

Illinois Spoonpluggers Newsletter

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

March, 2008

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, March 13, 2008, 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

MEETING / SEMINAR PREP!!! - Please plan to attend the March 13 club meeting. We will be assembling folders and would appreciate everyone's help in getting this done. The upcoming meeting with cover final preparations for the seminar and then we should be ready to go! Thanks to all who have been hard at work with preparations to make the day a success. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort that they have been putting in.

FISHING REPORTS - The cooling lakes have begun to reopen which is a sure sign of spring. Expect water temps on the warm sides to be in the 60's F. Powerton Lake and Braidwood Lake have already opened (Feb. 15 & March 1) and LaSalle Lake opens on March 15. The Heidecke Lake opener is April 1 (no power plant-cool water). Nick Tabor fished in a tournament in the Illinois River and said the the water temperatures remaining in the 30's so the walleyes were still close to bottom in the deeper holes. That was before the waters rose. With the snow melt and prospects for continued rain chances, you will want to monitor river levels for updates.

As for our areas natural lakes the hard water will be gone soon. We will need to remember that the fish may not warm up quite as quickly as a fisherman's spring fever. Rivers warm up first, and have current and uniform temperature, but water levels and color can fluctuate greatly especially in the spring. Shallower lakes, lakes with dark water, north bays and coves, and the headwaters of reservoirs (migratory species) should get a lot of attention. Speed can be faster than you might think at times so check it out. Keep the club up to date by sending in your fishing reports and pictures throughout the season. Remember that fishless trips can be just as informative as those when we load the boat. Good luck for another successful and safe year on the water!

Dates received for upcoming National Outings:

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, March 15, 2008

Bama & Ohio Spoonpluggers, Weiss/Cedar Lakes, AL, April 16-20, 2008

Leoni Outing, Jackson, MI, June 11-15, 2008

Lunker Hunters Muskegon Outing, July 9-13, 2008

Northern Indiana Outing, August 7-9, 2008

Buck Perry Memorial Outing, Taylorsville, NC, Sept. 4-9, 2008

Visit the Spoonplugger Web sites:

Buck's Baits: buckperry.com

and spoonplugger.net

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6th ANNUAL SPOONPLUGGING SEMINAR
Saturday, March 15, 2008
Elk Grove Village, IL

The Illinois Spoonpluggers will host the 6th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at the Elk Grove Public Library in Elk Grove, Illinois. The seminar will run from 9:00 AM-4:45 PM. The cost will be \$20 per person, and will include coffee, rolls, lunch, and handout materials.

CONTACT: You may direct inquiries regarding the seminar to Jim Duplex, Seminar Coordinator. E-mail: jjd82@juno.com. Phone: 630-579-9815

ABOUT THE EVENT: The Illinois Spoonpluggers Seminar is your opportunity to discuss Spoonplugging with experienced Spoonpluggers from around the Midwest. All Spoonpluggers are welcome to attend. Last year's event drew 60 members from 9 states!!! The seminar will feature a variety of topics and presentations designed to increase your success on the water. Our primary goal is to address specific topics that may be of concern to you. The specifics under discussion will be:

- Mapping and Interpretation
- Weather and Water
- Basic Movement of Fish
- Structure, Breaks, and Breaklines
- Lake Types
- Presentation of Lures
- Tools and Controls
- Mental Aspects

REGISTRATION & FEE: Submit your questions, along with an enclosed check for \$20.00, PAYABLE TO JAMES TAYLOR and mail to: Phil Szafranski, 1028 Glenlake, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

FEATURE PRESENTATION - John Bales, Certified Spoonplugging Instructor, will give a talk again this year. His presentation last year was one of the highlights of the seminar. John is one of THE best Spoonpluggers in the country and we're all looking forward to hearing from him again this year!

Directions to the Elk Grove Village Public Library

1001 Wellington Ave. Elk Grove Village, IL

847-439-0447

Attention: *The library will not open until 9:00AM.* Plan your arrival accordingly. There are restaurants in the area where you can get coffee and breakfast if you come early.

From Indiana/Michigan

Take I-294 (Tri-State Toll Road) north to I-290 West. Take the I-290 west and Exit Biesterfield Road. Turn right on Biesterfield and continue east about 1 mile to Wellington. Turn right and the library is on the left: 1001 Wellington.

From the East and South

Take the I-290 West and Exit Biesterfield Road. Turn right on Biesterfield and continue east about 1 mile to Wellington. Turn right and the library is on the left: 1001 Wellington.

From Wisconsin

Take I-90 (Northwest Tollway) southeast to I-290 and go south and Exit Biesterfield Road. Go east on Biesterfield about 1 mile to Wellington. Turn right and the library is on the left: 1001 Wellington.

From Northern Illinois

Take I-294 south to I-90 (Northwest Tollway). Take I-90 west and Exit Arlington Heights Road. Go south to Biesterfield Rd. Turn right on Biesterfield about 3 blocks to Wellington and turn left. The library is at 1001 Wellington.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

“All Spoonpluggers are encouraged to share on-the-water experiences relevant to any of the questions.....Remember, group interaction perpetuates healthy dialogue, which provides additional insight into each topic of discussion.” ---Walt Kulikowski

Presentation of Lures

1. What are some examples of experiences trolling with WIRE LINE that called for running a SMALL LURE (500?-400-250) on a short line. When is the smaller lure on wire called for in deeper water (10'-20')?

2. What guidelines are used for choosing the correct SIZES of Spoonplugs for proper depth control ON THE CAST?□When would the smallest and largest lures (500 and 800) be used on the cast?

3. In Buck's letter to Mr. Bergman (recently run in the National newsletter), a situation is described of fishing the tailrace below a dam while casting from shore.□Buck relates that after much experimentation with DEPTH, SPEED, and LURE SIZE, it was determined that the fish (LM bass) required “a small, deep lure, moved fast.” How was this lure control accomplished?

4. Even though depth and speed are the two most important factors regarding lures, when (if ever) does color matter?□And, if it does matter, why would it matter?

□□□□I know that many of the Illinois Spoonpluggers like to use white Spoonplugs on Waubesa; but, is there any empirical evidence that white is any better than any other color on Waubesa.□Or, are there other lakes where one color really does seem to work better than others?) My□question, at least in my mind, does not have to do with sunny days versus □vercast days□- i.e. bright colors on sunny days and dark colors on□vercast days.

5. Spoonpluggers use different types of leaders.□What are some of the different types and uses for casting and trolling; with No-Bo/wire?□Also, is there a suggestion for the length of leader required during our presentation of lures with No-Bo versus wire line? What about different lake bottom types?

6. Since the home of the fish is deep water, wouldn't it be better to spend my time in the deepest water in the lake to make a catch?

7. How often, on a normal fishing day, do I have to check the shallows? Will it vary by season?

Mapping and Interpretation

8. Enclosed is a map of Big McKinsey Lake in North West Wisconsin. We are going there in mid August. None of us has seen the lake. It is about 1200 acres and we have no idea what the water color will be. Would you discuss some of the many structures (or best) in regard to fishing and trolling water? See MAP A

9. In working a clear water lake that has a shallow fast breaking first breakline of 10 - 11 feet, along with a secondary breakline of 38 - 40 feet. What impact should we expect with having such shallow breaklines and clear water? How should we expect Northern Pike to migrate during daily activity periods in the summer? See MAP B

10. When I map a structure with a slight breakline of maybe one foot, sometimes on the flasher it very hard to see that it is a breakline. Can you give me some suggestions to help me identify these breaklines?

11. Regarding fishing water (structure situations versus trolling water breaklines), how long do you try a given area before moving elsewhere? Are there (and what are they) factors where your answer would change depending on weather and water conditions?

12. There are a number of lakes in my state that do not permit "motor trolling". How can I fish these lakes using Spoonplugging knowledge? Is it possible to map and present lures under such conditions?

13. I primarily fish natural lakes but plan on going to reservoirs this year to increase my learning. What are some tips for selecting and fishing reservoirs?

14. Can you describe basic preparations for getting ready to fish a new lake?

15. What are some basic structure situations to look for when fishing Heidecke Lake? There are some areas that are dead ends. How do you narrow it down?

16. I am beginning to fish a lake that has been reported to be a good bass lake in terms of numbers. Since I have begun Spoonplugging this lake, I seldom make contact with bass but have made excellent catches of pike, both in size and numbers. What could be the reasoning for such a disparity in the catch, as compared to others fishing the lake?

Structure Breaks and Breaklines

17. If you start shallow and work deeper and get to the deepest breakline in the lake or area, do you still go deeper if you have not hit fish at the other depths? If so, why and how since you now would theoretically be trolling over flats?

18. I am still having trouble understanding a delta structure. Will you explain what a delta structure is?

19. I can catch fish on structure, but I'm not sure if I've found the contact point. How do I know if I've identified the contact point or just found a break on structure that the fish are stopping/pausing at?

Weather and Water

20. What techniques do you incorporate for the bad weather conditions- cold front every 3 or 4 days? How do the fish react to these conditions?

21. Seasonal fishing: As we begin looking toward a new fishing season, what do our guidelines tell us about lake types and species that should be targeted in the early season?

22. What are some general guidelines to prevent fish mortality when fishing summer months and warm water (i.e. fishing for Musky)?

Mental Aspects:

23. How does one “get past” the plateaus we all encounter in our learning process? (e.g. fishing deep)