

VJA Bass Fishing

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Special Thanks to Mr. Mark Lobes and his graphic design class for putting together an awesome VJA Bass Fishing Banner! Dr. Lobes' help is greatly appreciated! You Da' Man, Lobes.

- **Head Coach, John Bartgen:** JBartgen@d230.org
 - Assistant Coach, David Arndt: DArndt@d230.org
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 - Assistant Coach, Jimmy Flynn: JFlynn@d230.org

2011 VJA Bass Fishing Fundraiser

This year, our primary fundraiser at Victor J. Andrew High School will be extremely important. With over 3 field trips, 3 guest speakers, 5 tournaments, 12 outings, 60 students in the club, and a plethora of other expenses—food, oil, gas, maintenance, rods, reels, lures, clothing, etc—the fundraiser will determine the amount of “extras” we are able to give our student/athletes.

Just like last year, we are working with Mark Ittersagen of NFP Promotions to help our club raise the necessary funds to have a successful season. This year, we will be selling BWW, Champps, and Subway cards. To accomplish selling all of the cards, the coaches are eager to help every student in any way possible. Parents, please let the coaches know what they can do to help your son or daughter sell every one of his or her cards. We are committed to making this a successful fundraiser, and we appreciate every person’s hard work and dedication.

If you would like to make a donation to the Victor J. Andrew Bass Fishing Team, or if you would like to purchase a BWW, Champps, or Subway card, please contact JBartgen@d230.org. Thank you for your continued support and assistance as we try to make the VJA bass club a great experience for all people involved!

Get Your VJA Bass Clothing Today!

The clothing orders will be going out very soon, and students, faculty, and community members will have an opportunity to order a Hat, Sweatshirt, T-Shirt, Winter Beanie Hat (this is new), Jersey, and/or Polo. Another product that is made available to the public is our VJA Bass Club promotional/fundraising sticker that can be placed on a car, boat, or home window to show support for the VJA bass team!

The object of the clothing orders/sticker is to promote awareness of bass fishing, show allegiance to VJA bass fishing, and raise a few dollars for the students in VJA’s bass club. Last year, we had a tremendous number of students, faculty, and community members buy articles of clothing, and we hope to replicate last year’s sales. Wear your gear proudly!

If anyone would like to purchase clothing or a sticker, please contact Coach Bartgen at JBartgen@d230.org. Remember, VJA Bass Gear would make a great birthday or Christmas present and a wonderful anniversary gift!!! Get yours today.

Email us today to get your new VJA Bass GEAR!

JBartgen@d230.org

PAST EVENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Join *Fish Tales* for a Fabulous Fishing Experience



Above: Coach Arndt poses for the camera as he coaches his fishermen about the finer points of tournament fishing.

Every 3rd Thursday of the month, Fish Tales—a south side fishing club—has their club meeting at the Bremen Township community building off of Oak Park Avenue in Oak Forest, IL. Anyone interested in attending a meeting as a guest can attend for \$5.00, and the meetings are extremely informative and enjoyable. If you are interested in joining or participating, go to a meeting and talk to the many members who are very welcoming and accepting.

Fish Tales has been instrumental in helping the VJA Bass Club. At the beginning of the year, Fish Tales donated a brand new scale, so we could properly weigh the fish at our tournaments. Also, at the conclusion of the 2010 season, Fish Tales donated a number of rods and reels, so that each student has a rod when they fish with us! Thank you to Fish Tales!

Fish Tales has played a vital role in our club’s success this year, and we will continue to work closely with them to promote fishing and environmentalism in our community and state! Thanks, Fish Tales!

Past VJA Angler, Evan Connolly (2010), Talks About What He Learns From Fishing.



Above: The **Bass King**—J.B.—on the DesPlaines River in Channahon.

“The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad.” Sometimes, this is what happens, even when there is no explanation why. Going fishing with the T-Bolts last year was an experience of a lifetime, even if it were just talking with some friends or the coaches, taking in the surroundings, or just getting away from the real world.

Bass fishing is not just a hobby; it is a part of my life. Every since I was little, my dad would tell me stories of the fish he caught when he was younger and how much different it was back then. Clearly, it was different because when we go out together he always has questions about what I am doing and what tackle I am using, which always somehow ends up in his tackle box. However, this is what makes fishing “fishing” to me.

On the other hand, the catching part is a way different story. Catching a nice bass is a feat in itself. The conditions could say it is a perfect day to go out and catch some fish. You may even have the lure that you believe is the perfect one. Still, somehow, you come up empty handed. To defeat getting shut out, I learned from Coach Bartgen to go against the grain and break the rules. Meaning if you are not catching anything, change lures, retrieves, locations, etc. (just don’t hook a 170 pound person even if it is yourself.). After catching a fish or two though, I still believe that the catching was bad I tell myself I wish they were bigger or I know they are there, so I am going to stay another hour and see what happens. This is the thrill I live, for at any moment, the big one could hit and change my life forever.

Currently, I am attending Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Even though it is in a city, I still find nice little lakes nearby and if I get bored I have Lake Michigan and the river, too. When I am not out fishing, I am either trying to hit the weight room or hit the books preferably the weights more than books. I am studying international business and fiancé with a minor in German. I look forward to studying in Germany in a couple years and maybe living there for awhile. Best of luck to the t-bolts this year, even though they will not need it with the talent they have. Thanks again for everything, coaches, and I look forward to reading what happens in the future! —**Evan Connolly**



Above: The VJA anglers smile after a victory!



MEETINGS/SPEAKERS

Calling all Freshmen, Calling all Freshmen!!!

The first meeting is right around the corner, and all of the coaches hope to see every fisherman in the school (not in a winter sport) at the meeting! Coach Bartgen would like to personally thank every student who attended, and all of the coaches are excited for the opportunity to work with all fishermen regardless of experience level.

If you are a freshman and want to fish tournaments or if you simply enjoy the outdoors and prefer bobber fishing, our club is for you! As a club, we have two divisions: the tournament division and the novice division. For the tournament division, we will go in boats, fish tournaments, and practice on the water. For the novice division, we will go shore-fishing fishing two to three times a week once the weather gets nice, and we will target many different species on our outings. So, if you have a passion for the outdoors, and if you are interested in fishing, there is a spot for you in our club.

If there are any parental or student questions, do not hesitate to email one of the coaches. Thank you!

WE HOPE TO SEE ALL FRESHMEN AT OUR WEEKLY MEETINGS!

For any questions, please see Mr. Bartgen...

The Bass University, Hosted by Michael Iaconelli, is Coming to Chicago...

About The Bass University:

THE BASS UNIVERSITY, the institution for advanced anglers, is hosted by professional anglers, Pete Gluszek (FLW) and Mike Iaconelli (BASS).

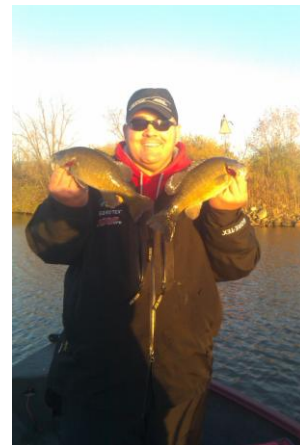
DEVELOPED, for advanced students with experience and knowledge of bass fishing. The Bass University was created to take anglers to the next level of fishing. Unlike other bass fishing seminars, you will learn proven tactics and techniques from the world's best fishermen. Also you'll be introduced to cutting edge techniques, tackle, and equipment.

A TWO-DAY INTENSIVE PROGRAM, taught by six of today's top pro anglers in an easy-to-learn classroom style environment, kicked off by your hosts, Pete Gluszek and Mike Iaconelli. The seminar runs from 8am to 5pm both Saturday and Sunday, but stick around to check out our on-site tackle store or just spend some extra time talking to the pros. Make sure to show up early Saturday morning for registration which begins at 7am. In addition to this exclusive, personal, and customized training, students will receive a one-year subscription to BASSIN' MAGAZINE®, -Course Literature, tackle gift pack and official BU alumni T-shirt.

Bass University, unlimited potential, unlimited success.

Be part of the Institution for Advanced Anglers!!!!

Currently, the cost is very expensive, and we are trying to work on a group rate. As soon as more information arises, we will relay the message to the students.



Left: Chicago Fireman Billy Miller hoists up two beautiful DesPlaines River Smallmouth caught on November 8th on a Lucky Craft Pointer 78, Sexy Shad.

Bass University Presentations

Chicago, Illinois

December 4, 2010 - December 5, 2010

Nashville, Tenn.

December 11, 2010 - December 12, 2010

Shreveport, La.

January 8, 2011 - January 9, 2011

Framingham, Mass.

January 15, 2011 - January 16, 2011



Left: Mr. Miller shows off his nice crappie caught at Monee Reservoir on October 23 on a Slip Bobber.

FUTURE Events and Meeting Fishing Connection

Greg Katello
Fishing Connection
Phone: 708-532-1476
7897 W. 159th Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Thank you, Greg.

Our club's success last year was a direct result of having the best equipment on the water. From rods to reels to lures, Greg's store has it all. His store is a full service shop where he sells rods, reels, lures, and other needed fishing equipment for every species of fishing. Approximately during the second week of February 2011, our club will visit Greg's store prior to the start of the fishing season. While at Greg's store, local professionals will assist our student/athletes in purchasing the correct rod/reel/lures/plastics for the appropriate applications.

From the beginning angler to the touring professional, this store has all the gear a fisherman or fisherwoman could need. Greg has been a valued asset to our club and to IHSA bass fishing. His knowledge, advice, and service is unparalleled, and we look forward to scheduling our open house at his store this spring!

For more information about Fishing Connection in Tinley Park, please contact Greg at 708-532-1476.

Bass Pro Shops and Kevin McLean, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440

On Wednesday, February 24th, 2010, the Andrew Bass Club was invited to attend a bass fishing presentation by Kevin McLean at Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook. In addition to the presentation, the students were able to save some money with the 10% off they were given while shopping!

Currently, Coach Bartgen is working a deal with Bass Pro to bring our kids to the store for a seminar and shopping. While listening to the speaker, the students will be able to ask any questions they have in regards to fishing. Bass Pro Shops understands how great IHSA bass fishing is, and they donated two gift cards for our tournament last year to help out our club.

As a club at VJA, we look forward to working with Bass Pro Shops in the future to better the sport of Bass Fishing and to continue to promote positive awareness around the state.

Cesare Montefusco Talks Spring Preparation

In preparation for winter, for all my reels, I do the following:

1. Back off all the drags on the reels and disconnect the reels from the rods. I bring all my reels into the house.
2. I then clean all the cork grips with Luke warm water and dry with a rag.
3. Throughout the winter, I will take each reel and break it down to the point I feel comfortable and then clean and reassemble. If there are reels I am having issues with, I will send them to a qualified technician. (Talk to Fishing Connection)
4. In the spring, I will put all new line on each reel and then put the reels back on the rods for the fishing season.

I told myself last year that I really wanted to concentrate on learning the DesPlaines and Kankakee Rivers before attempting to fish tournaments out there. So at the start of this year, I began regularly fishing out there, and I think I really learned enough to start competing out there next year. However, I need to do the same with the Kankakee River and Dupage River Systems (they connect to the DesPlaines).

Considering I was fishing a new body of water, I tried new techniques instead of getting stuck on the same old ones I have been using—this has helped immensely. I listened to the guys who fish the DesPlaines a lot and learned spots and techniques from them. To take a year off from tournament fishing and try something different is hard for some people. I was not concerned about doing poorly because I knew I wanted to learn this body of water and how to navigate its waters. I am excited to see how I do in the tournaments next year, and I am excited about continuing to learn new spots, different techniques, and key patterns. Slight changes occur in fishing from year to year, and great fishermen are able to make adjustments.



Cesare Made a Great Point in his Article:

“Slight changes occur in fishing from year to year, and great fishermen are able to make adjustments.”



Fishing Tip #3: 10 Steps to Becoming a Better Tournament Angler

By: Frank McKane, Jr.

Follow this sage advice from the pros and better tournament results are just around the corner (For the remainder of the article, please visit the following link):

http://www.bassresource.com/fishing/bass_fishing_tournament_tips.html

Professional tournament anglers are the envy of the world. They have the job of a lifetime, making their careers in the sport they love dearly. While most of us slave behind a desk or machine, the professional anglers spend their days in bass boats.

These anglers also hold most of us in awe. They seem to pluck bass out of nowhere. And, even on extremely difficult days, the tournament pros come to the weigh-in stand with livewells full of bass.

It is skill or luck? Perhaps it's both! However, most tournament anglers quickly downplay the idea of luck. To them, luck is merely the time when tournament preparation, angling skill and opportunity collide. Both preparation and skill are controllable factors. And the angler with these factors under total control will have the opportunity to win a tournament. Thus, the professional tournament anglers make their own luck.

So how do the professionals control those intangible factors of preparation, skill and opportunity? Each professional angler has his or her own methods to tip the scales in their favor, but all of them share a similar ten-step process that increases the likelihood of tournament Success.

1. Confidence

All the top-ranked professional anglers have the confidence in their ability to catch bass. Without this confidence, winning a tournament is almost impossible. Recall the childhood story about the "little train engine that thought it could?" This little train engine believed it could pull a load of boxcars up over a large mountain. While the larger train engines thought the little engine would fail, the little engine had confidence that it could make the climb. To everyone's surprise, the little engine chugged up and over the steep grade.

The same story fits the tournament-fishing scene. If the little train engine didn't believe it could pull the boxcars up the hill, it probably wouldn't. Likewise, the tournament angler that questions his ability to win the tournament is doomed to failure.

Confidence is not something that just happens. It requires years of dedication to the sport. For example, the more fishing trips you take, the greater your confidence becomes as you gain insight into different situations. But confidence often goes beyond fishing.

Your outlook on life plays an important role in confidence building. Professional anglers strive to keep upbeat perspectives about their situations. Some pros even visit sports psychologists to help them build confidence. Weekend anglers should also work at their mental attitudes as a way to nurture confidence.

2. Tackle

The key to any job is having good equipment. A carpenter can't build a house with a broken saw. A bank teller can't cash your tournament check with a crashed computer terminal. And a tournament angler can't win a bass tournament with faulty equipment.

Boats, motors, rods and reels must work properly in order to bring bass to the weigh-in. Many of the nation's top professionals, like Peter Thliveros, spend hours rigging rods, spooling new line and preparing boats before competing. He says he spends nearly a full day before each tournament just preparing his gear for the event. Motor break-downs, broken lines or bound reels can jolt your ability to catch bass and dash your confidence. The best way to avoid these problems is with a good maintenance program. When your gear works properly, you get to spend more time thinking about fishing than thinking about gear repairs.

3. Effective Research

No two lakes are exactly the same. Some are deep, some are shallow, some are clear and some are dirty. Pre-tournament research helps the professional angler know what must be done to win a tournament. And nearly every top ranked professional angler spends several days researching the tournament waters before they even visit the area.

They will browse through the Internet for past tournament results to determine seasonal patterns and average bass sizes. They will spend countless hours on the telephone with local guides and fellow tournament anglers. They might even go to the library to look up the past history of the area. Most flooded reservoirs have secret roadbeds, building foundations and other man-made structures hidden beneath the surface. The old town maps tucked away in the library are often the only way to find these bass magnets. Tournament anglers must also research out the "peripheral" items, such as hotels, marinas, restaurants, launch ramps and gas stations. If you are worrying about finding a hotel room for the evening, you can't concentrate on fishing. Doing some pre-visitation research allows you to book a hotel without enduring a frantic last minute race for an empty room.

(For the remainder of the article, please visit the following link):

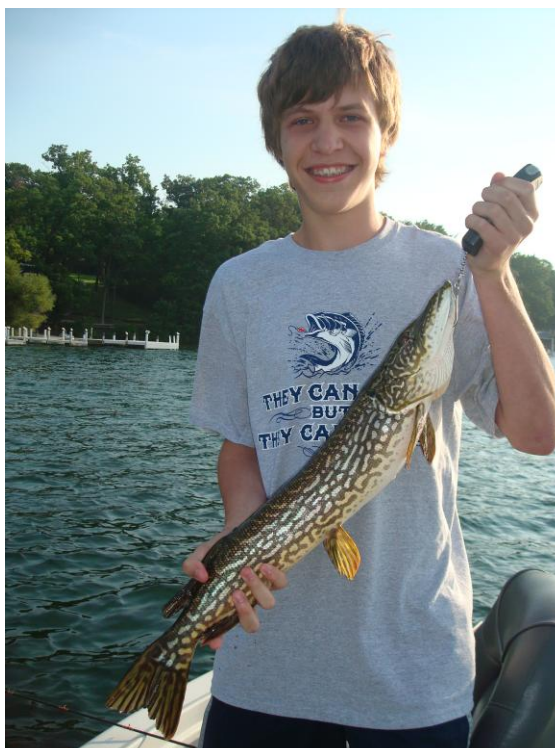
http://www.bassresource.com/fishing/bass_fishing_tournament_tips.html

Content provided by Bass Fishing Magazine, the official publication of FLW Outdoors.





Angler Profile



Name & Grade: Jake Reinbolt, Junior

Hometown: Tinley Park, IL

Fishing Aspirations: Fishing in the Amazon and on the Congo

Fishing Role Model(s): Coach Bartgen and Greg Katello

Favorite Professional Angler: KVD, Mike Iaconelli, Dean Rojas

Favorite Species to Fish for: Smallmouth Bass

Favorite Fishing Technique: Dragging Tubes, Texas-rigged worm

Favorite Fishing Television Host: Mark Zona

Favorite Memory Fishing: My dad sliding down the steep bank into
Lake Galena during a heavy rain.

Favorite Lake/River to Fish: Lake Geneva

Biggest Fish Ever Caught: 28 inch Pike

About our Club:

The VJA Bass Fishing Club strives to give every student the best possible outdoor's experience by focusing on sportsmanship, teamwork, and the environment. As we enter our third year of existence, we are excited about the endless possibilities, exciting challenges, and great enjoyment that all participants will have.

Over the past three years, we have been fortunate to have community members, friends, and businesses help us get started, and we want to thank all of you who have helped our club become what it is today. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to help our club in any way, please contact John Bartgen at JBartgen@d230.org or 708-342-5900. Thank you for all of your help and consideration!

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We're on the Web!

See us at: Coming Soon



VJA

Bass Fishing Pictures



Above: Bass expert, Cesare Montefusco, and assistant VJA bass fishing coach, Jimmy Flynn, hold up their 6 fish limit in a recent November Tournament.



Above: Mr. Matz hoists a striper he caught during the 2010 Lake Wisconsin trip.



Above (From left to right): Mr. Wool, Mr. Eichwald, and Mr. Murphy stand anxiously for the weigh in at a spring tournament.



Above: The 2010 VJA bass fishing team hoists up their 1st place trophy after the District 230 Fishing Tournament.

If you have pictures that you would like submitted in an edition of our newsletter, please email them to jflynn@d230.org and JBartgen@d230.org

Bass Fishing LINKS

1. Cabelas: <http://www.cabelas.com/>
2. Bass Pro Shops: <http://www.basspro.com/homepage.html>
3. Gander Mountain: <http://www.gandermountain.com/>
4. ESPN : Bass Master's Magazine: <http://sports.espn.go.com/outdoors/bassmaster/index>
5. Field and Stream: <http://www.fieldandstream.com/>
6. Bass Resource: <http://www.bassresource.com/>
7. Bass Fishing Techniques: <http://www.bassfishingtechniques.net/>
8. Pro Bass Network: <http://www.probass.net/>
9. Bass Boat Central: <http://www.bassboatcentral.com/>
10. Angler's Pride 'Tackle Coverings': <http://anglerspride.com/>
11. Tackle Warehouse (online shopping): <http://tacklewarehouse.com/>
12. IHSA Bass Fishing: <http://www.thefuturefisheshere.org/>
13. Don Dziedzina: www.IllinoisOutdoors.com
Illinois Outdoors, Inc.
Fishing Line & Outdoor Radio
Outdoor Columnist/Chicago Tribune
14. Jim DaRosa: <http://www.fishingandoutdoorradio.com/> & www.FishSmallmouthBass.com
Co-Host, *Fishing Line and Outdoor Radio Show*
15. Anglers-Dream Tournaments: <http://anglers-dream.com/>
16. Clark Marine, Franklin, TN: <http://www.clarkmarine.com/>
17. Ultimate Bass: <http://www.ultimatebass.com/>
18. Chicago-land Fishing: <http://chicagolandfishing.com/>
19. The Bass Coach: <http://www.basscoachfishing.com/index.html> (NEW)...
20. Bass Dozer: http://www.bassdozer.com/bass_links.shtml (NEW)...