

Arlington Anglers

River Walleyes Starting NOW!



Bob Diebold
Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

As the last vestiges of ice melt away on those Illinois and southern Wisconsin lakes, now is the time to get your boat ready for an early season river walleye trip. According to Andrew Ragas, while the lakes have pretty slow action, walleyes have already become more active in their spawning runs. Andrew at the March Anglers Meeting described walleye tactics for this season:

GENERAL: Walleyes grow fast in this area living in fertile waters and feasting on shad. They also get big since they live for 10-12 years. Major local rivers include the Fox, the Kankakee, the Des Plaines, the Rock and the Kishwaukee. Walleyes are migrating fish for a number of reasons: spawning, following bait fish, or seeking refuge from predators, floods, winter, etc. Likely habitats include current areas, dams, bridges, rip-rap, deep holes, water discharges, and gravel bars.

SPRING: Walleyes spawn at 40-45 degrees after snow melt. They migrate upstream up to 30 miles. Look for them on hard/gravel bottoms, in current areas or below dams. Walleyes are aggressive at this time and will attack jigs/minnows, deep divers, and minnow baits.

SUMMER: As the water rises above 65 degrees, it's all about feeding on shad. As the water warms, walleyes

will be looking for higher oxygen levels and cooler waters. Look in deeper holes, below bridges, or mid-river channels. Evenings and nights will be the heavier feeding times.

FALL: As the fish bulk up, there are longer feeding windows. The largest walleyes are therefore typically caught in the fall. Peak temps are 40-50 degrees. Forage include bluegills, shad, and suckers schooled up in front of dams. Other good areas include deep shoals, holes, channels,



Fishing writer and educator, Andrew Ragas (left), show his favorite walleye set-up to Anglers Jake (center) and Jim Aalfs, who got a great deal of detailed info from Andrew's River Walleye seminar in March. Jake wants to learn more!
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

and rock/gravel bars. Best time would be 1-3 hours after sunset.

Andrew Ragas is dynamic multi-species fishing writer, photographer, magazine editor, and educator. Read about him at:
<http://www.ragasfishing.com/>.

Dates to remember:
Apr 10-12 - Outing
Wisconsin River
Rivers Edge Resort

April 13-16 - Outing
Lake Erie for Walleyes

Apr 17-18 - Outing
Walleye Fishing
Fox River in DePere, WI

Apr 21 - Meeting
Jim Kopjo "Crappie Professor"
Crappie Fishing

April 28- May 1 - Outing
Lake Erie for Walleyes

April 30 - May 3 - Outing
Lake Shelbyville
Wolf Creek SP Camping

May 14-17 - Outing
Clinton Lake, Camp Quest

May 19 - Meeting
Captain Bob Battalion
Lake Michigan Fishing

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:

For further information call our President Tom Curtin at 312-560-9876 or visit our website at
<http://arlingtonanglers.com> .

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At the March Meeting, Arlington Anglers hosted members of the Jacobs High School Fishing Team (L to R): Nathan Niklaus, Ean Goll, Dylan Strejc, Adam Schutt, Coach Matt Smith, Colton Trina.

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Arlington Angler, Greg Michela, reviews Fox Chain fishing hot spots with members of the Jacobs HS Fishing Team.

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Arlington Angler, Joe Taylor, hands out club information to interested fishermen at the Anglers booth at the Schaumburg Fishing and Outdoor Expo.

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