
Illinois Spoonpluggers

April 13, 2006

Elk Grove Library, 7:15 PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Elk Grove Library on Thursday, April 13, 2004 and we will begin at 7:15 PM.

The March meeting was attended by 12 members and 1 guest, Ted Malo, as preparations were finalized for the Winter Spoonplugging Seminar on March 11th. *Scott Duff* updated the gathering on the progress of the seminar preparations and led the way as the finishing touches were added to the program. Folders were stuffed with the questions and various handouts and *Jim Taylor* brought along the display case, which was to be set up on Saturday. *Jim Duplex* ran through the PowerPoint presentation and brought along examples of the clipboards and map forms that were going to be passed out to each attendee.

Craig Hubbard has reworked the library index and showed it to those present. He also brought along the floating key chains donated by Boater's World to be included as a give-away at the seminar.

Wayne Dylo has recently been down to Lake Kinkaid in southern Illinois and gave a brief report on conditions. He caught a couple of nice muskies on the trip and plans to be down there again in the coming weeks.

LURE ORDERS: Jim Perillo has received a partial shipment of the items that were ordered in March. He'll pass out what has come in and report on the status of our order. If you can't attend the meeting, please contact Jim, 630-628-1211, to make arrangements to pick up your order.

The Illinois Spoonpluggers would like to extend our condolences to member *David Flohra* whose father passed away in February at the age of 95. His father taught him how to fish and turned him onto Spoonplugging. Our thoughts are with you, David.

A memorial to Buck Perry has been discussed at club meetings and was brought to the attention of

the participants of the Winter Seminar. *Fran Myers* broached our ideas to *Jeri Perry* and *Jeri* noted that the state park at Lake James in North Carolina is being enlarged; the very same lake where *Buck* conceived the basic tenets of Spoonplugging. She has been in contact with the site superintendent and they have asked for a proposal that would be included in the work being considered. She is thinking along the lines of a plaque that would be placed in the park to commemorate and honor the father of "Structure Fishing". *Jim* has been in touch with *Jeri* and *Joe Roth* has volunteered to help with the project. We'll be looking for others to help as well.

Topic of discussion: *Jerry Hein* will give his year end review, fishing reports from those who have been out, lure orders, and *Scott Duff* will conduct a seminar wrap up.

SPECIAL NOTE: On-line fishing reports are starting to come in. If you have a report, please send it to everyone on our email list. The current roster of members, along with phone numbers and email addresses, has been sent out and posted on the Internet.

Dates for 2006 National Outings

Bama & Ohio Spoonpluggers, Weise and Cedar Lake, Alabama, April 5-9, 2006; Leoni Spoonpluggers Outing, Jackson, Michigan, June 20-24, 2006; Land of Lincoln Spoonpluggers, Crab Orchard Reservoir, June 29-July 2, 2006; Michigan Lunker Hunters, Muskegon Outing, July 19-23; Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" outing August 10-12, 2006; Buck Perry Memorial Outing, September 6-9, 2006 We will pass other dates along as they become available.

2006 Seminar Summary

Well, if you missed the 4th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar on March 11th you missed another great event. The Illinois Spoonpluggers once again served as hosts for the all day seminar that was attended by 60 Spoonpluggers from 8 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Missouri, and Wisconsin. They convened on a cold and blustery day to share Spoonplugging knowledge in the tradition and memory of *Buck Perry*. For the third time, the gathering took place at the Elk Grove Public Library in their spacious meeting room. Ample parking and the room's numerous amenities made for a comfortable venue.

Special thanks go out to all the Spoonpluggers who helped make this project a success. *Scott Duff* and *Phil Szafranski* served to coordinate the day's activities and were aided by *Craig Hubbard*, *Joe Renholds*, *Wayne Dylo*, *Jim Duplex*, *Jerry Hein*, *Jim Taylor* and *Jim Perillo*. Thanks to *Jenny Hubbard* and *Rick Matus* for filming the days activities and were looking forward to putting the tapes in our video library. A big thank you also goes out to the many Spoonpluggers who made the

long trip from out of town. Your attendance and participation helped make the day a success.

Here are some of the comments from those who participated.

Another great Winter Seminar! Lots of questions were addressed. I think the questions for the experienced Spoonpluggers was a good idea and I was glad to participate. Some open question time possibly could have been used, but I realize that much has to be accomplished in a short period of time. Possibly next year. Last year it seemed like there was more audience participation and comments. The food, handouts, displays, etc. were very well done and it seemed that the covered questions were better organized and easier to follow. The discussion on the future of Spoonplugging was essential and quite informative, as well as bringing up some kind of tribute to Buck. There is a lot on Spoonpluggings' agenda now, and your Winter Seminar and your club are key in keeping things out there. Great job, and keep up the good work!

Chase Klinesteker

The cudo's or hats off goes to you and Jerry. Here is what I liked the most. You never let it get out of hand. You stopped the chatter when it was necessary and kept in control of things. There is nothing that makes me madder than when I am working hard to teach and there is someone talking. You know that guy isn't there to learn. You guys did a great job again. Remember, I am a student of Mr. Perry also and still learning. The final question that we talked about.... What can we do to keep Spoonplugging alive? I talked to Jeri Perry about that. Every body seems to have a different answer to what we can do. I asked her what she would want us to do and didn't really get an answer. You know, we can't do much on our own but if we know what they want us to do, that would help. Have thought about these things for years and have never come up with the answer. I believe that if everybody just does a little on their own like taking someone out that is interested and handing someone a gray booklet, just little things like that and that would be enough. Hey, again, you guys deserve a lot of credit for the job that you did. Thanks,

John Bales

Your seminar was dynamic!!! I was very impressed the entire day at the library. The format, presentation, handouts were extremely informative. The facilities were very accommodating and the food was good. I'm glad I made the trip to Illinois for it. If I had to choose a favorite portion of your seminar, it would be learning how to map. But, what I really want to tell you is, how motivated and excited I felt walking out of the library and I have all this information and I want to go out fishing and put into practice what I have read and what you presented. I just bought a boat about 2 weeks before attending the seminar; it's very suitable for Spoonplugging and needs a little attention to make it ready for the water. I hope to be ready when the weather breaks. Thanks for sharing the experiences of Spoonplugging. I would really like to attend next year's seminar if you have one.

Nancy Peacock, new Spoonplugger

Excellent seminar! I'm a rookie Spoonplugger and I was nearly overwhelmed by amount of quality information you and Jerry presented and the number of experienced Spoonpluggers present. I found everyone friendly and willing to help. The format, presentations, facilities, handouts, and food were all top shelf; I don't know any way you could improve. Your pictures of the lake without markers and then with markers really drove home the importance of mapping. The question part for the four experienced Spoonpluggers was also a favorite. It was a three-hour drive for me but I would do it again in a heart beat! Thank you and your club; I hope to see you again.

Dean Butler, Dubuque, Iowa

I had a GREAT time yesterday and the weather was fine for the drive back. Your presentation was absolutely professional and the time management was something close to magic. All your efforts more than paid off. I look forward to next year.

Fran Myers

Excellent seminar. I think the idea of a bust is fine with me. I would have one in the Fishing Hall of Fame and in Buck's Home town. I have no problem donating some cash when something gets finalized. As far as what I learned: I need to spend a lot more time on the water.

Kevin Biersack

Both Terry Balding and I enjoyed the learning yesterday. One thing we mentioned on our ride home was how organized you were. Speaking for myself, I plan on attending every year as long as I can. It is very refreshing to see all the people and rekindle the interest in Spoonplugging.

Clay Russell

with additional thought:

Regarding the future of Spoonplugging: It has been and will always be my thinking that for Spoonplugging to maintain or even grow larger (rather than die), two things have to change:

- 1. As someone else brought up, we must get the youth involved.***
- 2. To accomplish #1, we must have Spoonpluggers who are not only confident in their abilities (i.e., are Over The Hump as brought up yesterday) but are willing to be teachers to their fellow non-Spoonplugging fisherman as well as the youth who are not so set in their ways.***

So, how do you do this? Ideally, everybody would study the Green Book and Home Study Course and spend 100 days on the water like a Jerry Borst. But, that is not reality. What needs to be done,

in my opinion, is for more "over the hump" Spoonpluggers to actually take some other Spoonpluggers out on the water and find out what these Spoonpluggers are doing right and what they are doing wrong. Then, these Spoonpluggers, with some new knowledge and, hopefully, increased confidence can spend time on the water and discover other things for themselves. Once they've done that, maybe they are now "over the hump" and will take it upon themselves to teach a few others what they were taught.

This facet of Spoonplugging is not being done very well. At the national outings, it's every man for himself until the end of the day when people are off the water. Then, things are discussed. That is good, but what would be even better is for the "over the hump" guys to take at least one person for at least 4 hours during the course of the 3-4 days outings. Thus, they are only giving up a small amount of their overall fishing time, but might be teaching the next future Spoonplugging super-teacher. And, that, in my opinion, is going to be the best, if not one of the best, ways to ensure the future of Spoonplugging.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to make the 4th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar the best one yet. It was a lot of fun, and a great day for the club and for Spoonplugging. We had a record 60 members in attendance from eight states. Along with the continued surge in participation, the growing camaraderie of members from different areas certainly portends well for the future. The discussions were lively, relevant, and educational. The feature presentations were timely, effective and of high quality. Thanks to all for your time and effort in making this event a success! This club certainly has what it takes! KUDOS TO ALL!

Scott Duff

This year's event was one of the best ever! The number one thing you could do to make it better is crowd control. Numerous times during the meeting side conversations became distracting. This is very rude behavior. In other meetings I have been to this was handled by signs on the table with meeting rules. The rules were discussed in the beginning of the meeting and that was the end of it. I always leave meetings like this one wondering if these guys are doing something different from what I am doing. The catch on Lake Mendota is a great example. Did they start running 500's at the weedline and work their way down? Were they bumping bottom? Did these fish come of one or several structures? Which structures were fished? What was the key to these catches? If it were as simple as doing it by the book, then why don't our local Spoonpluggers have catches like this? Thanks for your effort!

Terry Balding

Just like last year I thought everything was done very well. On the way home I was driving and someone, I think it was Chase called the program fore-fishing. Kind of like fore-play in that it got one all hot and bothered. I would have liked for there to have been a little time for questions and answers for the four C.S.I.'S. Also I would liked for there to be something to draw on so question twelve could have been quickly answered. Tight lines

Tom Moore

You and your crew did a great job conducting the seminar. Frank and I both liked it and plan on attending next year if you hold another one. Keep up the good work.

Joe Cinadr

Some brief thoughts:

Meeting time passed quickly. • Food was good. • Meeting room was good. • Having the experienced Spoonpluggers respond to questions was good. • The discussion regarding the future of Spoonplugging was good from the perspective of it being a fresh segment, as compared to the prior years. • The set-up of tables in V shape allowed for easy viewing. • The projector was of value, allowing questions to be read and easily followed. • Having questions to lead of seminar was a positive. • Having nice weather allowed for some out door time during breaks...good. • Keeping meeting as interactive as possible is important to overall quality.

Phil Szafranski

Excellent seminar, thought the location and accommodations were excellent, food was great as well as ample supply of drinks. Handouts are always good. The topics and discussion are great and informative with no one feeling their question is out of place. Hope it continues.

After our discussion on keeping fish , a comment brought up was the DNR is cutting back with stocking fish an idea came to my mind for remembering Buck. I don't know how much it costs to stock a lake but depending how much money we could raise or donations from magazines sports shops etc, we put that money into investment CD or some guaranteed return and each year stock bucks favorite lake or a different lake in the US sections where spoonplug clubs are and they determine the lake. A sign at the boat launch which could be moved year to year to the new lake with Bucks bust and memorial wording on it. Just a thought.

Nick Tabor

Format: Good/Presentations: Good/Facilities: Good/Handouts: Good/Food: Good Seminar met expectations: Yes. Very much so.

Comments: If we can get a portable PA system of some sort it would be helpful. There were times when it was difficult to hear a speaker at the other end of the room.

Will the presentation material be made available on the internet or by email on request? It would be

a huge task to print copies of the presentation for seminar, but maybe it could be made available to those who pre-register so they can print a copy before the seminar.

James Taylor

The Importance of Fishing Reports

By Scott Duff

Keeping a record of your fishing efforts is a very important part of a successful fishing season. A good fishing report should include the weather and water conditions present, describe the efforts made on-the-water, note fish caught or contacted, and provide additional comments. A detailed fishing report will inevitably reflect the fisherman's planning (preparation) and on-the-water habits (execution). The simple act of taking time to reflect on a trip after arriving home serves to add focus to each trip. Additionally, it ensures that we keep learning and applying effort and diligence off the water, as well.

It is wise to choose a format that records each trip in sufficient detail. Recommended features of a fishing report include: 1) a variety of factual data about the trip; 2) comments about what was accomplished on the water and what was learned. An occasional anecdotal comment in your reports can aid in recalling events of an of an entire fishing season. Be consistent. Choose a format that works and stick to it in reporting on every trip; this is important!

To save time, simply cut-and-paste an old report when creating a new word processing file and delete the old text as your write. Number each trip of the year sequentially so they can be kept in chronological order on your computer.

The tendency to write fishing reports only when a good catch is made should be avoided. Likewise, when a catch is made try to keep the focus on your observations and the controls that resulted in the fish being caught (i.e. depth, speed, structure situation, time of day, change in weather, length of movement, etc.). Consistently and objectively keeping a record of one's fishing trips will add discipline both on and off the water, and inevitably lead to greater success. Further, most of the important details of any given fishing trip will be forgotten in a relatively short time. This is amazing but true!

I have learned to use my personal fishing logs from previous seasons as a reference and this has been invaluable for many reasons: 1) connections can be observed between weather/water conditions and fish activity, and it is easy to note seasonal trends; 2) decisions about where and when to fish can be made with greater accuracy; 3) many mistakes made in the past can be recalled

and avoided; 4) no two fishing seasons are exactly alike; 5) having this information at your fingertips will lead to more fish in your boat. It is also satisfying to have on hand a permanent record of one's own progress as a Spoonplugger.

There are many reasons to write fishing reports. Together with your mapping and interpretation skills, a good fishing report format will make permanent the knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned on-the-water. Fishing knowledge can be readily shared, and the benefits will only add to your fishing success and satisfaction.

IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR SPOONPLUGGING!



60 Spoonpluggers from 8 states shared the knowledge.



Attendees mingle before the day begins.



Folders were passed out that contained the day's agenda and questions for discussion.



Jim Shell talks with Bob Fischrup.



Nancy Peacock and Barb Satkamp go over the day's schedule.



Everyone is focused on the discussion.



Jerry Hein leads the discussion.



John Bales discusses his early fishing experiences before Spoonplugging.



Chase discusses his early experiences.



Jerry Borst talks about getting started.



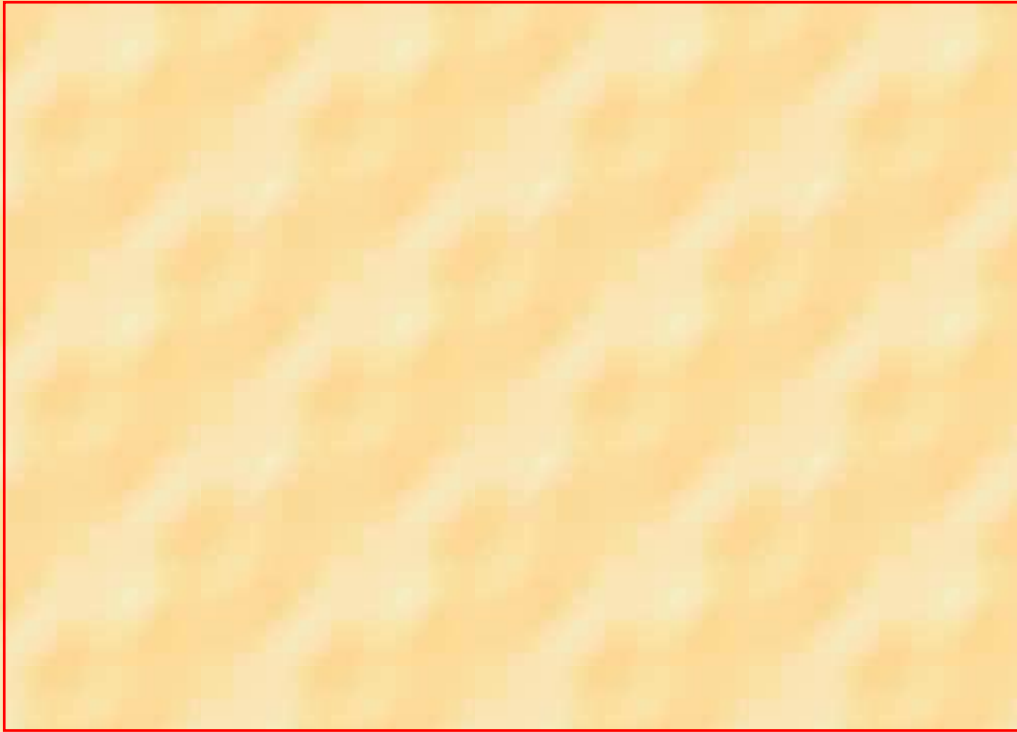
Gino and Joe share some stories over lunch.



Jim talks with Chase.



Brian Cox came all the way from Missouri to participate.



Fran and Phil discuss the future of Spoonplugging.



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