

**GAPEN...** *Cont'd. from previous pg.*

reservoirs a 1/16 oz to 1/18 oz. plastic or hair jig, such as a Crappie Vixen, can produce crappie when worked at 14 to 18 feet of depth.

There are, of course, exceptions to the rules, like always is the case when chasing hard to catch species.

It is the walleye that produces the greatest style and color change as we slip into the hot days of summer. Up until now the walleye has been a relatively shallow water fish. His spring haunts have all been relatively close to his spawning ground.

Not now with the summer sun beating down and water temperature on the rise, Mr. Glass Eye heads deep into darker water and color temperatures.

While minnows, its favorite food of spring, are still on the menu, this fish often seeks out and entire different dinner fare. Crawdads, insect larva and hellgrammites, when available often become much more appealing than the boring taste of fathead minnows or lake shiner.

Don't get me wrong, Mr. Walleye will eat minnows if they are easily available but when this isn't the case he turns to the readily available soft

craws, hatching insect larva and emergence of hellgrammites.

With this switch comes a lure style and lure color change. The angler must now seek out his favorite dinner fish in a water depth deeper than 20 feet. In southern reservoirs I've taken walleye as deep as 70 to 80 feet of depth while working crawfish colored 1 oz jigs like the Ugly Bug.

Now the color choice becomes brown, orange, olive, tan, black and purple. Lure body style is no longer the stick plug formation but the short, stocky body of a fat crank bait such as a Polish "Rattling" Bluegill.

Yes, the added feature of rattles in a hard bait does more at this time of year to attract walleye than at any other time. Remember, deep creates darkness and noise allows the walleye to find a rattling bait faster.

Jig size at this time of year must look more like the bait it's attempting to imitate.

Thus, the rubber legs on an Ugly Bug or Pig and Jig enhance the lure's visual appeal. Keep in mind when purchasing crankbaits for walleye at this time of year to buy dark colored ones, with rattles if possible and those



**Yes, big brookie can be caught this time of year on dark colored jigs.**



**Even a muskie will fall victim to the lures 'Bobber' Anne suggests.**

which will dig the deepest for you.

Finding hot weather walleye structure is rather simple. No longer are shallow rocky points or incoming river structures to be fished. Now you must get into the main body of the lake. Look for the underwater humps, those that ascend to within 10 to 20 feet of the water's surface. If such structure has a surrounding water depth of 35 to 45 feet, all the better. Rock and gravel are a key element to making such a structure a good producer. Always start your fishing presentation in the open lakeside of these humps. If the hump has a ravine-like narrows that can be used as a migration path for feeding walleye, all the better.

Don't miss working islands, especially the open deep water sides or the prevailing windy sides.

Bars running off islands or shoreline will also hold feeding walleyes at this time but you should not work these bars close to the island or shoreline. Using an electronic fish finder travel way out on the underwater bar structure to its end. It is here the schools of walleye first engage the structure in their migration to find food.

Like always, there is an exception

to the rule. That exception is the deep water cabbage beds, if they grace the lake you fish. Early in the morning as well as late in the deep, schools of walleye will travel up to and into such deep water weeds seeking out the baitfish they hold during the heat of summer.

Selection of such cabbage weed beds should be those which begin off-shore, growth in 17 to 22 feet of depth. Always work the outer lakeside edge.

It has been my experience that more large walleye can be caught off this seldom fished weed structure by trolling. It is here that a 1-1/2 oz. Bait Walker sinker rigged with a 30 inch drop back line to a perch-colored crank bait does the best to entice the fish you are after. A 3/4 oz. black or purple

jig with a jig-spinner bait will equally do a good job.

In the coming months I'll take you into some fall fishing suggestions which may increase your stringer weight. Fall is my favorite time of year for trophy fish.

Until next time this is the Ol' Man, Dan Gapen, Sr. with 'Bobber' Anne hoping you RELAX-SAVOR-and ENJOY our great outdoors.

**Gapen.com**

## LOOKIN' FOR SOME ACTION?



**April 19** Peoria Pirates vs. WB Scranton Pioneers  
7:05 p.m. *Pack the Place Night*

**April 26** Peoria Pirates vs. Tri-Cities Fever  
7:05 p.m. *It's All Greek to Me Night*

**May 10** Peoria Pirates vs. Green Bay Blizzard  
7:05 p.m. *School/Scout Night*

**May 24** Peoria Pirates vs. Iowa Barnstormers  
7:05 p.m. *Building the Future Night*

**June 7** Peoria Pirates vs. Louisville Fire  
7:05 p.m. *It's 5 o'clock Somewhere (Business Appreciation) Night*

**June 14** Peoria Pirates vs. Quad City Steamwheelers  
7:05 p.m. *Red, White and Blue Night*

**June 28** Peoria Pirates vs. Lexington Horsemen  
7:05 p.m. *Youth Sports Night*

**July 19** Peoria Pirates vs. Georgia Wildcats  
7:05 p.m. *Fan Appreciation Night*

*For complete schedule, visit [www.peoriapiratesaf2.com](http://www.peoriapiratesaf2.com)*

**How to Purchase Tickets**

- Civic Center Box Office 201 SW Jefferson St. Peoria
- Peoria Pirates Front Office 309.673.1000
- Online-[www.peoriapiratesaf2.com](http://www.peoriapiratesaf2.com)





**PEORIA PIRATES**