

Arlington Anglers

Walleyes on the Cleanest River in Illinois

Bob Diebold **Arlington Anglers Fishing Club**

Once the Kankakee River enters Illinois from the east, it turns into a twisting wide river, lined with trees. It's also the cleanest river in Illinois (according to someone who lives on the river). It holds a strong population of smallmouth bass, northern pike and catfish. Over the last number of years, however, walleyes have been heavily stocked, making the Kankakee a prime spot for both numbers and trophy-sized walleyes. You don't have to go to Canada or Lake Erie.

The Arlington Anglers were interested in learning more about the Kankakee River, so in October they imported Kankakee veteran, Larry Coleman to their meeting at Dick's in Schaumburg. Larry lives right on the river and is excited about the current quality of fishing and specializes in those wonderful walleyes.

Larry offered these hints when fishing for walleyes on the river:

- You can fish live bait or artificials (fire tiger or craw dad are probably the best colors.)
- If you use crank baits, select lures with rattles, good hooks, and a big lip.
- The big lip, when fished properly will get the lure down quickly, tick-tick along the bottom, and keep the hooks up off the bottom.
- If you use crank baits, cast them down river and use a steady retrieve. The river current and the lure will provide the action. If it gets stuck, release the pressure. More often than not, it will release and you can pull it over the obstruction.
- Jigs can be successfully used too. Cast them up-river and let them bounce slowly down the river with the current. If you find a deep hole, select the proper weight to keep it close to the bottom.
- Fish breaks between moving currents and slack water. Try just downstream from dams, sunken trees, and bridge abutments.

Larry Coleman has been fishing the Kankakee river for over 30 years. He also has

been a successful bass tournament fisherman. He runs Larry's Moonlight Guide Service guide service and can be contacted at: kankakeeriverguide@hotmail.com. Larry can also be reached at 815-939-3623.

Upcoming dates to remember:
Nov 3 Outing: Fox Chain (weather permitting), Nov 20 Meeting: Wild Game Dinner and Elections, Dec 9 Christmas Party and Awards Dinner

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, 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>



Joe Rygiel of the Arlington Anglers Fishing Club during a recent club outing.



*This one doesn't need a caption-
Hester & Musky!
PHOTO: ARLINGTON*