

# Tight Lines Newsletter

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## President's Note:

I was wondering why I was so tired lately. I'm not sure why I was surprised. Many who know me tell me I'm the busiest retired person they know. Maybe it's because I feel I'm running out of time! It's the most important asset I have and it keeps ticking away. So, I try not to waste it.

While I do have a life outside of the Arlington Anglers, playing golf, still playing ice hockey, and spending quality time with my significant other, I feel blessed to be a part of this organization and what it's added to my life in both experiences and friends made. Therefore, I put a lot into it because I get so much out of it.

At one point this last month we had 4 club outings over 12 days, taking up 7 of them. I made them all. It wasn't easy fitting them in, but I didn't want to miss any opportunities to spend time with fellow members in fun places, doing fun stuff. See reports on all these, and others, in this issue.

## This Month's Speaker

Many new members say they joined the club to find new places to fish. While Illinois has a lot of great water, and we travel north to Lakes Geneva, Delavan, Big Green, and Wisconsin, there are other opportunities for day trips within striking distance just over Illinois' northern border.

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



I get not everyone joins the club to get that kind of return. But you can to some level if you get into it.

Don't forget our July meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Another great speaker, more great raffle prizes, and more time to network with other members. It's also the last one before we come back in September. We have our family picnic in August, which I hope you all attend. Details are page 5.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and the family picnic!

Chris Popp - President

Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist Travis Motl has been managing a whole host of other bodies of water in the Southeastern part of his state. He'll be introducing us to several of these lesser known destinations that are sure to yield some outstanding surprises and new experiences for many.

## Key Dates

### Club Meetings

Jul 21  
Sep 15

**Family Picnic**  
Aug 18 5-8:15 PM

### Outings

Carpfest 26.2  
Aug 2

### Com. Outreach

Jul 21  
SRACLC

## This Month's Speaker

### Arlington Anglers Fishing Club



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

***Tuesday, July 21, 2026***

**Travis Motl**

**Angling Opportunities in Southeast WI**



Travis Motl has been a Fisheries Biologist with the Wisconsin DNR since 2010. During that time, he has managed diverse fisheries resources in 9 counties at 3 stations in Southeast WI. Travis' presentation will cover angling opportunities in his current area of responsibility, which includes Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties. Please help me welcome Travis 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**

## July Raffle Grand Prize – St Croix/Seviin Combo



Our July raffle Grand Prize will be a St Croix Reign/ Seviin spinning combo worth over \$220!

This limited edition combination features a 6'6" Medium Light, Fast action rod paired with a Seviin GF Series 1000 sized reel, perfect for all your finesse applications or for throwing paddle tails, small inline spinners, or plastic stick baits.

Five awesome consolation prizes, plus a bonus prize, worth another \$300 will also be included in the raffle for even more chances to win big. That's well over \$500 total raffle prize value!

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

Be sure to attend the July 21 meeting for a chance to win one of these prizes!

## Steve's Fishing Report By: Steve Jung

**The summer heat has arrived and with that all species are in their summer patterns. It is even more critical than ever to manage C & R for all species that you plan to let go. Prolonged time out of the water, improper handling, especially from a stressful fight or trying to get the hook (s) out of a deeply hooked fish, will increase mortality.**

**AREA LAKES:** Bluegills are everywhere. Red/leaf worms or a small piece of night crawler on a drop shot. Largemouth on virtually everything. Open the tackle box and enjoy. Also try fly fishing for panfish. Foam spiders on top and small sinking presentations for suspended fish. You'll get bonus catfish and bass. It's a blast!

**FOX RIVER:** Water is up and down with the rains, but smallmouth are good on blade baits, plastics and top waters. If you are wading, check current first and travel with someone, if possible.

**FOX CHAIN:** LMB are active in wind blown weed lines on live bait and artificials. If you are fishing docks, use the shade to your advantage. For those that rise early and get on the water before sunset, that first hour can be magic with top waters in shallow. Walleye on weed edges near hard bottom with blade baits, hair jigs, and lindy rigs with worms & leeches. Catfish on stink baits or garlic/Koolaid soaked hotdogs.

**CHICAGO LAKEFRONT:** Boaters are limiting on Kings. Spoons trolled in 60'-90'. Cohos from shore on crankbaits and spoons. Smallmouth on jig/plastics and crankbaits up and down the lake front.

**LAKE GENEVA:** Multi species all eating. Fish are down deep due to water clarity, but very catchable if you put in the time. Walleyes on jig-crawler/leeches, Bluegill on red/leaf worms. Bass on drop shot in 18'-20' near weed lines.

**UP NORTH:** Largemouth, smallmouth, panfish all good. Walleye are fair.





## Last Month's Speaker Tips: By: Steve Jung



Sean Bermingham talked Summer fishing tactics. Use a combination of the 20-minute rule along with the gold standard from In-Fisherman  $F + L + P = S$  (Fish + Location + Presentation = Success). For this to work, you must be willing to change tactics and not stay on a pattern for a long time. One fish could be a fluke. Three fish is a pattern. Milk the pattern.

Do not fish history. Just because you caught them there before doesn't mean they are there now. Things change. Pay attention to what may be different.

Change the pace of your retrieve. Sometimes you need finesse with a slow retrieve. Sometimes you need to speed up to get a reaction strike.

Power wacky is a vertical presentation into holes, pockets, or darker water in weeds with a "trick" or "stick" worm. The sink rate is the key. Trick worms have a real slow sink rate with a subtle glide. Sticks, like Senkos, fall faster. But different brands fall at different rates. Test them in a bucket of water to fine tune which to use when.

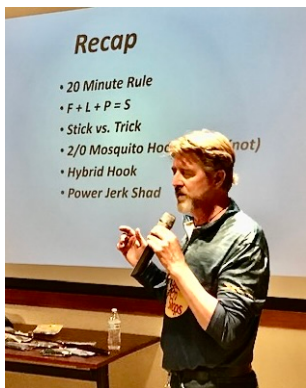
The idea is to fish fast, but with casts, not retrieves. If a fish doesn't hit on the fall, reel in and cast again.

When Texas Rigging, you don't have to peg the sinker. Sometimes you want the weight to separate and allow the bait to glide down behind.

EWG (extra wide gap) hooks work well for "tex-posing", allowing the hook to lie on top of the bait for better hook sets. A 3/0 or 4/0 Mustad Hybrid offset hook is good for tubes and creatures, providing more gap. A screw lock hook is good for flukes and worms.

A Berkeley 4" Power Jerk Shad is an excellent fluke style bait. Rig it with a 2/0 mosquito hook through the very tip of the nose. Dead sticking is a fine option. Cast. Let it sink. Wait.

A great summer technique is the MAG shot. It's a heavy cover version drop shot with 14-17# mono or flouro and a heavy bullet weight dropper 4-12" below the hook.



## June Meeting Raffle Winners

Our June raffle grand prize was a Fenwick Techna 6'6" Med/Lt, Fast action spin rod worth over \$200! The happy winner was Frank Mucci, pictured far left with President Popp.

5 consolation prizes, plus a bonus, worth another \$300 was also given out, for a total raffle value of \$500+! Winners in order at right were: Mike Kopplin (Matzuo spin combo), Bruno

Para (Sling Pack), Tom Gransse (camp knife), Kyle Rapp (110 Air Bubbles pump), and double winner Josh Bailey (Okuma spin reel & a landing net).



# Arlington Anglers Family Picnic – August 18, 2026

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.

Sign up starts at the July meeting. 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 18

**Time:** 5:00 to dusk. Dinner at 6:00.

**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!





## Lake Delavan Outing Report By: Chris Popp



On Thursday June 18 we traveled north for our second annual day trip to Lake Delavan. A whopping 27 Anglers joined the fun in 10 boats. Wonderful participation!

With only a half day of fishing scheduled everyone had to get up early to get on the water between 6 and 7 AM. While a drizzle on the ride up gave pause, the clouds cleared by launch time, leading to a cool, pleasant morning.

Continuing our new initiative, we had a Zoom call the night before to allow those interested to get or share intel on how to attack the lake. About half jumped on, some old hands and others never having fished the lake before. Feedback on this pre-event was positive.

With a cold front settling in the fishing was difficult for many. But almost everyone got some.



There were some highlights. Don Taylor and Chris Popp both had 19+” largemouth. Another 18 incher was caught along with a surprise number of walleye and several big blue gill. Of course, there was also a few pike in the mix, as usual.

Afterwards, the entire crew hit South Shore Bar and Grill about 1:15 for a hearty lunch. Sue provided great service and the food was good! We’ll definitely go back there next time.

All in all, it was a very successful outing with everyone expressing they had a lot of fun and got to know other members they hadn’t met before.





## Big Green Lake Outing Report By: Rich Sutton



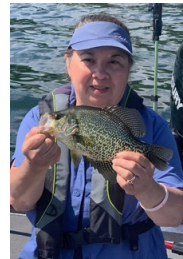
We held our fifth annual fishing outing on Big Green Lake, Wisconsin, from June 23–26. There were 17 members fishing from five boats, plus Hall of Famer Mike Norris, who guided a few club members in his boat.

Mother Nature cooperated this year, for the most part, with rain only a couple of nights and, surprisingly, holding off until we were off the water on Wednesday evening. We enjoyed two great grill-outs and wrapped up the outing with dinner at our club favorite, Christiano's Restaurant.



With mild temperatures and plenty of information-sharing, every boat enjoyed catching the "trifecta" of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and rock bass. A few pike, perch, and bluegills were also caught. Ned rigs, along with drop-shot rigs, proved to be the most productive presentations in about 8-12 FOW. Smaller bass were caught by casting toward shore over shallow, gravel-bottomed areas.

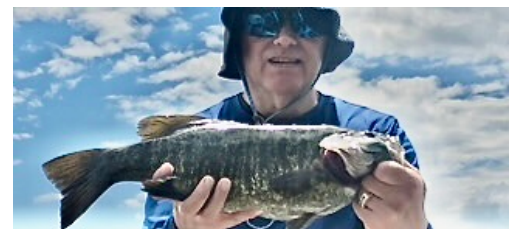
This year we had several first-timers to Green Lake—and for a few, fishing with Ned rigs for the first time. It was enjoyable introducing them to the Big Green and a new lure option.



While many smaller bass were caught, some standout fish included Gar's 19.5-inch smallmouth, Jim G.'s 19-inch smallmouth, and numerous other largemouth bass in the 17- to 18-inch-plus range.

The Green Lake Inn was excellent, as always, and was within only a few minutes from the launch.

Many thanks to Ronda and Kristie for their breakfast buffets each morning, Bert for grilling brats and Barb's deserts on Wednesday, I did the Chicken on Tuesday, and to Eyrlle and Bob for supplying the happy hour snacks each evening.





# Carpfest 26.1 Outing Report By: Chris Popp



Our annual “Carpfest” outing tradition continued on the morning of Sunday June 28, with the first of 2 yearly dates. I have been holding this event for the past 9 years. It is still one of our most popular.

While attendees are likely to catch one of the biggest fish of their year the draw is really the opportunity to spend a relaxing morning interacting with a lot of fellow members on a casual basis, a different deal than our boat outings.

Luckily the weather was beautiful, with 80 degree temps, sunshine, and a light breeze. You couldn’t have asked for a better morning.

On the other hand, the fishing could have been better. Only 4 carp were caught, a major bummer. Several anglers switched to catching bluegill and small bass to keep it interesting.

Regardless, I think everyone had a good time chatting with the others. Hopefully version 26.2 on Aug 2 will redeem the lake. Join us!



Version 26.1 had 25 members and guests attend. Several of the guests were sons, nieces, and nephews of a member. A real family affair!

As usual, we started off with Ronda Taylor bringing coffee cakes and donuts for breakfast. We finished by grilling burgers and dogs for an early lunch.





## Best Dam Float Outing Report By: Kristie Powell



On July 8-10, seventeen brave souls ventured forth to test their skills and luck on the Mighty Mississippi. Everyone gave it their best try and fish were caught. And a few soft shell turtles! We caught an assortment this trip, Drums galore, crappie, bluegill, sturgeon, bass and catfish. Preferred rig was a river rig or heavy jig. Nightcrawlers were the bait of choice.

An interesting thing was two girls who kept catching fish. Their bait? Fluorescent green worms from Kwik Trip. Next time that's on my list!

We tried a new hotel this trip, the Americinn Riverfront Conference Center. Construction and remodeling put a damper on things and the breakfast was pretty lame but the Tiki Bar on the Black River was nice.

Wednesday a few showed up on the barge after driving the 3.5 hours to get there. It was nice until the breeze stopped and we all pretty much baked. Storms rolled through that night and the next day we were all back at it. A bit cooler but still got hot.

I hope to do another trip in the fall. Otherwise we will be back on the barge in May/June 2027. Please come with, it's a great time to hang out with other fishermen and just relax!



## Kayak Outings Report By: Peter Laugalis



Our next AAFC Kayak Klub adventure, a 3.5 mile float down the Fox River, from the Algonquin Dam to Fox River Shores FP, took place on Monday June 29. Four kayakers and 2 in a canoe launched before 8 AM after arranging the shuttles to the pull-out point.



Due to recent rains, the conditions were ok for a general paddle cruise, but not so much for fishing. The current was heavy, making boat control and bait presentation a tough issue. Results were such that we lost more anchors than fish were landed. It was still fun but some lessons were definitely learned.

One mishap made them especially poignant. Most of us need a slower river to effectively fish and remain safe. River fishing is a much different animal, needing more precautions. For sure we'll review them next time.

Lunch after was successful, as always. Shared tales of woe from the float made the food taste that much better!



## New Member Reception By: Chris Popp



Joining a new club can sometimes be daunting. You just aren't sure what to expect. Even if you are sure it's the one for you, there is still the job of meeting people and getting involved.

We recognize that challenge, not only because our meeting agendas are packed, without much time to network, but because some people are just more reserved than others and don't step out.

To help new members ease in we host a New Member Reception each year before one of our regular meetings. The club provides pizza and soft drinks for the new members and have them introduce themselves to each other. Held in June this year, 16 of our 32 new members were able to come to the reception. Too bad more couldn't.

The conversation was lively. Many met others that lived close by or enjoyed the same kind of fishing. They mostly felt comfortable without the pressure of impressing club veterans. All were thankful and thought it a great start to their new journey with us.





# Community Outreach Report By: Pat Trunda

## Rolling Knolls Family Outing



The month of June was a busy month for the Community Outreach Program. On Friday, the 19th, 4 members went out to assist the Rolling Knolls Nature Center with their Family Fishing Outing. This year was a different set of activities. Besides fishing, there was, "What is in Our Aquatic Waters", and a wood craft printing station. Club members were showing parents and their children on how to bait a hook, cast a bobber, and hold a fish to remove the hook. One club member was even helping out at the printing station. Over 35 people participated at this event.



## Busse Woods Outdoor Days



The next day, June 20th, 15 members of the club officiated the fishing derby for Commissioner Kevin Morrisons Outdoor Days at Busse Woods. With the good support of club members, the derby ran smooth. From cutting bait, teaching how to cast, and recording the catch, the derby winners in 9 categories were determined without delay. Over 100 participants signed up on-line with more added who were late entries.

THANK YOU to club members for volunteering your time. Jerry Tekien, Tom DiGiovanni, Don & Ronda Taylor, Ron Cappello, Dave Rohlwing, Dave Beyer, Jim Arnott, Mike Stehlik, Tim Nolley, Tom Curtin, Gene Surico, Bob Reeg, Henry Comp, and Pat Trunda.



## Big Fish of the Month



**Big Fish of the Month** goes to Dave Beyer for this healthy 39" Northern Pike.

Dave was on a Canadian trip throwing his favorite Whopper Plopper around weed edges in bays. He was having a ball catching multiple pike, but this one was the best.

Way to go, Dave!

## First Honorable Mention



First Honorable mention goes to Robbie Henderson for yet another 22" Smallmouth on our board. Some monster SMB caught by the club this year. Robbie got this one while fishing in the Illinois HS state championship. It took big fish of the tournament!

## Kid Fish of the Month



**Kid Fish of the Month** goes to junior member Dominic Hepp, grandson of member Frank Mucci, for his nice 17" smallmouth bass. Dominic, Frank and 2 other members were on Lake Geneva with guide and friend of the club, Billy Heim, when he scored this fine specimen.

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 Bob Diebold for this beautiful 29" Steelhead. Bob was recently fishing Lake Michigan with a friend for Cohos when this nice surprise latched on. Love the silver!



## Getting to Know New 2026 Members



**Chris Molinowski** lives in Lake Zurich with his wife, Kathy. They have 4 kids all together.

Chris is a retired letter carrier. To keep busy, he is still involved in the union activities.

Chris does not have a boat.

Chris says he likes to chase anything with fins. But he is especially drawn to fishing for panfish. He thinks it's fun and usually there is more action.

Chris joined the club hoping to find some additional opportunities to fish and to meet other anglers.



**Bob Steglinski** lives in Palatine with his wife, Ellise. They have one grown son.

Bob is semi-retired, still selling nuts and bolts for his old company part time.

Bob does not have a boat.

Bob mostly fishes from shore,

enjoying the peace of being near the water. He likes walleye, bass, and the fight of a catfish.

Bob joined at the urge of a friend. He likes learning from the speakers and the camaraderie of fishing with other anglers who know what they are doing.



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