

# Illinois Spoonpluggers Newsletter

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

**March, 2009**

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, March 12, 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

**ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS WINTER SEMINAR  
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009  
ELK GROVE VILLAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REGISTRATION IN ADVANCE OR AT THE DOOR \$20  
DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM**

**Join us for a Dinner and Pre-Seminar Warm-up  
Friday, March 13, 7:00-9:30 PM  
Russell's Barbecue, Rolling Meadows (see info below)**

**1. MEETING SUMMARY** - The February business meeting was held at the Elk Grove Village Public Library and was attended by 13 members. The club would like to welcome spoonplugger William (Bill) Wirtz of Rockdale, IL as our newest member of the club. Welcome, Bill!

The group continued preparations for the Winter Seminar to be held on Saturday, March 14. Phil Szafranski presented the latest on the seminar Interpretation segment as we viewed and discussed a series of slides showing discussion points and selected lakes. The club is very excited to hear that John Bales is again planning on giving an extended presentation at the seminar, this time on "Fishing the Deepest Water in the Area". Fran Meyers will be assisting with the PowerPoint slides for that segment. Scott Duff reported that space had been reserved at Russell's Barbecue in Rolling Meadows for the Friday night get-together and dinner. A few minutes were then spent tweaking the seminar schedule to accommodate each of the various segment. And finally, the printing will be ready for the March meeting so we can assemble the folders and preview the seminar program at that time. Remember, the doors to the Elk Grove Library open at 9:00 AM and we need lots of hands at the start to get everything set up.

Thanks to all who have been hard at work with preparations to make the Winter Seminar a success. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort that they have been putting in.

**2. PROGRAM:** Spoonplugging Tools- Jim Duplex led a discussion covering Part 2 his Spoonplugging Tools Presentation. We reviewed and discussed the equipment needed to do the job as described in Mr. Perry's study material.

- 1) RODS - Two types are needed: Trolling (short/heavy) and Casting (medium-heavy)
- 2) REELS - Baitcasting equipment is best all around, occasionally Spinning gear in the Spring;

- 3) LINE - No-Bo for trolling, many members also cast with No-Bo;  
Running depths for Spoonplugs given by Mr. Perry are for 12 lb No-Bo (very strong!)  
12 lb No-Bo is more than sufficient for most fish, 17 lb No-Bo for brushy/snaggy lakes
- 4) BOAT - 14'-15' boat best, including the Trollers boats, jon boats, and V-hulls of similar length;  
A spoonplugging boat must have tiller steering for proper control!
- 5) MOTOR - As per boat weight, 5-15 hp best with light boat, Four strokes up to 25 hp also work well;
- 6) MARKERS - Carry plenty for depths of 15'-35', need at least 5-7 to mark off a wide bar with fingers;
- 7) ANCHOR - Heavy enough to hold the boat;
- 8) NET - Big enough for the fish you expect to catch;
- 9) LURES - Four Types: Top-water or shallow-working, Weedless, Free-running/bottom bouncing  
(most important), Jump-type lures;
- 10) DEPTH METER - Great aid;
- 11) CAMERA - Document your catches, use as a mapping tool for recording line sights.

GPS can be a good aid in finding an area or fishing spot away from shore on a large body of water. It is also useful if you get lost. GPS *does not* do the job when it comes to mapping your structure situations. GPS does not give needed bottom detail. GPS does not interpret a structure situation. GPS does not give line sights to thoroughly map a structure by trolling. GPS cannot locate the anchoring position(s) where the best catches will be made. The correct interpretation and proper presentation of lures can only be accomplished by putting lures down there and checking it out.

**3. NATIONAL NEWS** - This is a reminder that the update to the National Spoonplugger web site ([www.nsoa.info](http://www.nsoa.info)) has been completed, including a new On-Line Store which features an expanding catalogue of Buck's videos (on digital) and back-issues of the newsletters. Great resource.

**4. FISHING REPORTS** - The cooling lakes have begun to reopen which is a sure sign of spring. Powerton Lake and Braidwood Lake have already opened (Feb. 15 & March 1) and LaSalle Lake opens on March 15 (but still closed Monday and Tuesday in March). The Heidecke Lake opener is April 1.

For those that enjoy the hard water, ice fishing is winding down and soon the ice will be gone from our natural lakes. The northern pike will be in the back of shallow bays and up on the bars around the inside and outside weedlines shortly after the ice goes out, and the muskies will soon follow. These areas will often need to be checked by casting but don't rule out trolling or the faster retrieve speeds when these fish are shallow. Same for the bass when they get moving. As the water moves up through the 40's F river sauger/walleye will be on the move as they leave their wintering holes and head upstream for the spawn. Rivers warm up first, and have a more uniform temperature top to bottom due to the current, 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.

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. Early spring is also a great time to visit new waters and start the mapping process. You may be the only boat on the lake. Good luck for another successful and safe year on the water!

**FRIDAY EVENING DINNER AND PRE-SEMINAR WARM UP**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

The Friday evening dinner and get-together will be at Russell's Barbecue in Rolling Meadows from 7:00-9:30 PM for those who arrive early. Contact Scott Duff (847-322-2695) or Wayne Dyllo (708-452-0953) if you plan on attending.

**RUSSELL'S BARBECUE**

2885 Algonquin Rd.

(1/2 mile east of Route 53)

Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008

847-259-5710

**Current dates for upcoming National Outings:**

**Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar, March 14, 2009**

**Bama & Ohio Spoonpluggers Outing (AL), April 15-19, 2009**

**Leoni Outing, Jackson, MI, June 2-7, 2009**

**Lunker Hunters Muskegon (MI) Outing, July 8-12, 2009**

**Northern Indiana "Buck Sez" Outing, August 13-15, 2009**

**Buck Perry Memorial Outing (NC), September, TBA**

**Chickamauga Reservoir Outing (TN), October 1-3, 2009**

**Spoonplugger Web Sites:**

**Spoonpluggers of America: [nsoa.info](http://nsoa.info)**

**Buck's Baits: [buckperry.com](http://buckperry.com) / Discussion Board, links, and more: [spoonplugger.net](http://spoonplugger.net)**

**Newsletter Editor:**

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# ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS 7th WINTER SEMINAR

March 14, 2009

Elk Grove Village, IL

UPDATE-visit [www.spoonplugger.net](http://www.spoonplugger.net) for complete information

The Illinois Spoonpluggers will host their 7th Annual Winter Spoonplugging Seminar on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the Elk Grove Public Library in Elk Grove, Illinois. The seminar will run from 9:00 AM-4:45 PM. The cost is \$20 per person, and will include coffee, rolls, lunch, and handout materials.

**#1 - TOPICS / QUESTIONS:** The deadline to submit a written question for discussion at the seminar was Thursday, February 12, 2009. Questions to be discussed refer to actual on-the-water experiences and pertain to the areas of:

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

**#2 - REGISTRATION & FEE:** Submit your question, along with an enclosed check for \$20.00, PAYABLE TO JAMES TAYLOR and mail to: Phil Szafranski, 1028 Glenlake, Park Ridge, IL 60068. REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR WILL BE \$20

**#3 - John Bales' presentation this year will be a discussion of topics related to fishing the deepest water in the area.**

**#4 - Meet and greet Certified Spoonplugging Instructors, pick their brains, and maybe arrange an outing.**

**NOTE – Here's your opportunity to discuss Spoonplugging with experienced Spoonpluggers from around the Midwest. Submit a question and we'll try to answer it.**

The deadline to submit a written question for discussion at the seminar is  
Thursday, February 12, 2009.

**REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR WILL BE \$20**

**CONTACT:** You may direct inquiries regarding the seminar to...

**Jim Duplex, Seminar Coordinator**

**E-mail: [jjd82@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jjd82@sbcglobal.net)**

**Phone: 630-579-9815**

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

**Directions to the Elk Grove Village Public Library:**

**1001 Wellington Ave. Elk Grove, IL**

**847-439-0447**

**Remember: The library will not open until 9:00 AM. 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 the Eisenhower Expressway. Take the I-290 (Eisenhower Expressway) west to Exit, Biesterfield. Turn right on Biesterfield and continue east about 1 mile to Wellington. Turn right and the library is on the left: 1001 Wellington Ave.**

**From the East and South**

**Take the I-290 (Eisenhower Expressway) west to Exit, Biesterfield. Turn right on Biesterfield and continue east about 1 mile to Wellington. Turn right and the library is on the left: 1001 Wellington Ave.**

**From Wisconsin**

**Take the I-90 (Northwest Tollway) southeast to I-290 and go south to the Biesterfield exit. Go east on Biesterfield about 1 mile to Wellington. Turn right and the library is on the left: 1001 Wellington Ave. You can also exit the I-90 at Arlington Heights Rd. and go south to Biesterfield. Turn right on Biesterfield about 3 blocks to Wellington and turn left. The library is at: 1001 Wellington Ave.**

**From Northern Illinois**

**Take the I-294 south, to I-90, the Northwest Tollway. Take the tollway west to Arlington Heights Rd. and go south to Biesterfield. Turn right on Biesterfield about 3 blocks to Wellington and turn left. The library is at: 1001 Wellington Ave.**

**NOTE: The ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS is a non-profit organization and as such, we are allowed to use the library facilities for a nominal fee. Revenue generated from the seminar is used to cover expenses such as: room rental, printing, handouts, food, and other miscellaneous items.**

**In order to maintain our non-profit status with the library board, we are not permitted to conduct any commercial or retail business on the premises; either in the library or the adjacent parking lot. This means we cannot sell anything or conduct a commercial enterprise on the premises.**

**We ask that all attendees comply with the Elk Grove Public Library policy and refrain from conducting any business that would jeopardize our ability to use these facilities.**