



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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The last meeting was held September 19, 2011 at the Kendallville Public Library with 17 members and guests present.

We welcomed Dan and Karl Pulver of Fort Wayne. They have been Spoonplugging for awhile and just found out that there was a club in the area. Hopefully they will find us informative and come back for additional meetings.

President Denny reported that he has reserved the Forest Ridge Campground for the annual "Buck Sez" Network Outing for next year. The reservation dates are August 16, 17, & 18th, 2012. Mark your calendars accordingly.

Fishing reports were generally good. Denny and Mike have logged 602 northern so far this year. Dan Luley reported catching 48 northern recently from an area lake. Bobby Meredith has made several trips to this lake and has caught 107 northern for his efforts. You'll have to attend the meetings to find out which lakes are hot!

Fall is fast approaching and as always happens this time of year, the thermocline is quickly dissipating. In fact, I would guess it is gone altogether by the time you read this. Once the fall turnover is complete, the entire water column becomes more stable and more predictable. This is the time of year that

can yield some of the biggest catches of the season. We usually have the lakes to ourselves, except for the occasional duck hunter. If you like catching fish on the cast or vertical jigging, this is your time to shine. And trolling isn't to be neglected either. Slower speeds may be called for at times, but is still quite effective.

With a couple of newcomers, John and Denny presented a Spoonplugging 101 demonstration emphasizing the learning of the first 3 sizes of Spoonplugs prior to attempting the deeper running lures.

Shawn Nicodemus reported that "Pops" Nicodemus was fairing better following some health problems. He could tell because Pops was asking for pies. Pops is a pie-eating machine.

John Bales introduced his new Spoonplug-like lures. The new lures, JB1 and JB2 are a larger sized stainless steel lure that are designed to reach deep breaklines as well as running shallow if needed. Both versions are a 3-ring lure which allows them to be run at different depths. One runs much deeper than the other and is reported to go to at least 68 feet. They can also be used on existing Spoonplugging rods with no problem.

**NEXT MEETING: October 17, 2011 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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



Mike Price with a nice musky and bass



Above: Bart Albright with a nice musky and bass

Below: Denny Coulardot with musky & also a big 50 inch musky he caught while fishing alone

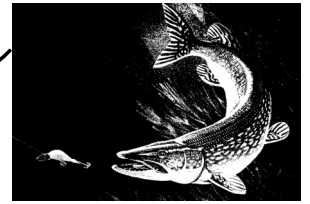


**“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”**



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Here are some guidelines. When the larger bass (2 1/2lb and up), get to around 8-10 feet, they say "whoa", we are getting too shallow. Mr. Perry said that after large muskies spawn, they are not likely to make it back to the shallows the rest of the season. How about this one! The older and larger a fish becomes, the more reluctant he is to leave the deep water. If you are not catching fish, you are not fishing deep enough. You had better go to the fish because he may not come to you. If you know what you are doing, wire line can be one of the most important items in your tackle box. Proper use of wire will raise your score tremendously. I would not be caught out fishing without a reel filled with wire line. In so many cases, I had to go to wire to catch the fish.

For the big musky and northern pike, you have to increase your depth to 45 to 55 feet. Mr. Perry made all of these statements. These are all comments that are made to guide us.

These statements should also make a fisherman think a little on his own and be prepared to know when, where, what, why and how to go deeper.

There is only one way to learn to do this. Each and every time that you go out fishing, take your depth control a little deeper when you do not find the fish at the depth's that you have already checked. You will learn a little at a time on each trip. You will begin to have confidence in what you are doing as you catch a fish or two when going deeper. You will not hesitate when making the decision to go deeper because you know it is the correct thing to do. Our guidelines say it is correct. Most of the time, the weather and water conditions do not allow the fish to make it to the shallows, so we must be prepared to go to the fish. He may not come to us. See..... more guidelines. Knowing how and when to fish the deeper water is what separates the men from the boys. I did not say that. Mr. Perry did. I believe him to be correct when talking about fishing for most of the time and that's good enough for me.

*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:**

*What ‘triggers’ the activity and movements of the fish?”*

There is no question that it is a weather condition. But, we doubt if anyone knows the **exact** part that starts and stops the movements. It could be a combination of many things. We have our ideas but we have no definite **FACTS**. We feel **LIGHT** plays a major role, and Buck can quite often predict when a movement is about to begin, or when one is in progress, by his observations of the light present. He uses his **LIGHT** observations as his guide to the activity and movements of the fish—for he says: “If my light observations give me the answers, that’s good enough for me.”

One thing we should all agree on is the movements of the fish are not “triggered” or controlled by their hunger. We would have a hard time figuring out why all the fish in the lake become hungry at the same time. And, it would not explain the activity and movement without feeding. A game fish can be made to “strike”—this is his nature. We never expect to catch our fish feeding, but we’re happy when this occurs.

You may want to know if the moon has any effect on the fish? We have not been able to find any relationship between movements and the phase of the moon. If there were any, we are quite sure local weather and water conditions would completely wreck it.

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*“Are fish of all sizes and age groups bunched up together down in the deep water?”*

The study material said the smaller fish were not compatible with the larger fish. We classify the smaller fish into a group, called “yearlings.” These are normally from one to three years old. Some may be older, but where growth is good, you can view the smaller fish group as being of this age. A better way probably to view the smaller fish would be to say, until they reach about 2-2 1/2 pounds, they are not compatible with the larger fish. When the larger fish get on the move, the yearlings scoot to the safety of the shallows.

You will find, in some instances, where a school of bigger fish are all about the same size. At other times, they will come in several different sizes. The age, fertility, and reproduction of a body of water would have a bearing on the sizes in any particular school.

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*“Are there fishing situations where the fish, when they move towards shallower water, do not move toward or along structure such as bars, but will move shallower by going ‘vertically’ toward the surface?”*

This Spoonplugging (structure fishing) study is primarily concerned with the larger species of game fish (bass, walleye, northern pike, muskies, stripers, etc.). However, there are certain water situations and certain species of fish where part of a movement may be, at times, directly toward the surface. The fish may be “drawn” toward the surface due to some attraction or “noise.” However, all the movements would be related to structure or some bottom feature; **AND**, the upward movement (toward the surface) will occur only **AFTER** the fish become active and moving. In a later study we will discuss fishing situations where a part of a migration may be vertical. But to **CONSISTENTLY** put fish on our stringer, “structure” (features of the bottom the fish use) is still our guide to where most of the **CATCHABLE** fish may be found.

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