

Next meeting – December 12th, 6:30 PM
 Location – Giordanos, 10410 w. Cermak Rd
 Westchester, IL 60154

Club Contact
 Bob Roels 847-818-5296
 r.robert11@comcast.net

Illinois Spoonplugger

December 2013

Christmas Party

The party is at the same time and place on the second Thursday on December 12th, 6:30PM at Giordano's., 10410 W Cermak Rd, Westchester IL . See you there. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday!

Get out and Fish

Brett Christensen, Jim Duplex, Bob Roels, Gino Testone, and Rick Matus are among the few who are still fishing. Lake Geneva and Waubesa seem to be the focus. Brett is working on unlocking the late fall bass bite on Geneva, Bob and Gino are interested in the night walleyes, and Duplex and Matus are usually pounding Waubesa. If you want to get out give these members a call? Hopefully the weather warms up to normal temperatures to let us fish at least one more day of open water.

Meeting Summary 11/14/13

Attendance – 9

Fish Reports and Maps

Member	Lake	Results	Discussion
Jim Taylor Craig Hubbard	Crystal Lake	Tough	GIN clear water and windy. Trolled down to 30 w/o success.
Bob Roels Jim Duplex	Lake Geneva	3 SMB	2 on fathead minnows around 18-26 ft, and one on tube in weeds. Water temp 47 degrees on 11/14.
Bob Roels	Waubesa	Some NP	Zero last weekend and some NP week before on hard bottom transitions outlining structure but away from depth breaklines. Recent water temp was 45. Sketch showed how hard bottom came to a point around 19 feet.
	Lake Wisconsin	Beast	Drew delta point and relationship to eroded feeder creek channel leading to river channel. Beast and previous school of saugers caught on most likely feeder creek edge. Creek is no longer obvious in all places.
Jim and Casey Shell	Lake Wisconsin	Crappies	Small jigs w/minnow on delta point and hump breaklines adjacent to channel. Sounds easier than it is.

Education - Thank you Brett for bringing maps of Beulah and Geneva for education and report. John Bales asked Brett to write an article on "Mental Attitude". Look for his article in Spoonpluggers of America.

Brett Christenson	Lake Geneva	8 SMB	Cedar Point second finger is a big fish spot. Fingers on Cedar point extend from shallows to deep. Instead of working lures from deep to shallow more effort will be spent fishing lures uphill on structures in hopes of getting school. Maps provided.
	Beulah	18 LMB	Brett explained how mapping structures and knowing sight lines gave him the positive mental attitude to keep fishing a known fish producing structure. The structure did not produce fish until the fourth time it was fished. And it produced 6 of 18 fish on that day after things had shut down. Mapping with sight lines gave him the confidence to test the structure!

Structure Fishing Cable Program: Jim Shell brought attendees up to date on his "Structure Fishing" program. Jim shared his goal for the show to teach structure fishing, something other shows are not doing. Jim has created 8 shows and estimates he will need \$22,000 for the first complete season of eight shows to air. Geri Perry after reviewing the program has agreed to advertise NSOA. An additional \$2500 has been raised through the link on Spoonplugger.net.

Presently at least 2 shows will air. In return for their donations persons can receive shirts, complete set of shows, and other items for their contributions. The club passed a motion to make a \$150 donation in return will receive the 8 shows on DVD. Log-in to Spoomplug.net for the latest news.

Business:

Christmas Party - Craig Hubbard will make reservations Thursday, December 12, 2013 at Giordanos in Westchester at 6:30 PM.

Newsletter Editor - Scott Duff offered the newsletter job to members as time has not permitted him to do the quality work he would like. I volunteered to do the newsletter. Thank you Scott for an excellent job and your many years of hard work.

Meeting Chair suggestion – Jim Shell suggested members each volunteer for a month to share a subject they would like to discuss. This was done when the club started, and most often the subjects were right from the book or guide, or the mechanics of spoonplugging.

Outings - We all like to fish, but don't get a chance to. I propose a Polar Bear outing on Lake Geneva on December 1st (weather permitting). Call or email if interested.

The Latest

Jim Duplex: Rick Matus and his brother did well for smallmouth in Northern Wisconsin. Originally muskies were the target, but smallmouth were cooperating on rock pile structures with blades.

Jim Taylor: The treasury is at a low, but dues for 2014 will be forthcoming. Budgeting will be more important for the upcoming year.

Fish Reports

Jim Duplex has his motor working and is on the water again. See his emails for details.

Terry O Malley from NSOA

From the Training Center Subject: Mapping and Interpretation

It seems mapping and interpreting a structure situation is a problem for some of our subscribers. We judge that by the calls, e-mails and inquiries we receive from the internet.

Many fine contour maps are available today, as are depth meters. Both should be used as "aids" when mapping structure situations. Even though contour maps show the breaklines occur at certain depths, the Spoonpluggers cannot just accept that. He has to check it out!

For example: Some reservoir contour maps show the minimum depth of the delta ridges to be at a depth of 20 ft. Checking this out is often surprising. You may find the delta-ridges to be 10-12 ft. on top. The same holds true for various breaklines - main channel breaklines and breaklines on wide sweeping bars.



We feel the problems encountered by the mapper is due to this failure to carry the process out as far as possible. The mapper may not look for breaklines deeper than 15-16 ft. If a deeper breakline is present he would not be aware of it. In so many words, he did not carry the mapping process deep enough.

Figure 1: Shows a side view of a wide-sweeping with 3 breaklines One occurs at 13 ft., the second at 24 ft., and the third at 38 ft. Which is the "base" breakline? Figure 2: Shows a side view of a delta-ridge. There are also three breaklines. The first occurs from 12-15 ft., the next is the main channel breakline at 17 ft. and the third is the base breakline at 40 ft. It is the responsibility of the mapper to see the breaklines in Figures 1 & 2 exist, as well as the depths they occur. We would say those having trouble with the mapping process are too anxious to put a lure in the water. They do not map the structure situation thoroughly. This is a common mistake when inexperienced Spoonpluggers are on a new lake or reservoir they are not familiar with.

There is also the fact - Spoonpluggers with some experience are not as familiar with the existing breaklines in a body of water they fish frequently. They may catch their fish off breaklines which only produce when good weather conditions are prevalent. Under that condition, migration extends to that breakline during a movement period.

For example: In Figure 1, migration may extend to the 13 ft. breakline when weather conditions are favorable and if the water color is dark and dingy. When weather conditions are not favorable, the fish may migrate only as far as the 24 ft. breakline and stop there.

If the water color is on the clear side, migration may only extend to the 24 ft. breakline the majority of time. On dark-cloudy rainy days, some fish may migrate as far as the 13 ft. breakline.

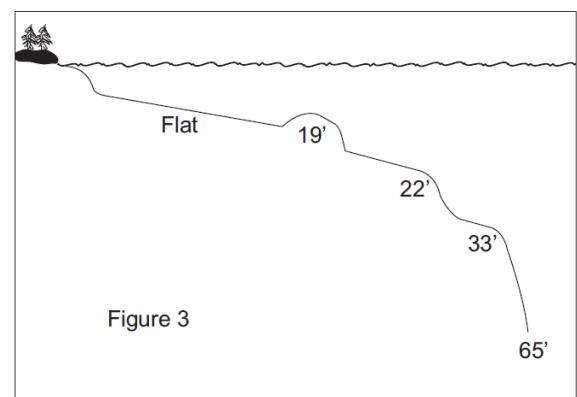
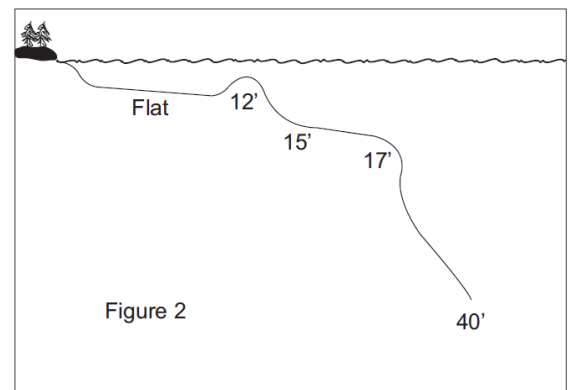
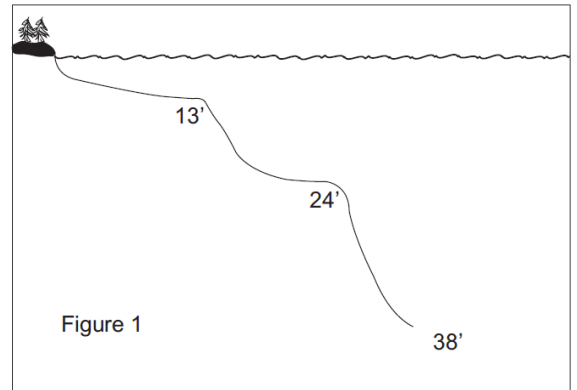
These same migration principles hold true for the delta-ridge Structure Situation in Figure 2. Weather conditions and water color being the determining factors, as to what breakline migration extends, during the movement period.

Figure 3 is similar to Figure 2. It shows a side view of a delta-ridge containing deeper breaklines. The top of the delta-ridge is 19 ft. deep. The depth of the next breakline is 22 ft. The third breakline is at a depth of 33 ft. and the base breakline is 65 ft. deep. Again, the structure situation shown in Figure 3, is subject to weather conditions and water color when it comes to which breakline the fish will migrate to, during a movement.

It is essential that a Spoonpluggers map a structure situation thoroughly and identify all the existing breaklines. If he does not, that Spoonpluggers cannot expect to catch fish consistently off these structure situations shown in Figures 1, 2 & 3. Weather conditions change and even water color at various times of the fishing season. Those things will definitely affect how far and to what depth migration extends.

Another thing needs to be addressed. We know all the fish become active at the same time, However, the entire school may not migrate as far as the shallowest breakline shown. A few fish may migrate within easy reach of the fisherman but the majority of fish in the school may stop at a deeper breakline, on the same structure during migration.

It should be simple to understand how a Spoonpluggers could catch a few fish trolling on the shallower breaklines and leave, not catching another fish. He did not know deeper breaklines existed and therefore he did not check them, trolling and casting. The fact was, the school has stopped at one of the deeper breaklines during migration.



Once a structure situation is mapped thoroughly, all breaklines must be checked, casting - trolling and in the case of the base breakline - vertically jigging, if necessary. There is no other way, no short cut. Time has to be taken to make sure you know as much about the structure situation as possible - despite how badly you want to put a lure in the water!

The mapping process should not be a problem. It is a rather simple process, with all the aids (depth meters, etc.) we have available today. The Training Center believes the less experienced Spoonpluggers make the mapping process much more difficult than it should be. Some spend more time mapping than they do fishing the existing breaklines - trolling and casting. Knowing those other breaklines exist is just a matter of looking for them during the mapping process. We have seen many examples of the things mentioned above, in the past.

The following statements may insult some of our subscribers. However, The Training Center feels the lack of catching fish is caused by the less experienced or knowledgeable Spoonplugger's ability to present lures to the fish - trolling, casting or vertical-jigging.

The presentation of lures is the most important phase of Spoonplugging, It is also the most difficult phase for most people. Presentation of lures, casting - trolling is what catches fish. The mapping and interpretation phase is an aid, like a depth meter. Once finished, you must be able to present lures to the fish.

We have often heard people say -"I don't like to troll!" when introducing them to Spoonplugging. We also know some subscribers are reluctant to cast. In both instances those people have no confidence in trolling (they don't know how to troll) - or no confidence in casting. Again, a Spoonplugger's inability to cast, working Spoonplugs and jump-lures, on breaklines is the chief reason for his reluctance to do so. Not confidence in the procedure but in himself. These are things a Spoonplugger must overcome.

The mechanical part of Spoonplugging can only be accomplished by practice - trolling and casting. All the study and reading will not allow the Spoonplugger to become proficient doing this without practice and time on the water.

Is The Training Center trying to take away any excuse for failure in this article? Yes we are! There are none in this day and age. Just go back and think about how it was years ago, without depth meters, or any other electronic devices as aids. Think about the boats available to us in those early years. All rental boats had a can furnished so we could bail the water out of those "leakers" during a day's fishing. Trolling rods, NO-BO and wire line, were not available at that time to purchase from Buck's Baits The 700 and 800 series Spoonplugs were not available, all we had were the first 5 sizes.

Colors? None! All we had were brass, nickel and copper.

After a few years, Buck's Baits began painting Spoonplugs in several other colors. Trolling rods and NO-BO line became available about the same time from Buck's Baits. Early Spoonpluggers caught fish, despite the fact we did not have all which is available today. How did we catch so many fish? We did because we believed in Mr. Perry and his teachings. We didn't quit, despite all the difficulties involved.

Let us ask this - Why would you have so much difficulty? If it is any consolation, it took us much time on the water to become accomplished Spoonpluggers in those early years.- **Time and effort!! Lots of effort!** These days you have the proper trolling equipment, provided by Buck's Baits, NO-BO and wire line, as well as colors of Spoonplugs which are too numerous to list. The "Green Book and Home Study Course" is available from Buck's Baits (we did not have any of that).

Contour maps, like we have today, were not always available of the waters we fished. We had to make our own, including line-sights and shoreline references. Maximum depths off productive structures were measured by tying knots in anchor ropes, five, six feet apart. You can only imagine the difficulties involved. What excuse do you have, reading all which was mentioned above? Is it a lack of your ability to map a structure situation thoroughly? That may be so, if you are inexperienced. We would bet, the real problem is your inability to present lures on structure, trolling and casting.

Terry O'Malley, Director of Education