

Arlington Anglers

Being At The Right Place, At The Right Time, At The Right Temperature

Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

A lot of fisherman waste a lot of time fishing dead water, because they got an old report or they caught fish there two months ago. You need to understand what is happening on the lake you are on that day (whether it's your first time or 20th time on that lake.)

At our Arlington Anglers July meeting, Charter Captain Mel Christensen described some techniques you could use to find fish on Lake Delavan, Lake Geneva, or any of your favorite lakes. The key is observing what is going on in the lake at that time, checking the temperature and calendar, and using your electronics. In the early spring, start out on Lake Delavan as it warms up sooner because it is smaller, shallower, and weedier. Minnows are always good in spring, but don't be afraid to try a variety of colors and sizes of plastic worms.

Try drop-shotting with them for largemouth, and smallmouth. Northern pike will go after them too, but it's hard to find a better bait than live sucker minnows for those toothy creatures.

At this time of year, the fish will move into the shallows looking for minnow hatch or larvae, or other critters. Try on the inside edge of weed lines (less than 6 feet of water) or look for rocks/sea walls that warm up with the sun.

If you are out early on Geneva, look for those pier cribs (before the piers go out) or those bass spawning circles. Geneva will warm up first on the shallower east end at Geneva Bay or the flats by the golf course.

As the spring progresses into summer, the fish will move deeper. You'll see more them on your fish finder and look for that deeper attractor: steep drop, tall weeds, concrete blocks for buoys, etc. You'll also note that the fish will usually feed shallow in the early morning and then move out as sunlight and boat traffic increase.

Late in the summer, go deep on the outside of the deep weed line for the large fish. At this time large shiners, sucker minnows, or some of those peanut perch you just caught can be dynamite for pike and smallies.

Mel believes in using your electronics to find fish and increase your odds. Use that fish finder to observe game fish, bait fish, structure, and weeds (all good signs). Don't forget to turn off those silly Fish IDs. If you are on Lake Michigan, don't start fishing until you start marking fish. Also use your water temperature gauge and radio to help increase your odds.

Captain Mel Christensen early in the year fishes Lake Michigan for salmon and perch. As soon as the inland lakes start warming up, you can find him primarily on Lake Delavan and Lake Geneva for bass and northerns. Other hot spots might include the Chippewa Flowage, Lake Vermillion or even the Chain. Mel can be reached at 815-678-7051 or fishwithmel.com



Captain Mel Christensen shows happy Joe Rygiel how to rig Senko worms wacky style for bass at the Anglers meeting on 9/15/09.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

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>