

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

October/November, 2012

MEETING NOTES - The last meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers was held on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. The meeting was led by Brett Christiansen with 12 members in attendance. The next meeting will be on November 8th . We will be voting on a new Mission Statement and Guidelines for the club, as well as reviewing club jobs/roles for next year. See below for details. (Club meetings are held at the Elk Grove Public Library on the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:15 PM.)

FISHING REPORTS - At the October meeting, fishing reports were the focus and this went over very well. Numerous Spoonplugger reports were given with detailed discussion and drawings on the board of the situations covered. Members were eager to discuss their efforts and share knowledge while discussing lessons learned. The Kentucky Lake Outing at KenLake State Resort Park was a success and, though attendance was less than last year, numerous fish were caught from up to 7 species (LM, SM, catfish, "stripe", sauger, etc.). Members attending from our club included Brett C., Bob R., Jim D. (and wife Janice), Jim T., and Scott D. Some stayed at the campground, others in cottages and the lodge. Nightly discussions at camp, the Friday Pot-luck, and Saturday Dinner were highlights enjoyed by all. The Kentucky Outing started with mild weather in the 80's and ended with a strong cold front and November-like temperatures. Jim Duplex noted that, in terms of success, you take what a lake gives you and having a variety of species is a plus. Bob Roels reported days of nearly 50 fish caught with Jim Taylor, including the day after the big cold front. The main channel and feeder arms were fished extensively with most of the action coming from the feeders, on the cast. Brett Christiansen reported good success below the dam after the front. Fishing the TVA Reservoirs is one of the best learning experiences we can have as Spoonpluggers. The effort involved is easily rewarded many times in knowledge and experience gained which lasts a lifetime. Members agreed that they are all eager to go back!

Bob Roels reported hitting some pike at 30' on Lake Geneva checking the faster speeds on the troll; action at Shelbyville came on "drop-backs" on the troll. Jerry Hein sent out a good report from Lake Paw Paw where bass were caught below 20' on the cast. Phil Szafranski talked about human influences on this lake with very aggressive weedkills; fortunately fishing picked up later in the season. Mike Pukasz gave an insightful report on the situation at Pierce and Olson Lakes with some excellent drawings on the board. Joe Zaremba had a brush with a bad storm on Green Bay and we are all glad everyone made it back in one piece. Please be safe out there!!! Joe and his sons did make a nice catch of walleyes, cats, smallies and drum around the Fox River (WI) mouth. Whitewater Lake has been very low according to some reports. Joe also was rewarded with a 46" muskie up on the Phillips Chain (WI). Brett Christiansen covered the situation at LaSalle Lake with a couple fun trips hitting numbers of fish at some familiar breaks on structure then mapping out new spots. Gino Testone found the smallies schooled up on the Kankakee River with brother Angelo and made another fine catch. Finally, Nick Tabor reminds

everyone of the sauger/walleye opportunities around Ottawa on the Illinois River. This is where the Fox River comes in; the structure in the area is outstanding.

BUSINESS - UPCOMING NOVEMBER 8th CLUB MEETING: Fishing Reports & Education / Vote on new Mission Statement & Club Guidelines/ Annual Jobs. The plan is to approach future club meetings with the majority of the meeting time spent on fishing reports and education, and business being saved for last on the monthly agenda. This will keep the focus on fishing.

We will discuss and assign the annual club jobs/roles: treasurer, newsletter, library, spoonplug orders, maps, marker board, etc. Members will also be voting on the proposed Mission Statement and Club Guidelines of the Illinois Spoonpluggers. There seems to be a consensus in the club that this is the right move to lead the club forward. Please refer to the email and document sent out by Brett Christiansen which details the Vision, Values, and Club Guidelines offered to further the club's mission and to transfer Spoonplugging knowledge to future generations.

We will be voting on the points one at a time with opportunity for members to offer their input. Email discussion prior to the meeting is fine, but in doing so please copy all on the club address list with your responses and ideas. Members must be present at the meeting to vote.

BUCK'S BAIT'S LURE ORDER: We would like to submit a club lure order at the next meeting. Use the Buck's Baits order form sent out on email if interested. The Nov. 8th meeting is the deadline. Thanks Jim Perillo.

Dates for National Network Outings:

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, Date TBA, 2013
Lunker Hunters Muskegon (MI) Outing, July 10-14, 2013
Northern Indiana "Buck Sez" Outing, August 15-17, 2013

Spoonplugger Web Sites:

Spoonpluggers of America: nsoa.info
Buck's Baits: buckperry.com
Discussion Board, links, and more: spoonplugger.net

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Buck Sez...

➤The KEY to successful structure fishing is for you to be able to separate good looking structure from PRODUCTIVE structure. Knowing the ingredients which go into making a productive structure can change you over night from a so-so fisherman to a consistent fish catcher. If you fail to grasp all the other information in this book, and just learn the difference, and how to find good structures, you will have spent money wisely. You must always remember that structure (breaks and breaklines) is your guide to where the fish will be.

➤Quite often fishing can be dead between cold fronts. The light conditions may appear good before the second front, but the fish have not yet recovered from the first one.

➤If I appear to have put a lot of emphasis on trolling, you are right. In my opinion it takes far more skill to become a good troller than it does to become a good caster. For generations of fishermen have been instructed in the proper procedure for casting, but never on trolling. There is a definite purpose for every trolling maneuver. And in the final analysis, it is trolling that will tell you where, when why and how to cast. I can't say the same for casting.

➤When casting any portion of a body of water, the fisherman is often not aware of the importance of speed control, and will not vary his retrieve speed to find the most effective one.

➤When looking for productive structure and migrations in a Flatland reservoir, I break them down into two groups. 1. Man Made, 2. Natural.

I first look for the man made structures, for they are the ones most likely to go all the way:

1. The Dam
2. Causeway
3. Old roadbeds covered when flooded

The natural would consist of:

1. Humps
2. Bars extending from the shoreline
3. Side feeder stream channels
4. Breaklines along the channel