



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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#205

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The last meeting was held October 17, 2011 at the Kendallville Public Library with 17 members and guests present.

Much of the meeting was dedicated to discussion of the 2011 Spoonpluggers Jamboree recently held at Kentucky Lake.

Most attendees would agree that the first year re-introduction of the Spoonpluggers Jamboree was an marvelous success. Over the past few years numerous Spoonpluggers had expressed lament over the loss of the annual Spoonpluggers Jamboree previously held in Chattanooga. Several individuals decided to attempt a resurrection of the tradition and their labors were rewarded as over 60 Spoonpluggers gathered at Kentucky Lake for the 2011 Spoonpluggers Jamboree.

In the original tradition of the Jamboree, old friendships were renewed and new ones established. The location of Kentucky Lake was chosen as being a midpoint in the nation so that most could make the trip with a one-day drive. This seemed to work out well as many Spoonpluggers who had not met each other at other network outings in several years were able to reacquaint, catch up on, spin tales and tell lies.

KenLake State Park was the designated headquarters and provided a very nice campground with very clean restrooms and showers. Campsites weren't exactly level (it IS Kentucky after all) but with a little effort, everyone was able to find a flat enough spot to be comfortable. Just down the road was Kenlake Hotel that had very reasonable rates for the off-season as well as cabins nearby.

A couple of canopies were set up and evenings were spent going over the days on-the-water activities. A general session was held on Thursday night at the KenLake Hotel to acquaint everyone with Kentucky and Barkley Lake features and John Bales and Jim Duplex went into some detail of many of the structure situation.

A pot luck dinner was held on Friday night with enough food provided to feed a small army. Lasagna, jumbo shrimp, fish, mashed potatoes, chicken noodles, you-name-it. No one could possibly have gone to bed hungry! Saturday night was a catered meal at the Lakeside Pavilion. Pulled pork, home made pies, the works. Everyone received at least on gift complements of the sponsors. Scott Jenkins (Bucks Baits) and his very capable assistant (daughter) were set up each night to provide attendee with all their Spoonplugging needs.

The big disappointment was the weather conditions. Just before the outing, one of the worst cold fronts of the year passed through. That undoubtedly disguised what a great fishery Kentucky and Barkley Lakes really are. Fortunately, as Spoonpluggers, when we don't make good catches, we know the reasons why. I also believe everyone became more proficient with their use of a plug-knocker. The spring flooded in the area produced a significant amount of snags for practice.

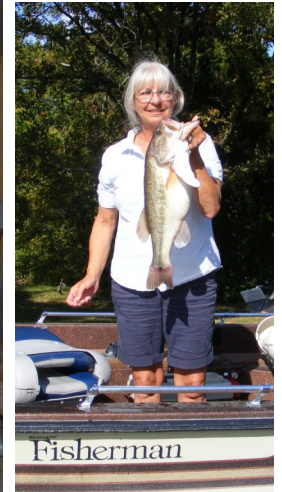
But despite the drawbacks, there were a couple of fishing highpoints: Debbie Bales caught her largest bass at just over 7 lbs and Jeff Parham also caught a 7 lbs plus largemouth. One has to wonder what kind of eye-opening catches would have be taken under good weather conditions!

This was a great outing to end the year on and I know many are looking forward to the 2012 Spoonpluggers Jamboree.

John and Denny spent the balance of the meeting going over several structure situations encountered in reservoirs. They also reported that the thermocline was nearly gone and by now is probably completely gone.

**NEXT MEETING: November 21, 2011 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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



**2011 Kentucky Lake Spoonplugger Jamboree Photos**



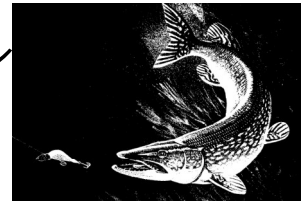
Dan Luley with a nice 39 inch mucky that weighed in at 35 lbs.  
This one was caught on one of John's new lures (JBS)

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



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



The 2011 Jamboree was held at Kentucky Lake last month. Those that did not make it missed out on an opportunity to look at a different type body of water other than a natural lake. Natural lakes are cut and dried. They have bars, humps and saddles. That's it ..... period. First of all, most of our lakes up north are pretty small, ranging from under 100 acres up to 3000. None are so large that you can't put them in your hip pocket in a short period of time. On the other hand, Kentucky Lake is 180 miles long. A person may be able to fish the best spots over a period of a life time but not all of it. A fisherman's first thought might be, where do I start? A little map study might be a good start. You and I know that this body of water has delta situations. So what are the keys to fishing a delta situation? Yes it is the areas where the side feeder cuts enter the main channel. It is in these areas where the fish have a path to the shallows for spawning. These are not the only fishing spots. Where the channel makes a turn and heads towards the other shoreline is a fishing spot. All breaklines from the top of the delta all the way to the base breakline must be checked in order to say these areas are fished correctly. The channel is the home of the fish, instead of a hole or a slot in our natural lakes. You must use your brain when fishing reservoirs. "Water runs in a straight line until it is obstructed". This saying might help if you keep it in mind.

Reservoirs are more difficult to interpret and fish than natural lakes. I guess you might say that it may separate the men from the boys.

Mr. Perry says that they are all the same. We fish them all the same. Our interpretation starts in the deepest water and we start fishing in the shallows and eliminate the unproductive water and arrive at the fish. Our study material tells us what to expect in waters that have delta situations. Once you get out there and see what you have been reading about, it becomes reality. You begin to learn. Even if you do not catch any fish at all on your first trip, it is not a failure. You are not a failure simply because you did not catch a fish. You saw and you may or may not totally understand everything that you see for the first time, but you experienced it. You learned. You take that knowledge and you go home and you think about it and the next time you go there, you get better. You now know what to expect. What you may have struggled with on the first trip, you work on that part and you get better. A Spoonplugger looks forward to fishing new waters. It is very satisfying to go to a new body of water and make a catch. Knowledge gained on new waters gives a fisherman something to think about and something to look forward to. I know that I can't wait to go back!!!!!!!!!!!!

*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:

Whenever the movement occurs, early or late, in the middle of the day or night it does not necessarily mean that any two movements will be for the same distance or for the same length of time. How far the fish go and how long they stay is controlled by the weather and water conditions at that particular time. No matter how many times, or periods, we go fishing, we are not likely to find the same conditions twice.

When migration occurs, the fish move up these structures, using the bottom features as their guide. If conditions are good, they move up to the eight to ten foot depth. If conditions are very good, some will then scatter into the shallows. When fish scatter into the shallows along the shoreline, the fisherman becomes aware of it, as this is the time he says, “The fish are biting.”

At certain times of the year, spring mostly, the fish may remain for some time in the shallows, and they may move as far as the bays, coves, flats, etc. However, most of the season they are in the shallows in quantity for only a short period of time, and the distance they scatter will not be very great; thus, the productive shoreline can be very short.

The first fish to appear in the shallows will be the smaller “yearling” fish. If yearling bass are caught in the shallows this usually means a movement, and the larger fish could be at a reachable depth, on structure, in the near area.

Usually, though, the migration of the larger fish does not extend quite to or past the scatter point (eight to ten feet). This is particularly true if the school contains the biggest bass found in the waters of the area.

Never expect this entire school of large fish to move into the shallows and scatter at the same time. In all of our fishing, we have never seen more than two or three move in at one time. You have probably fished the shoreline at some time and found the bass really biting. But how many **big** fish did you catch? The reason you caught only a few, or none, perhaps was not due to any fault of yours, nor was it due to the fact that these large fish were wise “ole birds.” It was due to the fact the fish were not there.

North or south, some fish live longer, grow faster, and obtain a final weight above the average, but normally largemouth bass will die off by the time they reach six pounds. In most areas of the country, the average life span in relation to the average growing rate will **normally produce some schools whose average weight is slightly under six pounds.** But whatever the average final weight, if any “lunkers” exist in the area, they will be with this group.

A group (or school) could be all one size (2 lbs., 3 lbs., 4 lbs., etc.) or the school could contain several sizes.

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