

# VJA Bass Fishing

## **Special Interest Articles (pg. 1):**

- Clothing Orders in Review...
- 2011 NFP Fundraiser...

## **Highlights:**

- Past News/  
Accomplishments 2
- Meetings/Speakers 3
- Future Events 4
- Fishing Tips 5
- Angler Profile 6
- Supporters 7
- Links 8
- **Business Supporters 9**  
**(NEW!)**

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

## **Clothing Orders Have Been Placed!**

The clothing orders were placed on December 22, 2010, and all orders should arrive by mid to late January. Once the orders arrive, we will call every person who placed an order. On a good note, the orders will be here in enough time for your first fishing trip of the year (that's if you start fishing in February)!

This year, over 50 orders to purchase a hat, sweatshirt, t-shirt, winter beanie hat (this is new), jersey, and/or polo were placed. We hope to see VJA bass clothing around Tinley Park.

The object of the clothing orders is to promote awareness of bass fishing in the community and to show allegiance to the VJA anglers.

*Additional items may be available at a later date if you missed this order. Please email Coach Bartgen with any questions or concerns: [JBartgen@d230.org](mailto:JBartgen@d230.org).*

***PROUDLY WEAR YOUR VJA BASS GEAR at all tournaments, outings, presentations, and open houses!!!***

## **2011 VJA Bass Fishing Fundraiser**

From January 13<sup>th</sup> until January 27<sup>th</sup>, Mark Ittersagen of NFP Promotions is going to assist our club in raising the necessary funds for our club. The Victor J. Andrew bass club will engage in a fundraising program where each student will have 16 cards to sell, and they will sell a mixture of BWW/Champps cards and Subway coupons. Please show your support by purchasing a card, and help out our anglers as they work to sell their cards!

Parents and student anglers, please let the coaches know what they can do to help your son or daughter sell their cards. 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 would like to purchase a BWW/Champps or Subway card, please contact [JBartgen@d230.org](mailto: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 was a Success!**

December 2, 2010, kicked off the third year of VJA Fishing at Andrew High School! At this meeting, many administrative topics pertaining to clothing, fundraising, student participation, and club goals were discussed.

At the meeting, over 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 to fish in tournaments and prepare for fishing by researching bodies of water, talking to local pros, and practicing over weekends on boats with the coaches.



Above: Coach Arndt smiles as he works with students during a 2010 VJA tournament on the DesPlaines River.



Above: Coach Bartgen poses for the camera as he drags a Carolina Rig in search of largemouth bass.

### **What VJA Fishing Means to Jeremy Bilecki...**

My past experiences with the bass club and the VJA tournament team are amazing. I say this because it was a lot of fun doing what I love: fishing! Also, I made a lot of friends, and I learned a lot about fishing over the year. Some examples of what I learned would be how to use a trolling motor, using your lure to figure out the depth and what kind of structure you are around, how to have fun with fishing, and to be thankful to be out on the water. Also, during every meeting last year, I learned something new and tried it out during the summer and spring, and I caught a lot more fish because of what I learned.

My goals for fishing at Victor J. Andrew is too make it to state this year and hopefully win. My aspiration for fishing this year is to catch a limit in each tournament and to help out others who need help when we are shore-fishing. My lifelong goals for fishing are to fish in tournaments every chance I get, and then maybe with the money I win start a guide service on a lake with which I am very familiar. Also, maybe I could start up my own tackle shop. My other lifelong goals are to have fun with fishing because you never know when your last day might be. The most important thing about the club is getting to know other people that have similar interests as you and getting to have fun outside in a club and learning to fish together.

Overall, fishing in high school has been an experience that I greatly respect and appreciate. I am extremely excited for the upcoming season, and I can't wait for the snow to melt!

—**Jeremy Bilecki**



Above: The repeat District 230 champions after the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual District 230 tournament!



## MEETINGS/SPEAKERS

### Jim DaRosa comes to Andrew on January 20<sup>th</sup>

On January 20, 2011, from 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm, Jim DaRosa will be coming to speak at Andrew High School about various bass fishing techniques. As a club, we are proud to have a fisherman as experienced and respected as Jim come to talk to our student-anglers.

Jim DaRosa, a Lockport, IL, resident, who also recently moved north to Mill Lacs, MN, during the warm weather months to guide for smallmouths, has been fishing for over 45 years. Of those 45 years, Jim has fished in over 200 tournaments, having won numerous bass tournaments in the Midwest. In addition to fishing tournaments, Jim is the co-host and founder of the "Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show," the longest airing fishing show on the radio (27 years).

Jim DaRosa's guide service contact information is below:

**Jim DaRosa**

Isle, MN 56342

320-630-4792 cell

Email: [jtd648@comcast.net](mailto:jtd648@comcast.net)

Web Address: <http://fishsmallmouthbass.com/>



Jim DaRosa proudly displays two beautiful smallmouth bass.

### Cesare Montefusco and George Liddle to present at Andrew on January 27<sup>th</sup>

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, from 3 pm until 4:30 pm, Cesare Montefusco and George Liddle are coming to Andrew High School for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year to present on numerous bass fishing topics.

As a club, we are extremely fortunate to have two of the most respected bass fishermen in the south suburbs in Cesare Montefusco and George Liddle come to speak to our student-anglers. There is no better way to improve our student's knowledge of bass fishing than to have speakers as knowledgeable as these two guys come in to talk to our kids.

At this presentation, students will have an invaluable opportunity to hear about time-tested bass fishing techniques and engage in a question and answer session where the students ask informed questions to better their knowledge of bass fishing. This should be a great experience for our kids, and we want to thank Cesare and George very much for coming to Andrew. To say the least, our entire school community is fortunate to have Cesare and George in our "corner!"



Cesare shows off a beautiful Des Plaines River largemouth bass.

### Fish Tales Invites Ted Takasaki to Gaelic Park

On February 24, 2011, from 6:30 pm until 10 pm, come join Ted Takasaki at Gaelic Park. Fish Tales fishing club invited Ted, a professional walleye fisherman, to speak for three hours. This is an event you can't miss! Come to the January 20<sup>th</sup> Fish Tales meeting for more information! This presentation is for all people 18 and over (unless accompanied by a parent).

To attend this presentation, all people are welcomed to come to Fish Tales' January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and purchase a ticket in advance for \$8.00. If you purchase the ticket early, you save \$2.00 as it will cost \$10.00 at the door.

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

**For Tickets, Call Chuck at 708-212-4640 or Fred at 708-687-5149**

**WE HOPE TO HAVE T-BOLT SUPPORT AT THE FISH TALES FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup> MEETING!**



Professional walleye fisherman Ted Takasaki is coming to Gaelic Park on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

## *FUTURE Events and Meeting*

### **Open House at Fishing Connection set for February 10, 2011**

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

**Thank you, Greg.**

On **February 10, 2011, from 6 pm until 9 pm**, the Victor J. Andrew Fishing Club will host its second 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.**

### **Bass Pro Shops and Kevin McLean, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440**

On **Thursday, March 10, 2011, from 6 pm until 9 pm**, the Andrew Bass Club will attend a bass fishing presentation by Kevin McLean at Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook, IL. In addition to the presentation, the students are able to shop and save some money with 10% off to all shoppers.

While listening to the speaker, the students are 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.

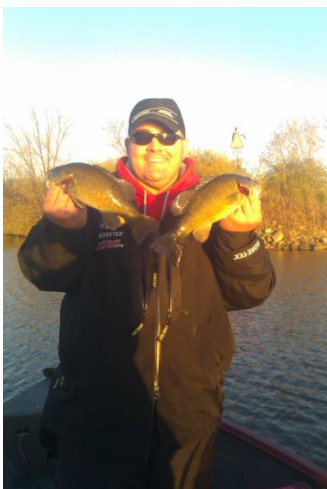
### **Billy "The Fireman" Miller will present at Andrew**

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, will make his way to Andrew High School to present all of the latest ice fishing topics. Accompanying Billy Miller will be Steve New, store manager of *Angler's International Resources*, 1272 E Dundee Rd, Palatine, IL 60074, (847) 991-3200. 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 will introduce 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.

This presentation at Andrew High School will be the first of its kind as ice fishing is an uncharted topic for the VJA fishing club. At the presentation, Billy Miller and Steve New will talk about various ice fishing topics, including 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, you can call them at (847) 991-3200.**



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



## Fishing Tip #3: Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass

### The 3 Species: Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass

**Black bass are widely distributed in North America, occurring in every state of the United States except Alaska. Several species and subspecies exist, but these three are the most important:**

#### Largemouth:

The scientific name for the largemouth is *Micropterus Salmoides*. It has a very large mouth and a large upper jaw that extends behind the eye; its color ranges from green to black. Largemouths prefer shallower, warmer water than other black bass species and are most at home in weeds and other thick cover such as brush and timber. If given the option, largemouths will opt for slower current. Largemouths prefer to spawn in shallow, protected areas with hard, dark bottoms near or next to wood. Reedbeds usually contain the best spawning habitat. Their diet is primarily baitfish, although they will eat practically anything they can swallow. The world record largemouth weighed 22 pounds, 4 ounces; most state records are between 10 and 14 pounds.

#### Smallmouth:

The smallmouth (*Micropterus Dolomieu*) is more bronze or brown in color than the largemouth, and its side markings look like vertical bars (tiger striped). Also, it has a smaller mouth than the largemouth, and its jaw does not extend beyond the eye. The eye has red in it and the largemouths don't. Smallmouths prefer deeper, clearer, cooler water with rocky structure. They are seldom found in stagnant ponds or murky lakes shallower than 25 feet.

In addition to clear waters, the smallmouth bass loves to hold in a moderately swift current. In rivers and streams they stay away from the swiftest sections, where the trout might hold, but prefer pools with a noticeable current to those that are completely stagnant. Like their cousins, smallmouths like heavy structure, such as boulders, rock beds, tree trunks and bridge abutments, but stay away from the heavy weedbeds that largemouths love so much.

Crawfish and insects are mainstays in their diet. But they do eat baitfish when available. The world record smallmouth weighed 11 pounds, 15 ounces, and most state records are between 7 and 9 pounds.

Ninety percent of all smallmouths live in water deeper than 15 feet deep if they can get to it and have access to deeper water. Remember to fish deep - the bank just keeps the water in the lake!

#### Spotted Bass:

Spotted bass (*Micropterus Punctulatus*) fall between largemouths and smallmouths in many respects, including appearance, and depth, temperature and habitat preferences. Spotted (or Kentucky) bass do not grow as large as the largemouth, and unlike the smallmouth, do not have vertical bars on their sides. They have smaller mouths and jaws like the smallmouth, but are marked with rows of spots below the lateral line. They swim in schools more frequently than the other two black bass and can often be found around deep, rocky structure. The world record spot weighed 10.27 pounds. A trophy in most areas where they are found is 5 pounds.





# Angler Profile

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

**PHONE:**

JOHN BARTGEN  
(708) 342-5900

**E-MAIL:**

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

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

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

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

**We're on the Web!**

See us at: Coming Soon



**Name & Grade:** Jason Multon, Freshman

**Hometown:** Orland Hills, IL

**Fishing Aspirations:** In the short term, I would like to lead Andrew High School back to State and win it this year!

**Fishing Role Model(s):** My older brother, Eric Multon

**Favorite Professional Angler:** Kevin Vandam

**Favorite Species to Fish for:** I really don't have a favorite—each species is a different battle.

**Favorite Fishing Technique:** Texas Rig

**Favorite Fishing Television Host:** Hank Parker

**Favorite Memory Fishing:** When I was in Florida with my brother when I hooked a 100 lb. shark with a salmon rod.

**Favorite Lake/River to Fish:** Lake Michigan

**Biggest Fish Ever Caught:** 100lb nurse shark

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



# V.J.A. Bass Fishing Pictures



Above: Dan Rogers casts his fly rode while he is wading in a river for steelhead.



Above: Ashley Gregor proudly shows off her beautiful catch! Great Job, Ashley!



Above: Coach Arndt and Jake Reinbolt search for largemouth in a 2010 tournament on the DesPlaines River.

*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. 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](http://www.IllinoisOutdoors.com)  
Illinois Outdoors, Inc.  
Fishing Line & Outdoor Radio  
Outdoor Columnist/Chicago Tribune
14. Jim DaRosa: <http://www.fishingandoutdoorradio.com/> & [www.FishSmallmouthBass.com](http://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](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!

