



NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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PRESIDENT: Denny Coulardot

(260) 691-3118

SECRETARY: Ted Walter

(260) 668-0216

EDUCATION DIRECTOR: John Bales

(260) 854-3921

The last meeting was held October 15, 2012 at the Kendallville Public Library with 13 members and guests present.

Jeff Gill reported catching a 21 1/2 inch 6 pound largemouth recently on the lake where he lives. Jeff has only been Spoonplugging since this summer and is really enjoying his newly found way to approach fishing.

Shawn Nicodemus reported on his recent trip to the Detroit River/Lake Erie with Mike and Mark Brown. You can see by the photos on the next page that their trip was fruitful. This area holds smallmouth all year long, but in the fall they really bunch up and once found you can really have a ball. 3, 4, & 5 pounders are pretty common and stringers of these are not out of the question.

John Bales reported on the recent Spoonplugger Jamboree on Kentucky Lake. The Jamboree attendance was disappointing at only about half of the people that showed up last year. The weather was bad but it was not thought to be the main reason for the poor turnout. John commented that he felt the Jamboree should be something more special than other Network Outings possibly incorporating on-the-water training and/or more educational presentations. However, the hard work and sacrifices involved in doing what needs to be done to make the outing more attractive is very difficult given the ever aging members who are responsible carrying such an event off. At this time no plans are in the works to sponsor another Jamboree.

A few 3 and 4 pound largemouth were caught and a 25 pound flathead was caught by Fran Myer, but

generally fishing was poor due to unstable weather. A fish fry was held on Friday night (that catfish was outstanding!) and halfway through, a cold front storm moved in. Wind and rain and a 20 degree nearly instant drop in temperature sent everyone scurrying away early. The canopies had to be taken down to prevent them from ending up in Tennessee! The last night was chilly, but a roaring fire was built in the shelter house fireplace and we all enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches and everyone went home with some nice prizes given away at the drawing.

John Bales sketched out the areas of Lake Erie where Shawn and the Brown brothers had been fishing the week before. And explained why these fish are where they are and the procedures to find them. He also drew out some of the things he found recently on Kentucky Lake and Barkley Lake. As he was mapping where a side feeder stream cut through the delta into the old river channel, he discovered bars going into the channel. It makes sense on why they are present, however they had eluded us all this time. In the future we will be aware that they may exist on certain side feeder cuts and deserve some fishing time since they should definitely be used by the fish on their migration out of the channel and onto the delta. So...something new was learned on this trip, making it worth the effort! John reminded everyone that the best fishing of the year is at hand. Be prepared!

NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2012 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.

“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Shawn Nicodemus with a nice pair of Detroit River/Lake Erie smallmouth



Mark Brown with another couple.



Shawn with a real nice stringer of smallies (All fish were photoed and released.)



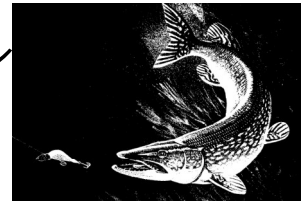
Mike Brown with another nice stringer. These were caught by trolling until a good fish was caught and then an anchoring position was taken to catch the rest. Numerous schools were found. (Some walleyes as well)

“ KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”



Good Spoonplugging

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



What does it take to become a good Spoonplugger? Why do some seem to struggle for years and a new guy comes along and in a few months, he is catching the daylights out of fish? Why is this difficult for some and easy for others? Jim Duplex says that you must do your time on the water. He is surely correct about that. Jerry Borst says that time on the water is the best way to learn, and he has spent lots of time out there on many different bodies of water. Terry O'malley told Jerry Borst that he and Chris Angsten should not fish together but stay in separate boats. This was so that they both had a chance to get behind the tiller and one of them would not be in the dark when it was over. Both ended up being very good Spoonpluggers. I don't know how many times I have written about effort, but this is exactly what it boils down to. Most just do not work hard enough! There..... I said it! I'd like to get a bit more vocal but eventually there wouldn't be anybody left to yell at. Deb used to yell at me and say that I cannot expect everybody to be like me. My answer would be why not? If I can do this, anybody can.

Every once in a while, I get this thought as to why are there not millions of Spoonpluggers out there! And then the same thought comes back into my mind as to the amount of effort it takes to make a good Spoonplugger. A couple of weeks ago, I was on Lake Erie and another fisherman in a bass boat was taking out at the same time. He asked me how I did and I replied about 20 or so smallies. He asked me what I caught the fish on and I said trolling a Spoonplug. His comment was that he knew what that was and that's the lure that they used back in the 70's. All I said was yea, that's right.

Here is what separates this fisherman from myself. He has no guidelines at all. He does not troll so he is not only limited in his presentation of lures, does not have the ability to catch the same fish under a lot of conditions and most important, has no concept of what depth and speed can do. He does not know the effects of a cold front on the fish and what to do to catch him under those conditions. When it is all said and done, this fisherman places a lot of his success on a particular lure or a special twitch or a favorite color. This is simply a shame. With all of the effort that Mr. Perry put into finding out what makes a fish tick, and then recording his findings and putting this knowledge into text, it is still not known by many. Many have bought the green book, read it and then tried it. When they fail to load the boat or realize that it is just too much work, they quit. And then there is the new guy that comes along and sucks in every bit of knowledge that he can and goes out and works his butt off and starts catching fish like crazy and is a happy camper. What is the new guy doing that you are not? Might be a good question to ask yourself.

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:

You Might Say

‘Several times during our study, you mention the word ‘satisfaction.’ To me the only way I will be satisfied is to fill the boat every time I go fishing.’

Well, I suppose you are just like a lot of other fishermen in the world. They, as well as you, should give up fishing because neither of you will ever get satisfaction from it. It just doesn’t work that way. Just about the time you think you have all the answers, old “fishing situations” lets you know how things are—and you get “skunked.”

To me, satisfaction in fishing comes from many directions. I am not saying that satisfaction does not come with lunker catches—that’s the name of the game. But can satisfaction come with guides showing you where to fish? Does satisfaction come with rushing down to the store to buy a hot lure? What satisfaction is there in doing what everyone else is doing? (Do you think you’ll discover some little magic “twitch” the other guys aren’t using?) Do you get satisfaction if you beat all the other guys all the time? I’ll bet you are one of those guys who switches lures when another fisherman approaches. I’ll wager you tell someone you made a catch in a lake or a spot, and then take off in another direction.

How many times have you told the other guy “exactly” **where** and **when** you caught the fish? How many times have you taken the family fishing? How many times have you “taught?” Have you ever experienced the feeling that comes with “working a lake out” all by yourself? Have you ever experienced the time when there was no anxiety about a fishing trip, or a new lake? Have you ever really felt the fellowship that can be had on a fishing trip? Do you know how it feels to not have to make excuses for failure? Do you know the satisfaction that comes with knowledge? Satisfaction can be had ALL the time, not just when you “luck” up on a few fish, beat the other guy, or build up your ego.

* * * * *

“You say the fishing stops when a cold front goes through. I’ve had a front go through and the temperature dropped way down, but I still caught some fish. It would appear to me your cold front ideas are way off.”

When the cold front was discussed, it was not stated the fishing “stopped.” We said the fish dropped deep and/or became very inactive. It was stated this condition could “skunk” the best of us, but it did not say fishing “stopped.” It meant that a passing cold front could separate the men from the boys. It meant that fishing “goes bad.”—deteriorates.

It was pointed out that AFTER the front goes through, the clouds normally disappear, and you have a completely “washed out” sky. It was **this** condition that curtailed the fish activity, not the drop in temperature. A temperature “change” in the shallow water may cause the fish to drop deeper, but when we think about it, it’s probably the “light” condition that gets you and me into trouble.

As far as the cold front effect being an “idea,” instead of a fact, you can take it either way you choose. I suggest though, before you make up your mind, you should get a little more fishing experience.

“KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FISHING SUCCESS ”