

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

February, 2013

The next meeting of the Illinois Spoonpluggers will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:15 PM.

BUSINESS: The agenda was altered to allow seminar business and discuss the format and presentations. Jim Taylor is head of planning and contacting the speakers this year. Certified Instructors John Bales (Casting, What Was Learned?) and Chase Klinesteker (Mid-sized Rivers) will be speaking at the seminar. The club members "lessons learned" portion will include Brett Christianson, Jerry Hein and Scott Duff. The deadline for submitting materials, handouts, and presentation outlines is Feb. 15. Jobs for this event were assigned and the Friday evening dinner on Feb. 15 will again be held at Moretti's Restaurant & Pizzeria in Schaumburg. A reminder that the fee, which had remained the same for 10 years was raised from \$20 to \$30, for everybody attending.

At this month's meeting, a portion will be devoted to seminar preparations including planning and segment previews. We also anticipate several year-in-review reports, too. In the National newsletter, John Bales' article on setting goals for the new season has some timely advice. Brett's article talks about "Getting out of the comfort zone" during a fishing season-what that meant, and how it played out for him in 2012. Their ideas also should serve to spark new questions and goals for the coming fishing season. The Winter Seminar follows this same theme in bringing together Spoonpluggers from around the country. We hope everyone can attend!

FISHING REPORTS - Brett Christianson gave an excellent year-in-review covering lessons learned. He had a terrific year of progress as a Spoonplugger. Keys included time on the water, working with CSI's, fishing the whole season, study, study, study, and LOTS of motivation. Brett emphasized that his lures and techniques were straight out of the book (spoonplugs and jump lures-tubes, jigs, blades, traps), and his work with CSI's helped develop and focus his approach. Brett has fished for years, but as a Spoonplugger the difference maker for him has been trying new things and breaking routines that limit progress. I think we can all relate!

In his year in review, Jim Duplex, (who is retired in case you are all wondering!), spent 97 days on the water. Jim reflected on the unusual weather (extreme drought year) and water conditions, and their effect of making fishing for all species quite unpredictable. Lure speeds to make the fish strike were the fastest in years and the pike were especially active. Jim also emphasized the value of fishing new waters because you never know what you will find. Case in point, he made many nice catches on lakes he fished for no other reason than he hadn't fished them before. Well done, Jim!

A SPOONPLUGGER'S GUIDE TO SUCCESS by Scott Duff

Question: What sets Spoonpluggers apart from all other fishermen?

Its the guidelines given to us by Mr. Perry, of course! As John Bales puts it, "No other group of fishermen has so many guidelines." We Spoonpluggers are also unique in that our approach allows us to map and interpret new waters and arrive at the schools of adult fish (all species) efficiently and precisely. Again, no other group of fishermen has this. Our tools and procedures in using these guidelines allow us to increase our knowledge at a rapid rate every day we are on the water, anywhere we fish. Spoonpluggers are truly unique.

In this article, I decided to focus on one thing - **The Spoonplugger's Basic Guideline**. Written by Buck Perry right after World War II, the Basic Guideline ties us together like no other group of fishermen. As Mr. Perry said over and over, "This is the whole ball of wax," and boy did he mean it! Grasp the Spoonplugger's Basic Guideline, invest the time putting it to work, and your possibilities for growth as a fishermen are limitless!

What Mr. Perry really says in the Basic Guideline is not "basic" at all. It is exactly the opposite; it a brilliant. Truth is, the Basic Guideline is the most profound statement in all of fishing.

It is worth noting, the answers to the questions Mr. Perry raised about the fish and fishing as a youngster (Green Book, "Buck Sez" Introduction) revolved around the assertion that, "**Once or twice on the average fishing day the fish will become active and may move toward shallower water.**" How easy it is for us "modern fishermen" to take that for granted! We think, "Of course, I know that silly." But do we really "KNOW?" Or do we sometimes get lost in the details or the trappings of some success? (Of course we do and have to catch ourselves!) Later in life, while in his 80's Mr. Perry said, "The whole thing [Spoonplugging] boils down to this one bit of cock-eyed behavior!" This, after spending over 50 years spreading the word about successful fishing. When we REALLY think about it, we realize the purpose of the Green Book and the entire Home Study Course is to get us to understand the implications of this one gigantic fishing fact, a single curious and universal fish behavior, and how we as Spoonpluggers can respond to it to put fish in the boat. Our response (What do we do?) is what controls our EVERY THOUGHT AND ACTION of a Spoonplugger on the water.

DEPTH CONTROL is not how deep a lure runs, its 'WHERE THE FISH ARE.'

SPEED CONTROL is not how fast in mph, its 'WHAT MAKES HIM TAKE.'

THE GOAL OF A SPOONPLUGGER: A Spoonplugger strives to always fish in a manner that provides us the answers (knowledge) we need to put our lure/bait in front of the fish, moving at the correct speed to make him "take." To become the best he can be, the Spoonplugger must KNOW every word of the Basic Guideline (can you recite it aloud?), then live it and breathe it, including every moment he is on the water.

In doing this, we start to realize that every success and every failure in fishing goes right back to the Basic Guideline. The better we get as Spoonpluggers, the more and more we realize this to be completely true!

One of the things Mr. Perry did in the early 2000's was mail all NSOA members a copy of the Basic Guideline, printed on parchment paper. He sent it with this message: "Frame it. I am not sending this to you again." I had a good laugh. What a great man, that Mr. Perry. To think, he sent that to me - to all of us! The message I took from his gift was this, "Everything I have written about Spoonplugging in the last 50+ years is contained on this one sheet of paper. This is the whole ball of wax right here. The rest is up to you! Now get to work."

The SPOONPLUGGER'S BASIC GUIDELINE. Give it some thought. Its powerful stuff!

Hope the 2013 season is your best ever. Good Spoonplugging!

Spoonlugger Web Sites:

Spoonpluggers of America: nsoa.info

Buck's Baits: buckperry.com

Discussion Board, links, and more: spoonlugger.net

Newsletter Editor: Scott Phone 847-322-2695



Buck Sez...

SPOONPLUGGER'S BASIC GUIDELINE

The “home of the fish” (where he spends the greater part of his time - a sanctuary from a changing or hostile environment) is somewhere in the deep, or deepest water, in the area being fished. When in the sanctuary depths, the fish are normally either so dormant, and/or so deep they are almost impossible to locate or catch. As fishermen we are saved due to the fact the fish do not remain so dormant, or so deep, all of the time. Once or twice on an average fishing day they will come active and *may* move toward shallower water. We are saved again, because when the fish become active and move toward shallower water, they do not go in just any direction. The route they take has features on the bottom (structure, breaks, and breaklines) that show them the way. As the fish move along a bottom feature (structure situation) they will pause or stop at things (breaks and breaklines) on the bottom. How far they go (along a migration route toward the shallows) and how long they stay (at a “break” or “breakline” before returning back to deep water) is depended upon (controlled by) the weather and water conditions ***at that particular time.***

If you and I desire to consistently catch fish whenever or wherever we go fishing, we must control the depth and speed of our lures (or bait) on, and/or around the bottom features the fish are using in their movements and migrations.

“I want you to think about this. That is how simple fishing is. This is what you and I will do, wherever we go!” --- B.P. (spoken in the introduction to the video, “Depth and Speed Control”, 1991)

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:

Terry O'Malley 828-855-0746

Jeri Perry 828-632-8058

buckperry90@gmail.com