



There's No Fool Like A Fishin' Fool

## Fishin' Lines

June 2019

The Oswegoland Fishin' Fools is a multi-species fishing club. We meet the 1st Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Allied First Bank Building, 3201 Orchard Road, Oswego. Visit us on the Web at: <http://www.fishinfools.org>

# OSWEGOLAND FISHIN' FOOLS

## Swap Meet is Here!

Pull out all that old gear you're not using and swap/sell it for some NEW gear you might actually use.

On Monday, June 3, the Oswegoland Fishin' Fools will welcome all members to come with any Fishing gear; from baits to boats (boats will need to stay outside) and offer them for sale or trade at our once a year, bargain-hunters Swap Meet!

**... BUT ... BEFORE THE MEETING. ...  
BEFORE THE SWAP MEET ... THERE'S**

## FISHING ON BRAIDWOOD LAKE!

June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be gathering at the North ramp of Braidwood to begin fishing at 6 AM.

## CATFISH

by Dick Banning

Common Catfish in our area include Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and Blue Catfish. At an event in Braidwood, our club record Catfish was caught a few years ago. Some general comments about Catfish gear including rod, reel, line, and hook information are as follows.

Any rod can be used unless you are out fishing for some big catfish. A bait-casting rod and reel may serve you best for catching catfish to be more prepared for when you hook a "big one". In this case a medium heavy, or heavy rating for the really big ones, will cover more of the range of catfish size to be caught. A rod, seven feet long minimum, with a long handle is best. Rods are made from glass, fiberglass, and composites of both materials. For big catfish, the composite of the first two materials is best. The bait-casting reel may have a better drag system for helping work the fish into the net by tiring it out before netting.

Any line can be used as long as it has a rating to handle the size of fish you are trying to catch. Let's talk stretch, cost, and size. Yes, size does matter. In order of most stretch to least stretch we have Monofilament, fluorocarbon, and braid. Consensus amongst catfish fisherman is

- Monofilament is most often used for catfishing because of its capacity for stretch.
- Fluorocarbon is mostly used for leaders with braid and not used for filling the reel due to cost over monofilament.
- Braid is only used as a main-line and always has a leader of monofilament or fluorocarbon.
- Size is determined based upon the size fish you want to catch. Even a record 143 pound catfish was caught using 30 pound test monofilament line.

The best hook recommended for catfishing is the circle hook. Size of the hook and gap between the point and the bend is most important. Many fishermen use a 6/0 or 8/0 size hook to catch most species and size of catfish. Gap is important for the hook to be able to turn inside the fish's mouth and still have the gap open, with bait on the hook, for an easy set.

For more information, the presentation .pdf of Danny Cossich gives more. Google gives more than you may need.



## April Fish of the Month

**Jim Barton's 20.5 in. Large-mouth Bass**

**20.5" Largemouth Bass**

**Caught: Clinton Lake, Marina Bay**

**Date: 4/12/2019**

**Nice way to start the season Jim. Well done!**

## Say it in Pictures!

Please send your fishing photos or your original articles to Eugene Walkling at:  
[eugenewalkling@gmail.com](mailto:eugenewalkling@gmail.com)

## President's Ponderings

Hello fellow fools, summer is now upon us and looks like the hot days are here. Does that mean fishing has to slow down or even stop. Heck no! One fishing spot that a lot of people over look is within an



hour ride from our area. That is the Illinois River. I make it a point every summer to hit this river a lot during the dog days of summer as they say. Most people do not know that the river has a great white bass, large and small mouth bass population. I used to believe that it was just catfish and drum that was in the river to catch. There are some very large catfish and drum to be caught but bass are everywhere in the river. I personally like looking for gravel and sand shore lines. It is usually simple tackle to catch some good fish. I like using a small crank bait or even blade baits in almost every color you can throw. If you can get your boat out of the current, then I will throw a slider jig with a plastic grub on it working it real slow, feeling for the light tap-tap or line movement. Also look for eddies in the water current and cast up into them. If you feel lazy, bring your lawn chair with in your boat, put on your favorite sports game and throw out a glob of Sonny's stink bait or a juicy nightcrawler with a slightly heavier weight on the bottom and sit back and relax and wait for old Mister Whiskers or a decent drum to take your bait. If you do this make sure you apply sun screen to your face in case you doze off for 5 innings. You might be surprised what you will catch. The Fools are fishing the Illinois River in July so if you want to go make some calls

and get in a boat with somebody. Until next month, I will keep Pondering!

## 2019 Fishin' Fools Event Calendar

April 13, 14	Clinton Lake, IL
April 27, 28	Jacksonville, IL (non-tournament)
May 28, 19	Big Green Lake, WI
June 1, 2	Braidwood
July 13	Spring Valley (Barto's Landing)
July 14	Ottawa (Allen Park)
Aug 17	Prairie Lake (Jim Edgar-Panther Creek)
Sep 28, 29	Winneconne, WI (Landing on the Wolf)
Oct 12	Lake Kincaid (Main Ramp)
Oct 13	Crab Orchard Lake (West end ramp)

\*We offer Tournaments to all members during Events when noted above. It's not required that you participate in the Tournaments. All Participants in the Tournaments are required to sign a Release of Liability prior to the Tournament start and all Boat Owners are encouraged to carry Boat Insurance.

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*Your donation of aluminum cans and batteries helps our club pay for speakers and programs that benefit YOU! Please be generous and DONATE!*

# FOR SALE:

\$4,000.00 Contact: Cindy Bickle for more info.



1987 Alumacraft Classic 16 deep V. Minn Kota Power Drive 12v 55lb. Two bank Minn Kota digital onboard charger. New trolling motor battery last season. Humminbird 385 CI gps fish finder. 40 hp Evinrude VRO Outboard. Live well, bilge pump, horn, and navigation lights. Everything works perfectly. Well maintained and cared for. Shore Lander trailer, boat cover, hydraulic pedestal and bike seat for bow.