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## Illinois Spoonpluggers

November 10, 2005

*Richport YMCA: 7:30 PM*

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Our next meeting will be held at the Richport YMCA on *Thursday*, November 10, 2005 and we will begin at 7:30 PM.

The October meeting was attended by 10 Spoonpluggers that included 1 guest, *Jim Taylor* from Crystal Lake. Jim is a past member of the club and has decided to rejoin our ranks. He passed his Spoonplugging Test with flying colors and is eager to put more time-on-the-water now that he's retired. Welcome back, Jim! Congratulations go out to *Jim Perillo* on his recent retirement. He's planning on getting out more now and, last we heard, he was headed down to Florida to check out the bass population.

### BUSINESS

1. *Scott Duff* gave an update on the memorial to Buck Perry. The club has decided to explore the idea of a bust or a statue. *Joe Renholds* found the name of a sculptor who did a bust for his local library. He did some calling around and got the name of the artist and has since passed it on to Scott. *Gino Testone* is up in Hayward this week with plans of talking to the folks at the Fishing Hall of Fame for their input.
2. Our annual Christmas party has been scheduled for December 8, 2005 and will again be held at Giordano's in Westchester. More information will be forthcoming in the December newsletter. Thanks to Joe Renholds for making the arrangements.
3. Plans for the Winter Seminar on March 11, 2006 were briefly discussed and Scott has again agreed to coordinate the event. He will be in charge of putting the program together and making sure that the day runs smoothly. He can't do this alone and he'll be asking for contributions and help. Members are asked to come with their ideas and join in the planning at the November meeting. We're looking forward to your support. The seminar will once more be held at the Elk Grove Library and special thanks go out to *Joe Zarembo* for securing the facility for us. Joe, your efforts are appreciated.
4. *Jim Duplex* gave a report regarding the on-line chat room that has been established at spoonpluggers.net. He noted that the October meeting was limited in scope due to a number of factors: number one being the difficulty some Spoonpluggers were having registering at the site. Jim Taylor related his inability to log on was due to the fact his computer was set to reject "cookies" from the website. Once he enabled his machine to accept the "cookies", his problem was solved. Jim Duplex plans on moderating the room until February when it's purpose and value will be reevaluated.

5. *Phil Szafranski* gave a detailed account of his recent visit to Newton Lake in southern Illinois. His report contained a structure map of the fishing situation and he filled us in on the conditions he and *Larry "the legend" Petri* encountered while downstate. Jim Duplex discussed the maps of Shabbona that were included in the October newsletter. He drew out the fishing situation and reported on how the fish were using the structure: a drainage ditch that ran from the shore and connected with the main channel. Both of these reports highlight what makes our meetings so valuable and informative: actual structure maps detailing actual fishing situations. Great job guys, Buck would be proud!

6. November is our traditional business meeting where we discuss job responsibilities and plans for the upcoming year. Our club is successful due to the effort of members who actively participate in performing the tasks necessary to keep things running smoothly. We thank all those involved and hope you will join their ranks.

### Here's what's been happening out on the water :

*Nick Tabor* was up to Redwing, Minnesota and reports the walleye fishing was great. He anchored on a spot and waited for the fish to move. His patience paid off with a double limit of keepers. Phil was down to Newton again and reports taking fewer bass as activity has slowed. He recovered nicely with a trip to Lake Tichigan in Wisconsin where he connected with bass, drum, northern pike, and a 24" walleye while casting known and productive structures. Jim D. has been out with Gino on Shabbona where the fishing has been tough, too say the least. They've managed just a few small bass but Jim has connected with some anchors and a nice rod & reel combo. Check out our interview and find out how he does it!

### To the rescue!

Gino and Jim came to the rescue of a Canadian goose on a recent visit to Shabbona. Both of the goose's web feet were caught in the hooks of a 9" muskie lure. After recognizing the problem and a brief chase, the bird was scooped into the net and deposited on the floor of the boat. His head was covered to calm him down and Gino proceeded to snip the barbs off the hooks impaled in the bird's feet. The whole process took about 5 minutes and the fouled fowled was freed and immediately headed for shore where it tottered for a moment and then settled down to rest. Nice story gentlemen and a job well done.

Reports continue to come in via email and special thanks go out to those members who take the time and effort to keep us abreast of their fishing activities. All reports are welcome, even those that indicate a lack of success. Knowledge can be obtained through the simple act of writing about your experience. Sharing it with others in the club can be inspiring and/or reassuring. Take the time to send in a report, it is appreciated.

*Topic of discussion:* Club jobs and responsibilities; planning for the Winter Seminar; and fishing reports.

### Dates for 2006 National Outings

*Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, March 11, 2006; Northern Indiana "Buck Sez" outing August 10-12, 2006.*

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### TRASH TALKIN'

***If you want to catch more than fish, listen up!***

**An Interview With Jim Duplex**

**INTERVIEWER:**

Jim, it seems every year you come off the lake with an incredible array of detritus: rods, reels, anchors, and lures; to name a few. What's your secret?

**JIM DUPLEX:**

Well, it's really about being at the right place, at the right time, fishing in the right manner; but it's also about feel. I've seen some guys out there who every time they feel the slightest bit of debris on the lure, jerk it wildly and frequently to clear it and get it back on the bottom. Walt Kulikowski comes to mind.

**INTERVIEWER:**

But isn't that what you're supposed to do?

**JIM:**

Not if you want to bring in a nice rod & reel combo you don't!

**INTERVIEWER:**

Well how do you know if you have a "keeper" or just some weeds at the end of your line?

**JIM:**

Like I said, it's all about feel. I'll give you an example. Whenever I hit an anchor, it's always the same; there's tension in the line that I've got something on and then all of a sudden, there's no give and you're snagged. When I feel that tension, I KNOW I've hooked an anchor; usually by the rope; I just back up, in a straight line like Buck says, and drop the lure retriever.

**INTERVIEWER:**

What's your biggest, anchor that is?

**JIM:**

A 35 pound pig that I almost couldn't get up.

**INTERVIEWER:**

How many anchors have you "caught" to date?

**JIM:**

I'd estimate that it's over 25 but I've really lost track of how many over the years. And I don't count those homemade jobs. You know, the little plastic tubs filled with cement and attached to a rope. People who use those things just clutter up the bottom! Geez, get a real one why don't you!

**INTERVIEWER:**

Why do you think there are so many anchors on the bottom?

**JIM:**

I don't think most fishermen understand the concept that you have to tie the rope to the boat before you drop it in the water! Yes, that'd be my guess.

**INTERVIEWER:**

You've also acquired quite a collection of rods & reels. What's your secret there?

**JIM:**

Well, without getting into too many specifics, it's still about feel. I don't know if I can really explain it, but a rod & reel combo has a bounce and drag to it. Kind of like bringing in a walleye in summer: there's the initial hit and then it just comes in like a big wet rag; except there's no head shake with the rod & reel. Sometimes though, it is a big wet rag so you don't want to get too excited before you actually get it to the boat.

**INTERVIEWER:**

What's your best, rod & reel that is?

**JIM:**

I got a nice muskie outfit once: Ambassador 6500 with a heavy duty rod and a nice bucktail at the end of the line. This year I picked up a nice ultra light outfit that looked like it was brand new. I hate to talk about my best though, because you never know what you'll pull up tomorrow!

**INTERVIEWER:**

Jim, what about lakes, do you have a favorite?

**JIM:**

I don't really want to mention any names. There are some guys out there who'll be all over it and these lakes have a finite amount of stuff on the bottom. It wouldn't take much for a bunch of Spoonpluggers to "clean" these lakes out, if you know what I mean. I've spent a lot of time and money snagging this stuff; let 'em figure it out for themselves that's what I like to say.

**INTERVIEWER:**



**Do you practice "catch and release"?**

**JIM:**

**What, are you stupid?**

**INTERVIEWER:**

**No, I mean do you ever throw stuff back that not suitable for keeping?**

**JIM:**

**Oh, sorry. No if I can't use it I dispose of it properly. All except for the anchors of cement; there I cut the rope and drop it back in. Geez, get a real one why don't you!**

**INTERVIEWER:**

**If you won't tell us specific lakes, can you give us an idea of the best structures situations to look for?**

**JIM:**

**Well, again I don't want to say too much but look at where most guys are fishing and that pretty much tells you where to concentrate your efforts. You can't catch 'em where they don't lose 'em: that's my motto!**

**INTERVIEWER:**

**I noticed that besides the considerable number of Spoonplugs in your tackle box you have quite an assortment of crankbaits, namely Depth Raiders. Are these part of the bottom's booty you've acquired over the years?**

**JIM:**

**Absolutely! I don't get as much satisfaction snagging and retrieving lures but they still present a challenge and every once in awhile I find a golden nugget: a Spoonplug.**

**INTERVIEWER:**

**Can the methods you use be taught or do you believe it something you either have or don't have?**

**JIM:**

**I certainly believe it can be taught but some guys cling to the old ways. They think they can bring up this stuff from the bottom just like their dad or granddad did; drag the bottom with a grappling hook! No, I believe the best scavengers will come from young people who are willing to learn and put in the time and effort needed to develop the feel to really make a great catch. Some of the older guys are starting to catch on, though. George Schauer made a great catch earlier this year with three Depth Raiders from one snag. That's quite an accomplishment.**

**INTERVIEWER:**

I understand he lost his Spoonplug, with which he originally became snagged.

**JIM:**

Yeah, but you have to understand; that's George!

**INTERVIEWER:**

Jim thanks for what little information you've been willing to share. Do you have any last thoughts?

**JIM:**

Yeah, If you want to catch more than just fish, quit jerking off the stuff at the end of your line. Walt Kulikowski comes to mind!









**Quit jerking off the stuff at the end of your line and you could end up with catches like this!**

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**Nick Tabor enjoyed catching these Minnesota walleyes.**



**Phil's 1/2s had a great year as evidenced by this 24" walleye.**







**It's Gino and Jim to the rescue!**



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