

SPOONPLUGGING STUDY GROUP MARCH 17, 2005

“ILLINOIS SPOONPLUGGERS WINTER SEMINAR 2005”



Illinois Winter Seminar participants, March 2005

The meeting program consisted of reviewing information and knowledge learned at the Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar the previous weekend. **Five from our Study Group attended.** This was an **extremely worthwhile and well-run** event. All those from our group who participated expressed a desire to attend this seminar next year also. The Elk Grove Library room was good sized and very comfortable. Tables were arranged in a long “U” so most everyone could hear the answers being given. For the \$15.00 fee we received a **continental breakfast, lunch, jump lure, handouts and catalogues, marker, and a folder** containing the fishing questions that would be brought up and discussed. There was space to take notes after each question, which was very helpful since so much useful information was given out, all of it could not be remembered. Questions were solicited from all participants ahead of time so that the information was current and useful to the approximately **50 attending.** The biggest benefits derived were the answers from many of the **top Spoonpluggers from the Midwest** who attended. Kudos and many thanks to all the Illinois Spoonpluggers who organized and ran this fantastic seminar!

The seminar **discussions covered many questions and subjects.** **Casting** to deep water, determining **the primary breakline, mapping** subtle features, early **spring fishing, organizing** ones’ time on the water, fishing **crowded lakes,** fishing for **large northerns,** how to fish a tight **inside turn** for muskies, fishing a **clearwater lake,** how to check **different speeds,** when to use **different line lengths,** using **trailer lures,** and fishing the **base breakline** were **only a few of the subjects discussed.** Several questions centered on musky fishing. It was a real treat to hear **Jerry Borst and John Bales** comment and describe their approach. They both are Spoonplugging instructors who have outstanding **success at catching trophy muskies,** Much of what they said can be found in their past articles about muskies in our “National Spoonplugger” newsletter.

Each participant came away with different ideas and **resolutions about** what they might do in **2005** to improve their fishing success. I intend to work deeper breaklines, use markers more in mapping, fish more new waters, work deep channel related humps for northern and walleye, do more casting in the spring, check shorter lines in the summer, and try trailer lures some. **Our discussion at the Spoonplugging Study Group meeting involved many of these questions and ideas.** Going over ideas and knowledge such as this **keeps us thinking, learning, and motivated** to improve our fishing success. As affirmed by Buck Perry, **fishing involves a lifetime of learning.**

Chase Klinesteker