

Arlington Anglers

Return to Soft Water



Bob Diebold **Arlington Anglers Fishing Club**

One of these months, the ice on these frozen rivers and lakes is going to melt and we need to be ready to take advantage of some early season fishing that can be really good. Last month, Walleye Tour Pro and guide, Bruce Mirabella (bruce@localfishingguy.com), stopped by Arlington anglers to share some of his proven Spring Walleye Tactics:

Pre-Season Preparation: Get your fishing license. Make sure your gear matches the waters and species that you are targeting. Run thru your Boater's Check List. Get a Trollers Bible so you know how deep that new lure will run. Put enough pole holders on your boat to avoid lost rods due to fish strikes or snags.

When/Where To Start: Start early when ramps no longer have ice. Start with rivers first, then lakes, then ponds. Walleyes, pike, and muskies all spawn early. Match the hatch: use small minnows, small crank baits. If the water is below 47 degrees, walleyes are pre-spawn and can be found in staging areas like rip-rap, shallows, neck-downs that are free of silt.

Locating Fish: Ask anyone. Use all tools available such as the web, bait shops, locals, fishing reports, other anglers, etc. Look for any structure that has different characteristics. Also try rocks and bridge abutments. Use and trust your fish finder. Mark fish first, then start fishing.

Early Season Tactics: There are good spring patterns for walleye, sauger, coho, and perch. Look for spawning areas, shallow or warmer water, shore lines, breaks, timber, rip-rap, rock piles, neck-downs in rivers. Slip-bobbers and jigs can be

deadly in the spring. Start with minnows early season. Leeches are good but if they ball-up, the water is too cold. Worms come later in the year.

Tips and Tools: Depending on depth, aggressiveness of the fish, and time of year, be flexible and use all of the available tools: planer boards, jigs, crank baits, slip-bobbers, crawler harnesses, spinners, Lindy Rigs, bottom-bouncers, etc.

March is a great time to seek out and try out a new club after you hit the big fishing shows. You have a no-risk opportunity to see first hand what a club can do for you. Attend Arlington Angler's next meeting on March 19th. **Our speaker will be Mark O'Neal from Lowrance.** This seminar will help us understand how to correctly set-up and better use our fish finders. They don't call him "Dr. Sonar" by accident.

The Arlington Anglers will also have booths at the upcoming Fishing Flea Market at Rolling Meadows HS and the Cabela's Fishing Expos. Stop in and learn more about the club.

Thanks to all the people that stopped by our booth at the Schaumburg Show. We raffled a guided fishing trip compliments of Pat Harrison Outdoors that was won by Sal Tardi. We also raffled a Quantum rod and reel that was won by Teresa Consour.

Dates to remember:
Mar 2-3 - Cabela's Fishing, Hunting, and Camping Expo, stop at our booth

Mar 9 – Fishing Flea Market at Rolling Meadows H.S., stop at our booth

Mar 19 – Meeting – Speaker Mark O'Neal (Dr. Sonar) on Setup/Use of

Your Fishfinder

Mar 23-25 – Outing – Wisconsin River at the Dells – Rivers Edge Resort

Apr 13 – Outing – Long Lake

Apr 16 – Meeting – Speaker Mark Kubal on Lake Michigan Salmon and Perch Tactics

Apr 20 – Outing – Lake Delavan – County Park Boat Launch

Apr 25-28 – Outing – Lake Shelbyville, Okaw Bluff Group Site

Apr 30-May 3 – Outing – Lake Erie, Walleye and Perch Charter

May 7-9 – Outing – Wolf River White Bass Run

May 11 – Outing - Twin Lakes

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 6:30 to 9:00 PM. **Please note the time change.** We meet at Cabela's which is located at 5225 Prairie Stone Pkwy, Hoffman Estates, IL just off I-90 at Illinois Rt. 59. 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>

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Teresa Consour and her grandson are happy to receive a rod and reel from Arlington Angler's, Pat Harrison. She was the winner of the Schaumburg Fishing Show raffle.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS



Walleye Tour Pro, Bruce Mirabella, shares his walleye techniques at the February Arlington Anglers meeting.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS



Gary Elliott was fishing Lake Kawaguesaga near Minocqua with his buddy, Jim Tingley and was using a #5 orange Swedish Pimple with a minnow head. The pike broke the rod tip and was brought in hand over hand. Before it could be landed, it spit the hook and Jim made an effort to grab the fish in the hole. The fish clamped down on his gloved thumb and Jim pulled it on to the ice. Released.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS