



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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#211

FOUNDED 1991

May 2012

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The last meeting was held April 16, 2012 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present. We discussed the purchase of the canopy loaned to the club by Steve Bosler. It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase.

Denny reported that water temperatures had dropped for 68 during the early March warm up down to 55 degrees. In other words, the weather has become unstable following that stretch of warmth and stability and it has had the usual effect on the fishing.....bad! The weather has now reversed course and the experience of below normal temperatures and cold fronts each couple of days has taken a toll. As a result, several members have been concentrating on pan fish until weather begins to stabilize once again. A couple of members reported catching north-erns, but it is still just a bit early for prime season to begin.

John Bales and Jeff Parham had fished Bixler Lake recently and got a 6 and 4 pound largemouth as a result. Someone had recently caught an 8.3 largemouth there.

Denny reported that after the early success on musky he has experienced a number of muskies being hooked and then get off, indicating that the musky are just not in the mood with the weather change.

Denny also stated that local fish biologist, Jed Pearson is predicting a new state record musky in the 45-50 pound range in the next year or two.

Denny and John also gave any member fishing for musky a couple of tips for the coming year: First of all, get a "fish-gripper" as it is a good safety tool for

both the fish and the fisherman. A LONG pair of needle nose pliers are also a good investment. Did you get that? Let me repeat: L-O-N-G. Denny's advice was evidently ignored by brother-in-law Bart Albright on a recent fishing trip with Denny. Denny easily corrected the problem by throwing Bart's pliers into the lake.!

Secondly, set the drag on your reel loosely EACH time you let your Spoonplug out on the troll....and KEEP YOUR THUMB OFF THE SPOOL!!!. John suggested that you duct tape your thumb to your hand if you have to.

As of meeting night it was reported that very few bass have spawned (read John's article for an update)

John reported that the Annual Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar held March 19 in Elk Grove Illinois was a success. He outlined the program and said that those who did not attend had missed a very good talk by both Jim Duplex and Brett Christanson. A sample of Brett's outstanding map drawing was presented as a gold standard to strive for.

Denny reported that D. J. Erdly of Charleston, SC had been doing a good deal of ocean fishing and had been very successful.

It was also reported that the newer Spoonplugs seem to have better quality hooks on them compared to some in the past.

NEXT MEETING: May 21, 2012 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

" KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS "

Leoni Outing

Jackson, Michigan

June 20-24, 2012

Base camp: John & TJ Zaborny

5441 E. Michigan Ave

Jackson, Michigan 49201

(517-414-3596)

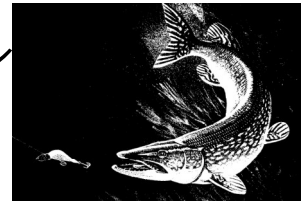
All Spoonpluggers are invited to one of the funnest outings of the year! You'll be welcomed to the hospitality of John and TJ Zaborny at their spacious and secluded residence. Camping and/or other accommodations are FREE as well as breakfasts and suppers from Wednesday thru Sunday.....and these are NOT skimpy rations! There are numerous lakes....some within a mile of the headquarters that produce numbers of northerns, bass and walleye. The Detroit River and Lake Erie are a little over an hour away. Lakes maps are provided. There is also a shooting range on the property in case you want to bring firearms. There will be a big fish fry on Saturday night followed by a big giveaway. This year's outing is dedicated to the Spoonpluggers we have lost over the past few years. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS"



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



Well..... Another interesting spring! Started out with some of the highest early season temperatures we have ever seen as fishermen.

The fish rushed into the shallows like there was no tomorrow. We all wondered what would happen and how will this affect the spawns of the different species. Turned out that the musky did spawn early, the walleye also but then the weather turned back to normal and we seem to be a couple of weeks ahead of what may be considered normal. As far back as I can remember, the bass would always spawn near my birthday which is in a few days. So the bass were a little early also. Right now the bluegill are thick on the beds in front of the house which tells me that the bass are about done and the bluegill will be off and on for a few weeks. If I were to guess, it was a bad spawn for most of the species. The fronts have been many with not much stable weather at all for the last month. Somehow, they seem to get it done and carry on the species.

Some years are just better than others. Mr. Perry always said that fishing is usually bad and then it gets worse. Sounds like he was talking about our area of the country.

Don't get too excited about the northerns being early this year. Denny said that at Lake Wawasee, you can see the bottom at 20 feet. We are far from the lakes getting an algae bloom. When the bloom comes, move in for the kill!!!

Don't forget that water color is our most important observation we can make in our fishing. A few weeks ago Dan Luley called me and said that he had gotten 20 walleye's on one of his favorite lakes casting buddies on the points. From the weedline out to around 20 feet. The next day I joined him and we got 6 really nice walleye and ended up with about the same total number. This went on for about three weeks. One thing I noticed was that the water color was pretty good when we were there. I made a trip to Lake Erie for a few days and Dan went back and got skunked. What happened? What changed? I went back the following weekend and the first thing that I noticed was that the water color had cleared some. We got 4 keepers but not the action that was had the previous weeks.

So..... just a bit of clearing can make the difference in your catches. Water color is the key to easy fishing. Do not ever forget that!!!!!!

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:

In the study of water color, we approach the subject from the same standpoint we did in Weather Conditions. That is, in terms of LIGHT. We should think of it as how much light penetrates the water. The MORE penetration, the worse the condition. The LESS penetration, the better the condition. CLEAR WATER means deep fish, short migrations, slow growth, and reproduction, increased weed and moss growth, and usually more water skiers. It means more of everything that spells trouble for you as a fisherman.

The more dingy, cloudy, or darker the water is, the better the conditions for fishing. So—a Spoon-plugger will pay as much attention to his water color selection as he will the anything—gear, methods, weather, structure, etc. If the selection of water color is not considered, he is asking for troubles which may be avoided.

We are not saying that clear water does not contain fish. What we are saying is, water clarity will control or determine **how deep** fish are—where he starts from (sanctuary), **just how shallow he comes on migration, and how long he stays.**

Presentation of lures (or bait), and interpretation of the deeper structures can be very difficult. Which means, if you are “stuck” with a deep clear lake, you must take **more** time in studying the deeper structures. It means you must work **longer** and put forth **more** effort in presenting lures **more** correctly in deep water—if you expect any degree of success.

Your reaction might be: if this is so, why not fish at night only? Hold on a minute! We did not say an absence of light, as such, we said a light **condition**. We said we use light as our guide; we’re sure other factors are involved, but this does not change our original thought. If we had a clear water situation, and the fish did not move in the daytime, our “guideline” would dictate we wait for a darker condition of light to cause the fish to come **far enough** for us to make contact.

To clarify this, let’s say you are fishing a deep clear lake. If a movement occurs in the middle of the afternoon, you might not be aware of it because the fish did not migrate up to where you were fishing. If you stayed on the lake into the night, you would draw a blank, because the fish had **already moved**, and probably would not move again until the next morning.

When you are faced with deep clear lakes, fishing at night does have its good points, but it does not mean the fish will move every night, regardless what the weather and water conditions might be. At certain periods during mid-summer, the major movements may occur at night, If you are experiencing troubles in the daytime, check it at **daylight**. This should indicate the movement pattern, and you can fish accordingly. BUT you must remember, any sort of movement pattern can change overnight—it usually does—at the first weather change.

You must be aware of the fact that some species, at times **DO** move at night, and some species **DO NOT** move at night

“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”