

VJA Bass Fishing

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(NEW!)

- **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

Clothing Orders are being placed...

The 2011-2012 VJA bass fishing clothing line has been released, and orders are currently being placed. This year, the club will be selling t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, Under Armour™ ColdGear sweatpants, flex-fit hats, and designer polo shirts.

As a club, we hope to sell our clothing in efforts to promote awareness of bass fishing in the community, to raise money for the club, and to show allegiance to the VJA anglers.

We hope to see VJA bass clothing around Tinley Park!!!

Contact Coach Bartgen if you would like to place an order:

JBartgen@d230.org.

2011-2012 VJA Bass Fishing Fundraiser

From January 11th, 2012, until February 8th, 2012, the VJA bass club will be hosting a cast-a-thon fundraiser in efforts to raise the necessary funds for our club. Contributions of any kind and any amount are welcomed and will be graciously accepted. Please show your support by pledging a student angler or contributing in any way possible.

Parents and student anglers, please let the coaches know what they can do to help your son or daughter obtain pledges. We are committed to making this a successful fundraiser, and we appreciate every person's hard work and dedication. If all students, coaches, and parents work together, this fundraiser will be successful.

Please contact Coach Bartgen early in the fundraising process if there are problems or concerns. Without the fundraiser, giving students all of the extras we hope to provide is nearly impossible.

If you would like to make a donation to the Victor J. Andrew Bass Fishing Team, or if you have old fishing gear taking up space in the garage, 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!



PAST EVENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Opening Day Meeting of 2011-2012 was a Success!

November 17, 2011, kicked off the fourth year of VJA Fishing at Andrew High School! At this meeting, Coach Bartgen passed out clothing order forms, talked about fundraising, and outlined the season's goals and events.

At the meeting, approximately 50 students, ranging from freshmen to seniors, attended. This year, like in years past, students with various athletic, academic, personal, and social interests attended, making this club truly unique. The VJA bass club is comprised of every type of student imaginable, and Coach Bartgen prides himself in continuing a club that meets the needs of **ALL** students.

Within the VJA fishing club there are two divisions: the novice division and the tournament division. Out of the 50+ students in the club, approximately 35 of them will fall into the novice division, and the other 15 students will be in the tournament division. All students will have a chance to participate in shore fishing, in-school presentations, and out-of-school field trips to Bass Pro, Cabela's, and Fishing Connection.

For the tournament division, students will participate in all novice events, but the tournament anglers will have an added responsibility of preparing for and fishing in tournaments. The VJA tournament anglers will research bodies of water, talk to local pros, and practice over weekends on boats with the coaches.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE CLUB, SEE COACH BARTGEN IN ROOM 265.

2011 IHSA Sectionals—Wolf Lake

The Andrew bass club attended its third straight sectionals at Wolf Lake in Hegewisch, Illinois, on April 21, 2011. As the boys arrived at Wolf Lake, they were greeted with 20 mile per hour wind gusts, a high of 70 degrees, and an extreme cold front that hit half way through the tournament, dropping the temperature to 45 degrees. As for fishing, slow is only word used to describe the tournament. Grant Park came away with the victory, but they were tested by a great field of many quality fishermen, including the T-Bolts.

Wolf Lake straddles the Illinois/Indiana border. Over the years, the lake's shoreline has dramatically changed due to urban encroachment. Causeways for rail lines as well as dikes have been built splitting the lake into smaller bodies of water. Slag from the steel mills has been used to fill portions of the lake for development, and surrounding marshes have been drained which caused the lake's water level to drop. Overall, though, the fishing is still very good, producing many good largemouth bass and northern pike.



Above: Dan Bhutto holds up his first catch at a VJA outing in the spring of 2011!



Above: (from left to right) Dan Rogers and Jake Reinbolt hoist up two fish they caught out of Coach Arndt's boat during a tournament.

“Classic” Reflection

Andrew takes 1st Place in the D230 Tournament Series

After 10 days of practice on the DesPlaines, some horrible weather, a couple dead batteries, a cracked propeller, and a few fish in between, the VJA anglers took home 1st place in the District 230 tournament series. After finishing tied for 12th place in the April 2nd tournament having not caught a fish, the VJA anglers were mildly discouraged, but their confidence did not keep them down.

The second tournament of the year on April 9th was a great turnaround for VJA. The boys finished in a respectable 3rd place, weighing in 3 fish for 4.85 pounds. The 3rd place finish in the April 9th tournament placed VJA in the top half of the field going into the classic. This was a much needed confidence boost prior to the biggest tournament of the year.

Once the first two tournaments concluded, the VJA anglers dedicated themselves to fishing the river hard for one month to find spots that other teams were not fishing. During a pre-fishing outing, the anglers came across a couple spots, and the fish were there. The student-anglers and coaches crossed their fingers that the fish would still be holding on the same shorelines, for the tournament was still 2 weeks away.

As the day approached, the team was optimistic that their pattern would hold up, and when the boats launched and the anglers finally started fishing, on the boys’ second cast, the first keeper was boated. About 20 minutes later, a second keeper was caught! From there, the boys put in work and fishing slowed down. Nevertheless, the boys persevered by making cast after cast. Coach Bartgen employed great strategy by spot-hopping, and this tactic paid off. Soon enough, a 3rd and 4th keeper were boated, putting our boys 1 fish away from a championship.

As the tournament winded down, and there were only four fish in the livewell, Richie Wren tied on a drop shot. No sooner did the bait hit the water, a fifth keeper latched on to his bait. After a brief but stressful fight, the fish was in the boat.

Team after team weighed in their fish, and the VJA boys knew that a championship was a possibility. Next up to weigh in was VJA, and the boys put up a gigantic mark, weighing in 5 fish for nearly 9.2 pounds and a big bass of 2.6 pounds. After all teams weighed in, VJA won the 1st ever District 230 Classic Championship.

2012 Bass Fishing Tournament Series

The second annual District 230 Bass Fishing Tournament Series will host 3 tournaments again on the DesPlaines River in Channahon, Illinois. Last year, VJA won the classic, and its sister school, Stagg, won angler of the year. Overall, many memories were made, fish were caught, and fun was had. We hope to replicate and even better last year’s tournaments by having more raffles and hopefully catching more fish.

Below is the tentative tournament schedule for the 2012 tournament series.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE WEIGH-INS AT 1:30 PM. GET THERE EARLY AND ENJOY SOME FOOD AT THE RESTAURANT NEXT TO THE LAUNCH.

Tournament Schedule

- 1. April 14th: Spring Showdown**
- 2. May 12th: Three River’s Qualifier**
- 3. May 19th: Classic Championship**



Above: Anthony Leno holds up a 2.6 pound big bass caught during the 2011 District 230 Classic.



Above: (from left to right) Anthony Leno, Jeremy Bilecki, and Richie Wren hold up a quality, 9.2 pound, 5-fish limit.



FUTURE Events and Meeting

Open House at *Fishing Connection* set for February 9, 2012

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

Thank you, Greg.

On February 9, 2012, from 6 pm until 9 pm, the Victor J. Andrew Fishing Club will host its third annual open house at Fishing Connection in Tinley Park, IL. While at Greg's store, local professionals will assist our student/athletes in purchasing the correct rod/reel/lures/plastics for the appropriate applications. 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.

All parents, students, coaches, and community members are invited to this event! 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.

Billy "The Fireman" Miller, Jim DaRosa, and Cesare Montefusco are coming back to Andrew to Speak!

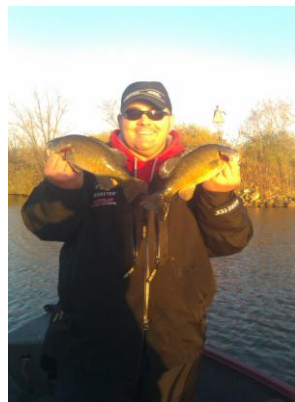
Our speaker lineup is set, and in January, February, and March of 2012, Billy Miller, Cesare Montefusco, and Jim DaRosa will come to Andrew to speak on various topics from ice fishing, to confidence baits, to largemouth habitat, to seasonal patterns. Every year, our club looks forward to many outings and activities, but having our speakers come to Andrew is at the top. With the wealth of knowledge these three gentlemen have, our anglers are afforded a great opportunity to learn from some of the best anglers in the area. We welcome parents and friends of VJA bass fishing to contact Coach Bartgen if they wish to attend the seminars.

The exact dates are not set yet. However, as soon as the dates are set, every student will receive a calendar of events, listing the speaker dates. Also, the next newsletter will have the dates of the speakers.

Contact Head Coach John Bartgen with any questions: JBartgen@d230.org



Above: (from left to right) Coach Bartgen and Richie Wren take a break from tournament fishing to pose for the camera.



Billy Miller



Cesare Montefusco



Jim DaRosa



Fishing Tip #1: 3 Step Plan for Icing Bass

By: Walt Matan: http://www.icefishinglures.biz/articles/3step_bass.html

Largemouth and smallmouth bass can be readily caught through the ice. They are tremendous sport fish that are ridiculously strong under the ice. Your favorite ponds and lakes that produce bluegill and crappie will also give up largemouth in the same general areas.

If you want to ice more bass this winter, then you need my three-step plan — 3 Holes + 3 Poles + 3 Different Jigs = Bass

Largemouth Bass

Shallow weedy bays are prime areas that hold largemouth bass. Bass will roam the weed edges in search of an easy meal, so you need to drill your three holes in and around the weed edges.

The easiest way to find weed edges is with an underwater camera. Marcum makes probably the best camera in the VS560 because the camera lens itself will rotate underwater. You can use the handheld remote to rotate the lens as many degrees as you see fit. Once on the spot, you can set the camera to automatically rotate or zero in on your jig.

A long time ago my good friend Chuck Thompson showed me the three-rod technique. It's basically the same as in open water fishing where you use several rods rigged with different style lures until you find the hot one. When ice fishing, the bass will either be aggressive, interested or neutral. So I like to have three ice rods rigged with three different jigs to reflect that.

To make fishing easier, I like Frabill Prowler GT dark flip-over tents to shield from the wind and detect bites easier. Frabill also makes some quality bass and walleye ice rod/reel combos. Their 30-inch medium-action Fin-S rods are stiff enough to give your jigs a lot of action and still have enough backbone to land a three- to five-pound fish.

Aggressive fish want a big aggressive spoon. Vertiglow Tackle's 1/8-ounce Lightnin' Spoons work great when aggressively jigged. You need to jig your rod violently and then pause for several seconds. The jigging motion will call the bass in and they usually strike on the pause.

Interested fish will come up and take a peek at the spoon, but then shy away. If you are using a camera you will see this time and again, but if you have a second rod rigged, now is the time to pull the first rod out of the hole and drop down the next jig. For this technique I prefer a Custom Jigs & Spins Demon size 4. You can jiggle the Demon a little less violently than the Lightnin' Spoon while raising and lowering your rod in six-inch increments.

For completely non-aggressive bass, it's time to pull out a size 6 Shrimpo. The Shrimpo has a Finesse Plastic tail and is loaded with action. Just holding the rod in your hand will cause the Shrimpo to quiver and a bass to strike!

Adding bait to these jigs is sometimes necessary. I'll use minnow heads, wax worms or butter worms. I'll break the minnow a little longer past the head and kind of "smoosh" it for added attraction. Minnow heads work nicely when added to the Lightnin' Spoon and the big Demon. I'll use three or four wax worms or butter worms sometimes also. One trick is to shred them with another hook so that little pieces of tail quiver as you jig.





Angler Profile



**Victor J. Andrew
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Name & Grade: Dan Rogers, Junior

Hometown: Tinley Park, Illinois

Fishing Aspirations: Coach Arndt's boat winning sectionals in 2012.

Fishing Role Model(s): My Uncle Rick

Favorite Professional Angler: KVD

Favorite Species to Fish for: Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass

Favorite Fishing Technique: Wacky Rig

Favorite Fishing Television Host: Jeremy Wade—River Monsters

Favorite Memory Fishing: Fly fishing in Alaska for sock-eye salmon

Favorite Lake/River to Fish: Lake Waconia, Minn.

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 fourth year of existence, we are dedicated towards making **Andrew Bass Fishing** an amazing outdoors experience for all students involved.*

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: (from left to right) Anthony Leno and Richie Wren hoist up two quality largemouth.



Above: The five-fish-limit that won the T-Bolts 1st place is proudly displayed.



Above: Coach Bartgen and the victorious Thunderbolts pose after the Classic victory on May 21st.

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. Cabela's Outdoors: <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)...
21. Rayjus Outdoor Clothing: <http://www.rayjus.com> (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 January 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...

- ❖ 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:
\$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**

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