

"STRUCTURE"

- Structure is the **key to fishing success**. It is our guide as to where the fish will be.
- Structure is defined as the **bottom** of the lake that is **different** from the surrounding area.
- Breaks and breaklines are what make up structure.
- A **break** is where structure is no longer uniform due to dips, a quick drop in depth, rocks, stumps, bushes, sunken objects, etc.. Breaks are not structure. Fish moving on structure will **pause** at breaks.
- A **breakline** is a line on the bottom where there is a definite increase or decrease in depth, either sudden or gradual. This can include a weedline "wall", the edge of a channel, hole, or gully, or where 2 bodies of water meet which differ in temperature, color, or current. **Fish** will **follow** breaklines in their movements and migrations.
- The **home** of the fish is **deep water**. The movement of fish from deep towards the shallows is along established migration routes which are always on structure.
- The **key** to successful structure fishing is for the fisherman to be able to **separate good looking structure from productive structure**. You can have structure without fish, but not fish without structure.
- In order for a structure to be productive, there must be quick access to deep water and it must **go all the way** from the shallows to the deepest water in the area. Proper mapping, interpretation, and lure presentation will enable us to find productive structure. This is where we spend our time to have the best chance to catch a fish.
- Obtaining good **mapping and interpretation skills** is the one area of fishing where we can always get better. Spoonpluggers will get to the point where they can feel at home on any lake or reservoir located in any part of the country with little worry as to the shape or conditions that each might present. These skills (mapping and interpreting structure) enable fishermen to **become more successful** and to **expand their fishing world** considerably.
- Structure **varies** considerably. Fish use structure no matter what the body of water.
- Much knowledge is gained by fishing different waters (lakes, reservoirs, rivers, oceans, etc.) to encounter all types of structure situations.
- There are **17 types** of structure situations fish use in their movements and migrations. Structure situations found in **natural lakes** include Bars, Reefs, Wide Bars, Saddles, and Humps. **Reservoirs** can include the above but also can have Delta Situations, Steep Shores, Where 2 Channels Meet, Slide or Wash, Island Between 2 Channels, Feeder Stream Cuts, Submerged Roadbeds, Fence or Hedgerows, Dams, and Causeways. Reservoirs are **more of a challenge** to fish because they contain a wider variety of structure situations.
- The **"Spoonpluggers Basic Guideline"** is the most significant single statement in all of fishing. It describes the behavior of fish, where we can find them, and how we can catch them.

The above are concepts taken from the book **"Spoonplugging—Your Guide to Lunker Catches"**, written by Buck Perry, the father of modern day structure fishing. Consult the book for more accurate and complete information. Bucks' website is at: buckperry.com, online forum: spoonplugger.net, newsletter: nsoa.info. Chase Klinesteker

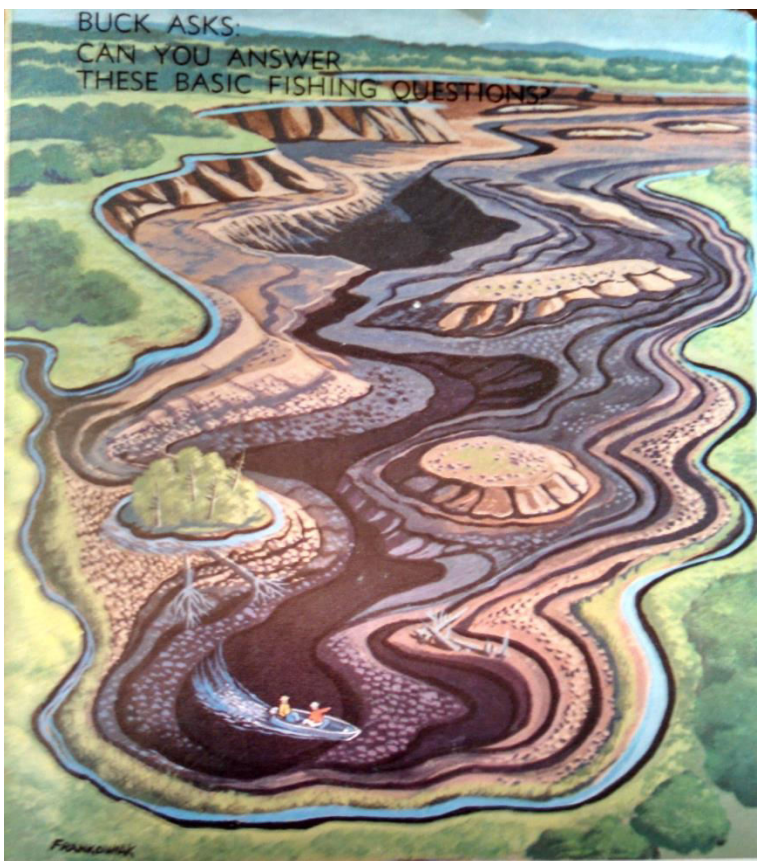
Lunker Hunter Spoonpluggers Meeting January 6, 2011

The **structure sheet handed out** was discussed. Structure, or the **bottom of the lake that is different from the surrounding area**, is most important to our success in fishing. It is **all the fish have** to relate to and use **in their movements and migrations**. Structure **consists of breaks and breaklines**. Fish **follow breaklines** and will **pause at breaks**, so these are the elements we must **concentrate on when fishing**. We need to remember

that the **home of the fish is deep water and productive structure** (a structure situation) **must have access to the deepest water in the area.** **Mapping and interpretation** of structure is one area that Spoonpluggers can **always get better**, no matter what their experience, since **there are 17 types of structure situations** and **each individual structure is unique** like no other. The **greater variety of structure situations one encounters,** maps, and interprets in their fishing, **the more one expands their fishing world and success.** Members were reminded to **reread** and study the “**Spoonpluggers Basic Guideline**”, which **all of Spoonplugging can be condensed down to.**

Next the **video “Structure Tour of Muskegon Lake”**, produced by Don Stephens and Chase Klinesteker, was **shown.** While the video was running, **a contour map of Muskegon Lake was projected on the wall** with the overhead projector and **structures shown on the video were pointed out on the map.** There are many structures on Muskegon Lake, and not all were shown, but some of the most important were viewed. Interspersed in the video were **shots of Dons’ graph depth sounder showing the breaklines** as we traveled over them. Of special note were the **fish shown suspended on the breaklines, especially at the base breakline.** The program was a solid review of the most important aspect, or key, to fishing success.

Chase Klinesteker



In this Lake:

- 1 - Where is the HOME of the lunker fish?
- 2 - Why have I not shown the water in this lake?
- 3 - What structure would you fish; in the Winter, Spring, Summer and fall.
- 4 - Where are the fish likely to be the day after a cold front?
- 5 - What would be the “contact” point of the fish to the island with the trees?
- 6 - If the water was extremely clear, where is the best spot shown?
- 7 - What season (winter, spring, summer, fall) would the underwater islands be best? Which season the Shorelines? (see inside flap)

Back Cover of Buck Perrys’ Book showing what we should be visualizing