

Tight Lines Newsletter

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Key Dates

Club Meetings

May 19
Jun 16

Outings

Jun 18
Lake Delavan
Jun 23-26
Big Green Lake
Jun 28

Lk Cosman Carpfest

Com. Outreach

May 31
Explore the Forest
Jun 20
Busse Outdoor Day

President's Note:

I've been lucky enough to get out on several outings the last few weeks, first for walleye, then crappie, and finally smallmouth. While some big fish have come to hand it seems I was a week early for the major spawning migrations each time. You can't really time it when you plan the trips months in advance. Too bad the fish won't adhere to my schedule!

While I remind you to check out the new member profiles each month, with 6 more this issue, I'm not sure how many of you do. 20% of our 135 members are new this year. That's a lot of fresh ideas and experience. Each club outing I go on is with anglers I didn't know before I joined the club. I've met wonderful people and learned a lot from them over the years. If you've been a member for a while you probably have your set posse. Regardless, I would encourage you to expand your network and get to know some of the newbies. They may know the secret you're seeking!

This Month's Speaker

While not everyone fishes Lake Geneva it can't be denied it is one of the premier destinations in our region and should be on your schedule. It can be a tough bite but the results can be rewarding with big fish of all kinds swimming in its clear waters.

www.arlingtonanglers.com



Our May meeting promises to be another big one. With a record attendance at our April meeting, it seems interest in our activities and agenda keeps on growing. Each member is a big part of that and we thank you for your support.

With the room filling up fast I suggest you get there early to find the best seat and have time to chat with other members before the meeting. That can be the best time to keep your new connections strong. Get it on your calendar and be there!

Chris Popp - President

With a club outing there in July and one in similarly deep Big Green Lake just before, getting the lowdown now on how to fish it is timely. And who better than the always engaging Billy Heim to enlighten us on the strategies and tactics for success. Don't miss it!

This Month's Speaker

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



Visit our website at: www.arlingtonanglers.com

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Billy Heim

Fishing Lake Geneva – When, Where & How



Billy Heim is the proud owner of Night Prowler Guide Service. With over 50 years of fishing experience under his belt, Billy is a full-time guide with 99% of his time being spent on Lake Geneva in southern WI. Tonight, he will share his favorite tips and tricks to fishing this very popular body of water. Please help me in welcoming Billy back 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 – Grandt Spinning Rod



Our May raffle Grand Prize will be a Grandt All American Pro Series spinning rod valued at \$245!

The sensitivity of this one piece 6'6" Medium Action fishing tool is outstanding, with plenty of power to control even your best bass or walleye. And it's personalized specifically for the Arlington Anglers.



Five awesome consolation prizes (plus a bonus) worth another \$315+ will also be included in the raffle for even more chances to win big. That's over \$550 total raffle prize value!

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

Be sure to attend the Tuesday May 19 meeting to get your tickets for a chance to win one of these 7 prizes!

Steve's Fishing Report By: Steve Jung

The weather has finally settled down and the fishing has been fantastic. For some species you can literally throw a variety of baits, especially largemouth, as they are chewing right now. On high bluebird days, fish slower and deeper with jig & plastics.

AREA LAKES: Crappie, bluegill, and perch are excellent with small plastics, minnows or leaf worms casting or under a float. For bass, open the tackle box. Some big ones are being taken which shows catch and release works!

Fish are also bedding on a lot of lakes. Let them do their thing. If you ever see how bluegills come in and wipe out a nest after the guarding bass is taken off of the bed, you will realize why you should leave bedding fish alone.

FOX/DUPAGE RIVER: Rivers are running at a decent flow and the fish are eating. Smallmouth being taken on crankbaits, plastics and blade baits.

FOX CHAIN: Water is at normal pool and open to boating. And the fish are eating! Panfish, bluegill, crappie, stripers and perch all being taken on plastics, minnows, or leaf worms either casting or under a float.

Walleye in 4'-6' fow with crankbaits, plastics or jig/minnow combo. Bass are excellent on plastics and crankbaits. Fish tight to cover if the bite is slow.

CHICAGO LAKEFRONT: Lakers, Coho, and Browns being taken in harbors from shore and boat up and down the lakefront from Chicago to Milwaukee. Smallmouth bass are excellent with some absolute toads up to 6# on a variety of baits. It has become a solid fishery.

STURGEON BAY: Walleye and smallmouth are excellent on a variety of baits, with plastics being an excellent option.

NORTHERN WISCONSIN: Opener was chilly but fish were eating. Pike, walleye, crappie, and smallmouth are all active in shallower water.



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



Todd Huynh's presentation was about "Targeting Trophy Pre-Spawn Smallies". He provided great insights to our full house! Todd spoke of Sturgeon Bay and the Great Lakes as his highlighted region, but these tips play anywhere in the Midwest.

In the Spring, it's all about finding warmer water. 2-3 degrees can make a big difference as that is where the baitfish will congregate. So search for darker or stained water on the northern side of the lake where the sun is hitting all day. Shallow flats are also a good bet, as are spawning areas and transition areas (rock to sand). Dock trenches can also play a key role at this time of year. Scour Google maps prior to your arrival, and always remember to play the wind, as baitfish pushed into shallow bays or points can really make for a great day.



Todd starts by throwing swim baits to find a few SMB, preferably with a 1/8 oz tungsten jig head coupled with a 2.75" or 3" paddle tail and a slow, smooth retrieval. Jerk baits are also a big player this time of year in the colder water, with the Megabass Vision 110S being his #1 choice (in spite of the steep price). These often perform better on windy days. The cadence (snap, snap, pause) and reminding yourself to go slow are crucial. Usually the longer the pause, the better.

Hair jigs are also a good choice in the Spring. Try a 1/16 oz black or black/purple marabou jig with a steady, slow retrieval. Wet your hair jigs prior to casting them. A small piece of Ned TRD plastic cut up and placed high on the shank for longer casts was an insider tip.

April Meeting Raffle Winners

Our April raffle grand prize was a St. Croix Triumph and Daiwa Regal spinning combo valued at \$215! The surprised winner was guest Fred Kuchta pictured at left, on the left, with President Chris Popp.

5 consolation prizes, 3 bonus prizes, and 4 spools of Seaguar Flouro line, donated by speaker Huynh, totaled 12 more prizes worth an additional \$350!

Main winners, in order at right, were: Mark Woods (Academy panfish spin combo), Bill Dohr (Mepps Crappie spinner kit),

Kyle Rapp (landing net), Ken FitzHenry (BPS cordless filet knife), and Mike Bakos (Slab Grabber crappie pole).

There were another 27 door prize winners among the 86 attendees!



Lake Shelbyville Outing Report By: Chris Popp



From April 23 -26 trip coordinator Bert Saxon led two dozen members on our annual trip to Lake Shelbyville in search of pre-spawn crappie.

We once again stayed at the posh White Tail Crossing resort, which is a series of various sized homes from efficiencies to 5 bedrooms, of which we inhabited five.

We ate well as a group with Rich Sutton bringing his Italian Beef and Sausage combos the first night and Bert ordering pizza and hot wings for our second. The final night we went to Tailwinds Steakhouse for our closing celebratory sit down before departing the next day.

How was the fishing, you ask?

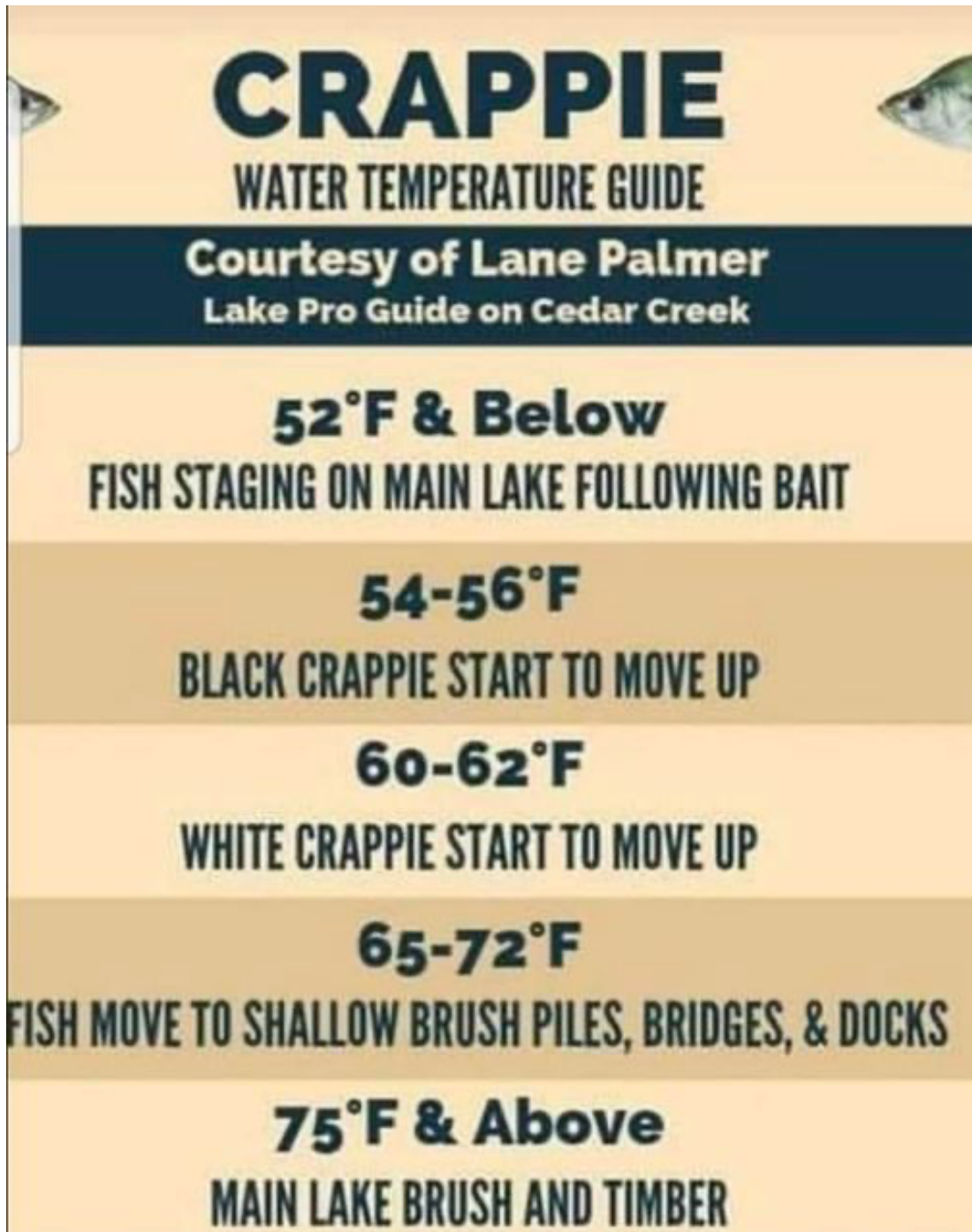
While fish were caught out of all 9 boats, some clearly did better than others. A late Spring warmup meant we were early for the spawn, with fish staying off the shorelines. A cold front kept fish inactive and windy conditions didn't help boat control. In spite of that some fish were found in bays, off riprap, in current areas, and on cribs.

Regardless the relatively slow action many got enough for a couple meals and everyone enjoyed the company of their fellow Arlington Anglers.



Crappie Temperature Guide

With water temperatures on the rise in northern Illinois and Wisconsin, the crappie spawn bite should be heating up right now, if not already started in some places. You can keep it going if you keep traveling North. Monitor water temps in the areas you plan to fish to see where you are on this approximate schedule.



Kayak Klub Outing Reports By: Peter Laugalis



On Monday May 4 we went out for the 3rd outing of the year to Camp Lake in Trevor Wisconsin. It was a beautiful warm & sunny day. Oh, but for the wind!

7 members showed. Unfortunately, only a handful of fish were caught. The wind restricted several from fishing where they wanted to go.

By the time we were done the lake was full of white caps slamming our kayaks into shore upon our takeout. Did I mention the wind?

We enjoyed a nice meal afterwards at KC's cabin... And we got to sample 3 different pizzas provided by the owner. Everyone had fun and are looking forward to our next outing.



The Arlington Anglers' fourth Kayak Klub outing took place on Monday May 11th at Round Lake. Ten anglers participated. It was our largest group in the short history of Kayak Klub. Interest is growing!

It was yet another cool, windy day. Around 40 fish were caught, which

made it one of our more productive days. Most were largemouth bass, in the 13-15" range, along with about a dozen blue gills.

Afterwards several of us went out to eat at a local restaurant. Everyone said that they had fun.



Big Fish of the Month



Big Fish of the Month goes to Dan Draz for this behemoth 21-3/4 inch smallmouth bass weighing 6.7 pounds! He was fishing the St. Lawrence River in the Thousand Islands area of New York. He and his partner caught a boat load of big smallies on their three day trip.

Dan says: "It was epic!". Congrats, Dan. It sounds like it was a wild & crazy excursion.

First Honorable Mention



First Honorable mention goes to Dan Blaszcinski for this nice 34+” northern pike. Dan was on Lake Delavan tossing his favorite jerk bait when this one latched on.

Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month goes to junior member Dominic Hepp for this nice 19 inch walleye. Dominic was recently at the Best Dam Float in LaCrosse WI fishing the Mississippi River with member granddad Frank Mucci catching a mess of different species..

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".

Second Honorable Mention



Second Honorable Mention goes to junior member Robbie Henderson for this 4.25 pound largemouth bass he caught in the High School regional state tournament. Not only did he and his partner finish 3rd to advance, this beast was big fish of the tournament.

Getting to Know Some New 2026 Members



Tom Zubik lives in Bartlett with his wife Michelle.

Tom is currently working for DuPage County as a Crises Counselor. He retired from the Army as a Colonel and retired from a position with the State of Illinois.

Tom does not have a boat...yet!

Tom mostly focuses on northern pike, walleye, and bass, both smallmouth and largemouth.

Tom joined the club because he was looking forward to resuming his childhood hobby, fishing. He thought this was a good way to start.



Bruno Para lives in Lisle with his wife, Mary. They have twin adult daughters.

Bruno is a retired attorney, most recently with Liberty Mutual managing relationships with private law firms they hired.

Bruno has a project boat that he is hoping to get back into the water sometime soon.

Bruno only recently got back into fishing, getting on the Fox Chain a few times last year. He's open to fishing for everything but does enjoy catching bass and pike.

Bruno joined the club hoping to sharpen his skills and expand knowledge on using the correct gear, bait selection, and proper presentation. He looks forward to connecting with others members.



Javier Vargas lives in River Grove with his spouse and son.

Javier is still working. He has an office job.

Javier does not have a boat.

Javier and his family mostly fishes from shore and is happy with whatever they can catch!

Javier joined the club to try to learn more about fishing so they can have better success when they go out.

More 2026 New Member Profiles



Mike Charewicz lives in Des Plaines with his wife, Margaret. They have 3 adult children.

Mike has been retired for 4 years from being an Auto Mechanic.

Mike has a 20' Sylvan pontoon boat and 23' Stingray runabout he keeps on Castle Rock Lake in Wisconsin.

Mike says he mostly likes to fish for Walleye. However, he would like to try muskie fishing at some point.

Mike joined the club for the social events and hopes to go on a few outings.



Dennis Harty lives in Gurnee with his wife Nancy. They have two children.

Dennis is retired from a career in Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

Dennis has a 90 HP 16 ft Tracker and a 13 ft Old Town canoe, both trailered to travel.

Dennis likes fishing for bass, walleye, pike and crappie, but is happy to catch any fresh water game fish.

Dennis first met members at the Schaumburg Show and joined to grow knowledge, skills, and experiences, and to learn new techniques and locations to fish.



David Hinton resides in Schaumburg.

David stills works but is just a few years away from retirement. He's a Paralegal for a Chicago law firm analyzing titles, surveys, and zoning for properties serving as collateral for commercial loans.

David has a 12' canoe he cartops to wherever he uses it.

David's favorite fish is smallmouth. After that he likes largemouth and then any kind of panfish. He also likes to chase brook trout and pike. Like many others, he would like to try for muskies.

David joined the club because he sees it as a vibrant, active group, and the meetings provide access to a lot of knowledge. He hopes to go on outings after he retires.

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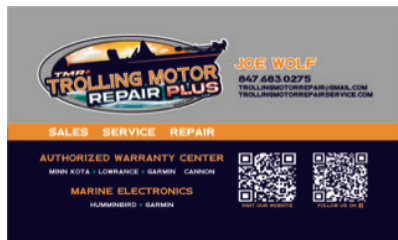
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Member Discounts

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.



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)
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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: _____

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