

Arlington Anglers

The Basics According to Norris

Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

"If you remember the basics, fishing Lake Michigan for smallmouth or largemouth bass utilizes similar techniques that are successful for bass on those inland lakes or rivers."

That premise was initially a little hard to accept, but over the next two ours, Mike Norris persuaded everybody in the room at the March Arlington Anglers Meeting. The filled room was uncharacteristically quiet because Mike Norris has a reputation as one of the most knowledgeable fishing professionals in the Chicagoland Area.

Mike started with the temperature discussion. Go to Canada on Opening Week and fish the north side of the lake, sun warmed boulders, etc.

On Lake Michigan fish those warm water discharges or shallow ends of the harbor. Select a launch spot in the spring where the water has started to warm. You can determine that by checking a near real time NOAA temperature chart at: <http://www.coastwatch.msu.edu/michigan/m5>

When you fish a river, you look for current or moving water. How can you do that in the Lake? You might have a water discharge or river dumping into the Lake, but the more common situation is fishing water that is blown around harbor mouths or one of the long breakwater structures in Chicago or Indiana.

What's the big buzz word when fishing that inland lake? Structure! You might say: "Lake Michigan is like a bowl. There are very few points or small bays. What ever can we do?" Simple. Look for that man-made structure: breakwaters, lighthouses, harbor mouths, corners, seawalls, etc.

Look for changes in depth due to dredging or channels. When hunting for smallmouth look for rocks, overhangs, cracks, crevices, or even where big rocks change to smaller rocks.

Mike is also a proponent of fishing the right species/location at the right time of the year.

Give saugers a shot on the Illinois River in late March or April. Smallmouth in Lake Michigan are probably the hottest in March thru June. Interested in some jumbo perch?

Try Waukegan or Chicago Light April thru June. Interested in some good numbers of Coho salmon? Try the early spring anywhere in the southern part of Michigan from shore or from a small boat. Larger salmon can be had in deeper water later in the summer.

Mike Norris is a dynamic seminar speaker, radio host, outdoors writer, photographer and frequently a guest on TV sport shows. His extensive knowledge of fishing covers techniques from basic to innovative strategies. You can find out more about Mike at his website at: mikenorrisoutdoors.com

On Saturday March 15th, a number of Arlington Anglers manned a table at the Rolling Meadows Fishing Flea Market. The day provided a great opportunity for NW Suburban fishermen to find out more about a great local fishing club like the Arlington Anglers. The venue has evolved into a well attended event providing opportunities for latching on to both new and used fishing tackle (plus a great excuse to beat those



Mike Norris describes proven techniques for bass on Lake Michigan at the March Arlington Anglers meeting.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

winter time blues). See you there next year!

Dates to remember: Mar 29&30 - Outing: LaCrosse WI for walleyes and pike; April 5 - Outing: Illinois River for walleyes and sauger; April 12&13 - Outing: LaCrosse WI for walleyes and pike; April 15 - Meeting: Speaker - Jim Crowley; April 16 & 17 - Outing: Deep Quarry - West branch in Bartlett; April 17-20 - Outing: Clinton Lake and Camp Quest.

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>