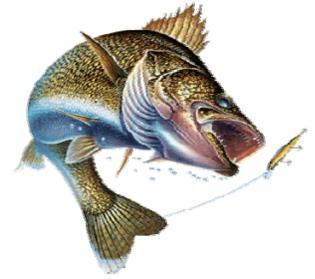


Arlington Anglers

Walleye Tactics for Spring & Beyond



Bob Diebold

It looks like the ice is finally on the way out. Other than some small ponds and channels, the water is still extremely cold. The majority of the sport fish are still lurking in the deepest parts of the lakes. But guess what? Those early spring walleyes are very active in current areas and tributary rivers.

At the March Anglers Meeting, Mark Kuzniewski related that a clear and heavy flowing Fox River north of DePere, WI is providing a hot walleye fishery NOW for both trolling and casting. When conditions get a little tougher (little flow and dark color), you would troll to cover more area. Regardless, walleye fishing will be hot from ice out until May 1st, from the dam at DePere to where the Fox flows into Green Bay.

After the spring water temp reaches 52 degrees, the best walleye fishing will be in lower 3 miles of Green Bay. Tributaries will dump out bait fish and attract big walleyes. In early spring concentrate on bars and gravel in no more than 8 fow. Crankbaits are the most effective. In early summer with temps up to 75 degrees, work the 14-17 fow depths. After that, head northward to cooler water and the 17-30 fow depths.

Both crankbait and nightcrawler harnesses work well. Mark suggests using trolling crankbaits in early summer moving faster, covering more water. Later in the summer, he suggests trying the nightcrawler harnesses, moving slower. He also suggests using 10# mono-filament line as opposed to braid. The mono will provide some stretch while trolling and prevent pulling trolled hooks out of the walleye's mouths.

Depth control is most critical to this walleye fishing. When dragging the crawlers, depth is a function of speed (1.3 to 1.6 mph) plus the # of feet of line out plus the weight (bottom

bouncer, keel, snap, etc.) plus the selected crawler spinner(s). When trolling crankbaits, the depth is a function of the speed (1.6 to 2.0 mph) plus the # feet of line out plus the choice/design of the crankbait. Check out a great website www.precisiontrolling.com that calculates trolling depths of popular



Walleye Guide, Mark Kuzniewski, explains how to effectively use planer boards at the January Meeting.

**PHOTO BY:
ARLINGTON ANGLERS**

lures using other variables such as line test, length, and speed.

The last piece of the puzzle is the use of planer boards to take the lures out to both sides of the boat to cover a larger swath of water. This technique is especially effective in clear water situations. Mark also recommends a good line counter level wind reel with a good drag system.

Ex-Pro Walleye Fisherman and Guide Mark Kuzniewski focuses exclusively on Green Bay and Fox River walleyes. Mark operates *Fin-Tastic Eyes Charters* where he provides a positive experience for clients not only to catch fish, but also, learn presentations and tactics that can be used on other bodies of water. Mark can be reached at 920-482-2514 or www.fintasticeyes.com. Check out the 2016 Green Bay trips

on the club website for some of Mark's walleye results!

Dates to Remember:

**Apr 6-9 – Outing
WI River at Rivers Edge Resort**

**Apr 18 - Meeting
Jim Kopjo, *The Crappie Professor***

**Apr 20-23 - Outing
Green Bay Walleyes**

**Apr 27-30 - Outing
Lake Shelbyville at
Opossum Creek**

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

**May 16 - Meeting - Bob Bobic,
Tournament Angler and Fishing
Coach**

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 Seth Mahler, Bob Diebold, and Gary Elliott show off their whitefish caught thru the ice off Sturgeon Bay in early February. I can taste that Fish Boil Dinner now. PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS



Arlington Anglers Ed Covers thumbs this thick crappie (and many others) caught on minnows and jigs in Lake Okeechobee, FL in February. PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS