

VJA Bass Fishing

Special Interest (Front Page):

- District 230
Tournament
Series
- Illinois Bass
Federation (IBFN
and Jim Nelson

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(NEW!)



Above: The Founder of the District 230 Bass Tournament Series —John Bartgen—takes a pose for the camera.

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

Illinois Bass Federation (IBFN) & Jim Nelson

IBFN treasurer and avid bass fisherman Jim Nelson has been working closely with the Andrew bass fishing team in numerous ways. First, Jim was instrumental in providing the Angler of the Year trophy for our tournament series. This trophy is based on the B.A.S.S. replica Angler of the Year trophy, and we are extremely excited to be able to present this trophy to the team who wins Angler of the Year in our District 230 Bass Fishing Tournament Series. This trophy will be something a team can cherish for many years to come.

Furthermore, Jim is an excellent example of the positive way that all communities have supported IHSA bass fishing. On numerous occasions, Jim and the IBFN have asked to help our club, and we are extremely fortunate to have their support, as well as everyone else's!

To learn more about the I.B.F.N., click on the following link:

<http://www.ilfednation.com/>

District 230 Tournament Series

What:

District 230 will be hosting the 1st ever Bass Fishing Tournament Series for Illinois high schools. All schools are guaranteed two tournaments with a possibility of qualifying for a third tournament ("The Classic"). Qualifications are based on point totals, and the awards for the tournaments will be 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, 4th place, 5th place, and big bass. For the overall series, an Angler of the Year and Classic Champion award will be presented.

When:

1. Tournament #1—*Spring Showdown*: **April 2, 2011**
2. Tournament #2—*Three-Rivers Qualifier*: **April 9, 2011**
3. Tournament #3—*District 230 Tournament Series Classic*: **May 21, 2011**

Where: DesPlaines/Kankakee River System

1. **April 2, 2011 & April 9, 2011**= Big Basin, 24045 Frontage Road, Channahon, IL 60410
2. **May 21, 2011**= DesPlaines Conservation Area, I-55 and the Wilmington Exit (241).

Times:

For all tournaments, the check-in, rules meeting, launch, and weigh-in times will be the same.

1. Check-In/Boat Check: 5:30-6:10 am
2. Rules Meeting: 6:15-6:30 am
3. Launch: 6:45-7:00 am
4. End of Tournament/Weigh-In: 1:30 pm

We hope to see fans from all schools at each tournament!!! Come to the weigh in to see some awesome fish. Wear your school's colors proudly to show support!

PAST News/Accomplishments**VJA Tournament
Schedule**

1. **April 2nd:** *Big Basin*
2. **April 9th:** *Big Basin*
3. **May 21st:** *DesPlaines
Conservation Area*

**Bass Pro Shops: Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440**

On Thursday, March 10, 2011, from 6 pm until 9 pm, the Andrew Bass Club attended a bass fishing presentation by Travis Hendrix at Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook, IL. In addition to the presentation, the students were able to shop and save some money with 15% off to all VJA shoppers.

The presentation included many ways to catch local bass on the DesPlaines River and Wolfe Lake in early spring. Travis provided us with a meaningful presentation that focused on conditions and preparation. Also, Travis made very clear that knowing what lures to use during a tournament and being mentally prepared throughout the tournament will help put fish in the boat. As always, Bass pro provided us with a first class presentation and impeccable service. While listening to the speaker, the students were able to ask questions they had in regards to fishing.

Bass Pro Shops understands how great IHSA bass fishing is, and they donated three gift cards for our upcoming tournament series!!! Thanks a ton for your support. 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.

Cabela's Seminar

On February 19, 2011, the VJA anglers headed to Cabela's in Hoffman Estates to attend presentations regarding bass fishing. Cabela's kicked off a bass fishing weekend with free seminars by some of the hottest tournament professionals, and they shared the secrets which have helped them win tournaments around the United States.

To start the presentation, students listened to Rich Lowitzki discuss his favorite largemouth bass lures. Rich discussed how to catch bass throughout the year, and he stressed the importance of matching lures to the proper conditions. Next, students listened to Bruce Goode discuss light tackle in clear, cold water. Bruce discussed the different ways to drop shot and jig with light line, which will invariably come in handy during our cold weather tournaments. Finally, Jerry Rowland discussed smallmouth bass tactics, a topic that caught the attention of many VJA anglers. After the presentations, students were allowed to shop and enjoy the store with a 10% off discount!

Highlights of this year's event included:

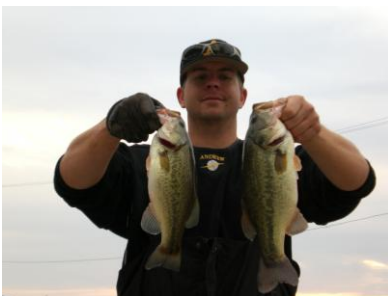
10 am- General Bass Fishing Speaker FLW Tour Pro Rich Lowitzki

11 am- Light Tackle Bass Fishing Speaker Bruce Goode

Noon- Smallmouth Bass Tactics Speaker Jerry Rowland

- Map Reading
- Knot Tying
- Special High School Discount with ID

Cabela's Bass Fishing Seminars are designed to support the Illinois High School bass fishing teams and is the best place for the latest outdoor information and specials.



Above: Coach Flynn hoists up two DesPlaines River largemouths after a tournament.



MEETINGS/SPEAKERS

Billy Miller and Steve New: What a Presentation!

On February 17, 2011, from 3 pm until 4:30 pm, Billy Miller, native of Mt. Greenwood, Chicago, and current Saint Xavier University assistant football coach, made his way to Andrew High School to present all of the latest ice fishing techniques. Accompanying Billy Miller was Steve New, store manager of *Angler's International Resources*, 1272 E Dundee Rd, Palatine, IL 60074, (847) 991-3200. Their presentation was awesome, and the amount of equipment they brought gave a hand's on approach to our student/athletes.

Billy Miller has been fishing local waters for over 25 years, as well as Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. As a fisherman who fishes for all species, Billy introduced students to various techniques for catching multiple species. As for Steve New, he has been working in fishing sales for over 30 years at retailers such as *Angler's International Resources* and *Ed Shirley's Sports*, a legendary outdoor retailer since the 1940's.

Considering this presentation at Andrew High School was a first of its kind (ice fishing), the students were very attentive to everything. At the presentation, Billy Miller and Steve New talked about ice fishing shelters, flashers, rods, reels, clothing, and safety.

Andrew High School is proud to add Billy Miller and Steve New to their presentation schedule and look forward to continual work with these two gentlemen in the future. Thank you!

***If you wish to contact Angler's International Resources, please call
(847) 991-3200.***

Fish Tales, Ted Takasaki, and Walleye Fishing

On February 24, 2011, from 6:30 pm until 10 pm, Fish Tales fishing club invited Ted Takasaki, a professional walleye fisherman, to Gaelic Park to speak to over 300 people. During Ted's three hour presentation, he discussed methods for catching walleye by covering an array of topics related to walleye strategy. Ted also stressed the importance of learning seasonal patterns, and he pointed out that once such patterns are understood, fishermen can become more productive on the water. He also gave a tournament tip for anglers: Learning the water prior to a tournament is essential, and he pointed out that new water must be pre-fished prior to tournaments. Ted also discussed the differences between bass and walleye, and how equipment and strategy does vary.

For every ticket purchased, a grand three-prize-drawing took place, with the ultimate prize being a 40" LCD flat screen television! Second place received a half-day guided trip with the crappie professor, and third place received a half-day guide trip with Muskie Pro Tom Ustaszewski.

One of the greatest aspects of Fish Tales fishing club is that they aim to serve all communities and groups of people. Anyone is welcome to come to their meetings (for a minimal charge) and to join their club is very affordable.

For any questions about joining Fish Tales, please call

Chuck at 708-212-4640 or Fred at 708-687-5149.



Above: Billy Miller shows off three beautiful Lake Michigan perch.



Professional walleye fisherman Ted Takasaki is coming to Gaelic Park on February 24th.

FUTURE Events and Meeting**Buffalo Wild Wings: EAT WINGS & RAISE MONEY**

From April 1st through May 15th on any Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, anyone who eats at Buffalo Wild Wings in Orland Park or Tinley Park will help to raise money for the Victor J. Andrew and Carl Sandburg Bass Fishing Teams. All proceeds raised will be split between the two schools to help to pay for necessary equipment, State Tournament expenses, rods, reels, lures, and tournaments.

Much thanks goes out to Buffalo Wild Wings and Ernie for setting up this event, and we hope to raise some necessary money to help our students learn to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors.

If you wish to eat at Buffalo Wild Wings, simply clip off the coupon at the end of this newsletter, and be sure to give your server the coupon! Thank you for your support.

Visit the Buffalo Wild Wings' locations listed below, and help your bass fishing team(s) raise money.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from April 1st through May 15th

Valid at the following locations only:

(1). 15888 South Lagrange Rd, Orland Park, IL,
(708)364-9464

(2). 7301 West 183rd St, Tinley Park, IL,

VJA Tournament Anglers Prepare for Opening Day on the Water

On March 23, 2011, and March 25, 2011, the Victor J. Andrew Bass Fishing club will be taking their tournament rigs out on the water (the 23rd at Wolf Lake and the 25th at the DesPlaines River) to prepare for the upcoming tournament season.

During the outing, over 15 students will travel to the bodies of water to help pre-fish for the District 230 classic and IHSA sectional. The strategy utilized at Wolf Lake is unique in that 6 students will be in boats learning the body of water while the other 9 students will roam the shore lines looking for structure, bedding bass, or fallen timber that might hold fish.

After reviewing last year's opening day trip with rough winds and cold weather, the students have to be ready for battling the elements. Overall, the opening day trip is always exciting because fishing season is here! All of the off season shopping for fishing gear and prepping of boats will culminate in an enjoyable weekend of fishing, making opening day every year as exciting as the previous year's.



Above: Coach Bartgen and Coach Corcoran pose while on an ice fishing excursion in southern Wisconsin.

Nice Jacket, Jimmy!



Above: Sean Tyrrell (Left) and Jeremy Bilecki (Right) fish from shore during the March 17th outing.



Above: VJA Bass Fishing supporter Mike Serafini hoists up a beautiful Lake of the Woods smallmouth.



Fishing Tip #5: Catching Pre-Spawn Bass

By: Shawn on Ultimate Bass

Most anglers Favorite Time of Year is approaching! The Bass Spawn!! I break the Spawn down into 3 different seasons, Pre-spawn, Spawn and Post-spawn. I know many of you can't wait to hear the words bass are on the beds, but for me this marks the end of the best fishing in the spring. Pre-spawn bass are the heaviest they are going to be all year and they are busy packing on pounds and will eat anything that gets close enough for them to inhale and for this article we are going to concentrate on pre-spawn.

For most of Texas the start of the pre-spawn bite is marked by the January full moon. The four days preceding and following the full moon in January is a BIG rehearsal for the ladies that plan on being in the first wave of spawning bass and every year there are some BIG bass caught in fairly shallow water during this week. It also marks the end of my main lake fishing until early summer. I don't care what the water temps are there are big fish caught in the flats they will be spawning on in a couple of months.

The four techniques that seem to produce the best numbers of Big Bass for me are Jigs, Swimbaits, Texas rigged Lizards and rattle baits. Remember these fish are still cold and lazy and are just starting to think about packing on some weight. Big baits will produce bigger fish.

Locating these fish is usually fairly simple, look along migration routes to the spawning flats. Pay particular attention to creek channel bends and drains leading into the flats; the fish will use these like highways. That is where you are going to find the majority of the bass on most days. However, if there has been an extended warming trend these fish are going to filter out into the flat. Post front the opposite is true, if you have been catching good fish scattered on a flat and you receive a strong front you need to move your search back to the drains and creek channels. The first break line is always the first place fish will retreat too. Then depending on the severity and duration of the front they will either hunker down or move toward deeper water until they find enough stability to be comfortable.

My initial search for fish is almost always with a Rattle bait. I throw this bait on a kistler CRR7' Micromag with 15 lb Flouro. My retrieve is slow allowing the Bait to maintain contact with the bottom and when I make contact with any cover I give it a twitch and a pause before returning to my retrieve. Once I locate bass I slow down and throw a 5-8"swimbait with a painfully slow retrieve. One of my favorite swimbaits is a Huddleston Weedless 6". I will then either drag the area with a jig or Texas rigged lizard. Usually once you find one fish this time of year you can catch multiple fish in the same area on multiple presentations.

Remember the Fish we are targeting are elderly and obese and they are not going to make a 40 yd sprint to chase down bait in 48 degree water. Slow presentations are going to be the norm if you want that big bite. In the next article, I will go more in depth as to exact presentations to use with jigs and swimbaits, but for now just remember SLOWWWW is the name of the game.

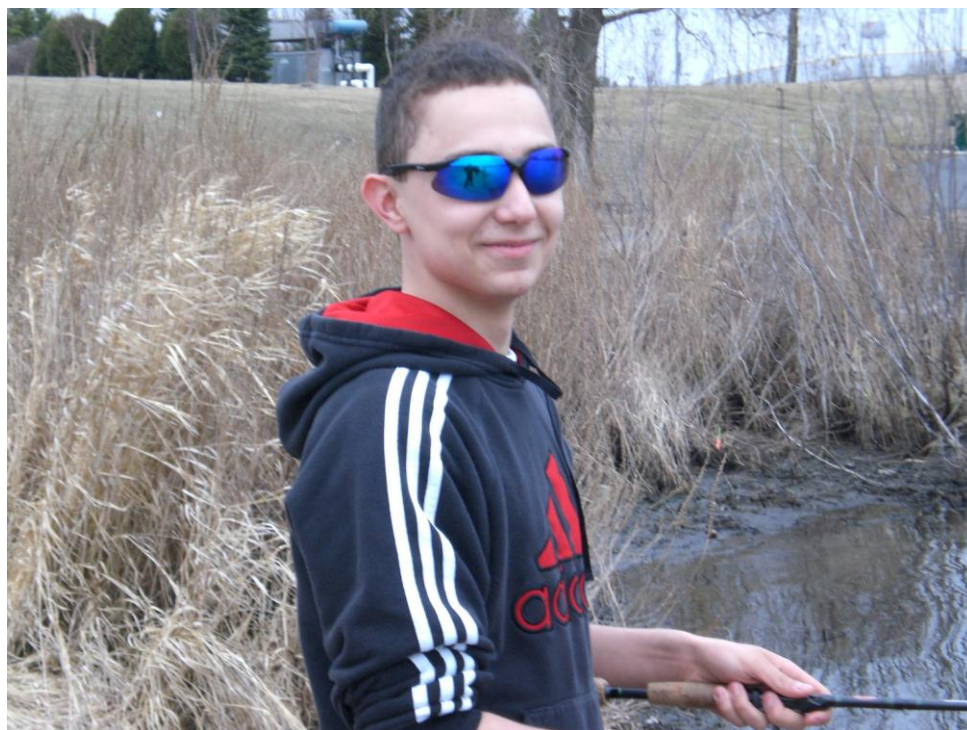
For more information on the original source of the article, click on the following link:

<http://www.ultimatebass.com/bass-fishing-articles/seasonal-bass-fishing-patterns/1912-catch-pre-spawn-bass.html>





Angler Profile



Victor J. Andrew
High School
9001 West 171st Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

PHONE:

JOHN BARTGEN
(708) 342-5900

E-MAIL:

JBartgen@d230.org

DArndt@d230.org

BBurns@d230.org

JFlynn@d230.org

We're on the Web!

See us at: Coming Soon

Name & Grade: Anthony Leno, Sophomore

Hometown: Tinley Park, IL

Fishing Aspirations: To catch a 6+lbs bass

Fishing Role Model(s): Uncle Mickey and Great Uncle Nick

Favorite Professional Angler: KVD and Bill Dance

Favorite Species to Fish for: Bass

Favorite Fishing Technique: Fishing a black and blue senko and frog

Favorite Fishing Television Host: Babe Winkelman

Favorite Memory Fishing: Fishing in Apple Canyon with my Dad and Uncle

Favorite Lake/River to Fish: Apple Canyon

Biggest Fish ever caught: 20" largemouth

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!



V.J.A. Bass Fishing Pictures



Above: Patrick Palaggi and Dan Rogers take a breather from fishing to pose for the camera.



Above: Eric Serafino fishes off the dock for some crappie and bluegill.



Above: Mike Kall trounces through the woods on his way to the lake to catch some monster fish!

If you have pictures that you would like submitted in an edition of our newsletter, please email them to iflynn@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)...

VJA BASS FISHING BUSINESS PROPOSAL

Thank
You

PLEASE SUPPORT THE VICTOR J. ANDREW BASS FISHING CLUB!

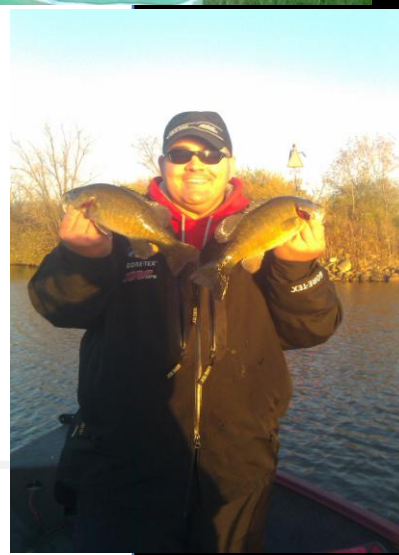
The VJA Fishing Club is looking for businesses to place advertisements in the monthly T-Bolts Fishing Club Newsletter. Each month from November through May, student anglers and coaches publish a newsletter that features articles about the outdoors, student experiences, angler profiles, fishing and tournament tips, links, and business advertisements!

Why your business SHOULD ADVERTISE in the TBOLT FISHING NEWSLETTER...

- ❖ All donations are **tax deductible**.
- ❖ Half of the proceeds go towards a **college scholarship** for a member of the VJA bass club.
- ❖ Each business receives a **HALF-PAGE advertisement**.
- ❖ Over **20,000 community members and 2,500 students** will receive the newsletter via email or have access to it on the VJA fishing website (coming soon...) and the IHSA's <http://www.thefuturefisheshere.org/>.
- ❖ Your company's **advertisement or coupon offers can be changed monthly**, and the ad will be linked to your company's website if you so choose.
- ❖ Our newsletter is distributed electronically, so customers will have the opportunity to **print your advertisements or coupons** as many times as they would like, resulting in more business opportunities.
- ❖ Your contribution will be seen as **supporting Victor J. Andrew initiatives** and **school programs**.
- ❖ Your support of the VJA Bass Club will provide **life-long memories** and **valuable lessons** for many students.

**THE COST OF ADVERTISING WITH US IS
\$100 FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR!**

Please contact John Bartgen, Head Bass Fishing Coach, at **JBartgen@d230.org** or **708-342-5900** if you have any questions or would like to support the VJA Bass Club!



Bulls Eye Entertainment



DJ Bill Bartgen, Jr.



**6035 S. Mulligan Ave.
Chicago, IL. 60638**

**773-586-5407 Office
773-369-5444 Cell**

Email: [Bulls Eye Entertainment@yahoo.com](mailto:Bulls_Eye_Entertainment@yahoo.com)

Website: WWW.BullsEyeEntertainment.Biz



Eat Wings. Raise Funds.

Help raise money for your favorite non-profit organization.



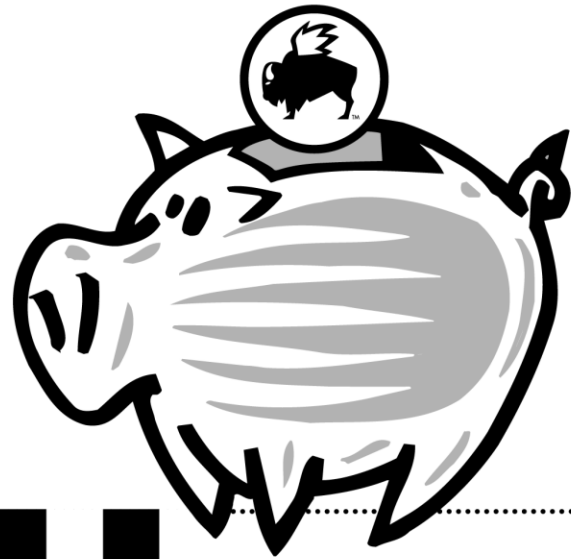
Visit Buffalo Wild Wings' locations listed below, and help your bass fishing team(s) raise money.

ANY DAY Friday thru Sunday FROM

April 1st through May 15th

Only valid at the following locations:

- (1). 15888 South Lagrange Rd, Orland Park, IL, (708)364-9464
- (2). 7301 West 183rd St, Tinley Park, IL, (708) 444-2223



Carl Sandburg & Victor J. Andrew H.S. Bass Fishing Clubs

Friday thru Sunday, April 1st- May 15th,

Present this certificate to your server at the time of your purchase and 15% of all food purchases* will go to support ***Carl Sandburg H.S. & Victor J. Andrew H.S.***

Only valid at

- (1). 15888 South Lagrange Rd, Orland Park, IL, (708)364-9464
- (2). 7301 West 183rd St, Tinley Park, IL, (708) 444-2223

*Specially Priced or discounted items not included and alcohol purchases not included.

