

Illinois Spoonplugger

December 2014

October Club Meeting

Attendees – Jerry Hein, Scott Kramer, Craig Hubbard, Jim Taylor, Jim Duplex, Jim Shell, Ed Zaremba, Bob Roels, Scott Duff, Phil Szafranski, Joe Zaremba

Discussions

Annual Business - Jim Taylor reported there is \$ in the treasury and will continue as treasurer. Craig Hubbard will continue to run the club library and bring the easel and grease board. Brett Christensen has the map library. And after a fun year of doing the newsletter, Bob Roels has reconsidered and the position is open.

Winter Seminar Planning - Joe Zaremba has scheduled a date March , 2015 at Elk Grove Library. Brett Christensen will run seminar. The Buck Perry weather tape for CSI will be presented. Phil Szafranski will give a presentation. John Bales has requested to do question and answer session this year according to Jim Shell and Brett Christensen. Bob reported Brett would like to get John Zaborney involved if not alone as part of a panel with Jerry Borst, Chris Angsten, and John Bales. Or perhaps Phil can assist Jerry Borst with a presentation. More will be discussed at upcoming meetings including an overall theme. Scott will arrange the Friday night get together. And Craig Hubbard will handle lunch, and perhaps donut and coffee

Fish Reports

Joe Zaremba gave a year end summary. Joe found a good pond near his house many adult bass. There is a liner on the bottom probably to prevent seepage (water loss) that snags lures and limits the use of crankbaits. Joe is learning Green Bay with his son and reports the 3 way with a twister and hook is catching most of his fish on Green Bay. Currently and in the spring the warm water discharges on the river are good for Walleye and Musky, but there will be a crowd. The locals report "do not eat the walleyes with dark color near and the gills plates. Joe has been having success for Muskies on nearby Green Bay lakes. Craig Hubbard has teamed up with Phil. Craig reports he is learning seeming minor but important details to make spoonplugging easier. Two examples below

- Troll left on first pass to use shoreline for reference and line sights
- No need to troll around whole lake

Phil explained and drew a map of how he and Craig Hubbard mapped and interpreted a shallow lake with subtle breaklines. The pike have been found and their efforts should have them at the right depth to catch the bass. Depth is not just how deep but where.

Other News

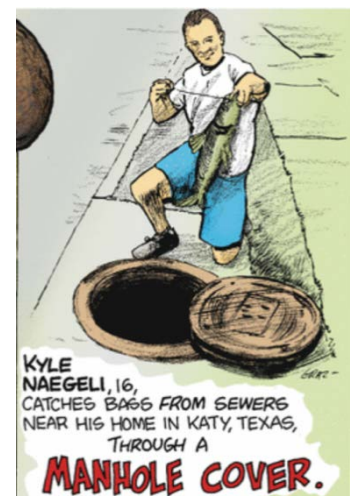
Scott Duff found a treasure trove of spoonplug history. He has obtained a library of the original Boston store "fishing news" from 1965 -1969. And the True Temper spoonplug trolling reel seen in old photos and films. Scott hopes to scan the magazines to pdf files for the club library. Perhaps Brett Christensen can be of help.

Madison Chain Outing Saturday November 22nd and Sunday the 23rd.
Cancelled due to hard water. Or perhaps we can fish fish the grate in Madison City Park. See excerpt from Chicago Tribune.

February 19, 1995 - By John Husar. Tribune

For a while there, Wisconsin walleye guide Bernie Thompson probably had the best ever "ice fishing" since Chicagoan Mick Thill discovered perch in the drain holes of Navy Pier.

Only Thompson was catching bluegill and crappie from a manhole in a Madison city park.



The Music Group Shad Rappers challenge that Illinoisans can't catch fish continues.

"YOU CAN'T CATCH FISH"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJgRhQAFy94>

Frank Cipria and Bill Beck can catch fish!



National Spoonplugger 1984 January-February Article.

The Mystery of the Old Fruit Jar By The Lone Fisherman

If a Spoonplugger ever commits himself into explaining how, where, and why, he caught his fish, it's almost an axiom that the majority of responses will fall into one of the following categories:

- A. It won't work.
- B. It might work for you, but it won't work for me.
- C. I don't care whether it works or not because I've always done it this way; my daddy did it this way and if it was good enough for him, it's good enough for me and I'm gonna' keep on doing it this way no matter what.

Of these responses, only those persons in category B have at least a prayer of ever being in control of their fishing successes or failures. The reason being that they usually qualify their 'it won't work' chatter with things like, "down here in the south, up north, out west, etc.", or "on my lake", "in brushy waters", and so on.

By adding these qualifiers to their declarations, they have unknowingly admitted to there at least being an element of doubt present. Because of this 'element of doubt' about the possibility of there existing a better approach to the fishing process, this group of people becomes the one we, as Spoonpluggers, have a chance at 'converting' or 'teaching'. Our problems arise when we, in our zeal to 'do good' come across like a crusader with too much education in one big blast and it scares them off. We have to ease information to them, just like in a prostate exam, so they don't 'buck and run' while imagining there's too much there to remember.

Perhaps this can be illustrated by a fishing experience of mine from back in early spring of this year.

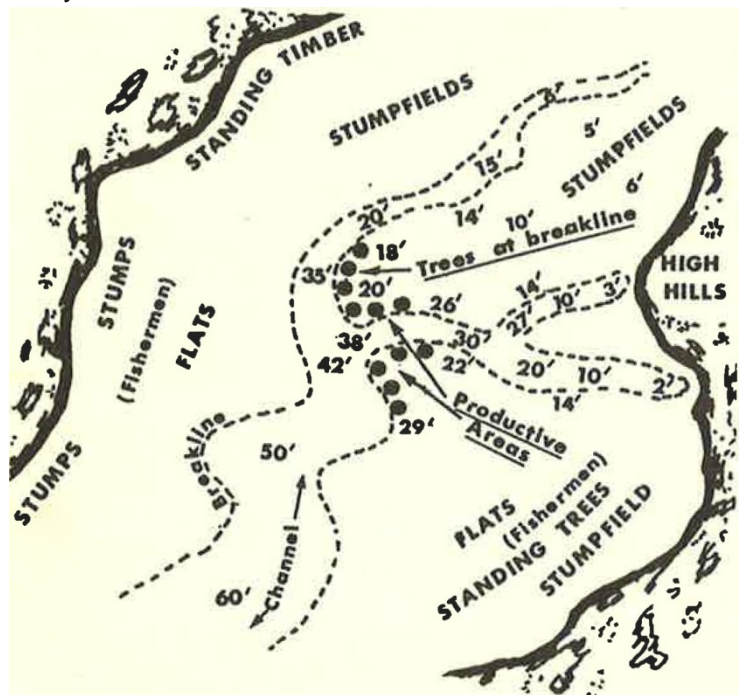
The species of fish for this tale is, of all things, the lowly (sez who?) Crappie. Now, I'm quite sure that some of you are wondering how a crappie catch can be of significance when teaching a fishing lesson. Perhaps you have forgotten that the black book of basics relates how Perry, as a young man putting the fishing process together, would, visually notice the presence or absence of Crappie and small fish in the water to determine if fish were active and moving. We should remember that the Crappie can be a very good INDICATOR of other fish activity, since he is not as affected by adverse weather and water conditions as the Bass. So, you figure if you see the Crappie around feeding and going crazy, then it is a legitimate assumption that Bass are somewhere around and operating at a lower level of excitement, stimulation, or curiosity. If no Crappie are seen, caught, etc., you can just about win a bet that Mr. Bass & Company are down there in a stable sanctuary, very quiet and non-chasing. This should tell us all something about lure and bait presentation (what, how, where, and when)...

Anyway, this spring I made a trip down to a large reservoir (flatlander) here in Georgia which is well known for its tremendous Crappie fishing. The drawing (see figure below) shows the area selected for fishing and I will elaborate on WHY this particular area was selected. Of course, the basic guidelines for fishing success were used to do this, but I feel that I should go over it in detail.

FACTORS WHICH DETERMINED THE SELECTED FISHING AREA

1. Thousands of fish are caught in this area. Now that may seem trite and very un-scientific to some of you, but tell me please, what is wrong with picking out an area that has plenty of fish swimming in it? This is nothing more than 'finding the hotspots', in my book.

2. An area that provides a potential structure situations. A topographic map of the lake bottom helped in choosing this area for work. Without the use of this outside aid, I never would have gone into this area as there were no visual above water indicators (terrain) that told me this area had any potential structure situations. And, this is what we must work for and is what Perry keeps hammering at in his teachings...WE MUST FIGHT FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE PERCENTAGES IN EVERYTHING WE DO BEFORE AND AFTER WE GET ON THE WATER. It is that word percentages which can make us or break us. We must at all times try to be "located!" where the odds say that fish will be most of the time. Then all we have to do is put something down there with hooks on it (tools) and move it around (speed control) in such a way as to make the fish take it. The Guideline books give us many, many, structure situations, all we gotta' do is pick one out and put it to the tests. In this potential structure situation, the map indicated the presence of a flooded creek channel with bends, intersections, and deep water connected to the shallows. (See Guideline book #4, page 24, lines 25-48, "Spoonplugger" Jan.-Feb. 1983.)



3. The water color was good. By 'good', I mean, of course, that the water was dingier than that in the main body of the lake. The expected seasonal movements of the fish indicated that they would be moving into these areas for spawning activities. (See Guideline book #4, page 9, lines 4-13 and lines 24-27. Again in Guideline book #4, page 15, lines 14-20).

4. The weather was bad. (And when isn't it??) On our fishing day it was the fourth day after a cold front. This told us that we might be faced with "scratch and dig" fishing so to offset some of the effects of the front (we already offset some by picking the dingier water) we selected an area that had sanctuary depths, 35 to 40 feet, but not too much depth, so that we would be able to reach the fish if they chose to stay on the bottom of that water. Of course we were expecting a high wind condition and the terrain

offered some protection from the wind whipping in out of the northeast. (See Guideline book #4, page 41, lines 1-4).

5. Accessibility of the structure. In other words could it be fished correctly without being hung up all the time? This was no problem as the speeds necessary for early spring (slow) were the automatic speeds of the tools selected (minnows on a hook, line, and sinker and artificial jigs). We knew that these could be moved around with control in and on the breaks available on the structure. In this case, large submerged trees. (The trees are the breaks; the channel, feeder cut, bars, and breaklines are the structure situation.) (See Guideline book #6, page 35, lines 24-27. Again in Guideline book #6, page 60 Fig. 53 and accompanying text, also "Spoonplugger" Jan.-Feb. 1983.)

So at last, aft'er all the "above water" work we began our underwater checking.... After checking around in the shallow water (brush-piles, stumps, stickups) for 30 to 35 minutes (with no results) and from watching the activities of the fishermen in 27 other boats in the area, it became obvious that we were all fishing 'where they ain't'. To me, it doesn't take a genius to figure out that if 50 fishermen are all doing the same thing in an area and no fish are being caught, then the fish must not be in the depths of water being fished. Sadly, though, this was not so obvious to the other 49 fishermen.

Following one of our basic guidelines of moving from the shallows to the deeper structure, breaks, and breaklines connected to the shallows, I merely "migrated myself" out to the center of the bay where the feeder cut entered the main channel (see figure).

By looking into the water, I could see large sub-merged trees which had been 'topped off' by the Corps of Engineers during construction of the reservoir, and a few minutes work with the depthfinder confirmed that the trees were located right on the breakline at the top of the drop-off into the channels. Out went a few marker buoys and the rest was easy pickings....

The fish had, due to the recent unstable weather, backed off from the shallow flats into the channel and were using the submerged trees on the breakline as breaks for their limited movement and migrations (vertical movement). Although, on this day, once the fish were located, I must admit the movements were anything but limited. It was no problem at all to sit there and slaughter the big slab sided 2 lb. crappies on just about every cast. I experimented with various colors, jig-minnow combo, bare hook with a small chunk of minnow meat on it, etc., and as usual, I didn't see that it really made much difference which one of the 'lure styles' was tossed out. The fish could have cared less if the baits were hand tied by 'champions' or if they were bought at a bargain bin in K-Mart.

So, there I am in the middle of the lake catching fish, surrounded by observing boats, and I could not get one single boat to come out and join in the harvest! I'd yell and wave at them to come on; I even rode over to one guy who had a boatful of kids with him and told him to bring the kids on out to catch some and here was his response. He put on that well-known smirk of a grin and remarked that HE'D get 'em where he was at sooner or later, that HE didn't fish 'like that'....I only shook my head in bewilderment a few hours later as I headed on in to the ramp with my limit of 50 "slabs" (must've caught and released another hundred). What a shame that an over-inflated opinion of his own self-worth and blown up ego had prevented the youngsters from having a good time. Is it any wonder that so many of our young people have such a crummy opinion of most adults????

So, back at the ramp, after being appropriately ignored by all the pros, guides, and experts, I was approached by an old black man and his wife who started asking questions as to how and why I caught all those fish and they didn't, since "they had lotsa' minnows and artificial hoss-flies too"....

So I very gently and uncomplicated-like began to explain why the fish were where they were and that he could catch some too and of course he 'just had' to see the spots. So, I rode back to the fishing area with he and his wife following in their little jonboat behind me. I showed him the breaklines, (he liked to call them 'drops'), In a moment they both had slab crappies on the lines. I gave him a zerox copy of a page of the Spoonplugger Newsletter, (I carry a batch around in the boat for promotion purposes, Just ONE page, too much will frighten them off) and then I headed on in for home. That's right, you guessed it....ALL the other boats were still fishing the daylights out of the brush, stickups, and stumps in the shallow flats where the fish 'had to be, 'cause it's that time of year'....

I went back down there again a few days later and lo and behold, there was the old black man and his wife. He had, this time, brought along four other boats filled with friends and neighbors and they were all parked right out on the 'drops' all alone just catching fish to beat the band. They had a little radio blasting out some hot music and they were all laughing, joking, eating fried chicken, biscuits, corn on the cob, and sipping on some strange colored liquid in an old fruit jar. They were having a ball!!

Now I don't know about you, but I'm not too old to recognize and enjoy a party when I see one, so when he yelled at me to come over, I couldn't get there fast enough. Of course, I was given some of that chicken and biscuits and most definitely, a number of belts of that strange colored liquid in that old fruit jar. I still don't know

what that stuff was, but if NASA ever needs a substitute for rocket fuel, I think I know where I can get some for them at a good price.

These folks had a GRAND time on their fishing trip and there is hope for them in the future, if they pursue the fishing educational opportunities that are available. You tell me what the future holds for the remaining fishermen who were STILL stuck over in the brush (where else?), catching just what the little boy shot at....

The questions to be pondered over and the food for thought regarding this venture are:

1. Do you think there is any such thing as **too much repetition** in the study or teaching of fishing facts? (Kindly refer to Guideline book #8, page 34, lines 18-24 and the Black Book of Basics, page 85, lines 12 & 13).
2. What are **you** doing to advance the cause of sane, controlled fishing procedures (Spoonplugging)? (Refer to the Black Book of Basics, page 4, lines 22-25).
3. Do you fall into one of the categories of fishermen mentioned at the beginning of this article?
4. Were the fish caught because of correct baits? Correct color of jigs? Lake full of fish? Right time of year? Moon charts? 'Systems' or 'Advanced Techniques'? Handsomely dressed fisherman? Luck?
5. Does anyone have the formula for that strange colored liquid in the old fruit jar??????????

(EDITOR'S NOTE: the 'BLACK BOOK' referred to is the First Edition of "SPOONPLUGGING-YOUR GUIDE TO LUNKER CATCHES.)

Crappie comments – Jim Shell fishes locations similar to above using small jigs and minnows on short ultra-light rods. I have been using three crappie trolling rigs from the bargain bin at Wal-mart to troll the best breaks on structure and locate fish with a long rod or fly rod with spinning reel. And continue using the same rig when fish are found. The rig has a minimum of hardware and the light wire hooks that almost always bend out. (Rig - 3 way to a light wire hook, down to a fixed egg sinker with a short line to another light wire hook). Split shot and wire hook was our past approach. All presentations are moved up and down off the bottom until you find the depth and speed fish want to take. When conditions are tough (most of the time) bites are light, the line may not jump, but resistance of jig or weight often gets lighter rather than heavier. Jig weight can be important. Casey is the master and can show you how!

2015 Calendar

January 8, Club meeting - The club will continue with seminar planning by deciding on a theme, subjects, speakers, and perhaps the agenda and begin soliciting for gifts and door prizes. If time permits one or several members will give a year end recap at the January meeting.

February 12, Club meeting - Seminar planning will continue. Ideally we will have speaker confirmation and volunteers for set-up, donuts and coffee, registration, spoonplug display, projector, lap top, other equipment, camera person, lunch, and clean-up. A deadline for handouts and printing will need to be completed.

March 12, Club meeting - Folders will be stuffed, final details resolved, and a seminar dry run as needed

March 20, Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar Reception - Moretti's, Schaumburg?

March 21, Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar - Elk Grove Library

April 9, Club meeting - Seminar evaluation and recap.

May 14, Club meeting -

June 11, Club meeting -

June 17-22, Leoni Spoonpluggers Outing - Jackson, MI, Contact: John Zaborny 517-414-3596, jszaborny@yahoo.com

July 8-12, Lunker Hunters Outing - Muskegon Lake, MI, Fisherman's Landing, Contact: Chase Klinesteker, 616-949-8665, Ckspoonpl1@aol.com

July 9, Club meeting – Outing conflict

August 12-15, Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Outing – Tippecanoe, Webster, Wawasee Lakes, Forest Ridge Campground (260-327-3551), Contacts: John Bales -260- 854-3921, johnspoon@embarqmail.com, Ted Walter: 260-495-5042, ahbwalter@gmail.com

August 13, Club meeting – Outing conflict

September 10, Club meeting -

October 8, Club meeting -

November 12, Club meeting -

December 10, Club meeting - Christmas Party, Giordanos, Addison?

Member Resources – If you need help perhaps with a subject, lake, or equipment perhaps these members can help.

Mapping (By the book on paper) – Jim Duplex, Phil Szafranski, Rick Matus

Illinois Lakes

Bangs Lake – Brett Christensen, Bob Roels
Braidwood - Bink
Chain-O-Lakes - Scott Duff
Clinton - Jim Shell, Bob Roels
Coffeen - Jim Shell, Jerry Hein, Frank Cipria
Crab Orchard - Jim Shell
Kinkaid - Phil Szafranski, Scott Duff
Heidecke - Jim Duplex, Blnk, Jerry Hein, Phil Szafranski
La Salle – Bink, Scott Duff
Lake of Egypt – Jim Shell
Lake Michigan Salmon (Northpoint and Waukegan) – Bob Roels, Wayne Dylo
Long Lake – Phil Szafranski
Loon (East and West) – Jim Duplex, Phil Szafranski
Newton – Scott Duff, Phil Szafranski
Round Lake – Phil Szafranski
Sangchris – Jim Shell, Bob Roels
Shabbona – Jim Duplex, Jerry Hein
Shelbyville – Jim Shell, Joe Zaremba

Indiana Lakes

Webster Chain – Jerry Hein

Michigan Lakes

Detroit River – Jim Shell, Brett Christensen
Lake Erie – Frank Yavarski
Paw Paw – Frank Yavarski

Wisconsin Lakes

Beulah – Brett Christensen, Bob Roels
Bohners – Jim Duplex, Phil Szafranski
Green Bay – Frank Yavarski, Jim Shell
Kegonsa – Jim Duplex
Lake Geneva – Brett Christensen, Jim Duplex, Bob Roels
Lake Wisconsin – Bob Roels, Jim Shell, Wayne Dylo
Little Muskego – Joe Zaremba, Jim Duplex, Bob Roels
Mendota – Jim Shell, Bob Roels, Jim Duplex
Monona – Jim Duplex, Jim Shell, Bob Roels
Petenwell – Jim Shell, Bob Roels
Phantom – Brett Christensen, Bob Roels
Powers Lake – Brett Christensen
Waubesa – Jim Duplex, Rick Matus, Jerry Hein, Phil Szafranski, Frank Cipria
Whitewater – Jim Duplex, Frank Cipria, Bob Roels
Wind – Phil Szafranski

Other Lakes

Chickamauga, TN – Jim Shell, Bob Roels
Lake Barkley, KY – Jim Duplex, Phil Szafranski
Kentucky Lake, KY – Jim Duplex, Joe Zaremba, Bob Roels
Reedy Lake, FL – Bob Roels

Other stuff

Penn Reel Repair – Bob Roels
Rod building and repair – Gino Testone, Bob Roels
Custom Musky Lures and Blades – Gino Testone
Do-it Molds – Tail spinners, Sea Horse jigs, Blades, and Vibrato imitation – Bob Roels

Spoonplugger Resources

Equipment/materials	Supplier	Contact
Quarterly newsletter, videos, spoonplugging guides	National Spoonpluggers of America	http://nsoa.info/
Book, home-study guide, spoonplugs, No-bo line, and rod	Buck's Baits Inc. www.buckperry.com	Scott Jenkins, 828-428-4650 scottjenkins@bellsouth.net
Blades, and JB's	Johnny B's, John Bales	http://johnnyb-lures.com/
Plug Knocker	Jerry Borst	jborst@joltmail.com
Custom Spoonplug rods	Mike Beck	Mwbeck54@gmail.com , 612-716-2265
Videos	Structure Fishing, Jim Shell	http://structurefishing.com/ jshell@structurefishing.com

Spoonplugging Instructors - John Bales - johnspoon@embarqmail.com, Jerry Borst - jborst@joltmail.com
Dennis Coulardot - coular@peoplepc.com, Chase Klinesteker - ckspoonpl1@aol.com, Terry O'Malley - 828-855-0746, Ted Walter - ahbwalter@gmail.com, John Zaborny - jzspoonplug@hotmail.com, Barry Zorzanello - bzorzanello@petraconstruction.com

If you read this, please call Jim Taylor and let him know the membership list is out of date.

ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS

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88/11/28

NAME	ADD	CITY	ST	ZIP	TEL
CIPRIA, FRANK	628 DERBY SHIRE LN	BOLINGBROOK	IL	60430	312-739-5918
CRAIG MIKE	4911 OAK LN	GURNEE	IL	60031	312-823-2964
CREELY DAN	1325 VAN BURAN	DES PLAINES	IL	60018	312-298-8763
DIAZ DANNY	612 CHESTNUT	WAUKEGAN	IL	60085	312-623-4132
ENDERLE, HARRY	5219 W. ARGYLE	CHICAGO	IL	60630	312-885-8781
FINN, NEWTON	940 NORTH AVE	WAUKEGAN	IL	60085	312-244-0677
FISCHRUP BOB	2029 HUTTNER	HOFFMAN EST.	IL	60194	312-882-3385
FLOHRA DAVID	1119 SO. SEMINARY	PARK RIDGE	IL	60068	312-823-5940
GRABAREK KEN	14750 OAK	DOLTON	IL	60419	312-891-8155
HEIN, JERRY	321 BUTTERFIELD RD	N. AURORA	IL	60542	312-897-2557
KENNEL, CHARLES	514 W BARRY #570	CHICAGO	IL	60657	312-875-7391
KIRKHART BOB	5332 WAVELAND	CHGO	IL	60641	312-725-7542
LAKE DAVID	883 BOXWOOD DR.	CRYSTAL LAKE	IL	60014	815-458-1558
MALAZNIK STEVE	731 N. HICKORY	ARLINGTON HTS.	IL	60004	312-253-2063
MORAN MIKE	1518 BROOKSIDE DR.	HOFFMAN EST.	IL	60194	312-884-9433
PETRI, LARRY	1222 WHITINGHAM CIRCLE	NAPERVILLE	IL	60540	312-420-0117
ROELS BOB	1114 W HAVEN DR.	ARLINGTON HTS	IL	60005	312-394-9612
ROELS BOB JR.	1072 COLONY DR.	CRYSTAL LAKE	IL	60014	815-455-8649
SEMMERLING LEE	24925 NORTH RD	LAKE VILLA	IL	60046	312-356-3635
SHELL, JAMES	6045 W. HENDERSON	CHICAGO	IL	60634	312-545-2410
WEHRMAN RICHARD	TPR1 OLD STATE RD 50W714	MAPLE PARK	IL	60151	815-895-2985
YAVARSKI, FRANK	5923 S MOBILE	CHGO	IL	60638	312-585-1786

KNOWLEDGE

IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS