

Arlington Anglers

Increase Your Odds With Some Common Sense



Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

If you are fishing a new lake or river, you could certainly buy a Hot Spots Map or talk to the local bait shop. "Beyond that, there are some common sense techniques that can greatly increase your odds of having a successful fishing trip", said Bob Bott, one of the most well respected guides on the Mississippi.

The meeting room at Dick's in Schaumburg was "filled to the gills" as Bob Bott educated and entertained the Arlington Anglers and their guests.

It quickly became apparent that Bob was a teacher in disguise. We later found out that Bob writes outdoors articles, hosts radio programs, organizes youth fishing camps, fishes tournaments, and in fact, teaches continuing education outdoors courses at the Univ. of Wisconsin at La Crosse.

Bob described those common sense techniques that can be used for all species:

Current - Always look for moving water as this usually is a feeding area as predator fish look for bait fish coming through. Look for constrictions, water being pushed up by humps or wing dams, rivers/creeks feeding into larger bodies of water, etc.

Structure - Use your fish finder to spot those drop offs, holes, humps, bumps, weeds, or sunken trees. In the spring, it may be that 1st shallow drop along the shore. In the heat of the summer, it might be that subtle indentation that holds the cooler water and the fish. In river systems, it might be that outside turn of the river or the undercut on a sharp inside turn.

Sun/Shade - In the early spring, it's that sunny north shore that warms us first after ice out that increases the

fish metabolism. Look for those big boulders, rocks, or launch ramps that absorb and hold that sunny warmth. On the flip side, don't expect those fish to be sunning themselves when it's 105 degrees. Look for the shady shoreline or an overhanging tree, bridge, or dock.

Wind - In a stiff wind with white caps, motor over to quiet, leeward bay for the best fishing...WRONG! After a while, that strong wind blows the plankton over to the windy shore, followed by the bait fish, followed by the game fish.

Experiment - When fishing is tough, don't be afraid to experiment with new lures and presentations. Try that wacky worm or drop shot rig. Try trolling with a three-way rig.

Use a heavy weight to get it down if needed. Next time try a floating minnow lure on top of the three-way with a deep diver on the bottom line.

"Bundle a number of these concepts, and you'll be able to increase your odds for that successful trip" said Bob Bott. "When I take out a customer, it's more than just putting fish in the boat; it's usually teaching the person how to improve their techniques." Bob Bott is the owner of TGIF Outfitters tgifoutfitters.com and can be reached at 608-781-8808.

Upcoming dates to remember:
April 14-15 Outing: Chain (launch at Barnacle Bob's)
April 17 Meeting: Rich Burton - Fishing the Fox Chain
April 21 Outing: Busse Woods
April 26-29 Outing: Clinton Lake (fishing and Camp Quest),
May 15 Meeting:

Frank Kubicek - IL DNR

Come to one of our meetings to find out more about our club, activities, and outings. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We meet at Dick's Sports Store (Flr.1-NW) near Woodfield Shopping Center in Schaumburg, .5 miles north of Higgins, on Martingale Road.

Door prizes, speaker, raffles, fishing reports: Give it a try!

For further information call our President Tom Curtin at 847-639-7858 or visit our website at: <http://arlingtonanglers.com>



Don Johanson and John Gusman man the Arlington Anglers booth at the Rolling Meadows HS Fishing Flea Market on 3/10. This annual event continues to draw many anxious fishermen wanting to add just one more lure to their arsenal.
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