

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

April, 2013

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:15 PM.

12th ANNUAL WINTER SEMINAR:

It was another successful seminar! Thanks especially to all who made the trip to attend. In case you missed it the 2013 Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar was held on Saturday, March 16 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. The large meeting facility comfortably accommodated everyone as the day was filled with the sharing of fishing knowledge and fellowship in the spirit of Buck Perry. The weekend kicked off with the Friday night get-together and dinner at Moretti's in Schaumburg. Eighteen club members, guests, and three CSI's enjoyed the time to talk Spoonplugging and share experiences over good food and drink. The seminar began with the opening of the library doors at 9:00 AM sharp. Club members had matters well at hand as AV equipment, displays and tables were quickly set up while guests registered and enjoyed hot coffee and rolls. Jim Duplex, our skillful moderator, welcomed everyone and opened the event by introducing a video of Mr. Perry being interviewed and audio-recorded for broadcast by a radio personality at the first Muskegon Outing. We are grateful to Chase Klinesteker (who shot the home movie) for sharing this one-of-a-kind archival footage.



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PRESENTATIONS: Certified Instructor **Chase Klinesteker** led off with a wide ranging talk covering many aspects of Spoonplugging. We must keep in mind that all components are essential and they all go back to the Basic Guideline. This includes the shared behaviors of all fish, and of our approach to catching them. Chase's example was Spoonplugging for perch on Lake Michigan where he has had considerable success. His many anecdotes and experiences shared provided a great start to the morning session.

Building on his recent presentations and writings, top Spoonplugger **John Bales** "shot the works" in covering **TOOLS** and **CONTROLS** with extensive discussion of approaches to use throughout the entire season. He went through his rods, lures, and other tools as he explained his approach to specific lakes and lake types being fished. John especially emphasized the importance of recognizing and adjusting to the changing conditions while on the water.

Illinois club member **Brett Christianson** had a breakthrough year in 2012 and used his segment to illustrate with enthusiasm the key factors that allowed him to improve quickly as a Spoonplugger. These included studying with CSI's, having a plan of attack, getting out of the comfort zone, and simplifying and focusing his approach. The result has been confidence on the water, hefty stringers of fish, and time shared with family and friends. We can all learn from his example. "Visualizing Structure" was the focus of **Scott Duff's** talk. A wide range of pictures of a local flood control lake at low water served to illustrate the normally unseen structural details. The ability to visualize allows us to see from a "fish-eye" point of view and more quickly map and interpret our fishing situations. The result is more fish in the boat. **Jerry Hein** gave some great examples of the advantage of fishing with a partner, and also how keeping an open mind can uncover unexpected features when mapping and presenting lures. The final interpretation is "where the fish are," you just can put words in their mouth!

John Bales and Stephen Gillian gave a preview of their latest work, the Fishing Lake Erie DVD. A preview was shown and I've included an article below.

Finally, thanks to all the members of the Illinois Spoonpluggers who contributed their time, energy and ideas to this year's event. Thanks especially to Jenny Hubbard for the delicious cookies and for running the camera. Good Spoonplugging!

MARCH BUSINESS:

A Sad Note - Our condolences go out to Jim Perillo who's wife, Delores, passed away unexpectedly during their visit to Florida. Services were held in Addison and a card was signed by the club at the meeting.

Final preparations for the seminar involved most of the meeting since it was two days prior to the event.

FISHING REPORTS: Here's been the story of what we could expect on the water...



March 2012



March 2013

...unless you traveled to tropical waters like Tampa Bay (J. Duplex) or LaSalle Lake (where many fish have wound up in several spoonplugger boats)! At LaSalle, a good mix of hybrid stripers, hefty cats and a few largemouth were hot-to-trot when "Big Cat" Bink and Jim "Double Cat" Duplex fished in the opening days. They almost got locked in overnight trying to land that last one! A few days later on a trip back, Jim Duplex trolled-up some more chunky catfish, including a double. At the meeting, Jim drew out the fishing situation in Tampa where he had fished from shore casting buddy's and jigs with fast rips (speed control) being the key for lady fish and sea trout. Scott Duff did some ice-out Spoonplugging on new waters in NE Indiana. There he worked two lakes (Shipshewana and Hamilton) with isolated deeper holes that John Bales has discussed at the seminar. Patience under challenging conditions finally led to a good bass from the bottom of the deepest water available. Scott says this was a new and exciting

experience and he is looking forward to applying what was learned to other lakes throughout the cold and warm seasons.

The word is Heidecke Lake is now open but ramp work is going on and a temporary launch has been installed. DNR warning: Launch at your own risk. Due to low water levels there is reportedly only 28" of water at the end of the ramp so bigger boats may have to wait. Ice was also forming on the smooth metal grating they put down. Nice to see our Illinois taxes dollars and license fees coming back to serve the people in such a thoughtful manner. FYI-Wisconsin is offering a significantly reduced rate for first time fishing license purchasers (75% off for WI residents, and 25% off for non-resident). This also applies for persons who have not purchased a fishing license there in over 10 years.

Hope you have your best year yet...remember to send in those reports and pictures!

LaSalle Lake in March:



Scott with ice-out bass:



NEW SPOONPLUGGER DVD:

This is such a complete and valuable addition to the Spoonplugger's video library I'm going to talk it up. This latest 5-DVD set is where it all comes together. The new DVD from John Bales is called NATURAL LAKES: LAKE ERIE. As part of the 10-DVD Natural Lakes series, the set works in sequence to demonstrate Spoonplugging procedures on the water. This IS about fishing for smallmouth and a specific unique situation. Yes, John catches a lot of fish in this one! But more importantly, this is **the best** and most complete video showing application of Spoonplugging guidelines: mapping, finding the fish on the troll, catching them on the cast. As Terry O'Malley says in the introduction to the series, "Its all here!"

John selected an advanced situation to show 2 days of fishing done right by the book. Its both fun and completely engaging. The video runs continuously during each segment. What you see is just how it happened. That never, ever happens on fishing shows. John shares key observations and allows us into his decision-making process as the events unfold. His spot-on explanations and commentary as he fishes are just terrific. Spoonpluggers will see that this is not just about Lake Erie but a resource which will benefit all your fishing. There is just so much here!

Viewers will find the audio experience improved with clear sound, quick segues between sections, and no music. Also, the drone of the outboard motor and other noise has been filtered out. As a time saving convenience, DVD's 2-5 have eliminated the need to navigate menus and will play automatically when inserted. Producer Stephen Gillian offers a 10-DVD box to house your entire series if you purchased the others separately, so you won't have all the boxes to deal with.

For more info go to: **spoonpluggerfilms.com**



Buck Sez...

Do fish migrate toward the shallows every time they become active?

No! The fish can become active in deep water with no migration occurring, with the total period of activity confined to a small area. In certain types of lakes and reservoirs, the depths are so shallow the movement is confined entirely to the area of the sanctuary most of the time. The same thing can occur under certain weather and water conditions regardless of the depths of the sanctuary.

Suggestions to consider: shallow flatland reservoir, isolated hole or slot in deeper lake, some rivers, thermocline, freshwater spring in a lake. Can you think of others?

Spoonplugger Web Sites:

Spoonpluggers of America: nsoa.info

Buck's Baits: buckperry.com

Discussion Board, links, and more: spoonplugger.net

Newsletter Editor: Scott Phone 847-322-2695

Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar

Elk Grove Village, IL

March 16, 2013

Contact: Jim Taylor

815-477-1761

jt10823876@sbcglobal.net

Leoni Outing

Jackson, MI

June 20-24, 2013

Contact: John Zaborny

517-414-3596

jzaborny@sbcglobal.net

Muskegon Lake, MI

Fisherman's Landing

July 10-14, 2013

Lunker Hunters

Contact: Chase Klinesteker

616-949-8665

Ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Outing

Tippecanoe, Webster, Wawasee Lakes

Forest Ridge Campground

219-327-3551

August 14-17, 2013 (Note-starts Wednesday this year)

Contacts:

John Bales 219-854-3921

johnspoon@embarqmail.com

Denny Coulardot: 260-691-3118

Buck Perry Memorial Outing

Taylorsville, NC

Sept. 14, 2013

Contacts:

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