

Buck talks fishing



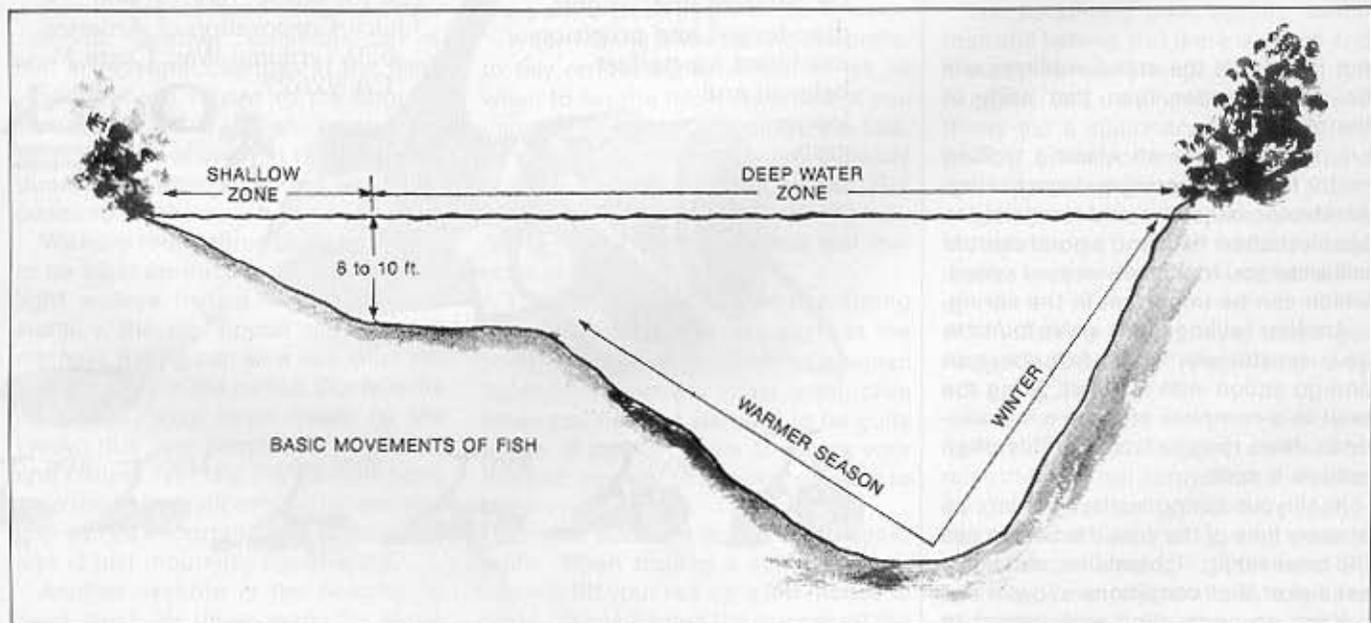
by Buck Perry, Education Editor

For Spring Bass Be Sure To Check These Areas

Editor's Note: E. L. (Buck) Perry, of Hickory, North Carolina is the father of "structure" fishing. It is Buck Perry who gave modern day structure fishermen a "language" with which they could communicate. It is Buck Perry who first coined the words

"Buck Talks Fishing." Buck Perry will be addressing those fishermen who have already studied their "BASICS" and are now ready to move on to additional knowledge. In order to gain the most benefit from the articles, it is important that the student have a

paper for the first time so that fishermen everywhere could share in better fishing. The book is on sale for \$11.85 postpaid and available on an unconditional money back guarantee from us, Northwoods Publishing Co., Inc., P.O. Box 609, Menomonee Falls, Wiscon-



"structure," "migration route," "breaks and breaklines," and many more. It is also Buck Perry who correlated many of the basic facts concerning fish habits, their movements, and how they could best be caught. He later named these facts about fish and fishing, SPOONPLUGGING.

Each month Fishing Facts is introduced to new readers. For many of them the words "structure" and "structure fishing" will be totally new. For these new readers, we will continue to emphasize the basic concepts of structure, fish habits, instincts, etc.

However, in this present series titled

clear understanding of the terminology and nomenclature.

If you are a new reader, may we suggest several steps which will allow you to "catch up" or achieve a better understanding of the articles.

May we suggest that you:

1. Study a copy of Buck's great book, Spoonplugging, Your Guide To Lunker Catches. This book contains all the basic facts of fish movements, basic structures, basic weather and water conditions, basic presentation of lures, and much more. This book was 25 years in the making, a quarter century of fishing knowledge put down on

sin 53051.

2. Familiarize yourself with our glossary of terms titled "Fishing Talk - Our Language of Structure Fishing," which can be found near the beginning of each issue of Fishing Facts.

No other publication is privileged to have Buck Perry on its staff. He has become a legend in his own time. As Fishing Facts Education Editor, this former physics professor from North Carolina State has consented to share his vast fishing knowledge and experience with us. Many of today's successful freshwater anglers owe him more than they may ever realize.

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Early spring, or pre-spawn fishing, can be quite tough for many fishermen. Most of us rush the season and forget at times that the water doesn't warm up as fast as our own fishing fever. Under these early conditions we must at times exercise patience, and realize that fishing can be quite different from that experienced last summer.

Figure 1 shows the movements and home of the fish. It is noted that the movements of the fish in the colder seasons are mainly toward the steeper sections of the bottoms. We draw special attention to the fact that where a steep bank exists, there are scattered migrations from the deep channel up toward the steep shoreline during the winter, early spring, and late fall.

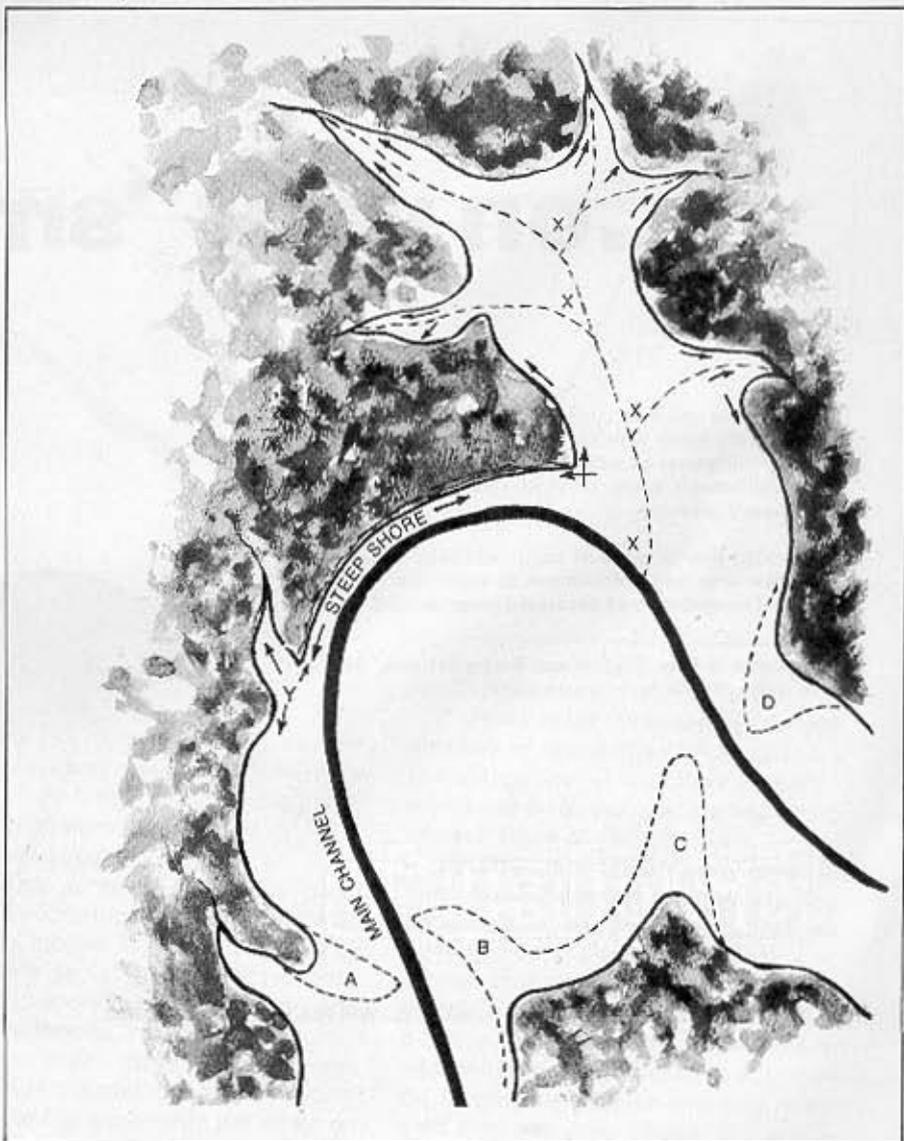
Then during early spring, when

weather changes become evident, at times fish move into the channels of feeder streams, and from there migrate into the shallows in the near area.

In Figure 2 we are looking at a section of a reservoir where the original main river channel makes a swing or bend. Three sections must be noted. The inside of the curve or bend produces a wide flatter area, the outside of the bend in the channel produces a steeper and deeper section close to the shoreline. A third section to note is the cove or bay produced by feeder streams entering the lake.

Let us assume that in past fishing experiences, structures "A", "B", "C", and "D" are most productive during the regular fishing season. BUT when we check them out during the early season, we find that little is had. What

FIGURE 2 — During early spring, or pre-spawn fishing, bass fishermen must learn to check all potentially productive waters. The accompanying article explains why each of the areas shown is important.



gives? What do we do?

Structures "A", "B", "C" and "D" should be checked, and at times a lone fish can be had. We have known fishermen who get in high speed boats and run from one end of the lake to another, checking and rechecking these warmer season structures. If the weather and water is halfway decent, a string of fish can be had in this manner.

For the average fisherman the waters are not known well enough nor does he always have a fast boat, etc. It is recommended that in early season this fishing procedure not be taken. As soon as the water warms up and it is approaching the spawning season, then more time can be spent on the flatter main structures.

Keeping in mind the earlier comments made regarding the basic movements of fish (Figure 1), let us now observe Figure 2. Let us see the areas to be checked during early season or the pre-spawn period.

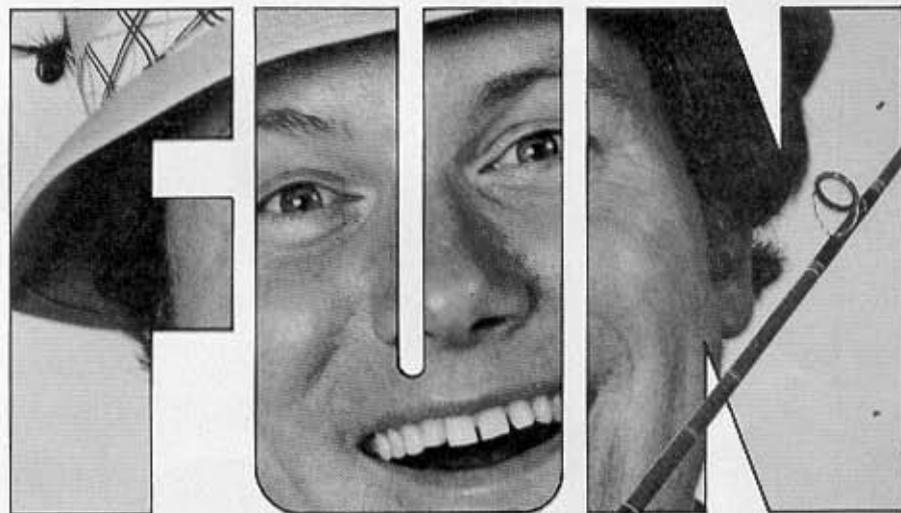
First, the main warmer season structures should be checked, either by casting or trolling. The fisherman must remember that the speed control of his tools (lures) will be rather slow.

Without too much delay, the fisherman should check all the other potentially productive waters. This would include all sections along the steep, deeper shoreline. If a fish is caught along this area, then more time should be spent recasting the area. It is possible that on the first casting or trolling pass only one fish was caught. This could be normal for the time and conditions. The next pass may produce another fish. An hour could go by without another fish, then on the fifth or sixth pass more and bigger fish could be had. These may be scattered and far apart, but nevertheless this is the migration and conditions for the time and place.

At this early stage of the fishing season, checking for the migration of the body of fish from the main channel into the channels of feeder streams could mean the difference between success and failure. These areas must be fished. This is the reason that many fishermen score in bays and coves early in the season.

This early season success can also be bad for the average fisherman. Oftentimes he will spend too much time in these areas later on in the season. Many fishermen do all their fishing in these areas, never realizing that they would have to wait until the next season to have any appreciable fishing success.

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This feeder stream area can also be tested by trolling or casting. The best way to check it out thoroughly would be by casting. The troller may check the breaks marked "X" fairly well, but he would have troubles keeping his lures in position in the small bays or congested areas.

The fisherman should thoroughly check the area by casting, as indicated by the small arrows.

There are several things the fisherman should keep in mind when fishing

such structures and areas in early season. (1) Migration is spotty in every respect. (2) When a productive area has been found, much time should be spent reworking the area. (3) If a particular type area, such as a small bay off a steep shoreline ("Y" in Figure 2) has proven to produce, other spots of a similar nature should be looked for and tested. (This would also hold true for ANY type area found to be productive at this particular time.)

