

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP MAY 5, 2005

“MAPPING AND INTERPRETATION”

“Knowledge is the key
to fishing success.”

Buck Perry



The **topic** of the program addressed the question: “**What is most important in fishing success?**” Buck Perry states on **page 3 of Volume 7, Part 1** (Mapping and Interpretation) of his Home Study Series that **our ability to interpret a fishing situation is the #1 skill** that we need. 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”. It is not just the ability to draw maps, although that is a part of it. This information is **available in** all of **Bucks’ material**, from the small pamphlet, the “Green Book”, to the Home Study Series. The use of this knowledge **requires practical application** of it **on the water** in each given set of conditions (no two are exactly alike). That is why **successful fishing involves a lifetime of learning**.

Next we addressed the quote: “**MOST of the time MOST of the water contains no fish**”. Pages 66-69 showed Pictures of a well known Midwest lake. He then outlined **2 much smaller holes** that **produced most of the lunker fish**. Map drawings of the structure showed only 5 or 6 small spots in each hole where adult fish were caught. **Those areas**, when superimposed **on the whole lake**, would be **just tiny dots**. These are the areas where we need to concentrate our fishing! This is **true of all lakes**. **Spoonplugging procedures guide us to** learn these **best areas** much **more quickly** than other fishing methods. Bob Lear brought up the question about what structure there would be in Big Manistique Lake. Some of our members had fished the lake before and pointed out specific structures and bottom changes that he might want to check out. They also gave him some trolling pointers to more quickly learn its’ structure.

The **educational video** was **from the 2001 Tawas Outing** where John Bales explained some Spoonplugging concepts and **drew some detail maps** of many different areas he has fished. The **question was asked** afterward : “**Would drawing similar maps** of your favorite spots **be that difficult?**” **Most agreed that it would not** be that difficult if you knew the structure well. **Terry O’Malley** states that “**If you cannot draw a structure, you don’t know it**”. Members were **encouraged to practice drawing** some of **their favorite spots**. At the **next Spoonpluggers Study Group meeting** (June 16) members will be **asked to show their drawings** or draw them on a chalkboard.

Chase Klinesteker