

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

June, 2013

This month's meeting the Illinois Spoonpluggers was held on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library with 6 members present.

At the June meeting, Phil Szafranski gave an excellent account of his trip to Pomme de Terre Lake in Missouri. His fishing partner for the trip was longtime friend Bill Roth. The lake had just risen 5 feet the day before they got there and continued to rise the next two days. Neither had fished this lake before, and yet over 90 LM were caught, along with a several walleyes and muskie! Phil is one who does it "by the book" so if you know of anyone needing evidence Spoonplugging works, this would be another good report to share. Water color was excellent and the fish were caught both casting and trolling on a variety of structure situations.

Brett Christianson reported on his post-spawn fishing experiences with John Bales. The discussion included detailed information about how John goes about fishing a lake for the first time. Thanks to Bob Roels and Jim Shell for their effort putting together scouting reports on lakes in Wisconsin and Central Illinois. They had some good walleyes, sauger, and pike to show. The walleye especially on Lake Wisconsin and Fox Lake (Dodge County) have been productive. Casey's recent report from Shelbyville indicates the muskies are also on the move. Spoonplugger.net viewers have been enjoying Jim Duplex's videos which certainly reinforce the importance of anchoring and casting to get into those schools of bass. Reports of good catches of walleyes on Green Bay were received from CSI Jerry Borst and Frank Yavaraski. With decent conditions and by seeking good water color the best catches were made in the shallows. It took some searching of depths to find the best area, but once found, 250's were all that was needed to catch walleye, drum, and catfish. Closer to home, Mike Lynch hit some walleyes at Heidecke Lake. Nick Tabor reports that the 3 ramps at Heidecke are *finally* ready. He was also rewarded with a catch of walleyes on a recent trip. Brett Christianson is enjoying his new Backtroll Boat and has been getting out as much as possible. While explored new areas of Lake Geneva he caught a mix including LM to 22", SM, pike, perch, and rock bass. Scott Duff has been out a couple times and found excellent water color on the North Fox Chain (walleyes and pike best), and a mix of LM and SM on Lake Geneva. Finally, Bob Roels has been frequenting Lake Wisconsin where he reports the walleye as good.

I received an email from Chase Klinesteker announcing the annual Muskegon Outing, July 10-14. This is always a fine outing with some top Spoonpluggers in attendance. All area species are available with many good lakes to choose from. Last year, the pike were strong and many king salmon were caught on the cast right in front of the Muskegon light. Camping is a good option.

Keep sending in those reports!

As We Head Into Summer...

The Spoonplugger's great opportunity and advantage is his ability to fish many different waters, whenever and wherever he decides to go fishing, and to do so successfully (catching fish, of course). Our interpretation begins in Deep Water; our fishing starts in the Shallows. Now that the change from post-spawn into summer fishing is almost complete it's important to remain neutral in our approach. The fish are moving out toward the structure situations they will use throughout the summer. As always, we are reminded to avoid favoring a certain depth, speed, or presentation that worked last time, or some presentation the fish are "supposed" to be responding to at this time of year. The Spoonplugger knows it might take a fast troll, a slow troll, a steady (fast/slow) retrieve, a slow jump bait, or something in between. And we know this all can change from day to day, even hour to hour. In order to adjust to what the fish are telling us on a given day, we need to be skilled at all of these speeds and be ready to USE THEM!

Spoonpluggers have more fishing guidelines than anyone and on the water every move has its purpose. But there is nothing wrong with taking a time-out to work on a particular presentation. How are you working with wire? Ever try trolling small lures on wire? Jigging a deep weedline? Working a drop-shot when they really want it slow? How effective is your boat control on the cast?

Presentation of lures is a mechanical process and so practice does have a role, whether or not catching fish is involved. For the Spoonplugger, this might be the best thing that can be done if you have a few hours or the conditions aren't too good. It beats having to experiment after you have traveled a distance and have the fish in position, only to find the depth/speed controls are just a little off. Same for lake types and water colors. Just as mapping a weedy structure (w/o a lure in the water) takes a few extra minutes, there is a learning curve to understanding new lake types. New situations need to first be experienced and given a good looking over before we can just walk up and go to work. This is how we expand our fishing. Sometimes it's a familiar lake type only much bigger, or we are working a new type of structure situation for the first time. By doing our homework we can approach all of the situations and controls with confidence and have an effective plan of attack. And just because the water is clear does not mean we neglect checking the shallows. It's best to not try to put words in a fish's mouth. We troll, we cast, we learn what's there and eliminate water to arrive at the fish. Again, it comes down to effective presentation of lures.

When Mr. Perry was asked what he would do differently on this new lake or that new lake, and what he would **change** in response to the conditions, his reply was, "Not a thing!" We gather our information before launching the boat, then follow the procedures, and soon we are doing what's needed in the right places. This approach allows us to refine our interpretation skills, learn to **recognize and adjust** to the situation on-the-water, and confidently present our lures. Then we're in business! The fish catching will take care of itself. ---Scott Duff

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 11, 2013 - Large meeting (seminar) room. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:15 PM.



Buck Sez...

Deep water work is important, but at the same time, we must not forget the shallows (0 to 8-10 feet). Fish are here part of the time, and they must be worked. Shallows are worked on every trip. They should be checked first, and throughout the fishing day -- tested and retested. This can be done with little loss of time by trolling the shallow-running lures while moving from one known structure to another.

At certain periods of the year, such as spring, many fish are in the shallows. In early fall, there are usually short periods when some of the fish are in the shallows a great deal of the time. **You can never be sure that some fish won't be in the shallows for short periods.**

Do not forget, many sections of a lake have shorelines with short bars or sloping bottoms with no long, well-defined migration routes. All of these should be checked for stragglers or shallow-working fish. Most shallows can be worked by casting and trolling. Trolling will expedite the process. If the extreme shallows cannot be worked by trolling, then it will be by casting. It won't be too long before you know what shallow sections will produce and those that will not.

It is just as sinful to fish **BELOW** the fish, as it is to fish **ABOVE** them.



Spoonplugger Web Sites:
Spoonpluggers of America: nsoa.info
Buck's Baits: buckperry.com
Discussion Board, links, and more: spoonplugger.net
Newsletter Editor: Scott Duff, Phone 847-322-2695

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar

Elk Grove Village, IL

March 16, 2013

Contact: Jim Taylor

815-477-1761

jt10823876@sbcglobal.net

Leoni Outing

Jackson, MI

June 20-24, 2013

Contact: John Zaborny

517-414-3596

jzaborny@sbcglobal.net

Muskegon Lake, MI

Fisherman's Landing

July 10-14, 2013

Lunker Hunters

Contact: Chase Klinesteker

616-949-8665

Ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Outing

Tippecanoe, Webster, Wawasee Lakes

Forest Ridge Campground

219-327-3551

August 14-17, 2013 (Note-starts Wednesday this year)

Contacts:

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johnspoon@embarqmail.com

Denny Coulardot: 260-691-3118

Buck Perry Memorial Outing

Taylorsville, NC

Sept. 14, 2013

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