
Illinois Spoonpluggers

November 9, 2006

Richport YMCA: 7:30 PM

Our next meeting will be held at the Richport YMCA on *Thursday, November 9, 2006* and we will begin at 7:30 PM.

The October meeting was attended by 11 Spoonpluggers and it was time once again to bid farewell to *George Schauner*. He likes to spend the winter in Florida where the climate is more conducive to his sensitive nature. We'll miss you, George. Have a safe trip.

BUSINESS

1. *Joe Zaremba* has booked the Elk Grove Library for us through July 2007. We will then request dates for the upcoming fiscal year. The closure of the YMCA has forced us to consolidate our location sites and we have decided to hold ALL future club meetings at the library. They will still be held on the second Thursday of the month and begin at 7:15 PM. Special thanks to Joe, for his efforts!

2. George turned over the treasurer's job to *Jim Taylor and Jim Perillo* at the meeting. Thanks guys for stepping up and a big thank you to George for all his work over the years handling club expenses. Your efforts are appreciated!

3. We will begin making plans for the Winter Seminar on March 17, 2007 at the meeting. *Scott Duff* will not be able to coordinate this year's program due to his work schedule but has offered some suggestions for this year's event. We will discuss them at the meeting.

4. *Jim Duplex* gave a year end review of his fishing season replete with Spoonplugger maps. By the sound of the reports he's been sending out, it doesn't appear that his season is over yet.

5. Jim reiterated at the meeting that he will relinquish the newsletter job with the December issue. We're looking for someone to take over this responsibility. He reassured members that putting out the newsletter is not a daunting task and it really just involves notifying members about upcoming meeting and club events. We have about 7 members who get their newsletter mailed to them but the other 25 or so get theirs on-line. The content and format are up to the individual and it can be as simple or as complex as you want. We've had a number of different members undertake this role over the years and the continuity, content, and quality has been impressive. Give some thought to helping us move forward.

6. *Phil Szafranski* has this reminder for our members, "The upcoming November Business Meeting will strongly influence the future direction of our fishing club. Some of our members that have volunteered their personal time over the years are looking for an opportunity to step back and participate in the club without having any long term specific obligations going forward. With this being said, we encourage all members to attend this all important meeting. Without individuals stepping up to volunteer or be there to be heard, some of the benefits, activities and functions may cease going forward. This will be your opportunity to help shape (or not) the direction of the Illinois Spoonpluggers for years to come. Thank you for your consideration in this matter."

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

Quite a few Illinois Spoonpluggers have been fishing the Madison Chain lately and the muskies are on the move. They report catches of multiple fish for their on-the-water efforts. We hope to hear some comprehensive reports at the meeting.

*Topic of discussion:*The December Christmas party, club jobs and responsibilities; planning for the Winter Seminar; and fishing reports.

Dates for 2007 National Outings

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, March 17, 2007.

TERRY O'MALLEY: A SPOONPLUGGING TREASURE

By Jim Duplex

The passing of Buck Perry has left a void in the Spoonplugging community. A void so wide and deep it will never again be filled by any one individual. There just is not another person like Buck. It used to be that if you had a question or concern about Spoonplugging you could write to him and be assured of a timely response. In the later years, even this activity had diminished. You could, however, still travel down to Hickory and the Father of Structure fishing would be there to greet and welcome you on a tour of Buck's Baits. He dispensed knowledge freely and was more than willing to answer questions in the hopes of guiding you to fishing success. But now he's gone. Thankfully, his writings, videos and tools are still available.

Though he is gone, Buck left us with another valuable asset; that being the individuals he worked with when he formulated and confirmed the basic tenets of Spoonplugging many years ago. Among them are people like Don Nichols, John Buoy, Tom Coleman, Don Dickson, Vic Saunders, and Terry O'Malley. These early pioneers have quite understandably become less active and their participation in the Spoonplugging community has dwindled. Terry O'Malley, however, has been the exception. His contributions to the National Spoonpluggers have been a valuable part of the knowledge base that has proved helpful to both novice and veteran Spoonpluggers alike. He continues to provide Spoonplugging training from his home in North Carolina and, as I recently found out, he's readily available to talk with on the phone should you have a question about Spoonplugging.

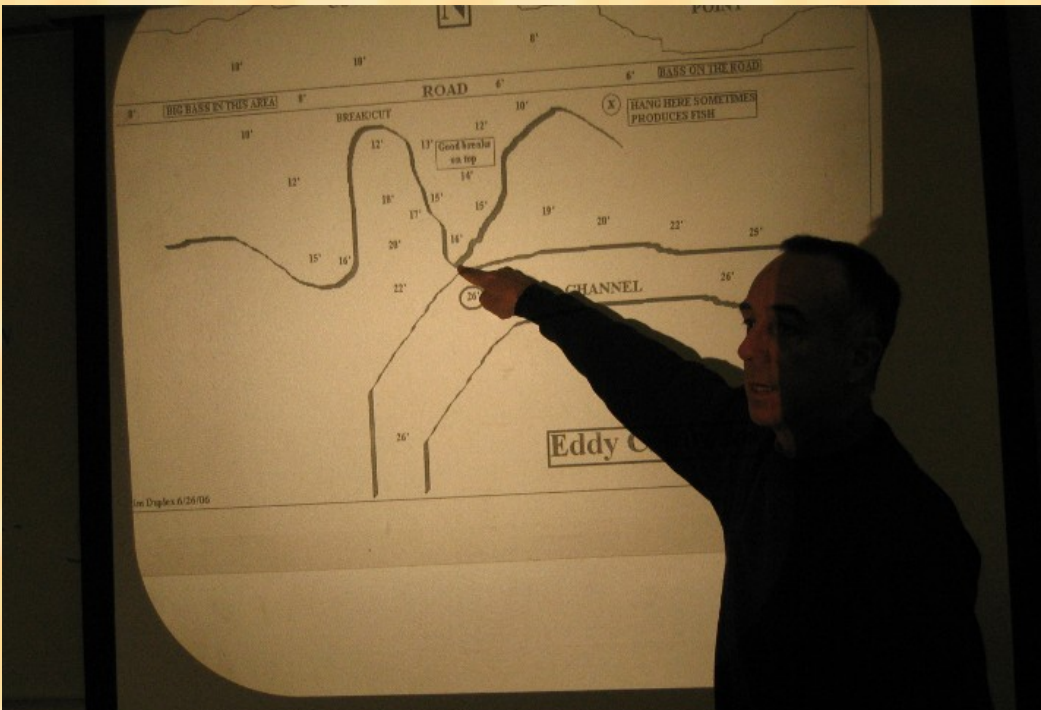
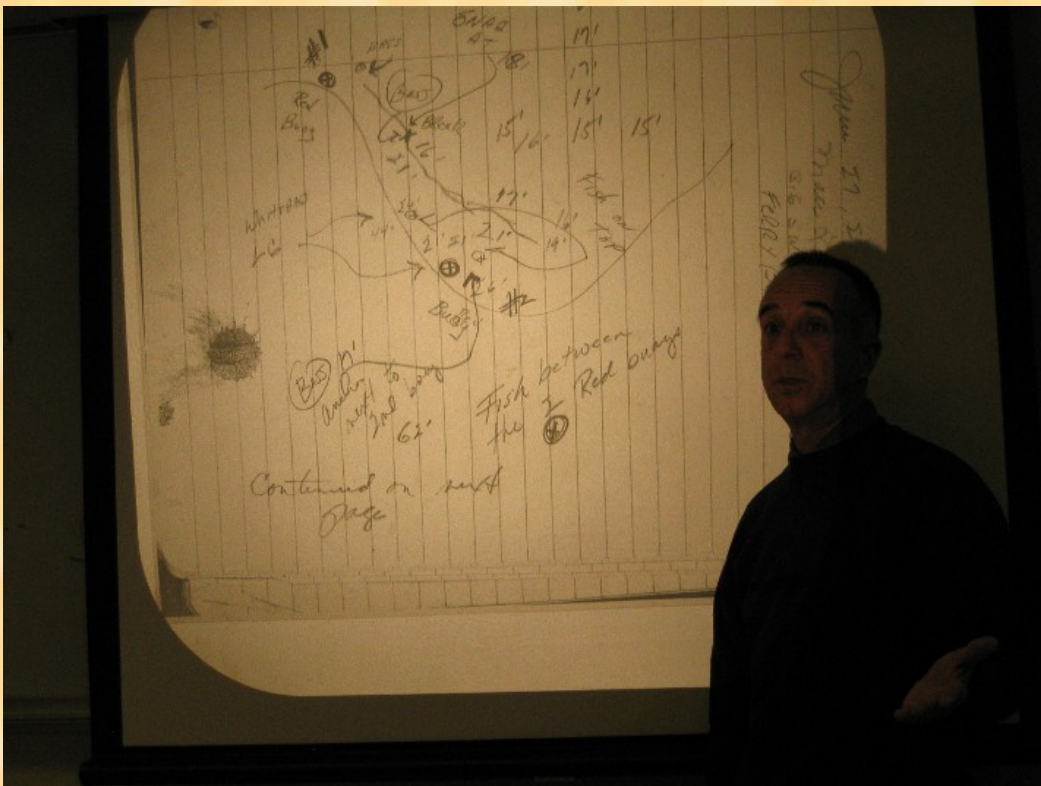
What makes Terry such a valuable asset is the close personal and working relationship he had with Buck. Terry worked for Buck, Terry was in the boat with Buck, Terry was guided by Buck, and Terry was acknowledged by Buck to be an outstanding fisherman. Many of the maps contained in the Green Book and Home Study Course were prepared by Terry and still serve as the model of what a Spoonplugging map should look like; shape location and detail, its all there.

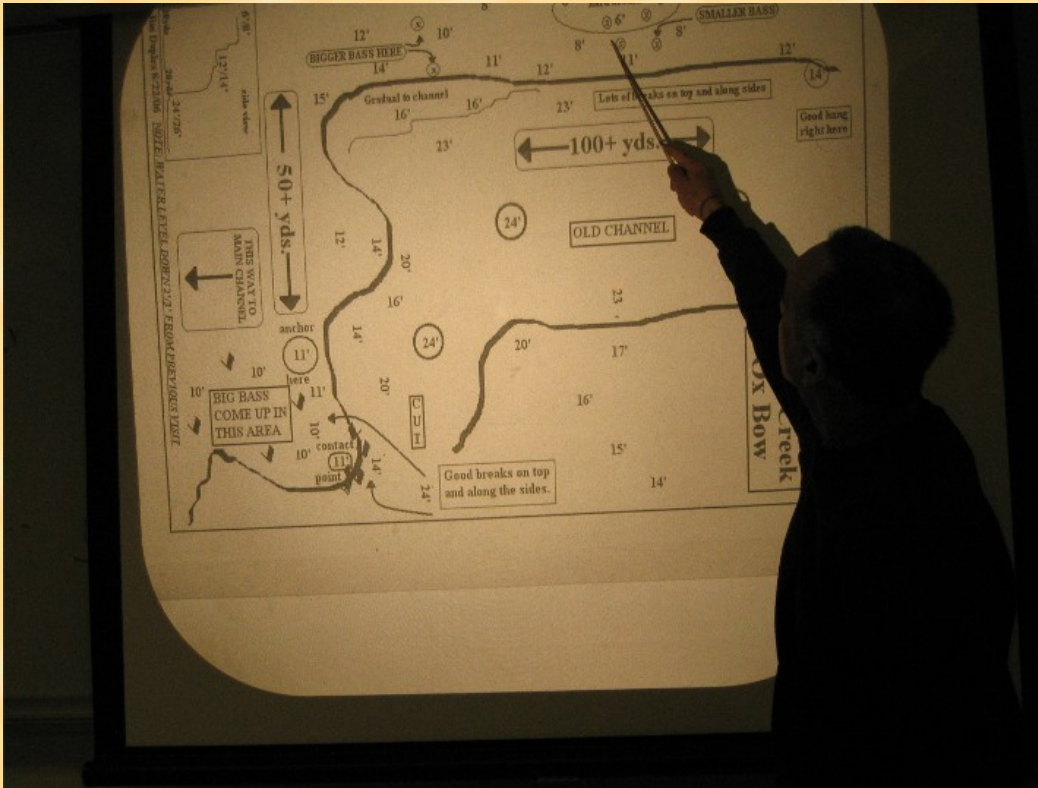
His first hand experience makes Terry uniquely aware of how it was done, where it was done, when it was done, and why it was done. He is a primary source of Spoonplugging knowledge because he was there! He was there when the big catches were made. That's him in the photo next to Vic Saunders with that unbelievable catch on Lake Apopka in Florida. He's the guy standing next to Buck with that incredible grin of satisfaction on his face. Yes, Terry was there. And he's still here dispensing knowledge and guidance in the tradition of Buck Perry.

Spoonplugging is hard. Spoonplugging requires discipline. Becoming an accomplished Spoonpluggers is no easy task. This sometimes leads individuals to look for shortcuts in their fishing. These shortcuts take all forms: using a GPS instead of learning how to use markers and rifle sights, using the depth finder as a fish locator, using improper or inadequate equipment, and the most egregious short cut of all, ignoring Spoonplugging guidelines and procedures.

Terry will have none of this. He continues to offer advice and assistance by reminding us of the message Buck espoused many years ago: "You must go about your fishing in a precise and orderly manner." We don't have Buck around anymore to guide us and answer our questions but thankfully, we do have Terry. Thank you Terry for all that you've done for Spoonplugging, thank you for all that you continue to do for Spoonplugging, and thank you for all that you'll do for Spoonplugging in the future. Your efforts and contributions are appreciated. You are a Spoonplugging treasure!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW





Jim Duplex uses Spooplugger maps to illustrate his *YEAR IN REVIEW* report and detail the structure situations he encountered .

AND IT'S NOT OVER YET!



Jim picked up this nice muskie from Minnesota on a trip that was a retirement gift.



Craig caught his first muskie ever with a little help from Phil



Then he went back on his own and caught this 45" with a little help on the net from Jenny!!!!!!!!!!!!



Phil's been enjoying the muskie action in Wisconsin.









Jim knows that in the fall, when the muskies are moving, the weather doesn't matter!



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Enter starting street address:

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YAHOO! MAPS

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