

Tight Lines Newsletter

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President's Note:

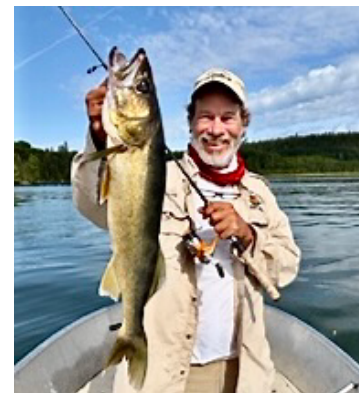
There are a couple events every year that tell me Summer is starting to wind down. The first is during the long drive back from my annual August trip to Cedar Lake, Ontario (where I knabbed the nice 25+" walleye at right). This year was my 10th there. The second is cleaning up after our club's annual family picnic just a few days later.

I have mixed emotions as I realize the year is flying by. I feel I should try to squeeze in what I can during the last few weeks of warm weather. But after well over a dozen fishing trips this year and the grind of club newsletters and meetings prep, I find my energy level waning after the one two punch of the events stated above. Luckily, history tells me that a couple weeks of doing nothing will reinvigorate me to get ready for all that Autumn fishing and our club's activities have in store. Like my 20 minute naps, a short break is usually enough to restore my energy level.

This Month's Speaker

While 9 months of the year we have a professional speaker and 1 month we let the members loose, August is one of two months that we don't have a speaker on the schedule. The other is December when we have our Holiday Party and Awards banquet. This month we took a break to have our

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While we skipped Poplar Creek Banquets this month to host our successful family picnic off site, we will return to our meeting schedule in September. There will be another newsletter before then, but put Sept 15 on your calendar now. For some reason it is one of our least attended. Perhaps people fall out of the habit after a month off. Let's change that trend by all attending the meeting.

Until then, enjoy the last few weeks of Summer. I know I will be trying my best to do so.

Chris Popp - President

annual Family Picnic at Plum Grove Reservoir in Hoffman Estates. It's a great place with a pavilion, lake, playground, and plenty of parking. We will be back at our normal meeting place in September with another speaker who will provide informative and educational entertainment.

Key Dates

Club Meetings

Sep 15
Oct 20
Nov 17

Outings

Shabbona Lake
Sep 10
Best Dam Float
Sep 30-Oct 2

Holiday Party
Dec 13

Arlington Anglers Annual Family Picnic in Pictures



Annual Family Picnic Report By: Chris Popp



Threatening storms caused some anxiety, but we dodged a weather bullet and held our family picnic on Tuesday August 18th without incident. Appetizers kept the crowd at bay while 3 grillers worked hard to prepare the burgers, brats, dogs and sides main course for the 90+ hungry family members that attended. Plenty of desserts followed.

The ever popular minnow race track made an appearance and our 50/50 raffle with 100% payout produced 3 happy winners. Another 20 winners took home a variety of leftovers.

The event is hosted by the club's officers who went above and beyond to make the picnic a great success. They really can't be thanked enough for all the effort they put in to make it happen.

Steve's Fishing Report By: Steve Jung

We have had a variety of weather with mixed air temps and rain, but that has not deterred the fish from eating.



AREA PONDS/LAKES:

Largemouth on a variety of baits. Spinnerbaits, chatter-baits, crankbaits texas-rigged senkos, ned rigs and the recent new bait, the urchin, are all taking fish. Top waters during a light change early or late is also on at times. Panfish everywhere on red/leaf worms, or plastics dragged or under a cork. A bonus for panfish is on the fly rod. Small poppers and flies/nymphs all taking fish. Bonus largemouth are mixed in. Catfish on chicken livers, hot dogs, stink bait, and pork bellies mixed with dry kool-aid.

FOX RIVER: Recent rains have helped with water levels, but prior to that find the holes and you will find the fish. Blade baits, crankbaits like a bandit 1000 or

Manns Minus one, ned rigs and tubes are all taking smallmouth with the occasional largemouth.

FOX CHAIN: Water temps in the mid to upper 70's. Fish edges of weeds and contours and you will find the fish. Walleye in 8'-10' on blade baits, hair jigs, and jig/crawler combo. Drum, bluegill, stripers, and perch everywhere. Dragging a piece of crawler or under a float is a good option. Bonus catfish on crankbaits and blade baits. Largemouth on spinner baits, crankbaits and plastics. Try skipping the docks with a wacky senko.

LAKE MIHIGAN: Lakers, Steelhead, and Kings in 75' one day to 95'-115' the next. Flies and spoons are good.

LAKE GENEVA: Bluegill in deep water 18'-22' on a drop shot with a piece of crawler. Walleye/bass deep weeds on drop shot plastics, ned rigs, and tubes. Live bait jig/crawler combo is always a good choice.

Last Month's Speaker Tips: By: Dan Draz



Travis Motl is a Sr. Fisheries Biologist based in the Southeast part of Wisconsin. His areas of responsibility are Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties. He shared information on the various fishing opportunities in his region and what might be expected in each body of water.

Travis highlighted too many lakes to mention all here, providing results of their electro shocking and net surveys compared to years past. That data is used in their management strategies to meet the species size and numbers goals for each lake. Regulations on limits may vary from lake to lake depending on what they are trying to achieve in that body.



He also discussed lake access and the ramp conditions in each. Lots of ramps that are posted are more appropriate for smaller boats due to shallow water. It's best to do research first before picking a launch site.

Travis also talked about their stocking programs. Wisconsin has several hatcheries throughout the state.

When asked whether the DNR does any chemical treatment for weeds he said they don't perform any treatments but does regulate them. Primary chemical treatments are carried out by specific lake groups by permits and approvals.

Best places to catch walleye: Delavan Lake, Geneva Lake, Whitewater Lake, Lauderdale Lakes, and Beulah Lake.

Best places to catch bass (other than Geneva and Delavan): Eagle Lake near Dover, Tichigan Lake near Waterford, and the Waterford Impoundments on the Fox River in Racine County, also near Waterford.

He also commented on several rivers such as the Root, Fox, White, Sugar Creek, & Honey Creek.

Travis' best piece of advice was "Know before you go". Ask a fisheries biologist about the area you want to fish.

July Raffle Winners

Our July grand prize was a 6'6" Med/Lt St. Croix Reign/Seviin reel spinning combo worth over \$220! The excited winner was Tom Starck, pictured at far left with President Chris Popp. There were also 6 consolation prizes worth \$350+!



Consolation winners at right in order: Chris Malinowski (Brookfield Zoo tickets), Pete Psiharis (Plano

tackle bag), Joe Nettum (Abu Garcia baitcasting combo), Kristie Powell (Pflueger spin reel), Josh Bailey (BPS landing net), Jim Arnott (Fire Extinguisher). - There were also 24 Big Hammer baits as door prizes.



Lake Geneva Outing Report By: Bob Diebold



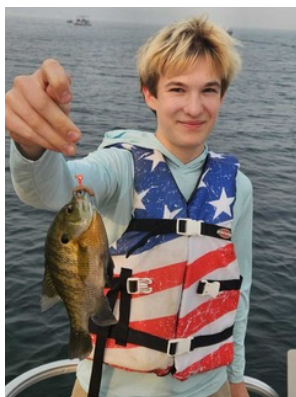
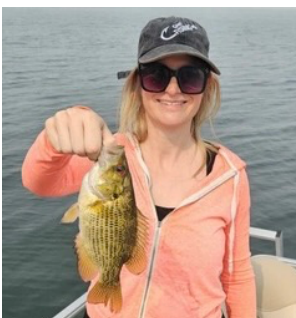
On Thursday July 16 we held our annual sojourn to Lake Geneva. The weather forecast for the week was in 90s every day, with high humidity. Instead, we were greeted with temps starting in the 70s and going up to about 88 with heavy smoke being blown down from fires in Canada. Despite the forecast, 24 enthusiastic Arlington Anglers met up at 7am in 11 boats. The day turned out to be quite comfortable with a heavy overcast, less sun beating down, and a nice breeze.

We started by meeting up at Conference Point to take pictures and exchange latest intel on fishing spots and techniques. Everyone then roared off armed with sun block, bottles of water, night crawlers, and lots of high hopes.

The lake temp was an unseasonable 82 degrees surface temp but fish were still active around 15 to 20 feet of water. A number of nice largemouth were taken in a number of boats. Jay Babowicz took a nice 28 inch Northern Pike.

Bluegills were taken in many places around the lake. Dave Powell's boat in fact boated a 12" bluegill. Bob and Eileen Rice took the prize for 12 smallies, with some coming early on surface lures. Kyle Rapp's boat took the most fish with 53. Overall, the club boated 248 fish for the day (averaging over 22 per boat).

Everyone made it off the lake before it got too hot. The crews reconvened at Siemer's Cruise Inn for lunch and some cold beverages. We heard about the morning's catch of LM, bluegills, perch, pike, walleyes, and rock bass. A smokey day turned out to be an enjoyable outing for the Arlington Anglers.



Carpfest 26.2 Report By: Chris Popp



On Sunday morning August 2 we held the second of our two annual Carpfest outings on Lake Cosman, a private lake in my subdivision. 24 members and some kids came out for a relaxing day on the shore.

The Saturday rains had stopped, allowing the grounds to drain, and gave us relatively dry conditions. A cold front was moving in which kept temperatures very pleasantly in the upper 70s. Cloud cover and a slight breeze looked to be ideal for a successful day.

Unfortunately, I have to say, my home lake has been letting me down a little bit, as of late. Some carp were caught, but the number has been dismal compared to years past. I'm sure they are still out there. We saw a lot of activity. The carp are just getting smarter or we're getting dumber. Luckily everyone realized "That's fishing".

Most also understand the outing is

more a social event than anything else. Oh, sure, we all wanted to catch fish. But the main draw is being able to hang out and walk the shore to chat with other members, enjoy time with their kids, if they brought them, and just relax on the bank of a beautiful lake and watch nature.

Ronda Taylor again brought fresh donuts and pastries she had just made on her Jewel night shift. Tasty! I grilled burgers and dogs later on, serving "brunch" about 10:30. While most headed home around 11:30 a few hangers on finally called it quits about 1:00. That worked as I got the last fish caught (my only). Whew!



Kayak Outing Reports By: Peter Laugalis



Kayak Klub has been complaining about all the wind on our outings. Well, we could have used some of it on Sterling Lake on July 14. It was very hot. Regardless, seven of us ventured out and managed to bring in exactly 50 small fish. They were mostly bass, bluegill, crappie, and one perch. Afterwards we enjoyed air conditioning, great BBQ, and lively conversation at Captain Porky's.



The Arlington Anglers Kayak Klub had another successful outing on Friday July 24th at Long Lake. Five members went out on the 350+ acre lake. 44 fish were caught as a group. Jim Svestka caught a 30 1/2" catfish as well as a 19" large mouth. Jim Arnott added a nice 17" largemouth himself. Some nice perch, bluegill and crappie were also caught. We had pleasant temps with an overcast sky. Afterwards we went to the Whistle Stop Cafe in Fox lake and enjoyed good food and conversation.



Feature Article – Old School Is Cool! By: Dan Draz



Dan Draz is a member of the Arlington Anglers. He enjoys fishing and writing. But he especially enjoys writing about fishing. He will be contributing feature articles from time to time.

Remember the excitement of opening a tackle box filled with your favorite lures as a kid? Whether it was a well-worn crankbait, a classic spinnerbait, or a lure you saw advertised on Saturday morning fishing shows like Virgil Ward's Championship Fishing, many of us have fond memories of the tackle that first fueled our passion for fishing. While the fishing industry constantly introduces the "hottest must have" new products and technology, there's still something special about the lures and gear that helped build the sport we love.

If you're nostalgic for those classic baits, or even searching for stores that still carry them, check out the YouTube channel *Retro Bassin* hosted by Chris Bohlman. Chris takes viewers on a fascinating journey through fishing history, proving that old school is still cool.

One of the channel's most popular features that I particularly enjoy is its tackle archaeology and shop walkthroughs. Chris visits out of the way and often lesser-known mom-and-pop bait shops, flea markets, and hidden lure collections in search of rare, discontinued, and new old stock (NOS) fishing tackle.

Many of these small tackle shops don't have websites or online ordering systems, but that doesn't mean they're out of business.

In fact, some still have incredible inventories tucked away on dusty shelves. Sometimes the best way to secure these treasures is the old-fashioned way: pick up the phone, or send an email, and ask what they have available.

Retro Bassin also produces "stump retro" segments and documentary-style videos covering the history of legendary lures, including famous "As Seen on TV" products like the Banjo Minnow. Chris even fishes from a vintage bass boat equipped with 1970s and 1980s electronics to see if classic lures can still catch fish today.

For anglers who appreciate fishing history, tackle collecting, or simply a trip down memory lane, Retro Bassin is well worth a watch. I've already reached out to several of the shops featured and purchased some custom lures and retro gold!



A Tackle Donation Story

By: Chris Popp



On Thursday July 30 I climbed into my Tahoe at 4:45 AM to make the relatively long trek to Indianapolis, with a return planned later that afternoon. I wanted to get around the south side of Chicago before the traffic began to build. I was on my way to meet former club member Richard Drews who had contacted us a month earlier with a generous proposition.



Richard had done very well for himself in insurance. He sold his partnership share of the business and retired at 53, giving him plenty of time for fishing and another passion, stamp collecting. He was a frequent exhibitor at stamp conventions. He traveled to many destinations overseas both exhibiting some of his collection and judging other stamp exhibitions, or whatever the competition was called. He trained other judges to do the same. He also formed an auction house with his wife Bonnie and became an official auctioneer for the American Philatelic Society. Quite a second chapter!



Richard recently decided he was at the end of his "do it yourself" fishing career, which some years in his most active past approached 200 days on the water. Over the last several years he preferred using guides on the rarer times he does go out, letting them do the heavy lifting. Now, at the stage in life where he and Bonnie were trying to divest their extraneous possessions, Richard offered to donate all his fishing

equipment to the club if we would come get it in the Indianapolis suburb where he moved to some years ago from Inverness.

After requesting a couple pictures to assess whether it warranted the 400+ mile round trip and see how much space I needed, I scheduled a day to make the trip.

It was worth it! Not only was it a substantial collection of rods, reels, and baits covering a wide range of techniques that filled the back of my SUV, the time spent chatting with Richard and Bonnie, and getting a free lunch out of it, made for a long but productive and enjoyable day meeting what are now new friends. I won't deny I was really tired by the time I got home. In spite of that, I have to extend many thanks and heartfelt appreciation to the Drews. It had to be difficult giving up a lifetime of tackle collecting, even if they wouldn't use it any more.

We rely on tackle donations from past and present members to stock our tables at the spring fishing swap meets and flea markets held around the suburbs every year. The proceeds from these events help finance our community outreach and philanthropic activities. As a non-profit we are obliged to give back. If you have fishing tackle and equipment that needs a new home, please contact us. We'll find a good use for your donation.



Community Outreach Report By: Pat Trunda



The morning of the club's July monthly meeting, 9 members volunteered to participated in helping the Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County at their end of year Summer Camp party at Big Bear Lake in Vernon Hills.

Our volunteers were very busy with the constant flow of special needs campers who wanted to go fishing. Some campers just wanted to catch one fish. Some were having a contest for bragging rights as to how many fish they could catch. Some campers



watched. 2 campers wanted to put the fish in their pockets and take them home.

At the end of party, a mother of one of the campers came up to a volunteer and thanked the Arlington Anglers for what we do and how well we treat the campers. Afterwards, the members went to lunch at Portillo's.

A BIG Thanks goes to Dave Beyer, Brian Buses, Tom DiGiovanni, Chet Fijor, Chris Popp, Tom Stark, Don and Ronda Taylor, and Pat Trunda.



Big Fish of the Month



Big Fish of the Month goes to Dar Mucci for this hefty 40" Northern Pike.

Dar was fishing the English River system in Ontario with husband Frank and their grandson during a recent family vacation. This was an unexpected surprise while walleye fishing. Frank reported she fought it like a pro.

Way to go Dar!

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Kid Fish of the Month



Kid Fish of the Month goes to 2-1/2 year old Mazie, granddaughter of member Greg Pickle. They were on a family camping outing and checked out a local lake looking for a little action. Little was right, but it's still a fish!

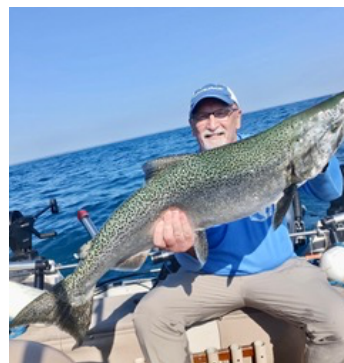
Please share your passion for fishing with a child. Whether it's a relative, a friend, or a neighbor, submit a picture when you do. There is a special joy in seeing their smiling face holding their "trophy".

First Honorable Mention



First Honorable mention goes to junior member Robbie Henderson, no stranger to this page, for this 42 inch Tiger Muskie. A real handful! It's often said "If you want to catch a muskie fish for bass". That's what he was doing when this bonus hit.

Second Honorable Mention



Second Honorable Mention goes to Mike Bierman for this 37" Chinook "King" Salmon. Mike was recently out on Lake Michigan with a friend trolling in a relatively small boat when the beast hit. Taking advantage of calm weather paid off!

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