

Illinois Meeting | Wednesday, April 29, 2026

6:00 PM Gurnee American Legion | 749 Milwaukee Ave. Gurnee, IL
Speaker: Bob Needles - Spring/Summer on Erie



I've been fishing most of my life, and over the years it's taken me to a lot of great places and introduced me to plenty of good people. More than 20 years ago, I fished as a tournament angler, competing at venues from Montana to Ohio. Those years taught me how to read water, adapt to conditions, and figure fish out when they don't want to cooperate.

In recent years, I've enjoyed getting back into learning mode. I

fished the co-angler side of the *National Walleye Trail* to pick up new techniques and perspectives. My most recent season was in 2024, with a strong focus on forward-facing sonar and how it's changing the way we locate fish and how they react.

I've held a U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License for 17 years and currently do some guiding on Lake Erie for walleye and perch. In 2011, my wife and I purchased a small house near Port Clinton, Ohio, and my boat has been based there ever since.

When I retired, my plan was to fish Lake Erie until I got tired of it and then move on to something new. That hasn't happened yet. Lake Erie continues to challenge me, keep me learning, and remind me why I enjoy spending time on the water and sharing what I've learned with other anglers.



I have been a member of

Walleyes Unlimited for many, many years. I have learned a lot from sharing a boat with many members. I encourage you to reach out to other members and take advantage of all the benefits of getting in a boat with some of these great fishermen.

My presentation will discuss the presentations for the spring/summer time frame. Additionally, I will cover some key topics to make you better prepared when you hit the water, along with some keys I use to be more efficient on the water.