
Illinois Spoonpluggers

July 14, 2005

Richport YMCA, 7:30PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Richport YMCA on Thursday, July 14, 2005 and we will begin at 7:30PM.

The June meeting was attended by 10 members and some familiar faces who had been absent were present once again. *Gino Testone*, aided by his wife, Joan, rolled in to show off his new cast and it was good to welcome back *George Schauner* who has been spending the last 6 months enjoying the weather in Florida. *Jim Shell* brought along his new son, Casey and daughter Emily, both future Spoonpluggers.

BUSINESS

1. *Jim Shell* has transferred some club videos to DVD and they are now available in the library. He has volunteered to transfer any of our VHS tapes we'd like copied. He demonstrated a spring loaded line that can be mounted in the boat, attached to a lure retriever, and be rewound with a quick pull on the line. The device was purchased from BASS PRO and can also be found at www.luresaver.com. Thanks, Jim.

2. *Jim Perillo* has received our lure order from Buck's Baits and they can be picked up at the meeting. If you will not be present, please contact him at 630-628-1211 to make other arrangements. Thanks, Jim.

3. *Joe Zaremba* has secured meeting dates through next summer at the Elk Grove Library. Our request for the March 11, 2005 date for the Winter Seminar has not yet been confirmed. Possible alternative dates are February 18th or 25th. We'll keep you updated. Thanks, Joe.

4. A club outing to the Madison Chain has been scheduled for August 5-7 2005. Details will follow in next month's newsletter.

5. *Craig Hubbard*, *Jim Perillo*, and *Joe Zaremba* gave us an update of the tollway situation. A lengthy discussion concerning the new tolls followed and the consensus was that we all need to write to the governor and express our objections.

6. *Rick Matus* paid a visit to Buck's Baits in Hickory, North Carolina and heard a number of positive comments about *Jim Shell's* new website which can be found at www.spoonplugger.net.

FISHING REPORTS –*Phil Szafranski* drew out the structure situation that he and *Larry "the legend" Petri* encountered on Braidwood Lake where they took numerous catfish at speeds of up to 10 mph! His report made note of checking these fast

speeds, especially with the advent of this year's hot weather. Joe Zaremba has been catching some nice fish from his favorite lakes in southern Wisconsin but bemoaned the change in water color observed lately. He believes it may be due to some recent spraying for weeds. *Scott Duff* was a little late for the meeting but he was able to give an up to the minute fishing report since he had come directly from the lake! He'd spent the afternoon on the Fox Chain and reported no contact before being chased off the water by an afternoon thunderstorm. Summer is here!

We continue to receive fishing reports via email from members probing the waters of our Midwest lakes.

Here's what's happening out on the water.

This summer's weather pattern of heat and stability has really turned on the fish. The quantity and quality being taken is excellent. Wayne, Scott, Phil, Harry, and Jim continue to make contact with walleye from their favorite cooling lake. Limit catches have not been uncommon and big fish are on the move as evidenced by Harry and Jim connecting with 28" and 27 1/2" walleye respectively. This kind of walleye activity has not been seen in a number of years. Scott had an excellent trip down to southern Illinois for the Land of Lincoln outing. Though participants were scarce the fish were plentiful. He took a number of muskie up to 48"! Rick Matus has been prowling the waters of southern Wisconsin in his new boat and his catches have been outstanding while Walt Kulikowski has been enjoying the fishing for big pike in Indiana. Nick Tabor and his son were up to the Madison Chain and report a productive outing was had by all. Jim Shell hit a double on largemouth bass on the same lure while fishing in central Illinois. He also took his biggest pike this season that came in at 41 1/2". We are getting reports from other clubs and it should be noted that the Detroit River is producing some big muskies. Chase was out with Brent Robbins and they took numerous fish up to 50" with other Spoonpluggers taking fish to 55". Incredible!

Topic of discussion: Fishing reports and the August outing to Wisconsin.

Dates for 2005 National Outings

Lunker Hunters, Muskegon Lake, MI, July 21-24; Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers, August 11-14; and North Carolina Outing, September 11-18.

MUSKEGON SPOONPLUGGERS OUTING JULY 21-24, 2005

FISHERMANS' LANDING CAMPGROUND ON MUSKEGON LAKE

OUTING ACTIVITIES

----The Hospitality Tent will be the center for evening chalkboard structure sessions, fishing reports, video viewing, lake maps, and "fishing talk" in general. Terry Veltings' "Rolling Tackle Shop" will be available to sell Spoonplugging equipment. Al and Bobs Sports also sells Spoonplugs.

----The Saturday night meal will be held at 6:00PM at the Pavilion July 23. This is the big social event. All are encouraged to attend. Mike and Nyann Dordan will again plan and coordinate this popular and delicious event.

----Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings we will conduct fishing reports and chalkboard sessions at the Hospitality Tent at 8:00PM. Thursday evening is the official Spoonplugging Study Group meeting where a subject discussion or talk will be included. Spoonplugging Instructors will be present at these sessions to answer questions, participate in discussions, or give short talks. Don't miss these sessions—this is where much of the learning occurs at this outing!

Call 231-726-6100 for campground reservations. New, modern bathrooms have replaced the older facilities. Attend all days, or just stop by to meet and learn from top Spoonpluggers around the Midwest. If you have questions or need more information, call Chase Klinesteker at 616-949-8665 or E-Mail ckspoonpl1@aol.com.

Meeting Jimmy Steele

By Walter Kulikowski

Like countless past mid-summer mornings, I was preparing my boat for the day's fishing. Only on this particular occasion, I was approached by an individual toting a 5-gallon plastic bucket and fishing pole; essential equipment for the shore fisherman who desired to take some panfish home for a tasty supper. Even before reaching boat-side, the young man I would come to know as Jimmy Steele, would ask, "what are you fishing for?" "Northern pike," I replied. A look of excitement ran across his face as he took a quick inventory of all my fishing gear. It was as though he was imagining putting that equipment to good use with me out on the open waters. As we continued talking it became apparent that though Jimmy possessed all the physical attributes of a mature young adult - late teens/ early twenties, already shaving, and standing roughly at 5' 10", he exhibited personality traits more characteristic of a younger child - demonstrably exuberant and unabashed in his inquisitive nature.

Just then, my fishing partner appeared and I promptly introduced him to Jimmy Steele. And though the thrust of our conversation was centered mainly on the topic of fishing, we would also learn that Jimmy's apparent mental handicap was the result of a serious auto accident. This tragic incident left its cruel mark on Jimmy in the form of permanent cerebral damage. Fortunately, he was able to reside with his older sister, who served as Jimmy's guardian and also owned a home in the nearby vicinity.

With boat prep completed, we would draw our conversation with Jimmy Steele to a close. Wishing him success with his pier fishing, we proceeded to launch the boat and commence with the day's fishing.

Noontime had past by a couple of hours and my partner and I decided to quash that gnawing hunger in the pit of our stomachs. Having lunch at a conveniently located offshore eatery sounded like a good idea, and besides, this brief intermission would also provide the opportunity to place a couple of respectable fish on ice.

Like most red-blooded Spoonpluggers, we became anxious to get back on the water

even before the last tasty morsel of lunch had been consumed. And as we headed towards the dock, we would once again cross paths with our old friend Jimmy Steele. "How's fishing been," I asked? Jimmy, lacking the enthusiasm that accompanied him earlier on replied, "I didn't have much luck at all." His subdued response was likely an outward expression of his disappointing fishing results. However, his demeanor did perk up a bit as he went on to tell us he had plans to meet a special friend and needed to get home to put on a change of cloths. On that note we bid Jimmy farewell and went straightway to the dock. But as the bow headed toward the open waters I regretted my haste, for it had caused me to abandon an inclination to offer Jimmy one of our fish to take home. I conveyed this sentiment to my partner and he revealed entertaining the exact same notion. Admittedly, like Jimmy, it was now I who was disappointed, only in myself, for not acting on a good intention.

We finished the day making a decent catch and promptly secured the boat & trailer for the road. But before setting out, I told my partner I wanted to take a quick ride around the area and see if I could find Jimmy Steele. His nod of approval was escorted by a smile. I believe it was just after we turned the first corner that fate smiled upon us, for we could see Jimmy walking along and coming in our direction. True to his word, he was dressed up in a clean pair of shorts, white socks, and a fresh button down shirt. I couldn't help but to think how he reminded me of an overgrown schoolboy on his way home. As I stopped the van and called Jimmy over, he appeared puzzled at first. But upon recognizing us, he began to talk and tell us that he couldn't find his friend. This presented me with the opportunity to offer him one of our fish to take home for his family, and to which he emphatically replied, "yes"! Knowing that he lived somewhere in the nearby neighborhood, we told him to hop in the van to give him a lift home. This way he wouldn't have to walk down the street carrying a slimy fish and soiling his clean clothes in the process.

As he pointed to his house, we stopped, gathered one large plastic bag and inserted a 36"northern pike into it. It was at that point that Jimmy's face lit up like a Christmas tree. "That's a nice one", he said in a grateful tone. When I asked him about cleaning fish, he said his brother-in-law knew how to bake northern pike so all the bones would easily come out. With that, we simply waved goodbye and watched Jimmy proudly walk up the pathway and into his house.

Fond is my memory of that fishing day. But quite honestly, I haven't the vaguest idea of who caught what fish, or how many. No, the image that's etched in my mind is of my friend Jimmy Steele, bringing home probably the biggest fish caught that day.

Hot stable weather has the fish turned on!



Nothing can keep Gino from attending the June meeting.





A couple of the big walleye that were taken.





More quality walleye caught by Phil and Jim.







Rick enjoys the catches made with his new boat.





Nick's son shows off some nice bass.



Jim Shell doubles his pleasure with bass and pike.



Brent Robbins with a 50" Detroit River muskie.



Jim Brown enjoys some muskie action.
