

# Arlington Anglers

## Spring Pan Fish: Are You Ready?



### Bob Diebold Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

Panfish fishing usually gets off to a quick start in the spring and it can be steady through out the summer months if you watch the temperature and vary your presentations. Those panfish can put up a little tussle and provide excellent meals out of the frying pan. You don't have to be an expert fisherman, so they can be fun for a child on their first fishing outing, Aunt Kathy on her once a year confrontation with a night crawler, or the whole family.

a fixed float that allows easy casting. Use maribou jigs, lead heads, or even ice fishing jigs. Try spikes, plastics, small minnows. Fish shallow (3-5 feet down) for warmer water. Locations: Try way-back channels, wood docks, cover, harbor basins, but think temperature.

### Cool But Starting to Warm Water (45-55 degrees):

Presentation: Use small crank baits, small spoons, small spinners. (You'll be surprised how aggressive the larger panfish can be.) Cast covering a lot of area. They usually respond to a slow, steady retrieve. Switch it up

Back in March, the Arlington Anglers hosted Mark O'Neill, who presented a seminar on Fishing Lake Geneva. We had a packed house for this extremely interesting presentation. Mark is an expert on fishing structure and the use of fish finders (aka Dr. Sonar).

It's that time of the year and Arlington Anglers had their booth at the Schaumburg Fishing, Travel and Outdoor Expo and the Rolling Meadows Fishing Flea Market. We met a lot of many interested fishermen and their families whom we hope to see at our next meeting.

A fishing club will introduce you to a large number of new friends that share the same interests and hobbies. The club will provide outings and trips that you never would have even thought about. It will put together people that are looking for fishing buddies when the "bite is on". You'll find yourself fishing more frequently and in a lot of new places.

May is a great time to seek out and try out a new club as fishing gets into full swing. You have a no-risk opportunity to see first-hand what a club can do for you.

Attend our New Member Night on May 20th. **Our speaker will be Keith Cortopassi on Indiana Musky Fishing.** Keith is the owner of Musky Psycho Tackle Co. which makes leaders, Lunatic Bucktails, Straight Jacket Spinnerbaits, and The Ultimate Sucker rig. He has been fishing all of the Indiana Musky Lakes in Indiana and even Shabbona here in Illinois for over 19 years.



Joe Alfe explains his spring panfish tactics to Arlington Angler, Fred Sindorf. PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

In April, fishing guide, Joe Alfe provided an in-depth seminar on Spring Panfish techniques. His approach is simple, logical, and does not require a lot of expensive gear. Joe prefers longer 6' 9" faster action rods, soft tip, medium backbone. He likes nano-fill and braid but can do fine on mono. His three favorite colors for panfish is white, pink, and black depending on water clarity and amount of clouds. He splits the Spring up by water temperature:

**Early Cold Water (30-45 degrees) :**  
Presentation: Joe prefers jigs under

until to find the right look. A flutter spoon has its own wobble so reel and then let it flutter down, retrieve more, stop, etc. Heavier spoons like Cast Masters or Buckshots need a steady retrieve with only small

jiggles. If you want more action try small curved spoons like a Johnson or Cleo spoon. Keep a tight line or you might not detect the bite.

Location: Try flats, shoreline cover, shallow sand and grass, channels, harbors, emerging vegetation, etc. Start at the 3-5 foot depths and work out to the 1<sup>st</sup> break. Try different levels in the water column and don't be afraid to move around.

Joe Alfe is a top-rated multi-species fishing guide. He is also a Pro-Staffer for a number of tackle manufacturers. Find out more about Joe at [www.anglerzconnection.com](http://www.anglerzconnection.com).

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*Smallmouth: Pound For Pound,  
The Gamiest Fish In The Midwest*



Dates to remember:

**May 10 - Outing**  
Lake Delavan

**May 15-18 - Outing**  
Clinton Lake, Camping & Fishing

**May 20 – Meeting**  
Keith Cortopassi on Indiana  
Musky Fishing

**May 20-22 - Outing**  
Wolf River White Bass & Camping

**June 7 - Outing**  
Long Lake

**June 14 - Outing**  
Diversey Harbor for Perch

**June 17 - Meeting**  
Jim Crowley on Illinois Hunting  
and Fishing

**June 21 - Outing**  
Lake Geneva

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.

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 312-560-9876 or visit our website at:  
<http://arlingtonanglers.com>



**Lake Geneva structure fishing explicitly explained by Mark O'Neill at the Arlington Anglers March Meeting!**  
**PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS**



Although it was cold, both Seth Mahler (walleye) & Bert Saxon (sturgeon) look pretty pleased at the March Outing to the Wisconsin Dells.

**PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS**