



Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

July Meeting Notes: 3 members attended the meeting.

August Meeting:

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, August 12th, 2010 at 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. The August meeting will be held in the Group study room.

Club Notes: **Jim Shell** has posted some useful videos on Spoonplugger.net, If anyone has anything they would like to post please check out **Spoonplugger.net** or contact **Jim Shell** at: **shell@spoonplugger.net**

Fishing Reports: Faced with major storms, high water and intense heat/humidity the month started out slow with very few reports but ended with a bunch of great reports from all over the Midwest including northern/central/southern Illinois, Southern/central Wisconsin and eastern/southern Michigan.

Scott Duff reported on his trips to the Michigan outing, Fox chain and Central Wisconsin to name a few. Fishing some new lakes and old, he has used his Spoonplugging Knowledge to make some great catches trolling and casting. **Jim Shell** reported on a trip to an Illinois reservoir where he caught some bass and cats trolling 5-6MPH, he also reported on trips to a Flatland reservoir and natural lake in central Wisconsin where they made some outstanding catches of Walleye, Pike (up to 39 ½") and Muskie. **Bob Roels** also reported on some trips to Wisconsin where he put his brother in law on some great fishing

working a large flat area away from the hole. Bob still caught some nice Pike, Walleye and Muskie even with Jim Shell trying to knock all his fish off with the net. **Frank Yavarski** reported on a couple trips to Michigan and lake Pepin where he ran into some nice Pike, Walleye, sauger and white bass trolling, casting and using 3 way rigs. **Jim Duplex, Brett Christenson, Rick Matus, Jim Perillo, Jerry Hein, Jim Taylor** all had great reports from Wisconsin where they put their spoonplugging knowledge to work regardless of the situation and put quality fish in the boat.

Weather article Submitted by a club member:

Local Weather

Thunderstorms are the most dangerous type of local weather. Most injuries caused by weather in the United States are thunderstorm-related. Since the sun's heat energy is a major factor in thunderstorm generation, thunderstorms typically occur in the spring and summer. Winter sunshine simply doesn't deliver enough warmth. For thunderstorms to develop, the air needs to be warm, moist, and unstable—typical spring and summer conditions.

Keep an eye on those small, fleecy, white puff clouds (*cumulus*) drifting through the sky. They can grow into thunderstorms in a few hours. These clouds have flat bases and rounded tops and are not a threat as long as the cloud tops are less than one cloud width above the cloud bases. In the morning and early afternoon of a warm, sunny day, these clouds indicate that the atmosphere is unstable enough to generate thunderstorms. If these are the only clouds in the sky by mid- to late afternoon, there probably isn't much risk of thunderstorms developing. When these puff clouds become taller than they are wide, they change to swelling clouds (*cumulus congestus*) and the chance of thunderstorms rises greatly.

Swelling clouds: Watch these clouds carefully. They are the first stage of thunderstorm growth and can become dangerous in a matter of minutes. These white or gray clouds with flat bases are taller than they are wide. The earlier in the day that swelling clouds appear, the greater the probability that they will develop into thunderstorms. Their growth can usually be seen with the naked eye, and the faster the swelling clouds are growing the more threatening the situation.

Since the weather in the United States generally moves west to east, swelling clouds to your west are much more dangerous than swelling clouds to your east. This west to east airflow doesn't always hold true, especially in mountain ranges, so try and determine if the swelling clouds are headed toward you. If they are, an orderly retreat before the storm

develops might be your best option. It's always better to get to safety before a storm hits.

Local Thunderstorms

Swelling clouds will become thunderstorms if they continue growing. As the rising tops of thunderstorms surge into the jet stream, these strong upper-level winds drive the top of the cloud downwind, forming the characteristic "anvil" shape of a mature thunderhead. Violent thunderstorm weather includes rain, hail, sleet, or snow with accompanying lightning, flash floods, strong winds, and plummeting temperatures—any one of which can ruin your whole day.

At times it is difficult to identify thunderstorms in confusing and unstable skies. Some indicators of their approach are:

1. **Pouch-shape clouds hanging down from a higher cloud layer (mammatus clouds).** These pouch clouds look like dozens of gray or black half-basketballs suspended from the cloud layer above. Pouch clouds are only formed as a result of thunderstorm activity. If they're in the distance and not approaching, the thunderstorm that produced them is probably not a problem. If they're large and approaching, prepare to get hit by a storm.
2. **A sudden change in the direction and strength of the wind and a sharp drop in temperature.** These "gust fronts" are caused by cool air flowing out from the base of a thunderstorm, and sometimes form a long, horizontal, arc-shaped cloud just in front of the thunderstorm. The arrival of the gust front is often the best sign that a thunderstorm is about to strike. Rain and lightning usually follow the gust front. Take immediate action.

If conditions are very favorable for thunderstorm development, the gust front of one thunderstorm can actually act as a "cold wedge" and push up the warmer air in front of it, leading to the birth of yet another thunderhead.

Frontal Weather

Frontal weather occurs when different air masses meet and cause a storm. The stronger the differences between the colliding air masses in temperature and moisture content, the stronger the front and the more severe the weather associated with it.

Fronts move across the United States from west to east, and clouds in the atmosphere often give us clues that indicate a front is heading our way. If you pay attention to the warnings, you can make an educated guess as to how much time you have remaining before the front arrives.

Indicators that a front may be moving toward you:

Mare's tails: Thin, white to light-gray streamer clouds high in the sky (cirrus clouds). Isolated mare's tails aren't a strong portent of bad weather to come, but dense and widespread mare's tails can indicate the approach of a front from as far as 24 to 48 hours away.

Uniform, featureless, white or gray clouds at high altitude covering most or all of the sky (cirrostratus): These clouds usually mean that a significant amount of moisture is moving into the area. They aren't spectacular, but they are important. Monitor the sky for a change in the weather.

Halos: Rings of light around the sun or moon caused by light refracted through high altitude ice crystals. The old adage about halos preceding storms by 24 to 48 hours generally holds true in the moister regions of the United States, but in the drier climates, halos often pass with no ill-effects.

Gray, water-droplet clouds at medium altitude (altostratus clouds): A solid coverage of these gunmetal-gray clouds usually precedes major weather systems by less than ten hours.

A layer of dark clouds with noticeable blurring below the cloud bases (nimbostratus clouds): These clouds bring rain or snow, and in the warmer months can develop into thunderstorms. Typically associated with the arrival of a front. The weather is likely to stay bad for 24 hours.

Frontal thunderstorms: These storms are formed when the leading edge of a cold-front wedges up warmer air in front of the moving cold front. This forms lines of thunderheads stretching from horizon to horizon (squall lines) and very severe weather.

Remember: This information is meant to help you make informed decisions. Weather forecasting is a very complicated discipline. When weather threatens, exercise good judgment and err on the side of safety.

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