



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 12

#206

**FOUNDED 1991**

December 2011

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The last meeting was held November 21, 2011 at the Kendallville Public Library with 14 members in attendance.

Denny Coulardot reported that the muskies are going although he has only caught 70 so far this year. Lately they have been active early in the morning.

D. J. Erdley recently came back to Indiana from South Carolina for a family visit and while here fished with Denny for muskies on an area lake. You can see from the photos on the following page that they were successful.

Denny said that speeds were a relatively slow 3 mph in the 45 degree water. Moss was gone from most lakes and you can now bump bottom in many places where it was impossible earlier. He also mentioned that with cold fronts now moving through every 2 to 3 days, you may need to fish 35 feet or deeper to find stable water.

While on the subject of muskies, Denny thinks they musky guys have made musky fishing into a casting show. He said that the last tournament opened up to the use of suckers. This is the first time I can recall a tournament using live bait. That says a lot about non-Spoonplugger's ability to understand what makes a fish tick.

John Bales reported that he is working on getting some of his new lures painted. He brought a "demo" model in and the paint looks really good.

Denny also reported that when using these outsized lures, a larger hooped lure knocker would be needed.

John is working with someone to make a larger lure knocker and they should be available soon.

John also reported on the Spoonpluggers Jamboree held at KenLake State Park on Kentucky Lake. He has committed to holding a Jamboree next year: Spoonpluggers Jamboree 2012 to be held at KenLake State Park October 4, 5, & 6th, 2012. Mark your calendars accordingly.

John's advice for the month was that we should pay attention to the bait fish while going through our normal procedures. Spotting the baitfish on your depth finder gives an indication of the depths to concentrate on. As an example: Lets say your are going through your procedures of mapping a bar. As you going into deeper water to make your turn, you notice a group of baitfish at 23 feet. As you work the bar, you spot more and more baitfish at the same depth. As you work deeper in your mapping, you should spend extra time looking and fishing the 23 foot area and a little below. Often this is the depth that the game fish will use when they become active. There will undoubtedly be stragglers above this depth, but bigger and more fish may well be at or below the 23 foot depth. It is just another observation we make throughout our fishing day; no different than watching the weather conditions change, etc. It's something to keep in mind while going about our normal routine.

**NEXT MEETING: December 19, 2011 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

**" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "**



**Denny Coulardot (left) and D. J. Erdly (right) with nice late season muskies**



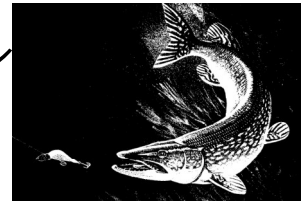
**Mike Price with a 43 inch "pig" caught November 15, 2011.**

**"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"**



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



When was the last time that you picked up the Green Book or the Home Study Series and sat down for some study? The answer to all of your fishing questions are in there for you to find if you will just look for them. How much time you have spent on the water will depend on if you understand what you have just read. Much of what you study will not be totally understood until you experience it. And only then will you begin to put the puzzle together. Each and every time you re-study the material, you will read something that has new meaning. And then you might wonder why you did not see it the last time you read it.

The more that you learn, the more that you will learn to appreciate the man who put it all in writing. Thank goodness that he did. What other fishing group has written guidelines that will keep you out of trouble?

The learning starts by studying the material. And then you hit the water and put what you have learned to good use. And then you re-study and you see something that you have missed. And then you must apply that new knowledge to all of the lakes that you have fished. It's like starting over again but now you have to go over all of your maps and see what you may have missed. The satisfaction and the feeling of success makes you want to learn more and more.

You find out that what you have seen is exactly how it is written. Mr. Perry spoke the truth about fishing. What makes a fish tick and what you and I must do to put him on the stringer. Sounds a little hillbilly doesn't it? Mr. Perry never wrote a single word in his writings that a simple man could not understand. You read some of the fishing magazines and they use words that make it seem like they know what they are talking about but when you are done reading them, you end up not learning a thing. It is because they don't know that they don't know.

Most fishermen are still fishing exactly like they did 50 years ago.

The only thing different is their equipment. Mr. Perry put what we need to know in his study material. There is much more but he left the rest up to the individual as to how far he will take it.

The next time you are watching the TV, take a look up at the ceiling.

Most all fishing takes place at that depth or shallower. Look through your bass pro shop sale catalog. Look at all of the fishing tackle that is being sold. How deep can most of the lures be fished?

Most all fishing tackle is geared to be fished in ten feet of water or less. The next time you are outside, stand next to the house and look up at the highest point in your roof. Now you have two separate views; the ceiling which most of us can reach up and touch and the highest point on your roof. One is the shallows around the 8-10 foot depth and the other may be near sanctuary depth.

This is what separates the men from the boys.

*Good Spoonplugging*  
*John Bales*

**“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”**



**“The more I learn, the more I see there is to learn.”** *E. L. “Buck” Perry*

### **BUCK SEZ:**

During your fishing **you should not think of WEATHER in terms of temperature.** This does not mean changes in temperature will not affect fish, nor does it mean the fisherman doesn't change his tactics. (Later on you'll find if you present your lures and bait properly, you'll automatically take care of temperature). **YOU SHOULD VIEW WEATHER (and TEMPERATURE) IN TERMS OF LIGHT.**

With this in mind, we can now make a Spoonplugger's guideline:

**THE LIGHTER OR BRIGHTER IT IS, THE TOUGHER THE FISHING WILL BE. THE DARKER THE CONDITIONS, THE BETTER IT WILL BE.**

We have no way of knowing how many types of weather conditions might occur during a fishing season. One look at any weather map will show all types of high or low pressure areas, several kinds of “fronts,” storms, hot areas or wet or dry areas. You name it—they show it.

**We have to pick one of these conditions for a starting point.** One that we can use as a **guide** to our fishing. One that will be the **key** for determining our chances for success, and the one that will let us **plan** our tactics. In other words, we have to set us up another guideline. **This guideline is a COLD FRONT.**

It should be noted, the word COLD does not necessarily mean there is a big drop in temperature. The front is actually the dividing line between two masses of air. The difference in temperature of these two masses can vary; at times it will be great, while at others, hardly noticeable. The main difference between the two air masses is that one is warmer, holding a higher moisture content, while the other is a drier mass of cooler air. The former is usually associated with a LOW, while the latter is associated with HIGH. The masses of air which move through the United States are normally from the west to the east. This direction can vary, but for all practical purposes this is the dominant direction.

The front itself is usually associated with very rough weather, such as heavy rain, squall lines (thunder storms), etc. This is especially true when there is a great difference between the two masses of air. If the temperature difference is slight, these fronts are much less discernible.

When observing or viewing a COLD FRONT, here again, **we do not view it in terms of temperature, but instead relate it to LIGHT conditions.** There is a relationship between the light and the temperature, and if there is a great drop in temperature after a front passes, and it lasts for a long period, the light will be affected accordingly.

**“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”**