

Tight Lines Newsletter

www.arlingtonanglers.com

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Presidents Note:

Even though early Spring has been a bit chilly the open water fishing season is already starting to heat up. Lots of Facebook fishing groups sharing pics of local river Smallies and reports of Walleye catches during pre-spawn movements.

We tried intercepting some of these Walleyes on our first club outing to the Wisconsin River near the Dells at the end of March. Read the trip review in this issue for how we did.



Club t-shirts will be on sale starting at the April meeting. Samples will be on hand. Check out the article on page 4 for details. Also, see the new member profiles on pages 7 & 8.

Please come to the meeting early and stay late to network with others. Food and beverages will be available before, during and after.

Chris Popp - President

We last reported members Bert Saxon and Dave McCoy were in their first H2H Walleye team tourney on the Fox in DePere, WI. As rookies they did great finishing 5th ahead of a number of pros.

On April 2nd Illinois catchable trout season opened around the state. That's a beauty Rainbow I caught along with 3 other smaller ones. A small silver Little Cleo did the job.

This Month's Speaker

We have another very popular and knowledgeable speaker joining us in April. Andrew Ragas, owner of Northwoods Bass Fishing Adventures will be talking about pursuing early season Smallmouth Bass.

From developing strategies for locating fish in various bodies of water to the techniques and presentations to tempt them, Andrew's tips and tactics will help you get on the bronze whether you are looking for size or numbers.

Key Dates

Club Meetings

Apr 19
May 17

Outings

Lake Shelbyville
Apr 28 - May 1
Lake Wisconsin
May 12-15

Swap Meets

Riverside FC
LaGrange IL
Apr 30

This Month's Speaker

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



Visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Andrew Ragas

Catching Spring Smallies – Lures & Locations



Andrew Ragas own/operates Northwoods Bass Fishing Adventures, LLC. His passion and knowledge for bass fishing in WI's Northwoods is extensive, and he is excited to give our audience a virtual tour of what it's like to catch big smallmouths on a variety of strategies. He'll talk more in-depth about lure types and their applications, along with identifying common locations on every lake. His shortcuts will enable you to consistently catch more and bigger bass wherever you fish at this spring. Please welcome Andrew back to the club!

Club Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month Jan.- Nov.

**Poplar Creek Banquets
2354 W. Higgins Rd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169**

**Guests Welcome
Fee \$3 members | \$8 non
6:30 PM Start**

Bob's Fishing Report by Bob Diebold



Typical Spring weather fluctuations of temp & rain has returned. Look for warmer water for active fish. Remember: 2022 fishing licenses are now required.

LOCAL PONDS: Crappies hitting plastics below slip bobbers. Bass just starting on plastics & suspended jerk baits.

CHAIN O'LAKES: Many finding walleyes with crawlers on main lake points or current areas. Crappies good in channels or channel mouths depending on water temps and levels especially on Bluff and Petite.

BRAIDWOOD: Largemouth bass action improving using small finesse worm baits.

LASALLE: Seeing good sized blues, hybrids, and blue gills.

WOLF RIVER: Walleyes starting to run.

GENEVA: Lake is still very cold, but hearty fishermen are catching crappies and walleyes in shallow water.

GREEN BAY: Great walleyes in the Fox and Menominee Rivers. Last ice fishing in Door County are finding whitefish, walleyes, pike, and browns.

CHICAGO: Perch being caught in slips and harbors. Catching some lake trout and cohos on powerlines or body baits. Or try bottom fishing for browns and lakers. Smelt: Forgetaboutit!

NORTHPOINT/WAUKEGAN: Powerliners doing good on cohos. Surprise perch from shore. Trolling action for cohos and lakers is starting.

LAKE MICHIGAN: Boaters starting to catch limits of cohos from Chicago to St. Joseph.

FOREST PRESERVES: Bluegills and LM bass becoming active along with residual trout.

Last Month's Speaker by Brian O'Connor



This column provides three of the many takeaways from the last month's speaker. Johnny Wilkins is owner of the Chicago Fishing School. He was talking about how the average angler can catch more fish.

Johnny is a proponent of live bait fishing. He believes fish can tell the difference and that live bait always beats out artificials.

He says don't worry about the line test on your reel as long as it is fresh. Spend money on a quality fluoro carbon leader of 12-24" as that is the only part of the line that a fish may see.

Johnny keeps the heavy fluoro line at home and goes with 2-4 lb with a 10-12 ft rod to absorb fish runs. He also brings a net to avoid line stress when fish are close to capture.

(Continued next page)

More Last Speaker (continued from previous page)



Johnny believes the smaller the terminal tackle the better. He uses small ultra sharp Owner hooks to allow bait, such as spikes or small minnows, to remain active as possible. The lighter hooks also allow the fish to inhale the bait easier.

He also uses small thin floats attached at the bottom and balanced with micro-shot near the connection and one more nearer the hook. This reduces the resistance the fish feels and allows the lines to be submerged to lessen the effect of wind and waves, maintaining position.

March Meeting 50/50 Winner



In addition to our door prizes, which all attendees have about a 1 in 4 chance of winning, we also hold a separate product raffle or a 50/50 each month, where the winner gets half the pot, with the other half going to the club. In March we went the 50/50 route.

Winner was long time member Ray Bruntz, visiting from our Tennessee chapter, who pocketed \$75. Congrats Ray!

In April we'll be raffling off an inflatable life preserver valued at \$100. A second place prize will also be given out. Please be generous with your ticket purchases. It's a big help to cover club expenses.

New Arlington Anglers Apparel



We are excited to announce that new Arlington Anglers apparel will now be available. Two styles of tee shirts will be offered, a short sleeve and long sleeve, in cotton/poly blends.

For men we are planning a selection of three colors, olive, sand, and white, in sizes from Medium to 2XL. Women cuts will be available in pink and white, in sizes Medium to XL.

Costs for the short sleeve tee will be \$15. The long sleeves will be \$20. All orders must be pre-paid by cash or check.

Samples can be viewed at the April meeting where pre-orders will be taken.

We will also be accepting orders at the May meeting. A printable form will also be posted on our website for mail in orders.

Wisconsin River Club Outing Report



From March 27-29 the Wisconsin River, near the Dells dam, was the destination for 13 club participants. With 7 new 2022 members on the docket it was a great way for them to get involved and quickly meet other members.



Staying at the beautiful and well appointed River's Edge Resort, we rented the big house as home base. With 4 bedrooms, a bunk room, huge eat-in kitchen/dining room and a nice family room it easily handled 9 of us. Another smaller cabin took care of the overflow.



On the Sunday afternoon arrival we all gathered at home base to get to know each other and plan the next day's strategies. Then we headed to the on-site restaurant, as we did again on Monday night, to enjoy good food and camaraderie. We also had breakfast as a group the following mornings.



As for the fishing, well, it was tough. Temps were in the high 20s to start, eventually creeping just above freezing. With recent rain storms the dam floodgates were all open and the current was ripping making boat and bait control a challenge. A few fish were caught on jigs w/minnows but action was admittedly slow. A lack of river fishing experience by a majority of the participants also surely contributed to the lower catch rate.



8 members decided the conditions weren't optimal and headed home after breakfast the second day. 5 others gutted it out and had a bit more success on walleye and sauger.



Regardless the issues every one felt the outing was a lot of fun as an early season outing. And a lot of new friendships were initiated. All expressed a desire to try it again next year hoping the weather will be more bearable. And with a year's experience under their belt more success will surely come.



Big Fish of the Month



Big Fish of the Month goes to Bert Saxon for his 39.25" Flathead Catfish. Bert was pre-fishing for a walleye tournament on the Fox River in DePere, Wisc and got quite a surprise!

Bert was casting and hopping back a B-Fishin paddle tail on a 3/8 oz blue jighead using a Grandt Fin-S 7ft rod with 10lb Suffix braid and a 12lb Seagar flouro-carbon leader.

Bert also caught a 39" Muskie along with a number of nice pre-spawn walleyes using similar techniques.

Honorable mention



Dave McCoy boated this amazing 8lb 11oz Walleye during the recent H2H tourny on the Fox River that he was fishing as a team with Bert Saxon. It turned out to be the big fish of the tournament.

Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month goes to member Wayne Wagner's grandson Everett, holding two nice crappies caught last weekend.

Everett and other family members were on a guided trip with T-Bone Guide Service on the Fox Chain.

Please share your love of fishing with your child, grandchild, neice or nephew. Submit some pictures when you do!

The beast came on a Rippin Rap that resulted in a bonus for the duo. As the provided "secret lure" of the day, the weight of any fish caught on it doubled, allowing them to leap frog several other competitors.



Getting To Know 2022 New Club Members



Al Matz hails from Des Plaines where he lives with his wife. He has 4 married children and 5 grandchildren. He's been retired for 2 years from being a tool engineer for a metal stamping company.

Al has a 16 ft. Deep V Lund boat with a 30 HP Honda motor all set for fishing adventures.

Al likes fishing for a variety of species including lake trout, walleye, as well as smallmouth and largemouth bass.

He joined the club to meet and hook up with other anglers. He usually has been fishing alone.

So, if you are looking for a ride on the water, Al may be your guy.



Bob Johnson resides in Long Grove with his wife. He has 4 kids and 12 grandkids! He is semi retired as President of V. Formusa Co, makers of Marconi Foods.

Bob has a Godfrey pontoon boat moored at a slip on Channel Lake on the Fox Chain. It's rigged for fishing but it's also a fun boat for the family.

Bob like fishing primarily for bass and walleye.

He joined the club to meet new fisherman and learn some new good fishing tips from them.

If you are looking to try the Chain for some local action Bob seems a great guy to get to know.



Daniel Mui has lived with his wife in Skokie for 35+ years. He is a retired electrician but still works part time because he enjoys sharing his knowledge. He also likes bird watching, gardening and his aquarium.

He doesn't own a boat but has an old 7.5 HP Gamefisher motor and a Minn Kota trolling motor.

Daniel mostly enjoys bass fishing but like to try for species he hasn't pursued before. His goal is to catch bigger fish than he did the last time out.

He joined the club to meet people with similar interests and learn more about fishing from them. Also, to get out in a group and make new friends.

More 2022 New Member Profiles



Jeff Rowland presently lives in Streamwood. He is single and without any kids. He works full time at a nursing home as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

Jeff is part owner of a 16 foot Smokercraft aluminum boat, but he only has an electric trolling motor to drive it.

Jeff most often fishes for largemouth bass and crappie but he will fish for anything when given the chance.

Jeff joined the club to meet other local fisherman, maybe go on a club trip, and to learn new tips and techniques from others.



Larry Nolan lives in St. Charles with Cathy, his wife of 54 years. They have a daughter, 2 sons and 8 grandchildren. He is retired after 30 years managing the Fox Valley Rifle Range and another 20 doing design work at Engineering Enterprises in Sugar Grove.

Larry has almost no experience in open water fishing. He only recently started on the ice.

Larry decided to finally join the club at the recommendation of his friend, long time member Dave Rohlwing.

He has already signed up for a couple outings and is looking forward to trying to become an avid and reasonably good fisherman, as well as getting to know as many of his fellow club members as he can.



Jay Babowice lives most of the time in Wood Dale, but spends a lot of time at his condo in Fontana WI, especially in the Summer. He is presently retired from the marketing and sales management field.

Jay's main ride is a Lund 1650 Rebel, but he also has a Hurricane deck boat which he likes to call his "beer boat".

Jay likes to fish for bass and spends most of his time on Lake Geneva. However, he's open to trying new techniques and chasing different species.

Jay joined our group as an alternative to the Lake Geneva fishing club, which has a different focus. He was an officer in that club for 3 years.

Renew Your Membership or Join The Club

Yearly dues are the financial life-blood of our club. They pay our speakers, insurance, shows, pizza party, and other operating expenses. Presently, our annual family membership is \$40.00. Please renew or join today!

We've now added Zelle quick pay to our options: (arlangfc19@gmail.com). So, 3 ways to pay: (1)Zelle, (2)at a meeting, or (3)check by mail. New members - use the form below or visit our "Join Our Club" web page.

Bring checks made out to "Arlington Anglers" to a meeting or mail to:

Arlington Anglers
C/O Rich Sutton
719 W. Catino St.
Arlington Hts., IL 60005



We're on the Web!

www.arlingtonanglers.com

or

QR Code (to the right)

or

FACEBOOK at: Arlington Anglers



Fill out completely and mail with your check.

Today's Date: ___/___/___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Email Address: _____

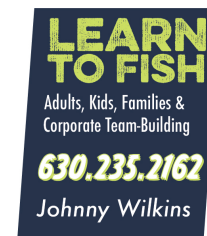
Swap Shop

The Swap Shop is for members only. If you have something you would like to sell or looking to buy, please contact our Newsletter Editor Bob Diebold for more information. Items will be posted for a limited time. Please advise when no longer available.

Sponsor Page - Please support those that support us.



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Member Discounts

Being a member of the Arlington Anglers comes with many benefits. The following is a list of sponsors that offer discounts to our members with membership cards:



GRANDT RODS

GRANDT INDUSTRIES INC.,
PO Box 772, Arlington Heights, IL. 60006
847-577-0848 Jim Grandt
Website: www.grandtrods.com
Discount: 20% off internet rod prices, plus free hat (while in stock). Free pickup in Arlington Heights. Also, any Pflueger reel in stock can be purchased to create a combo at \$15 off internet retail price. **(Must show membership card at pickup)**
Standard shipping costs apply if products are shipped.



LAKE COUNTY WATER SPORTS

530 S. Rand Rd. Wauconda IL. 60006
847-526-2211 – Mike Salisbury
Website: Lakecountywatersports.com
Discount: 10% on parts thru May (mention Bert Saxon)



ANGLERS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

1272 E. Dundee Rd. Palatine IL 60074
847-991-3200
Website: FishinGurus.com
Discount: 15% on tackle / 20% on bait



LEE'S BAIT AND TACKLE (2 Locations)

1010 East Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-593-6424
1400 W. Army Trail Rd., Carol Stream, IL. 60188
630-830-5337
Website: Leesglobaltackle.com
Discount: 10% minimum on all tackle, depending on manufacturer.



LiveBaitFishingTackle.com

Online or 630-235-2162
Discount: 15% off floats, line, tackle, rods, reels & bait
Use code "arlington" at checkout. Also, 15% off lessons, classes, and guiding at Chicagofishingschool.com.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR 2022 MEMBERSHIP CARD AT THE STORE. BE AWARE SOME MANUFACTURERS DO NOT ALLOW DISCOUNTS BY THEIR DEALERS.