

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

Dedicated to the teachings of E.L. "Buck" Perry
The Father of Structure Fishing

August, 2012

MEETING - The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, August 9, 2012, 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

BUSINESS - Club business has been light over the summer with many club members attending outings and fishing trips. We look forward to a solid meeting this month to talk about experiences on the water over the summer, including the Shelbyville and Madison Club Outings, as well as fishing in the early fall. Please make plans to attend. The weather has started the change toward fall conditions, which means a gradual drop in water temperatures and general changing conditions until turnover is complete. This process takes time so be ready for periods of stability as the fishing can really pick up.

Make your plans now:
2nd Annual Spoonplugger Jamboree
Ken-Lake State Park & Resort
Kentucky Lake, Oct. 4-6, 2012
Go to: spoonplugger.net for more info!

FISHING SUMMARY - This summer's weather was one for the books, and so was the fishing! Eleven straight months with above normal temperatures (a record) and extreme drought led to unusual water conditions. Low water levels were the norm. Some lakes experienced darker water color and shallower than normal weed lines (Madison Chain). Many other lakes were clearer than usual with deeper weeds. Surface temps on many lakes peaked at or above 87 F. We stopped fishing for muskies due to the heat and focused on other species. Fish kills due to high temperatures were reported on some shallower lakes but probably had a greater effect on shallow rivers, streams, and ponds. Overall, just as in our record warm spring, an extended period of stable weather was experienced and good-excellent fishing was more the norm than the exception.

Our **Lake Mendota Club Outing** was an outstanding success with excellent water color and water temperatures having warmed to the depths. This resulted in the best summer movements there in years. Thanks to Bob Roels for his work organizing the event and arranging for the great weather! The big pike went crazy (for spoonplugs!). Most all of the fish were over 30" with Frank Cipria's topping out at 41 1/2"! Many were hooked 36"-40" with everyone reporting excellent action and even some walleye, white bass, and feisty SM bass mixed in. Jim Duplex commented the fish were so active even the smaller

fish hit like they were 40". How can you top that? Attendees of the annual **Muskegon Outing** hosted by the Lunker Hunters Club likewise found the fish to be in top form, especially the pike and salmon (if you can believe it)! The fish were as active as anyone could remember and the pike fishing was terrific up to 37". Not many walleyes but bass were good. Wind brought cold Lake Michigan water and the salmon right up to the Muskegon channel where numerous steelheads and kings to 17 lbs were caught casting blades. The **Indiana "Buck Sez" Outing** had good weather early in the week. The weather there was a lot cooler than Chicago with lows in 50's to upper 40's. Muskies to 47" were caught early in the week, and also a bunch of bass and pike. A cold front brought a bit of a lull for a couple days but action rebounded by the weekend. A record attendance of 83 enjoyed the Saturday night dinner and drawing of donated prizes.

Congratulations to **Gino Testone** on his personal best 53" musky on Mille Lacs!!! What a terrific trip and what an awesome fish! Gino (who was fishing by himself) planned his strategy well: carry a big net and be lucky enough to catch the giant muskie close enough to a guy who can take the picture! Sure glad we all got to see it! Gino's trip also included 36"-38" pike, 25" walleye, and a school of SM bass to 20" on spoonplugs. Time spent fishing with his brother Angelo also led to some big bass on Lake Geneva. Gino has put in the time and built on his knowledge of these lakes every year, and even though every season is different, he is able to adapt and the results speak for themselves. Great job!

Frank Yavarasky, Jim Shell and Bob Roels have been chasing the walleyes around Green Bay following the seasonal migrations of the fish. I say "chasing" because these fish move and there's a lot of water out there! Locating key areas, and the key features in those areas, and then presenting lures correctly is what led to their success...walleyes 25"+. As you might guess, putting all this together though repeated multiple-day trips takes a lot of effort, but the rewards are great. Check out the pix! Well done guys!!!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Overall, club members seem to be covering many more lakes this year, as well as working new areas of familiar lakes more thoroughly, and that's good. Its energizing to fish new waters and expand your fishing world; it spurs new learning and leads to even greater success. Thanks to those who have been sending in reports! Keep 'em coming.

Spoonplugging guidelines make fishing anywhere you want to go almost as easy as falling off a log (as John Bales likes to say). We have Mr. Perry's teachings to allow us to go to a strange lake, and with little or no prior information figure out what's going on and arrive at the fish-schools of the biggest fish, all species. Its really an amazing thing. The non-spoonplugger sees this and does not understand how it is even possible. Good spoonpluggers experience this on a regular basis and see it as "normal." Mr. Perry said, "Spoonplugging is what a fish is, what what a fish does," and that tells us part of the story. We start to understand what he meant when he said, "Spoonplugging means being in the right place, at the right time, fishing in the right manner" when we experience the fast and furious action from a school of big fish. When it all comes together, and the lure goes through a school of active fish at the correct speed and the fish are literally fighting over the lure, catching them (any species) is just as easy as falling off a log! After that happens a few times, we KNOW what Mr. Perry meant!!! How did we get so lucky? Two things: Because Mr. Perry took the time to fish it ALL and then write down what we needed to know to set us off in the right direction. The other reason is because of our fellow spoonpluggers who have given of their time and effort along the way to help us become better fishermen. The ability to share knowledge among spoonpluggers is unmatched because we speak the same language. Spoonpluggers are so lucky to have what we have. We must never forget that!

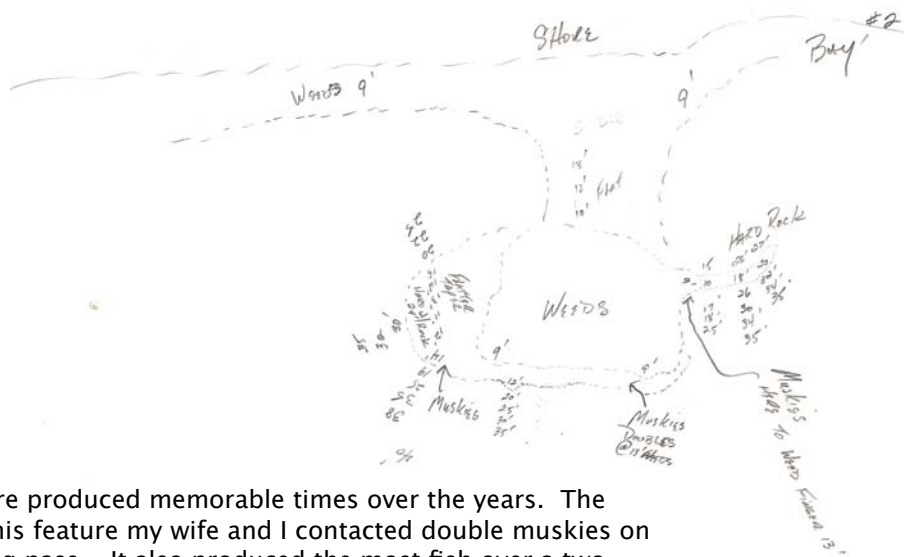
Education Feature: Multiple-Day Fishing Trips

by Phil Szafranski

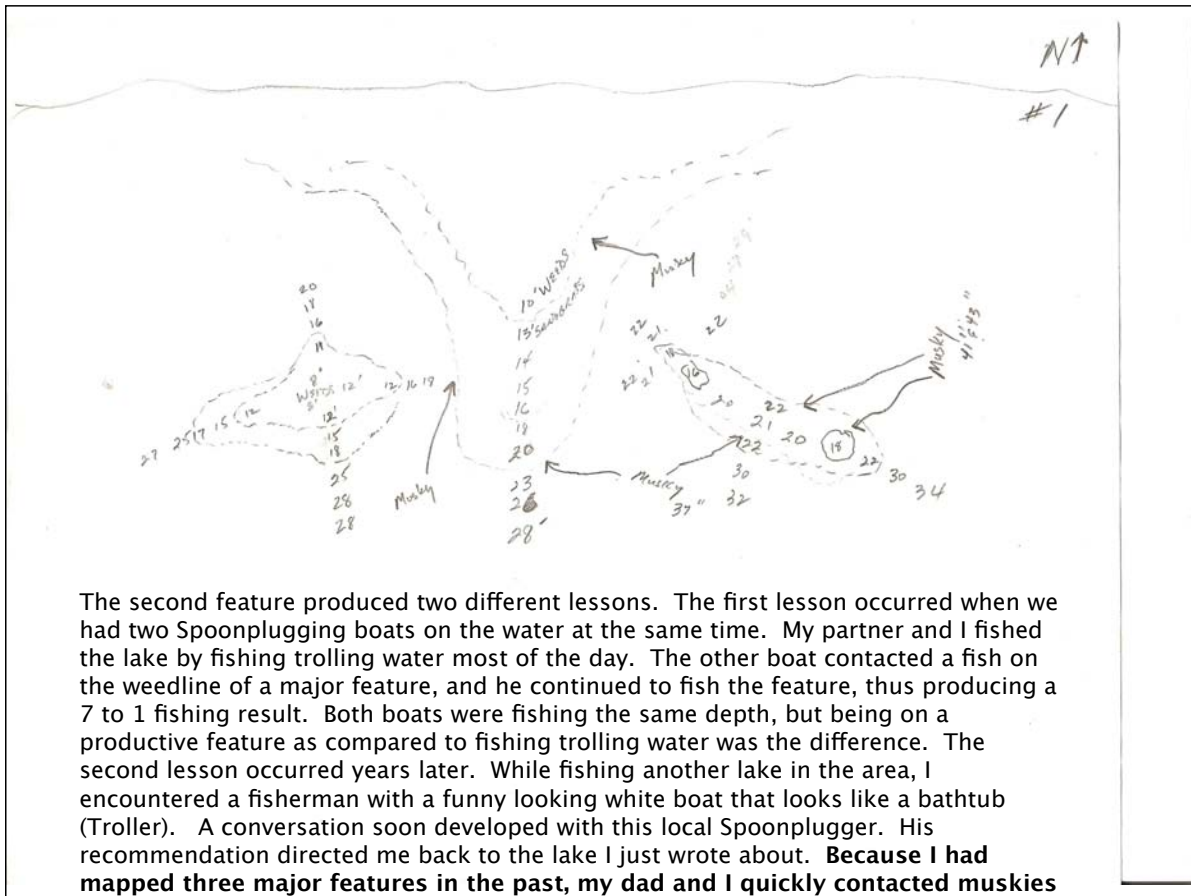
Lessons Learned From Multiple Day Trips

I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to experience many extended fishing trips allowing for consecutive days of fishing over the years. These trips produced many times of being on the water with little fishing or boating pressure. Reflection of each experience provides knowledge to be carried forward, if you take the opportunity to learn from it. My intention here is to share some of these lessons in correlation with the attached maps. I suspect while reviewing these slides many memories and lessons that you have experienced will come to mind.



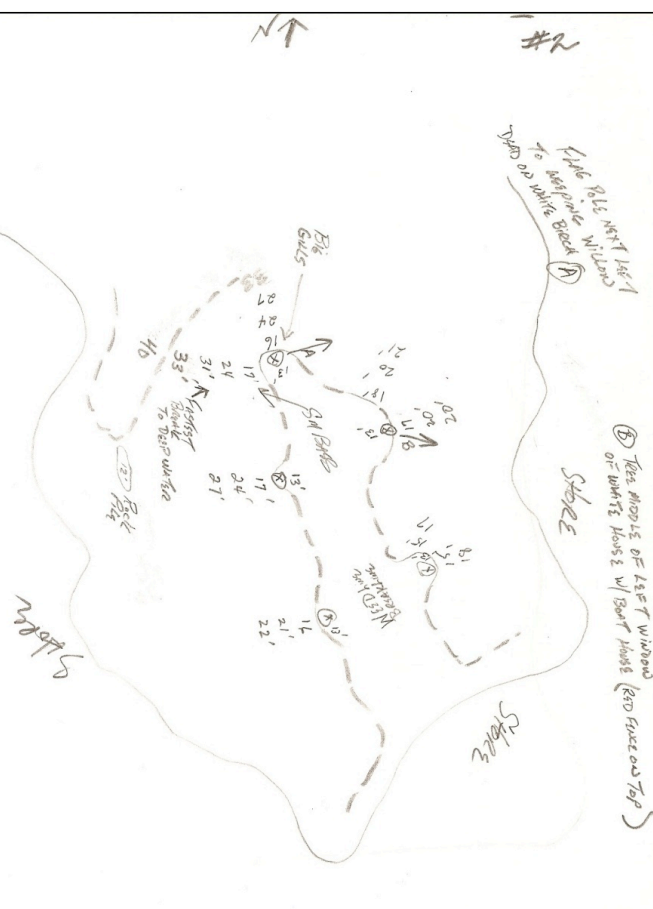


The first feature produced memorable times over the years. The first time on this feature my wife and I contacted double muskies on our first trolling pass. It also produced the most fish over a two day, 13 muskie trip. We were fishing in early fall and this was the first day of a passing front. Winds speeds were high and a clearing sky was occurring at the time. I had no mental understanding of what the feature looked like but I was in the right place at the right time. This experience occurred in the early days of my Spoonplugging . Upon returning years later on another extended trip, I mapped the feature and found this feature has immediate access to the deepest water in the lake. This important fact never meant anything to me at the time of the first trip. **Understanding our fishing goes from shallow to deep and our interpretation from deep to shallow is the lesson here.**



The second feature produced two different lessons. The first lesson occurred when we had two Spoonplugging boats on the water at the same time. My partner and I fished the lake by fishing trolling water most of the day. The other boat contacted a fish on the weedline of a major feature, and he continued to fish the feature, thus producing a 7 to 1 fishing result. Both boats were fishing the same depth, but being on a productive feature as compared to fishing trolling water was the difference. The second lesson occurred years later. While fishing another lake in the area, I encountered a fisherman with a funny looking white boat that looks like a bathtub (Troller). A conversation soon developed with this local Spoonplugger. His recommendation directed me back to the lake I just wrote about. **Because I had mapped three major features in the past, my dad and I quickly contacted muskies**

Hand-drawn map of a wetland area, oriented with North at the top. The map shows a central area with a dashed line boundary. To the left is a 'Shrub' area, and to the right is a 'Shrub' area. The central area contains several points labeled with numbers and letters, including '10c', '11b', '12b', '13b', '14b', '15b', '16b', '17b', '18b', '19b', '20b', '21b', '22b', '23b', '24b', '25b', '26b', '27b', '28b', '29b', '30b', '31b', '32b', '33b', '34b', '35b', '36b', '37b', '38b', '39b', '40b', '41b', '42b', '43b', '44b', '45b', '46b', '47b', '48b', '49b', '50b', '51b', '52b', '53b', '54b', '55b', '56b', '57b', '58b', '59b', '60b', '61b', '62b', '63b', '64b', '65b', '66b', '67b', '68b', '69b', '70b', '71b', '72b', '73b', '74b', '75b', '76b', '77b', '78b', '79b', '80b', '81b', '82b', '83b', '84b', '85b', '86b', '87b', '88b', '89b', '90b', '91b', '92b', '93b', '94b', '95b', '96b', '97b', '98b', '99b', '100b'. The map also includes a 'Shrub' area on the left and a 'Shrub' area on the right. The map is oriented with North at the top.

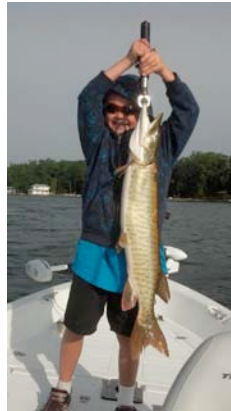
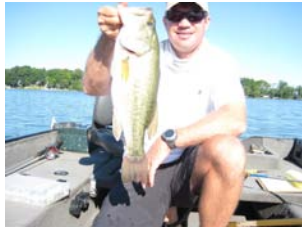


This lesson does not have a map associated with it. I simply cannot locate it at this time. While contour trolling an area adjacent to an island on a flowage, I found another smaller hump not shown on the map. This area is in direct access of a creek channel nearby. Our first pass over this high spot produced double walleye in the evening. The next day we decided to just anchor and wait for the walleye on the high spot. We must have stayed in this position for approximately 6-8 hours. During that time we would contact one fish approximately every 15 minutes apart. Each fish was always a different species from the last fish caught. From this casting position we contacted northern, walleye, smallmouth and largemouth bass. It was interesting to experience the scattered but consistent activity. **I learned that anchoring on productive structure can give you a better understanding of the movements of fish.**



Good fishing to all,

Phil





Dates for National Network Outings:

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, March 24, 2012

Leoni Outing, Jackson, MI, June 20-24, 2012

Lunker Hunters Muskegon (MI) Outing, July 11-14, 2012

Northern Indiana "Buck Sez" Outing, August 16-18, 2012

COMING UP NEXT:

Jamboree at Ken-Lake State Park & Resort

Kentucky Lake, Oct. 4-6, 2012

Spoonplugger Web Sites:

Spoonpluggers of America: nsoa.info

Buck's Baits: buckperry.com

Discussion Board, links, and more: spoonplugger.net

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