

# Illinois Spoonpluggers

## Newsletter

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

**June/July, 2012**

MEETING CHANGE - The July meeting is cancelled due to multiple outings that week (Madison/Muskegon). 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** - The **May club meeting** was held on Thursday, May 10 with 12 members and one guest in attendance. Jim Taylor provided a membership update and noted that the new roster had been sent out to everyone. Bob Roels then gave an update on preparations for the Shelbyville Outing. Bob and Bink planned to organize the dinner for Friday. Many thanks also to Jim T. for researching lodging options and providing details for everyone. The dates for the Madison Club Outing are July 12-14. Contact Bob if you will be attending, or have any questions. It was noted these dates are concurrent with the Muskegon Network Outing (July 11-14) which some club members will be attending.

The **June club meeting** was held on Thursday, June 14 and many members were either out-of-town for business or out on fishing trips. Bob Roels gave a summary of the successful Shelbyville Outing, covering structures, presentations and fishing results. See his summary and pictures below! Thanks to Bob for taking the lead on coordinating this outing! He also sent out information (e-mail): The Madison Club Outing is scheduled for July 12-14 on Lake Mendota. During that week we also have the annual Muskegon Network Outing on July 11-14. Remember, the July club meeting is cancelled.

**SHELBYVILLE CLUB OUTING REPORT:** After a brief hiatus of a year or so the club held its first outing of 2012. Those in attendance were Bink (Mike Lynch), Jim Duplex, George Schauner, Jim Shell, Casey Shell, Bob Roels, and Gino Testone. The size of the lake gave everyone plenty of room and North and South could be checked. The Big Bass goes to George Schauner (6 lbs. caught at 23 feet). Gino made Jim Shell's trip by recovering his favorite plug knocker Jim lost last year on a snag. Bink discovered what it was like to see white bass busting all over for the first time and caught his first sauger and more. As always, Casey came through and caught a huge catfish and a lip hooked buffalo. Rick was persistent and thorough in working out a LM structure and caught his share. The big lesson learned was, "We need to migrate to the fish!" The walleyes, sauger and white bass MIGRATE. They were definitely more predominant in the headwaters. All species were caught on the 3-way rig and both casting and trolling presentations produced. For numbers of white bass, sauger, and walleyes you did not have to venture deep. The campground was excellent and until Friday there was only one other camper in the unreserved campground. We ate around 3:00 each day to share info. The fish fry was excellent. The leftover fish were taken by a raccoon. Luckily the coon could not open the beer. ---Bob Roels

**FISHING REPORTS - MAY:** Conditions through mid-May were rebounding from a “cold” snap after a record shattering warm early spring. Rick Matus gave a detailed report on his trip to **Lake Erie** for pre-spawn smallmouth bass. Brett Christensen also made the trip from our club, as did John Bales and 7-8 other Spoonpluggers for some great big water fishing and fellowship. Winds weren’t too much of a problem since they could fish on the lee side of the island. And while results were not as amazing as some years, the fishing certainly was very good with large fish caught. The trip provided a rewarding learning experience for all. **Heidecke Lake** (Bink, Jim Duplex) early on had been productive for numbers of average size walleyes, a few muskies, and numerous white and yellow bass. New spots were proving productive and a viable alternative to the fishing pressure being experienced. You never know until you check it out! As the weather heated up at Heidecke, Bink got into numbers of walleye to 20-26” on a hot day with many species including muskie caught. Bob Roels hit the water hard this spring including successful trips to **Clinton Lake** and **Lake Shelbyville** with Jim Shell. Bob reported on the pre-spawn from **Whitewater Lake**. By searching new areas, keeping his eyes open, and varying the presentation Bob was able to arrive at the fish. Bob also had the pleasure of spending some quality time with his dad (club co-founder), Bob Roels Sr., fishing one of their favorite lakes. On to Big Water, Frank Yavarasky sent in some great reports from a trip to **Green Bay** (first trip...he usually fishes Lake Erie) where he got into numbers of walleyes 18”-25” and bonus drum. His reports detail application of seasonal approaches, mapping/interpretation and creative presentation...use of his Spoonplugging knowledge on a challenging body of water! Well done, Frank! Back home, Scott Duff had good action for **North Fox Chain** walleyes in the 18”-21” range and shared an overview at the meeting of the springtime fishing situation. Bob Roels revisited the **South Fox Chain** and noted the presence of the old channels through the lakes. Lessons: The springtime offers the best opportunity to locate hard bottom areas that are important to fish movements and migrations before the weeds come into play. The darker waters will not have the weeds, and the fish movements will be shallower, so these harder bottom areas become important throughout the season. Springtime breaks that become hidden by weeds can still play a role in the summertime migration routes of the fish. That’s why the first thing to check is the weedline when we get on the water. Plus, the conditions may have changed since the last time you were on the lake. As Spoonpluggers, we can make these observations and know how to proceed.

**JUNE:** After the “cold” snap to start June, Scott Duff and Phil Szafranski met at **Kinkaid Lake** with Spoonplugger Bill Roth and experienced excellent movements of big fish. Now, things have really heated up weatherwise! The lakes are in bloom, and the temperatures have been at record levels with drought conditions. Our lakes are warming to the depths much earlier than usual and so we are not surprised to see the bigger fish on the move. The heat wave that we look forward to most years in late July or early August to give us the best movements is happening before July 4th. Jim Duplex has been exploring new lakes and hitting some old lakes with Gino Testone catching bass, pike and walleye. Brett Christiansen has been checking out new lakes with good water color in **Southern Wisc.** (including **Tichigan**) and found the pike practically jumping in the boat on recent trips! Scott has been working local lakes and Craig Hubbard picked up a nice muskie on the Fox Chain. Jim Shell and Casey found the muskies on the **Detroit River** were doing just fine and sent back some great pix. Way to reel ‘em in, Casey! Bob Roels has been working hard prepping the Madison Outing and reports the big pike (and smallmouth) are on the move.

Big lakes, small lakes, everything in between....fishing has been good! We live by a big city and are used to traveling to do our fishing, but as Jim Duplex reminded us, don’t forget that those small lakes close to home have fish, and they have been producing! While catching pike and bass on a small lake this week I bumped into walleyes to 23” that eagerly ate my 700SP. If you have not been out and wonder where to go, just pick a lake and go Spoonplugging!!! Tight lines!



## **Education Feature by Phil Szafranski - Mapping & Interpretation**

I just wanted to share my experience involving this body of water. This information had been shared at a meeting many years ago, but I thought it would be nice to offer this again, but in print. This water required addition travel of 50 minutes beyond the original 8 hours it took to get into the area I was planning to fish. My pre-water research indicated good water color. When I arrived at the launch I was pleased to see a deep bloom and the water emitting an odor...GOOD STUFF!

Once on the water a 500 was put on and away we went. While covering the shallows I noticed a boat out in open water and observed a fish being taken. It appeared to be a walleye while viewing from a distance. The boat was near position #1 which I marked on the map. You can see the map offers fishing hot spot information but did not give any attention to this spot here. Immediately upon seeing the fish boated I brought in my lure and immediately raced out to open water. Shoreline line sights were taken of this boat and I immediately proceeded back to the shallows to continue straining as Buck suggests. Later in the day while being the only boat on the water, I lined up my shoreline objects and found the hump immediately. Knowing the feature



NOT FOR NAVIGATION





**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**

**Jamboree at Ken-Lake State Park & Resort on Kentucky Lake, Oct. 4-6, 2012**

**Spoonplugger Web Sites:**

**Spoonpluggers of America: [nsoa.info](http://nsoa.info)**

**Buck's Baits: [buckperry.com](http://buckperry.com)**

**Discussion Board, links, and more: [spoonplugger.net](http://spoonplugger.net)**

**Newsletter Editor: Scott Duff, E-mail [swdclar@comcast.net](mailto:swdclar@comcast.net)**

**(847) 322-2695**