



Captain Walt's Log

Local Area Fishing Reports



Well, the weather in April has been challenging. Mostly unfavorable weather patterns of cold fronts and northeast winds. After we had the spring maintenance performed on the boat and trailer, we have fished the Fox Chain O' Lakes several times. No trips to Geneva or Delavan yet this year.

At the beginning of April I did venture down to Southern Illinois again for a crappie fishing trip. We fished Lake of Egypt for two days and caught a nice mess of crappies. The largest one was 13½”.

I did manage to catch a nice 5½ lb. walleye from the Fox Chain O' Lakes vertical jigging with a ½ oz. jig and minnow. That was a nice fish and he put up quite a fight. For the most part walleye fishing on the Chain was slow in April.

On another trip, my partner caught a 17” black female crappie that weighed 3 lb. 3 oz. That fish was caught under a dock using a hook, minnow, and float. That was a personal best for him.

Fishing and Boating Tips For May

May is the official opening of the gamefish season in Wisconsin. Now we can target bass, pike, and walleye there. I usually begin the WI season on Lake Delavan, fishing for bass in shallow water. We use wacky worms, rattle traps, etc. Trips to Lake Geneva come later in May. Geneva is a deep, clear, cold lake and can use more time to warm up before the fish become active. In May on Lake Geneva we fish shallow water for bass using skirted jigs, suspending minnow baits, etc. Please check the safety gear on your boat as you begin the boating season. Have fun and stay safe on the water.

Fish of the Month Contest

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

Game Fish of the Month



The gamefish of the month for April was a legal sized walleye caught by John from Libertyville, IL from the Fox Chain O Lakes on April 23 using a jig and minnow.

This walleye earned 40 points on our rating scale. We also caught some nice yellow bass, perch, and other fish that day. The fish became more active in the afternoon. Better fishing is coming as the weather stabilizes and the water continues to warm.

Congratulations John!

Panfish of the Month



The panfish of the month for April was this 17” female black crappie caught from the Fox Chain O'Lakes on April 24 by Fred from Libertyville, IL.

This crappie weighed 3 lbs. 3 oz. earned 94 points on our rating scale and hit a large fat-head minnow on a hook below a bobber on 4 lb. line. She was caught near a dock and it was the only crappie we caught that day. This the largest crappie ever caught by a guest in my boat.

Congratulations Fred!