

Tight Lines Newsletter

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www.arlingtonanglers.com

President's Note:

Ahh, the beginning of another new year. How is that possible already? As we start, I'm both excited and nervous at the same time. What is in store for this season and what kind of adventures can we expect?

We again had growth in member numbers, activity, and participation in 2024. That was rewarding. Your officers worked hard to make it a worthwhile and fun experience. Can we continue that trend in 2025? I hope so. Only time will tell.

It's now time again to get your annual dues in. See pg 11. Even if you weren't that active in 2024 it's still a bargain to stay involved in the club. Maybe this is your year!

If you are wondering about that little perch in my picture top right, I don't always get nice ones. That was my first try at Navy Pier. A bust for numbers & size, but it was still a fun outing with other members.



There's lots of info in this issue so please read though it all.

And remember we kick off 2025 with our first meeting on January 21. A great speaker, great raffle, and great camaraderie with other members is on tap. Be sure to come on out for it.

I hope to see you all return to the fold this year. It's sure to be a great one. Don't miss out on the fun. C'mon back!

Chris Popp - President

This Month's Speaker

If you are like most anglers in January you might be sitting on the couch randomly watching fishing videos or waiting for the outdoors expos to begin. But there is another dedicated group that hits the ice to get the fishing season started early.

Whether you are one of those hearty souls, or not, the tackle and techniques are a fascinating topic. Tod Todd, a local legend in this arena, will be sharing his vast knowledge on the subject. If you aren't already an ice fan he just may motivate you to give it a try!

Key Dates

Club Meetings

Jan 21

Feb 18

Mar 18

R.M. Flea Market Tackle Donations

Jan/Feb meetings

Chicagoland Fishing Show

Jan 23-26

Outings

Feb 19-21

Sturgeon Bay Ice

This Month's Speaker

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



Visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Tod Todd

Ice Fishing Local Waters



Tod Todd is an avid ice angler and Ice Team Pro that has been fishing the hard water since he was a kid. Some ice seasons he holds up to 7 state fishing licenses, and targets bluegills from Thanksgiving day all the way through the end of March. Helping non-profits like Walk on Water, LLVA and Hardwater Heroes is also major part of his winter season. Please help me welcome Tod 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**

January Raffle Grand Prize – Grandt Rod



Our January raffle Grand Prize will be a Grandt All American Pro Series fishing rod valued at over \$225, with a special twist!

The winner will choose the length, power, and action to make up the bait casting or spinning rod of their dreams, in the Grandt Rod booth at the Chicagoland Fishing Show Jan 23-26. Customization with the winner's name is included! Pickup at the show is required.

Grandt Rods has been a long time sponsor of the Arlington Anglers. Thank you Jim Grandt for your continued support and generosity!

Five awesome consolation prizes will also be included in the raffle to give you more chances to win.

Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10.

Be sure to attend the Monday January 21st meeting to get tickets for a chance to win a Grandt Rod!

Steve's Fishing Report By: Steve Jung



Ice fishing and fishing show season is here. As I have said before, use extreme caution. For safety, travel with a partner if possible and let folks know where you are going and for how long. Colder weather is on the way which should make for better and safer ice. Wisconsin conditions are definitely ahead of Illinois.

AREA LAKES:

Smaller wind-protected ponds and lakes offer 3-4" of ice and good chances for bluegills.

FOX CHAIN:

Better ice is on the way, but some lakes still have open water and unsafe ice.

Access points:

Hermans Rest-A-While -
Nielsen's Channels
Musky Tales, Choppers Bar and Grill, Turtle Beach Marina -
Channel Lake

Lily Bug Acres - Between Bluff and Spring Lakes
Anchor Pointe Marina, Sand Bar and Grill, Pelican Bay Marina -
Lake Marie
Oak Park Lounge - Pistakee Lake
Jack and Lydia's Resort - Deep Lake

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN: On Fox and Puckaway Lakes medium shiners under tip-ups are taking walleye and northerns.

MADISON CHAIN

Bluegill and crappie are going on small jigs tipped with a variety of baits.

FISHING SHOWS

A complete list of area fishing shows and flea markets is highlighted later in this issue. Get out, buy some new gear, make new fishing friends, attend a seminar, or join a club. It is a great way to break cabin fever!

Fox Chain Ice Fishing Outing Report



It took 3 years but we were finally able to get an ice fishing outing in. 2023 and 2024 were busts as there just wasn't any good ice. Finally, after 10 days of hard freeze, 13 Arlington Anglers were able to get on Lake Catherine with T-Bone Guide Service on January 11.

Hopes were high as a very recent report of good catches were on record. But as they often say, we should have been there yesterday. Mild temps and low wind made conditions very comfortable. A great day for fishing, but not for catching.

A lot of fish were seen on the flashers but only a few fish were biters. A small walleye, a few whitebass, a couple catfish and a big carp was all we could pull out of the dozens of holes that were drilled. For sure a meager haul for all the jigging.

Regardless, it was still a great time! The T-Bone staff worked hard to prep us for success and grilled up some tasty brats mid-morning to

keep our flagging spirits high. The camaraderie among the members remained outstanding, as always. Being out together is most of the fun of these outings, anyway.

We hit Bootleggers afterwards for lunch to lick our wounds and discuss what could have been.

A big thanks to Coordinator Dave Rohlwing for making all the arrangements. His efforts to finally get us on the ice was greatly appreciated. I'm sure we'll get them next time!



2024 Big Fish Contest Winners



Our year long Big Fish Contest was hotly contested with almost all of the categories being won with outstanding fish. There were also a large number of 2nd place entries that really pushed the leaders.

Following is the list of category winners, the winning fish length, and the date of the catch.

Can 2025 live up to these impressive results? Time will tell!

Fish Species	Winner	Length (In.)	Date
Crappie	Bill Tillman	16-1/2	6/16/24
Perch	Dan <u>Blaszinski</u>	13-1/4	3/29/24
Sunfish/Bluegill	Mike <u>Nieder Korn</u>	12	10/8/24
White Bass	Darlene <u>Mucci</u>	18-1/2	6/5/24
Largemouth Bass	Bob Diebold	23-3/4	3/18/24
Smallmouth Bass	Dave McCoy	21-1/4	6/3/24
Walleye	Dennis Taylor	29	11/16/24
Northern Pike	Dave McCoy	41	5/10/24
Muskie	John Olivet	51-1/2	7/23/24
Catfish	Chris Popp	29	5/24/24
Carp	Henry Comp	34	7/23/24
Sauger	Quinn McCoy	21-1/4	11/12/24
Lake Salmon	Chris Popp	38	10/6/24
Lake Trout	Dave McCoy	38-1/2	11/15/24
Inland Trout	Rudy <u>Vabalaitis</u>	22	4/8/24
Other (Gar)	Adrian Hurrell	57-1/4	6/7/24

Tackle Donations Needed

A significant contribution to our general fund is the proceeds from our sales at the Rolling Meadows Fishing Flea market, which is one of the largest such events held in the Chicago area. This year it will be held on March 8 at Rolling Meadow H.S. Our coordinator for the sale will be Secretary Dave Powell.

We rely on donations from existing or previous club members for the tackle and gear we sell at the flea market. So, your assistance is needed for this year's event to be a success.

Everyone has old tackle that will never again see the light

of day. While re-organizing this winter please set aside 2 or 3 items for donation to our cause.

Items most needed are lures, jigs and terminal tackle. Tackle bags, working reels, decent rods, and various outdoor gear is also good. Please be generous giving up the things you'll no longer use. It's a big help!

We will have a collection box for misc items and a table for larger items at the back of the room at both the Jan and Feb meetings. Please bring what you can.



2025 Dues Are Now Being Collected

The beginning of every new year brings a great sense of anticipation and a little bit of trepidation. Have we done enough to make membership a positive experience and motivate members to return? We think so and work hard to make ours the best club around. We hope you agree.

Dues for the 2025 season are now being collected. We are happy to announce that, in spite of inflation, we are holding the family membership to \$40. This is possible because our growing membership helps spread the costs of running the club among more members.

This year looks to be another great one. With an outstanding lineup of speakers, more outings, great raffle prizes, and more networking opportunities, you won't want to miss out. Even if you weren't very active in 2024, it's still a bargain to stay involved with the club.

Please get your dues in early. Everyone paid by the February meeting will be entered to win one of 25 subscriptions to the Midwest Outdoors Magazine we will raffle off in early March.

Instructions for payment options can be found on pg xx.



Fishing Show Season Gets Underway

When it's too uncomfortably cold to hit the open water or there isn't safe ice to try the hard water fishery (or it just isn't your thing when there is), what do you do?

The next best thing is go to club meetings and visit fishing shows to get your fix! Luckily there is no shortage of fishing and outdoors shows of various kinds to fill a number of winter weekends.

There are general industry shows, like the Chicagoland Fishing Show and the Tinley Park Fishing Show for example, that give you a chance to see what's new or trending in the fishing world and a chance to pick up deals on new tackle. There are species shows like the Muskie Expo. And there are destination shows like All Canada.

But a favorite of many are the fishing flea markets and swap meets where you can find tackle to fill your box for pennies on the dollar. Even if you don't need any more gear its still fun to scrounge.

A list of local options follow and are also posted in the Members Only section of our website. Check it out.

The Arlington Anglers will have a booth at the Chicagoland Show to promote the club. Stop by to say hi. We will also have a booth at the RM Fishing Flea Market to generate extra funds for our operations. Stop in and buy something to help out!

Get out to see a show!

2025 Fishing Shows, Flea Markets, & Events

Fishing Shows

Jan 10-12	Tinley Park Fishing Show	Tinley Park Convention Ctr.
Jan 17-19	Muskie Expo	Kane Co. Fairground
Jan 23-26	Chicagoland Fishing Show	Schaumburg Conv. Ctr.
Jan 30-Feb 2	All Canada Show	Kane Co. Fairground
Jan 31-Feb 2	Rockford Boat, Vac, Fishing Show	Indoor Sports Ctr. Loves Park
Feb 21-23	Wisconsin Fishing Expo	Alliant Energy Ctr. Madison
Mar 7-9	Milwaukee Journal Sports Show	State Fair Park West Allis

Fishing Equipment Flea Markets

Jan 18	Musky Swap Meet (QCHH)	St. Charles Moose Lodge
Feb 1	Midwest Musky Club Flea Mkt	Alsip - Vlg. Sportsman's Club
Feb 15	Salmon Unlimited Swap Meet	River Grove Moose Lodge
Mar 1	Fish & Hook Show	Lockport VFW
Mar 8	R. M. Fishing Flea Market	Rolling Meadows HS
Mar 9	QCHH Flea market	Plano American Legion
Mar 15	Chain O Lakes Fishing Flea Mkt	Fox Lake American Legion
Mar 16	Fishing Garage Sale	Rockford - Hoffman House
Mar 22	Riverside FC Swap Meet	Berwyn Moose Lodge



Big Fish of 2024



Big Fish of the Year goes to Adrian Hurrell for his 57.5" Alligator Gar. Adrian was visiting with his son in Texas when they had a half day window to get on a river with a guide known for chasing this special dinosaur species.

Adrian got the double reward, biggest fish of the year and time spent on the water with family!

Honorable Mention #1



First Honorable Mention goes to Don Taylor for his 55" Lake Sturgeon, another dinosaur species. Don caught his monster in May on the Mississippi River near LaCrosse during our outing to the Best Dam Float.

Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month goes to Charlie O'Connor, son of our Speaker Chairman Brian O'Connor.

Charlie got up early to join dad and 11 other members on our recent ice fishing outing on the Fox Chain of Lakes. While carp wasn't the target species, it provided an epic fight on light line, resulting in the biggest fish of the outing.

Congratulations Charlie!

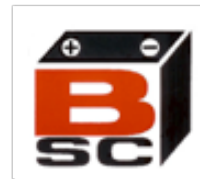
Please share your love of fishing with a child. Whether it's a relative, a friend, or a neighbor, submit a picture when you do!

Honorable Mention #2



Second Honorable Mention goes to John Olivet for his 51.5" Muskie. John was on his first trip to Lake St. Clair in Michigan trolling for the toothy critters. A bit of luck ensued when it was his turn to grab the rod when the big girl hit.

Sponsor Page - Please support those that support us



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. Also, discount percentages could change at any time, at our partner's discretion.



GRANDT RODS

GRANDT INDUSTRIES INC.,
PO box 772 Arlington Heights, IL. 60006
847-577-0848 Jim Grandt
Website: 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).



ANGLERS INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

1272 E. Dundee Rd. Palatine IL 60074
847-991-3200
Website: FishinGurus.com
Discount: 10% on tackle & 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% min. on tackle, depending on mfg.



Fish Tech

5802 Dempster St. Morton Grove IL 60053
847-966-5900
Website: fishtechmg.com
Discount: 10% 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.



Battery Service Corporation

410 S. Evergreen St. Bensenville, IL. 60106
630-595-4244
Website: batteryservice.com
Discount: Dealer prices with card



Catch Co.

www.catchco.com
Discount Site: www.shopkarls.com
Discount: \$10 off a minimum \$25 purchase
Use Promo code ARLANG10



M&G Propeller

217 Sola Dr. Gilberts, IL 60136
847-551-9281
Discount: 10% off prop repair services

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



Renewing members need only provide Date and Name.

Fill out completely and mail with your check.

Today's Date: ___/___/___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Email Address: _____

Ed. Note: Some months this newsletter is shorter than others. I haven't figured out yet how to delete pages at the end of the template when they aren't needed. Therefore, you may see some blank pages. They will be identified as such in those instances. – Chris Popp

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