



# NORTHERN INDIANA SPOONPLUGGER

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 1

#219

FOUNDED 1991

January 2013

**PRESIDENT: Denny Coulardot**

**(260 ) 691-3118**

**SECRETARY: Ted Walter**

**(260 ) 668-0216**

**EDUCATION DIRECTOR: John Bales**

**(260 ) 854-3921**

The last meeting was held December 17, 2012 at the Kendallville Public Library with 12 members and guests present.

.There seems to be unanimous: Fishing sucks! At least, right now! Both John and Denny agreed that this has been the toughest fall fishing conditions they've ever experienced.

Fall fishing has generally been one of the best fishing seasons of the year. Much of the summer pleasure boat traffic has abated and many fishermen who compete for space during the spring and summer trade their rods and reels for shotguns and rifles giving the Spoonplugger pretty much the whole body of water to themselves.

So what gives? Why is this year been the exception to the rule of good fall fishing?

Although not specific, John put his finger the only things it could be: Either weather conditions, water conditions or a combination thereof. The fish haven't changed. They merely react to their environment....because it is the only thing they CAN do.

It may not matter to many as to WHY this fall hasn't measured up, but as Spoonpluggers, we are always searching for the answers because we know understanding What, When, Where, How and Why are important for fishing success. Those who can figure it out can make better and faster decisions. And that should result in improved fishing success.

Here are some of the things I've heard suggested:

Weather—Weather patterns have been pretty erratic over the past few years. Record temperatures being set, record drought conditions...or rainfall. Whether this is a result of global climate change or just a natural weather cycle is for future generations to determine. The fact remains, that weather patterns ARE abnormal...at least in my lifetime.

And that translates to abnormal fishing conditions. We can

adapt providing the fish can adapt! That's what give Spoonplugging an edge over other methods of fishing. One of Spoonplugger's enemies to emerge over at least the last decade or two is widespread spraying of aquatic vegetation. Although absence of weeds make many trollers happy, it is another example of abnormal change. I know there are introduced species that should be removed, but most lakes associations who are typically behind the spraying really don't care as long as the weeds are gone. One of the things Denny and John have noticed this year is the "bubbling" on many area lakes that has taken place this year during and following fall "turnover". One thought is that there is so much dead vegetation being washed into the deeper sections of the lake that the decomposition is the cause of the bubbles. If you notice this phenomenon, you can bet that the fish are acutely aware....and that means yet another abnormal condition. There is almost no body of water in our area that hasn't experienced clearing due to zebra mussels. Wet suits and other cold weather clothing improvements have given jet skies, and skiers and everything in-between an extended season on the water.

So what do we do to counteract all these changing conditions? Same thing the fish do...Adapt as best we can.

Lakes have mostly frozen over in the area, only to become unfrozen again due to 50 and 60 degree temperatures. If the lakes don't freeze over for some decent ice fishing this year, Denny is going to be moving to Canada!

**It's a New Year....that means dues are due! One book of stamps please. Thanks.**

**NEXT MEETING: January 21, 2013 at the Kendallville Public Library 6:30 P.M.**

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

## **Illinois Spoonpluggers Winter Seminar**

Elk Grove Village, IL

March 16, 2013

**Contact:** Scott Duff

847-690-1079

[swdclar@earthlink.net](mailto:swdclar@earthlink.net)

## **Leoni Outing**

Jackson, MI

June 20-24, 2013

**Contact:** John Zaborny

517-414-3596

[jzaborny@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jzaborny@sbcglobal.net)

## **Muskegon Lake, MI**

Fisherman's Landing

July 10-14, 2013

Lunker Hunters

**Contact:** Chase Klinesteker

616-949-8665

[Ckspoonpl1@aol.com](mailto:Ckspoonpl1@aol.com)

## **Northern Indiana Spoonpluggers "Buck Sez" Outing**

Tippecanoe, Webster, Wawasee Lakes

Forest Ridge Campground

(260-327-3551)

August 14, 15, 16, & 17, 2013 (Note-starts Wednesday this year)

**Contact:**

John Bales

260-854-3921

[johnspoon@embarqmail.com](mailto:johnspoon@embarqmail.com)

or

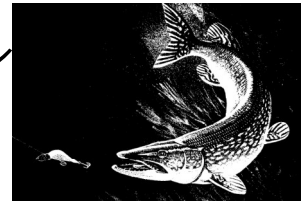
Denny Coulardot: 260-691-3118

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



# *Good Spoonplugging*

By John Bales, Spoonplugging Instructor



## GOALS

At the end of each fishing season, I try to look back and take the good with the bad, and set some goals for the upcoming season. Life is so much more fun if there is something you and I can look forward to! For myself, I plan on never taking on any kind of Jamboree or an official Spoonplugging Outing again and I mean that. When making that comment, I think about what an outstanding job that Frank Hamill did in being in charge of the past Jamboree's. My plans are to spend more time with my best fishing partner (my wife) at some good fishing places and just to have fun catching some fish.

Might get up to Lake St. Clair a time or two and Deb and I plan on hitting the Detroit River again like the good old days. Last year, we made it to the river and got a 50+inch musky so we won't be satisfied till we give it a good going over. By the way, we caught the musky on the JB2.

Always look forward to fishing the different seasons near home. I like casting or trolling. Don't really matter to me what it takes to catch a fish. There's more tackle in my boat than I will ever need but damn it ..... when you need it, you need it!

If you don't have several styles of jigs in many weights to control the drop speed when needed, then you are missing out on a great tool and a chance to learn. A jig better be a part of what you carry in your boat at all times. I stopped carrying plastic worms, worm hooks, and slip sinkers in my box years ago. A plain jig and a bag or two of tube worms and a hand full of rubber legged jigs in several weights and some jig trailers is all you need for a season.

We didn't fish Shipshewana Lake much last year. It was rumored that they were going to draw it down for some reason or another so that thought of going there and having enough water was in the back of my mind. I heard that they had changed their mind on that so it may be back on the list. Might just keep everything and bring all the fish back to my lake and restock it from the weed kill back in 2005. So if you hear that John Bales was arrested for keeping 50 bass, that's my story.

Years ago, we fished Bass Lake which is west of us and at the time, it didn't seem to have much of a population of anything. Might have to check it out to see if things have changed. The lake had great water color and has some size to it. Should have several good spots and might be worth the drive.

This is a great lake for a new Spoonplugger to learn how to run the first three size lures.

In Indiana, you need a sticker to launch a boat on state waters. The cost is twenty bucks. Chain O Lakes is included with this sticker. Chain O Lakes is an electric trolling motor only lake but it is a place that has not been exploited by the spraying of the weeds. Very little fishing pressure compared to our more populated lakes and no speed boats. Might be loaded with some big bass too. Something to consider.

Might get to some of these places and might not but just some goals to look forward to for this season.

Do you have any goals?

*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:**

During your fishing **you should not think of WEATHER in terms of temperature.** This does not mean changes in temperature will not affect fish, nor does it mean the fisherman doesn't change his tactics. (Later on you'll find if present your lures and bait properly, you'll automatically take care of temperature). **YOU SHOULD VIEW WEATHER (and TEMPERATURE) IN TERMS OF LIGHT.**

With this in mind, we can now make a Spoonplugger's guideline:

**THE LIGHTER OR BRIGHTER IT IS, THE TOUGHER THE FISHING WILL BE. THE DARKER THE CONDITIONS, THE BETTER IT WILL BE.**

We have no way of knowing how many types of weather conditions might occur during a fishing season. One look at any weather map will show all types of high or low pressure areas, several kinds of “fronts,” storms, hot areas or wet or dry areas. You name it—they show it.

**We have to pick one of these conditions for a starting point.** One that we can use as a **guide** to our fishing. One that will be the **key** for determining our chances for success, and the one that will let us **plan** our tactics. In other words, we have to set us up another guideline. **This guideline is a COLD FRONT.**

It should be noted, the word **COLD** does not necessarily mean there is a big drop in temperature. The front is actually the dividing line between two masses of air. The difference in temperature of these two masses can vary; at times it will be great, while at others, hardly noticeable. The main difference between the two air masses is that one is warmer, holding a higher moisture content, while the other is a drier mass of cooler air. The former is usually associated with a **LOW**, while the latter is associated with **HIGH**. The masses of air which move through the United States are normally from the west to the east. This direction can vary, but for all practical purposes this is the dominant direction.

The front itself is usually associated with very rough weather, such as heavy rain, squall lines (thunder storms), etc. This is especially true when there is a great difference between the two masses of air. If the temperature difference is slight, these fronts are much less discernible.

When observing or viewing a **COLD FRONT**, here again, **we do not view it in terms of temperature, but instead relate it to LIGHT conditions.** There is a relationship between the light and the temperature, and if there is a great drop in temperature after a front passes, and it lasts for a long period, the light will be affected accordingly.

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