



Northern Illinois Spoonpluggers



The first meeting of 2013 will be held on April 3rd!

Meetings will be held at the VFW in McHenry (3002 w IL Rt 120) the 1st Wednesday of every month
7:30pm - 9:00pm.
April - November.

Please send fish pictures and stories to
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Spoonplugging 2013

Another great year of Spoonplugging is here. It's spring again and good walleye fishing can be had on nearby rivers like the Wisconsin river and the Wolf river. Right after ice-out on the Fox chain-o-lakes there can be some decent muskie fishing for those who are willing to put forth the time and effort trolling the breaklines and casting the shallows adjacent to productive structures. My best days on the Chain in the early season were those windy, cool, dark cloudy days. That's when the muskies seem to move better. Early season muskies are caught by casters every year on Channel lake, lake Catherine and lake Marie in shallow water 6' or less. We often hear about the caster that caught his big muskie in shallow water in the fall and in the spring. That's because he's working the shallows all day. Spots that many Spoonpluggers would just troll right by. So if you aren't catching fish trolling the breaklines start casting those shallow running muskie lures in your tackle box that you rarely use anymore. Cast those shallow areas near the spots where you've caught fish in the past. Ten good casts with a large spinnerbait from two or three different anchor positions should check most spots for muskie pretty good and even if you don't catch a fish you will be sharpening your casting skills. Casting is a big part of spoonplugging and needs to be exercised if you ever expect to make any great catches on the cast in the future.

Good Fishing Bill Lorch



Birth of the Spoonplug

In 1946, like a bolt from the blue, the Spoonplug hit the angling field of the South, but the lure was spawned long before.

"You should have been here yesterday!" "Next week the bass will be eatin' it up!"

But Elwood "Buck" Perry, of Hickory, North Carolina, wasn't there "yesterday" and couldn't be there "next week". In those days a full schedule—a football "most valuable player" award in college, Engineering instructor at North Carolina State, war and the transportation Corps.—permitted little enough time for Buck's favorite sport—fishing. So he went in quest of a lure that would enable him to catch fish: **WHENEVER HE WENT FISHING**, no matter whether the water hot or cold, whether the barometer was falling, rising, or standing still, whether the wind was from the East, West, North or South.

He attacked the problem with all the keen resources his analytical mind could bring to bear. He read all available information on fish and their habits. He spent hour after hour at the drawing board, and his room filled with designs, models, field notes, and stack of drawings.

Basing his field research primarily on the bass, the nation's favorite and most widespread game fish, Buck always arrived at the same conclusion: game fish can be made to **STRIKE** whether they are feeding or not; and, there are only five factors which influence them to strike—size, color, action, depth, and speed. He reasoned that a lure which allowed control of these factors would **ALWAYS** catch fish. Such a lure was not available, so he set about devising one.

The birth of the Spoonplug—the lure that evolved in the endless months to follow—wasn't easy. It taxed all of the engineering skill which Perry had, and he often thought that perhaps he was expecting too much of one lure. He wanted depth control, tantalizing action, speed factors, and size all rolled into one. There had to be allowance for water pressure, stabilizers that wouldn't fail, proper weight and a thousand other considerations. With tin snips and metal he spent hours at the lakes testing, but the pieces of the puzzle finally fell into place.

The Spoonplug was ready. By applying these lures with the fish knowledge he'd gained in the research, Buck caught fish **WHENEVER** he went fishing. He was confident that he had a sensational lure, so his job at North Carolina State was left behind. In a small garage behind his home in Hickory, N. C. Buck went into production, offering his findings to the fishing world.

THE JOBBERS REFUSED THE LURE!

RETAIL STORES SAID, "TOO UGLY . . . WON'T SELL . . . NO EYE APPEAL!"

FISHERMEN LAUGHED AND DESCRIBED IT AS A "SHOEHORN STEPPED ON BY A HORSE".

How could he get fishermen to use the Spoonplug? There was one sure, although slow, way. Show them it would catch fish. And that Buck did. He met fishermen on their home waters—strange waters to him—and outfished them forty ways from Sunday. He caught limits when nobody else could catch a single fish! He took hundreds of anglers with him and let them prove to themselves what **SPOONPLUGGING** would do. These hundreds spread the word, and thousands followed. The rest is history.

Today, the little garage has been replaced with a modern stream-lined factory. From every state fishermen are singing the praises of the spoonplug. In Chicago in the summer of 1967, one store sold 75,000 spoonplugs. Despite the tremendously increased production, each Spoonplug must still be **PERFECT**. Buck constantly inspects the lures, and discards any with the slightest defect.

This, in brief, is the Spoonplug story. It has opened a new era in fishing, making obsolete most of the fishing concepts we've lived with for years. In this booklet we've tried to show you what spoonplugging has done throughout the country on many fish species. Read what fishermen say. See what magazines and newspapers think.

Then, get a set of Spoonplugs, and treat yourself to the biggest fishing thrill of your lifetime.

