

Red Rock Guiding Service

"Great Fishing-Close to Home" redrockguidingservice.com



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Captain Walt's Log

Local Area Fishing Report

The weather has not made fishing easy during April. Lots of rain and cold weather has driven the water temperature up and down. Consequently, the panfish have been in and out of the back channels all month. All the rain has raised the water levels, which was then dropped over 1 foot by the water managers. This made for a lot of current and difficult boating conditions. Some back channels were too shallow to even access by boat.

The Fox Chain O' Lakes and Fox River has produced walleyes, bluegills, and crappies all during the month of April. The walleyes have been caught near their spawning areas and in the current areas around bridges and river mouths. The best presentation has been a jig and minnow. Bluegills and crappies are being caught in channels and back bays with warmer water. The best presentation has been small jigs (1/32 or 1/64) tipped with a spike or wax worm.

Lake Delavan in southern Wisconsin has started to warm and has yielded some nice crappies and bluegills. Look for shallow warmer water and you will find the crappies and bluegills.

Fishing/Boating Tips

April is the start of the open water fishing season. This is the time to prepare your fishing gear for the upcoming season.

First, check your fishing rods to make sure that they are ready to handle the big fish you are going to catch this season. Use a cotton swab to check each guide for damage. Run the cotton swab around the inside of the guide. Any damaged areas will grab some the cotton and be very noticeable. Replace any damaged guides right away. You will stand a better chance of landing that trophy fish you hook later in the year if your rods is in tip top shape. Your local full service bait and tackle store can replace the damaged guides if you cannot do it yourself.

Next, it is also the time to service your fishing reels. Check each reel for proper mechanical function and clean and lubricate as needed. Re-spool each reel with fresh line and now you are ready to catch those lunkers.



Game Fish of the Month

Don from Huntley, IL holding the game fish of the month, a 21½" walleye. This walleye is in the protected slot (18-24") and Don released it immediately after the photo.

Great Spring Fishing is Here!

April & May are the start of the open water fishing season. Call Captain Walt now to schedule a date.

Enjoy some time on the water.

847-710-5453 or 847-356-7654



Panfish of the Month

Displayed here are some of the nice catch of yellow perch from Lake Michigan. One of these whoppers is the 14¼" monster that is the panfish of the month.

We caught our two man limit plus a couple more that morning. Don (on the right in the photo above) and Pat both caught their share of whoppers that morning. The panfish of the month was the first fish we caught that day.

Fish of the Month Contest

Our **Fish of the Month** Contest allows clients to judge the quality of the fish they catch. The fish caught are rated against National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame records. The fish with the largest point value based on the specie specific formula is the **Fish of the Month**. There are separate contests for **Game Fish** and **Panfish**. Gamefish species eligible include Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Northern Pike and Muskie. Panfish species eligible include Crappie, Yellow Perch, Bluegill/Sunfish and Rock Bass. A score of 100 points would equal the NFFHOF world record.

Game Fish of the Month was a 21½" walleye caught on the Fox Chain O' Lakes by Don from Huntley, IL on April 9th. This fish was caught on a jig and minnow in Pistakee Lake. This walleye earned 59.73 points. Congratulations Don!

Panfish of the Month was a 14¼" yellow perch caught on Lake Michigan by Don from Crystal Lake, IL on April 23rd. This whopper perch was caught on a live bait rig southeast of Waukegan. This perch earned 95.00 points. Congratulations Don!

Questions or comments, please email us at:

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Thanks for the feedback!