
Illinois Spoonpluggers

July 13, 2006

Richport YMCA, 7:30PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Richport YMCA on Thursday, July 13, 2006 and we will begin at 7:30PM.

The June meeting was attended by 13 members and it was good to see *George Schauner* at the gathering once again. He's been down in Florida and just returned from a brutal winter of 80° temperatures and unrelenting sunshine. We hope he's adjusting well!

BUSINESS

1. Clipboards, notebooks, pencils, and map forms were passed out to Spoonpluggers who attended the Winter Seminar but did not receive them because of an inadequate supply. If you are an Illinois Spoonpluggers and attended the seminar but did not receive a packet, you can contact *Scott Duff* for information on how to get yours.
2. Gift cards were given to *Rick Matus* and *Jenny Hubbard* for the video work they did at the seminar. The videos are now in the club library and you're encouraged to check them out. A gift card was also sent to *Joe Renholds* for the printing of the questions that were used for discussion.
3. *Joe Zaremba* has secured the Elk Grove Library for the Illinois Spoonpluggers' 5th Annual Winter Seminar which will be held on March 17, 2007. Mark your calendar! Bi-monthly meeting dates have also been secured through next summer. Thanks, Joe.
4. The Muskegon Outing is coming up July 19-23, 2006. This is a great outing put on by a Michigan Lunger Hunters. Details have been included in the newsletter.
5. It was suggested and adapted that future meetings will include discussion of related educational topics from the Green Book, the Home Study Course, or pertinent articles from The National Spoonplugger. This will be in conjunction with the Fishing Reports and structure map presentations that are already a part of our meetings.
6. *Phil Szafranski* gave a detailed report on his recent trip to southern Illinois. The discussion focused on his structure maps and the conditions he encountered while downstate. Great report, Phil!
7. Phil has recently been in touch with the head biologist for *Heidecke Lake* and will report on his conversation about conditions at this former cooling lake. We're looking forward to hearing what the state has to say.
8. Scott sends in this suggestion for getting out the word about Spoonplugging and our club. "Chicagolandfishing.com has a page devoted to local fishing club information. Below is a suggested post for our club. There is no cost or strings

attached. See <http://chicagolandfishing.com/memberservices/htmldocs/clubs.htm>. I would be interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas."

Illinois Spoonpluggers: Multi-species club dedicated to the teachings of E.L. Buck Perry, the father of modern structure fishing. Spoonplugging is a highly effective total approach to fishing which has provided many of the foundations of modern angling. Learn principles and techniques that allow you to fish any lake or river with complete confidence and consistently arrive at the fish. Proven for over 50 years, Spoonplugging flat out works. A non-competitive organization with monthly meetings in Chicago area, local and regional network outings, club newsletter, national publication. Member of Spoonpluggers of America which has clubs in many states across the country. Visit our website.

[The "click" on the club name would allow the viewer to send us an e-mail]

FISHING REPORTS

Special thanks go out to all the members who are sending out up-to-the-minute fishing reports. This keeps us informed as to what's hot and what's not. Don't forget to send pictures to Jim Duplex that can be included in the newsletter.

Here's what's happening out on the water.

Well, it seems most members have been out and about and the reports suggest we can expect another good season of fishing. A number of Illinois Spoonpluggers attended the Land of Lincoln outing and the fishing, while not as spectacular as last year, was good. Check out Scott's report. Jim and Joe Zaremba spent a day on Waubesa and the fish are still using the same structures. The catch for the day included 2 nice muskies and 2 nice northerns. Jim also teamed up with George for a trip to Lake Barkley in Kentucky. The first trip yielded over 100 bass scattered in the shallows and the second visit found the fish on main lake features. We're looking forward to seeing their maps. Heidecke lake still is a puzzle but Jim caught a couple of nice keepers in addition to a chunky striper on a recent visit. Maybe Phil can shed some light on what's going on there. Rick has some additional free time on his hands this summer and has applied himself to improving his mapping technique. From the reports he's sending in, it looks like he's making progress! Keep it up, Rick. Scott connected with his biggest northern, the fish came in at 36", from the Fox Chain. *Jerry Hein* visited Coffeen on his way back from Kincaid and picked up some nice bass that averaged about 3lbs. Phil is currently checking conditions in southern Wisconsin and we're looking forward to hearing his report at the meeting.

Topic of discussion: Fishing reports and Terry's articles on mapping and interpretation in the Sept/Oct 2004 issue of the National Spoonplugger. Also read John Bales article on deep water in the May/June 2006 issue.

Dates for 2006 National Outings

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; Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, March 17, 2007. We will pass other dates along as they become available.

LUNKER HUNTERS 15th MUSKEGON SPOONPLUGGERS OUTING

JULY 19-23, 2006

FISHERMANS' LANDING CAMPGROUND ON MUSKEGON LAKE

Get your campground or motel reservations in soon! Deb Hawkins says the campground is filling up fast due to the Muskegon Air Show. Call her at: 231-726-6100

MOTELS: Belaire Motel 231-733-2196 (belairemotel.net)

Comfort Inn 231-739-9092

Holiday Inn 1-800-846-5253 (Downtown)

OUTING ACTIVITIES

--Copies of area lake maps, Grand River

--Hospitality Tent, videos, fellowship

--Area sights including Submarine, Air Show, Lake Michigan beaches--bring the family

--Terry Veltings' "Rolling Tackle Shop"

--salmon, pike, walleye, bass, musky, etc available in area

This network outing is to honor the late Buck Perry, the "Father of Structure Fishing", the person we owe so much to. For information, call Chase Klinesteker 616-949-8665, ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Land of Lincoln Outing Report

June 28-July 2, 2006

By Scott Duff

Just got back from 4 days of fishing at the Land of Lincoln Network Outing (Kinkaid Lake, Crab Orchard Lake, Lake of Egypt). Attendance was better with twice as many participating as last year. Illinois Spoonpluggers attending were Wayne Dylo, Scott Duff, Jerry and Mary Hein, Rick and Lisa Matus, Jim Shell. Host Bart Allen, his father, and Larry McCormick also fished. Thanks to Bart Allen for continuing to support and host this outing!!! Several shared meals and the time spent discussing the finer points of Spoonplugging on these waters made for a most worthwhile experience. Fishing was slower than last year due to the clearer water color and bright sunshine much of the time. However, all participants caught some nice fish.

The Carbondale area is home to a variety of mighty fine reservoirs, a diversity of species, some very large fish, and a long fishing season. Facilities and motel accommodations are excellent.

Mostly clear skies, a building heat wave and weekend holiday boat traffic made conditions a challenge. However, the

Spoonplugging knowledge provided by Mr. Perry allowed all to tap into the fine fishery of these Southern Illinois lakes.

The wives had a great outing, too: Mary Hein caught the big fish with a 47" muskie while husband Jerry lost a big one the next day on the same spot when it jumped and ran up over the rocks. Lisa Matus had her largest fish to date with a 38" muskie and followed it up five minutes later with a 20" bass on the same spot! Scott Duff caught 3 muskies with the best at 44" and 37", and lost 3 including a big one. Wayne Dyllo, Jim Shell, Bart Allen, and Larry McCormick all got into bass of 20" or more and also some muskies. Bass were scattered and better in Kinkaid and Lake of Egypt. Other species caught included walleye (Kinkaid), drum, white bass, channel catfish.

CRAB ORCHARD LAKE is a shallow flatlander with much of the channel at 25' or less. It has considerable silting and erosion of mid lake structures while water color was OK but not great. Still, there are a lot of big bass here which happened to be in a dormant condition due to the weather and (I assume) lack of depth. If you have never fished a flatlander, remember that Buck tells us that this can teach us more than any other lake type. For the Spoonplugger used to fishing natural lakes, it is a revelation to work these flatlander structures where the channel swings in close, run the lure sizes from the shoreline on out, note the breaks on structure, throw markers, establish casting positions, etc. Due to conditions only a few largemouth bass, white bass, drum and catfish were caught during our short visits. ALL SPOONPLUGGERS need to experience this! Its just like you see in the book, and the knowledge can then transfer to the other lake types.

KINKAID LAKE is a Lowland Reservoir #2 (or possibly a shallow Highland Reservoir) because many of the shorelines go right down to 40'+ due to the rugged rocky terrain in many areas and "dirt" in others. As I noted last year, this lake has prominent structure everywhere and it takes sorting to get to the best fishing water. Already having mapped and established sight lines certainly helps in the face of challenging weather and weekend boat traffic.

LAKE OF EGYPT is a Lowland Reservoir with almost everything including excellent bass population and size and structure situations galore. Its brown stain water is a little clearer than we hope for but its not bad either. With that said, this 2,300 acre lake is just about an ideal reservoir. The coal-fired power plant keeps the bass moving all winter, too.

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. Hope you can attend the upcoming Muskegon Outing!



Jerry drives Mary to her rendezvous with a 47 1/4" muskie!.







Lissa Matus shows how easy it is, even for a new Spoonplugger, when your husband is a mapper!!!!!!!!!!.

ALL IN A DAYS' WORK!





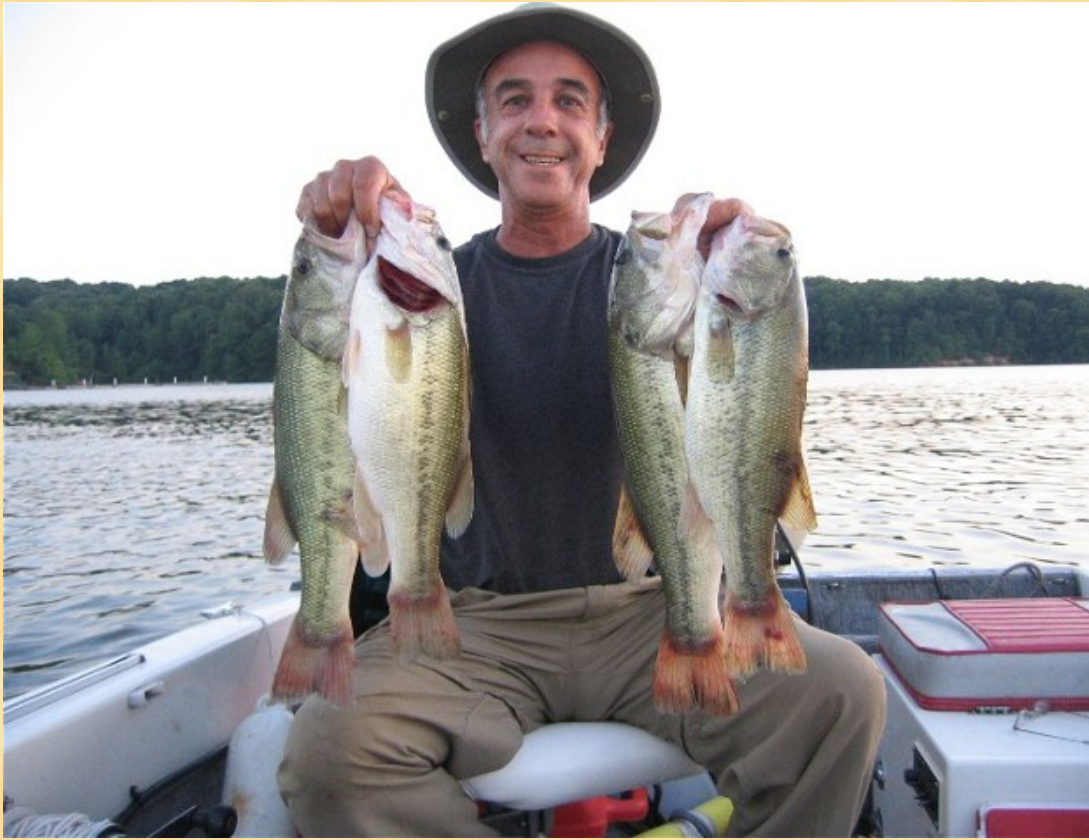




Joe and Jim enjoyed an excellent day on Waubesa.







Some Lake Barkley bass caught by George and Jim on a recent visit.



A nice little Heidecke striper.



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Enter starting street address:

City, State or Zipcode: