
Illinois Spoonpluggers

August 10, 2006

Elk Grove Library, 7:15 PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Elk Grove Library on Thursday, August 10, 2006 and we will begin at 7:15 PM.

The July meeting was attended by 10 members with fishing reports dominating the proceedings. *Phil Szafranski, Jerry Hein, and Jim Duplex* gave reports that were accompanied by structure maps shown on the overhead. They described the fishing situation and the features that were worked. An interesting component of the meeting was a comparison of maps drawn by *Scott Duff* and Jerry that dealt with a structure they both mapped on Lake Kincaid. These presentations are valuable learning experiences that members are taking to heart. Check out their comments below.

BUSINESS

- 1. SPECIAL NOTE:** The Richport YMCA will soon be closing its doors. We will need a new site for our south side meetings. We meet the second Thursday of the month and alternate locations: north side/even numbered months, south side/odd numbered months. *Joe Renholds* is currently scouting new locations so if you have any suggestions, let us know. Your help in finding a new site is appreciated.
- 2. *George Schauner*** and Jim Duplex will be relinquishing the Treasurer's duties for the club in the next couple of months. *Jim Taylor* has volunteered to assume the position but we need another member to work with him. If you can help, give us a call.
- 3. Scott** sent in this report concerning Troller Boats: "During a web search I stumbled upon a webpage devoted to the Troller Boat on the site of Bob Warren Boat Sales, Butler, PA. Apparently, West Penn was sold during the past couple of years. The website includes a page devoted to "Trollers" with pictures and the message "COMING SOON." An e-mail inquiry yielded the following response: '...We bought out Troller but have not been able to put up another building at this time to start manufacturing them. My husband actually built them for the company when they first started. They have not been in business for several years. I will keep your email and contact you as soon as we are up and running.' It will be interesting to see what happens. Their website is: www.bobwarrenboatsales.com."
- 4. The Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Outing** is scheduled for August 10-12, 2006. Base camp will once again be at the Forest Ridge Camp Ground, 260-327-3551; make sure you mention you're with the Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers. Motels in the area are: Lee's Inn, 260-244-5300; Super 8 Motel, 1-800-800-8000; and Budget Inn, 260-248-4644. These motels are located on US 30 in Columbia City about 5 miles from the campground and within 15 miles of most lakes. For further information you can contact Denny Coulardot, 260-691-3118, or John Bales, 260-854-3921.

HERE'S WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING OUT ON THE WATER.

Scott, George, and Jerry attended the recent Muskegon outing and we're looking forward to hearing their reports. George and Jim had a great time fishing Lake Barkley where the big bass moved strong on their 4 day visit. *Craig and Jenny Hubbard* have been keeping tabs on the Heidecke walleye and *Nick Tabor* got into the northernns on a recent visit to Wisconsin. Phil and *Larry Petri*

visited Yellow Lake in Wisconsin; we'll learn how they did up in the north country. Scott has been working with wire line on Lake Mendota and it seems he's getting the hang of it. A recent phone conversation with *Frank Cipria* has him catching northerns and muskie from the waters of northern Indiana. It's been a while since we've heard from him and it's good to hear he's doing well. *Gino Testone* is off to Minnesota at the end of next week to fish for muskie. We're anxious to hear how he does. Good luck up there, hopefully, the weather will cooperate.

Topic of discussion: Fishing reports and the Muskegon outing.

Dates for 2006 National Outings

Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" outing August 10-12, 2006; Buck Perry Memorial Outing, September 6-9, 2006; Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, March 17, 2007. We will pass other dates along as they become available.

SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE THROUGH FISHING REPORTS:

Concrete learning takes place on the water and, as we know, experience is the best teacher. Members are using the knowledge gleaned from fishing reports and applying them on the water. Sharing reports and participating in club meetings accelerates learning. Check out the comments and lessons learned that have been shared through recent fishing reports and circulated among our membership.

Rick Matus /Lake Waubesa: I had to make a conscious effort to stop and anchor after that first fish was hooked on the troll. I wanted to continue trolling. Stopping paid off. This gave me the opportunity to identify whether this fish was alone or if the break on the structure held more than one fish. I know the answer now.

Nick Tabor/Lake Waubesa : My father in-law was using a Lazy Ike, a Daredevil, a 5 of Diamonds, all of which he had confidence in since he caught fish in Canada with them. I told him he was not fishing deep enough but he wouldn't believe me; I hooked all the fish. It made a believer for depth and speed control, he wants to know more about where he can find that special lure. I told him its just a control but you need to be fishing where the fish are and be able to control speed. I'm not sure if he gets it, but I will give him the book to read while he rehabs from his knee.

Scott Duff in response to Nick: I arrived well after the skies cleared and maybe should have made an effort to get out there during the afternoon.

Jim Duplex/Detroit River : I spoke with John Bales prior to the trip and he offered this tip: when things slow down go to the deepest part of the deepest water being worked and vertically jig for the fish. This will produce smallies, walleye, drum, muskie, whatever is down there. The river has pockets of deep water surrounded by sections of shallower water. The deep water that is jigged is relatively small and you can either slip/drift down the river or let the current, which is quite fast, push you along and then motor back up to you starting position. On our first attempt using this procedure we hit a 39" muskie in 36' of water. We were using silver buddies and Fuzzy Duzzits that had enough weight on them to keep them directly under the boat. Thanks, John for the reminder that the home of the fish is in the deepest water of the area being fished!

Phil Szafranski : I can definitely say that a late evening movement occurred on both nights after 7:30 PM. This time frame produced the biggest fish over the two days. The movements basically lasted for approximately 10 minutes maximum...clear water. I spoke to two anglers on each morning when just arriving at the launch near 9AM...both of these anglers completed their day and encountered bass... early movement. Fishing for over 20 hours and making contact with fish for approximately 30 minutes during that time can build some character.

Jerry Hein / Lake Kincaid: This is the second stop on a weeklong trip for the Southern Illinois outing. This is the first time I have fished this lake. All fishing was with 12# no-bo or bottom bouncers. Once again Bart Allen proved to be a gracious host and we thank him and other knowledgeable Spoonpluggers for sharing detailed information helping us focus on productive water. Using Bucks Guidelines for mapping and interpretations helps put us on the fish but having pertinent information is a great help.

Jerry Hein / Coffeen: This is the 5th time we fished this lake. Because the primary target is bass the weather must be considered before a trip of this distance. Also, if the plant is down or just starting the fluctuating water temperature can make the bass hard to find. Fishing the thermocline can prove very productive in these hot water lakes. This year we started fishing at the top and worked our way down to the 700's, as they were successful in the past. We did not make contact with the bigger fish so we did what Buck says, "If you aren't catching them go deeper". We finally got consistent results by sending down the 800's with straight-line passes. Using Bucks Guidelines for mapping and interpretations put us on the fish. As I hope to steal good ideas from your fishing reports, feel free to use what you can from this and keep 'um commin'.

Jerry Hein / Muskegon Outing: Once again I must emphasize the positive impact of being on the water with other spoonpluggers. You can exponentially increase your chance of learning something. Trusting that the other spoonplugger is doing the right things and using the information generated by the mass of knowledge present is a rare treat. **Hess Lake:** Comments: We were able to return to this productive structure found last year because of the mapping work completed last season. When reliable features are not producing we can sit on them and wait or go exploring. This area was found while exploring. **Mona Lake:** This dark water lake with current was just the ticket for the high sky of a cold front. The only surprise is the lack of Northern. On the plus side was the free air show we enjoyed as the dress rehearsal for the weekend show was held. All the fish activity was before the loud jets buzzed the lake, coincidence? **Summary Comments:** This was once again a very enjoyable trip. From a fishing stand point the two things stand out are: first I have never experienced so many bass jumping and throwing the lure as on this trip. The bass were just not ready to take but were being induced to slap and butt the lures. Second the Northern were not in Mona or Spring Lake. A few were taken deep in Muskegon Lake and some were taken in White Lake in the weeds. Socially the evening talks were great. The weather was the usual and still the lakes with good watercolor allowed for plenty of fish for the fish fry. The fish fry was up to par and then some. We surely appreciated the efforts of the Lunker Hunters to make this annual event a great time for all.

Scott Duff / Land of Lincoln Outing: These outings are worth the drive and the effort involved. Spending time on waters different from what we are used to at home expands our fishing horizons and makes Buck's material come alive. Experiencing fishing success and fellowship with other Spoonpluggers on outstanding lakes is really what its all about.

Scott Duff / Lake Mendota: Light bulb moment...Mendota is simply a natural lake, albeit larger than some. Lake Muskegon has a more complex geological history (plus man-made influence of shipping/milling industry) and the feel of the Great Lakes with some big, sweeping features. Although deeper in spots, Mendota is a glacier lake simply having a little more distance between structure situations than other smaller area lakes, some far from the deepest holes in this lake. As always, whether or not the migratory species make this longer trip, how far they go, and how long they stay, "is dependent upon/controlled by the weather and water conditions at that particular time." This was a rewarding day.

Jim Duplex / Lake Barkley: While this trip did not feature the numbers that were caught in early June, it certainly made up for it in knowledge gained! The main channel is 60'+ and the bar breaks from 12'/60'+ off the end of the road to 35'+/60'+ off of the tip. The fish can access deep water from anywhere along the breakline. Fishermen had been observed working the 12'/60'+ portion of the breakline on previous trips so this was a clue that the fish were using the features in the area. Further checking revealed two predominant breaklines: one at 16'-20' and the other breaking from 12' /35'+ directly into the channel. I began working an area of the breakline that broke 26' into the channel using wire line and this is where I contacted the fish. The first one was a white bass and it confirmed that this was a productive structure situation. A little while later, a small bass took my offering at around 22' and I was pumped. Continued checking of this breakline and the one at 16' yielded more fish and a sense of satisfaction that the picture was now coming together. The next day I got into a small school of bass from a casting position and helped to further pinpoint the features the fish were using. Though the results were meager, about 10 fish from this section of the bar, it turned on the light for how to approach the rest of the lake.

Jim Duplex / Lake Barkley, the return visit: The success of this trip was based on a number of factors: stable weather, good water color, an excellent population, and the mapping that had been done on previous visits. The majority of fish taken came on the troll

because of the depths involved and the unrelenting heat and humidity. If we had not had the Bimini top, there was no way we'd have been able to endure the conditions. Once it was up, it wasn't coming down and this limited our lure presentation and desire to stop the boat. It will give us something to work on the next time we're down there!

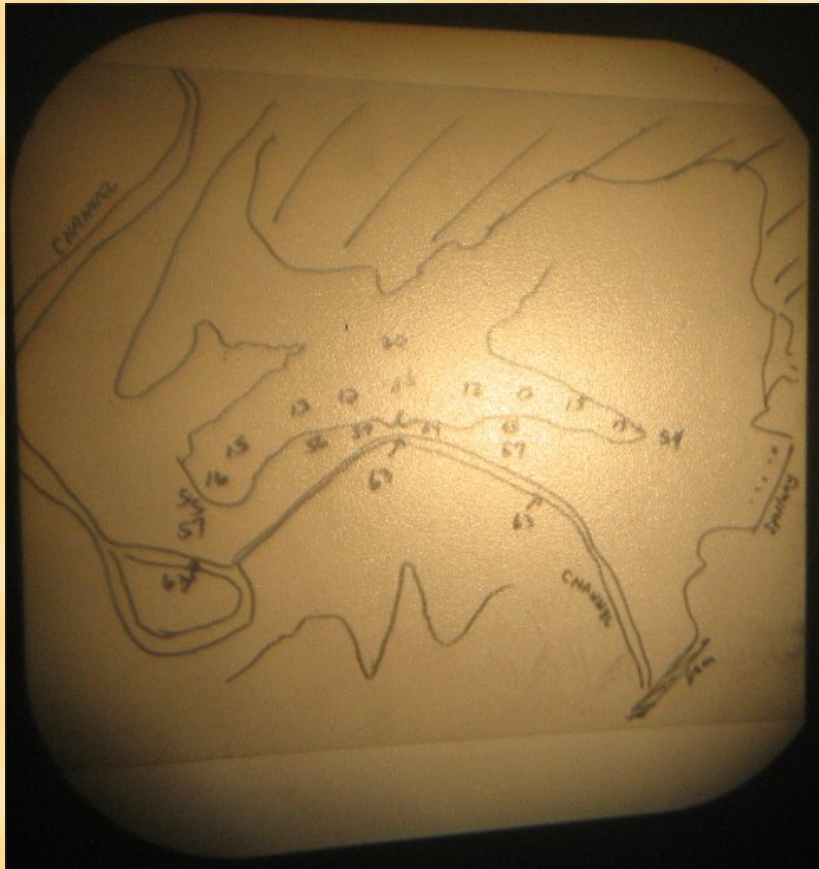
Bob Roels Jr./Petenwell & the Madison Chain : Lessons learned: Check the depths, enough stragglers can still be found on the breaks in deep water in tough conditions to make the trip. When the fish move they all move. We checked even deeper than 24-28 feet when a movement began on Mendota and caught several fish in short order at the base of a deeper breakline 30-40 feet.

Phil and Jerry Share Their Knowledge....









..... And The Results Speak for Themselves !



Phil rocked this northern while fishing under tough conditions.



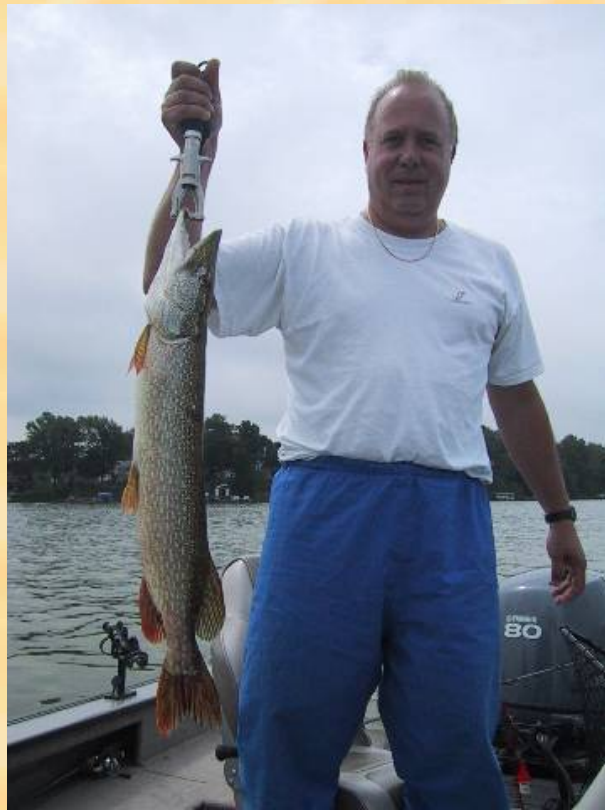
Jerry holds a 47" + muskie taken while attending the Land of Lincoln Outing.







George and Jim enjoyed some muskie action while fishing the Detroit River recently.



Nick gave his father-in-law a Spoonplugging lesson when they visited Madison, WI.



Rick has been putting more time on the water lately and the learning has accelerated correspondingly.







Jerry and Mary plied the waters of southern Illinois and northern Michigan as they attended Spoonplugger outings.



Craig and Jenny continue to check out Heidecke with these happy results.





Bob Roels Jr. teamed with Jim Shell for plenty of walleye action on Petenwell.



Fran Myers did not miss these fish while fishing the Mississippi.







George and Scott had nothing to moan about after taking these fish while fishing Mona Lake at the Muskegon Outing.













George and Jim had the best of times banging big bass on Lake Barkley.



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