

Tight Lines Newsletter

www.arlingtonanglers.com

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President's Note:

July was another busy month for the Arlington Anglers. Besides our meeting, five events took place including a shore outing, 2 kayak outings, a boat outing (where I picked up the awesome 20+ inch LMB, at right) and a community outreach event. It's a testament to how active we are and how well the members support our programs. Reports on all these events are included inside this issue.



Want more? Fun fact: Of the 16 fishing outings we had so far this year there have been over 200 participants! Add another 30+ on our community outreach initiatives. The Arlington Anglers do things!

And that doesn't include all the side excursions members are taking, in July and now into August. I'm soon leaving for a week in Canada myself with some members and a few old friends mixed in. Gonna be fun!

Also please remember that we have no general meeting this month. Why? Because we are having our annual family picnic instead. Ok, you probably already knew that. Reservations are brisk with an all-time high signing up. But we still haven't heard from many members. Check out the details on page 2 and let me know that you are coming. You won't want to miss out on one of the highlights of our year.

See you all on Tuesday the 19th!

Chris Popp - President

Key Dates

Club Picnic
Aug 19

Club Meetings
Sep 16
Oct 21

Outings
Best Dam Float
Oct 15-17
Lake Shelbyville
Nov 4-7

Holiday Party & Awards Banquet
Dec 7

This Month's Speaker

For 9 months of the year we have expert speakers at our monthly meetings. These could be guides, environment professionals, or just great anglers that share their knowledge and expertise. And in November our own members take center stage.

But in August and December we take a break, gathering together in another location for camaraderie and socializing with our fellow members. This month we have our family picnic, instead of a general meeting, to help celebrate our good fortune of being Arlington Anglers.

Arlington Anglers Family Picnic – August 19, 2025

Our annual club picnic, held in lieu of the regular August meeting, is one of the highlights of our year. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with your fellow members and their families in a casual atmosphere. If you are looking to meet more members this is the place.

All you have to do is show up and maybe bring a chair in case all the picnic tables are full. The club provides appetizers, burgers, brats and dogs with all the fixings, sides, deserts, water and soft drinks. No alcohol is allowed in the park.

If you haven't signed up already, do so asap. We need to know how many are coming so we have enough food. The fee will be collected at the event.



Picnic Details

Date: Tuesday August 19

Time: 5:30 to dusk

Cost: Adults \$10 - Kids Free

Location: Plum Grove Reservoir

See the map at left. Enter the Harper College complex in Palatine off Algonquin or Roselle Roads. Follow the ring road to the southeast corner.

There is a playground and fishing lake for the kids.

We'll have a 50/50 raffle near the end and include most of the leftover supplies. We don't want to take anything home. There will be multiple winners!



Steve's Fishing Report

By: Steve Jung

Get off of the couch, put down the phone (unless you're taking a fish pix) and get on the water!

CHICAGO LAKEFRONT: A complete potpourri: Perch season is on and they are taking fatheads, shiners small crayfish, and plastics tipped with waxworms or spikes. Steelhead on hair jigs tipped with waxworms. Rock bass in all harbors. Smallmouth bass on plastics. Carp in the Chicago River along with panfish and bass.

ON THE BIG POND: 74'-110' with jigs, flies, spoons, and spin doctor flashers. Kings going early before sunrise and as the sun comes up cohos begin to show up.

FOX RIVER: Water is low but smallmouth are eating in deeper holes. Crankbaits, jig/plastic combos. Some topwater action which will get better when cooler temps show up. Don't be afraid to float a leech down river, but set the hook when that cork pops. Don't let them swallow it to avoid possible deep hooking. Catfish in deeper holes on bluegills caught from the river. You have to put in the time, but when you see a 40"+ flathead, you will understand why they do it.

KISHWAUKEE RIVER: Smallmouth very good. Get in a kayak and throw some plastics along with top waters.

COOLING LAKES: Heidecke good for stripers, and walleyes. Braidwood good for catfish and bass on artificials.

LOCAL LAKES & PONDS: Bass all over on a variety of baits from spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, crankbaits and a variety of plastics. Bluegill are excellent on red/leaf worms under a float. If you want a reel treat, get out the fly rod and throw spiders. Catfish are excellent on a pork belly/hot dog combo soaked in strawberry kool-aid powder and garlic. Mix in some fish scent and use a #6 octopus hook with a Carolina rig and hang on. Believe when I tell you cats will bull dawg your gear.

FOX CHAIN: Water is still warm, so leave those muskies for cooler fall water temps. Muskies are a special resource that local area clubs team up with the DNR to stock so we can enjoy them. Panfish are deeper along with stripers. Walleyes in 6'-10' on a jig and crawler. Bass on leeches along with assorted plastics. Cats good on stink baits.

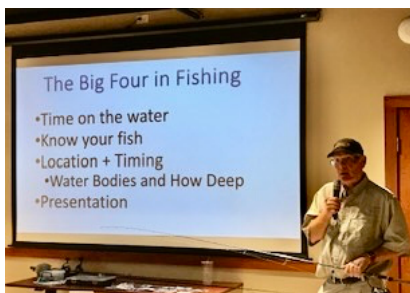
LONG LAKE: Yellow bass, perch, bluegills are excellent. The usual baits work for panfish and are mighty tasty for a fish fry.

LAKE GENEVA: Bluegills everywhere, but you need to use your electronics to find them. When you do, get ready for a great fish fry. Smallmouth in the deep weeds. Drop shot, ned rig, jig/leech all working.

MADISON CHAIN: Bluegills are excellent under a float on deep weed edges.



Last Month's Speaker Tips - By Steve Jung



Ken Kuhnle was talking about Summer gamefish tactics, but he gave general and specific tips for species and locations, too. His big four keys to success are:

- Time on the Water
- Know your fish
- Location and time of year
- Presentation is species specific

Quoting Louis Pasteur: "Chance favors the prepared mind".

Consider boat position in relation to structure/cover. For example, never go into the weeds first. If you see them below you, you're too close! Back off and cast to the outside edges and pockets first. Then move in closer.

When you feel nothing you are feeling something. Watch your line. You likely won't feel a bite if a fish is swimming to you.

Ken fishes good waters for numbers. He fishes big water for trophies.

Use your electronics to see if there is a thermocline. Fish will be above it instead of on the bottom. Flowages don't usually have them.

Find bait balls, or "moving structure" as he calls them. Game fish will usually be below or close by.

Look for cuts, current, or bottom irregularities to find fish. Neck down areas are prime locations with the biggest fish at the front of the direction current comes in.

A favorite technique is a double hook drop shot. A heavier bait is 12-18" above the weight, depending on weed depths. A lighter second bait (to avoid tangles) is 12" higher.

Plus, too many other tips to mention!



July Raffle Winners

Our July grand prize was a St. Croix Black Bass 7'1" medium power, fast action, 2 piece rod and Diawa reel spinning combo worth over \$220! The thrilled winner was Tom Gransee, at far left with President Chris Popp.

Five consolation prizes worth \$275+ more were also handed out for \$500 in total prizes!

Winners, pictured at right in order, were Dave Rohlwing (folding travel chair), Rich Roller (8 packs of assorted

Big Hammer baits), Ken Kauth (Plano Sling Pack tackle bag), David Beyer (Academy/Quantum panfish spinning combo), and John Gacki (Ugly Stik spinning combo).

We also gave out 21 door prizes!



Lake Geneva Outing Report

By: Bob Diebold

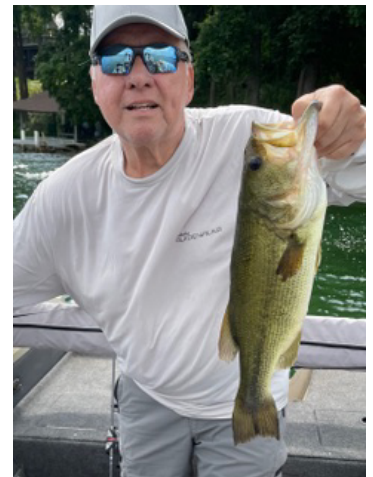
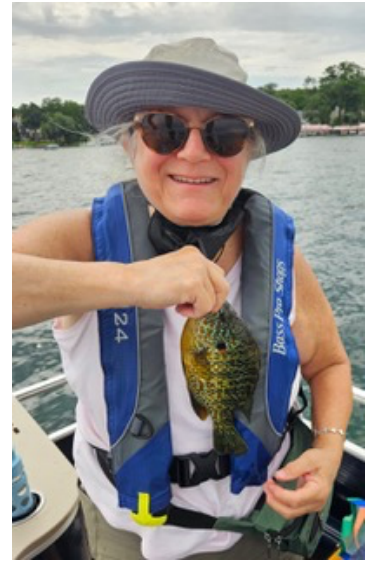
The weather forecast for July 24th was 95 degrees, high humidity, and a heat warning. Despite the forecast, fifteen enthusiastic Arlington Anglers fishermen met up at 7am in five boats. The day turned out to be quite comfortable with a constant cloud cover and a nice SW breeze.

They met up at Conference Point to take pictures and exchange latest information on fishing spots and techniques. Everyone then roared off, many to the south shore for high hopes and a little protection from the wind.

The lake temp was a warm 79 degrees but fish were still active. Every boat took at least one Largemouth. Jay Babowicz took a nice 19"er in Fontana Bay, but Chris Popp took a 20.25 inch, 4+ pounder on the north shore with a dropshot & Flatworm (see pic on pg. 1 President's Note).

Big bluegills were on fire in 15- 25 fow in many places around the lake. Bob Diebold's boat took over 70 bluegills all off the Candy Stripers on the south shore with many in the slab category. Bob (top left) got the biggest at 9.75 inches.

The threatened rain skirted north allowing everyone to get off the lake high and dry. We reconvened at Siemer's Cruise Inn for lunch and cold beverages. Reviewing the outing and telling tales, we heard about the morning's catch of LMB, bluegills, perch, pike, and rock bass, for a total of 154 fish for the five boats.



Kayak Outing Reports By: Peter Laugalis



The Arlington Anglers Kayak Klub's fourth stop on their Summer tour took them to **Busse Lake's Main Pool on Wednesday July 16**. Five members met at the kayak launch at 7 AM, finishing about 11.

Conditions looked promising with overcast skies and a light breeze. It was thought that a projected storm later in the day would be turning on the fish beforehand. That storm eventually came, but hours before it did the clouds disappeared, the wind diminished, and the air temps soared. Not optimal!



The hoped for results never materialized. A few fish were caught but bites were mostly non-existent regardless what techniques we tried. It was still an enjoyable morning on the water, especially with the amount of wildlife we were able to witness. Breakfast after at the Rose Garden was great!



For the fifth event on our schedule we were back to **Busse South Pool on Thursday July 31**. Five anglers, including 2 first timers, joined in the search for largemouth. An overnight storm and increasing morning winds made for sketchy conditions. The water was murky and kayak control was challenging. Because of it the meager results weren't unexpected.

Chris Popp landed one and lost another jumper at boatside. The rest of us hauled water. It was still fun as the eagles, swans, cormorants, deer, turtles, and other denizens of nature kept us amused. An awesome, cool day to be floating at water level!



Carpfest 25.2 Outing Report By: Chris Popp



Carpfest 25.2, the second of our 2025 shore fishing outings targeting carp, took place on Sunday morning July 20 at Lake Cosman in EGV.

The weather and the results were far different than the June edition. Temps barely hit 70 with a constant threat of rain, which luckily held off other than a short sprinkle in the late morning.

The carp numbers were also down. With half the attendees it was expected, but not as few as we did. It was so slow we caught more turtles than carp! By far the worst success rate in the several years I've run this Summer series. Not sure why they didn't cooperate this time around unless they needed a period to adjust to the cooling weather.

We did get a couple, some unintended bluegills, and one nice surprise channel cat. A positive of the lack of action? It didn't distract us from nice conversations along the shore or watching nature unfold. Lots to keep us busy besides catching!

We had coffee cake to start and got the grill going about 10:00 to fire up some burgers and dogs. Nice late morning snack! Regardless the meager results, everybody had a great time hanging out together. Other than church, what other better place would there be on a Sunday morning?



Recipe Of The Month – Pan Fried Walleye



There aren't too many anglers that would pass up a shore lunch of fresh caught walleyes, or other light flakey fish. There is no reason to wait as you can experience it in your own home. Joe Baron of Rod and Pan Guide Service shared his traditional clean and simple recipe with us at the end of a recent seminar. Notice that he bleeds his fish before cleaning for better taste. While most have their own favorite preparation, this one is worth giving a try. The ingredients are in the left margin.

-Bleed out fresh walleyes (or other light fillets)

-Place the beaten eggs in a bowl and set aside. Combine flour, garlic powder, salt, and pepper in another bowl. Pour the cracker crumbs into a third bowl.

-Dip the fillets into the flour mixture, then the eggs, and then the cracker crumbs and set aside on a plate. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat to 375 degrees F. Test the oil. It will crackle and pop when a cracker crumb is dropped in.

-Carefully lower 2 fillets into the hot oil. Cook 2-3 minutes per side until golden brown. Use tongs to turn the fillets. When done transfer to a paper towel lined plate and repeat with remaining fillets.

Note: Overloading the pan will drop the oil temperature and result in greasier fish.

For a little extra kick Joe swaps his custom egg and spice mixture with Walter & Sons Slap Ya Mama Cajun Fish Fry and just wets the fillets with water. Give it a try with your next catch. It's sure to please!

- 4 walleye fillets
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 pinch salt (Optional)
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cups crushed saltine crackers
- vegetable oil for frying



Big Fish of the Month



Big Fish of the Month

Goes to Mike Bakos for this 67" Lake Sturgeon! His annual trip to the North Branch of the St. Claire River in Michigan rarely seems to disappoint as he's caught other 60+" monsters over the last few years.

Tough to take the "Other" category when Mike enters these dinosaurs.

Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month

Goes to 11 year old Cully Curtin, grandson of member Tom Curtin, for this very nice bass he caught off a lake wall.

Cully was watching a relative tempting the bass for several minutes with no success. When he put down his rod Cully grabbed it and hooked up in less than a minute. Some just have the touch!

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 Jerry Tekien for this sweet 43", 23+ pound Northern Pike.

Jerry was recently fishing on Lake of the Woods, where he was throwing a silver and black shallow running crank bait in a bay when the beast gobbled up his offering.

Honorable Mention #2



Second Honorable Mention goes to Quinn McCoy for this nice 40" Muskie. He was also recently on Lake of the Woods fishing near Pancake Island when this fattie struck.

Getting to Know New 2025 Club Members



Dominic Valenti lives in Arlington Heights with his wife Gail. They have 5 children.

Dominic is semi-retired. He consults part time for Housing and Urban Development. He's been a residential builder/developer since 1977.

Dominic has a 16' Lund with 50 HP Merc. He has it trailered and keeps it at home.

Dominic says he isn't the best fisherman but does enjoys it. His favorite place is the Chain of Lakes because of its easy access at the State Park.

His preferred fish is walleye, but he will fish for anything.

Dominic joined the club to hang with other anglers, learn more about the sport, and participate in some of the outings.



Greg Sanders resides in Mundelein with his wife Patty. They have 2 daughters, both Doctors, a Psychologist & a Veterinarian.

Greg is a retired corporate accountant.

Greg's watercraft is a Jackson Kuda 12.5' sit on kayak which he paddles and uses a lot!

Greg's main targets are bass, pike, and the occasional walleye. He would like to try chasing perch and smallmouth on Lake Michigan. He'd also like to try for coho or lake trout.

Greg has been looking for fellow kayak anglers without much success. He is happy to see we have a relatively large group that likes to fish out of kayaks.



Jerry Tekien lives in Schaumburg with his girlfriend Sophia and son Jason.

Jerry is a retired tool and die maker.

Jerry doesn't have a boat.

Jerry likes to fish for crappie, walleye, bass, perch, and northern pike. So, the majority of freshwater game fish are on his target list.

Jerry joined the club to have more opportunities to get out fishing with other anglers.

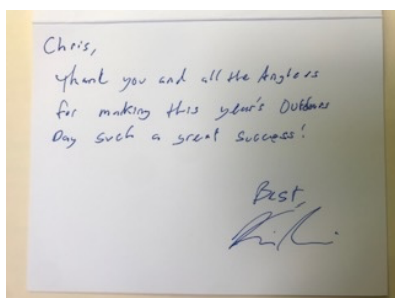
Community Outreach – Busse Fishing Derby By: Chris Popp



Every Summer Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison puts on “Outdoor Days” at Busse Woods, a collection of various outdoor activity presentations. Included is his annual fishing derby, which the Arlington Anglers run for him. This year the event was held on June 14 to coincide with the Illinois free fishing days, where licenses aren’t needed, and Father’s Day weekend.

A full report was highlighted in last month’s issue of this newsletter. Over a dozen members volunteered their time to support the 100+ attendees of the fishing derby, helping to make it a resounding success.

As a result, Commissioner Morrison was kind enough to send us a hand written thank you note in recognition of our efforts. It's great to know our outreach initiatives are appreciated and help make a difference within our communities.



Community Outreach – SRACLC Special Needs By: Pat Trunda



On Wednesday, July 23rd, 8 members of the AAFC volunteered to help the Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County finish their summer school program by assisting at their fishing derby on Big Bear Lake in Vernon Hills.

The weather forecast was for extreme heat and humidity but that didn't stop the student anglers. Fishing was tough for the estimated 40 anglers but at least 14 anglers were not skunked and most recorded multiple catches. Because of the weather, fishing was limited to 2 hours. There were prizes awarded to winners of the different categories.

Afterwards, the club members went to Portillos for lunch in the air-conditioned building. A Big Thank You goes out to the volunteers who are Dave Beyer, Ernie Clements, Tom and Judi Curtin, Chris Popp, Rob Romolo, Tom Stark, Phil Steiner and Pat Trunda.



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www.stcroixrods.com

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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!



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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: __/__/__

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