

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

Dedicated to the teachings of E.L. "Buck" Perry
The Father of Structure Fishing

March, 2007

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, April 12, 2007, 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library (conference room). Club meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, and a reminder, all future meetings will be held at the Elk Grove Village location.

1. MEETING SUMMARY - The March meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM with 11 members present. *Jim Taylor* gave the Treasurer's Report and provided an updated membership list. A room reservation issue at the library surfaced when we were again forced to relocate. The reading room we used was actually larger and quite adequate with all the needed accommodations. We may need to alternate rooms as a workable solution, although the April meeting should be back in our normal space (conference room). Final plans were made for the seminar. Members stuffed folders (agenda, program Q&A packets, and casting handouts) and *Jim Duplex*, *Rick Matus*, and *Phil Szafranski* went through a dry run of the PowerPoint presentation. Nice job, guys!

Presentation - *Scott Duff* gave a presentation of a mapping job done on a unfamiliar lake fished several years ago during a bad cold front condition. A lake map handout was presented, including "side views" for north and south portions of the lake. While above water observations were made visually; underwater information was gathered by following the major breakline all the way around the lake, drawing in shoreline features, and then using the Don Dixon approach on the structures encountered. Members exchanged ideas about how they would proceed given such a situation, in terms of mapping methods, and presentation of lures.

2. WINTER SPOONPLUGGING SEMINAR 2007 REPORT

The 2007 seminar was by all accounts another success. The seminar drew 60 Spoonpluggers from states all around the Midwest including, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. Those arriving Friday night were able to partake in dinner and conversation among friends at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria.

On Saturday morning the doors opened at 9:00 AM and in less than 40 minutes. With everyone registered and plenty of coffee and rolls on hand, all was set and we were ready to start. It was a pleasure to welcome back so many returning members along with some of our newer Spoonpluggers. The Q&A sessions (using the prepared questions submitted by attendees) provided plenty of practical ideas and food for thought for the new fishing season.

Certified Spoonplugging Instructor (CSI) *John Bales*' special presentation, "Casting for the Largemouth Bass: From Ice Out to Late Fall," was very possibly the most insightful and inspiring presentation on that topic that many attendees had ever seen. Outstanding job, John! A delicious lunch served by *Craig and Jenny Hubbard* allowed members time to visit and discuss all things Spoonplugging! *Jim Duplex* and *Jerry Hein* once again served as our capable moderators and kept everything moving smoothly

throughout the day. We also appreciate the generous contributions of Spoonplugging legend *Vic Saunders* and *CSI Jerry Borst*.

The opportunity to share Spoonplugging knowledge in the best traditions of Buck Perry is what the Winter Seminar is all about. And it is each and every one of the Spoonpluggers in attendance who make it a success. Their questions, ideas, on-the-water experiences, and helpful and friendly spirit has truly made the Winter Seminar one of the highlights of the year.

Thanks to all Illinois Spoonpluggers for their contributions and work on behalf of the club, and on behalf of Spoonplugging, the past couple of months and throughout the year!!!!

3. UPDATED CLUB ROSTER - An updated club membership roster was sent out recently. Let me know if you did not receive it. My new e-mail address is swdclar@earthlink.net.

4. DISCUSSION: PLANNING FOR LAKE BARKLEY CLUB OUTING - At the April and May meetings we will be talking about the Lake Barkley/Kentucky Lake Outing. Please check your calendar for the summer as the outing will be July 28-August 5. Members are encouraged to team up and attend whatever dates they are available.

5. FISHING REPORTS - We're still waiting after the spring tease. Unstable conditions have been the rule. Following this winter's late freeze, we have had an exceptionally cold February, a warm spell accompanied by heavy rains, and now freezing cold again. Some extended outlooks are leaning toward another wet period in the coming weeks. Opportunities to travel to many favorite springtime spots have been limited by the high water and frequent unstable conditions. *Scott Duff* reported on two quick trips to LaSalle Lake between rainstorms and catching a decent mixed bag of LM bass, SM bass, hybrid striper, channel catfish, drum, and yellow bass. Most of the fish were caught off a couple mid-lake spots on the smaller spoonplugs, with just a few on jump lures. Media reports from Heidecke indicate that the water level is being drawn down to allow access to the north pool.

6. CHICAGOLAND SEES END OF ERA IN TACKLE BUSINESS: After 40-plus years of serving Chicago-metro anglers, Ed Shirley Sports is closing its doors. The Palatine store will be shuttered soon, as will the Countryside location. The Markham branch is now called Angler's Outlet, and the Morton Grove location will operate under the Fish Tec banner. They're good people and they will be missed!

7. NATIONAL OUTINGS: Carbondale Outing - The National has listed the dates for the Carbondale Outing for June 27-July 1. Host Bart Allen can be reached at ballen@herrinhs.org. With the proximity to July 4th, members might want to consider going during the week to avoid the intense Holiday weekend boat traffic experienced last year.

Muskegon Outing - Deb Hawkins at Fisherman's Landing Campground sends word that another city event (uh, motorcycle rally) will be taking place there at the same time as the outing. She advises anyone planning to stay at the campground to be aware that space will be at a premium, so early reservations (like now) would be a good idea. Contact Chase Klinesteker at Ckspoonpl1@aol.com.

On Spoonplugging as a "total approach" to successful fishing:

"You should be a good troller so you can become a good fisherman...because the trolling has its place, but its not the real ANSWER to successful fishing." -

--Buck Perry, CD set

Dates for upcoming National Outings:

'Bama & Ohio Spoonpluggers, April 11-15, 2007

Carbondale Outing, June 27-July 1, 2007

Muskegon Lunker Hunters Outing at Fishermen's Landing, July 18-22, 2007

Northern Indiana "Buck Sez" Outing, August 9-11, 2007

North Carolina Outing, September 6-8, 2007

Chicamauga Reservoir, October 4-6, 2007.

**You may also access this newsletter and much more
at our website: spoonplugger.net**

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