
Illinois Spoonpluggers

January 13, 2005

Richport YMCA: 7:30 PM

Greetings for the New Year! Our next meeting will be held at the Richport YMCA on Thursday, January 13, 2005 and we will begin at 7:30PM.

There was a very good turnout for our Christmas party that was attended by 20 members and their spouses. It was nice to see Craig and Jenny Hubbard, Jim and Janice Duplex, Gino and Joan Testone, Frank and Val Cipria, Joe and Gloria Renholds, Jerry and Mary Hein, and Jim and Delores Perillo. Walt Kulikowski, Phil Szafranski, Harry Caliban, Scott Duff, Larry Petri, and Harvey Smith rounded out the gathering held at Giordano's in Westchester.

Special thanks to Jim for taking pictures and Craig Hubbard for putting the party together. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, well done!

The topic of discussion for January's meeting will be the year in review with Walt Kulikowski and Jim Duplex giving their perspective on the 2004 season. Gino Testone ended the year with a bang and we're looking forward to hearing his comments and viewing his maps. Check out his pictures below as well as those contributed by Frank and Scott. We will also continue with preparations for the March seminar.

John Bales from the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers has a 30 HP Honda 4-stroke for sale. The asking price is around \$2000 for this well maintained engine. If you're interested, you can contact him at: johnb@kuntrynet.com.

These things and more will be discussed when we gather for the first time in 2005. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

F.Y.I. Now is the time to take a look at your tackle and make any repairs that may be necessary. Coren's Rod and Reel Services carries parts for the Penn reels and offers repairs and cleaning of all types of reels at a reasonable price. Their address is: 6001 N. Nina Ave., Chicago, IL, 60631-2411, 773-631-5202

Dates for upcoming National Outings: Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, Elk Grove, IL, March 12, 2005; Lunker Hunters Muskegon Outing July 17-23, 2005; Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers August 11-14, 2005; We will pass other dates along as they become

available.

If you haven't already sent in your dues for 2005, they are \$20 and should be mailed to Jim Duplex, 1212 Heatherton Drive, Naperville, IL 60563 or George Schauner, 12540 Kelly Greens Blvd. #323 Ft. Meyers, FL. 33908 . Please make checks payable to *Illinois Spoonpluggers*. They are due by January 31st. This will be your last reminder!

Approaching the 2004 Fishing Season

(Monomania)

By Walter Kulikowski

A demanding work schedule would limit my on-the-water opportunities in 2004. Therefore, a narrowed focus on closer-to-home lakes was adopted, as my fishing would be restricted to single-day sessions.

Monomania could adequately describe the mindset in my approach to fishing both Lake Maxinkuckee and Lake Wawasee in 2004. I knew appreciable measures of time would have to be invested in both bodies of water for two reasons: 1) Structural composition - a mélange of features, jaggedly configured, sharply breaking, and surrounded by an abundance of deep, clear water. 2.) Seasonal elements – spring's natural association with shifting frontal boundaries, coupled with clearer and cooler waters. Respectively, the pseudo summer of 2004 would also qualify.

A strategy for working out Lake Maxi and Wawasee had been devised long before launching the boat commenced: dry-run contouring each prospective feature, coupled with tossing marker(s) where significant changes in configuration occurred. At these "marked" points, one follow-up pass (straight-line) would be invested to establish the degree of their deep-water relationship. Once this gathering process was completed, it would provide data critical for formulating an educated interpretation. This same intelligence would then be projected through a more tangible outlet- lure presentation, but only in the following manner: confined, exclusively to areas where potential breaks were noted, in both the shallows and deep. And repeated offerings of spoonplugs, live bait/tipped jigs, and blade baits would be the instruments. Inevitably, this process would certify two important bits of information essential to fishing success - the location of productive contact points, and

identifying feature(s) that could be classified as "primary." On both Maxi & Wawasee, this objective was accomplished to a satisfactory degree, and in a time-efficient manner.

During the 2004 season, approximately 10 days were devoted to Lake Maxinkuckee, and an equal or slightly greater number to Wawasee. A far greater percentage of these days, and I would highlight summer here, reflected some of the toughest weather conditions in recent memory. Had I not been accompanied by a persevering attitude, fishing results may have suffered considerably.

Buck Perry once stated, "it's foolish to find a good looking piece of structure and not give it a thorough going over." I contend that this wisdom has application when fishing entire lakes as well.

In summary, I can only opine that nothing is more gratifying to me than discovering workable solutions for converting an empty stringer into a freezer full of fillets. And the 2004 season was a gratifying one for me.

Keep em Coming

ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS WINTER SEMINAR

March 12, 2005: Elk Grove, IL

The Illinois Spoonpluggers will host the 3rd Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at the Elk Grove Public Library in Elk Grove, Illinois. The seminar will run from 9:00 AM-4:45 PM.

The cost will be \$15 per person, and will include coffee, rolls, lunch, and handout materials.

SEMINAR - Building on the success of this event over the past two years, the upcoming seminar will include a variety of topics and presentations designed to share Spoonplugging knowledge and increase your success on the water. Our primary goal here is to address specific issues that may be of concern to you, so the following requests have been submitted to achieve this end...

#1 - TOPICS / QUESTIONS: All Spoonpluggers who plan to attend are asked to submit **TWO QUESTIONS** they would like addressed by the attendees. The following topics will be considered for March Seminar 2005:

Mapping - Constructing an "On the Water Map"

Weather and Water - Including seasonal considerations

Anchoring Positions - How, When, and Where

A Specific Species and the Spoonplugging Application - Muskie?

Organizing One's Time on the Water

#2 - BEST PRACTICE IDEAS: Secondly, members have the opportunity to share a personal fishing success or offer a tip that relates to equipment/best practice. It would be most informative to have a variety of contributions in this area. Presentations can be very brief or more involved. Those providing tips are encouraged to bring handout material to share with other members.

#3 - REGISTRATION & FEE: Submit your questions, along with an enclosed check for \$15 PAYABLE TO "ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS." Mail to Phil Szafranski, 1028 Glenlake, Park Ridge, IL 60068, phone 847-384-6819, or contact him by e-mail at Phil.Szafranski@handleman.com. A deadline for receipt of these items is set for February 8, 2005.

If you would like to make a presentation relating to best practice/equipment/sharing a personal fishing success please let Phil know. That way we'll be better able to schedule the presentations throughout the day.

You may also direct inquiries regarding the seminar to the following Illinois Spoonpluggers: Walt Kulikowski, wmkulik@prodigy.net and Jim Duplex, jjd82@juno.com

Hope to see you at the seminar,

Scott Duff

E-mail: swdclar@aol.com

Phone: 847-690-1079

Registration Form

Winter Spoonplugging Seminar

March 12, 2005

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

And Good Cheer Was Had By All!















A GREAT END TO ANOTHER YEAR!





















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