

Next Meeting
June 12, 2014, 7:00 P.M.
Elk Grove Library,
1001 Wellington Ave.

Illinois Spoonplugger

June 2014

Club Contact
Bob Roels
847-818-5296

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May Club Meeting

Attendees - Ed Zaremba, Craig Hubbard, Jim Taylor, and Bob Roels – Not everyone is fishing.

Discussions

Tips from Brett - Time to fish spawning areas. When you find fish, be thorough, check often, check speeds, and check SHALLOW. You may have to work SLOW!

Wind, thermo clines, and seasonal changes in lakes

Buck provided only what is needed to learn, because mapping, the basic presentation of lures, and thought will find the answers. This is all extra information but can explain some whys when we think fish are not where we think they should be.

- Current direction above thermo clines is opposite of the wind.
- Some lakes turnover in spring on first warm windy day, and
- Some lakes will not. Topography of lake and surrounding topography influence spring turnover.
- On some lakes water in the thermo cline and/or below is not a stable environment. No oxygen and/or high levels toxic chemical produced by decomposition make fish have a bellyache. This generally occurs in mid to late summer. BUT it is unlikely no two lakes or portions of a lake will be reacting the same no matter how similar. NEVER ASSUME!
- During the summer the water below the thermo cline may be the most stable in inland lakes. If the lake has Lake Trout it is probably true.
- Ed Zaremba tip – In fall the black streaks across the top of the water near shore (signs of laminar flow per Jim Taylor) in the fall are excellent signs for good pan fishing in the area.
- Ed Zaremba shoreline heating up in the spring melts the ice along shore, and in fall cools the water so ice forms along shore.

Glacial formations besides reefs, and points, and sheer walls

Brown's lakes deep hole is an excellent example of a pot or kettle hole as Joe Zaremba called them. The lake is a deep relatively featureless hole. These holes can be a lake or a feature of a lake. Lake Geneva has a few. They are often on the side of a point and may have the deepest break in addition to the deepest water in the area. The outside of the hole can form a ridge (saddle) between deep water in the lake and deep water in the hole. Sometimes these holes fill with fish and the fish seem like they are located where they should not be.

2014 Club Calendar

June 12 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library

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

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: ahwalter@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

How often have you been "Tom"?



BUCK SEZ...

TYPICAL SITUATION

Note carefully the heading of this article says "Typical Situation", it **does not** say "Typical **Structure** Situation".

The following could have been said by John, Henry, Ralph, etc., but just recently it was said by a fisherman named Tom.

I have followed your advice about securing the written material for the Structure Fisherman's guidelines. I have read both the book and the Home Study Series, but when I get on the water, I don't even know where or how to start. If it's a big body of water, it about scares the pants off me."

Our first impulse is to explain the difference between the word "read" and the word "**study**". **But we don't do this.** Tom is probably too old a dog to learn new tricks.

Our second thought is to say to Tom; *"That's not an uncommon thing to happen to beginning 'Structure' fishermen. In fact, most fishermen have this type feeling all their lives. It isn't easy to get rid of old ideas and old habits. Now that you are aware there 'may' be a better way, your frustrations have just come to a more conscious level Never fret, just give it a little more time."*

But we don't say this. In this particular case, "time" may be the wrong medicine and the patient may be lost. "Time" may be in order at a later period, but not at this moment. This boy may be "on the fence" about his fishing and could jump either way.

Our third thought is to say; *"If you recall some of your guidelines on the presentation of lures, you should remember they pointed out if there's any doubt in your mind about 'WHAT'S OUT THERE?', or 'WHATDO I DO?'; you should start right at the launching ramp trolling the shallows (0 to 8-10- ft.) with the appropriate lure sizes, being sure each one is kept in position. You should recall a lure is 'in position' when it's kept in water as deep as its running depth. That is, if the lure runs 2 to 3 feet deep (on a medium line length - 30-40 yds.), then you do your utmost to keep it in water 2 to 3 feet deep. If the lure runs 8 to 10 feet deep on a medium line length, then you try to keep the-lure-in-water at that-depth; etc.; etc.- If you can't recall how you accomplish this on the troll, then you should go back and review."*

"As you troll the shallows, Tom, you should keep your eyes open. You look at the terrain for visible signs that would indicate underwater features such as structure, breaks, breaklines, deep water, etc. You look at the water color, bottom conditions, (soft or hard - weeds or brush, etc.) and for any activity of the fish. As you get into the 8 to 10 foot depths, you become more aware of the shape of the bottom. By this depth, you should start seeing potentially productive features of the bottom, such as bars, humps, sharp breaklines, etc. These underwater features, coupled with shoreline observations and lure presentation, will begin to show - 'WHAT'S OUT THERE?'. Knowledge of what exists in the shallower water will show you where to fish in deep water if the shallows do not produce."

Just these few guidelines will put away forever a fear on ANY water of 'what's out there?' or 'what do I do?'

But, we don't say this. This fisherman has "studied" the material in the books and Home Study Series, and has covered the sections on "Presentation of Lures". He should know this is his basic procedure when on the water. He has been told enough times.

Why does he think the basic procedures were given in the first place? Does he think they were given to keep **US** happy, when **HE** is the one facing big strange waters and changing weather conditions. I can't see how this is his hang-up, for it makes too much sense even to a greenhorn.

Our fourth feeling is to recall what has happened in the past when talking to fearful fishermen. Regardless how much talking was done, or how strongly we stressed the fact that the

''Structure Fisherman's'' know-how is the shortest, easiest and most satisfying route to fishing success, there are those who keep saying; **"There's just too much to learn;** or **"I don't believe I can do it"** Some of these we want to punch in the nose, but settle by saying; **"So be it "**, or **"I agree with you."**

But we don't say this. Tom hasn't indicated such a weakness --- yet.

Our fifth reaction is to become a teacher again, and try to find out the real cause for Tom's fear. It's probably a combination of two things. He either has no faith in the guidelines due to past beliefs and his constant exposure to ''experts'' spouting something different; or it could be he is confused on just a few things, and a little talking will clear them up. He may be having trouble tying all the different parts together when he gets on the water.

"Tom, have you accepted the fact that the deep, or deepest, water in the area being fished is the sanctuary of the fish from a changing environment and that he spends the greater part of his time there? If you don't accept or believe this, then we might as well stop right here, because the Spoonplugger (Structure Fisherman) Guidelines will have no meaning to you. Doubts about this will stop any potential growth you might have as a consistent fish catcher.

"If you accede to this, then we ask if it's satisfactory with you that the fish may be so deep, or so dormant, a lot of the time that they are almost impossible to catch? Are you convinced we are saved due to the fact the fish become active periodically and may move (or migrate) toward shallower water - where we have a better chance to catch them?

"Did you ever think what route they may take? Can you visualize the fish using features of and on the bottom as 'signposts' to show them the way? What else would they use? If you were leaving 'home' and venturing out toward an area where things were unstable, and the farther you went, the more hazardous it became, would you move to a 'spot' and 'case the joint' before moving farther? Just how far would you go before turning back?

"Can you receive with favor that how active a fish becomes and how far he goes toward the shallows (to what depth, etc.) and how long he stays is dependent upon the weather and water conditions at that time? If not, why are we still talking? We probably assumed too much, when we thought we were in tune about deep water being the sanctuary from a changing environment.

"Tom, will you acknowledge that to become a good consistently successful fisherman, wherever or whenever you go fishing, you must control the depth and speed of your lure (or bait), on, and/or around the bottom features such as structure, breaks, and breaklines? And to do this thoroughly you should learn to control the depth and speed of your lure (or bait) by trolling, as well as by casting? "

If we had asked Tom to give us a straight "yes" or "no" answer to most of these questions, he would have likely answered all of them with a straight "yes".

Our reactions would have been; *"If you accept all this as true, then what's your beef? What's your trouble? When you get to the lake, why don't you get with it and put some fish on the stringer?"*

But we don't do this. We take each question asked, and talk about it. We go into detail as deemed necessary. It is at this point we begin to find out what is creating the feeling of "insecurity" in Tom.

We spend little time on the first question about his thinking on the deep water being the "home" of the fish. Over a period of time, we have discussed and written a lot of material on this subject. This was due (as said before) to old ideas and beliefs being difficult to dislodge. And, due to some "John-come-lately" trying to make a name for himself.

The question about Tom's belief on the movements of the fish, and their use of lake features in their movements and migration will take up a major portion of our talk. We have found it is in this area where confusion or doubt exists. It seems some parts of lake features (structure, breaks, breaklines, deep water) or some aspects of fish movements has Tom believing he is unable to do things right.

At times it is difficult to "pin-point" the key to the problem in this subject matter, but it will show up if it's talked about fully and in great detail.

Most potential Structure Fishermen (Spoonpluggers) will have no trouble understanding or accepting the facts about weather and water conditions; and, how they effect the "biting" of the fish. However, too often a lot of potential Structure Fishermen (Spoonpluggers) use weather and water conditions as an excuse for their failures. This leads to sloppy fishing, which leads to more failures. The fisherman who desires a better lot in life, will accept the fact conditions are tough and will probably get worse. This means he has to work just that much harder. He admits he doesn't know enough yet to overcome some conditions, and he understands he wouldn't learn much if conditions were always good.

Tom appears to understand what is said about weather and water conditions, but probably his lack of fishing success makes him take a lot of it with a grain of salt. But it becomes clear the guidelines for weather and water are not the reasons for his forgetfulness nor his fears when he gets on the water.

The questions on presentation of lures, and the control of depth and speed are other areas where much patience and understanding must be had. Some of the doubts, and confusion, may be dispelled by a lot of talking. But talking will not eliminate entirely a fisherman's belief that the size, color, or action of his lures is the reason for fishing success. Why should it, when he's bombarded from all sides that one or more of these is all he needs?

Presentation of Lures is one of those areas where "time" becomes important. If Tom keeps all the other guidelines in mind, and follows (at least part of the time) the basic presentation of lures for depth and speed control, in time he will understand that the key to consistent success is the control of his depth and speed on, and/or around, lake features (structure, breaks, breaklines, deep water, etc.). Eventually, Tom will realize that answers to successes and failures **MUST** be answered in terms of **DEPTH & SPEED** - not in terms of size, color, and action of his lure. He will find to do otherwise is to experience an unbelievable decline in fishing success. Let's hope it doesn't take too long!

Time, observation and experience will show he has to learn how to control depth and speed by **BOTH** casting and trolling. To limit his presentation to just one of these puts him into a category of a "half-way" Structure Fisherman. This doesn't just mean a half-way fisherman in the control of depth and speed; it means **he is lucky if he becomes half as good a fisherman as he had prospects of becoming.**

We talk about all these things and as with all fishermen, time is taken to point out he should follow the instructions for "Presentation of Lures" as given in his study material. If he is to become an accomplished troller, all he has to do is follow the guidelines for each depth and feature worked. If he wants to become a good caster, the guidelines are as simple as they can be made and if he doesn't give up, pretty soon things will fall into place. We tell him that when the guidelines for the basic "Presentation of Lures" was set up, it most definitely was for the greenhorn - the unskilled. In fact the few guidelines necessary are so simple, many fishermen miss the point.

They invariably think they are doing something wrong if they don't catch a fish right off the bat; and in too many cases he says - "**I don't think I can do it**". Thus when talking "Presentation of Lures" the fisherman must be continually reminded fish do not move constantly or consistently, and he must realize **MOST of the time, MOST of the water contains no fish.**

As pointed out to Tom, If, while trolling, he is checking his speed with a lure in position and catching no fish - he must be able to tell himself **there are no fish there at that time**". It is also pointed out if he is casting ("fan-casting") a feature, such as a bar, and the depths and speeds are checked thoroughly with appropriate lures (at least two types) in both the shallows and the deep, **and he catches no fish - THERE ARE NO FISH THERE AT THAT TIME** (as far as we are concerned, the area could be seined and no fish would be found - **at that time**).

When we make the statement about "there being no fish there", we know Tom, without hesitation, will say; "**How do you know there are no fish there?**"

- "We just fished it, and didn't catch a fish. "

"Does this PROVE there are no fish there?"

"To us it does. If the feature has potential and the weather and water conditions (and previous experience) indicate the fish will become active and moving sometime that day; periodically we'll come back and check it out (again). We should get our 'proof within the next 3 or 4 hours."

"Tom, we have had a pretty good chat about the Structure Fisherman's (Spoonpluggers) guideline for consistent successful fishing. It is pretty obvious your 'hang-up ' is primarily due to your being unable to recognize potentially productive AREAS (structure) in a body of water.

From our discussion on structure, breaks and breaklines, and the movements of the fish, you seemed to understand that features the fish follow in their migrations must 'GO ALL THE WAY' from the deep water to the shallows, and vice-versa. But for some reason you just don't know what to look for in the lake. To put it another way, you just can't recognize 'Structure Situations' in a body of water. You can't 'tie-together' what you see on the lake to the things

you have heard or to the things in your study.

"Tom, we'll bet if we took you out on the lake and pointed out a bottom feature, and told you it was a 'Structure Situation \ you would be able to look it over carefully and tell us, from your study, whether it had potential as a migration route. But if we went on the lake, and asked you to point out visible features of the shoreline which indicated 'potentially productive structure' may be present, you probably couldn't do it."

May Fish Pictures
Nick Tabor!



Gino and Jim Duplex



The "Good"



The "Bad"



And the "Man"

Gino and Brother's catch.

