

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

February, 2012

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

1. MEETING SUMMARY - The first meeting of the year was held on January 12, 2012 during a snow storm with 8 die-hard members in attendance. We were able to use the large seminar room for the meeting, and going forward, one of the two large meeting rooms should be available for us to use. Brett agreed to handle hard-copy distribution (mailing) of the newsletter. Jim Taylor was unable to attend but will provide the financial report at the February meeting. An engaging discussion was had by those present with topics ranging from seminar planning, to learning experiences during the past year, to refining lure presentation on the cast and on the troll. In all, look for a freshened approach to the seminar with additional club members being involved. We are glad to hear that John Bales and Jerry Borst both plan to attend the seminar and will again be doing a talk.

2. Club Outings - Illinois Spoonpluggers are still on for club outings at Lake Shelbyville (June 7-10) and Madison Chain (July 12-14). Contact Bob Roels.

3. Lure Orders - Jim Duplex noted that John Bales' excellent new deep running spoonplugs, the JB-1 and JB-2, are now being offered with paint. The colors are: white, yellow, copper, moon glow/black. The lures are stainless steel with 5/0 hooks. The cost is \$20 (no extra charge for paint, and shipping is free). If you give John a call he will bring the orders when he comes to Chicago in March.

4. New Education Director - We are pleased to announce that Phil Szafranski has agreed to serve in the new position of club Education Director. Building on last month's issue, Phil will be contributing a new feature to the newsletter each month as "food for thought." This is intended to spur individual study, expand your on-the-water skills, and promote discussion among members. Thanks, Phil!

5. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar will be on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library, 9:00 AM-4:45 PM. Cost is \$20. An updated flyer with the latest on the agenda and registration has been sent out.

6. CLUB DUES - February marks the end of the membership year so be sure to keep your membership current to get the newsletter and stay updated on club activities. Dues remain the same at **\$20**. Make the check payable to: JAMES TAYLOR (not Illinois Spoonpluggers).

Mail checks to: James Taylor
c/o Illinois Spoonpluggers
1367 Loch Lomond Drive
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Current dates for upcoming 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, 16-18, 2012

Jamboree at Ken-Lake State Park & Resort on 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

Newsletter Editor: Scott Duff, E-mail swdclar@comcast.net

(847) 322-2695

Education Feature by Phil Szafranski - Mapping & Interpretation

In last month's newsletter a map [reprinted below, Map #1] was posted having a brief summary of the lake and questions were posed for thought. Turns out that this is one of my favorite lakes to fish. The smallmouth population was very strong at the time walleye numbers also being high. You will note in my summary a mention of limited weeds being present. This allowed for easy lure presentation. The structures were easy to identify and the presentation of lures was made with little effort.

Here is my follow up overview of the questions asked regarding this water:

Q. Would you choose this lake to fish?

From an education standpoint we should shy away from this lake due to water color. With that being said, one must ask what other options are available. This lake was in an area with little difference in color between the lakes available to fish. The fact that we had one deep hole and reachable depths on the features improved our odds in contacting fish.

Q. Are you willing to travel multiple hours to fish this lake?

To make such a commitment, I would be certain to have other suitable fishing options within the area. Our teaching guidelines would suggest we pass on this lake.

Q. What attracts your interpretation interest?

As stated above – one deep hole, big structures leading to the hole, plenty of deep water throughout the lake and limited weed growth allowing for easy presentation of lures.

Q. What concerns do you have about the lake?

Water color. This is one of the few things we can possibly control in our fishing. Our success with this lake was the combination of Buck's teachings and the willingness to fish at night. Movements under good conditions produced smallmouth to 20 inches and walleye to 28 inches at night.

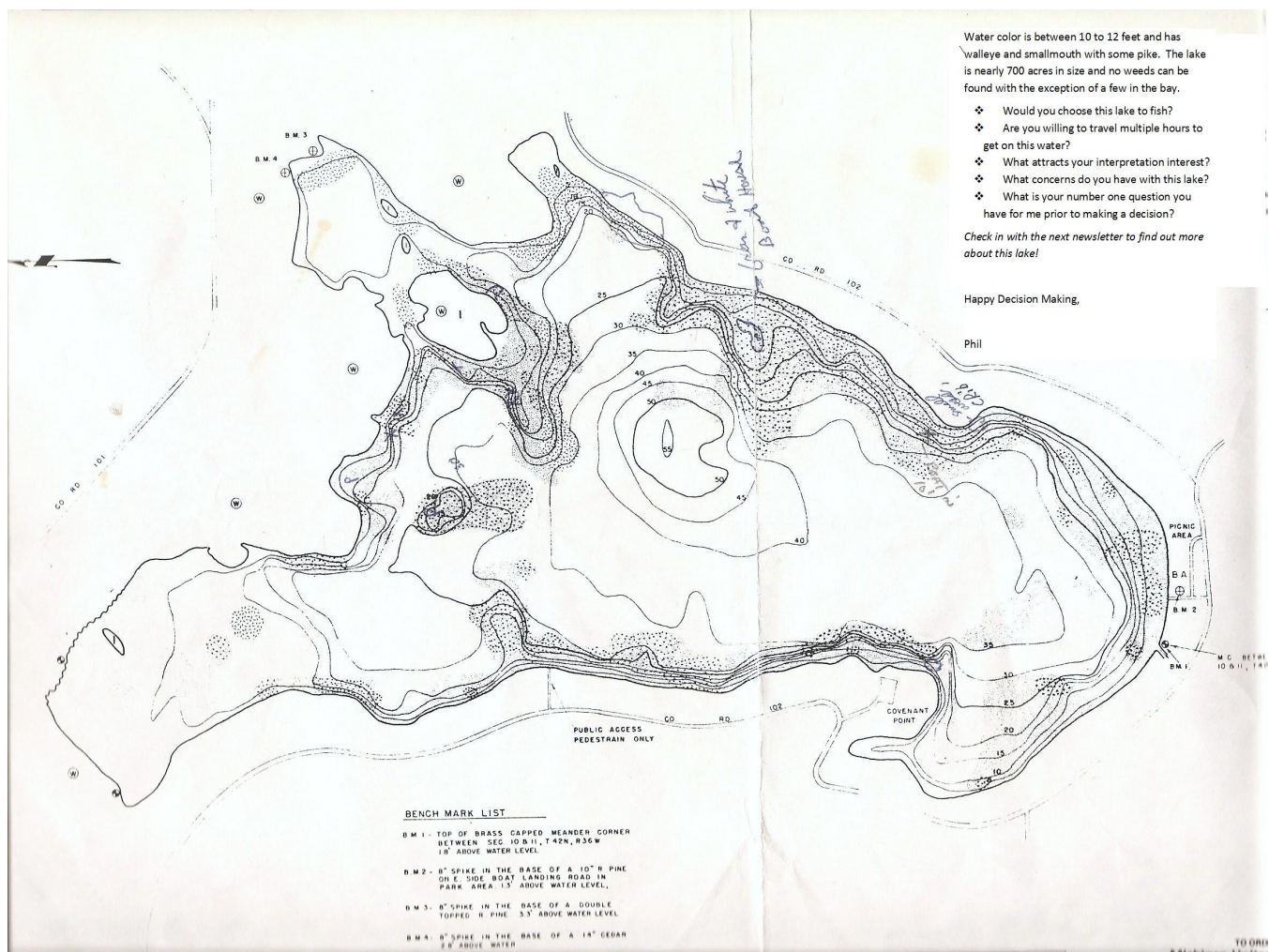
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1) What questions would need to be answered from an interpretation standpoint?

2) At what depth did you contact fish? What is the final breakline in the lake? What is the weed condition and depth? Can lures be presented properly without issue?

SEE BELOW [MAP #2] FOR A 'PLUGGER MAP OF THE LAKE !

MAP #1



MAP #2

