

Tight Lines Newsletter

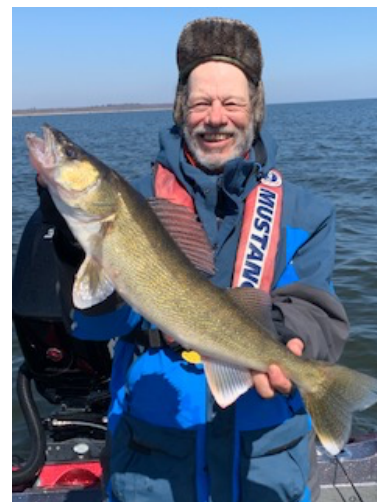
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President's Note:

It's been a whirl wind for me the last few weeks since the April edition. Green Bay for walleyes (at right), Shelbyville for crappie, Bay de Noc for smallmouth, and now on our Lake Wisconsin outing as this issue goes to press. Talk about fun! I was trying to take advantage of the springtime pre-spawn for each. Results were mixed but overall great. Hopefully you're trying your luck, too. Now's the time to get out!



We made a crazy good buy for this month's raffle grand prize. You won't believe it! Check it out on page 3 and don't miss the May meeting for your chance to win it.

While several of our outings have come and gone there are more on the schedule and even more being added. Plus, lots of members are hooking up for side trips. Join in when you can. It really is the best way to get to know other members.

As Summer approaches you may be tempted to skip meetings. Don't do it! We have a ton of speaker content ahead and the member fishing reports are invaluable to increase knowledge.

As always, get to the meeting early to register and network with others. Catching up and sharing information is a big part of being a member.

See you all Tuesday the 20th!

Chris Popp - President

Key Dates

Club Meetings

May 20

Jun 17

Outings

Best Dam Float

May 29-30

Lake Cosman

Jun 22

Comm. Outreach

Crabtree Explore

Jun 1

Busse Outdoor Day

Jun 14

This Month's Speaker

Anecdotally known as having the highest boat traffic of any water in the US, the Fox Chain of Lakes is also a great fishery. And it's getting better all the time. The number of big walleyes and muskies caught in recent years has been awesome.

So has the largemouth, white bass, crappie, BGs, and catfish. Aside from the catching, the eating has been pretty good too. Joe Baron will be sharing tactics for a successful outing and some tips for finishing the job by preparing a delightful meal of your day's kept bounty.

This Month's Speaker

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



Visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Joe Baron

Fishing the Fox Chain/Perfecting your Fish Fry



Joe Baron is the founder of Rod and Pan Guide Service, a multi-species fishing operation that blends his lifelong passion for angling with his love of cooking. As a U.S. Coast Guard–licensed captain, Joe offers a unique culinary experience by incorporating Canadian-style walleye fish fries into his trips, creating memorable adventures on and off the water. Tonight, Joe will be presenting "Fishing the Fox Chain / Perfecting Your Fish Fry"—a can't-miss session for anglers and food lovers alike! Please join me in welcoming Joe 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**

May Raffle Grand Prize – Zenon Spin Rod



Our May raffle Grand Prize will be an Abu Garcia Zenon 7' Medium power fast action spinning rod valued at \$500!

You read that right. A special purchase made this possible. It's Abu's lightest and highest performance rod. If you bought it you might be afraid to fish with it. But it could be yours for the cost of a few raffle tickets.

It should be a real joy to fish with!

Five awesome consolation prizes worth another \$200+ will also be included in the raffle to give you even more chances to win big!

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

Be sure to attend the May meeting for your chance to win this highly coveted, very special fishing rod!

Steve's Fishing Report

By: Steve Jung

It looks like weather has finally turned and with that the fish are starting to eat. All species on all lakes are starting to go.

CHICAGO LAKEFRONT: Some really nice Smallmouth on hair jigs, jerk baits, and a variety of plastics up and down the lakefront.

ON THE BIG POND: Coho on flies, Kings on spoons, & Browns which are all still in shallow or water.

COOK COUNTY FOREST

PRESERVES: A 10 pound walleye taken out of Tampier as well as over 50 Walleye taken from Busse. This past week, the game fish recovery at Busse/Salt Creek included musky bass and walleye. It yielded 33 bass up to 20 inches, 46 Walleye up to the mid 20s and 12 muskie with the average being in the mid 30s. All Fish returned to the main pool.

FOX CHAIN: Bass, northern pike, panfish are all starting to go. Walleye in current areas in shallow water.

LAKE DELAVAN: Bluegill and bass in the shallows. Plastics for bass and leaf or wax worms for bluegill. A lot of small bluegill. Walleye on jerk baits in 6-8 feet of water.

LAKE GENEVA: Bluegill and bass in 4-5 feet of water on red or leaf worms under a float. Perch on minnows under a float. Smallmouth should be going soon on plastics and jerk baits.

LOCAL PONDS: Panfish and Bass are on fire. Multiple baits from live bait to plastics are working for all species. Chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, wacky senkos, and plastics along with a minnow under a float are all working. Crappies are spawning on some lakes. Bass will start soon.

Watch moon/sun phases for your major/minor windows as they usually provide the chance to stick a nice fish. Get out there whether it be from shore or boat. Spring is often the best time for success.



Last Month's Speaker Tips - By Brian O'Connor



Doug Kloet spoke to the Arlington Anglers FC on April 15th about Early Season Muskies on Lake Geneva.

The overall musky population continues to grow and thrive on Geneva due to rigorous stocking efforts by the Wisconsin DNR, as well as an abundance of food in this large body of water (cisco, walleye, panfish, etc.). Trinke's on the East end of the lake and The Abbey on the West end are Doug's favorite Spring spots for early-season musky hunting.



When it comes to tackle, Doug prefers to use a Pit Bull and Swimmin' Dawg as his favorite rubber baits in the Springtime, using a slow sweeping action with them (pull then pause, or short twitches).

6-7" Slammer Minnows are his go-to crank baits to start with, while an 8" Depth Raider is his top preference for trolling at 3.5mph when the bite is slow.

Kloet's favorite bucktail to employ is the Musky Mayhem Tackle's 8" Rabid Girl (single-blade in gold), while his favorite Spring lures to use overall are glide/jerkbaits. 9" Suick's will do the trick with a downward twitch of the rod, which he prefers to be 8'6" Extra Heavy if possible.

He showed the group his favorite spots on the map along with plenty of slides of the aforementioned baits, and wrapped up his presentation by stressing that low light conditions are generally best (early morning or late afternoon and evening) for getting a big girl to commit. A good time was had by all.

April Raffle Winners

Our April grand prize was a Grandt All American series 6'0", Medium Light Power, spinning rod valued at over \$215! The excited winner, at far left with President Chris Popp, was Rich Roller.

Five consolation prizes worth another \$225+ in total were also handed out!

Winners, pictured at right in order, were John Devae (Plano tackle bag), Dennis Krezeminski (8 pks Big Hammer baits), guest



Mike Stachowski (Lew's LZR Pro spinning reel) Mike Bierman (Arctic Zone cooler), and Al Matz (Berkley/Shimano light action spin rod & reel combo).

We also gave out 24 packs of new sponsor Big Hammer swim baits as door prizes. Thanks BH!



Lake Shelbyville Outing Report



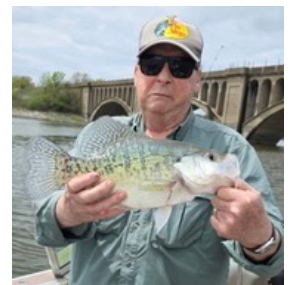
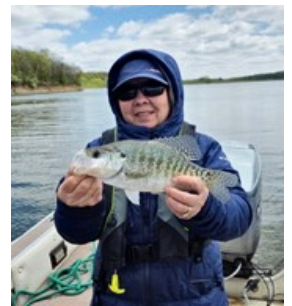
Our yearly outing to Lake Shelbyville at the end of April to chase pre-spawn crappie is always one of our best attended. 30+ members and guests made the annual pilgrimage.

As before we stayed at White Tail Crossing Resort, filling 5 cabins. While breakfast and lunch were on the individual, we had group dinners each night. Beef and Italian Sausage was on the menu the first night. We had pizzas delivered the second night and went out to Tailwinds Steakhouse for our final night celebration.



Weather conditions were mixed. It was warm the first day but cool and damp the rest of the trip. The wind came and went, at times challenging boat control.

Water temps were still cool delaying the spawn. The fish hadn't moved shallow yet so most were caught in 10-20 FOW on jigs with minnows or plastics, vertically jigged or cast and slowly retrieved. Limits were lacking but everyone caught fish and had a lot of fun.



Thanks to Bert Saxon (pictured top left) for another great job coordinating the outing, as he's done for the last several years.



Hack of the Month – Keep Your Hat On



Who of us hasn't had our hat blow off during a fast boat ride, often losing our favorite or lucky head gear to the depths before we can turn to retrieve it?

Such a thing happened to member Eyrle Hilton's boat partner on our Wisconsin River Outing. To avoid the future eventuality Eyrle created a simple device with 2 alligator clips and some stretch cord. One clips to the back of a hat and the other to a shirt collar or jacket. Voila! Your hat may come off in the wind but it stays connected long enough to grab it.



Eyrle made a couple dozen clips and handed them out in Shelbyville to the members attending that outing. Thanks, Eyrle. Great idea!

Another simple solution is to wear a gator, which is a great way to keep the sun and wind off your neck. When it's time to move just slide the gator up over your hat. The tension will keep it from blowing off!



Community Outreach Coming in June

Each year the Arlington Anglers engage in several community outreach events. The Cook County Forest Preserve is a particular partner we've developed a strong relationship with. They hold two events in June that we participate in.

combos, first showing them the basics then having them throw to targets. We also try to get the parents involved, many of which have never tried casting either. Last year we worked with over 100 visitors.

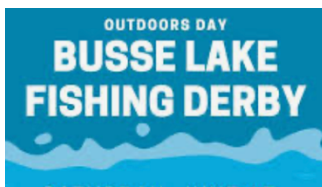
The second is Commissioner Morrison's Outdoor Days Fishing Derby held on Saturday June 14 at Busse Woods. This is an all ages event where we help participants set up rigs, baits hooks, and weigh all the fish caught. Prizes are given out at the end.

These events are more about giving back to the community than club promotion. Our help and knowledge is always appreciated and well received.



The first is Explore The Forest at the Crabtree Nature Center held this year on Sunday June 1. This is a celebration of everything the CCFP has to offer through animal encounters, arts and crafts, and various recreational opportunities. It is more geared to younger kids.

At this event we set up stations to teach kids how to cast spincasting



4 Reasons To Try Kayak Fishing This Summer

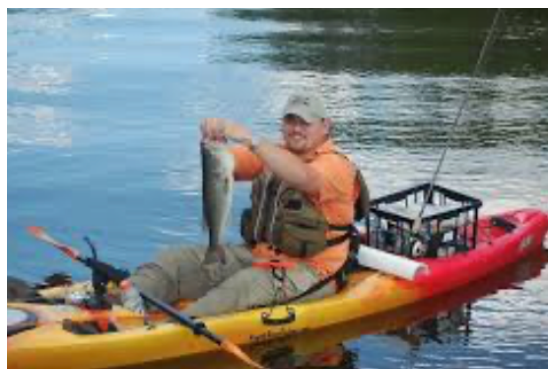
Kayak fishing has become popular for a variety of reasons, offering a unique and rewarding angling experience. Here are some key reasons why you might consider kayak fishing (courtesy of Google AI):

1. Affordability & Accessibility:

- **Lower Cost:** Kayaks are significantly less expensive than motorized boats, both in initial purchase price and ongoing maintenance (no fuel, insurance, or docking fees).
- **Easy Launching & Transport:** Kayaks can be launched from almost any shoreline, and are relatively lightweight and easy to transport on a car, opening up a wider range of fishing locations.

2. Unique Fishing Advantages:

- **Stealth and Quiet:** Kayaks allow you to approach fishing spots quietly, without the noise of a motor, increasing your chances of not spooking fish.
- **Access to Shallow Waters:** Kayaks can navigate shallow and narrow waterways inaccessible to larger boats, allowing access to secluded fishing spots and potentially more fish.
- **Closer to the Water:** You're lower to the water in a kayak, providing a different perspective and potentially improving your ability to spot fish and structure.



3. Health and Wellbeing:

- **Exercise:** Kayak fishing provides a good workout, engaging your core, arms, and back as you paddle and maneuver.
- **Mental Health Benefits:** Spending time outdoors, surrounded by nature, has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood, and promote a sense of calm.
- **Connection with Nature:** Kayak fishing allows you to immerse yourself in the natural environment, enhancing your enjoyment and appreciation for the outdoors.

4. Versatility:

- **Variety of Fishing Styles:** You can adapt various fishing techniques to kayak fishing, including casting, trolling, jigging, and even fly fishing.
- **Different Water Types:** Kayaks can be used in various water bodies, from small ponds and rivers to large lakes and even the ocean (depending on the kayak and your experience).

In Conclusion: Kayak fishing offers an affordable, accessible, and rewarding way to fish, providing a unique connection with nature, exercise, and opportunities to explore a wider range of fishing spots.

Big Fish of the Month

Big Fish of the Month



Goes to Bert Saxon for this fatty 27.5 inch Walleye that went a whopping 9.5 lbs! It wasn't the longest of his catches on a recent trip to Green Bay but it was by far the heaviest.

This one came on a Rippin' Rap in the Fox River near DePere. He later got a 28+ on a hair jig in the bay proper outside Oconto.

Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month goes to Junior member Dominic Hepp for this awesome 23" 5.5 lb Large Mouth Bass! This really deserved to be in the big boy category but competition was tough this month. It needed to be seen!

Dominic was casting a local pond near Pingree Grove when he caught this trophy specimen. Who says there aren't any big fish in Illinois?

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

Honorable Mention #1



First Honorable Mention goes to Ron Cappello for this 37" monster Carp. Big fish surprises continue as Ron was fishing for Crappie on our Shelbyville outing when this tank hit his jig and minnow. Shocking is the only word.

Honorable Mention #2



Second Honorable Mention goes to Dan Draz for this nice 40" Northern Pike. Dan was plying Sturgeon Bay for pre-spawn Smallies. The bass weren't cooperative but a couple big pike saved the day.

Getting to Know New 2025 Club Members



Jim Graf lives in Carol Stream with his wife Mary Ellen. They have 4 young adult children.

Jim is a self employed online marketing consultant. He is also an avid woodworker, selling some products on Etsy.

Jim does not have a boat. He couldn't justify the cost if only using it a few times a year.

Jim fishes local ponds when time allows. He really likes charters on Lake Michigan for Salmon and Lake Erie for Walleye.

Jim joined the club is to meet others that would like to fish Lake Michigan or Lake Erie. He's also interested in trying other spots like the Illinois River and the Mississippi.



Scott Mezzano lives in Arlington Heights with his wife Kristen and 2 small children, Anthony 5 and Serafina 2-1/2.

Scott is presently the owner of a personal training business.

Scott doesn't have a powered boat but he does have a fishing kayak that he stores at Lake Arlington.

Scott likes to chase big, local largemouth bass and teaching Anthony how to fish. They enjoy catching anything that they can get to bite.

Mike joined the club to meet other anglers, learn new techniques, and find out the best ways to approach bodies of water around the area.



Ron Mezzano resides in Elk Grove Village with his wife Sue. They have 2 children and 4 grandchildren.

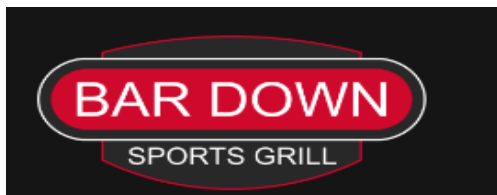
Ron is a retired sheet metal worker from Local 73.

Ron doesn't have a boat but likes to go on trips.

Ron has been an avid fisherman for many years and enjoys all type of fishing. He's been on bass trips to Okeechobee, pike and muskie trips to northern WI and MN, and some deep sea trips to Mexico and the Atlantic.

Ron joined to meet and network with other like minded anglers.

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Discount Partner Page

Being a member of the Arlington Anglers comes with many benefits. Following is a list of discount partners 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.

Members can see the discounts available to them in the Members Only section of our website. Save money. Use our discount partners!



M&G Propeller



Haymes Fishing



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



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: _____

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