

Northern Illinois Spoonpluggers

Last Meeting

Club members reviewed different Contour Maps of natural lakes and reservoirs. Some of our newer members were shown how to interpret these maps. Contour Maps are a valuable tool in getting to the best spots as fast as possible. Always remember that these maps only give you a general interpretation of the features. The final interpretation is made with the use of markers, the depth finder, and your trolled lures. Always carry a notepad and pencil to draw your own map and record your findings so that next time you go to that lake you'll get right to the spot.

Catch of the Month



John Matthesius caught this 41" Northern at the Madison Spoonplugging outing in July on Lake Mendota.

Next meeting will be held on August 14th 2012!

Meetings will be held at the VFW in McHenry (3002 w IL Rt 120) the 2nd Tuesday of every month 7:30pm - 9:00pm. April - November.

Thanks goes out to our members who are paid up on their yearly dues. The club is running out of funds and needs all of our members to come current with their yearly dues. Your dues help fund the raffle and newsletter. The amount is \$25.00 per family per year.

Please send fish pictures and stories to william.spoonpluggger.lorch@gmail.com

Raffle

There will be a raffle during the next meeting.

Call for New Members

The club is still looking for new members. If you know anyone that might make a good spoonpluggger, be sure to bring him or her to the next meeting.

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The Madison Chain O'Lakes has produced numbers of good sized Northern, Walleye, Bass, and Muskie. These lakes provide good workable structures for the spoonplugger. In the summer months the spoonplugger knows he/she must fish the deeper features to be successful, especially on those tough days. These lakes have good fish populations and if you apply your knowledge of interpretation, you will spend the greater amount of your time in the best areas and we will be successful when others are not.

**The following is a passage from Buck Perry's home study course
Mapping and Interpretation: Part One.**

"If you asked me what I thought was the most important thing we have to master in becoming a great fisherman, I'd have to say it is in our ability to "interpret" the fishing situation. I'd say our degree of success on any given trip will be determined by how well we understand how fish move and use the features of the bottom, the effects of weather and water conditions, and how well we can evaluate-and tie together- all these things when we get on the water.

The degree of understanding will determine how and when we arrive at the fish. Our interpretation of the features (structure, breaks and breaklines) and of conditions affecting fish at the time, will direct us in the procedures necessary to put fish on the stringer. The approach to catching fish will not always be the same, so we must react to the conditions which we face at the particular time.

Total interpretation of structures, and weather and water conditions, to arrive at the fish will not come overnight. Each trip will be an improvement over the previous trip. Once mastered, we can concentrate our efforts in key areas. There will be less water to work, and less time will be needed to check it out. Our time will be spent in working potentially productive water, which will keep us on top of the fish. We will be the first to become aware of any fish activity and migration. Not only that, but we will be in a position to take advantage of any activity.

In the final analysis our mapping and interpretation ability will decide our future as a fisherman. This is the area where we can always get better. A GOOD Spoonplugger can come up with some answers BEFORE he gets on the water."