

# Illinois Spoonpluggers

## Newsletter

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

**October, 2007**

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, October 11, 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 September meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM with 9 club members present. Jim Taylor presented the treasurer's report and passed around copies to those present. A discussion was held regarding fishing reports being submitted for publication. General guidelines were agreed upon with a reminder that detailed club reports are for member use only. However, it was also stressed that it is in the best interest of Spoonplugging to continue to give exposure to our organization through the local media outlets, and the Outdoor Notebook publication in particular.

**2. LURE ORDER** - We will be collecting lure orders at this month's meeting. If you can't attend the meeting be sure to send your order to Jim Perillo. The order forms were sent out via e-mail. Contact Jim Perillo if you have any questions.

Note: Cabela's new store in Hoffman Estates is now open, in case you missed it.

**3. PRESENTATION** - Phil Szafranski gave an excellent report on his efforts at two Southern Wisconsin lakes. The presentation was enhanced by the use of maps on the overhead.

Lake #1: Facing post-frontal and high water no-wake conditions, Phil stressed the need to maintain his focus during a tough day of fishing. He also emphasized the need to follow procedures, keep a lure in the water throughout the day, and not be distracted by the conditions or apparent lack of fish activity.

Lake #2: The second trip featured tough conditions once again, but on a lake that had a better fish population. Smaller SM and northern pike were caught. By leaving the lake map at home and presenting lures correctly he was able to cover the entire lake thoroughly and keep an open mind. In doing so, catchable stragglers were contacted providing valuable information for future trips under better conditions. Much learning was accomplished in conditions that suggested it might be better to go home a little early.

Phil's efforts once again underscore the importance of staying focused on the water, and sticking to exactly what we have been taught by Mr. Perry. Spoonplugging is an orderly and precise way to go about our fishing. We must know exactly what we are going to do regardless of the situation, and believe in it every minute we are on the water. Our approach does not change, especially when dealing with tough conditions or an unfamiliar lake.

**4. FISHING REPORTS** - Improved. Tough fishing prevailed in our area much of the past month following the spell of extreme and unstable weather. Unfortunately, those conditions brought about a sharp break from the summer movement patterns. *Jim Taylor* discussed structures on two very different

lakes: **Crystal Lake** (very limited structure, LM caught to 18") and **Lake Delavan** with numerous productive features. *Gino Testone* made the first of two fall trips to **Mille Lacs (MN)**, including a day on the water with *Fran Meyers*. The muskies were not very cooperative but some hefty smallmouth bass were reported. *Jim Taylor* and *Scott Duff* used the stretch of unstable weather to explore new waters at **Lake Delavan**. *Craig Hubbard* and *Jim Duplex* had action at **Heidecke Lake** for walleyes (up to 23") and yellow bass.

NOTE-Heidecke Lake is now closed for the remainder of the seasons since the State of Illinois failed to maintain a usable boat ramp (i.e. dump some gravel) when the water level was lowered for spillway reconstruction project.

Recently, fishing picked up with the extended period of stable summer-like weather. The river systems, in particular, have produced some decent reports. *Nick Tabor* made a nice catch of white bass with some smallmouth bass mixed in on the **Illinois River** at Ottawa. Water color was good for this time of year. The lower water levels also benefitted fishing on the **Kankakee River** where *Gino "River Rat" Testone*, his brother Angelo, and *Jim "The Wader" Duplex* caught 40 smallmouth bass up to 17" using critters they caught by hand. Good going, guys! *Jim Shell* sent in a couple of excellent **Lake Wisconsin** crappie reports with a few perch and sheepshead mixed in, but no walleyes. Jim Shell also hit **Little Sturgeon Bay** for smallmouth but the pike had something to say about that as he hooked onto a really nice 39 incher. Jim said it was the fattest northern he had ever seen! *Joe Zaremba* (and son *Kevin*), and *Scott Duff* have made several trips to **Whitewater Lake** with some LM bass (20" and over) and good action for northern pike on Spoonplugs. The warm and stable weather maintained the algae bloom which resulted in excellent water color (its October, for heaven's sake!). *Harvey Smith* reported enjoying a day on **Lake Michigan** with his two sons and a grandson catching coho (to 27") in late July. Sounds like it was a GREAT day, Harvey! Speaking of salmon, the run to the Illinois harbors should be picking up with the shift to cool fall weather now upon us.

There's still lots of time left in the fishing season to get out there and make a catch. Remember, even though we have to consider the seasonal changes, don't pass up running all sizes of Spoonplugs even as the water cools. And be sure to check those speeds from zero to whatever!

**BUCK'S BAIT'S NEW MAILING ADDRESS REMINDER:**

**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](mailto:scottjenkins@bellsouth.net)**

**Web site: [buckperry.com](http://buckperry.com)**

***Dates received for upcoming National Outings:***

**Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, March 15, 2008**

**Lunker Hunters Muskegon Outing, July 9-13, 2008**

**You may also access this newsletter and much more  
at our web site: [spoonplugger.net](http://spoonplugger.net)**

**Newsletter Editor: Scott Duff, E-mail [swdclar@earthlink.net](mailto:swdclar@earthlink.net), Phone 847-690-1079**