

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

March, 2012

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, March 8, 2012, 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

Meeting Summary - The second meeting of the year was held on February 9, 2012 with 12 members in attendance. Everyone should have received a 2012 Club Roster from Jim Taylor. He also included the latest treasurer's report. Let Jim know if you did not receive it.

Interest in the seminar is strong and this should be another good one! We were pleased to hear that Cabela's will again offer support to the seminar. In finalizing the program and agenda, Jim Duplex will be doing his presentation "Fishing the Flats" with additional club presentations on lessons learned from Bob Roels, Brett Christiansen and Rick Matus. Segments with John Bales and Jerry Borst are also set. Many insightful reports were sent out in 2012 and much knowledge was gained that can be used to expand our fishing horizons in the coming year. For the gift for attendees, Bob has been working on getting hats and selecting a design. Thanks, Bob!

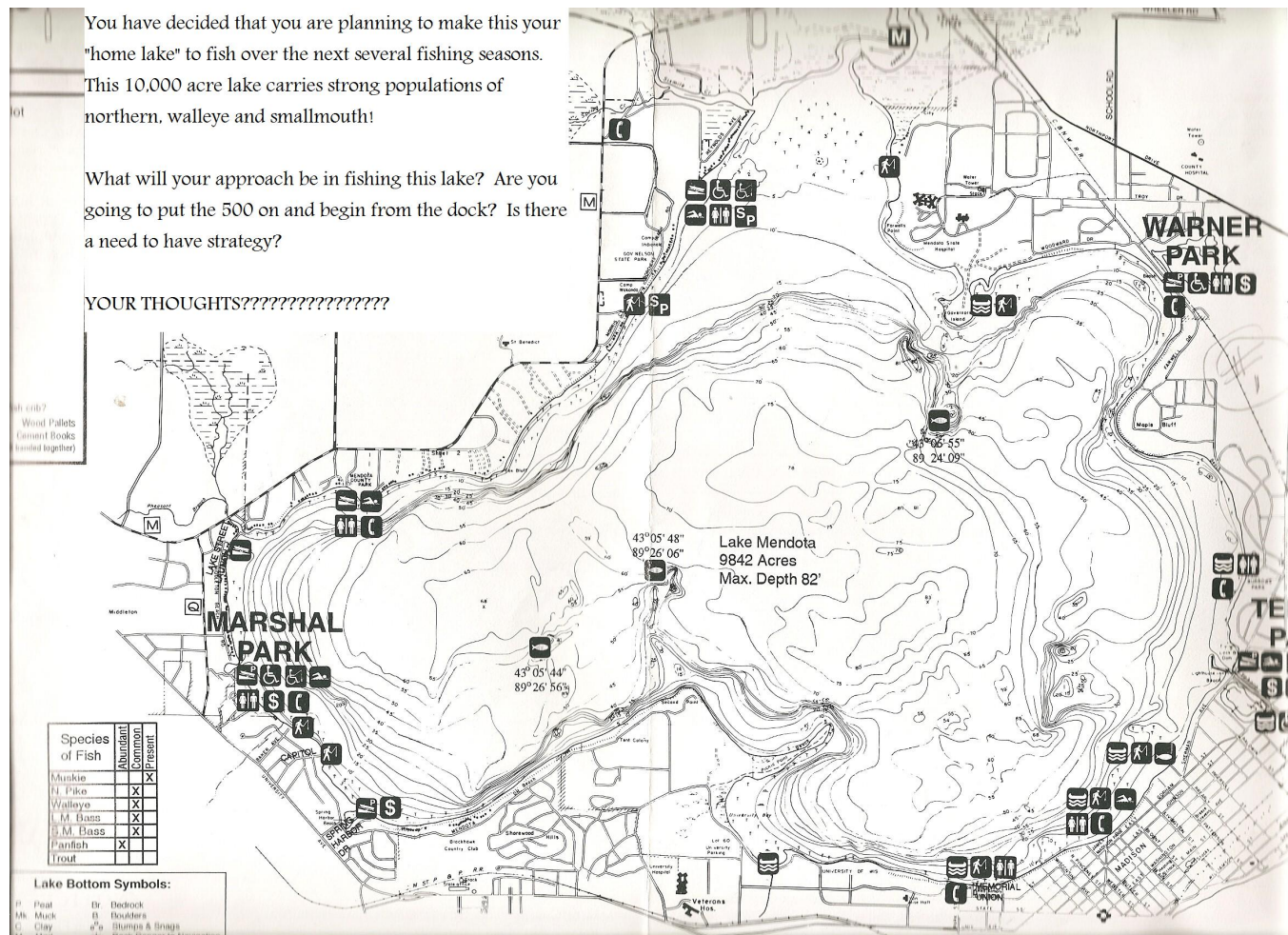
The Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar will be on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library, 9:00 AM-4:45 PM. Cost is \$20. An updated flyer with the latest on the agenda and registration was sent out; it can also be found on the spoonplugger.net discussion board. Remember that the **Friday night dinner** (March 23) will be at a new location: Moretti's Restaurant & Pizzeria just west of the Route 53/Algonquin Rd. bridge. We have a seating area reserved starting at 6:30 PM.

Fishing Reports - Brett Christiansen had been out with Jerry Borst up at Milwaukee Harbor. Brett followed that up with several excellent trips of his own making some nice catches of Browns. Well done! The milder winter weather has kept the ice off, for the most part, allowing boat access to the fish wintering in the harbor. Things will be heating up soon at the cooling lakes with Braidwood's planned opening on March 1st. LaSalle Lake could open on March 15th. Remember, these lakes are dependent on fickle DNR staffing or the lack thereof, and if open these lakes always have reduced schedules in the spring, so check ahead before leaving home. Early reports from the Illinois River indicate better than average sauger activity. An MWC event is scheduled for March 24-26. The Fox Chain should also have some reports coming in before the seminar.

Lure Orders - Jim Perillo has been talking to Brent Robbins about orders for the blade baits. More blades are being made; let Jim know what you need and which sizes. For the JB 1&2 contact John Bales.

Education Feature by Phil Szafranski - Mapping & Interpretation

LAKE MAP & FOOD FOR THOUGHT



DISCUSSION

I suspect there are no wrong answers that can be offered to the questions above. With this being said, individuals with the best interpretation and presentation of lures will arrive at the fish sooner. Here is my approach to the fishing situation encountered this past year:

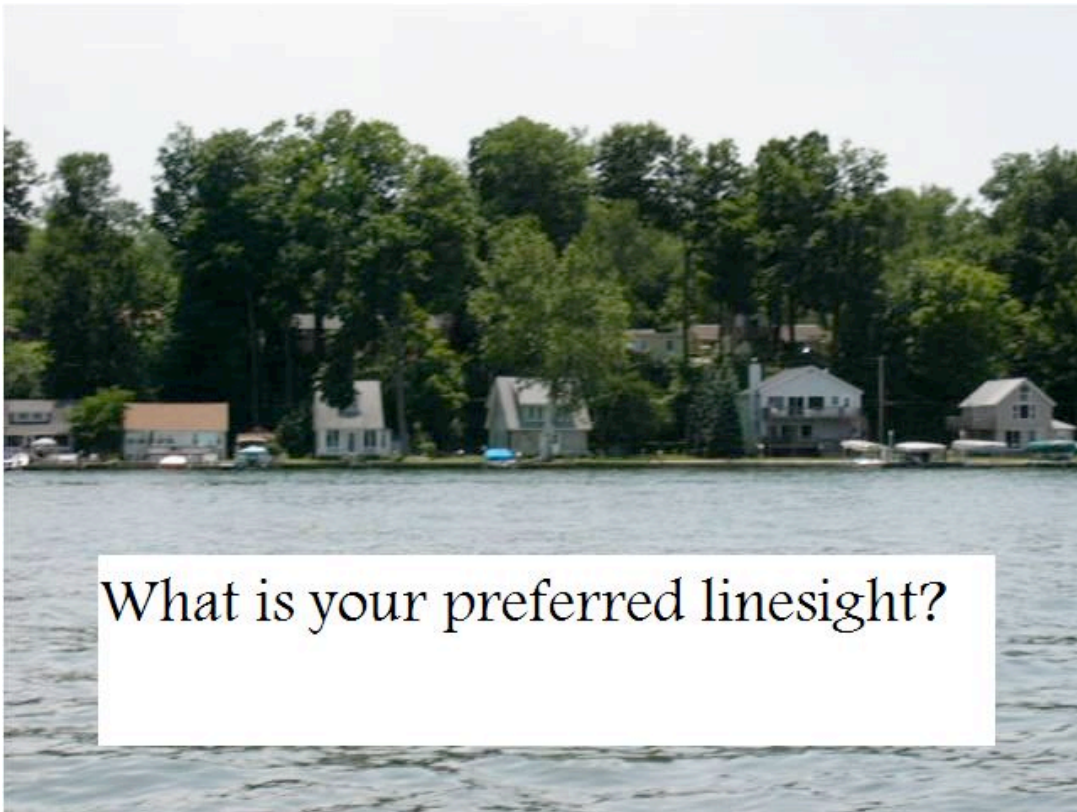
Day 1 – The first day on the water offered little wind and six hours of on the water time. My strategy for the first day with little wind was to map the largest structures on opposite ends of the lake. The reasoning for the choice of opposite shorelines, was to provide me knowledge of structures on each side of the lake to combat future windy conditions. Regardless of wind speed on future trips, I would have a known structure to fish. On this day I ran the lures for approximately one hour of the six spent on the water. While mapping, I dropped a marker to take soundings. While doing this, a boat moved into the area and took a fish within 30 feet of the marker. I then knew I was correct in my interpretation of the contact point.

Day 2 - Out with a fellow plugger and we decided to put time on another structure to better our understanding of this water. Only a couple of small fish taken today. Mapped the third feature through the process. Ran lures nearly 90 % of the time.

Day 3 – Out on the water by myself. During my rotation of fishing features from the day one trip, fish moved mid day and 10 pike taken in two areas. No surprises in their location based on the interpretation of the numbers on paper. Line sights taken with digital images. During this trip reel line passes were recorded in correlation of specific depths fished. This discipline certainly pays off on the following trip.

Day 4 - Nearly one hour into traveling to the lake, I remembered that **I did not bring my depth finder along**. I seem to be averaging one trip per season with the finder at home. The next hour of travel was utilized to think of my approach without the finder. I would be facing somewhat unfamiliar water, deep water features and most margin of error causing lures buried into summertime weed beds. *Prior to arriving at the launch I decided that I was to stay on one feature and use the one sightline I observed from the prior trip. This, along with exact reel passes noted from the last trip would achieve the proper depth for deeper breaklines. Later in the day I came upon another seasoned spoonplugger. My good fortune produced a 3 to 1 fishing advantage without the finder.*

QUESTION:



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**

