

“STRUCTURE VISUALIZATION”



Back cover of “Spoonplugging” by Buck Perry

The **program subject** was mapping, or **visualizing the bottom form**, or structure, of a lake. This is **key to locating** where the fish are. **Fish move on structure** when they become active, and **the better we know its’ form**, the **faster we can determine migration routes and fish locations**. Chase began by passing out and reviewing a “**Basic Movements**” handout. **Understanding the behavior of fish helps** us to know when, where, how, and why to study structure. Deep and dormant fish, inconsistent movements, weather and water effects, shallow behavior, seasonal differences, movement patterns, size differences, and species differences all relate to how and where we fish structure.

Next, a handout on “**Structure**” was passed out and reviewed. Structure is simply defined as the **bottom of the lake that is different from the surrounding area**. It is **made up of breaks and breaklines**. Fish move along breaklines and pause at breaks. **We need to separate good looking structure from productive structure**. You can have structure without fish, but not fish without structure. **Productive structure must lead all the way from the shallows to the deep**. Structure varies considerably. Buck Perry has identified **17**

types of structures that fish use in their movements and migrations. Different lake types will have different types of structures and Mr Perry outlines the details **in his book “Spoonplugging—Your Guide to Lunger Catches”** and in his reference booklet (to be used on the water) “Structure Situations”. These can be obtained from **Bucks’ website buckperry.com**, or from Terry Velting at our meetings.

Bob Strek got up and described his experience in learning about structure. He **projected several sequential drawings of a structure** he and Chase **fished on Hardy Pond**. They represented **side views of a bar** as seen on a graph depth sounder when making straight line passes parallel to the shoreline. Then **on the top view** drawing of the bar, he traced the **paths the boat had made**. This **helped him considerably** in visualizing what was below the water and gave him information on where and how to present lures on it. Chase emphasized the importance of the **“National Spoonplugger” newsletter in keeping us focused on the most important factors in fishing**. The last issue (Sept.-Oct. '07) has 3 excellent articles on structure and mapping written by **Terry O’Malley**. Don’t miss studying them. Terry **was considered by Mr Perry to be the best mapper he had ever seen**, and Terry had more experience working with Mr Perry than just about anybody. That should indicate **where our emphasis should be placed** in our fishing!

Chase Klinesteker