
Illinois Spoonpluggers

September 8, 2005

Richport YMCA: 7:30 PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Richport YMCA on *Thursday*, September 8, 2005 and we will begin at 7:30 PM.

The August meeting was attended by 6 Spoonpluggers and included our newest member, *Bob Roels Jr.* Bob was one of the original members of the Illinois Spoonpluggers and it was through his efforts that the club prospered and grew in the early years. Welcome back, Bob! We'd also like to welcome *Fran Myers* from Minnesota. Fran is new to Spoonplugging and came to the 2005 Winter Seminar where he got the opportunity to meet Spoonpluggers from around the Midwest. Considering the fishing reports that he's been posting on the Spoonplugger.net bulletin board, the knowledge gleaned has been put to good use! Fran has jumped right into the club by reconfiguring our *Membership Form* and *Spoonplugger Test* to make them more computer friendly. His efforts are greatly appreciated, welcome aboard!

A few of our members, who were not at the meeting, attended the Indiana outing where the death of our teacher, *Elwood "Buck" Perry*, on August 12, 2005 was announced. Jeri Perry's recent letter detailing Buck's failing health had prepared us for the news but it still came as a shock. The gathering of Spoonpluggers seemed the appropriate venue to hear of his passing and those in attendance shared stories and recounted memories of a man who will not soon be forgotten. It was obvious that he touched the lives of many people in more ways than just through his fishing. He was a friend and mentor to scores of people. We have included his obituary in this newsletter for those who may have missed it. A card of condolence has been sent to the Perry family and \$100 has been donated to the Alzheimer's Association in Hickory on behalf of the Illinois Spoonpluggers. A word of thanks needs to go out to *Harry Caliban* for contacting the New York Times and *Joe Roth* for contacting the Outdoor Notebook in regards to Buck's death.

The passing of Buck Perry signals the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. Where will Spoonplugging go from here? Read Jim Duplex's article on "Keeping it Alive".

The Illinois Spoonpluggers are very lucky to have so many dedicated and hard working members who help to keep the club operating. *Craig Hubbard* is one such person and he took over the reins at the last meeting. He submitted this summary.

Fishing reports: Bob Roels visited Lake Muskego and Lake Beulah and has taken several nice fish from both lakes. He talked extensively about the importance of anchoring and getting into a casting position. *Jim Perillo* was out to Heidecke where he took a 25" catfish and a couple small white bass and a small walleye. He also recounted his recent trip to Buck's Baits in North Carolina where persistence was needed in trying to find the facility utilizing directions provided by the locals. His time at Buck's was short but he was able to take some good pictures and learn how the lures are made and the orders are handled. *Ed Zaremba* enjoys fishing in Canada and spent some time on Clay Lake, north of Vermillion. He was there for 6 ½ days in the rain but still managed to catch his share of walleyes and northern pike up to 34". *Rick Matus* was up on Lake Monona where he took largemouth bass and numerous bluegills from a casting position. He's also been on Lake Delavan taking northern pike to 34" that were caught on troll at the base of the weed line. *Harvey Smith* was out to Lake Michigan where he noted a color break line, clear to brown/green, located 5 miles out from shore. He took a king salmon that came in at 11 lbs. /26 ½ ". *Craig and Jenny Hubbard* have been out to Heidecke Lake where they connected with 2 catfish to 3.5 lbs., 1 walleye 17", 1 Striper 12". Jenny lost "something big that just took line out and kept going until it got to the backer line then broke the line." These fish all came from known structures.

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

Lake Geneva is giving up some quality northern pike action as evidenced by the reports coming in from Bob Roels and *Gino Testone*. The majority of their fish have come from 30' and deeper using wire line. Check out Gino's maps below. *Jim Duplex, George Schauner, and Jerry Hein* represented the club at the Indiana outing where the fishing was slow; too say the least. Rick Matus continues to put his new boat to good use as witnessed by his frequent reports from southern Wisconsin.

Topic of discussion: Buck Perry, where do we go from here?; The August outing to the Madison Chain; Fall fishing and fishing reports.

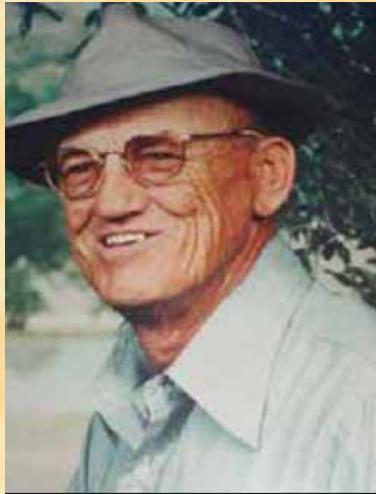
Dates for 2005 National Outings

North Carolina Outing, September 11-18.

Special Notice:

The Illinois Spoonpluggers will be holding an on-line meeting on September 7, 2005 from 7:00-8:00 PM CST. This meeting is being held in order to offer an alternative to members who cannot make it to our scheduled meeting site. This is a "chat room" format and any and all Spoonpluggers are welcome to participate. You must register at the Spoonpluggers.net website and an agenda will be forthcoming before the program begins. We hope you can attend.

ELWOOD L. "BUCK" PERRY



July 10, 1915-August 12, 2005

Elwood Lake (Buck) Perry, 90, owner and retired President of Bucks Baits of Hickory, died at his residence in Taylorsville, NC, August 12, 2005 after a period of declining health.

Born July 10, 1915 in Hickory, he was a son of the late Robert M. and Ollie Jones Perry.

He was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Hickory.

He attended Hickory High School and was a member of their State Champion Football teams of 1929 and 1930. He attended Lenoir Rhyne College on the Baxter Gillian Football Scholarship. He received his BS in Physics-Mathematics. Football, 1,2,3,4; Co-Captain, 3; Alternate Captain 4; All-Conference, 3; Most Valuable Player 3. Baseball, 1,2,3,4; Captain 3: All-Conference, 2; Honor Roll, 2, 3; Rhynoir Society, 3, 4; 3, 4; President 4; Letterman's Club, 1,2,3,4; President, 4; President Baptist Assembly, 4; Who's Who, 4.

For three years following graduation he taught Math, Physics, and was assistant to Coach Scarborough at Hickory High School. In 1941, he moved to NC State University to study Mechanical Engineering and teach college labs. During this time he also taught naval officers the Mechanics of Diesel Operation and Maintenance and trained Machine Shop Operators for the war effort. He then moved to Army Transportation Corps, expediting construction, testing, delivery of tugs, barges, rescue vessels, etc, for the seven southeastern states. The latter part of war was spent on special assignment as a Lt. Colonel in the European Theater, Army Transportation Corps.

After the war, he left teaching and returned to Hickory to work with his father and brother in the Perry Armature Company until interests in sales, land development, oil exploration, manufacturing, travel and writing dissolved this association.

From an early age, he grew up hunting, and fishing with his father on Lake James. It was there he made the observations that would lay the groundwork for his pioneering theories on fishing. Over the years he came to believe that the "home" of the fish was deep water, and that once or twice a day, they became active and may move to shallower water. That they did not move in a haphazard manner, but the route they take has bottom features that show them the way. He designed a "tool" that would allow him to fish all depths, to find the fish and make them strike. This innovative lure had the combined action of a spoon and a plug. It was patented as the "Spoonplug", and in 1946 he and wife Marjorie, began manufacturing them in their garage on 9th Street. For the next 11 years, he worked all over the south, trying to sell his lures and the knowledge of how to find the fish and make them strike. He found few takers, as he was told, "we just don't fish that way!" He was featured in True and Sports Afield magazines, and became a friend to Ray Bergman and other well known outdoor writers of the day.

In 1954, airline pilot Don Nichols, discovered Spoonplugs while vacationing in Florida. He eventually talked Buck into coming to the Chicago area to promote them. In June of 1957, Tom McNalley, outdoor writer for the Chicago Tribune and Ray Gray for the Chicago American did feature stories in their Sunday Edition on Buck's exploits fishing Lake Marie, a supposedly "fished out" lake near Chicago, which set the fishing world on its ear. Then Tom McNalley edited the first Fisherman's Digest which featured the story of Spoonplugging. Thus began a number of years of promotions in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan, teaching others to use his method of fishing. Later he would also work in Florida and California. In 1955, he built a new plant on US 64-70 which was enlarged over the years as he expanded into other endeavors. At one time he was manufacturing golf clubs, sleeping bags, fire alarms, and specialty furniture parts, in addition to his tackle items. He developed a non-stretch fishing line for casting and trolling, color-coded every 10 yards to show much line you were running. He worked on the first depth meter with Harry Lowarence and later built his own.

In 1971 his plant was gutted by fire from a lightening strike, destroying many of his films and papers. When he decided to rebuild, he only made the Spoonplug and related tackle items. The Spoonplug is still made today in 7 sizes and 35 colors.

In collaboration with Tom Coleman, Jr. of Nashville TN, long time friend and business partner, he put together a 1500 acre tract of land near Nashville, to build a School of Structure Fishing and a Christian community to be called Spoonplugville, until his wife Marjorie's illness and subsequent death from ovarian cancer in 1978 took the heart out of him and he abandoned his plans.

He served as Education Editor for Fishing Facts Magazine for many years. The publisher, George Pazik, wrote in 1984 " He started the whole modern era of freshwater sport fishing. He is known as the Father of Structure Fishing. His discoveries and teachings have brought pleasure and success to millions of fishermen who never even heard his name."

Buck published "Spoonplugging, Your Guide to Lunker Catches" in 1973, acclaimed as "the only true textbook on fishing" and published his 9 Volume Home Study Series in 1981. His bi-monthly newsletter "The National Spoonplugger" is still being published today.

Over the years, he received many honors, a few being participation in President Eisenhower's " People to People" fishing tournament in 1966, the Honorary title of Kentucky Colonel in 1974, a 1979 Lenoir Rhyne Distinguished Alumnus in business. In April of 1984, he was inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin for his contributions to the sport of

fishing and in October 1984, he was inducted into the Lenoir Rhyne Football Hall of Fame. In 1989, the Largemouth Bass in the Garden of Fishes at the Hayward museum was dedicated to Buck by friends and Spoonpluggers of America.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 39 years, Marjorie "Bud" Setzer Perry; his daughter Sharon Perry Smith; his sister, Kathryn Perry Johnson; and brother, Chester V Perry.

Survivors include his wife of 22 years, Geraldine "Jeri" Stowe Perry of the home; a son, G. Reid (Brenda) Perry of Hudson; one niece, Tera Johnson Clemet of Shelby, NC; stepsons, Don (Marilyn) Wallace, John (Carolyn) Wallace, Ron (Janet) Wallace, all of Indiana; step-daughters, Jane (Bruce) Townsend, of Maine; Susan (Scott) Winkler of Taylorsville and 24 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren.

We wish to thank his faithful, loving caregiver, Cathy Blanton, for her devoted care; Hospice of Alexander County, Dr Trevor Craig, Dr William Smith, Dr Eller and Catawba Valley Medical Center for being there for us.

The Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday August 20, 2005 at 2:30pm at Bass-Smith Funeral Home followed by burial in Catawba Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 – 2:30pm

Pallbearers will be Reid Perry, Terry O'Malley, Scott Jenkins, John Bales, John Zaborny, Harold Eaton.

Honorary pallbearers are Tom Coleman, Don Nichols, John Buoy, George Pazik, Carl Malz, Spence Petros, Jack Webber, Vic Saunders, Frank Hamill and all the Spoonpluggers who loved him.

Memorials may be made to Hospice and Home Care of Taylorsville, 50 Lucy Echerd Ln., Taylorsville, NC 28681 or to the Alzheimer's Association, 260 1st Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601 or to The Gideon International.

Bass-Smith Funeral Home and Crematory 334 2nd ST, NW, Hickory, NC 28601 (828-322-3015) is in charge of arrangements.

Keeping It Alive

(Some Personal Thoughts)

By Jim Duplex

As the news of Buck Perry's death spread throughout the gathering of Spoonpluggers at last month's Indiana outing, thoughts immediately turned to the future of Spoonplugging. The general consensus deemed it imperative that local clubs continue with what they've been doing best, spreading the word by providing a venue for fishermen to learn about Spoonplugging in their communities.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of viable clubs to accomplish this task. The Michigan Lunger Hunters, Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers, Bama & Ohio Spoonpluggers, Land of Lincoln Spoonpluggers, Chattanooga Spoonpluggers, and Illinois Spoonpluggers hold National Network Events. Only 3 of these clubs, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois, put out a monthly newsletter. National events take a lot of work and planning and are beyond the capabilities of many clubs. Holding regular meetings and putting out a newsletter, however, is well within the reach of every one of the 29 clubs listed in the official directory.

Granted, many of these clubs are small and their membership may be dispersed over a wide geographical area but these are problems that can be overcome. Successful clubs in Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois have a couple of things in common that have kept them viable throughout the years: number one, they meet regularly and number two, they keep their members informed.

Here are some tips that may help you get your club going in a positive direction.

1) **Hold regular meetings.** These can be monthly, bimonthly, seasonally, whatever but they must be held on a regular basis. Meetings can be held at someone's home, a restaurant, or the local public library. Make it convenient for your members. If it's not possible to hold a meeting where everyone is physically present, why not set up a meeting in cyberspace by establishing a chat room where members can drop in at a predetermined time?

2) **Set an agenda.** What are you going to discuss at the meeting: fishing reports, outings, material from the Green Book or the Home Study Course, etc.?

3) **Publish a roster of members.** This is a great reference source when you're looking for a fishing partner.

4) **Create and distribute a newsletter to every member of your club.** This does not have to be elaborate. A single typed paged mailed or emailed should suffice. It should contain a summary of the previous meeting as well any fishing reports or other information members might feel is important. Pictures and structure maps are always a welcome addition. Once you've establish a format for your newsletter, it's a simple matter to crank out the next one by simply inserting new information into your template.

5) **Share club responsibilities.** Spread the work around and encourage others to take ownership of the club.

If you are a member of the National, you owe it to yourself to become a member of a local club. You owe it to yourself to contribute and participate in the functions of that club. You owe it to yourself to share and learn with other Spoonpluggers as you become more proficient at Spoonplugging.

Some clubs lament the fact that they don't have any "experienced" Spoonpluggers among their membership. Every successful club has faced and overcome this dilemma and yours' can too. Go fishing and share your experiences with other Spoonpluggers! The more you fish, the better you'll get. The more you talk with others, who share your interest in Spoonplugging, the more you'll learn from each other. The more problems you address, the more problems you'll solve and the quicker you'll learn. Pretty soon, you'll be one of those "experienced" Spoonpluggers.

The death of Buck Perry should not be the death of Spoonplugging. The joy and satisfaction we have experienced over the years should be shared with others just as Buck shared with us. Now it's our turn to keep it alive!

A FITTING TRIBUTE TO OUR TEACHER AND MENTOR: BUCK PERRY



George Schauner took Clay Russell out for a day of fishing for northern pike.



Jim Shell continues to catch big pike like this one that measured 42".









Rick Matus has caught a lot on nice bass this year. He especially enjoys taking out friends and putting them on the fish.



Nick has spent some quality time with his son on the water and it continues to pay off.



Scott has gotten into some quality fish this season as evidenced by this nice smallmouth.



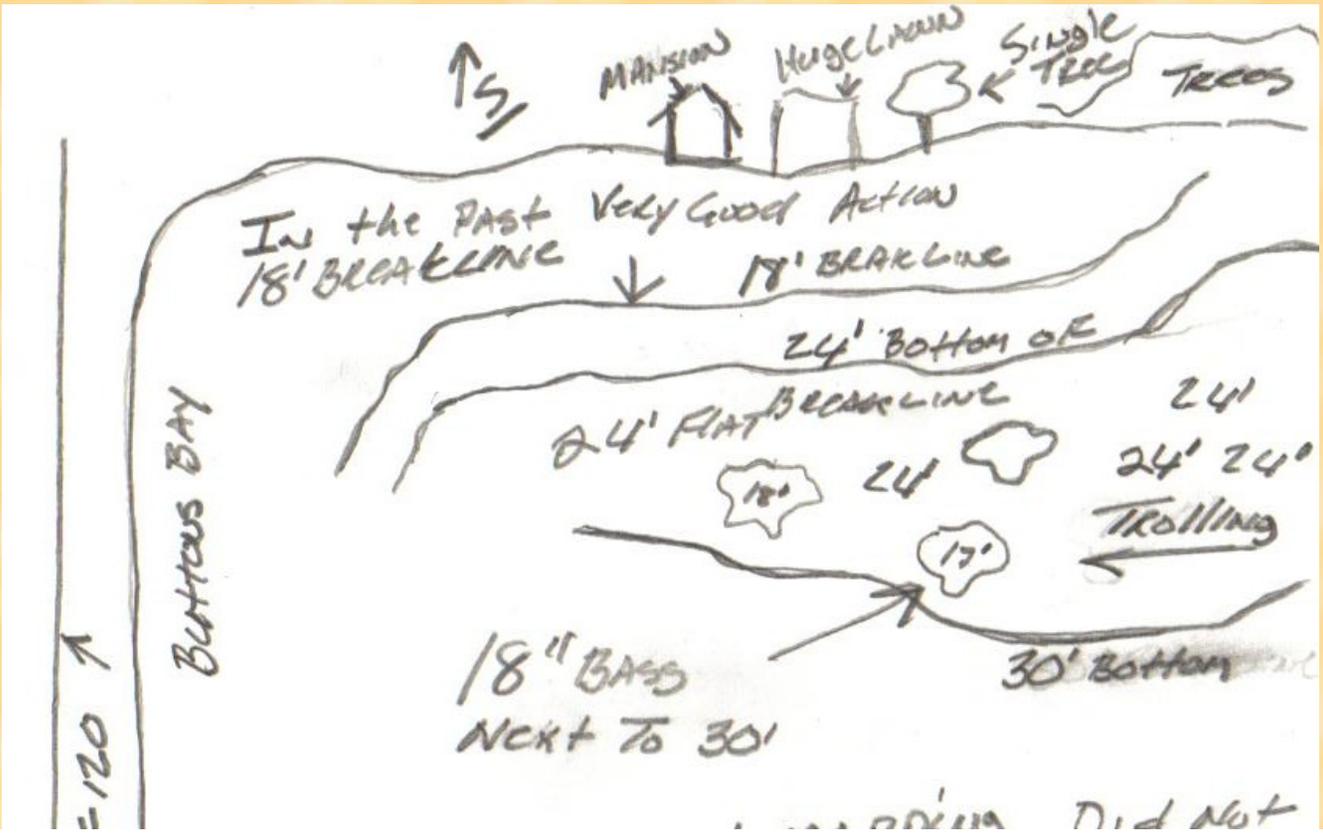
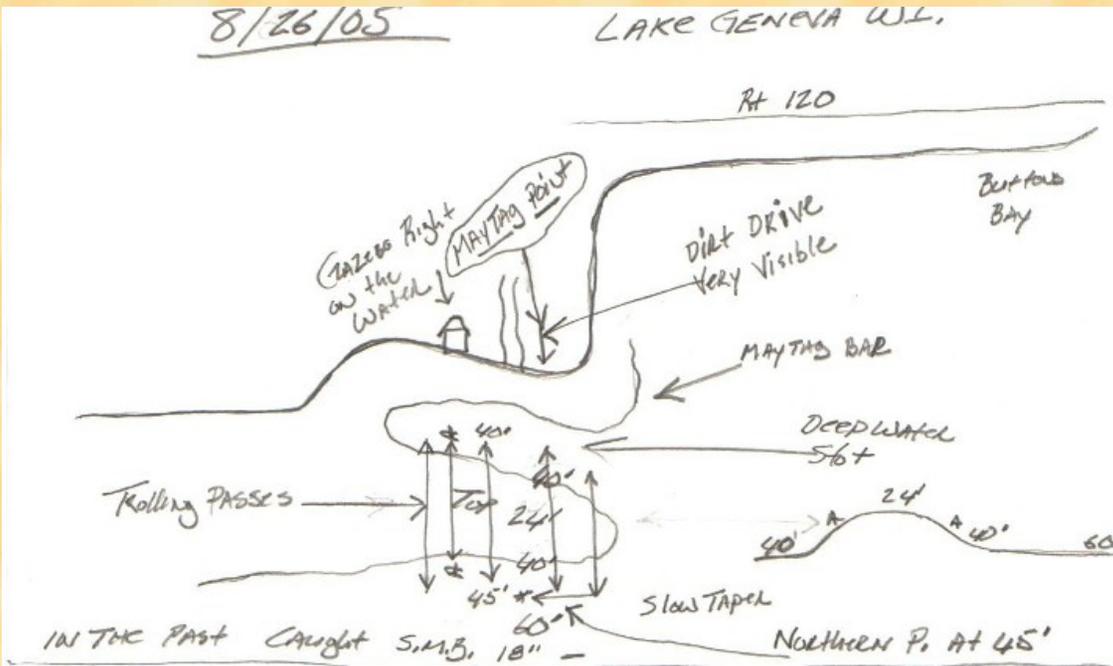
Jim took this 39" muskie while fishing at the Indiana outing.



This 40" fish came from a familiar structure on Shabbona.

8/26/05

LAKE GENEVA W.L.



RT
GENERAL MAPPING, Did Not
MAP THIS AREA AWAY FROM 18'
BREAKLINE.
Found 3 Humps in 24' Flat
Yesterday, They appear to
be Rock Humps. Next to
30' Deep Water

Gino is starting to put his maps on paper. Here's a couple examples of the work he's been doing.



[Get Directions](#)

Enter starting street address:

City, State or Zipcode:

YAHOO! MAPS

00005