight line and give the bait a few delicate shakes. Pause. Reel slowly only a crank. Shake again and repeat. The key is finessing slowly with

tiny shakes. If it feels like a weed tick, it's probably a fish!

The **Carolina Rig** is very popular and Bob suggests keeping it light using a 1/8 oz. bullet sinker, no heavier than 12# test line, a light wire offset shank wide gap 1/0 hook, and a small worm or craw in bright colors and a wiggle-type tail. The slow fall with the light weight allows a fish to get a better look and it's easier to pull thru cover.

There are many other effective "finesse" rigs:

The **Ned Rig** is just a small chunk of soft plastic stick bait (think Senko piece) threaded onto the shank portion of an ultralight 1/16 to 1/8-ounce jig head that imparts a really slow, gliding fall that big bass can't resist.

The **Neko Rig** is a wacky rigged version of your favorite soft plastic stick bait and then inserting a finishing nail, drywall screw, or specialized lead insert weight into one end. It falls faster with a crazy darting and gliding action. Once it hits bottom, it stands on one end and little shakes of the rod tip make it "jump" off the bottom. It was developed in Japan for deep water presentations.

Use a bright colored **Floating Worm** on a 3/0 or 4/0 hook with an 18" leader to a swivel. Kink up the worm a little bit to make it move like a snake. Use during spawning. When it disappears, you have a bass.

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**4" Swim Baits** can be deadly, rigged on a weighted hook or jig. Shad and minnow colors are best. Cast to locate fish or get thru weeds with ease.

Just a few more finesse tips to insure success: To reduce tangles and increase confidence, use a spin cast reel spooled with braid and a fluorocarbon leader. Down size baits. Cast out to deep water and let the jig fall on slack line. Take up the slack until you feel the weight. Shake the bait a few times only using the rod tip. Repeat a few times without moving the weight. Slowly reel a couple of feet. Repeat the shake routine. Continue until the rig is straight underneath you. The bite is usually light or a swim away. Set the hook with a sweep, not overhead motion. Fan cast the entire area. If you don't get bit, change colors or leader lengths.

If you want to learn about bass techniques and find valuable links, go to [www.cougarsfishingclub.net](http://www.cougarsfishingclub.net) under Resources. Bob Bobich is a tournament angler and also a coach for the Plainfield South High School Fishing Team. You can contact Bob at 815-690-3924 or RBobich@comcast.net.

Dates to remember:

**June 3-10 - Outing - Boundary Waters, Ely, MN, [www.latourells.com](http://www.latourells.com)**

**June 4 - Event - Crabtree Kids Fishing Derby**

**June 4 - Event - Cabela's Busse Lake Fishing Derby**

**June 16-18 - Outing - Lake Winnebago - Wisconsin**

**June 20 - Meeting - Speaker Cory Yarmuth, Salmon and Trout in Lake Michigan Tributaries**

**June 24 - Outing - Lake Geneva**

**July 18 - Meeting - Speaker - Matt Cat-Matt Jones, Catfish Seminar**

Come to one of our meetings to find out more about our club, activities, and outings. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM (**Note new times**). We meet at Cabela's which is located at 5225 Prairie Stone Pkwy, Hoffman Estates, IL just off I-90 at Illinois Rt. 59. Door prizes, speaker, raffles, For further information, call our President Tom Curtin at 312-560-9876.



Arlington Anglers Junior Azevedo holds two of the early run female white bass on the cold Wolf River on 5/4. There were no lilacs blooming yet in Fremont.  
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

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Arlington Anglers Greg Michela proudly displays his 20" largemouth bass caught in May on Lake Delavan on what else, but a jig and minnow.  
PHOTO BY:  
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Pretty nice 19.5" small mouth bass caught by Arlington Angler, Wayne Wagner, in Canada, eh??  
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS



Arlington Anglers Phil Steiner prominently holds a pre-spawn largemouth bass caught in May on a chilly Lake Geneva.  
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS