

# VJA Bass Fishing

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## **Jim DaRosa Announces IHSA Bass Fishing 'Team of the Year'**

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**March 2, 2012**

**For immediate release**  
**Radio Show Launches "Illinois High Schools Fish Here"**

The Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show announced today that starting on March 7, the show will have a weekly segment dedicated to Illinois high school fishing. The segment has been titled, Illinois High Schools Fish Here.

The Illinois High School Association approved bass fishing as an official activity here in Illinois in 2009. Today, the number of high school fishing teams throughout the state has grown to over 230.

The new segment of the Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show will be dedicated to bringing high school fishing news and human interest stories to the show listeners each week until the end of May.

"Our goal with this new segment is to be the clearing house for high school fishing news," said Jim DaRosa, the radio show founder. "We will interview coaches and others who have high school fishing related news every week so that we can acknowledge the accomplishments of the student anglers be it while fishing the IHSA tournaments, local fishing competitions, involvement in the community, or about their individual accomplishments in angling."

Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show hosts, Jim DaRosa, Don Dziedzina, and Ray Ludkevicz will key in on recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the young anglers and their involvement in the outdoors as well.

At the end of the season, the radio show will honor one school team with the "Illinois High Schools Fish Here – Team of the Year" Award. This award will provided to the school team who, as judged by the radio show co-hosts, exhibits the greatest effort to promote fishing not only at their school but also within their community. The school's ranking in the tournament standings is not a factor for winning this award. Along with the award, radio show sponsors will provide the team, through the school/team coach, a prize package that will include a variety of new fishing equipment.

New releases from and about high school fishing teams will also be posted on a special "Illinois High Schools Fish Here" page at [www.FishingAndOutdoorRadio.com](http://www.FishingAndOutdoorRadio.com). High School Fishing coaches are encouraged to contact the Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show with any questions, news items or special interest stories related to high school fishing in Illinois by emailing [OutdoorRadioShow@comcast.net](mailto:OutdoorRadioShow@comcast.net).



**PAST NEWS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS****February 2012 Classroom Meetings, Outdoor Adventures, and Pool Days**

During February, many topics were covered during our classroom meetings, including

1. *Rods*
2. *Reels*
3. *Reel maintenance*
4. *Knot tying*
5. *Texas rig*
6. *Shaky head*
7. *Drop shot*
8. *Wacky rig*



Above: James Kut disassembles and assembles his reels at a recent VJA Bass Fishing meeting.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> outdoor adventure of the year, Coach Bartgen took the team to the pond in front of the school, and for some students, this was their first opportunity ever to cast into open water. Although no fish were caught, the students had the opportunity to practice casting and retrieving their lures. For some students, they were able to test out new lures that they had recently bought. For other students, they were happy simply learning how to cast and reel.

The final aspect of the February meetings consisted of a 1 hour pool day where students met at the Andrew pool, and they practiced their casting ability by trying to hit floating targets in the pool. VJA Alum fisherman, Eric Multon, came to the pool day to speak to the students, and he enjoyed reliving some awesome memories from the 2010 state championship qualifying team.

**A Special Tribute for a Special Man, My Father...**

Above: Coach Billy Miller proudly holds up a beautiful fish caught in St. Lucia.

When I was a young boy, my love for fishing began at a local vocational school called WILCO. There was a large pond behind the school, and I spent hours catching fish and walking around the pond. My father, who at the time worked for the Romeoville Post Office, would drop me off every morning and then pick me up on his lunch break to bring me home. I would bring random friends to my "fishing hole," and I can remember those days like they were just yesterday although they were 20 years ago.

My love for fishing grew when I was just a young child. We would vacation to central Wisconsin to visit family, we would picnic at Plainfield fishing resort, and my father would always ask, "How did you do today, son? Catch any fish?" Those memories were some of my fondest with my father.

When I entered college, with my father's help, I bought my first boat, an 18 foot Tracker with a 70 horsepower engine. I spent thousands of hours in my father's garage working on that boat until she ran just right. My dad was always there to help when I couldn't figure something out.

Suddenly and very sadly, my father, James Flynn, Sr., passed away on February 16, 2012, and his memory will forever be honored by anyone who knew his loving, caring, and loyal nature. He was my best friend, my biggest supporter, and my father. I love you, buddy. You will be greatly missed.

Your Son, Jimmy Flynn

*FUTURE Events and Meeting*

**Bass Pro Field Trip Set for March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

On Thursday, March 15, 2012, from 3 pm until 9 pm, the Andrew Bass Club will head to Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook, Illinois, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year. When the crew gets to Bass Pro, they will listen to a speaker, ask relevant bass fishing questions, and shop. For all shoppers, they will save some money with 10% off to all members of the VJA Bass Fishing Team!

While listening to the speaker, the students are able to ask any questions they have in regards to fishing. Bass Pro Shops and General Manager Jeff Hall understand how great IHSA bass fishing is, and they donated two gift cards for our tournament last year to help out our club.

With our 50+ members of the VJA bass club, 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.

**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. Coach Bartgen sent out the registration forms last week, and already, over 22 boats are entered into the tournament. This year, the VJA coaches are hoping to have 30+ boats in the tournament. *(The dates of the tournaments are below).*

In the tournament trail's first year of existence, 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.

**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.*

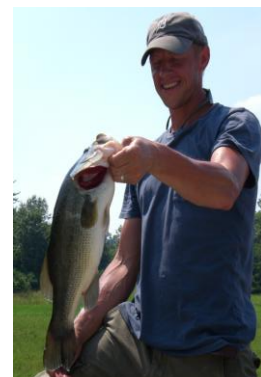
*Below are the dates for the 2012 tournament series.*

**2012 Tournament Schedule**

1. April 14<sup>th</sup>: *Spring Showdown*
2. May 12<sup>th</sup>: *Three River's Qualifier*
3. May 19<sup>th</sup>: *Classic Championship*



Above: Mike Oliosi displays an awesome trout he caught during the winter of 2012.



Above: Scott Plaiser hoists up the Big Bass caught in a summer tournament on the DesPlaines River. Great Catch!



## *FUTURE Events and Meeting contd.*

### **Two Upcoming Stars on the VJA Fishing Team**

The Andrew Bass Club has all eyes towards two potential rising stars in Illinois High School Bass Fishing, freshmen Josh O'Donnell and Justin Vaitkus. Over the past few years, the VJA bass club has been comprised of younger participants who have acquired a wealth of knowledge of bass fishing and tournament experience. However, these fishermen are now juniors and seniors. The thought of losing such talented fishermen has prompted Coach Bartgen to look toward the next generation of VJA fishermen who will continue Andrew's success on the water.

Although there are several current freshmen who are potential tournament fishermen, two will see action this year for sure, Josh O'Donnell and Justin Vaitkus. Although Josh has no tournament experience, his commitment to learn how to fish as brought him into the spotlight. Over the past few months, Josh has learned many new techniques and has become efficient with a baitcaster, claiming a spot for himself in the tournament section of the club.

The other freshman star, Justin Vaitkus, has tournament experience, having fished several tournaments with his father. Justin's knowledge of the sport has impressed his coaches from the very beginning. Despite only being a freshman, his knowledge of the sport has allowed him to assume a leadership role within the club and a respect among the veteran tournament anglers.

With the graduation of Pat Palaggi this year and Leno, Rogers, and Bilecki in 2013, Coach Bartgen will be relying on these up and coming freshmen to lead the way in years to come.

### **Shore Fishing and Boat Practice**

Every year for the VJA Bassers, the month of March marks the coming of Bass Fishing Season! For the novice section of the club, Coach Bartgen and the crew will start their fishing season by heading to local forest preserves lakes such as Horsetail, Papoose, or Sedgewick. While at these events, the student-anglers have a chance to catch multiple species of fish, ranging from bluegill, to bass, to northern, to trout. The shore fishing events are great because all students can get involved.

For the tournament sector of the club, Coach Bartgen, Coach Arndt, and Coach Flynn will start their preparation for the tournament season by engaging in a series of boat practice trips to the DesPlaines River. While on these day-long trips, students will have a chance to join a coach in the boat for 6 hours of educational fishing, and the student-anglers will learn the ins and outs of boat fishing, tournament fishing, and conservationism.

Both divisions within the VJA bass club look forward to warm weather and good fishing. 2012 looks to be a memorable year for the 50+ students and 4 coaches involved in the VJA bass fishing club!



Above: Ashley Gregor practices her skills by casting in the swimming pool.



Above: Bill Miller, Sr., displays some beautiful Lake Michigan jumbo perch that will soon hit the pan for a delicious dinner.



FUTURE Events and Meeting contd.

**Cabela's Field Trip: March 22, 2012**

On March 22, 2012, the VJA Bassers will head to Hammond, Indiana, to attend a free seminar that Cabela's will be hosting for Victor J. Andrew. At this seminar, students will have the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker and ask questions about various bass fishing topics.

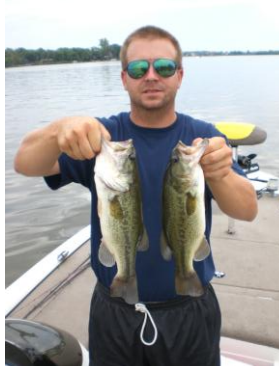
Also, at the free seminar, students will be able to make 1 inline spinnerbait, an experience that all VJA anglers will love because many students will catch fish on their homemade lures.

Cabela's in Hammond, Indiana, has also agreed to help donate gear and/or money for our District 230 Tournament Series raffles. Thank you, Cabela's!

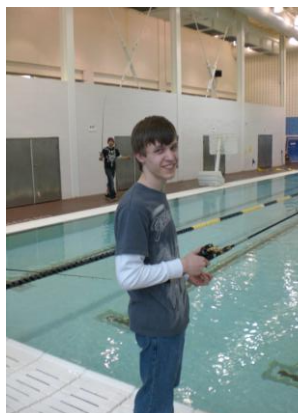
**Fishing Connection Open House: a Huge Success**

On February 9, 2012, from 6 pm until 9 pm, the Victor J. Andrew Fishing Club attended the third annual open house at *Fishing Connection* in Tinley Park, IL. While at Greg's store, local fishermen, including Big Len, assisted 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.

This year, many students and their family members attended the open house, and overall, it was a huge success! Greg has been a valued asset to our club and to IHSA bass fishing. His knowledge, advice, and service are unparalleled, and we look forward to continued relations with Greg. Much thanks again for a great outing.



Above: Coach Flynn displays two decent fish caught during a summer outing on the DesPlaines River.



Above: Jake Reinbolt flips his bait in the water, hoping to learn how his bait works!



Greg Katello, Owner

**Fishing Connection**

7897 W.159th St

Tinley Park, Il 60477

Phone: 708-532-1476



## Fishing Tip #3: After Ice Out...

By: Russ Bassdozer; Adapted from: [http://www.bassdozer.com/articles/after\\_ice\\_out.shtml](http://www.bassdozer.com/articles/after_ice_out.shtml)

*Do not be lulled into staying home by those who tell you "It is not time yet."*

By early March, another season of bass fishing has already started in most sections of the country, especially everywhere below the Mason-Dixon Line, in the West, Southwest and lower parts of the Midwest.

Even in the Northeast, Northwest or upper Midwest...IT IS TIME. I have already taken a good number of bass, both black and brown, from both boat and bank in several Northeastern states.

**Well, almost everywhere.** No, maybe not on your favorite body of water, but I would be surprised if you tell me you cannot get into your car this weekend and drive an hour or two into low-lying valleys or to a man-made environment (or section thereof) which has a thermal effect to raise the water temperature a bit.

**Look for warmer water,** which at this time of year includes any kind of discharges from factories, power stations or other man-made facilities. Look for small, shallow ponds or lakes in the bottoms of valleys or at lower altitudes. In the case of smallies, look for small, very deep lakes that have black rock rims. These areas spring to life first, especially if there are suspended particles in the water! Do you know of any small waters like this?

**Hit them now in the mid-afternoon.** Look for shallow, black mud-bottomed "fingers" or "mini-coves" that have full sun on the water since noon. Look for trees and brush that form a barricade from the wind on three sides. Black shale or emergent rocks. Often leaves and surface debris will pool in these quiet little dead end eddies. All these factors, black bottom, dark rocks, wind breaks, dark surface debris draw heat into the water. Bass will collect in numbers in these areas now.

**It's a time of renewal.** The bass are there to revitalize their energy in the sun - not to feed - but you can zip a tube bait past them as quickly as you can, and they will instinctively snap at it! If your favorite color isn't working, try white. Retrieve too slowly, and you may not find them very interested. The water may only be one foot deep, and you can see large numbers of mid-sized bass laying from one side of the cove to the other, all facing the shoreline. Pick out one of the bigger bass as your target, and cast 6-8 feet beyond it. I use a pointy-nosed jig with the hook eye right on the tip of the nose for its weed-shedding properties. Glue the tube on it. Start reeling before the tube even hits the water. Steer it away from surface debris and right in front of your chosen target's mouth. Done properly, your target will instinctively open its mouth and SNAP down on your tube jig! However, your streaking tube may also create a competitive reaction among several smaller bass that will chase and snap at it too!

**After a few casts, you may blow the school out of there,** so you must make each cast count. However, return in fifteen minutes and enough bass will have recollected in the heat pool in order to give you another 2-3 casts at them. While you wait for them to recollect, fish any shallow dead reed, rock or wood cover out of the wind and in full sun a short distance outside the "mouth" of the mini-cove with a big jig 'n pig.

**Big solitary egg-laden females will be lying there,** ripening their swollen bellies in the sun. Your best weapon here is your own stealth. The female will hate to have your big jig 'n pig intruding in her chosen space and she will attempt to kill it if you do not startle her out of her somnambulant state by your presence.

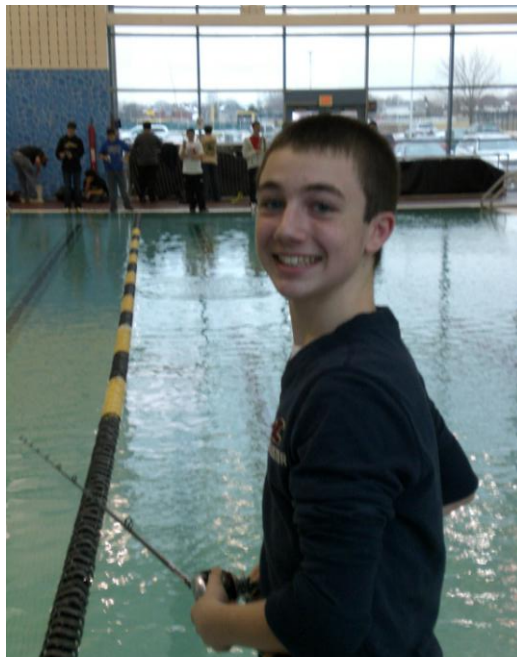
After you alternately fish 2-3 times between the mini-cove and outside cover, most of the bass will be quite alerted to your presence and will have disappeared from view. So go find another untapped heat sink further down the bank and repeat the process.

Hope it helps you break the ice on a brand new season.





# Angler Profile



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

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(708) 342-5900

**E-MAIL:**

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[JFlynn@d230.org](mailto:JFlynn@d230.org)

**We're on the Web!**

**(CTRL+ Click on Link)**

<http://www.ihsa.org/SportsActivities/TheFutureFishesHere.aspx>

**Name & Grade:** Josh O'Donnell, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Hometown:** Tinley Park, Illinois

**Fishing Aspirations:** To fish competitively for VJA

**Fishing Role Model(s):** My dad and everyone who has helped me grow as a fisherman

**Favorite Professional Angler:** Kevin VanDam

**Favorite Species to Fish for:** Largemouth Bass

**Favorite Fishing Technique:** Drop Shot

**Favorite Fishing Television Host:** Bill Dance

**Favorite Memory Fishing:** Catching 74 Bluegill in one day

**Favorite body of water to Fish:** Deep sea fishing on the Atlantic, but really wherever they are biting

**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](mailto:JBartgen@d230.org) or 708-342-5900. Thank you for all of your help and consideration!*



# V.J.A.

## Bass Fishing Pictures



Above: The “Godfather” of Delavan and Lake Geneva, Kenny Borzym, shows off two beautiful largemouth bass caught on the Mississippi River.



Above: Anthony Leno teaches a VJA newcomer how to take apart and clean a spinning reel. The reels were donated by VJA supporter and radio show host, Jim DaRosa.



Above: Coach John Bartgen hoists up a 32” northern pike caught on Castle Rock Flowage in Central Wisconsin during a mid-summer trip.



Above: Richie Wren, Eric Multon, and Jayson Multon work on casting lures in the pool at a recent meeting.

***If you have pictures that you would like submitted in an edition of our newsletter, please email them to [iflynn@d230.org](mailto:iflynn@d230.org) and [JBartgen@d230.org](mailto: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](http://www.IllinoisOutdoors.com)  
*Illinois Outdoors, Inc.*  
*Fishing & Outdoor Radio Show*  
*Outdoor Columnist/Chicago Tribune*
14. Jim DaRosa's Radio Show: <http://www.fishingandoutdoorradio.com/>  
*Fishing & Outdoor Radio Show*
15. Jim DaRosa's Guide Service: <http://www.FishSmallmouthBass.com>
16. Anglers-Dream Tournaments: <http://anglers-dream.com/>
17. Clark Marine, Franklin, TN: <http://www.clarkmarine.com/>
18. Ultimate Bass: <http://www.ultimatebass.com/>
19. Chicago-land Fishing: <http://chicagolandfishing.com/>
20. The Bass Coach: <http://www.basscoachfishing.com/index.html>
21. Bass Dozer: [http://www.bassdozer.com/bass\\_links.shtml](http://www.bassdozer.com/bass_links.shtml)
22. Rayjus Outdoors: <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, 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 **Full-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 website: <http://www.thefuturefishshere.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 supportive of **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](mailto: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](http://WWW.BullsEyeEntertainment.Biz)**

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

# Fishing Connection



## **Store Hours**

*(March, April, and May)*

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 10am-7:30pm

Thursday: 10am-9pm

Saturday: 8am-4pm

Sunday: 9am-3pm

Visit ***Fishing Connection & Boat-N-Tackle Outfitters*** on the Web:  
[www.boatntackle.com/fishing\\_connection/fishing\\_connection\\_e-store](http://www.boatntackle.com/fishing_connection/fishing_connection_e-store)

## Contact Information:

*Rayjus Outdoors*

Phone Number: 815-513-5583



Located inside *Bedford Sales* in Morris, Illinois.

Website: <http://www.rayjus.com/>

Call Justin today to order your jersey, sweatshirt, t-shirts, and fishing clothing.

*"What the Pros Wear..."*

## Contact Information:

*Rayjus Outdoors*

Phone Number: 815-513-5583