



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

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#226

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The last meeting was held July 15, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library with 16 members present.

Denny Coulardot reported that lake temperatures had finally reached the 80's and that trolling speeds were beginning to speed up. (With the recent severe cold fronts, this trend may have reversed).

It was reported that the Indiana DNR are re-mapping lakes in northeast Indiana. They have recently mapped Hamilton Lake and Clear Lake, but it has yet to be uploaded to the DNR website:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/5759.htm>  
(Bathymetry (depth) Maps)

The new mapping techniques being used began in 2007 and is called "hydroacoustic" technology. This is from the IDNR website:

*Hydroacoustic technology has become important for assessing lake ecosystems, monitoring fish movement, and lake and stream health. The hydroacoustic equipment operates from a slow-moving boat and records bottom depth, submerged vegetation height, and submerged vegetation cover. This information was coupled with geographic location coordinates from a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite, and stored together in digital files, representing submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) status at points along transect lines. Adequate spatial interpolation was used to present the SAV information, including cover, height, and water depth, as spatially continuous data for mapping bathymetry and littoral zones, which are important habitats for fish communities. The data collected is a result of recent technology that makes data collection more efficient, thus allowing the collection of many more data points than was possible with previous methods. Previous attempts to map these lakes took place in the 1950's when technology limited the amount of data that could be efficiently collected. Additionally, historical data on depths for some Indiana Lakes that was collected in the 1920's is on file in the Indiana State*

*Library's historical archives. These maps are accurate to the best of our ability and within the limits of current technology. Staff gauge level is a measurement of the actual lake level and is noted on the maps of those lakes that have gauges. Depths acquired on lakes without a staff gage do not have water level compensation during data processing and are assumed to be close to or at legal level during the time of survey. Visual estimation of lake level was obtained and noted on the maps of those lakes without gauges. Mapped depths at these lakes are not deemed to be precise, but an estimation of the actual level and depth of the lake at the time of survey.*

As you can see, these maps aren't extremely detailed, but looking at the aerial photos can help you determine the size and shape of particular structure situations and may make it easier to map on the troll.

Denny reported that the weeds on Lake Wawasee were deeper than he has ever seen them.

The balance of the meeting concentrated on the upcoming "Buck Sez" Outing. (See following page) All the meals were hashed out and everyone has their respective assignments.

If any member wishes to donate items for the Saturday night raffle, please bring them to the outing and see that myself or Denny gets them prior to Saturday night.

We may need help to put up the canopies on Wednesday afternoon if anyone can make it. They are not heavy, but they are cumbersome to put up and many hands make light work. Thanks

**NEXT MEETING: August 19, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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

NORTHERN INDIANA  
SPOONPLUGGERS

**\*ALL SPOONPLUGGERS INVITED\***

***ANNUAL "BUCK SEZ" OUTING***

**AUGUST 14, 15, 16 & 17th, 2013**

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**BASE CAMP WILL BE LOCATED AT:**

**FOREST RIDGE CAMP GROUND**

**TENT/RV (260) 327-3551 SWIMMING POOL**

**WATER & ELEC. (MENTION NO. IND.**

**SPOONPLUGGERS)**

**-or-**

***LEE'S INN SUPER 8 MOTEL BUDGET INN***

***235 FRONTAGE ROAD COLUMBIA CITY (260)248-4644***

***COLUMBIA CITY, IN 1-800-800-8000***

***(260)244-5300***

**MOTELS ARE LOCATED ON US30 IN COLUMBIA CITY**

**ABOUT 5 MILES FROM THE**

**CAMPGROUND AND WITHIN 15 MILES OF MOST**

**LAKES**

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**\*AREA LAKES INCLUDE: *WEBSTER,***

***TIPPECANOE, WAWASEE, BARBEE CHAIN, AND MORE.***

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



## Back To The Basics

Mr. Perry said that the mechanical part of running lures is the easiest part of Spoonplugging. When he said that, it was apparent to me that this is the one thing that most fishermen seem to have the most trouble with. It is a matter of keeping our lures in the correct position in order for us to have the best chance to catch a fish. The question would be, what other parts of learning Spoonplugging will be more difficult. Understanding water color and how it makes the whole ball of wax easier or not so easy. What about weather conditions? How long did it take you to relate the movements of the fish or the lack of movements while observing what is happening upstairs? What about the first time you fished a reservoir? Even though you had studied reservoirs in the green book, you really did not completely understand the lay of the land until you observed it on the water. And then you have all the different types of reservoirs which differ from one another in size, shape, depth, water colors, and the different features that become important during the seasonal movements of the fish. Every single one is different and will not be completely understood until you experience them on the water. We may not begin to understand on the first trip but with enough time on the water, the answers will come.

Sometimes we get in a hurry to put our lures in the water before we know what we are getting into. Taking the time to study a map of the lake can shorten our time in knowing and fishing the areas where we have the best chance to catch a fish. If the lake has a weedline, it would not be a good idea to put a lure in the water before we take a good look at the weedline. Taking just a little time will save a lot of headaches.

Back to the running of the lures..... All of the subject matter that we have mentioned so far is all learned at the same time we are learning to run the lures. As you keep the lures in position, we will be learning the lay of the land. Not just the lay of the shoreline but everything that exists below the water. As we run our lures, we observe the weather and water conditions. We find the size and shape of our features, notice fish movements or the lack of them. Every bit of fishing knowledge is learned by keeping our lures in position. If we do not keep our lures in position, we do not catch any fish and if we catch no fish, we cannot relate to anything that we are trying to learn. Spoonplugging is all about the learning. Mr. Perry said that Knowledge is the key to fishing success. Learning to keep our lures in position and finally doing so, is the key to that knowledge.

*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 Breaklines) 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 ”**