

Illinois Spoonpluggers

Newsletter

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

May, 2013

This month's meeting the Illinois Spoonpluggers was held on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at the Elk Grove Village Public Library with 10 members present.

[Editor's note: Look for the newsletter to be coming out in the week or so following monthly meetings. Previously it had been sent as a primer for the upcoming meeting. This earlier timing will allow more timely sharing of fishing reports. An email will be sent just prior to each meeting as a reminder and can include information members might need to prepare.]

At the April meeting, informative discussions were led by Mike Lynch (LaSalle Lake) and Brett Christianson (early season bass at Bangs Lake). Scott Duff shared his ice-out experience at Shipshewana Lake and how that revealed key features for the warm season. April continued with cold and rainy weather (2nd wettest April on record) as fishing slowed for much of the month. Members of the club mainly focused on LM bass with the fish hesitating to get into pre-spawn movements. Jerkbait and blades got the best results on Bangs Lake (Brett Christianson), Crystal Lake (Jim Taylor), and Bauer Street Pond (Jim Duplex). The most excitement early in the month came when Nick Tabor got into a good school of hard fighting hybrids (19"-20") on LaSalle Lake. Toughing out brutal wind conditions, Nick found the hybrids really slamming the 200's and boated about a dozen. Anyone who has been into these tough fighters in LaSalle knows those hybrids in hot water will really pound your tackle. Strong hooks are a must! Nick has also been checking out the bass in mining pits on the cast. What lures would you use to check all depths and all speeds?

At the May 9th meeting, all the time was spent on fishing reports, and with the fantastic catch on Lake St. Claire there was plenty to talk about.

Lake St. Claire Outing: The little gathering on Lake St. Claire on May 3-6 consisting of 3 boats and 6 Spoonpluggers produced one of the most astounding catches Spoonpluggers can remember! A total of 608 quality fish were caught and released in 3 1/2 days: these included numerous smallmouth bass to 6lbs, with walleye to 28" a northern pike, and several muskies to 46"/30lbs also getting in the way. None of these Spoonpluggers had ever fished this body of water before. Reports noted that hundreds of other boats were on the water but virtually none were fishing the key spots found by the Spoonpluggers. This is what Buck Perry's guidelines do, and when everything comes together, a Spoonplugger's results are beyond normal experience!

From Jim Duplex's report: *"We fished three main areas; and incredibly we caught 'em where no one else was fishing. And when other boats came into our areas, and even saw us taking pictures, they just kept on going! We used the latest electronics to find and work the structure situations but never saw the fish we were catching. Structure, not baitfish, was our guide to where the fish were located."*

It is well known that the spring and fall bring peak movements of smallmouth on the Great Lakes. The Lake Erie fishing situation has been shown in detail in the “In-Your-Face Spoonplugging Natural Lakes” series. At first glance, the features in Lake St. Claire are a little different but not really. The overall situation, fish movements, and fishing procedures are exactly the same.

To quote Mr. Perry, all these fishermen did was “control the depth and speed of their lures around the features the fish were using.” And this was done “at the right time, in the right place, fishing in the right manner.” BUT (and this is the big key), these guys were uniquely prepared to apply the proper guidelines and **adjust** to the conditions they found on this massive new body of water. In doing so, they were able to take advantage of the situation and make a great catch. All we can say is, “HATS OFF TO YOU!” John Bales, Brett Christianson, Jim Duplex, Gino Testone, Fran Myers, and Davil. Well done for making an uber inspiring catch you (and we) will always remember! Thanks guys for your posts online, and to Gino for sharing what you learned at the meeting. Wow!

The Best Fishing Day in My Life: Clay Russell went on a guided trip with a friend at Cooper Lake (Sulfur Springs, TX) in a trip May 1st that included a **great lesson in depth and speed control on the cast!** Clay reported:

“Water temp 67 F. In 3 1/2 hours, we caught approximately 75 hybrids, 20 white bass and one blue channel cat. The hybrids averaged 4 1/2 to 5 pounds and my biggest was 8 pounds. The white bass averaged about 14 inches and the one catfish weighed (estimated) about 30 pounds. All fish were caught casting 3/8 oz. jigs with plastic imitation minnow in chartreuse. We casted out and reeled in as fast as we could. We fished around three different humps in the lake in about 2' to 8' of water. Often, we could hear and see the hybrids attacking shad as the shad would be jumping out of the water in attempts to elude the hybrids. Literally, neither of us had to cast more than 10 to 12 times before we had a strike. It was like nothing I have ever experienced.

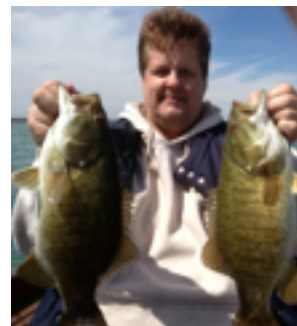
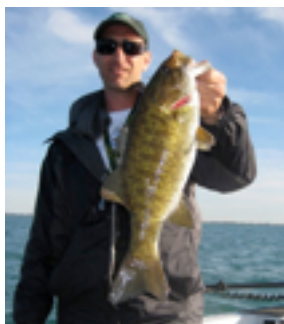
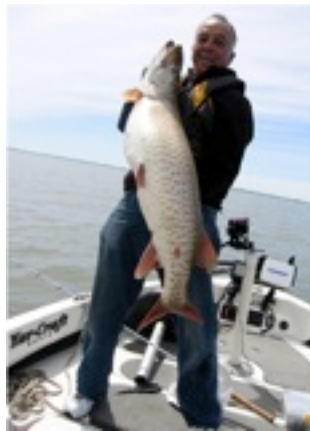
For those of you that have found schools of bass and caught them one after another on the cast, I guess this would be the closest thing to that. The good thing here is that the fish were active all morning, not just for 15 to 30 minutes or so. Some day, I hope to semi-replicate this experience on largemouth bass that I find on my own.” ---Clay Russell

Thanks for sharing, Clay!

Phil Sazfranski verified the warnings coming from Heidecke about low water at the launch by sacrificing his prop getting his boat out at the temporary ramp. Wayne Dylo drove down to Florida and reports lots of wind and some good LM bass. The crappie were not as active. Scott Duff shared an update on the after school fishing club and noted he has a large group of eager and talented young fishermen in the club this year with 21 middle schoolers participating. Recent Illinois club fish pictures, reports and viewing of Spoonplugger on-the-water videos caused quite a buzz and led to some inspired discussion!

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 13, 2013 - Large meeting (seminar) room. Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:15 PM.

Lake St. Claire Outing, May 3-6, 2013:





Buck Sez...

When the fish are in their deep water sanctuary, and the bottom is rather flat and covered with muck, are the fish likely to be at any particular place as far as 'breaks' are concerned?

We must do all our interpretations and presentation in terms of “breaks” of some nature. At times any “break” that occurs at the deep water sanctuary can be difficult to see or identify. In most cases, it isn’t important, but becomes of importance in a situation such as yours; but, only if the situation is such that you can **reach**, and **must** work the sanctuary depth.

My observations have told me that fish will not be at or on a soft mucky bottom **if a more clean, or firm bottom exists**. They may move and pass over the muck, but where they spend a lot of time, such as in the deep water sanctuary, the spot will be more clean and firmer (sand, clay, shells, rocks, etc.). Many times in my fishing experiences, I worked hours and hours, and some cases even **days**, to find the fish in shallow mucky lakes. I was looking for a more clean, or more firm bottom. When the LURES found the spots, they also found the fish.

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:

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johnspoon@embarqmail.com

Denny Coulardot: 260-691-3118

Buck Perry Memorial Outing

Taylorsville, NC

Sept. 14, 2013

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