

# Tight Lines Newsletter

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

## Presidents Note:

I finally got out for some extended open water fishing. Unfortunately my slump continued as I did more netting than catching on my recent outings. Blanked on trout, but at least caught a few walleye on the Wisc trips. See reports on pg 5 & 6.

After handing out a half day guided trip in March, we have another big raffle in April. Don't miss this one! See page 3 for details.



Also at the April meeting we will be highlighting a new sponsor, Battery Service Corporation. If you need boat batteries before the season starts, or other kinds, be there to hear the great deals available to us.

We highlight 6 more new members in this issue. Check out the profiles on pgs 8 & 9 and introduce yourself when you see them. They joined to meet new people. Do what you can to make them feel welcome.

Please get to the meetings earlier. Like, by 6:15 latest! Check-in starts at 6:00. And bring singles for the door fee. With our now larger crowds it helps speed up registration and gives you a little time to network with other members. The agendas aren't getting shorter so we need to be ready to start by 6:30.

I hope to see you all there!

Chris Popp - President

## This Month's Speaker

The 2000 Bassmaster Classic put the first bright spotlight on Lake Michigan smallmouth. It was probably too early in the fishery's development to make a big splash. Not so now. SMB are a target species with a 7+ lb state record caught last year.

Our April speaker, Captain Ralph Steiger, grew up fishing for Spring smallies on the southern rim of the lake. He now chases them all year.

Ralph will share his best practices to improve your success for this popular species on the big water.

## Key Dates

### Club Meetings

**Apr 18**  
**May 16**

### Outings

**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, April 18, 2023***

**Captain Ralph Steiger**

## Lake Michigan Smallmouth Fishing



Captain Ralph Steiger is a US Coast Guard charter captain on the Illinois & Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. Growing up chasing smallies in the Spring and salmon in the Fall, Ralph currently guides year-round for various species, including smallmouth, salmon, trout, and perch from downtown Chicago to Portage, Indiana. Tonight, Ralph will help to educate the club on best practices to improve angling opportunities for smallmouth bass on Lake Michigan. Please join me in welcoming Capt. Ralph!

**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**

# April Raffle Grand Prize – Grandt Spinning Rod



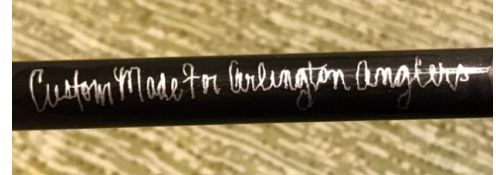
Our February raffle of a Grandt premium spinning rod was so popular we just had to do it again. So we are this month!

The All American Series 6'6" Medium Action spinning rod, valued at \$200, will be our grand prize. As before, it has been customized specifically for the Arlington Anglers.

The raffle will also include four

other great consolation prizes. So there will be multiple winners! Tickets are 1/\$5 or 3/\$10.

With an upgraded fishing rod you will feel bites you never felt before. Someone is going to win this one for a small investment. Make sure it could possibly be you!



## Bob's Fishing Report

By: Bob Diebold

**Warmer days are turning on the fish on inland waters.**

### **AREA LAKES AND PONDS:**

Smaller lakes & ponds doing better as they warm first. Crappies and gills are active on warm water shorelines. LM Bass being caught on spinner baits, bladed jigs, and NED rigs.

**CHAIN O' LAKES:** Crappie in the channels with minnows and baby shad plastics in chartreuse and white. Water stabilizing.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN SHORE:**

Cohos being caught up and down the shoreline on Minnows, Worms, Spawn sacs, Shrimp, Frozen Shad, Wax Worms, hair/feather jigs, spinners, etc. Some bonus steelhead, browns, and SMB.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN OFF SHORE:**

Limits of cohos being caught by boaters in close, inside of 30 feet, on dodgers and flies.

**DELAVER:** Good Bluegills in the southern channels on white or chartreuse jigs.

**GENEVA:** Crappies are good shallow on bobbers and minnows over dead weeds. Some smallmouth and walleyes found a little deeper.

**BRAIDWOOD:** Lots of fishermen but limited LM Bass are being caught on hard baits mimicking shad and bluegill. Also catching blue cats on lures!

**FOREST PRESERVES:** Some inland trout still being caught on Power Bait and spinners.

**DUPAGE RIVER:** Quality smallmouth starting to go.

**FOX RIVER:** Some SMB, perch and crappie. Water levels are receding but still muddy.

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

**SHABBONA:** LM Bass starting shallow on spinners and nightcrawlers. Crappies are good in the cribs and brush.

**SHELBYVILLE:** Crappies very active on minnows, hair jigs, and plastics. Hotspots are by docks, cribs, trees, and brush.





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



This column provides several of the many takeaways from the last month's speaker. Dave McCoy is an avid trophy hunter who has fished for walleye and smallmouth bass in the Green Bay system for over 30 years, taking advantage of the best seasonal opportunities in the bay and feeder rivers.

In March and April Dave focuses on rivers to intercept walleye as they migrate into and out of the river during pre and post spawn. This is also relevant in river system sections that are separated by dams where walleyes move up to barriers looking for spawning habitat.

While vertical fishing a jig and minnow can be productive, Dave uses artificial baits for possibly more success by covering water more quickly. He highlighted several baits

including lipless crankbaits, blade baits, jigging spoons, hair jigs, and swim baits, all effective in various conditions.

When the bottom is relatively clean he "jigs" all these baits by making long quartering casts and retrieves with short hops. The key is to maintain the bait within 6 inches of the bottom at all times, keeping the line tight after each rip as it falls back to bottom and drifts down current. Fish often are there on the next lift or rip of the bait.

He uses heavier and longer rods to handle these heavier baits and to get higher lift angles.

Dave also employs what he calls "pulling plastics". This is very slow trolling swim jigs up river, pulling the rod forward then dropping it back so the bait briefly hovers in place.



## March 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.

Our March raffle grand prize was a half day guided trip on the Pecatonica River chasing big walleye in the Fall with guide Derek Boeger. The thrilled winner was Frank Mucci.

There were also five other consolation prizes. Pictured at right in order are guest Russell Ewert (rod/reel combo), Dave

Powell (headlamp/flashlight combo), Bob Steffan (Boeger hair jigs), Mike Sanofsky (2 bass baits), and Rich Sutton (40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Grandt Rod hat).



President Chris Popp – Frank Mucci



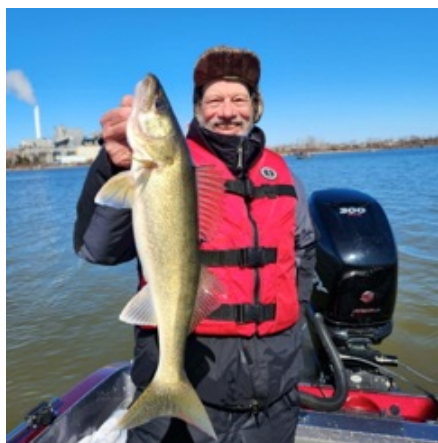
# Fox River/DePere Wisc Outing Report



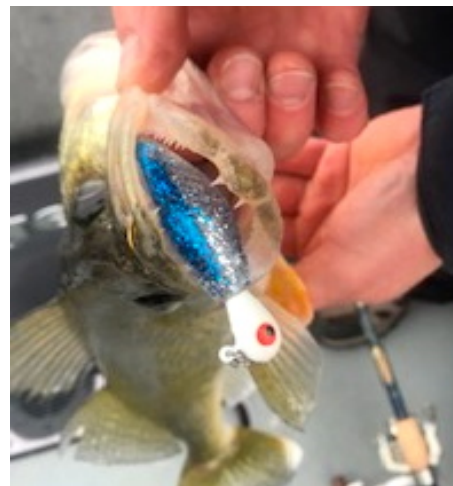
From March 22-24 six members and a guest made an impromptu trip to the Fox River in DePere Wisc to pursue pre-spawn walleye. The trip was actually postponed from a week earlier due to expected bad weather. While we got the fishing in the conditions were still brisk.



Results were mixed as some had more success than others. But in general, less fish were taken than was expected. All agreed it was a grind to get bites.



Everyone used the techniques Dave McCoy expoused during his March presentation. These included blade baits, jigging spoons, hair jigs, and jig and creature combos. All of these techniques took fish. Even McCoy's "pulling plastics" tactic had some success, although keeping bottom contact did better.



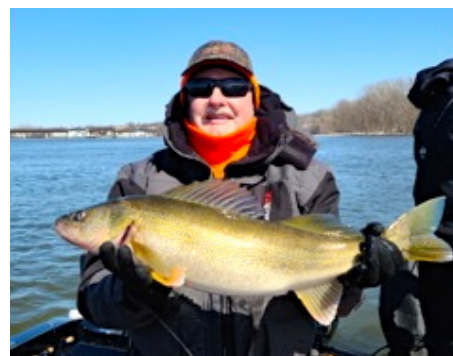
When fish did hit many hit hard. There just weren't as many hitting. Perhaps having 300 other boats all in the same area had an effect on their aggressiveness, although that's the typical congestion this time of the year. So who knows?



The big females had not yet moved into the system but there were lots of fat, healthy males. Most of the fish taken were in the 18" - 24" range making for some great pix.



The trip home on Saturday was a bit precarious as a huge snow storm moved in. Dave McCoy stayed to fish a tournament in the middle of it. He said it was the worst weather he's ever fished in. Glad we were on our way back!





# Wisconsin River/Dells Dam Outing Report



On March 26-28 ten members, including five new members, plus a junior guest traveled to the Wisconsin River near the Wisconsin Dells Dam to pursue

walleye and other river quarry. As in years past we stayed at the River's Edge Resort, right on the river. We were again lucky to get the Big House, Cabin 27, which is a stunning example of wood working art. We used this as our main headquarters, with 4 members "relegated" to an overflow cabin next door. That's a joke, of course, as that facility was also excellent.

Group dinners were held across the parking lot in the main lodge. Our usual spot in front of the massive aquarium was secured for both evenings. The food was good and plentiful, as usual.

While rarely a big fish or big numbers location, we had one of our most productive and best weather outings there in years. It was a bonus on top of the main reasons, those being great lodging, a beautiful river, and outstanding company. Plus we can rent boats there, something that isn't easy to come by on other waters.



The Burnitz brothers, Ron and Jim, led the way in keeper walleyes using jig and minnow below the dam, Bob Steffan probably caught the most numbers with his 3 way rig, and Ernie Clements and Ray Suelzer had a sturgeon double.

While some had more catching success than others all had an equally good time on the trip and got to know some new fishing friends along the way.





# Big Fish of the Month



**Big Fish of the Month** goes to Brian O'Connor for his 37.5" muskie. It was his first ever!

Brian was fishing the Fox River in DePere WI with 5 other members on an impromptu group trip.

Brian caught the beast ripping a ½ oz Bink's spoon (using Dave McCoy's March meeting presentation tips) while targeting walleyes in 12-20 feet of water when the *Esox masquinongy* latched on.

## Honorable mention #1



First Honorable Mention goes to Brian Rockwell for his 26.5" walleye. Brian was fishing the Fox River near DePere Wisc. This one came on a river jig with plastic paddle tail trailer that he was quarter casting from a fixed position, allowing the bait to tumble along the bottom on a current edge.

# Kid Fish of the Month



**Kid Fish of the Month** goes to 14 year old AJ, grandson of member Bob Steffan. AJ was fishing with the "big boys" on our most recent outing to the Wisconsin River near the Dells.

This was AJs first walleye of the year. It came on a 3 way rig. He caught his first ever sauger shortly after.

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 John Davea for his 20+ inch Peacock Bass. John was in Florida fishing the intercoastal waterways and canals with his son looking specifically for this imported species. This was one of the nicest ones they caught.

# Getting To Know 2023 New Club Members



**Steve Barratt** resides with his wife Gen in Elmhurst. They have two grown kids, Meredith and Brice, and are both retired, Steve from commercial finance and Gen from human resources.

Steve has owned several boats in the past that have all been sold. He now primarily fishes with guides or one of his friends that has a boat.

Steve likes to fish for crappies and walleye as he thinks they make the best fish fries. He takes an annual TX trip with his brother for crappies and goes to Wisc for walleyes in June.

Steve joined the club to make some new friends and to learn more about where and when to fish local lakes.



**Mike Sanofsky** lives with his wife Connie in Palatine. They have 2 college age daughters, Allison and Cary. Mike works for Auto Wharehousing, a logistics company for Ford Motor. Connie is a Pharmacist.

Mike has a 2006 Tracker V16 boat, which he uses to fish various bodies of water.

Mike likes to fish for just about any species. He mostly likes being out on the water. His favorites are walleye and bass, but might try some muskie fishing this year.

Mike joined to the club to meet some new anglers and to learn how to improve some of his techniques.



**Jim Torsen** and his wife Vita live in Bloomingdale. They have 2 adult children. Jim has been retired for 7 years from a job as sales manager for a global transport company.

Jim doesn't have a boat at the moment but has had a Triton SF211 and a Triton Fishhunter 206 in the past, both of which have been sold at some point.

Jim is a freshwater fisherman and likes to chase walleye, smallmouth and largemouth bass. In addition to IL rivers and lakes he's traveled a lot to other Midwest states to fish.

Jim joined the club to get in some more fishing time and to meet other people with the same interests.



## More 2023 New Member Profiles



**Dan Mayer** lives in Northlake. He has been married 38 years and has 2 grown children. He is a retired Schiller Park Fire Dept. Commander, but still works part time as an inspector.

Dan has a cottage on Pelican Lake in Wisc. He fishes there quite a bit, along with a trip or two to Canada.

Eric has a 18' Stratos that he leaves at his cottage, so he

doesn't fish locally very often.

Dan got serious about fishing about 6 year ago when he joined a muskie club, a species he likes to pursue.

Dan joined our club because he doesn't have much success catching walleyes and wants to get better. He also has a couple friends that are members so he decided to try it out and hopes to go on some outings.



**Ron Burnitz** splits his time between Barrington and Geneva. He has 5 kids that live all over the country. He is a retired union carpenter. Years back, he went through his apprenticeship at Washburn trade school.

Ron shares with his brother and member, Jim, a 16' 1956 Larsen rowboat with a 15 HP Merc.

Ron often fishes with Jim for fun but also for food. They love eating fish. They fish all over, in different ways and for different species. Ice fishing, power lining, chasing panfish on the Fox Chain, and Lake Michigan salmon are all on the docket.

Ron joined the club to meet other like minded people and get more opportunities to fish.



**Eric Horne** lives in Crystal Lake with his wife Mari. He is retired after working 36 years as an insurance risk manager. He's also recently retired as an orchestra musician, playing for several regional orchestras.

Last year Eric bought a 2022 Lund 1675 Adventure Sport that he trailers, allowing him to fish various area lakes.

Eric says he loves chasing both largemouth and smallmouth bass. Lake Geneva and Delavan are his primary destinations, but he also travels to MN lakes.

Eric rejoined the club after a one year stint some years ago. He's now become interested again in checking out our speakers and going on some of our outings.

## 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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Fill out completely and mail with your check.

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