

Arlington Anglers

Time to Work Some Crappie Magic



Bob Diebold

Now is the prime time to be hunting for those most sought after crappies that provide those delicious fillets. Crappies start staging in the cove mouths with access to the deeper water when the water temps are in the 50 to 60 degree range. Peak spawning occurs when the temps reach 60 to 68 degrees. Depending on the size, depth, and location of your favorite fishing waters, this could be the opportunity you've been waiting for.

At the April Anglers Meeting, crappie expert Jim Kopjo described some techniques that could greatly increase your odds on that next crappie outing. First some administrative work: Use your GPS and get a detailed map of your lake and mark known hotspots or locations mentioned at bait stores or fishing web sites. When you do find a successful spot, make a journal entry, recording the spot, bait, temp, date, depth, etc. If you come back the following year at the same time, that would be a great place to start.

Once the spring spawning is underway, fish near warm water creek/ discharges, laydowns along shore, shallow standing timber, shallow flats, isolated bays/coves, etc. If casting longer distances, use an 8' pole 4-6# test, and 1/16 or 1/32 jigs tipped with minnows or plastic tails. If using a slip bobber, make sure the bobber is balanced with the bait size. You can even clip glow sticks on the bobbers for night fishing.

Since crappies have "binocular vision", they are generally looking upwards and will feed on presentations above them. Therefore, our delivery technique will depend on their location in the water column. If the crappies are tightly schooled and not too deep, try casting without spooking them. If they are tightly schooled, but at a specific depth, use a precisely set slip-bobber. If they are tightly

schooled, but deep, try vertical jigging. If the crappies are very spread out, try drifting or trolling (small crankbaits work nicely) to cover lots of water.

Jim Kopjo, known as the "Crappie Professor", has over 30 years of on-the-water experience and 14 years of running a very popular guide business in northern Illinois. Through his aggressive style of fishing, he is able



Jim Kopjo (right), the "Crappie Professor" shows Angler Reg Pazerunas how to select the correct bobber for the proper crappie presentation at the April Meeting.

**PHOTO BY:
ARLINGTON ANGLERS**

to quickly establish patterns which makes for informative seminars. He has participated in the open water Crappie USA tournament trail and the North American Ice Fishing Circuit. The Crappie Professor carries a boat load of professionalism and technical skill and enjoys sharing with others his knowledge and craft. You can contact Jim at echo29@sbcglobal.net.

Dates to remember:

May 2-4 – Outing
Wolf River, Chico's Landing

May 15-18 – Outing
Lake Erie - Port Clinton Ohio

May 16 – Meeting
Speaker Bob Bobic,
Tournament Angler & Fishing Coach

May 19-21 – Outing
Lake Shabbona -Camping at
State Park

June 3-10 – Outing
Boundary Waters, Ely, MN,
www.latourells.com

June 4 – Event
Crabtree Kids Fishing Derby

June 4 – Event
Cabela's Busse Lake Fishing Derby

June 20 – Meeting
Speaker Cory Yarmuth
Salmon & Trout in Lake Michigan
Tributaries

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 6:00 to 8:00 PM (**Note new times**).

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

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Arlington Anglers Frank Quattrochi, holds his 24" walleye caught on the Oconto side of Green Bay.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS



Arlington Anglers Gary Elliot bench presses his 30.25" walleye caught on a trolled purple J13 Rapala on a late April Green Bay outing.
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS



A chilled Arlington Anglers Henry Comp insists that this 26" fish was a chubby walleye (LOL, Henry. It looks like a huge Green Bay sheepshead).
PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS