

Next Meeting
March 13, 2014, 7:00 P.M.
Elk Grove Library, 1001 Wellington Ave.

Club Contact
Bob Roels 847-818-5296
r.robert11@comcast.net

Illinois Spoonplugger

March 2014

Dues!

Jim Taylor is still accepting dues! Dues are \$20. Registration for the winter seminar is \$35. All checks should be made out to James Taylor, and if you cannot make the meeting send your payment to James Taylor, 1367 Loch Lomond Dr, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

February Club Meeting

Craig Hubbard, Bob Pehlke, Phil Szafranski, Jerry Hein, Brett Christensen, James Taylor, Ed Zaremba, and Bob Roels were in attendance. Planning for the Winter Seminar, the treasurer's report, and planning for next season were discussed.

Winter Seminar

Brett has finalized the agenda since the meeting. See the schedule below for details. The following is the schedule.

8:15am to 9am - Registration, Coffee and Donuts

9am - Seminar Begins

- Buck Short Video
- Jim Shell presents his new Structure Fishing TV Show
- Speaker Chase Klinesteker, CSI – Spoonplugging Mid-Sized Rivers

11:30-12:30 - Lunch, Group Photo

12:30 Seminar resumes

- John Bales, CSI – Mapping & Interpretation
- Group Exercise – Identifying Structure
- Raffle

Closing Remarks – 3:30

Friday Night Dinner Pre-Seminar Dinner

We made reservations at Rookies at the corner of 72 and 59 in Hoffman Estates. They serve pizza and have a Friday night fish fry.

Who is doing what?

Donuts and coffee - Craig Hubbard

Water - Scott Duff

Gifts/Bales e.g. blade, Poor Boys Baits, lure - Brett Christensen, Bob Roels

Cookies - Jenny Hubbard!!!!

Videotape - Jenny Hubbard

Projector, Speaker, Coordination - Brett Christensen

Intro and moderator - Jerry Hein

Identifying Structure Exercise - Jerry and Brett

Registration - Jim Taylor, Bob Pehlke, Bob Roels

Folders - Craig Hubbard, Jim Duplex

Club Pictures/Poster - Bob Roels

To be decided

Do we want Jim Shell to promote the seminar on the last day of the show?

Treasurer's Report

James Taylor reported dues continue to trickle in and the amount collected is the same as past years. Jim also presented Bob Roels with a thank you letter from the Epilepsy Foundation for the gift of \$100 in memory of Bob Roels Sr.

Planning for the Fishing Season

Phil is interested in Mark Twain reservoir for the excellent water color. Fish pictures indicate cats and crappie are the popular fish with an occasional BIG LMB.

Brett is heading back to Lake Erie Bass Islands. Fishing was great at Saint Clair, but Smallmouth were bigger at Erie. Also, he plans to fish reservoirs.

Bob Pehlke is searching down an aerial photo of Lac Seoul before it was filled. Bob explained how valuable aerial photos are for interpreting the topography and manmade structures. Since Lac Seoul does not a topo map.

Other News



Jim Duplex interrupted his toe tanning and deck hand interviews to ask if the towels have arrived. Yes, they have! FYI - The total cost with shipping for the 50 towels was \$275.



Fishing Report

Jim Duplex got some help from Mr. Garlic or is it George Schauner to show him how to catch a fish. No problems with hard water in Florida. Where is he wiping his hands without his fishing towel?

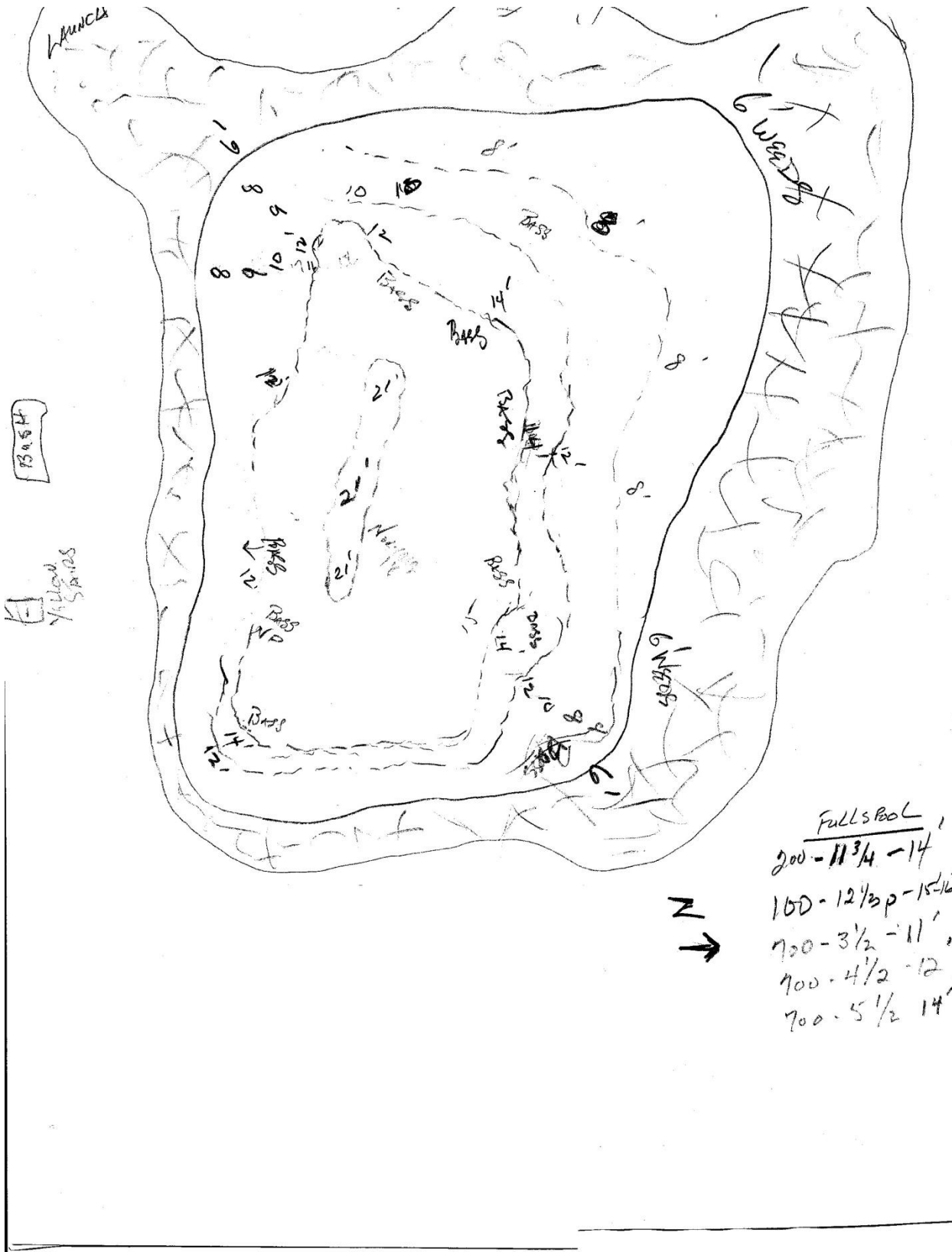


"A Small Lake Can Offer Large Lessons" by Phil Szafranski

Both Buck Perry and Terry O' Malley had been interviewed a few years back and this session was turned into an audio CD that was made available for sale through the National Spoonplugger. I remember Terry indicated that you should be learning something every time while on the water. He stated that if this was not the case, the fisherman was "not being aware" while on the water. Here is what I experienced the past few years fishing a small lake that offers subtle features with a weedline ending at 6 feet of water (Map on following page):

- I record and understand the exact line lengths required to run certain depths. I found that certain areas of this lake must be silted and the feel of the lure does change when trolling. Although line length is exact and I have always run free on all other waters, these areas have a deadening of vibration on the lure and the depth finder does not reflect a change.
- Productive areas are so far away from the weedline and because of this the average fisherman is never in a position to contact these fish here.
- The breaklines below the weeds are subtle and you need to be observant of their depth from season to season due to fluctuation water levels. Drought and excess rainy seasons will alter levels to a greater degree with these smaller bodies of water.
- Fish movements to a specific depth can really stand out. I have experienced a couple of trips when the bass would only be at one specific depth, regardless of constant straining. Once this trend is identified, targeting that depth can increase your catch rate.

- I also encounter movements that allowed me to stay on the fish a bit longer because I moved down the depth column after they disappeared from shallower depths.
- Little lakes can offer less intense fishing pressure and more of a gratifying day!



2014 Club Calendar

February 1-March 22: 11-11:30 AM - "Structure Fishing" by Jim Shell on Comcast Sportsnet Comcast 37 (SD) and channel 200 (HD), Direct TV channel 665, Dishnet channel 429

March 13 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library

March 29: 9AM - 4PM - Illinois Spoonpluggers' Winter Seminar, Cabelas, Hoffman Estates, IL

April 10 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library

May 2-11 - Lake Erie SMB! Bass Islands, Contact Brett Christensen

May 8 - Club meeting, Elk Grove Library

1st or 3rd May Weekend - Return to Lake Saint Clair, Contact: Jim Duplex

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: 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-boline, 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

"The more I learn, the more I see there is to learn." *E. L. Buck Perry*

"I have been mapping my lake for four or five years. But there are many days when I can only pick up one or two fish trolling the deeper structures. I know where and how to make the trolling passes so as to hit the best spots in deeper water, but I still can't find more than a couple fish. Some days I can't find any.

What is wrong and what should I do?"

BUCK SEZ: It appears you know your lake (depths, structure, breaks, breaklines), and the spots in deep water where a "lone" fish (straggler) can be caught. So you should know bad weather can have the fish deep and inactive. The "stragglers" should indicate this. And, on those days when nothing is found (shallow or deep), you should know you are probably not fishing deep enough or **not presenting lures well enough.**

We have stressed the importance of taking a casting position when a fish is caught trolling. We have stressed the point of checking speeds when the fish are deep and dormant, under a bad weather condition.

It would seem to me you don't have much of a problem. **Under these conditions, you should stop the trolling and go**

to the cast, especially when you hit a straggler. You should "fan" cast **the area** where the fish was caught, and then go deeper. As the depth increases, the speed control gets slower, so you have to use lure styles to work the deeper water (on the bottom) slower.

I find good fishermen, good mappers, good interpreters, and especially good trollers have a tendency to not take up a casting position when fish are not moving well (bad weather condition). They will hit a straggler on a deep contact point, and if several passes do not produce additional fish, off they go to another structure, break, or breakline.

I can't find too much fault with this as I find myself doing the same thing. I think the reason for this is two-fold. First, I know the fish are deep and dormant, and I can only expect straggler movement to structure, but if I go long enough and hit enough places, I will make a catch (of stragglers). Second, I keep hoping a mass of fish will move within reach at some place during the day.

Now be sure you understand the situation. All good Spoonpluggers go immediately to the cast when it is indicated the fish are moving. But, when a bad weather condition comes up, and only straggler movement is expected (or proved), **it is then he backs off from taking a casting position.**

I feel the main reason a good troller, mapper, interpreter is reluctant to take the casting route during a bad deep-water situation is due to his not having the patience to work the deeper water with slow jump- type lures. He might try it for a couple of casts, but then he's off and running again. He probably says to himself, "If I gotta catch them "still" fishing, I'd rather find out more about the lake."

Years ago, I'd go to wire line on the troll, and I'd spend hours working extra deep water with slow jump type lures in order to catch fish. But in later years, and especially now, the deep slow water casting just to catch fish doesn't appeal to me very much. Probably if I entered a tournament, and the weather and water was marginal, **I'd spend most all my time using deep, clear, cold-front casting procedures again.**

However, if you want to catch fish under the conditions as described, you must stop trolling when a deep straggler is hit (or when you completely fail) and go to the cast for the deep or dormant fish. All this depends, however, on if you know where and how to fish deep water.

Bob's Tidbits of Useless Information

I do not follow the above often enough, but I have experienced success. It is hard to be disciplined to troll the area of a straggler, a past fish or even a strike thoroughly using line sights and markers where even with our best electronics we may not recognize the structure or break the fish use. Troll the area regardless. The lure may tell us the break or catch a fish! Then cast a spoonplug, jump bait, and use the slow cold front deep water jump type approach Buck describes where it may seem like an eternity to complete the cast with soft plastic bait or livebait.

To do the above with a fishing partner is difficult because your focus becomes fishing obvious breaks and breaklines (usually where you caught fish before). Regardless take the time to troll repeated passes close together using a new line sight with each pass to avoid covering the same bottom, and then cast the area thoroughly. Use a marker for a reference. When you feel a break, strike, or catch a fish use your line sight and grab a second line sight if possible and use your markers as references to get back to the same spot. This is all mechanics as Buck and Terry have described. Remember until you experience the material it is not knowledge.

Using the above there are three structure situations I have experienced but never expected to find in the lakes I fish. The head of a cut in a natural lake. I think of it as a glacial groove. Reefs – These are not limited to the Great Lakes or shield type lakes. The perfect breakline extending from the deep to the shallows. In lakes, the change in depth can be small and when recording depths it may not be obvious. See drawing below where the breakline starts shallow and move deeper. The drawing makes the breakline obvious. But on the water would you recognize the breakline:

- when you caught a fish at the dot,
- if the breakline was subtle,
- if the shallows did not show obvious structure, or

- when you were trolling a contour?

