



# Illinois Spoonpluggers

## Newsletter

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

**September Meeting Notes:** 8 members attended the meeting.

### **October Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be on Thursday, October, 14th 2010 at 7:15 PM at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. The October meeting will be held in the Group study room.

**Club Notes:** The club will be donating \$100 to the Elk Grove Village library for their generosity to the club. There will be a thank you card for members to sign at the next meeting.

**Fishing Reports:** **Gino Testone** reported on his first trip to Lake of the Woods. He picked a couple of manageable sized areas with deep water and spent his time working these areas instead of running all over the lake and it paid off with a great catch of Pike, Walleye, Bass and Muskie. **Jim shell** reported on a trip to central Illinois where he loaded the boat casting for white bass with sauger and large mouth mixed in. Bitter, angry, mournful, reminiscing, stubborn, and determined **Bob Roles** Reported on numerous trips to southern Wisconsin where he's been tested with less than ideal conditions but is committed to trying to expand his experience and knowledge on the water. **Jim Perillo** reported on a trip to southern Wisconsin where he and his wife experienced a good movement of fish between 11am-1pm. **Jim duplex** reported on a trip with CSI **John Bales** where they painstakingly followed to the spoonplugging guidelines and were rewarded with a couple of great catches.

**Mike Lynch** reported that the local cooling lakes have been producing some nice bass and catfish. **Clay Russell** has been hitting some new lakes in Texas with some success on the stripers and large mouth.

### **Sharing the Wealth**

The knowledge gained by following the principals of Spoonplugging is best utilized when shared. There is no bigger thrill for me than seeing someone catch the fish of a lifetime or having an unforgettable day of fishing. How many times have you caught a fish you will remember for the rest of your life? If you're like me this doesn't happen very often. If you look for opportunities to take less experienced people fishing you may see many fishes of a lifetime. This is sometimes a 4-inch bluegill or a 6-inch bass. His or her first fish or their first adult fish or the trophy for the wall or any day that will be remembered for the rest someone's life. While giving fishing reports at the last meeting, I related several outings this year when I helped someone that will remember the day for the rest of their life. This was no accident. I planned these outings. I did my homework and fortunately the fish cooperated.

Let me first say when taking someone fishing you must think: SAFTEY first, FUN second, FISH third, SELF last. Let me tell you my approach. Safety: Flotation when called for is good. Ponds with a shallow shoreline are good. Ample supervision is good. If possible, have parents within haling distance. When very young kids are involved long cane poles, with lines short enough to

keep the hooks above the eyes of all, are good. Push button reels with slip bobbers, to minimize dangling lines, are good. Barbless hooks are always a good idea. I just mash the barbs. Be prepared with extra hooks and bait. When you are getting bites but no hookups go small. Number 10 hooks with a fourth of a crawler usually works for me but the fish will swallow more often. You will want to cut the line when the fish swallow the hook to avoid the sight of blood. Fun: If they are not having it, it's time to do something else. Bring your patience and use it, they don't have much. Weather must be good. Prefish the area to maximize potential for success. Have the camera handy. If snacks are available bring baby wipes. Check with parents for sunscreen and insect repellent and allergies. FISH: If the fish are not cooperating have a backup plan. Make it a field trip or a picnic. Bring a couple dip nets for frogs turtles and dragonflies. By the way dragonflies bite. SELF: When taking youngsters I will often not fish at all or only when it benefits the outing.

Let me relate a few of my favorite experiences. 1) A party at a house located on a shallow pond. Ten kids are from 3-6 yrs olds. Three at time down to the water with slip bobbers. When needed I flip out the worm and they take the pole. Every body caught something and got to squeal for mom and dad to take their pictures. Most were the first fish of their life. I walked the shore days before to locate the bluegills. 2) A first grade fishing club meeting at a different location once a month. I brought an extra pole. I had not fished all these park ponds so I would walk the shore with a pole to locate the fish. After a couple of outings my granddaughter had a cadre of followers tagging along to enjoy the spoils. 3) Having had several trips to a productive spot on

LaSalle, my 10 yr old grandson commented, "Papa when I grow up this will be my spot to take my kids too". 4) The annual trip to Barbee Lake. While the kids were at the beach, I went out to check a known spot for bass, they were there and I left them alone. Next day the same time the 5 & 8 year old were able to land about 18 bass from 12-17in. Although I anchored the boat so their lines would drift over the fish, the fish were tightly schooled and Mackenzie caught the first three as quick as she dropped her worm in the water. Austin threw a hissy fit. Grandma had him move his worm 6ft to the right and there was peace in the boat once more. The next 45 minutes was soooo fun. We saved a few for their fish fry when they got to provide the fish. 5) The older grandkids went with to Whitewater for overnights. Leon and Andrew had better weather conditions as the front was approaching and we got off the water as the boomers closed in on us. With Shawna and Samantha we arrived as a weak front was passing. The fish were there when we arrived and they toughed it out as the temperature dropped and the wind picked up. Having extra clothes in the boat bag helped them hold out until the fish quit. All four caught more big fish than ever before. They were texting repeatedly. An interesting observation by my granddaughter, carp are fish too. There is often a school of adult carp staging in the pool below the spillway at the dam. On the 5 days we had good movements they were there. On the day we got skunked the carp were not there. On the best day they were in the rocks and trying to swim up the shoot.

As most of you know when Mary comes with she will out fish me most of the time. She has the biggest Northern and the biggest Musky and the biggest White bass that have come in the boat. Before we got married she knew

I was going to spend time on the water and she agreed to join me. This was not an instant success. I had unrealistic expectations when we started out. I soon realized that my new partner did not think 12 hours in the sun was all that much fun. I had to make allowances because she might be willing but she is not crazy. Slowing the pace actually helps make me a better fisherman. I enjoy finding the anchoring position to drop a few worms. The thrill of watching the bobber disappear beneath the water never gets old for me. Besides I had an excuse to upgrade my spin cast outfits and my spare trolling rods. When it's time for doing some homework she brings a book and a rainproof CD player. I use the same philosophy as with all my partners. If they are not having fun it's time to try something else.

If you want to see many fish of a lifetime, put yourself in situations where it can happen again and again. So do your homework. Know where the fish might be. Match your partners with equipment they can handle. Allow for their short attention span. Have reasonable weather conditions. Let them have fun. If the fish are not cooperating don't force them to over stay their limit. Be prepared; if the weather changes and they are not comfortable have a back up plan for a safe enjoyable and memorable outing. If they have fun this time there will be a time when the fish do cooperate. The smiles and squeals will make an outing to be remembered for their lifetime as well as yours. Have fun,

**Jerry Hein**



The question is often asked, "just how long do I work a particular structure?"

The question cannot be answered with just a flat statement as to the time a fisherman must spend in working a particular structure. The situation that exist would determine just how much time is spent.

The nearest thing to a flat statement would be — "as long as necessary to be sure the structure is thoroughly worked at all depths and all speeds."

There are several factors that would determine just how much time is spent on a particular structure. The time element could differ if the structure was being cast, or if it was being trolled.

As we approach this question, let us bare in mind a very important fact, fish do not move constantly nor consistently. By this we mean, the fish are not always on the move and up on the structure. Very seldom will any two of them be of the same distance or for the same length of time. In most cases the movement will be short and for very little time.

Another factor that would determine just how long a particular structure is worked would be the size of the body of water, and just how many structures are available. Some bodies of water has many potentially productive structures, while others may have only one.

The amount of traffic or fishing pressure that is present would also have a bearing on the time spent.

Just how well the fisherman can move about the body of

water would affect just how long he works a structure.

The Spoonplugging Booklets cover this particular question pretty well, when they state that a fisherman should work the structure as thoroughly as possible. Then periodically return to the structure to see if migration has occurred. They state that the fisherman must exercise patience for the fish to move.

In checking a structure by trolling, the fisherman must spend enough time and make enough passes to be sure all sections of the structure has been worked. In casting, the same thing must be done. In the past we have discussed the sections and lure types that should be used. A fast hand rule to follow, would be to place the boat in such a position that all shallows could be worked with as few casts as possible. In most cases ½ dozen casts should cover the shallow water. When working the deep water section of a structure a good hand rule to follow would be five casts with a walking lure, then five casts with a jump type lure.

There are other factors that would have a bearing on how long a fisherman works a structure. If the fisherman was working good productive structure from a boat, and did not have a motor, then he most likely should spend all his time there.

In a recent issue of this paper, one of the fishermen in a contest was stating that he followed my advice and stuck to a particular structure for two whole fishing days, and was able to win the contest. Many readers have asked why I advised this fisherman to

In this particular case, the contest was being sponsored by the leading bass fishermen in the State. This group was made up of fishermen who had lots of knowledge on the areas in the lake that produced fish (When they were biting). They had high-powered boats, and spent a lot of time running at a fast clip, between productive areas. They were the so-called "new breed of cat" bass fishermen.

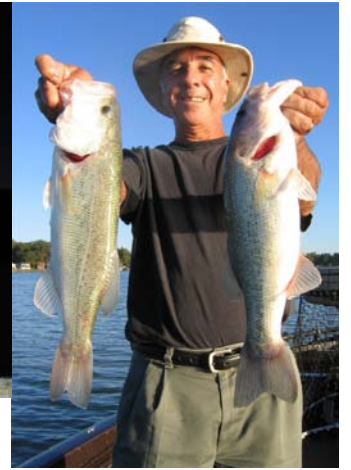
The fisherman in question, had not had too much experience on this particular lake. He had also just recently been exposed to Spoonplugging in detail. He certainly did not have the confidence as held by the other fishermen in the contest.

He was told to stick to a particular structure for several reasons. First, the structure was known to be productive. It was a structure that was used as a migration route by a nice bunch of fish. Second, the weather conditions indicated that there would be no mass movement of fish, and if it did occur it would be short, and could occur when the fishermen was between structures. Another factor to consider was the high-speed boats and the mass of fishermen running around the lake. Many structures would already be occupied, and time would be lost. It was also pointed out, that the water conditions were such, that if a movement occurred on another structure, it was a sure bet that a movement would occur on his structure.











**SPOONPLUGGER WEB SITES:**

**Spoonpluggers of America:**

***nsoa.info***

**Buck's Baits:**

***buckperry.com***

**Discussion Board, links, and more:**

***spoonplugger.net***

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