

Illinois Spoonplugger

July 2014



Why is Brett catching them in the weeds? See Buck Sez

June Club Meeting

Attendees - Craig Hubbard, Jim Duplex, Jerry Hein, Scott Kramer, Jim Taylor, Brett Christensen, and Bob Roels

Discussions

Member news

Phil is recovering and returned to fishing, but not quite well enough to fish alone. GET WELL!

Custom JB rod, and rod repair - Gino

Gino showed off his excellent craftsmanship on a rod he designed for JB's and Gino's custom "Goliath" Spoonplugs, and a rod repair he made for Jim Duplex.

Fishing Reports - Contact the member for details or come to the meeting.

- Lake Saint Clair - Gino and Jim
- Bass Islands - Brett
- Guided Trips with John Trossen, Lake Geneva guide, and Spence Petros - Brett
- Lake Wisconsin – Bob Roels
- Lake Michigan – Gino and Jim – Follow the book! Fish in spring are in top ten feet usually, even over 100 feet. Trolling 6 feet may not be shallow enough.



Father's Day with Brett

News from Jim Shell – Reported by Bob

Buck describes observable weather conditions and fish movements in a CSI tape from John Bales. The tape may be used for next year's winter seminar. Below are the highlights I remember from bad to best. Jim Duplex may also have the tape.

- Hear jets, no vapor trails, blue bird skies,
- Sky uneven blue, can't hear jets
- Vapor trails narrow, and skipping across skies
- Some Cumulus
- Vapor trails wider, some skipping of trails, sky beginning to wash out
- Vapor trails across sky, sky more white, Vapor trails are ever widening

September Outing

Weather and water are unpredictable and so is fishing. But it is actually a month without an outing. Under consideration is a weekend outing at Lake Wisconsin with alternative dates where Buck, Terry, Rich Wehrman, and Vic taught spoonplugger's years ago. The lake has several good launches, nearby hotels, and at least two on the water restaurants. Jim Duplex has offered to help.

Casey took a break from Baseball! Who's the man now? (Image follows)



A FISHERMAN SAID

"I don't fully understand a "straggler" fish. I know the book says it is an occasional fish, which is found apart from others; and it is usually a small fish most of the time."

It is doubtful if anyone knows fully why a fish would be a straggler; however, as Spoonpluggers we try to have certain "guidelines" for most anything we run across. This does not mean we have to have ALL the scientific truths. But, it does mean we must formulate some ideas or guidelines so that each situation encountered tells us something.

Stragglers will tell us lots about the weather and water conditions, structure, movements of fish, presentation of lure, etc. ; however, if we have some sort of "hang-up" as to why there are stragglers than stragglers won't tell us very much.

In the first place, it is wise to accept the fact stragglers exist. This alone will keep us from spending too much time where we shouldn't. There is no need to point out how some fishermen will spend hours fishing a spot where he "Just happened" to pick up a small fish (straggler).

Any fish caught should tell us something about the structure (breaks, breaklines) depths, speed, fish movements, etc. The fish caught should indicate quite well what has to be done to catch some good fish "today".

We have found just a few ideas (or guidelines) as to "why" stragglers exist is enough to keep our minds on the important things - DEPTH AND SPEED control.

We keep in mind a fish is a cold-blooded animal. We also remember he can adjust to a changing environment (temperature, light, pressure, food, etc.). We wouldn't be far wrong to say if he did not adjust he'd be in serious trouble. In fact, if he was unable to adjust to a changing environment, he wouldn't be around to catch today. Our guideline further says it takes a little time to adjust, and during the process things may not be so comfortable.

If you were to ask "Where is a fish likely to be in a body of water", the answer would be "where things are more stable". We separate the "shallows" and "deep water around 8-10 feet. Why do you think the 30-35 feet would be an average sanctuary depth (if available)? Do you think these depths would have anything to do with more "stable" or more "unstable" conditions!

We recognize the fact that "breaklines" of temperature, oxygen, light and current exists. If the fish has adjusted (adapted) to a particular condition (temperature, depth, light, etc.), HE IS NOT LIKELY TO MOVE IN HASTE TO WHERE THINGS ARE GREATLY DIFFERENT'. Can you visualize how a fish (straggler) could be so-called "trapped" at a certain depth?

A major guideline says, "Fish will pause or stop at "breaks" (or breaklines) during migration. Can you think of a reason why this is so? Could one reason be the "time" needed to adjust? Could this account for a straggler?"

One of "our" guidelines says the older and bigger a fish becomes, the less ability he has to adapt to a changing environment. Would this indicate why most of the stragglers are yearlings? Or, why a fish is a straggler? Would this account for good fishing about the time of "some" lakes "overturn" (more stable temperature, oxygen, etc. thru-out the depths---Spring, Fall)? Would this explain to some degree why better fishing is had when the water warms to greater depths?

We can speculate fairly accurately "WHY" stragglers exist. Let's accept this and concentrate our thinking on WHAT" the straggler is telling us (about the fishing situation we face). We have repeatedly stated that Spoonplugging wasn't a study in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. Our purpose is to put some nice fish on the stringer, whenever or wherever we might fish. I have never thought that knowing all the "Why" of this or that did much for consistent success.

We are not all scientists. We are not likely to understand all the "mumbo jumbo", and how to apply it to successful fishing (if it was possible). Besides all this, it's not necessary in becoming consistent fish catcher.

Consistent success is predicated on the control of depth and speed of our lures (or bait). THESE CONTROLS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE "WHYS". Should I be concerned with "why" a fish is shallow or deep? Or whether he feels good or bad due to the condition of his environment? Why should I concern myself with whether the temperature, oxygen, light, etc., is high or low? It's nice when the fish are feeling good, active, etc., but I better not plan on it being so.

I'll check my speeds and control my depths (where depth, why depth, when depth, what depth, and how depth) TO TAKE CARE OF THE CONDITIONS PRESENT. It could be things are so bad I have to put my lure in front of the fishes mouth at 40 feet at zero speed to make him take. Or, I may have to concentrate all my efforts in shallower water at a fast speed. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

As an afterthought, let's say that not all fish considered stragglers should be put in that category. Much too often, some of us "move on" after catching a fish. We do not "check out" thoroughly to see if additional fish are present. This is more often the case when working the shallows. Regardless what we think, each fish caught in the shallows (or deep) should call for a further check. Many so called "shoreline beaters" appear to think every fish caught is a straggler. If you don't believe this, just watch them for a spell.

Most of us will not "move on" when a fish is caught in deep water. Our guideline says more fish are around.

You might say, "I think it is a straggler fact further checking did not produce another fish. But maybe they were there and I just could not catch them." This may be true, but your guideline says If you check out the depths and speeds thoroughly and catch no fish, "they are not there". It tells you to "move on".

Bob's Comment

WOW! Do you think this explains why "Brett and John Bales" are nailing the bass in the weeds at this time of year. I have shared studies I have found to help members understand why fish may not seem to be following the guidelines, but Buck's explanation is better. A lot to think about.

"The Importance of Depth Control" – Phil Szafranski

Buck emphasized the importance of Depth Control in his teaching. Fellow Spoonplugger Bill Roth and I recently experienced the importance of Depth Control during our recent trip. We fished a lowland reservoir and found the

fishing to be tough in general but Buck's knowledge certainly made a difference. Reports prior to traveling indicated slow fishing for all species and limited movements proved to be the case during our time on the water.



Upon arriving mid-afternoon we found light conditions to be very favorable. Over the next 3 days we dodged some heavy rains on occasion before leading to a total wash out of the skies on our departure day. Light conditions remained good for the first two days prior to clearing and then building again. We spent nearly 11 hours at the lake each full day with limited breaks during the trip. We needed as much water time as possible to see if we could establish timing and location of the movements of the fish.

By the middle of the second day we concluded that straggler fish were moving all the way to the weedline and in order to make contact, lure presentation had to be very close to the weed breakline. Although all structures were checked at the various breaklines and depths, the first breakline was the key. Most structures here have four breaklines associated with them. The critical depths of 12 – 14 feet were the key to success. Short weed growth appeared to 12.5 feet in general and being outside of a boat length beyond the growth placed lures out of position. We identified limited migrations occurring within an hour of 9 AM and 12:30 PM approximately, with only one fish taken after 2 PM.



Although the results proved to be limited, I am almost certain that if we visited this lake earlier in our Spoonplugging experience, we may have been shut out for the trip because of the limited movements. Buck's teachings and a mid- afternoon observation regarding depth control during the second day, allowed us to focus on the depth control required, thus increasing our catch by keeping lures in position.

Time on the water can provide valuable lessons for future trips. ***The key is to believe and apply Buck's teachings and avoid influences beyond the guidelines Buck Perry has provided to us.***



2014 Club Calendar

July 10 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library

July 9-13 - Lunker Hunters' Outing, Fisherman's Landing Contact: Chase Klinesteker -

Ckspoonpl1@aol.com 616-949-8665

August 13-16 - Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers' "Buck Sez" Outing, Tippecanoe, Webster, Wawasee Lakes, Forest Ridge Campground (260-327-3551) Contacts: John Bales - johnspoon@embarqmail.com 260- 854-3921, or Ted Walter: ahbwalter@gmail.com 260-668-0216,

August 14 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library

September 11 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library October 9 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library

October 11 - Buck Perry Memorial Outing, Taylorsville, NC, Contacts: Terry O'Malley 828-855-0746 and Jeri Perry 828-632-8058 buckperry90@gmail.com

November 13 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library

December 11 - Christmas Party, Giordanos, Westchester

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 PO Box 66, Hickory, NC 28603	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	Spoonplugger films	Stephen Gillian
	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

Politically incorrect joke of the month

Jim Duplex

"What do you get when you cross a penis with a potato? A dictator (dick tater)

Do you actually reading this? Bob Roels r.robert11@comcast.net