



Northern Illinois Spoonpluggers



Senior Spoonplugging Advisors:

Jerry Borst, Vic Saunders, Chris "Hoss" Blatzhiem, Chris Angsten, Bill Lorch

Treasurer: Ted Malo **Trustee:** Bill Lorch

Next meeting will be held on September 6th!

Catch of the Month from the Past



Young Chris Angsten, back in the mid 90's, caught this 47 inch Muskie out of Pistakee Bay on a 200 series spoonplug. This fish is still the biggest caught on the Chain O' Lakes by any NIS club member to date.

Meetings will be held at the VFW in McHenry (3002 w IL Rt 120) the 1st Tuesday of every month 7:30pm - 9:00pm. April - November.

Last month's attendees:

Greg Geils
Bill Lorch
Dave Hunt
Sean Lorch
Russell Lewis

Fishing Report

Walleyes have been moving late in the day on the chain in July. Northern Pike have been moving on the local lakes daily. Bill Lorch was out on Lake Marie one day in July when he caught three nice Walleyes and missed four. The fish moved late in the day and Bill was in the right place at the right time and fishing in the right manner. The first fish was caught and the marker was thrown. The second fish was caught and another marker was thrown. After each fish was caught, Bill went to the cast and when no fish were caught casting Bill went back to trolling and determined there was no better lure presentation at that time. All fish were caught trolling back and forth between the markers.

Please send fish pictures and stories to
william.spoonplugger.lorch@gmail.com

Ideas that Work

To maximize the life of your no-bo fishing line, you can reel your line from one reel to another. The line you are now fishing with on the other reel is basically new line from the inside of the spool from the other reel.

Dont' forget Taco Tuesday is until 8 o'clock!! Bring your appetite!

Last Meeting's Recap

The new drawing board was used to draw out structure situations and mapping techniques to help train new members in the correct procedures involved in placing markers for straight line trolling passes and the gathering of line sights. This is very important when fishing new and old lakes.



Bill and Deb were at Lake Mendota one day in August and were faced with ever changing weather conditions. Fish movement was minimal. Throughout the day, deep trolling for stragglers was the ticket! Deb hooked this thirty incher at about twenty-two feet on wire line with a 100 spoonplug. Deb was a great fishing partner and by the end of the day she had a great understanding of the basics of spoonplugging! Good job Deb!!

Bill Lorch was out one afternoon, in July, on Lake Marie when he found the walleyes moving at 10 feet on center bar (left) and was out on Lake Geneva on another afternoon just before a front when he caught several largemouth bass under some very unstable weather conditions, in very clear water (right).



The following is a passage from Buck Perry's Home Study course "Presentation of Lures"

To be a successful troller, it is important that each and every lure be kept in proper position. Each lure size will "fish" the water if this is done. At the same time the water is being fished correctly, the fisherman is "contouring" the bottom to "arrive" at the spot where the fish will be. The fisherman will leave the lake knowing he not only fished the water thoroughly, but has knowledge as to where structures are, their condition, and their direction. A lure is in position when we keep it in the same depth of water, as the depth the lure is running. That is, if the lure is running 10 feet deep, then it should be in water 10 feet deep. If it runs 6 feet deep, it should be in water 6 feet deep, etc.

To be a successful troller includes knowing how to maneuver a boat. To do this (on each size or running depth lure), we start the troll and move the boat toward the shallows until the lure starts hitting bottom (in some lakes when working the shallows with the smaller lures, the lure will come in contact with weeds instead of the bottom). When contact is made, slowly head the boat toward the deeper, or open, water; then as the lure starts running free, slowly head the boat back toward the shoreline (or shallows) until the lure starts bumping again. By continuing to maneuver the boat in this manner, the lures will always be in position and the contours of the bottom will be followed, regardless of shape.

The degree of correction of the boat is so slight, the lure is never but a few degrees from directly behind the boat.

What would happen if you moved your boat in until the lure started bumping and you just continued to let it bump without ever turning toward deeper water? If this were done, you could find yourself going across a big flat getting farther and farther away from fishable water.

Now let us suppose you slowly maneuver the boat away from the shallows and the lure starts running free. If you did not begin to correct your heading, and slowly start back toward the shallows, you could shortly find yourself out over 50 feet or more of water, and the lures completely out of position. It is necessary to hit something once in a while, be it weeds or bottom, to assure yourself your lures are in position. This way the lure is free-running at times and bumping at times. Also, the fish may take it one way and not the other (we'll talk more about this later).

By the time we get down to 8-10 feet, we should begin to find out something about the make-up of the bottom. By maneuvering the boat as described, we should begin to see the shape of the area being worked — contours, structure, depths, etc.

In teaching trolling, one of the main problems we find is the fisherman OVER-CONTROLS. He does not SLOWLY correct the boat heading, but hastily over-controls, and before he knows it the boat is completely out of position, and when the lure make contact, comes-off running free, the boat is so far out of position a lot of water has been missed, and it takes time to get the lure back behind the boat again.

When maneuvering the boat in trolling, we have four main things to accomplish: First - keep lures in position; Second - keep lures fishing at all times; Third - learn your waters — know where and what about the bottom features; Fourth - arrive at the fish.