
 **Illinois Spoonpluggers** 

February 9, 2006

Elk Grove Public Library: 7:15 PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Elk Grove Library on Thursday, February 9, 2006. We will begin at 7:15 PM. The January meeting was attended by 10 members and Jim Taylor brought along Ted Malo, from the Northern Illinois club, as a guest. Ted has been Spoonplugging for about 3 years and is eager to increase his on-the-water knowledge. Feel free to join us anytime, Ted.

BUSINESS

1. **Ed Zaremba** sent in a couple of articles from the Juneau County Star Times that has been investigating the water quality of Petenwell and Castle Rock lakes. The DNR has been testing for blue-green algae which produce poisons and toxins that can be toxic to human beings. The problem is caused by nutrients such as phosphorus being dumped or leached into the water system. Residents are concerned and this has, no doubt, had some effect on the fishery. Thanks Ed, for keeping us informed.
2. Lures orders will definitely go in this month so be prepared with your order and your check made out to Illinois Spoonpluggers. Buck' Baits has recently offered some new shirts and hats. If your interested in purchasing one, the club will put in an order at the meeting.
3. Our monthly get together was highlighted by by **Scott Duff's** year end report. Scott has seen his fishing success take off this year and he gave an excellent summary of his time on-the-water during 2005. His presentation was highlighted by a couple of Spoonplugger maps that were shown on the overhead. It's obvious that his ability to find the fish has grown in direct proportion to his mapping skills. Great report, Scott! Check out his maps in this newsletter.
4. The meeting served to consolidate plans for the upcoming seminar and many of those present stepped forward to offer their services. Below is a listing of responsibilities for the seminar. We have 3 volunteers who will bring their video cameras to tape the day's activities. **Craig Hubbard** has secured a donation from U. S. Boat and **Jim Taylor** volunteered to construct a display case for lures, equipment and materials to be set up at the seminar.

Thanks for stepping up guys!

5. At the February 9 meeting we'll need to finalize the agenda and decide what materials and presentations we want to include, how to split up moderator duties, etc. Remember, we will again take the group photo before one of the breaks (maybe that could be the first one in the early afternoon). This will ensure that all the attendees are there for the picture.

6. Scott Duff ordered Cabela's Tackle Shop catalogs to include in the folders. Folders will be prepared with the handout material at the March 9th meeting in La Grange.

7. Scott has been in touch with Jeri Perry at Buck's Baits and she has agreed to send promotional and display items for the seminar.

***Topic of Discussion:* We will finalize preparations for the upcoming seminar and *Phil Szafranski* will give his year end report. You can expect this to be another good one as Phil had one great year scouting new lakes.**

Dates for upcoming National Outings:

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, Elk Grove, IL, March 11, 2006; Land of Lincoln Spoonpluggers, Crab Orchard Reservoir, June 22-25; Michigan Lunger Hunters, Muskegon Outing, July 19-23; Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" outing August 10-12, 2006; We will pass other dates along as they become available.

Here is a summary of the Seminar 2006 discussion at the January club meeting:

The Seminar will be at the Elk Grove Village Public Library, Saturday, March 11, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM. The library doors open at 9:00 AM.

Reservation/Space: Joe Zaremba

Coordinator: Scott Duff

Copying: Joe Reynolds

Folders/Labels: Phil Szafranski

Overhead project: Phil Szafranski (transparencies, markers)

Clipboards/Notebooks: Jim Taylor

Camera: Jim Duplex, Craig Hubbard

Video Camera: Rick Matus, Craig Hubbard, Jerry Hein/Jim Taylor will operate a camera

Coffee: Wayne Dylo; he'll purchase ready made coffee from Dunkin' Donuts.

Rolls: Wayne Dylo

Sandwiches (Quiznos): Craig Hubbard

Pop/Water/Chips: Scott Duff

Paper Goods/Cups: Craig Hubbard

Plastic Bags: Jim Duplex

Display case: Jim Taylor

Donations & catalogs: Craig and Scott

Moderators: Jerry Hein & Jim Duplex

Is this spot worn out?

By Jerry Hein

Can a hot spot be shut down due to too much pressure? This question came up at the 2005 Muskegon outing. When traveling to outings I try to fish a handful of lakes with different characteristics. I fish these same lakes on subsequent trips. This allows me to experience the effects of different weather and water conditions caused by yearly pattern changes. I also leverage the information gleaned from the evening sessions one year to the next. I can investigate structures discussed at the outings and then find similar situations at home.

One lake has been dependable through the years. I fish this lake when the weather conditions are tough or when I bring a less experienced spoonplugger out on the water. The weather was challenging again this year. I was without a partner so I tried old dependable on my own. Situation: Arriving on the water at 10:00, I started above the weeds with 400's and worked down to 15ft. No fish were taken before the rain and wind moved in. I started back with the 400's at 4ft and worked down, at the 10 ft brake line a 16" bass was taken off a break. Casting produced another 16" bass on jumpbait. Switching to 4-6" suckers produced several bite offs as I drifted over the area. The minnow was severed just behind the head. I put a trailer hook on but the activity had stopped. I then switched back to the anchor position to check speeds. The brake produced perch and bluegill on crawlers.

A few days later the wind was back up and rain was in the forecast. My good buddy Norm lost his partner for the day so we teamed up on old dependable. Situation: We were in Norms boat and went first to a small hole were he has caught Northern. Starting with the 400's then the 250's we trolled the tops and the face of the weeds to the weed base. A nice 31inch northern was the payoff. After trying deeper we moved to another area and repeated our straining approach. This time the 250's produced a pair of small bass. We decided to go deeper and try the known spots for bigger bass. The best-known break was occupied by another Spoonplugger. Upon inquiring they reported no contact had been made for the morning. Thinking back to the previous trip I told norm of the limited activity on this deeper brake. That and the activity on the 250's of this trip prompted me to strongly encouraged Norm to put the 250's back on and work the large, shallow, hard area associated with the break. After several passes successively farther from the break we made contact with the larger bass. Having thrown a marker, a reverse pass was made and a second good fish was landed. A second marker in the water made finding a casting position easier. An additional 19.5" largemouth and 2 bonus catfish were the result. Additional trolling passes showed bass appeared to be scattered on the hard spot at 7-8ft. After seeing us stand up in the boat a few more times our comrades came buy to see if we needed help. We were happy to share our discovery with them. The activity stopped. We totaled 1 pike and 10 largemouth of which 5 were 18-21". A quick check of the area showed a 1-foot breakline from 7 to 8 ft had a small finger at the contact point. This secondary feature was about 150-200 yards from the deeper contact point, which had not been productive. We would have stayed and thoroughly mapped the area but headed back for a great meal provide by our hosts.

The surprise came from where the fish were contacted. While discussing our day at the hospitality tent I heard that the productive break has not been producing for the locals. I know that the break gets a lot of pressure during the year but most are catch and release situations. Is this a case where the weather pattern pushed these bass up to a secondary position, or has the pressure forced the school to by-pass this spot? I can't wait for next season to investigate this situation more thoroughly.

ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS 4th WINTER SEMINAR

March 11, 2006: Elk Grove, IL

The Illinois Spoonpluggers will host the 4th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar on Saturday, March 11, 2006 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 \$17 per person, and will include coffee, rolls, lunch, and handout materials. LATE REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR WILL BE \$20.

ABOUT THE EVENT - Building on the success of this event over the past three years, the seminar will feature a variety of topics and presentations designed to increase your success on the water. Our primary goal is to address specific topics that may be of concern to you. Last year we had 50 Spoonpluggers in attendance from six states! If you are planning to attend please help us organize the day's agenda by responding to the following:

#1 - TOPICS / QUESTIONS: All Spoonpluggers who plan to attend are asked to submit TWO QUESTIONS they would like addressed by the attendees. Questions should refer to actual on-the-water experiences (not hypothetical situations). Please label each question to indicate the appropriate category.

Mapping and Interpretation

Weather and Water

Basic Movement of Fish

Structure, Breaks, and Breaklines

Lake Types

Presentation of Lures

Tools and Controls

Mental Aspects

#2 - REGISTRATION & FEE: Submit your questions, along with an enclosed check for \$17.00, PAYABLE TO "ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS." Mail to Phil Szafranski, 1028 Glenlake, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Contact Phil by phone at 847-384-6819, and e-mail at szafranski1@sbcglobal.net.

THE BEST PRACTICES PRESENTATIONS WILL INCLUDE:

How to Draw a Spoonplugger Map

Narratives from Experienced Spoonpluggers (How did they do it?)

NOTE - The deadline to submit written questions for the seminar discussion is Thursday, February 2, 2006. This will allow our club time to prepare the seminar agenda (questions and special features) at its February business meeting.

LATE REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR WILL BE \$20

CONTACT: You may direct inquiries regarding the seminar to the following Illinois Spoonpluggers: Jim Duplex, jjd82@juno.com and Walt Kulikowski, wmkulik@prodigy.net. Remember - the deadline for questions is February 9, 2006.

Hope to see you at the seminar,

Scott Duff, Seminar Coordinator

E-mail: swdclar@aol.com

Phone: 847-690-1079

Registration Form

Winter Spoonplugging Seminar

March 11, 2006

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

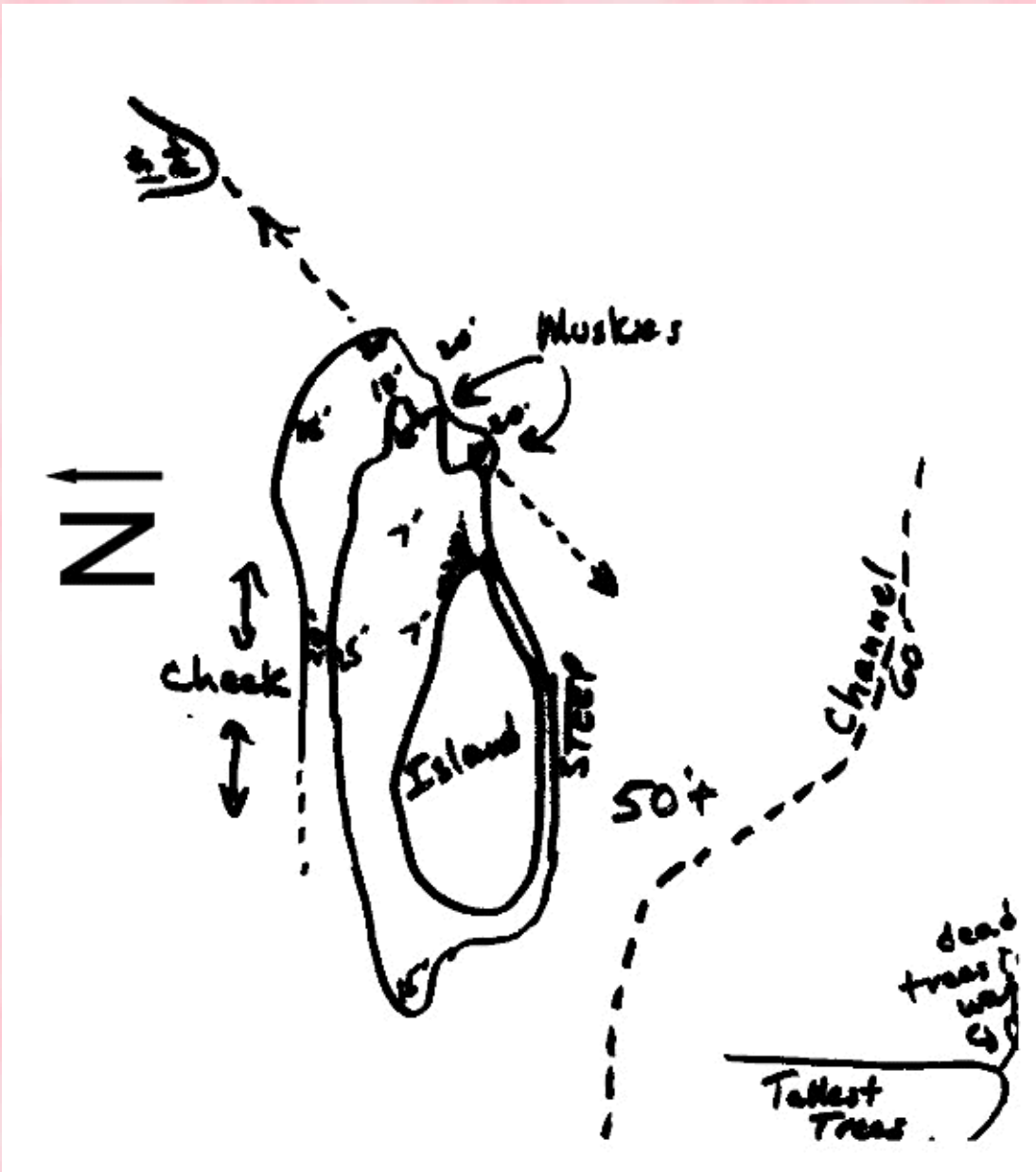
Telephone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Did I mention that the deadline for questions is February 9, 2006?

Question #1

Questions #2





Scott's fishing success has improved hand-and-hand with his mapping skills.







Scott has everyone's attention as he gives his year end report.



[◀ Get Directions ▶](#)