

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

September, 2009

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, September 10, 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

MEETING SUMMARY: The July meeting was attended by 10 club members. The Thursday night gathering was again on the small side as a number of the Illinois club were participating in the Northern Indiana Outing.

Most of the evening's discussion involved numerous fishing reports. **Gino Testone** having returned from Mill Lacs reported tough conditions with very limited muskie movements under persistent high pressure. Gino's mapping and presentation located LM bass up on the shallow reed-covered flats, rather than deeper as he anticipated. Thorough fishing of a nearby slot produced some pike but no muskies. This reminded us that no matter how great a lake's reputation we do not control the weather or the water and the fish are at the mercy of their environment. When conditions are unstable the movements may be unpredictable or nil. But we do have our Spoonplugging procedures and will keep learning whether or not the fish cooperate.

Phil Szafranski and **Jim Taylor** fishing with **Scott Duff** reported similar shallow activity from the Muskegon Outing, which was attended by numerous club members as reported previously. The catchable pike and bass were found rather shallow on Muskegon Lake, in and around the weeds with a few brief movements of greater activity. Scott mapped and fished a new lake farther to the south and found the pike to 36", SM bass, and walleye to 25" farther along seasonally in the Allegan area. The Fox Chain produced about a dozen muskies. Scott said there had been a period of high muskie activity on their cast on the Chain during the time of the Muskegon Outing, but he caught only the end of that activity, mostly on 100's and 700's. While a few larger muskies, pike, and some walleye were contacted, numerous small muskies and low 30's muskies were noted, which bodes well for the future.

Jim Perillo had some good pike trips on Whitewater. Jim recommended larger hooks on the plugs to cut down on the lost fish. This can be a problem with big fish on small lures combined with slow speeds. Sounds like a good idea! **Jim and Janice Duplex** also picked up some pike to 31" on Whitewater. **Bob Roels** has been a fishing machine and into the pike and bass on several trips while losing a giant bass at the boat.

Bob Roels gave a great report on Little Muskego and Browns Lake. Both of these lakes were mapped and fished by Terry O'Malley years ago. The pike on Browns are plentiful but on the small side and Little Muskego is a good all around lake for bass and pike with clear water and plentiful structure. Bob demonstrated the use of GoogleEarth for locating structure and water color just as you would do from an airplane.

Up in Madison, the pike and muskies have been going. Bob, Scott, **Jim Shell**, **Clay Russell**, and most recently **Jim Duplex** and **George Schauner** have caught a variety of species on Mendota. Bob's 25" walleye and Jim Duplex's 40 1/2" northern pike and 40" muskie top the list. More on this at the meeting.

The fall transition will soon begin following Labor Day.

Upcoming National Fishing Outings
Chickamauga Reservoir Outing (TN), October 1-3, 2009

Spoonplugger Web Sites:
Spoonpluggers of America: nsoa.info
Buck's Baits: buckperry.com
Discussion Board, links, and more: spoonplugger.net

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



Bob Roels - Mendota Walleye



Janice Duplex - Whitewater pike



Bob Roels - Whitewater LM bass



Jim Duplex - Mendota 40 1/2"



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Clear skies, calm water
stable weather, dark water
Jim Duplex - 40" muskie