

**Program:**

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 8 – regular meeting.

**Future Programs and Scheduled Events:**

February 5 – regular meeting.

February 8, 2012 - Ice Fishing Derby: We'll dig the holes in the ice. There will be lots of fun and prizes for the kids. In case of bad weather the derby will be on February 15.

March 5 – regular meeting.

April 2 – regular meeting.

May 7 – regular meeting.

June 4 – regular meeting. This will be the workshop prior to the Kids Fishing Derby on June 7.

June 7 – Kids Fishing Derby at the clubhouse pond. Volunteers are needed to help with setup and running the events.

September 3 – regular meeting.

October 1 – regular meeting.

November 5 – regular meeting.

December 3 – This will be our Christmas Party. Bring a dish to share. The Club will supply ham, sodas, and coffee.

**BYOB Fishing:**

Where's your favorite fishing hole? Call and we'll set up a meet; Joe Nutt, Gary Buehre, or Adolph Janke.

Check out our web site: [www.great-lakes.org/vpsc](http://www.great-lakes.org/vpsc).

You are just a click away from pictures of Salmon and Walleye trips, previous news letters and more about our Villa Park Sportsmen's Club. You may also send information to be posted on the web site to [villaparksportsman@att.net](mailto:villaparksportsman@att.net).

From the 'Midwest Outdoors' web site. <http://midwestoutdoors.com/magazine>

From the May 2013 issue

**Spring Walleye Tactics**

By Mike Mladenik

One of the biggest misconceptions about the spring walleye run is that all the walleye will spawn below a dam. To be sure, below any given dam on a northern river there will be a degree of spawning walleye activity. Trying to avoid the crowds over the years made it evident that I would have to avoid fishing below a dam in the spring. Sure, there is lots of water in a river, but the key is to find productive water, especially if you expect to remain a fishing guide. Over the years, I have made my living not fishing below dams, but concentrating on river sloughs.

The ideal slough will have a few key elements if it is going to attract spawning walleye. After many years of experience, the first thing I look for is a slough that is on an edge of the bend of a river. By being on the bend of the river the angler is assured that there will be a deep hole adjacent to the slough. The river bend will also create natural current breaks, along with the many logs and debris that have moved downriver over the years. If the slough is not adjacent to a bend in the river it will attract a few walleye but not large numbers.

However, the best-looking slough will not attract spawning walleye if there is no place around the slough where walleye can spawn. Many sloughs are entirely

muck bottom and may attract pike, rough fish and panfish, but no walleye. This is a common scenario even on the best walleye rivers in the upper Midwest as anglers find one slough filled with walleye and another a few miles downriver won't attract any walleye.

A slough will hold walleye not only during the spawn, but also during the pre-spawn and post-spawn as well. Not only will these areas attract large numbers of early season walleye but they are also predictable. Regardless of the river conditions, walleye will be present, and all the angler has to do is adapt to the water levels and prevailing weather conditions. It is easier to figure out a fishing pattern once you have located walleye as opposed to just plain trying to find walleye.

The ideal slough will of course be on the bend of a river and have a small creek entering into the slough. The creek itself can be the main focal point for walleye spawning. If the creek is large enough, walleye will enter the creek to spawn. How far the walleye will move into the creek will depend on the creek's depth and bottom content. On a small creek, if gravel or rubble is present, walleye will spawn at the mouth. However, on a larger creek, walleye may travel upstream until they find a suitable hard bottom to spawn.

On one of my favorite sloughs that I have fished successfully for years, walleye will spawn in the creek during high water but when the water is low they spawn as far as five yards away from the creek. On one side of the creek there is a small rock island just on the edge of the main river current. Under low water conditions the walleye will stack up and spawn along the edge of the island. It is important to keep in mind that river walleye use the current when spawning, and although they usually spawn in the same general area, the actual current will dictate spawning location.

Prior to spawning, big female walleye will stack up in deep water on the edge of the slough. Deep water can be only six or seven feet on the edge of one slough and as deep as 20 feet at another slough. The shallower water is easier to fish but anglers will need to be a bit stealthier since the large walleye are easily spooked. These walleye can be very aggressive, but catching one big walleye can turn the other off. On overcast days look for the big walleye not to be quite as gun shy. Deeper water will take more patience to work your presentation on the bottom, but you have a better chance of catching several big walleye. In fact, on one April day my clients and I boated eight walleye over 20 inches right in the middle of the day.

When fishing shallow water on the edge of a slough I rely primarily on a jig and minnow. If the water temperature is below 40 degrees, I use a plain lead-head jig with a minnow. In stained river water, my favorite jig colors are orange, chartreuse, hot pink and yellow. Once the water temperature climbs over 40 degrees I like to tip the jig head with both a three- or four-inch curly tail grub and a minnow. I usually bring along both river shiners and fathead minnows. While a big walleye will hit a fathead minnow in spring, a river shiner will trigger a strike from a neutral walleye. The only problem with shiners is that they don't survive after a few casts. So avoid hard, fast casts and opt to flip the jig and minnow. In the shallow water, vertical jiggling can be tough on these spooky walleye, so I either anchor and cast the edge of the slow or if possible use my electric trolling motor to position my boat just within casting distance of the edge of the slough.

The same jig and minnow presentations will work in deeper water but you will need to experiment with the size of your jig. If possible, depending on the current and wind, I prefer to vertical jig over the walleye as opposed to anchoring. Vertical jigging will allow you to position the boat directly over the marked walleye.

Hopefully you will get out on the water this spring and enjoy some hot walleye action. My book "Northwoods Walleye" covers walleye tactics on lakes, rivers and reservoirs. To get a copy of any of my books or to book a guide trip go to [bigsmallmouthbass.com](http://bigsmallmouthbass.com).

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We meet the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the North Terrace Pond Clubhouse on Westmont and Terrace (approximately 6 blocks south of North Avenue and 3 blocks west of Addison) in Villa Park. Annual dues are \$30. Visitors or prospective new members are welcome - a \$3 fee is requested. If you are interested in attending or becoming a member please contact: Marty Kapolczynski.