

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

August, 2007

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, August 9, 2007, 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

1. MEETING SUMMARY - The July meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM with 18 club members present. It was great to have Vic Saunders join us, as well. The first part of the meeting was held in a small meeting room and we were later moved to the seminar room to use the overhead projector. Belated seminar reimbursements were taken care of for those who contributed personal resources. Motel accommodations for the Lake Barkley club outing were discussed. Scott Duff offered to collect individual contact and travel information for the Spoonpluggers who would be attending and send it out via e-mail. Jim Duplex gave a fishing situation overview. This was very helpful as he has made 8-10 trips to Lake Barkley in the past few years with some highly productive days on the water

2. FISHING REPORTS - The **Muskegon Outing** was attended by *Jerry and Mary Hein*, and *Scott Duff*. Some nice catches were made despite the usual cold front weather conditions by fishing lakes with good water color. The Hein's boated a double limit of bass on Hess Lake on a "Day 1" by finally going to live bait after hitting a lone fish on the troll and working through the jump lures. The 10 fish weighed over 30 lbs! Jerry has done his homework on this lake and it shows year after year in his ability to recognize features fish are using, however subtle, and adapt to the conditions he encounters to put fish in the boat. Scott spent his time focusing on the dark waters of Mona Lake (walleyes to 25", LM, SM, hefty catfish), and Allegan Lake which is a flatland reservoir with dark water (walleyes to 23" and SM bass to 17"). Speeds on this trip varied from a fast troll (large walleye) to extremely slow on the cast, so you had to "check it out." The **North Fox Chain** reports included good walleyes, bass, and muskies up to 44" a few weeks ago. The fish had moved deeper with the recent hot weather, but heavy rains have recently resulted in the no-wake being put in effect. *Craig Hubbard* and *Jim Duplex* got into a mixed bag on **Heidecke Lake** including some keeper walleye. On the **Madison Chain** *Jim Duplex*, *George Schauner*, *Larry Petri*, and *Jerry Hein* have caught some nice fish, especially northerns to 38" from the deeper waters of Lake Mendota. Waubesa has also been a good choice on days when the weather dictates that darker water is the way to go. Jerry and Larry teamed up for a 4 day trip and also caught LM and SM to 18". Note that even in relatively clear water of Mendota (5 ft. visibility) Jerry still went by the book: "We started above the weeds with 250's & 400's and worked down to 35 ft in front of the ramp." Speed control was critical as Jerry said it often took a CHANGE OF SPEEDS to get the fish to hit. We hadn't heard from Jerry for awhile and finally found out why: "We were on a 5,000 mile road trip from home, to Texas, to Southern Illinois, to home, to SW Minnesota, to NE Minnesota, to North Dakota, back to NE Minnesota, and home!!!" ...We look forward to hearing more about the fishing portions of his travels at upcoming meetings.

3. LAKE BARKLEY CLUB OUTING REPORT - The Illinois Spoonpluggers Outing was held at Lake Barkley Outing on July 28-August 4. Nine Spoonpluggers in 5 boats participated: Rick Matus, Jim Duplex/George Schauner, Phil Szafranski/Jim Taylor, Scott Duff/Craig Hubbard, Wayne

Dylo/Marty McAvoy. Lake Barkley is a *Wide Floodplain-Type Reservoir* on the TVA System and is a sister lake to nearby Kentucky Lake. Despite an unstable condition and slightly faded water color, some nice fish were caught although activity of the bass was quite limited on most days. Large structures near/breaking directly into the depths of the main channel were probed, as well as side feeder cuts, and structures related to the creek channel in the large feeder arms.

The Days Inn-Kuttawa provided a comfortable home base with continental breakfast, nice rooms, and convenient parking for boats. The nearby Eddy Creek and Kuttawa Marinas met our needs and allowed easy access to the areas we fished. The group met for breakfasts and again for dinner to relax, share reports from the day, and enjoy some great company.

Bass activity was at least fair the first few days before the high pressure system filtered in. Perseverance was then needed with the hot KY weather and limited movements. However, this an excellent lake to test and hone your Spoonplugging skills, and everyone caught fish. A BIG thanks to Jim Duplex for his effort in coordinating the outing and generously sharing some of his experiences from past trips. It was greatly appreciated by all!!! Some nice bass were caught including 17"-19" LM, 17" SM, a whopper 33 LB. blue catfish which hit a 700SP on the troll, huge bluegills, a 15 lb channel cat, and yes, a couple of 15 lb carp in the 'ol pucker-puss ("Its just too bad when the other species get in the way!" --B.P.).

4. BUCK'S BAIT'S MAILING ADDRESS UPDATED - They will still get mail at PO Box 66, Hickory, NC, but needed an address for deliveries as well:

Buck's Baits, Inc., 2359 Hwy. 70 SE #266, Hickory, NC 28602
Ph: 828-322-2157; Fax: 828 428-9181; e-mail: scottjenkins@bellsouth.net
Web site: buckperry.com

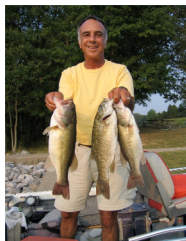
Dates for upcoming National Outings:
Northern Indiana "Buck Sez" Outing, August 9-11, 2007
North Carolina Outing, September 6-8, 2007
Chicamauga Reservoir, October 4-6, 2007

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

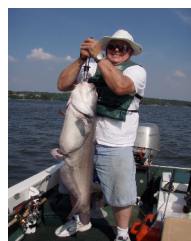
Newsletter Editor: Scott Duff, E-mail swdclar@earthlink.net, Phone 847-690-1079

Highlights from Lake Barkley Club Outing:

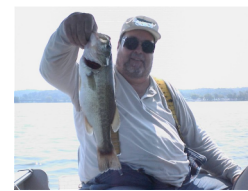
Click "Zoom in" to enlarge photos



Jim Duplex with some beauties



Craig Hubbard
33 lb Blue Catfish
on 700 Spoonplug



Wayne Dylo shows how its done!



George Schauner at the helm



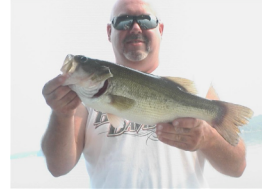
Yet another one on the belly hooks!!!



George having some fun



Scott Duff with part of Monday's catch



Marty McAvoy teamed with Wayne Dyllo. Nice fish!



Rick Matus picks up another fish on the breakline



Wayne and Marty casting a hotspot



Jim Duplex - 37" northern pike
Lake Mendota



Scott Duff
44" Fox Chain muskie
700SP on the cast