



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 8

#214

FOUNDED 1991

August 2012

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The last meeting was held July 16, 2012 at the Kendallville Public Library with 18 members and guests present.

John Bales and Jeff Parham reported on the recent Muskegon Network Outing held in Muskegon, Michigan.

Fishing reports indicated that the northern pike are going strong. Denny Coulardot and Mike Price reported their last few days totals: 38 today; 37 yesterday; 83 Thursday. Others also reported good numbers of northerns along with a few walleyes. That's a pretty good indication that things are in near peak territory. Shawn Nicodemus even caught a tiger muskie recently. I thought they were a relic of the past, but evidently there are a few survivors out there.

Denny cautioned the members about fishing for muskies during the heat of the summer...and there has been plenty of heat this summer. Muskies are very tender despite their size and ferocity. Denny stated that waiting until fall temperature arrive will significantly increase the survival rate of these big fish.

It was reported that bass should now be in their full summer pattern. What pattern(s)? Read John's thought provoking article for more information and hopefully questions to bring to the next meeting!

It was also reported that the DNR is no longer going to stock Sylvan lake and will instead shift their focus on stocking to Manitou Lake.

The Kentucky Lake Jamboree was discussed briefly. The date is October 4-6, 2012, but I know several are going down for the entire week. Weather conditions

can't POSSIBLY be as bad as they were last year! Most of the meeting was dedicated to planning the

NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGERS

ANNUAL "BUCK SEZ" OUTING

AUGUST 16, 17, & 18h, 2012

BASE CAMP WILL BE LOCATED AT: FOREST RIDGE CAMP GROUND

**\$20.00/NIGHT, TENT/RV (260) 327-3551
SWIMMING POOL; WATER & ELEC.**

-or-

**LEE'S INN ; SUPER 8 MOTEL; BUDGET INN
MOTELS ARE LOCATED ON US30 IN COLUMBIA
CITY ABOUT 5 MILES FROM THE CAMPGROUND
AND WITHIN 15 MILES OF MOST LAKES**

**AREA LAKES INCLUDE: WEBSTER,
TIPPECANOE, WAWASEE, BARBEE
CHAIN, AND MORE.**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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"Buck Sez Network Outing":

I think everyone knows their assignments so hope to see everyone at the outing. Bring a passing dish if you can and if you have anything to donate to the Saturday evening drawing, see Denny, John or Ted.

**NEXT MEETING: August 20, 2012 at the
Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "



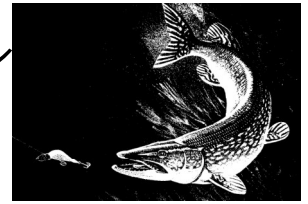
Matt Luley with a nice 41 inch northern and wife Chanda with a 40 incher. How do we know it's 40 inches? Mackenzie uses sign language to indicate the big 4-0!

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Mr. Perry preached that the eight to ten foot depth is an important depth for the fish and for the fisherman. This is the depth where the larger fish seem to say "woooooooh, we are getting too shallow"! As a Spoonplugger, we should not expect to locate large fish of any species any shallower than the eight to ten foot depth. What if the water color is a dark yellow green? Should we expect the larger fish to go shallower than the eight to ten foot depth if we have great color? The answer to that question would be no. Even in the best of weather and water conditions, we should not expect the adult fish to come any shallower than this depth. Let us bring weeds into a fishing situation. What if we have been fishing a lake in Florida and the weeds went to 7 feet. Outside of the spring time and the early season, we would not expect the larger fish to make it into the weeds at 7 feet. What if they came out to ten feet? If the water color began to clear and the weeds started growing out to a depth of ten feet, now the fish would be in the weeds. What if the maximum depth in this lake was 17 feet and the weeds came to ten? Some fish would be in the weeds but the sanctuary would be in and around that 17 foot hole. What if the maximum depth of this lake was ten feet and the weeds came all the way out into the deepest water? In this case, the fish's sanctuary would be in the weeds.

Let's talk about what has happened to our natural lakes over the last 15 years or so. We have been invaded by the zebra mussels and we have all seen what they have done with our water colors. In some of the greatest bass lakes we have ever had which used to have a weedline at 8 feet or less, now they have weedlines in excess of 20 feet. We know how it has affected our presentation of lures but how has it affected the fish? In a clear lake with a deep weedline of 18 feet or more, how many bass do you catch when trolling for northerns on an average day? If you are close to the weeds and are bumping them a bit, wouldn't you expect to hit some bass once in a while? When they become active, wouldn't they come to the outside edge and become available to the fisherman? You would think, but again..... how many are you catching? Two things to consider if you are not making contact with the bass. Are you doing a good job of hitting the right spots with good and correct trolling passes? In short..... are you doing a good job period? If you think that you are (and only you can know) and you are not getting the bass, then where are they? I'll make a statement and some may scoff at this but here are my thoughts. In my opinion, the deeper the thick, heavy weeds grow, the more chance there is that a good number of the bass are in and around the weeds at all times. Take note that I did not say all the bass are in the weeds. If this were so, you would think that at any time of the day, you could go out there and make a catch. Of course this is not the case. When fishing in and around the weeds, we are still waiting for that time of the day when the fish become active. You could argue that the book says that the home of the adult fish is in and around the deeper holes and slots. And if you want to become a great fisherman, you should believe that this is true for most of the season. I will say this! In the summer, our lakes have a thermocline which will vary in each lake, depending on a lot of variables. Mr. Perry says that a thermocline should be looked at as a break-line and the fish will relate to it. This still leaves us with a lot of thought on this subject. We do know that a fish can adapt to about any condition. He cannot adapt quickly but must need time to do so. And here is something else to think about. If a fish is put into a condition of change and he cannot adapt to this change, he can become completely dormant. You and I can use every depth and speed in the book and we will never catch him when he is in this condition. I have a question for you. If the bass cannot go below the thermocline or does not, and his only choice of sanctuary is from as deep as the thermocline goes, to the deep edge of the weedline, then why do we not catch more bass in the heat of the summer on the deep clear weedy lakes? I am talking about presenting Spoonplugs on the troll when asking this question. If we want more bass, what can we do? Attend the next meeting for a talk on this.

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:

“My lake has a bottom completely covered with muck, moss or short grass. I can’t work my lures on the bottom. What do you suggest?”

As we stated earlier, if you **can’t** work the bottom, then you have to **work as close as you can**. This may present problems, but we can regulate our lure size and line length (on cast or troll) so that the lure “barely” skips the debris. If our gear is correct, most of the muck and grass can be “jerked” free, but the moss may be another story.

Many times we have been faced with a lake bottom such as yours. We have found we can regulate depth on the troll by lure size and line length. On the cast, we may have to go to a weedless type lure, but even here the muck and moss can foul it.

We normally work a lake of this nature first by trolling as close to the debris as possible so as to not be **continually** fouled. But all the time we’re looking for a clean spot or a hard spot. Most every lake of this nature will have some clean or hard spots. They may be few and far between, but they will exist. Our lures must tell us what type of bottom exists, or we would never find the areas we are looking for. We must find the more workable bottoms, for **that will be where the fish are**. Fish do not like to be on muck or soft bottoms, if the clean spot (break) is available. All of this means we get fouled quite a lot. But most of them can be quickly cleaned by a hard jerk or jerks, with the stiff rod and non-stretch line—with no time lost. The clean or hard bottom presents no problem on the cast.

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“Some place back in the study you said to look for the deep water ‘first’, and then look for the structure in relationship to this deep water. Then in this study you tell us to check the ‘shallows first’, before going deeper. This seems to be a contradiction.”

I believe if you go back and restudy what we said previously (under Structure, Breaks and Break-lines) you will find we were talking about **interpreting** a fishing situation, or **when studying a contour map**. The **first thing you do is locate the deep water**; then look for any structure in the area. It would be rather a waste of time to spend time looking for good structure on a contour map, and then find out there was no deep water in the area.

In this study of Presentation, we are talking about an entirely different thing. We’re talking about what area do we **“fish”** first.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”