

Program:

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 5.

Future Programs and Scheduled Events:

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.

June 7 to 10 – Free Fishing Days in Illinois.

June 7 to 8 – Free Fishing Days in Wisconsin.

June 7 to 8 – Free Fishing Days in Michigan.

June 12 – Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive in groups, meet at the gas station. We will depart the harbor at about 12:00 Noon. Cost is about \$100 for each of six people to cover fishing. A Wisconsin license is required. Call or see Joe Kubica for details

July 18 – Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive in groups, meet at the gas station. We will depart the harbor at about 12:00 Noon. Cost is about \$100 for each of six people to cover fishing. A Wisconsin license is required. Call or see Joe Kubica for details

September 3 – regular meeting.

September 12 – Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive in groups, meet at the gas station. We will depart the harbor at about 6:00AM. Cost is about \$100 for each of six people to cover fishing. A Wisconsin license is required. Call or see Joe Kubica for details

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.

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.

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

From the March 2013 issue

What Bait To Use For Early Season?

By Mike Frisch

Typical early season walleye lures include small jigs and slip-sinker live bait rigs tipped with minnows. One key to increasing an angler's odds for success using these lures is picking the right minnow to use in conjunction with those lures. Here is a look at some ideas.

In many Midwestern lakes, shiner minnows are a preferred early season forage base for walleye. Therefore, tipping with these popular minnows to "match the hatch" is solid advice.

Some smaller, shallow lakes, however, do not have an abundance of shiners. In these lakes, other minnows, like the common fathead, are good choices. In fact, many of the small, shallow lakes common here in western Minnesota, where I guide, are "fathead lakes," where using these minnows will put as many, if not more, walleye in the boat as the more expensive and harder-to-keep-alive shiners.

The two minnow choices mentioned are typical early season walleye baits. However, other

minnow choices merit consideration as well. Redtail chubs, for example, are lively, hardy minnows that tournament anglers often prefer for putting bigger “kicker” fish in the livewell. Though often difficult to locate and expensive, these minnows have led to early season “walleye gold” on more than one occasion. Anglers looking to target big fish specifically may want to consider trying to locate some redbails for use on their early season jigs and rigs.

Minnows are typical early season walleye bait. However, some years, abnormally warm spring weather means that ice-out occurs very early. That situation results in unusually warm water, meaning other live bait choices deserve consideration during early season.

Leeches and nightcrawlers are generally considered warm water baits that anglers often switch to during early summer. Fishing these baits on jigs or rigs is often productive, though a bottom bouncer weight pulling a spinner or live bait snell is another good way to present these baits. In years with early ice out and warm springs, it is good advice to have leeches, crawlers, and minnows in the boat and let the walleye tell you which they prefer.

Regardless of the baits chosen, a key to walleye success is keeping that bait fresh and lively. As a fishing guide, I use the motto, “the best bait catches the most fish.” For that reason, I use Frabill’s Min-O-Life aeration system for keeping my minnows lively, and their crawler and leech containers to keep those baits at their best. Paying a bit of extra attention to my live bait care often yields dividends in the form of walleye gold.

As always, rigs and jigs should be good walleye baits during the early season. A key, however, will be choosing the right live bait to fish on those lures. Following some of the suggestions offered here can help anglers make those decisions and hopefully put good catches of walleye in the boat during early season.

Good luck on the water!

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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.