



Illinois Spoonpluggers Newsletter

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

March Meeting Notes: 12 members and 1 guest attended the meeting. The majority of the time was spent double-checking and finalizing the details for the winter seminar.

Club Notes: Jim Perillo will have an assortment of Spoonplugs available for sale at the meeting. If you're interested in buying these lures at a reduced price, come to the meeting. Jim will not take phone orders, you must purchase them at the meeting. It's first come first serve. We Also have a handful of Bales Blades left over from the seminar and they will be sold for \$3.50 each.

Craig Hubbard will no longer have the clubs VHS videos available at the meetings, ONLY DVDS. If you need a copy of a VHS please contact Craig (847-524-9303) Prior to the meeting and he will bring what is needed.

April Meeting:

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, April 8th, 2010 at 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. The March meeting will be held in the Group study room.

Fishing Reports: Mike Lynch reported the cooling lakes in the area have been going good when the wind allows. Jim Taylor and Phil Szafranski reported that Crystal lake has live up to its name, with clear water and high winds fishing has been tough.

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar By Jim Duplex

The Illinois Spoonpluggers once again celebrated all things Spoonplugging by hosting the 8th annual Winter Seminar at the Elk Grove Village Public Library in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. This year's event was attended by 80 Spoonpluggers from around the country with representation from Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arizona, Virginia, North Carolina and Illinois. A Friday night gathering, hosted by Scott Duff for 30 out of town guests, was held at Russell's Barbeque and served to kick off this year's activities. Special guests for the day were Terry O'Malley and Jeri Perry who endured an agonizing day of travel to be there in person.

The day began with an on-the-water video of John Bales mapping and fishing a bar. The video, produced and edited by Stephen Gillian, is the first in a series to be offered for sale featuring the premier Spoonplugger in the country. The positive response was overwhelming and this will be a must DVD to have in your video library. John's detailed instruction, combined with Stephen's editing acumen; make for a great teaching tool.

A staple of the seminar has always been the Questions for Discussion which cover the topics of Basic Movement of Fish, Structure, Breaks, and Breaklines, Weather and Water, Tools and Controls, Presentation of Lures, Lake Types, Mapping and Interpretation, and Mental Aspects. This segment was led by Jerry Hein and he deftly solicited thoughts and comments from the attendees, as well as the Certified Instructors who were on hand to generously offer their expertise.

John Bales' presentation is always one of the highlights of the seminar and he showed yet again why he's such a great fisherman and teacher. His talk stressed the importance of developing the ability to interpret conditions once on the water: the ability to analyze weather and water conditions, lake types, trolling with different line lengths, and putting to use all the tools in your tackle box to come up with answers for that day and that particular fishing situation. John also encouraged all Spoonpluggers to become year round fishermen and not limit their efforts to the months of June through September. His interpretation of an early season fishing situation provided deft and insightful analysis that should be of help to all.

After a break for lunch, which featured desserts of homemade cookies, rice crispy squares, and Valpovelvet ice cream, it was time to hear from Terry O'Malley. Terry worked closely with Buck in the 1960's and provided some humorous details of his early experiences that were both personal and professional. As to the future of Spoonplugging, Jeri Perry spoke appreciatively of John Bales when she said to him, "...John, I'm not worried about the future of Spoonplugging when Terry and I are gone because it'll be in good hands with you and I do feel that way." It'll be in good hands indeed!

After the last break, Bob Roels Jr. and Phil Szafranski led the hands on mapping and interpretation portion of the program. This segment encompassed either drawing a Spoonplugger map or interpreting one. It was an informative exercise of a fundamental skill required of all Spoonpluggers, and one that makes us unique; the ability to draw a map of the fishing situation and interpret it to arrive at the fish.

The day ended with all of the attendees receiving a Bales Blade bait compliments of the Illinois Spoonpluggers. In addition, a drawing was held to distribute donations from this year's sponsors: Cabela's of Hoffman Estates, Poor Boy Baits, Shrock's Marine in Lagrange, Indiana, Jeri Perry, and Jerry Borst Lure Retrievers. Their continued support is much appreciated.

The day's program and activities could not have been possible without the effort and support of the members of the Illinois Spoonpluggers: specifically, Craig and Jenny Hubbard, Jim Taylor, Rick Matus, Wayne Dylo, Scott Duff, Phil Szafranski, Bob Roels Jr., Jerry Hein, and Jim Duplex. A great club working and sharing together in our passion: Spoonplugging!

SPOONPLUGGER WEB SITES:

Spoonpluggers of America:

nsoa.info

Buck's Baits:

buckperry.com

Discussion Board, links, and more:

spoonplugger.net

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Great turnout



Terry O'Malley talks about the early days of Spoonplugging



Certified Spoonplugging Instructors interpret a mapping situation



Jerry Hein leads the discussion portion of the seminar



Spoonpluggers draw a Spoonplugging map during the hands on demonstration.

