

Arlington Anglers

Insuring The Future of Fishing on The Chain



Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

You might not agree every time you fish the Chain, but there are a lot of big fish swimming around out there. You might not be in the right place at the right time, but at the May Arlington Anglers meeting, Frank Jakubicek proved to us that the numbers of large walleyes and muskies are stronger than ever.

Frank heads up the Illinois DNR efforts to stock fish in NE Illinois, especially on the Chain. Every spring, Frank and his staff set up a number of fish traps designed to capture mature walleyes that are ready to spawn. The traps get set on multiple nights until the proper numbers are met. The mature males and some very large females are transported to the LaSalle Lake hatchery. There they are milked as their eggs and milt are mixed. Within hours, the eggs become fertilized. The adult fish are returned to their Chain of Lakes home. The eggs are kept under ideal temperatures with flowing water. The eggs soon hatch and in a few weeks, thousands of fingerlings are back released in the Chain. A similar process later in the spring is followed to provide thousands of released muskies.

Here is the good news: Frank and the DNR have kept detailed records of trappings and releases for many years. The number of captured adults have steadily increased to a very strong level, with varying sizes indicating many successful release years. Many of the captured female walleyes are well over 20 inches. The muskie stockings have produced similar successes. The statistics indicate a very healthy game fish population on the Chain.

On June 19th, the Anglers learned a great deal about the fine points of Jig Fishing from Jim Schaeffer. Jim showed us the right rods, the right

lines, and the right jig for just about any situation. The most important commandment of jig fishing is to keep the line tight so you can feel that subtle tap. Jim makes his own jigs and writes for a variety of fishing magazines (including Outdoor Notebook). Jim also owns the Jim 4 Jigs Company and can be reached at 847-299-5101.

Upcoming dates to remember:

June 23-24 Outing: Wisconsin River Dells, July 7 Outing: Busse Lake, July 11-13 Outing: Menominee River WI, July 17 Meeting: Jim Crowley, Bassing in IL, Aug 11 Outing: Lake Shabonna, Aug 21 Picnic and Cook Out: Harper College Reservoir, Sept 9 Outing: Heidecke Lake, Sept 15 Outing: Fox Chain.

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 (Fir.1-NW) near Woodfield Shopping Center in Schaumburg, IL, .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>



Frank Jakubicek of the IL DNR provides the Arlington Anglers (5/15) with the strong stocking numbers of walleyes and muskies on the Chain.
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