

# VJA Bass Fishing

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- District 230 Bass Fishing Tournament Series Registration
- 2011 NFP Fundraiser...

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If you are a business or a loyal supporter and would like to contribute to the VJA High School Bass Anglers, please read page 10 and contact Coach John Bartgen.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

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

## **District 230 Tournament Series**

As of the beginning of February, over 13 schools have committed to fishing in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual District 230 Tournament Series. Over 25 boats will participate in the three tournament series, culminating in the Classic on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The first and second tournament will launch out of Big Basin in Channahon on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup> respectively at 6:30 am. The weigh-in will be at approximately 1:30 pm for both tournaments. The third tournament—The District 230 Classic—will launch out of the DesPlaines Conservation Area on May 21<sup>st</sup> at approximately 6:30 pm, and the weigh-in will take place at 1:30 pm.

Thus far, we have had great support and will hope to give away many prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> place, as well as big bass for each tournament. All family members, friends, and loyal supporters are welcome to attend the launch, the tournament, and the weigh-in. As a whole, this event will be a great spectacle for IHSA Bass Fishing, and we hope to have many supporters at the tournaments.

## **2011 VJA Bass Fishing Fundraiser**

**From January 13<sup>th</sup> until February 1<sup>st</sup>,** Mark Ittersagen of NFP Promotions assisted our club in raising the necessary funds. Overall, the fundraiser was a huge success, and the coaches and students would like to thank everyone involved.

This year, the VJA club will be utilizing the funds raised to attend speakers at Bass Pro and Cabelas, buy fishing equipment for the 2 divisions within our club, host a pizza party, purchase club awards for our three tournaments, and buy raffle items for our club meetings, amongst other things.

Because of the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, this year will be memorable and instructional for the students and coaches.

***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!***

### **Tournament Schedule**

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

**Please Note:** The first two tournaments launch out of **Big Basin**. The last tournament launches out of the **DesPlaines Conservation Area**.

**Contact John Bartgen with questions or for directions.**

## PAST EVENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **Jim DaRosa's Presentation was Memorable**



Above: Jim Darosa instructs the VJA anglers about smallmouth bass fishing techniques.

**Thank you, Jim!**

On January 20, 2011, from 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm, Jim DaRosa presented on bass fishing techniques and hosted a question and answer session for students. Overall, Jim's generosity and passion was greatly accepted by our students, and we are grateful for the many donations Jim gave to the students who asked questions.

We would also like to thank Tommy Akin of Strike King Lure Company for donating lures and hats to our club. It is people like Jim and Tommy who make the sport of IHSA bass fishing great for kids. Below is a picture of our anglers with their Strike King gear.



Above: On a recent ice fishing trip with Mr. James Corcoran from Sandburg High School, Coach Bartgen poses for the camera.

### **Cesare Montefusco and George Liddle**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, from 3 pm until 4:30 pm, Cesare Montefusco and George Liddle came to Andrew High School for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year to present on numerous bass fishing topics, including jigs, tubes, and all other jig-type fishing applications.

During the presentation, Cesare and George used a power-point presentation to discuss the uses of jigs: shakey head, round head, football head, swim jigs, flipping jigs, and a new tube rig—the stupid tube.

After the power point presentation, Cesare and George hosted a question and answer session where they gave away lures to students who asked questions.

Overall, with 40+ students in attendance, two coaches, and VJA renowned loyal supporter, Lloyd Eichwald, in attendance, the presentation was awesome! The entire VJA community would like to thank Cesare and George again for their presentation, and we look forward to continued support from these two respected gentlemen.

**Thanks, Cesare and George.**



Above: Cesare shows off a beautiful DesPlaines River largemouth bass.

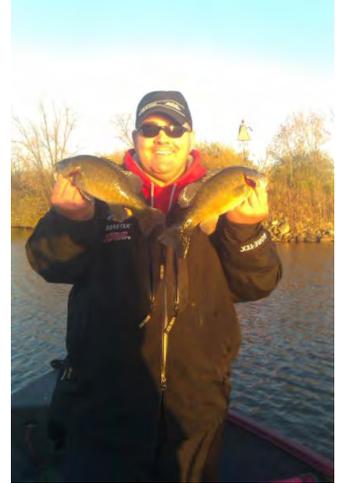
## February MEETINGS/SPEAKERS

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

On Thursday, February 17, 2011, Billy Miller will be coming to Andrew to present on numerous topics, including ice fishing tactics and safety. Billy's first presentation at Andrew will be exciting and informative because ice fishing is a new topic for the VJA anglers. Aiding Billy Miller in his presentation will be Steve Nu from Anglers International Resources in Palatine. We look forward to this presentation, which will kick off our February list of speakers.

Billy Miller currently resides in the Mount Greenwood neighborhood with his wife Karen, who works as the technology director at Alan B. Shepard High School in Palos. Billy works with the Chicago Fire Department and is a coach at the NAIA powerhouse football program Saint Xavier University.

Billy has been fishing lakes and rivers in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan for over 20 years, and his wealth of knowledge for multi-species fishing is unparalleled.



Above: Billy Miller holds up two beautiful, fall-time smallmouth bass.

### Sandburg, Mr. James Corcoran, and the Rosemont Show

On January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Coach Bartgen, Coach Flynn, and Coach Corcoran went ice fishing in southern Wisconsin. During the trip, the three coaches from across District 230 fished in a 150 person ice fishing tournament on Pewaukee Lake near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. First off, the VJA anglers would like to thank Sandburg Head Coach Jim "Corky" Corcoran for his hospitality.

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, the coaches from the two schools and some Sandburg anglers attended the Donald E. Stephens fishing and outdoor show. Overall, the event was a great way to "cross party lines" so to speak and meet other high school anglers who share the same passion as our anglers.

At the show, the featured speaker was three-time-classic-winning angler Kevin VanDam. The weekend was truly memorable, and as coaches, we hope to introduce ice fishing into our program.



Above: Mr. James Corcoran—Sandburg High School Head Bass Fishing Coach—takes a knee on the ice for the camera.

### 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.



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

**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!**

## *FUTURE Events and Meeting*

### **Fishing Connection Open House was Amazing**

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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 hosted its second annual open house at Fishing Connection in Tinley Park, IL. While at Greg's store, local professionals 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, and much thanks goes out to Greg at Fishing Connection.

Over 100 parents, students, coaches, and community members came out to the event, and a special thanks to John Kennedy and Big Len for lending their advice and time to help our kids. Having these two gentlemen present at our open house was a valued asset! 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.**

### **Cabela's Presentation set for February 19, 2011**

**On February 19, 2011**, the VJA anglers will head to Cabela's in Hoffman Estates to attend presentations regarding bass fishing. Cabela's is kicking off a Bass fishing weekend with free seminars by some of the hottest Tournament Professional. Tournament winning pros will share the secrets which have helped them win tournaments around the United States.

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.

#### **Highlights of this year's event include:**

- 10am General Bass Fishing Speaker FLW Tour Pro Rich Lowitzki
- 11am Light Tackle Bass Fishing Speaker Bruce Goode
- Noon - Smallmouth Bass Tactics Speaker Jerry Rowland
- Map Reading
- Knot Tying
- Special High School Discount with ID

For more information about Cabela's Bass Fishing Seminars, pre register your school by emailing Diane at [Diane.Schneider@Cabelas.com](mailto:Diane.Schneider@Cabelas.com) also visit [www.cabelas.com/hoffmanestates](http://www.cabelas.com/hoffmanestates) for a current list of events and sales flyer or call Cabela's in Hoffman Estates at 847-645-0400

### **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.



## Fishing Tip #4: Tackling Tough-Bite Midwinter Panfish

It's gut-check time for anglers across the Ice Belt. The first-ice honeymoon is history—and with it the relatively easy fishing of early winter. That's not to say good fishing is gone. Far from it. With the right techniques and mindset you can still score banner panfish catches.

Just ask Lindy's Dave Genz. Father of the modern ice fishing revolution and designer of storied ice fishing lures like the Lindy Genz Worm, Genz Bug and Fat Boy, Genz flat-out catches panfish when other anglers can't. But even he adjusts his tactics as winter wears on.

"A big key is not fishing areas that have been pounded since first ice," he quipped the other day as we drilled our way along the outskirts of a heavily fished shanty town, looking for refugees. "Most of the fish that were there when winter started have left in 5-gallon buckets."

The "release in grease" philosophy isn't the only mitigating factor. Changes in oxygen levels, vegetation, food sources and other environmental factors can reduce the fishes' activity levels and appetites, as well as usher in changes in location—both in relation to structure or cover, and within the water column.

In fact, oxygen levels wane in some lakes to the point where the bite dies until incoming meltwater restarts the action at late ice. Bottom line? Your success hinges on rolling with the punches, seeking out unpressured fish and systems where environmental conditions foster fish activity throughout the dead of winter. Overlooked pods of panfish in deep, well-oxygenated lakes are a prime example.

Even then, presentational tweaks can mean a big difference. I favor a two-rod attack. The first sports a small jigging spoon such as a 1/16-ounce Lindy Rattl'n Flyer Spoon or Techni-Glo Frostee, tipped with a downward-facing minnow head or trio of waxies or spikes. My presentation isn't as animated as it was at first ice. Sharp lifts are fewer, jiggles longer, and rises slower. Often enough, this subdued spoon dance attracts passing pans, and triggers as many or more strikes as those scratched up by nearby buddies finessing microscopic jigs beneath spring bobbers.

"Because the bait is rotating on the treble at the bottom of the spoon, it's easy for the fish to suck it in," adds Genz, who is also a fan of spoonfeeding panfish when other anglers downsize. "When there's nothing on sonar, I'll fish a Frostee rather aggressively—pumping it up and down. Then, when a fish comes in, I tone it down and shake the lure with little quivers that make the treble dance."

For panfish that pass on the spoon, my second rod is rigged with a small horizontal jig like a Lindy Fat Boy. "That's my favorite, too," says Genz. "I tip it with maggots or spikes and fish it with short jigging motions so it kicks; you don't want to use big rod movements. After you catch a fish, it's important to slide the knot down the line tie so the lure hangs horizontal, that's a key to the Fat Boy's success, especially when fishing is tough."

These are just a couple of tricks for using Lindy's ample arsenal of winter lures to ice more fish at midwinter. Others include tipping a size 12 Genz Worm with a live minnow, rocking softbaits or spikes on Genz Bugs, and using the 1 1/3-inch Lindy Darter to jar reaction bites out of tight-lipped pans. But those are all topics for another day. For now, keep the faith and keep fishing, adjusting your locations and tactics to catch more fish all winter long.



### **Produced by:**

<http://www.lindyfishingtackle.com/fishingresources/articles/icefishing/toughbitepanfish>



# Angler Profile



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

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

**We're on the Web!**

See us at: *Coming Soon*

**Name & Grade:** Ashley Gregor, Junior

**Hometown:** Tinley Park

**Fishing Aspirations:** To have fun, to help people, and to get a scholarship.

**Fishing Role Model(s):** My dad for raising me around the sport, and my grandpa for getting my dad interested in fishing as well.

**Favorite Professional Angler:** Every pro I've ever seen is unique because of their strategies, so it's hard to pick just one or even a few.

**Favorite Species to Fish for:** Perch. Not only do they taste good, but I've had some pretty unique experiences when fishing for them.

**Favorite Fishing Technique:** Slowly reeling a jig back in or playing hurry up and wait. That always makes for good conversation.

**Favorite Fishing Television Host:** Roland Martin.

**Favorite Memory Fishing:** Kissing my fish when I was 5 or 6 and spending time with my family or friends while fishing.

**Favorite Lake/River to Fish:** Trail Creek in Indiana or Lake Michigan.

**Biggest Fish Ever Caught:** 10-12 pound Steelhead from Trail Creek in spring 2010.

**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: Tim Philbin displays a beautiful largemouth caught on Coach Bartgen's boat.



Above: Coach Bartgen—fishing somewhere in a beautiful, remote part of the DesPlaines River—hoists up a nice “chunk!”



Above: Coach Arndt and his anglers flipping some baits in an April Tournament.

*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)*





Above: Coach Bartgen and Coach Corcoran enjoy a morning cup of coffee.



Above: Cali Papez shows off her beautiful blue gil and stylish ice fishing attire! Great job, Cali!



Above: Dominic Sergi holds up his northern pike caught on the Lauderdale Lakes in Southern, WI.



Above: Alexa Doyon holds up her prize at the presentation.



Above: Jeremy Bilecki smiles for the camera at Jim DaRosa's stellar presentation!



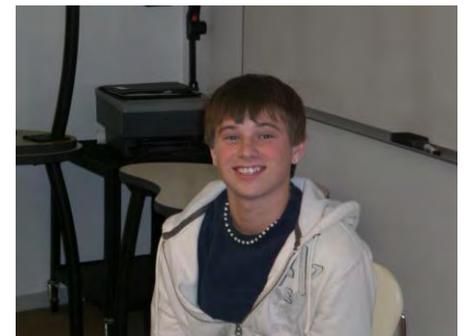
Above: Dan Rogers shows off his free admission coupon to the Tinley Park Fishing Show.



Above: Mark Sivak displays his War Eagle Spinnerbait.



Above: Mike Kall proudly shows off his buzzbait.



Above: Jason Multon smiles for the camera at the presentation.



Above: Loyal VJA supporter, Lloyd Eichwald, waving between questions and answers.



Above: Mr. John Tadla showed up for the pre-presentation meeting.



Above: Rebecca Schiavo anxiously anticipates the speaker.

# 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 Dziejzina: [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)...
21. Bass Fan: <http://bassfan.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 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!

