

# Tight Lines Newsletter

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[www.arlingtonanglers.com](http://www.arlingtonanglers.com)

## Presidents Note:

Is anyone else starting to get Spring Fever? While the Winter hasn't been bad, it's hanging on. I got out for a couple short outings but I'd prefer some warmer weather. You?

Wow, our February meeting was awesome. The largest attendance maybe ever! Our speaker was great and we began a series of upgraded raffle prizes we are planning for all year long. Bummer if you weren't there. Don't miss March. We are raffling off a guided fishing trip!



We highlight 6 more new members in this issue. Check out their profiles and introduce yourself when you see them. They joined to meet new people. Let's all help to make them feel welcome.

Please get to the March meeting early for registration. We are expecting a big crowd again and want to start on time. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Chris Popp - President

The winners of our Midwest Outdoors subscription promo will be contacted shortly. If you win but already get the magazine let me know so an alternate can enjoy it.

The Rolling Meadows Flea Market was successful for us with a sales increase over last year. A huge thanks to all that donated items and those that worked our booth.

## This Month's Speaker

In the Spring many species of fish start moving upstream in rivers to find suitable spawning habitat in harder bottom areas with some flow. In lakes and reservoirs fish also move to areas of incoming current drawn by the warmer water.

Dave McCoy, our 2022 Angler of the Year, has pursued big Spring transition fish in rivers for over 30 years, learning a lot along the way. Dave will be sharing much of that information with the club including reading the water, presentations, locations, and baits. Don't miss it!

### Key Dates

#### Club Meetings

Mar 21  
Apr 18

#### Outings

Wisconsin River  
Mar 26-28  
Lake Shelbyville  
Apr 27-30  
Lake Wisconsin  
May 10-13

#### Comm. Outreach Crabtree Explore

Jun 4

Busse Woods Derby  
Jun 17

# This Month's Speaker

## Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



Visit our website at: [www.arlingtonanglers.com](http://www.arlingtonanglers.com)

***Tuesday, March 21, 2023***

**Dave McCoy**

### **Early Season River Fishing**



Dave McCoy is an avid trophy hunter who has fished for both walleye and smallmouth in the Green Bay system for the past 30 years. As a retired educator, Dave is currently fishing in a few walleye tournament series, and has been informally guiding fellow club members in chasing the best seasonal fishing opportunities in the rivers and lakes of the north. Tonight, Dave will help to educate the club on best practices to improve angling opportunities for early season river fishing. Please join me in welcoming Dave McCoy!

**Club Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

# March Raffle Prize – ½ Day Guided Trip

## Arlington Anglers Certificate

½ Day guided trip on the Pecatonica River

Hosted by: Derek Boeger Fishing



Derek Boeger is the head guide for Alexander Sport Fishing of Green Bay, where he does most of his guiding. But the Pecatonica is one of his late season favorites when fishing to Illinois for trophy walleye.

The Pecatonica River, a tributary of the Rock River near Rockton, IL, in Winnebago County, is the home of the last two state record walleye catches. The current record is now over 15 pounds!

Big Walleyes begin moving into the river in late Fall in anticipation of the Spring opener. A chance at a big fish is a definite possibility. This trip will take place in November 2023.

The bearer of this certificate is entitled to one guided ½ day fishing trip, for two people, with Derek Boeger of Derek Boeger Fishing. This certificate is valid during the month of November 2023 only, or as agreed upon by the bearer and Derek Boeger.

To schedule the trip contact Derek at  
Cell: 815-297-3272 or email: [www.derekboegerfishing@yahoo.com](mailto:www.derekboegerfishing@yahoo.com)

  
Chris Papp  
President - Arlington Anglers

  
Derek Boeger  
Derek Boeger Fishing

Derek Boeger, owner of Derek Boeger Fishing and Head Guide at Alexander Sport Fishing was the speaker at our February meeting talking about fishing Green Bay.

However, when he is close to home near Rockford, he is a big fan of fishing the Pecatonica River in late Fall. This river yielded the last two IL. walleye state records, now over 15 lbs!

For the March meeting we will raffle a ½ day fully guided trip on the Pecatonica with Derek with all equipment provided. This is a late Fall trip targeting big migrating walleye. Definitely worth the wait!

The raffle will also include a couple of consolation prizes so there will be multiple winners. Tickets will be 1/\$5 or 3/\$10. Someone is going to win this trip for a small investment. Make sure it could possibly be you!

## Bob's Fishing Report

By: Bob Diebold

**Back to Winter? Or is Spring right around the corner?**

### AREA LAKES AND PONDS:

Open water. On warm sunny days, LM bass have been active on jigs, crank baits and jerk baits. Crappies starting to get active on Wax worms or a chena bait under a slip float worked along the outside weed lines.

**CHAIN O'LAKES:** Crappies just starting up. Some channel catfish and white bass showing up. Water is high and cold.

**CHICAGO LAKE FRONT:** Powerlines or rods & reels doing very good for cohos using spawn sacs, shrimp, wax worms, minnows. Some are taking occasional steelheads or brown trout.

**IL LAKE MICHIGAN:** Coho action good from Hammond to Michigan city fishing the beach to 35ft of water using thinfish, j-9 Rapalas and a variety of shallow running crankbaits.

**FOX RIVER:** High water causing NO WAKE. Walleyes caught at the McHenry Dam. Jig and a fat head minnow best. As soon as the skim ice leaves the channels, crappie and BGs will start.

**DELAVAN, COMO, GENEVA:** Open water for shallow BGs, crappies, and occasional accidental bass or musky.

**BRAIDWOOD:** LM Bass good on finesse baits and bluegills good on drop shots.

**HEIDECKE:** Opens April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**FOREST PRESERVES:**

Spring inland trout season starts April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WISCONSIN RIVER:** Open moving water has yielded some walleyes and saugers.

**GREEN BAY:** Walleyes active in the river at DePere.

**NORTHERN WISCONSIN:** Still can find lots of good ice and the fish have been cooperating.

**STURGEON BAY:** Forget about the whitefish. Shallow bay ice has yielded perch and pike.





## Last Month's Speaker Tips By: Brian O'Connor



This column provides several of the many takeaways from the last month's speaker. Derek Boeger is the Head Guide at Alexander Sport Fishing on Green Bay. He also has his own service, Derek Boeger Fishing. Derek was talking about where to find walleyes on Green Bay.

Wind direction and water temp were central themes. 3-4 days of the same wind direction will tell you where to start fishing, either the East or West shore. The wind blown shoreline will have the warmer water that attracts swarms of baitfish. The predators will follow them and won't be far behind.



He advises to be smart about going out as Green Bay is a big body of water. 10-15 mph winds are the max for safe and effective fishing. Derek says the "Wind Alert" app is great for tracking wind patterns.

While trolling with Flicker Minnows using snap weights and planer boards can still be productive, Derek mostly Spot Locks his trolling motor and casts. He says there is a lot of structure to target and many fish stay close to the bottom chasing the abundant gobies.

Derek loves Shiver Minnows and Bink's Spoons for walleyes. He leans towards the more cost conscious spoons as the Shiver Minnows are expensive and the "wings" are a bit too fragile.

The most important aspect of these types of lures is that they need to hit bottom on a slack line. He uses a mono or flouro leader to reduce line hook.

The technique is to cast far out and pop the lure off the bottom letting it flutter back down with slack. Fish pin the bait to the bottom during the pause. The next pop may well be fish on!

## February Meeting Raffle Winners



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.

In Feb our raffle grand prize was a Grandt All American series 6'6" Medium action premium spinning rod, donated by sponsor Jim Grandt of Grandt Rods.

Pictured at left in order are the thrilled grand prize winner Eric Horne, Brian Rockwell was the first consolation winner of a pair of Brookstone binoculars, and finally John Davea who grabbed the second consolation prize of two premium Molix bass baits, a top water popper and a crawfish pattern square bill crankbait.

# March Meeting Was One Of The Largest



While no present members were around during the first 20+ years of the club's existence, we can say with confidence that the March 2023 meeting had the most attendees of any other in the last 25+ years. Over 70 members and guests packed the room to hear Derek Boeger speak about Spring fishing on Green Bay.

While Derek was surely a draw, there were likely other factors that brought in the crowd.

One such factor was our success at recruiting during the Chicagoland Outdoor Show, where we signed up

new members and added over 100 newsletter subscribers, many of which came as guests to check us out, with several ultimately joining after the meeting.

The Grandt rod raffle likely also had an impact. It was the first of many upgraded optional raffle prizes that will be offered this year to add to the interest and excitement. Our Midwest Outdoors raffle for paid members also helped get the yet un-renewed to attend.

While numbers may not remain that high all year, attendance at our meetings continues to grow.



# Community Outreach Schedule Takes Shape



An integral element of the Arlington Anglers is our community outreach programs, virtually all of which are geared towards kids and various special needs groups.

We will once again participate in the Crabtree Nature Center's Explore the Forest event on June 4<sup>th</sup> where we teach kids to cast.

We will also be at the Cook County annual Outdoors Day fishing derby, June 17 at Busse Woods, where we help kids and adults with

their fishing techniques.

July will see us in Vernon Hills for the SRACLC special needs kids fishing derby where we bait hooks and remove and weigh fish caught by the campers.

We also make our members available to Shane's Anglers, a kid cancer patient support group, providing them fishing opportunities. And once again we'll be involved with Fishing 4 Autism as they try to grow.

Toys for Tots will be, as always, on the schedule for year end.





# Rolling Meadows Fishing Flea Market Report



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Indoor Fishing Flea Market was held on March 4 at Rolling Meadows High School. The event, one of the largest of its kind in the metro area, is co-sponsored by the Chicagoland Muskie Hunters and the Rolling Meadows High School Fishing Club. The Arlington Anglers secured a booth to sell used fishing gear to supplement our general fund and to promote the club.

Donations by our club members made up the tackle we sold. Thanks to all that contributed. Although a modest amount, it still generated a record return.

Special thanks go to Dave Powell for organizing the event, Chris Popp for repackaging the products, Jay Babowice for manning the info center, and Henry Comp, Pat Trunda, Al Wilson, and Mike Bierman for working the sales counter.



After a hiatus due to Covid the flea market returned to a full house last year and was just as strong this year with all booths once again sold out.

The amount and variety of fishing, outdoor, and marine tackle and equipment was truly outstanding. While some is new most is used. In both instances the prices were generally very good allowing customers to find deals on old standbys and new techniques just waiting to be tried. The aisles were mostly packed with shoppers.



## Illinois Catchable Trout Opener is April 1st



The IL Spring trout season opens on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 58 ponds, streams, and lakes across the state. The Illinois DNR stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout. Fishing starts at 5 AM. More info and a list of locations can be found on the Illinois.gov website. Google "Illinois trout opener" to find a direct link.

This is extremely popular with the banks lined early. Most fish are caught the first day but are possible for a few days after. An IL license and inland trout stamp are req'd.

Small inline spinners, spoons, minnows under floats, and trout bites all can take fish.

## Big Fish of the Month



**Big Fish of the Month** goes to Craig Janes for his feisty 29" Steelhead.

Craig was fishing below the Berrien Springs Dam on the St. Joe River, near the fish ladder.

Anchored in about 6 FOW, a combination of lipped crankbaits held in the current and spawn bags on the bottom took several fish, this one the largest.

## Honorable mention #1



First Honorable Mention goes to Bob Diebold for this 30 inch Grouper. Bob was fishing 55 miles off Cape Coral, FL. He was using big jigging spoons and straps of squid, catching a number of fish including more grouper, snapper, & porgies,

## Kid Fish of the Month



**Kid Fish of the Month** is again without an entry this month. So we pulled out a random picture from the internet.

This is the typical look of pride and joy when a young angler catches a fish, especially for the first time. Size doesn't seem to matter to them.

Please share your love of fishing with a child. Whether it's a relative, a friend, or a neighbor, submit a picture when you do!

## Honorable Mention #2



Second Honorable Mention goes to Dave McCoy for his 30" Catfish caught on the Fox River in Depere, WI. He was "pulling plastics" for walleye, a technique of slow trolling up stream with a river jig and paddle tail trailer, when this bonus fish intervened.



# Getting To Know 2023 New Club Members



**Mike Niederkorn** presently lives in Cary, right on the Fox River. He is single and is still a working man employed as an electrician.

Mike has a boat, a 17 foot Searay with a 140 HP i/o and open bow. Since he has a private ramp he trailers the boat allowing him to fish at home or in different places.

Mike likes to fish for bass, walleye, northern pike and muskie. However, he would like to target walleye and muskie more often in the future.

Mike joined the club to make more friends who like to fish. He would also like to find a few new places to fish and hopes his new contacts can give him some direction.



**Ben Bakos** resides in Elmhurst. He is single and without kids. Ben is an inventor and owns a new brand of denim jeans called Pocket Burn Jeans.

Ben's boat is a 2000 25 foot Cobalt runabout with a V8. He stores it near Elkhorn and trailers it to various lakes in that area. It's a big boat so he can carry multiple people.

Ben mostly fishes for panfish. He doesn't feel he's skilled yet to pursue other game fish specifically. He's waiting for the chance to land some walleye and SMB.

Ben joined the club to learn and advance his fishing knowledge and would enjoy the opportunity to fish with some new people.



**Mike Drakert** lives with his wife Deborah in Barrington Hills. They are both retired engineers from Com Ed. They have 6 kids and 4 grandkids. They also have a hobby farm that sells hay and firewood.

Mike has 3 canoes but no powered boat yet, although he's looking for one in the 18-20' range.

Mike would like to fish for crappies and walleye when given the chance. He says he really enjoys being on the water and likes to fish but hasn't found anything good locally.

Hopefully by joining the club he will be enlightened to the available opportunities.



## More 2023 New Member Profiles



**Ray Suelzer** lives in Island Lake with his wife Marci. They have 3 grown kids. He is retired from Commerce Clearing House as an editor/writer, specializing in accounting and tax software.

Ray loves flying RC planes and is the VP of Wauconda Skylarks.

Ray still fishes from a 15' foot Grumman jon boat with a 9.9 Mercury he bought over 35 years ago. Now it's outfitted

with upgraded electronics and spot lock. He's an avid kayak angler and takes an annual canoe trip to the MN Boundry Waters for pike and SMB.

Ray fishes for anything but prefers numbers over size. He's happiest catching bluegill on a fly rod or through the ice.

Ray joined the club to make new friendships with other like minded anglers.



**David Searle** resides in Elgin. He is married and has 2 adult children. He is retired from United Airlines after 35 years as a computer programmer and analyst.

David's boat is a fishing kayak powered by paddler generated motion.

David says he isn't particular on what species he pursues. He will fish for anything that will bite his hook.

David joined the club in hopes of finally learning why fish pass by his bait and go for what is apparently more enticing food choices.



**Jim Burnitz** hails from West Chicago. He is married with 3 kids. Two of his boys love to fish. He is now retired after working as an HVAC tech.

Jim has two boats, a 21' Fish and Ski and a 1954 Larson 16' row boat with a 15 HP Mercury that he takes on smaller waters.

Jim says he likes to pursue anything edible. That results in him normally chasing panfish and walleyes.

Although he fishes with is brother a lot he joined the club to meet some new people and get the opportunity to fish some different bodies of water.

# 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. Following is a list of sponsors that offer discounts to our members with their membership card. Be aware, some manufacturers do not allow discounts by their dealers.



## GRANDT RODS

GRANDT INDUSTRIES INC.,  
PO box 772 Arlington Heights, IL. 60006  
847-577-0848 Jim Grandt  
Website: [grandtrods.com](http://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.



## ANGLERS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

1272 E. Dundee Rd. Palatine IL 60074  
847-991-3200  
Website: [FishinGurus.com](http://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](http://Leesglobaltackle.com)

Discount: 10% min. on tackle, depending on mfg.



## Fish Tech

5802 Dempster St. Morton Grove IL 60053  
847-966-5900

Website: [fishtechmg.com](http://fishtechmg.com)

Discount: 15% off tackle and bait



## 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](http://Chicagofishingschool.com).



## Battery Service Corporation

410 S. Evergreen St. Bensenville, IL. 60106  
630-595-4244

Website: [batteryservice.com](http://batteryservice.com)

Discount: Dealer prices with card



## LAKE COUNTY WATER SPORTS

530 S. Rand Rd. Wauconda IL. 60006  
847-526-2211 – Mike Salisbury

Website: [Lakecountywatersports.com](http://Lakecountywatersports.com)

Discount: 10% on parts thru May (mention Bert Saxon)

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.arlingtonanglers.com)

or

QR Code (to the right)

or

FACEBOOK at: Arlington Anglers



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