

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

September, 2013

This month's Illinois Spoonpluggers meeting was held on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library with 9 members present.

BUSINESS: The 2014 Winter Seminar date will be Saturday, March 29. Mark your calendar! There is no further business to report at this time.

We were very saddened to learn of the passing of **Bob Roels Sr.**, one of the founding members of the Illinois Spoonpluggers Club. He was a fine and generous man with a wonderful sense of humor. It was Bob Sr. who offered his home for those early meetings, and who's shared passion for fishing with his son, Bob Jr., led to the forming of the club itself. Our condolences go out to the entire Roels family.

FISHING REPORTS: Its great to see so many in the club fishing new waters and the success they are having. Brett Christenson's catch of 50 LM bass in a day on Lake Beulah stands out. It is inspiring to see nearly all of these fish were caught on the cast, an example we all can follow. Congrats, Brett, on reaching this milestone. Bob Roels continues to demonstrate his fishing prowess on Lake Wisconsin, one of the really fine lakes in our area. Bob has made excellent catches of sauger and walleye, but his season will probably be best remembered for his 50 lb+ flathead catfish (aka THE BEAST)! Jim Shell and son Casey had a GREAT trip together up north fishing Vermillion Lake, Chequamegon Bay, Namekagon Lake, and Yellow Lake. Frank Yavarasky and son had the fish dialed in on Green Bay with walleyes 2.5 to 7 lbs., with added cats and sheepshead as a bonus. Rick Matus enjoyed success in southern Wisc. including Rock Lake with an assortment of LM bass, pike, and big panfish. A 20' saddle was most productive with the largest bass on the cast.

The meeting focused on fishing reports and a discussion of the fall season. **Lake Geneva** has received a lot of attention as members have experienced increasing success on this large, clear body of water. Refinements in presentations to check the depths resulted in some nice catches, and have primed expectations for the coming fall peak. Gino Testone and Jim Duplex reported consistent action from SM, LM, pike, walleyes and even a muskie down to 30'-40'. Brett Christenson points out the advantage of fishing Lake Geneva in the fall is that it remains ice-free and offers excellent opportunities even into early winter. This is much longer than the other inland lakes in our area. Brett also talked about his visits to LaSalle, LaBelle, Bohners and Beulah and the mental aspects involved. Jerry Hein reflected on the many advantages of attending the **National Outings** and all the learning that takes place. Both Northern Indiana and Leoni had large turnouts and record attendance! The openness of attendees to share information is a great way to advance your fishing. Jerry reported on the Muskegon and Leoni outings, and Scott Duff

and Jerry shared experiences from N. Indiana. Jim Taylor (who teamed up with Scott at the Indiana outing) returned home and taught his grandson a lesson on rigging drop shots (pic below). There is always room for another Spoonplugger around the campfire.

Summer weather has made a temporary comeback so enjoy it while it lasts. Fall turnover will soon be upon us and, when things stabilize, late season fishing will get into high gear. Be ready as the fall can provide some of the best fishing of the season.

This month's "Buck Sez" excerpt offers some thoughts on fishing with jigs. For the fisherman, the mechanics of fishing jig-type jump lures require an added level of awareness and very quick reflexes. While "basic", what we do when we contact the fish on jump lures can mean the difference between catching one or two fish, and a possibly making our best catch of the season.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 10, 2013 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:15 PM.

Spoonplugger Websites:

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



Buck Sez...

One of the great faults of the average worm fisherman is that he does not strike the fish soon enough. It would be great if we could become aware of the exact moment a fish takes the lure, but with the slack line and the amount of line in the water, it is rather difficult. But, if the fisherman keeps slack to a minimum, and watches the line for any unusual movement, he can strike the fish before the lure is spit out.

Some have the idea they must let fish run with the lure before striking. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Fish “inhale” a lure so fast the movement can hardly be followed with the eye. He can exhale just as fast. If a fish moves off with a lure, then in some way he is unable to get rid of it, and unless he is solidly hooked, the fisherman is taking a chance of losing the fish. In other words, the strike [hook set] is made the instant there is an indication a fish has taken it. By waiting, the odds of getting him on the stringer are slim.

Fish can be spooked:

- * If a fish is played too slow or too long, the other fish in the school will follow and become aware of the boat and fisherman.
- * If too many hooked fish are lost.
- * If one of the largest or lunker fish in the school is lost.
- * By anchoring the boat too close to the school.
- * Too many passes of the boat, if trolling.
- * School found too shallow.

TROLLING TIPS

The meeting discussion included some helpful suggestions on how to make deeper trolling passes with greater precision.

Remember that a Spoonplug bumping a clean bottom on the troll will tend to stay on the bottom. A smaller lure on wire that is allowed to sink all the way, such as a 100 series, can maintain great depths on the walk without being pulled up off the bottom. This offers a way to check lure size (aid) while maintaining contact with the bottom.

But keep the depth focused on the breaklines; do not get locked in on a predetermined line length (i.e. line counter) on the first pass. Whether you count layers of the levelwind, or use a line counter, the lure will tell you when it is in position. Then check your line length to know how much to let out next time. You should also plan to reel in just a little line once you reach the correct depth to eliminate the bow. This allows you to extend your trolling passes to confidently test the water off the structure or breakline while still controlling your depth.

With experience, you can quickly get to the line lengths for the various depths (lures/rigs/terminal tackle) and speed up the process.

As Mr. Perry always declared, “Trolling is our teacher!”

