

# Illinois Spoonpluggers

## Newsletter

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

**April, 2012**

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, April 12, 2012, 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

### **REPORT: ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS WINTER SEMINAR**

The 10th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar was hosted by the Illinois Spoonpluggers Club on March 24th, 2012 in Elk Grove Village.

The seminar unofficially began with the Friday evening dinner and get together at Moretti's Restaurant and Pizzeria-Schaumburg. Guests coming from out of town met up with area club members and shared an evening of Spoonplugging conversation and good food.

The seminar opened with a welcome from our capable moderator Jim Duplex. A historic video clip of Buck Perry followed showing him discussing structural features on Muskegon Lake (filmed by Chase Klinesteker at an early Muskegon Outing). Mr. Perry's tremendous abilities as a teacher jump from the screen in this unique clip. He uses a lake map to teach boat control when trolling on deep features, and goes on to illustrate the connection between deep features on natural lakes and key structure on flatland reservoirs! (This was the video John Bales intended for the Jamboree presentation until technical issues got in the way).

Continuing on the video theme, John Bales acknowledged the recent emergence of Spoonplugger fishing videos filmed on the water and posted on the Internet. He underscored how important this is to spreading the word about Spoonplugging to the largest possible audience.

### **Presentations**

***Fishing Where the Fish Are Seasonally: Don't Fish Where They Ain't - John Bales*** John continues to expand the horizons of Spoonplugging with his excellent presentations. Here he has once again opened new doors in our fishing. John examined numerous lakes as an extension of the Fishing Natural Lakes video series (with Stephen Gillian) while focusing on bass movements and details of presentation. John is getting remarkable results on the water, under all conditions, and for all species. He has essentially taken casting to a whole new level and continues to open eyes of even the most experienced fishermen.

***Fishing the Flats - Jim Duplex:*** In this spirited presentation, Jim pointed out that there are very few true flats, and that fish always know where they are. Even if we, the fishermen, have no idea why the fish are there, the fish are never lost! Jim encourages Spoonpluggers to seek out new waters, and not be

limited by lake maps, water color, or what others say about a lake. He illustrated features he found, procedures followed, and catches made on these new lakes last season. Lesson: Lake maps are not accurate and you may be missing out on some great fishing.

On the same note, Jim shared this quote from John Bales: *“If it were within 100 miles of my house, I would have already fished it. Clear or not. I would have fished it because it was there.....period. It wouldn’t take long with a lake this size to know if it were worth going back. Many small lakes have some great populations of fish and you just don’t know until you check it out.”*

**A Day On The Water - Jerry Borst, CSI.** Jerry focused on techniques and approaches to interpreting and systematically fishing deeper in natural lakes. He described how he fished the shallow Spoonplugs for about 1 1/2 years before ever going deeper. That day came on Pewaukee Lake and the thrill of that experience made such an impression (four muskies caught) he never forgot and, as he said, “the rest is history.” Jerry’s excels everywhere he fishes because of his deep water interpretation, and being able to relate that the shallows. Another key is having total confidence in his ability to locate fish and make them “take” the lure once they are found.

**Fran Myers** gave an overview of the latest technology and terminology of SONAR units: differences between brands, what they will show, and what they won’t. Thanks, Fran, for lending your technical knowledge to a challenging subject as the options and opinions seem endless! In case you are wondering, Fran pointed out the trusty flasher IS still a valuable tool (aid) for the Spoonplugger.

NEW - An exciting new feature in ’12 brought several Illinois Club members to the podium to discuss **“Lessons Learned”** during the past year:

**Brett Christiansen** as a new Spoonplugger has seen his fishing really take off. Brett works hard, studies hard, and puts in the time on the water and it shows. He highlighted the importance of **“Having the Patience to Map.”** The key, he said, is “Knowing that everything that’s in the Green Book is 100% true.” Brett shared some of his early mapping efforts and more recent versions that have resulted in some rewarding catches of bass. The results speak for themselves!

**Rick Matus** discussed the value of **“Time on the Water/Sharing Experiences.”** Rick believes firmly in the importance of sharing knowledge, and follows Mr. Perry’s guidelines at all times. Last season, he expanded his fishing by checking out new unassuming areas of favorite lakes and was pleasantly surprised by what showed up while casting the features he found (big muskies!).

**Bob Roels** described an on-the-water experience shared among several Spoonpluggers where speeds varied radically throughout the day. By keeping an open mind, and by staying in touch with others on the lake, adjustments were made resulting in a good catch. Thanks, Bob!

Much work goes into the seminar and it couldn’t be done without the efforts of many: Wayne Dyló handled coffee and rolls; Scott Duff supplied snacks/drinks and information handouts; Rick Matus and Fran Myers, computer assistance; Craig Hubbard, lunch; Jenny Hubbard, video and delicious cookies; Jim Taylor and Jim Perillo, registration; Jim Taylor, display board and finances; Bob Roels, picture board; and Jim Duplex and Jerry Hein, moderators.

Door prizes were donated by Jeri Perry, John Bales, and Cabela's-Hoffman Estates. Thanks to all our guests who drove, flew, or otherwise found their way to Chicago for this year’s gathering! If you were

unable to attend, we hope to see you in 2013! Have a great season and keep in touch by attending the National Network Outings and visiting the Spoonplugger discussion board online.

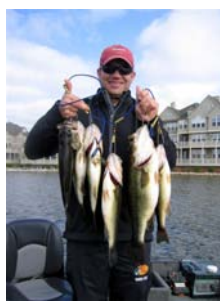
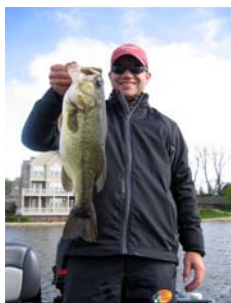
**THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED AND CONTRIBUTED TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR ONE OF THE BEST!**

Report by Scott Duff. Thanks to Jim Duplex, Jim Taylor, and Scott for the photos.



**Fishing Reports** - Actions was excellent during the record March warm spell. The largemouth bass moved up and reports from Brett Christiansen and Jim Duplex indicted fish were on the move in numbers around weeds on structure. Brett really made some nice catches during this time, doing the mapping first so he was ready when the moved. His efforts paid off big-time! Mike Lynch also got into some bass and catfish on Braidwood. The cold spell knock the fish down but Nick Tabor and Jim D. report decent walleye, stripers and even some muskies caught at Heidecke Lake. Keep sending in those reports!

At the next meeting, Bob Roels will be continuing his talk on the Madison Chain so we hope to see you there!



***2012 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)**

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