

## “CONTENTS OF HAND DRAWN MAPS”

Mapping and Interpretation is critical to fishing success, and **mapping must be done before interpretation can be accomplished**. Mapping is the mental-mechanical skill of **visualizing and drawing of underwater structures**. Just reading about mapping is not enough. Terry O'Malley has stated **“If you can't draw it, you don't know it”**. In Buck Perrys' words: **“Most important of all in the mapping and fishing process, is for the Spoonplugger to RECORD what he finds”** (“Spoonplugging”, page 206). For most of us that means **drawing structure maps**. Most Spoonpluggers, especially beginners, are **reluctant to draw structure maps**, yet I feel that this **skill is very important to maximize ones' growth in their fishing success**. Usually, beginning Spoonpluggers **do not attempt to draw maps** and this **slows their learning progress considerably**, especially if they do not have innate visualization skills. Recognizing and evaluating structure is a key to successful Spoonplugging, and **many become discouraged when they concentrate on using the “magic” lure rather than learning the structure**. We should never forget that the **first function of the Spoonplug is as a mapping tool**. An occasional Spoonplugger will **get carried away with spending too much time drawing maps** (as I did for several years), resulting in less time spent on the water learning how to present lures and interpret a situation. The only disadvantage to that is the slightly longer learning curve. **With time and experience drawing maps**, most individuals will **acquire visualization skills that result in less drawing of maps needed**. Referring to Terry O'Malleys statement, the opposite is true also. **If you can draw it, you may not have to. Just make sure that you can.**

Teaching the **skill of drawing structure maps** can be very beneficial to students. As with most skills, practice **doing it is more beneficial** than just watching it being done by someone else. That is why I **give all students a 6x9 inch clipboard, blank sheets of writing paper, and a pencil with a good eraser.**

### Contents of hand drawn maps

- 1) Form of major **breaklines, fingers, turns, cuts, etc**
- 2) Where is the **deepest water in the area and how deep**
- 3) **Depth** in feet of **breaklines**. The deeper the breakline, the better. **14-17 feet ideal.**
- 4) **Harder bottom areas**
- 5) **Weedline depth and location** of weeds
- 6) **Water color**
- 7) **Breaks** (sharper breaks, stumps, rocks, etc)
- 8) **Fish—where** on structure they were **caught, species + size**
- 9) **Lake name** and # or letter **given to that structure**
- 10) **Shoreline objects** for reference

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Read and study pages 199-233 in Buck Perrys' book, “Spoonplugging, Your Guide to Lunker Catches”.