



Illinois Spoonpluggers Newsletter

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

April Meeting Notes: 14 members attend the meeting.

Jim Duplex passed along a Thank You to the club from Jeri Perry for the support of the Illinois Spoonpluggers. The Club spent a good portion of the meeting discussing Mapping and the benefits of mapping.

Club Notes: The Club is thinking about a Summer Outing sometime between July 24th and August 8th. If you have any Ideas on location or different dates please email:

Mike Lynch MLynch7734@hotmail.com or

Jim Duplex jjd82@sbcglobal.net

May Meeting: The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. The May meeting will be held in the Group study room.

Fishing reports: Bob Roels snuck out to Crystal Lake on a few last minute trips. He reported a nice catch of bass, fishing deeper then he has even fished for bass on Crystal Lake.

Joe Zaremba Reported that Newton was good but Kinkaid was slow on a recent trip down state.

Gino testone had a good day casting up on the chain with a couple nice pike and a nice walleye for his efforts

Brett Christenson is giving his spoonplugging career a jump-start, fishing lakes in Indian and Illinois this spring with great results as a new spoonplugger. Mapping on the Chain has produced his first walleye and musky on a spoonplug. On a short trip to Indiana he was rewarded with a nice 35" musky casting the shallows .GOOD LUCK BRETT!!! (See article below.)

Jim Duplex, Phil Szafranski, Rick Matus & Mike Lynch report that Heidecke has been slow with very short movements if any at all taking place during fishing hours. The water is

extremely clear and the average walleye have been very small.

Brett joined the Illinois Spoonpluggers in October and recently took some on-the-water training from CSI, John Bales. He was introduced to the concept of Spoonplugging by Mark Brown while fishing Bruce Lake in Indiana. Here is his report

FISHING WITH JOHN BALES

By Brett Christenson

I've been "fishing" since I was 7 so one could say I have 30 years of "experience." Only I was not introduced to Spoonplugging until late last summer, and it was then that I realized I had no true Knowledge of the sport. I felt lucky though, because the words in the Green Book knocked some sense into me. I was also fortunate to find a great Spoonpluggers club near home to continue my learning throughout the fall. Needless to say I was stir crazy all winter to get off to a good start in 2010 and thought nothing could be better than a couple days on the water with a CSI for some live one-on-one instruction. I called John Bales and we scheduled March 29th and 30th to meet up in Indiana.

A pre-training phone call with me helped John set the Day 1 game plan and we headed to a small, shallow natural lake with good color. He said being new, I would be spending Day 1 focusing on the basics – trolling the first three size Spoonplugs. On the water bright and early, John threw out two markers, saying they would make sense later and he turned the boat over to me. I then began learning proper trolling form, the "feel" of the lures to gauge depth control, and speed control. His instruction in using the first 3 size Spoonplugs helped me to begin to understand the contours of the lake and eventually the placement of the two markers. Each marker was placed on a point leading into to the main deep water area of the lake. We had a lot of discussion around the mapping and interpretation of these structures and spent valuable time trolling the contact points. We also marked, anchored and cast to where fish were caught. The experience brought the reading material into practice. Some final Day 1 instruction included mapping and interpreting a smaller deep hole in the lake. In addition to the hours of discussion, a highlight of the day was catching a 5lb largemouth and losing another on consecutive casts near the contact point at one of the markers. John had firmly placed the core theories of the reading material in my head and also given me a lot of confidence. I could not wait for another day on the water.

Our Day 2 water was a lowland reservoir (yes, good color). As I moved us away from the launch he informed me that most of the morning would be spent mapping and interpreting without getting the lines wet. He pointed down the shoreline next to the dam and said "Go that way, map the first structure you find, mark the contact point, and explain it to me." Yikes! After a long discussion at the first structure, he pointed again and said "Keep going, tell me the next thing you find." And so it continued, over and over, and after each structure was discussed, he would say "Go

towards that island/Head towards that house/Drive out to the channel, tell me what you find.” At each spot we discussed above and below water observations. Key topics were how the river channel may have impacted the spot, small but valuable details of the spot missed, and how the fish likely moved onto the structure. Occasionally I was allowed to troll the contact point but we had post frontal conditions and no fish were caught. Eventually we reached the headwaters and a small bass was caught as we found our way to a small hole. John recommended we anchor and cast and a few nice fish were caught with a very slow presentation. John explained how time on the water and our lures had led us to the best water color, to the deepest water in the area, and a slow presentation in order to catch fish. The experience tied together everything I had read and provided for live instruction on multiple structure situations. On top of all his hard work, I can’t say enough about John’s teaching philosophy and how well he encouraged questions and thorough discussion on each topic.

Some of the things I won’t forget from this experience:

- Water color, water color, water color
- Deep water is the home of the fish
- Have all your tools and aids ready to go before you leave the launch
- Fish by yourself then go home and read the Green Book is how you’ll learn
- Keep an open mind, don’t get discouraged on a bad day, and have fun



Nice 5lb Bass



35" Musky



Bob Roels with 2 nice Bass



Mike Lynch with a rare limit of Walleye from Heidecke

SPOONPLUGGER WEB SITES:

Spoonpluggers of America:

nsoa.info

Buck's Baits:

buckperry.com

Discussion Board, links, and more:

spoonplugger.net

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