

Tight Lines Newsletter

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President's Note:

With warm stretches of weather coming and going the open water season is finally here. To be honest, I thought the Winter went by rather quickly. Of course, time seems to fly by for most of us as we get older.

Ice season finished up for the Anglers with our Sturgeon Bay adventure in late February. Although not as many, fish were bigger this year, like the nice 24+” specimen at right. See the full report on page 5.

Speaking of last month, our February meeting featured a full house with 80 attendees. That's a lot of anglers in one room! While we've routinely been seeing big crowds at every meeting, that was exceptional. Something good must be going on!

A big thanks to all those that donated tackle for our table at the Rolling Meadows Flea Market. And to the table workers. We broke another record in sales. A report is on pg 6.

This Month's Speaker

Many mistakenly think fishing structure is throwing at docks, downed trees, or rock piles. These elements are actually considered cover. Structure refers to the bottom makeup of the body of water and its variations. Structure fishing is interpreting

these variations for fish seasonal movements to help locate them. The godfather of structure fishing is the legendary Buck Perry. While Buck is long gone, Jim Shell is carrying the torch, teaching his well verified theories. Jim will be sharing the basics this month.

www.arlingtonanglers.com



We have 6 more new member profiles in this issue. Check them out to see who might live in your area and likes to fish like you do. One may become a new fave fishing partner.

Our March meeting promises to be another blockbuster. I've been looking forward to seeing this speaker for some time. Also, besides another huge raffle, the camaraderie of your fellow members is reason enough to come. Don't miss this one!

Chris Popp - President

Key Dates

Club Meetings

Mar 17

Apr 21

Outings

Mar 22-25

Wisc. River/Dells

Apr 23-25

Lake Shelbyville

May 13-15

Lake Wisconsin

May 27-29

Best Dam Float

This Month's Speaker

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



Visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Jim Shell

Structure Fishing 101



Jim Shell has been following the teachings of Buck Perry since 1987. Buck, who is the father of modern-day fishing, discovered how weather affects fish movements and how fish migrate and move on structure. Jim is a multi-species angler that fishes throughout the Midwest. He has been giving seminars on structure fishing and Buck's teachings since the mid-1990's. Please join me in welcoming Jim 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**

March Raffle Grand Prize – St.Croix/Okuma Combo



Our March raffle Grand Prize will be a spinning combo featuring a St. Croix Premier 6'6" Medium Light, fast action rod paired with an Okuma Inspira ISX 30B reel, valued at over \$265!



The Premier series is known for exceptional sensitivity to feel the lightest bites while the Inspira has a smooth drag and it's 9 bearings provide a silky retrieve.

Five awesome consolation prizes worth another \$300 will also be included in the raffle to give you more chances to win big.

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

Be sure to attend the Tuesday March 17th meeting to get your tickets for a chance to win one of these outstanding prizes.!

Steve's Fishing Report By: Steve Jung

Daylight savings time is upon us. So, longer days with more sunlight, warming air temps and ultimately warmer water particularly on the north side. Anglers are getting out with mixed reports for many species on a variety of baits, both live and artificial.

AREA LAKES: Shallower coves/bays are warming up first, and fish are taking advantage of it. Bass, crappie, and bluegill are all eating. Spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, rattle traps, square bills and soft plastic jerkbaits all taking fish.

AREA RIVERS: Fox, Du Page and Chicago rivers all producing smallmouth, crappie, and northern pike. A variety of baits from jig/plastics, lipless crankbaits and square bills. The occasional walleye is also being taken.

BRAIDWOOD: The lake opened on 3/1 and stripers, largemouth, and catfish are all eating. Crankbaits and blade baits are taking fish.

85th STREET: Perch on minnows are still working.

MINOQUA AREA LAKES: Solid ice is still available. Perch are very good in 15'-30' on small jigs with shiners and small spoons. Don't be afraid to drill some holes and move to find the schools. Crappie are very good in 8'-12' in basins. Minnows and small plastics with the evening bite being best. BGs are very good in 6'-10' in cabbage with jigs/waxies, spikes, plastics in dark colors.

Bottom line, grab your gear and head out on your favorite body of water. Don't be afraid to experiment with a variety of baits until you find what the fish want.



Last Month's Speakers Tips: By: Brian O'Connor



Bill Schultz did not disappoint. With 35,000+ smallmouth over 40 years, Bill had a lot of tips to share. He started with wading for river bass, which is his all-time favorite way to fish. He loves the exercise, wildlife, and beauty around him. Bill advised members to walk side to side while wading so you don't fall forward in case you hit an unexpected rock. With how much he fishes in busy Door County both wading and kayaking, in lesser-known areas big boats may not go into, is a major advantage. Less pressure at boat launches, and more locations to explore on your own...all while getting in a nice workout.

Bill prefers a 6'10" ML extra fast St. Croix spinning rod for his river set up. However, he believes a 7'1" MXF is the best all-around rod if you could only choose one go-to rod.

For reels Bill uses Daiwa Fuego, Abu Revo and Sevin GX, all with 8-10# braid and a flouro leader.

Pairing that rod/reel setup with a green pumpkin goby TRD Ned rig (with chartreuse jighead) or smoke salt 'n pepper Kalin's 4" lunker grub is his favorite way to attack. As far as working the ned rig, Bill likes to either swim & glide the bait, hop & bounce it off the bottom, drag & dead-stick it, or a straight swim it & retrieve...all of which require a pause at some point to yield a natural triggering response from the fish. As for the swimbaits and lunker grubs, Bill advises to fish them as slow as possible to achieve optimal results. It was a very informative evening.



February Raffle Winners

Our February raffle grand prize was a St. Croix Avid Series spinning rod valued at \$275! It was 6'8" medium power, extra fast action. The excited winner was Mike Kic pictured at left, on the right, with President Popp.

7 consolation prizes worth over \$300 were also handed out. Winners, in order at right, were: Al Matz (3 Haymes lures), Mike Sanofsky (Frabill bump board), Greg Pickle (Okuma spin reel), Tom Gransee (IL Outdoor

News hat), Mike Bierman (Plano 3700 Tackle Bag), Jack Knies (Plano Rod Tube), and Steve Beckow (Frabill Ice Safety Kit).

There were also 25 Haymes Fishing lure door prizes winners!



Sturgeon Bay Ice Outing Report By: Dave Rohlwing



Our Sturgeon Bay outing was held from February 18-20. We began our third winter adventure of the year on that Wednesday night with dinner at a classic Wisconsin Bar and Grill with deer and fish mountings covering the walls. Afterwards, the group hung out in our hotel's lobby watching the Olympics and socializing.

occasional line entanglements, but the guides quickly responded putting lines back in order.

That night we had another great dinner together at Kitty O'Reilly's Irish Pub and afterwards gathered again in the hotel lobby for Olympics viewing and socializing.



The next day after breakfast we convened at our launch spot, called The Quarry, by 7 AM. The ice was nearly 20 inches thick when our group of 17 Arlington Anglers left the Sturgeon Bay shore in heated ATVs. We traveled out over 2 miles to our heated shacks that were ready with holes drilled and poles rigged to fish 90 feet down. Our guides then gave us a quick demonstration on the technique to catch White Fish.

On Friday the weather was rainy, but it didn't dampen our spirits. We were cozy in our shacks. After fishing all day, we headed to Lindal Fisheries where we picked up yesterday's cleaned fish and waited for today's fish to be processed and packed while munching on smoked fish samples. We then all headed home. There were various fish stories on size and quantity, but what I heard most was we had fun.



We occupied 5 shacks creating a fishing camp on the ice (drone shot below). The guides checked on us often and made sure we were equipped and maximizing our fishing efforts. There were



Rolling Meadows Flea Market Report

On March 7 the Arlington Anglers participated in the Rolling Meadows Fishing Flea Market, as we have for many years. This is the largest “swap meet” for used, and some new, fishing tackle and equipment in Northern Illinois. Typically, upwards of 750 shoppers peruse the wares of 50-60 vendors looking for bargains. And bargain aplenty there were.

Filling our table with tantalizing tackle and other gear is only possible by the generosity of our members. We request and collect usable items, during our January and February meetings, that our members no longer plan to fish with. Lures, jigs, terminal tackle, storage, and rods and reels were all helpful.



While a good portion of the members donated something, several were extremely generous.

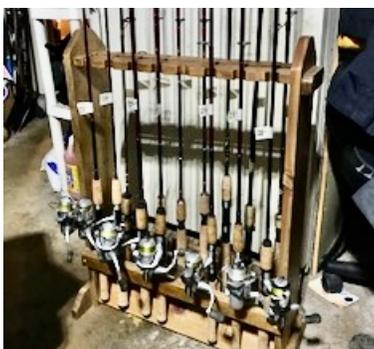
After countless hours organizing the donations, and our offerings spilling over the edge of our table, shrewd salesmanship helped to break our previous record for sales at this show.



This was especially important as, this year, all proceeds go to our philanthropy budget. We are now getting close to our funding goal.



Special thanks go to Chris Popp for organizing and pricing all the items, to Dave Powell and Mike Bierman (above) for handling the majority of the sales effort (with other members filling in), Dave Beyer (right) and Pat Trunda for introducing the club and signing up prospects for the newsletter, and especially to the donating members who made it all possible.



Swap Meet Season Is Nearing The End



The final flurry of fishing flea markets is over the next 2 weeks. Lack of coordination among the organizers has placed many shows on top of each other this year. That's unfortunate for those that like to attend as many as possible to find the best deals.

On the plus side, what is left is well spread out over the entire region. There is sure to be one close to where you live.

When attending allow plenty of time to scan the offerings as many tables are not well organized. That gem you are searching for (or you didn't know you needed) may not be readily visible. Maybe even go around twice to be sure you don't miss something. And don't be afraid to haggle.

Here's a list of the remaining events. Check the web for location addresses and show times.

Mar 14	Salmon Unlimited Swap Meet	Schlader Rec Ctr Winthrop Harbor
Mar 15	QCHH Flea market	Yorkville American Legion
Mar 15	Fishing Garage Sale	Rockford – Hoffman House
Mar 21	Chain O Lakes Fishing Flea Mkt	Fox Lake American Legion
Mar 21	Fish & Hook Show	Lockport VFW
Mar 21	Riverside FC Swap Meet	Berwyn Moose Lodge

Pre-Season Tackle Prep Tips

The open water season is now underway. Here are a few tips to be sure your gear is ready to go and to avoid disappointment.



Line: Fill your spools to maximize casting distance. You can use a cheap backing for the first third to save cost. Braid can last a few years and can be reversed from one reel to another to get the unused portion on top. But mono and flouro can age, weaken, and develop memory during storage. Consider replacing these with a fresh spool to maintain rated strength and best performance.

Reels: Clean off any dirt or grime with a damp cloth so none gets into the workings. A drop of oil or new grease in the rotating elements will provide smoother operation. Reduce the drag when not in use to reduce washer wear.

Rods: Use a cotton ball to check your eyelets for nicks that could damage your line. Make sure the tip eyelet is secure. Clean the handle for a better grip. Use the correct power for the lure weight. Transport rods in a case to avoid breaking off tips or crushing eyelets in car or house doors.

Big Fish of the Month



Big Fish of the Month goes to Gar Powell for this outstanding 16.25" crappie.

Gar and wife, Kristie, were fishing the St. John's River in Florida during a trip to visit remote Member Greg Michela. Nasty cold front conditions limited the numbers but they found some big ones. A few 15+ inchers also came to hand for the group.

Congrats to Gar for this sweet catch. That will be tough to beat in the BFC!

Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month goes, unfortunately, to no one this month. We didn't receive any entries.

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. There is a special joy in seeing their smiling face holding their "trophy".

First Honorable Mention



First Honorable mention goes to Keith Kaplan for this sweet 22+ inch Largemouth Bass. Keith was able to escape the cold to fish some Oklahoma farm ponds for a few days. The numbers weren't great but this hawg fell for a Keitech 3" Smokey Shad swimbait.

Second Honorable Mention



Second Honorable Mention goes to Tom Gransee for his 31" common carp. Tom was fishing a local pond shortly after ice out when this pig hit, of all things, a Rattle Trap that he was yo-yoing off the bottom. Not the first time we've seen a carp take a lure. It filled his cart!

Getting to Know Some New 2026 Members



Steve Kuh lives in Palatine with his non-fishing wife.

Steve is retired from the AAA Motor Club.

Steve does not have a boat but assures us he's a good rider!

Steve grew up fishing panfish but has chased pike and walleye in Canada for 25+ years.

Steve enjoys walleye but would love to get back to panfishing to rekindle some memories.

He doesn't have much history fishing for bass but would like to learn more about how to catch them.

Steve joined the club to have more chances to fish and to meet other anglers.



Ken Fitzhenry lives in Round Lake with his wonderful wife, Kathy.

Ken is retired from a career as a Facility/Maintenance Manager.

He has a 16' Lund with a 60 HP motor that he can trailer around.

Ken likes to fish for walleye, pike, smallmouth bass, and crappie. He has never really put in the effort into chasing largemouth but would like to give it a shot.

Ken joined the club to expand his knowledge and experience, and enjoy the opportunity to meet other fisherpeople.



Tony Orozco and his wife Melissa hail from Glen Ellyn. They have 2 kids in college.

Bill is recently retired from leadership positions in mid to large organizations with expertise in Supply Chain, Transportation, Logistics, and enabling technologies. He stays involved providing consulting services and participates on local college advisory boards.

Tony does not have a boat.

Tony primarily fishes on local ponds for bass, panfish, and catfish. He's yet to experience the thrill of smallmouth, pike, or muskie.

Tony first learned of the various area clubs at the Chicagoland Show. He found us to be the best fit for him given the friendly nature of the members working the booth and at his first meeting. He's particularly looking forward to learning from the group's experience and meeting new people with common interests.

More 2026 New Member Profiles



Nicholas Miranda lives in West Dundee with his fiancé, Amanda, and their 3 dogs, and also takes care of his grandfather and uncle at home.

Nicholas has worked at Sherwin Williams for 5 years. Before that he was a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corp.

Nicholas doesn't have a boat, yet, but purchased a kayak last year.

Nicholas primarily chases largemouth and smallmouth bass. He would like to find some pike and would like to catch other fish as he'd like to try for a little bit of everything.

Nicholas joined the club to find more like-minded people who enjoy and share his hobbies. He'd also like to make more friends that he could go fishing with.



Kirby Kiesgen, along with his wife, Mary, live in Schaumburg.

Kirby is semi-retired. He's been self-employed for 46 years doing kitchen and bath remodeling.

Kirby has a 2022 Tracker Deep V16 with 60 HP motor he keeps trailered and ready to go.

Kirby is well suited for a multi species fishing club. He likes to chase all species, without mentioning any favorites.

Kirby joined the club to make more fishing friends, find new places to fish, and to learn more about fishing in general and the technology to help find them.



Joe Nettum lives in Schaumburg with his wife Misa. They have one college age daughter.

Joe is semi-retired, still working a bit as a Sales Advisor for a small tech company. He is also a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Joe recently bought a 2022 Alumacraft Competitor 175 with a tiller 90 HP Merc. He trailers it, but keeps it near Lk. Koshkonong.

Joe enjoys chasing all species, doing most his fishing in Wisc. He takes a Canada fly-in every year and has fished in Mexico, Japan, Okinawa, Philippines, and Hawaii.

Simply put, Joe loves to fish. He joined the club to learn new techniques, connect with fellow anglers who share the same passion, and hopefully take part in a couple club trips throughout the season.

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Member Discounts

Being a member of the Arlington Anglers comes with many benefits. Following is a list of partners that offer discounts to our members with their membership card or online code. Be aware, some manufacturers do not allow discounts by their dealers. Also, discount percentages could change at any time, at our partner's discretion. See our website Members Only section for the discounts that apply.



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
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QR Code (to the right)
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FACEBOOK at: Arlington Anglers



Renewing members need only provide Date and Name.

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