

# Tight Lines Newsletter

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Note	1
Jun Speaker preview	2
Jun Mtg. Raffle Prizes	3
Steve's Fishing Report	3
May Speaker Tips	4
May Raffle Winners	4
Outing Reports	5/6/7
Big Fish of the Month	8
Meet New Members	9
Sponsors/Discounts	10/11
Membership Info	12

## President's Note:

I thought May was a crazy month. I had multiple trips for a variety of species in prespawn mode, most fairly successful. The hefty flathead catfish at right was from our Best Dam Float outing that may have been the best one yet. The big sturgeon were also cooperating!

June is just as hectic with 4 club outings, including kayak and shore fishing. Add the two community outreach events, partnering with the Cook County Forest Preserve, and it makes for a full monthly schedule. I doubt any other club is as active combining getting lines in the water and working with the general community as we are. It's a rewarding time to be a member.

It's also nice to see many members on side trips together with other members they didn't know but met at the club. Another big benefit!



With Summer starting to get into full swing you may be tempted to skip meetings. Don't do it! We have a ton of speaker content ahead and member fishing reports will be more valuable than ever to increase your 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 17<sup>th</sup>!

Chris Popp - President

## Key Dates

### Club Meetings

**Jun 17**

**Jul 15**

### Outings

**Lake Cosman**

**Jun 22**

**Big Green Lake**

**Jun 24-27**

### Comm. Outreach

**Busse Outdoor Day**

**Jun 14**

**SRCLC**

**Jul 23**

## This Month's Speaker

River fishing is a different animal than fishing in lakes. Fish relate to different "structure" in rivers and often a wider variety of species can be caught. Other differences become apparent when you are standing in the water instead of in a boat.

Mike Wollenberg is an expert on the closest of our rivers, the Fox. He'll be sharing his knowledge and techniques for success at water level. Of course, safety precautions are paramount. Mike will also cover how to avoid mishaps by making good decisions on where you step.

## This Month's Speaker

### Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



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

***Tuesday, June 17, 2025***

**Mike Wollenberg**

**Wading for Fox River Smallies**



Mike Wollenberg is a local authority on bass and walleye river fishing in Northern IL and Southern WI. He focuses on teaching anglers of all levels to up their game: beginners and tournament anglers alike. Tonight, Mike will be presenting "Wading for Fox River Smallies" to the AAFC. Please join me in welcoming Mike to the club!

**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**

## June Raffle Grand Prize – St. Croix Black Bass



Our June raffle Grand Prize will be a St Croix Black Bass series 6'10" Medium Light power Extra Fast action spinning rod paired with a Diawa Regal LT reel, retailing at over \$240!

This is one of St. Croix's newest value series that's perfect for ned and wacky rigs, drop shot, and light lures. The Regal LT is a mid-range model with smooth operation and a great drag.



This combo should be a real joy to fish with and improve your results!

Five awesome consolation prizes worth another \$300+ 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 June meeting for your chance to win any of these great prizes.

## Steve's Fishing Report

**Well, if you aren't catching fish right now, you're probably sitting on the couch. Everything is eating and mother nature is in full swing getting ready for summer. Don't be afraid to think outside of the box. Try something new.**

### CHICAGO LAKEFRONT:

Smallmouth are becoming a real thing. The Chicago lakefront is growing into quite the gem. Walleye and northern pike are mixed in, along with largemouth, panfish, and big carp in the river.

**ON THE BIG POND:** Coho are in 60' - 135', early in the morning on flies/dodger combo on a dipsy diver or planer board. Fish are also being taken close to shore on crankbaits.

**FOX RIVER:** Smallmouth are being taken up and down the river. Jig/plastic combos and the always dependable rebel craw. This is a must have bait in your arsenal.

By: Steve Jung

**DUPAGE RIVER:** Smallmouth are being taken on Mepps spinners along with jig/plastic combos and Rapala baits. Original sizes #7 and #9 are a good choice.

**SHABBONA:** Find largemouth on the weed edges. Catfish are by the earthen dam. Panfish can be taken with small minnows, red/leaf worms. Plastics under a float are also a good choice.

**LOCAL LAKES & PONDS:** Bass on a variety of baits from crankbaits, chatterbaits, all plastics. Panfish under a float with small plastics, leaf or redworms. Catfish are also going on stink bait, cut bait, and nightcrawlers.

The bottom line is, get out there and as always respect the environment. I've already picked up multiple strands of used fishing line and a couple of broken rods. Be stewards for future anglers.





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



Joe Baron of Rod & Pan Guide Service spoke on "Fishing the Fox Chain and Perfecting your Fish Fry". He reminded us about the 80/20 Rule...which states that "80% of the fish in any given lake reside in 20% of the water". Lots of dead water on the Chain which has an average depth of 6'-8' with temperature fluctuations due to the shallow depths and its darker water.



Joe actually feels that Chain fish are conditioned to feed more with higher boat traffic (not the other way around), as boats help stir up bait fish. Wind is also key. While normally prevalent, it is the calm days and early mornings when he can struggle to get bites. It's always fun when speakers challenge your thinking about traditional angling norms.

Joe tries to use the lightest jigs possible. 3/32oz jigs, Suffix 10-lb braid, 7'3" ML Fast Action rods, and 1/2 of a nightcrawler are his prime ticket for success. He also does some bottom rigging, as well as trolling with bright orange & perch-colored lures once water temps get into the high 50s. Planer boards are not needed for this shallow body of water. He also looks for hard bottom as rock holds warmer water and more fish.

Joe finished his presentation with multiple slides on perfecting your fish fry. Cutting the fish at the gill plate to bleed out prior to fileting makes for a cleaner cut and better taste. Also, overloading the frying pan with too many fish lowers the oil temperature, requiring longer fry time and softer, more oily tasting fish. So, take your time and enjoy. It will be worth it in the end!

## May Raffle Winners



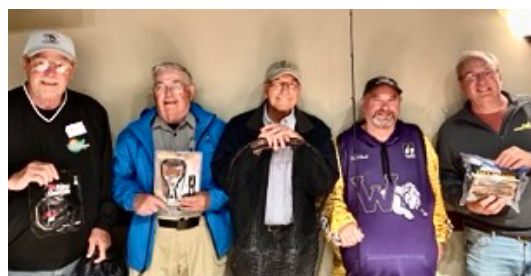
Our May grand prize was an Abu Garcia Zenon series 7 foot medium action spinning rod valued at \$500! The thrilled winner, at far left with President Chris Popp, was new member Jim Graf.

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

Winners, pictured at right in order, were Ron Cappello (Abu Garcia Black Max spin reel), Phil Fors (Pliers & light combo), Al

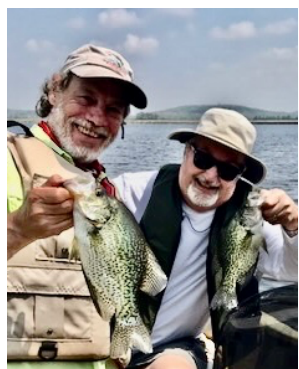
Matz (Bass Pro landing net), Jeff Henderson (Ozark Trail Spinning Rod/Reel Combo) and Mike Sanofsky (8 packs of sponsor Big Hammer plastic baits).

We also gave out 26 door prizes, six of which were donated by our speaker. Thanks Joe Baron!



# Lake Wisconsin Outing Report

By: Chris Popp

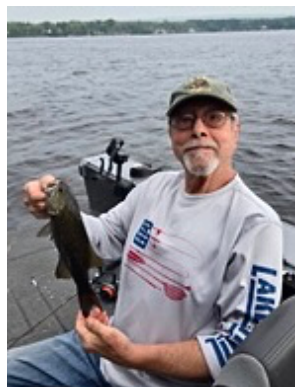


Our annual outing to Lake Wisconsin, held from May 14-16 this year, was attended by 11 members, including 2 new members to the club and another on his first outing. What was once primarily a walleye trip has now morphed into a crappie trip as the timing has matched well with their pre-spawn and spawn activity.



We again stayed at the Lake Wisconsin Resort taking over 3 clean and comfortable cabins. For the first night dinner we walked to the Anchor at Lakeside Bar & Grill, then followed it up with a nice campfire. For the second night's dinner Greg Keller showed off his grill skills firing up some delicious brats and Italian sausage.

Although some walleyes, sauger, and smallies were caught in the 80+ degree heat, the main quarry were the nice sized crappie. A minnow, 18" under a float or vertically jigged, were the most successful techniques, targeting depths of 5-7 feet near rip rap, boat docks, and the shoreline downfalls just east of the "Trestle".



Everyone caught fish and had a great time hanging with other members. Join us next year!





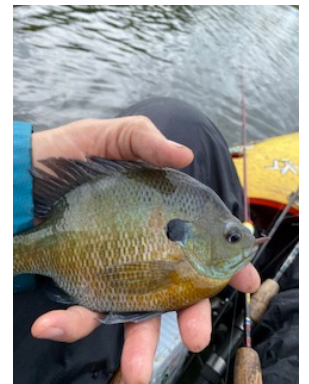
## Busse Lake Kayak Outing Report By: Chris Popp



More kayak fishing is coming to the Arlington Anglers as new Kayak Klub Coordinator Peter Laugalis has scheduled a series of events this summer. The first outing was to the Busse Lake South Pool on May 22. Although the forecast was iffy, the rain stopped before our 8 AM start time. It was damp and windy but 4 determined souls launched to try their luck.



Bob Reeg hit a favored shoreline and picked up a beauty 18-1/2" largemouth. Unfortunately, it was the only one of his day. Ray Suelzer got out of the wind, tucking into some reeds, and proceeded to take about 30 bluegills on red worms. Peter joined him late and salvage his day getting a dozen bluegills himself. I was blanked trying to work a wind blown shoreline. Forgetting my anchor, I spent more time paddling to keep from crashing into shore than fishing. Bad plan!



After about 3 hours of battling elements we headed to the Rose Garden Café for a late breakfast. It was a challenging but fun day. Join us for the next one!

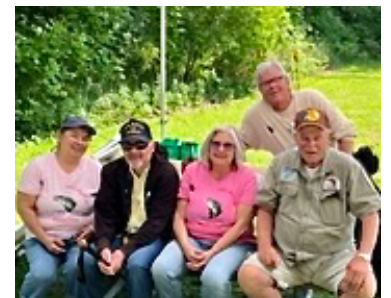
## Outreach – Explore the Forest Report By: Pat Trunda



On Sunday, June 1, seven members of the Arlington Anglers Fishing Club assisted the Cook County Forest Preserve District at their annual "Explore the Forest" get out to nature event. This event occurred at Crabtree Nature Center in Barrington. The Club hosted a booth where anyone who was interested could learn how to cast with a spincast fishing rod and reel.



Both kids and adults received expert advice from members on casting with the focus on accuracy, not just distance. Targets were placed in the field for guidance. Younger would-be anglers "caught" floating fish in the practice pond. The casting station was such a big hit we were still teaching well past the closing time of the event!



A big thanks to Ron Cappello, Mark Mandernach, Gar & Kristie Powell, Chris Popp, Ronda Taylor, and Pat Trunda for volunteering their time!



## Best Dam Float Outing Report By: Kristie Powell



Another barge trip is in the books, held from May 28-30. This one may have been the best yet! We had 12 members attending. The weather the first day started dreary but cleared up and turned out very nice. The next day was warm and sunny.

Over 150 sturgeons were caught in the two days we fished. The biggest from the members was 48"! We also caught sauger, walleye, bluegills, bass, pike, and sheepshead. And we can't forget the huge flathead catfish! Over 20 of those beasts were caught over the two days. We learned that you need really heavy weights to hold your bait near the bottom in the current. Eyrle Hilton may have beaten his all time, one day fishing trip catch record with over 20, all but 4 being sturgeon!

We stayed at the Radisson Country Inn & Suites in La Crosse. Very nice place with the famous fire pit that we all hung around after a long day of fishing. Many great stories! We had dinner both nights at the North Country Steakhouse and buffet. Made to order steaks, pork chops and lots of other food. I didn't hear many complaints...

The Best Dam Fishing Float is a great place to spend the day. Pickup by pontoon for the quick ride to the fishing dock. Captain Tom and Mike are always available to help you rig up for the river, fix you a great lunch and tell stories!

We're planning to go again in October. Join us!



## Big Fish of the Month



### Big Fish of the Month

Goes to new member Bob Reeg for this awesome 30 inch Walleye!

Bob was fishing Hawk Lake in Ontario with his son and grandsons. He was drifting a leach under a float over a boulder filled flat when this beauty took it down.

Congrats! Nice 'eye, Bob!

## Kid Fish of the Month



### Kid Fish of the Month

Goes to 4-1/2 year old Nolan, grandson of members Ken and Amy Kauth, for this nice white bass.

Nolan was on a family outing with his dad and Ken and Amy, where he also caught a walleye and a sauger. Now that's a happy new angler!

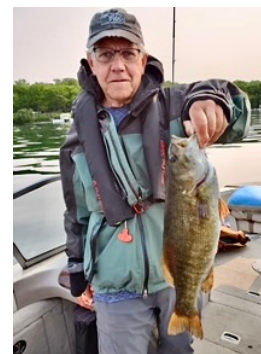
Please share your passion for fishing with a child. Whether it's a relative, a friend, or a neighbor, submit a picture when you do!

### Honorable Mention #1



First Honorable Mention goes to Brian Rockwell for this 44" brute of a northern pike. Brian was on Kirkness Lake in Ontario Canada snap jigging a 3" paddle tail for walleyes when he thought he had a snag. When he got over top to retrieve it, it started to move. Surprise! A memorable PB!

### Honorable Mention #2



Second Honorable Mention goes to Gene Surico for his first ever 20+" smallmouth bass! He was fishing a drop shot with half a crawler on a Lake Geneva deep weed edge.



# Getting to Know New 2025 Club Members



**Randy Grahame** lives in Des Plaines with his wife. They have 3 kids, 7 grandkids, and 2 great grandchildren.

Randy is a retired union paper hanger.

Randy has a 17' red Lund boat with a 60 HP motor. He keeps it on the Fox Chain of Lakes during the Summer but trailers

it to Ludington MI at least once a year to fish some favorite spots.

Randy isn't particular on the type of fish he chases. He tries for whatever is active and biting at the time.

Randy joined the club to meet other fisherman after losing some of his longtime partners.



**Dennis Krzeminski** lives in Huntley with his wife Debbie. They have 2 grown kids and 2 grandchildren.

They are both retired from their own automotive maintenance and repair business.

Dennis doesn't have a boat but had a small outboard he used to put on rented boats. He does like fishing from his canoe.

These days Dennis fishes for bass, pike and catfish, mostly from the bank on their community private lake.

Dennis joined the club after being a guest of a current member and enjoying the friendly group atmosphere.

He looks forward to attending meetings and getting to know and fishing with new friends.



**Sean Pitner** resides on the Northwest side of Chicago with his wife Adriana. They have 1 daughter.

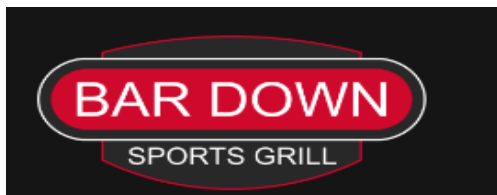
Sean is presently a firefighter for the city of Chicago.

Sean doesn't have a boat.

Sean likes to fish for all species of fish. He doesn't play favorites!

Sean joined the club to meet new people involved in the sport that he loves.

## Sponsor Page - Please support those that support us



[poplarcreekbowl.com](http://poplarcreekbowl.com)



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



[poplarcreekbowl.com](http://poplarcreekbowl.com)



[diawa.com](http://diawa.com)



Lee's Bait & Tackle  
1010 E. Higgins Rd.  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
847-593-6424

Lee's Bait & Tackle  
1400 W. Army Trail Rd.  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
630-830-5337

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



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

## Haymes Fishing

Facebook: Haymes Fishing



SALES SERVICE REPAIR

AUTHORIZED WARRANTY CENTER

MINI KOTA - LOWRANCE - GARMIN - CANNON

MARINE ELECTRONICS

HUMMINBIRD - GARMIN



[trollingmotorrepairservice.com](http://trollingmotorrepairservice.com)



[Swimbait.com](http://Swimbait.com)



# 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](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**



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: \_\_\_\_\_

---



Blank Page

Blank Page



Blank Page