

# VJA Bass Fishing

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  - Assistant Coach, Jimmy Flynn: [JFlynn@d230.org](mailto:JFlynn@d230.org)

## ***Fishing Connection Open House: February 9th***

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 fishermen 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.

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 are unparalleled, and we look forward this event.

***Hope to see you at our Open House at Fishing Connection!***

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

Email Coach Bartgen with any questions or concerns: [JBartgen@d230.org](mailto:JBartgen@d230.org).

## **2011-2012 VJA Bass Fishing Fundraiser**

From January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, until February 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Student-anglers, please let the coaches know what they can do to help you 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.

Thus far, the students have done a good job raising money, but more work needs to be accomplished. There is only a week left, so get after it!

***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](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 NEWS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **January 2012 Classroom Meetings**

It is hard to believe that meetings are already underway, and the fishing season is a short month or so away! Regardless of the freezing temperature (or lack thereof), the VJA bass team has been meeting two days a week since January 9<sup>th</sup>. At the meetings, a variety of topics are being covered. Some of these topics have included:

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



Above: Working the trolling motor, Coach Bartgen stops to pose for the camera.

The VJA bass fishing meetings serve to teach students about all aspects of bass fishing prior to getting out and fishing. The coaches use videos, magazines, Power-point presentations, demonstrations, and handouts to fully capture the student's attention. Also at the meetings, Coach Bartgen enjoys ending each session with a competitive knot tying contest to see who can tie a knot and rig a bait the fastest.

Once February hits, the meetings will be very exciting because our speakers and field trips get into full swing. Once this occurs, a more interactive, dynamic meeting schedule will come into effect when the students start casting in the pool and attending Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's, as well as listening to our speaker line up, consisting of Jim DaRosa, Billy Miller, and Cesare Montefusco.

### **Special Thanks...**

Special thanks go out to many people, starting with Mr. and Mrs. John Bartgen, Sr., who donated the money for the purchase of our new, stylish Victor J. Andrew Bass Fishing magnets! These magnets are being used to raise awareness of high school bass fishing in the area as well as to raise money for the club.

Other special thanks go out to Justin, owner and founder of Rayjus Outdoors, for making a monetary donation towards our classic series. Check out Justin's website for the latest in fishing apparel (see our **Links** page).

And yet another special thanks go out to the many men and women from the Illinois Bass Federation Nation and Jim Nelson for agreeing to help host our classic tournament in 2012. Also, these fine people donated a beautiful trophy for the 2011 Classic, and they have agreed to replicate another beautiful trophy for 2012.

Final thanks go out to Jeff Hall from Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook, Illinois, and Jillian Stasiak from Cabela's in Hammond, Indiana, for putting together awesome seminars for our student-anglers to attend. These seminars are the highlight of our meeting season, so thank you very much!



Above: Sandburg Coach, Scott Plaiser, enjoys his time with his fishermen during a District 230 Tournament.



## *FUTURE Events and Meeting*

### **Bass Pro Field Trip Set for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

On Thursday, March 8, 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 14 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: Jayson Multon displays a 2 pound largemouth that he caught during the summer months.



*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!

**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 dates on which these men will be speaking at Andrew are listed below.*

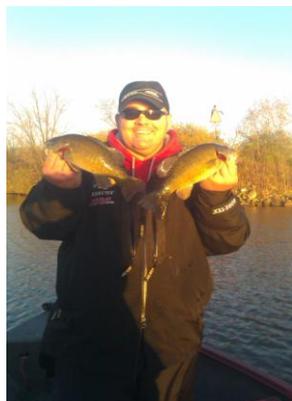
**Contact Head Coach John Bartgen with any questions: [JBartgen@d230.org](mailto:JBartgen@d230.org)**



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



Above: Richie Wren, sophomore at VJA, holds up a 5+ pound largemouth caught out of a pond.



**Billy Miller**  
**2/1/12**



**Jim DaRosa**  
**2/6/12**



**Cesare Montefusco**  
**2/29/12**



## Fishing Tip #2: Fishing Rivers under Lakes (Impoundments)

By: Russ Bassdozer; Adapted from: <http://www.bassdozer.com/articles/rivers-under-lakes.shtml>

Actually, many lakes we fish are not lakes. They're impoundments, river drainage systems that have been dammed by humanity.

A golden concept that applies to impoundments year-round but especially each spring is this: Fish impoundments as if they still are the original rivers. This means targeting the locations that were active flowing parts of the original river system before being dammed by man.

A river system (and hence an impoundment) is a mesh of countless connecting feeder veins and water flows of the following exemplary types which you should learn to recognize and target. Some of the larger constructs can be recognized from far away, and may extend down into the impoundment from far back on the adjacent land. Some of the smaller constructs often have an additional trapeze of garnishy greenery on the way down to the shoreline, which is a surefire cue to a few water veins that fish like gold veins. Here are some of the key river constructs underneath an impoundment:

**MAJOR CONFLUENCES.** Where two rivers or streams that rarely dry meet (or would have met if they were not flooded under water by man). Confluences can be great summer and fall staging spots for bass.

**PERENNIALS.** These are more or less steady creeks that never completely dry up or only stop flowing during the very driest spells. These usually have silty flood plain deltas in the back, and may be marshland or flooded brush basins in the back.

**NON-PERENNIALS.** These are where an intermittent creek or wash, which may have been dry for most of the season, is now underwater. The confluences where non-perennial or lesser side creek would have met a stream or bigger creek - some of these MINOR CONFLUENCES can be great winter or summer deepwater holding areas for bass.

**SEASONAL INFLOWS.** Places that don't flow year-round but bring water in predominantly during the snow-melt season and/or only during the rainy or monsoon season. Snow-melt is more "systemic" and runs off from deeply-saturated grounds whereas rainy season inflows can often be but are not necessarily shallower surface ground run-offs.

**INCIDENTAL INFLOWS.** Places that usually do not flow but only convey excess water as a result of heavy downpour or flash flood incidents. These can come from high ground, and may result in temporary waterfalls or spills.

**SEEPS AND SPRINGS.** Water squeezed out of rocks or coming out of the ground. Actually, I don't think such water gets wrung right out of the rocks, but squeezed between the thin space between two layers of rocks. Nevertheless, even such innocuous "drip rocks" seem to have enhanced food chains on and about the drips - more terrestrials, insects, moss, algae - and right on up the food chain that ultimately attracts bass.

**SHINING SAND OR WET SPOTS.** I'd hardly call these any sort of serious water inflow, but still bass have an uncanny affinity for such areas, especially in the spring. Usually, they're a dimple or depression in the back of a bowl or teacup-type sand flat.





# Angler Profile



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

**PHONE:**

JOHN BARTGEN  
(708) 342-5900

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[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!**

**(CTRL+ Click on Link)**

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

**Name & Grade:** Justin Vaitkus, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Hometown:** Orland Park, IL 60462

**Fishing Aspirations:** Use fishing to stay focused in school

**Fishing Role Model(s):** My Dad, Tom Vaitkus

**Favorite Professional Angler:** Kevin VanDam (KVD)

**Favorite Species to Fish for:** King Salmon

**Favorite Fishing Technique:** Glow-spoons

**Favorite Fishing Television Host:** Bill Dance

**Favorite Memory Fishing:** When I fell off of my grandpa's boat.

**Favorite body of water to Fish:** The Gulf of Mexico

**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: Coach Bartgen works the trolling motor for his anglers during a 2011 tournament.



Above: Jake Reinbolt, Patrick Palaggi, and Coach Arndt pose for the camera during a DesPlaines River Tournament.



Above: Reavis High School—a reliable participant in the District 230 Tournament Series—cruises down the river to get to their 1<sup>st</sup> spot.

If you have pictures that you would like submitted in an edition of our newsletter, please email them to [jflynn@d230.org](mailto:jflynn@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** 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**

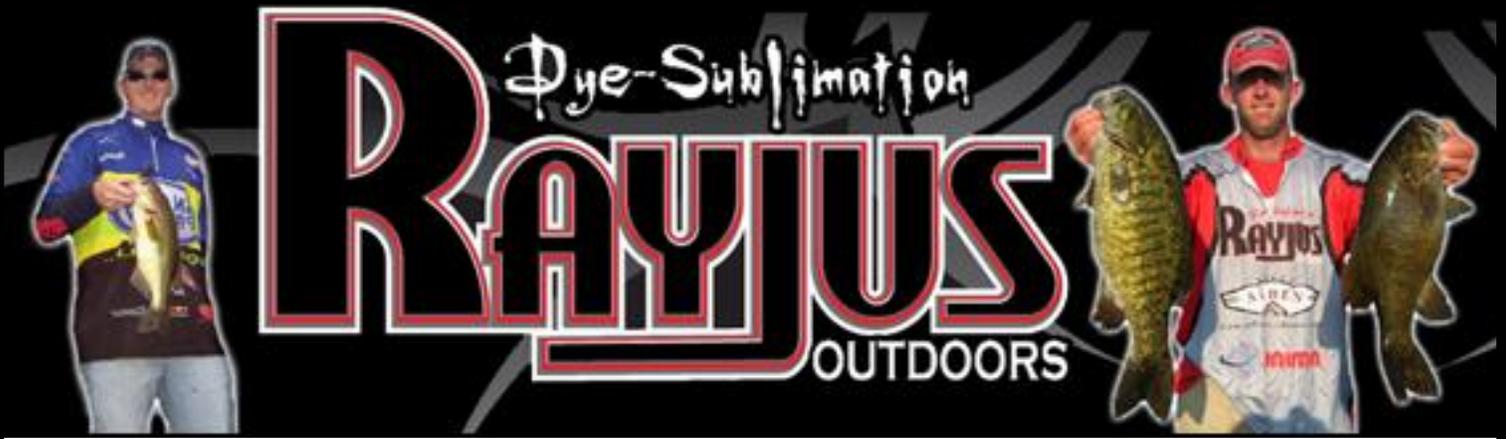
**Email: [Bulls\\_Eye\\_Entertainment@yahoo.com](mailto:Bulls_Eye_Entertainment@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [WWW.BullsEyeEntertainment.Biz](http://WWW.BullsEyeEntertainment.Biz)**

## Contact Information:

*Rayjus Outdoors*

Phone Number: 815-513-5583



Located inside *Bedford Sales* in Morris, Illinois.

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