

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter



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

June Meeting Notes: 12 members attended the meeting. The first half of the meeting was spent discussing the numerous fishing reports from all over the Midwest including Devils lake ND, Kentucky Lake and all over Illinois and Wisconsin. The second Half of the meeting **Bob Roels** Lead a discussion on Presentation of Lures, Volume 5 of the Home Study Course, pages 69-71. Thanks Bob!!

Club Notes: The Club would like to pass along a Get-well wish to **Craig Hubbard**, we are hoping for a speedy recovery and hope to see Him on the water soon. GET WELL SOON BUDY.

Any members who would like a DVD copy of some Spoonplugging newsletters from the 60's-70s filled with great info and maps can contact Jim Taylor for a copy.

July Meeting: The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, July 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: **Bob Roels** and **Jim Shell** have been putting their time in and have been rewarded with some very nice fish in southern Wisconsin. Bob has reported some deeper weed growth on some lake do to the water clarity. Jim ha also spent some time in central Illinois with mixed results dealing with rising water levels. **Frank Cipria** has been flying all over southern Wisconsin making some great catches of Bass, pike and Muskie on the cast and troll including **Mike Pukacz's** biggest bass to date. **Frank Yavaraski** reported on trips to Lake Erie, Wisconsin and Michigan, faced with severe weather on all the trips he has used his spoonplugging knowledge to put some nice Pike, Walleye and bass in the boat regardless of the conditions. **Clay Russell** reported on his experience fishing a new reservoir in Texas. So far his best luck has been trolling riprap along the dam face. **Jim Duplex** reported on trips to Kentucky Lake, Wisconsin and heidecke. Jim fished Kentucky lake earlier then in past years and found a lot of bass just coming out of the spawn and expects the big girls would be moving soon. Jim also reported on a couple trips to Wisconsin that produced dome very nice pike. **Rick Matus** reported on a trip to southern Illinois where they boated some nice fish between storms trolling spoonplugs and using slip bobbers. **Mike lynch** reported that Heideckee has been OK, the clearer water has made things difficult but the catfish have been going strong. **Gino Testone** has been hitting the fox chain and

has been rewarded with some very nice musky for his efforts. **Scott Duff** also confirmed that the musky have been moving good on the chain.

Controls By Bob Roels

As fisherman we become so focused on the controls we used when we caught a fish or someone else caught a fish we can get lured away from following the basic presentation of lures.

Here a few of the controls I thought were true, because I experienced them or some expert told me.

- Spoonplugging is only a summer time presentation.
- Spoonplugging is the hard way.
- The fish are at the base of the weedline in summer.
- The fish are never active deeper than halfway to the bottom of the lake.
- If fish moved at 9AM then on the following day with no weather changes they will move at the same time.
- If fish are hitting spoonplugs on a fast troll then on the following day with no weather changes they will be hitting spoonplug on a fast troll.
- You should not check fast speeds in deep water.
- You should not check below the thermocline.
- You should not check fast speeds below the thermocline.
- You should not check fast speeds in the spring or fall.
- If I only catch Northerns on the troll, there are not many bass in the lake.
- The new modern crankbaits are more successful for casting than a spoonplug.
- I can map a lake only by trolling.
- The fish on Powers Lake will not strike spoonplugs on the cast.
- You can be more successful with other lures.
- You should only fish the structures with the deepest water in the lake.
- Bass and Northerns will not be near each other.
- Bass will always be shallower than the Northerns.
- The Bass will never be deeper than the weedline.
- The Bass will never be caught at sanctuary depths in a Natural lake.
- In a reservoir the fish will mostly be on the channel or channel edge.
- You can't cast a spoonplug on most natural lakes in our area because of weeds and soft bottom.
- Do not fish a structure that does not have 30 feet of water nearby.

I am sure I could add more to the list if I had time. What continues to amazes me is when my results plummet it is usually because I have gotten away from the basic presentation of lures. When I get back to following the basic presentation of lures regardless of weather, seasons, or water I learn why I caught fish or did not catch fish and my results improve. Buck says – “Fishing is not so difficult; presentation of lures is no big deal, and “fishable” spots are not so hidden they cant be found”.

You may be thinking how you can improve upon the basic presentation of lures by trying to catch fish the same way you caught fish on your last fishing trip or last year. Don't do it! If you want to learn and improve, follow the basic presentation of

lures. Below is the same list with the experiences it took me to overcome the barriers we all face as we fish differently than almost all other fisherman.

Save yourself the time and energy I wasted and follow the basic presentation of

lures. You will get better, get more confidence, and believe; however, I have to add a disclaimer.

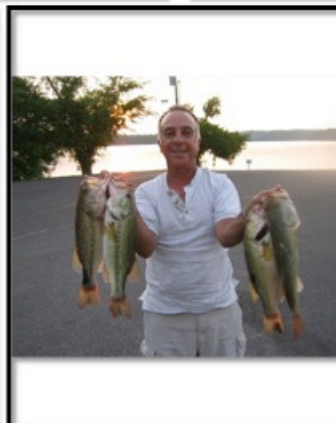
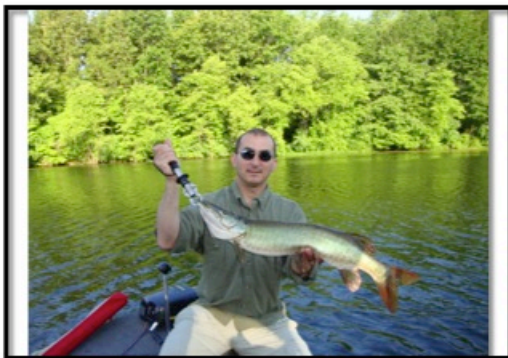
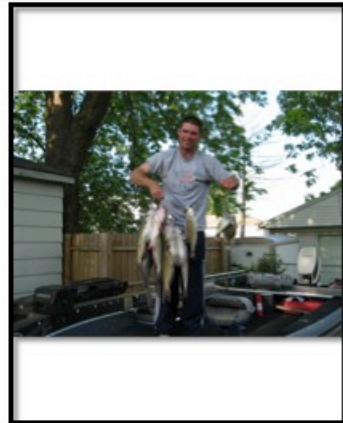
The more you vary your approach from the basic presentation of lures, the harder it will be to improve. Do you really think you or anyone else is smarter than the genius that put this together and refined it over decades? Is there anyone else that gives you an approach to catching fish whenever and wherever? Save yourself the time, and stop looking for shortcuts.

1. Spoonplugging is only a summer time presentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musky 2 days after ice out on fast trolled 100. • Bass, and Northerns in October. • Musky in November • Prespawn bass on points in Crystal Lake, Bangs Lake, Little Muskego, and Whitewater. • Walleyes on the troll while snowing in April.
2. Spoonplugging is the hard way.	Prior to Illinois Spoonpluggers I caught a big fish maybe once a month using all the experts' advice. Now it is much more often.
3. The fish are at the base of the weedline in summer.	If you don't catch them at the base of the weedline, you had better figure they are somewhere else. At times the fish may only be a few feet away. Browns Lake many fish can be caught from 4 – 15 feet deep on the outside weed edge. The weedline ends at 17-22 feet. Rarely are they at the same depth each time you go out.
4. The fish are never active deeper than halfway to the bottom of the lake.	Examples too numerous to mention.
5. If fish moved at 9AM then on the following day with no weather changes they will move at the same time.	Trips to Delavan on consecutive days proved this point.
6. If fish are hitting spoonplugs on a fast troll then on the following day with no weather changes they will be hitting spoonplug on a fast troll.	Again trips to Delavan on consecutive days proved this point. Fish were taking 800s at dusk 2 days before the front at speeds so fast, the 800 felt like a buzzing 500. The next day a steady walk produced best.
8. You should not check fast speeds in deep water.	Lake Geneva fast speeds at depths from 20 - 45 feet have produced.
9. You should not check below the thermocline	Lake Geneva and Beulah fishing can be amazing below the thermocline at times.
10. You should not check fast speeds below the thermocline.	I checked the temperature at least once at Lake Geneva. The fish at 50 degrees wanted the same fast speed as the fish above the thermocline.
11. You should not check fast speeds in the spring or fall.	See 1.
12. If I only catch Northerns on the troll, there are not many bass in the lake.	Last year, Browns, Little Muskego, Whitewater all had bass next to Northerns. The Bass needed a different speed and were maybe a few feet away. I can not imagine the numbers of Bass I missed because I rarely went back to cast or did not check shallower, deeper or slower speeds.

13. The new crankbaits are more successful for casting than a spoonplug.	In years past I had a large selection of modern crankbaits. I am still a sucker for a new design; however now 99% of my casting and trolling is with a spoonplug. It tells me so much, and my results are getting better.
14. I can map a lake only be trolling.	I mapped a long hump at Powers Lake to prove to myself it can be done by using markers and casting spoonplugs. Obviously from the homestudy course other fisherman did it too.
15. The fish on Powers Lake will not strike spoonplugs on the cast.	I cast solid dark colors on Powers and caught fish in similar numbers than my favorite crankbaits.
16. You can be more successful using other lures	See 2. The only thing I was more successful using the other lures was selling them at my wife's garage sale and making more money than her.

17. You should only fish the structures with the deepest water in the lake.	At Browns Lake the fish in the shallow holes (17 and 19 feet) are all penned in and the action can be incredibly fast. At Monona trolling the structure closest to the launch following the basic presentation of lures got me two big Muskie within an hour and half of launching the boat. One at 12 feet and the second around 20 feet. The deep water was maybe 27 feet nearby.
18. Bass and Northerns will not be near each other.	See 12. Jim Shell caught a double header with a 3 way. Bass on the plug and Northern on the twister tail.
19. Bass will always be shallower than the Northerns.	On Browns I catch more bass the deeper than Northerns.
20. The Bass will never be deeper than the weedline	Waubesa and Little Muskego busted that myth years ago. Tournament guys tell me they are catching their limits of bass in 20-25 feet last year on Waubesa.
21. The Bass will never be at sanctuary depths in a northern natural lake.	Little Muskego and Powers Lake have proved me wrong.
22. In a reservoir the fish will be on the channel or channel edge.	I fell hard for this after being successful along and in the channel at Chickamauga. Kentucky Lake and recently Clinton have proved you follow the guidelines before ending at the Channel.
23. You can't cast a spoonplug on soft bottom or weed lake.	We will cast a hot lure all day and catch a fish on it and believe what a great lure we bought. And if we don't load the boat on several casts with a spoonplug we stop using it. All it takes is practice, just like fishing jigs. When fishing a jig and you are continually fouled, you use a smaller size, or count it down, or rip the rod tip to clear the junk and let it sink again. Why should we expect the spoonplug to be perfect? Why shouldn't we try the same things with a spoonplug?
24. Do not fish a structure that does not have 30 feet of water nearby	See 17.





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